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# Statistical release

## P0351

# Tourism and Migration

## December 2011

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## 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 3 647 159 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through South African ports of entry in December 2011. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 1 210 785 South African residents and 2 436 374 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 519 047 and 691 738 arrivals and departures respectively. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals and departures were 1 241 599 and 1 194 775 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in November 2011 and December 2011 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents increased by 29,0% (from 402 258 in November 2011 to 519 047 in December 2011) while for foreign travellers, the arrivals increased by 15,0% (from 1 080 029 in November 2011 to 1 241 599 in December 2011). For departures, the volume increased by 70,7% (from 405 155 in November 2011 to 691 738 in December 2011) for South African residents and by 27,0% (from 940 482 in November 2011 to 1 194 775 in December 2011) for foreign travellers.

A comparison between the movements in December 2010 and December 2011 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for South African residents while the volume of arrivals and departures increased for foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals decreased by 6,5% (from 555 061 in December 2010 to 519 047 in December 2011) and departures decreased by 7,8% (from 750 507 in December 2010 to 691 738 in December 2011) for South African residents. On the contrary, the volume of foreign arrivals increased by 10,2% (from 1 126 332 in December 2010 to 1 241 599 in December 2011) and departures increased by 11,6% (from 1 070 770 in December 2010 to 1 194 775 in December 2011).

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 South African immigration officers. Hence, it is not possible to categorise them as tourists and non-tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation.

As presented in Table 1, in December 2011, 50 523 (4,1%) foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 191 076 (95,9%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups: arrivals only comprising of visitors who entered the country in December 2011 but did not depart in December 2011 [394 600, (33,1%)]; visitors who came once in December 2011 and left in December 2011 [434 453, (36,5%)]; and those who came and left more than once in December 2011 [362 023, (30,4%)]. Visitors were further grouped as same day visitors [379 972, (31,9%)] and overnight visitors (tourists) [811 104, (68,1%)]. Between November 2011 and December 2011, the volume of same day visitors increased by 15,4% (from 329 385 in November 2011 to 379 972 in December 2011) and overnight visitors (tourists) increased by 15,1% (from 704 733 in November 2011 to 811 104 in December 2011). Furthermore, the volume of same day visitors increased by 2,7% (from 369 956 in December 2010 to 379 972 in December 2011) and the volume of overnight visitors (tourists) increased by 9,3% (from 742 241 in December 2010 to 811 104 in December 2011) during the same period.

#### 1.1.2 Mode of travel of travellers

Travellers who cross South Africa's borders rarely use trains and ships since these are mainly used for transporting goods. Data presented in Table 2 show that in December 2011, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 680 645 (73,5%) out of the 3 647 159 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 920 094 (25,2%). The arrivals data on South African residents show that 170 321 (32,8%) came by air and 329 738 (63,5%) by road. For departures, 201 427 (29,1%) and 470 306 (68,0%) used air and road transport respectively. In the case of foreign travellers, 294 350 (23,7%) arrived by air while those who came by road were 943 136 (76,0%). When departing South Africa, 253 996 (21,3%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 937 465 (78,5%) left by road. As shown in Table 2 an overwhelming majority, 362 961 (95,5%) of same day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 16 835 (4,4%) same day visitors flew into the country. Data on overnight visitors (tourists) show that, 553 770 (68,3%) used road transport whereas 256 197 (31,6%) came by air.

### 1.2 Tourists

#### 1.2.1 Mode of travel of tourists

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them into 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. In December 2011, 203 885 (90,1%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 21 618 (9,6%) 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 [529 100 (93,6%)]. Only 35 787 (6,3%) 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 14 816 (87,5%), with 2 091 (12,4%) using road transport.

### 1.2.2 Regional and national distribution of tourists

In December 2011, the distribution of overseas tourists were as follows; Europe, 140 303 (62,0%); followed by North America, 32 140 (14,2%); Asia, 26 682 (11,8%); Australasia, 13 612 (6,0%); Central and South America, 10 432 (4,6%) and Middle East, 3 191 (1,4%). Virtually all tourists from Africa came from the SADC countries, 565 139 (97,1%). The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 9 241 (1,6%); East and Central Africa, 6 848 (1,2%) and North Africa 841 (0,1%).

Data presented in Figure 1 indicate that United Kingdom (UK), 48 361 (21,4%); United States of America (USA), 25 601 (11,3%); Germany, 23 950 (10,6%); The Netherlands, 12 912 (5,7%); Australia 10 906 (4,8%); France, 9 384 (4,1%); India, 7 667 (3,4%); and China, 7 499 (3,3%) were the eight leading overseas countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in December 2011. Tourists from these eight countries constituted 64,6% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in December 2010 and December 2011 shows that the number of tourists increased in all eight countries. China had the highest increase of 53,0% from 4 902 tourists in December 2010 to 7 499 tourists in December 2011 while UK had the lowest increase of 0,2% from 48 277 tourists in December 2010 to 48 361 tourists in December 2011.

The eight leading countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in December 2011 from the SADC countries (see Figure 2) were Zimbabwe, 155 618 (27,5%); Lesotho, 137 957 (24,4%); Mozambique 82 459 (14,6%); Swaziland, 70 359 (12,4%); Botswana, 51 810 (9,2%); Namibia, 26 061 (4,6%); Zambia, 15 857 (2,8%) and Malawi, 13 629 (2,4%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 98,0% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in December 2010 and December 2011 shows that the number of tourists increased in six countries (Swaziland, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Zambia) and declined in the remaining two (Botswana and Mozambique). Swaziland had the highest increase of 25,6% from 56 008 tourists in December 2010 to 70 359 tourists in December 2011 while Botswana had the greatest decline of 8,9% from 56 857 tourists in December 2010 to 51 810 tourists in December 2011.

