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Key findings

1.1 Travellers

1.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 3 040 687 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through South African ports of entry in April 2012. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 913 145 South African residents and 2 127 542 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 455 895 and 457 250 arrivals and departures respectively. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals and departures were 1 157 430 and 970 112 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in March 2012 and April 2012 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents increased by 27,9% (from 356 312 in March 2012 to 455 895 in April 2012); while for foreign travellers, the arrivals increased by 7,9% (from 1 072 496 in March 2012 to 1 157 430 in April 2012). For departures, the volume increased by 14,6% (from 398 979 in March 2012 to 457 250 in April 2012) for South African residents and by 3,2% (from 940 332 in March 2012 to 970 112 in April 2012) for foreign travellers.

A comparison between the movements in April 2011 and April 2012 indicates that the volumes of arrivals and departures decreased for South African residents while the volumes increased for foreign travellers. For South African residents the volume of arrivals decreased by 8,7% from 499 516 in April 2011 to 455 895 in April 2012 and departures decreased by 16,9% from 550 502 in April 2011 to 457 250 in April 2012. Conversely, the volume of arrivals for foreign travellers increased by 13,4% from 1 020 453 in April 2011 to 1 157 430 in April 2012 and departures had an increase of 6,1% from 914 059 in April 2011 to 970 112 in April 2012.

Detailed information on the departure of travellers is not available in the movement control system. Data on the purpose of travel and the number of days South African residents intend to spend or spent abroad are not collected by South African immigration officers. Hence, it is not possible to categorise South African residents as tourists and non-tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation.

As presented in Table 1, in April 2012, 60 114 (5,2%) foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 097 316 (94,8%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups: arrivals only comprising of visitors who entered the country in April 2012 but did not depart in April 2012 [426 140 (38,8%)]; visitors who came once in April 2012 and left in April 2012 [390 677 (35,6%)]; and those who came and left more than once in April 2012 [280 499 (25,6%)]. Visitors were further grouped as same day visitors [294 482 (26,8%)] and overnight visitors (tourists) [802 834 (73,2%)]. Between March 2012 and April 2012, the volume of same day visitors decreased by 7,3% (from 317 523 in March 2012 to 294 482 in April 2012) and tourists increased by 14,2% (from 703 067 in March 2012 to 802 834 in April 2012). Furthermore, between April 2011 and April 2012, the volume of same day visitors decreased by 2,5% (from 301 949 in April 2011 to 294 482 in April 2012) while the volume of tourists increased by 15,0% (from 698 399 in April 2011 to 802 834 in April 2012) during the same period.

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Travellers who cross South Africa's borders rarely use trains and ships since these are mainly used for transporting goods. Data presented in Table 2 show that in April 2012, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 199 663 (72,3%) out of the 3 040 687 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 834 892 (27,5%). The arrivals data on South African residents show that 157 789 (34,6%) came by air and 297 777 (65,3%) came by road. For departures, 158 046 (34,6%) and 298 421 (65,3%) used air and road transport respectively. In the case of foreign travellers, 272 700 (23,6%) arrived by air while those who came by road were 882 299 (76,2%). When departing South Africa, 246 357 (25,4%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 721 166 (74,3%) left by road. As shown in Table 2 an overwhelming majority, 279 592 (94,9%) of same day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 14 636 (5,0%) same day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that, 568 349 (70,8%) used road transport but 233 733 (29,1%) came by air.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them into their respective countries and regions. Information on the specific region and country of residence of the tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3. In April 2012, 173 983 (88,8%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 21 202 (10,8%) came in by road. This is in contrast to the number 544 617 (92,6%) of tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries who came into South Africa predominantly by road. Only 43 295 (7,4%) tourists from the SADC countries came in by air. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 14 945 (89,1%); with 1 835 (10,9%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In April 2012, the distribution of overseas tourists were as follows; Europe, 108 496 (55,4%); Asia, 33 464 (17,1%); North America, 29 016 (14,8%); Australasia, 11 926 (6,1%); Central and South America, 10 143 (5,2%) and Middle East, 2 889 (1,5%). Virtually all tourists from Africa came from the SADC countries, 587 913 (97,2%). The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 9 295 (1,5%); East and Central Africa, 6 178 (1,0%) and North Africa 1 309 (0,2%).

Data presented in Figure 1 indicate that United Kingdom (UK), 36 145 (18,4%); United States of America (USA), 23 735 (12,1%); Germany, 18 694 (9,5%); France, 10 361 (5,3%); China, 10 277 (5,2%); Australia, 10 071 (5,1%); India, 9 505 (4,9%) and The Netherlands 7 442 (3,8%) were the eight leading overseas countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in April 2012. Tourists from these eight countries constituted 64,4% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in April 2011 and April 2012 shows that the number of tourists increased in seven of these countries except for UK. China had the highest increase of 91,6% from 5 365 tourists in April 2011 to 10 277 tourists in April 2012 while UK had a decrease of 10,3% from 40 301 tourists in April 2011 to 36 145 tourists in April 2012.

