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This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in November 2024. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country in November 2024. Tourists are classified by region and country of residence. Details of their mode of travel; purpose of visit; age and sex distribution are also provided.

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

NB: Users are advised that some of the ports of entry/exit are missing data due to lack of network coverage at those ports; however, the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) is addressing this problem. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) is constantly in communication with the department and more ports of entry/exit will have data and thus improve coverage.

1. Highlights of the results

In November 2024, 2 495 956 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) entered and exited South Africa. They were made up of 617 179 (24,7%) South African residents and 1 878 777 (75,3%) foreign travellers. Foreign arrivals were made up of 27 786 (2,8%) non-visitors and 975 142 (97,2%) visitors. Visitors consisted of 207 215 (21,2%) same-day visitors and 767 927 (78,8%) overnight visitors (tourists).

Tourists

Overseas tourists constituted 27,7% (212 335) of all tourists. Germany (39 794), United Kingdom (UK) (34 132) and United States of America (USA) (27 622) contributed 47,8% to overseas tourists. Tourists from Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries constituted 69,8% (535 807) of all tourists. Zimbabwe (159 288), Mozambique (122 780) and Lesotho (90 065) contributed 69,5% to SADC tourists. 'Other' African countries (non-SADC) tourists were 2,4% (18 409) of all tourists. Kenya (5 317), Ghana (4 081) and Nigeria (2 505) contributed 64,7% to 'other' African tourists. The country of residence of 1 376 (0,2%) tourists was classified as unspecified.

Purpose of visit

'Holiday'¹ continues to be the main purpose of visit. About 97,0% of all the tourists were in South Africa for holiday purposes.

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Risenga Maluleke Statistician-General

¹ The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons such as attending weddings.

2. Key findings

2.1 Travellers

2.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the DHA' immigration officers at the ports of entry into and out of South Africa shows that a total of 2 495 956 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports in November 2024. As presented in Table 1 below, these travellers were made up of 617 179 South African residents and 1 878 777 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 307 019 arrivals, 309 611 departures and 549 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 1 002 928, 834 756 and 41 093 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in October 2024 and November 2024 indicates that the volume of arrivals decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers. The volume of departures and transits increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 8,7% (from 336 431 in October 2024 to 307 019 in November 2024), departures increased by 1,1% (from 306 103 in October 2024 to 309 611 in November 2024) and transits increased by 24,8% (from 440 in October 2024 to 549 in November 2024). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 9,9% (from 912 229 in October 2024 to 1 002 928 in November 2024), departures increased by 8,4% (from 769 916 in October 2024 to 834 756 in November 2024) and transits increased by 0,6% (from 40 833 in October 2024 to 41 093 in November 2024).

A comparison between the movements in November 2023 and November 2024 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, whereas that of transits increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 5,2% (from 323 797 in November 2023 to 307 019 in November 2024), departures decreased by 4,2% (from 323 263 in November 2023 to 309 611 in November 2024) while transits increased by 13,9% (from 482 in November 2023 to 549 in November 2024). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 1,2% (from 1 015 584 in November 2023 to 1 002 928 in November 2024), departures decreased by 5,2% (from 880 886 in November 2023 to 834 756 in November 2024) while transits increased by 5,2% (from 38 011 in November 2023 to 41 093 in November 2024).

Travel Direction	November 2023	October 2024	November 2024	% Change Oct 2024 – Nov 2024	% Change Nov 2023 – Nov 2024
Total	2 582 023	2 365 952	2 495 956	5,5%	-3,3%
South African residents	647 542	642 974	617 179	-4,0%	-4,7%
Arrivals	323 797	336 431	307 019	-8,7%	-5,2%
Departures	323 263	306 103	309 611	1,1%	-4,2%
Transits	482	440	549	24,8%	13,9%
Foreign travellers	1 934 481	1 722 978	1 878 777	9,0%	-2,9%
Arrivals	1 015 584	912 229	1 002 928	9,9%	-1,2%
Departures	880 886	769 916	834 756	8,4%	-5,2%
Transits	38 011	40 833	41 093	0,6%	8,1%

2.1.2 Mode of travel of travellers

Information presented in Table 2 below shows the number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel. In November 2024, road was the most common mode of travel used by 1 530 302 (61,3%) of the 2 495 956 travellers. The total number of air travellers was 936 317 (37,5%). Compared to air and road, a smaller number of travellers, 29 337 (1,2%) used sea into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 155 347 (50,6%) came by air, 146 770 (47,8%) came by road and 4 902 (1,6%) arrived by sea. For departures, 143 806 (46,4%) used air, 158 469 (51,2%) used road and 7 336 (2,4%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 549 (100,0%) used air.

In the case of foreign travellers, 286 233 (28,5%) arrived by air, 702 683 (70,1%) came by road and 14 012 (1,4%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 309 289 (37,1%) foreign travellers left by air, 522 380 (62,6%) left by road and 3 087 (0,4%) left by sea. Of all travellers in transit, 41 093 (100,0%) used air.

Travel	Total	Air					Read	See
direction	Total	Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total	Road	Sea
Total	2 495 956	284 432	21 598	628 334	1 953	936 317	1 530 302	29 337
South African residents	617 179	52 228	13 522	232 672	1 280	299 702	305 239	12 238
Arrivals	307 019	30 141	6 608	117 967	631	155 347	146 770	4 902
Departures	309 611	22 071	6 914	114 172	649	143 806	158 469	7 336
Transit	549	16	-	533	-	549	-	-
Foreign travellers	1 878 777	232 204	8 076	395 662	673	636 615	1 225 063	17 099
Arrivals	1 002 928	112 406	3 851	169 611	365	286 233	702 683	14 012
Departures	834 756	118 938	4 225	185 818	308	309 289	522 380	3 087
Transit	41 093	860	-	40 233	-	41 093	-	-
Visitors	975 142	109 037	3 022	164 860	239	277 158	689 040	8 944
Same-day	207 215	1 669	47	17 255	54	19 025	187 560	630
Overnight/ (Tourists)	767 927	107 368	2 975	147 605	185	258 133	501 480	8 314

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

2.2 Visitors

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 3 on page 4, in November 2024, 27 786 (2,8%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 975 142 (97,2%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only comprising visitors who entered the country in November 2024 but did not depart in November 2024 [380 544 (39,0%)].
- ii. Single trips visitors who came to South Africa once in November 2024 and left in November 2024 [326 824 (33,5%)].
- iii. Multiple trips visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in November 2024 [267 774 (27,5%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In November 2024, there were 207 215 (21,2%) same-day visitors and 767 927 (78,8%) tourists. Between October 2024 and November 2024, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 11,4% (from 186 084 in October 2024 to 207 215 in November 2024) and that of tourists increased by 8,9% (from 705 257 in October 2024 to 767 927 in November 2024). Between November 2023 and November 2024, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 19,4% (from 257 191 in November 2023 to 207 215 in November 2024) while that of tourists increased by 5,0% (from 731 677 in November 2023 to 767 927 in November 2024).