The eight leading countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in December 2011 from 'other' African countries, shown in Figure 3, were Nigeria, 6 513 (38,5%); Kenya, 3 143 (18,6%); Ghana, 1 652 (9,8%); Uganda, 1 388 (8,2%); Gabon, 603 (3,6%); Ethiopia, 553 (3,3%); Cameroon, 408 (2,4%) and Egypt, 403 (2,4%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 86,6% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in December 2010 and December 2011 shows that the number of tourists increased in five of these countries (Nigeria, Cameroon, Uganda, Kenya and Ghana) while the number of tourists declined in the other three countries (Ethiopia, Gabon and Egypt). The increase was highest in Nigeria at 44,0% from 4 523 tourists in December 2010 to 6 513 tourists in December 2011 while Ethiopia had the greatest decline of 30,3% from 793 tourists in December 2010 to 553 tourists in December 2011.

### 1.2.3 Purpose of visit of tourists

As observed from data given in Table 4, in December 2011, an overwhelming majority (96,5%) of tourists were in South Africa for holidays compared to only 1,4% and 0,3% of tourists who were in South Africa for business and study purposes respectively. A detailed analysis reveals that of all the tourists from each of the overseas regions, at least 83,0% came to South Africa for holidays. Tourists from Australasia (95,4%), Europe (95,4%), North America (94,3%), Middle East (92,4%), Central and South America (85,7%), and Asia (83,0%) were in South Africa mostly for holidays. Asia and Middle East had a higher proportion (4,4% and 4,0% respectively) of their tourists in South Africa for business compared to other overseas regions.

The majority (97,7%) of African tourists came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries namely:

- Whereas 97,9% of tourists from the SADC countries were on holidays; 91,1% of tourists on holiday came from 'other' African countries. Data on the regions of 'other' African countries show that tourists on holiday constituted 91,6%; 91,6% and 82,4% for West Africa; East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 2,7% of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,1% from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion (8,9%) of its tourists in South Africa for business.
- Students made up 2,0% of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,3% from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa had the highest proportion (2,5%) of tourists in South Africa for study purposes.

### 1.2.4 Sex and age distribution of tourists

Table 5 shows that, in December 2011, there were 428 603 (52,8%) male and 381 381 (47,0%) female tourists. The overseas tourists were made up of 122 837 (54,3%) male tourists and 103 198 (45,6%) female tourists. There were 293 616 (52,0%) male and 270 733 (47,9%) female tourists from SADC countries. The tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 10 525 (62,2%) males and 6 402 (37,8%) females.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into three broad groups namely; those younger than 15 years, 15 to 64 years, and 65 years and older. The overall results presented in Table 5 show that 86,2% of tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years; 9,9% were aged less than 15 years and 3,9% were aged 65 years and older. Taking the region of residence into consideration, the results further show that 80,1% of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 88,6% and 85,8% of tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries respectively in the same age range.

For tourists aged less than 15 years, the overseas and 'other' African tourists had a similar proportion of 12,0% and 12,1%, respectively while the SADC countries had a lower proportion of 9,0%. There was a higher proportion of young female tourists in comparison to young male tourists for overseas, the SADC countries and 'other' African countries.

A comparison of the three regions shows relatively high proportions of the elderly among both male (7,7%) and female (8,1%) tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to tourists from the SADC countries amongst which 2,0% of males and 2,6% of females were aged 65 years and older. Similarly among tourists from 'other' African countries, 1,9% of males and 2,4% of females were aged 65 years and older.

**PJ Lehohla**  
**Statistician-General**

## 2. Figures

Figure 1. Number of tourists from eight leading overseas countries in December 2010 and December 2011

