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Preface

The release is compiled and published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) according to a framework of International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008 (IRTS 2008) developed by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The IRTS is one element of a System of Tourism Statistics (STS) that provides information for understanding and monitoring the impact of tourism over time and the other element of the STS for South Africa include use of border statistics from National Department of Home Affairs.

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in February 2023. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country in the month of February 2023. 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.

This release comes at the backdrop of nearly three unprecedented and challenging years for the tourism economy. South African tourism was hit hard during the first and the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Though the recovery of the sector has begun, it is highly uncertain. The shock has been a reminder of tourism's vital role as an economic and social force for change in the country.

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



Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

1. Highlights of the results

There were 2 106 923 (arrivals, departures and transits) travellers that entered and exited South Africa in February 2023. They were made up of 551 698 South African residents and 1 555 225 foreign travellers. Foreign arrivals, 824 868 were made up of 25 786 non-visitors and 799 082 visitors. The visitors consisted of 185 650 same-day visitors and 613 432 overnight visitors (tourists).

Tourists

Overseas tourists were 192 835 or 31,4% of all tourists. UK (42 263), Germany (32 336) and USA (22 675) contributed 50,4% to overseas tourists. SADC tourists were 408 631 or 66,6% of all tourists. Zimbabwe (130 026), Mozambique (93 095) and Lesotho (77 131) contributed 73,5% to SADC tourists. 'Other' African countries (non-SADC) tourists were 10 945 or 1,8% of all tourists. Kenya (3 308), Nigeria (1 492) and Uganda (1 227) contributed 55,1% to 'other' African tourists. The country of residence of 1 021 (0,2%) tourists was classified as unspecified.

Purpose of visit

'Holiday 1' continues to be the main purpose of visit. About 95,5% of all the tourists were in South Africa for holiday purposes.

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

2. Key findings

2.1 Travellers

2.1.1 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 2 106 923 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in February 2023. As presented in Table 1 below, these travellers were made up of 551 698 South African residents and 1 555 225 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 269 301 arrivals, 282 063 departures and 334 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 824 868, 707 396 and 22 961 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in January 2023 and February 2023 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 44,5% (from 484 945 in January 2023 to 269 301 in February 2023). Departures decreased by 15,0% (from 331 830 in January 2023 to 282 063 in February 2023) and transits decreased by 2,3% (from 342 in January 2023 to 334 in February 2023). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 25,9% (from 1 112 677 in January 2023 to 824 868 in February 2023), departures decreased by 10,7% (from 792 116 in January 2023 to 707 396 in February 2023), and transits decreased by 7,2% (from 24 738 in January 2023 to 22 961 in February 2023).

A comparison between the movements in February 2022 and February 2023 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 55,6% (from 173 089 in February 2022 to 269 301 in February 2023), departures increased by 51,3% (from 186 410 in February 2022 to 282 063 in February 2023) and transits increased by 78,6% (from 187 in February 2022 to 334 in February 2023). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 106,9% (from 398 619 in February 2022 to 824 868 in February 2023), departures increased by 112,4% (from 333 057 in February 2022 to 707 396 in February 2023) and transits increased by 60,3% (from 14 323 in February 2022 to 22 961 in February 2023).

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

Travel Direction	February 2022	January 2023	February 2023	% Change Jan 2023 – Feb 2023	% Change Feb 2022 – Feb 2023
Total	1 105 685	2 746 648	2 106 923	-23,3%	90,6%
South African residents	359 686	817 117	551 698	-32,5%	53,4%
Arrivals	173 089	484 945	269 301	-44,5%	55,6%
Departures	186 410	331 830	282 063	-15,0%	51,3%
Transits	187	342	334	-2,3%	78,6%
Foreign travellers	745 999	1 929 531	1 555 225	-19,4%	108,5%
Arrivals	398 619	1 112 677	824 868	-25,9%	106,9%
Departures	333 057	792 116	707 396	-10,7%	112,4%
Transits	14 323	24 738	22 961	-7,2%	60,3%

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 February 2023, road was the most common mode of travel used by 1 330 821 (63,2%) of the 2 106 923 travellers. Total number of travellers who used air was 731 232 (34,7%). Compared to air and land, a smaller number of travellers, 44 870 (2,1%) used sea into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 109 233 (40,6%) came by air, 146 284 (54,3%) came by road and 13 784 (5,1%) arrived by sea. For departures, 117 282 (41,6%) used air, 147 352 (52,2%) used road and 17 429 (6,2%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 334 (100,0%) used air.

In the case of foreign travellers, 243 617 (29,5%) arrived by air, 574 505 (69,6%) came by road and 6 746 (0,8%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 237 805 (33,6%) foreign travellers left by air, 462 680 (65,4%) left by road and 6 911 (1,0%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 22 961 (100,0%) used air.

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	2 106 923	250 689	17 815	459 952	2 776	731 232	1 330 821	44 870
South African residents	551 698	46 778	11 351	167 432	1 288	226 849	293 636	31 213
Arrivals	269 301	22 491	5 350	80 779	613	109 233	146 284	13 784
Departures	282 063	24 283	6 001	86 323	675	117 282	147 352	17 429
Transit	334	4	-	330	-	334	-	-
Foreign travellers	1 555 225	203 911	6 464	292 520	1 488	504 383	1 037 185	13 657
Arrivals	824 868	104 388	2 979	135 541	709	243 617	574 505	6 746
Departures	707 396	99 374	3 485	134 167	779	237 805	462 680	6 911
Transit	22 961	149	-	22 812	-	22 961	-	-
Visitors	799 082	102 124	2 308	131 016	434	235 882	560 372	2 828
Same-day	185 650	680	44	10 657	64	11 445	174 044	161
Overnight (Tourists)	613 432	101 444	2 264	120 359	370	224 437	386 328	2 667

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 5, in February 2023, 25 786 (3,1%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 799 082 (96,9%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in February 2023 but did not depart in February 2023 [292 680 (36,6%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in February 2023 and left in February 2023 [265 148 (33,2%)];
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in February 2023 [241 254 (30,2%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In February 2023, there were 185 650 (23,2%) same-day visitors and 613 432 (76,8%) tourists. Between January 2023 and February 2023, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 14,3% (from 216 730 in January 2023 to 185 650 in February 2023) and that of tourists decreased by 27,8% (from 849 675 in January 2023 to 613 432 in February 2023). Between February 2022 and February 2023, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 253,4% (from 52 528 in February 2022 to 185 650 in February 2023) and that of tourists increased by 97,8% (from 310 173 in February 2022 to 613 432 in February 2023).

