

# SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S TRAVELLERS (ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES) DURING AUGUST 2020

**NOTE:** 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 from 27 March 2020, which prevented the movement of people entering and leaving South Africa. The lockdown continued during August 2020 and as a result international tourists were still not allowed to enter South Africa during this month. However, exceptions were made for other South Africans and travellers from other countries to return to their country of residence. Furthermore, permission was also given to people transporting specific cargo and permitted retail goods to neighbouring countries, which included all goods imported via South African ports of entry, for re-export to neighbouring countries. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) has therefore published data on the number of arrivals, departures and transit travellers of South African residents and foreign travellers during August 2020, and this report provides an analysis of these travellers. From 01-17 August 2020 South Africa was under level three (3) lockdown restrictions and then moved to level two (2) restrictions from 18 August 2020, with the domestic air travel and car rental services being restored. Movement between provinces was less restrictive during level 2 lockdown. The performance of tourism related industries namely; accommodation, food and beverages, and aviation for August 2020 compared to August 2019 is also provided in this report.

## TOTAL TRAVELLERS: AUGUST 2020 COMPARED AUGUST 2019

Table 1 indicates that in August 2020 there was a total of 205 132 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) that passed through South African ports of entry, which was a decline of -94,5% compared to the 3 698 819 travellers recorded in August 2019. Further analysis on the total travellers, including South African residents and foreign arrivals, is provided in Tables 2 and 3 respectively.

**Table 1: Total Arrivals and Departures: August 2020 compared to August 2019**

Total Travellers	August-20	August-19	% Change
	205 132	3 698 819	-94,5%

*Source: Stats SA Tourism and Migration report, August 2020*

## SOUTH AFRICAN RESIDENT TRAVELLERS: AUGUST 2020 COMPARED TO AUGUST 2019

Table 2 shows that there was a total of 66 892 of South African resident travellers (arrivals and departures) in August 2020, and this was a decrease of -93,4% (-939 723) compared to the same month last year. Further analysis showed a decline of -93,7% of South African arrivals while departures decreased by -93,0% during the reporting period, with no South Africans on transit in August 2020.

**Table 2: South African resident travellers: August 2020 compared to August 2019**

South Africa Residents	August-20	August-19	% Change
Arrivals	30 547	482 712	-93,7%
Departures	36 345	522 927	-93,0%
Transits	0	976	-100,0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>66 892</b>	<b>1 006 615</b>	<b>-93,4%</b>

*Source: Stats SA Tourism and Migration report, August 2020*

The decline experienced was as a result of the lockdown in South Africa, which prevented people from leaving and entering the country. More information on these figures including data by country and purpose of visit was requested from Stats SA, which could not be provided due to their Data Policy Guidelines published by Stats SA in 2015.

### FOREIGN TRAVELLERS: AUGUST 2020 COMPARED TO AUGUST 2019

Table 3 shows foreign travellers by arrival, departure and transit for August 2020 compared to August 2019. Total foreign travellers decreased from 2 692 204 in 2019 to 138 240 in 2020, which was a decline of -94,9% (-2 553 964). Further breakdown of the results showed a decrease in number of foreign arrivals and departures of -95,1% and -94,1% respectively during August 2020. A few (41) transit foreign travellers were recorded in August 2020.

**Table 3: Foreign travellers: August 2020 compared to August 2019**

Foreign Travellers	August-20	August-19	% Change
Arrivals	67 051	1 377 914	-95,1%
Departures	71 148	1 215 970	-94,1%
Transits	41	98 320	-99,96%
<b>Total</b>	<b>138 240</b>	<b>2 692 204</b>	<b>-94,9%</b>

*Source: Stats SA Tourism and Migration report, August 2020*

### FOREIGN ARRIVALS BY REGION AND MODE OF TRAVEL: AUGUST 2020

Table 4 gives foreign arrivals by region and mode of transport for August 2020. A total of 67 051 foreign arrivals was reported in August 2020 as previously indicated. Of this total, a majority of foreign arrivals, 65 025 (97,0% share), were from Africa, and only 1 950 (2,9% share) were from overseas. Most of the foreign arrivals (64 529) from the Africa region used road transport while a majority (1 310) of arrivals from overseas used air transport.