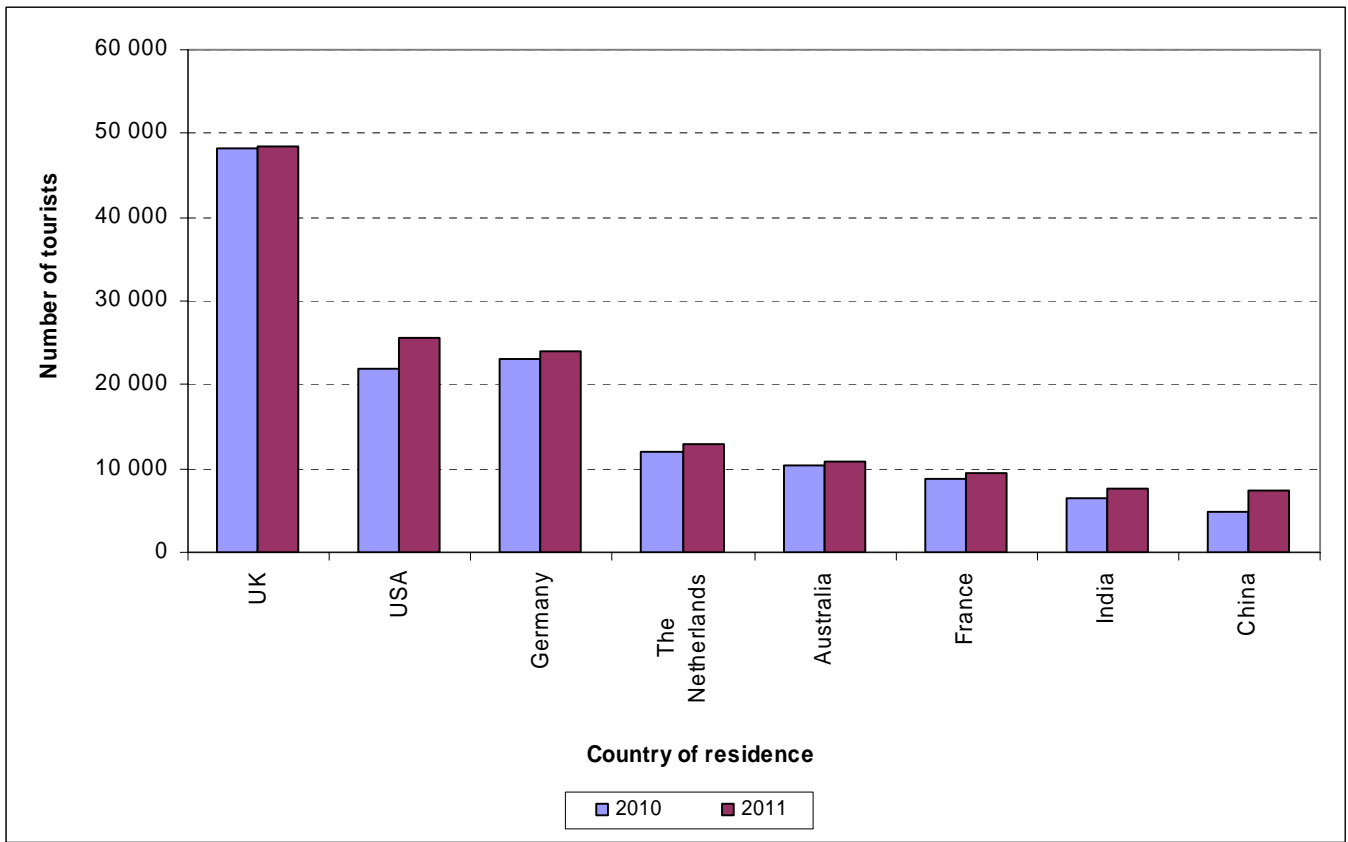
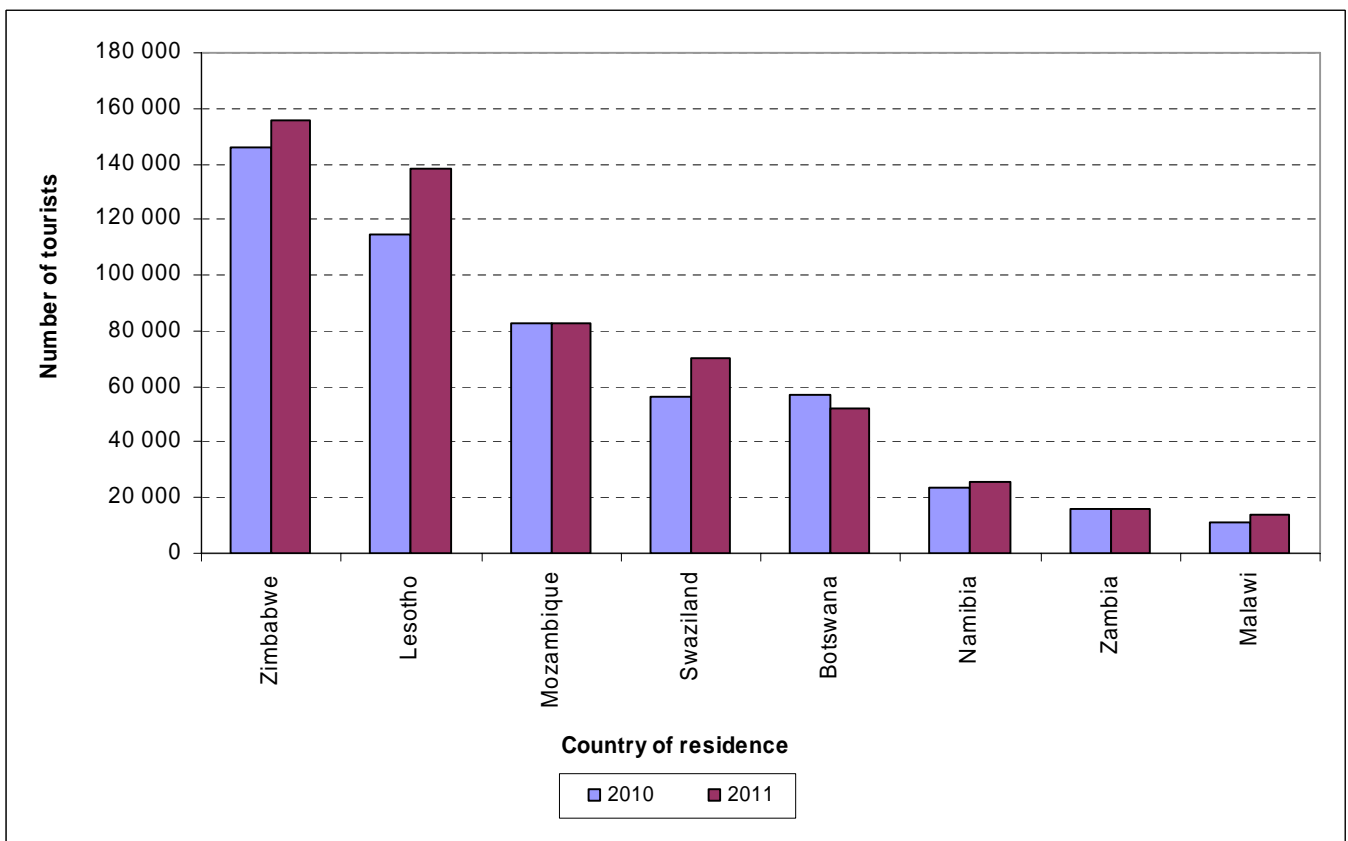
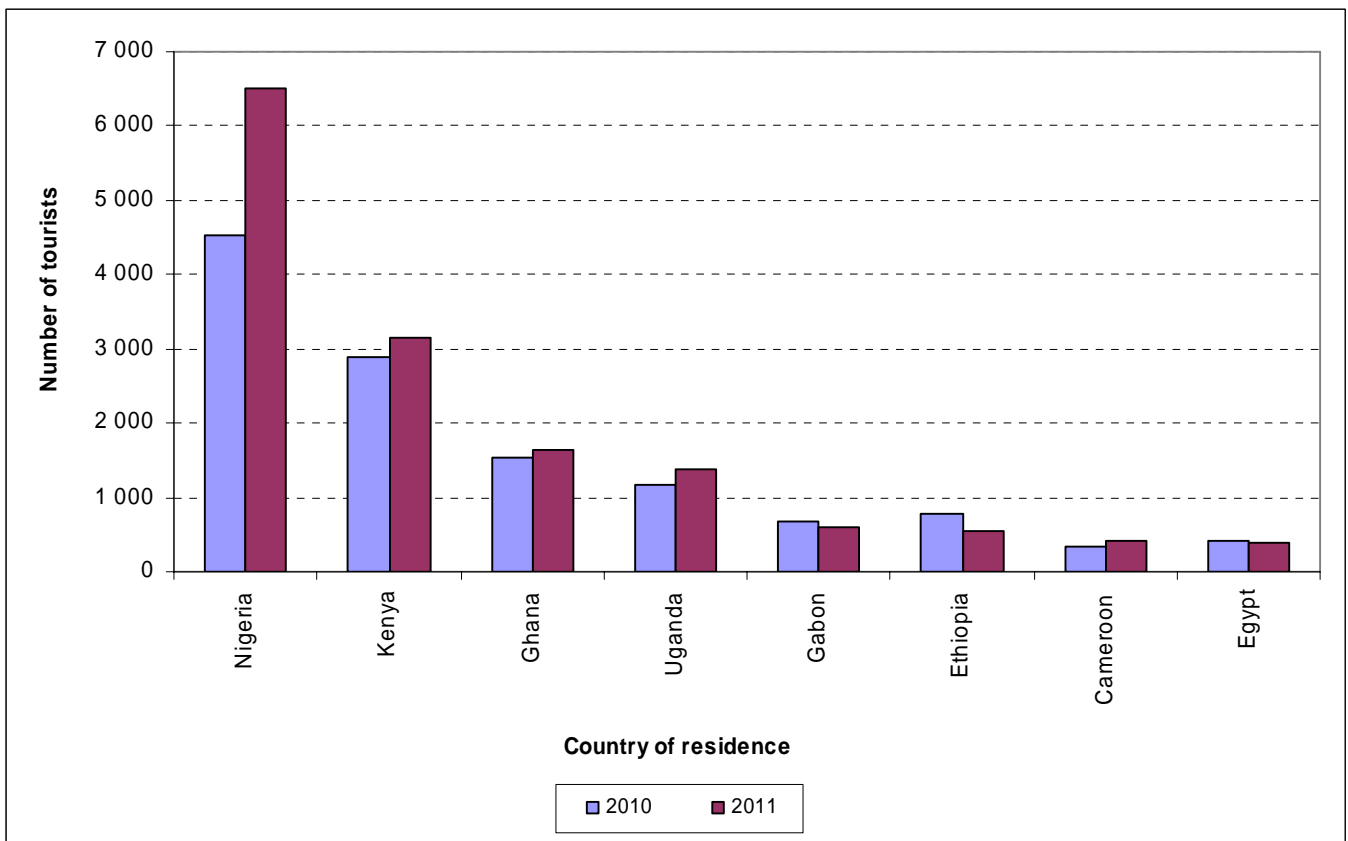


