

STATISTICAL RELEASE

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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 2016. 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.

PJ Lehohla
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 3 497 070 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in August 2016. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 899 322 South African residents and 2 597 748 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 436 996 arrivals, 461 320 departures and 1 006 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 323 775, 1 181 138 and 92 835 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in August 2015 and August 2016 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers, while the volume of transits increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 3,3% (from 451 785 in August 2015 to 436 996 in August 2016), departures decreased by 1,2% (from 466 951 in August 2015 to 461 320 in August 2016), and transits increased by 5,1% (from 957 in August 2015 to 1 006 in August 2016). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 8,6% (from 1 219 410 in August 2015 to 1 323 775 in August 2016), departures increased by 3,8% (from 1 138 025 in August 2015 to 1 181 138 in August 2016), and transits decreased by 4,1% (from 96 847 in August 2015 to 92 835 in August 2016).

A comparison between the movements in July 2016 and August 2016 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers, while the volume of transits increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 19,6% (from 543 725 in July 2016 to 436 996 in August 2016), departures decreased by 1,4% (from 467 673 in July 2016 to 461 320 in August 2016) and transits increased by 14,3% (from 880 in July 2016 to 1 006 in August 2016). For foreign travellers, the volume of arrivals increased by 0,3% (from 1 319 955 in July 2016 to 1 323 755 in August 2016), departures increased by 3,1% (from 1 145 550 in July 2016 to 1 181 138 in August 2016), and transits increased by 12,8% (from 82 331 in July 2016 to 92 835 in August 2016).

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 2016, 89 276 (6,7%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 234 499 (93,3%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in August 2016 but did not depart in August 2016 [302 421 (24,5%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in August 2016 and left in August 2016 [434 658 (35,2%)];
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in August 2016 [497 420 (40,3%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In August 2016, there were 400 861 (32,5%) same-day visitors and 833 638 (67,5%) tourists. Between August 2015 and August 2016, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 2,6% (from 390 621 in August 2015 to 400 861 in August 2016) and that of tourists increased by 14,0% (from 731 248 in August 2015 to 833 638 in August 2016). Between July 2016 and August 2016, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 2,6% (from 411 461 in July 2016 to 400 861 in August 2016), while tourists increased by 1,4% (from 822 416 in July 2016 to 833 638 in August 2016).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 10 show that in August 2016, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 502 214 (71,6%) of the 3 497 070 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 987 275 (28,2%). Compared to use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 7 581 (0,2%) used sea transport. The arrivals data for South African residents show that 154 605 (35,4%) came by air, 282 252 (64,6%) came by road and 139 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. For departures, 175 358 (38,0%) used air, 285 657 (61,9%) used road and 305 (0,1%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit (1 006) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 277 211 (20,9%) arrived by air, 1 043 056 (78,8%) came by road and 3 508 (0,3%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 286 260 (24,2%) foreign travellers left by air, 891 249 (75,5%) left by road and 3 629 (0,3%) left by sea. All travellers in transit (92 835) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [373 001 (93,0%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 27 852 (6,9%) of same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that 602 318 (72,3%) used road transport, 231 274 (27,7%) came by air and 46 (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 2016, 172 767 (84,9%) of overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 30 624 (15,1%) came in by road and 30 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. 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 [570 258 (93,2%)] and by air [41 619 (6,8%)]. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 16 173 (92,6%), with 1 282 (7,3%) using road transport and 16 (0,1%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In August 2016, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 117 918 (58,0%); North America, 33 425 (16,4%); Asia, 29 742 (14,6%); Australasia, 11 367 (5,6%); Middle East, 6 449 (3,2%) and Central and South America, 4 520 (2,2%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 7 indicate that the United Kingdom (UK), 31 351 (15,4%); United States of America (USA), 29 474 (14,5%); Germany, 18 792 (9,2%); The Netherlands, 14 669 (7,2%); France, 12 693 (6,2%); China, 11 914 (5,9%); Italy, 11 198 (5,5%); Australia, 9 518 (4,7%); India, 7 299 (3,6%) and Spain, 6 117 (3,0%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in August 2016. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 75,2% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in August 2015 and August 2016 shows that the number of tourists increased for all of the ten leading overseas countries. China had the largest increase of 66,1% (from 7 172 tourists in August 2015 to 11 914 in August 2016), while the UK had the smallest increase of 9,8% (from 28 540 tourists in August 2015 to 31 351 in August 2016).

