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Preface

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in March 2021. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country during this month. The tourists are classified by region and country of residence. Details of their mode of travel; purpose of visit; age and sex distribution are also provided.

The March, June, September and December releases include summaries of number of tourists for the current quarter and comparisons with previous periods.

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

1. Key findings

1.1 Travellers

1.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into and out of South Africa shows that a total of 635 758 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in March 2021. As presented in Table 1 on page 12, these travellers were made up of 214 865 South African residents and 420 893 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 103 933 arrivals, 110 871 departures and 61 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 223 135, 193 117 and 4 641, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in March 2020 and March 2021 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 66,9% (from 314 022 in March 2020 to 103 933 in March 2021). Departures decreased by 60,9% (from 283 691 in March 2020 to 110 871 in March 2021) and transits decreased by 87,6% (from 492 in March 2020 to 61 in March 2021). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 74,2% (from 863 232 in March 2020 to 223 135 in March 2021), departures decreased by 78,7% (from 905 186 in March 2020 to 193 117 in March 2021) and transits decreased by 84,8% (from 30 528 in March 2020 to 4 641 in March 2021).

A comparison between the movements in February 2021 and March 2021 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 60,0% (from 64 943 in February 2021 to 103 933 in March 2021), departures increased by 66,2% (from 66 694 in February 2021 to 110 871 in March 2021) and transits increased by 8,9% (from 56 in February 2021 to 61 in March 2021). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 63,5% (from 136 510 in February 2021 to 223 135 in March 2021), departures increased by 68,8% (from 114 436 in February 2021 to 193 117 in March 2021) and transits increased by 45,3% (from 3 193 in February 2021 to 4 641 in March 2021).

Detailed information on the departure of travellers is not available in the movement control system. Data on the purpose of travel and the number of days South African residents intend to spend or spent abroad are not collected by the DHA. It is therefore not possible to categorise South African residents as tourists or non-tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation.

As presented in Table 1 on page 12, in March 2021, 38 265 (17,1%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 184 870 (82,9%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in March 2021 but did not depart in March 2021 [66 905 (36,2%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in March 2021 and left in March 2021 [46 907 (25,4%)];
and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in March 2021 [71 058 (38,4%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In March 2021, there were 27 232 (14,7%) same-day visitors and 157 638 (85,3%) tourists. Between March 2020 and March 2021, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 89,9% (from 270 348 in March 2020 to 27 232 in March 2021) and that of tourists decreased by 70,5% (from 535 094 in March 2020 to 157 638 in March 2021).

1.1.2 Mode of travel of travellers

Information presented in Table 2 on page 13, shows that in March 2021, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 481 462 (75,7%) of the 635 758 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 149 776 (23,6%). Compared to the use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 4 520 (0,7%) used sea transport. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 29 835 (28,7%) came by air, 73 906 (71,1%) came by road and 192 (0,2%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 33 741 (30,4%) used air, 77 027 (69,5%) used road and 103 (0,1%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 61 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 41 086 (18,4%) arrived by air, 180 008 (80,7%) came by road and 2 041 (0,9%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 40 412 (20,9%) foreign travellers left by air, 150 521 (77,9%) left by road and 2 184 (1,1%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 4 641 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that of the 27 232 same-day visitors, a majority, 25 175 (92,4%) arrived in the country by road, 2 052 (7,5%) flew into the country; and five (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Information on tourists shows that 124 383 (78,9%) used road transport, 33 245 (21,1%) came by air transport and 10 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them according to their respective countries and regions. Information on the specific region and country of residence of tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on pages 14 to 17. In March 2021, 15 756 (89,8%) of the 17 548 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 1 782 (10,2%) came in by road transport and 10 (0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 122 201 (89,5%) and 14 305 (10,5%) came by air. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 3 036 (92,3%), with 252 (7,7%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In March 2021, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 9 555 (54,5%); Asia, 3 734 (21,3%); North America, 2 922 (16,7%); The Middle East, 593 (3,4%); Central and South America, 493 (2,8%); and Australasia, 251 (1,4%).

Figure 1 on page 9 and Table 3 on pages 14 to 15, indicate that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in March 2021 were: United States of America (USA), 2 657 (15,1%); Germany, 2 082 (11,9%); United Kingdom (UK), 1 712 (9,8%); India, 1 428 (8,1%); France, 893 (5,1%); Russian Federation, 779 (4,4%); China, 736 (4,2%); The Netherlands, 685 (3,9%); Pakistan, 631 (3,6%); and Switzerland, 431 (2,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 68,6% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between March 2020 and March 2021 shows that the number of tourists decreased for nine of the ten leading countries. UK had the largest decrease of 91,4% (from 19 819 tourists in March 2020 to 1 712 tourists in March 2021). China, on the other hand, showed an increase of 1,5% (from 725 tourists in March 2020 to 736 tourists in March 2021).

Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 136 506 (97,6%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 1 589 (1,1%); East and Central Africa, 1 409 (1,0%); and North Africa 290 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in March 2021 were: Mozambique 42 593 (31,2%); Zimbabwe, 29 750 (21,8%); Lesotho, 23 349 (17,1%); Eswatini, 14 525 (10,6%); Namibia, 7 596 (5,6%); Botswana, 6 784 (5,0%); Zambia, 5 465 (4,0%); Malawi, 4 142 (3,0%); Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 936 (0,7%) and Tanzania, 882 (0,6%) (see Figure 2 on page 9 and Table 3 on pages 15 to 16). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,6% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in March 2020 and March 2021 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists decreased for all ten leading countries. Zimbabwe showed the largest decrease of 77,2% (from 130 674 tourists in March 2020 to 29 750 in March 2021).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in March 2021 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 10 and Table 3 on pages 16 to 17, were: Nigeria, 840 (25,5%); Ghana, 550 (16,7%); Kenya, 452 (13,7%); Uganda 323 (9,8%); Ethiopia, 209 (6,4%); Egypt, 157 (4,8%); Gabon, 146 (4,4%); Cameroon, 135 (4,1%); Congo, 65 (2,0%) and Senegal, 47 (1,4%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 88,9% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in March 2020 and March 2021 shows that the number of tourists decreased for all ten leading countries. Egypt showed the largest decrease of 62,4% (from 418 tourists in March 2020 to 157 in March 2021).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed in Table 4 on pages 18 to 21, in March 2021, the majority of tourists, 139 333 (88,4%), were in South Africa for holiday¹ compared to 14 628 (9,3%); 3 331 (2,1%) and 346 (0,2%) who were in South Africa for business, study and for medical treatment respectively.

Compared to other overseas regions, Europe had the highest number of tourists, 8 963 who came for holiday, 257 who came for business, 289 who came for study and 46 who came for medical treatment.

Within the overseas regions, Australasia had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for holiday, 97,6% (245) followed by North America, 97,0% (2 833); Europe, 93,8% (8 963); The Middle East, 93,1% (552); Central and South America, 91,7 (452) and Asia, 91,3% (3 409).

Asia, 4,6% (173) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by Central and South America, 4,1% (20); Europe, 2,7% (257); North America, 2,0% (57); Australasia, 1,6% (4) and The Middle East, 1,3% (8).

The Middle East, 5,6% (33) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to study, followed by Asia, 3,7% (140); Central and South America, 3,7% (18); Europe, 3,0% (289); North America, 0,8% (24) and Australasia, 0,4% (1).

Central and South America had 0,6% (3) of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by Europe, 0,5% (46); Australasia, 0,4% (1); Asia, 0,3% (12) and North America, 0,3% (8). The Middle East had no tourists who came to South Africa for medical treatment.

The majority of African tourists, 122 588 (87,7%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, the following differences in terms of reasons for travel were observed between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Holiday makers constituted 87,8% (119 848) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 83,3% (2 740) from 'other' African countries. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 86,7% (1 378) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from North Africa, 84,5% (245) and East and Central Africa 79,3% (1 117).
- Business persons constituted 10,3% (14 019) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 2,7% (88) from 'other' African countries. East and Central Africa, 3,2% (45) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by West Africa, 2,5% (40) and North Africa, 1,0% (3).
- Students constituted 13,3% (436) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,7% (2 388) from SADC countries. East and Central Africa, 16,3% (229) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by North Africa, 13,8% (40) and West Africa, 10,5% (167).
- Medical treatment tourists constituted 0,7% (24) of tourists from 'other' African countries, while those from SADC constituted 0,2% (251) of its tourists. East and Central Africa, 1,3% (18) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by North Africa, 0,7% (2) and West Africa, 0,3% (4).

¹ The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons. See section 5.5.2 on page 36 for a more detailed discussion.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 22 shows that in March 2021, there were 110 196 (69,9%) male and 47 442 (30,1%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 10 869 (61,9%) male tourists and 6 679 (38,1%) female tourists. There were 96 974 (71,0%) male and 39 532 (29,0%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 2 156 (65,6%) male and 1 132 (34,4%) female tourists.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into seven broad groups (see Table 5 for a detailed classification). The results presented in Table 5 further show that the majority of tourists were aged between 35 and 44 years [55 488 (35,2%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [1 101 (33,5%)] and those from overseas countries [3 958 (22,6%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years, whereas those from SADC countries [50 598 (37,1%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years. The second highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [978 (29,7%)] and overseas countries [3 823 (21,8%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years, whereas those from SADC countries [31 038 (22,7%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 38, 39 and 35 years respectively. The proportion of tourists younger than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 7,1% (1 247) compared to those from 'other' African countries, 3,4% (111) and SADC countries, 2,5% (3 413).

