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Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

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Preface

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in June 2021. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country during this month. The tourists are classified by region and country of residence. Details of their mode of travel; purpose of visit; age and sex distribution are also provided.

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

1. Key findings

1.1 Travellers

1.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at ports of entry into and out of South Africa shows that a total of 732 222 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in June 2021. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 237 869 South African residents and 494 353 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 115 673 arrivals, 122 076 departures and 120 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 253 857, 231 995 and 8 501 respectively.

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

A comparison between the movements in May 2021 and June 2021 indicates that the volume of arrivals decreased for South African residence and foreign travellers. Departures and travellers in transit increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 1,8% (from 117 782 in May 2021 to 115 673 in June 2021), departures increased by 0,1% (from 121 937 in May 2021 to 122 076 in June 2021) and transits increased by 7,1% (from 112 in May 2021 to 120 in June 2021). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 1,8% (from 258 521 in May 2021 to 253 857 in June 2021), departures increased by 0,9% (from 230 012 in May 2021 to 231 995 in June 2021) and transits increased by 25,0% (from 6 801 in May 2021 to 8 501 in June 2021).

Detailed information on the departure of travellers is not available in the movement control system. Data on purpose of travel and number of days South African residents intend to spend or spent abroad are not collected by the DHA. It is therefore not possible to categorise South African residents as tourists or non-tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation.

As presented in Table 1 on page 9, in June 2021, 39 952 (15,7%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 213 905 (84,3%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in June 2021 but did not depart in June 2021 [73 278 (34,3%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in June 2021 and left in June 2021 [62 737 (29,3%)];
and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in June 2021 [77 890 (36,4%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In June 2021, there were 35 178 (16,4%) same-day visitors and 178 727 (83,6%) tourists. Between May 2021 and June 2021, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 2,4% (from 36 046 in May 2021 to 35 178 in June 2021) and that of tourists decreased by 2,5% (from 183 347 in May 2021 to 178 727 in June 2021).

1.1.2 Mode of travel of travellers

Information presented in Table 2 on page 10, shows the number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel. In June 2021, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 535 830 (73,2%) of the 732 222 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 190 315 (26,0%). Compared to air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 6 077 (0,8%) used sea transport into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 33 725 (29,2%) came by air, 81 874 (70,8%) came by road and 74 (0,1%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 38 666 (31,7%) used air, 83 302 (68,2%) used road and 108 (0,1%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 120 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 52 348 (20,6%) arrived by air, 198 440 (78,2%) came by road and 3 069 (1,2%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 56 955 (24,6%) foreign travellers left by air, 172 214 (74,2%) left by road and 2 826 (1,2%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 8 501 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that of the 35 178 same-day visitors, a majority, 30 568 (86,9%) arrived in the country by road, 4 529 (12,9%) flew into the country; and 81 (0,2%) arrived by sea transport. Information on tourists shows that 137 454 (76,9%) used road transport, 41 256 (23,1%) came by air transport and 17 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel of tourists

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them according to their respective countries and regions. Information on the specific region and country of residence of tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on pages 11 to 14. In June 2021, 22 017 (89,7%) of the 24 548 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 2 516 (10,2%) came in by road transport and 15 (0,1%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 134 412 (89,4%), 15 949 (10,6%) came by air and two tourists (less than 0,1%) came by sea transport. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 3 122 (89,6%) and 364 (10,4%) used road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In June 2021, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: North America, 9 704 (39,5%); Europe, 8 681 (35,4%); Asia, 3 616 (14,7%); The Middle East, 1 539 (6,3%); Central and South America, 698 (2,8%) and Australasia, 310 (1,3%).