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 611 877 (97,2%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 9 198 (1,5%); East and Central Africa, 6 957 (1,1%); and North Africa 1 316 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in August 2016 were: Zimbabwe, 188 750 (30,8%); Lesotho, 137 465 (22,5%); Mozambique, 98 537 (16,1%); Swaziland, 80 598 (13,2%); Botswana, 47 875 (7,8%); Namibia, 17 334 (2,8%); Malawi, 14 410 (2,4%); Zambia, 14 317 (2,3%); Angola, 3 733 (0,6%) and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 3 567 (0,6%) (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 2015 and August 2016 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for six of the ten leading countries and decreased for the rest. Malawi showed the largest increase of 34,2% (from 10 735 tourists in August 2015 to 14 410 tourists in August 2016), while Mozambique showed the largest decrease of 6,2% (from 105 096 tourists in August 2015 to 98 537 tourists in August 2016).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in August 2016 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8, were: Nigeria, 6 494 (37,2%); Kenya, 2 276 (13,0%); Gabon, 1 685 (9,6%); Ghana, 1 462 (8,4%); Uganda, 980 (5,6%); Ethiopia, 819 (4,7%); Egypt, 677 (3,9%); Cameroon, 487 (2,8%); Congo, 369 (2,1%) and Côte d'Ivoire, 236 (1,4%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 88,6% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in August 2015 and August 2016 shows that the number of tourists increased for seven of the ten leading countries. Gabon showed the largest increase of 52,1% (from 1 108 tourists in August 2015 to 1 685 tourists in August 2016), while Kenya showed the largest decrease of 3,5% (from 2 359 tourists in August 2015 to 2 276 tourists in August 2016).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on page 15, in August 2016, the majority of tourists, 805 654 (96,6%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 21 659 (2,6%) and 6 325 (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 holiday. A total of 11 195 (98,5%) tourists from Australasia, 32 541 (97,4%) from North America, 113 922 (96,6%) from Europe, 4 360 (96,5%) from Central and South America, 6 212 (96,3%) from the Middle East and 27 351 (92,0%) from Asia were in South Africa for holiday. Asia had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business [7,1% (2 115)] while the Middle East had the highest proportion of tourists who came for study purposes [1,0% (65)] compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists, 609 266 (96,8%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 593 418 (97,0%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 15 848 (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 holiday constituted 93,2% (8 569); 89,4% (6 219); and 80,5% (1 060) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 5,1% (885) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 2,4% (14 387) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 12,5% (164) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes.
- Students made up 4,2% (738) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,7% (4 072) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 7,0% (92) of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in August 2016, there were 457 414 (54,9%) male and 376 224 (45,1%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 108 490 (53,3%) male tourists and 94 931 (46,7%) female tourists. There were 337 712 (55,2%) male and 274 165 (44,8%) female tourists from the SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 10 703 (61,3%) male and 6 768 (38,7%) 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 61 550 (7,4%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 738 527 (88,6%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 33 561 (4,0%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 557 469 (91,1%) of SADC and 15 267 (87,4%) of 'other' African countries' tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 164 959 (81,1%) of tourists in the same age range from overseas. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was lower among tourists from SADC countries, 6,6% (40 083), than among those from overseas countries, 9,6% (19 559) and 'other' African countries, 10,8% (1 887).