A comparison of the three regions shows higher proportions of the elderly among both male and female tourists from overseas. Overseas tourists aged 65 years and older comprised of 6,6% (718) males and 7,3% (490) females. This is in contrast to the pattern observed among tourists from the other two regions where tourists aged 65 years and older comprised of less than 3,5% of both male and female tourists. From SADC countries, elderly tourists were made up of 1,9% (1 812) males and 3,4% (1 350) females; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 1,5% (33) and 2,6% (29) of male and female tourists respectively.

1.2.5 Quarterly and annual trends

Figures 4, 5, and 6 on pages 10 and 11 show monthly and yearly changes in number of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries, respectively. A different pattern was observed in quarter two, three and four of 2020 and quarter one of 2021 and this came as a result of international travel restrictions that were introduced due to the Covid-19 pandemic. For overseas countries (Figure 4 on page 10), the number of tourists who come to South Africa is generally highest in quarter one (January to March) and quarter four (October to December) of each year. Quarter two (April to June) is characterised by a large decrease in the number of tourists, reaching its lowest in June, followed by a gradual increase into quarter three. Between quarter four of 2020 and quarter one of 2021 (Annexure B, pages 27 to 28) the number of tourists from overseas decreased by 30,3% (from 60 202 in quarter four to 41 980 in quarter one). A year on year comparison between 2020 and 2021 for quarter one (Annexure C, pages 31 to 32) shows that the number of overseas tourists decreased by 93,0% (from 600 828 in quarter one, 2020 to 41 980 in quarter one, 2021).

For the SADC countries (Figure 5 on page 11), the months of January and December of each year have the highest number of tourists. Furthermore, there is a distinct peak in April, coinciding with the Easter holiday break in the region. This period is characterised by high volumes of travellers between South Africa and neighbouring SADC countries. The months of February, June and November have the lowest number of tourists compared to other months. Between the fourth quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021, the number of tourists increased by 10,3% (from 303 461 in the fourth quarter to 334 568 in the first quarter) (see Annexure B on pages 28 to 29). Comparisons between the first quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021 show that the number of SADC tourists decreased by 81,3% (from 1 793 210 in quarter one, 2020 to 334 568 in quarter one, 2021) (see Annexure C on pages 32 to 33).

In the case of the 'other' African countries (Figure 6 on page 11), the months of August and November seem to generally attract more tourists compared to other months. June attracts the lowest number of tourists compared to other months. Between quarter four of 2020 and quarter one of 2021 (see Annexure on, pages 29 to 30), the number of tourists from 'other' African countries increased by 11,6% (from 8 709 in quarter four to 9 717 in quarter one). West Africa increased by 19,2% (from 3 888 in quarter four to 4 636 in quarter one), followed by East and Africa which increased by 7,5% (from 3 900 in quarter four to 4 194 in quarter one) whereas, North Africa decreased by 3,7% (from 921 in quarter four to 887 in quarter one).

A year on year comparison for quarter one (see Annexure C on pages 33 to 34) shows that the number of tourists from 'other' African countries decreased by 69,8% (from 32 144 in quarter one, 2020 to 9 717 in quarter one, 2021). East and Central Africa had the largest decrease of 69,0% (from 13 550 in quarter one, 2020 to 4 194 in quarter one, 2021), followed by West Africa which decreased by 68,5% (from 14 722 in quarter one, 2020 to 4 636 in quarter one, 2021) and North Africa which decreased by 77,1% (from 3 872 in quarter one, 2020 to 887 in quarter one, 2021).

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in March 2020 and March 2021

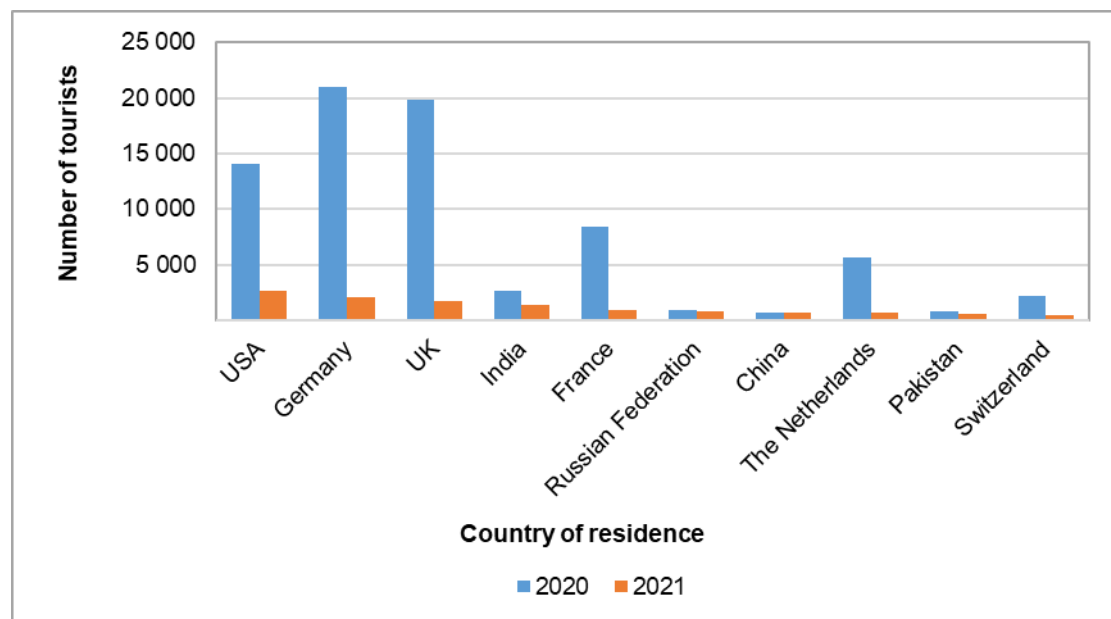


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in March 2020 and March 2021

