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# Domestic Tourism Survey

Bi-annual report 2019

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## CONTENTS

<b>1. Summary of key findings</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Key findings</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>2.1 Number of most recent day and overnight trips inside South Africa</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2.2 Main purpose of trips</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>2.3 Province of destination for trips</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>2.4 Expenditure by travellers</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>2.5 Main mode of transport used by travellers</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>2.6 Main types of accommodation used by travellers</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>3. Definition of terms</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>4. Abbreviations</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>5. Source of data</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>General information</b> .....	<b>11</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>1. Summary of key findings</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Key findings</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Table 1a: Summary table of key findings – Day and overnight trips Quarters 1 and 2, 2019 .....	2
<b>2.1 Number of day and overnight trips inside South Africa</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Table 2: Number of day and overnight trips, January–June, 2019 .....	3
Table 3a: Number of day trips, January–June, 2019 .....	3
Table 3b: Number of overnight trips, January–June, 2019 .....	4
<b>2.2 Main purpose of trips</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Table 4a: Main purpose of day trips, January–June, 2019 .....	5
Table 4b: Main purpose of overnight trips, January–June, 2019 .....	5
<b>2.3 Province of destination for trips</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Table 5a: Province of destination for day trips, January–June, 2019 .....	6
Table 5b: Province of destination for overnight trips, January–June, 2019 .....	6
<b>2.4 Expenditure</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Table 6a: Day trips expenditure, January–June, 2019 .....	7
Table 6b: Overnight trips expenditure, January–June, 2019 .....	7
<b>2.5 Main mode of transport used by travellers</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Table 7a: Main mode of transport used for day trips, January–June, 2019 .....	8
Table 7b: Main mode of transport used for overnight trips, January–June, 2019 .....	8
<b>2.6 Main types of accommodation used by travellers</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Table 8: Overnight trips principal type of accommodation, January–June, 2019 .....	9

<b>3. Definition of terms .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4. Abbreviations .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5. Source of data .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6. Limitations.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>General information.....</b>	<b>11</b>

## 1. Summary of key findings

During quarters 1 of 2019, most day travellers visited Limpopo, followed by those bound for Gauteng, and Western Cape. In quarter 2, a different pattern was observed as most day travellers visited Gauteng, followed by Limpopo and Western Cape. Limpopo was the main destination for those taking overnight trips in both Quarters 1 and 2. The second most visited province in Quarter 1 was Eastern Cape and Gauteng. Whereas in Quarter 2, the second most visited province was KwaZulu-Natal and followed by Western Cape.

In 2019 day trip expenditure increased from R19,4 billion in Quarter 1 to R19,8 billion in Quarter 2, whilst overnight expenditure increased from R16,2 billion in Quarter 1 to R17,6 billion in Quarter 2.

In both quarters, day travellers spent most of their money on shopping, domestic transport, food and beverages. On the other hand, in quarter 1, most tourists spent most of their money on domestic transport, followed by shopping, accommodation, food and beverages. In quarter 2, most spending was observed on the following items: domestic transport; shopping; food and beverages; and accommodation.

Day travellers undertook trips mainly for shopping, followed by visiting friends and relatives and leisure; whilst in both quarters, most tourists (overnight travellers) undertook trips to visit friends and relatives followed by funeral attendance, leisure and religious purposes.

Cars and taxis were the most frequently used modes of transport for both day and overnight trips in both quarters. The principal form of accommodation used by tourists (overnight travellers) was staying with friends and relatives in both quarter 1 and quarter 2.



**Risenga Maluleke**  
**Statistician-General**

## 2. Key findings

Table 1a: Summary table of key findings – Day and overnight trips Quarters 1 and 2, 2019