Table 2 on page 4 further shows that of the 185 650 same-day visitors, a majority, 174 044 (93,7%) arrived in the country by road, 11 445 (6,2%) flew into the country and 161 (0,1%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 386 328 (63,0%) used road transport, 224 437 (36,6%) came by air transport and 2 667 (0,4%) arrived by sea transport.

Table 3 – Number of visitors by type of visitor

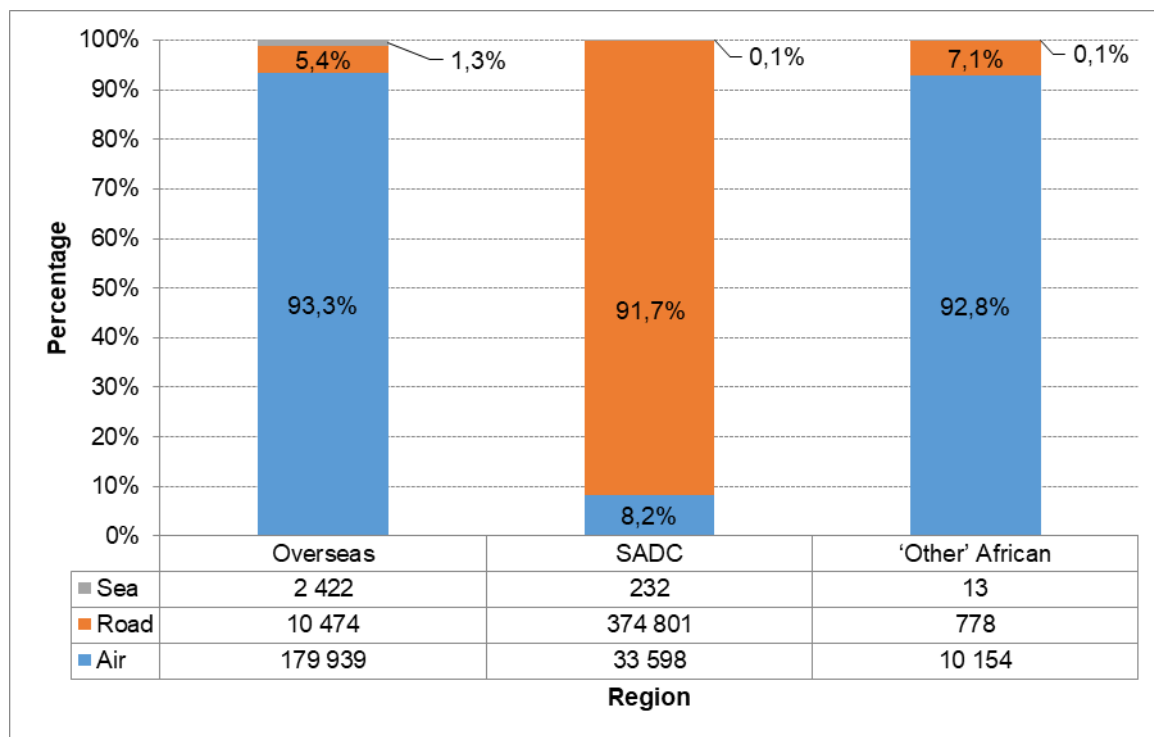
Travel Direction	February 2022	January 2023	February 2023	% Change Jan 2023 – Feb 2023	% Change Feb 2022 – Feb 2023
Foreign arrivals	398 619	1 112 677	824 868	-25,9%	106,9%
Non-visitors	35 918	46 272	25 786	-44,3%	-28,2%
Visitors	362 701	1 066 405	799 082	-25,1%	120,3%
Visitors	362 701	1 066 405	799 082	-25,1%	120,3%
Arrivals only	141 362	501 753	292 680	-41,7%	107,0%
Single trips	122 317	272 074	265 148	-2,5%	116,8%
Multiple trips	99 022	292 578	241 254	-17,5%	143,6%
Visitors	362 701	1 066 405	799 082	-25,1%	120,3%
Same-day	52 528	216 730	185 650	-14,3%	253,4%
Overnight (Tourists)	310 173	849 675	613 432	-27,8%	97,8%

2.3 Tourists

2.3.1 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 A on pages 12 to 15. As shown in Figure 1 on page 6, 179 939 (93,3%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 10 474 (5,4%) came in by road and 2 422 (1,3%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 374 801 (91,7%), whilst 33 598 (8,2%) came by air and 232 (0,1%) arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 10 154 (92,8%); while 778 (7,1%) used road transport and 13 (0,1%) used sea.

Figure 1 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and mode of travel, February 2023

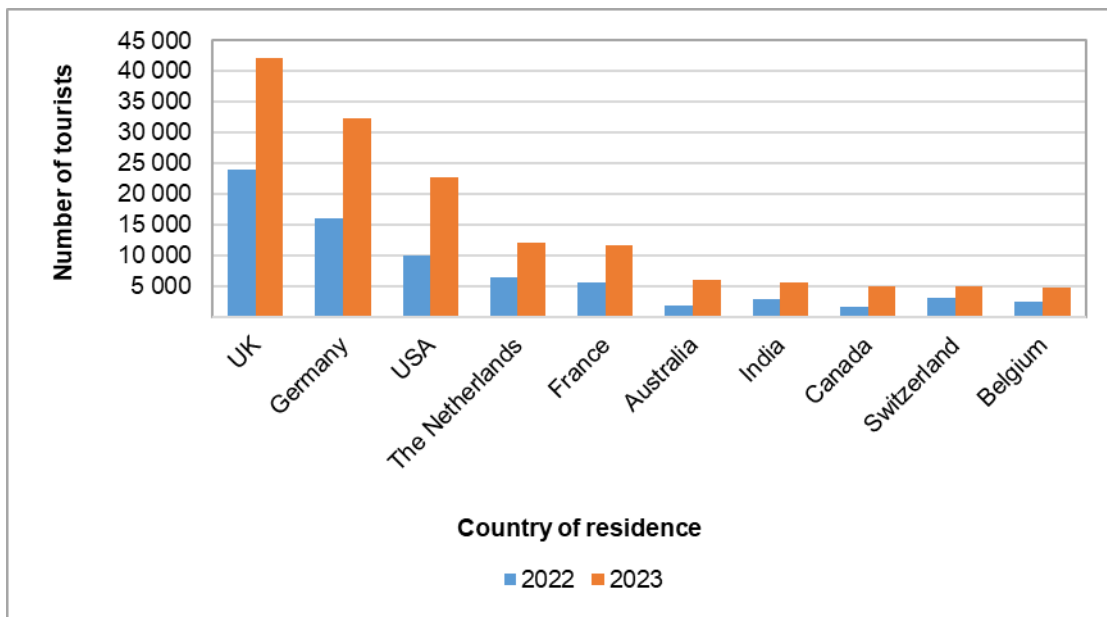


2.3.2 Regional and national distribution

In February 2023, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 138 394 (71,8%); North America, 27 570 (14,3%); Asia, 13 151 (6,8%); Australasia, 7 210 (3,7%); The Middle East, 3 361 (1,7%) and Central and South America, 3 149 (1,6%).

