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Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa, ISibalo House, Koch Street, Salvokop, Pretoria, 0002
www.statssa.gov.za, info@statssa.gov.za, Tel +27 12 310 8911

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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 July 2022. 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.



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 2 075 688 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in July 2022. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 715 714 South African residents and 1 359 974 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 382 964 arrivals, 332 409 departures and 341 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 737 350, 595 703 and 26 921 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in July 2021 and July 2022 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 256,1% (from 107 542 in July 2021 to 382 964 in July 2022). Departures increased by 191,5% (from 114 044 in July 2021 to 332 409 in July 2022) and transits increased by 189,0% (from 118 in July 2021 to 341 in July 2022). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 239,2% (from 217 373 in July 2021 to 737 350 in July 2022), departures increased by 195,2% (from 201 821 in July 2021 to 595 703 in July 2022), and transits increased by 135,3% (from 11 439 in July 2021 to 26 921 in July 2022).

A comparison between the movements in June 2022 and July 2022 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit increased for both group of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 44,3% (from 265 364 in June 2022 to 382 964 in July 2022), departures increased by 0,6% (from 330 327 in June 2022 to 332 409 in July 2022) and transits increased by 11,8% (from 305 in June 2022 to 341 in July 2022). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 26,8% (from 581 375 in June 2022 to 737 350 in July 2022), departures increased by 18,2% (from 503 997 in June 2022 to 595 703 in July 2022) and transits increased by 9,3% (from 24 624 in June 2022 to 26 921 in July 2022).

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 July 2022, 66 571 (9,0%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 670 779 (91,0%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in July 2022 but did not depart in July 2022 [217 710 (32,5%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in July 2022 and left in July 2022 [211 964 (31,6%)];
and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in July 2022 [241 105 (35,9%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In July 2022, there were 162 955 (24,3%) same-day visitors and 507 824 (75,7%) tourists. Between July 2021 and July 2022, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 433,6% (from 30 538 in July 2021 to 162 955 in July 2022) and that of tourists increased by 235,7% (from 151 264 in July 2021 to 507 824 in July 2022). Between June 2022 and July 2022, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 22,3% (from 133 279 in June 2022 to 162 955 in July 2022) and that of tourists increased by 27,1% (from 399 550 in June 2022 to 507 824 in July 2022).

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 July 2022, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 1 352 693 (65,2%) of the 2 075 688 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 717 166 (34,6%). Compared to air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 5 829 (0,3%) used sea transport into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 187 894 (49,1%) came by air, 194 758 (50,9%) came by road and 312 (0,1%) arrived by sea. For departures, 151 353 (45,5%) used air, 180 822 (54,4%) used road and 234 (0,1%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 341 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 183 277 (24,9%) arrived by air, 551 313 (74,8%) came by road and 2 760 (0,4%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 167 380 (28,1%) foreign travellers left by air, 425 800 (71,5%) left by road and 2 523 (0,4%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 26 921 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that of the 162 955 same-day visitors, a majority, 143 674 (88,2%) arrived in the country by road, 19 270 (11,8%) flew into the country and 11 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 355 319 (70,0%) used road transport, 152 470 (30,0%) came by air transport and 35 (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 July 2022, 112 943 (92,0%) of the 122 720 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 9 751 (7,9%) came in by road transport and 26 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 344 547 (91,5%), whilst 32 015 (8,5%) came by air and four (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 6 971 (90,1%); while 764 (9,9%) used road transport and five (0,1%) used sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In July 2022, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 66 322 (54,0%); North America, 30 807 (25,1%); Asia, 10 803 (8,8%); The Middle East, 6 779 (5,5%) Australasia, 4 914 (4,0%); and Central and South America, 3 095 (2,5%).

Figure 1 on page 7 indicates that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in July 2022 were: United States of America (USA), 28 136 (22,9%); United Kingdom (UK), 18 967 (15,5%); The Netherlands, 11 111 (9,1%); Germany, 7 894 (6,4%); France, 6 605 (5,4%); India, 5 249 (4,3%); Belgium, 4 667 (3,8%); Australia, 3 965 (3,2%); Saudi Arabia, 3 077 (2,5%) and Italy, 2 959 (2,4%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 75,5% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between July 2021 and July 2022 shows that the number of tourists increased for all ten leading countries. Australia had the highest increase of 1 788,1% (from 210 tourists in July 2021 to 3 965 tourists in July 2022).

Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 376 566 (98,0%), came from SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: East and Central Africa, 3 848 (1,0%); West Africa, 3 100 (0,8%) and North Africa 792 (0,2%). Ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in July 2022 were: Zimbabwe, 113 031 (30,0%); Lesotho, 84 628 (22,5%); Mozambique, 78 273 (20,8%); Eswatini, 39 481 (10,5%); Botswana, 22 009 (5,8%); Namibia, 11 722 (3,1%); Zambia, 10 020 (2,7%); Malawi, 9 657 (2,6%); Angola, 2 774 (0,7%) and Tanzania, 2 094 (0,6%) (see Figure 2 on page 7). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,2% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between July 2021 and July 2022 shows that the number of tourists increased for all ten leading countries. Zimbabwe showed the highest increase of 344,8% (from 25 412 tourists in July 2021 to 113 031 in July 2022).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in July 2022 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8, were: Kenya, 1 640 (21,2%); Ghana, 1 345 (17,4%); Nigeria, 990 (12,8%); Uganda 624 (8,1%); Ethiopia, 445 (5,7%); Egypt, 419 (5,4%); Gabon, 347 (4,5%); Cameroon, 266 (3,4%); Côte d'Ivoire, 239 (3,1%) and Congo, 130 (1,7%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 83,3% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in July 2021 and July 2022 shows that the number of tourists increased for all ten leading countries. Côte d'Ivoire showed the highest increase of 753,6% (from 28 tourists in July 2021 to 239 in July 2022).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

