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KEY FINDINGS

1. Number of travellers

The December 2007 data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 2 756 679 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through the ports of entry. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 1 033 807 South African residents and 1 722 872 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures indicates that 459 365 and 574 442 South African resident arrivals and departures respectively were recorded. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals and departures are 890 391 and 832 481. A comparison between the movements in November 2007 and December 2007 indicates that there was an increase in all movements. The December 2007 figure (459 365) for South African resident arrivals shows an increase of 3,9% compared to the December 2006 figure of 442 149. Similarly, there was an increase of 5,4% for foreign arrivals from 844 665 in December 2006 to 890 391 in December 2007.

2. Mode of travel

It is observed from Table 2 that road transport was the most common (69,7%) mode of travel used by 1 921 911 out of the 2 756 679 travellers. The arrival data on South African residents show that 36,7% came by air and 63,1% by road. For their departure, 34,0% and 65,9% used air and road transport respectively. When taking into consideration the countries of residence of travellers, it was found that for foreign arrivals, overseas travellers generally used air (89,1%) compared to road transport (10,7%) whereas travellers from Africa used road (91,1%) more than air transport (7,3%). Information on specific countries from which travellers came from and the mode of travel used is provided in Table 3.

3. Foreign arrivals

The data on travellers received from the DHA do not provide detailed information on departures; neither do they provide any information other than total numbers, travel direction and mode of travel of South African residents. Therefore the following findings pertain to foreign arrivals.

Data presented in Table 3 show that more than two thirds (74,6%) of foreign arrivals were from Africa whilst almost a quarter (24,8%) were from overseas countries. Information on the country of residence was not available on 0,6% of the travellers. A comparison of the changes between December 2006 and December 2007 indicates that the number of overseas arrivals increased by 0,2% from 219 933 in 2006 to 220 330 in 2007. Arrivals from Africa increased by 7,0% from 621 256 in December 2006 to 664 581 in December 2007.

3.1 Gender and age distribution

The travellers from Africa comprised of 346 336 males, 316 928 females and 1 317 with unspecified gender. The data on overseas travellers had 119 742 males, 100 279 females and gender was not specified in 309 cases. Overall, more males than females from African (males: 52,1%; females: 47,7%) and overseas countries (males: 54,3%; females: 45,5%) came to South Africa. The age distribution of foreign arrivals presented in Figure 1 shows that travellers from Africa are generally younger compared to those from overseas. Thus the bulk (84,5%) of African travellers is clustered between ages 15-54, peaking at age group 25-29. However, the age distribution of overseas travellers is widely spread. Thus 76,8% of overseas travellers is between ages 20 to 64 years, peaking at the age group 40-44. The percentage of older persons (65 years and older) from overseas countries was significantly higher (7,3%) compared to that among persons from Africa (2,4%). This would have implications for spending capacity.

3.2 Regional and national distribution

Overseas travellers came mainly from Europe (68,2%), followed by North America (12,2%), Asia (9,2%), Australasia (6,0%), Central and South America (2,5%) and Middle East (1,9%). Virtually all arrivals (97,9%) from Africa came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining arrivals from Africa is as follows: East and Central Africa (1,0%), West Africa (1,0%) and North Africa (0,1%). December data for the past five years (See figure 2) reveal that, arrivals from 'other' African countries have been quite stable unlike from SADC countries that have been escalating since 2004. The number of travellers from overseas countries has been increasing gradually since December 2005. Data presented in Figure 3 indicate that the UK, Germany, USA, Netherlands, Australia, France, Sweden and Canada were the eight leading overseas source countries. Travellers from these eight countries constitute 67,9% of all travellers from overseas. The number of travellers from these leading overseas

source countries decreased with the exception of Germany (7,1% increase from 23 951 in December 2006 to 25 660 in December 2007), Australia (10,0% increase from 9 475 in December 2006 to 10 427 in December 2007) and Sweden (18,9% increase from 5 846 in December 2006 to 6 949 in December 2007).

The eight leading source countries from SADC were Lesotho, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Malawi as shown in Figure 4. Travellers from the eight SADC countries made up 96,5% of all arrivals from Africa. The number of travellers from these SADC countries increased except Namibia (3,5% decline from 28 426 in December 2006 to 27 445 in December 2007). The eight leading source countries from 'other' African countries, shown in Figure 5, are Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia, Congo and Cameroon. The number of travellers from 'other' African countries increased with the exception of Congo (40,7% decline from 821 in December 2006 to 487 in December 2007) and Nigeria (2,2% decline from 3 779 in December 2006 to 3 695 in December 2007).

3.3 Purpose of travel

As observed from data given in Table 4, an overwhelming majority (94,8%) of foreign arrivals was admitted into South Africa on visitors' temporary residence permit. These visitors are mainly made up of same-day travellers as well as tourists. This is in vast contrast to those on business (1,7%), those who have come for work (1,0%) and those who have come to study (0,7%).

Overall, 95,4% of overseas travellers came to South Africa to visit. A detailed analysis reveals that all the overseas regions had more than 85,0% travellers coming to South Africa for holidays. Travellers from Australasia (98,2%), Europe (96,5%), North America (96,1%), Central and South America (95,9%), the Middle East (93,9%) and Asia (85,2%) were admitted into South Africa as visitors. Travellers from Asia were more diverse in their purpose for instance, 9,5% of travellers came into the country for work, 3,2% for business and 0,8% for study.

Although the majority (95,2%) of African travellers came into the country on visitors' permits, there is a significant difference between travellers from SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 95,4% of travellers from the SADC countries were recorded as on holiday, 87,0% of travellers from 'other' African countries were admitted on visitor's permit. Proportionally, the lowest percentage (81,1%) of visitors came from North Africa, a region where, a large percentage of travellers were in South Africa as business persons (9,3%).
- A relatively higher percentage of 'other' African than SADC travellers were here to study, work or for business.
- Overall, East and Central Africa and West Africa had 3,6% each of travellers who were in South Africa for business as compared to only 1,6% among the SADC travellers.