**Table 4: Foreign arrivals by region and mode of transport: August 2020**

Region	Total	Air	Road	Sea
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>1 950</b>	<b>1 310</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>336</b>
Europe	953	702	79	172
North America	229	200	29	0
Central and South America	80	67	11	2
Australasia	20	14	2	4
Middle East	18	18	0	0
Asia	650	309	183	158
<b>Africa</b>	<b>65 025</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>64 529</b>	<b>45</b>
Unspecified	76	55	21	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>67 051</b>	<b>1 816</b>	<b>64 854</b>	<b>381</b>

*Source: Stats SA Tourism and Migration report, August 2020*

## SECTION TWO: PERFORMANCE OF SOUTH AFRICA’S TOURISM RELATED INDUSTRIES: AUGUST 2020 COMPARED TO AUGUST 2019

The next section of the report is focused on the performance of tourism related industries during August 2020 compared to August 2019.

### Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) on tourism related industries performance

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) had declared the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a pandemic (WHO, 2020). In order to limit the spread of COVID-19, many countries introduced lockdown measures, which prevented people from leaving their countries. On 1 May 2020, the South African government adopted the risk adjustment strategy, which aimed to increase economic activity while putting measures in place to reduce the transmission of the virus. As part of this approach, five (5) Coronavirus alert levels were introduced, mainly indicating the different sectors that can operate under these levels. From 01 August-17 August 2020 South Africa was under level three (3) lockdown restrictions and then moved to level two (2) restrictions from 18 August 2020. The results on the performance of the tourism related industries presented below should be viewed within the context of South Africa’s level 3 and 2 lockdown regulations, which were in place during August 2020. Table 5 below provides a summary of level 3 and 2 lockdown regulations for the accommodation, food and beverage and aviation industries. More information on the regulations can be sourced from the website: [www.gov.za/coronavirus](http://www.gov.za/coronavirus).

**Table 5: South Africa COVID-19 level 3 and 2 regulations for the accommodation, food and beverages and aviation industries**

Accommodation	
Level 3	Level 2
Accommodation permitted only for remaining tourists, work purposes and Quarantine/ isolation purposes	All accommodation establishments including inter provincial and tour operators, subject to a restriction on the number of persons allowed in such establishments to not be more than 50 percent of the available floor space.
Food and Beverages	
Level 3	Level 2
Restaurants, fast food outlets and coffee shops were allowed to operate for delivery services and sit downs meals only subject to the strict adherence to all health protocols.	Restaurants, fast food outlets and coffee shops all allowed to operate including onsite consumption of alcohol subject to the strict adherence to all health protocols.
Aviation	
Level 3	Level 2
Domestic air travel for business only allowed International flights were not permitted	Domestic air travel and car rental services restored International flights not permitted

### 2.1 ACCOMMODATION INDUSTRY

#### ACCOMMODATION INDUSTRY INCOME: AUGUST 2020 COMPARED TO AUGUST 2019

Table 6 gives the total income from the accommodation industry, including income for restaurants, bar sales and other income for August 2020 compared to August 2019. During August 2020, the total income (current prices) from the accommodation industry recorded a decline of -81,2% compared to August 2019. Comparing August 2020 to the same period last year, total income from restaurants, bar sales and other income was more than the total income from accommodation only in the Hotel

industry. Other categories recorded more income from accommodation as compared to income from restaurants, bar sales and other income. However, total income from all categories decreased, with total income from Hotels reporting the highest decline of -83.0%, from R3 149,4 million in August 2019 to R536,0 million in August 2020.

**Table 6: Income from accommodation (current prices: August 2020 compared to August 2019)**

Type of Accommodation (R million)	Aug-20 Restaurants, bar sales and other income	Aug-20 Accom- modation only	Aug-20 Total income	Aug-19 Restaurants, bar sales and other income	Aug-19 Accom- modation only	Aug-19 Total income	% Change  August 2020 compared to August 2019
Hotels	R354,8	R181,2	<b>R536,0</b>	R1 839,9	R1 309,5	<b>R3 149,4</b>	-83,0%
Caravan parks and camping sites	R0,0	R4,2	<b>R4,2</b>	R1,9	R20,8	<b>R22,7</b>	-81,5%
Guest houses and guest farms	R3,5	R12,1	<b>R15,6</b>	R14,3	R70,2	<b>R84,5</b>	-81,5%
Other accommodation	R41,1	R167,0	<b>R208,1</b>	R134,9	R666,6	<b>R801,5</b>	-74,0%
<b>Total Industry</b>	<b>R399,4</b>	<b>R364,5</b>	<b>R763,9</b>	<b>R1 991,0</b>	<b>R2 067,1</b>	<b>R4 058,1</b>	<b>-81,2%</b>

Source: Stats SA: Accommodation data cuts, 19th October 2020

Table 7 indicates that income from accommodation (excluding restaurants, bar sales and other income) went down by -82,4% during the same period under review. All categories of accommodation recorded a significant decline in income levels with hotels recording the highest decline of -86,2%; followed by guest houses and guest farms (-82,8%); caravan parks and camping sites (-79,8%) and other accommodation (-74,9%). Other accommodation includes lodges, bed-and-breakfast, self-catering, and 'other' establishments not classified.