Figure 2. Number of tourists from eight leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in December 2010 and December 2011



**Figure 3. Number of tourists from eight leading 'other' African countries in December 2010 and December 2011**



### 3. Tables

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

Travel direction	December	November	December	% change	
	2010	2011	2011	December 2010 - December 2011	November 2011 - December 2011
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>3 502 670</b>	<b>2 827 924</b>	<b>3 647 159</b>	<b>4,1</b>	<b>29,0</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>1 305 568</b>	<b>807 413</b>	<b>1 210 785</b>	<b>-7,3</b>	<b>50,0</b>
Arrivals	555 061	402 258	519 047	-6,5	29,0
Departures	750 507	405 155	691 738	-7,8	70,7
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>2 197 102</b>	<b>2 020 511</b>	<b>2 436 374</b>	<b>10,9</b>	<b>20,6</b>
Arrivals	1 126 332	1 080 029	1 241 599	10,2	15,0
Departures	1 070 770	940 482	1 194 775	11,6	27,0
<b>Foreign arrivals</b>	<b>1 126 332</b>	<b>1 080 029</b>	<b>1 241 599</b>	<b>10,2</b>	<b>15,0</b>
Non-visitors	14 135	45 911	50 523	257,4	10,0
Visitors	1 112 197	1 034 118	1 191 076	7,1	15,2
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>1 112 197</b>	<b>1 034 118</b>	<b>1 191 076</b>	<b>7,1</b>	<b>15,2</b>
Arrivals only	367 607	334 990	394 600	7,3	17,8
Single trips	384 841	380 736	434 453	12,9	14,1
Multiple trips	359 749	318 392	362 023	0,6	13,7
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>1 112 197</b>	<b>1 034 118</b>	<b>1 191 076</b>	<b>7,1</b>	<b>15,2</b>
Same day	369 956	329 385	379 972	2,7	15,4
Overnight (tourists)	742 241	704 733	811 104	9,3	15,1



