



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 August 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 3 373 975 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in August 2015. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 919 693 South African residents and 2 454 282 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 451 785 arrivals, 466 951 departures and 957 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 219 410, 1 138 025 and 96 847 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in August 2014 and August 2015 indicates that the volume of arrivals increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. Departures decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, and transits increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents the volume of arrivals increased by 0,7% (from 448 485 in August 2014 to 451 785 in August 2015), departures decreased by 0,9% (from 471 125 in August 2014 to 466 951 in August 2015), and transits increased by 30,6% (from 733 in August 2014 to 957 in August 2015). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 6,4% (from 1 302 154 in August 2014 to 1 219 410 in August 2015), departures decreased by 4,2% (from 1 187 912 in August 2014 to 1 138 025 in August 2015), and transits increased by 9,5% (from 88 418 in August 2014 to 96 847 in August 2015).

A comparison between the movements in July 2015 and August 2015 indicates that the volume of arrivals decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. Departures and transits increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents decreased by 12,1% (from 514 248 in July 2015 to 451 785 in August 2015), departures and transits increased respectively by 2,5% (from 455 663 in July 2015 to 466 951 in August 2015) and 3,7% (from 923 in July 2015 to 957 in August 2015). For foreign travellers, the volume of arrivals decreased by 2,9% (from 1 255 430 in July 2015 to 1 219 410 in August 2015), departures and transits increased respectively by 4,2% (from 1 092 179 in July 2015 to 1 138 025 in August 2015) and 19,2% (from 81 250 in July 2015 to 96 847 in August 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 or non-tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation.

As presented in Table 1, in August 2015, 97 541 (8,0%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 121 869 (92,0%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in August 2015 but did not depart in August 2015 [255 265 (22,8%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in August 2015 and left in August 2015 [445 500 (39,7%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who visited South Africa and left more than once in August 2015 [421 104 (37,5%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In August 2015, there were 390 621 (34,8%) same-day visitors and 731 248 (65,2%) tourists. Between August 2014 and August 2015, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 9,2% (from 430 269 in August 2014 to 390 621 in August 2015) and that of tourists decreased by 11,7% (from 828 531 in August 2014 to 731 248 in August 2015). Between July 2015 and August 2015, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 9,5% (from 431 673 in July 2015 to 390 621 in August 2015), and tourists decreased by 0,2% (from 732 891 in July 2015 to 731 248 in August 2015).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 10 show that in August 2015, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 421 459 (71,8%) of the 3 373 975 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 944 051 (28,0%). Compared to use of air and land transport, a very small number of travellers, 8 465 (0,3%) used sea transport. The arrivals data for South African residents show that 163 305 (36,1%) came by air, 288 289 (63,8%) came by road and 191 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. For departures, 180 307 (38,6%), 286 364 (61,3%) and 280 (less than 0,1%) used air, road and sea transport respectively. All travellers in transit (957) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 243 059 (19,9%) arrived by air, 972 400 (79,7%) came by road and 3 951 (0,3%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 259 576 (22,8%) foreign travellers left by air, 874 406 (76,8%) left by road and 4 043 (0,4%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, (96 847) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [365 485 (93,6%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 25 124 (6,4%) of same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that 532 827 (72,9%) used road transport, 198 362 (27,1%) came by air and 59 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea.