Table 2 on page 3 further shows that of the 207 215 same-day visitors, a majority, 187 560 (90,5%) arrived in the country by road, 19 025 (9,2%) arrived by air and 630 (0,3%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 501 480 (65,3%) came by road, 258 133 (33,6%) used air and 8 314 (1,1%) used sea.

November	October	November	% Change	% Change
2023	2024	2024	Oct 2024 – Nov 2024	Nov 2023 – Nov 2024
4 045 594	042 220	4 002 028	0.0%	4.00/
				-1,2%
26 7 16	20 888	27 786	33,0%	4,0%
988 868	891 341	975 142	9,4%	-1,4%
988 868	891 341	975 142	9,4%	-1,4%
325 517	350 603	380 544	8,5%	16,9%
336 663	291 496	326 824	12,1%	-2,9%
326 688	249 242	267 774	7,4%	-18,0%
988 868	891 341	975 142	9,4%	-1,4%
257 191	186 084	207 215	11,4%	-19,4%
731 677	705 257	767 927	8,9%	5,0%
	2023 1 015 584 26 716 988 868 988 868 325 517 336 663 326 688 988 868 257 191	202320241 015 584912 22926 71620 888988 868891 341988 868891 341325 517350 603336 663291 496326 688249 242988 868891 341257 191186 084	2023202420241 015 584912 2291 002 92826 71620 88827 786988 868891 341975 142988 868891 341975 142325 517350 603380 544336 663291 496326 824326 688249 242267 774988 868891 341975 142257 191186 084207 215	2023 2024 2024 Oct 2024 – Nov 2024 1 015 584 912 229 1 002 928 9,9% 26 716 20 888 27 786 33,0% 988 868 891 341 975 142 9,4% 988 868 891 341 975 142 9,4% 325 517 350 603 380 544 8,5% 336 663 291 496 326 824 12,1% 326 688 249 242 267 774 7,4% 988 868 891 341 975 142 9,4% 326 777 350 603 380 544 8,5% 326 688 249 242 267 774 7,4% 988 868 891 341 975 142 9,4% 257 191 186 084 207 215 11,4%

Table 3 – Number of visitors by type of visitor

2.3 Tourists

2.3.1 Sex and age distribution of tourists

Sex

Figure 1 on page 5 shows that there were more male [442 847 (57,7%)] than female [325 080 (42,3%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions, SADC countries [318 624 (59,5%)], overseas countries [112 081 (52,8%)] and 'other' African countries [11 371 (61,8%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [217 183 (40,5%)], followed by overseas countries [100 254 (47,2%)] and 'other' African countries [7 038 (38,2%)].

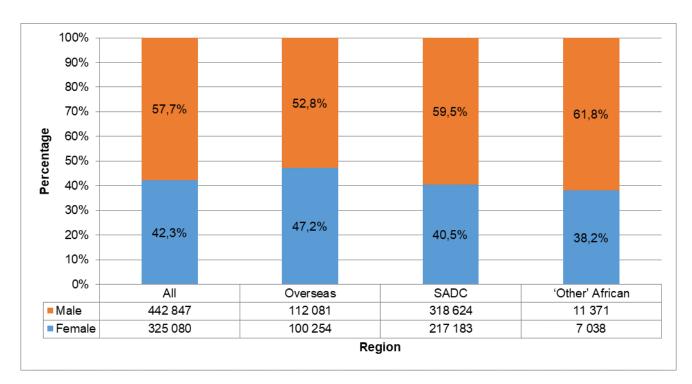


Figure 1 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and sex, November 2024

Age

The age distribution, as shown in Figure 2 on page 6, indicates that out of all tourists, $[4,0\% (30\ 338)]$ were aged younger than 15; $[7,8\% (59\ 600)]$ were aged between 15 and 24; $[24,1\% (184\ 886)]$ were aged between 25 and 34; $[28,5\% (219\ 072)]$ were aged between 35 and 44; $[17,8\% (136\ 478)]$ were aged between 45 and 54; $[10,5\% (80\ 793)]$ were aged between 55 and 64; $[7,4\% (56\ 759)]$ were aged 65 and older.

Taking the region of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [33,3% (178 509)] and those from 'other' African countries [33,0% (6 077)] were aged between 35 and 44, whereas those from overseas countries [21,2% (44 983)] were aged between 55 and 64. The second highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [26,5% (141 766)] and those from 'other' African countries [27,6% (5 074)] were aged between 25 and 34, whereas those from overseas countries [20,2% (42 947)] were aged 65 and above. The proportion of tourists aged younger than 15 was higher among tourists from SADC countries, [4,1% (22 101)] compared to those from overseas countries, [3,6% (7 712)] and those from 'other' African countries, [2,8% (517)]. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 50, 38 and 38 years, respectively.

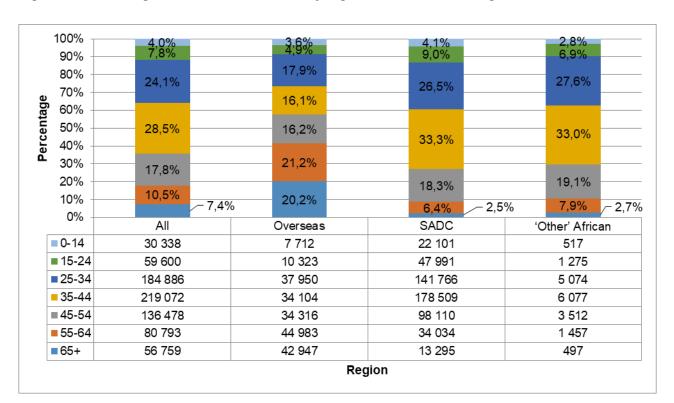


Figure 2 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and age, November 2024

2.3.2 Regional and national distribution of tourists

Table 4 on page 9 shows the distribution of overseas tourists as follows: Europe, 142 434 (67,1%); North America, 33 320 (15,7%); Asia, 17 749 (8,4%); Australasia, 9 648 (4,5%); Central and South America, 6 046 (2,8%) and Middle East, 3 138 (1,5%).

