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Contents

Preface	2
1. Key findings	3
1.1 Travellers	3
1.1.1 Number of travellers	3
1.1.2 Mode of travel	4
1.2 Tourists	4
1.2.1 Mode of travel	4
1.2.2 Regional and national distribution	4
1.2.3 Purpose of visit	5
1.2.4 Sex and age distribution	6
2. Figures	7
Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in August 2017 and August 2018	7
Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in August 2017 and August 2018	7
Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading ‘other’ African countries in August 2017 and August 2018	8
3. Tables	9
Table 1 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction	9
Table 2 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel	10
Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (August 2018)	11
Table 4 – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit	15
Table 5 – Number of tourists from overseas, SADC and ‘other’ African regions by sex and age group	19
4. Annexures	20
4.1 Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists: Jan - Aug, 2017– 2018, changes by country of residence	20
5. Explanatory notes	24
5.1 Introduction	24
5.2 Purpose of the statistical release	24
5.3 Scope and coverage	24
5.4 Data	24
5.5 Limitations	25
5.6 Definition of terms	25
5.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)	25
5.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release	25
5.7 Symbols used	26
5.8 Rounding off	26
6. General information	26

Preface

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in August 2018. 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; the purpose of visit; 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 shows that a total of 3 554 656 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in August 2018. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 957 130 South African residents and 2 597 526 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 462 206 arrivals, 494 032 departures and 892 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 331 118, 1 183 057 and 83 351, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in August 2017 and August 2018 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for South African residents and for foreign travellers. Travellers in transit decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 3,4% (from 447 146 in August 2017 to 462 206 in August 2018), departures increased by 6,2% (from 465 024 in August 2017 to 494 032 in August 2018), and transits decreased by 2,7% (from 917 in August 2017 to 892 in August 2018). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 2,2% (from 1 302 312 in August 2017 to 1 331 118 in August 2018), departures increased by 1,1% (from 1 170 476 in August 2017 to 1 183 057 in August 2018), and transits increased by 3,6% (from 80 488 in August 2017 to 83 351 in August 2018).

A comparison between the movements in July 2018 and August 2018 indicates that the volume of arrivals decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers. Departures and transits increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 22,0% (from 592 301 in July 2018 to 462 206 in August 2018), departures increased by 0,3% (from 492 322 in July 2018 to 494 032 in August 2018), and transits increased by 17,2% (from 761 in July 2018 to 892 in August 2018). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 2,1% (from 1 303 293 in July 2018 to 1 331 118 in August 2018), departures increased by 6,6% (from 1 109 388 in July 2018 to 1 183 057 in August 2018), and transits increased by 29,2% (from 64 538 in July 2018 to 83 351 in August 2018).

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 therefore 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 on page 9, in August 2018, 79 106 (5,9%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 252 012 (94,1%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in August 2018 but did not depart in August 2018 [328 082 (26,2%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in August 2018 and left in August 2018 [453 832 (36,2%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in August 2018 [470 098 (37,5%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In August 2018, there were 375 086 (30,0%) same-day visitors and 876 926 (70,0%) tourists. Between August 2017 and August 2018, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 2,0% (from 367 847 in August 2017 to 375 086 in August 2018) and that of tourists increased by 2,9% (from 852 339 in August 2017 to 876 926 in August 2018). Between July 2018 and August 2018, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 2,1% (from 367 319 in July 2018 to 375 086 in August 2018), and tourists increased by 2,5% (from 855 906 in July 2018 to 876 926 in August 2018).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Information presented in Table 2 on page 10 shows that in August 2018, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 484 225 (69,9%) of the 3 554 656 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 1 063 764 (29,9%). Compared to the use of air and land transport, a small number of travellers, 6 667 (0,2%) used sea transport. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 185 826 (40,2%) came by air, 276 241 (59,8%) came by road and 139 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 199 633 (40,4%) used air, 294 211 (59,6%) used road and 188 (less than 0,1%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 892 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 290 042 (21,8%) arrived by air, 1 037 750 (78,0%) came by road and 3 326 (0,2%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 304 020 (25,7%) foreign travellers left by air, 876 023 (74,0%) left by road and 3 014 (0,3%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit 83 351 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 on page 10 further shows that of the 375 086 same-day visitors, an overwhelming majority, 346 781 (92,5%) arrived in the country by road, 28 304 (7,5%) flew into the country, and 1 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Information on tourists shows that 631 545 (72,0%) used road transport, 245 376 (28,0%) came by air transport and 5 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport.

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 pages 11 to 14. In August 2018, 183 250 (85,7%) of the 213 761 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 30 506 (14,3%) came in by road and 5 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 599 372 (92,8%), followed by air travel, 46 465 (7,2%). The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 14 820 (91,4%), with 1 401 (8,6%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In August 2018, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 121 751 (57,0%); North America, 38 467 (18,0%); Asia, 26 548 (12,4%); Australasia, 12 557 (5,9%); Central and South America, 9 034 (4,2%) and the Middle East, 5 404 (2,5%).

