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## **STATISTICAL RELEASE**

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# **Tourism and migration**

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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 September 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.

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**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 857 448 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in September 2021. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 298 109 South African residents and 559 339 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 141 678 arrivals, 156 294 departures and 137 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 291 042, 256 354 and 11 943 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in September 2020 and September 2021 is not included as there was a hard lockdown in September 2020 and only essential services providers were allowed to travel.

A comparison between the movements in August 2021 and September 2021 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of travellers in transit increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 13,5% (from 124 804 in August 2021 to 141 678 in September 2021), departures increased by 15,1% (from 135 733 in August 2021 to 156 294 in September 2021) and transits increased by 9,6% (from 125 in August 2021 to 137 in September 2021). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 8,2% (from 268 946 in August 2021 to 291 042 in September 2021), departures increased by 12,0% (from 228 828 in August 2021 to 256 354 in September 2021) and transits decreased by 2,0% (from 12 181 in August 2021 to 11 943 in September 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 9, in September 2021, 43 462 (14,9%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 247 580 (85,1%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in September 2021 but did not depart in September 2021 [86 048 (34,8%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in September 2021 and left in September 2021 [76 985 (31,1%)] and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in September 2021 [84 547 (34,1%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In September 2021, there were 41 632 (16,8%) same-day visitors and 205 948 (83,2%) tourists. Between August 2021 and September 2021, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 11,3% (from 37 392 in August 2021 to 41 632 in September 2021) and that of tourists increased by 10,9% (from 185 637 in August 2021 to 205 948 in September 2021).

### 1.1.2 Mode of travel of travellers

Information presented in Table 2 on page 10, shows the number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel. In September 2021, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 590 254 (68,8%) of the 857 448 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 261 019 (30,4%). Compared to air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 6 175 (0,7%) used sea transport into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 51 861 (36,6%) came by air, 89 740 (63,3%) came by road and 77 (0,1%) arrived by sea. For departures, 60 555 (38,7%) used air, 95 503 (61,1%) used road and 236 (0,2%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 137 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 71 230 (24,5%) arrived by air, 216 837 (74,5%) came by road and 2 975 (1,0%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 65 293 (25,5%) foreign travellers left by air, 188 174 (73,4%) left by road and 2 887 (1,1%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 11 943 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that of the 41 632 same-day visitors, a majority, 35 474 (85,2%) arrived in the country by road, 6 123 (14,7%) flew into the country and 35 (0,1%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 149 653 (72,7%) used road transport, 56 259 (27,3%) came by air transport and 36 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport.

## 1.2 Tourists

### 1.2.1 Mode of travel of tourists

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 11 to 14. In September 2021, 31 771 (91,0%) of the 34 895 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 3 088 (8,8%) came in by road transport and 36 (0,1%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 145 965 (87,8%) and 20 350 (12,2%) came by air. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 3 891 (90,2%) and 424 (9,8%) used road transport.

### 1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In September 2021, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 17 077 (48,9%); North America, 10 190 (29,2%); Asia, 4 575 (13,1%); The Middle East, 1 613 (4,6%); Central and South America, 1 049 (3,0%) and Australasia, 391 (1,1%).

Figure 1 on page 7 indicates that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in September 2021 were: United States of America (USA), 9 391 (26,9%); Germany, 3 614 (10,4%); United Kingdom (UK), 2 595 (7,4%); India, 2 118 (6,1%); France, 1 772 (5,1%); The Netherlands, 1 723 (4,9%); Switzerland, 931 (2,7%); Spain, 818 (2,3%); Belgium, 811 (2,3%) and Canada, 799 (2,3%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 70,4 % of all tourists from overseas countries.

Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 166 315 (97,5%), came from SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: East and Central Africa, 1 995 (1,2%); West Africa, 1 862 (1,1%) and North Africa 458 (0,3%). Ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in September 2021 were: Mozambique 48 871 (29,4%); Zimbabwe, 34 997 (21,0%); Lesotho, 30 316 (18,2%); Eswatini, 17 570 (10,6%); Botswana, 11 214 (6,7%); Namibia, 7 951 (4,8%); Zambia, 6 487 (3,9%); Malawi, 5 477 (3,3%); Tanzania, 1 268 (0,8%) and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 1 074 (0,6%) (see Figure 2 on page 7). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,3% of all tourists from the SADC countries.

