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KEY FINDINGS

1. Number of travellers

The August 2008 data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 2 083 981 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through the ports of entry. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 666 132 South African residents and 1 417 849 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures indicates that 326 075 and 340 057 South African resident arrivals and departures respectively were recorded. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals and departures are 752 942 and 664 907 respectively. A comparison between the movements in July 2008 and August 2008 indicates that there was a decline in all movements. The August 2008 figure (326 075) for South African resident arrivals shows a decline of 9,8% compared to the August 2007 figure of 361 577. Similarly, there was a decline of 4,5% for foreign arrivals from 788 117 in August 2007 to 752 942 in August 2008.

2. Mode of travel

It is observed from Table 2 that road transport was the most common (67,3%) mode of travel used by 1 401 696 out of the 2 083 981 travellers. The arrival data on South African residents show that 40,0% came by air and 59,4% by road. For their departure, 41,2% and 58,8% 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 (85,6%) compared to road transport (14,1%) whereas travellers from Africa used road (89,4%) more than air transport (8,5%). Information on specific countries from which travellers came 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 slightly more than three quarters (76,4%) of foreign arrivals were from Africa whilst less than a quarter (22,8%) were from overseas countries. Information on the country of residence was not available on 0,8% of the travellers. A comparison of the changes between August 2007 and August 2008 indicates that the number of overseas arrivals declined by 8,6% from 188 127 in 2007 to 171 937 in 2008. Arrivals from Africa declined by 3,3% from 594 540 in August 2007 to 575 104 in August 2008.

3.1 Gender and age distribution

The travellers from Africa comprised of 310 959 males, 263 093 females and 1 052 with unspecified gender. The data on overseas travellers had 95 826 males, 75 961 females and gender was not specified in 151 cases. Overall, more males than females from African (males: 55,7%; females: 44,2%) and overseas countries (males: 54,1%; females:45,7%) 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. The bulk (82,4%) of African travellers is clustered between ages 20-54, peaking at age group 25-29. However, the age distribution of overseas travellers is widely spread. Thus 80,6% of overseas travellers is between ages 20 to 64 years. The percentage of older persons (65 years and older) from overseas countries was significantly higher (6,2%) compared to that among persons from Africa (2,4%).

3.2 Regional and national distribution

Overseas travellers came mainly from Europe (60,7%), followed by North America (17,4%), Asia (10,5%), Australasia (6,2%), Central and South America (2,8%) and Middle East (2,4%). Virtually all arrivals (97,6%) from Africa came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining arrivals from Africa is as follows: East and Central Africa (1,1%), West Africa (1,1%) and North Africa (0,2%). August data for the past five years (See Figure 2) reveal that, arrivals from 'other' African countries have been stable unlike SADC countries that have been escalating since 2004 but dropped between 2007 and 2008. The number of travellers from overseas had a steady growth from 2004 to 2007 but also dropped between 2007 and 2008.

Figure 3 shows the eight leading overseas source countries. These are UK, USA, Germany, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Australia and Spain. Travellers from these eight countries constitute 68,5% of all travellers from overseas. A comparison of figures from overseas for August 2007 and August 2008 shows that there were decreases in the number of travellers arriving from UK (7,9% down from 36 426 to 33 562); USA (10,1% down from 28 760 to 25 845); Germany (15,9% down from 16 071 to 13 510) ; France (5,8% down from 11 836 to 11 155); Italy (4,6% down from 10 998 to 10 494); The Netherlands (10,4% down from 10 061 to 9 019) and Spain (3,3%

down from 5 672 to 5 487). However, there was an increase in the number of arrivals from Australia (1,7% up from 8 578 to 8 722). The eight leading source countries from SADC were Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Mozambique, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Malawi. Figure 4 shows that travellers from these eight SADC countries made up 96,1% of all arrivals from Africa. When comparing arrival figures from the SADC countries for August 2007 and August 2008, there were decreases in the number of travellers arriving from Lesotho (4,0% down from 170 358 to 163 531); Mozambique (14,6% down from 94 379 to 80 578); Botswana (18,6% down from 73 741 to 59 994); Namibia (9,3% down from 20 901 to 18 951) and Zambia (10,7% down from 16 613 to 14 838). However, there was an increase in the number of arrivals from Zimbabwe (17,6% up from 89 096 to 104 722); Swaziland (2,5% up from 93 400 to 95 743) and Malawi (4,2% up from 13 674 to 14 252).

The eight leading source countries from 'other' African countries, shown in Figure 5, are Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Uganda, Ethiopia, Gabon, Congo and Cameroon. A comparison of arrivals for 'other' African countries for August 2007 and that of August 2008, shows decreases in the number of travellers arriving from Kenya (4,3% down from 2 311 to 2 211); Ghana (13,7% down from 1 346 to 1 162); Uganda (12,5% down from 963 to 843); Ethiopia (6,6% down from 895 to 836); Congo (22,6% down from 532 to 412) and Cameroon (14,7% down from 476 to 406). However, there was an increase in the number of arrivals from Nigeria (1,3% up from 3 968 to 4 018) and Gabon (88,5% up from 357 to 673).

