



The South Africa I know, the home I understand

Statistical release

P0351

Tourism and Migration

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Preface

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in April 2015. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country during this month. The tourists are classified by region and country of residence. Details of their mode of travel; purpose of visit; and age and sex distribution are also provided.

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Statistician-General

1. 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 3 291 455 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through South African ports of entry in April 2015. As presented in Table 1 on page 8, these travellers were made up of 942 940 South African residents and 2 348 515 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 467 372 arrivals, 474 853 departures and 715 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 169 290, 1 124 179 and 55 046 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in April 2014 and April 2015 indicates that the volume of departures decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. While the volume of arrivals increased for South African residents they decreased for foreign travellers. Travellers in transit increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents increased by 0,4% (from 465 666 in April 2014 to 467 372 in April 2015) while departures decreased by 4,3% (from 496 319 in April 2014 to 474 853 in April 2015), and South African residents in transit increased by 24,8% (from 573 in April 2014 to 715 in April 2015). Foreign arrivals decreased by 10,6% (from 1 308 531 in April 2014 to 1 169 290 in April 2015), foreign departures decreased by 6,9% (from 1 207 210 in April 2014 to 1 124 179 in April 2015), and foreign travellers in transit decreased by 3,9% (from 57 264 in April 2014 to 55 046 in April 2015).

A comparison between the movements in March 2015 and April 2015 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures for South African residents increased, but decreased for foreign travellers. The volume of travellers in transit decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents increased by 21,4% (from 384 922 in March 2015 to 467 372 in April 2015), departures increased by 16,0% (from 409 260 in March 2015 to 474 853 in April 2015) and South African residents in transit decreased by 2,7% (from 735 in March 2015 to 715 in April 2015). Foreign arrivals decreased by 5,4% (from 1 235 571 in March 2015 to 1 169 290 in April 2015), foreign departures decreased by 0,3% (from 1 127 979 in March 2015 to 1 124 179 in April 2015), and foreign travellers in transit decreased by 7,2% (from 59 287 in March 2015 to 55 046 in April 2015).

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 the DHA. 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 2015, 84 125 (7,2%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 085 165 (92,8%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in April 2015 but did not depart in April 2015 [265 842 (24,5%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came once in April 2015 and left in April 2015 [427 211 (39,4%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came and left more than once in April 2015 [392 112 (36,1%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In April 2015, there were 365 608 (33,7%) same-day visitors and 719 557 (66,3%) tourists. Between April 2014 and April 2015, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 14,2% (from 426 020 in April 2014 to 365 608 in April 2015) and that of tourists decreased by 14,3% (from 840 100 in April 2014 to 719 557 in April 2015). Likewise, between March 2015 and April 2015, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 12,2% (from 416 399 in March 2015 to 365 608 in April 2015), and tourists decreased by 1,9% (from 733 241 in March 2015 to 719 557 in April 2015).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 9 show that in April 2015, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 422 683 (73,6%) out of the 3 291 455 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport

was 854 595 (26,0%). The arrivals data for South African residents show that 160 887 (34,4%) came by air and 306 324 (65,5%) came by road. For departures, 173 337 (36,5%) and 300 426 (63,3%) used air and road transport respectively. All travellers in transit used air transport (715).

In the case of foreign travellers, 210 207 (18,0%) arrived by air while 955 717 (81,7%) came by road. When departing South Africa, 254 403 (22,6%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 860 216 (76,5%) left by road. All travellers in transit, (55 046) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [350 782 (95,9%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 14 824 (4,1%) of same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that 540 966 (75,2%) used road transport while 178 546 (24,8%) came by air.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them according to 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 on page 10. In April 2015, 128 923 (89,1%) of overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 15 812 (10,9%) came in by road. This is in contrast to the number of tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries who came into South Africa predominantly by road [523 973 (93,5%)]. Only 36 416 (6,5%) 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 12 458 (92,5%); with 1 001 (7,4%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In April 2015, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows; Europe, 88 193 (60,9%); North America, 22 618 (15,6%); Asia, 18 519 (12,8%); Australasia, 9 121 (6,3%); Central and South America, 3 511 (2,4%); and Middle East, 2 737 (1,9%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 6 indicate that the United Kingdom (UK), 29 825 (20,6%); United States of America (USA), 18 776 (13,0%); Germany, 14 640 (10,1%); France, 9 850 (6,8%); Australia, 7 570 (5,2%); The Netherlands, 6 823 (4,7%); China, 6 694 (4,6%); India, 5 808 (4,0%); Belgium, 4 032 (2,8%) and Canada, 3 841 (2,7%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in April 2015. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 74,5% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in April 2014 and April 2015 shows that the number of tourists decreased in all the ten leading overseas countries. Germany had the largest decrease of 35,9% (from 22 830 tourists in April 2014 to 14 640 in April 2015) while Belgium had the lowest decrease of 3,9% (from 4 195 tourists in April 2014 to 4 032 in April 2015).

