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Statistical release

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Tourism and Migration

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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 3 828 607 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through South African ports of entry in December 2012. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 1 219 202 South African residents and 2 609 405 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 520 238 and 698 964 arrivals and departures respectively. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals and departures were 1 331 934 and 1 277 471, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in November 2012 and December 2012 indicates that the volumes of arrivals and departures for both South African residents and foreign travellers increased. The volume of arrivals for South African residents increased by 45,9% (from 356 473 in November 2012 to 520 238 in December 2012) while the volume of departures for South African residents increased by 91,2% (from 365 499 in November 2012 to 698 964 in December 2012). Foreign arrivals increased by 11,9% (from 1 190 293 in November 2012 to 1 331 934 in December 2012) while foreign departures increased by 26,3% (from 1 011 530 in November 2012 to 1 277 471 in December 2012).

A comparison between the movements in December 2011 and December 2012 indicates that the volumes of arrivals and departures increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 0,2% (from 519 047 in December 2011 to 520 238 in December 2012) and the volume of departures increased by 1,0% (from 691 738 in December 2011 to 698 964 in December 2012). Similarly, the volume of arrivals for foreign travellers increased by 7,3% (from 1 241 599 in December 2011 to 1 331 934 in December 2012) and the volume of departures increased by 6,9% (from 1 194 775 in December 2011 to 1 277 471 in December 2012).

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 and non-tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation.

As presented in Table 1, in December 2012, 61 644 (4,6%) foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 270 290 (95,4%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. arrivals only – comprising of visitors who entered the country in December 2012 but did not depart in December 2012 [432 822 (34,1%)];
- ii. single trips – visitors who came once in December 2012 and left in December 2012 [468 744 (36,9%)]; and
- iii. multiple trips – visitors who came and left more than once in December 2012 [368 724 (29,0%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In December 2012, there were 398 516 (31,4%) same day visitors and 871 774 (68,6%) tourists. Between November 2012 and December 2012, the volume of same day visitors increased by 11,8% (from 356 487 in November 2012 to 398 516 in December 2012) and tourists increased by 11,6% (from 781 096 in November 2012 to 871 774 in December 2012). Furthermore, between December 2011 and December 2012, the volume of same day visitors increased by 4,9% (from 379 972 in December 2011 to 398 516 in December 2012) and the volume of tourists increased by 7,5% (from 811 104 in December 2011 to 871 774 in December 2012).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

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 2012, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 825 427 (73,8%) out of the 3 828 607 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 961 044 (25,1%). The arrivals data on South African residents show that 172 199 (33,1%) came by

air and 332 825 (64,0%) came by road. For departures, 207 496 (29,7%) and 474 770 (67,9%) used air and road transport respectively. In the case of foreign travellers, 323 554 (24,3%) arrived by air while those who came by road were 1 003 113 (75,3%). When departing South Africa, 257 795 (20,2%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 1 014 719 (79,4%) left by road. As shown in Table 2, an overwhelming majority, 381 943 (95,8%) of same day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 16 242 (4,1%) same day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that, 585 666 (67,2%) used road transport but 284 995 (32,7%) came by air.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel

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 2012, 220 888 (90,6%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 22 126 (9,1%) 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 [560 900 (92,5%)]. Only 45 129 (7,4%) tourists from the SADC countries came in by air. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 17 549 (90,2%); with 1 802 (9,3%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In December 2012, the distribution of overseas tourists were as follows; Europe, 147 841 (60,7%); North America, 33 745 (13,8%); Asia, 32 133 (13,2%); Australasia, 15 446 (6,3%); Central and South America, 11 375 (4,7%) and Middle East, 3 178 (1,3%). Virtually all tourists from Africa came from the SADC countries, [606 324 (96,9%)]. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 10 245 (1,6%); East and Central Africa, 8 107 (1,3%) and North Africa 1 097 (0,2%).