The eight leading countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in April 2012 from the SADC countries (see Figure 2) were Zimbabwe, 178 452 (30,4%); Lesotho, 153 925 (26,2%); Mozambique, 82 853 (14,1%); Swaziland, 73 573 (12,5%); Botswana, 45 335 (7,7%); Namibia, 16 814 (2,9%); Zambia, 14 357 (2,4%) and Malawi, 11 199 (1,9%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 98,1% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in April 2011 and April 2012 shows that the number of tourists increased in six countries (Zimbabwe, Malawi, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zambia, and Mozambique) and decreased in the remaining two (Botswana and Namibia). Zimbabwe had the highest increase of 32,6% from 134 629 tourists in April 2011 to 178 452 tourists in April 2012 while Namibia had the greatest decrease of 14,4% from 19 638 tourists in April 2011 to 16 814 tourists in April 2012.

The eight leading countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in April 2012 from 'other' African countries, shown in Figure 3, were Nigeria, 6 051 (36,1%); Kenya, 2 516 (15,0%); Ghana, 1 853 (11,0%); Uganda, 1 178 (7,0%); Egypt, 709 (4,2%); Ethiopia, 544 (3,2%); Cameroon, 524 (3,1%) and Gabon, 480 (2,9%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 82,6% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in April 2011 and April 2012 shows that the number of tourists increased in seven of these countries (Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Uganda, Kenya, Gabon and Egypt) and decreased in Ethiopia. The increase was highest in Ghana at 47,5% from 1 256 tourists in April 2011 to 1 853 tourists in April 2012 while Ethiopia had a decrease of 48,4% from 1 054 tourists in April 2011 to 544 tourists in April 2012.

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data given in Table 4, in April 2012, an overwhelming majority 723 833 (90,2%) of tourists were in South Africa for holidays compared to only 15 874 (2,0%) and 8 452 (1,1%) of tourists who were in South Africa for business and study purposes respectively. A detailed analysis reveals that of all the tourists from each of the overseas regions, at least 54,0% came to South Africa for holidays. Tourists from Australasia 9 688 (81,2%), Europe 86 517 (79,7%), Middle East 2 303 (79,7%), North America 22 468 (77,4%), Asia 21 282 (63,6%) and Central and South America 5 529 (54,5%) were in South Africa mostly for holidays. Middle East and Asia had a higher proportion (7,6% and 5,1% respectively) of their tourists in South Africa for business compared to other overseas regions.

The majority 574 386 (95,0%) of African tourists came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries namely:

- Whereas 561 681 (95,5%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holidays; 12 705 (75,7%) of tourists on holidays came from 'other' African countries. Data on the regions of 'other' African countries show that tourists on holidays constituted 7 137 (76,8%); 4 642 (75,1%) and 926 (70,7%) for West Africa; East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 738 (4,4%) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 6 766 (1,2%) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion 110 (8,4%) of its tourists in South Africa for business.
- Students made up 568 (3,4%) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 6 532 (1,1%) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa had the highest proportion 293 (4,7%) of their tourists in South Africa for study purposes.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 shows that, in April 2012, there were 448 570 (55,9%) male and 353 371 (44,0%) female tourists. The overseas tourists were made up of 112 866 (57,6%) male tourists and 82 886 (42,3%) female tourists. There were 322 904 (54,9%) male and 264 303 (45,0%) female tourists from the SADC countries. The tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 11 410 (68,0%) males and 5 369 (32,0%) females.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into three broad groups namely; those younger than 15 years, 15 to 64 years, and 65 years and older. The overall results presented in Table 5 show that 715 508 (89,1%) of tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years; 54 309 (6,8%) were aged less than 15 years and 32 322 (4,0%) were aged 65 years and older. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 160 955 (82,1%) of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 537 026 (91,3%) and 15 446 (92,0%) of tourists in the same age range from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries respectively.

For tourists aged less than 15 years, SADC and 'other' African tourists had a proportion of 6,3% (37 170) and 6,2% (1 044) respectively while overseas countries had a proportion of 8,2% (16 037). There was a higher proportion of young female tourists in comparison to young male tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries.

A comparison of the three regions shows relatively high proportions of the elderly among both male 9,1% (10 285) and female 10,3% (8 520) tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to tourists from the SADC countries amongst which 1,8% (5 912) of males and 2,7% (7 154) of females were aged 65 years and older. Similarly among tourists from 'other' African countries, 1,5% (172) of males and 2,1% (113) of females were aged 65 years and older.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

2. Figures

Figure 1. Number of tourists from eight leading overseas countries in April 2011 and April 2012