Key metrics		2019	
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2
<b>Travel indicators</b>			
Trips by quarter	Day trips - Number ('000)	14 153	14 923
	Overnight trips - Number ('000)	14 099	16 962
Main destination	Day trips	Limpopo: 26,3% Gauteng: 19,9% Western Cape: 15,8%	Gauteng: 22,9% Limpopo: 18,3% Western Cape: 16,2%
	Overnight trips	Limpopo: 19,0% Eastern Cape: 15,9% Gauteng: 15,0%	Limpopo: 18,7% KwaZulu-Natal: 16,4% Western Cape: 13,3%
Total quarterly spend	Day trips	R19,4 billion	R19,8 billion
	Overnight trips	R16,2 billion	R17,6 billion
Expenditure	Day trips	Shopping: R10,7 billion Domestic transport: R4,9 billion Food and beverages: R3,2 billion	Shopping: R10,3 billion Domestic transport: R5,3 billion Food and beverages: R3,1 billion
	Overnight trips	Shopping: R4,4 billion Domestic transport: R4,9 billion Accommodation: R3,2 billion Food and beverages: R2,8 billion	Shopping: R4,2 billion Domestic transport: R5,8 billion Food and beverages: R3,7 billion Accommodation: R2,9 billion
Main purpose	Day trips	Shopping: 40,2% Visiting friends and relatives: 22,1% Leisure: 14,8%	Shopping: 35,8% Visiting friends and relatives: 21,1% Leisure: 13,9%
	Overnight trips	Visiting friends and relatives: 58,2% Leisure: 14,9% Funeral: 11,1%	Visiting friends and relatives: 52,0% Leisure: 14,4% Funeral: 15,4%
Mode of transport	Day trips	Car: 60,2% Taxi: 31,8%	Car: 63,5% Taxi: 29,3%
	Overnight	Car: 49,6% Taxi: 39,4%	Car: 53,4% Taxi: 35,0%
Type of accommodation	Overnight	Stayed with friends and relatives: 76,8% Self-catering establishments: 5,1% Hotels: 3,9%	Stayed with friends and relatives: 77,5% Self-catering establishments: 3,9% Guest house/farm: 3,2%

## 2.1 Number of day and overnight trips inside South Africa

**Table 2: Number of day and overnight trips, January–June, 2019**

Type of trip	Number of trips ('000)	
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2
Day trips in South Africa	14 153	14 923
Overnight trips in South Africa	14 099	16 962

Table 2 indicates that the number of day trips increased from 14,2 million to 14,9 million between the first two quarters of 2019. The number of overnight trips increased from 14,1 million in Quarter 1 to 17,0 million in Quarter 2.

**Table 3a: Number of day trips, January–June, 2019**

Month	Day trips	
	Number ('000)	Per cent
<b>Quarter 1</b>		
January	3 534	25,0
February	4 650	32,9
March	5 969	42,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 153</b>	<b>100,0</b>
<b>Quarter 2</b>		
April	5 311	35,6
May	5 703	38,2
June	3 909	26,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 923</b>	<b>100,0</b>

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 3a shows day trips by quarter for the reference period January to June 2019. In Quarter 1, most day trips were undertaken in March (42,2%), whereas in Quarter 2, most day trips were undertaken in May (38,2%).

**Table 3b: Number of overnight trips, January–June, 2019**

Month	Overnight trips	
	Number ('000)	Per cent
<b>Quarter 1</b>		
January	4 658	33,0
February	3 922	27,8
March	5 519	39,1
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 099</b>	<b>100,0</b>
<b>Quarter 2</b>		
April	7 045	41,5
May	4 292	25,3
June	5 625	33,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>16 962</b>	<b>100,0</b>

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

As displayed in Table 3b, in Quarter 1 of 2019, most overnight trips were undertaken in March (39,1%). In Quarter 2, most overnight trips were undertaken during April (41,5%). May had the least number of overnight trips in Quarter 2 (25,3%).

## 2.2 Main purpose of trips

**Table 4a: Main purpose of day trips, January–June, 2019**

Main purpose	Day trip			
	Quarter 1		Quarter 2	
	Number ('000)	Per cent	Number ('000)	Per cent
Holiday/leisure and recreation	2 101	14,8	2 080	13,9
Shopping for personal use	5 684	40,2	5 348	35,8
Sporting as a spectator	65	0,5	252	1,7
Visiting friends and relatives	3 130	22,1	3 143	21,1
Business and professional	515	3,6	1 254	8,4
Education and training	259	1,8	341	2,3
Medical	438	3,1	582	3,9
Religious	477	3,4	565	3,8
Funeral	752	5,3	671	4,5
Other <sup>1</sup>	732	5,2	688	4,6
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 153</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>14 923</b>	<b>100,0</b>

<sup>1</sup>Other includes categories of main purpose that were not included in the categories.  
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 4a summarises day trips by main purpose for which day trips were undertaken from January to June of 2019. In Quarter 1, day travellers undertook trips mainly for shopping (40,2%), followed by visiting friends and relatives (VFR) (22,1%). In Quarter 2, most day trips (35,8%) were undertaken for shopping purposes. This reason was followed by visiting friends and relatives (21,1%) and leisure (13,9%).

