

SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S TOURIST ARRIVALS FOR FEBRUARY 2023

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) has published data on the number of tourists for February 2023 and this report provides further analysis of the tourists that travelled to South Africa during this period.

TREND ANALYSIS: FEBRUARY 2018 – FEBRUARY 2023

A total of 613,432 tourist arrivals was recorded in February 2023, which was an increase of 97.8% (+303,259) compared to the same month in 2022. Figure 1 below indicates tourist arrivals for the period February 2018 to February 2023. Tourist arrivals decreased from 802,252 in 2018 to 797,181 in 2019, which was a decline of -0.6% (-5,071). Tourist arrivals increased from 797,181 in 2019 to 800,815 in 2020, which was a growth of 0.5% (+3,634). Tourist arrivals decreased from 800,815 in 2020 to 90,165 in 2021, which was a decrease of -88.7% (-710,650). Tourist arrivals increased by 244.0% (+220,008) in 2022 compared to 2021.

Figure 1: Total Tourist Arrivals February 2018 to February 2023



	Feb-18	Feb-19	Feb-20	Feb-21	Feb-22	Feb-23
Tourist Arrivals	802 252	797 181	800 815	90 165	310 173	613 432
Difference	26 428	(5 071)	3 634	(710 650)	220 008	303 259
% Growth	3,4%	-0,6%	0,5%	-88,7%	244,0%	97,8%

Source: Stats SA Tourism and Migration report, February 2023 and tourist arrivals data cuts

FEBRUARY 2023 COMPARED TO FEBRUARY 2022 BY REGION

Table 1 below indicates tourist arrivals by region for February 2023 compared to the same month in 2022. All regions experienced a growth in tourist arrivals during this month compared to the same month of the previous year. Australasia recorded the highest increase of 252.4% (+5,164) followed by Central & South America (155.0%; +1,914) and North America (138.0%; +15,986). Africa also recorded an increase of 94.5% (+203,816) and this region remains the main source of tourist arrivals to the country, accounting for 68.4% (419,576) of total tourist arrivals during February 2023.

Table 1: Total Tourist Arrivals by Region: February 2023 vs. February 2022

Region	February 2023	February 2022	Diff	% Diff.
EUROPE	138,394	71,574	66,820	93.4%
NORTH AMERICA	27,570	11,584	15,986	138.0%
CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA	3,149	1,235	1,914	155.0%
AUSTRALASIA	7,210	2,046	5,164	252.4%
MIDDLE EAST	3,361	1,590	1,771	111.4%
ASIA	13,151	5,870	7,281	124.0%
TOTAL OVERSEAS	192,835	93,899	98,936	105.4%
AFRICA	419,576	215,760	203,816	94.5%
UNSPECIFIED	1,021	514	507	98.6%
GRAND TOTAL	613,432	310,173	303,259	97.8%

Source: Stats SA Tourism and Migration Report, February 2023 and tourist arrivals data cuts

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2023 COMPARED TO JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2022

Tourist arrivals figures by region for the period January-February 2023 compared to the same period in 2022 are indicated in table 2 below. Total tourist arrivals went up by 112.7% (+775,283) for the period January-February 2023 compared the same period in 2022. Total tourist arrivals from the overseas market increased by 139.6% (+221,411). Australasia (299.8%) recorded the highest increase followed by Central & South America (197.3%), North America (187.4%), Middle East (174.5%), Asia (141.5%) and Europe with an increase of 124.4%.

In Australasia, Australia recorded the highest increase in volume having an increase of 8,959 (273.7%) followed by New Zealand (+2 019; 517.7%). The United Kingdom had recorded the highest increase in volume (+42,134; 104.9%) in the Europe region. In North America, USA has recorded the highest increase in volume (+31,064; 174.6%). Israel had recorded the highest increase in volume for the Middle East region with an addition 2378 tourists compared to January-February 2022. In Central and South America, Brazil had recorded the highest increase in volume (2,089: 164.1%) for the period under review.