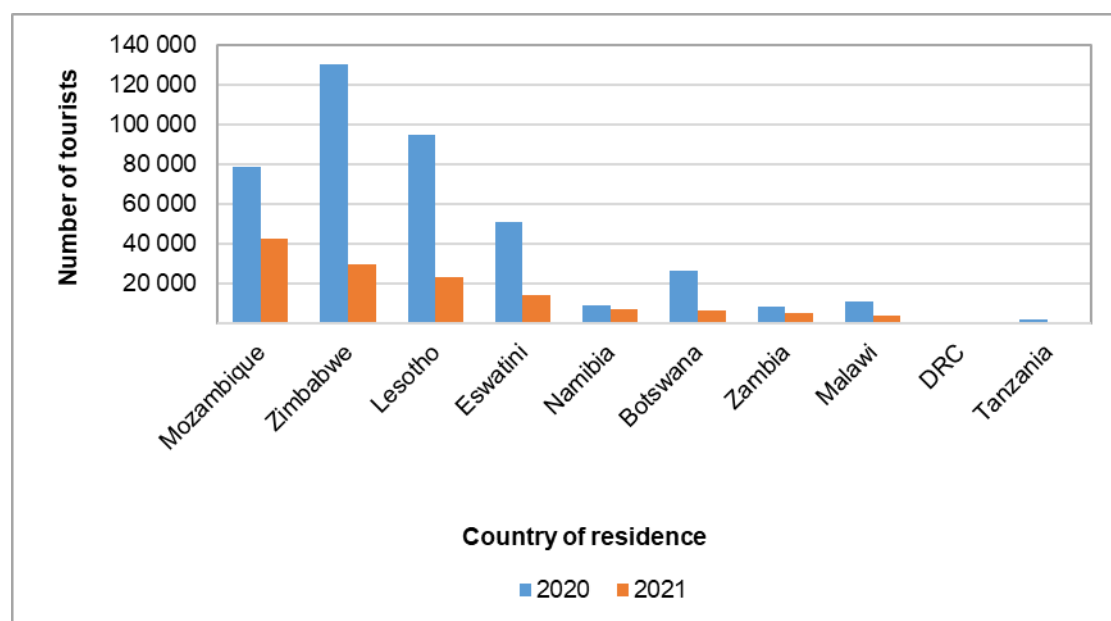


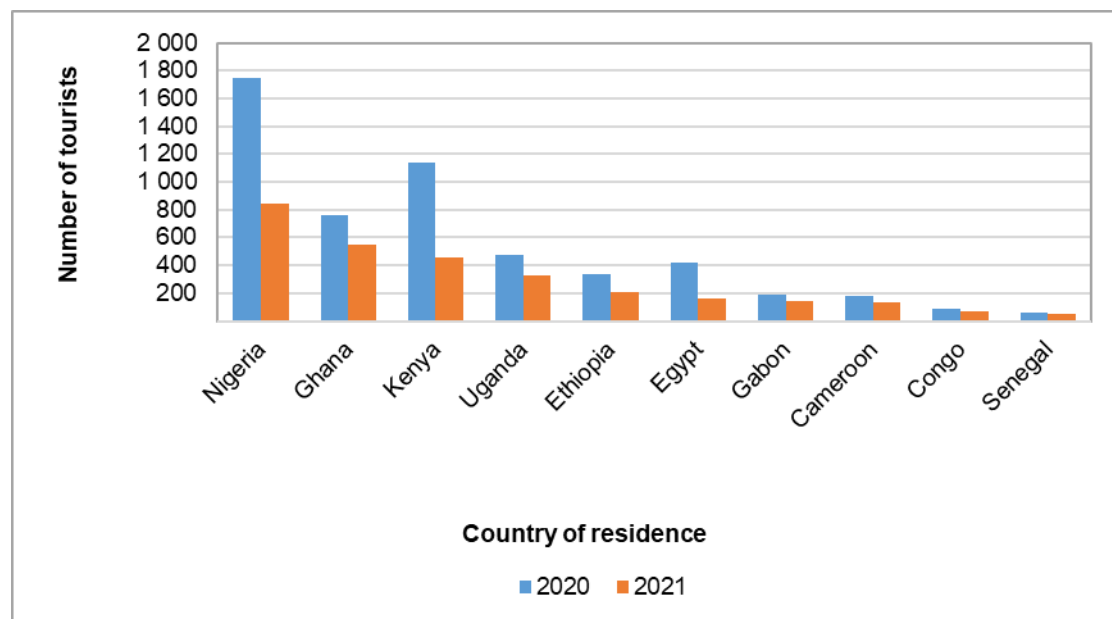
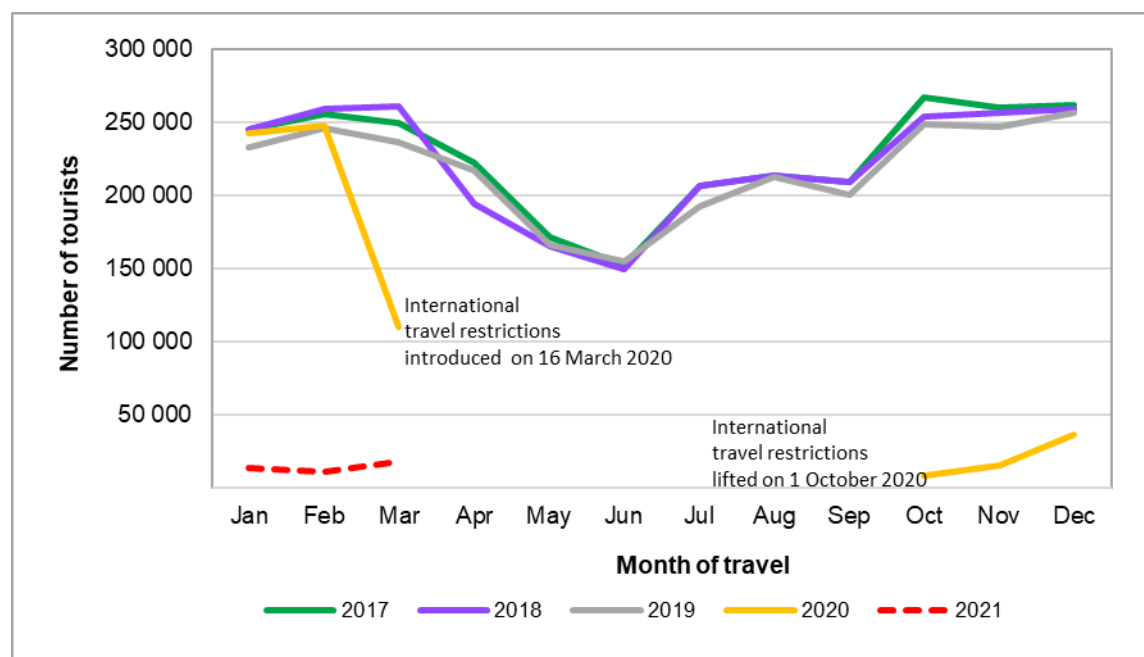
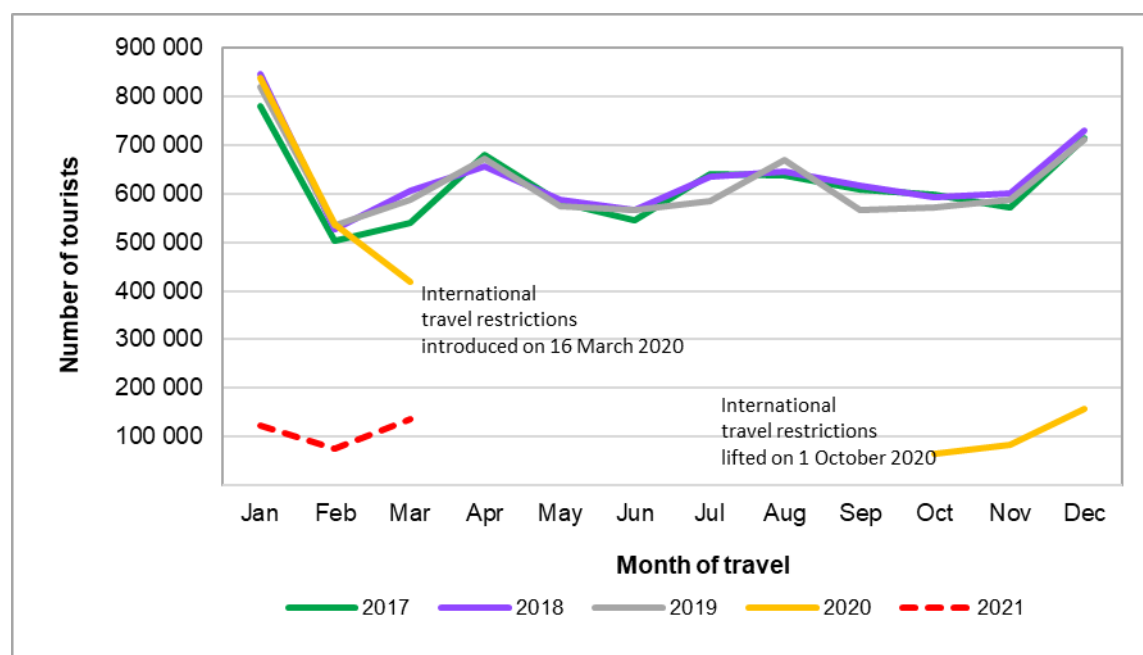
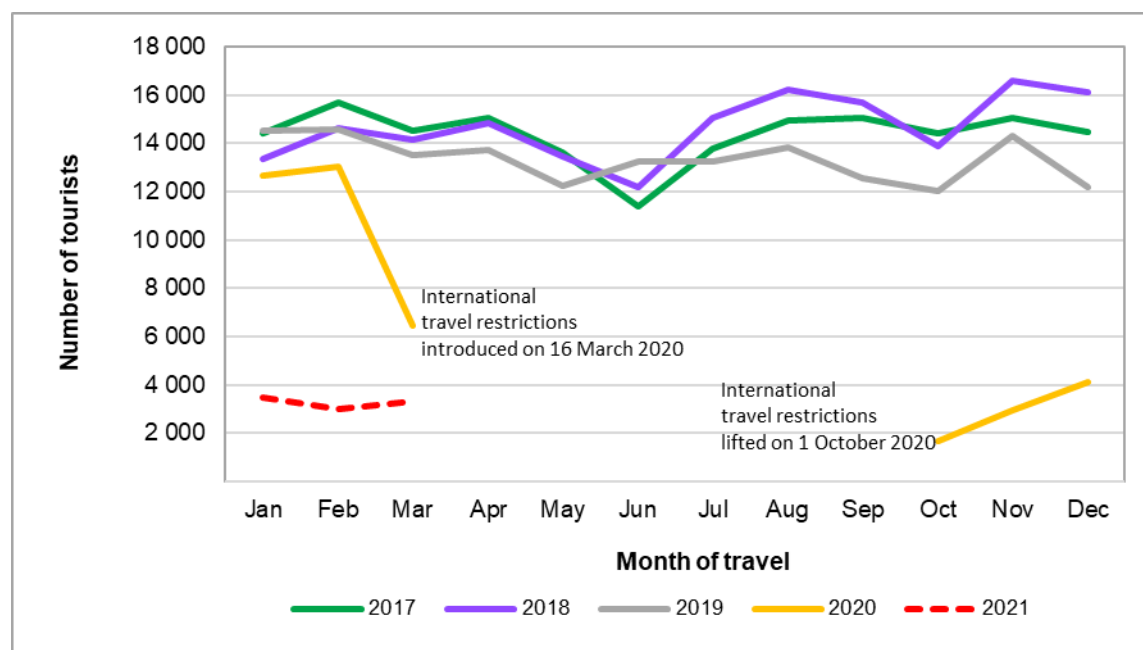
Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in March 2020 and March 2021**Figure 4 – Number of tourists from overseas countries by month: 2017 – 2021**

Figure 5 – Number of tourists from SADC countries by month: 2017 – 2021**Figure 6 – Number of tourists from 'other' African countries by month: 2017 – 2021**

3. Tables

Table 1 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction

Travel Direction	March 2020	February 2020	March 2021	% Change Feb 2021 – Mar 2021	% Change Mar 2020 – Mar 2021
Total	2 397 151	385 832	635 758	64,8%	-73,5%
South African residents	598 205	131 693	214 865	63,2%	-64,1%
Arrivals	314 022	64 943	103 933	60,0%	-66,9%
Departures	283 691	66 694	110 871	66,2%	-60,9%
Transits	492	56	61	8,9%	-87,6%
Foreign travellers	1 798 946	254 139	420 893	65,6%	-76,6%
Arrivals	863 232	136 510	223 135	63,5%	-74,2%
Departures	905 186	114 436	193 117	68,8%	-78,7%
Transits	30 528	3 193	4 641	45,3%	-84,8%
Foreign arrivals	863 232	136 510	223 135	63,5%	-74,2%
Non-visitors	57 790	34 212	38 265	11,8%	-33,8%
Visitors	805 442	102 298	184 870	80,7%	-77,0%
Visitors	805 442	102 298	184 870	80,7%	-77,0%
Arrivals only	177 158	43 503	66 905	53,8%	-62,2%
Single trips	333 977	24 057	46 907	95,0%	-86,0%
Multiple trips	294 307	34 738	71 058	104,6%	-75,9%
Visitors	805 442	102 298	184 870	80,7%	-77,0%
Same-day	270 348	12 133	27 232	124,4%	-89,9%
Overnight (Tourists)	535 094	90 165	157 638	74,8%	-70,5%

