

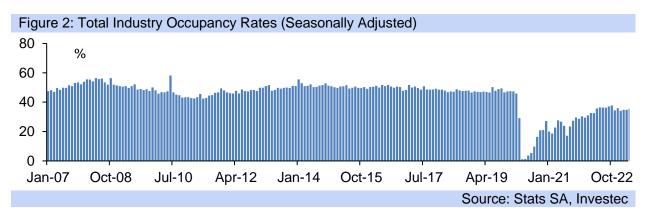
## Tourism update: income from tourist accommodation rose by 30.9% y/y in April



20 June 2023



- Income derived from the domestic tourist accommodation industry (accommodation only) eased moderately when measured on an annual basis (in nominal terms) in April. However, it still grew by 30.9% y/y, evincing the notable rebound in this significant sector of the economy, with receipts nearing pre-pandemic levels.
- All accommodation types surveyed rose on a y/y basis in April, however the primary contributors to April's 30.9% y/y lift were the hotels category and the "other" accommodation category (which includes lodges, bed-and-breakfast establishments, self-catering establishments and 'other' establishments not elsewhere classified). Specifically, they increased by 31.3% y/y and 33.7% respectively.
- Indeed, routine data gathered by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) reveals that 2 676 540 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit during the month of April. This represents an increase of 9.5% m/m and 57.7% y/y respectively.
- Looking at tourist numbers specifically, there was a notable 65.4% y/y climb between April 2023 and April 2022. Those emanating from 'overseas' countries rose by 34.4% y/y during the month, with travellers from Europe comprising the largest share (over 60% of all 'overseas tourists') led by the UK and Germany.
- Moreover, tourists travelling from African nations rose by 77.3% y/y in April, with those stemming from SADC countries making up the majority.
- These numbers reflect a buoyant tourism industry with significant potential. Tourism Minister Patricia De Lille recently published a statement on progress in the industry. She stated that "... we are committed to doing more to grow the tourism numbers and the sector even more to make a greater contribution to the country's Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan."
- She noted that in April, together with the President she signed a new performance agreement, containing "key priorities to recover and grow the tourism sector" and she elaborated on the progress in these key areas. Indeed, the reduction of red tape, Infrastructure development and maintenance, tourism safety, improving air access and branding and communication are imperative to increase the country's competitive position and attract more travellers.





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