Figure 1 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 11 to 14, indicate that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in June 2021 were: United States of America (USA), 9 306 (37,9%); United Kingdom (UK), 1 790 (7,3%); Saudi Arabia, 1 169 (4,8%); Germany, 1 060 (4,3%); India, 979 (4,0%); China, 895 (3,6%); The Netherlands, 733 (3,0%); France, 721 (2,9%); Russian Federation, 714 (2,9%) and Pakistan, 468 (1,9%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 72,7 % of all tourists from overseas countries.

Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 150 363 (97,7%), came from SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 1 691 (1,1%); East and Central Africa, 1 405 (0,9%) and North Africa 390 (0,3%). Ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in June 2021 were: Mozambique 46 105 (30,7%); Zimbabwe, 34 003 (22,6%); Lesotho, 30 214 (20,1%); Eswatini, 13 951 (9,3%); Botswana, 7 207 (4,8%); Namibia, 6 036 (4,0%); Zambia, 5 389 (3,6%); Malawi, 4 729 (3,1%); Tanzania, 1 170 (0,8%) and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 750 (0,5%) (see Figure 2 on page 7 and Table 3 on page 12). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,5% of all tourists from the SADC countries.

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in June 2021 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13 to 14, were: Nigeria, 890 (25,5%); Ghana, 552 (15,8%); Kenya, 511 (14,7%); Uganda 255 (7,3%); Ethiopia, 214 (6,1%); Egypt, 195 (5,6%); Gabon, 142 (4,1%); Cameroon, 114 (3,3%); The Sudan, 69 (2,0%) and Congo, 65 (1,9%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 86,3% of all tourists from 'other' African countries.

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

Table 4 on pages 15 to 18, shows the number of tourist by country of residence and purpose of visit. It is observed that in June 2021, the majority of tourists, 164 635 (92,1%), were in South Africa for holiday¹ compared to 12 129 (6,8%); 1 625 (0,9%) and 338 (0,2%) who were in South Africa for business, study and for medical treatment respectively.

Within the overseas regions, North America had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for holiday, 99,1% (9 615) followed by Australasia, 97,4% (302); Central and South America, 97,1% (678); The Middle East, 96,9% (1 491); Europe, 96,0% (8 332) and Asia, 94,3% (3 411).

Asia, 2,8% (101) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by Europe, 2,6% (229); Australasia, 1,6% (5); Central And South America, 1,0% (7); The Middle East, 0,8% (13) and North America, 0,6% (54).

Asia, 2,7% (96) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to study, followed by The Middle East, 2,3% (35); Central and South America, 1,9% (13); Europe, 0,9% (82); Australasia, 0,6% (2) and North America, 0,3% (27).

Europe had 0,4% (38) of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by Australasia, 0,3% (1); Asia, 0,2% (8) and North America, 0,1% (8). The Middle East and Central and South America had no tourists who came to South Africa for medical treatment.

The majority of African tourists, 140 486 (91,3%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, the following differences in terms of reasons for travel were observed between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Holiday makers constituted 91,3% (137 320) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 90,8% (3 166) from 'other' African countries. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 93,3% (1 578) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from East and Central Africa, 89,0% (1 251) and North Africa 86,4% (337).
- Business persons constituted 7,7% (11 630) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 2,4% (83) from 'other' African countries. East and Central Africa, 3,6% (50) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by West Africa, 1,7% (29) and North Africa, 1,0% (4).
- Students constituted 5,6% (195) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,8% (1 175) from SADC countries. North Africa, 12,1% (47) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 5,4% (76) and West Africa, 4,3% (72).
- Medical treatment tourists constituted 1,2% (42) of tourists from 'other' African countries, while those from SADC constituted 0,2% (238) of its tourists. East and Central Africa, 2,0% (28) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by West Africa, 0,7% (12) and North Africa, 0,5% (2).

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19, shows the number of tourists by country of residence, sex and age group. There were 119 521 (66,9%) male and 59 206 (33,1%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 15 032 (61,2%) male tourists and 9 516 (38,8%) female tourists. There were 101 944 (67,8%) male and 48 419 (32,2%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 2 321 (66,6%) male and 1 165 (33,4%) female tourists.