Figure 1 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 11 to 12 indicate that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in August 2018 were the United States of America (USA), 33 773 (15,8%); United Kingdom (UK), 30 967 (14,5%); Germany, 20 130 (9,4%); France, 14 528 (6,8%); The Netherlands, 13 315 (6,2%); Italy, 12 060 (5,6%), Australia, 11 226 (5,3%); China, 8 347 (3,9%); Spain, 7 000 (3,3%) and India, 6 896 (3,2%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 74,0% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between August 2017 and August 2018 shows that the number of tourists increased for six of the ten leading countries (Spain, Italy, Australia, USA, UK and China), but decreased for The Netherlands, France, India and Germany. Spain had the largest increase of 13,3% (from 6 177 tourists in August 2017 to 7 000 in August 2018), while The Netherlands had the largest decrease of 15,4% (from 15 741 tourists in August 2017 to 13 315 in August 2018). Annexure A on pages 20 to 21 shows that cumulatively, for January to August, the number of tourists from the overseas countries decreased by 1,3% between 2017 and 2018 (from 1 715 855 in 2017 to 1 693 076 in 2018). While the countries of Central and South America and North America grew by 9,4% and 1,3% respectively, those of the Middle East, Asia, Europe and Australasia dropped by 13,5%, 2,5%, 2,2% and 0,9% respectively.

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 645 837 (97,5%), came from the SADC countries (table 3, page 12). The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 8 408 (1,3%); East and Central Africa, 6 605 (1,0%); and North Africa 1 208 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in August 2018 were: Zimbabwe, 198 895 (30,8%); Lesotho, 127 398 (19,7%); Mozambique, 117 966 (18,3%); Swaziland, 76 911 (11,9%); Botswana, 60 097 (9,3%); Malawi, 18 645 (2,9%); Namibia, 16 265 (2,5%); Zambia

14 495 (2,2%); Angola, 5 827 (0,9%) and DRC, 4 488 (0,7%). (See Figure 2 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 12 to 13). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,2% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in August 2017 and August 2018 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for seven of the ten leading countries (Angola, DRC, Botswana, Malawi, Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Mozambique) and decreased for three (Namibia, Zambia and Swaziland). Angola showed the largest increase of 52,7% (from 3 816 tourists in August 2017 to 5 827 in August 2018), while Namibia showed the largest decrease of 6,6% (from 17 417 tourists in August 2017 to 16 265 in August 2018). Cumulatively, for January to August, Annexure A on pages 21 to 22 shows that the number of tourists from SADC countries increased by 3,6% between 2017 and 2018 (from 4 894 247 in 2017 to 5 070 008 in 2018).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in August 2018 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13 to 14, were: Nigeria, 5 295 (32,6%); Kenya, 2 403 (14,8%); Ghana, 1 874 (11,6%); Uganda, 1 105 (6,8%); Gabon, 1 070 (6,6%); Ethiopia, 818 (5,0%); Egypt, 651 (4,0%); Cameroon, 459 (2,8%); Côte d'Ivoire, 248 (1,5%) and Congo, 226 (1,4%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 87,2% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in August 2017 and August 2018 shows that the number of tourists increased for eight of the ten leading countries (Ghana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Egypt, Côte d'Ivoire, Uganda and Kenya) and decreased for the other two leading countries (Congo and Gabon). Ghana showed the largest increase of 23,7% (from 1 515 tourists in August 2017 to 1 874 in August 2018). Congo showed the largest decrease of 40,5% (from 380 tourists in August 2017 to 226 in August 2018). Annexure A on page 22 to 23 shows that for January to August cumulatively, the number of tourists from 'other' African countries increased by 0,4% between 2017 and 2018 (from 113 419 in 2017 to 113 857 in 2018).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed in Table 4 on pages 15 to 18, in August 2018, the majority of tourists, 853 174 (97,3%), were in South Africa for holiday¹ compared to 18 369 (2,1%); 4 880 (0,6%) and 503 (0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and for medical treatment respectively.

Compared to other overseas regions, Europe had the highest numbers of tourists, 118 607 (57,1%) who came for holiday, 2 337 (49,7%) who came for business, 761 (58,1%) who came for study and 46 (59,7%) who came for medical treatment.

Within regions, Australasia had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for holiday, 98,6% (12 383), followed by Central and South America, 98,0% (8 851), North America, 97,8% (37 608), Europe, 97,4% (118 607), Middle East, 97,0% (5 240), and Asia, 94,1% (24 980).

Asia had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, 4,9% (1 303), followed by Middle East, 2,0% (106), Europe, 1,9% (2 337), North America, 1,8% (686), Central and South America, 1,4% (122), and Australasia, 1,2% (152).

The Middle East, 1,0% (53) and Asia, 1,0% (259) had the highest proportions of their tourists who came to study, followed by Central and South America, 0,6% (57), Europe, 0,6% (761), North America, 0,4% (159), and Australasia 0,2% (20).

The Middle East had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for medical treatment, 0,1% (5). For the other overseas regions, less than 0,1% of their tourists came for medical treatment.

The majority of African tourists, 644 457 (97,3%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, the following differences in terms of reasons for travel were observed between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 629 886 (97,5%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 14 571 (89,8%) of tourists from 'other' African countries came for the same purpose. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that tourists on holiday constituted 92,4% (7 767); 87,1% (5 753); and 87,0% (1 051) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.

¹ The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons.

- Business persons constituted 5,4% (868) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 2,0% (12 741) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 8,2% (99) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes.
- Students made up the highest proportion, 4,3% (702) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,4% (2 866) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa had the highest proportion of its tourists, 5,1% (338) who came to South Africa for study purposes.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in August 2018, there were 475 239 (54,2%) male and 401 687 (45,8%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 112 113 (52,4%) male tourists and 101 648 (47,6%) female tourists. There were 352 457 (54,6%) male and 293 380 (45,4%) female tourists from the SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 9 999 (61,6%) male and 6 222 (38,4%) female tourists.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into seven broad groups. The results presented in Table 5 on page 19 show that the majority of tourists were aged between 35 and 44 years [234 547 (26,7%)], followed closely by the age group aged 25 to 34 years [231 968 (26,5%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [195 335 (30,2%)] and those from 'other' African countries [5 045 (31,1%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years, compared to 41 198 (19,3%) from overseas, who were aged between 45 and 54 years. The second highest group of tourists from all regions were those aged between 25 and 34 years, at 29,5% (190 477), 26,7% (4 338) and 17,3% (37 003) for SADC, 'other' African countries and overseas, respectively. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was lower among tourists from SADC countries, 6,0% (38 896) compared to those from 'other' African countries, 9,9% (1 612), and from overseas, 9,0% (19 343).