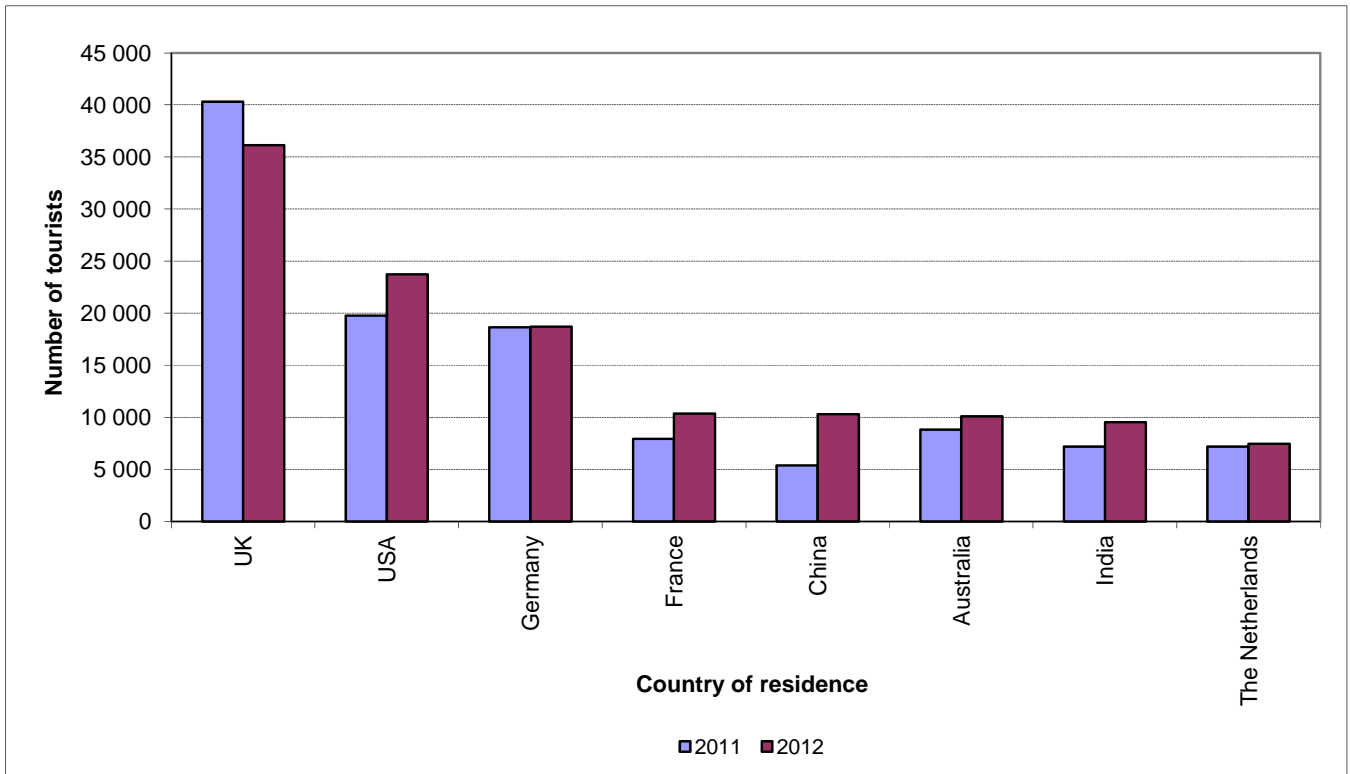


Figure 2. Number of tourists from eight leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in April 2011 and April 2012