**Table 4b: Main purpose of overnight trips, January–June, 2019**

Main purpose	Overnight trip			
	Quarter 1		Quarter 2	
	Number ('000)	Per cent	Number ('000)	Per cent
Holiday/leisure and recreation	2 100	14,9	2 436	14,4
Shopping for personal use	66	0,5	84	0,5
Sporting as a spectator	116	0,8	142	0,8
Visiting friends and relatives	8 210	58,2	8 819	52,0
Business and professional	372	2,6	381	2,2
Education and training	92	0,7	118	0,7
Medical	172	1,2	99	0,6
Religious	772	5,5	1 631	9,6
Funeral	1 559	11,1	2 619	15,4
Other <sup>1</sup>	639	4,5	634	3,7
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 099</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>16 962</b>	<b>100,0</b>

<sup>1</sup>Other includes categories of main purpose that were not included in the categories.  
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals



In 2019, overnight trips were mostly undertaken to visit friends and relatives (VFR) with these accounting for 58,2% and 52,0% in Quarters 1 and 2 respectively. Leisure was the second most popular reason provided for travel, with 14,9% in Quarter 1 and 14,4% in Quarter 2.

### 2.3 Province of destination for trips

**Table 5a: Province of destination for day trips, January–June, 2019**

Main destination	Day trip			
	Quarter 1		Quarter 2	
	Number ('000)	Per cent	Number ('000)	Per cent
Western Cape	2 233	15,8	2 424	16,2
Eastern Cape	1 219	8,6	1 063	7,1
Northern Cape	527	3,7	440	2,9
Free State	478	3,4	601	4,0
KwaZulu-Natal	631	4,5	1 320	8,8
North West	1 402	9,9	1 636	11,0
Gauteng	2 824	19,9	3 423	22,9
Mpumalanga	1 118	7,9	1 281	8,6
Limpopo	3 722	26,3	2 735	18,3
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 153</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>14 923</b>	<b>100,0</b>

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

The main destination for day trips in Quarter 1 of 2019 was Limpopo (26,3%), followed by Gauteng (19,9%) and then Western Cape (15,8%). Free State (3,4%) had the least number of day trips travellers in Quarter 1. In Quarter 2, the results indicate that Gauteng (22,9%) and Limpopo (18,3%) were the most visited provinces by day trip travellers.

**Table 5b: Province of destination for overnight trips, January–June, 2019**

Main destination	Overnight trip			
	Quarter 1		Quarter 2	
	Number ('000)	Per cent	Number ('000)	Per cent
Western Cape	1 214	8,6	2 250	13,3
Eastern Cape	2 242	15,9	2 162	12,7
Northern Cape	467	3,3	391	2,3
Free State	625	4,4	820	4,8
KwaZulu-Natal	1 860	13,2	2 784	16,4
North West	1 117	7,9	1 326	7,8
Gauteng	2 111	15,0	2 134	12,6
Mpumalanga	1 790	12,7	1 916	11,3
Limpopo	2 672	19,0	3 179	18,7
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 099</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>16 962</b>	<b>100,0</b>

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

According to Table 5b, Limpopo (19,0%) and Eastern Cape (15,9%) were the most visited destinations during overnight trips in Quarter 1 of 2019. A different trend was observed in Quarter 2, where most tourists visited Limpopo (18,7%) and KwaZulu-Natal (16,4%). Northern Cape was the least popular destination in both Quarters 1 and 2.

## 2.4 Expenditure

**Table 6a: Day trips expenditure, January–June, 2019**

Expenditure	Day trips	
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2
	(R'000)	
Food and beverages	3 168 852	3 091 084
Domestic transport	4 897 240	5 266 071
Recreation and culture	255 205	311 820
Shopping	10 684 443	10 343 918
Other <sup>1</sup>	419 705	779 057
<b>Total</b>	<b>19 425 445</b>	<b>19 791 951</b>

<sup>1</sup>Other' includes categories of expenditure that were not included in the categories.  
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 6a shows that the total spending incurred by day travellers was R19,4 billion in Quarter 1 and R19,8 billion in Quarter 2 of 2019. Both quarters reflect a similar trend, as day travellers spent most of their money on shopping, followed by expenditure on domestic transport; then food and beverages.