4. Annual overview for 2007

The number of foreign arrivals increased by 8,2% from 8 508 806 in 2006 to 9 207 698 in 2007. Foreign departures increased by 6,9% from 7 501 755 in 2006 to 8 022 796 in 2007 as shown in table 1. Figure 6 shows trends in foreign arrivals and departures for the years 2006 and 2007. It is observed that there was an increase in the number of foreign arrivals and departures for 2007 as compared to 2006. The lowest and highest number of foreign movements in and out of South Africa were recorded in June and December respectively.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Figure 1: Percentage distribution of overseas and African arrivals by age groups in December 2007

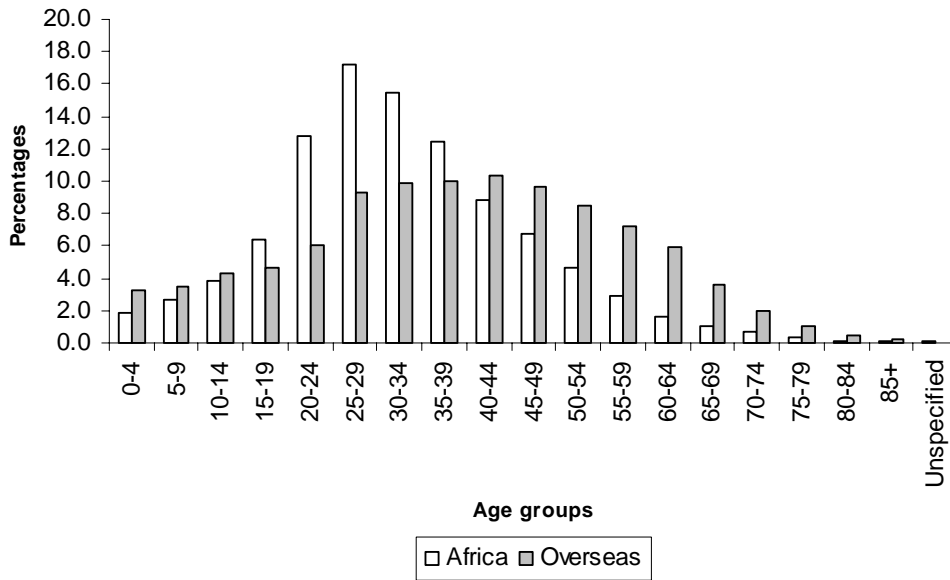


Figure 2: Number of December arrivals by region (2003 - 2007)

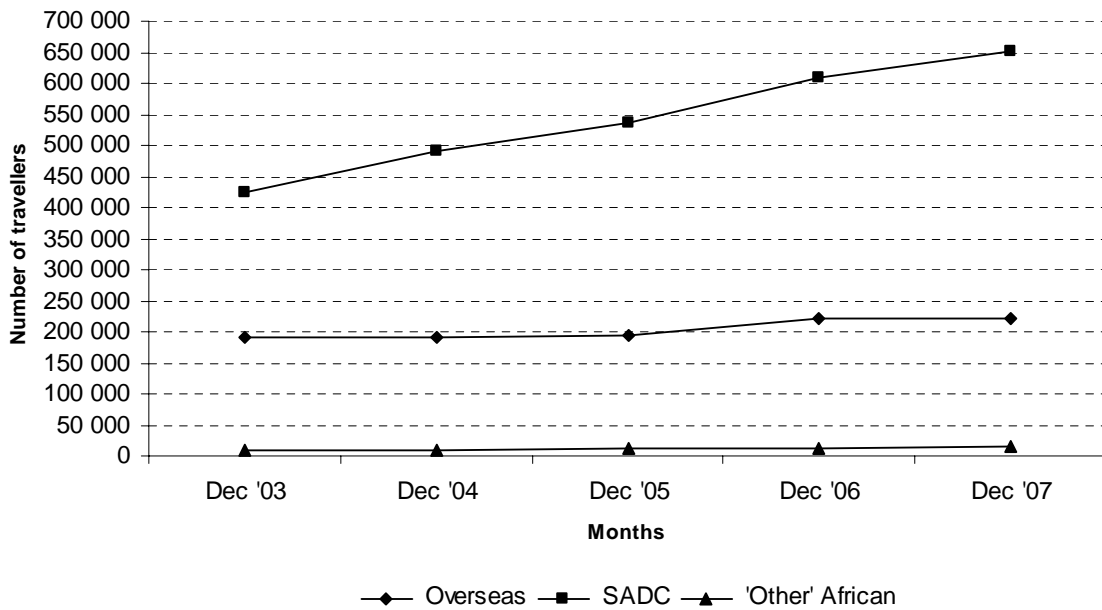


Figure 3: Number of overseas travellers arriving from leading source countries in December 2007 compared to December 2006