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 9,3% (10 088) of male and 9,3% (8 815) 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 3,0% of both male and female tourists. From the SADC countries elderly tourists made up 1,9% (6 277) and 2,9% (8 048) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 1,8% (192) and 1,8% (125) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in August 2015 and August 2016

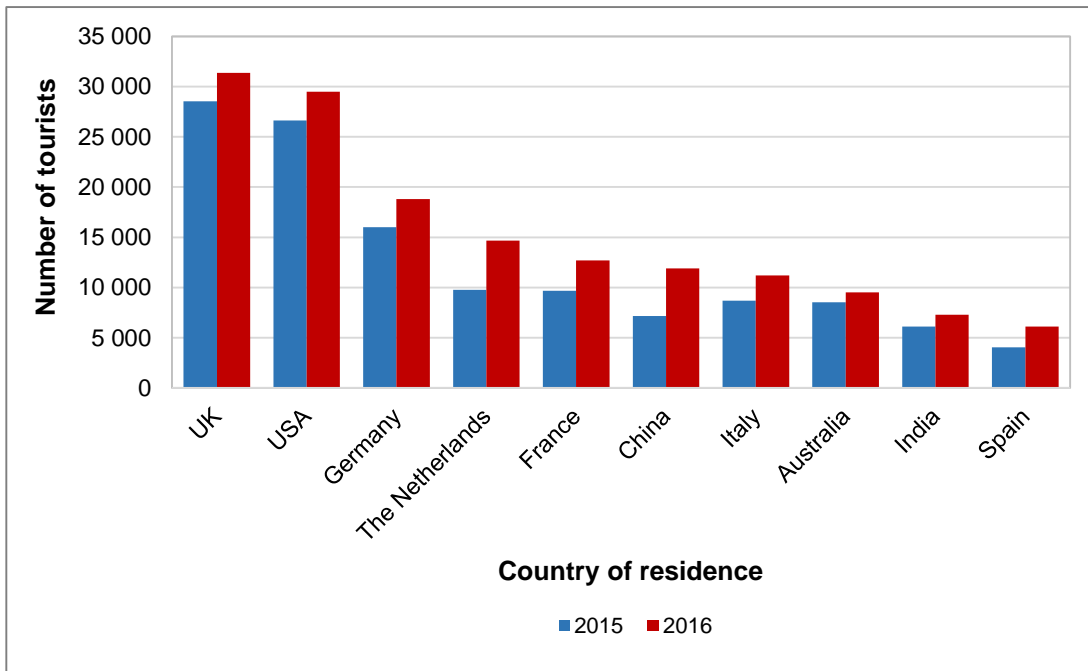


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in August 2015 and August 2016