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

Travel Direction	December		Mode of travel (December 2011)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2010	2011	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 502 670</b>	<b>3 647 159</b>	<b>180 018</b>	<b>20 438</b>	<b>709 950</b>	<b>9 688</b>	<b>920 094</b>	<b>2 680 645</b>	<b>46 419</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>1 305 568</b>	<b>1 210 785</b>	<b>50 098</b>	<b>12 817</b>	<b>302 465</b>	<b>6 368</b>	<b>371 748</b>	<b>800 044</b>	<b>38 993</b>	<b>-</b>
Arrivals	555 061	519 047	23 519	5 836	137 664	3 302	170 321	329 738	18 988	-
Departures	750 507	691 738	26 579	6 981	164 801	3 066	201 427	470 306	20 005	-
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>2 197 102</b>	<b>2 436 374</b>	<b>129 920</b>	<b>7 621</b>	<b>407 485</b>	<b>3 320</b>	<b>548 346</b>	<b>1 880 601</b>	<b>7 426</b>	<b>1</b>
Arrivals	1 126 332	1 241 599	72 238	4 199	216 431	1 482	294 350	943 136	4 112	1
Departures	1 070 770	1 194 775	57 682	3 422	191 054	1 838	253 996	937 465	3 314	-
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>1 112 197</b>	<b>1 191 076</b>	<b>67 853</b>	<b>3 440</b>	<b>200 649</b>	<b>1 090</b>	<b>273 032</b>	<b>916 731</b>	<b>1 313</b>	<b>-</b>
Same day	369 956	379 972	620	26	16 060	129	16 835	362 961	176	-
Overnight (tourists)	742 241	811 104	67 233	3 414	184 589	961	256 197	553 770	1 137	-

**Table 3. Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel**

Country of residence	December		Mode of travel (December 2011)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2010	2011	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
<b>Total</b>	<b>742 241</b>	<b>811 104</b>	<b>67 233</b>	<b>3 414</b>	<b>184 589</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>256 197</b>	<b>553 770</b>	<b>1 137</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>206 555</b>	<b>226 360</b>	<b>63 730</b>	<b>3 058</b>	<b>136 410</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>203 885</b>	<b>21 618</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>133 740</b>	<b>140 303</b>	<b>51 390</b>	<b>1 699</b>	<b>73 440</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>126 943</b>	<b>12 684</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>-</b>
Austria	2 217	2 497	1 065	43	1 182	2	2 292	175	30	-
Belgium	3 945	3 850	1 354	14	2 075	42	3 485	364	1	-
Denmark	1 849	2 330	685	29	1 355	4	2 073	251	6	-
France	8 853	9 384	2 545	68	5 739	34	8 386	939	59	-
Germany	22 978	23 950	9 817	245	11 201	144	21 407	2 446	97	-
Ireland	3 654	3 566	1 487	38	1 708	8	3 241	310	15	-
Italy	5 009	5 697	2 054	129	3 118	12	5 313	362	22	-
Norway	1 988	2 458	1 008	6	1 229	6	2 249	207	2	-
Portugal	4 026	4 448	578	21	2 317	33	2 949	1 495	4	-
Spain	1 751	2 227	464	2	1 537	8	2 011	212	4	-
Sweden	6 020	5 972	2 809	20	2 686	1	5 516	455	1	-
Switzerland	3 937	4 656	1 939	57	2 265	3	4 264	371	21	-
The Netherlands	11 916	12 912	5 391	87	5 823	2	11 303	1 487	122	-
UK	48 277	48 361	17 533	814	26 619	82	45 048	3 043	270	-
Other	7 320	7 995	2 661	126	4 586	33	7 406	567	22	-
<b>North America</b>	<b>28 007</b>	<b>32 140</b>	<b>5 770</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>23 006</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>29 110</b>	<b>2 942</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>-</b>
Canada	6 013	6 538	1 538	18	4 379	22	5 957	573	8	-
USA	21 994	25 601	4 232	130	18 627	164	23 153	2 368	80	-
Other	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>8 068</b>	<b>10 432</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>9 019</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9 758</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>
Argentina	913	1 293	340	-	907	-	1 247	46	-	-
Brazil	5 252	7 103	135	16	6 485	15	6 651	451	1	-
Mexico	238	330	56	1	261	-	318	12	-	-
Other	1 665	1 706	168	6	1 366	2	1 542	163	1	-