Virtually all tourists, 560 389 (97,7%), from Africa came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 7 738 (1,3%); East and Central Africa, 4 679 (0,8%); and North Africa 1 051 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in April 2015 were Zimbabwe, 162 024 (28,9%); Lesotho, 123 066 (22,0%); Mozambique, 85 034 (15,2%); Swaziland, 76 908 (13,7%); Botswana, 61 919 (11,0%); Namibia, 20 714 (3,7%); Zambia, 12 632 (2,3%); Malawi, 8 027 (1,4%); Angola, 3 624 (0,6%) and Tanzania, 2 670 (0,5%) (see Figure 2 on page 6). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,3% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in April 2014 and April 2015 for the ten leading countries shows that, with the exception of Botswana where the number of tourists increased by 3,4% (from 59 875 in April 2014 to 61 919 in April 2015), the number of tourists decreased in all the other nine leading SADC countries. Malawi showed the largest decrease of 32,4% (from 11 875 tourists in April 2014 to 8 027 tourists in April 2015).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in April 2015 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 7, were Nigeria, 5 767 (42,8%); Kenya, 2 091 (15,5%); Ghana, 1 209 (9,0%); Uganda, 832 (6,2%); Egypt, 603 (4,5%); Ethiopia, 475 (3,5%); Gabon, 445 (3,3%); Cameroon, 341 (2,5%); Congo, 209 (1,6%); and Senegal, 148 (1,1%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 90,0% of all tourists from 'other African' countries. A comparison between movements in April 2014 and April 2015 shows

that, with the exception of Egypt, Cameroon and Nigeria, where the number of tourists increased. The number of tourists decreased in the rest of the ten leading 'other' African countries. Cameroon had the largest increase of 9,3% (from 312 in April 2014 to 341 in April 2015), while Congo had the largest decrease of 37,4% (from 334 in April 2014 to 209 in April 2015).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on page 14, in April 2015, the majority of tourists, 685 865 (95,3%), were in South Africa for holidays compared to 26 203 (3,6%) and 7 489 (1,0%) who were in South Africa for business and for study purposes respectively. A detailed analysis reveals that of all the tourists from each of the overseas regions, at least 90,0% came to South Africa for holidays. A total of 8 923 (97,8%) from Australasia, 3 383 (96,4%) tourists from Central and South America, 21 662 (95,8%) from North America, 83 865 (95,1%) from Europe, 17 125 (92,1%) from Asia, and 2 484 (90,8%) from the Middle East were in South Africa for holidays. The Middle East had the highest proportions of tourists who came to South Africa for business [7,8% (213)] and study [1,5% (40)] purposes compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists, 547 584 (95,4%) came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries namely:

- Whereas 535 363 (95,5%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 12 221 (90,7%) of tourists from 'other' African countries came for the same purpose. Data on the regions of 'other' African countries show that tourists on holidays constituted 93,2% (7 209); 88,6% (4 145) and 82,5% (867) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 5,3% (712) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 3,4% (19 323) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 12,0% (126) of its tourists in South Africa who came for business purposes.
- Students made up 4,0% (535) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,0% (5 703) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 5,5% (58) of student tourists in South Africa.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 18 shows that in April 2015, there were 397 698 (55,3%) male and 321 856 (44,7%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 80 361 (55,5%) male tourists and 64 410 (44,5%) female tourists. There were 308 305 (55,0%) male and 252 109 (45,0%) female tourists from the SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 8 476 (62,9%) male and 4 992 (37,1%) female tourists.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into three broad groups: those younger than 15 years, 15 to 64 years, and 65 years and older. The overall results presented in Table 5 show that 51 042 (7,1%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 636 406 (88,4%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 32 109 (4,5%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 115 716 (79,9%) of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 507 516 (90,6%) and 12 292 (91,3%) of tourists in the same age range from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries respectively. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years, was slightly higher among tourists from overseas countries 8,0% (11 546) than among tourists from SADC countries, 6,9% (38 611) and those from 'other' African countries, 6,5% (879).