3.3 Purpose of travel

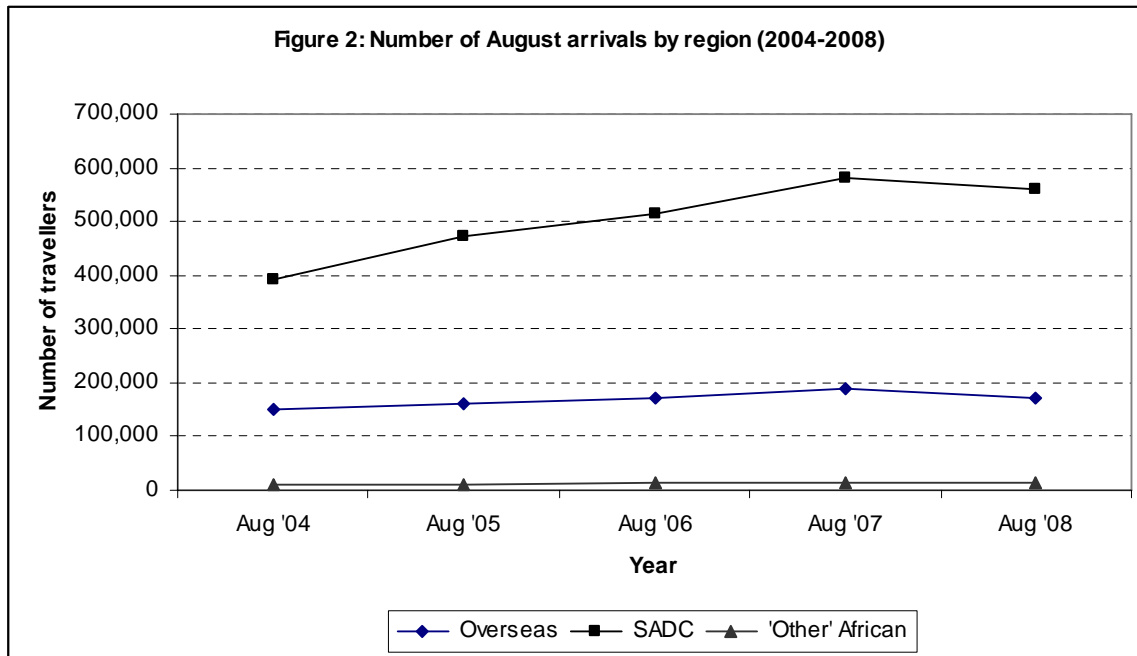
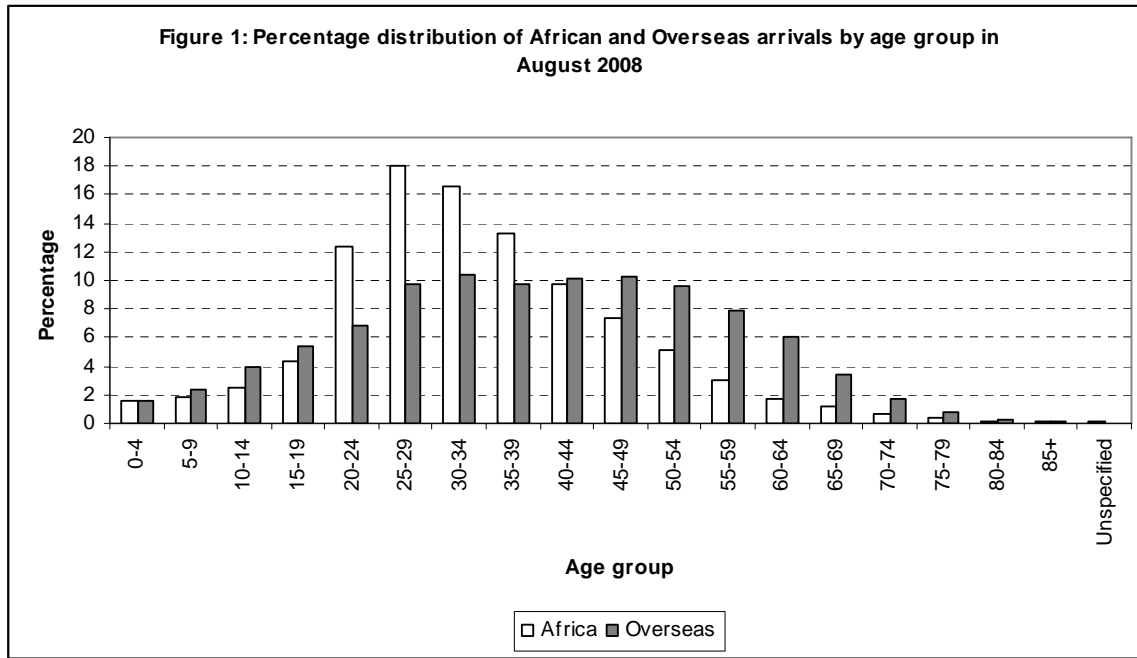
As observed from data given in Table 4, an overwhelming majority (93,8%) of foreign arrivals was admitted into South Africa on visitors' temporary residence permit. These visitors are mainly made up of same-day travellers as well as tourists. This is in vast contrast to those on business (1,7%), those who have come for work (1,5%) and those who have come to study (0,8%).