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

Country of residence	December		Mode of travel (December 2011)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2010	2011	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>13 059</b>	<b>13 612</b>	<b>1 844</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>10 378</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>12 583</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>56</b>	-
Australia	10 426	10 906	1 410	206	8 388	26	10 030	832	44	-
New Zealand	2 579	2 613	433	113	1 918	2	2 466	139	8	-
Other	54	93	1	14	72	-	87	2	4	-
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>2 943</b>	<b>3 191</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>2 457</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2 968</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>3</b>	-
Iran	384	480	101	11	363	-	475	5	-	-
Israel	1 291	1 589	99	-	1 338	3	1 440	148	1	-
Lebanon	271	250	48	4	154	2	208	42	-	-
Other	997	872	211	29	602	3	845	25	2	-
<b>Asia</b>	<b>20 738</b>	<b>26 682</b>	<b>3 568</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>18 110</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>22 523</b>	<b>4 127</b>	<b>32</b>	-
China	4 902	7 499	930	144	5 674	5	6 753	745	1	-
India	6 549	7 667	659	207	5 038	6	5 910	1 745	12	-
Japan	1 362	1 929	206	70	1 541	3	1 820	106	3	-
Malaysia	722	1 140	542	18	563	2	1 125	15	-	-
Pakistan	1 064	1 483	110	74	791	2	977	500	6	-
Philippines	730	756	60	45	465	2	572	183	1	-
Singapore	936	1 266	480	11	745	8	1 244	22	-	-
South Korea	1 248	1 658	284	83	1 076	1	1 444	211	3	-
Taiwan	595	606	30	15	456	-	501	102	3	-
Other	2 630	2 678	267	144	1 761	5	2 177	498	3	-
<b>Africa</b>	<b>533 975</b>	<b>582 069</b>	<b>3 239</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>46 749</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>50 603</b>	<b>531 191</b>	<b>275</b>	-
<b>SADC</b>	<b>519 023</b>	<b>565 139</b>	<b>2 950</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>32 329</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>35 787</b>	<b>529 100</b>	<b>252</b>	-
Angola	3 451	3 977	449	-	3 306	12	3 767	210	-	-
Botswana	56 857	51 810	10	2	2 344	24	2 380	49 421	9	-
DRC	3 939	2 670	15	3	1 772	14	1 804	866	-	-
Lesotho	114 968	137 957	3	1	428	-	432	137 508	17	-
Madagascar	209	255	3	-	202	2	207	48	-	-

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

Country of residence	December		Mode of travel (December 2011)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2010	2011	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Malawi	11 358	13 629	12	-	1 497	3	1 512	12 116	1	-
Mauritius	1 355	1 574	353	132	793	2	1 280	294	-	-
Mozambique	82 905	82 459	124	70	2 234	102	2 530	79 912	17	-
Namibia	23 893	26 061	1 794	2	3 206	14	5 016	20 907	138	-
Seychelles	275	321	2	2	309	-	313	8	-	-
Swaziland	56 008	70 359	2	2	557	7	568	69 787	4	-
Tanzania	2 063	2 592	7	39	1 426	4	1 476	1 116	-	-
Zambia	15 664	15 857	94	-	4 649	16	4 759	11 090	8	-
Zimbabwe	146 078	155 618	82	8	9 606	47	9 743	145 817	58	-
<b>'Other' Africa</b>	<b>14 952</b>	<b>16 930</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>14 420</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14 816</b>	<b>2 091</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>East and Central Africa</b>	<b>6 634</b>	<b>6 848</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>5 732</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5 822</b>	<b>1 021</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>
Burundi	84	83	-	1	76	-	77	6	-	-
Cameroon	333	408	7	1	337	-	345	62	1	-
Central African Republic	12	9	-	-	8	-	8	1	-	-
Chad	16	42	-	-	41	-	41	1	-	-
Comoros	12	11	-	-	9	-	9	2	-	-
Congo	283	287	-	-	265	-	265	22	-	-
Djibouti	3	6	-	-	6	-	6	-	-	-
Equat Guinea	12	18	-	-	8	1	9	9	-	-
Eritrea	71	44	2	-	34	-	36	8	-	-
Ethiopia	793	553	3	20	447	2	472	81	-	-
Gabon	687	603	1	14	582	-	597	6	-	-
Kenya	2 889	3 143	27	2	2 645	-	2 674	467	2	-
Reunion	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	234	237	2	-	204	1	207	30	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	8	7	1	-	5	1	7	-	-	-
Somalia	15	9	-	-	8	-	8	1	-	-
Uganda	1 175	1 388	3	1	1 057	-	1 061	325	2	-

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

Country of residence	December		Mode of travel (December 2011)							
	2010	2011	Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
			Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>6 984</b>	<b>9 241</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>8 049</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8 217</b>	<b>1 006</b>	<b>18</b>	-
Benin	94	81	2	-	67	-	69	12	-	-
Burkina Faso	25	49	1	-	41	2	44	5	-	-
Cape Verde Island	40	43	7	-	22	1	30	13	-	-
Cote D'Ivoire	112	98	4	2	89	-	95	3	-	-
Gambia	31	48	-	-	42	-	42	6	-	-
Ghana	1 529	1 652	39	1	1 453	-	1 493	159	-	-
Guinea	158	194	3	1	76	1	81	111	2	-
Guinea-Bissau	7	7	-	-	5	-	5	2	-	-
Liberia	36	59	-	-	49	-	49	10	-	-
Madeira Islands	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Mali	48	87	1	-	53	1	55	32	-	-
Mauritania	16	10	-	-	10	-	10	-	-	-
Niger	11	34	9	2	22	-	33	1	-	-
Nigeria	4 523	6 513	56	3	5 821	5	5 885	619	9	-
Saint Helena	-	7	1	-	-	-	1	-	6	-
Senegal	232	251	3	19	220	-	242	9	-	-
Sierra Leone	88	60	2	-	33	2	37	23	-	-
Togo	34	47	-	-	46	-	46	1	-	-
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>1 334</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>64</b>	-	-
Algeria	168	99	3	-	84	3	90	9	-	-
Egypt	413	403	23	2	344	2	371	32	-	-
Libya	186	69	20	3	33	-	56	13	-	-
Morocco	275	95	23	6	63	-	92	3	-	-
The Sudan	148	94	26	-	62	-	88	6	-	-
Tunisia	59	79	20	7	51	-	78	1	-	-
Western Sahara	85	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>1 711</b>	<b>2 675</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1 430</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1 709</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>5</b>	-