A comparison of the three regions shows higher proportions of the elderly among both male and female tourists from overseas. Tourists aged 65 years and older comprised 10,8% (12 120) of male and 11,2% (11 337) 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 2,3% (8 228) and 3,6% (10 502) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,0% (198) and 2,0% (126) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in August 2017 and August 2018

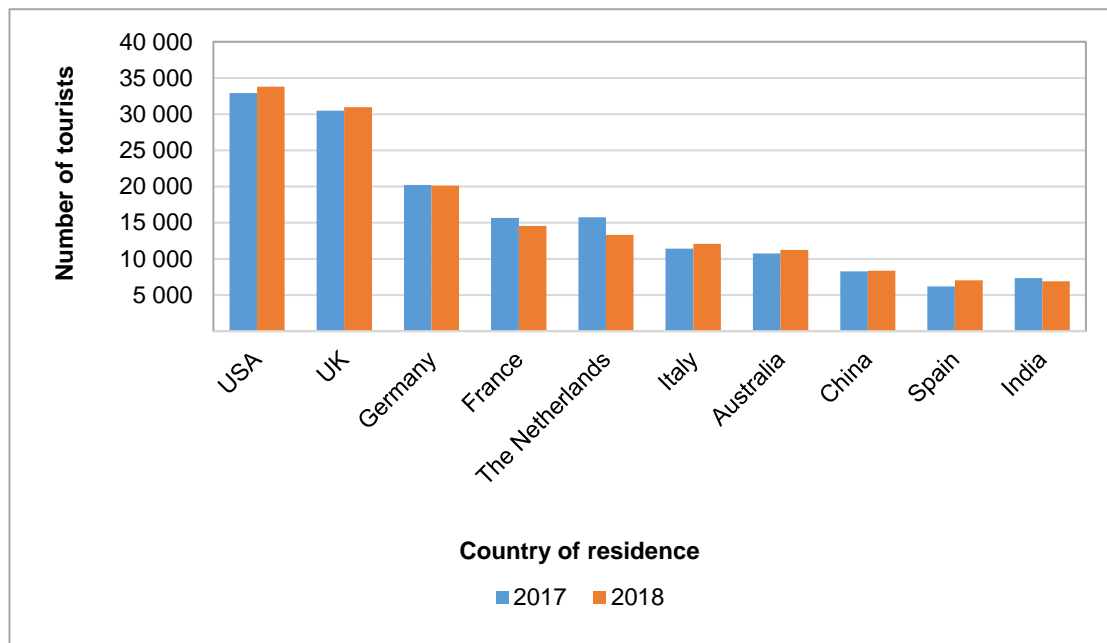


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in August 2017 and August 2018

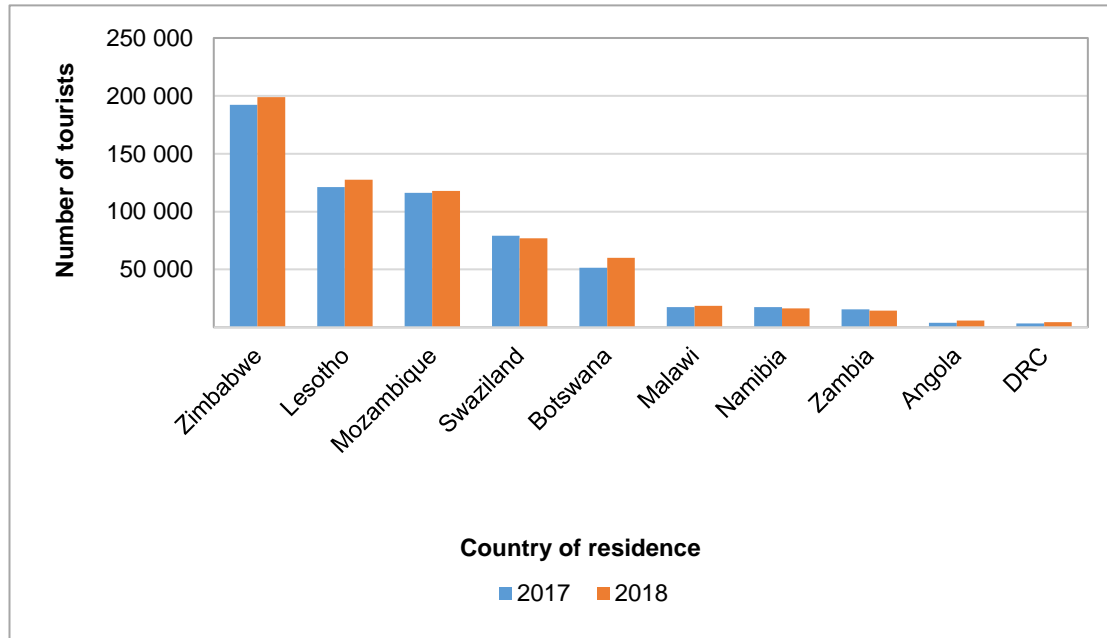
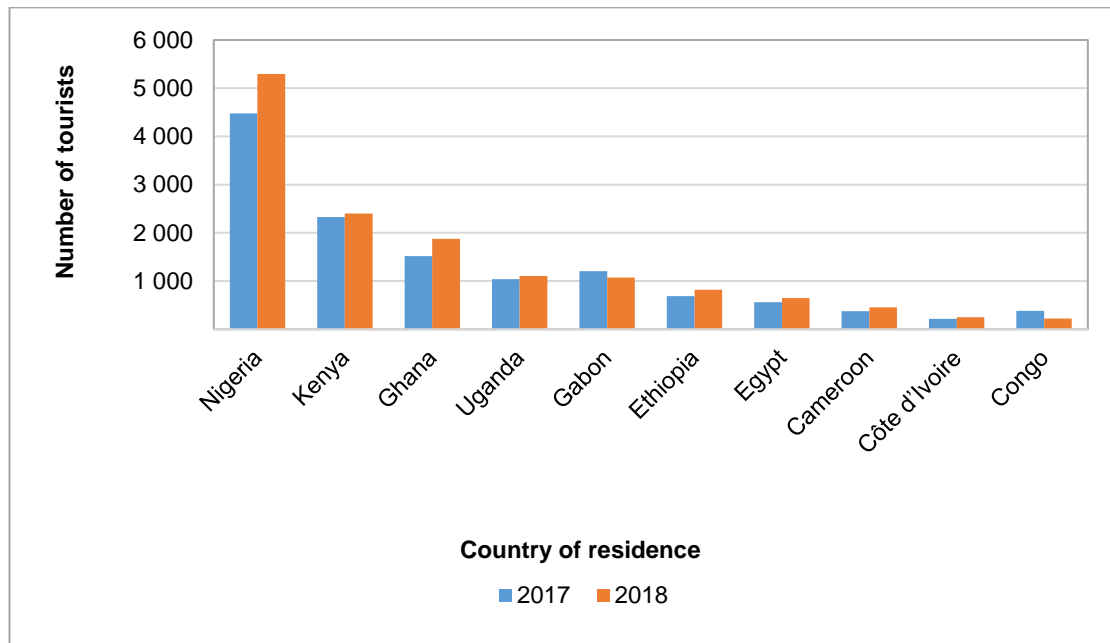