Table 4 on pages 15 to 18, shows the number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit. It is observed that in July 2022, the majority of tourists, 483 808 (95,3%), were in South Africa for holiday¹ compared to 17 311 (3,4%); 6 318 (1,2%) and 387 (0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment respectively.

Within the overseas regions, Australasia, 98,4% (4 836) and North America, 98,4% (30 309) had the highest proportion of tourists who came for holiday, followed by The Middle East, 97,8% (6 628); Central and South America, 96,8% (2 997); Europe, 96,6% (64 044) and Asia, 92,6% (10 004).

Asia, 4,7% (508) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by Europe, 1,7% (1 157); Central and South America, 1,3% (41); Australasia, 1,2% (59); The Middle East, 1,1% (73) and North America, 0,9% (270).

Asia, 2,6% (286) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to study, followed by Central and South America, 1,8% (57); Europe, 1,6% (1 069); The Middle East, 1,1% (75); North America, 0,7% (216) and Australasia, 0,4% (19).

Europe, 0,1% (52) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for medical treatment. Asia (5), The Middle East (3) and North America (12) had less than 0,1% of medical treatment tourists, whereas Central and South America and Australasia had none.

The majority of African tourists, 364 218 (94,8%) 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 95,0% (357 597) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 85,5% (6 621) from 'other' African countries. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 88,8% (2 754) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from East and Central Africa, 83,7% (3 221) and those from North Africa 81,6% (646).
- Business persons constituted 3,9% (14 615) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 7,3% (563) from 'other' African countries. North Africa, 9,5% (75) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 8,7% (333) and West Africa, 5,0% (155).
- Students constituted 1,1% (4 083) of tourists from SADC countries compared with 6,6% (513) from 'other' African countries. North Africa, 8,7% (69) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 7,0% (269) and West Africa, 5,6% (175).
- Tourists who came for medical treatment constituted 0,1% (271) of tourists from SADC countries, while those from 'other' African countries constituted 0,6% (43). East and Central Africa, 0,6% (25) had the highest proportion of tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by West Africa, 0,5% (16) and North Africa, 0,3% (2).

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 25 for a more detailed discussion.

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 292 635 (57,6%) male and 215 189 (42,4%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 66 099 (53,9%) male and 56 621 (46,1%) female. There were 221 218 (58,7%) male and 155 348 (41,3%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 4 820 (62,3%) male and 2 920 (37,7%) female.

The ages of tourists were categorised into seven broad groups (see Table 5 for a detailed classification). The results presented in Table 5 further shows that the majority of tourists were aged between 35 and 44 years [150 139 (29,6%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from overseas countries [23 942 (19,5%)] were aged between 45 and 54 years, whereas SADC countries [128 467 (34,1%)] and those from 'other' African countries [2 449 (31,6%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years.

The second highest proportion of tourists from overseas countries [20 840 (17,0%)] were aged between 15 and 24 years whereas SADC countries [95 268 (25,3%)] and those from 'other' African countries [1 981 (25,6%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 39, 38 and 37 years respectively. The proportion of tourists younger than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 12,4% (15 277) followed by those from 'other' African countries, 6,6% (510) and those from SADC countries, 4,7% (17 716).

A comparison of the three regions shows higher proportions of the elderly (those aged 65 years and older) among both male and female tourists from overseas. This comprised of 8,4% (5 522) males and 8,2% (4 625) females from overseas countries. However, tourists aged 65 years and older from the other two regions (SADC and 'other' African) comprised of less than 3,5% of both male and female tourists. Elderly tourists from SADC countries were made up of 2,0% (4 404) male and 3,2% (5 043) female; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists were made up of 2,4% (114) and 2,7% (78) of male and female respectively.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in July 2021 and July 2022