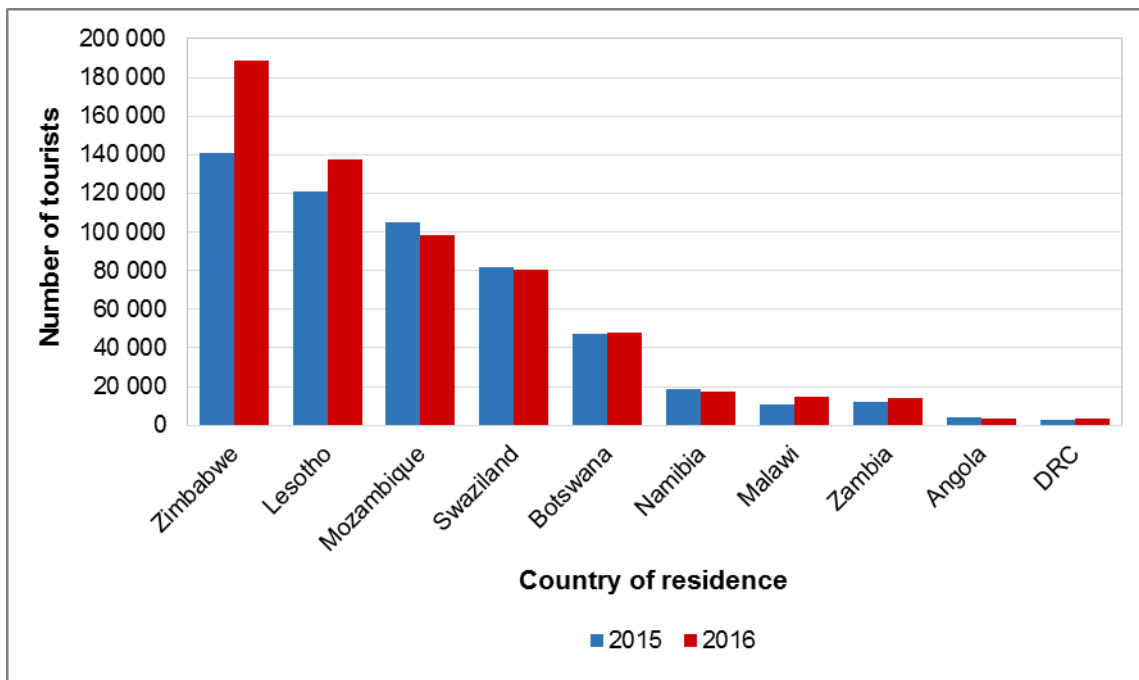
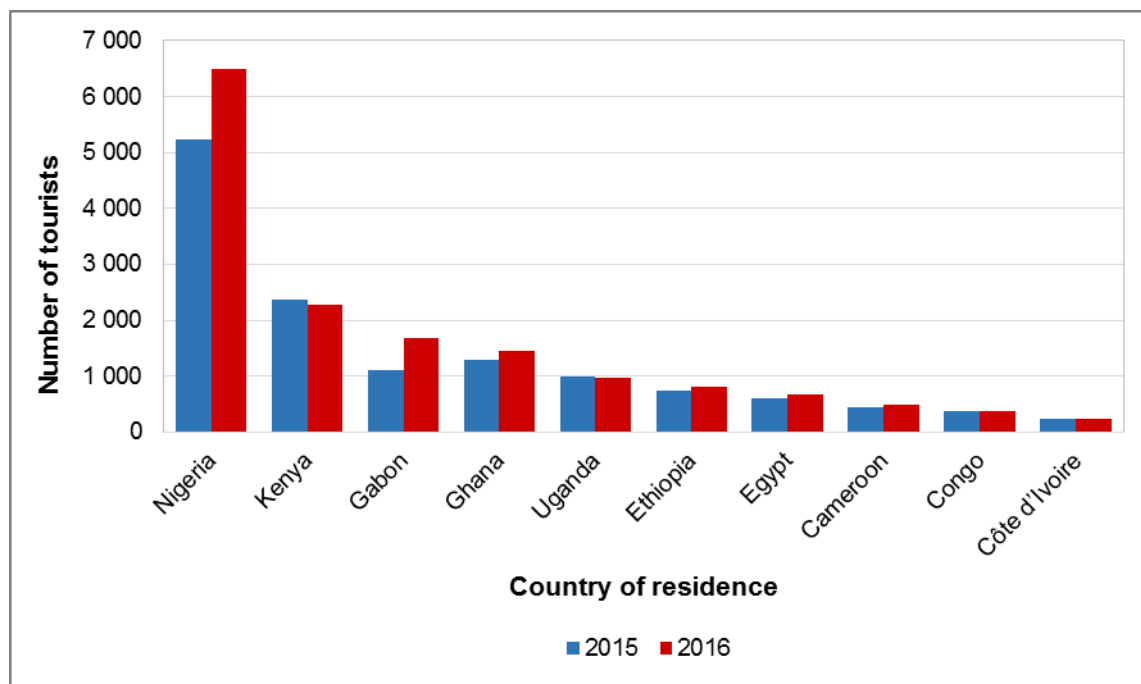


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in August 2015 and August 2016



