

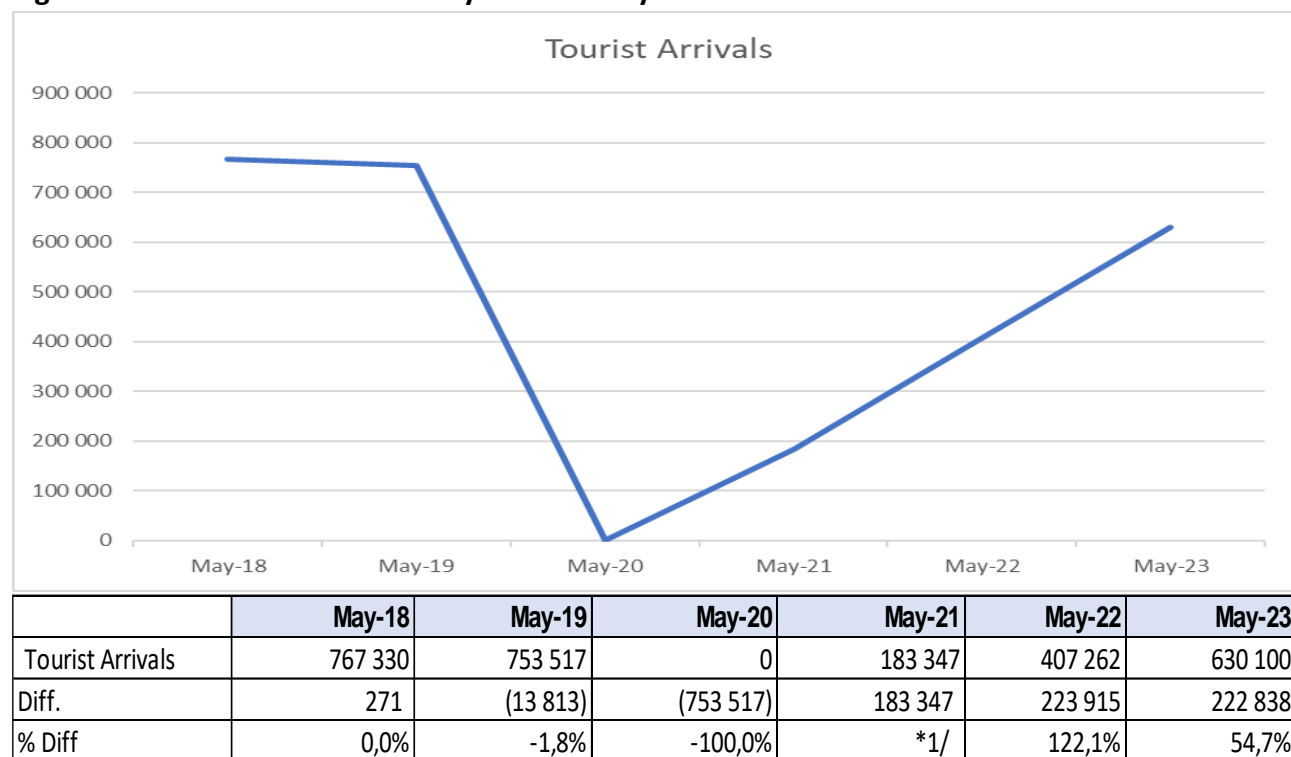
SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S TOURIST ARRIVALS FOR MAY 2023

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

TREND ANALYSIS: MAY 2018 – MAY 2023

A total of 630,100 tourist arrivals was recorded in May 2023, which was an increase of 54.7% (+222,838) compared to the same month in 2022. Figure 1 below indicates tourist arrivals for the period May 2018 to May 2023. Tourist arrivals decreased from 767,330 in 2018 to 753,517 in 2019, which was a decrease of -1.8% (-13,813). Tourist arrivals decreased from 753,517 in 2019 to 0 in 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19. Tourist arrivals then increased from 0 in 2020 to 183,347 in 2021. Tourist arrivals increased by +122.1% (+223,915) in 2022 compared to 2021. Tourist arrivals recorded during May 2023 was at -16.4% level of tourist arrivals recorded in 2019, pre-COVID period.

Figure 1: Total Tourist Arrivals May 2018 to May 2023



**Changes from zero in the preceding period cannot be calculated as a percentage
Source: Stats SA Tourism and Migration report, May 2023 and tourist arrivals data cuts*

MAY 2023 COMPARED TO MAY 2022 BY REGION

Table 1 below indicates tourist arrivals by region for May 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. With regards to percentage growth, Asia recorded the highest increase of +88.4% (+10,135) followed by Australasia (80.3%; +3,509), North America (37.5%; +9,945), Europe (35.1%; +15,824), Central and South America (19.1%; +454) and Middle East with (8.3%; 208) respectively. Africa recorded an increase of 58.1% (+182,423) and this region remains the main source of tourist arrivals to the country, accounting for 77.1% (496,493) of total tourist arrivals during May 2023.