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 11. In August 2015, 142 826 (86,0%) of overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 23 115 (13,9%) 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 [508 423 (92,6%)]. Only 40 521 (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 14 181 (92,5%), with 1 137 (7,4%) using road transport. Less than 1% of all categories of travellers used sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In August 2015, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 96 354 (58,0%); North America, 30 280 (18,2%); Asia, 21 571 (13,0%); Australasia, 10 136 (6,1%); Middle East, 4 031 (2,4%) and Central and South America, 3 618 (2,2%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 7 indicate that the United Kingdom (UK), 28 540 (17,2%); United States of America (USA), 26 635 (16,0%); Germany, 15 993 (9,6%); The Netherlands, 9 774 (5,9%); France, 9 685 (5,8%); Italy, 8 704 (5,2%); Australia, 8 529 (5,1%); China, 7 172 (4,3%); India, 6 126 (3,7%); and Spain, 4 038 (2,4%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in August 2015. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 75,4% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in August 2014 and August 2015 shows that the number of tourists decreased for all the ten leading overseas countries. Italy had the largest decrease of 16,0% (from 10 356 tourists in August 2014 to 8 704 in August 2015), while Spain had the lowest decrease of 2,8% (from 4 154 tourists in August 2014 to 4 038 in August 2015).

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 548 949 (97,3%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 7 727 (1,4%); East and Central Africa, 6 366 (1,1%); and North Africa 1 230 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in August 2015 were Zimbabwe, 140 931 (25,7%); Lesotho, 120 861 (22,0%); Mozambique, 105 096 (19,1%); Swaziland, 81 679 (14,9%); Botswana, 47 027 (8,6%); Namibia, 18 482 (3,4%); Zambia, 12 130 (2,2%); Malawi, 10 735 (2,0%); Angola, 4 021 (0,7%) and Tanzania, 2 902 (0,5%) (see Figure 2 on page 7). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,1% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in August 2014 and August 2015 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased in two of the ten leading countries and decreased in the rest. Number of tourists increased by 3,0% (from 117 392 in August 2014 to 120 861 in August 2015 for Lesotho and 1,0% (from 46 579 in August 2014 to 47 027 in August 2015 for Botswana. Malawi showed the largest decrease of 38,9% (from 17 577 tourists in August 2014 to 10 735 tourists in August 2015).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in August 2015 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8, were: Nigeria, 5 241 (34,2%); Kenya, 2 359 (15,4%); Ghana, 1 280 (8,4%); Gabon, 1 108 (7,2%); Uganda, 1 002 (6,5%); Ethiopia, 748 (4,9%); Egypt, 600 (3,9%); Cameroon, 432 (2,8%); Congo, 378 (2,5%); and Côte d'Ivoire, 230 (1,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 87,3% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in August 2014 and August 2015 shows that the number of tourists increased in two countries: Ethiopia and Uganda, and decreased in the rest of the ten leading countries. Ethiopia had the largest increase of 25,9% (from 594 in August 2014 to 748 in August 2015), while Gabon had the largest decrease of 14,8% (from 1 300 in August 2014 to 1 108 in August 2015).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on page 15, in August 2015, the majority of tourists, 698 002 (95,5%), were in South Africa for holidays compared to 27 445 (3,8%) and 5 801 (0,8%) 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, more than 90,0% came to South Africa for holidays. A total of 9 839 (97,1%) tourists from Australasia, 29 206 (96,5%) from North America, 3 469 (95,9%) from Central and South America, 92 142 (95,6%) from Europe, 3 786 (93,9%) from the Middle East, and 19 726 (91,4%) from Asia were in South Africa for holidays. Asia had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business [7,0% (1 515)] and study purposes [1,5% (330)] compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists, 538 911 (95,5%) came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 525 219 (95,7%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 13 692 (89,4%) of tourists from 'other' African countries came for the same purpose. Data on the regions of 'other' African countries show that tourists on holiday constituted 91,5% (7 069); 88,4% (5 627) and 81,0% (996) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 6,2% (953) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 3,7% (20 197) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 12,8% (157) of its tourists to South Africa who came for business purposes.
- Students made up 4,4% (678) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,6% (3 533) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 6,3% (77) of student tourists in South Africa.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in August 2015, there were 406 869 (55,6%) male and 324 379 (44,4%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 91 411 (55,1%) male tourists and 74 579 (44,9%) female tourists. There were 305 042 (55,6%) male and 243 907 (44,4%) female tourists from the SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 9 813 (64,0%) male and 5 510 (36,0%) 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 51 271 (7,0%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 651 485 (89,1%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 28 492 (3,9%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 500 857 (91,2%) of SADC tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 13 704 (89,4%) and 135 984 (81,9%) of tourists in the same age range from 'other' African countries and overseas. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries 9,0% (15 019) than among tourists from 'other' African countries 8,7% (1 331) and those from SADC countries, 6,4% (34 892).