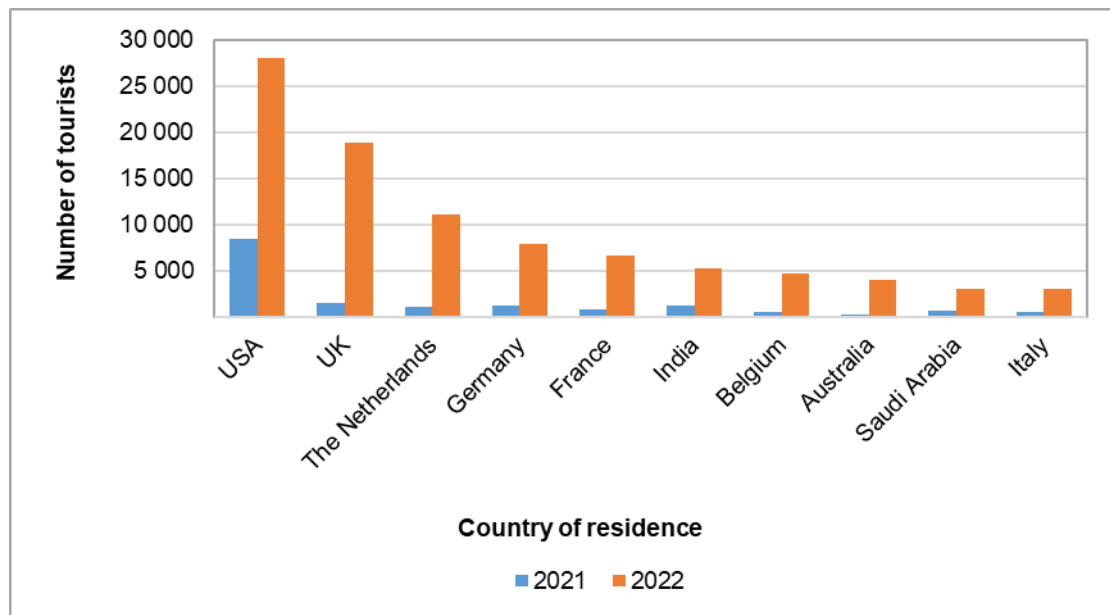


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in July 2021 and July 2022

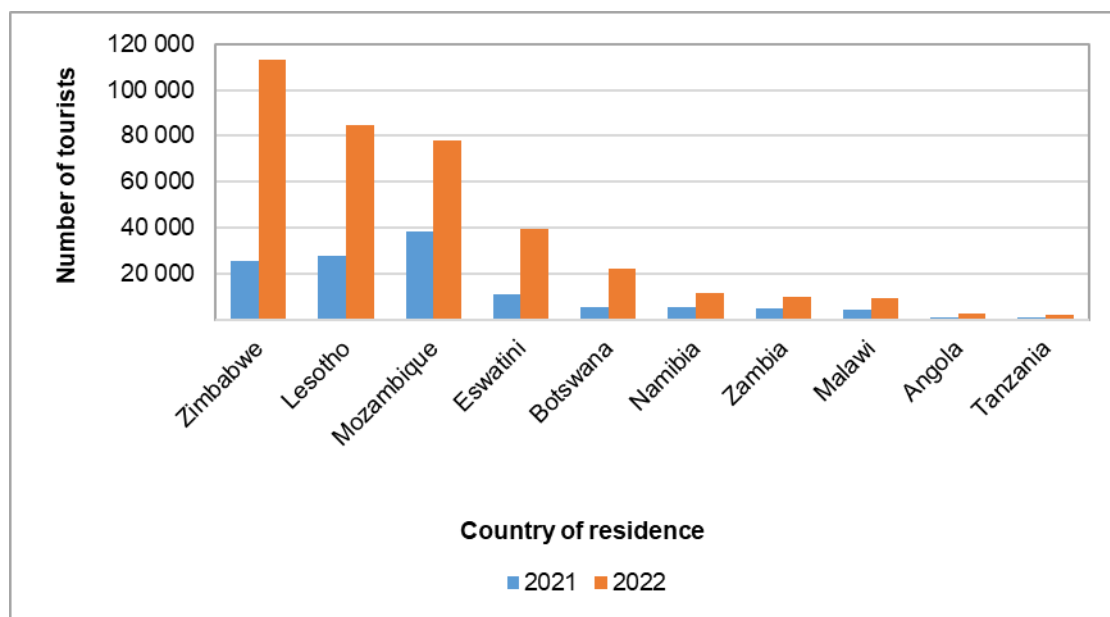
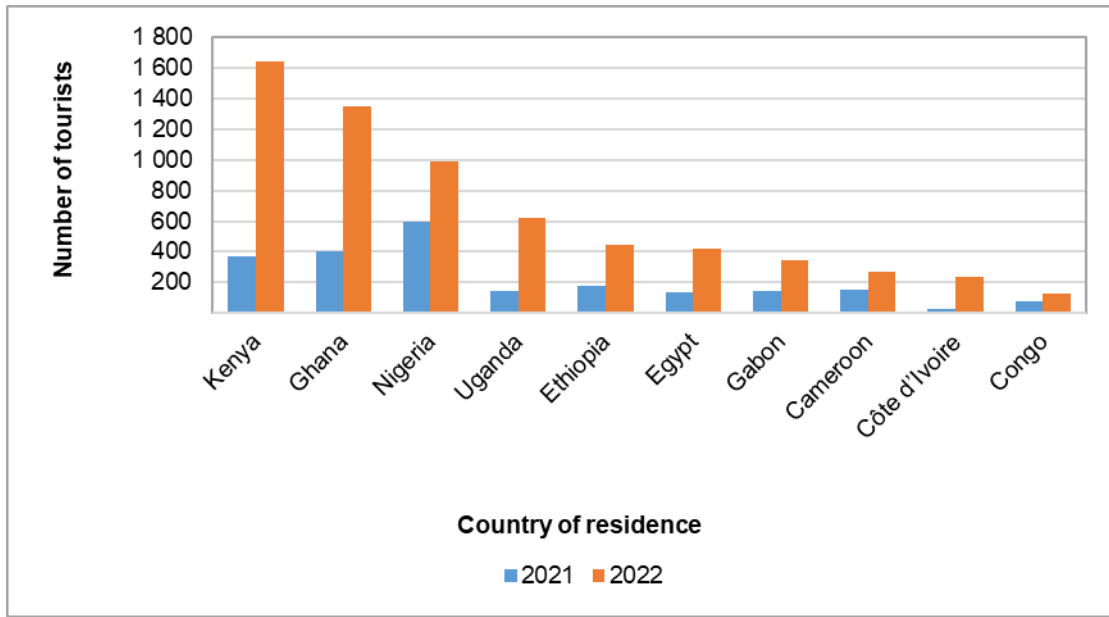