Figure 3 on page 7 indicates that the 10 leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in November 2024 were: Germany, 39 794 (18,7%); UK, 34 132 (16,1%); USA, 27 622 (13,0%); The Netherlands, 13 011 (6,1%); France, 12 569 (5,9%); Australia, 8 130 (3,8%); India, 6 700 (3,2%); Switzerland, 5 788 (2,7%); Canada, 5 698 (2,7%) and Belgium, 5 015 (2,4%). Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 74,6% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the 10 leading countries between November 2023 and November 2024 shows that the number of tourists increased for 9 of 10 leading countries. Germany had the highest increase of 31,8% (from 30 191 tourists in November 2023 to 39 794 tourists in November 2024).

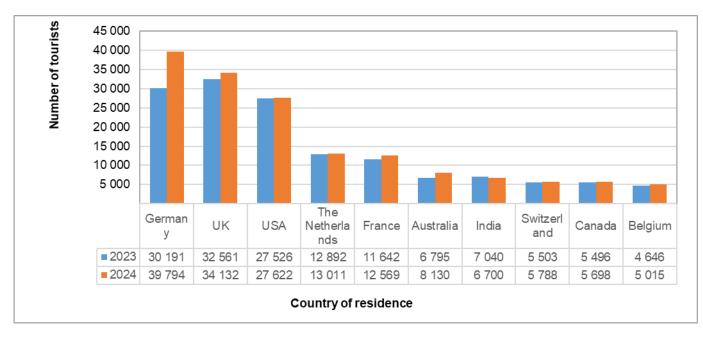


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading overseas countries in November 2023 and November 2024

Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 535 807 (96,7%), came from SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa was as follows: East and Central Africa, 8 990 (1,6%); West Africa, 8 153 (1,5%) and North Africa 1 266 (0,2%). Ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in November 2024 were: Zimbabwe, 159 288 (29,7%); Mozambique, 122 780 (22,9%); Lesotho, 90 065 (16,8%); Eswatini, 71 818 (13,4%); Botswana, 34 878 (6,5%); Malawi, 18 228 (3,4%); Zambia, 13 330 (2,5%); Namibia, 13 229 (2,5%); Tanzania, 3 415 (0,6%) and Angola, 3 330 (0,6%) (see Figure 4 below). Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 99,0% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison of movements in the 10 leading countries between November 2023 and November 2024 shows that the number of tourists increased for 8 of the 10 leading countries. Malawi showed the highest increase of 27,9% (from 14 250 tourists in November 2023 to 18 228 tourists in November 2024).

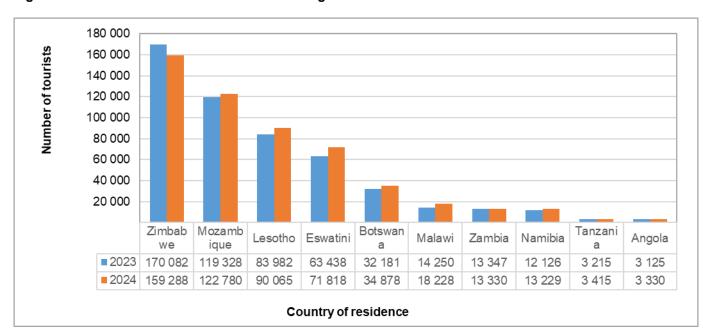


Figure 4 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading SADC countries in November 2023 and November 2024

International tourism, November 2024

The 10 leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in November 2024 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 5 below, were: Kenya, 5 317 (28,9%); Ghana, 4 081 (22,2%); Nigeria, 2 505 (13,6%); Uganda, 1 293 (7,0%); Ethiopia, 722 (3,9%); Cameroon, 557 (3,0%); Egypt, 548 (3,0%); Côte d'Ivoire, 323 (1,8%); Gabon, 317 (1,7%) and Tunisia, 247 (1,3%). Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 86,4% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in November 2023 and November 2024 shows that the number of tourists increased for all 10 leading countries. Cameroon showed the highest increase of 74,6% (from 319 tourists in November 2023 to 557 tourists in November 2024).

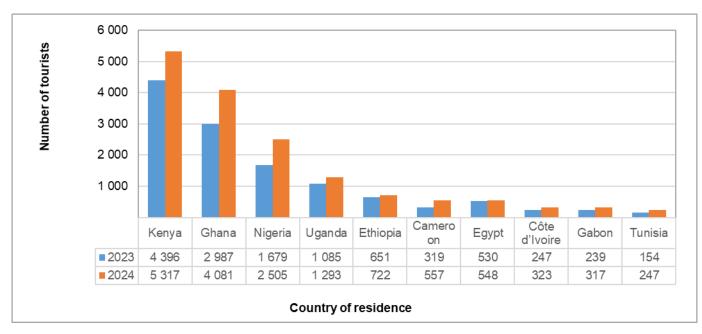


Figure 5 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading 'other' African countries in November 2023 and November 2024

2.3.3 Purpose of visit of tourists

Table 4 on page 9, shows the number of tourists by region and sub-region. Detailed data on the country of residence and purpose of visit is presented in Annexure C on pages 19 to 22. It is observed that in November 2024, the majority of tourists, 744 652 (97,0%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 21 304 (2,8%); 1 692 (0,2%) and 279 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment respectively.

Within the overseas regions, Australasia, 99,2% (9 566) had the highest proportion of tourists who came for holiday followed by Europe, 97,9% (139 412); North America, 97,7% (32 562); Central and South America, 96,7% (5 849); Middle East, 94,9% (2 978) and Asia, 93,2% (16 535).

Asia, 5,8% (1 032) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by Middle East, 4,3% (134); Central and South America, 3,0% (183); North America, 2,1% (697); Europe, 2,0% (2 799) and Australasia, 0,8% (78).

Asia, 1,0% (178) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to study, followed by Middle East, 0,8% (24); Central and South America, 0,2% (12); North America, 0,2% (50); Europe, 0,1% (181) and Australasia, less than 0,1% (3).