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 8,9% (8 150) of male tourists and 9,2% (6 837) of female tourists from overseas. 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 1,9% (5 894) and 3,0% (7 306) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,0% (196) and 1,7% (92) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

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

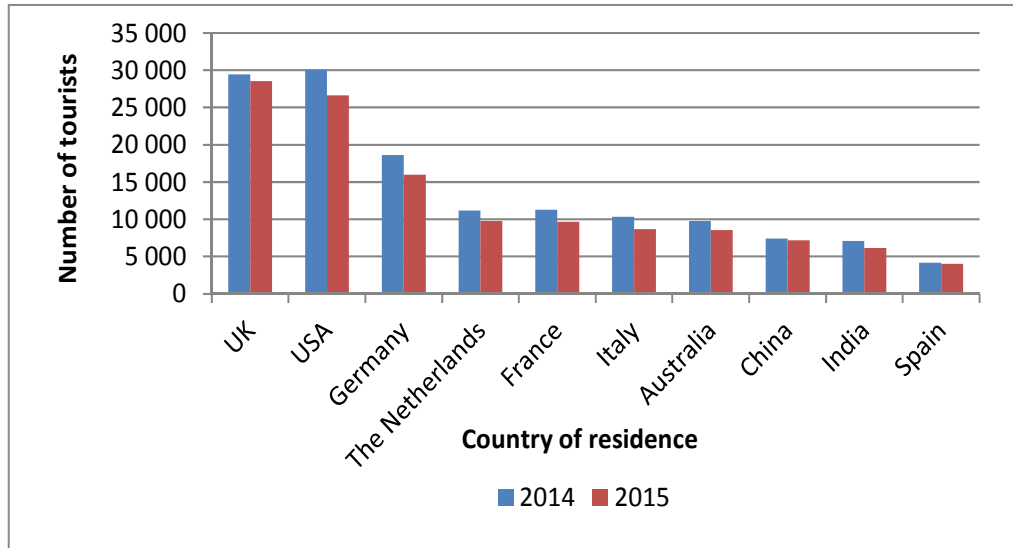


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in August 2014 and August 2015