Data presented in Figure 1 indicate that United Kingdom (UK), 48 398 (19,9%); Germany, 27 642 (11,3%); United States of America (USA), 26 888 (11,0%); The Netherlands, 12 665 (5,2%); Australia, 12 090 (5,0%); France, 10 488 (4,3%); China 9 852 (4,0%) and India 9 110 (3,7%) were the eight leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in December 2012. Tourists from these eight countries constituted 64,5% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in December 2011 and December 2012 shows that the number of tourists increased in all of these countries except The Netherlands. China had the highest increase of 31,4% (from 7 499 tourists in December 2011 to 9 852 tourists in December 2012) while The Netherlands had a decrease of 1,9% (from 12 912 tourists in December 2011 to 12 665 tourists in December 2012).

The eight leading countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in December 2012 from the SADC countries (see Figure 2) were Zimbabwe, 179 010 (29,5%); Lesotho, 146 734 (24,2%); Mozambique, 83 843 (13,8%); Swaziland, 73 301 (12,1%); Botswana, 56 160 (9,3%); Namibia, 24 955 (4,1%); Zambia, 17 333 (2,9%) and Malawi, 11 681 (1,9%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 97,8% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in December 2011 and December 2012 shows that the number of tourists increased in all of these countries except Malawi and Namibia. Zimbabwe had the highest increase of 15,0% (from 155 618 tourists in December 2011 to 179 010 tourists in December 2012). The number of tourists from Malawi decreased by 14,3% (from 13 629 tourists in December 2011 to 11 681 tourists in December 2012).

The eight leading countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in December 2012 from 'other' African countries, shown in Figure 3, were Nigeria, 6 864 (35,3%); Kenya, 3 667 (18,9%); Ghana, 2 021 (10,4%); Uganda, 1 580 (8,1%); Gabon, 778 (4,0%); Ethiopia, 654 (3,4%); Egypt, 556 (2,9%) and Congo, 398 (2,0%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 84,9% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in December 2011 and December 2012 shows that the number of tourists increased in all of these countries. The increase was highest in Congo at 38,7% (from 287 tourists in December 2011 to 398 tourists in December 2012) and Egypt (from 403 tourists in December 2011 to 556 tourists in December 2012).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data given in Table 4, in December 2012, an overwhelming majority [820 758 (94,1%)] of tourists were in South Africa for holidays compared to only 9 369 (1,1%) and 2 668 (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 65,0% came to South Africa for holidays. A total of 134 734 (91,1%) tourists from Europe; 13 924 (90,1%) from Australasia; 30 157 (89,4%) from North America; 2 789 (87,8%) from Middle East; 23 435 (72,9%) from Asia and 7 431 (65,3%) from Central and South America were in South Africa mostly for holidays. Middle East and Asia had higher proportions (3,4% and 2,8% respectively) of their tourists in South Africa for business compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists [606 494 (96,9%)] came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries namely:

- Whereas 590 272 (97,4%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holidays; 16 222 (83,4%) of tourists from 'other' African countries came for the same purpose. Data on the regions of 'other' African countries show that tourists on holidays constituted 85,4% (6 922); 83,5% (8 551) and 68,3% (749) for East and Central Africa; West Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 2,4% (467) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,8% (4 704) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion of 6,9% (76) of its tourists in South Africa for business.
- Students made up 1,5% (297) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,3% (1 709) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion of 3,0% (33) of their tourists in South Africa for study purposes.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 shows that, in December 2012, there were 456 941 (52,4%) male and 413 778 (47,5%) female tourists. The overseas tourists were made up of 133 265 (54,7%) male tourists and 110 119 (45,2%) female tourists. There were 310 273 (51,2%) male and 295 338 (48,7%) female tourists from the SADC countries. The tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 12 006 (61,7%) males and 7 437 (38,2%) 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 749 890 (86,0%) of tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years; 32 824 (3,8%) were aged 65 years and older and 88 469 (10,1%) were aged less than 15 years. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 195 736 (80,3%) of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 535 315 (88,3%) and 16 722 (86,0%) of tourists in the same age range from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries respectively.