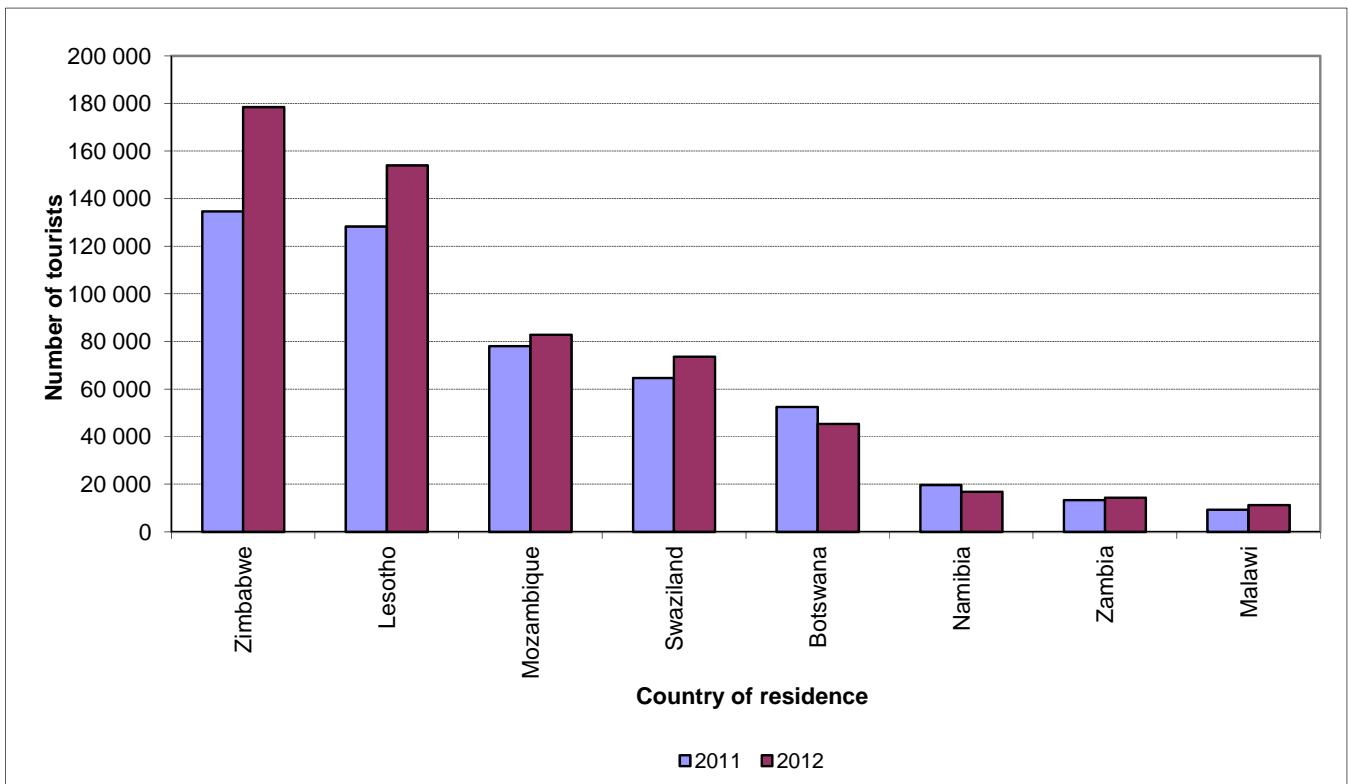
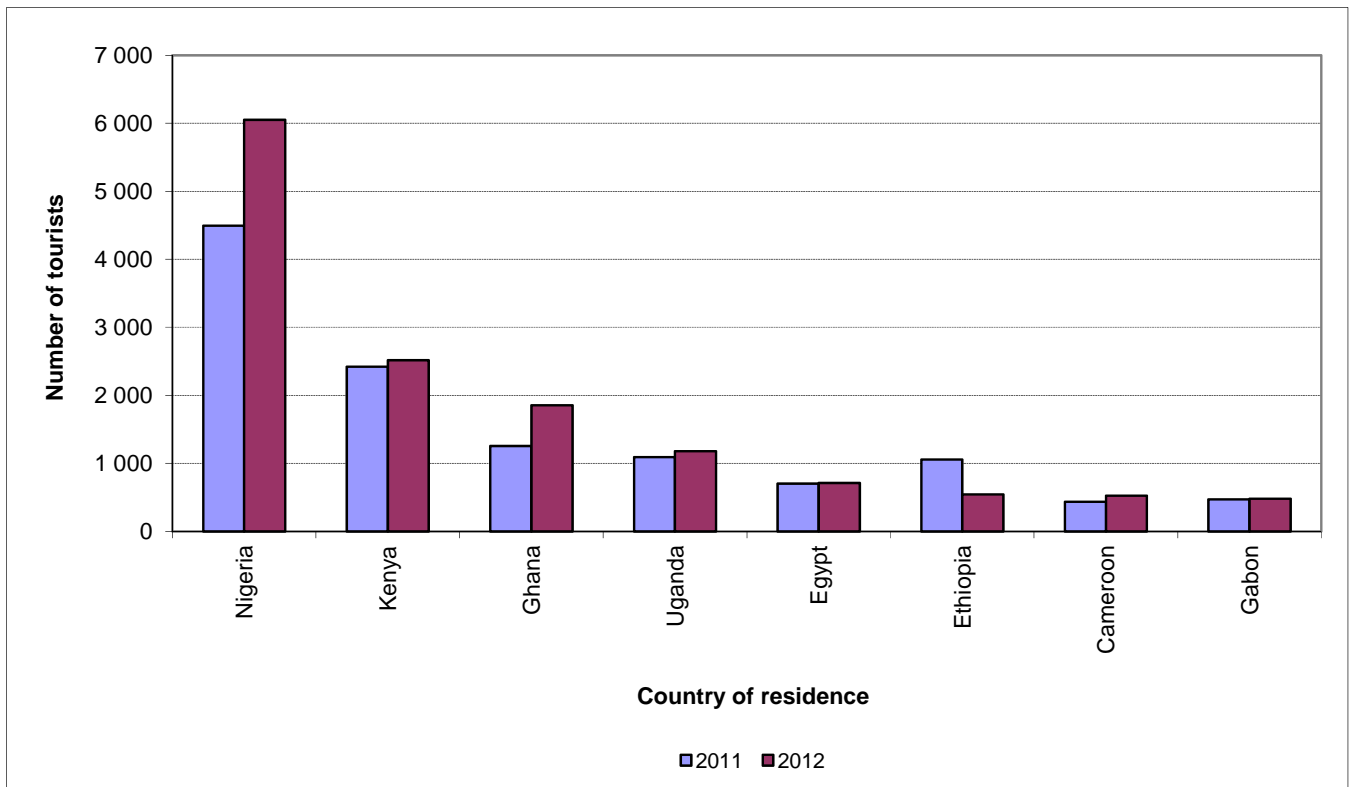


Figure 3. Number of tourists from eight leading 'other' African countries in April 2011 and April 2012