The ages of tourists were categorised into seven broad groups (see Table 5 for a detailed classification). The results presented in Table 5 further show that the majority of tourists were aged between 35 and 44 years [62 307 (34,9%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [1 165 (33,4%)] and those from overseas countries [5 083 (20,7%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years, whereas those from SADC countries [56 401 (37,5%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years.

¹ The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons. See section 4.5.2 on page 21 for a more detailed discussion.

The second highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [1 055 (30,3%)] and overseas countries [4 744 (19,3%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years, whereas those from SADC countries [35 788 (23,8%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 39, 39 and 35 years respectively. The proportion of tourists younger than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 7,2% (1 767) compared to those from 'other' African countries, 4,5% (157) and SADC countries, 3,1% (4 736).

A comparison of the three regions shows higher proportions of the elderly (those aged 65+) among both male and female tourists from overseas. This comprised of 8,4% (1 264) males and 9,1% (868) females from overseas countries. However, tourists aged 65 years and older from the other two regions comprised of less than 3,5% of both male and female tourists: from SADC countries, elderly tourists were made up of 1,6% (1 669) males and 3,1% (1 505) females; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 1,9% (45) and 2,3% (27) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

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

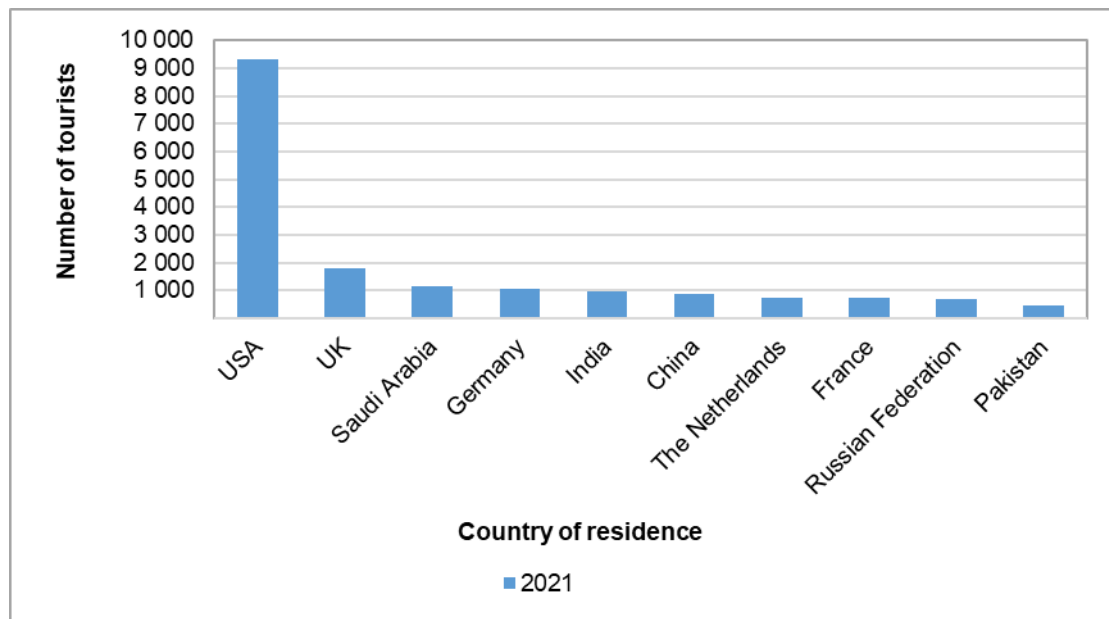


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in June 2021

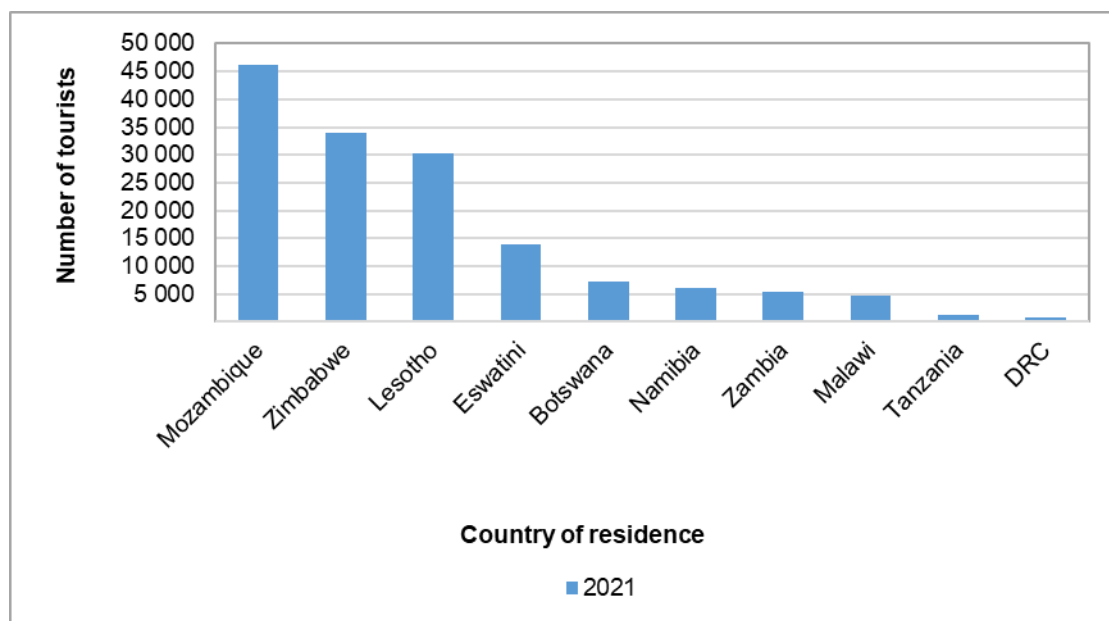
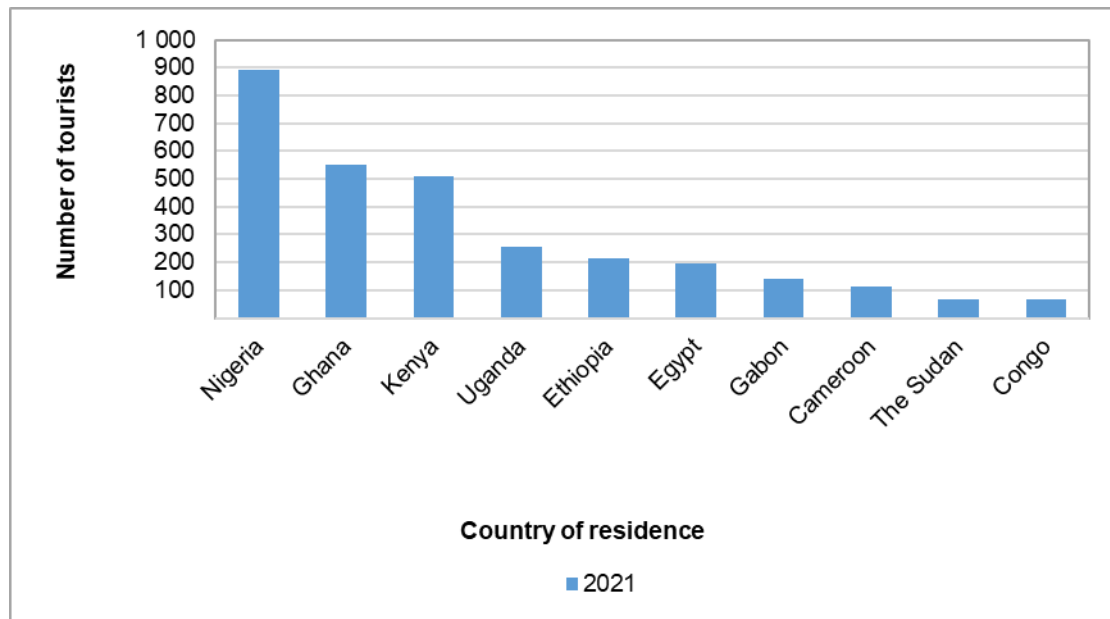