A comparison of the three regions shows relatively higher proportions of the elderly among both male and female tourists from overseas. Tourists aged 65 years and older comprised 11,8% (9 445) of male tourists and 12,5% (8 064) of female tourists. This is in contrast to the pattern observed among tourists from the other two regions where tourists aged 65 years and older comprised less than 4,0% of both male and female tourists. From the SADC countries elderly tourists made up 2,0% (6 298) and 3,2% (7 992) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other African' countries elderly tourists made up 2,0% (171) and 2,5% (126) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in April 2014 and April 2015

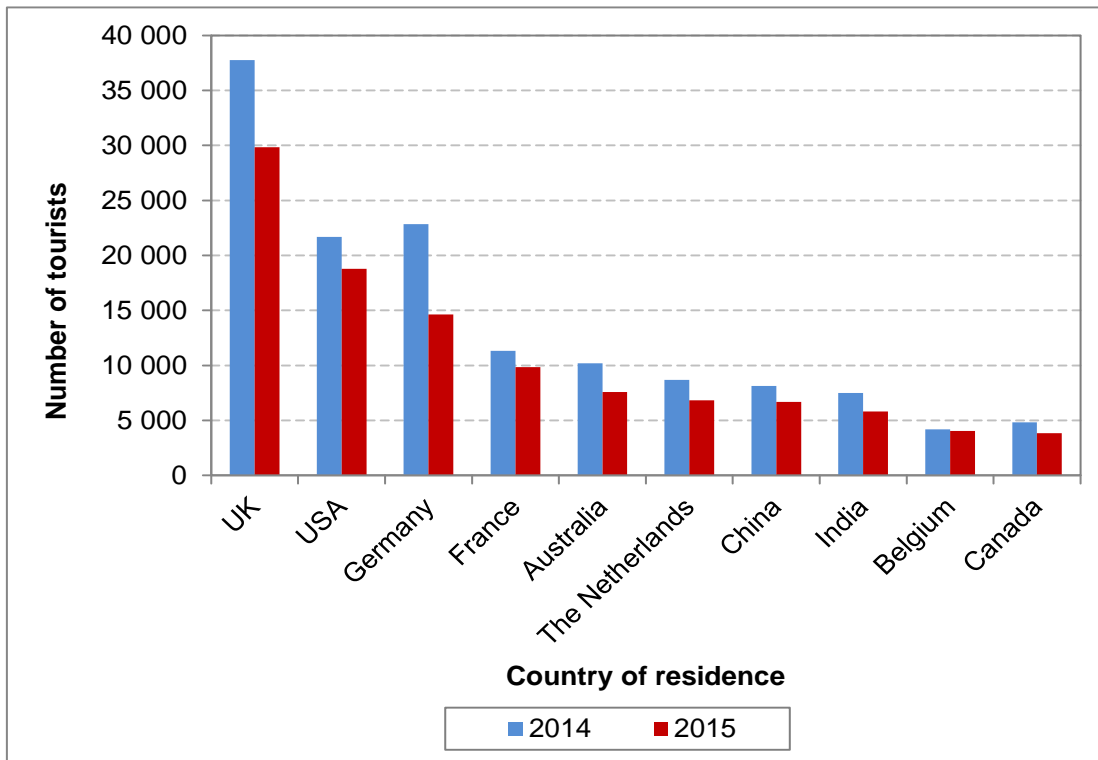


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in April 2014 and April 2015

