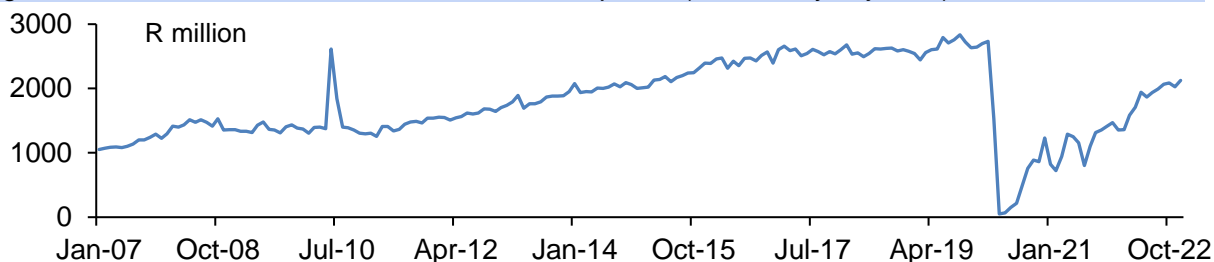




Tourism update: tourist numbers were up 152.6% y/y in 2022

20 February 2023

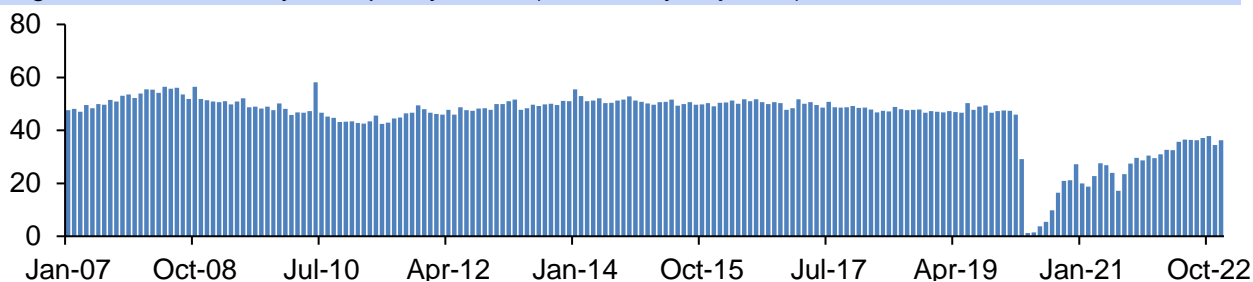
Figure 1: Income from accommodation at current prices (Seasonally adjusted)



Source: Stats SA

- Income derived from the tourist accommodation industry (accommodation only) grew by 5.1% when measured on a month-on-month seasonally adjusted (mmsa) basis during the month of December, this compared to -2.8% mmsa (nominal terms).
- Indeed, at R2 128.6 million (seasonally adjusted, current prices), receipts from the accommodation industry are nearing pre-pandemic levels, while hotel occupancy levels rose above 40% (on a seasonally adjusted basis) in December.
- Routine data gathered by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) indicates that 2 881 887 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit during the seasonally significant month of December, which sees domestic travellers and international holidaymakers flock to South Africa's tourist hotspots. This represents a 37.7% m/m increase and a 146.1% y/y lift.
- Looking at tourist numbers specifically, there was a 157.6% annual increase and a 19.8% m/m lift in December. For the year as a whole (2022), tourist arrivals climbed by 152.6% y/y.
- Specifically, those emanating from 'overseas' countries rose by 284.0% y/y, with travellers from Europe making up the largest share (around 62.1%). Travellers from the UK reached 283 031 in 2022, followed by Germany (173 146), the Netherlands (90 289) and France (76 077).
- Moreover, tourists travelling from African nations rose by 126.2% y/y between January and December 2022, with those stemming from SADC countries making up the majority.
- The tourism sector remains a key growth area for the country with the potential for significant job creation at all skill levels. Upgrading aging or damaged infrastructure, addressing crime and reducing red tape (amongst others) remain key and are essential to attract investment into the sector and entice travellers.
- On the issue of crime, the President in his State of the Nation Address stated that they are "strengthening the SAPS to prevent crime and improving the capacity of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and courts to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice". Including "putting more police on the streets and setting up specialised teams that will focus on specific types of crime".

Figure 2: Total Industry Occupancy Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Stats SA, Investec

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