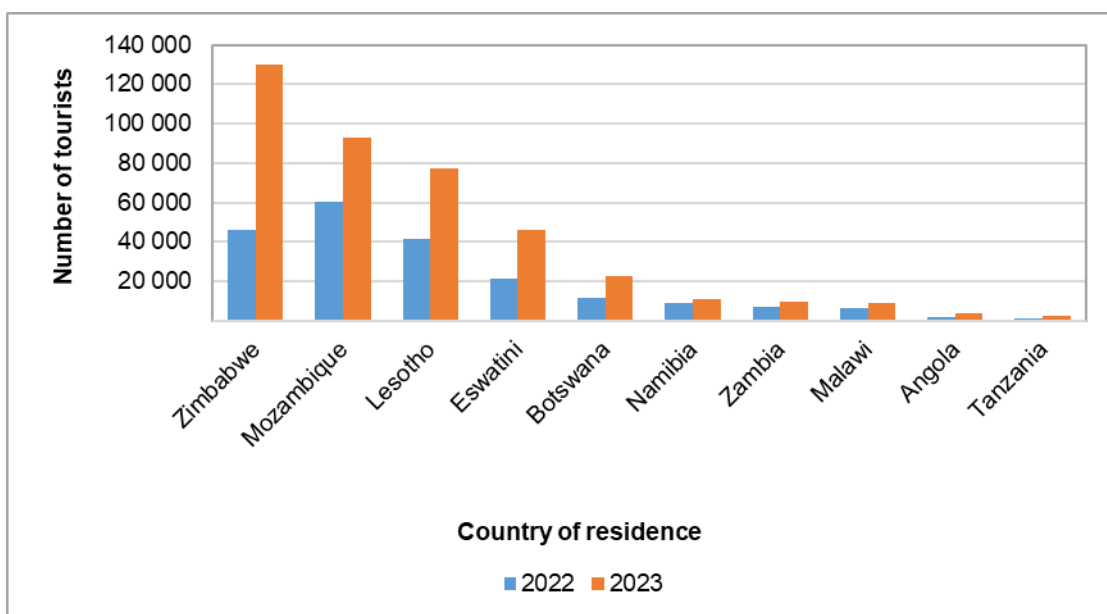
Figure 2 on page 7 indicates that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2023 were: United Kingdom (UK), 42 263 (21,9%); Germany, 32 336 (16,8%); United States of America (USA), 22 675 (11,8%); The Netherlands, 11 992 (6,2%); France, 11 545 (6,0%); Australia, 6 087 (3,2%); India, 5 488 (2,8%); Canada, 4 895 (2,5%); Switzerland, 4 889 (2,5%) and Belgium, 4 844 (2,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 76,2% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between February 2022 and February 2023 shows that the number of tourists increased for all ten leading countries. Australia had the highest increase of 235,6% (from 1 814 tourists in February 2022 to 6 087 tourists in February 2023).

Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in February 2022 and February 2023



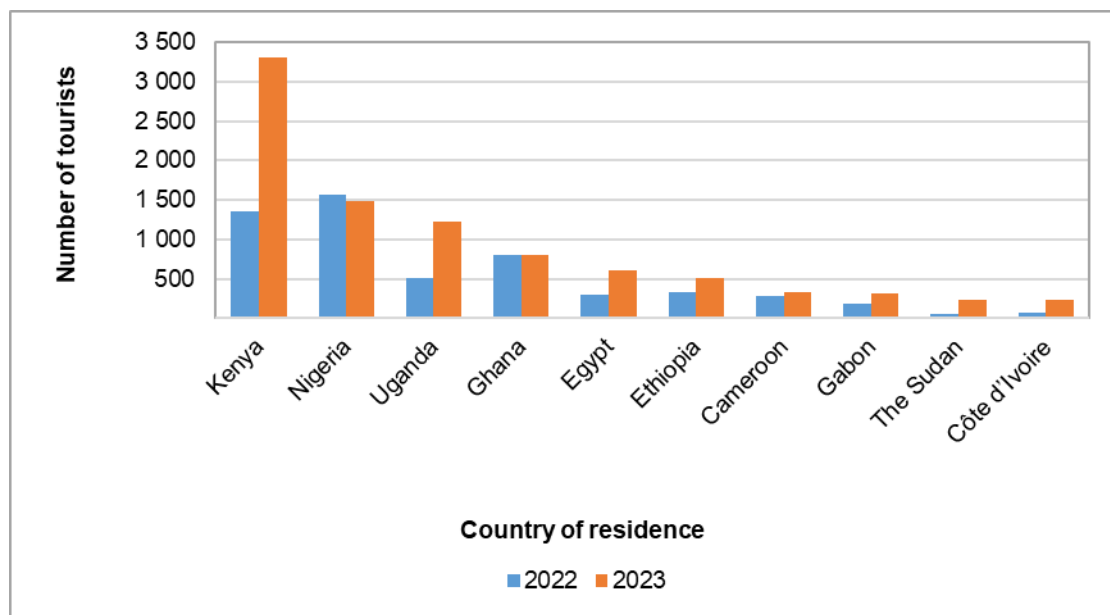
Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 408 631 (97,4%), came from SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa was as follows: East and Central Africa, 6 104 (1,5%); West Africa, 3 462 (0,8%) and North Africa 1 379 (0,3%). Ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2023 were: Zimbabwe, 130 026 (31,8%); Mozambique, 93 095 (22,8%); Lesotho, 77 131 (18,9%); Eswatini, 46 286 (11,3%); Botswana, 22 691 (5,6%); Namibia, 10 862 (2,7%); Zambia, 9 697 (2,4%); Malawi, 8 953 (2,2%); Angola, 3 604 (0,9%) and Tanzania, 2 561 (0,6%) (see Figure 3 below). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,1% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between February 2022 and February 2023 shows that the number of tourists increased for all ten leading countries. Zimbabwe showed the highest increase of 180,4% (from 46 370 tourists in February 2022 to 130 026 in February 2023).

Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in February 2022 and February 2023



The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2023 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 4 below, were: Kenya, 3 308 (30,2%); Nigeria, 1 492 (13,6%); Uganda, 1 227 (11,2%); Ghana, 802 (7,3%); Egypt, 598 (5,5%); Ethiopia, 504 (4,6%); Cameroon, 337 (3,1%); Gabon, 314 (2,9%); The Sudan, 233 (2,1%) and Côte d'Ivoire, 226 (2,1%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 82,6% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in February 2022 and February 2023 shows that the number of tourists increased for eight of ten leading countries. The Sudan showed the highest increase of 331,5% (from 54 tourists in February 2022 to 233 in February 2023).

Figure 4 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in February 2022 and February 2023



2.3.3 Purpose of visit

Table 4 on page 9, shows the number of tourists by region and sub-region. Detailed data on country of residence and purpose of visit is presented in Annexure B on pages 16 to 19. It is observed that in February 2023, the majority of tourists, 585 791 (95,5%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 22 085 (3,6%); 5 200 (0,8%) and 356 (0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment respectively.

Within the overseas regions, Europe, 97,5% (134 904) had the highest proportion of tourists who came for holiday followed by Australasia, 97,1% (7 004); North America, 96,9% (26 729); Central and South America, 95,2% (2 998); The Middle East, 94,7% (3 184) and Asia, 89,7% (11 790).

Asia, 8,7% (1 149) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by The Middle East, 4,1% (139); Central and South America, 3,5% (111); Australasia, 2,8% (199); North America, 2,6% (716) and Europe, 2,1% (2 862).

Asia, 1,6% (207) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to study, followed by Central and South America, 1,2% (39); The Middle East, 1,1% (36); Europe, 0,4% (600); North America, 0,4% (105) and Australasia, 0,1% (5).

North America (20) and The Middle East (2) had 0,1% of tourists who came for medical treatment. Asia (5), Central and South America (1), Australasia (2) and Europe (28) had less than 0,1% of medical treatment tourists.

Majority of African tourists, 398 243 (94,6%) 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 95,2% (388 913) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 85,2% (9 330) from 'other' African countries. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 86,4% (5 276) of tourists from East and Central Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from West Africa, 84,3% (2 920) and those from North Africa, 82,2% (1 134).
- Business persons constituted 3,9% (15 740) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 10,0% (1 092) from 'other' African countries. North Africa, 14,1% (194) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by West Africa, 10,3% (356) and East and Central Africa, 8,9% (542).
- Students constituted 0,9% (3 732) of tourists from SADC countries compared with 4,3% (473) from 'other' African countries. West Africa, 4,8% (165) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 4,2% (257) and North Africa, 3,7% (51).
- Tourists who came for medical treatment constituted less than 0,1% (246) of tourists from SADC countries, while those from 'other' African countries constituted 0,5% (50). West Africa, 0,6% (21) had the highest proportion of tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by East and Central Africa, 0,5% (29). North Africa had none tourists who came for medical treatment.

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

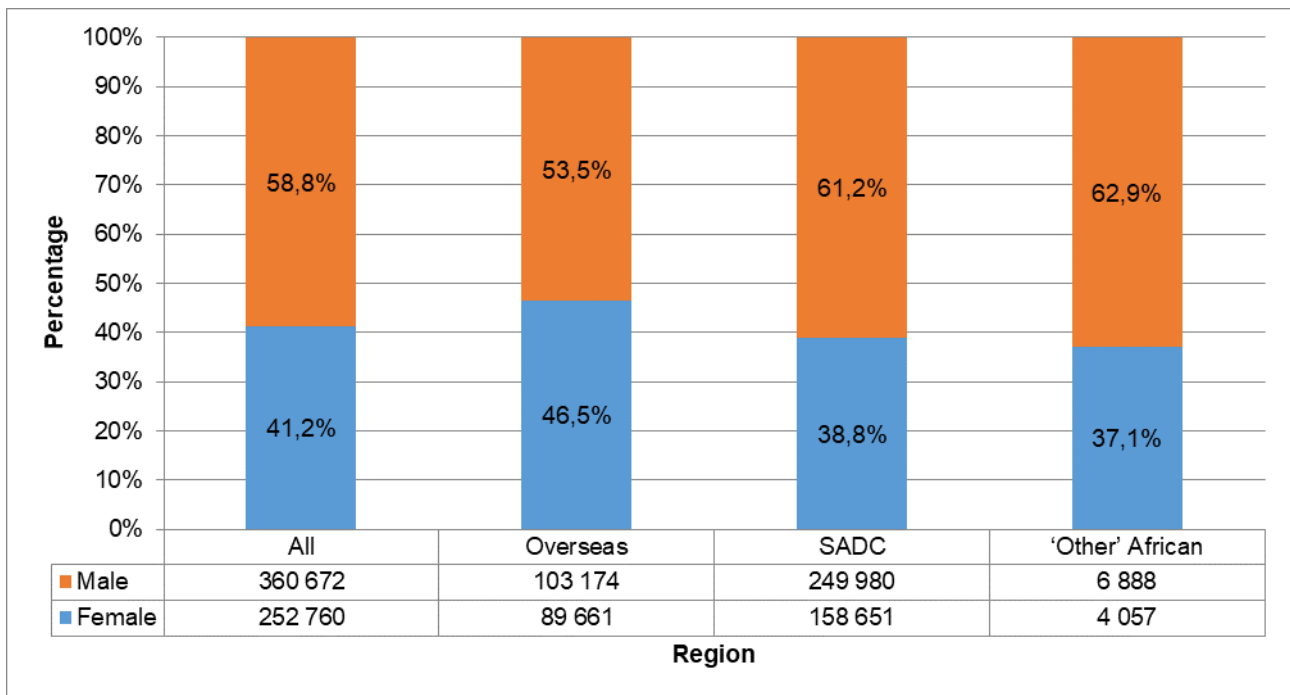
Region of residence	February 2023	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	613 432	22 085	585 791	5 200	356
Overseas	192 835	5 176	186 609	992	58
Europe	138 394	2 862	134 904	600	28
North America	27 570	716	26 729	105	20
Central and South America	3 149	111	2 998	39	1
Australasia	7 210	199	7 004	5	2
Middle East	3 361	139	3 184	36	2
Asia	13 151	1 149	11 790	207	5
Africa	419 576	16 832	398 243	4 205	296
SADC	408 631	15 740	388 913	3 732	246
Other' African	10 945	1 092	9 330	473	50
East and Central Africa	6 104	542	5 276	257	29
West Africa	3 462	356	2 920	165	21
North Africa	1 379	194	1 134	51	-
Unspecified	1 021	77	939	3	2

2.3.4 Sex and age distribution

Sex

Figure 5 below, shows that there were more male [360 672 (58,8%)] than female [252 760 (41,2%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions, SADC countries [249 980 (61,2%)], overseas countries [103 174 (53,5%)] and 'other' African countries [6 888 (62,9%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [158 651 (38,8%)], followed by overseas countries [89 661 (46,5%)] and the lowest from 'other' African countries [4 057 (37,1%)].