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	August 2015	July 2016	August 2016	% Change	
				July - August 2016	August 2015 - August 2016
Total	3 373 975	3 560 114	3 497 070	-1,8%	3,6%
South African residents	919 693	1 012 278	899 322	-11,2%	-2,2%
Arrivals	451 785	543 725	436 996	-19,6%	-3,3%
Departures	466 951	467 673	461 320	-1,4%	-1,2%
Transit	957	880	1 006	14,3%	5,1%
Foreign travellers	2 454 282	2 547 836	2 597 748	2,0%	5,8%
Arrivals	1 219 410	1 319 955	1 323 775	0,3%	8,6%
Departures	1 138 025	1 145 550	1 181 138	3,1%	3,8%
Transit	96 847	82 331	92 835	12,8%	-4,1%
Foreign arrivals	1 219 410	1 319 955	1 323 775	0,3%	8,6%
Non-visitors	97 541	86 078	89 276	3,7%	-8,5%
Visitors	1 121 869	1 233 877	1 234 499	0,1%	10,0%
Visitors	1 121 869	1 233 877	1 234 499	0,1%	10,0%
Arrivals only	255 265	305 522	302 421	-1,0%	18,5%
Single trips	445 500	421 228	434 658	3,2%	-2,4%
Multiple trips	421 104	507 127	497 420	-1,9%	18,1%
Visitors	1 121 869	1 233 877	1 234 499	0,1%	10,0%
Same-Day	390 621	411 461	400 861	-2,6%	2,6%
Overnight (Tourists)	731 248	822 416	833 638	1,4%	14,0%

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

Travel direction	Total	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other Airports	Total		
Total	3 497 070	138 068	28 001	813 338	7 868	987 275	2 502 214	7 581
South African residents	899 322	48 047	17 017	261 388	4 517	330 969	567 909	444
Arrivals	436 996	22 143	7 308	122 958	2 196	154 605	282 252	139
Departures	461 320	25 888	9 709	137 440	2 321	175 358	285 657	305
Transit	1 006	16	-	990	-	1 006	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 597 748	90 021	10 984	551 950	3 351	656 306	1 934 305	7 137
Arrivals	1 323 775	43 682	4 674	227 461	1 394	277 211	1 043 056	3 508
Departures	1 181 138	46 021	6 309	231 973	1 957	286 260	891 249	3 629
Transit	92 835	318	1	92 516	-	92 835	-	-
Visitors	1 234 499	40 606	3 624	213 731	1 165	259 126	975 319	54
Same day	400 861	1 093	41	26 623	95	27 852	373 001	8
Tourist	833 638	39 513	3 583	187 108	1 070	231 274	602 318	46

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

Country of residence	August		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	731 248	833 638	39 513	3 583	187 108	1 070	231 274	602 318	46
Overseas	165 990	203 421	34 710	3 090	134 062	905	172 767	30 624	30
Europe	96 354	117 918	22 370	1 979	70 131	279	94 759	23 133	26
Austria	1 478	1 734	359	39	1 032	-	1 430	304	-
Belgium	3 038	4 095	582	33	2 274	3	2 892	1 203	-
Denmark	1 239	1 121	219	17	756	12	1 004	117	-
France	9 685	12 693	2 030	87	7 331	14	9 462	3 227	4
Germany	15 993	18 792	2 976	227	12 358	28	15 589	3 202	1
Ireland	1 634	1 970	546	64	1 097	3	1 710	260	-
Italy	8 704	11 198	3 293	119	6 039	18	9 469	1 729	-
Portugal	3 195	3 420	421	30	1 600	2	2 053	1 366	1
Spain	4 038	6 117	1 076	69	3 900	36	5 081	1 036	-
Sweden	1 020	1 186	287	15	760	6	1 068	118	-
Switzerland	2 093	2 391	431	40	1 485	10	1 966	425	-
The Netherlands	9 774	14 669	2 317	108	6 400	7	8 832	5 837	-
Turkey	750	1 080	272	71	593	-	936	144	-
UK	28 540	31 351	6 099	903	20 845	118	27 965	3 368	18
Other	5 173	6 101	1 462	157	3 661	22	5 302	797	2
North America	30 280	33 425	5 512	266	24 219	431	30 428	2 997	-
Canada	3 645	3 951	827	51	2 662	14	3 554	397	-
USA	26 635	29 474	4 685	215	21 557	417	26 874	2 600	-
Central and South America	3 618	4 520	359	19	3 660	24	4 062	458	-
Argentina	439	541	21	1	473	2	497	44	-
Brazil	2 018	2 525	120	11	2 112	3	2 246	279	-
Mexico	212	276	65	-	202	-	267	9	-
Other	949	1 178	153	7	873	19	1 052	126	-