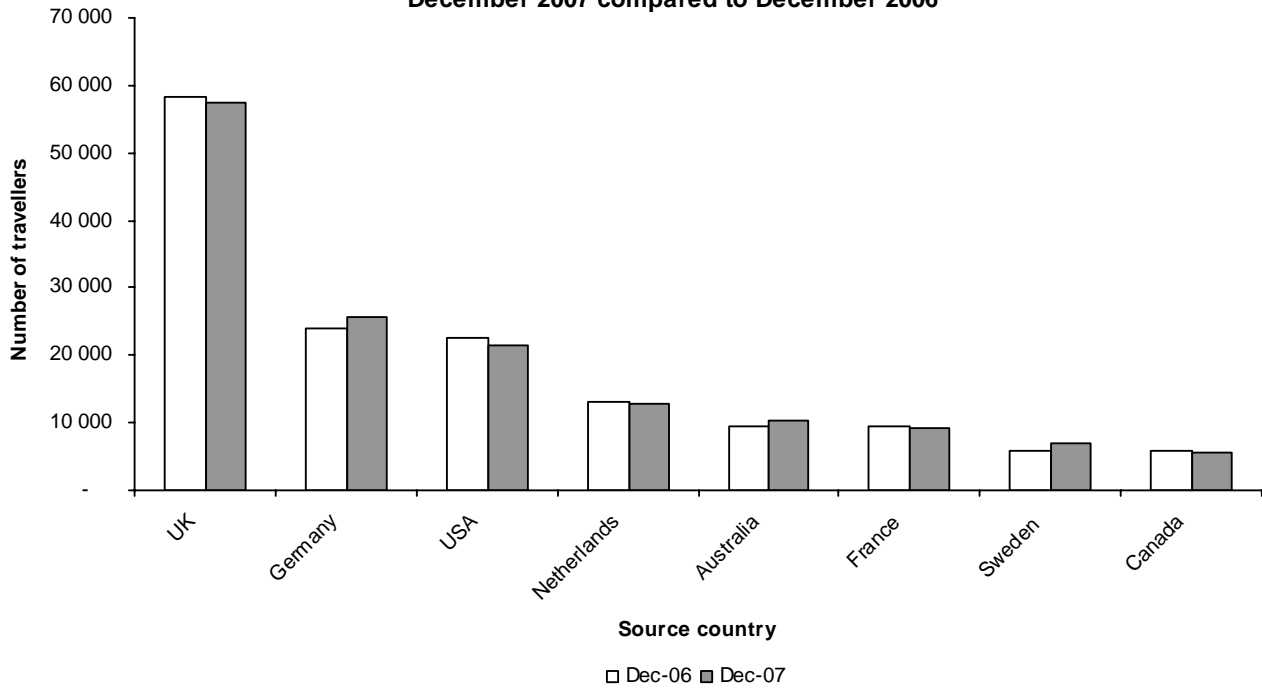


Figure 4: Number of travellers from SADC countries arriving from leading source countries in December 2007 compared to December 2006

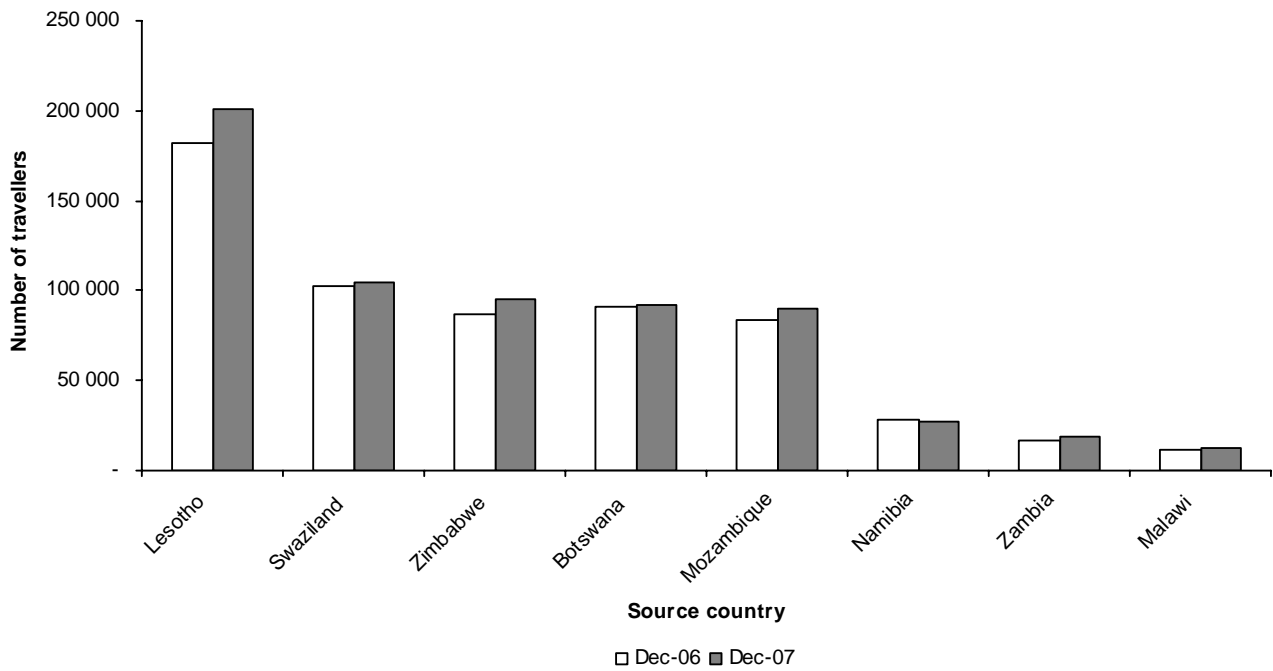


Figure 5: Number of travellers from 'other' African countries arriving from leading source countries in December 2007 compared to December 2006

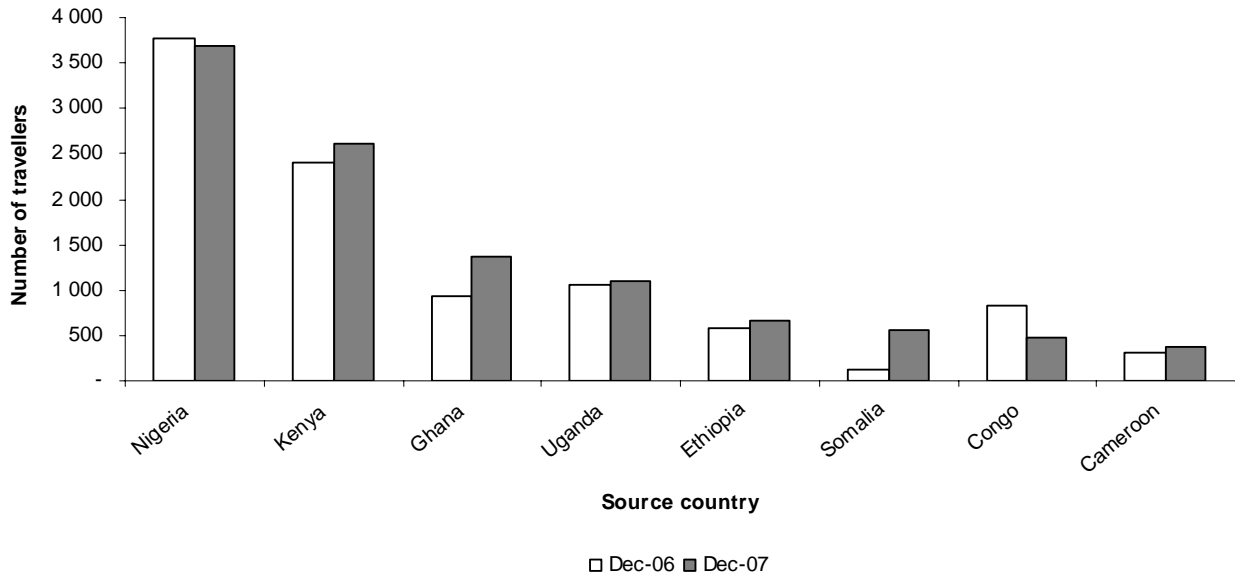


Figure 6: Foreign arrivals and departures according to month of travel for 2006 and 2007