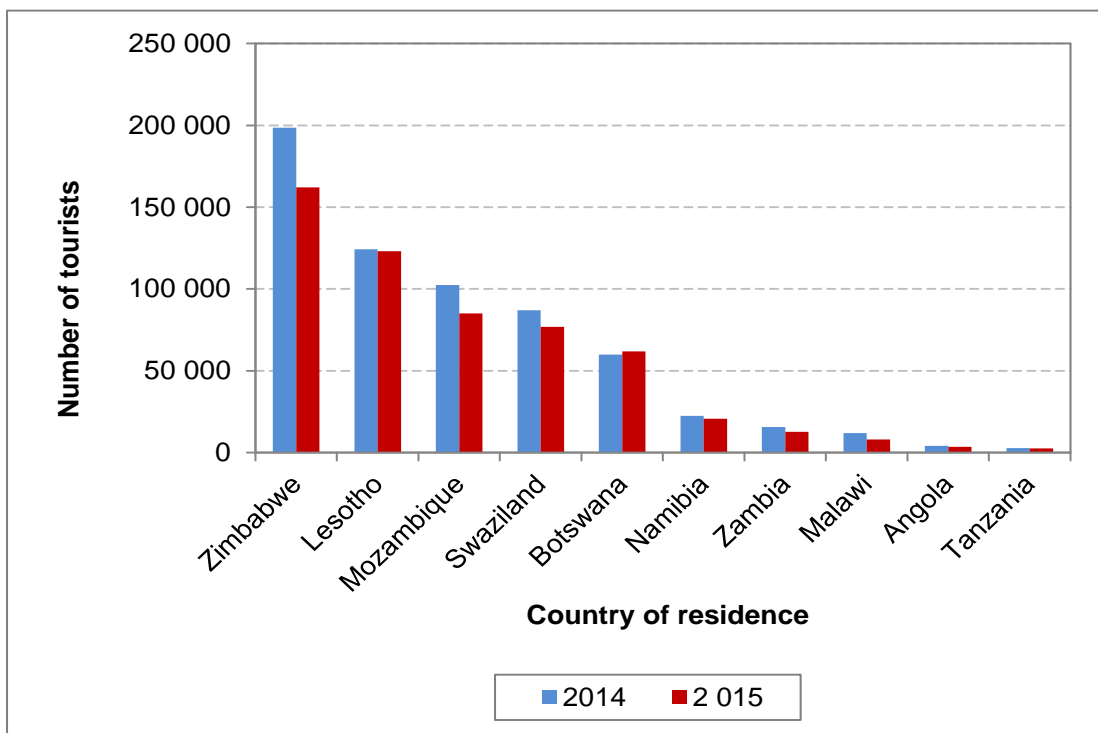
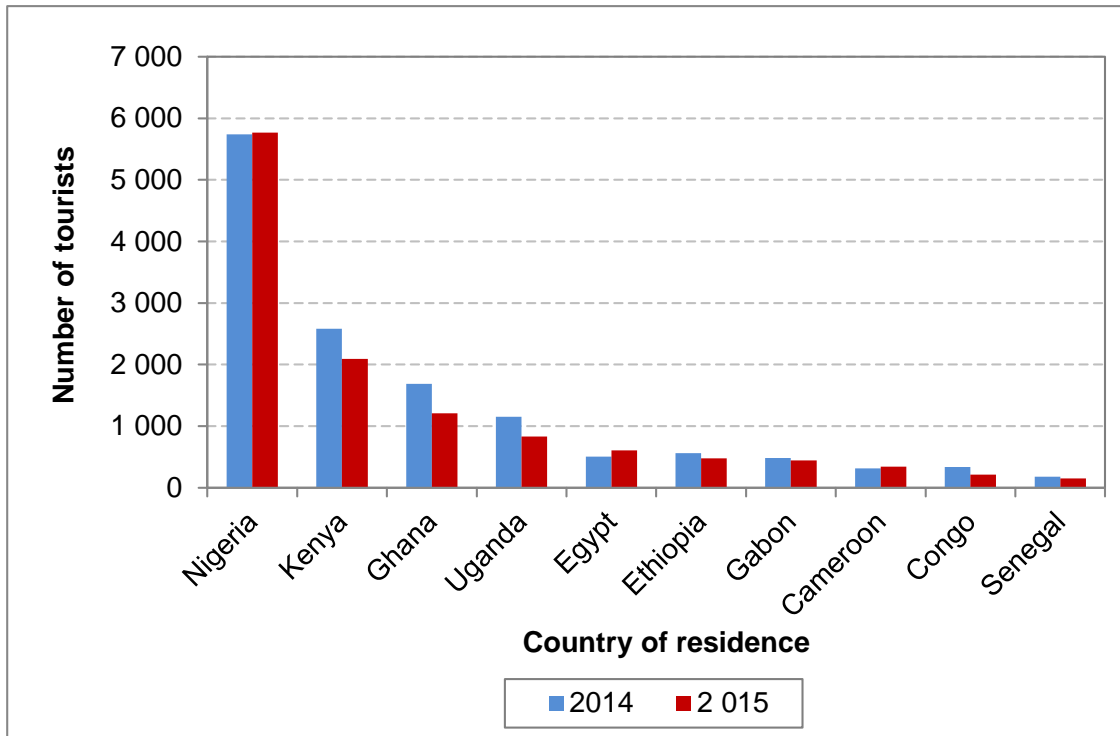


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading ‘other’ African countries in April 2014 and April 2015