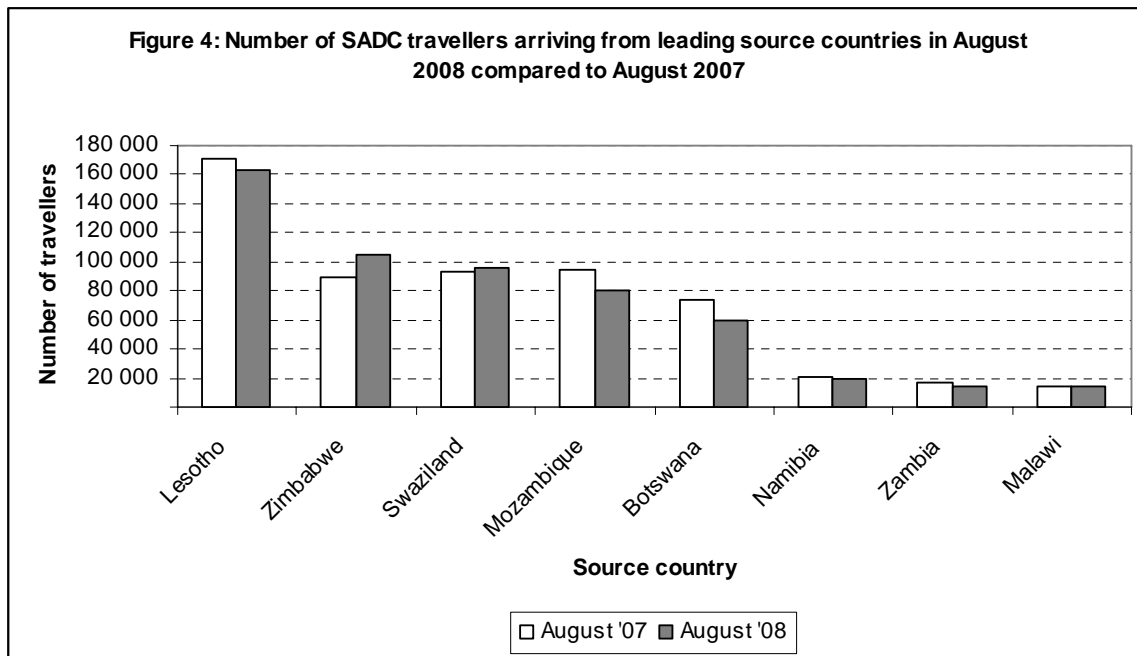
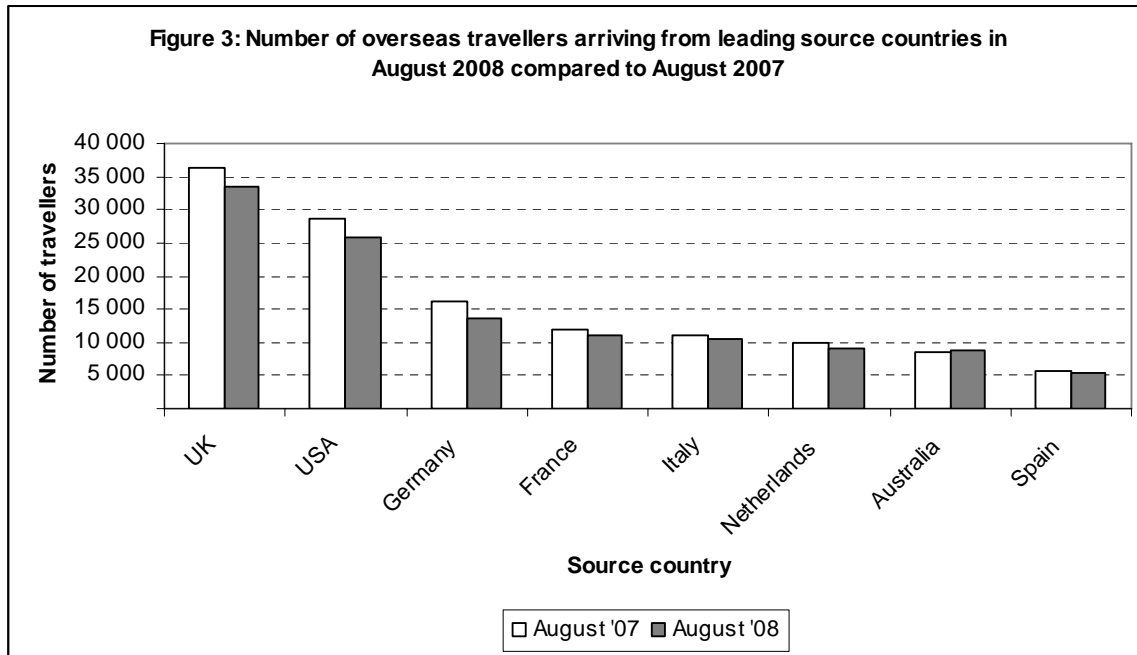
Overall, 92,9% of overseas travellers came to South Africa to visit. A detailed analysis reveals that all the overseas regions had more than 78,0% travellers coming to South Africa for holidays. Travellers from Australasia (96,3%), North America (95,4%), Central and South America (93,5%), Europe (94,4%) and the Middle East (92,6%) were admitted into South Africa as visitors. Travellers from Asia were more diverse in their purpose, for instance, 78,4% came into the country for holidays, 13,0% for work whereas 5,5% came for business and 1,1% to study.