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in June 2021



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	May 2021	June 2021	% Change May 2021 – Jun 2021
Total	735 165	732 222	-0,4%
South African residents	239 831	237 869	-0,8%
Arrivals	117 782	115 673	-1,8%
Departures	121 937	122 076	0,1%
Transits	112	120	7,1%
Foreign travellers	495 334	494 353	-0,2%
Arrivals	258 521	253 857	-1,8%
Departures	230 012	231 995	0,9%
Transits	6 801	8 501	25,0%
Foreign arrivals	258 521	253 857	-1,8%
Non-visitors	39 128	39 952	2,1%
Visitors	219 393	213 905	-2,5%
Visitors	219 393	213 905	-2,5%
Arrivals only	75 167	73 278	-2,5%
Single trips	65 451	62 737	-4,1%
Multiple trips	78 775	77 890	-1,1%
Visitors	219 393	213 905	-2,5%
Same-day	36 046	35 178	-2,4%
Overnight (Tourists)	183 347	178 727	-2,5%

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	732 222	28 340	2 304	157 339	2 332	190 315	535 830	6 077
South African residents	237 869	11 424	962	58 505	1 620	72 511	165 176	182
Arrivals	115 673	4 276	499	28 138	812	33 725	81 874	74
Departures	122 076	7 139	463	30 256	808	38 666	83 302	108
Transit	120	9	-	111	-	120	-	-
Foreign travellers	494 353	16 916	1 342	98 834	712	117 804	370 654	5 895
Arrivals	253 857	7 403	703	43 938	304	52 348	198 440	3 069
Departures	231 995	9 452	639	46 456	408	56 955	172 214	2 826
Transit	8 501	61	-	8 440	-	8 501	-	-
Visitors	213 905	5 762	266	39 571	186	45 785	168 022	98
Same day	35 178	82	5	4 420	22	4 529	30 568	81
Tourist	178 727	5 680	261	35 151	164	41 256	137 454	17

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

Country of residence	June 2021	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	178 727	5 680	261	35 151	164	41 256	137 454	17
Overseas	24 548	4 246	234	17 442	95	22 017	2 516	15
Europe	8 681	1 922	43	5 647	43	7 655	1 020	6
Belgium	299	79	1	193	1	274	25	-
Denmark	161	24	1	128	-	153	8	-
France	721	125	3	506	2	636	85	-
Germany	1 060	300	-	657	2	959	98	3
Ireland	169	42	1	117	-	160	9	-
Italy	423	101	2	263	1	367	56	-
Portugal	415	11	1	153	6	171	244	-
Russian Federation	714	315	4	346	1	666	48	-
Spain	419	77	-	304	-	381	38	-
Sweden	181	40	1	115	-	156	25	-
Switzerland	311	61	2	226	3	292	19	-
The Netherlands	733	235	-	440	1	676	57	-
Turkey	211	24	1	137	1	163	48	-
UK	1 790	264	16	1 302	25	1 607	183	-
Other	1 074	224	10	760	-	994	77	3
North America	9 704	1 338	36	7 926	48	9 348	356	-
Canada	398	82	3	268	3	356	42	-
USA	9 306	1 256	33	7 658	45	8 992	314	-
Central and South America	698	176	-	415	-	591	107	-
Argentina	81	7	-	68	-	75	6	-
Brazil	358	80	-	199	-	279	79	-
Mexico	81	20	-	61	-	81	-	-
Other	178	69	-	87	-	156	22	-
Australasia	310	28	3	240	1	272	37	1
Australia	242	19	1	190	1	211	30	1
New Zealand	68	9	2	50	-	61	7	-