**Table 7: Income from Accommodation (Excluding restaurants, bar sales and other income: August 2020)**

Type of Accommodation (R million)	August 2020 Accommodation only	August 2019 Accommodation only	% Change August 2020 compared to August 2019
Hotels	R181,2	R1 309,5	-86,2%
Caravan parks and camping sites	R4,2	R20,8	-79,8%
Guest houses and guest farms	R12,1	R70,2	-82,8%
Other accommodation	R167,0	R666,6	-74,9%
<b>Total Industry</b>	<b>R364,5</b>	<b>R2 067,1</b>	<b>-82,4%</b>

Source: Stats SA: Accommodation data cuts, 19th October 2020

The percentage change of income from the accommodation industry (excluding restaurants, bar sales and other income) from January to August 2020 is provided in Table 8. Income from accommodation increased by 4,7% and 8,1% during January and February 2020 respectively compared to the same

months last year. This was an improvement compared to a decline recorded during the same months in 2019 compared to 2018.

From March to August 2020 compared to the same months in 2019, income from accommodation declined, and the highest decline was in May (-98,1%) and April (-98,0%) 2020. Although the income from accommodation continued to decrease over the months, the August 2020 decline was the lowest since April 2020, and this could be due to the easing of regulations and the move to levels 3 and 2 lockdown restrictions. From 18 August 2020 hotels and other accommodation facilities were reopened for leisure travel between provinces and this might have led to the improvement in income losses.

**Table 8: Year on Year Change in income from Accommodation**

Month	2019	2020
January	-3,4%	4,7%
February	-3,2%	8,1%
March	0,2%	-41,7%
April	2,7%	-98,0%
May	3,1%	-98,1%
June	7,2%	-94,2%
July	2,8%	-91,0%
August	4,7%	-82,4%

Source: Stats SA: Tourist Accommodation (Preliminary) August 2020

#### **ACCOMMODATION INDUSTRY OCCUPANCY RATE: AUGUST 2020 COMPARED TO AUGUST 2019**

Table 9 indicates occupancy rates by accommodation type from March-August 2020 compared to March-August 2019 period. In August 2020, the total accommodation occupancy rate was 9,9% which was a decline compared to 48,0% in August 2019. The occupancy rate of all accommodation establishments was at its lowest from March to August 2020 compared to the same months last year. The lowest occupancy rate was recorded in April (1,4%) and May 2020 (1,2%). However, despite low occupancy rate over months, there was an improvement of month to month occupancy rate between June and August 2020, with the latter recording an improvement (9, 9%) since April 2020.

**Table 9: Occupancy Rate: March-August 2020 compared to March-August 2019**

Month	Hotel	Caravan Parks and Camping Sites	Guest-Houses and Guest Farms	Other Accommodation	Total Accommodation
March 2020	30,5%	25,3%	25,1%	32,9%	30,4%
March 2019	51,6%	31,1%	40,5%	51,7%	49,8%
April 2020	1,70%	0,30%	0,80%	1,00%	1,40%
April 2019	48,9%	29,3%	33,0%	48,7%	46,7%
May 2020	1,3%	0,3%	0,3%	1,2%	1,2%
May 2019	44,8%	29,9%	30,1%	43,5%	42,6%
June 2020	4,1%	0,3%	1,3%	3,9%	3,6%
June 2019	47,1%	32,8%	32,4%	47,6%	45,5%
July 2020	6,1%	0,2%	3,9%	5,1%	5,4%
July 2019	46,9	29,3%	32,9%	50,0%	45,8%
August 2020	9,2%	4,8%	4,1%	14,3%	9,9%
August 2019	49,2%	29,8%	32,9%	53,2%	48,0%

Source: Stats SA: Accommodation data cuts, 19th October 2020

## 2.2 FOOD AND BEVERAGE INDUSTRY

### FOOD AND BEVERAGES INDUSTRY INCOME: AUGUST 2020 COMPARED TO AUGUST 2019

The results in Table 10 give the total income of the food and beverages industry in August 2020, which was about R 2 583,4 million, mainly a decrease of -44,8% when compared to R4 678,1 million in August 2019. All categories of food and beverages showed a decline in income with catering services having the highest decrease of -66,1%, followed by restaurants and coffee shops (-62,7%) and take-away and fast food outlets (-8,5%).