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in July 2021 and July 2022



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	July 2021	June 2022	July 2022	% Change Jun 2022 – Jul 2022	% Change Jul 2021 – Jul 2022
Total	652 337	1 705 992	2 075 688	21,7%	218,2%
South African residents	221 704	595 996	715 714	20,1%	222,8%
Arrivals	107 542	265 364	382 964	44,3%	256,1%
Departures	114 044	330 327	332 409	0,6%	191,5%
Transits	118	305	341	11,8%	189,0%
Foreign travellers	430 633	1 109 996	1 359 974	22,5%	215,8%
Arrivals	217 373	581 375	737 350	26,8%	239,2%
Departures	201 821	503 997	595 703	18,2%	195,2%
Transits	11 439	24 624	26 921	9,3%	135,3%
Foreign arrivals	217 373	581 375	737 350	26,8%	239,2%
Non-visitors	35 571	48 546	66 571	37,1%	87,1%
Visitors	181 802	532 829	670 779	25,9%	269,0%
Visitors	181 802	532 829	670 779	25,9%	269,0%
Arrivals only	66 376	163 984	217 710	32,8%	228,0%
Single trips	47 875	172 190	211 964	23,1%	342,7%
Multiple trips	67 551	196 655	241 105	22,6%	256,9%
Visitors	181 802	532 829	670 779	25,9%	269,0%
Same-day	30 538	133 279	162 955	22,3%	433,6%
Overnight (tourists)	151 264	399 550	507 824	27,1%	235,7%

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		
Total	2 075 688	149 920	21 119	540 249	5 878	717 166	1 352 693	5 829
South African residents	715 714	73 350	15 050	248 212	2 976	339 588	375 580	546
Arrivals	382 964	40 798	8 655	137 027	1 414	187 894	194 758	312
Departures	332 409	32 549	6 395	110 847	1 562	151 353	180 822	234
Transit	341	3	-	338	-	341	-	-
Foreign travellers	1 359 974	76 570	6 069	292 037	2 902	377 578	977 113	5 283
Arrivals	737 350	40 395	3 114	138 755	1 013	183 277	551 313	2 760
Departures	595 703	36 016	2 955	126 520	1 889	167 380	425 800	2 523
Transit	26 921	159	-	26 762	-	26 921	-	-
Visitors	670 779	38 010	2 356	130 592	782	171 740	498 993	46
Same-day	162 955	870	21	18 292	87	19 270	143 674	11
Tourist	507 824	37 140	2 335	112 300	695	152 470	355 319	35

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, July 2022

Country of residence	July		July 2022						
	2021	2022	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	151 264	507 824	37 140	2 335	112 300	695	152 470	355 319	35
Overseas	22 877	122 720	32 038	2 080	78 222	603	112 943	9 751	26
Europe	9 028	66 322	17 620	1 345	41 275	131	60 371	5 933	18
Austria	130	774	245	14	470	1	730	44	-
Belgium	489	4 667	895	32	2 958	9	3 894	773	-
Denmark	197	1 247	153	27	982	-	1 162	85	-
France	861	6 605	1 288	59	4 551	1	5 899	704	2
Germany	1 204	7 894	2 501	205	4 525	11	7 242	649	3
Ireland	141	1 467	507	46	832	1	1 386	81	-
Italy	462	2 959	1 109	61	1 611	12	2 793	162	4
Portugal	276	1 168	171	9	553	3	736	432	-
Russian Federation	456	697	190	8	444	2	644	53	-
Spain	636	2 712	733	21	1 702	17	2 473	239	-
Switzerland	503	2 229	523	50	1 428	11	2 012	217	-
The Netherlands	1 076	11 111	3 240	95	6 531	7	9 873	1 237	1
Turkey	154	650	199	13	357	1	570	80	-
UK	1 489	18 967	5 078	601	12 359	51	18 089	873	5
Other	954	3 175	788	104	1 972	4	2 868	304	3
North America	8 917	30 807	7 964	168	20 980	408	29 520	1 287	-
Canada	472	2 671	708	38	1 727	33	2 506	165	-
USA	8 445	28 136	7 256	130	19 253	375	27 014	1 122	-
Central and South America	642	3 095	794	25	1 974	23	2 816	279	-
Argentina	15	201	12	10	168	-	190	11	-
Brazil	278	1 630	417	7	1 009	-	1 433	197	-
Mexico	218	574	182	2	348	21	553	21	-
Other	131	690	183	6	449	2	640	50	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, July 2022 (continued)