Middle East, (2) had 0,1% of tourists who came for medical treatment. Europe (42), North America (11), Asia (4), Central and South America (2) and Australasia (1) had less than 0,1% of medical treatment tourists.

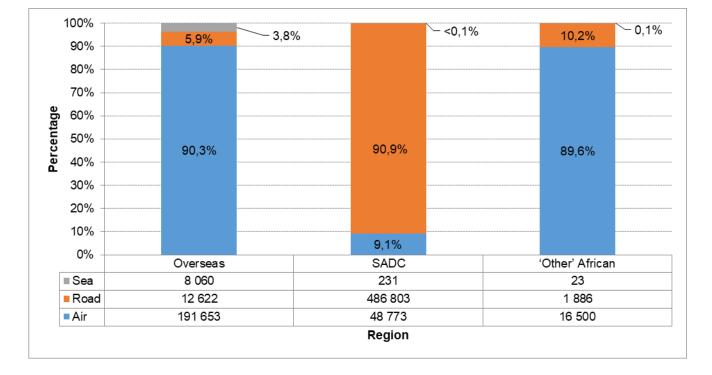
- Holiday makers constituted 97,0% (519 662) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 91,3% (16 803) from 'other' African countries. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 91,8% (7 487) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from East and Central Africa, 91,5% (8 228) and those from North Africa, 85,9% (1 088).
- Business persons constituted 2,8% (15 013) of tourists from SADC countries and 6,9% (1 277) from 'other' African countries. North Africa, 11,3% (143) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 7,0% (628) and West Africa, 6,2% (506).
- Students constituted 0,2% (959) of tourists from SADC countries compared with 1,5% (285) from 'other' African countries. North Africa, 2,8% (35) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by West Africa, 1,8% (143) and East and Central Africa, 1,2% (107).
- Tourists who came for medical treatment constituted less than 0,1% (173) of tourists from SADC countries, while those from 'other' African countries constituted 0,2% (44). East and Central Africa, 0,3% (27) had the highest proportion of tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by West Africa, 0,2% (17) and North Africa had none.

	November	_			
Region of residence	2024	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
			- / /		
Total	767 927	21 304	744 652	1 692	279
Overseas	212 335	4 923	206 902	448	62
Europe	142 434	2 799	139 412	181	42
North America	33 320	697	32 562	50	11
Central and South America	6 046	183	5 849	12	2
Australasia	9 648	78	9 566	3	1
Middle East	3 138	134	2 978	24	2
Asia	17 749	1 032	16 535	178	4
Africa	554 216	16 290	536 465	1 244	217
		1	- / 0 000		
SADC	535 807	15 013	519 662	959	173
'Other' African	18 409	1 277	16 803	285	44
East and Central Africa	8 990	628	8 228	107	27
West Africa	8 153	506	7 487	143	17
North Africa	1 266	143	1 088	35	-
Unspecified	1 376	91	1 285	-	-

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

2.3.4 Mode of travel of tourists

Tourists are categorised by their countries of residence 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 Annexure B on pages 15 to 18, whereas the port of entry used by tourists is provided in Annexure E on page 27. As shown in Figure 6 below, 191 653 (90,3%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 12 622 (5,9%) came in by road and 8 060 (3,8%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 486 803 (90,9%), 48 773 (9,1%) came by air and 231 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 16 500 (89,6%); while 1 886 (10,2%) used road transport and 23 (0,1%) preferred sea. Most tourists who arrived by road came through Beit Bridge port (125 137) and Lebombo port (123 056). The majority of tourists who came by air entered through OR Tambo International Airport (147 605) and Cape Town International Airport (107 368). Tourists who arrived by sea came through Cape Town Harbour (8 035) and Durban Harbour (279).





3. Annexures

3.1 Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between November 2023 and November 2024 by country of residence

Country of residence	November 2023	November 2024	Difference between November 2023 and November 2024	% change between November 2023 and November 2024
Total	731 677	767 927	36 250	5,0%
Overseas	195 549	212 335	16 786	8,6%
Europe	129 036	142 434	13 398	10,4%
Austria	2 786	3 077	291	10,4%
Belgium	4 646	5 015	369	7,9%
Denmark	1 724	1 786	62	3,6%
France	11 642	12 569	927	8,0%
Germany	30 191	39 794	9 603	31,8%
Ireland	2 643	2 690	47	1,8%
Italy	3 690	3 721	31	0,8%
Poland	1 769	1 967	198	11,2%
Russian Federation	3 439	3 933	494	14,4%
Spain	2 696	2 609	-87	-3,2%
Sweden	2 772	2 629	-143	-5,2%
Switzerland	5 503	5 788	285	5,2%
The Netherlands	12 892	13 011	119	0,9%
UK	32 561	34 132	1 571	4,8%
Other	10 082	9 713	-369	-3,7%
North America	33 022	33 320	298	0,9%
Canada	5 496	5 698	202	3,7%
USA	27 526	27 622	96	0,3%
Central and South America	5 450	6 046	596	10,9%
Argentina	336	340	4	1,2%
Brazil	3 408	3 937	529	15,5%
Mexico	342	466	124	36,3%
Other	1 364	1 303	-61	-4,5%

Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between November 2023 and November 2024 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	November 2023	November 2024	Difference between November 2023 and November 2024	% change between November 2023 and November 2024
Australasia	8 199	9 648	1 449	17,7%
Australia	6 795	8 130	1 335	19,6%
New Zealand	1 395	1 488	93	6,7%
Other	9	30	21	233,3%
Middle East	2 769	3 138	369	13,3%
Israel	434	573	139	32,0%
Saudi Arabia	1 303	1 472	169	13,0%
United Arab Emirates	196	228	32	16,3%
Other	836	865	29	3,5%
Asia	17 073	17 749	676	4,0%
Bangladesh	651	525	-126	-19,4%
China	3 290	3 580	290	8,8%
India	7 040	6 700	-340	-4,8%
Japan	985	1 310	325	33,0%
Malaysia	355	433	78	22,0%
Pakistan	1 018	1 363	345	33,9%
Philippines	524	550	26	5,0%
Singapore	758	681	-77	-10,2%
South Korea	947	912	-35	-3,7%
Thailand	322	349	27	8,4%
Other	1 183	1 346	163	13,8%
Africa	534 969	554 216	19 247	3,6%
SADC	520 322	535 807	15 485	3,0%
Angola	3 125	3 330	205	6,6%
Botswana	32 181	34 878	2 697	8,4%
DRC	1 960	2 151	191	9,7%
Eswatini	63 438	71 818	8 380	13,2%

Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between November 2023 and November 2024 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	November 2023	November 2024	Difference between November 2023 and November 2024	% change between November 2023 and November 2024
Lesotho	83 982	90 065	6 083	7,2%
Madagascar	395	397	2	0,5%
Malawi	14 250	18 228	3 978	27,9%
Mauritius	2 299	2 230	-69	-3,0%
Mozambique	119 328	122 780	3 452	2,9%
Namibia	12 126	13 229	1 103	9,1%
Seychelles	594	668	74	12,5%
Tanzania	3 215	3 415	200	6,2%
Zambia	13 347	13 330	-17	-0,1%
Zimbabwe	170 082	159 288	-10 794	-6,3%
'Other' African	14 647	18 409	3 762	25,7%
East and Central Africa	7 362	8 990	1 628	22,1%
Burundi	122	121	-1	-0,8%
Cameroon	319	557	238	74,6%
Central African Republic	14	46	32	228,6%
Chad	50	52	2	4,0%
Comoros	61	26	-35	-57,4%
Congo	165	222	57	34,5%
Djibouti	14	17	3	21,4%
Equatorial Guinea	26	55	29	111,5%
Eritrea	37	34	-3	-8,1%
Ethiopia	651	722	71	10,9%
Gabon	239	317	78	32,6%
Kenya	4 396	5 317	921	21,0%
Réunion	1	11	10	1000,0%
Rwanda	94	108	14	14,9%
São Tomé and Príncipe	12	11	-1	-8,3%
Somalia	76	81	5	6,6%
Uganda	1 085	1 293	208	19,2%

Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between November 2023 and November 2024 by country of residence (concluded)

Country of residence	November 2023	November 2024	Difference between November 2023 and November 2024	% change between November 2023 and November 2024	
West Africa	5 931	8 153	2 222	37,5%	
Benin	221	223	2	0,9%	
Burkina Faso	63	116	53	84,1%	
Cape Verde Island	31	37	6	19,4%	
Côte d'Ivoire	247	323	76	30,8%	
Gambia	67	86	19	28,4%	
Ghana	2 987	4 081	1 094	36,6%	
Guinea	139	120	-19	-13,7%	
Guinea-Bissau	6	18	12	200,0%	
Liberia	65	128	63	96,9%	
Mali	91	105	14	15,4%	
Mauritania	43	26	-17	-39,5%	
Niger	35	55	20	57,1%	
Nigeria	1 679	2 505	826	49,2%	
Saint Helena	5	3	-2	-40,0%	
Senegal	152	186	34	22,4%	
Sierra Leone	53	68	15	28,3%	
Тодо	47	73	26	55,3%	
North Africa	1 354	1 266	-88	-6,5%	
Algeria	116	80	-36	-31,0%	
Egypt	530	548	18	3,4%	
Libya	89	43	-46	-51,7%	
Morocco	267	150	-117	-43,8%	
South Sudan	119	110	-9	-7,6%	
The Sudan	79	85	6	7,6%	
Tunisia	154	247	93	60,4%	
Western Sahara	-	3	3	0,0%	
Unspecified	1 159	1 376	217	18,7%	

3.2 Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, November 2024

	November			Air			Deed	6
Country of residence	2024	Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total	Road	Sea
Total	767 927	107 368	2 975	147 605	185	258 133	501 480	8 314
Overseas	212 335	95 911	2 432	93 181	129	191 653	12 622	8 060
Europe	142 434	70 720	1 524	54 450	80	126 774	8 774	6 886
Austria	3 077	1 622	28	1 068	1	2 719	213	145
Belgium	5 015	2 461	42	2 044	2	4 549	440	26
Denmark	1 786	511	72	1 119	2	1 704	74	8
France	12 569	4 729	53	6 304	16	11 102	1 430	37
Germany	39 794	20 666	172	10 883	6	31 727	2 258	5 809
Ireland	2 690	1 650	53	905	-	2 608	44	38
Italy	3 721	1 765	46	1 720	2	3 533	167	21
Poland	1 967	957	8	741	-	1 706	246	15
Russian Federation	3 933	2 294	24	1 443	5	3 766	156	11
Spain	2 609	1 014	58	1 249	-	2 321	219	69
Sweden	2 629	1 326	50	1 150	2	2 528	87	14
Switzerland	5 788	3 189	39	2 012	2	5 242	350	196
The Netherlands	13 011	6 243	60	5 104	4	11 411	1 508	92
UK	34 132	17 641	584	14 579	32	32 836	956	340
Other	9 713	4 652	235	4 129	6	9 022	626	65
North America	33 320	14 389	172	16 623	32	31 216	1 368	736
Canada	5 698	2 382	50	2 746	6	5 184	345	169
USA	27 622	12 007	122	13 877	26	26 032	1 023	567
Central and South America	6 046	1 617	17	4 105	3	5 742	247	57
Argentina	340	92	1	218	1	312	18	10
Brazil	3 937	971	7	2 787	1	3 766	155	16
Mexico	466	163	2	280	-	445	7	14
Other	1 303	391	7	820	1	1 219	67	17

Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, November 2024 (continued)

Country of residence	November			Air			Road	Sea
Country of residence	2024	Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total	Roau	Sea
Australasia	9 648	1 807	141	7 135	9	9 092	261	29
Australia	8 130	1 418	82	6 139	5	7 644	209	27
New Zealand	1 488	374	59	982	4	1 419	51	18
Other	30	15	-	14	-	29	1	
Middle East	3 138	1 926	13	1 131	-	3 070	68	
Israel	573	142	4	395	-	541	32	
Saudi Arabia	1 472	1 277	1	191	-	1 469	3	
United Arab Emirates	228	144	4	80	-	228	-	
Other	865	363	4	465	-	832	33	
Asia	17 749	5 452	565	9 737	5	15 759	1 904	8
Bangladesh	525	100	56	291	-	447	78	
China	3 580	801	31	2 513	4	3 349	182	4
India	6 700	2 148	259	3 412	-	5 819	878	
Japan	1 310	396	42	814	-	1 252	51	
Malaysia	433	155	8	242	-	405	25	
Pakistan	1 363	261	68	608	1	938	425	
Philippines	550	303	30	192	-	525	23	
Singapore	681	262	4	390	-	656	18	
South Korea	912	377	5	425	-	807	101	
Thailand	349	154	10	174	-	338	8	
Other	1 346	495	52	676	-	1 223	115	
Africa	554 216	11 293	543	53 381	56	65 273	488 689	25
SADC	535 807	7 034	507	41 185	47	48 773	486 803	23
Angola	3 330	1 338	-	1 360	3	2 701	618	1
Botswana	34 878	292	6	2 454	14	2 766	32 029	8
DRC	2 151	66	-	1 824	1	1 891	260	
Eswatini	71 818	141	75	1 120	-	1 336	70 471	1