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

	May 2022	May 2023	Diff	% Diff
EUROPE	45,131	60,955	15,824	35.1%
NORTH AMERICA	26,516	36,461	9,945	37.5%
CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA	2,376	2,830	454	19.1%
AUSTRALASIA	4,369	7,878	3,509	80.3%
MIDDLE EAST	2,508	2,716	208	8.3%
ASIA	11,468	21,603	10,135	88.4%
TOTAL OVERSEAS	92,368	132,443	40,075	43.4%
TOTAL AFRICA	314,070	496,493	182,423	58.1%
Unspecified	824	1,164	340	41.3%
GRAND TOTAL	407,262	630,100	222,838	54.7%

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

JANUARY-MAY 2023 COMPARED TO JANUARY-MAY 2022

Tourist arrivals figures by region for the period January-May 2023 compared to the same period in 2022 are indicated in table 2 below. Total tourist arrivals went up by +83.7% (+1,579,185) for the period January-May 2023 compared the same period in 2022. Total tourist arrivals from the overseas market increased by +79.5% (+381,272). Australasia (154.9%) recorded the highest increase followed by Asia (106.9%), North America (85.1%), Central & South America (82.9%), Middle East (72.2%) and Europe (71.0%).

In Australasia, Australia recorded the highest increase in volume having an increase of 20,291 (140.9%) followed by New Zealand (+5,441; 244.5%). The United Kingdom had recorded the highest increase in volume (+54,860; 50.2%) in the Europe region. In North America, USA has recorded the highest increase in volume (+61,377; 79.7%). Israel had recorded the highest increase in volume for the Middle East region with an addition 3,817 tourists compared to January-May 2022. In Central

and South America, Brazil had recorded the highest increase in volume (+3,099: 67.6%) for the period under review.

Tourist arrivals from Africa increased by 85.2% (+1,195,807) during the same period under review and this region remains the main source of tourist arrivals to the country, accounting for 75.0% (2,599,277) of total tourist arrivals during January-May 2023.

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

In terms of volume, the increase recorded from the continent was driven by an increase of (+503, 632; 144.5%) from Zimbabwe, followed by Lesotho (+222,499; 74.4%) and Mozambique (+204,750; 58.7%), refer to table 2.1 below.

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

	Jan-May 2022	Jan-May 2023	Diff	% Diff
EUROPE	319,045	545,494	226,449	71.0%
NORTH AMERICA	87,671	162,285	74,614	85.1%
CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA	8,862	16,213	7,351	82.9%
AUSTRALASIA	16,656	42,460	25,804	154.9%
MIDDLE EAST	9,934	17,109	7,175	72.2%
ASIA	37,305	77,184	39,879	106.9%
TOTAL OVERSEAS	479,473	860,745	381,272	79.5%
TOTAL AFRICA	1,403,470	2,599,277	1,195,807	85.2%
Unspecified	3,253	5,359	2,106	64.7%
GRAND TOTAL	1,886,196	3,465,381	1,579,185	83.7%

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

Table 2.1 below gives the rankings of the top ten African source markets for the period January-May 2023 compared to January-May 2022. Seven of the top ten African source markets remained in the same position namely; Lesotho, Eswatini, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Malawi and Angola which ranked 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th position during both periods. Zimbabwe moved up from 2nd to 1st position in 2023 when compared to 2022. Kenya replaced Tanzania in the top 10 during this period. All top ten countries recorded a positive growth with Zimbabwe recording the highest increase of 144.5% followed by Kenya (120.4%) and Eswatini (114.3%).

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

Country	Rank: January-May 2023	Tourist Arrivals January-May 2023	Rank: January-May 2022	Tourist Arrivals January-May 2022	% Change
Zimbabwe	1	852,069	2	348,437	144.5%
Mozambique	2	553,678	1	348,928	58.7%
Lesotho	3	521,518	3	299,019	74.4%
Eswatini	4	277,132	4	129,345	114.3%
Botswana	5	131,121	5	80,479	62.9%
Namibia	6	62,676	6	50,743	23.5%
Zambia	7	54,141	7	42,111	28.6%
Malawi	8	47,739	8	37,416	27.6%
Angola	9	17,146	9	11,363	50.9%
Kenya	10	16,251	11	7,372	120.4%

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

Table 2.2 shows the rankings of the top ten overseas source markets. Comparing January-May 2023 with January-May 2022, all top 10 overseas markets recorded an increase in tourist arrivals with Australia recording the highest increase of 140.9%. More than half of the top ten overseas markets moved positions except for UK, USA and Germany which remained 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively for the period under review. UK remained the main source market from overseas with regards to volume, recording a growth of 50.2%.

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

Country	Rank: January-May 2023	Tourist Arrivals January-May 2023	Rank: January-May 2022	Tourist Arrivals January-May 2022	% Change
UK	1	164,232	1	109,372	50.2%
USA	2	138,371	2	76,994	79.7%
Germany	3	116,902	3	63,048	85.4%
France	4	50,963	5	25,901	96.8%
The Netherlands	5	50,052	4	28,823	73.7%
Australia	6	34,694	7	14,403	140.9%
India	7	33,173	6	17,267	92.1%
Canada	8	23,914	10	10,677	124.0%
Switzerland	9	18,674	8	12,574	48.5%
Belgium	10	17,606	9	10,719	64.3%

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

REFERENCES

1. Statistics South Africa 30 May 2023, May 2023 Tourism and Migration report.