Although the majority (94,7%) 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 95,0% of travellers from the SADC countries were recorded as on holiday, 82,4% of travellers from 'other' African countries were admitted on visitor's permit. Proportionally, the lowest percentage (75,1%) of visitors came from North Africa, a region where, a large percentage of travellers was in South Africa for business (11,6%).
- A relatively higher percentage of 'other' African than SADC travellers were here to study, work or for business.
- Overall, North Africa, West Africa and East and Central Africa had 9,5%; 6,2% and 6,1% respectively of travellers who were in South Africa for work as compared to only 0,5% among the SADC travellers.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General





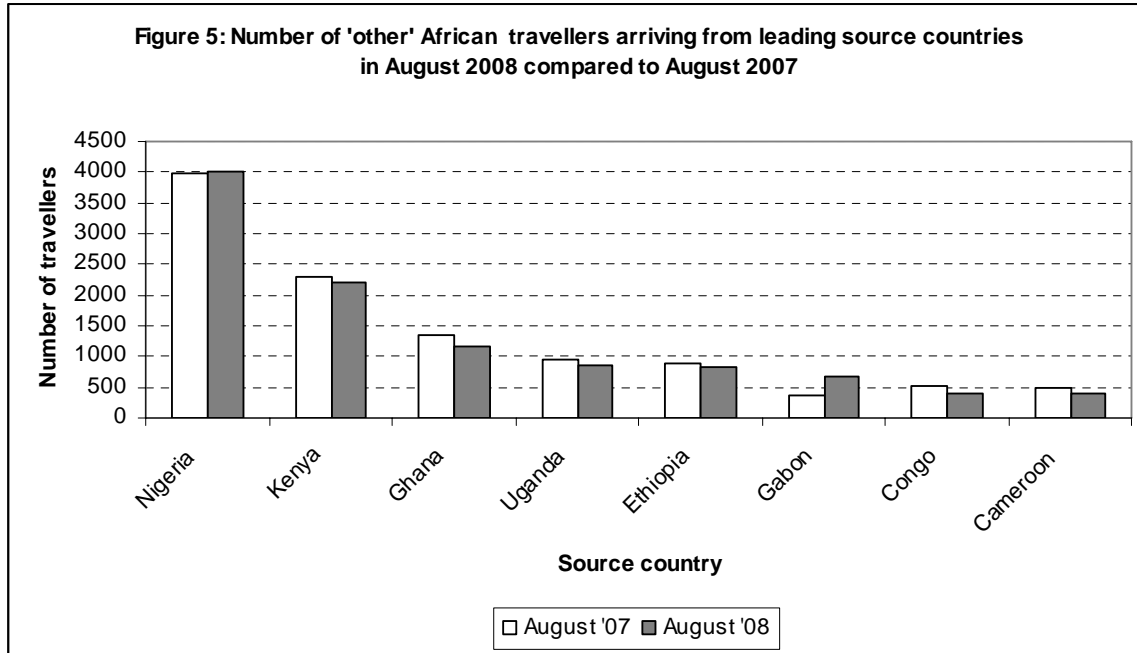


Table 1. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction

Travel direction	August	July	August	% change	% change
	2007	2008	2008	August 07–August 08	July 08 – August 08
Grand Total	2 221 348	2 309 229	2 083 981	-6,2	-9,8
South African residents	736 195	787 568	666 132	-9,5	-15,4
Arrivals	361 577	430 287	326 075	-9,8	-24,2
Departures	374 618	357 281	340 057	-9,2	-4,8
Foreign travellers	1 485 153	1 521 661	1 417 849	-4,5	-6,9
Arrivals	788 117	836 554	752 942	-4,5	-10,0
Departures	697 036	685 107	664 907	-4,6	-2,9