Table 2 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel

Travel direction	Total	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O. R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	635 758	25 274	2 414	120 200	1 888	149 776	481 462	4 520
South African residents	214 865	8 735	1 120	52 361	1 421	63 637	150 933	295
Arrivals	103 933	3 521	480	25 160	674	29 835	73 906	192
Departures	110 871	5 214	640	27 140	747	33 741	77 027	103
Transit	61	-	-	61	-	61	-	-
Foreign travellers	420 893	16 539	1 294	67 839	467	86 139	330 529	4 225
Arrivals	223 135	8 007	563	32 267	249	41 086	180 008	2 041
Departures	193 117	8 514	731	30 949	218	40 412	150 521	2 184
Transit	4 641	18	-	4 623	-	4 641	-	-
Visitors	184 870	6 538	210	28 385	164	35 297	149 558	15
Same day	27 232	86	6	1 951	9	2 052	25 175	5
Tourist	157 638	6 452	204	26 434	155	33 245	124 383	10

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, March 2021

Country of residence	March		March 2021						
	2020	2021	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	535 094	157 638	6 452	204	26 434	155	33 245	124 383	10
Overseas	110 241	17 548	4 578	183	10 920	75	15 756	1 782	10
Europe	73 142	9 555	3 473	82	5 152	45	8 752	795	8
Austria	1 266	167	107	-	55	-	162	5	-
Belgium	2 164	299	110	4	164	2	280	19	-
France	8 476	893	384	7	427	6	824	69	-
Germany	20 964	2 082	919	10	1 061	2	1 992	90	-
Ireland	1 446	162	51	2	93	-	146	16	-
Italy	1 090	346	81	2	217	1	301	45	-
Poland	621	173	47	2	110	-	159	14	-
Portugal	965	332	19	1	150	2	172	160	-
Russian Federation	972	779	461	1	286	9	757	22	-
Spain	1 162	262	84	-	154	-	238	24	-
Sweden	1 585	205	87	7	92	1	187	18	-
Switzerland	2 173	431	115	5	295	3	418	13	-
The Netherlands	5 711	685	326	2	318	2	648	37	-
UK	19 819	1 712	362	16	1 129	11	1 518	188	6
Other	4 728	1 027	320	23	601	6	950	75	2
North America	17 773	2 922	645	42	2 019	13	2 719	203	-
Canada	3 739	265	52	4	181	3	240	25	-
USA	14 034	2 657	593	38	1 838	10	2 479	178	-
Central and South America	5 674	493	109	3	290	3	405	88	-
Argentina	726	31	1	-	28	-	29	2	-
Brazil	3 404	293	78	2	156	1	237	56	-
Mexico	323	39	8	1	29	-	38	1	-
Other	1 221	130	22	-	77	2	101	29	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, March 2021 (continued)

Country of residence	March		March 2021						
	2020	2021	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	5 329	251	42	1	183	3	229	22	-
Australia	4 457	206	34	-	155	3	192	14	-
New Zealand	863	45	8	1	28	-	37	8	-
Other	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Middle East	1 364	593	148	3	416	-	567	26	-
Israel	751	354	102	2	236	-	340	14	-
Jordan	81	59	13	1	40	-	54	5	-
Syria	14	53	5	-	44	-	49	4	-
Other	518	127	28	-	96	-	124	3	-
Asia	6 959	3 734	161	52	2 860	11	3 084	648	2
Bangladesh	230	199	8	-	163	-	171	28	-
China	725	736	37	-	532	1	570	165	1
India	2 676	1 428	23	16	1 143	7	1 189	239	-
Japan	837	67	3	-	60	-	63	4	-
Malaysia	236	80	8	1	70	-	79	1	-
Pakistan	822	631	23	22	473	1	519	112	-
Philippines	220	237	18	9	180	1	208	28	1
South Korea	276	90	8	-	73	-	81	9	-
Taiwan	143	52	4	-	16	-	20	32	-
Thailand	191	101	21	4	72	-	97	4	-
Other	603	113	8	-	78	1	87	26	-
Africa	424 280	139 794	1 867	21	15 373	80	17 341	122 453	-
SADC	417 826	136 506	1 420	18	12 800	67	14 305	122 201	-
Angola	2 262	345	23	-	235	6	264	81	-
Botswana	26 508	6 784	6	9	619	10	644	6 140	-
DRC	1 209	936	98	-	735	11	844	92	-
Eswatini	51 221	14 525	-	-	114	1	115	14 410	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, March 2021 (continued)

Country of residence	March		March 2021						
	2020	2021	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Lesotho	95 113	23 349	2	-	48	-	50	23 299	-
Madagascar	103	29	6	-	19	2	27	2	-
Malawi	11 115	4 142	6	1	661	2	670	3 472	-
Mauritius	954	97	-	-	70	-	70	27	-
Mozambique	78 865	42 593	-	5	880	14	899	41 694	-
Namibia	9 010	7 596	704	-	789	-	1 493	6 103	-
Seychelles	268	13	3	1	8	-	12	1	-
Tanzania	2 202	882	56	-	447	3	506	376	-
Zambia	8 322	5 465	7	-	1 090	-	1 097	4 368	-
Zimbabwe	130 674	29 750	509	2	7 085	18	7 614	22 136	-
'Other' African	6 454	3 288	447	3	2 573	13	3 036	252	-
East and Central Africa	2 659	1 409	227	1	1 067	9	1 304	105	-
Burundi	37	19	1	-	17	-	18	1	-
Cameroon	184	135	17	-	110	1	128	7	-
Central African Republic	45	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
Chad	25	13	-	-	13	-	13	-	-
Comoros	23	8	3	-	4	1	8	-	-
Congo	86	65	21	-	42	-	63	2	-
Djibouti	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	12	10	-	-	8	-	8	2	-
Eritrea	29	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-
Ethiopia	335	209	12	-	175	-	187	22	-
Gabon	192	146	34	-	112	-	146	-	-
Kenya	1 140	452	88	-	323	6	417	35	-
Rwanda	41	13	1	-	11	-	12	1	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somalia	24	10	2	-	7	1	10	-	-
Uganda	477	323	48	1	239	-	288	35	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, March 2021 (concluded)

Country of residence	March		March 2021						
	2020	2021	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	3 000	1 589	189	1	1 283	2	1 475	114	-
Benin	79	26	4	-	20	-	24	2	-
Burkina Faso	19	12	2	-	10	-	12	-	-
Cape Verde Island	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	92	29	5	-	24	-	29	-	-
Gambia	22	14	1	-	11	-	12	2	-
Ghana	762	550	61	-	472	-	533	17	-
Guinea	39	22	1	-	9	-	10	12	-
Guinea-Bissau	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liberia	30	8	1	-	7	-	8	-	-
Mali	37	27	1	-	6	-	7	20	-
Mauritania	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Niger	14	6	-	-	6	-	6	-	-
Nigeria	1 750	840	110	1	668	2	781	59	-
Saint Helena	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senegal	56	47	2	-	43	-	45	2	-
Sierra Leone	31	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
Togo	26	6	1	-	5	-	6	-	-
North Africa	795	290	31	1	223	2	257	33	-
Algeria	60	3	-	-	2	1	3	-	-
Egypt	418	157	11	-	126	1	138	19	-
Libya	64	33	10	-	15	-	25	8	-
Morocco	83	26	2	-	20	-	22	4	-
South Sudan	37	14	1	-	13	-	14	-	-
The Sudan	83	44	6	-	37	-	43	1	-
Tunisia	50	12	1	1	9	-	11	1	-
Western Sahara	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	573	296	7	-	141	-	148	148	-

Table 4 – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit

Country of residence	March			Purpose of visit (March 2021)			
	2020	2021	% change 2020–2021	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	535 094	157 638	-70,5%	14 628	139 333	3 331	346
Overseas	110 241	17 548	-84,1%	519	16 454	505	70
Europe	73 142	9 555	-86,9%	257	8 963	289	46
Austria	1 266	167	-86,8%	7	158	2	-
Belgium	2 164	299	-86,2%	22	269	5	3
France	8 476	893	-89,5%	27	685	178	3
Germany	20 964	2 082	-90,1%	46	1 998	35	3
Ireland	1 446	162	-88,8%	4	153	4	1
Italy	1 090	346	-68,3%	17	324	4	1
Poland	621	173	-72,1%	11	161	1	-
Portugal	965	332	-65,6%	8	318	1	5
Russian Federation	972	779	-19,9%	8	769	2	-
Spain	1 162	262	-77,5%	13	248	1	-
Sweden	1 585	205	-87,1%	8	194	2	1
Switzerland	2 173	431	-80,2%	7	417	7	-
The Netherlands	5 711	685	-88,0%	14	658	10	3
UK	19 819	1 712	-91,4%	26	1 642	20	24
Other	4 728	1 027	-78,3%	39	969	17	2
North America	17 773	2 922	-83,6%	57	2 833	24	8
Canada	3 739	265	-92,9%	6	256	3	-
USA	14 034	2 657	-81,1%	51	2 577	21	8
Central and South America	5 674	493	-91,3%	20	452	18	3
Argentina	726	31	-95,7%	2	28	1	-
Brazil	3 404	293	-91,4%	13	269	10	1
Mexico	323	39	-87,9%	3	33	3	-
Other	1 221	130	-89,4%	2	122	4	2