3. Tables

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

Travel direction	April	March	April	% Change	% Change
	2014	2015	2015	March 2015 – April 2015	April 2014 – April 2015
Total	3 535 563	3 217 754	3 291 455	2,3%	-6,9%
South African residents	962 558	794 917	942 940	18,6%	-2,0%
Arrivals	465 666	384 922	467 372	21,4%	0,4%
Departures	496 319	409 260	474 853	16,0%	-4,3%
Transit	573	735	715	-2,7%	24,8%
Foreign travelers	2 573 005	2 422 837	2 348 515	-3,1%	-8,7%
Arrivals	1 308 531	1 235 571	1 169 290	-5,4%	-10,6%
Departures	1 207 210	1 127 979	1 124 179	-0,3%	-6,9%
Transit	57 264	59 287	55 046	-7,2%	-3,9%
Foreign Arrivals	1 308 531	1 235 571	1 169 290	-5,4%	-10,6%
Non-visitors	42 411	85 931	84 125	-2,1%	98,4%
Visitors	1 266 120	1 149 640	1 085 165	-5,6%	-14,3%
Visitors	1 266 120	1 149 640	1 085 165	-5,6%	-14,3%
Arrivals only	372 416	265 068	265 842	0,3%	-28,6%
Single trips	506 514	439 257	427 211	-2,7%	-15,7%
Multiple trips	387 190	445 315	392 112	-11,9%	1,3%
Visitors	1 266 120	1 149 640	1 085 165	-5,6%	-14,3%
Same day	426 020	416 399	365 608	-12,2%	-14,2%
Tourists	840 100	733 241	719 557	-1,9%	-14,3%

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

Travel Direction	Total	Mode of travel (April 2015)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	3 291 455	135 997	22 858	688 880	6 860	854 595	2 422 683	14 177
South African residents	942 940	44 567	15 066	270 892	4 414	334 939	606 750	1 251
Arrivals	467 372	20 848	7 040	130 778	2 221	160 887	306 324	161
Departures	474 853	23 719	8 026	139 401	2 191	173 337	300 426	1 090
Transit	715	-	-	713	2	715	-	-
Foreign travelers	2 348 515	91 430	7 792	417 988	2 446	519 656	1 815 933	12 926
Arrivals	1 169 290	40 039	3 303	165 737	1 128	210 207	955 717	3 366
Departures	1 124 179	51 375	4 489	197 222	1 317	254 403	860 216	9 560
Transit	55 046	16	-	55 029	1	55 046	-	-
Visitors	1 085 165	37 577	2 516	152 578	699	193 370	891 748	47
Same day	365 608	355	18	14 354	97	14 824	350 782	2
Tourists	719 557	37 222	2 498	138 224	602	178 546	540 966	45

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

Country of residence	April		Mode of travel (April 2015)						
	2014	2015	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	840 100	719 557	37 222	2 498	138 224	602	178 546	540 966	45
Overseas	189 943	144 771	33 186	2 025	93 261	451	128 923	15 812	36
Europe	117 193	88 194	25 391	1 384	51 205	172	78 153	10 009	32
Austria	1 745	1 124	256	20	704	1	981	143	-
Belgium	4 195	4 032	1 299	32	2 198	8	3 537	495	-
Denmark	1 891	1 275	327	15	817	1	1 160	115	-
France	11 331	9 850	2 834	88	5 538	15	8 475	1 374	1
Germany	22 830	14 640	3 302	128	9 074	13	12 517	2 122	1
Ireland	2 206	1 757	516	71	1 010	2	1 599	158	-
Italy	4 682	2 865	770	51	1 795	2	2 618	247	-
Norway	1 689	921	293	8	456	3	760	160	1
Portugal	4 552	3 001	487	26	1 506	16	2 035	966	-
Spain	2 503	1 618	417	18	1 008	6	1 449	169	-
Sweden	2 169	1 859	626	30	958	1	1 615	244	-
Switzerland	4 324	3 527	1 255	17	1 884	8	3 164	363	-
The Netherlands	8 690	6 823	2 659	73	3 208	14	5 954	866	3
UK	37 749	29 825	8 943	754	17 834	70	27 601	2 199	25
Other	6 637	5 077	1 407	53	3 216	12	4 688	388	1
North America	26 518	22 617	3 759	132	16 042	187	20 120	2 497	-
Canada	4 831	3 841	905	22	2 509	5	3 441	400	-
USA	21 687	18 776	2 854	110	13 533	182	16 679	2 097	-
Central and South America	6 414	3 511	267	10	2 797	15	3 089	421	1
Argentina	621	318	10	1	262	1	274	44	-
Brazil	4 333	2 161	131	4	1 772	3	1 910	251	-
Mexico	378	228	50	-	168	5	223	5	-
Other	1 082	804	76	5	595	6	682	121	1