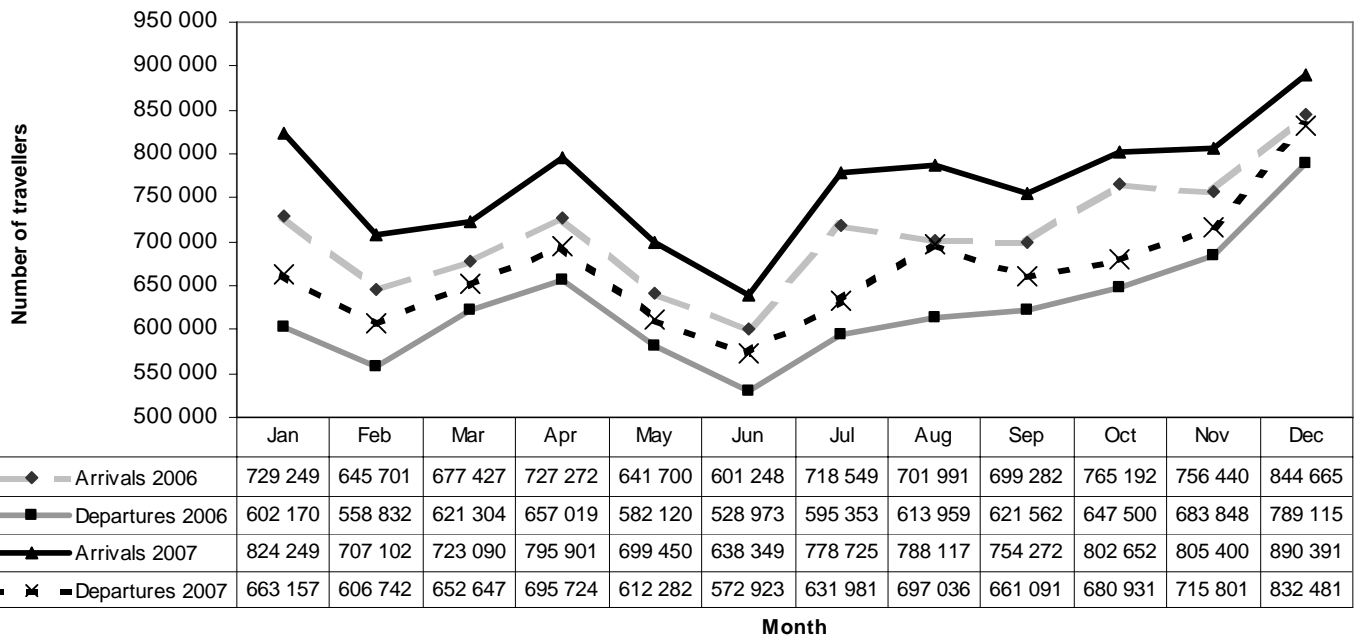


Table 1. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction

Travel direction	December	November	December	% change	% change	Year		%change
	2006	2007	2007	Dec 06–Dec 07	Nov 07–Dec 07	2006	2007	2006-2007
South African residents								
Arrivals	442 149	321 643	459 365	3,9	42,8	4 317 475	4 448 832	3,0
Departures	599 363	339 473	574 442	-4,2	69,2	4 338 914	4 433 492	2,2
Foreign travellers								
Arrivals	844 665	805 400	890 391	5,4	10,6	8 508 806	9 207 698	8,2
Departures	789 115	715 801	832 481	5,5	16,3	7 501 755	8 022 796	6,9
Grand total	2 675 292	2 182 317	2 756 679	3,0	26,3	24 666 950	26 112 818	5,9

Table 2. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel

Travel direction	Total	Mode of travel (December 2007)								
		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
		(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Grand total	2 756 679	160 585	4 543	646 732	8 167	820 027	265	1 921 911	209	14 267
Arrivals:	1 349 756	85 222	2 119	323 218	4 128	414 687	9	920 829	107	14 124
South African residents	459 365	20 835	1 569	143 211	2 950	168 565	-	289 742	34	1 024
Foreign travellers	890 391	64 387	550	180 007	1 178	246 122	9	631 087	73	13 100
Overseas	220 330	62 172	276	133 349	602	196 399	3	23 566	69	293
Africa	664 581	2 153	273	45 496	537	48 459	6	605 639	4	10 473
Unspecified	5 480	62	1	1 162	39	1 264	-	1 882	-	2 334
Departures:	1 406 923	75 363	2 424	323 514	4 039	405 340	256	1 001 082	102	143
South African residents	574 442	22 571	2 046	167 891	2 893	195 401	178	378 790	22	51
Foreign travellers	832 481	52 792	378	155 623	1 146	209 939	78	622 292	80	92