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

Country of residence	June 2021	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Middle East	1 539	626	19	851	-	1 496	43	-
Israel	115	13	-	85	-	98	17	-
Jordan	53	11	-	27	-	38	15	-
Saudi Arabia	1 169	540	16	612	-	1 168	1	-
Other	202	62	3	127	-	192	10	-
Asia	3 616	156	133	2 363	3	2 655	953	8
Bangladesh	343	27	14	273	-	314	29	-
China	895	21	-	458	-	479	416	-
India	979	22	39	678	-	739	239	1
Japan	79	7	5	61	1	74	5	-
Malaysia	56	1	5	30	-	36	20	-
Pakistan	468	15	61	283	-	359	109	-
Philippines	416	28	1	355	1	385	24	7
South Korea	80	11	1	46	-	58	22	-
Taiwan	63	2	-	21	-	23	40	-
Thailand	105	12	5	67	1	85	20	-
Other	132	10	2	91	-	103	29	-
Africa	153 849	1 428	26	17 548	69	19 071	134 776	2
SADC	150 363	1 075	18	14 803	53	15 949	134 412	2
Angola	721	23	1	582	2	608	113	-
Botswana	7 207	14	14	576	13	617	6 590	-
DRC	750	66	-	573	6	645	105	-
Eswatini	13 951	3	-	109	2	114	13 837	-
Lesotho	30 214	-	-	119	-	119	30 095	-
Madagascar	8	1	-	4	-	5	3	-
Malawi	4 729	10	-	818	1	829	3 900	-
Mauritius	65	5	-	29	-	34	31	-
Mozambique	46 105	4	-	854	11	869	45 234	2
Namibia	6 036	431	-	484	2	917	5 119	-
Seychelles	15	-	-	11	-	11	4	-
Tanzania	1 170	53	-	584	-	637	533	-
Zambia	5 389	8	-	869	16	893	4 496	-
Zimbabwe	34 003	457	3	9 191	-	9 651	24 352	-

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

Country of residence	June 2021	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
'Other' African	3 486	353	8	2 745	16	3 122	364	-
East and Central Africa	1 405	119	2	1 129	7	1 257	148	-
Burundi	27	2	-	23	-	25	2	-
Cameroon	114	11	-	95	-	106	8	-
Central African Republic	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-
Chad	12	-	-	12	-	12	-	-
Comoros	3	1	-	2	-	3	-	-
Congo	65	13	-	43	-	56	9	-
Djibouti	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	8	1	-	4	2	7	1	-
Eritrea	15	-	-	10	-	10	5	-
Ethiopia	214	11	1	158	-	170	44	-
Gabon	142	11	-	124	4	139	3	-
Kenya	511	55	-	407	1	463	48	-
Rwanda	14	-	-	8	-	8	6	-
Somalia	16	2	-	12	-	14	2	-
Uganda	255	12	1	222	-	235	20	-
West Africa	1 691	161	-	1 328	8	1 497	194	-
Benin	43	5	-	35	-	40	3	-
Burkina Faso	11	-	-	11	-	11	-	-
Cape Verde Island	6	-	-	4	-	4	2	-
Côte d'Ivoire	25	6	-	16	-	22	3	-
Gambia	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Ghana	552	56	-	469	-	525	27	-
Guinea	57	-	-	19	-	19	38	-
Guinea-Bissau	2	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Liberia	11	1	-	10	-	11	-	-
Mali	45	-	-	13	-	13	32	-
Mauritania	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Niger	3	1	-	2	-	3	-	-
Nigeria	890	90	-	710	6	806	84	-
Saint Helena	2	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
Senegal	32	2	-	27	-	29	3	-