Table 4 – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit (continued)

Country of residence	March			Purpose of visit (March 2021)			
	2020	2021	% change 2020–2021	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Australasia	5 329	251	-95,3%	4	245	1	1
Australia	4 457	206	-95,4%	4	200	1	1
New Zealand	863	45	-94,8%	-	45	-	-
Other	9	-	-100,0%	-	-	-	-
Middle East	1 364	593	-56,5%	8	552	33	-
Israel	751	354	-52,9%	2	341	11	-
Jordan	81	59	-27,2%	3	54	2	-
Syria	14	53	278,6%	-	52	1	-
Other	518	127	-75,5%	3	105	19	-
Asia	6 959	3 734	-46,3%	173	3 409	140	12
Bangladesh	230	199	-13,5%	10	186	3	-
China	725	736	1,5%	60	652	20	4
India	2 676	1 428	-46,6%	76	1 289	59	4
Japan	837	67	-92,0%	1	61	5	-
Malaysia	236	80	-66,1%	4	70	6	-
Pakistan	822	631	-23,2%	9	608	13	1
Philippines	220	237	7,7%	1	227	7	2
South Korea	276	90	-67,4%	4	75	11	-
Taiwan	143	52	-63,6%	4	48	-	-
Thailand	191	101	-47,1%	3	96	2	-
Other	603	113	-81,3%	1	97	14	1
Africa	424 280	139 794	-67,1%	14 107	122 588	2 824	275
SADC	417 826	136 506	-67,3%	14 019	119 848	2 388	251
Angola	2 262	345	-84,7%	4	302	33	6
Botswana	26 508	6 784	-74,4%	886	5 690	153	55
DRC	1 209	936	-22,6%	32	795	99	10
Eswatini	51 221	14 525	-71,6%	814	13 435	255	21

Table 4 – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit (continued)

Country of residence	March			Purpose of visit (March 2021)			
	2020	2021	% change 2020–2021	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Lesotho	95 113	23 349	-75,5%	820	21 795	696	38
Madagascar	103	29	-71,8%	-	20	7	2
Malawi	11 115	4 142	-62,7%	309	3 757	66	10
Mauritius	954	97	-89,8%	-	71	26	-
Mozambique	78 865	42 593	-46,0%	2 492	40 034	47	20
Namibia	9 010	7 596	-15,7%	3 482	3 764	331	19
Seychelles	268	13	-95,1%	-	11	1	1
Tanzania	2 202	882	-59,9%	45	785	50	2
Zambia	8 322	5 465	-34,3%	1 688	3 679	90	8
Zimbabwe	130 674	29 750	-77,2%	3 447	25 710	534	59
'Other' African	6 454	3 288	-49,1%	88	2 740	436	24
East and Central Africa	2 659	1 409	-47,0%	45	1 117	229	18
Burundi	37	19	-48,6%	-	17	2	-
Cameroon	184	135	-26,6%	3	93	37	2
Central African Republic	45	2	-95,6%	-	2	-	-
Chad	25	13	-48,0%	-	8	4	1
Comoros	23	8	-65,2%	1	4	2	1
Congo	86	65	-24,4%	-	52	11	2
Djibouti	2	-	-100,0%	-	-	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	12	10	-16,7%	-	2	8	-
Eritrea	29	4	-86,2%	1	3	-	-
Ethiopia	335	209	-37,6%	2	199	6	2
Gabon	192	146	-24,0%	4	107	33	2
Kenya	1 140	452	-60,4%	25	344	79	4
Rwanda	41	13	-68,3%	-	10	3	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	7	-	-100,0%	-	-	-	-
Somalia	24	10	-58,3%	-	5	4	1
Uganda	477	323	-32,3%	9	271	40	3

Table 4 – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit (concluded)

Country of residence	March			Purpose of visit (March 2021)			
	2020	2021	% change 2020–2021	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
West Africa	3 000	1 589	-47,0%	40	1 378	167	4
Benin	79	26	-67,1%	-	24	2	-
Burkina Faso	19	12	-36,8%	1	6	5	-
Cape Verde Island	13	-	-100,0%	-	-	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	92	29	-68,5%	2	20	6	1
Gambia	22	14	-36,4%	-	12	2	-
Ghana	762	550	-27,8%	11	512	27	-
Guinea	39	22	-43,6%	-	19	3	-
Guinea-Bissau	6	-	-100,0%	-	-	-	-
Liberia	30	8	-73,3%	-	6	2	-
Mali	37	27	-27,0%	1	25	1	-
Mauritania	9	-	-100,0%	-	-	-	-
Niger	14	6	-57,1%	-	6	-	-
Nigeria	1 750	840	-52,0%	22	703	113	2
Saint Helena	15	-	-100,0%	-	-	-	-
Senegal	56	47	-16,1%	2	39	6	-
Sierra Leone	31	2	-93,5%	-	1	-	1
Togo	26	6	-76,9%	1	5	-	-
North Africa	795	290	-63,5%	3	245	40	2
Algeria	60	3	-95,0%	-	1	1	1
Egypt	418	157	-62,4%	2	143	11	1
Libya	64	33	-48,4%	-	23	10	-
Morocco	83	26	-68,7%	-	25	1	-
South Sudan	37	14	-62,2%	1	11	2	-
The Sudan	83	44	-47,0%	-	30	14	-
Tunisia	50	12	-76,0%	-	11	1	-
Western Sahara	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	573	296	-48,3%	2	291	2	1

Table 5 – Number of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African regions by sex and age group

Sex	Age group	March		Region (March 2021)			
		2020	2021	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	535 094	157 638	17 548	136 506	3 288	296
	0-14	16 952	4 775	1 247	3 413	111	4
	15-24	40 910	11 455	1 873	9 174	399	9
	25-34	148 560	36 148	3 958	31 038	1 101	51
	35-44	159 487	55 488	3 823	50 598	978	89
	45-54	89 357	32 483	3 148	28 773	473	89
	55-64	50 239	12 852	2 291	10 348	164	49
	65+	29 589	4 437	1 208	3 162	62	5
Male	Total	310 080	110 196	10 869	96 974	2 156	197
	0-14	8 384	2 405	631	1 724	49	1
	15-24	21 987	6 255	1 013	5 004	232	6
	25-34	83 945	24 014	2 340	20 967	670	37
	35-44	99 281	41 764	2 619	38 358	729	58
	45-54	54 456	24 454	2 120	21 931	343	60
	55-64	27 073	8 738	1 428	7 178	100	32
	65+	14 954	2 566	718	1 812	33	3
Female	Total	225 014	47 442	6 679	39 532	1 132	99
	0-14	8 568	2 370	616	1 689	62	3
	15-24	18 923	5 200	860	4 170	167	3
	25-34	64 615	12 134	1 618	10 071	431	14
	35-44	60 206	13 724	1 204	12 240	249	31
	45-54	34 901	8 029	1 028	6 842	130	29
	55-64	23 166	4 114	863	3 170	64	17
	65+	14 635	1 871	490	1 350	29	2

4. Annexures

4.1 Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Mar 2020 and Jan – Mar 2021 by country of residence

Country of residence	Jan – Mar 2020	Jan – Mar 2021	Difference between Jan – Mar 2020 and Jan – Mar 2021	% change between Jan – Mar 2020 and Jan – Mar 2021
Total	2 429 177	386 937	-2 042 240	-84,1%
Overseas	600 828	41 980	-558 848	-93,0%
Europe	404 912	24 640	-380 272	-93,9%
Austria	8 595	451	-8 144	-94,8%
Belgium	11 008	875	-10 133	-92,1%
France	37 470	2 591	-34 879	-93,1%
Germany	98 333	4 938	-93 395	-95,0%
Italy	10 212	874	-9 338	-91,4%
Poland	3 913	484	-3 429	-87,6%
Portugal	6 312	667	-5 645	-89,4%
Russian Federation	5 392	2 083	-3 309	-61,4%
Spain	5 668	662	-5 006	-88,3%
Sweden	13 051	545	-12 506	-95,8%
Switzerland	13 573	1 058	-12 515	-92,2%
The Netherlands	32 030	1 700	-30 330	-94,7%
Turkey	4 047	420	-3 627	-89,6%
UK	119 899	4 436	-115 463	-96,3%
Other	35 409	2 856	-32 553	-91,9%
North America	82 173	6 494	-75 679	-92,1%
Canada	16 157	752	-15 405	-95,3%
USA	66 016	5 742	-60 274	-91,3%
Central and South America	29 361	1 235	-28 126	-95,8%
Argentina	4 779	75	-4 704	-98,4%
Brazil	18 866	707	-18 159	-96,3%
Mexico	903	82	-821	-90,9%
Other	4 813	371	-4 442	-92,3%