**Table 10: Total income by type of food and beverage industry: August 2020 compared to August 2019**

Categories of Food and Beverages	Aug-20	Aug-19	% Change
Catering services (R million)	R250,8	R738,9	-66,1%
Take-away and fast food outlets (R million)	R1 458,9	R1 595,2	-8,5%
Restaurants and coffee shops (R million)	R873,7	R2 344,0	-62,7%
Total Industry (R million)	R2 583,4	R4 678,1	-44,8%

Source: Stats SA: Food and beverages data cuts, 19th October 2020

## 2.3 AVIATION

### PASSENGER ARRIVALS MOVEMENT: AUGUST 2020 COMPARED TO AUGUST 2019

Table 11 gives the total passenger arrivals at Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) airports during August 2020 compared to August 2019. Total passenger arrivals decreased by -89,2%, from 1 793 285 in August 2019 to 194 290 in August 2020. As mentioned previously, South Africa was under lockdown level 3 in the month of August, which prevented the movement of people across the borders. **Annexure A** provides a list of flights, from the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, arriving in South Africa during August 2020 to repatriate South Africans who were in other countries. According to country's Risk Adjustment Strategy there was also limited domestic air travel, with a restriction on the number of flights per day and travel authorisation was mainly based on the reason for travel and subject to the ports of entry arrangements (South Africa government, 2020). The number of domestic passengers recorded in August 2020 were 185 902, which was a decrease of -85,0%, compared to 1 237 706 passengers in August 2019.

**Table 11: Arriving Passengers: August 2020 compared to August 2019**

Arriving Passengers	AUGUST 2020	AUGUST 2019	% Change August 2020 compared to August 2019
International	290	493 300	-99,9%
Regional	0	56 698	-100,0%
Domestic	185 902	1 237 706	-85,0%
Unscheduled	8 098	5 581	45,1%
Total	194 290	1 793 285	-89,2%

Source: Stats SA: ACSAs data cuts, August 2020

### PASSENGER DEPARTURE MOVEMENT: AUGUST 2020 COMPARED TO AUGUST 2019

Table 12 shows the total passenger departing from Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) airports during August 2020 compared to August 2019. Total departing passengers decreased by -88,9%, from 1 843 819 in August 2019 to 203 820 in August 2020. As mentioned previously South Africa was under lockdown 3 and 2 in the month of August which prevented the movement of people across the

borders, including provincial borders. There were no regional passengers departing from ACSA airports and only 15 international passengers departed during August 2020.

**Table 12: Departing Passengers: August 2020 compared to August 2019**

Departing Passengers	AUGUST 2020	AUGUST 2019	% Change August 2020 compared to August 2019
<b>International</b>	15	544 585	-99,997%
<b>Regional</b>	0	52 659	-100,0%
<b>Domestic</b>	186 911	1 240 668	-84,9%
<b>Unscheduled</b>	16 894	5 907	186,0%
<b>Total</b>	203 820	1 843 819	-88,9%

Source: Stats SA: ACSAs data cuts August 2020

Due to the restrictions of provincial travel, 186 911 domestic passengers departed in August 2020, which was a decline of -84,9% compared to 1 240 668 domestic travellers in August 2019. The number of passengers on unscheduled flights increased by 186,0%; from 5 907 in August 2019 to 16 894 in August 2020. The increase in unscheduled flights in August 2020 could be due to arranged flights by the different embassies in South Africa for travellers who were unable to leave South Africa because of the lockdown restrictions put in place. Some of the flights include:

- 21 Aug 2020 Johannesburg (JNB) Doha (DOH) Qatar Airways
- 22 Aug 2020 Johannesburg (JNB) Amsterdam (AMS) KLM
- 23 Aug 2020 Johannesburg (JNB) Addis Ababa (ADD) Ethiopian Airlines
- 23 Aug 2020 Cape Town (CPT) Addis Ababa (ADD) Ethiopian Airlines
- 23 Aug 2020 Cape Town (CPT) Amsterdam (AMS) KLM
- 23 Aug 2020 Johannesburg (JNB) Istanbul (IST) Turkish Airlines
- 24 Aug 2020 Johannesburg (JNB) Dubai (DXB) Emirates Airlines
- 24 Aug 2020 Johannesburg (JNB) Doha (DOH) Qatar Airways
- 26 Aug 2020 Johannesburg (JNB) Dubai (DXB) Emirates Airlines
- 26 Aug 2020 Johannesburg (JNB) Addis Ababa (ADD) Ethiopian Airlines
- 27 Aug 2020 Cape Town (CPT) Istanbul (IST) Turkish Airlines
- 28 Aug 2020 Johannesburg (JNB) Dubai (DXB) Emirates Airlines
- 29 Aug 2020 Johannesburg (JNB) Amsterdam (AMS) KLM
- 30 Aug 2020 Johannesburg (JNB) Addis Ababa (ADD) Ethiopian Airlines
- 30 Aug 2020 Cape Town (CPT) Amsterdam (AMS) KLM
- 31 Aug 2020 Johannesburg (JNB) Dubai (DXB) Emirates Airlines