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

Country of residence	April		Mode of travel (April 2015)						
	2014	2015	Air				Road	Sea	
			Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other			Total
Australasia	12 045	9 121	645	103	7 721	51	8 520	599	2
Australia	10 188	7 570	483	74	6 489	42	7 088	481	1
New Zealand	1 841	1 526	159	29	1 212	9	1 409	116	1
Other	16	25	3	-	20	-	23	2	-
Middle East	3 586	2 737	519	11	2 062	15	2 607	130	-
Israel	2 277	1 437	107	-	1 235	2	1 344	93	-
Jordan	140	209	53	5	136	4	198	11	-
Saudi Arabia	290	292	52	1	233	6	292	-	-
Other	879	799	307	5	458	3	773	26	-
Asia	24 187	18 591	2 605	385	13 433	11	16 434	2 156	1
China	8 123	6 694	875	50	5 431	-	6 356	338	-
India	7 494	5 808	803	219	3 870	-	4 892	916	-
Japan	1 746	1 375	163	19	1 137	5	1 324	51	-
Malaysia	634	392	115	13	249	-	377	15	-
Pakistan	1 230	933	56	45	542	-	643	290	-
Philippines	652	428	67	4	272	4	347	80	1
Singapore	588	377	93	2	270	2	367	10	-
South Korea	1 102	890	115	8	591	-	714	176	-
Taiwan	448	358	38	5	235	-	278	80	-
Thailand	780	452	100	6	333	-	439	13	-
Other	1 390	884	180	14	503	-	697	187	-
Africa	648 956	573 857	4 010	471	44 242	151	48 874	524 974	9
SADC	633 598	560 389	3 664	443	32 178	131	36 416	523 973	-
Angola	4 071	3 624	857	-	2 598	1	3 456	168	-
Botswana	59 875	61 919	159	10	1 728	25	1 922	59 997	-
DRC	2 493	1 950	5	-	1 534	8	1 547	403	-
Lesotho	124 222	123 066	9	1	292	1	303	122 763	-
Madagascar	146	165	3	1	156	-	160	5	-

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

Country of residence	April		Mode of travel (April 2015)						
			Air				Road	Sea	
	2014	2015	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other			Total
Malawi	11 875	8 027	6	2	1 440	6	1 454	6 573	-
Mauritius	1 486	1 281	189	139	800	-	1 128	153	-
Mozambique	102 380	85 034	9	48	2 952	14	3 023	82 011	-
Namibia	22 476	20 714	2 328	-	2 935	14	5 277	15 437	-
Seychelles	376	375	2	-	367	-	369	6	-
Swaziland	87 013	76 908	1	-	383	26	410	76 498	-
Tanzania	2 814	2 670	13	1	1 763	1	1 778	892	-
Zambia	15 739	12 632	14	74	3 593	4	3 685	8 947	-
Zimbabwe	198 632	162 024	69	167	11 637	31	11 904	150 120	-
'Other' African	15 358	13 468	346	28	12 064	20	12 458	1 001	9
East and Central Africa	5 741	4 679	56	12	4 158	9	4 235	444	-
Burundi	94	88	1	-	78	-	79	9	-
Cameroon	312	341	5	-	299	1	305	36	-
Central African Republic	7	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-
Chad	32	26	-	-	26	-	26	-	-
Comoros	18	6	-	-	6	-	6	-	-
Congo	334	209	9	-	196	-	205	4	-
Djibouti	4	10	-	-	10	-	10	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	22	39	2	-	30	7	39	-	-
Eritrea	53	43	5	-	36	-	41	2	-
Ethiopia	560	475	10	6	409	-	425	50	-
Gabon	483	445	3	-	441	1	445	-	-
Kenya	2 580	2 091	12	5	1 858	-	1 875	216	-
Rwanda	75	42	2	-	34	-	36	6	-
Sao Tome and Principe	10	10	1	-	9	-	10	-	-
Somalia	8	15	1	-	13	-	14	1	-
Uganda	1 149	832	5	1	706	-	712	120	-