3. Tables

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

Travel direction	April	March	April	% change	% change
	2011	2012	2012	April 2011 - April 2012	March 2012 - April 2012
Total	2 984 530	2 768 119	3 040 687	1,9	9,8
South African residents	1 050 018	755 291	913 145	-13,0	20,9
Arrivals	499 516	356 312	455 895	-8,7	27,9
Departures	550 502	398 979	457 250	-16,9	14,6
Foreign travellers	1 934 512	2 012 828	2 127 542	10,0	5,7
Arrivals	1 020 453	1 072 496	1 157 430	13,4	7,9
Departures	914 059	940 332	970 112	6,1	3,2
Foreign arrivals	1 020 453	1 072 496	1 157 430	13,4	7,9
Non-visitors	20 105	51 906	60 114	199,0	15,8
Visitors	1 000 348	1 020 590	1 097 316	9,7	7,5
Visitors	1 000 348	1 020 590	1 097 316	9,7	7,5
Arrivals only	327 401	353 525	426 140	30,2	20,5
Single trips	376 318	358 780	390 677	3,8	8,9
Multiple trips	296 629	308 285	280 499	-5,4	-9,0
Visitors	1 000 348	1 020 590	1 097 316	9,7	7,5
Same day	301 949	317 523	294 482	-2,5	-7,3
Overnight (tourists)	698 399	703 067	802 834	15,0	14,2

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

Travel Direction	April		Mode of travel (April 2012)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	2 984 530	3 040 687	120 067	18 056	688 617	8 152	834 892	2 199 663	6 129	3
South African residents	1 050 018	913 145	37 632	11 548	261 564	5 091	315 835	596 198	1 112	-
Arrivals	499 516	455 895	18 725	5 995	130 615	2 454	157 789	297 777	329	-
Departures	550 502	457 250	18 907	5 553	130 949	2 637	158 046	298 421	783	-
Foreign travellers	1 934 512	2 127 542	82 435	6 508	427 053	3 061	519 057	1 603 465	5 017	3
Arrivals	1 020 453	1 157 430	36 471	2 863	232 004	1 362	272 700	882 299	2 428	3
Departures	914 059	970 112	45 964	3 645	195 049	1 699	246 357	721 166	2 589	-
Visitors	1 000 348	1 097 316	33 437	2 341	211 599	992	248 369	847 941	1 003	3
Same day	301 949	294 482	225	4	14 291	116	14 636	279 592	254	-
Overnight (tourists)	698 399	802 834	33 212	2 337	197 308	876	233 733	568 349	749	3

Table 3. Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel

Country of residence	April		Mode of travel (April 2012)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	698 399	802 834	33 212	2 337	197 308	876	233 733	568 349	749	3
Overseas	172 145	195 934	29 826	2 158	141 358	641	173 983	21 202	747	2
Europe	106 581	108 496	22 238	1 435	71 339	240	95 252	12 669	575	-
Austria	1 687	1 683	230	33	1 197	-	1 460	222	1	-
Belgium	3 524	3 453	801	11	2 170	18	3 000	451	2	-
Denmark	1 808	1 756	230	7	1 328	-	1 565	187	4	-
France	7 926	10 361	1 286	63	7 804	11	9 164	1 196	1	-
Germany	18 626	18 694	2 864	151	12 950	15	15 980	2 705	9	-
Ireland	2 494	2 237	568	55	1 348	4	1 975	260	2	-
Italy	3 177	4 376	1 076	72	2 924	9	4 081	295	-	-
Norway	1 959	1 545	337	2	997	-	1 336	208	1	-
Portugal	4 236	4 219	383	9	2 406	14	2 812	1 406	1	-
Spain	2 023	2 310	221	2	1 942	2	2 167	143	-	-
Sweden	2 430	2 590	449	13	1 780	5	2 247	338	5	-
Switzerland	3 311	4 196	923	51	2 789	24	3 787	406	3	-
The Netherlands	7 175	7 442	2 074	67	4 221	5	6 367	1 053	22	-
UK	40 301	36 145	8 838	804	22 618	93	32 353	3 285	507	-
Other	5 904	7 489	1 958	95	4 865	40	6 958	514	17	-
North America	24 232	29 016	3 276	104	22 443	187	26 010	2 985	21	-
Canada	4 468	5 281	900	37	3 691	9	4 637	635	9	-
USA	19 764	23 735	2 376	67	18 752	178	21 373	2 350	12	-
Central and South America	5 909	10 143	208	4	9 340	9	9 561	579	3	-
Argentina	865	1 241	21	1	1 180	3	1 205	34	2	-
Brazil	3 497	6 792	75	3	6 327	1	6 406	385	1	-
Mexico	308	346	46	-	288	2	336	10	-	-
Other	1 239	1 764	66	-	1 545	3	1 614	150	-	-

Table 3. Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (continued)