Table 3. Number of foreign arrivals by country and mode of travel

Country	Mode of travel (December 2007)										
	December		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2006	2007	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Grand total	844 665	890 391	64 387	550	180 007	1 178	246 122	9	631 087	73	13 100
Overseas total	219 933	220 330	62 172	276	133 349	602	196 399	3	23 566	69	293
Europe	150 781	150 225	54 512	136	79 376	322	134 346	2	15 766	46	65
Austria	2 126	2 205	830	-	1 152	4	1 986	-	219	-	-
Belgium	3 869	3 787	955	2	2 200	14	3 171	-	611	-	5
Denmark	2 339	2 201	715	1	1 236	13	1 965	-	234	-	2
France	9 437	9 171	1 483	48	6 760	32	8 323	-	845	-	3
Germany	23 951	25 660	11 300	5	10 798	44	22 147	-	3 499	6	8
Greece	1 515	1 069	69	-	875	1	945	-	123	-	1
Ireland	5 543	5 443	2 936	7	2 071	5	5 019	-	423	-	1
Italy	5 499	4 842	1 263	6	3 202	4	4 475	-	366	-	1
Netherlands	13 063	12 825	4 578	4	6 118	5	10 705	2	2 111	1	6
Portugal	3 403	3 079	207	11	1 611	11	1 840	-	1 233	-	6
Spain	2 544	2 340	351	2	1 804	5	2 162	-	178	-	-
Sweden	5 846	6 949	3 115	3	3 099	9	6 226	-	707	15	1
Switzerland	4 154	3 973	1 157	2	2 261	16	3 436	-	535	-	2
UK	58 277	57 563	22 513	45	31 072	128	53 758	-	3 764	18	23
Other	9 215	9 118	3 040	-	5 117	31	8 188	-	918	6	6
North America	28 421	26 967	3 605	23	20 532	168	24 328	-	2 590	6	43
Canada	5 742	5 500	1 115	6	3 756	42	4 919	-	576	-	5
USA	22 669	21 460	2 490	17	16 769	126	19 402	-	2 014	6	38
Other	10	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-	-	-
Central and South America	5 391	5 425	406	4	4 515	4	4 929	-	492	-	4
Argentina	621	646	210	-	391	-	601	-	45	-	-
Brazil	3 044	3 242	47	3	2 953	4	3 007	-	233	-	2
Chile	306	262	25	-	205	-	230	-	32	-	-
Other	1 420	1 275	124	1	966	-	1 091	-	182	-	2

Table 3. Number of foreign arrivals by country and mode of travel (continued)

Country	Mode of travel (December 2007)										
	December		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2006	2007	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Australasia	12 088	13 232	1 366	81	10 788	33	12 268	-	957	-	7
Australia	9 475	10 427	1 129	75	8 474	23	9 701	-	721	-	5
New Zealand	2 521	2 718	234	6	2 257	9	2 506	-	211	-	1
Other	92	87	3	-	57	1	61	-	25	-	1
Middle East	3 567	4 242	637	-	3 291	27	3 955	-	283	1	3
Israel	1 581	1 570	68	-	1 398	1	1 467	-	102	-	1
Saudi Arabia	312	405	25	-	346	20	391	-	14	-	-
Turkey	654	1 200	431	-	721	-	1 152	-	48	-	-
Other	1 020	1 067	113	-	826	6	945	-	119	1	2
Asia	19 685	20 239	1 646	32	14 847	48	16 573	1	3 478	16	171
China	3 428	4 401	149	-	3 740	1	3 890	-	469	-	42
Hong Kong	826	827	40	-	734	-	774	-	52	-	1
India	4 704	4 559	90	23	3 177	11	3 301	-	1 221	-	37
Japan	1 899	1 831	113	1	1 626	2	1 742	-	89	-	-
Malaysia	1 136	825	268	2	523	2	795	-	30	-	-
Philippines	885	771	59	-	464	5	528	1	194	11	37
Rep of China (Taiwan)	1 231	1 227	137	-	547	-	684	-	501	3	39
Rep of Korea	1 578	1 728	147	-	1 445	18	1 610	-	114	2	2
Singapore	867	1 221	368	-	810	2	1 180	-	41	-	-
Other	3 131	2 849	275	6	1 781	7	2 069	-	767	-	13

Table 3. Number of foreign arrivals by country and mode of travel (continued)

Country	Mode of travel (December 2007)										
	December		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2006	2007	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Africa total	621 256	664 581	2 153	273	45 496	537	48 459	6	605 639	4	10 473
SADC	608 474	650 714	2 029	259	34 963	493	37 744	6	602 553	3	10 408
Angola	2 292	2 608	109	-	2 292	19	2 420	-	188	-	-
Botswana	90 936	91 999	24	8	2 467	229	2 728	-	89 219	-	52
DRC	2 368	3 903	-	-	2 560	17	2 577	-	1 324	-	2
Lesotho	182 070	201 183	9	2	583	2	596	-	191 136	-	9 451
Madagascar	198	228	-	-	221	-	221	-	5	-	2
Malawi	11 091	12 788	5	-	1 956	5	1 966	-	10 819	-	3
Mauritius	1 297	1 451	317	164	752	1	1 234	-	209	2	6
Mozambique	83 736	89 702	129	64	2 296	42	2 531	-	86 724	-	447
Namibia	28 426	27 445	1 365	-	2 088	78	3 531	1	23 890	1	22
Swaziland	102 064	104 744	5	10	791	3	809	-	103 847	-	88
Tanzania	986	1 269	5	2	751	8	766	-	502	-	1
Zambia	16 377	18 361	15	1	7 231	13	7 260	-	11 094	-	7
Zimbabwe	86 633	95 033	46	8	10 975	76	11 105	5	83 596	-	327

Table 3. Number of foreign arrivals by country and mode of travel (continued)

Country	Mode of travel (December 2007)										
	December		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2006	2007	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
East and Central Africa	6 358	6 941	55	9	5 026	24	5 114	-	1 801	1	25
Burundi	139	91	1	-	45	-	46	-	45	-	-
Cameroon	314	379	3	-	330	1	334	-	45	-	-
Central African Rep	7	6	-	-	4	-	4	-	2	-	-
Chad	30	20	-	-	20	-	20	-	-	-	-
Comoros	17	21	-	-	20	-	20	-	1	-	-
Congo	821	487	7	-	348	2	357	-	130	-	-
Djibouti	7	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	27	29	-	-	7	-	7	-	22	-	-
Eritrea	90	73	-	-	41	2	43	-	30	-	-
Ethiopia	576	654	1	-	387	-	388	-	259	1	6
Gabon	189	293	-	-	293	-	293	-	-	-	-
Kenya	2 403	2 607	11	4	2 189	14	2 218	-	383	-	6
Reunion	28	87	15	4	67	-	86	-	1	-	-
Rwanda	234	253	1	-	209	4	214	-	39	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	12	12	-	-	10	-	10	-	2	-	-
Seychelles	299	275	8	-	261	-	269	-	6	-	-
Somalia	115	556	-	-	8	1	9	-	547	-	-
Tristan da Cunha	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uganda	1 047	1 095	8	1	787	-	796	-	286	-	13