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in September 2021 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8, were: Nigeria, 825 (19,1%); Kenya, 797 (18,5%); Ghana, 692 (16,0%); Uganda 394 (9,1%); Ethiopia, 239 (5,5%); Egypt, 220 (5,1%); Cameroon, 168 (3,9%); Gabon, 163 (3,8%); Congo, 87 (2,0%) and The Sudan, 64 (1,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 84,6% of all tourists from 'other' African countries.

### 1.2.3 Purpose of visit

Table 4 on pages 15 to 18, shows the number of tourist by country of residence and purpose of visit. It is observed that in September 2021, the majority of tourists, 190 016 (92,3%), were in South Africa for holiday<sup>1</sup> compared to 13 173 (6,4%); 2 429 (1,2%) and 330 (0,2%) who were in South Africa for business, study and for medical treatment respectively.

Within the overseas regions, North America had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for holiday, 98,8% (10 063) followed by Australasia, 97,4% (381); Europe, 95,8% (16 359); The Middle East, 95,7% (1 544); Central and South America, 95,7% (1 004) and Asia, 93,4% (4 274).

Asia, 3,9% (179) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by Europe, 2,6% (439); Central and South America, 2,1% (22); Australasia, 1,8% (7); North America, 0,8% (84) and The Middle East, 0,7% (11).

The Middle East, 3,3% (54) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to study, followed by Asia, 2,3% (106); Central and South America, 2,2% (23); Europe, 1,4% (242); Australasia, 0,5% (2) and North America, 0,4% (38).

Asia had 0,3% (16) of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by Australasia, 0,3% (1); The Middle East, 0,2% (4); Europe, 0,2% (37) and North America, less than 0,1% (5). Central and South America had no tourists who came to South Africa for medical treatment.

The majority of African tourists, 155 981 (91,4%) 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 91,5% (152 158) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 88,6% (3 823) from 'other' African countries. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 91,0% (1 695) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from North Africa, 87,6% (401) and East and Central Africa 86,6% (1 727).
- Business persons constituted 7,4% (12 237) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 4,2% (181) from 'other' African countries. East and Central Africa, 5,7% (114) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by West Africa, 3,1% (58) and North Africa, 2,0% (9).
- Students constituted 6,6% (285) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,0% (1 679) from SADC countries. North Africa, 10,3% (47) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 6,8% (135) and West Africa, 5,5% (103).
- Medical treatment tourists constituted 0,6% (26) of tourists from 'other' African countries, while those from SADC constituted 0,1% (241) of its tourists. East and Central Africa, 1,0% (19) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by West Africa, 0,3% (6) and North Africa, 0,2% (1).

### 1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19, shows the number of tourists by country of residence, sex and age group. There were 135 331 (65,7%) male and 70 617 (34,3%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 20 530 (58,8%) male tourists and 14 365 (41,2%) female tourists. There were 111 703 (67,2%) male and 54 612 (32,8%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 2 816 (65,3%) male and 1 499 (34,7%) female tourists.

The ages of 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 [68 451 (33,2%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [1 355 (31,4%)] and those from overseas countries [7 593 (21,8%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years, whereas those from SADC countries [60 580 (36,4%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years.