Country of residence	April		Mode of travel (April 2012)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Australasia	10 709	11 926	743	104	10 100	28	10 975	812	139	-
Australia	8 804	10 071	551	65	8 641	26	9 283	654	134	-
New Zealand	1 885	1 830	192	39	1 435	2	1 668	157	5	-
Other	20	25	-	-	24	-	24	1	-	-
Middle East	2 938	2 889	310	35	2 328	14	2 687	202	-	-
Iran	169	190	44	10	127	1	182	8	-	-
Israel	1 680	1 629	82	-	1 422	2	1 506	123	-	-
Lebanon	239	310	25	3	245	3	276	34	-	-
Other	850	760	159	22	534	8	723	37	-	-
Asia	21 776	33 464	3 051	476	25 808	163	29 498	3 955	9	2
China	5 365	10 277	948	73	8 562	14	9 597	680	-	-
India	7 193	9 505	578	192	6 845	16	7 631	1 871	3	-
Japan	2 017	2 671	109	29	2 328	109	2 575	91	5	-
Malaysia	833	828	308	25	459	10	802	26	-	-
Pakistan	1 412	1 946	294	81	1 123	-	1 498	446	-	2
Philippines	789	1 787	193	9	1 369	12	1 583	203	1	-
South Korea	1 057	1 522	120	16	1 248	-	1 384	138	-	-
Thailand	894	839	81	10	741	-	832	7	-	-
Vietnam	256	940	5	-	929	-	934	6	-	-
Other	1 960	3 149	415	41	2 204	2	2 662	487	-	-
Africa	524 223	604 695	3 276	175	54 557	232	58 240	546 452	2	1
SADC	509 604	587 913	2 941	141	40 016	197	43 295	544 617	-	1
Angola	2 699	3 739	374	-	3 212	20	3 606	133	-	-
Botswana	52 430	45 335	8	3	3 423	42	3 476	41 859	-	-
DRC	3 041	2 407	11	-	1 738	11	1 760	647	-	-
Lesotho	128 270	153 925	1	2	785	-	788	153 137	-	-
Madagascar	174	419	-	-	415	1	416	3	-	-

Table 3. Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (continued)

Country of residence	April		Mode of travel (April 2012)							
			Air				Road	Sea	Unspecified	
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other				Total
Malawi	9 280	11 199	2	4	2 302	7	2 315	8 884	-	-
Mauritius	1 320	1 656	267	89	1 102	1	1 459	197	-	-
Mozambique	77 996	82 853	90	37	4 432	18	4 577	78 275	-	1
Namibia	19 638	16 814	2 081	-	4 604	20	6 705	10 109	-	-
Seychelles	222	196	1	-	187	-	188	8	-	-
Swaziland	64 584	73 573	-	-	916	9	925	72 648	-	-
Tanzania	1 981	2 988	6	1	1 794	5	1 806	1 182	-	-
Zambia	13 340	14 357	33	2	4 836	11	4 882	9 475	-	-
Zimbabwe	134 629	178 452	67	3	10 270	52	10 392	168 060	-	-
'Other' Africa	14 619	16 782	335	34	14 541	35	14 945	1 835	2	-
East and Central Africa	6 668	6 178	34	8	5 204	20	5 266	910	2	-
Burundi	70	117	-	-	113	-	113	4	-	-
Cameroon	434	524	8	-	468	-	476	48	-	-
Central African Republic	8	9	-	-	9	-	9	-	-	-
Chad	19	25	-	-	25	-	25	-	-	-
Comoros	10	20	-	-	19	-	19	1	-	-
Congo	249	304	2	-	283	5	290	14	-	-
Djibouti	4	6	-	-	6	-	6	-	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	16	44	5	-	25	11	41	3	-	-
Eritrea	60	55	-	-	47	-	47	8	-	-
Ethiopia	1 054	544	1	3	443	-	447	97	-	-
Gabon	470	480	1	-	475	-	476	4	-	-
Kenya	2 420	2 516	7	5	2 066	3	2 081	433	2	-
Rwanda	197	309	1	-	283	-	284	25	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	6	28	2	-	23	1	26	2	-	-
Somalia	559	19	-	-	18	-	18	1	-	-
Uganda	1 092	1 178	7	-	901	-	908	270	-	-

Table 3. Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (concluded)

Country of residence	April		Mode of travel (April 2012)							
	2011	2012	Air				Total	Road	Sea	Unspecified
			Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other				
West Africa	6 679	9 295	112	7	8 299	15	8 433	862	-	-
Benin	71	105	2	-	96	-	98	7	-	-
Burkina Faso	32	63	3	-	60	-	63	-	-	-
Cape Verde Island	48	54	6	-	40	1	47	7	-	-
Côte D'Ivoire	64	151	6	-	142	-	148	3	-	-
Gambia	74	91	2	-	84	-	86	5	-	-
Ghana	1 256	1 853	52	1	1 644	1	1 698	155	-	-
Guinea	141	239	-	-	141	-	141	98	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	12	17	-	-	13	-	13	4	-	-
Liberia	34	62	4	1	53	-	58	4	-	-
Mali	94	98	2	-	84	-	86	12	-	-
Mauritania	31	16	-	-	16	-	16	-	-	-
Niger	9	25	-	-	23	-	23	2	-	-
Nigeria	4 496	6 051	30	5	5 475	13	5 523	528	-	-
Saint Helena	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senegal	206	337	1	-	327	-	328	9	-	-
Sierra Leone	75	79	1	-	54	-	55	24	-	-
Togo	26	54	3	-	47	-	50	4	-	-
North Africa	1 272	1 309	189	19	1 038	-	1 246	63	-	-
Algeria	66	119	17	-	96	-	113	6	-	-
Egypt	702	709	112	2	577	-	691	18	-	-
Libya	56	101	23	4	64	-	91	10	-	-
Morocco	111	117	13	2	95	-	110	7	-	-
The Sudan	199	132	14	7	105	-	126	6	-	-
Tunisia	138	129	10	4	101	-	115	14	-	-
Western Sahara	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Unspecified	2 031	2 205	110	4	1 393	3	1 510	695	-	-