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

Travel direction	Total	Mode of travel (August 2008)								
		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
		(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Grand Total	2 083 981	95 000	2 196	558 760	9 739	665 695	59	1 401 696	530	16 001
Arrivals:	1 079 017	46 728	1 046	275 895	4 980	328 649	18	734 108	277	15 965
South African residents	326 075	17 003	712	109 129	3 709	130 553	-	193 738	81	1 703
Foreign travellers	752 942	29 725	334	166 766	1 271	198 096	18	540 370	196	14 262
Overseas	171 938	27 557	112	118 771	747	147 187	8	24 293	160	290
Africa	575 104	1 936	221	46 135	503	48 795	10	514 015	34	12 250
Unspecified	5 900	232	1	1 860	21	2 114	-	2 062	2	1 722
Departures:	1 004 964	48 272	1 150	282 865	4 759	337 046	41	667 588	253	36
South African residents	340 057	18 588	795	117 150	3 480	140 013	13	199 893	138	-
Foreign travellers	664 907	29 684	355	165 715	1 279	197 033	28	467 695	115	36

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

Country	Mode of travel (August 2008)										
	August		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Grand Total	788 117	752 942	29 725	334	166 766	1 271	198 096	18	540 370	196	14 262
Overseas Total	188 127	171 937	27 557	112	118 770	747	147 186	8	24 293	160	290
Europe	112 643	104 447	20 400	61	65 886	347	86 694	3	17 575	86	89
Austria	1 538	1 379	298	-	823	5	1 126	-	250	3	-
Belgium	3 092	3 021	422	2	1 927	34	2 385	-	627	3	6
Denmark	1 176	1 306	257	1	877	-	1 135	-	166	1	4
France	11 836	11 155	1 327	14	7 881	56	9 278	-	1 866	9	2
Germany	16 071	13 510	3 593	3	7 444	18	11 058	1	2 428	16	7
Ireland	3 177	2 963	937	6	1 534	12	2 489	-	470	-	4
Italy	10 998	10 494	1 825	1	7 032	26	8 884	-	1 610	-	-
The Netherlands	10 061	9 019	1 904	1	4 428	15	6 348	-	2 653	15	3
Portugal	2 737	2 742	137	14	1 332	11	1 494	-	1 237	3	8
Russian Federation	973	897	207	-	595	5	807	-	65	5	20
Spain	5 672	5 487	615	-	4 117	2	4 734	1	752	-	-
Sweden	1 483	1 457	302	-	981	3	1 286	-	166	2	3
Switzerland	2 072	1 914	290	-	1 240	6	1 536	1	375	2	-
United Kingdom	36 426	33 562	7 152	19	21 896	136	29 203	-	4 323	14	22
Other	5 331	5 541	1 134	-	3 779	18	4 931	-	587	13	10
North America	32 873	29 861	3 650	8	23 242	235	27 135	-	2 690	20	16
Canada	4 104	4 012	544	2	2 889	34	3 469	-	541	2	-
USA	28 760	25 845	3 104	6	20 352	201	23 663	-	2 148	18	16
Other	9	4	2	-	1	-	3	-	1	-	-
Central and South America	4 352	4 829	589	3	3 676	13	4 281	-	545	3	-
Argentina	576	803	386	-	373	-	759	-	44	-	-
Brazil	2 352	2 439	36	2	2 140	2	2 180	-	259	-	-
Mexico	278	291	13	-	251	8	272	-	16	3	-
Other	1 146	1 296	154	1	912	3	1 070	-	226	-	-

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

Country	Mode of travel (August 2008)										
	August		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Australasia	10 082	10 584	809	23	8 800	92	9 724	-	828	27	5
Australia	8 578	8 722	644	19	7 326	75	8 064	-	629	24	5
New Zealand	1 435	1 779	158	4	1 431	17	1 610	-	167	2	-
Other	69	83	7	-	43	-	50	-	32	1	-
Middle East	5 069	4 159	661	1	3 268	11	3 941	-	212	3	3
Iran	368	358	105	-	238	1	344	-	13	1	-
Israel	1 653	1 584	87	-	1 369	6	1 462	-	122	-	-
Saudi Arabia	1 151	1 118	233	1	861	-	1 095	-	23	-	-
Other	1 897	1 099	236	-	800	4	1 040	-	54	2	3
Asia	23 108	18 057	1 448	16	13 898	49	15 411	5	2 443	21	177
China	4 238	2 224	44	-	1 799	9	1 852	-	335	-	37
India	5 202	4 827	361	13	3 586	12	3 972	-	804	-	51
Japan	3 182	2 641	189	-	2 300	15	2 504	-	137	-	-
Korea	2 529	2 258	131	-	1 953	-	2 084	-	172	-	2
Malaysia	1 173	666	145	1	485	1	632	-	33	-	1
Pakistan	839	770	27	2	491	6	526	5	232	3	4
Philippines	675	628	97	-	432	1	530	-	68	9	21
Taiwan	1 521	836	102	-	377	-	479	-	301	9	47
Thailand	1 022	901	50	-	828	1	879	-	22	-	-
Other	2 727	2 306	302	-	1 647	4	1 953	-	339	-	14
Africa Total	594 540	575 104	1 936	221	46 135	503	48 795	10	514 015	34	12 250
SADC	580 515	561 538	1 811	219	34 678	424	37 132	8	512 153	30	12 215
Angola	2 604	2 972	99	-	2 710	20	2 829	-	143	-	-
Botswana	73 741	59 994	9	21	2 733	176	2 939	-	56 971	20	64
DRC	3 134	3 133	5	-	2 392	21	2 418	-	715	-	-
Lesotho	170 358	163 531	3	-	708	7	718	-	151 292	-	11 521
Madagascar	268	318	2	-	298	-	300	-	18	-	-
Malawi	13 674	14 252	1	3	2 370	5	2 379	-	11 871	-	2