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Mar 2020 and Jan – Mar 2021 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – Mar 2020	Jan – Mar 2021	Difference between Jan – Mar 2020 and Jan – Mar 2021	% change between Jan – Mar 2020 and Jan – Mar 2021
Australasia	23 520	640	-22 880	-97,3%
Australia	19 838	528	-19 310	-97,3%
New Zealand	3 642	107	-3 535	-97,1%
Other	40	5	-35	-87,5%
Middle East	10 859	1 158	-9 701	-89,3%
Israel	5 291	510	-4 781	-90,4%
Jordan	478	130	-348	-72,8%
Saudi Arabia	3 087	121	-2 966	-96,1%
Other	2 003	397	-1 606	-80,2%
Asia	50 003	7 813	-42 190	-84,4%
Bangladesh	1 153	306	-847	-73,5%
China	11 516	1 388	-10 128	-87,9%
India	17 113	3 121	-13 992	-81,8%
Japan	4 944	215	-4 729	-95,7%
Malaysia	1 325	109	-1 216	-91,8%
Pakistan	3 358	1 341	-2 017	-60,1%
Philippines	1 134	523	-611	-53,9%
South Korea	3 947	234	-3 713	-94,1%
Taiwan	1 089	97	-992	-91,1%
Thailand	1 047	214	-833	-79,6%
Other	3 377	265	-3 112	-92,2%
Africa	1 825 354	344 285	-1 481 069	-81,1%
SADC	1 793 210	334 568	-1 458 642	-81,3%
Angola	13 558	745	-12 813	-94,5%
Botswana	117 099	14 891	-102 208	-87,3%
DRC	6 352	2 525	-3 827	-60,2%
Eswatini	188 948	28 649	-160 299	-84,8%

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Mar 2020 and Jan – Mar 2021 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – Mar 2020	Jan – Mar 2021	Difference between Jan – Mar 2020 and Jan – Mar 2021	% change between Jan – Mar 2020 and Jan – Mar 2021
Lesotho	413 724	63 465	-350 259	-84,7%
Madagascar	549	83	-466	-84,9%
Malawi	43 325	8 743	-34 582	-79,8%
Mauritius	4 465	145	-4 320	-96,8%
Mozambique	345 026	92 770	-252 256	-73,1%
Namibia	36 098	18 179	-17 919	-49,6%
Seychelles	1 254	28	-1 226	-97,8%
Tanzania	8 459	2 191	-6 268	-74,1%
Zambia	31 659	13 136	-18 523	-58,5%
Zimbabwe	582 694	89 018	-493 676	-84,7%
'Other' African	32 144	9 717	-22 427	-69,8%
East and Central Africa	13 550	4 194	-9 356	-69,0%
Burundi	190	67	-123	-64,7%
Cameroon	977	386	-591	-60,5%
Central African Republic	61	4	-57	-93,4%
Chad	65	27	-38	-58,5%
Comoros	75	15	-60	-80,0%
Congo	374	199	-175	-46,8%
Djibouti	11	1	-10	-90,9%
Equatorial Guinea	70	39	-31	-44,3%
Eritrea	101	7	-94	-93,1%
Ethiopia	1 513	549	-964	-63,7%
Gabon	1 198	495	-703	-58,7%
Kenya	5 647	1 431	-4 216	-74,7%
Réunion	17	-	-17	-100,0%
Rwanda	182	51	-131	-72,0%
São Tomé and Príncipe	19	1	-18	-94,7%
Somalia	99	36	-63	-63,6%
Uganda	2 951	886	-2 065	-70,0%

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Mar 2020 and Jan – Mar 2021 by country of residence (concluded)

Country of residence	Jan – Mar 2020	Jan – Mar 2021	Difference between Jan – Mar 2020 and Jan – Mar 2021	% change between Jan – Mar 2020 and Jan – Mar 2021
West Africa	14 722	4 636	-10 086	-68,5%
Benin	333	90	-243	-73,0%
Burkina Faso	137	30	-107	-78,1%
Cape Verde Island	53	4	-49	-92,5%
Côte d'Ivoire	518	82	-436	-84,2%
Gambia	114	23	-91	-79,8%
Ghana	4 043	1 317	-2 726	-67,4%
Guinea	266	74	-192	-72,2%
Guinea-Bissau	31	2	-29	-93,5%
Liberia	111	27	-84	-75,7%
Mali	253	47	-206	-81,4%
Mauritania	38	3	-35	-92,1%
Niger	62	17	-45	-72,6%
Nigeria	8 183	2 785	-5 398	-66,0%
Saint Helena	41	3	-38	-92,7%
Senegal	282	98	-184	-65,2%
Sierra Leone	153	19	-134	-87,6%
Togo	104	15	-89	-85,6%
North Africa	3 872	887	-2 985	-77,1%
Algeria	278	16	-262	-94,2%
Egypt	2 062	495	-1 567	-76,0%
Libya	195	74	-121	-62,1%
Morocco	457	53	-404	-88,4%
South Sudan	208	47	-161	-77,4%
The Sudan	376	169	-207	-55,1%
Tunisia	296	32	-264	-89,2%
Western Sahara	-	1	1	-
Unspecified	2 995	672	-2 323	-77,6%

4.2 Annexure B – Number of tourists: Quarter 4, 2020 – Quarter 1, 2021 changes by country of residence and month of travel

Country of residence	Quarter 4, 2020 – Quarter 1, 2021								% change Qtr 4, 2020 – Qtr 1, 2021
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Qtr 4 2020	Jan	Feb	Mar	Qtr 1 2021	
Total	73 988	101 096	198 059	373 143	139 134	90 165	157 638	386 937	3,7%
Overseas	8 325	15 520	36 357	60 202	13 687	10 745	17 548	41 980	-30,3%
Europe	4 856	10 005	26 880	41 741	8 682	6 403	9 555	24 640	-41,0%
Austria	96	234	538	868	168	116	167	451	-48,0%
Belgium	116	341	1 261	1 718	380	196	299	875	-49,1%
France	345	765	2 443	3 553	1 128	570	893	2 591	-27,1%
Germany	1 140	1 710	4 909	7 759	1 557	1 299	2 082	4 938	-36,4%
Italy	182	326	727	1 235	299	229	346	874	-29,2%
Poland	75	111	362	548	161	150	173	484	-11,7%
Portugal	157	321	443	921	198	137	332	667	-27,6%
Russian Federation	99	245	758	1 102	612	692	779	2 083	89,0%
Spain	131	185	415	731	248	152	262	662	-9,4%
Sweden	180	243	608	1 031	210	130	205	545	-47,1%
Switzerland	228	597	1 299	2 124	320	307	431	1 058	-50,2%
The Netherlands	217	748	2 031	2 996	620	395	685	1 700	-43,3%
Turkey	186	228	228	642	155	133	132	420	-34,6%
UK	1 085	2 833	8 567	12 485	1 688	1 036	1 712	4 436	-64,5%
Other	619	1 118	2 291	4 028	938	861	1 057	2 856	-29,1%
North America	855	1 811	4 665	7 331	2 152	1 420	2 922	6 494	-11,4%
Canada	241	353	794	1 388	308	179	265	752	-45,8%
USA	614	1 458	3 871	5 943	1 844	1 241	2 657	5 742	-3,4%
Central and South America	120	296	591	1 007	401	341	493	1 235	22,6%
Argentina	13	39	60	112	24	20	31	75	-33,0%
Brazil	55	148	319	522	234	180	293	707	35,4%
Mexico	4	9	35	48	16	27	39	82	70,8%
Other	48	100	177	325	127	114	130	371	14,2%

Annexure B – Number of tourists: Quarter 4, 2020 – Quarter 1, 2021 changes by country of residence and month of travel (continued)

Country of residence	Quarter 4, 2020 – Quarter 1, 2021								% change Qrt 4, 2020 – Qrt 1, 2021
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Qtr 4 2020	Jan	Feb	Mar	Qtr 1 2021	
Australasia	212	318	601	1 131	223	166	251	640	-43,4%
Australia	159	237	486	882	180	142	206	528	-40,1%
New Zealand	53	81	114	248	38	24	45	107	-56,9%
Other	-	-	1	1	5	-	-	5	400,0%
Middle East	253	539	748	1 540	359	206	593	1 158	-24,8%
Israel	94	218	395	707	113	43	354	510	-27,9%
Jordan	24	55	58	137	46	25	59	130	-5,1%
Saudi Arabia	48	56	34	138	53	42	26	121	-12,3%
Other	87	210	261	558	147	96	154	397	-28,9%
Asia	2 029	2 551	2 872	7 452	1 870	2 209	3 734	7 813	4,8%
Bangladesh	170	513	151	834	49	58	199	306	-63,3%
China	248	353	475	1 076	317	335	736	1 388	29,0%
India	293	547	939	1 779	710	983	1 428	3 121	75,4%
Japan	92	86	114	292	100	48	67	215	-26,4%
Malaysia	9	28	36	73	17	12	80	109	49,3%
Pakistan	751	386	352	1 489	287	423	631	1 341	-9,9%
Philippines	192	304	271	767	142	144	237	523	-31,8%
South Korea	88	69	118	275	90	54	90	234	-14,9%
Taiwan	37	40	44	121	23	22	52	97	-19,8%
Thailand	70	118	145	333	44	69	101	214	-35,7%
Other	79	107	227	413	91	61	113	265	-35,8%
Africa	65 485	85 327	161 358	312 170	125 225	79 266	139 794	344 285	10,3%
SADC	63 813	82 390	157 258	303 461	121 764	76 298	136 506	334 568	10,3%
Angola	288	686	911	1 885	288	112	345	745	-60,5%
Botswana	3 024	1 851	7 493	12 368	4 425	3 682	6 784	14 891	20,4%
DRC	505	756	1 449	2 710	794	795	936	2 525	-6,8%
Eswatini	7 192	5 547	13 260	25 999	6 951	7 173	14 525	28 649	10,2%

Annexure B – Number of tourists: Quarter 4, 2020 – Quarter 1, 2021 changes by country of residence and month of travel (continued)