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Country of realdones	November	Air						6 • •
Country of residence	2024	Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total	Road	Sea
Lesotho	90 065	14	-	959	-	973	89 078	14
Madagascar	397	5	-	371	-	376	21	-
Malawi	18 228	56	3	2 526	2	2 587	15 641	-
Mauritius	2 230	757	2	1 431	-	2 190	40	-
Mozambique	122 780	508	18	3 696	7	4 229	118 538	13
Namibia	13 229	2 033	-	2 597	2	4 632	8 581	16
Seychelles	668	22	1	639	-	662	6	-
Tanzania	3 415	311	1	1 737	-	2 049	1 359	7
Zambia	13 330	136	21	3 952	1	4 110	9 214	6
Zimbabwe	159 288	1 355	380	16 519	17	18 271	140 947	70
'Other' African	18 409	4 259	36	12 196	9	16 500	1 886	23
East and Central Africa	8 990	2 495	12	5 510	-	8 017	970	3
Burundi	121	30	-	78	-	108	13	-
Cameroon	557	147	-	383	-	530	27	-
Central African Republic	46	2	-	43	-	45	1	-
Chad	52	14	-	38	-	52	-	-
Comoros	26	3	-	23	-	26	-	-
Congo	222	56	-	157	-	213	9	-
Djibouti	17	5	-	12	-	17	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	55	18	-	34	-	52	3	-
Eritrea	34	5	2	26	-	33	1	-
Ethiopia	722	163	3	486	-	652	70	-
Gabon	317	42	-	272	-	314	3	-
Kenya	5 317	1 662	6	2 924	-	4 592	722	3
Réunion	11	11	-	_	-	11	-	-
Rwanda	108	6	-	91	-	97	11	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	11	2	-	9	-	11	-	-
Somalia	81	21	-	40	-	61	20	-
Uganda	1 293	308	1	894	-	1 203	90	-

Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, November 2024 (continued)

	November			Air			Deed	0
Country of residence	2024	Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total	Road	Sea
West Africa	8 153	1 377	9	5 853	8	7 247	886	20
Benin	223	34	-	166	-	200	23	-
Burkina Faso	116	30	-	86	-	116	-	-
Cape Verde Island	37	12	-	22	-	34	3	-
Côte d'Ivoire	323	50	-	268	-	318	5	-
Gambia	86	24	-	60	-	84	2	-
Ghana	4 081	380	5	3 048	3	3 436	625	20
Guinea	120	27	-	74	-	101	19	-
Guinea-Bissau	18	2	-	15	-	17	1	-
Liberia	128	46	-	80	-	126	2	-
Mali	105	31	-	54	-	85	20	-
Mauritania	26	11	-	15	-	26	-	-
Niger	55	22	-	33	-	55	-	-
Nigeria	2 505	609	3	1 709	4	2 325	180	-
Saint Helena	3	1	-	1	1	3	-	-
Senegal	186	59	1	125	-	185	1	-
Sierra Leone	68	9	-	54	-	63	5	-
Тодо	73	30	-	43	-	73	-	-
North Africa	1 266	387	15	833	1	1 236	30	-
Algeria	80	29	-	49		78	2	-
Egypt	548	135	7	399	_	541	7	_
Libya	43	9	-	29	_	38	5	_
Morocco	150	60	3	84	-	147	3	-
South Sudan	110	42	-	68	_	110	-	_
The Sudan	85	33	_	41	_	74	11	_
Tunisia	247	79	5	160	- 1	245	2	-
Western Sahara	3		-	3	-	243	-	_
	5	-	-	5	-	5	-	-
Unspecified	1 376	164	-	1 043	-	1 207	169	-

Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, November 2024 (concluded)

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Country of regidence	November	Purpose of visit						
Country of residence	2024	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical Treatment			
Total	767 927	21 304	744 652	1 692	279			
Overseas	212 335	4 923	206 902	448	62			
Europe	142 434	2 799	139 412	181	42			
Austria	3 077	30	3 046	1	-			
Belgium	5 015	93	4 913	8	1			
Denmark	1 786	27	1 754	3	2			
France	12 569	306	12 236	26	1			
Germany	39 794	366	39 364	62	2			
Ireland	2 690	63	2 625	1	1			
Italy	3 721	148	3 557	15	1			
Poland	1 967	33	1 933	1	-			
Russian Federation	3 933	72	3 857	4	-			
Spain	2 609	100	2 509	-	-			
Sweden	2 629	57	2 570	1	1			
Switzerland	5 788	54	5 728	6	-			
The Netherlands	13 011	189	12 794	15	13			
UK	34 132	916	33 183	17	16			
Other	9 713	345	9 343	21	4			
North America	33 320	697	32 562	50	11			
Canada	5 698	114	5 577	5	2			
USA	27 622	583	26 985	45	g			
Central and South America	6 046	183	5 849	12	2			
Argentina	340	19	321	-	-			
Brazil	3 937	76	3 852	9	-			
Mexico	466	15	451	-	-			
Other	1 303	73	1 225	3	2			

3.3 Annexure C – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, November 2024

Annexure C – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, November 2024 (continued)

Country of residence	November	Purpose of visit						
Country of residence	2024	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical Treatment			
Australasia	9 648	78	9 566	3	1			
Australia	8 130	56	8 071	2	1			
New Zealand	1 488 30	14	1 473	1	-			
Other	30	8	22	-	-			
Middle East	3 138	134	2 978	24	2			
Israel	573	25	548	-	-			
Saudi Arabia	1 472	16	1 445	11	-			
United Arab Emirates	228	22	205	1	-			
Other	865	71	780	12	2			
Asia	17 749	1 032	16 535	178	4			
Bangladesh	525	14	502	9	-			
China	3 580	228	3 342	8	2			
India	6 700	438	6 171	90	1			
Japan	1 310	95	1 210	5	-			
Malaysia	433	17	407	9	-			
Pakistan	1 363	39	1 296	27	1			
Philippines	550	17	531	2	-			
Singapore	681	31	648	2	-			
South Korea	912	18	892	2	-			
Thailand	349	8	331	10	-			
Other	1 346	127	1 205	14	-			
Africa	554 216	16 290	536 465	1 244	217			
SADC	535 807	15 013	519 662	959	173			
Angola	3 330	135	3 126	42	27			
Botswana	34 878	534	34 218	121	5			
DRC	2 151	71	1 957	62	61			
Eswatini	71 818	2 571	69 144	94	9			