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

Country of residence	August		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	10 136	11 367	684	114	9 447	107	10 352	1 014	1
Australia	8 529	9 518	533	77	7 959	99	8 668	849	1
New Zealand	1 587	1 836	149	36	1 478	8	1 671	165	-
Other	20	13	2	1	10	-	13	-	-
Middle East	4 031	6 449	1 347	41	4 835	10	6 233	216	-
Israel	1 952	2 435	214	21	2 025	4	2 264	171	-
Saudi Arabia	684	2 286	481	6	1 798	1	2 286	-	-
United Arab Emirates	297	369	236	-	126	-	362	7	-
Other	1 098	1 359	416	14	886	5	1 321	38	-
Asia	21 571	29 742	4 438	671	21 770	54	26 933	2 806	3
Bangladesh	432	516	50	18	245	-	313	203	-
China	7 172	11 914	1 420	138	9 922	1	11 481	433	-
India	6 126	7 299	1 282	360	4 879	17	6 538	758	3
Japan	1 965	2 471	281	22	2 008	5	2 316	155	-
Malaysia	533	807	246	29	489	6	770	37	-
Pakistan	1 371	1 281	100	47	577	1	725	556	-
Philippines	426	646	139	8	392	-	539	107	-
Singapore	515	596	171	6	370	24	571	25	-
South Korea	1 434	2 113	251	9	1 585	-	1 845	268	-
Thailand	403	786	211	11	530	-	752	34	-
Other	1 194	1 313	287	23	773	-	1 083	230	-
Africa	564 272	629 348	4 770	491	52 372	159	57 792	571 540	16
SADC	548 949	611 877	3 813	405	37 267	134	41 619	570 258	-
Angola	4 021	3 733	1 087	1	2 486	9	3 583	150	-
Botswana	47 027	47 875	239	-	2 083	40	2 362	45 513	-
DRC	2 827	3 567	49	4	2 714	-	2 767	800	-
Lesotho	120 861	137 465	3	1	555	2	561	136 904	-

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

Country of residence	August		Air				Road	Sea	
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other			Total
Madagascar	243	216	5	-	204	1	210	6	-
Malawi	10 735	14 410	8	4	2 145	3	2 160	12 250	-
Mauritius	1 591	1 418	152	78	1 092	-	1 322	96	-
Mozambique	105 096	98 537	11	48	3 095	7	3 161	95 376	-
Namibia	18 482	17 334	2 071	-	2 982	22	5 075	12 259	-
Seychelles	424	620	6	-	598	-	604	16	-
Swaziland	81 679	80 598	1	6	469	-	476	80 122	-
Tanzania	2 902	3 037	33	3	1 814	3	1 853	1 184	-
Zambia	12 130	14 317	26	106	3 222	6	3 360	10 957	-
Zimbabwe	140 931	188 750	122	154	13 808	41	14 125	174 625	-
'Other' African	15 323	17 471	957	86	15 105	25	16 173	1 282	16
East and Central Africa	6 366	6 957	413	35	5 954	14	6 416	541	-
Burundi	89	90	5	-	81	-	86	4	-
Cameroon	432	487	26	4	430	1	461	26	-
Central African Republic	12	10	-	-	10	-	10	-	-
Chad	28	19	5	-	13	1	19	-	-
Comoros	13	19	1	-	18	-	19	-	-
Congo	378	369	37	-	326	3	366	3	-
Djibouti	12	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	31	31	5	-	23	3	31	-	-
Eritrea	46	50	-	2	44	-	46	4	-
Ethiopia	748	819	83	14	631	-	728	91	-
Gabon	1 108	1 685	87	-	1 588	1	1 676	9	-
Kenya	2 359	2 276	137	9	1 897	4	2 047	229	-
Rwanda	82	82	10	2	56	-	68	14	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	11	6	2	-	4	-	6	-	-
Somalia	15	30	3	-	22	-	25	5	-
Uganda	1 002	980	12	4	807	1	824	156	-