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading ‘other’ African countries in August 2017 and August 2018



3. Tables

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

Travel direction	Aug 2017	Jul 2018	Aug 2018	% change Jul 2018 – Aug 2018	% change Aug 2017 – Aug 2018
Total	3 466 363	3 562 603	3 554 656	-0,2	2,5
South African residents	913 087	1 085 384	957 130	-11,8	4,8
Arrivals	447 146	592 301	462 206	-22,0	3,4
Departures	465 024	492 322	494 032	0,3	6,2
Transits	917	761	892	17,2	-2,7
Foreign travellers	2 553 276	2 477 219	2 597 526	4,9	1,7
Arrivals	1 302 312	1 303 293	1 331 118	2,1	2,2
Departures	1 170 476	1 109 388	1 183 057	6,6	1,1
Transits	80 488	64 538	83 351	29,2	3,6
Foreign arrivals	1 302 312	1 303 293	1 331 118	2,1	2,2
Non-visitors	82 126	80 068	79 106	-1,2	-3,7
Visitors	1 220 186	1 223 225	1 252 012	2,4	2,6
Visitors	1 220 186	1 223 225	1 252 012	2,4	2,6
Arrivals only	316 938	336 387	328 082	-2,5	3,5
Single trips	435 026	419 548	453 832	8,2	4,3
Multiple trips	468 222	467 290	470 098	0,6	0,4
Visitors	1 220 186	1 223 225	1 252 012	2,4	2,6
Same-Day	367 847	367 319	375 086	2,1	2,0
Overnight (Tourists)	852 339	855 906	876 926	2,5	2,9

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	3 554 656	183 470	28 153	843 011	9 130	1 063 764	2 484 225	6 667
South African residents	957 130	65 303	18 616	298 051	4 381	386 351	570 452	327
Arrivals	462 206	31 639	8 576	143 572	2 039	185 826	276 241	139
Departures	494 032	33 659	10 040	153 592	2 342	199 633	294 211	188
Transit	892	5	-	887	-	892	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 597 526	118 167	9 537	544 960	4 749	677 413	1 913 773	6 340
Arrivals	1 331 118	57 888	4 194	226 327	1 633	290 042	1 037 750	3 326
Departures	1 183 057	60 003	5 343	235 558	3 116	304 020	876 023	3 014
Transit	83 351	276	-	83 075	-	83 351	-	-
Visitors	1 252 012	54 848	3 419	213 944	1 469	273 680	978 326	6
Same day	375 086	998	13	27 143	150	28 304	346 781	1
Tourist	876 926	53 850	3 406	186 801	1 319	245 376	631 545	5

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (August 2018)