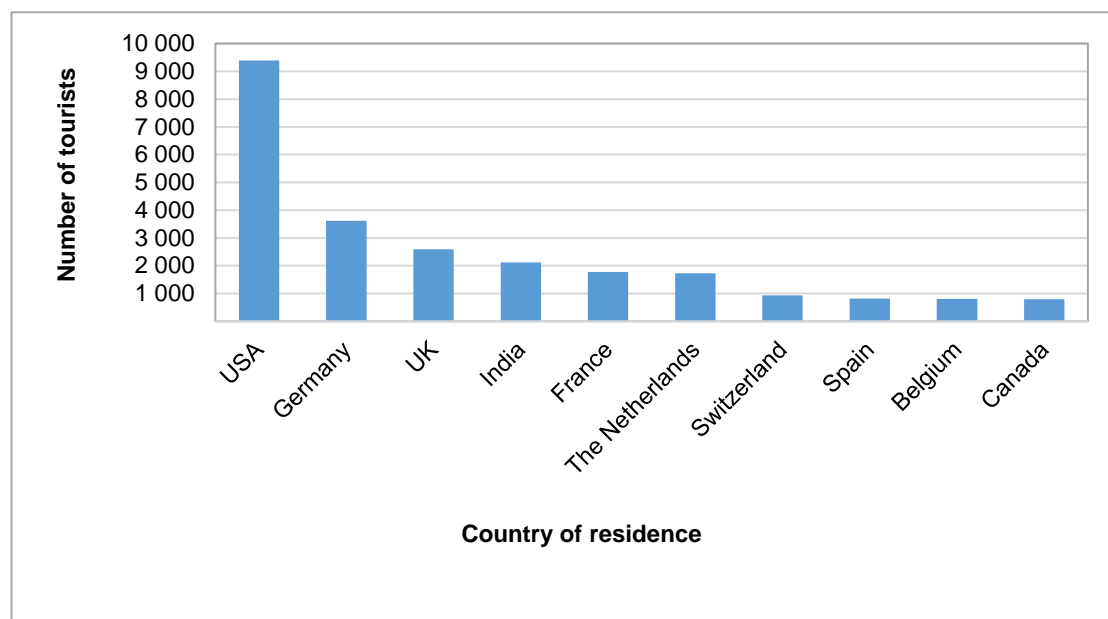
<sup>1</sup> The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons. See section 5.5.2 on page 25 for a more detailed discussion.

The second highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [1 286 (29,8%)] and those from overseas countries [6 444 (18,5%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years, whereas those from SADC countries [39 224 (23,6%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 42, 39 and 36 years respectively. The proportion of tourists younger than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 5,3% (1 851) followed by those from 'other' African countries, 4,5% (196) compared to those from SADC countries, 3,1% (5 153).

A comparison of the three regions shows higher proportions of the elderly (those aged 65+) among both male and female tourists from overseas. This comprised of 11,9% (2 443) males and 13,0% (1 865) females from overseas countries. However, tourists aged 65 years and older from the other two regions comprised of less than 4,0% of both male and female tourists: from SADC countries, elderly tourists were made up of 1,9% (2 177) males and 3,7% (2 007) females; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,3% (66) and 3,0% (45) of male and female tourists respectively.