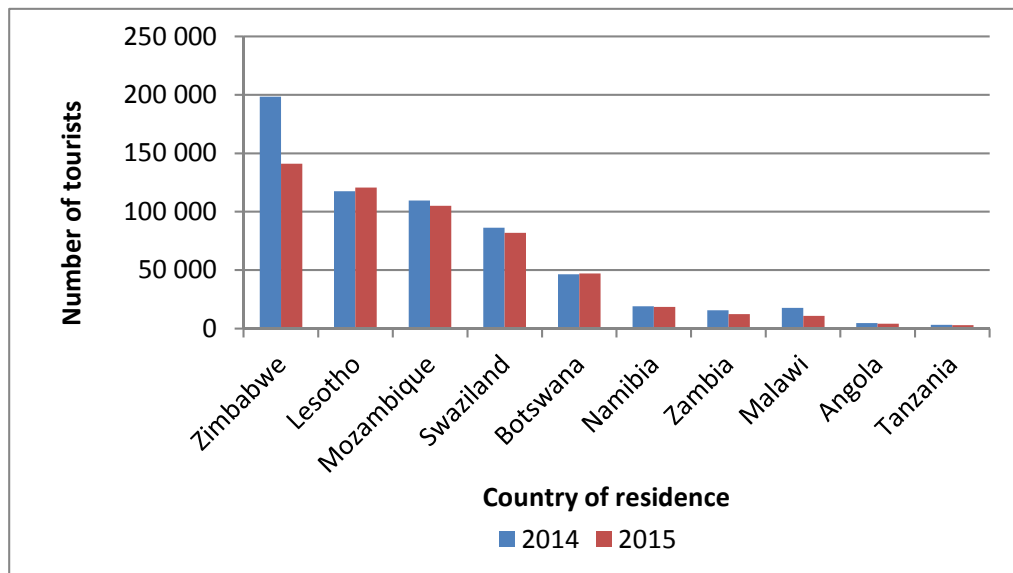
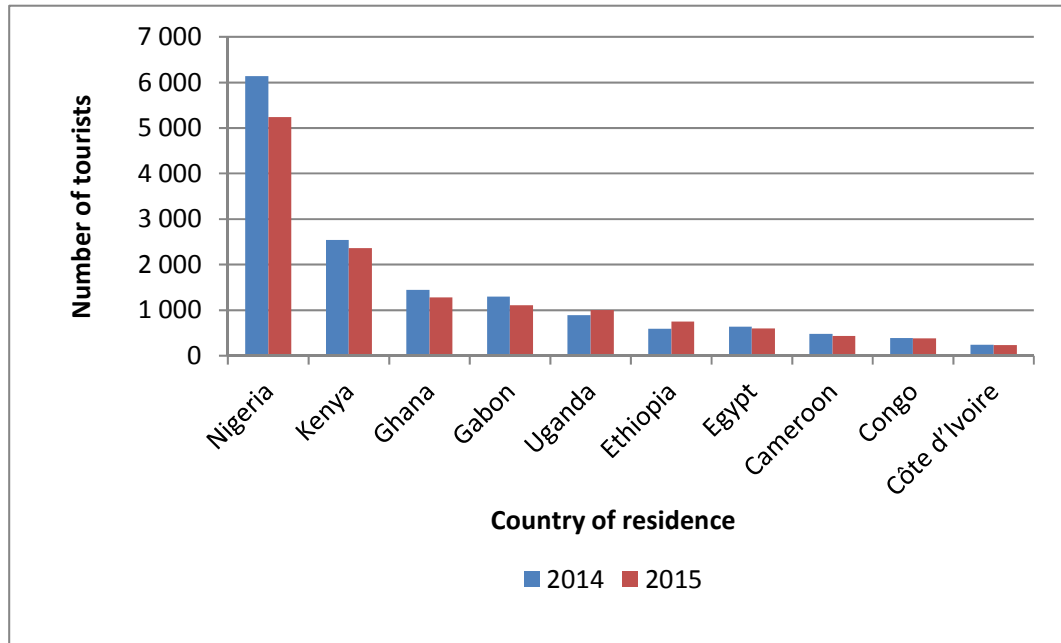


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in August 2014 and August 2015



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	August 2014	July 2015	August 2015	% Change July - August 2015	% Change August 2014 - August 2015
Total	3 498 827	3 399 693	3 373 975	-0,8%	-3,6%
South African residents	920 343	970 834	919 693	-5,3%	-0,1%
Arrivals	448 485	514 248	451 785	-12,1%	0,7%
Departures	471 125	455 663	466 951	2,5%	-0,9%
Transit	733	923	957	3,7%	30,6%
Foreign travellers	2 578 484	2 428 859	2 454 282	1,0%	-4,8%
Arrivals	1 302 154	1 255 430	1 219 410	-2,9%	-6,4%
Departures	1 187 912	1 092 179	1 138 025	4,2%	-4,2%
Transit	88 418	81 250	96 847	19,2%	9,5%
Foreign arrivals	1 302 154	1 255 430	1 219 410	-2,9%	-6,4%
Non-visitors	43 354	90 866	97 541	7,3%	125,0%
Visitors	1 258 800	1 164 564	1 121 869	-3,7%	-10,9%
Visitors	1 258 800	1 164 564	1 121 869	-3,7%	-10,9%
Arrivals only	369 449	282 611	255 265	-9,7%	-30,9%
Single trips	488 987	421 327	445 500	5,7%	-8,9%
Multiple trips	400 364	460 626	421 104	-8,6%	5,2%
Visitors	1 258 800	1 164 564	1 121 869	-3,7%	-10,9%
Same-Day	430 269	431 673	390 621	-9,5%	-9,2%
Overnight (Tourists)	828 531	732 891	731 248	-0,2%	-11,7%