**Table 4. Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit**

Country of residence	December		Purpose of visit (December 2011)			
	2010	2011	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
<b>Total</b>	<b>742 241</b>	<b>811 104</b>	<b>11 284</b>	<b>782 543</b>	<b>2 753</b>	<b>14 524</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>206 555</b>	<b>226 360</b>	<b>4 597</b>	<b>211 176</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>9 919</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>133 740</b>	<b>140 303</b>	<b>2 420</b>	<b>133 860</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>3 675</b>
Austria	2 217	2 497	36	2 400	5	56
Belgium	3 945	3 850	52	3 696	10	92
Denmark	1 849	2 330	44	2 217	3	66
France	8 853	9 384	225	8 851	35	273
Germany	22 978	23 950	415	22 969	95	471
Ireland	3 654	3 566	47	3 443	9	67
Italy	5 009	5 697	116	5 363	12	206
Norway	1 988	2 458	64	2 277	17	100
Portugal	4 026	4 448	42	4 173	5	228
Spain	1 751	2 227	51	2 026	4	146
Sweden	6 020	5 972	144	5 708	9	111
Switzerland	3 937	4 656	52	4 417	10	177
The Netherlands	11 916	12 912	170	12 534	46	162
UK	48 277	48 361	744	46 344	67	1 206
Other	7 320	7 995	218	7 442	21	314
<b>North America</b>	<b>28 007</b>	<b>32 140</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>30 306</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>1 159</b>
Canada	6 013	6 538	83	6 267	16	172
USA	21 994	25 601	505	24 038	71	987
Other	-	1	-	1	-	-
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>8 068</b>	<b>10 432</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>8 937</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>1 296</b>
Argentina	913	1 293	25	1 114	1	153
Brazil	5 252	7 103	47	6 086	50	920
Mexico	238	330	16	307	1	6
Other	1 665	1 706	45	1 430	14	217

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

Country of residence	December		Purpose of visit (December 2011)			
	2010	2011	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>13 059</b>	<b>13 612</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>12 981</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>462</b>
Australia	10 426	10 906	113	10 384	12	397
New Zealand	2 579	2 613	22	2 528	1	62
Other	54	93	21	69	-	3
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>2 943</b>	<b>3 191</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>2 949</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>85</b>
Iran	384	480	20	436	6	18
Israel	1 291	1 589	29	1 528	2	30
Lebanon	271	250	21	204	3	22
Other	997	872	58	781	18	15
<b>Asia</b>	<b>20 738</b>	<b>26 682</b>	<b>1 172</b>	<b>22 143</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>3 242</b>
China	4 902	7 499	356	5 871	14	1 258
India	6 549	7 667	348	6 581	35	703
Japan	1 362	1 929	99	1 558	7	265
Malaysia	722	1 140	17	1 097	-	26
Pakistan	1 064	1 483	56	1 253	4	170
Philippines	730	756	14	553	9	180
Singapore	936	1 266	37	1 197	-	32
South Korea	1 248	1 658	94	1 408	34	122
Taiwan	595	606	17	494	6	89
Other	2 630	2 678	134	2 131	16	397
<b>Africa</b>	<b>533 975</b>	<b>582 069</b>	<b>6 558</b>	<b>568 922</b>	<b>2 074</b>	<b>4 515</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>519 023</b>	<b>565 139</b>	<b>6 098</b>	<b>553 496</b>	<b>1 743</b>	<b>3 802</b>
Angola	3 451	3 977	39	3 609	93	236
Botswana	56 857	51 810	81	50 901	346	482
DRC	3 939	2 670	66	2 511	61	32
Lesotho	114 968	137 957	49	137 531	271	106
Madagascar	209	255	4	203	4	44

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

Country of residence	December		Purpose of visit (December 2011)			
	2010	2011	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Malawi	11 358	13 629	212	13 254	18	145
Mauritius	1 355	1 574	28	1 470	14	62
Mozambique	82 905	82 459	880	81 181	23	375
Namibia	23 893	26 061	1 580	23 856	167	458
Seychelles	275	321	5	313	-	3
Swaziland	56 008	70 359	1 122	68 873	289	75
Tanzania	2 063	2 592	33	2 418	17	124
Zambia	15 664	15 857	898	14 507	40	412
Zimbabwe	146 078	155 618	1 101	152 869	400	1 248
<b>'Other' Africa</b>	<b>14 952</b>	<b>16 930</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>15 426</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>713</b>
<b>East and Central Africa</b>	<b>6 634</b>	<b>6 848</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>6 271</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>187</b>
Burundi	84	83	4	73	1	5
Cameroon	333	408	13	344	40	11
Central African Republic	12	9	1	8	-	-
Chad	16	42	3	37	1	1
Comoros	12	11	-	9	2	-
Congo	283	287	8	262	13	4
Djibouti	3	6	-	5	-	1
Equat Guinea	12	18	-	17	1	-
Eritrea	71	44	1	41	1	1
Ethiopia	793	553	31	491	7	24
Gabon	687	603	14	564	17	8
Kenya	2 889	3 143	102	2 919	61	61
Reunion	7	-	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	234	237	6	218	7	6
Sao Tome and Principe	8	7	-	6	-	1
Somalia	15	9	-	9	-	-
Uganda	1 175	1 388	34	1 268	22	64