Source: <https://za.usembassy.gov/health-alert-upcoming-repatriation-flights-u-s-embassy-pretoria-south-africa-august-19-2020/>

**Annexure A: Arriving Flights with repatriated South Africans; AUGUST 2020**

<b>1 August 2020</b>
A flight from Namibia repatriated three South Africans
A flight from the UAE repatriated 114 South Africans
A flight from Somalia repatriated 26 South Africans
A flight from the DRC repatriated 13 South Africans
A flight from Cuba repatriated 235 South Africans
A flight from the Netherlands repatriated 123 South Africans
<b>2 August 2020</b>
A flight from Cuba repatriated 21 South Africans
A flight from Angola repatriated 39 South Africans
<b>3 August 2020</b>
A flight from Namibia repatriated 42 South Africans
A flight from Zimbabwe repatriated 31 South Africans
<b>4 August 2020</b>
A flight from Madagascar repatriated 14 South Africans
A flight from Malawi and Mozambique repatriated 14 South Africans
A flight from Somalia repatriated 123 South Africans
<b>5 August 2020</b>
A flight from Zambia repatriated 30 South Africans
A flight from the DRC repatriated 18 South Africans
<b>6 August 2020</b>
A flight from Ethiopia repatriated 40 South Africans
A flight from Namibia repatriated 36 South Africans
A flight from France repatriated one South African
A flight from Turkey repatriated 63 South Africans
A flight from Equatorial Guinea repatriated 10 South Africans
A flight from the UAE repatriated 237 South Africans
A flight from the DRC repatriated nine South Africans
A flight from Guinea repatriated eight South Africans
<b>7 August 2020</b>
A flight from Zambia repatriated 16 South Africans
A flight from Tanzania repatriated 22 South Africans
A flight from the Netherlands repatriated 139 South Africans
<b>8 August 2020</b>
A flight from the Netherlands repatriated 78 South Africans
<b>9 August 2020</b>
A flight from Turkey repatriated 40 South Africans
<b>10 August 2020</b>
A flight from Tanzania repatriated 25 South Africans
A flight from Uganda repatriated six South Africans
A flight from Qatar repatriated 285 South Africans
A flight from Angola repatriated four South Africans
<b>11 August 2020</b>
A flight from Namibia repatriated 43 South Africans
<b>12 August 2020</b>
A flight from Ethiopia repatriated 11 South Africans



A flight from Mozambique repatriated 31 South Africans
A flight from Cuba repatriated 290 South Africans
A flight from Ethiopia repatriated 35 South Africans
<b>13 August 2020</b>
A flight from Germany repatriated 82 South Africans
A flight from Mauritius repatriated 19 South Africans
A flight from Namibia repatriated 10 South Africans
A flight from Turkey repatriated 23 South Africans
<b>14 August 2020</b>
A flight from Namibia repatriated 23 South Africans
A flight from Zimbabwe repatriated 38 South Africans
A flight from Angola repatriated 47 South Africans
A flight from Malawi repatriated 13 South Africans
A flight from Qatar repatriated 286 South Africans
A flight from the Netherlands repatriated 140 South Africans
<b>15 August 2020</b>
A flight from France repatriated 38 South Africans
A flight from the USA repatriated two South Africans
A flight from Angola repatriated 71 South Africans
A flight from the Netherlands repatriated 113 South Africans
<b>16 August 2020</b>
A flight from Angola repatriated eight South Africans
A flight from Ethiopia repatriated 14 South Africans
A flight from Namibia repatriated 46 South Africans.

Source: [http://www.dirco.gov.za/repatriation\\_newsletters/2020/repatriation-newsletter12\\_17\\_August-2020.pdf](http://www.dirco.gov.za/repatriation_newsletters/2020/repatriation-newsletter12_17_August-2020.pdf)

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