Annexure C – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, November 2024 (continued)

Country of residence	2024 90 065 397 18 228 2 230 122 780 13 229	Business 24 3 348 33 204	Holiday 89 812 394 17 854 2 188	Study 214 - 24	Medical Treatment 15 -
Madagascar Malawi Mauritius Mozambique	397 18 228 2 230 122 780	3 348 33	394 17 854	-	-
Madagascar Malawi Mauritius Mozambique	397 18 228 2 230 122 780	3 348 33	394 17 854	-	-
Malawi Mauritius Mozambique	18 228 2 230 122 780	348 33	17 854	- 24	-
Mauritius Mozambique	2 230 122 780	33		24	
Mozambique	122 780		2 1 9 0		2
-		004	∠ 100	8	1
Namihia	13 229	264	122 484	21	11
Naminia		3 760	9 354	103	12
Seychelles	668	6	660	-	2
Tanzania	3 415	134	3 264	11	6
Zambia	13 330	3 394	9 895	37	4
Zimbabwe	159 288	3 736	155 312	222	18
'Other' African	18 409	1 277	16 803	285	44
East and Central Africa	8 990	628	8 228	107	27
Burundi	121	17	101	2	1
Cameroon	557	79	449	16	13
Central African Republic	46	2	44	-	-
Chad	52	7	43	2	-
Comoros	26	2	24	-	-
Congo	222	18	189	12	3
Djibouti	17	4	13	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	55	4	49	1	1
Eritrea	34	-	33	1	-
Ethiopia	722	67	638	16	1
Gabon	317	12	294	10	1
Kenya	5 317	276	5 013	26	2
Réunion	11	-	11	-	-
Rwanda	108	5	103	-	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	11	-	11	-	-
Somalia	81	11	68	1	1
Uganda	1 293	124	1 145	20	4

Annexure C – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, November 2024 (concluded)

Country of residence	November	Purpose of visit					
country of residence	2024	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical Treatment		
West Africa	8 153	506	7 487	143	17		
Benin	223	8	214	1	-		
Burkina Faso	116	30	84	1	1		
Cape Verde Island	37	2	34	-	1		
Côte d'Ivoire	323	21	300	2	-		
Gambia	86	12	73	1	-		
Ghana	4 081	108	3 953	14	6		
Guinea	120	17	95	5	3		
Guinea-Bissau	18	1	17	-	-		
Liberia	128	20	102	3	3		
Mali	105	24	80	1	-		
Mauritania	26	8	16	2	-		
Niger	55	19	36	-			
Nigeria	2 505	181	2 211	111	2		
Saint Helena	3	-	2	-	1		
Senegal	186	33	153	-	-		
Sierra Leone	68	7	59	2			
Тодо	73	15	58	-			
North Africa	1 266	143	1 088	35			
Algeria	80	18	61	1			
Egypt	548	63	471	14			
Libya	43	1	34	8			
Morocco	150	24	125	1			
South Sudan	110	12	96	2			
The Sudan	85	7	70	8			
Tunisia	247	18	228	1			
Western Sahara	3	-	3	-			
Unspecified	1 376	91	1 285	-			

3.4 Annexure D – Number of tourists' difference between Jan – Nov 2023 and Jan – Nov 2024 by country of residence

Country of residence	Jan – Nov 2023	Jan – Nov 2024	Difference between Jan – Nov 2023 and Jan – Nov 2024	% change between Jan – Nov 2023 and Jan – Nov 2024
Total	7 620 873	7 999 223	378 350	5,0%
Overseas	1 854 629	1 914 478	59 849	3,2%
Europe	1 114 293	1 120 985	6 692	0,6%
Austria	18 498	18 590	92	0,5%
Belgium	42 024	40 691	-1 333	-3,2%
Denmark	16 366	16 081	-285	-1,7%
France	109 659	115 629	5 970	5,4%
Germany	219 971	228 289	8 318	3,8%
Ireland	24 172	24 967	795	3,3%
Italy	47 452	45 378	-2 074	-4,4%
Portugal	17 512	18 226	714	4,1%
Russian Federation	25 116	26 892	1 776	7,1%
Spain	29 600	28 847	-753	-2,5%
Sweden	20 583	20 295	-288	-1,4%
Switzerland	37 896	37 493	-403	-1,1%
The Netherlands	117 948	118 796	848	0,7%
UK	315 054	306 865	-8 189	-2,6%
Other	72 442	73 946	1 504	2,1%
North America	370 514	387 514	17 000	4,6%
Canada	49 566	51 513	1 947	3,9%
USA	320 948	336 001	15 053	4,7%
Central and South America	40 740	67 828	27 088	66,5%
Argentina	3 398	4 976	1 578	46,4%
Brazil	21 414	44 637	23 223	108,4%
Mexico	4 118	4 436	318	7,7%
Other	11 810	13 779	1 969	16,7%