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

Country of residence	December		Purpose of visit (December 2011)			
	2010	2011	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>6 984</b>	<b>9 241</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>8 462</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>472</b>
Benin	94	81	3	75	-	3
Burkina Faso	25	49	7	37	1	4
Cape Verde Island	40	43	-	41	-	2
Cote D'Ivoire	112	98	11	77	3	7
Gambia	31	48	-	29	-	19
Ghana	1 529	1 652	26	1 509	17	100
Guinea	158	194	3	169	1	21
Guinea-Bissau	7	7	-	6	-	1
Liberia	36	59	4	47	1	7
Madeira Islands	-	1	-	1	-	-
Mali	48	87	4	69	-	14
Mauritania	16	10	-	7	-	3
Niger	11	34	10	24	-	-
Nigeria	4 523	6 513	54	6 073	113	273
Saint Helena	-	7	-	6	-	1
Senegal	232	251	39	199	1	12
Sierra Leone	88	60	3	55	2	-
Togo	34	47	4	38	-	5
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>1 334</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>54</b>
Algeria	168	99	5	92	1	1
Egypt	413	403	31	341	1	30
Libya	186	69	1	56	12	-
Morocco	275	95	12	74	-	9
The Sudan	148	94	5	83	4	2
Tunisia	59	79	21	46	1	11
Western Sahara	85	2	-	1	-	1
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>1 711</b>	<b>2 675</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>2 445</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>90</b>

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

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (December 2011)			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
<b>All</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>811 104</b>	<b>226 360</b>	<b>565 139</b>	<b>16 930</b>	<b>2 675</b>
	<15	79 998	27 151	50 694	2 050	103
	15 - 64	698 965	181 212	500 750	14 522	2 481
	65+	31 465	17 876	13 144	354	91
	Unspecified	676	121	551	4	-
<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>428 603</b>	<b>122 837</b>	<b>293 616</b>	<b>10 525</b>	<b>1 625</b>
	<15	40 054	14 130	24 875	1 001	48
	15 - 64	372 612	99 239	262 527	9 322	1 524
	65+	15 596	9 412	5 930	201	53
	Unspecified	341	56	284	1	-
<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>381 381</b>	<b>103 198</b>	<b>270 733</b>	<b>6 402</b>	<b>1 048</b>
	<15	39 943	13 021	25 818	1 049	55
	15 - 64	325 441	81 731	237 557	5 198	955
	65+	15 746	8 399	7 156	153	38
	Unspecified	251	47	202	2	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1 120</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
	<15	1	-	1	-	-
	15 - 64	912	242	666	2	2
	65+	123	65	58	-	-
	Unspecified	84	18	65	1	-

## 4. Explanatory notes

### 4.1 Introduction

Legal movements across South African borders as well as legal immigration into South Africa fall under the jurisdiction of the DHA. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) then processes and publishes this information.

Administrative data sources from the DHA, that is, information from all the country's ports of entry and applications for permanent residence, constitute the only comprehensive source of information on foreign arrivals and departures, documented immigrants and emigrants. The information from this source of data provides the best national coverage (both in terms of space and time) of the population movements of South African residents and foreign travellers. The data:

- can be used to estimate, monitor and understand salient characteristics of foreign travellers and volumes of South African residents travelling outside South Africa; and
- provide information that can be used to (a) assess the extent of government's progress in strengthening bilateral political and economic relations by assessing the number of international tourist arrivals; and (b) benchmark surveys focusing on demand for local tourism services by foreign travellers.

The information on documented migrants provides crucial information on receiving countries of South African emigrants which could be targeted in initiatives geared towards attracting back migrants into the country. In addition, the data on permanent residents are valuable in assessing not only the demographic and economic profiles of immigrants but also their contribution to national social and economic programmes.

### 4.2 Purpose of the statistical release

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

### 4.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data on arrivals and departures of South African residents and foreign travellers. A detailed analysis of the data on foreign tourists with respect to: mode of travel, purpose of visit, sex and age distribution is covered in the release. Statistics on documented migration, that is self-declared emigrants, are not reported due to the unavailability of data.

### 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 mainframe of the State Information Technology Agency (SITA), where the DHA stores its data.
- As part of data interrogation, data from the OR Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airport Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA has been accompanied by an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern was also observed when the volume of travellers decreased. However, the volume of passengers recorded by ACSA is generally higher than that of the DHA because of, among other reasons, travellers who are in transit and those who boarded airplanes but refused entry into the country. In November 2011, the DHA data was 11,4% lower than that of ACSA.

### 4.5 Limitations

The information on the total number of arrivals and departures of South African residents is collected from the scanning of passports. However, data are not collected from passengers on country visited; country of final destination, the duration of stay; intended duration of stay and purpose of visit. With this limitation, it is impossible to identify the number of tourists from the data on South African residents.

Due to unavailability of data from the DHA, information on documented immigrants is not included in this current publication. The documented immigration information will be provided as soon as it is made available to Stats SA.

## 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 report

**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, Asia, Africa: SADC, 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 and abbreviations used

- = nil

Unspec. = unspecified

## 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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