## 2. Figures

**Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in September 2021**



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

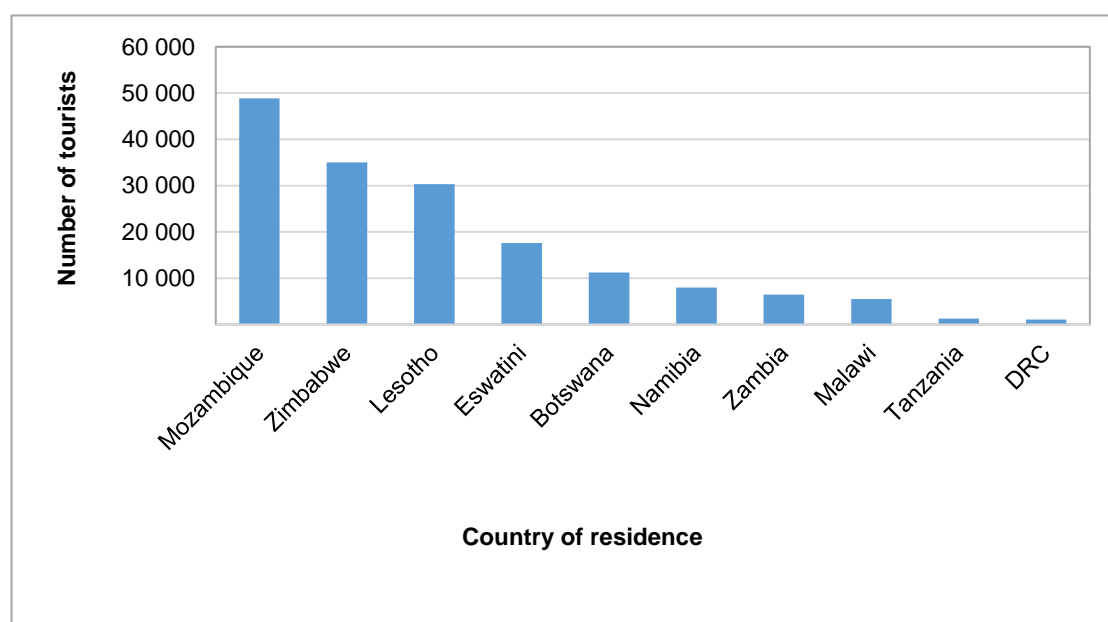
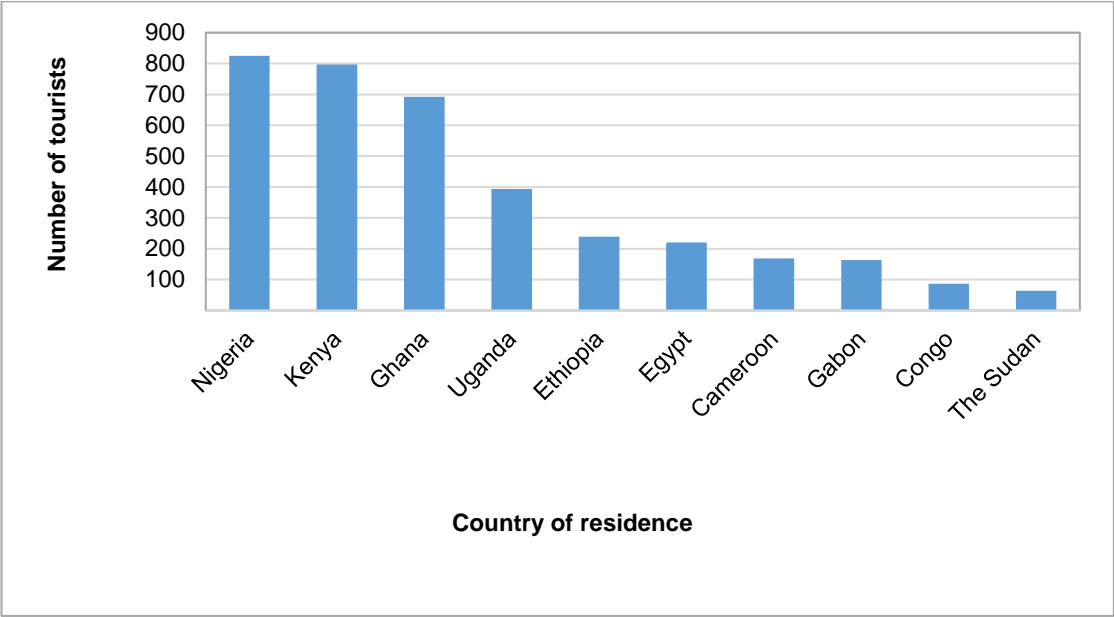




Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in September 2021



### 3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	August 2021	September 2021	% Change Aug 2021 – Sep 2021
<b>Total</b>	<b>770 617</b>	<b>857 448</b>	<b>11,3%</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>260 662</b>	<b>298 109</b>	<b>14,4%</b>
Arrivals	124 804	141 678	13,5%
Departures	135 733	156 294	15,1%
Transits	125	137	9,6%
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>509 955</b>	<b>559 339</b>	<b>9,7%</b>
Arrivals	268 946	291 042	8,2%
Departures	228 828	256 354	12,0%
Transits	12 181	11 943	-2,0%
<b>Foreign arrivals</b>	<b>268 946</b>	<b>291 042</b>	<b>8,2%</b>
Non-visitors	45 917	43 462	-5,3%
Visitors	223 029	247 580	11,0%
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>223 029</b>	<b>247 580</b>	<b>11,0%</b>
Arrivals only	78 022	86 048	10,3%
Single trips	64 319	76 985	19,7%
Multiple trips	80 688	84 547	4,8%
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>223 029</b>	<b>247 580</b>	<b>11,0%</b>
Same-day	37 392	41 632	11,3%
Overnight (Tourists)	185 637	205 948	10,9%