Table 3. Number of foreign arrivals by country and mode of travel (concluded)

Country	Mode of travel (December 2007)										
	December		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2006	2007	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
West Africa	5 614	5 969	44	3	4 892	17	4 956	-	990	-	23
Ascension	-	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Benin	65	96	-	-	71	6	77	-	18	-	1
Burkina Faso	25	33	-	-	26	-	26	-	7	-	-
Cape Verde Island	54	53	5	-	39	-	44	-	9	-	-
Cote D'Ivoire	189	174	6	-	161	-	167	-	7	-	-
Gambia	52	38	1	-	31	-	32	-	6	-	-
Ghana	941	1 377	3	-	1 086	3	1 092	-	275	-	10
Guinea	68	121	-	-	56	-	56	-	65	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	21	19	-	-	10	-	10	-	9	-	-
Liberia	32	27	-	-	14	-	14	-	13	-	-
Madeira Island	7	7	3	-	2	-	5	-	2	-	-
Mali	80	60	2	-	41	1	44	-	15	-	1
Mauritania	10	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-	-	-
Niger	15	11	1	-	7	-	8	-	3	-	-
Nigeria	3 779	3 695	12	3	3 137	6	3 158	-	526	-	11
St Helena	18	13	6	-	-	-	6	-	7	-	-
Senegal	165	172	-	-	162	-	162	-	10	-	-
Sierra Leone	66	43	4	-	27	-	31	-	12	-	-
Togo	25	24	1	-	16	1	18	-	6	-	-
Western Sahara	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Africa	810	957	25	2	615	3	645	-	295	-	17
Algeria	175	304	4	-	84	2	90	-	207	-	7
Egypt	356	324	3	-	265	-	268	-	55	-	1
Libya	56	55	3	-	29	-	32	-	14	-	9
Morocco	61	84	10	-	64	-	74	-	10	-	-
Sudan	99	109	4	2	94	1	101	-	8	-	-
Tunisia	63	81	1	-	79	-	80	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	3 476	5 480	62	1	1 162	39	1 264	-	1 882	-	2 334

Table 4. Number of foreign arrivals by purpose of travel

Region	Total	Purpose of travel (December 2007)							Contract worker	Border Traffic
		Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
Grand total	890 391	14 760	844 397	6 086	9 265	2 758	102	877 368	-	13 023
Overseas total	220 330	3 463	210 275	835	4 991	513	7	220 084	-	246
Europe	150 225	2 152	144 942	507	2 304	264	5	150 174	-	51
North America	26 967	410	25 916	118	422	59	2	26 927	-	40
Central and South America	5 425	60	5 201	19	108	33	-	5 421	-	4
Australasia	13 232	113	13 000	17	78	19	-	13 227	-	5
Middle East	4 242	86	3 982	19	149	3	-	4 239	-	3
Asia	20 239	642	17 234	155	1 930	135	-	20 096	-	143
Africa total	664 581	11 260	632 667	4 561	3 326	2 234	90	654 138	-	10 443
SADC	650 714	10 704	620 597	4 199	2 635	2 150	44	640 329	-	10 385
East and Central Africa	6 941	253	6 140	175	282	22	44	6 916	-	25
West Africa	5 969	214	5 154	155	369	52	2	5 946	-	23
North Africa	957	89	776	32	40	10	-	947	-	10
Unspecified	5 480	37	1 455	690	948	11	5	3 146	-	2 334

Table 5. Number of foreign arrivals by country and purpose of travel

Country	December		Purpose of travel (December 2007)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
	2006	2007	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
Grand total	844 665	890 391	14 760	844 397	6 086	9 265	2 758	102	877 368	-	13 023
Overseas total	219 933	220 330	3 463	210 275	835	4 991	513	7	220 084	-	246
Europe	150 781	150 225	2 152	144 942	507	2 304	264	5	150 174	-	51
Austria	2 126	2 205	29	2 156	2	17	1	-	2 205	-	-
Belgium	3 869	3 787	60	3 652	11	55	9	-	3 787	-	-
Denmark	2 339	2 201	46	2 082	5	64	2	-	2 199	-	2
France	9 437	9 171	181	8 702	46	203	36	1	9 169	-	2
Germany	23 951	25 660	409	24 689	170	351	32	1	25 652	-	8
Greece	1 515	1 069	6	1 025	3	30	5	-	1 069	-	-
Ireland	5 543	5 443	40	5 353	10	37	2	-	5 442	-	1
Italy	5 499	4 842	87	4 673	14	55	12	-	4 841	-	1
Netherlands	13 063	12 825	142	12 490	41	132	16	-	12 821	-	4
Portugal	3 403	3 079	19	3 024	7	15	8	-	3 073	-	6
Spain	2 544	2 340	35	2 245	2	34	24	-	2 340	-	-
Sweden	5 846	6 949	79	6 779	12	73	4	1	6 948	-	1
Switzerland	4 154	3 973	63	3 850	14	43	1	-	3 971	-	2
UK	58 277	57 563	717	56 070	113	565	75	1	57 541	-	22
Other	9 215	9 118	239	8 152	57	630	37	1	9 116	-	2
North America	28 421	26 967	410	25 916	118	422	59	2	26 927	-	40
Canada	5 742	5 500	80	5 305	16	81	14	-	5 496	-	4
USA	22 669	21 460	330	20 604	102	341	45	2	21 424	-	36
Other	10	7	-	7	-	-	-	-	7	-	-
Central and South America	5 391	5 425	60	5 201	19	108	33	-	5 421	-	4
Argentina	621	646	8	621	5	12	-	-	646	-	-
Brazil	3 044	3 242	15	3 154	5	46	20	-	3 240	-	2
Chile	306	262	5	246	-	11	-	-	262	-	-
Other	1 420	1 275	32	1 180	9	39	13	-	1 273	-	2