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

Travel Direction	Total	Mode of travel (August 2015)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	3 373 975	110 748	22 419	802 743	8 141	944 051	2 421 459	8 465
South African residents	919 693	42 866	14 046	283 211	4 446	344 569	574 653	471
Arrivals	451 785	20 304	6 003	134 900	2 098	163 305	288 289	191
Departures	466 951	22 559	8 043	147 357	2 348	180 307	286 364	280
Transit	957	3	-	954	-	957	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 454 282	67 882	8 373	519 532	3 695	599 482	1 846 806	7 994
Arrivals	1 219 410	32 655	3 572	205 608	1 224	243 059	972 400	3 951
Departures	1 138 025	35 185	4 793	217 127	2 471	259 576	874 406	4 043
Transit	96 847	42	8	96 797	-	96 847	-	-
Visitors	1 121 869	30 001	2 742	189 827	916	223 486	898 312	71
Same day	390 621	543	29	24 463	89	25 124	365 485	12
Tourists	731 248	29 458	2 713	165 364	827	198 362	532 827	59

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

Country of residence	August		Air					Road	Sea
	2014	2015	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	828 531	731 248	29 458	2 713	165 364	827	198 362	532 827	59
Overseas	186 801	165 990	25 564	2 188	114 368	706	142 826	23 115	49
Europe	107 127	96 354	17 487	1 524	60 553	195	79 759	16 558	37
Austria	1 866	1 478	231	27	936	3	1 197	281	-
Belgium	3 472	3 038	486	26	1 813	10	2 335	703	-
Denmark	1 170	1 239	215	3	905	4	1 127	112	-
France	11 256	9 685	1 381	66	6 213	17	7 677	2 003	5
Germany	18 610	15 993	2 409	218	10 912	14	13 553	2 439	1
Ireland	1 628	1 634	385	72	1 006	-	1 463	171	-
Italy	10 356	8 704	2 352	78	4 910	21	7 361	1 343	-
Poland	1 054	770	135	13	507	2	657	106	7
Portugal	3 717	3 195	313	22	1 513	6	1 854	1 341	-
Spain	4 154	4 038	750	18	2 508	40	3 316	722	-
Sweden	1 239	1 020	232	7	696	3	938	81	1
Switzerland	2 046	2 093	346	19	1 348	15	1 728	365	-
The Netherlands	11 170	9 774	1 737	121	4 425	1	6 284	3 490	-
UK	29 446	28 540	5 366	773	19 529	53	25 721	2 797	22
Other	5 943	5 153	1 149	61	3 332	6	4 548	604	1
North America	34 089	30 280	3 848	140	23 501	421	27 910	2 368	2
Canada	4 017	3 645	639	37	2 618	25	3 319	326	-
USA	30 072	26 635	3 209	103	20 883	396	24 591	2 042	2
Central and South America	4 863	3 618	176	13	2 915	19	3 123	495	-
Argentina	461	439	10	1	396	-	407	32	-
Brazil	3 064	2 018	78	3	1 585	9	1 675	343	-
Mexico	282	212	25	3	169	9	206	6	-
Other	1 056	949	63	6	765	1	835	114	-