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

Country of residence	August		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	7 727	9 198	316	25	8 142	11	8 494	688	16
Benin	192	199	7	-	185	-	192	7	-
Burkina Faso	83	53	9	-	42	-	51	2	-
Cape Verde Island	34	42	14	-	22	1	37	5	-
Côte d'Ivoire	230	236	16	1	213	-	230	6	-
Gambia	43	33	1	-	29	-	30	3	-
Ghana	1 280	1 462	25	3	1 354	-	1 382	80	-
Guinea	161	141	5	-	76	-	81	60	-
Guinea-Bissau	11	24	1	-	19	-	20	4	-
Liberia	43	54	6	-	45	-	51	3	-
Mali	94	91	7	-	48	-	55	36	-
Mauritania	12	50	4	-	46	-	50	-	-
Niger	35	31	4	-	27	-	31	-	-
Nigeria	5 241	6 494	205	21	5 793	10	6 029	465	-
Saint Helena	6	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Senegal	175	188	5	-	174	-	179	9	-
Sierra Leone	48	50	2	-	40	-	42	8	-
Togo	39	34	5	-	29	-	34	-	-
North Africa	1 230	1 316	228	26	1 009	-	1 263	53	-
Algeria	100	127	15	-	112	-	127	-	-
Egypt	600	677	112	10	525	-	647	30	-
Libya	68	71	18	6	32	-	56	15	-
Morocco	121	115	31	4	77	-	112	3	-
South Sudan	79	66	2	-	61	-	63	3	-
The Sudan	168	200	44	5	149	-	198	2	-
Tunisia	91	59	5	1	53	-	59	-	-
Western Sahara	3	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	986	869	33	2	674	6	715	154	-

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

Country of residence	August		Purpose of visit		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
Total	731 248	833 638	21 659	805 654	6 325
Overseas	165 990	203 421	6 327	195 581	1 513
Europe	96 354	117 918	3 082	113 922	914
Austria	1 478	1 734	43	1 671	20
Belgium	3 038	4 095	69	3 981	45
Denmark	1 239	1 121	58	1 049	14
France	9 685	12 693	204	12 205	284
Germany	15 993	18 792	419	18 276	97
Ireland	1 634	1 970	66	1 901	3
Italy	8 704	11 198	119	11 035	44
Portugal	3 195	3 420	70	3 324	26
Spain	4 038	6 117	91	5 988	38
Sweden	1 020	1 186	62	1 088	36
Switzerland	2 093	2 391	62	2 310	19
The Netherlands	9 774	14 669	257	14 316	96
Turkey	750	1 080	105	961	14
UK	28 540	31 351	1 009	30 232	110
Other	5 173	6 101	448	5 585	68
North America	30 280	33 425	676	32 541	208
Canada	3 645	3 951	121	3 801	29
USA	26 635	29 474	555	28 740	179
Central and South America	3 618	4 520	123	4 360	37
Argentina	439	541	20	521	-
Brazil	2 018	2 525	47	2 461	17
Mexico	212	276	14	259	3
Other	949	1 178	42	1 119	17

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

Country of residence	August		Purpose of visit		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	10 136	11 367	159	11 195	13
Australia	8 529	9 518	142	9 367	9
New Zealand	1 587	1 836	16	1 816	4
Other	20	13	1	12	-
Middle East	4 031	6 449	172	6 212	65
Israel	1 952	2 435	59	2 368	8
Saudi Arabia	684	2 286	13	2 259	14
United Arab Emirates	297	369	17	349	3
Other	1 098	1 359	83	1 236	40
Asia	21 571	29 742	2 115	27 351	276
Bangladesh	432	516	29	478	9
China	7 172	11 914	821	11 057	36
India	6 126	7 299	789	6 416	94
Japan	1 965	2 471	93	2 350	28
Malaysia	533	807	46	753	8
Pakistan	1 371	1 281	46	1 208	27
Philippines	426	646	39	597	10
Singapore	515	596	27	566	3
South Korea	1 434	2 113	67	2 013	33
Thailand	403	786	30	752	4
Other	1 194	1 313	128	1 161	24
Africa	564 272	629 348	15 272	609 266	4 810
SADC	548 949	611 877	14 387	593 418	4 072
Angola	4 021	3 733	68	3 423	242
Botswana	47 027	47 875	530	46 885	460
DRC	2 827	3 567	109	3 296	162
Lesotho	120 861	137 465	2 016	134 826	623