**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	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>Total</b>	<b>857 448</b>	<b>45 379</b>	<b>6 180</b>	<b>206 577</b>	<b>2 883</b>	<b>261 019</b>	<b>590 254</b>	<b>6 175</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>298 109</b>	<b>20 015</b>	<b>3 443</b>	<b>87 095</b>	<b>2 000</b>	<b>112 553</b>	<b>185 243</b>	<b>313</b>
Arrivals	<b>141 678</b>	8 743	1 259	40 946	913	<b>51 861</b>	89 740	77
Departures	<b>156 294</b>	11 261	2 184	46 023	1 087	<b>60 555</b>	95 503	236
Transit	<b>137</b>	11	-	126	-	<b>137</b>	-	-
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>559 339</b>	<b>25 364</b>	<b>2 737</b>	<b>119 482</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>148 466</b>	<b>405 011</b>	<b>5 862</b>
Arrivals	<b>291 042</b>	13 489	1 332	56 061	348	<b>71 230</b>	216 837	2 975
Departures	<b>256 354</b>	11 646	1 405	51 707	535	<b>65 293</b>	188 174	2 887
Transit	<b>11 943</b>	229	-	11 714	-	<b>11 943</b>	-	-
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>247 580</b>	<b>10 915</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>50 798</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>62 382</b>	<b>185 127</b>	<b>71</b>
Same-day	<b>41 632</b>	198	9	5 892	24	<b>6 123</b>	35 474	35
Tourist	<b>205 948</b>	10 717	419	44 906	217	<b>56 259</b>	149 653	36

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

Country of residence	September 2021	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>Total</b>	<b>205 948</b>	<b>10 717</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>44 906</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>56 259</b>	<b>149 653</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>34 895</b>	<b>8 418</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>22 830</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>31 771</b>	<b>3 088</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>17 077</b>	<b>5 124</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>10 315</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>15 683</b>	<b>1 381</b>	<b>13</b>
Austria	275	96	4	165	-	265	10	-
Belgium	811	269	10	469	1	749	62	-
Denmark	384	57	10	308	-	375	9	-
France	1 772	415	4	1 231	2	1 652	120	-
Germany	3 614	1 553	25	1 827	10	3 415	199	-
Ireland	326	87	8	204	2	301	24	1
Italy	587	127	4	403	-	534	53	-
Portugal	537	35	4	268	1	308	229	-
Russian Federation	663	347	6	278	1	632	30	1
Spain	818	254	11	504	-	769	49	-
Sweden	314	100	8	163	-	271	43	-
Switzerland	931	271	1	625	1	898	33	-
The Netherlands	1 723	653	9	993	1	1 656	67	-
UK	2 595	460	46	1 786	19	2 311	283	1
Other	1 727	400	52	1 091	4	1 547	170	10
<b>North America</b>	<b>10 190</b>	<b>1 973</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>7 643</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>9 742</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>1</b>
Canada	799	195	2	544	2	743	56	-
USA	9 391	1 778	40	7 099	82	8 999	391	1
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>1 049</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>-</b>
Brazil	536	154	-	279	1	434	102	-
Cuba	103	-	-	94	-	94	9	-
Mexico	152	48	-	100	3	151	1	-
Other	258	47	4	152	-	203	55	-
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>-</b>
Australia	305	51	7	215	2	275	30	-
New Zealand	85	17	2	58	-	77	8	-
Other	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-

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

Country of residence	September 2021	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>1 613</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1 571</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>-</b>
Israel	564	120	1	423	-	544	20	-
Jordan	115	19	13	72	-	104	11	-
Saudi Arabia	626	408	-	216	-	624	2	-
Other	308	93	2	201	3	299	9	-
<b>Asia</b>	<b>4 575</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>3 061</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3 540</b>	<b>1 013</b>	<b>22</b>
Bangladesh	360	45	19	240	-	304	56	-
China	543	11	-	356	4	371	172	-
India	2 118	152	48	1 487	4	1 691	426	1
Japan	102	15	2	83	-	100	2	-
Pakistan	587	34	30	342	-	406	181	-
Philippines	265	28	4	192	-	224	21	20
South Korea	110	5	-	89	-	94	16	-
Sri Lanka	47	1	-	18	-	19	28	-
Taiwan	111	23	-	14	-	37	74	-
Thailand	148	19	2	118	-	139	9	-
Other	184	31	1	122	1	155	28	1
<b>Africa</b>	<b>170 630</b>	<b>2 291</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>21 841</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>24 241</b>	<b>146 389</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>166 315</b>	<b>1 742</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18 520</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>20 350</b>	<b>145 965</b>	<b>-</b>
Angola	988	20	-	814	6	840	148	-
Botswana	11 214	61	12	1 040	13	1 126	10 088	-
DRC	1 074	109	-	829	8	946	128	-
Eswatini	17 570	1	-	208	2	211	17 359	-
Lesotho	30 316	2	2	207	2	213	30 103	-
Madagascar	15	2	-	10	1	13	2	-
Malawi	5 477	6	-	1 134	2	1 142	4 335	-
Mauritius	58	2	-	34	-	36	22	-
Mozambique	48 871	3	1	1 360	1	1 365	47 506	-
Namibia	7 951	768	-	1 208	3	1 979	5 972	-
Seychelles	29	3	3	16	-	22	7	-
Tanzania	1 268	61	-	629	-	690	578	-
Zambia	6 487	11	-	1 647	7	1 665	4 822	-
Zimbabwe	34 997	693	4	9 384	21	10 102	24 895	-