Annexure D – Number of tourists' difference between Jan – Nov 2023 and Jan – Nov 2024 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – Nov 2023	Jan – Nov 2024	Difference between Jan – Nov 2023 and Jan – Nov 2024	% change between Jan – Nov 2023 and Jan – Nov 2024
Australasia	94 806	103 856	9 050	9,5%
Australia	77 623	86 354	8 731	11,2%
New Zealand	16 950	17 202	252	1,5%
Other	233	300	67	28,8%
Middle East	51 779	43 435	-8 344	-16,1%
Israel	19 294	6 769	-12 525	-64,9%
Saudi Arabia	15 507	17 726	2 219	14,3%
United Arab Emirates	6 360	6 589	229	3,6%
Other	10 618	12 351	1 733	16,3%
Asia	182 497	190 860	8 363	4,6%
Bangladesh	7 265	5 289	-1 976	-27,2%
China	34 669	38 425	3 756	10,8%
India	73 037	70 044	-2 993	-4,1%
Japan	11 899	15 957	4 058	34,1%
Malaysia	5 203	5 822	619	11,9%
Pakistan	11 757	12 334	577	4,9%
Philippines	5 919	5 766	-153	-2,6%
Singapore	6 498	8 479	1 981	30,5%
South Korea	9 128	11 512	2 384	26,1%
Thailand	4 481	5 024	543	12,1%
Other	12 641	12 208	-433	-3,4%
Africa	5 754 625	6 073 798	319 173	5,5%
SADC	5 636 203	5 923 185	286 982	5,1%
Angola	35 811	34 121	-1 690	-4,7%
Botswana	308 376	343 665	35 289	11,4%
DRC	19 126	24 012	4 886	25,5%
Eswatini	656 482	760 246	103 764	15,8%

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Annexure D – Number of tourists' difference between Jan – Nov 2023 and Jan – Nov 2024 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – Nov 2023	Jan – Nov 2024	Difference between Jan – Nov 2023 and Jan – Nov 2024	% change between Jan – Nov 2023 and Jan – Nov 2024
Lesotho	1 057 040	840 253	-216 787	-20,5%
Madagascar	3 375	3 984	609	18,0%
Malawi	125 236	145 310	20 074	16,0%
Mauritius	16 033	16 129	96	0,6%
Mozambique	1 212 559	1 446 927	234 368	19,3%
Namibia	140 323	143 749	3 426	2,4%
Seychelles	4 074	3 921	-153	-3,8%
Tanzania	30 203	32 967	2 764	9,2%
Zambia	129 429	137 420	7 991	6,2%
Zimbabwe	1 898 136	1 990 481	92 345	4,9%
'Other' African	118 422	150 613	32 191	27,2%
East and Central Africa	67 609	74 141	6 532	9,7%
Burundi	1 014	1 122	108	10,7%
Cameroon	3 903	4 014	111	2,8%
Central African Republic	187	190	3	1,6%
Chad	415	412	-3	-0,7%
Comoros	415	274	-141	-34,0%
Congo	1 463	1 514	51	3,5%
Djibouti	101	93	-8	-7,9%
Equatorial Guinea	314	286	-28	-8,9%
Eritrea	364	400	36	9,9%
Ethiopia	5 807	6 797	990	17,0%
Gabon	3 572	3 650	78	2,2%
Kenya	37 414	42 226	4 812	12,9%
Réunion	23	54	31	134,8%
Rwanda	886	1 008	122	13,8%
São Tomé and Príncipe	83	101	18	21,7%
Somalia	599	795	196	32,7%
Uganda	11 049	11 205	156	1,4%

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Annexure D – Number of tourists' difference between Jan – Nov 2023 and Jan – Nov 2024 by country of residence (concluded)

Country of residence	Jan – Nov 2023	Jan – Nov 2024	Difference between Jan – Nov 2023 and Jan – Nov 2024	% change between Jan – Nov 2023 and Jan – Nov 2024
West Africa	39 240	64 859	25 619	65,3%
Benin	1 617	1 876	259	16,0%
Burkina Faso	658	643	-15	-2,3%
Cape Verde Island	277	284	7	2,5%
Côte d'Ivoire	2 109	2 411	302	14,3%
Gambia	409	439	30	7,3%
Ghana	11 331	33 122	21 791	192,3%
Guinea	1 248	1 096	-152	-12,2%
Guinea-Bissau	84	96	12	14,3%
Liberia	561	579	18	3,2%
Mali	941	973	32	3,4%
Mauritania	201	231	30	14,9%
Niger	271	286	15	5,5%
Nigeria	17 172	20 425	3 253	18,9%
Saint Helena	48	21	-27	-56,3%
Senegal	1 404	1 398	-6	-0,4%
Sierra Leone	473	555	82	17,3%
Тодо	436	424	-12	-2,8%
North Africa	11 573	11 613	40	0,3%
Algeria	1 039	720	-319	-30,7%
Egypt	5 256	5 461	205	3,9%
Libya	589	590	1	0,2%
Morocco	1 547	1 502	-45	-2,9%
South Sudan	937	743	-194	-20,7%
The Sudan	956	819	-137	-14,3%
Tunisia	1 237	1 758	521	42,1%
Western Sahara	12	20	8	66,7%
Unspecified	11 619	10 947	-672	-5,8%

3.7 Annexure E – Number of tourists by port of entry/exit and province, November 2024

Port of entry/exit and province	Frequency
Total	767 927
Western Cape	115 403
Cape Town Harbour	8 035
Cape Town International Airport	107 368
Eastern Cape	3 492
Telle Bridge	3 492
Northern Cape	8 802
Nakop	4 692
Vioolsdrift	4 110
Free State	86 502
Caledonspoort	11 313
Ficksburg	42 178
Maseru Bridge	33 011
KwaZulu Natal	25 389
Golela	15 388
King Shaka	2 975
Kosibay	6 747
Durban Harbour	279
North West	37 814
Kopfontein	21 969
Ramathlabama	7 445
Schilpad Gate	8 400
Gauteng	147 790
Lanseria International Airport	185
Oliver Tambo International Airport	147 605
Mpumalanga	199 029
Emahlatini	5 690
Jeppes Reef	10 931
Lebombo	123 056
Mahamba	7 272
Mananga	8 560
Nerston	584
Oshoek	42 936
Limpopo	143 706
Beit Bridge	125 137
Groblers Bridge	18 569

4.1 Introduction

Legal movements across South African borders, as well as legal immigration into South Africa, fall under the jurisdiction of the 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 (in terms of both 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.

4.2 **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.

4.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data collected by DHA officials on travellers who departed from or entered the Republic of South Africa (RSA). It is crucial to note that unlike data from census or sample surveys that count individual persons, border statistics by their nature, measure events i.e. movements of persons rather than the physical persons. The reason is that the same person can cross the border several times during a specified time and his or her information is recorded every time he or she passes through the border.

4.4 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 OR 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 November 2024, the DHA data was 2,2% lower than that of ACSA.

4.5 Limitations

4.5.1 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.

4.6 Definition of terms

4.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations Tourism (UN Tourism)

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.

4.6.2 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.

4.7 Symbols used

- = nil
- < = less than

4.8 Rounding off

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

5. 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 12 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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