Country of residence	July		July 2022						
	2021	2022	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	254	4 914	709	68	3 919	14	4 710	204	-
Australia	210	3 965	570	44	3 163	12	3 789	176	-
New Zealand	43	941	139	24	748	2	913	28	-
Other	1	8	-	-	8	-	8	-	-
Middle East	1 148	6 779	3 362	39	3 226	4	6 631	145	3
Israel	78	1 522	258	21	1 166	1	1 446	73	3
Saudi Arabia	602	3 077	1 856	9	1 204	-	3 069	8	-
United Arab Emirates	28	1 001	707	2	273	-	982	19	-
Other	440	1 179	541	7	583	3	1 134	45	-
Asia	2 888	10 803	1 589	435	6 848	23	8 895	1 903	5
Bangladesh	148	521	65	96	254	-	415	106	-
China	297	1 018	69	12	657	2	740	278	-
India	1 241	5 249	699	128	3 604	8	4 439	806	4
Japan	84	474	76	45	323	1	445	29	-
Malaysia	21	273	56	6	193	-	255	18	-
Pakistan	480	1 011	71	88	523	-	682	329	-
Philippines	268	548	129	18	342	-	489	58	1
Singapore	13	196	69	2	108	8	187	9	-
South Korea	87	548	133	9	312	-	454	94	-
Thailand	69	265	58	10	174	4	246	19	-
Other	180	700	164	21	358	-	543	157	-
Africa	128 112	384 306	5 078	254	33 564	90	38 986	345 311	9
SADC	125 380	376 566	4 243	233	27 456	83	32 015	344 547	4
Angola	820	2 774	906	-	1 504	6	2 416	358	-
Botswana	5 671	22 009	219	5	1 801	22	2 047	19 962	-
DRC	762	1 626	77	1	1 317	8	1 403	223	-
Eswatini	11 107	39 481	3	2	545	-	550	38 931	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, July 2022 (continued)

Country of residence	July		July 2022						
	2021	2022	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Lesotho	27 766	84 628	6	4	431	3	444	84 184	-
Madagascar	5	190	15	-	169	-	184	6	-
Malawi	4 532	9 657	27	2	1 353	1	1 383	8 274	-
Mauritius	49	901	57	1	783	-	841	59	1
Mozambique	38 171	78 273	9	2	2 087	8	2 106	76 167	-
Namibia	5 421	11 722	1 551	-	2 009	3	3 563	8 158	1
Seychelles	21	160	10	1	142	-	153	7	-
Tanzania	874	2 094	140	-	1 119	2	1 261	833	-
Zambia	4 769	10 020	26	-	2 966	14	3 006	7 014	-
Zimbabwe	25 412	113 031	1 197	215	11 230	16	12 658	100 371	2
'Other' African	2 732	7 740	835	21	6 108	7	6 971	764	5
East and Central Africa	1 172	3 848	431	8	2 988	7	3 434	410	4
Burundi	35	47	7	-	37	-	44	3	-
Cameroon	156	266	20	-	234	-	254	12	-
Central African Republic	1	14	2	-	12	-	14	-	-
Chad	10	16	4	-	12	-	16	-	-
Comoros	3	56	1	-	54	-	55	1	-
Congo	75	130	23	-	101	-	124	6	-
Djibouti	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	6	19	-	-	19	-	19	-	-
Eritrea	14	66	2	1	61	-	64	2	-
Ethiopia	174	445	51	5	332	-	388	57	-
Gabon	143	347	45	-	295	1	341	6	-
Kenya	374	1 640	191	2	1 276	5	1 474	166	-
Rwanda	16	60	6	-	40	-	46	14	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	1	4	1	-	3	-	4	-	-
Somalia	15	114	2	-	27	-	29	85	-
Uganda	147	624	76	-	485	1	562	58	4

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, July 2022 (concluded)

Country of residence	July		July 2022						
	2021	2022	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	1 264	3 100	228	5	2 548	-	2 781	318	1
Benin	37	98	21	-	73	-	94	4	-
Burkina Faso	8	43	2	-	41	-	43	-	-
Cape Verde Island	3	18	4	-	11	-	15	3	-
Côte d'Ivoire	28	239	31	-	205	-	236	3	-
Gambia	3	37	-	-	35	-	35	2	-
Ghana	403	1 345	60	2	1 230	-	1 292	53	-
Guinea	39	70	8	-	22	-	30	40	-
Guinea-Bissau	1	3	-	-	2	-	2	1	-
Liberia	27	21	4	-	16	-	20	1	-
Mali	40	56	3	-	31	-	34	22	-
Mauritania	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Niger	5	15	7	-	8	-	15	-	-
Nigeria	592	990	65	3	736	-	804	185	1
Saint Helena	-	8	-	-	8	-	8	-	-
Senegal	57	102	12	-	89	-	101	1	-
Sierra Leone	9	31	9	-	19	-	28	3	-
Togo	12	23	2	-	21	-	23	-	-
North Africa	296	792	176	8	572	-	756	36	-
Algeria	11	47	8	1	36	-	45	2	-
Egypt	139	419	110	4	285	-	399	20	-
Libya	49	32	5	-	22	-	27	5	-
Morocco	24	80	12	3	65	-	80	-	-
South Sudan	18	44	9	-	32	-	41	3	-
The Sudan	34	121	29	-	90	-	119	2	-
Tunisia	21	48	3	-	41	-	44	4	-
Western Sahara	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	275	798	24	1	514	2	541	257	-