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

Country of residence	September 2021	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>'Other' African</b>	<b>4 315</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3 321</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3 891</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>East and Central Africa</b>	<b>1 995</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1 577</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1 827</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>-</b>
Burundi	29	8	-	16	-	24	5	-
Cameroon	168	13	-	146	-	159	9	-
Central African Republic	11	-	-	11	-	11	-	-
Chad	15	1	-	14	-	15	-	-
Comoros	10	2	-	6	-	8	2	-
Congo	87	26	-	58	-	84	3	-
Djibouti	5	1	-	4	-	5	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	25	-	-	25	-	25	-	-
Eritrea	15	1	-	12	-	13	2	-
Ethiopia	239	33	3	168	-	204	35	-
Gabon	163	19	-	139	1	159	4	-
Kenya	797	110	-	619	-	729	68	-
Rwanda	22	-	-	18	-	18	4	-
Somalia	15	1	-	13	-	14	1	-
Uganda	394	31	-	328	-	359	35	-
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>1 862</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1 390</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1 642</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>-</b>
Benin	58	7	-	49	-	56	2	-
Burkina Faso	13	4	-	9	-	13	-	-
Cape Verde Island	3	-	-	2	-	2	1	-
Côte d'Ivoire	56	11	-	30	-	41	15	-
Gambia	4	-	-	3	-	3	1	-
Ghana	692	81	-	588	-	669	23	-
Guinea	43	-	-	20	-	20	23	-
Guinea-Bissau	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Liberia	32	4	-	22	-	26	6	-
Mali	45	-	-	26	-	26	19	-
Mauritania	6	3	-	3	-	6	-	-
Niger	13	4	-	9	-	13	-	-
Nigeria	825	123	1	573	1	698	127	-
Saint Helena	2	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
Senegal	50	7	-	42	-	49	1	-

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

Country of residence	September 2021	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Senegal	50	7	-	42	-	49	1	-
Sierra Leone	15	1	-	10	2	13	2	-
Togo	4	1	-	3	-	4	-	-
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>-</b>
Algeria	28	-	-	26	-	26	2	-
Egypt	220	30	8	174	-	212	8	-
Libya	37	3	-	18	-	21	16	-
Morocco	28	7	1	14	-	22	6	-
South Sudan	63	1	-	61	-	62	1	-
The Sudan	64	14	1	46	-	61	3	-
Tunisia	17	2	1	14	-	17	-	-
Western Sahara	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>-</b>

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

Country of residence	September 2021	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
<b>Total</b>	<b>205 948</b>	<b>13 173</b>	<b>190 016</b>	<b>2 429</b>	<b>330</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>34 895</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>33 625</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>17 077</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>16 359</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>37</b>
Austria	275	5	265	5	-
Belgium	811	27	772	11	1
Denmark	384	8	375	1	-
France	1 772	51	1 665	56	-
Germany	3 614	103	3 471	40	-
Ireland	326	13	308	5	-
Italy	587	21	543	23	-
Portugal	537	14	510	10	3
Russian Federation	663	7	653	2	1
Spain	818	21	790	7	-
Sweden	314	12	301	1	-
Switzerland	931	19	898	14	-
The Netherlands	1 723	44	1 647	24	8
UK	2 595	34	2 525	19	17
Other	1 727	60	1 636	24	7
<b>North America</b>	<b>10 190</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>10 063</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>5</b>
Canada	799	12	782	5	-
USA	9 391	72	9 281	33	5
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>1 049</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1 004</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>-</b>
Brazil	536	11	513	12	-
Cuba	103	-	101	2	-
Mexico	152	5	146	1	-
Other	258	6	244	8	-
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Australia	305	6	297	1	1
New Zealand	85	1	83	1	-
Other	1	-	1	-	-