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

Country of residence	April		Mode of travel (April 2015)						
			Air					Road	Sea
	2014	2015	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	8 532	7 738	82	9	7 118	11	7 220	509	9
Benin	125	102	1	-	98	-	99	3	-
Burkina Faso	55	45	1	-	38	-	39	6	-
Cape Verde Island	60	34	9	-	20	-	29	5	-
Côte d'Ivoire	224	121	3	1	113	-	117	4	-
Gambia	29	38	-	-	34	-	34	4	-
Ghana	1 686	1 209	31	6	1 111	1	1 149	60	-
Guinea	157	90	1	-	29	1	31	59	-
Guinea-Bissau	7	9	-	-	7	-	7	2	-
Liberia	48	23	-	-	22	-	22	1	-
Mali	56	76	4	-	50	-	54	22	-
Mauritania	18	9	-	-	9	-	9	-	-
Niger	14	16	2	-	13	-	15	1	-
Nigeria	5 741	5 767	29	2	5 397	9	5 437	330	-
Saint Helena	24	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Senegal	179	148	1	-	138	-	139	9	-
Sierra Leone	69	8	-	-	5	-	5	3	-
Togo	40	34	-	-	34	-	34	-	-
North Africa	1 085	1 051	208	7	788	-	1 003	48	-
Algeria	94	65	13	1	48	-	62	3	-
Egypt	506	603	154	3	432	-	589	14	-
Libya	122	48	9	1	19	-	29	19	-
Morocco	124	90	13	2	74	-	89	1	-
South Sudan	58	68	1	-	64	-	65	3	-
The Sudan	119	125	10	-	110	-	120	5	-
Tunisia	60	52	8	-	41	-	49	3	-
Western Africa	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	1 201	929	26	2	721	-	749	180	-

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

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
Total	840 100	719 557	26 203	685 865	7 489
Overseas	189 943	144 771	6 101	137 442	1 228
Europe	117 193	88 194	3 640	83 866	688
Austria	1 745	1 124	51	1 057	16
Belgium	4 195	4 032	94	3 911	27
Denmark	1 891	1 275	81	1 183	11
France	11 331	9 850	382	9 403	65
Germany	22 830	14 640	504	14 036	100
Ireland	2 206	1 757	76	1 664	17
Italy	4 682	2 865	207	2 629	29
Norway	1 689	921	42	874	5
Portugal	4 552	3 001	76	2 892	33
Spain	2 503	1 618	163	1 442	13
Sweden	2 169	1 859	118	1 726	15
Switzerland	4 324	3 527	59	3 457	11
The Netherlands	8 690	6 823	234	6 518	71
UK	37 749	29 825	1 211	28 397	217
Other	6 637	5 077	342	4 677	58
North America	26 518	22 617	722	21 661	234
Canada	4 831	3 841	126	3 698	17
USA	21 687	18 776	596	17 963	217
Central and South America	6 414	3 511	97	3 383	31
Argentina	621	318	13	303	2
Brazil	4 333	2 161	39	2 104	18
Mexico	378	228	18	209	1
Other	1 082	804	27	767	10

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

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit (April 2015)		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	12 045	9 121	176	8 923	22
Australia	10 188	7 570	138	7 414	18
New Zealand	1 841	1 526	37	1 486	3
Other	16	25	1	23	1
Middle East	3 586	2 737	213	2 484	40
Israel	2 277	1 437	63	1 362	12
Jordan	140	209	29	180	-
Saudi Arabia	290	292	20	259	13
Other	692	799	101	683	15
Asia	24 187	18 591	1 253	17 125	213
China	8 123	6 694	317	6 354	23
India	7 494	5 808	478	5 252	78
Japan	1 746	1 375	159	1 206	10
Malaysia	634	392	31	357	4
Pakistan	1 230	933	68	849	16
Philippines	652	428	10	416	2
Singapore	588	377	42	331	4
South Korea	1 102	890	56	792	42
Taiwan	448	358	16	338	4
Thailand	780	452	18	431	3
Other	1 390	884	58	799	27
Africa	648 956	573 857	20 035	547 584	6 238
SADC	633 598	560 389	19 323	535 363	5 703
Angola	4 071	3 624	57	3 298	269
Botswana	59 875	61 919	397	60 920	602
DRC	2 493	1 950	66	1 763	121
Lesotho	124 222	123 066	1 777	120 749	540
Madagascar	146	165	4	156	5