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

Country of residence	August		Air					Road	Sea
	2014	2015	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	11 314	10 136	496	99	8 634	42	9 271	865	-
Australia	9 758	8 529	386	61	7 321	40	7 808	721	-
New Zealand	1 543	1 587	110	38	1 296	2	1 446	141	-
Other	13	20	-	-	17	-	17	3	-
Middle East	4 763	4 031	844	32	2 924	9	3 809	222	-
Israel	1 853	1 952	181	-	1 617	2	1 800	152	-
Saudi Arabia	1 395	684	115	2	558	7	682	2	-
United Arab Emirates	383	297	196	8	92	-	296	1	-
Other	1 132	1 098	352	22	657	-	1 031	67	-
Asia	24 645	21 571	2 713	380	15 841	20	18 954	2 607	10
Bangladesh	462	432	46	1	260	-	307	125	-
China	7 397	7 172	647	42	6 079	3	6 771	401	-
India	7 065	6 126	852	209	4 274	-	5 335	790	1
Japan	3 194	1 965	220	27	1 567	-	1 814	151	-
Malaysia	687	533	152	13	350	6	521	12	-
Pakistan	1 127	1 371	265	40	592	-	897	474	-
Philippines	527	426	40	7	265	3	315	110	1
Singapore	631	515	94	3	399	8	504	11	-
South Korea	1 503	1 434	141	14	961	-	1 116	318	-
Taiwan	623	427	68	-	279	-	347	80	-
Other	1 429	1 170	188	24	815	-	1 027	135	8
Africa	640 414	564 272	3 863	517	50 201	121	54 702	509 560	10
SADC	623 653	548 949	3 320	482	36 605	114	40 521	508 423	5
Angola	4 574	4 021	920	-	2 893	14	3 827	194	-
Botswana	46 579	47 027	167	-	2 193	28	2 388	44 639	-
DRC	3 144	2 827	20	1	2 266	-	2 287	540	-
Lesotho	117 392	120 861	1	1	497	5	504	120 357	-
Madagascar	338	243	4	-	232	-	236	7	-

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

Country of residence	August		Air					Road	Sea
	2014	2015	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Malawi	17 577	10 735	14	1	1 910	2	1 927	8 808	-
Mauritius	1 658	1 591	202	112	1 143	1	1 458	131	2
Mozambique	109 625	105 096	2	59	3 357	12	3 430	101 666	-
Namibia	18 883	18 482	1 877	-	3 371	11	5 259	13 222	1
Seychelles	477	424	3	-	417	-	420	4	-
Swaziland	86 274	81 679	3	1	571	2	577	81 101	1
Tanzania	3 002	2 902	10	-	2 000	-	2 010	892	-
Zambia	15 472	12 130	13	81	3 824	5	3 923	8 207	-
Zimbabwe	198 658	140 931	84	226	11 931	34	12 275	128 655	1
Other Africa	16 761	15 323	543	35	13 596	7	14 181	1 137	5
East and Central Africa	6 564	6 366	212	10	5 700	1	5 923	443	-
Burundi	81	89	8	-	79	-	87	2	-
Cameroon	481	432	17	1	385	-	403	29	-
Central African Republic	14	12	-	-	12	-	12	-	-
Chad	39	28	2	-	26	-	28	-	-
Comoros	20	13	-	-	12	-	12	1	-
Congo	388	378	19	1	354	-	374	4	-
Djibouti	10	12	2	-	10	-	12	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	32	31	5	-	24	-	29	2	-
Eritrea	45	46	1	-	42	-	43	3	-
Ethiopia	594	748	63	2	603	-	668	80	-
Gabon	1 300	1 108	27	-	1 070	1	1 098	10	-
Kenya	2 541	2 359	45	5	2 128	-	2 178	181	-
Réunion	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	100	82	2	-	70	-	72	10	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	11	11	-	-	11	-	11	-	-
Somalia	18	15	1	-	13	-	14	1	-
Uganda	888	1 002	20	1	861	-	882	120	-