Table 4. Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit (April 2012)			
	2011	2012	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Total	698 399	802 834	15 874	723 833	8 452	54 675
Overseas	172 145	195 934	8 267	147 787	1 333	38 547
Europe	106 581	108 496	4 691	86 517	703	16 585
Austria	1 687	1 683	71	1 236	4	372
Belgium	3 524	3 453	152	2 874	21	406
Denmark	1 808	1 756	64	1 315	4	373
France	7 926	10 361	435	8 070	70	1 786
Germany	18 626	18 694	659	14 652	131	3 252
Ireland	2 494	2 237	107	1 895	23	212
Italy	3 177	4 376	230	3 386	17	743
Norway	1 959	1 545	58	1 134	13	340
Portugal	4 236	4 219	118	3 305	20	776
Spain	2 023	2 310	117	1 619	8	566
Sweden	2 430	2 590	182	1 886	22	500
Switzerland	3 311	4 196	84	3 091	15	1 006
The Netherlands	7 175	7 442	356	6 376	80	630
UK	40 301	36 145	1 551	30 013	245	4 336
Other	5 904	7 489	507	5 665	30	1 287
North America	24 232	29 016	1 059	22 468	264	5 225
Canada	4 468	5 281	199	4 258	34	790
USA	19 764	23 735	860	18 210	230	4 435
Central and South America	5 909	10 143	194	5 529	64	4 356
Argentina	865	1 241	24	899	3	315
Brazil	3 497	6 792	97	3 314	33	3 348
Mexico	308	346	19	288	-	39
Other	1 239	1 764	54	1 028	28	654

Table 4. Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit (continued)

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit (April 2012)			
	2011	2012	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Australasia	10 709	11 926	386	9 688	32	1 820
Australia	8 804	10 071	327	8 140	26	1 578
New Zealand	1 885	1 830	59	1 535	5	231
Other	20	25	-	13	1	11
Middle East	2 938	2 889	221	2 303	38	327
Iran	169	190	25	135	11	19
Israel	1 680	1 629	82	1 387	8	152
Lebanon	239	310	27	188	3	92
Other	850	760	87	593	16	64
Asia	21 776	33 464	1 716	21 282	232	10 234
China	5 365	10 277	430	6 201	27	3 619
India	7 193	9 505	581	6 868	70	1 986
Japan	2 017	2 671	135	1 610	11	915
Malaysia	833	828	64	617	10	137
Pakistan	1 412	1 946	141	1 403	13	389
Philippines	789	1 787	23	824	4	936
South Korea	1 057	1 522	108	1 000	41	373
Thailand	894	839	11	749	16	63
Vietnam	256	940	8	89	-	843
Other	1 960	3 149	215	1 921	40	973
Africa	524 223	604 695	7 504	574 386	7 100	15 705
SADC	509 604	587 913	6 766	561 681	6 532	12 934
Angola	2 699	3 739	69	2 697	219	754
Botswana	52 430	45 335	178	42 496	983	1 678
DRC	3 041	2 407	81	2 084	84	158
Lesotho	128 270	153 925	116	152 397	1 038	374
Madagascar	174	419	5	216	9	189

Table 4. Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit (continued)

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit (April 2012)			
	2011	2012	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Malawi	9 280	11 199	197	10 245	57	700
Mauritius	1 320	1 656	77	1 283	24	272
Mozambique	77 996	82 853	1 253	79 077	159	2 364
Namibia	19 638	16 814	1 268	12 866	1 101	1 579
Seychelles	222	196	9	159	2	26
Swaziland	64 584	73 573	1 325	70 286	1 514	448
Tanzania	1 981	2 988	81	2 332	81	494
Zambia	13 340	14 357	1 061	11 918	189	1 189
Zimbabwe	134 629	178 452	1 046	173 625	1 072	2 709
'Other' Africa	14 619	16 782	738	12 705	568	2 771
East and Central Africa	6 668	6 178	311	4 642	293	932
Burundi	70	117	1	81	2	33
Cameroon	434	524	39	368	33	84
Central African Republic	8	9	-	4	-	5
Chad	19	25	-	17	3	5
Comoros	10	20	1	9	-	10
Congo	249	304	15	253	9	27
Djibouti	4	6	-	2	-	4
Equatorial Guinea	16	44	3	30	10	1
Eritrea	60	55	1	49	-	5
Ethiopia	1 054	544	11	440	15	78
Gabon	470	480	9	370	34	67
Kenya	2 420	2 516	160	1 914	121	321
Rwanda	197	309	14	172	17	106
Sao Tome and Principe	6	28	3	16	-	9
Somalia	559	19	-	15	-	4
Uganda	1 092	1 178	54	902	49	173