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

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit (April 2015)		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
Malawi	11 875	8 027	130	7 846	51
Mauritius	1 486	1 281	59	1 200	22
Mozambique	102 380	85 034	11 836	72 976	222
Namibia	22 476	20 714	1 950	17 658	1 106
Seychelles	376	375	1	370	4
Swaziland	87 013	76 908	379	75 009	1 520
Tanzania	2 814	2 670	81	2 519	70
Zambia	15 739	12 632	815	11 645	172
Zimbabwe	198 632	162 024	1 771	159 254	999
'Other' African	15 358	13 468	712	12 221	535
East and Central Africa	5 741	4 679	293	4 145	241
Burundi	94	88	7	80	1
Cameroon	312	341	17	309	15
Central African Republic	7	7	-	7	-
Chad	32	26	1	22	3
Comoros	18	6	1	5	-
Congo	334	209	4	184	21
Djibouti	4	10	1	9	-
Equatorial Guinea	22	39	2	28	9
Eritrea	53	43	1	42	-
Ethiopia	560	475	31	435	9
Gabon	483	445	2	412	31
Kenya	2 580	2 091	163	1 826	102
Rwanda	75	42	2	28	12
Sao Tome and Principe	10	10	-	10	-
Somalia	8	15	-	15	-
Uganda	1 149	832	61	733	38

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

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit (April 2015)		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	8 532	7 738	293	7 209	236
Benin	125	102	5	96	1
Burkina Faso	55	45	5	39	1
Cape Verde Island	60	34	-	34	-
Côte d'Ivoire	224	121	7	107	7
Gambia	29	38	1	37	-
Ghana	1 686	1 209	87	1 092	30
Guinea	157	90	1	88	1
Guinea-Bissau	7	9	-	9	-
Liberia	48	23	3	18	2
Mali	56	76	3	71	2
Mauritania	18	9	-	9	-
Niger	14	16	4	12	-
Nigeria	5 741	5 767	161	5 415	191
Saint Helena	24	9	-	9	-
Senegal	179	148	11	136	1
Sierra Leone	69	8	2	6	-
Togo	40	34	3	31	-
North Africa	1 085	1 051	126	867	58
Algeria	94	65	3	56	6
Egypt	506	603	92	495	16
Libya	122	48	1	29	18
Morocco	124	90	15	71	4
South Sudan	58	68	4	61	3
The Sudan	119	125	7	107	11
Tunisia	60	52	4	48	-
Western Sahara	2	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	1 201	929	67	839	23

Table 5 – Number of tourists from overseas, SADC and ‘other’ African regions by sex and age group

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (April 2015)			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' Africa	Unspecified
All	Total	719 557	144 771	560 417	13 468	901
	< 15	51 042	11 546	38 611	879	6
	15-64	636 406	115 716	507 516	12 292	882
	65+	32 109	17 509	14 290	297	13
Male	Total	397 698	80 361	308 305	8 476	556
	< 15	25 684	6 051	19 199	431	3
	15-64	356 094	64 865	282 808	7 874	547
	65+	15 920	9 445	6 298	171	6
Female	Total	321 856	64 410	252 109	4 992	345
	< 15	25 358	5 495	19 412	448	3
	15-64	280 309	50 851	224 705	4 418	335
	65+	16 189	8 064	7 992	126	7
Unspecified	Total	3	-	3	-	-
	< 15	-	-	-	-	-
	15-64	3	-	3	-	-
	65+	-	-	-	-	-

4. Explanatory notes

NOTICE TO USERS

Statistics South (Stats SA) Africa has made changes in the *Tourism and Migration* statistical release starting from the January 2014 statistics. This change has become necessary as a result of the implementation of the new Movement Control System (e-MCS) at the country's ports of entry. Currently the new system (e-MCS) is operational at over 80% of the country's ports of entry. The system roll-out is expected to be finalised by end of 2015/16. The change affects the identification of Transit Travellers that are currently categorised under Direction instead of Purpose of Movement. The revision, Table 1 and Table 2 in the release now include a category for Transit while all tables reporting on tourists exclude transit travellers.

4.1 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). Stats SA then processes, analyses 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 for the following:

- To estimate, monitor and understand salient characteristics of foreign travellers and volumes of South African residents travelling outside South Africa.
- To 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.

4.2 Purpose of the statistical release

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

4.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data collected by DHA officials on travellers who entered the Republic of South Africa (RSA) through all the air, land and sea ports of entry.

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 DHA database.
- As part of data interrogation, data from the O.R. 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. In April 2015, the DHA data was 5% 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.

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 and Asia.
- Africa: SADC and 'other' Africa (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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