

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

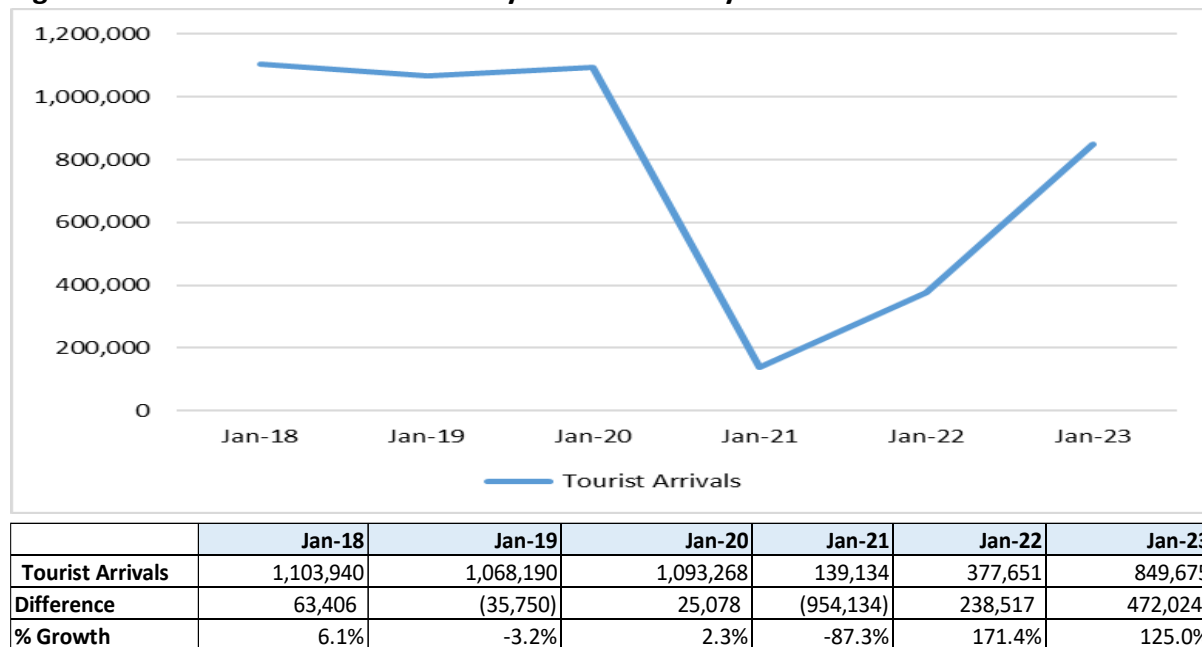
Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) has published data on the number of tourists arrival for January 2023 and this report provides further analysis of the tourists that travelled to South Africa during this period.

To limit the spread of COVID-19 and prepare the health care sector, the South African government announced a national lockdown for the country starting on 27 April 2020, which prevented the movement of people entering and leaving South Africa. International tourists were not allowed to enter South Africa during the months of April-September 2020. On the 05th of April 2022, the National State of Disaster was lifted and most of the government COVID-19 regulations were removed including travel regulations to South Africa. The analysis provided below should be viewed within the context of South Africa's COVID-19 lockdown travel regulations

TREND ANALYSIS: JANUARY 2018 – JANUARY 2023

A total of 849,675 tourist arrivals was recorded in January 2023, which was an increase of 125.0% (472,024) compared to the same month in 2022. Figure 1 below indicates tourist arrivals for the period January 2018 to January 2023. Tourist arrivals decreased from 1,103,940 in 2018 to 1,068,190 in 2019, which was a decline of -3.2% (-35,750). Tourist arrivals increased from 1,068,190 in 2019 to 1,093,268 in 2020, which was a growth of 2.3% (25,078). Tourist arrivals decreased from 1,093,268 in 2020 to 139,134 in 2021, which was a decrease of -87.3% (-954,134). Tourist arrivals increased by 171.4% (238,517) in 2022 compared to 2021.

Figure 1: Total Tourist Arrivals January 2018 to January 2023



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

JANUARY 2023 COMPARED TO JANUARY 2022 BY REGION

Table 1 below indicates tourist arrivals by region for January 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 359.7% (+5,831) followed by Middle East (296.4%; +2,439) and North America (251.5%; +22,482). Africa also recorded an increase of 111.8% (+349,166) and this region remains the main source of tourist arrivals to the country, accounting for 77.9% (661,606) of total tourist arrivals during January 2023.

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

Region	January 2023	January 2022	Diff	% Diff.
EUROPE	128,898	47,528	81,370	171.2%
NORTH AMERICA	31,421	8,939	22,482	251.5%
CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA	3,689	1,065	2,624	246.4%
AUSTRALASIA	7,452	1,621	5,831	359.7%
MIDDLE EAST	3,262	823	2,439	296.4%
ASIA	12,467	4,738	7,729	163.1%
TOTAL OVERSEAS	187,189	64,714	122,475	189.3%
AFRICA	661,606	312,440	349,166	111.8%
UNSPECIFIED	880	497	383	77.1%
GRAND TOTAL	849,675	377,651	472,024	125.0%

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

Table 1.1 below gives the rankings of the top ten African source markets for the period January 2023 compared to January 2022. Four of the top ten African source markets remained in the same position namely; Lesotho, Eswatini, Botswana and Zambia which ranked 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 8th 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 264.0% followed by Kenya (185.5%) and Angola (139.6%).

Table 1.1: South Africa's Top 10 African Source Markets: January 2023 vs. January 2022

Country	Rank: January 2023	Tourist Arrivals January 2023	Rank: January 2022	Tourist Arrivals January 2022	% Change
Zimbabwe	1	228,634	3	62,809	264.0%
Lesotho	2	155,187	2	84,960	82.7%
Mozambique	3	153,476	1	96,511	59.0%
Eswatini	4	48,766	4	21,854	123.1%
Botswana	5	24,273	5	11,834	105.1%
Malawi	6	11,671	7	8,216	42.1%
Namibia	7	11,482	6	8,376	37.1%
Zambia	8	10,300	8	7,638	34.9%
Angola	9	3,151	11	1,315	139.6%
Kenya	10	2,943	13	1,031	185.5%

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

Table 1.2 shows the rankings of the top ten overseas source markets. Comparing January 2023 with January 2022, all top 10 overseas markets recorded an increase in tourist arrivals with Canada recording the highest increase of 386.4%. Half of the top ten overseas markets moved positions except for UK, Germany, USA, Netherlands and France which remained 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th position respectively for the period under review. UK remained as the main source market from overseas, recording a growth of 148.9%. Belgium and Ireland were replaced by Canada and Italy in the top 10 list during January 2023 compared to January 2022.

Table 1.2: South Africa's Top 10 Overseas Source Markets: January 2023 vs. January 2022

Country	Rank: January 2023	Tourist Arrivals January 2023	Rank: January 2022	Tourist Arrivals January 2022	% Change
UK	1	40,044	1	16,086	148.9%
Germany	2	29,363	2	10,136	189.7%
USA	3	26,178	3	7,861	233.0%
Netherlands	4	12,930	4	5,608	130.6%
France	5	9,016	5	2,314	289.6%
Australia	6	6,145	8	1,459	321.2%
India	7	5,565	7	1,863	198.7%
Canada	8	5,243	11	1,078	386.4%
Switzerland	9	4,386	6	2,289	91.6%
Italy	10	3,677	13	821	347.9%

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

REFERENCES

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