Table 5. Number of foreign arrivals by country and purpose of travel (continued)

Country	December		Purpose of travel (December 2007)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
	2006	2007									
Australasia	12 088	13 232	113	13 000	17	78	19	-	13 227	-	5
Australia	9 475	10 427	99	10 239	9	59	18	-	10 424	-	3
New Zealand	2 521	2 718	12	2 684	4	16	1	-	2 717	-	1
Other	92	87	2	77	4	3	-	-	86	-	1
Middle East	3 567	4 242	86	3 982	19	149	3	-	4 239	-	3
Israel	1 581	1 570	20	1 501	3	43	2	-	1 569	-	1
Saudi Arabia	312	405	5	391	1	8	-	-	405	-	-
Turkey	654	1 200	17	1 131	6	46	-	-	1 200	-	-
Other	1 020	1 067	44	959	9	52	1	-	1 065	-	2
Asia	19 685	20 239	642	17 234	155	1 930	135	-	20 096	-	143
China	3 428	4 401	181	3 735	38	402	3	-	4 359	-	42
Hong Kong	826	827	7	815	1	3	-	-	826	-	1
India	4 704	4 559	275	3 751	26	444	29	-	4 525	-	34
Japan	1 899	1 831	42	1 659	10	119	1	-	1 831	-	-
Malaysia	1 136	825	16	790	1	16	2	-	825	-	-
Philippines	885	771	11	411	6	287	33	-	748	-	23
Rep of China (Taiwan)	1 231	1 227	17	956	11	199	14	-	1 197	-	30
Rep of Korea	1 578	1 728	19	1 593	41	65	8	-	1 726	-	2
Singapore	867	1 221	10	1 193	-	16	2	-	1 221	-	-
Other	3 131	2 849	64	2 331	21	379	43	-	2 838	-	11

Table 5. Number of foreign arrivals by country and purpose of travel (continued)

Country	December		Purpose of travel (December 2007)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
	2006	2007									
Africa total	621 256	664 581	11 260	632 667	4 561	3 326	2 234	90	654 138	-	10 443
SADC	608 474	650 714	10 704	620 597	4 199	2 635	2 150	44	640 329	-	10 385
Angola	2 292	2 608	46	2 355	124	69	14	-	2 608	-	-
Botswana	90 936	91 999	68	90 190	1 219	203	266	1	91 947	-	52
DRC	2 368	3 903	70	3 636	64	80	24	27	3 901	-	2
Lesotho	182 070	201 183	2 663	187 508	724	158	674	5	191 732	-	9 451
Madagascar	198	228	9	163	2	48	6	-	228	-	-
Malawi	11 091	12 788	591	12 079	35	62	18	-	12 785	-	3
Mauritius	1 297	1 451	17	1 398	10	10	9	1	1 445	-	6
Mozambique	83 736	89 702	675	88 209	155	162	54	-	89 255	-	447
Namibia	28 426	27 445	1 497	24 946	306	33	662	-	27 444	-	1
Swaziland	102 064	104 744	320	103 457	485	218	169	7	104 656	-	88
Tanzania	986	1 269	88	1 113	36	28	2	1	1 268	-	1
Zambia	16 377	18 361	2 016	16 102	85	96	55	-	18 354	-	7
Zimbabwe	86 633	95 033	2 644	89 441	954	1 468	197	2	94 706	-	327

Table 5. Number of foreign arrivals by country and purpose of travel (continued)

Country	December		Purpose of travel (December 2007)								Contract worker	Border traffic concession
	2006	2007	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total			
East and Central Africa	6 358	6 941	253	6 140	175	282	22	44	6 916	-	25	
Burundi	139	91	4	73	1	1	-	12	91	-	-	
Cameroon	314	379	10	302	30	36	1	-	379	-	-	
Central African Rep	7	6	-	6	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	
Chad	30	20	5	10	2	3	-	-	20	-	-	
Comoros	17	21	-	21	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	
Congo	821	487	15	435	11	20	5	1	487	-	-	
Djibouti	7	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	
Equatorial Guinea	27	29	1	26	-	2	-	-	29	-	-	
Eritrea	90	73	4	68	-	1	-	-	73	-	-	
Ethiopia	576	654	22	568	8	21	-	29	648	-	6	
Gabon	189	293	1	262	24	6	-	-	293	-	-	
Kenya	2 403	2 607	131	2 269	53	141	7	-	2 601	-	6	
Reunion	28	87	-	86	1	-	-	-	87	-	-	
Rwanda	234	253	9	213	15	9	6	1	253	-	-	
Sao Tome and Principe	12	12	-	12	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	
Seychelles	299	275	4	268	1	1	1	-	275	-	-	
Somalia	115	556	-	554	-	2	-	-	556	-	-	
Tristan da Cunha	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Uganda	1 047	1 095	47	964	29	39	2	1	1 082	-	13	

Table 5. Number of foreign arrivals by country and purpose of travel (concluded)