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

Country of residence	June 2021	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Sierra Leone	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-
Togo	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-
North Africa	390	73	6	288	1	368	22	-
Algeria	29	2	-	26	1	29	-	-
Egypt	195	42	6	128	-	176	19	-
Libya	25	8	-	17	-	25	-	-
Morocco	45	-	-	45	-	45	-	-
South Sudan	10	2	-	6	-	8	2	-
The Sudan	69	17	-	51	-	68	1	-
Tunisia	17	2	-	15	-	17	-	-
Unspecified	330	6	1	161	-	168	162	-

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

Country of residence	June 2021	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	178 727	12 129	164 635	1 625	338
Overseas	24 548	409	23 829	255	55
Europe	8 681	229	8 332	82	38
Belgium	299	6	289	3	1
Denmark	161	6	154	1	-
France	721	27	685	9	-
Germany	1 060	35	1 014	11	-
Ireland	169	4	163	1	1
Italy	423	20	399	4	-
Portugal	415	5	408	1	1
Russian Federation	714	7	706	-	1
Spain	419	14	397	8	-
Sweden	181	3	177	1	-
Switzerland	311	6	296	9	-
The Netherlands	733	28	692	6	7
Turkey	211	5	197	9	-
UK	1 790	33	1 717	14	26
Other	1 074	30	1 038	5	1
North America	9 704	54	9 615	27	8
Canada	398	3	389	4	2
USA	9 306	51	9 226	23	6
Central and South America	698	7	678	13	-
Argentina	81	1	80	-	-
Brazil	358	1	350	7	-
Mexico	81	2	75	4	-
Other	178	3	173	2	-
Australasia	310	5	302	2	1
Australia	242	4	235	2	1
New Zealand	68	1	67	-	-

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

Country of residence	June 2021	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Middle East	1 539	13	1 491	35	-
Israel	115	4	109	2	-
Jordan	53	1	50	2	-
Saudi Arabia	1 169	1	1 161	7	-
Other	202	7	171	24	-
Asia	3 616	101	3 411	96	8
Bangladesh	343	7	335	-	1
China	895	46	816	33	-
India	979	28	919	30	2
Japan	79	4	71	4	-
Malaysia	56	-	46	10	-
Pakistan	468	4	459	5	-
Philippines	416	2	406	3	5
South Korea	80	3	75	2	-
Taiwan	63	2	59	2	-
Thailand	105	1	104	-	-
Other	132	4	121	7	-
Africa	153 849	11 713	140 486	1 370	280
SADC	150 363	11 630	137 320	1 175	238
Angola	721	5	677	32	7
Botswana	7 207	927	6 135	63	82
DRC	750	29	646	57	18
Eswatini	13 951	815	13 026	91	19
Lesotho	30 214	390	29 243	553	28
Madagascar	8	-	8	-	-
Malawi	4 729	246	4 469	12	2
Mauritius	65	1	61	3	-
Mozambique	46 105	744	45 325	25	11
Namibia	6 036	3 633	2 301	92	10
Seychelles	15	-	14	1	-
Tanzania	1 170	76	1 072	14	8
Zambia	5 389	1 837	3 524	24	4
Zimbabwe	34 003	2 927	30 819	208	49