Figure 5 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and sex, February 2023

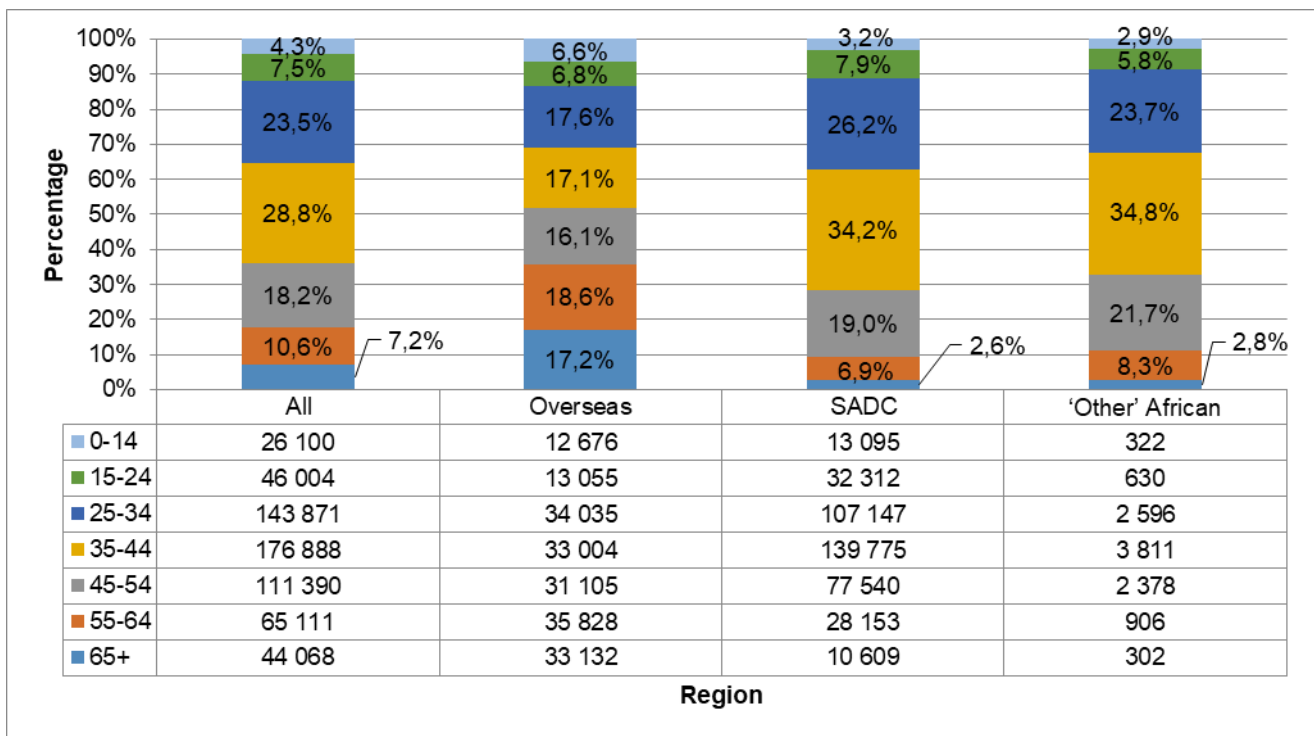


Age

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, [26 100 (4,3%)] were aged less than 15 years; [46 004 (7,5%)] were aged between 15 and 24 years; [143 871 (23,5%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years; [176 888 (28,8%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years; [111 390 (18,2%)] were aged between 45 and 54 years; [65 111 (10,6%)] were aged between 55 and 64 years; [44 068 (7,2%)] were aged 65 years and above. (see Figure 6 below).

Taking the region of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [139 775 (34,2%)] and those from 'other' African countries [3 811 (34,8%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years, whereas overseas countries [35 828 (18,6%)] were aged between 55 and 64 years. The second highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [107 147 (26,2%)], those from 'other' African countries [2 596 (23,7%)] and those from overseas countries [34 035 (17,6%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 46, 38 and 39 years respectively. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 6,6% (12 676) compared to those from SADC countries, 3,2% (13 095) and to those from 'other' African countries, 2,9% (322).

Figure 6 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and age, February 2023



3. Annexures

3.1 Annexure A – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, February 2023

Country of residence	February		February 2023						
	2022	2023	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	310 173	613 432	101 444	2 264	120 359	370	224 437	386 328	2 667
Overseas	93 899	192 835	93 720	2 012	83 916	291	179 939	10 474	2 422
Europe	71 574	138 394	74 032	1 266	53 839	125	129 262	6 909	2 223
Austria	1 398	2 817	1 723	46	853	4	2 626	129	62
Belgium	2 378	4 844	2 425	17	2 038	16	4 496	342	6
Denmark	1 351	2 727	965	20	1 632	-	2 617	108	2
France	5 499	11 545	4 481	31	6 157	17	10 686	828	31
Germany	16 030	32 336	19 383	214	9 262	20	28 879	1 537	1 920
Ireland	1 498	2 536	1 413	80	963	2	2 458	77	1
Italy	1 178	3 269	1 658	42	1 373	5	3 078	184	7
Norway	802	1 914	986	42	783	-	1 811	102	1
Portugal	1 062	1 799	522	19	651	3	1 195	600	4
Russian Federation	1 202	2 786	1 459	60	1 125	5	2 649	127	10
Sweden	1 492	3 675	2 172	21	1 264	1	3 458	173	44
Switzerland	2 988	4 889	2 793	43	1 772	2	4 610	269	10
The Netherlands	6 483	11 992	6 963	90	3 966	3	11 022	947	23
UK	24 087	42 263	22 824	455	17 965	34	41 278	945	40
Other	4 126	9 002	4 265	86	4 035	13	8 399	541	62
North America	11 584	27 570	12 542	131	13 376	120	26 169	1 316	85
Canada	1 656	4 895	2 161	15	2 438	12	4 626	262	7
USA	9 928	22 675	10 381	116	10 938	108	21 543	1 054	78
Central and South America	1 235	3 149	1 154	16	1 723	3	2 896	242	11
Argentina	110	389	123	2	247	-	372	15	2
Brazil	689	1 515	630	6	729	2	1 367	145	3
Mexico	95	259	101	-	153	-	254	3	2
Other	341	986	300	8	594	1	903	79	4