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

Country of residence	August		Air					Road	Sea
	2014	2015	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	8 890	7 727	180	8	6 906	6	7 100	622	5
Benin	185	192	6	-	180	-	186	6	-
Burkina Faso	66	83	12	-	69	-	81	2	-
Cape Verde Island	65	34	5	-	22	-	27	7	-
Côte d'Ivoire	241	230	15	-	211	-	226	4	-
Gambia	59	43	1	-	33	-	34	9	-
Ghana	1 447	1 280	33	5	1 192	-	1 230	50	-
Guinea	166	161	2	-	59	-	61	100	-
Guinea-Bissau	15	11	2	-	7	-	9	2	-
Liberia	18	43	2	-	39	-	41	2	-
Mali	95	94	5	-	54	-	59	35	-
Mauritania	66	12	1	-	11	-	12	-	-
Niger	26	35	3	-	31	-	34	1	-
Nigeria	6 137	5 241	91	3	4 752	6	4 852	389	-
Saint Helena	4	6	1	-	-	-	1	-	5
Senegal	221	175	1	-	170	-	171	4	-
Sierra Leone	38	48	-	-	37	-	37	11	-
Togo	41	39	-	-	39	-	39	-	-
North Africa	1 307	1 230	151	17	990	-	1 158	72	-
Algeria	139	100	5	1	93	-	99	1	-
Egypt	638	600	66	7	501	-	574	26	-
Libya	68	68	21	3	28	-	52	16	-
Morocco	112	121	31	4	76	-	111	10	-
South Sudan	71	79	4	-	74	-	78	1	-
The Sudan	181	168	15	1	143	-	159	9	-
Tunisia	96	91	9	1	72	-	82	9	-
Western Sahara	2	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-
Unspecified	1 316	986	31	8	795	-	834	152	-

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

Country of residence	August		Purpose of visit		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
Total	828 531	731 248	27 445	698 002	5 801
Overseas	186 801	165 990	6 232	158 168	1 590
Europe	107 127	96 354	3 338	92 142	874
Austria	1 866	1 478	44	1 428	6
Belgium	3 472	3 038	91	2 905	42
Denmark	1 170	1 239	71	1 157	11
France	11 256	9 685	283	9 122	280
Germany	18 610	15 993	495	15 425	73
Ireland	1 628	1 634	90	1 534	10
Italy	10 356	8 704	147	8 520	37
Poland	1 054	770	34	731	5
Portugal	3 717	3 195	68	3 107	20
Spain	4 154	4 038	97	3 909	32
Sweden	1 239	1 020	101	883	36
Switzerland	2 046	2 093	67	2 016	10
The Netherlands	11 170	9 774	283	9 415	76
UK	29 446	28 540	1 073	27 312	155
Other	5 943	5 153	394	4 678	81
North America	34 089	30 280	810	29 206	264
Canada	4 017	3 645	119	3 490	36
USA	30 072	26 635	691	25 716	228
Central and South America	4 863	3 618	103	3 469	46
Argentina	461	439	16	420	3
Brazil	3 064	2 018	45	1 960	13
Mexico	282	212	14	192	6
Other	1 056	949	28	897	24

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

Country of residence	August		Purpose of visit		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	11 314	10 136	275	9 839	22
Australia	9 758	8 529	231	8 286	12
New Zealand	1 543	1 587	41	1 539	7
Other	13	20	3	14	3
Middle East	4 763	4 031	191	3 786	54
Israel	1 853	1 952	66	1 881	5
Saudi Arabia	1 395	684	24	650	10
United Arab Emirates	383	297	18	279	-
Other	1 132	1 098	83	976	39
Asia	24 645	21 571	1 515	19 726	330
Bangladesh	462	432	26	398	8
China	7 397	7 172	382	6 738	52
India	7 065	6 126	631	5 423	72
Japan	3 194	1 965	142	1 806	17
Malaysia	687	533	20	452	61
Pakistan	1 127	1 371	69	1 276	26
Philippines	527	426	13	403	10
Singapore	631	515	42	472	1
South Korea	1 503	1 434	84	1 318	32
Taiwan	623	427	21	405	1
Other	1 429	1 170	85	1 035	50
Africa	640 414	564 272	21 150	538 911	4 211
SADC	623 653	548 949	20 197	525 219	3 533
Angola	4 574	4 021	89	3 652	280
Botswana	46 579	47 027	460	46 223	344
DRC	3 144	2 827	90	2 586	151
Lesotho	117 392	120 861	2 626	117 565	670
Madagascar	338	243	5	220	18