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

Country of residence	July			Purpose of visit (July 2022)			
	2021	2022	% change 2021–2022	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	151 264	507 824	235,7%	17 311	483 808	6 318	387
Overseas	22 877	122 720	436,4%	2 108	118 818	1 722	72
Europe	9 028	66 322	634,6%	1 157	64 044	1 069	52
Austria	130	774	495,4%	16	741	17	-
Belgium	489	4 667	854,4%	34	4 584	44	5
Denmark	197	1 247	533,0%	15	1 221	11	-
France	861	6 605	667,1%	134	6 363	106	2
Germany	1 204	7 894	555,6%	178	7 367	348	1
Ireland	141	1 467	940,4%	19	1 435	12	1
Italy	462	2 959	540,5%	69	2 832	58	-
Portugal	276	1 168	323,2%	18	1 135	10	5
Russian Federation	456	697	52,9%	12	678	7	-
Spain	636	2 712	326,4%	60	2 618	34	-
Switzerland	503	2 229	343,1%	13	2 159	57	-
The Netherlands	1 076	11 111	932,6%	97	10 911	89	14
Turkey	154	650	322,1%	28	605	17	-
UK	1 489	18 967	1173,8%	372	18 406	167	22
Other	954	3 175	232,8%	92	2 989	92	2
North America	8 917	30 807	245,5%	270	30 309	216	12
Canada	472	2 671	465,9%	29	2 627	13	2
USA	8 445	28 136	233,2%	241	27 682	203	10
Central and South America	642	3 095	382,1%	41	2 997	57	-
Argentina	15	201	1240,0%	3	192	6	-
Brazil	278	1 630	486,3%	20	1 577	33	-
Mexico	218	574	163,3%	5	560	9	-
Other	131	690	426,7%	13	668	9	-

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

Country of residence	July			Purpose of visit (July 2022)			
	2021	2022	% change 2021–2022	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Australasia	254	4 914	1834,6%	59	4 836	19	-
Australia	210	3 965	1788,1%	53	3 899	13	-
New Zealand	43	941	2088,4%	6	929	6	-
Other	1	8	700,0%	-	8	-	-
Middle East	1 148	6 779	490,5%	73	6 628	75	3
Israel	78	1 522	1851,3%	20	1 495	7	-
Saudi Arabia	602	3 077	411,1%	10	3 046	21	-
United Arab Emirates	28	1 001	3475,0%	6	987	8	-
Other	440	1 179	168,0%	37	1 100	39	3
Asia	2 888	10 803	274,1%	508	10 004	286	5
Bangladesh	148	521	252,0%	4	503	14	-
China	297	1 018	242,8%	88	913	17	-
India	1 241	5 249	323,0%	283	4 809	154	3
Japan	84	474	464,3%	45	417	11	1
Malaysia	21	273	1200,0%	11	259	3	-
Pakistan	480	1 011	110,6%	18	972	21	-
Philippines	268	548	104,5%	11	531	5	1
Singapore	13	196	1407,7%	7	188	1	-
South Korea	87	548	529,9%	12	503	33	-
Thailand	69	265	284,1%	3	262	-	-
Other	180	700	288,9%	26	647	27	-
Africa	128 112	384 306	200,0%	15 178	364 218	4 596	314
SADC	125 380	376 566	200,3%	14 615	357 597	4 083	271
Angola	820	2 774	238,3%	42	2 573	122	37
Botswana	5 671	22 009	288,1%	937	20 558	412	102
DRC	762	1 626	113,4%	48	1 452	113	13
Eswatini	11 107	39 481	255,5%	1 576	37 495	392	18

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

Country of residence	July			Purpose of visit (July 2022)			
	2021	2022	% change 2021–2022	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Lesotho	27 766	84 628	204,8%	771	83 096	747	14
Madagascar	5	190	3700,0%	7	181	2	-
Malawi	4 532	9 657	113,1%	265	9 312	76	4
Mauritius	49	901	1738,8%	18	850	33	-
Mozambique	38 171	78 273	105,1%	1 596	76 516	147	14
Namibia	5 421	11 722	116,2%	3 044	7 902	756	20
Seychelles	21	160	661,9%	5	152	2	1
Tanzania	874	2 094	139,6%	84	1 943	67	-
Zambia	4 769	10 020	110,1%	3 110	6 754	148	8
Zimbabwe	25 412	113 031	344,8%	3 112	108 813	1 066	40
'Other' African	2 732	7 740	183,3%	563	6 621	513	43
East and Central Africa	1 172	3 848	228,3%	333	3 221	269	25
Burundi	35	47	34,3%	2	41	3	1
Cameroon	156	266	70,5%	20	217	21	8
Central African Republic	1	14	1300,0%	2	12	-	-
Chad	10	16	60,0%	1	8	6	1
Comoros	3	56	1766,7%	1	55	-	-
Congo	75	130	73,3%	3	115	12	-
Djibouti	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	6	19	216,7%	1	17	1	-
Eritrea	14	66	371,4%	-	62	4	-
Ethiopia	174	445	155,7%	22	402	18	3
Gabon	143	347	142,7%	4	321	19	3
Kenya	374	1 640	338,5%	171	1 349	113	7
Rwanda	16	60	275,0%	3	52	4	1
São Tomé and Príncipe	1	4	300,0%	-	4	-	-
Somalia	15	114	660,0%	59	54	1	-
Uganda	147	624	324,5%	44	512	67	1