**Table 6b: Overnight trips expenditure, January–June, 2019**

Expenditure	Overnight trips	
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2
	(R'000)	
Accommodation	3 239 368	2 892 645
Food and beverages	2 833 698	3 713 041
Domestic transport	4 929 001	5 784 874
Recreation and culture	331 297	357 539
Shopping	4 426 626	4 244 341
Other <sup>1</sup>	462 264	633 109
<b>Total</b>	<b>16 222 254</b>	<b>17 625 549</b>

<sup>1</sup>Other' includes categories of expenditure that were not included in the categories.  
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

There was an increase in overnight trips expenditure between both quarters of 2019 (from R16,2 billion to R17,6 billion). In Quarter 1, most money was spent on domestic transport, shopping, accommodation, and food and beverages with R4,9 billion; R4,4 billion; R3,2 billion and R2,8 billion respectively. A different pattern was found in Quarter 2, where most of the expenditure was on domestic transport; shopping; food and beverages; and accommodation with R5,8 billion; R4,2 billion; R3,7 billion and R2,9 billion respectively.

## 2.5 Main mode of transport used by travellers

**Table 7a: Main mode of transport used for day trips, January–June, 2019**

Mode of transport	Day trips			
	Quarter 1		Quarter 2	
	Number ('000)	Per cent	Number ('000)	Per cent
Air	-	-	34	0,2
Bus	804	5,7	899	6,0
Car	8 527	60,2	9 472	63,5
Taxi	4 498	31,8	4 375	29,3
Other <sup>1</sup>	325	2,3	142	1,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 153</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>14 923</b>	<b>100,0</b>

<sup>1</sup>Values based on three or less unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced with asterisks.

<sup>1</sup>Other<sup>1</sup> includes motorcycles, bicycles, trains, etc.

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 7a shows that cars were the mode of transport mostly used by day trip travellers in both Quarter 1 and Quarter 2. The other main mode of transport that was used most often was taxis, followed by buses.

**Table 7b: Main mode of transport used for overnight trips, January–June, 2019**

Mode of transport	Overnight trips			
	Quarter 1		Quarter 2	
	Number ('000)	Per cent	Number ('000)	Per cent
Air	251	1,8	410	2,4
Bus	915	6,5	1 324	7,8
Car	6 988	49,6	9 058	53,4
Taxi	5 559	39,4	5 938	35,0
Other <sup>1</sup>	385	2,7	232	1,4
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 099</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>16 962</b>	<b>100,0</b>

<sup>1</sup>Other<sup>1</sup> includes motorcycles, bicycles, trains, etc.

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 7b shows the number of overnight trips undertaken by tourists using different modes of transport in Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2019. Similar to day travellers, tourists mostly used cars in Quarter 1 (49,6%) and Quarter 2 (53,4%). Taxis were the second most used mode of transport with more than a third of tourists choosing this mode in both quarters of 2019.

## 2.6 Main types of accommodation used by travellers

**Table 8: Overnight trips principal type of accommodation, January–June, 2019**

Type of accommodation	Quarter 1		Quarter 2	
	Number ('000)	Per cent	Number ('000)	Per cent
Hotel	546	3,9	490	2,9
Guest house/farm	234	1,7	545	3,2
Bed and Breakfast	257	1,8	313	1,8
Lodge	277	2,0	216	1,3
Hostel/Backpackers	41	0,3	46	0,3
Self-catering establishments	718	5,1	659	3,9
Stayed with friends and relatives	10 832	76,8	13 153	77,5
Holiday home/second home	441	3,1	209	1,2
Campsite	160	1,1	153	0,9
Other <sup>1</sup>	179	1,3	269	1,6
Unspecified	415	2,9	911	5,4
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 099</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>16 962</b>	<b>100,0</b>

<sup>1</sup>Other includes other types of accommodation not included in the categories.  
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Most tourists stayed with friends and relatives during overnight trips undertaken from January to June 2019. In Quarter 1, most tourists (76,8%) stayed with friends and relatives during their trips, while in Quarter 2, about 77,5% of tourists chose the same type of accommodation. The second most preferred types of accommodation in Quarter 1 were self-catering establishments (5,1%) followed by hotels with 3,9% respectively. In Quarter 2, the second most preferred types of accommodation were self-catering establishments (3,9%); followed closely by guest houses/farms at 3,2%.

## 3. Definition of terms

**Quarter 1** refers to the period January to March.

**Quarter 2** refers to the period April to June.

## 4. Abbreviations

DTS = Domestic Tourism Survey

VFR = Visiting friends and relatives

## 5. Source of data

1. Domestic Tourism Survey 2019, January–June

## **6. Limitations**

Data used in this current report was based on the reviewed questionnaire whereby all household members were asked about their most recent trips (with or without other household members). Previous analysis was based on the trips undertaken by the main respondent who travelled with or without other household members and most recent trips of other household members (without the main respondent). Therefore, comparison with the previous biannual reports should be done with consideration of these changes.

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