Country of residence	August		Air					Road	Sea
	2017	2018	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	852 339	876 926	53 850	3 406	186 801	1 319	245 376	631 545	5
Overseas	213 294	213 761	46 534	2 741	132 812	1 163	183 250	30 506	5
Europe	123 379	121 751	28 760	1 835	68 121	350	99 066	22 683	2
Austria	2 050	1 810	546	39	959	2	1 546	264	-
Belgium	4 345	5 058	1 016	47	2 565	9	3 637	1 421	-
Denmark	1 058	1 122	186	34	786	3	1 009	113	-
France	15 630	14 528	3 444	175	7 069	50	10 738	3 789	1
Germany	20 193	20 130	4 972	222	11 678	17	16 889	3 241	-
Ireland	2 087	1 987	606	84	1 085	7	1 782	205	-
Italy	11 410	12 060	4 002	92	6 302	46	10 442	1 618	-
Portugal	3 155	2 461	340	19	1 072	11	1 442	1 019	-
Spain	6 177	7 000	1 564	55	4 259	39	5 917	1 083	-
Sweden	1 098	1 190	334	25	722	4	1 085	105	-
Switzerland	2 324	2 512	521	51	1 439	8	2 019	492	1
The Netherlands	15 741	13 315	2 195	101	5 670	13	7 979	5 336	-
Turkey	1 409	1 376	485	38	688	-	1 211	165	-
UK	30 483	30 967	6 899	710	20 161	110	27 880	3 087	-
Other	6 219	6 235	1 650	143	3 666	31	5 490	745	-
North America	37 272	38 467	9 441	290	25 223	535	35 489	2 978	-
Canada	4 373	4 694	1 203	45	2 960	40	4 248	446	-
USA	32 899	33 773	8 238	245	22 263	495	31 241	2 532	-
Central and South America	6 934	9 034	576	12	7 830	33	8 451	582	1
Argentina	724	1 200	26	-	1 120	1	1 147	52	1
Brazil	4 290	5 232	286	3	4 530	16	4 835	397	-
Chile	347	570	18	1	536	-	555	15	-
Other	1 573	2 032	246	8	1 644	16	1 914	118	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (August 2018) (continued)

Country of residence	August		Air					Road	Sea
	2017	2018	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	12 237	12 557	1 214	109	9 882	148	11 353	1 204	-
Australia	10 754	11 226	1 034	83	8 919	147	10 183	1 043	-
New Zealand	1 424	1 300	178	24	944	1	1 147	153	-
Other	59	31	2	2	19	-	23	8	-
Middle East	7 044	5 404	1 335	31	3 766	20	5 152	252	-
Israel	2 633	2 441	390	2	1 839	20	2 251	190	-
Saudi Arabia	2 478	1 396	306	2	1 076	-	1 384	12	-
United Arab Emirates	544	424	285	-	139	-	424	-	-
Other	1 389	1 143	354	27	712	-	1 093	50	-
Asia	26 428	26 548	5 208	464	17 990	77	23 739	2 807	2
China	8 265	8 347	1 558	52	6 373	24	8 007	340	-
India	7 325	6 896	1 165	245	4 612	23	6 045	851	-
Japan	2 842	3 005	413	37	2 361	12	2 823	182	-
Malaysia	908	726	278	24	382	4	688	38	-
Pakistan	1 299	1 153	88	47	517	-	652	501	-
Philippines	682	628	126	10	398	2	536	90	2
Singapore	817	979	338	4	612	4	958	21	-
South Korea	2 018	2 022	681	9	1 011	2	1 703	319	-
Taiwan	479	504	101	1	269	1	372	132	-
Thailand	681	1 075	288	5	767	-	1 060	15	-
Other	1 112	1 213	172	30	688	5	895	318	-
Africa	638 000	662 058	7 283	665	53 183	154	61 285	600 773	-
SADC	623 031	645 837	5 812	622	39 889	142	46 465	599 372	-
Angola	3 816	5 827	2 155	1	3 243	2	5 401	426	-
Botswana	51 541	60 097	15	175	2 319	27	2 536	57 561	-
DRC	3 458	4 488	231	1	3 490	10	3 732	756	-
Lesotho	121 114	127 398	2	2	569	1	574	126 824	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (August 2018) (continued)

Country of residence	August		Air					Road	Sea
	2017	2018	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	241	214	16	-	192	-	208	6	-
Malawi	17 395	18 645	16	3	2 064	17	2 100	16 545	-
Mauritius	1 590	1 477	254	113	1 012	-	1 379	98	-
Mozambique	116 232	117 966	12	37	2 811	13	2 873	115 093	-
Namibia	17 417	16 265	1 905	132	2 568	10	4 615	11 650	-
Seychelles	484	368	2	-	355	-	357	11	-
Swaziland	79 104	76 911	3	7	577	19	606	76 305	-
Tanzania	2 995	2 791	134	4	1 513	1	1 652	1 139	-
Zambia	15 464	14 495	51	103	3 610	6	3 770	10 725	-
Zimbabwe	192 180	198 895	1 016	44	15 566	36	16 662	182 233	-
'Other' African	14 969	16 221	1 471	43	13 294	12	14 820	1 401	-
East and Central Africa	6 475	6 605	853	11	5 104	4	5 972	633	-
Burundi	75	92	10	-	74	-	84	8	-
Cameroon	376	459	46	2	375	-	423	36	-
Central African Republic	17	8	4	-	3	-	7	1	-
Chad	36	21	1	-	20	-	21	-	-
Comoros	23	27	1	1	21	4	27	-	-
Congo	380	226	74	-	152	-	226	-	-
Djibouti	21	7	2	-	5	-	7	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	25	16	2	-	14	-	16	-	-
Eritrea	61	64	5	-	55	-	60	4	-
Ethiopia	690	818	77	4	666	-	747	71	-
Gabon	1 205	1 070	179	-	881	-	1 060	10	-
Kenya	2 327	2 403	325	2	1 851	-	2 178	225	-
Rwanda	113	98	6	1	75	-	82	16	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	7	6	2	-	4	-	6	-	-
Somalia	80	185	23	-	25	-	48	137	-
Uganda	1 039	1 105	96	1	883	-	980	125	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (August 2018) (concluded)