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

Country	Mode of travel (August 2008)										
	August		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Mauritius	1 264	1 254	143	119	841	11	1 114	-	137	-	3
Mozambique	94 379	80 578	83	67	2 596	18	2 764	1	77 711	-	102
Namibia	20 901	18 951	1 417	-	2 870	22	4 309	-	14 606	1	35
Swaziland	93 400	95 743	-	7	868	1	876	4	94 765	1	97
Tanzania	1 083	1 202	6	1	920	1	928	-	271	-	3
Zambia	16 613	14 838	6	-	5 425	21	5 452	-	9 376	-	10
Zimbabwe	89 096	104 772	37	1	9 947	121	10 106	3	94 277	8	378
East & Central Africa	6 532	6 174	36	1	5 126	31	5 194	-	970	1	9
Burundi	92	70	-	-	59	2	61	-	9	-	-
Cameroon	476	406	5	-	371	1	377	-	29	-	-
Central Africa	8	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-	-	-
Chad	36	26	-	-	26	-	26	-	-	-	-
Comoros	18	8	-	-	7	-	7	-	1	-	-
Congo	532	412	2	-	302	5	309	-	100	1	2
Djibouti	3	5	-	-	3	-	3	-	2	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	28	16	1	-	5	-	6	-	10	-	-
Eritrea	38	50	-	-	33	-	33	-	17	-	-
Ethiopia	895	836	3	-	588	6	597	-	239	-	-
Gabon	357	673	2	-	663	3	668	-	5	-	-
Kenya	2 311	2 211	15	-	1 883	5	1 903	-	305	-	3
Reunion	56	65	2	-	62	-	64	-	1	-	-
Rwanda	260	256	3	-	226	8	237	-	19	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	11	11	-	-	11	-	11	-	-	-	-
Seychelles	226	226	-	1	218	-	219	-	7	-	-
Somalia	222	56	-	-	6	-	6	-	50	-	-
Uganda	963	843	3	-	659	1	663	-	176	-	4

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

Country	Mode of travel (August 2008)										
	August		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
West Africa	6 537	6 308	36		5 424	46	5 506	2	779	2	19
Ascension	-	3	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-
Benin	116	114	-	-	94	-	94	-	20	-	-
Burkina Faso	59	53	-	-	50	2	52	-	1	-	-
Cape Verde Island	51	66	-	-	57	-	57	-	9	-	-
Cote D'Ivoire	222	195	2	-	191	-	193	-	2	-	-
Gambia	60	45	1	-	34	-	35	-	10	-	-
Ghana	1 346	1 162	1	-	1 022	3	1 026	-	133	-	3
Guinea	156	123	-	-	69	-	69	-	54	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	48	24	-	-	5	-	5	-	19	-	-
Liberia	32	27	-	-	23	1	24	-	3	-	-
Madeira Island	5	6	1	-	3	-	4	-	2	-	-
Mali	93	64	4	-	52	-	56	-	8	-	-
Mauritania	12	10	-	-	10	-	10	-	-	-	-
Niger	13	13	-	-	12	-	12	-	1	-	-
Nigeria	3 968	4 018	20	-	3 477	40	3 537	2	462	1	16
Saint Helena	17	16	-	-	2	-	2	-	14	-	-
Senegal	235	257	4	-	241	-	245	-	12	-	-
Sierra Leone	59	71	3	-	48	-	51	-	20	-	-
Togo	45	41	-	-	33	-	33	-	7	1	-
North Africa	956	1 084	53	1	907	2	963	-	113	1	7
Algeria	160	176	21	-	122	-	143	-	33	-	-
Egypt	375	347	10	1	303	2	316	-	29	1	1
Libyan	76	101	3	-	72	-	75	-	20	-	6
Morocco	68	106	3	-	99	-	102	-	4	-	-
The Sudan	209	248	14	-	213	-	227	-	21	-	-
Tunisia	68	106	2	-	98	-	100	-	6	-	-
Unspecified	5 450	5 901	232	1	1 861	21	2 115	-	2 062	2	1 722