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

Country of residence	September 2021	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>1 613</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1 544</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>4</b>
Israel	564	4	560	-	-
Jordan	115	-	114	1	-
Saudi Arabia	626	-	604	22	-
Other	308	7	266	31	4
<b>Asia</b>	<b>4 575</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>4 274</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>16</b>
Bangladesh	360	6	352	2	-
China	543	35	486	15	7
India	2 118	105	1 960	48	5
Japan	102	6	92	4	-
Pakistan	587	5	576	6	-
Philippines	265	1	259	2	3
South Korea	110	1	100	9	-
Sri Lanka	47	-	45	2	-
Taiwan	111	11	100	-	-
Thailand	148	3	135	10	-
Other	184	6	169	8	1
<b>Africa</b>	<b>170 630</b>	<b>12 418</b>	<b>155 981</b>	<b>1 964</b>	<b>267</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>166 315</b>	<b>12 237</b>	<b>152 158</b>	<b>1 679</b>	<b>241</b>
Angola	988	9	930	33	16
Botswana	11 214	873	10 138	122	81
DRC	1 074	27	972	62	13
Eswatini	17 570	883	16 559	120	8
Lesotho	30 316	851	28 662	781	22
Madagascar	15	-	15	-	-
Malawi	5 477	248	5 179	48	2
Mauritius	58	-	58	-	-
Mozambique	48 871	1 380	47 436	43	12
Namibia	7 951	3 168	4 626	141	16
Seychelles	29	1	28	-	-
Tanzania	1 268	64	1 166	31	7
Zambia	6 487	1 701	4 711	58	17
Zimbabwe	34 997	3 032	31 678	240	47

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

Country of residence	September 2021	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
<b>'Other' African</b>	<b>4 315</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>3 823</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>East and Central Africa</b>	<b>1 995</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>1 727</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>19</b>
Burundi	29	1	20	8	-
Cameroon	168	2	146	12	8
Central African Republic	11	1	10	-	-
Chad	15	-	14	1	-
Comoros	10	-	8	2	-
Congo	87	6	66	12	3
Djibouti	5	-	4	1	-
Equatorial Guinea	25	3	22	-	-
Eritrea	15	-	15	-	-
Ethiopia	239	21	210	6	2
Gabon	163	-	136	25	2
Kenya	797	70	674	51	2
Rwanda	22	1	20	1	-
Somalia	15	-	15	-	-
Uganda	394	9	367	16	2
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>1 862</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>1 695</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>6</b>
Benin	58	1	53	4	-
Burkina Faso	13	2	9	2	-
Cape Verde Island	3	-	3	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	56	5	49	2	-
Gambia	4	-	4	-	-
Ghana	692	24	646	22	-
Guinea	43	-	36	7	-
Guinea-Bissau	1	-	1	-	-
Liberia	32	-	32	-	-
Mali	45	1	37	7	-
Mauritania	6	1	3	2	-
Niger	13	2	11	-	-
Nigeria	825	19	751	53	2
Saint Helena	2	-	-	-	2
Senegal	50	3	44	3	-

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

Country of residence	September 2021	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Sierra Leone	15	-	12	1	2
Togo	4	-	4	-	-
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1</b>
Algeria	28	-	26	2	-
Egypt	220	4	196	20	-
Libya	37	-	30	7	-
Morocco	28	2	23	3	-
South Sudan	63	-	63		-
The Sudan	64	3	47	14	-
Tunisia	17	-	15	1	1
Western Sahara	1	-	1	-	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