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

Country of residence	August		Purpose of visit		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
Madagascar	243	216	3	201	12
Malawi	10 735	14 410	416	13 933	61
Mauritius	1 591	1 418	57	1 331	30
Mozambique	105 096	98 537	3 798	94 597	142
Namibia	18 482	17 334	1 895	15 021	418
Seychelles	424	620	14	605	1
Swaziland	81 679	80 598	263	79 293	1 042
Tanzania	2 902	3 037	90	2 869	78
Zambia	12 130	14 317	1 373	12 832	112
Zimbabwe	140 931	188 750	3 755	184 306	689
'Other' African	15 323	17 471	885	15 848	738
East and Central Africa	6 366	6 957	418	6 219	320
Burundi	89	90	4	84	2
Cameroon	432	487	27	439	21
Central African Republic	12	10	-	10	-
Chad	28	19	3	14	2
Comoros	13	19	1	15	3
Congo	378	369	4	326	39
Djibouti	12	4	-	4	-
Equatorial Guinea	31	31	2	24	5
Eritrea	46	50	1	48	1
Ethiopia	748	819	60	742	17
Gabon	1 108	1 685	6	1 607	72
Kenya	2 359	2 276	198	1 975	103
Rwanda	82	82	3	61	18
São Tomé and Príncipe	11	6	-	6	-
Somalia	15	30	2	28	-
Uganda	1 002	980	107	836	37

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

Country of residence	August		Purpose of visit		
	2 015	2 016	Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	7 727	9 198	303	8 569	326
Benin	192	199	12	181	6
Burkina Faso	83	53	6	43	4
Cape Verde Island	34	42	-	41	1
Côte d'Ivoire	230	236	19	209	8
Gambia	43	33	1	32	-
Ghana	1 280	1 462	61	1 345	56
Guinea	161	141	5	129	7
Guinea-Bissau	11	24	2	22	-
Liberia	43	54	3	50	1
Mali	94	91	6	84	1
Mauritania	12	50	3	47	-
Niger	35	31	6	18	7
Nigeria	5 241	6 494	158	6 110	226
Saint Helena	6	16	-	16	-
Senegal	175	188	12	172	4
Sierra Leone	48	50	5	44	1
Togo	39	34	4	26	4
North Africa	1 230	1 316	164	1 060	92
Algeria	100	127	12	113	2
Egypt	600	677	104	552	21
Libya	68	71	-	50	21
Morocco	121	115	16	95	4
South Sudan	79	66	5	58	3
The Sudan	168	200	18	143	39
Tunisia	91	59	8	49	2
Western Sahara	3	1	1	-	-
Unspecified	986	869	60	807	2

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

Sex	Age group	August		Region			
		2015	2016	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	731 248	833 638	203 421	611 877	17 471	869
	<15	51 271	61 550	19 559	40 083	1 887	21
	15-64	651 485	738 527	164 959	557 469	15 267	832
	65+	28 492	33 561	18 903	14 325	317	16
Male	Total	406 869	457 414	108 490	337 712	10 703	509
	<15	25 603	30 608	10 026	19 674	894	14
	15-64	367 014	410 242	88 376	311 761	9 617	488
	65+	14 252	16 564	10 088	6 277	192	7
Female	Total	324 379	376 224	94 931	274 165	6 768	360
	<15	25 668	30 942	9 533	20 409	993	7
	15-64	284 471	328 285	76 583	245 708	5 650	344
	65+	14 240	16 997	8 815	8 048	125	9

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 enhanced 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 the end of 2016/17 financial year. 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 receives downloaded data covering a particular calendar month from the DHA.

- 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 is accompanied by an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern has also been observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In August 2016, the DHA data was 0,9% 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 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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