Table 4. Number of foreign arrivals by purpose of travel

Region	Total	Purpose of travel (August 2008)						Total	Border Traffic Concession
		Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified		
Grand Total	752 942	12 657	706 249	6 199	11 201	2 471	3	738 780	14 162
Overseas Total	171 937	4 283	159 790	912	5 997	737	1	171 720	217
Europe	104 447	2 244	98 582	477	2 714	377	-	104 394	53
North America	29 861	571	28 493	162	547	75	-	29 848	13
Central and South America	4 829	94	4 515	21	170	29	-	4 829	-
Australasia	10 584	238	10 196	14	103	28	-	10 579	5
Middle East	4 159	137	3 853	48	107	11	-	4 156	3
Asia	18 057	999	14 151	190	2 356	217	1	17 914	143
Africa Total	575 104	8 321	544 492	4 572	3 774	1 720	2	562 881	12 223
SADC	561 538	7 520	533 308	4 022	2 905	1 593	2	549 350	12 188
East and Central Africa	6 174	341	5 034	349	377	64	-	6 165	9
West Africa	6 308	334	5 336	177	389	53	-	6 289	19
North Africa	1 084	126	814	24	103	10	-	1 077	7
Unspecified	5 901	53	1 967	715	1 430	14	-	4 179	1 722

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

Country	August		Purpose of travel (August 2008)							Border Traffic Concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
Grand Total	788 117	752 942	12 657	706 249	6 199	11 201	2 471	3	738 780	14 162
Overseas Total	188 127	171 937	4 283	159 790	912	5 997	737	1	171 720	217
Europe	112 643	104 447	2 244	98 582	477	2 714	377	-	104 394	53
Austria	1 538	1 379	37	1 306	2	21	13	-	1 379	-
Belgium	3 092	3 021	52	2 849	16	83	15	-	3 015	6
Denmark	1 176	1 306	54	1 195	1	49	3	-	1 302	4
France	11 836	11 155	153	10 551	89	323	39	-	11 155	-
Germany	16 071	13 510	361	12 611	89	409	35	-	13 505	5
Ireland	3 177	2 963	53	2 836	7	55	9	-	2 960	3
Italy	10 998	10 494	67	10 303	9	85	30	-	10 494	-
The Netherlands	10 061	9 019	163	8 617	58	157	21	-	9 016	3
Portugal	2 737	2 742	21	2 663	6	35	9	-	2 734	8
Russian Federation	973	897	35	676	3	150	33	-	897	-
Spain	5 672	5 487	20	5 407	5	38	17	-	5 487	-
Sweden	1 483	1 457	71	1 257	28	97	1	-	1 454	3
Switzerland	2 072	1 914	59	1 802	14	36	3	-	1 914	-
United Kingdom	36 426	33 562	887	31 840	114	591	109	-	33 541	21
Other	5 331	5 541	211	4 669	36	585	40	-	5 541	-
North America	32 873	29 861	571	28 493	162	547	75	-	29 848	13
Canada	4 104	4 012	99	3 768	21	105	19	-	4 012	-
USA	28 760	25 845	472	24 721	141	442	56	-	25 832	13
Other	9	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	-
Central and South America	4 352	4 829	94	4 515	21	170	29	-	4 829	-
Argentina	576	803	11	777	2	12	1	-	803	-
Brazil	2 352	2 439	19	2 319	6	76	19	-	2 439	-
Mexico	278	291	14	255	4	15	3	-	291	-
Other	1 146	1 296	50	1 164	9	67	6	-	1 296	-

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

Country	August		Purpose of travel (August 2008)							Border Traffic Concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
Australasia	10 082	10 584	238	10 196	14	103	28	-	10 579	5
Australia	8 578	8 722	197	8 401	12	86	21	-	8 717	5
New Zealand	1 435	1 779	36	1 726	1	12	4	-	1 779	-
Other	69	83	5	69	1	5	3	-	83	-
Middle East	5 069	4 159	137	3 853	48	107	11	-	4 156	3
Iran	368	358	18	314	5	20	1	-	358	-
Israel	1 653	1 584	34	1 504	4	36	6	-	1 584	-
Saudi Arabia	1 151	1 118	14	1 089	6	9	-	-	1 118	-
Other	1 897	1 099	71	946	33	42	4	-	1 096	3
Asia	23 108	18 057	999	14 151	190	2 356	217	1	17 914	143
China	4 238	2 224	146	1 426	42	512	61	-	2 187	37
India	5 202	4 827	497	3 635	33	594	21	1	4 781	46
Japan	3 182	2 641	57	2 416	19	138	11	-	2 641	-
Malaysia	2 529	666	24	609	-	27	5	-	665	1
Pakistan	1 173	770	50	598	6	109	3	-	766	4
Philippines	839	628	32	242	13	277	57	-	621	7
Korea	675	2 258	44	2 101	55	45	12	-	2 257	1
Taiwan	1 521	836	36	584	2	153	23	-	798	38
Thailand	1 022	901	12	593	2	292	2	-	901	-
Other	2 727	2 306	101	1 947	18	209	22	-	2 297	9
Africa Total	594 540	575 104	8 321	544 492	4 572	3 774	1 720	2	562 881	12 223
SADC	580 515	561 538	7 520	533 308	4 022	2 905	1 593	2	549 350	12 188
Angola	2 604	2 972	55	2 680	148	49	40	-	2 972	-
Botswana	73 741	59 994	117	58 420	1 090	206	123	-	59 956	38
DRC	3 134	3 133	126	2 763	112	99	33	-	3 133	-
Lesotho	170 358	163 531	345	150 527	429	139	570	-	152 010	11 521
Madagascar	268	318	16	268	7	16	11	-	318	-
Malawi	13 674	14 252	659	13 453	47	69	22	-	14 250	2