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

Country of residence	June 2021	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
'Other' African	3 486	83	3 166	195	42
East and Central Africa	1 405	50	1 251	76	28
Burundi	27	-	26	1	-
Cameroon	114	2	93	9	10
Central African Republic	7	-	7	-	-
Chad	12	-	5	6	1
Comoros	3	-	3	-	-
Congo	65	5	49	9	2
Djibouti	2	-	2	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	8	1	4	1	2
Eritrea	15	-	15	-	-
Ethiopia	214	3	209	1	1
Gabon	142	-	126	14	2
Kenya	511	26	454	24	7
Rwanda	14	-	11	3	-
Somalia	16	-	14	1	1
Uganda	255	13	233	7	2
West Africa	1 691	29	1 578	72	12
Benin	43	-	38	4	1
Burkina Faso	11	1	9	1	-
Cape Verde Island	6	-	6	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	25	1	22	2	-
Gambia	1	-	1	-	-
Ghana	552	12	527	12	1
Guinea	57	-	52	5	-
Guinea-Bissau	2	-	2	-	-
Liberia	11	-	10	1	-
Mali	45	-	44	-	1
Mauritania	1	-	1	-	-
Niger	3	-	3	-	-
Nigeria	890	13	824	47	6
Saint Helena	2	-	-	-	2
Senegal	32	2	29	-	1

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

Country of residence	June 2021	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Sierra Leone	7	-	7	-	-
Togo	3	-	3	-	-
North Africa	390	4	337	47	2
Algeria	29	-	27	1	1
Egypt	195	3	176	15	1
Libya	25	-	9	16	-
Morocco	45	-	45	-	-
South Sudan	10	1	6	3	-
The Sudan	69	-	58	11	-
Tunisia	17	-	16	1	-
Unspecified	330	7	320	-	3

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

Sex	Age group	June 2021	Region			
			Overseas	SADC	‘Other’ African	Unspecified
All	Total	178 727	24 548	150 363	3 486	330
	0-14	6 661	1 767	4 736	157	1
	15-24	11 966	3 212	8 394	347	13
	25-34	42 101	5 083	35 788	1 165	65
	35-44	62 307	4 744	56 401	1 055	107
	45-54	35 933	4 362	30 973	508	90
	55-64	14 375	3 248	10 897	182	48
	65+	5 384	2 132	3 174	72	6
Male	Total	119 521	15 032	101 944	2 321	224
	0-14	3 318	937	2 299	81	1
	15-24	6 446	1 740	4 491	210	5
	25-34	26 815	3 092	22 960	718	45
	35-44	44 967	3 137	41 002	766	62
	45-54	25 689	2 832	22 397	391	69
	55-64	9 302	2 030	7 126	110	36
	65+	2 984	1 264	1 669	45	6
Female	Total	59 206	9 516	48 419	1 165	106
	0-14	3 343	830	2 437	76	
	15-24	5 520	1 472	3 903	137	8
	25-34	15 286	1 991	12 828	447	20
	35-44	17 340	1 607	15 399	289	45
	45-54	10 244	1 530	8 576	117	21
	55-64	5 073	1 218	3 771	72	12
	65+	2 400	868	1 505	27	-

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 (both in terms of space and time) of the population movements of South African residents and foreign travellers. The data can be used for the following:

- To estimate, monitor and understand salient characteristics of foreign travellers and volumes of South African residents travelling outside South Africa.
- To provide information that can be used to (a) assess the extent of government's progress in strengthening bilateral political and economic relations by assessing the number of international tourist arrivals, and (b) benchmark surveys focusing on the demand for local tourism services by foreign travellers.

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 June 2021, the DHA data was 2,5% higher 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 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 Organisation (UNWTO)

Traveller is someone who moves between different geographical locations for any purpose and any duration.

Visitor refers to any person travelling to a place other than that of his/her usual environment for less than 12 months and whose main purpose of the trip is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.

Same-Day visitor is a visitor who visits a place for less than one night.

Tourist (overnight visitor) is a visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the place visited.

Tourism comprises the activities of persons travelling to, and staying in places outside their usual environment, for not more than one consecutive year, for leisure, business and other purposes. The usual environment of a person consists of a certain area around his/her place of residence, plus all the other places he/she frequently visits.

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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Enquiries

Telephone: (012) 310 8600 (user information services)
(079) 511 9917 (technical enquiries)
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Fax: (012) 310 8500/ 8495 (user information services)
(012) 310 6937 (technical enquiries)

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

Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

Produced by Stats SA