Annexure A – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, February 2023 (continued)

Country of residence	February		February 2023						
	2022	2023	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	2 046	7 210	1 821	158	4 987	6	6 972	191	47
Australia	1 814	6 087	1 477	104	4 292	5	5 878	165	44
New Zealand	229	1 108	337	54	688	1	1 080	25	3
Other	3	15	7	-	7	-	14	1	-
Middle East	1 590	3 361	1 105	29	2 123	10	3 267	91	3
Israel	963	1 870	357	18	1 431	7	1 813	54	3
Lebanon	97	200	53	2	136	1	192	8	-
Saudi Arabia	213	523	388	3	131	-	522	1	-
Other	317	768	307	6	425	2	740	28	-
Asia	5 870	13 151	3 066	412	7 868	27	11 373	1 725	53
Bangladesh	500	618	89	72	362	-	523	95	-
China	632	2 107	269	24	1 593	-	1 886	219	2
India	2 790	5 488	1 172	156	3 466	3	4 797	660	31
Japan	130	800	278	32	463	1	774	24	2
Malaysia	88	289	133	4	150	-	287	2	-
Pakistan	831	1 007	95	77	493	-	665	339	3
Philippines	230	370	100	11	206	4	321	42	7
Singapore	44	288	139	3	143	1	286	2	-
South Korea	200	941	388	13	420	18	839	102	-
Taiwan	76	279	63	6	116	-	185	94	-
Other	349	964	340	14	456	-	810	146	8
Africa	215 760	419 576	7 608	249	35 817	78	43 752	375 579	245
SADC	209 412	408 631	5 139	225	28 165	69	33 598	374 801	232
Angola	1 760	3 604	1 447	-	1 669	17	3 133	398	73
Botswana	11 821	22 691	320	-	1 820	2	2 142	20 539	10
DRC	1 178	1 706	126	-	1 384	20	1 530	176	-
Eswatini	21 231	46 286	4	-	423	-	427	45 856	3

Annexure A – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, February 2023 (continued)

Country of residence	February		February 2023						
	2022	2023	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Lesotho	41 767	77 131	2	4	351	-	357	76 759	15
Madagascar	32	224	28	1	187	-	216	8	-
Malawi	6 373	8 953	28	-	1 488	1	1 517	7 435	1
Mauritius	655	1 194	15	1	1 083	-	1 099	86	9
Mozambique	60 393	93 095	209	6	2 468	5	2 688	90 354	53
Namibia	8 843	10 862	1 280	1	1 914	4	3 199	7 629	34
Seychelles	120	601	9	1	569	-	579	21	1
Tanzania	1 554	2 561	267	2	1 284	-	1 553	1 003	5
Zambia	7 315	9 697	63	1	2 924	4	2 992	6 704	1
Zimbabwe	46 370	130 026	1 341	208	10 601	16	12 166	117 833	27
'Other' African	6 348	10 945	2 469	24	7 652	9	10 154	778	13
East and Central Africa	2 940	6 104	1 391	11	4 259	6	5 667	432	5
Burundi	36	75	9	-	63	-	72	3	-
Cameroon	279	337	44	-	271	-	315	22	-
Central African Republic	5	18	7	-	11	-	18	-	-
Chad	19	30	5	-	25	-	30	-	-
Comoros	6	19	5	-	14	-	19	-	-
Congo	96	90	18	-	70	-	88	2	-
Djibouti	9	4	1	-	3	-	4	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	7	20	4	-	15	-	19	1	-
Eritrea	51	36	2	-	26	-	28	7	1
Ethiopia	323	504	103	1	350	-	454	50	-
Gabon	181	314	35	-	275	-	310	4	-
Kenya	1 349	3 308	955	9	2 087	2	3 053	254	1
Rwanda	41	77	13	-	53	-	66	11	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	2	6	1	1	3	-	5	-	1
Somalia	32	39	12	-	23	2	37	2	-
Uganda	504	1 227	177	-	970	2	1 149	76	2

Annexure A – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, February 2023 (concluded)

Country of residence	February		February 2023						
	2022	2023	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	2 766	3 462	632	4	2 520	3	3 159	298	5
Benin	74	120	20	-	94	-	114	6	-
Burkina Faso	15	92	46	-	43	-	89	3	-
Cape Verde Island	16	38	4	-	17	1	22	13	3
Côte d'Ivoire	76	226	46	-	178	2	226	-	-
Gambia	13	22	1	-	17	-	18	4	-
Ghana	807	802	99	2	673	-	774	28	-
Guinea	72	138	27	-	55	-	82	56	-
Guinea-Bissau	1	9	2	-	6	-	8	1	-
Liberia	13	39	10	-	28	-	38	1	-
Mali	34	202	108	-	58	-	166	36	-
Mauritania	2	30	22	-	8	-	30	-	-
Niger	4	34	18	-	16	-	34	-	-
Nigeria	1 568	1 492	169	-	1 175	-	1 344	146	2
Saint Helena	2	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-
Senegal	51	149	46	1	100	-	147	2	-
Sierra Leone	11	43	11	1	30	-	42	1	-
Togo	7	23	3	-	19	-	22	1	-
North Africa	642	1 379	446	9	873	-	1 328	48	3
Algeria	121	90	9	2	70	-	81	9	-
Egypt	305	598	183	3	387	-	573	25	-
Libya	24	82	11	-	62	-	73	9	-
Morocco	52	141	67	-	73	-	140	-	1
South Sudan	34	91	29	-	60	-	89	2	-
The Sudan	54	233	84	1	146	-	231	2	-
Tunisia	52	142	63	3	73	-	139	1	2
Western Sahara	-	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
Unspecified	514	1 021	116	3	626	1	746	275	-