Country of residence	August		Air					Road	Sea
	2017	2018	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	7 289	8 408	455	16	7 255	8	7 734	674	-
Benin	191	160	11	-	137	-	148	12	-
Burkina Faso	80	60	8	-	48	-	56	4	-
Cape Verde Island	53	33	5	-	22	-	27	6	-
Côte d'Ivoire	216	248	26	2	211	-	239	9	-
Gambia	56	54	2	-	46	-	48	6	-
Ghana	1 515	1 874	62	-	1 710	2	1 774	100	-
Guinea	137	177	5	-	116	-	121	56	-
Guinea-Bissau	11	11	-	-	10	-	10	1	-
Liberia	61	51	1	-	48	-	49	2	-
Mali	120	97	3	-	49	-	52	45	-
Mauritania	19	23	1	-	16	-	17	6	-
Niger	25	27	4	-	22	-	26	1	-
Nigeria	4 477	5 295	321	12	4 556	5	4 894	401	-
Saint Helena	15	10	-	-	10	-	10	-	-
Senegal	214	177	2	2	157	1	162	15	-
Sierra Leone	50	74	-	-	64	-	64	10	-
Togo	49	37	4	-	33	-	37	-	-
North Africa	1 205	1 208	163	16	935	-	1 114	94	-
Algeria	132	76	8	-	65	-	73	3	-
Egypt	565	651	60	11	541	-	612	39	-
Libya	62	62	5	1	28	-	34	28	-
Morocco	126	115	23	4	81	-	108	7	-
South Sudan	55	83	7	-	75	-	82	1	-
The Sudan	192	167	52	-	101	-	153	14	-
Tunisia	71	54	8	-	44	-	52	2	-
Western Sahara	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	1 045	1 107	33	-	806	2	841	266	-

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

Country of residence	August		Purpose of visit (August 2018)			
	2017	2018	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	852 339	876 926	18 369	853 174	4 880	503
Overseas	213 294	213 761	4 706	207 669	1 309	77
Europe	123 379	121 751	2 337	118 607	761	46
Austria	2 050	1 810	41	1 763	6	-
Belgium	4 345	5 058	76	4 942	38	2
Denmark	1 058	1 122	32	1 085	5	-
France	15 630	14 528	194	14 087	244	3
Germany	20 193	20 130	384	19 643	101	2
Ireland	2 087	1 987	51	1 926	8	2
Italy	11 410	12 060	103	11 922	35	-
Portugal	3 155	2 461	49	2 396	15	1
Spain	6 177	7 000	68	6 910	20	2
Sweden	1 098	1 190	51	1 125	14	-
Switzerland	2 324	2 512	53	2 434	25	-
The Netherlands	15 741	13 315	189	13 062	54	10
Turkey	1 409	1 376	52	1 302	22	-
UK	30 483	30 967	781	30 051	113	22
Other	6 219	6 235	213	5 959	61	2
North America	37 272	38 467	686	37 608	159	14
Canada	4 373	4 694	103	4 576	15	-
USA	32 899	33 773	583	33 032	144	14
Central and South America	6 934	9 034	122	8 851	57	4
Argentina	724	1 200	10	1 190	-	-
Brazil	4 290	5 232	53	5 134	44	1
Chile	347	570	9	559	2	-
Other	1 573	2 032	50	1 968	11	3

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

Country of residence	August		Purpose of visit (August 2018)			
	2017	2018	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Australasia	12 237	12 557	152	12 383	20	2
Australia	10 754	11 226	131	11 074	19	2
New Zealand	1 424	1 300	20	1 279	1	-
Other	59	31	1	30	-	-
Middle East	7 044	5 404	106	5 240	53	5
Israel	2 633	2 441	42	2 393	5	1
Saudi Arabia	2 478	1 396	12	1 372	12	-
United Arab Emirates	544	424	5	417	2	-
Other	1 389	1 143	47	1 058	34	4
Asia	26 428	26 548	1 303	24 980	259	6
China	8 265	8 347	394	7 905	48	-
India	7 325	6 896	563	6 259	73	1
Japan	2 842	3 005	94	2 890	19	2
Malaysia	908	726	23	685	18	-
Pakistan	1 299	1 153	49	1 080	23	1
Philippines	682	628	23	597	6	2
Singapore	817	979	28	950	1	-
South Korea	2 018	2 022	41	1 958	23	-
Taiwan	479	504	14	489	1	-
Thailand	681	1 075	11	1 056	8	-
Other	1 112	1 213	63	1 111	39	-
Africa	638 000	662 058	13 609	644 457	3 568	424
SADC	623 031	645 837	12 741	629 886	2 866	344
Angola	3 816	5 827	42	5 592	144	49
Botswana	51 541	60 097	611	59 069	309	108
DRC	3 458	4 488	102	4 127	231	28
Lesotho	121 114	127 398	1 228	125 613	557	-