Tourist arrivals from Africa increased by 104.7% (+552,982) during the same period under review. In terms of volume, the increase recorded from the continent was driven by an increase of (+249,481; 228.5%) from Zimbabwe, followed by Lesotho (+105,591; 83.3%) and Mozambique (+89,667; 57.1%), refer to table 2.1 below.

Table 2: Total Tourist Arrivals by Region: January-February 2023 vs. January-February 2022

Region	Jan-Feb 2023	Jan-Feb 2022	Diff	% Diff
EUROPE	267,292	119,102	148,190	124.4%
NORTH AMERICA	58,991	20,523	38,468	187.4%
CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA	6,838	2,300	4,538	197.3%

AUSTRALASIA	14,662	3,667	10,995	299.8%
MIDDLE EAST	6,623	2,413	4,210	174.5%
ASIA	25,618	10,608	15,010	141.5%
TOTAL OVERSEAS	380,024	158,613	221,411	139.6%
TOTAL AFRICA	1,081,182	528,200	552,982	104.7%
Unspecified	1,901	1,011	890	88.0%
GRAND TOTAL	1,463,107	687,824	775,283	112.7%

Source: Stats SA Tourism and Migration Report, February 2023 and tourist arrivals data cuts

Table 2.1 below gives the rankings of the top ten African source markets for the period January-February 2023 compared to January-February 2022. Three of the top ten African source markets remained in the same position namely; Eswatini, Botswana and Zambia which ranked 4th, 5th, and 6th position during both periods. Zimbabwe moved up from 3rd to 1st position in 2023 when compared to 2022. Angola and Kenya replaced Tanzania and Nigeria in the top 10 during this period. All top ten countries recorded a positive growth with Zimbabwe recording the highest increase of 228.5% followed by Kenya (162.6%) and Eswatini (120.6%).

Table 2.1: South Africa's Top 10 African Source Markets: January-February 2023 vs. January-February 2022

Country	Rank: Jan-Feb 2023	Tourist Arrivals Jan-Feb 2023	Rank: Jan-Feb 2022	Tourist Arrivals Jan-Feb 2022	% Change
Zimbabwe	1	358,660	3	109,179	228.5%
Mozambique	2	246,571	1	156,904	57.1%
Lesotho	3	232,318	2	126 727	83.3%
Eswatini	4	95,052	4	43,085	120.6%
Botswana	5	46,964	5	23,655	98.5%
Namibia	6	22,344	6	17,219	29.8%
Malawi	7	20,624	8	14,589	41.4%
Zambia	8	19,997	7	14,953	33.7%
Angola	9	6,755	11	3,075	119.7%
Kenya	10	6,251	12	2,380	162.6%

Source: Stats SA Tourism and Migration Report, February 2023 and tourist arrivals data cuts

Table 2.2 shows the rankings of the top ten overseas source markets. Comparing January-February 2023 with January-February 2022, all top 10 overseas markets recorded an increase in tourist arrivals with Canada recording the highest increase of 270.8%. Less than half of the top ten overseas markets moved positions except for UK, Germany, USA, Netherlands, France and India which remained 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 7th position respectively for the period under review. UK remained as the main source market from overseas, recording a growth of 104.9%.

Table 2.2: South Africa's Top 10 Overseas Source Markets: January-February 2023 vs. January-February 2022

Country	Rank: Jan-Feb 2023	Tourist Arrivals Jan-Feb 2023	Rank: Jan-Feb 2022	Tourist Arrivals Jan-Feb 2022	% Change
UK	1	82,307	1	40,173	104.9%
Germany	2	61,699	2	26,166	135.8%
USA	3	48,853	3	17,789	174.6%
The Netherlands	4	24,922	4	12,091	106.1%
France	5	20,561	5	7,813	163.2%
Australia	6	12,232	9	3,273	273.7%
India	7	11,053	7	4,653	137.5%
Canada	8	10,138	10	2,734	270.8%
Switzerland	9	9,275	6	5,277	75.8%
Belgium	10	8,262	8	3,771	119.1%

Source: Stats SA Tourism and Migration Report, February 2023 and tourist arrivals data cuts

REFERENCES

1. Statistics South Africa 28 February 2023, February 2023 Tourism and Migration report.