3.2 Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, February 2023

Country of residence	February			Purpose of visit (February 2023)			
	2022	2023	% change 2022–2023	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	310 173	613 432	97,8%	22 085	585 791	5 200	356
Overseas	93 899	192 835	105,4%	5 176	186 609	992	58
Europe	71 574	138 394	93,4%	2 862	134 904	600	28
Austria	1 398	2 817	101,5%	40	2 774	2	1
Belgium	2 378	4 844	103,7%	108	4 705	31	-
Denmark	1 351	2 727	101,9%	46	2 680	-	1
France	5 499	11 545	109,9%	299	11 018	228	-
Germany	16 030	32 336	101,7%	451	31 745	138	2
Ireland	1 498	2 536	69,3%	57	2 476	2	1
Italy	1 178	3 269	177,5%	141	3 117	10	1
Norway	802	1 914	138,7%	32	1 854	28	-
Portugal	1 062	1 799	69,4%	56	1 737	2	4
Russian Federation	1 202	2 786	131,8%	51	2 731	4	-
Sweden	1 492	3 675	146,3%	61	3 600	13	1
Switzerland	2 988	4 889	63,6%	55	4 807	27	-
The Netherlands	6 483	11 992	85,0%	165	11 780	46	1
UK	24 087	42 263	75,5%	975	41 237	38	13
Other	4 126	9 002	118,2%	325	8 643	31	3
North America	11 584	27 570	138,0%	716	26 729	105	20
Canada	1 656	4 895	195,6%	160	4 723	8	4
USA	9 928	22 675	128,4%	556	22 006	97	16
Central and South America	1 235	3 149	155,0%	111	2 998	39	1
Argentina	110	389	253,6%	8	381	-	-
Brazil	689	1 515	119,9%	46	1 449	20	-
Mexico	95	259	172,6%	13	237	9	-
Other	341	986	189,1%	44	931	10	1

Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, February 2023 (continued)

Country of residence	February			Purpose of visit (February 2023)			
	2022	2023	% change 2022–2023	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Australasia	2 046	7 210	252,4%	199	7 004	5	2
Australia	1 814	6 087	235,6%	180	5 901	4	2
New Zealand	229	1 108	383,8%	15	1 093	-	-
Other	3	15	400,0%	4	10	1	-
Middle East	1 590	3 361	111,4%	139	3 184	36	2
Israel	963	1 870	94,2%	19	1 849	2	-
Lebanon	97	200	106,2%	36	162	2	-
Saudi Arabia	213	523	145,5%	39	475	9	-
Other	317	768	142,3%	45	698	23	2
Asia	5 870	13 151	124,0%	1 149	11 790	207	5
Bangladesh	500	618	23,6%	12	597	9	-
China	632	2 107	233,4%	291	1 796	20	-
India	2 790	5 488	96,7%	532	4 854	101	1
Japan	130	800	515,4%	82	706	12	-
Malaysia	88	289	228,4%	22	261	6	-
Pakistan	831	1 007	21,2%	42	955	10	-
Philippines	230	370	60,9%	15	350	2	3
Singapore	44	288	554,5%	17	269	2	-
South Korea	200	941	370,5%	24	904	13	-
Taiwan	76	279	267,1%	26	237	16	-
Other	349	964	176,2%	86	861	16	1
Africa	215 760	419 576	94,5%	16 832	398 243	4 205	296
SADC	209 412	408 631	95,1%	15 740	388 913	3 732	246
Angola	1 760	3 604	104,8%	98	3 357	120	29
Botswana	11 821	22 691	92,0%	854	21 444	312	81
DRC	1 178	1 706	44,8%	85	1 518	90	13
Eswatini	21 231	46 286	118,0%	1 588	44 418	263	17

Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, February 2023 (continued)

Country of residence	February			Purpose of visit (February 2023)			
	2022	2023	% change 2022–2023	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Lesotho	41 767	77 131	84,7%	695	75 075	1 341	20
Madagascar	32	224	600,0%	20	198	6	-
Malawi	6 373	8 953	40,5%	268	8 600	78	7
Mauritius	655	1 194	82,3%	18	1 155	20	1
Mozambique	60 393	93 095	54,1%	3 202	89 798	82	13
Namibia	8 843	10 862	22,8%	3 299	7 097	448	18
Seychelles	120	601	400,8%	5	593	2	1
Tanzania	1 554	2 561	64,8%	112	2 371	74	4
Zambia	7 315	9 697	32,6%	2 902	6 688	101	6
Zimbabwe	46 370	130 026	180,4%	2 594	126 601	795	36
'Other' African	6 348	10 945	72,4%	1 092	9 330	473	50
East and Central Africa	2 940	6 104	107,6%	542	5 276	257	29
Burundi	36	75	108,3%	9	62	4	-
Cameroon	279	337	20,8%	29	271	24	13
Central African Republic	5	18	260,0%	5	12	-	1
Chad	19	30	57,9%	2	25	2	1
Comoros	6	19	216,7%	2	17	-	-
Congo	96	90	-6,3%	5	71	11	3
Djibouti	9	4	-55,6%	-	4	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	7	20	185,7%	2	13	5	-
Eritrea	51	36	-29,4%	1	34	1	-
Ethiopia	323	504	56,0%	50	439	13	2
Gabon	181	314	73,5%	3	283	28	-
Kenya	1 349	3 308	145,2%	280	2 928	98	2
Rwanda	41	77	87,8%	9	64	4	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	2	6	200,0%	-	6	-	-
Somalia	32	39	21,9%	2	29	4	4
Uganda	504	1 227	143,5%	143	1 018	63	3

Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, February 2023 (concluded)

Country of residence	February			Purpose of visit (February 2023)			
	2022	2023	% change 2022–2023	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
West Africa	2 766	3 462	25,2%	356	2 920	165	21
Benin	74	120	62,2%	7	110	2	1
Burkina Faso	15	92	513,3%	30	57	5	-
Cape Verde Island	16	38	137,5%	-	37	1	-
Côte d'Ivoire	76	226	197,4%	28	194	2	2
Gambia	13	22	69,2%	-	22	-	-
Ghana	807	802	-0,6%	81	692	24	5
Guinea	72	138	91,7%	17	119	2	-
Guinea-Bissau	1	9	800,0%	-	9	-	-
Liberia	13	39	200,0%	3	35	1	-
Mali	34	202	494,1%	71	128	3	-
Mauritania	2	30	1400,0%	11	17	1	1
Niger	4	34	750,0%	4	29	1	-
Nigeria	1 568	1 492	-4,8%	66	1 297	117	12
Saint Helena	2	3	50,0%	-	3	-	-
Senegal	51	149	192,2%	32	115	2	-
Sierra Leone	11	43	290,9%	4	35	4	-
Togo	7	23	228,6%	2	21	-	-
North Africa	642	1 379	114,8%	194	1 134	51	
Algeria	121	90	-25,6%	11	79	-	-
Egypt	305	598	96,1%	82	504	12	-
Libya	24	82	241,7%	3	74	5	-
Morocco	52	141	171,2%	26	111	4	-
South Sudan	34	91	167,6%	19	63	9	-
The Sudan	54	233	331,5%	34	180	19	-
Tunisia	52	142	173,1%	19	121	2	-
Western Sahara	-	2	-	-	2	-	-
Unspecified	514	1 021	98,6%	77	939	3	2