Table 4. Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit (concluded)

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit (April 2012)			
	2011	2012	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
West Africa	6 679	9 295	317	7 137	246	1 595
Benin	71	105	5	85	1	14
Burkina Faso	32	63	8	22	1	32
Cape Verde Island	48	54	2	43	2	7
Côte D'Ivoire	64	151	15	98	8	30
Gambia	74	91	3	39	-	49
Ghana	1 256	1 853	85	1 456	27	285
Guinea	141	239	3	147	2	87
Guinea-Bissau	12	17	-	10	-	7
Liberia	34	62	9	46	1	6
Mali	94	98	4	58	4	32
Mauritania	31	16	1	8	-	7
Niger	9	25	3	11	-	11
Nigeria	4 496	6 051	156	4 814	199	882
Saint Helena	10	-	-	-	-	-
Senegal	206	337	16	215	-	106
Sierra Leone	75	79	3	57	1	18
Togo	26	54	4	28	-	22
North Africa	1 272	1 309	110	926	29	244
Algeria	66	119	14	82	7	16
Egypt	702	709	59	524	-	126
Libya	56	101	7	66	12	16
Morocco	111	117	12	78	5	22
The Sudan	199	132	6	104	5	17
Tunisia	138	129	12	70	-	47
Western Sahara	-	2	-	2	-	-
Unspecified	2 031	2 205	103	1 660	19	423

Table 5. Number of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African regions by sex and age group

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (April 2012)			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	802 834	195 934	587 913	16 782	2 205
	<15	54 309	16 037	37 170	1 044	58
	15 - 64	715 508	160 955	537 026	15 446	2 081
	65+	32 322	18 844	13 127	285	66
	Unspecified	695	98	590	7	-
Male	Total	448 570	112 866	322 904	11 410	1 390
	<15	27 387	8 447	18 374	541	25
	15 - 64	404 385	94 074	298 292	10 692	1 327
	65+	16 407	10 285	5 912	172	38
	Unspecified	391	60	326	5	-
Female	Total	353 371	82 886	264 303	5 369	813
	<15	26 921	7 589	18 796	503	33
	15 - 64	310 396	66 748	238 143	4 753	752
	65+	15 815	8 520	7 154	113	28
	Unspecified	239	29	210	-	-
Unspecified	Total	893	182	706	3	2
	<15	1	1	-	-	-
	15 - 64	727	133	591	1	2
	65+	100	39	61	-	-
	Unspecified	65	9	54	2	-

4. Explanatory notes

4.1 Introduction

Legal movements across South African borders as well as legal immigration into South Africa fall under the jurisdiction of the DHA. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) 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; 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.

4.2 Purpose of the statistical release

This release reports on arrivals and departures of South African residents and foreign travellers. Detailed information on the gender and age structure; mode of travel; national and regional distribution; and purpose of travel of overnight visitors or tourists are provided.

4.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data on arrivals and departures of South African residents and foreign travellers. A detailed analysis of the data on foreign tourists with respect to: mode of travel, purpose of visit, sex and age distribution is covered in the release. Statistics on documented migration, that is self-declared emigrants, are not reported due to the unavailability of data.

4.4 Data

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

- Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all road, 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 DHA's population Movement Control System (MCS). The counts/statistics relate to the number of individual movements, rather than to the number of people. Hence, the multiple movements of individual people during the calendar month are each counted separately. Generally the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the port's electronic database. No forms or cards are used (except in rare occasions when the capturing system is down) to collect information from travellers. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA.
- 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.
- As part of data interrogation, data from the OR Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airport Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA has been accompanied by an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern was also observed when the volume of travellers decreased. However, the volume of passengers recorded by ACSA is generally higher than that of the DHA because of, among other reasons, travellers who are in transit and those who boarded airplanes but refused entry into the country. In April 2012, the DHA data was 0,4% lower than that of ACSA.

4.5 Limitations

The information on the total number of arrivals and departures of South African residents is collected from the scanning of passports. However, data are not collected from passengers on country visited; country of final destination, the duration of stay; intended duration of stay and purpose of visit. With this limitation, it is impossible to identify the number of tourists from the data on South African residents.

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.

4.6 Definitions of terms

4.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)

Traveller is someone who moves between different geographical locations for any purpose and any duration.

Visitor refers to 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.

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

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

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. 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.

4.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release

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

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

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

Country refers to individual countries within a region. The country of residence is used. The country of residence should not be confused with the country from which the visitor travelled.

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

SADC refers to the fourteen countries, excluding South Africa, which belongs to the Southern African Development Community.

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

Overseas refers to all countries outside Africa.

Trip refers to the arrival and departure of a visitor in a specified month.

4.7 Symbols used

- = nil

< = less than

5. 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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