

# SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF SOUTH AFRICA’S TRAVELLERS (ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES) DURING SEPTEMBER 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 September 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 September 2020, and this report provides an analysis of these travellers. The country borders was opened on level 1 for all travellers including leisure as of 01 October 2020 therefore the next monthly report will include an analysis of tourist arrivals. A detailed quarterly performance report for July-September 2020 will be published at the end of December 2020. Annexure one provides a list of the indicators to be include in the quarterly performance report.

## TOTAL TRAVELLERS: SEPTEMBER 2020 COMPARED SEPTEMBER 2019

Table 1 indicates that in September 2020 there was a total of 149 267 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) that passed through South African ports of entry, which was a decline of -93,7% compared to 2 378 323 travellers recorded in September 2019. Further analysis on the total travellers, including South African residents and foreign arrivals, is provided in Table 2 and 3 respectively.

**Table 1: Total Arrivals, Departures and Transits: September 2020 compared to September 2019**

Total Travellers	September-20	September-19	% Change
	149 267	2 378 323	-93,7%

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

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

Table 2 shows that there was a total of 70 391 of South African resident travellers (arrivals and departures) in September 2020, and this was a decrease of -93,4% (-994 774) compared to the same month last year. Further analysis showed a decline of -93,8% of South African arrivals while departures decreased by -93,0% during the reporting period, with no South Africans on transit in September 2020.

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

South Africa Residents	September-20	September-19	% Change
Arrivals	33 238	532 228	-93,8%
Departures	37 153	532 049	-93,0%
Transits	0	888	-100,0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>70 391</b>	<b>1 065 165</b>	<b>-93,4%</b>

*Source: Stats SA Tourism and Migration report, September 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: SEPTEMBER 2020 COMPARED TO SEPTEMBER 2019

Table 3 shows foreign travellers by arrival, departure and transit for September 2020 compared to September 2019. Total foreign travellers decreased from 2 378 323 in 2019 to 149 267 in 2020, which was a decline of -93,7% (-2 229 056). Further breakdown of the results indicated that the number of foreign arrivals and departures declined by -93,8% and -93,2% respectively during September 2020. There was a total of 85 transit foreign travellers recorded in September 2020.

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

Foreign Travellers	September-20	September-19	% Change
Arrivals	75 273	1 219 616	-93,8%
Departures	73 909	1 080 483	-93,2%
Transits	85	78 224	-99,9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>149 267</b>	<b>2 378 323</b>	<b>-93,7%</b>

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

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

Table 4 gives foreign arrivals by region and mode of transport for September 2020. A total of 75 273 foreign arrivals was reported in September 2020 as previously indicated. Of this total, a majority of foreign arrivals, 73 090 (97,1% share), were from Africa, and only 2 084 (2,8% share) were from overseas. Most of the foreign arrivals from the Africa region used road transport (72 553) while a majority of arrivals from overseas used air transport (1 403).

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

Region	Total	Air	Road	Sea
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>2 084</b>	<b>1 403</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>415</b>
Europe	1 006	770	72	164
North America	139	126	12	1
Central and South America	17	13	3	1
Australasia	19	16	2	1
Middle East	101	81	3	17
Asia	802	397	174	231
<b>Africa</b>	<b>73 090</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>72 553</b>	<b>14</b>
Unspecified	99	78	21	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>75 273</b>	<b>2 004</b>	<b>72 840</b>	<b>429</b>

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

**ANNEXURE 1: INDICATORS TO BE REPORTED TO BE IN THE QUARTERLY TOURISM PERFORMANCE REPORT:  
JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020**

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Data Source</b>
<b>South Africa Tourist Arrivals Performance</b>	
South Africa Foreign Arrivals (July-September 2020) <b>Note:</b> Tourists were not permitted entry into South Africa during this period therefore foreign arrivals are reported in this section	Statistics South Africa: Tourism and Migration report
<b>South Africa related tourism industries performance</b>	
Total income from Accommodation, total stay units available and occupancy rates by type of accommodation	Statistics South Africa: Accommodation Report
Total Income from Food and Beverages by type	Statistics South Africa: Food and Beverages report
Aviation (Total passengers and total aircraft movements)	Airports Company South Africa
<b>South Africa direct tourism employment estimates</b>	
Tourism Employment	Statistics South Africa: Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS), quarter three: 2020
<b>Global inbound tourism performance</b>	
Global Tourist arrivals	UNWTO Barometer
<b>Global related tourism industries performance</b>	
Aviation -Revenue passenger kilometres - Available Seat per Kilometre - Passenger load factor	IATA: Air Passenger Market Analysis

**REFERENCES**

1. Statistics South Africa. September 2020. Monthly Tourism and Migration report.