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

Sex	Age group	September 2021	Region			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
<b>All</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>205 948</b>	<b>34 895</b>	<b>166 315</b>	<b>4 315</b>	<b>423</b>
	0-14	7 200	1 851	5 153	196	-
	15-24	13 684	3 047	10 199	427	11
	25-34	48 248	7 593	39 224	1 355	76
	35-44	68 451	6 444	60 580	1 286	141
	45-54	40 939	5 924	34 262	628	125
	55-64	18 814	5 728	12 713	312	61
	65+	8 612	4 308	4 184	111	9
<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>135 331</b>	<b>20 530</b>	<b>111 703</b>	<b>2 816</b>	<b>282</b>
	0-14	3 487	964	2 432	91	-
	15-24	7 068	1 627	5 216	221	4
	25-34	30 168	4 254	25 014	845	55
	35-44	49 061	4 211	43 806	956	88
	45-54	29 027	3 757	24 736	448	86
	55-64	11 829	3 274	8 322	189	44
	65+	4 691	2 443	2 177	66	5
<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>70 617</b>	<b>14 365</b>	<b>54 612</b>	<b>1 499</b>	<b>141</b>
	0-14	3 713	887	2 721	105	
	15-24	6 616	1 420	4 983	206	7
	25-34	18 080	3 339	14 210	510	21
	35-44	19 390	2 233	16 774	330	53
	45-54	11 912	2 167	9 526	180	39
	55-64	6 985	2 454	4 391	123	17
	65+	3 921	1 865	2 007	45	4

## 4. Annexures

### 4.1 Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists by country of residence, Jan – Sep 2021

Country of residence	Jan – Sep 2021
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 469 111</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>193 134</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>92 406</b>
Austria	1 506
Belgium	3 835
France	9 915
Germany	15 900
Ireland	1 577
Italy	3 748
Portugal	3 065
Russian Federation	6 299
Spain	3 901
Sweden	1 783
Switzerland	4 142
The Netherlands	8 320
Turkey	1 656
UK	16 093
Other	10 666
<b>North America</b>	<b>55 267</b>
Canada	3 637
USA	51 630
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>5 670</b>
Argentina	362
Brazil	2 923
Mexico	845
Other	1 540

**Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists by country of residence, Jan – Sep 2021 (continued)**

Country of residence	Jan – Sep 2021
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>2 464</b>
Australia	1 996
New Zealand	457
Other	11
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>8 017</b>
Israel	1 903
Jordan	551
Saudi Arabia	3 596
Other	1 967
<b>Asia</b>	<b>29 310</b>
Bangladesh	1 805
China	4 930
India	11 259
Japan	797
Malaysia	403
Pakistan	4 431
Philippines	2 372
South Korea	811
Taiwan	494
Thailand	836
Other	1 172
<b>Africa</b>	<b>1 273 256</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>1 241 501</b>
Angola	5 400
Botswana	64 495
DRC	8 148
Eswatini	119 157

**Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists by country of residence, Jan – Sep 2021 (continued)**

Country of residence	Jan – Sep 2021
Lesotho	243 530
Madagascar	154
Malawi	36 586
Mauritius	457
Mozambique	363 659
Namibia	62 240
Seychelles	139
Tanzania	8 777
Zambia	46 850
Zimbabwe	281 909
<b>'Other' African</b>	<b>31 755</b>
<b>East and Central Africa</b>	<b>13 720</b>
Burundi	223
Cameroon	1 296
Central African Republic	36
Chad	89
Comoros	54
Congo	666
Djibouti	15
Equatorial Guinea	90
Eritrea	84
Ethiopia	1 859
Gabon	1 440
Kenya	4 818
Rwanda	162
São Tomé and Príncipe	8
Somalia	125
Uganda	2 755

**Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists by country of residence, Jan – Sep 2021 (concluded)**

Country of residence	Jan – Sep 2021
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>14 904</b>
Benin	330
Burkina Faso	91
Cape Verde Island	28
Côte d'Ivoire	328
Gambia	54
Ghana	4 750
Guinea	327
Guinea-Bissau	20
Liberia	138
Mali	272
Mauritania	15
Niger	59
Nigeria	7 951
Saint Helena	8
Senegal	380
Sierra Leone	97
Togo	56
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>3 131</b>
Algeria	202
Egypt	1 507
Libya	297
Morocco	236
South Sudan	220
The Sudan	502
Tunisia	162
Western Sahara	5
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>2 721</b>



## **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 September 2021, the DHA data was 3,1% 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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