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

Country of residence	August		Purpose of visit (August 2018)			
	2017	2018	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Madagascar	241	214	10	195	9	-
Malawi	17 395	18 645	378	18 194	62	11
Mauritius	1 590	1 477	72	1 372	28	5
Mozambique	116 232	117 966	2 590	115 255	106	15
Namibia	17 417	16 265	2 086	13 894	254	31
Seychelles	484	368	7	360	1	-
Swaziland	79 104	76 911	164	76 297	440	10
Tanzania	2 995	2 791	101	2 629	54	7
Zambia	15 464	14 495	1 495	12 859	113	28
Zimbabwe	192 180	198 895	3 855	194 430	558	52
'Other' African	14 969	16 221	868	14 571	702	80
East and Central Africa	6 475	6 605	470	5 753	338	44
Burundi	75	92	3	83	4	2
Cameroon	376	459	25	361	62	11
Central African Republic	17	8	-	7	1	-
Chad	36	21	3	15	3	-
Comoros	23	27	-	23	4	-
Congo	380	226	8	180	37	1
Djibouti	21	7	-	6	1	-
Equatorial Guinea	25	16	-	10	4	2
Eritrea	61	64	-	61	2	1
Ethiopia	690	818	35	759	18	6
Gabon	1 205	1 070	4	997	64	5
Kenya	2 327	2 403	254	2 056	84	9
Rwanda	113	98	5	86	6	1
São Tomé and Príncipe	7	6	-	6	-	-
Somalia	80	185	24	155	3	3
Uganda	1 039	1 105	109	948	45	3
Madagascar	241	214	10	195	9	-

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

Country of residence	August		Purpose of visit (August 2018)			
	2017	2018	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
West Africa	7 289	8 408	299	7 767	312	30
Benin	191	160	3	153	4	-
Burkina Faso	80	60	10	48	2	-
Cape Verde Island	53	33	3	30	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	216	248	16	220	12	-
Gambia	56	54	4	49	1	-
Ghana	1 515	1 874	73	1 751	47	3
Guinea	137	177	6	159	10	2
Guinea-Bissau	11	11	1	9	1	-
Liberia	61	51	5	45	1	-
Mali	120	97	4	91	1	1
Mauritania	19	23	1	22	-	-
Niger	25	27	-	24	3	-
Nigeria	4 477	5 295	153	4 908	211	23
Saint Helena	15	10	-	10	-	-
Senegal	214	177	14	145	17	1
Sierra Leone	50	74	5	68	1	-
Togo	49	37	1	35	1	-
North Africa	1 205	1 208	99	1 051	52	6
Algeria	132	76	6	63	7	-
Egypt	565	651	61	575	14	1
Libya	62	62	-	53	9	-
Morocco	126	115	6	102	7	-
South Sudan	55	83	14	63	2	4
The Sudan	192	167	10	144	12	1
Tunisia	71	54	2	51	1	-
Western Sahara	2	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	1 045	1 107	54	1 048	3	2

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

Sex	Age group (years)	August		Region (August 2018)			
		2017	2018	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	852 339	876 926	213 761	645 837	16 221	1 107
	0-14	63 005	59 857	19 343	38 896	1 612	6
	15-24	95 141	92 513	26 144	64 876	1 471	22
	25-34	232 807	231 968	37 003	190 477	4 338	150
	35-44	221 239	234 547	33 830	195 335	5 045	337
	45-54	131 160	138 943	41 198	94 920	2 469	356
	55-64	71 533	76 562	32 786	42 603	962	211
	65+	37 454	42 536	23 457	18 730	324	25
Male	Total	466 872	475 239	112 113	352 457	9 999	670
	0-14	31 129	30 080	10 034	19 240	804	2
	15-24	48 446	47 324	12 270	34 282	762	10
	25-34	127 658	125 280	18 708	103 865	2 617	90
	35-44	131 307	136 535	19 122	113 882	3 334	197
	45-54	72 929	76 608	22 407	52 336	1 643	222
	55-64	37 103	38 847	17 452	20 624	641	130
	65+	18 300	20 565	12 120	8 228	198	19
Female	Total	385 467	401 687	101 648	293 380	6 222	437
	0-14	31 876	29 777	9 309	19 656	808	4
	15-24	46 695	45 189	13 874	30 594	709	12
	25-34	105 149	106 688	18 295	86 612	1 721	60
	35-44	89 932	98 012	14 708	81 453	1 711	140
	45-54	58 231	62 335	18 791	42 584	826	134
	55-64	34 430	37 715	15 334	21 979	321	81
	65+	19 154	21 971	11 337	10 502	126	6

4. Annexures

4.1 Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists: Jan – Aug, 2017 – 2018, changes by country of residence

Country of residence	January – August			
	2017	2018	Difference 2017 – 2018	% change 2017 – 2018
Total	6 731 406	6 885 371	153 965	2,3
Overseas	1 715 855	1 693 076	-22 779	-1,3
Europe	1 020 597	998 635	-21 962	-2,2
Austria	17 749	17 781	32	0,2
Belgium	33 357	35 702	2 345	7,0
Denmark	18 450	18 026	-424	-2,3
France	121 124	116 464	-4 660	-3,8
Germany	198 521	196 870	-1 651	-0,8
Ireland	19 640	19 405	-235	-1,2
Italy	40 266	41 733	1 467	3,6
Norway	12 123	12 406	283	2,3
Portugal	25 598	20 307	-5 291	-20,7
Spain	25 718	27 214	1 496	5,8
Sweden	27 094	27 924	830	3,1
Switzerland	33 155	32 698	-457	-1,4
The Netherlands	98 730	90 513	-8 217	-8,3
UK	289 522	277 030	-12 492	-4,3
Other	59 550	64 562	5 012	8,4
North America	289 455	293 314	3 859	1,3
Canada	40 876	41 264	388	0,9
USA	248 579	252 050	3 471	1,4
Central and South America	70 263	76 850	6 587	9,4
Argentina	10 911	14 196	3 285	30,1
Brazil	42 750	45 352	2 602	6,1
Chile	4 258	4 689	431	10,1
Other	12 344	12 613	269	2,2