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

Country	August		Purpose of travel (August 2008)							Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
	2007	2008								
Mauritius	1 264	1 254	32	1 177	10	28	4	-	1 251	3
Mozambique	94 379	80 578	309	79 855	130	137	45	-	80 476	102
Namibia	20 901	18 951	1 765	16 305	341	66	439	-	18 916	35
Swaziland	93 400	95 743	414	94 057	913	168	94	-	95 646	97
Tanzania	1 083	1 202	113	978	58	41	10	-	1 200	2
Zambia	16 613	14 838	1 623	12 923	107	138	37	-	14 828	10
Zimbabwe	89 096	104 772	1 946	99 902	630	1 749	165	2	104 394	378
East & Central Africa	6 532	6 174	341	5 034	349	377	64	-	6 165	9
Burundi	92	70	7	48	10	4	1	-	70	-
Cameroon	476	406	22	292	38	44	10	-	406	-
Central African	8	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	-
Chad	36	26	2	17	2	4	1	-	26	-
Comoros	18	8	-	5	2	1	-	-	8	-
Congo	532	412	12	347	27	21	3	-	410	2
Djibouti	3	5	1	4	-	-	-	-	5	-
Equatorial Guinea	28	16	-	14	1	1	-	-	16	-
Eritrea	38	50	-	43	3	4	-	-	50	-
Ethiopia	895	836	23	767	18	26	2	-	836	-
Gabon	357	673	5	570	77	19	2	-	673	-
Kenya	2 311	2 211	179	1 719	104	179	27	-	2 208	3
Reunion	56	65	-	65	-	-	-	-	65	-
Rwanda	260	256	26	161	35	28	6	-	256	-
Sao Tome and Principe	11	11	-	11	-	-	-	-	11	-
Seychelles	226	226	7	215	1	3	-	-	226	-
Somalia	222	56	1	53	-	2	-	-	56	-
Uganda	963	843	56	699	31	41	12	-	839	4

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

Country	August		Purpose of travel (August 2008)							Border traffic concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
West Africa	6 537	6 308	334	5 336	177	389	53	-	6 289	19
Ascension	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	-
Benin	116	114	2	100	4	6	2	-	114	-
Burkina Faso	59	53	9	32	4	8	-	-	53	-
Cape Verde Island	51	66	-	59	1	4	2	-	66	-
Cote D'Ivoire	222	195	15	133	19	26	2	-	195	-
Gambia	60	45	4	37	1	2	1	-	45	-
Ghana	1 346	1 162	32	1 041	15	60	11	-	1 159	3
Guinea	156	123	3	100	1	13	6	-	123	-
Guinea-Bissau	48	24	1	23	-	-	-	-	24	-
Liberia	32	27	2	22	-	3	-	-	27	-
Madeira Island	5	6	-	6	-	-	-	-	6	-
Mali	93	64	9	48	4	2	1	-	64	-
Mauritania	12	10	-	7	-	2	1	-	10	-
Niger	13	13	4	8	1	-	-	-	13	-
Nigeria	3 968	4 018	218	3 423	118	232	11	-	4 002	16
Saint Helena	17	16	-	16	-	-	-	-	16	-
Senegal	235	257	28	188	6	22	13	-	257	-
Sierra Leone	59	71	2	57	2	8	2	-	71	-
Togo	45	41	5	33	1	1	1	-	41	-
North Africa	956	1 084	126	814	24	103	10	-	1 077	7
Algeria	160	176	15	139	1	20	1	-	176	-
Egypt	375	347	36	257	10	41	2	-	346	1
Libya	76	101	6	72	2	9	6	-	95	6
Morocco	68	106	12	86	-	7	1	-	106	-
The Sudan	209	248	26	203	7	12	-	-	248	-
Tunisia	68	106	31	57	4	14	-	-	106	-
Unspecified	5 450	5 901	53	1 967	715	1 430	14	-	4 179	1 722

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.
- 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 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 August 2008, the DHA data was 26% lower than that of ACSA.

- 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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