Country of residence	Quarter 4, 2020 – Quarter 1, 2021								% change Qrt 4, 2020 – Qrt 1, 2021
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Qtr 4 2020	Jan	Feb	Mar	Qtr 1 2021	
Lesotho	6 312	10 117	18 592	35 021	27 628	12 488	23 349	63 465	81,2%
Madagascar	19	25	53	97	30	24	29	83	-14,4%
Malawi	2 016	3 038	4 986	10 040	2 386	2 215	4 142	8 743	-12,9%
Mauritius	47	56	65	168	19	29	97	145	-13,7%
Mozambique	14 917	26 738	35 856	77 511	28 771	21 406	42 593	92 770	19,7%
Namibia	5 982	4 662	7 769	18 413	4 998	5 585	7 596	18 179	-1,3%
Seychelles	6	28	18	52	6	9	13	28	-46,2%
Tanzania	557	814	1 147	2 518	722	587	882	2 191	-13,0%
Zambia	4 142	4 977	5 708	14 827	4 167	3 504	5 465	13 136	-11,4%
Zimbabwe	18 806	23 095	59 951	101 852	40 579	18 689	29 750	89 018	-12,6%
'Other' African	1 672	2 937	4 100	8 709	3 461	2 968	3 288	9 717	11,6%
East and Central Africa	740	1 315	1 845	3 900	1 544	1 241	1 409	4 194	7,5%
Burundi	5	8	26	39	18	30	19	67	71,8%
Cameroon	65	105	185	355	139	112	135	386	8,7%
Central African Republic	5	3	2	10	2	-	2	4	-60,0%
Chad	12	11	15	38	8	6	13	27	-28,9%
Comoros		75	18	93	1	6	8	15	-83,9%
Congo	38	70	80	188	72	62	65	199	5,9%
Djibouti	1	-	2	3	-	1	-	1	-66,7%
Equatorial Guinea	12	7	12	31	8	21	10	39	25,8%
Eritrea	2	1	10	13	2	1	4	7	-46,2%
Ethiopia	103	219	241	563	188	152	209	549	-2,5%
Gabon	114	197	316	627	196	153	146	495	-21,1%
Kenya	259	384	609	1 252	535	444	452	1 431	14,3%
Rwanda	7	25	16	48	28	10	13	51	6,3%
São Tomé and Príncipe	1	27	-	28	1	-	-	1	-96,4%
Somalia	11	15	27	53	19	7	10	36	-32,1%
Uganda	105	168	286	559	327	236	323	886	58,5%

Annexure B – Number of tourists: Quarter 4, 2020 – Quarter 1, 2021 changes by country of residence and month of travel (concluded)

Country of residence	Quarter 4, 2020 – Quarter 1, 2021								% change Qrt 4, 2020 – Qrt 1, 2021
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Qtr 4 2020	Jan	Feb	Mar	Qtr 1 2021	
West Africa	652	1 287	1 949	3 888	1 621	1 426	1 589	4 636	19,2%
Benin	29	57	57	143	33	31	26	90	-37,1%
Burkina Faso	11	8	10	29	8	10	12	30	3,4%
Cape Verde Island	-	2	9	11	1	3	-	4	-63,6%
Côte d'Ivoire	33	26	53	112	29	24	29	82	-26,8%
Gambia	2	4	-	6	5	4	14	23	283,3%
Ghana	149	443	622	1 214	322	445	550	1 317	8,5%
Guinea	19	27	52	98	16	36	22	74	-24,5%
Guinea-Bissau	-	1	4	5	1	1	-	2	-60,0%
Liberia	3	6	16	25	7	12	8	27	8,0%
Mali	7	17	38	62	9	11	27	47	-24,2%
Mauritania	8	-	1	9	3	-	-	3	-66,7%
Niger	3	5	3	11	8	3	6	17	54,5%
Nigeria	330	653	1 025	2 008	1 147	798	840	2 785	38,7%
Saint Helena	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	
Senegal	45	23	42	110	20	31	47	98	-10,9%
Sierra Leone	8	7	12	27	11	6	2	19	-29,6%
Togo	5	8	5	18	1	8	6	15	-16,7%
North Africa	280	335	306	921	296	301	290	887	-3,7%
Algeria	26	17	12	55	7	6	3	16	-70,9%
Egypt	164	199	130	493	160	178	157	495	0,4%
Libya	18	23	32	73	26	15	33	74	1,4%
Morocco	8	8	25	41	24	3	26	53	29,3%
South Sudan	6	14	21	41	17	16	14	47	14,6%
The Sudan	49	54	63	166	48	77	44	169	1,8%
Tunisia	8	20	23	51	14	6	12	32	-37,3%
Western Sahara	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	0,0%
Unspecified	178	249	344	771	222	154	296	672	-12,8%

4.3 Annexure C – Number of tourists: Quarter 1, 2020 – Quarter 1, 2021 changes by country of residence and month of travel

Country of residence	Quarter 1, 2020 – Quarter 1, 2021								
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Qtr 1 2020	Jan	Feb	Mar	Qtr 1 2021	% change 2020 – 2021
Total	1 093 268	800 815	535 094	2 429 177	139 134	90 165	157 638	386 937	-84,1%
Overseas	242 550	248 037	110 241	600 828	13 687	10 745	17 548	41 980	-93,0%
Europe	157 808	173 962	73 142	404 912	8 682	6 403	9 555	24 640	-93,9%
Austria	3 220	4 109	1 266	8 595	168	116	167	451	-94,8%
Belgium	3 799	5 045	2 164	11 008	380	196	299	875	-92,1%
France	12 509	16 485	8 476	37 470	1 128	570	893	2 591	-93,1%
Germany	35 067	42 302	20 964	98 333	1 557	1 299	2 082	4 938	-95,0%
Italy	4 693	4 429	1 090	10 212	299	229	346	874	-91,4%
Poland	1 595	1 697	621	3 913	161	150	173	484	-87,6%
Portugal	2 603	2 744	965	6 312	198	137	332	667	-89,4%
Russian Federation	2 524	1 896	972	5 392	612	692	779	2 083	-61,4%
Spain	2 267	2 239	1 162	5 668	248	152	262	662	-88,3%
Sweden	5 669	5 797	1 585	13 051	210	130	205	545	-95,8%
Switzerland	5 371	6 029	2 173	13 573	320	307	431	1 058	-92,2%
The Netherlands	12 776	13 543	5 711	32 030	620	395	685	1 700	-94,7%
Turkey	2 202	1 433	412	4 047	155	133	132	420	-89,6%
UK	49 436	50 644	19 819	119 899	1 688	1 036	1 712	4 436	-96,3%
Other	14 077	15 570	5 762	35 409	938	861	1 057	2 856	-91,9%
North America	31 594	32 806	17 773	82 173	2 152	1 420	2 922	6 494	-92,1%
Canada	5 930	6 488	3 739	16 157	308	179	265	752	-95,3%
USA	25 664	26 318	14 034	66 016	1 844	1 241	2 657	5 742	-91,3%
Central and South America	12 567	11 120	5 674	29 361	401	341	493	1 235	-95,8%
Argentina	2 126	1 927	726	4 779	24	20	31	75	-98,4%
Brazil	8 540	6 922	3 404	18 866	234	180	293	707	-96,3%
Mexico	334	246	323	903	16	27	39	82	-90,9%
Other	1 567	2 025	1 221	4 813	127	114	130	371	-92,3%

Annexure C – Number of tourists: Quarter 1, 2020 – Quarter 1, 2021 changes by country of residence and month of travel (continued)

Country of residence	Quarter 1, 2020 – Quarter 1, 2021								% change 2020 – 2021
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Qtr 1 2020	Jan	Feb	Mar	Qtr 1 2021	
Australasia	9 584	8 607	5 329	23 520	223	166	251	640	-97,3%
Australia	8 142	7 239	4 457	19 838	180	142	206	528	-97,3%
New Zealand	1 431	1 348	863	3 642	38	24	45	107	-97,1%
Other	11	20	9	40	5	-	-	5	-87,5%
Middle East	5 234	4 261	1 364	10 859	359	206	593	1 158	-89,3%
Israel	2 215	2 325	751	5 291	113	43	354	510	-90,4%
Jordan	219	178	81	478	46	25	59	130	-72,8%
Saudi Arabia	1 920	894	273	3 087	53	42	26	121	-96,1%
Other	880	864	259	2 003	147	96	154	397	-80,2%
Asia	25 763	17 281	6 959	50 003	1 870	2 209	3 734	7 813	-84,4%
Bangladesh	515	408	230	1 153	49	58	199	306	-73,5%
China	8 799	1 992	725	11 516	317	335	736	1 388	-87,9%
India	7 452	6 985	2 676	17 113	710	983	1 428	3 121	-81,8%
Japan	1 953	2 154	837	4 944	100	48	67	215	-95,7%
Malaysia	597	492	236	1 325	17	12	80	109	-91,8%
Pakistan	1 335	1 201	822	3 358	287	423	631	1 341	-60,1%
Philippines	472	442	220	1 134	142	144	237	523	-53,9%
South Korea	2 078	1 593	276	3 947	90	54	90	234	-94,1%
Taiwan	624	322	143	1 089	23	22	52	97	-91,1%
Thailand	420	436	191	1 047	44	69	101	214	-79,6%
Other	1 518	1 256	603	3 377	91	61	113	265	-92,2%
Africa	849 698	551 376	424 280	1 825 354	125 225	79 266	139 794	344 285	-81,1%
SADC	837 035	538 349	417 826	1 793 210	121 764	76 298	136 506	334 568	-81,3%
Angola	6 270	5 026	2 262	13 558	288	112	345	745	-94,5%
Botswana	44 122	46 469	26 508	117 099	4 425	3 682	6 784	14 891	-87,3%
DRC	2 702	2 441	1 209	6 352	794	795	936	2 525	-60,2%
Eswatini	74 370	63 357	51 221	188 948	6 951	7 173	14 525	28 649	-84,8%