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists: Jan – Aug, 2017 – 2018, changes by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	January – August			
	2017	2018	Difference 2017 – 2018	% change 2017 – 2018
Australasia	84 615	83 887	-728	-0,9
Australia	73 859	74 356	497	0,7
New Zealand	10 507	9 365	-1 142	-10,9
Other	249	166	-83	-33,3
Middle East	39 470	34 150	-5 320	-13,5
Iran	3 896	2 765	-1 131	-29,0
Israel	16 429	16 426	-3	0,0
Saudi Arabia	9 167	6 308	-2 859	-31,2
Other	9 978	8 651	-1 327	-13,3
Asia	211 455	206 240	-5 215	-2,5
Bangladesh	3 230	3 599	369	11,4
China	64 575	63 405	-1 170	-1,8
India	66 482	64 115	-2 367	-3,6
Japan	17 317	17 663	346	2,0
Malaysia	5 829	4 824	-1 005	-17,2
Pakistan	10 821	10 011	-810	-7,5
Philippines	4 881	4 868	-13	-0,3
Singapore	7 241	5 636	-1 605	-22,2
South Korea	15 055	15 523	468	3,1
Thailand	4 535	5 078	543	12,0
Other	11 489	11 518	29	0,3
Africa	5 007 666	5 183 865	176 199	3,5
SADC	4 894 247	5 070 008	175 761	3,6
Angola	31 503	43 461	11 958	38,0
Botswana	408 608	423 337	14 729	3,6
DRC	19 061	22 959	3 898	20,5
Lesotho	1 203 241	1 220 739	17 498	1,5

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists: Jan – Aug, 2017 – 2018, changes by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	January – August			
	2017	2018	Difference 2017 – 2018	% change 2017 – 2018
Madagascar	1 707	1 648	-59	-3,5
Malawi	112 313	127 588	15 275	13,6
Mauritius	12 235	12 406	171	1,4
Mozambique	894 107	918 654	24 547	2,7
Namibia	132 729	127 148	-5 581	-4,2
Seychelles	5 447	3 406	-2 041	-37,5
Swaziland	571 766	571 229	-537	-0,1
Tanzania	23 763	23 185	-578	-2,4
Zambia	112 740	108 672	-4 068	-3,6
Zimbabwe	1 365 027	1 465 576	100 549	7,4
'Other' African	113 419	113 857	438	0,4
East and Central Africa	47 616	46 354	-1 262	-2,7
Burundi	524	534	10	1,9
Cameroon	3 436	3 382	-54	-1,6
Central African Republic	89	109	20	22,5
Chad	219	234	15	6,8
Comoros	135	207	72	53,3
Congo	2 275	1 877	-398	-17,5
Djibouti	95	68	-27	-28,4
Equatorial Guinea	320	236	-84	-26,3
Eritrea	428	463	35	8,2
Ethiopia	5 591	6 197	606	10,8
Gabon	5 585	4 491	-1 094	-19,6
Kenya	18 961	17 933	-1 028	-5,4
Réunion	48	15	-33	-68,8
Rwanda	679	667	-12	-1,8
São Tomé and Príncipe	47	79	32	68,1
Somalia	306	899	593	193,8
Uganda	8 878	8 963	85	1,0

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists: Jan – Aug, 2017 – 2018, changes by country of residence (concluded)

Country of residence	January – August			
	2017	2018	Difference 2017 – 2018	% change 2017 – 2018
West Africa	54 980	57 228	2 248	4,1
Benin	1 127	936	-191	-16,9
Burkina Faso	463	469	6	1,3
Cape Verde Island	391	228	-163	-41,7
Côte d'Ivoire	1 656	1 816	160	9,7
Gambia	391	357	-34	-8,7
Ghana	11 263	13 299	2 036	18,1
Guinea	978	1 078	100	10,2
Guinea-Bissau	118	110	-8	-6,8
Liberia	465	437	-28	-6,0
Mali	1 039	952	-87	-8,4
Mauritania	168	145	-23	-13,7
Niger	225	207	-18	-8,0
Nigeria	34 056	34 701	645	1,9
Saint Helena	139	95	-44	-31,7
Senegal	1 669	1 584	-85	-5,1
Sierra Leone	434	397	-37	-8,5
Togo	398	417	19	4,8
North Africa	10 823	10 275	-548	-5,1
Algeria	752	625	-127	-16,9
Egypt	5 633	5 243	-390	-6,9
Libya	615	559	-56	-9,1
Morocco	1 070	1 209	139	13,0
South Sudan	520	542	22	4,2
The Sudan	1 446	1 404	-42	-2,9
Tunisia	774	673	-101	-13,0
Western Sahara	13	20	7	53,8
Unspecified	7 885	8 430	545	6,9

5. 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 95% of the country's ports of entry. The change affects the identification of Transit Travellers that are currently categorised under Direction instead of Purpose of Movement. With this revision, Table 1 and Table 2 in the release now include a category for Transit while all tables reporting on tourists exclude transit travellers.

5.1 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 the demand for local tourism services by foreign travellers.

5.2 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.

5.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data collected by DHA officials on travellers who entered the Republic of South Africa (RSA).

5.4 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 ports' electronic database. No forms or cards are used (except on 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 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 also reflected in 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 2018, the DHA data was 1,9% higher than that of ACSA.

5.5 Limitations

The information on the total number of arrivals and departures of South African residents is collected from the scanning of passports. However, data on the country visited are not collected from passengers; 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.

5.6 Definition of terms

5.6.1 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 the other places he/she frequently visits.

5.6.2 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.

5.7 Symbols used

- = nil

< = less than

5.8 Rounding off

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

6. 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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