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

Country of residence	July			Purpose of visit (July 2022)			
	2021	2022	% change 2021–2022	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
West Africa	1 264	3 100	145,3%	155	2 754	175	16
Benin	37	98	164,9%	4	88	5	1
Burkina Faso	8	43	437,5%	4	36	3	-
Cape Verde Island	3	18	500,0%	1	14	2	1
Côte d'Ivoire	28	239	753,6%	26	211	2	-
Gambia	3	37	1133,3%	6	29	2	-
Ghana	403	1 345	233,7%	56	1 234	52	3
Guinea	39	70	79,5%	-	68	2	-
Guinea-Bissau	1	3	200,0%	-	3	-	-
Liberia	27	21	-22,2%	3	16	1	1
Mali	40	56	40,0%	6	50	-	-
Mauritania	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Niger	5	15	200,0%	3	10	-	2
Nigeria	592	990	67,2%	36	850	99	5
Saint Helena	-	8	-	-	7	-	1
Senegal	57	102	78,9%	5	94	2	1
Sierra Leone	9	31	244,4%	3	24	3	1
Togo	12	23	91,7%	2	19	2	-
North Africa	296	792	167,6%	75	646	69	2
Algeria	11	47	327,3%	4	39	4	-
Egypt	139	419	201,4%	35	363	21	-
Libya	49	32	-34,7%	3	21	8	-
Morocco	24	80	233,3%	12	64	4	-
South Sudan	18	44	144,4%	3	33	6	2
The Sudan	34	121	255,9%	15	82	24	-
Tunisia	21	48	128,6%	3	43	2	-
Western Sahara	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	275	798	190,2%	25	772	-	1

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

Sex	Age group	July		Region (July 2022)			
		2021	2022	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	151 264	507 824	122 720	376 566	7 740	798
	0-14	5 934	33 515	15 277	17 716	510	12
	15-24	11 711	52 455	20 840	30 817	769	29
	25-34	34 671	115 039	17 657	95 268	1 981	133
	35-44	52 575	150 139	18 989	128 467	2 449	234
	45-54	30 619	95 118	23 942	69 613	1 339	224
	55-64	11 745	41 758	15 868	25 238	500	152
	65+	4 009	19 800	10 147	9 447	192	14
Male	Total	105 128	292 635	66 099	221 218	4 820	498
	0-14	2 989	16 888	8 035	8 604	243	6
	15-24	6 216	26 855	10 584	15 849	404	18
	25-34	23 446	64 442	8 987	54 210	1 171	74
	35-44	39 407	92 579	10 645	80 146	1 637	151
	45-54	22 751	58 015	13 223	43 738	916	138
	55-64	8 068	23 809	9 103	14 267	335	104
	65+	2 251	10 047	5 522	4 404	114	7
Female	Total	46 136	215 189	56 621	155 348	2 920	300
	0-14	2 945	16 627	7 242	9 112	267	6
	15-24	5 495	25 600	10 256	14 968	365	11
	25-34	11 225	50 597	8 670	41 058	810	59
	35-44	13 168	57 560	8 344	48 321	812	83
	45-54	7 868	37 103	10 719	25 875	423	86
	55-64	3 677	17 949	6 765	10 971	165	48
	65+	1 758	9 753	4 625	5 043	78	7

4. Annexures

4.1 Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between Jan–July 2021 and Jan–July 2022 by country of residence

Country of residence	Jan – July 2021	Jan – July 2022	Difference between Jan – July 2021 and Jan – July 2022	% change between Jan – July 2021 and Jan – July 2022
Total	1 077 526	2 793 570	1 716 044	159,3%
Overseas	130 082	689 878	559 796	430,3%
Europe	62 743	422 674	359 931	573,7%
Austria	1 000	6 347	5 347	534,7%
Belgium	2 523	16 563	14 040	556,5%
Denmark	889	7 572	6 683	751,7%
France	6 414	36 109	29 695	463,0%
Germany	10 278	76 327	66 049	642,6%
Ireland	1 039	10 270	9 231	888,5%
Italy	2 567	12 159	9 592	373,7%
Portugal	2 149	8 386	6 237	290,2%
Russian Federation	5 112	6 303	1 191	23,3%
Spain	2 277	10 140	7 863	345,3%
Sweden	1 250	7 293	6 043	483,4%
Switzerland	2 661	15 846	13 185	495,5%
The Netherlands	5 366	42 890	37 524	699,3%
UK	11 473	140 640	129 167	1125,8%
Other	7 745	25 829	18 084	233,5%
North America	35 690	148 866	113 176	317,1%
Canada	2 259	15 529	13 270	587,4%
USA	33 431	133 337	99 906	298,8%
Central and South America	3 770	14 027	10 257	272,1%
Argentina	241	1 117	876	363,5%
Brazil	1 964	7 318	5 354	272,6%
Mexico	563	1 812	1 249	221,8%
Other	1 002	3 780	2 778	277,2%

Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between Jan–July 2021 and Jan–July 2022 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – July 2021	Jan – July 2022	Difference between Jan – July 2021 and Jan – July 2022	% change between Jan – July 2021 and Jan – July 2022
Australasia	1 812	26 022	24 210	1336,1%
Australia	1 478	22 159	20 681	1399,3%
New Zealand	326	3 825	3 499	1073,3%
Other	8	38	30	375,0%
Middle East	5 033	19 574	14 541	288,9%
Israel	1 140	7 479	6 339	556,1%
Saudi Arabia	2 205	5 918	3 713	168,4%
United Arab Emirates	116	1 637	1 521	1311,2%
Other	1 572	4 540	2 968	188,8%
Asia	21 034	58 715	37 681	179,1%
Bangladesh	1 027	4 046	3 019	294,0%
China	3 976	5 459	1 483	37,3%
India	7 528	28 084	20 556	273,1%
Japan	581	2 435	1 854	319,1%
Malaysia	347	1 299	952	274,4%
Pakistan	3 327	7 056	3 729	112,1%
Philippines	1 881	2 364	483	25,7%
Singapore	91	1 027	936	1028,6%
South Korea	581	2 401	1 820	313,3%
Thailand	607	1 422	815	134,3%
Other	1 088	3 122	2 034	186,9%
Africa	945 489	2 098 807	1 153 318	122,0%
SADC	921 667	2 049 531	1 127 864	122,4%
Angola	3 571	16 211	12 640	354,0%
Botswana	44 437	121 079	76 642	172,5%
DRC	6 133	9 920	3 787	61,7%
Eswatini	85 222	201 042	115 820	135,9%

Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between Jan–July 2021 and Jan–July 2022 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – July 2021	Jan – July 2022	Difference between Jan – July 2021 and Jan – July 2022	% change between Jan – July 2021 and Jan – July 2022
Lesotho	183 826	448 192	264 366	143,8%
Madagascar	111	742	631	568,5%
Malawi	26 123	55 682	29 559	113,2%
Mauritius	362	5 090	4 728	1306,1%
Mozambique	268 220	493 572	225 352	84,0%
Namibia	46 728	72 895	26 167	56,0%
Seychelles	94	1 102	1 008	1072,3%
Tanzania	6 371	13 401	7 030	110,3%
Zambia	34 538	61 379	26 841	77,7%
Zimbabwe	215 931	549 224	333 293	154,4%
'Other' African	23 822	49 276	25 454	106,9%
East and Central Africa	10 034	23 349	13 315	132,7%
Burundi	181	360	179	98,9%
Cameroon	946	1 779	833	88,1%
Central African Republic	24	55	31	129,2%
Chad	63	152	89	141,3%
Comoros	38	149	111	292,1%
Congo	471	752	281	59,7%
Djibouti	7	31	24	342,9%
Equatorial Guinea	60	105	45	75,0%
Eritrea	51	262	211	413,7%
Ethiopia	1 420	2 682	1 262	88,9%
Gabon	1 022	1 320	298	29,2%
Kenya	3 433	10 395	6 962	202,8%
Rwanda	125	365	240	192,0%
São Tomé and Príncipe	8	25	17	212,5%
Somalia	97	503	406	418,6%
Uganda	2 088	4 414	2 326	111,4%

Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between Jan–July 2021 and Jan–July 2022 by country of residence (concluded)

Country of residence	Jan – July 2021	Jan – July 2022	Difference between Jan – July 2021 and Jan – July 2022	% change between Jan – July 2021 and Jan – July 2022
West Africa	11 494	20 852	9 358	81,4%
Benin	231	590	359	155,4%
Burkina Faso	64	280	216	337,5%
Cape Verde Island	22	105	83	377,3%
Côte d'Ivoire	212	941	729	343,9%
Gambia	42	143	101	240,5%
Ghana	3 555	7 798	4 243	119,4%
Guinea	251	430	179	71,3%
Guinea-Bissau	16	25	9	56,3%
Liberia	94	176	82	87,2%
Mali	195	355	160	82,1%
Mauritania	8	62	54	675,0%
Niger	37	81	44	118,9%
Nigeria	6 368	8 928	2 560	40,2%
Saint Helena	6	33	27	450,0%
Senegal	281	569	288	102,5%
Sierra Leone	74	203	129	174,3%
Togo	38	133	95	250,0%
North Africa	2 294	5 075	2 781	121,2%
Algeria	148	473	325	219,6%
Egypt	1 111	2 419	1 308	117,7%
Libya	236	334	98	41,5%
Morocco	184	547	363	197,3%
South Sudan	132	301	169	128,0%
The Sudan	366	590	224	61,2%
Tunisia	114	408	294	257,9%
Western Sahara	3	3	-	0,0%
Unspecified	1 955	4 885	2 930	149,9%

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 is observed when the volume of travellers decreases. In July 2022, the DHA data was 2,2% 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's 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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Library of Parliament, Cape Town

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Email: TshwaroG@statssa.gov.za (technical enquiries)
info@statssa.gov.za (user information services)

Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

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