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

Country of residence	August		Purpose of visit		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
Malawi	17 577	10 735	298	10 369	68
Mauritius	1 658	1 591	88	1 465	38
Mozambique	109 625	105 096	11 073	93 916	107
Namibia	18 883	18 482	2 100	16 022	360
Seychelles	477	424	8	414	2
Swaziland	86 274	81 679	319	80 668	692
Tanzania	3 002	2 902	92	2 707	103
Zambia	15 472	12 130	847	11 167	116
Zimbabwe	198 658	140 931	2 102	138 245	584
Other Africa	16 761	15 323	953	13 692	678
East and Central Africa	6 564	6 366	434	5 627	305
Burundi	81	89	9	77	3
Cameroon	481	432	33	370	29
Central African Republic	14	12	-	12	-
Chad	39	28	1	26	1
Comoros	20	13	-	13	-
Congo	388	378	9	343	26
Djibouti	10	12	3	8	1
Equatorial Guinea	32	31	1	22	8
Eritrea	45	46	2	42	2
Ethiopia	594	748	54	671	23
Gabon	1 300	1 108	15	1 031	62
Kenya	2 541	2 359	236	2 029	94
Réunion	2	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	100	82	4	63	15
São Tomé and Príncipe	11	11	1	10	-
Somalia	18	15	-	13	2
Uganda	888	1 002	66	897	39

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

Country of residence	August		Purpose of visit		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	8 890	7 727	362	7 069	296
Benin	185	192	5	183	4
Burkina Faso	66	83	4	78	1
Cape Verde Island	65	34	1	30	3
Côte d'Ivoire	241	230	27	195	8
Gambia	59	43	3	37	3
Ghana	1 447	1 280	73	1 168	39
Guinea	166	161	4	150	7
Guinea-Bissau	15	11	1	10	-
Liberia	18	43	7	33	3
Mali	95	94	6	86	2
Mauritania	66	12	1	10	1
Niger	26	35	4	29	2
Nigeria	6 137	5 241	195	4 835	211
Saint Helena	4	6	-	6	-
Senegal	221	175	25	141	9
Sierra Leone	38	48	2	46	-
Togo	41	39	4	32	3
North Africa	1 307	1 230	157	996	77
Algeria	139	100	10	81	9
Egypt	638	600	85	492	23
Libya	68	68	2	48	18
Morocco	112	121	26	91	4
South Sudan	71	79	15	60	4
The Sudan	181	168	8	142	18
Tunisia	96	91	11	79	1
Western Sahara	2	3	-	3	-
Unspecified	1 316	986	63	923	-

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

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (August 2015)			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	731 248	165 990	548 949	15 323	986
	0-14	51 271	15 019	34 892	1 331	29
	15-64	651 485	135 984	500 857	13 704	940
	65+	28 492	14 987	13 200	288	17
Male	Total	406 869	91 411	305 042	9 813	603
	0-14	25 603	7 834	17 099	653	17
	15-64	367 014	75 427	282 049	8 964	574
	65+	14 252	8 150	5 894	196	12
Female	Total	324 379	74 579	243 907	5 510	383
	0-14	25 668	7 185	17 793	678	12
	15-64	284 471	60 557	218 808	4 740	366
	65+	14 240	6 837	7 306	92	5

4. Explanatory notes

NOTICE TO USERS

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) 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. In August 2015, the DHA data was 2% higher 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 belong 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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