Annexure C – Number of tourists: Quarter 1, 2020 – Quarter 1, 2021 changes by country of residence and month of travel (continued)

Country of residence	Quarter 1, 2020 – Quarter 1, 2021								% change 2020 – 2021
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Qtr 1 2020	Jan	Feb	Mar	Qtr 1 2021	
Lesotho	204 791	113 820	95 113	413 724	27 628	12 488	23 349	63 465	-84,7%
Madagascar	235	211	103	549	30	24	29	83	-84,9%
Malawi	18 766	13 444	11 115	43 325	2 386	2 215	4 142	8 743	-79,8%
Mauritius	1 745	1 766	954	4 465	19	29	97	145	-96,8%
Mozambique	161 574	104 587	78 865	345 026	28 771	21 406	42 593	92 770	-73,1%
Namibia	14 545	12 543	9 010	36 098	4 998	5 585	7 596	18 179	-49,6%
Seychelles	404	582	268	1 254	6	9	13	28	-97,8%
Tanzania	3 273	2 984	2 202	8 459	722	587	882	2 191	-74,1%
Zambia	12 256	11 081	8 322	31 659	4 167	3 504	5 465	13 136	-58,5%
Zimbabwe	291 982	160 038	130 674	582 694	40 579	18 689	29 750	89 018	-84,7%
'Other' African	12 663	13 027	6 454	32 144	3 461	2 968	3 288	9 717	-69,8%
East and Central Africa	5 333	5 558	2 659	13 550	1 544	1 241	1 409	4 194	-69,0%
Burundi	75	78	37	190	18	30	19	67	-64,7%
Cameroon	382	411	184	977	139	112	135	386	-60,5%
Central African Republic	4	12	45	61	2	-	2	4	-93,4%
Chad	9	31	25	65	8	6	13	27	-58,5%
Comoros	16	36	23	75	1	6	8	15	-80,0%
Congo	159	129	86	374	72	62	65	199	-46,8%
Djibouti	4	5	2	11	-	1	-	1	-90,9%
Equatorial Guinea	37	21	12	70	8	21	10	39	-44,3%
Eritrea	29	43	29	101	2	1	4	7	-93,1%
Ethiopia	640	538	335	1 513	188	152	209	549	-63,7%
Gabon	492	514	192	1 198	196	153	146	495	-58,7%
Kenya	2 149	2 358	1 140	5 647	535	444	452	1 431	-74,7%
Réunion	17	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-100,0%
Rwanda	69	72	41	182	28	10	13	51	-72,0%
São Tomé and Príncipe	6	6	7	19	1	-	-	1	-94,7%
Somalia	41	34	24	99	19	7	10	36	-63,6%
Uganda	1 204	1 270	477	2 951	327	236	323	886	-70,0%

Annexure C – Number of tourists: Quarter 1, 2020 – Quarter 1, 2021 changes by country of residence and month of travel (concluded)

Country of residence	Quarter 1, 2020 – Quarter 1, 2021								% change 2020 – 2021
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Qtr 1 2020	Jan	Feb	Mar	Qtr 1 2021	
West Africa	5 646	6 076	3 000	14 722	1 621	1 426	1 589	4 636	-68,5%
Benin	112	142	79	333	33	31	26	90	-73,0%
Burkina Faso	41	77	19	137	8	10	12	30	-78,1%
Cape Verde Island	24	16	13	53	1	3	-	4	-92,5%
Côte d'Ivoire	205	221	92	518	29	24	29	82	-84,2%
Gambia	55	37	22	114	5	4	14	23	-79,8%
Ghana	1 610	1 671	762	4 043	322	445	550	1 317	-67,4%
Guinea	96	131	39	266	16	36	22	74	-72,2%
Guinea-Bissau	9	16	6	31	1	1	-	2	-93,5%
Liberia	24	57	30	111	7	12	8	27	-75,7%
Mali	90	126	37	253	9	11	27	47	-81,4%
Mauritania	6	23	9	38	3	-	-	3	-92,1%
Niger	22	26	14	62	8	3	6	17	-72,6%
Nigeria	3 180	3 253	1 750	8 183	1 147	798	840	2 785	-66,0%
Saint Helena	12	14	15	41	-	3	-	3	-92,7%
Senegal	100	126	56	282	20	31	47	98	-65,2%
Sierra Leone	35	87	31	153	11	6	2	19	-87,6%
Togo	25	53	26	104	1	8	6	15	-85,6%
North Africa	1 684	1 393	795	3 872	296	301	290	887	-77,1%
Algeria	118	100	60	278	7	6	3	16	-94,2%
Egypt	951	693	418	2 062	160	178	157	495	-76,0%
Libya	67	64	64	195	26	15	33	74	-62,1%
Morocco	171	203	83	457	24	3	26	53	-88,4%
South Sudan	105	66	37	208	17	16	14	47	-77,4%
The Sudan	155	138	83	376	48	77	44	169	-55,1%
Tunisia	117	129	50	296	14	6	12	32	-89,2%
Western Sahara	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Unspecified	1 020	1 402	573	2 995	222	154	296	672	-77,6%

5. Explanatory notes

5.1 Introduction

Legal movements across South African borders, as well as legal immigration into South Africa, fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). Stats SA then processes, analyses and publishes this information.

Administrative data sources from the DHA, that is, information from all the country's ports of entry and applications for permanent residence, constitute the only comprehensive source of information on foreign arrivals and departures, documented immigrants and emigrants. The information from this source of data provides the best national coverage (both in terms of space and time) of the population movements of South African residents and foreign travellers. The data can be used for the following:

- To estimate, monitor and understand salient characteristics of foreign travellers and volumes of South African residents travelling outside South Africa.
- To provide information that can be used to (a) assess the extent of government's progress in strengthening bilateral political and economic relations by assessing the number of international tourist arrivals, and (b) benchmark surveys focusing on the demand for local tourism services by foreign travellers.

5.2 Purpose of the statistical release

This release reports on arrivals, departures and transit travellers of South African residents and foreign travellers. Detailed information on the age and sex distribution; mode of travel; national and regional distribution; and purpose of travel of overnight visitors or tourists are also provided.

5.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data collected by DHA officials on travellers who departed from or entered the Republic of South Africa (RSA).

5.4 Data

Information published in this release is based on data obtained from the following data sources within the DHA:

- Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all road, air and sea entry ports on all travellers (South African residents and foreign travellers) arriving into or departing from South Africa are captured into the DHA's population Movement Control System (MCS). The counts/statistics relate to the number of individual movements, rather than to the number of people. Hence, the multiple movements of individual people during the calendar month are each counted separately. Generally, the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the ports' electronic database. No forms or cards are used (except on rare occasions when the capturing system is down) to collect information from travellers. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA.
- Stats SA receives downloaded data covering a particular calendar month from the DHA.
- As part of data interrogation, data from O.R. Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA is also reflected in an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern has also been observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In March 2021, the DHA data was 3,7% higher than that of ACSA.

5.5 Limitations

5.5.1 Outbound tourists

The information on the total number of arrivals and departures of South African residents is collected from the scanning of passports. However, data on the country visited are not collected from passengers; country of final destination; intended duration of stay and purpose of visit. With this limitation, it is impossible to identify the number of tourists from the data on South African residents.

5.5.2 Purpose of visit

The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons such as attending weddings. While it's possible to separate 'visiting friends and relatives' from the broad category of Holiday, shopping and other reasons for visiting South Africa are all combined with vacation in the DHA movement control system. Discussions are in progress with the Department of Home Affairs to capture vacation and shopping as separate categories for a clearer breakdown of tourists by purpose of visit.

5.6 Definition of terms

5.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)

Traveller is someone who moves between different geographical locations for any purpose and any duration.

Visitor refers to any person travelling to a place other than that of his/her usual environment for less than 12 months and whose main purpose of the trip is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.

Same-Day visitor is a visitor who visits a place for less than one night.

Tourist (overnight visitor) is a visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the place visited.

Tourism comprises the activities of persons travelling to, and staying in places outside their usual environment, for not more than one consecutive year, for leisure, business and other purposes. The usual environment of a person consists of a certain area around his/her place of residence, plus all the other places he/she frequently visits.

5.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release

South African resident refers to either a South African citizen or a non-South African citizen with a South African permanent residence permit.

Foreign traveller refers to a traveller who is not a South African citizen or permanent resident.

Region refers to the following country classification:

- Overseas: Europe, North America, Central and South America, Australasia, the Middle East and Asia.
- Africa: SADC and 'other' Africa (East and Central Africa, West Africa and North Africa).

Country refers to individual countries within a region. The country of residence is used. The country of residence should not be confused with the country from which the visitor travelled.

Africa refers to all the countries in Africa (both mainland and island countries).

SADC refers to the fourteen countries, excluding South Africa, which belong to the Southern African Development Community.

'Other' African refers to all non-SADC African countries.

Overseas refers to all countries outside Africa.

Trip refers to the arrival and departure of a visitor in a specified month.

5.7 Symbols used

- = nil
- < = less than

5.8 Rounding off

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

6. General information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages, since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities. Stats SA releases are published in English.

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