Country	December		Purpose of travel (December 2007)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
	2006	2007	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
West Africa	5 614	5 969	214	5 154	155	369	52	2	5 946	-	23
Ascension	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Benin	65	96	3	85	1	6	-	-	95	-	1
Burkina Faso	25	33	2	29	-	1	1	-	33	-	-
Cape Verde Island	54	53	-	46	-	7	-	-	53	-	-
Cote D'Ivoire	189	174	16	135	3	18	2	-	174	-	-
Gambia	52	38	3	32	1	1	1	-	38	-	-
Ghana	941	1 377	30	1 228	12	87	10	-	1 367	-	10
Guinea	68	121	2	109	3	4	3	-	121	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	21	19	-	17	-	1	1	-	19	-	-
Liberia	32	27	2	21	-	2	2	-	27	-	-
Madeira Island	7	7	-	7	-	-	-	-	7	-	-
Mali	80	60	5	43	-	2	7	2	59	-	1
Mauritania	10	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Niger	15	11	-	9	-	-	2	-	11	-	-
Nigeria	3 779	3 695	130	3 205	128	212	9	-	3 684	-	11
St Helena	18	13	-	11	-	-	2	-	13	-	-
Senegal	165	172	11	121	5	24	11	-	172	-	-
Sierra Leone	66	43	7	32	1	2	1	-	43	-	-
Togo	25	24	3	18	1	2	-	-	24	-	-
Western Sahara	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Africa	810	957	89	776	32	40	10	-	947	-	10
Algeria	175	304	18	253	18	12	3	-	304	-	-
Egypt	356	324	35	262	4	16	6	-	323	-	1
Libya	56	55	6	37	2	1	-	-	46	-	9
Morocco	61	84	3	77	1	3	-	-	84	-	-
Sudan	99	109	7	90	6	6	-	-	109	-	-
Tunisia	63	81	20	57	1	2	1	-	81	-	-
Unspecified	3 476	5 480	37	1 455	690	948	11	5	3 146	-	2 334

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. Introduction

Legal movements across South African borders as well as legal immigration into South Africa fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). Statistics South Africa then processes and publishes this information.

Administrative data sources from the DHA, that is, information from all the country's ports of entry and applications for permanent residence constitute the only comprehensive source of information on foreign arrivals and departures, documented immigrants and emigrants. The information from this source of data provides the best national coverage (both in terms of space and time) of the population movements of South African residents and foreign travellers. The data -

- can be used to estimate, monitor and understand salient characteristics of foreign travellers and volumes of South African residents travelling outside South Africa;
- can, in the absence of information on foreign tourists, be further analysed to provide some indication of international tourism; and
- provide information that can be used to (a) assess the extent of government's progress in strengthening bilateral political and economic relations by assessing the number of international tourist arrivals; and (b) benchmark surveys focusing on demand for local tourism services by foreign travellers.

The information on documented migrants provides crucial information on receiving countries of South African emigrants which could be targeted in initiatives geared towards attracting back migrants into the country. In addition, the data on permanent residents are valuable in assessing not only the demographic and economic profiles of immigrants but also their contribution to national social and economic programmes.

2. Purpose of the statistical release

This release reports on arrivals and departures of foreign and South African travellers. Travellers include (a) same-day visitors and tourists and (b) other travellers such as migrant workers from other countries paid in South Africa.

3. Scope and coverage

This release covers all the data as received from the DHA. The arrivals of foreign travellers are more detailed than departures as they are reported by mode of travel, gender, age and purpose of visit whereas statistics on South African residents are reported by mode of travel. Statistics on documented migration, i.e. self-declared emigrants and documented immigrants, are currently not reported due to the unavailability of data from the DHA.

4. Data

Information published in this release is based on data obtained from the following data sources within the DHA.

- Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) database on population Movement Control System (MCS): Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all land, air and sea entry ports on all travellers (South African residents and foreign travellers) arriving into or departing from South Africa are captured into the system. Generally the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the port's electronic database. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) downloads the data covering a particular calendar month from the mainframe of the State Information Technology Agency (SITA), where the DHA stores its data.
- DHA departure forms: the DHA departure forms are specifically designed for the collection of data from South African residents departing South Africa. The completed forms from OR Tambo, Cape Town and Durban international airports covering a particular calendar month are processed and analysed accordingly by Stats SA.
- The database for applicants for South African permanent residence: a printout of data on the successful applicants covering a particular calendar month is issued to Stats SA.

5. Limitations

The main limitation of the published information is its inability to directly measure the volume of tourists. The main aspects of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation's (UNWTO) definition of a tourist are duration of stay and whether individuals are remunerated in the place being visited. Although the intended duration of stay can be inferred from the expiry date of the temporary residence permit, this does not necessarily translate into actual duration of stay. In addition, the data do not provide information on the remuneration status of travellers in South Africa.

The information on the total number of arrivals and departures of South African residents is collected from the scanning of passports. However, data on country of final destination and purpose of visit will be available when the re-introduction of the departure forms is in full operational at the three international airports (OR Tambo, Cape Town and Durban). Processing of available departure forms from the three international airports is currently underway.

Due to unavailability of data from the DHA, information on documented immigrants is not included in this current publication. The documented immigration information will be provided as soon as it is made available to Stats SA.

6. Glossary of terms

Key terms used in this release are defined as follows:

Africa refers to all the countries in Africa (both mainland and island countries).

Border traffic concession is granted to a person who crosses the border on a frequent basis. The concession is granted for a maximum period of six months after which it can be renewed if necessary.

Country refers to individual countries within a region. Note that not all the lists of countries available in the data are reported in the release owing to the few monthly arrivals from those countries. Data on these countries will be made available to individuals on request.

Foreign traveller refers to a traveller who is not a South African citizen or permanent resident.

'Other' African countries refers to all African non SADC member countries.

Overseas refers to all other countries outside Africa.

Region refers to the following country classification: Europe, North America, Central and South America, Australasia, the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

SADC refers to the thirteen countries, excluding South Africa, that belong to the Southern African Development Community.

Same-day visitor is a visitor who visits a place for less than one night.

South African resident refers to either a South African citizen or a non-South African citizen with a South African permanent residence permit.

Tourism comprises the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited. The usual environment of a person consists of a certain area around his/her place of residence plus all other places he/she frequently visits. *Even though the data from the DHA used in this release do not provide information on duration of stay and remuneration status of the travellers, activities of most of these travellers will comprise tourism.*

Tourist (overnight visitor) is a visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the place visited. An international tourist is an international visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the country visited.

Traveller is any person on a trip between two or more localities (e.g. countries). Travellers can include Visitors (same-day and overnight) and other travellers such as workers paid in the country visited, migrants, refugees, diplomats and others within the usual environment.

Visitor is any person travelling to a place other than that of his/her usual environment for less than 12 months and whose main purpose of the trip is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited. However, in this release, the concept visitor is used to indicate an individual that entered the country on visitor's temporary permit.

7. Symbols and abbreviations used

- = nil
Unspec. = unspecified

General information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English.

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