3.3 Annexure C – Number of tourists' difference between Jan–Feb 2022 and Jan–Feb 2023 by country of residence

Country of residence	Jan – Feb 2022	Jan – Feb 2023	Difference between Jan – Feb 2022 and Jan – Feb 2023	% change between Jan – Feb 2022 and Jan – Feb 2023
Total	687 824	1 463 107	775 283	112,7%
Overseas	158 613	380 024	221 411	139,6%
Europe	119 102	267 292	148 190	124,4%
Austria	2 197	5 389	3 192	145,3%
Belgium	3 771	8 262	4 491	119,1%
Denmark	2 125	4 969	2 844	133,8%
France	7 813	20 561	12 748	163,2%
Germany	26 166	61 699	35 533	135,8%
Ireland	2 578	5 203	2 625	101,8%
Italy	1 999	6 946	4 947	247,5%
Portugal	1 905	3 570	1 665	87,4%
Russian Federation	2 228	5 733	3 505	157,3%
Spain	1 463	3 574	2 111	144,3%
Sweden	2 460	7 120	4 660	189,4%
Switzerland	5 277	9 275	3 998	75,8%
The Netherlands	12 091	24 922	12 831	106,1%
UK	40 173	82 307	42 134	104,9%
Other	6 856	17 762	10 906	159,1%
North America	20 523	58 991	38 468	187,4%
Canada	2 734	10 138	7 404	270,8%
USA	17 789	48 853	31 064	174,6%
Central and South America	2 300	6 838	4 538	197,3%
Argentina	210	925	715	340,5%
Brazil	1 273	3 362	2 089	164,1%
Mexico	168	569	401	238,7%
Other	649	1 982	1 333	205,4%

Annexure C – Number of tourists' difference between Jan–Feb 2022 and Jan–Feb 2023 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – Feb 2022	Jan – Feb 2023	Difference between Jan – Feb 2022 and Jan – Feb 2023	% change between Jan – Feb 2022 and Jan – Feb 2023
Australasia	3 667	14 662	10 995	299,8%
Australia	3 273	12 232	8 959	273,7%
New Zealand	390	2 409	2 019	517,7%
Other	4	21	17	425,0%
Middle East	2 413	6 623	4 210	174,5%
Israel	1 354	3 732	2 378	175,6%
Jordan	145	344	199	137,2%
Saudi Arabia	366	1 175	809	221,0%
Other	548	1 372	824	150,4%
Asia	10 608	25 618	15 010	141,5%
Bangladesh	1 112	1 321	209	18,8%
China	1 042	3 281	2 239	214,9%
India	4 653	11 053	6 400	137,5%
Japan	274	1 453	1 179	430,3%
Malaysia	139	548	409	294,2%
Pakistan	1 600	2 031	431	26,9%
Philippines	357	788	431	120,7%
Singapore	65	563	498	766,2%
South Korea	455	1 928	1 473	323,7%
Taiwan	147	642	495	336,7%
Other	764	2 010	1 246	163,1%
Africa	528 200	1 081 182	552 982	104,7%
SADC	516 057	1 061 023	544 966	105,6%
Angola	3 075	6 755	3 680	119,7%
Botswana	23 655	46 964	23 309	98,5%
DRC	2 366	3 046	680	28,7%
Eswatini	43 085	95 052	51 967	120,6%

Annexure C – Number of tourists' difference between Jan–Feb 2022 and Jan–Feb 2023 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – Feb 2022	Jan – Feb 2023	Difference between Jan – Feb 2022 and Jan – Feb 2023	% change between Jan – Feb 2022 and Jan – Feb 2023
Lesotho	126 727	232 318	105 591	83,3%
Madagascar	49	421	372	759,2%
Malawi	14 589	20 624	6 035	41,4%
Mauritius	990	2 302	1 312	132,5%
Mozambique	156 904	246 571	89 667	57,1%
Namibia	17 219	22 344	5 125	29,8%
Seychelles	156	962	806	516,7%
Tanzania	3 110	5 007	1 897	61,0%
Zambia	14 953	19 997	5 044	33,7%
Zimbabwe	109 179	358 660	249 481	228,5%
'Other' African	12 143	20 159	8 016	66,0%
East and Central Africa	5 541	11 573	6 032	108,9%
Burundi	81	159	78	96,3%
Cameroon	505	634	129	25,5%
Central African Republic	8	34	26	325,0%
Chad	40	54	14	35,0%
Comoros	15	43	28	186,7%
Congo	198	210	12	6,1%
Djibouti	12	14	2	16,7%
Equatorial Guinea	15	39	24	160,0%
Eritrea	65	76	11	16,9%
Ethiopia	658	921	263	40,0%
Gabon	283	593	310	109,5%
Kenya	2 380	6 251	3 871	162,6%
Réunion	-	6	6	-
Rwanda	82	165	83	101,2%
São Tomé and Príncipe	4	17	13	325,0%
Somalia	70	98	28	40,0%
Uganda	1 125	2 259	1 134	100,8%

Annexure C – Number of tourists' difference between Jan–Feb 2022 and Jan–Feb 2023 by country of residence (concluded)

Country of residence	Jan – Feb 2022	Jan – Feb 2023	Difference between Jan – Feb 2022 and Jan – Feb 2023	% change between Jan – Feb 2022 and Jan – Feb 2023
West Africa	5 538	6 331	793	14,3%
Benin	129	242	113	87,6%
Burkina Faso	31	133	102	329,0%
Cape Verde Island	20	69	49	245,0%
Côte d'Ivoire	127	343	216	170,1%
Gambia	23	52	29	126,1%
Ghana	1 693	1 493	-200	-11,8%
Guinea	121	252	131	108,3%
Guinea-Bissau	3	19	16	533,3%
Liberia	37	63	26	70,3%
Mali	66	247	181	274,2%
Mauritania	3	37	34	1133,3%
Niger	14	51	37	264,3%
Nigeria	3 116	2 965	-151	-4,8%
Saint Helena	2	4	2	100,0%
Senegal	97	238	141	145,4%
Sierra Leone	42	78	36	85,7%
Togo	14	45	31	221,4%
North Africa	1 064	2 255	1 191	111,9%
Algeria	151	151	0	0,0%
Egypt	514	1 005	491	95,5%
Libya	47	135	88	187,2%
Morocco	69	228	159	230,4%
South Sudan	59	146	87	147,5%
The Sudan	121	362	241	199,2%
Tunisia	103	226	123	119,4%
Western Sahara	-	2	2	-
Unspecified	1 011	1 901	890	88,0%

4. Explanatory notes

4.1 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 (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).

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 O.R. Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA is also reflected in an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern has also been observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In February 2023, the DHA data was 1,4% 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.

4.5.2 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.

4.6 Definition of terms

4.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (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.

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 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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