The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was higher among tourists from 'other' Africa [12,0% (2 331)] and overseas [11,8% (28 706)] than among tourists from the SADC [9,5% (57 328)] countries. There was a higher proportion of young female tourists in comparison to young male tourists for all the three regions.

A comparison of the three regions shows relatively high proportions of the elderly among both male [7,5% (10 056)] and female [8,2% (9 059)] tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to the pattern observed among tourists from the other two regions. Thus 1,8% (213) of male and 2,4% (182) of female tourists from 'other' African countries were aged 65 years and older. Likewise 1,9% (5 925) of male and 2,4% (7 208) of female tourists from the SADC countries were aged 65 years and older.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

2. Figures

Figure 1. Number of tourists from eight leading overseas countries in December 2011 and December 2012

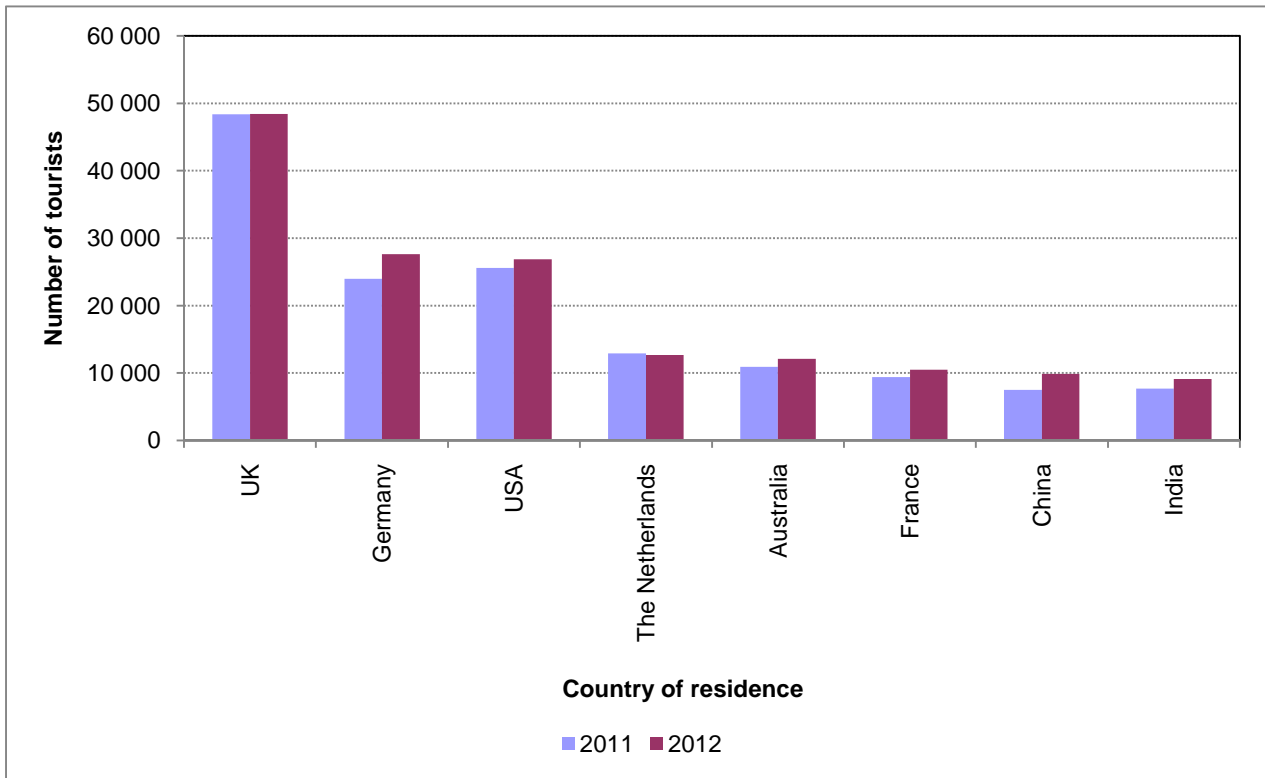


Figure 2. Number of tourists from eight leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in December 2011 and December 2012

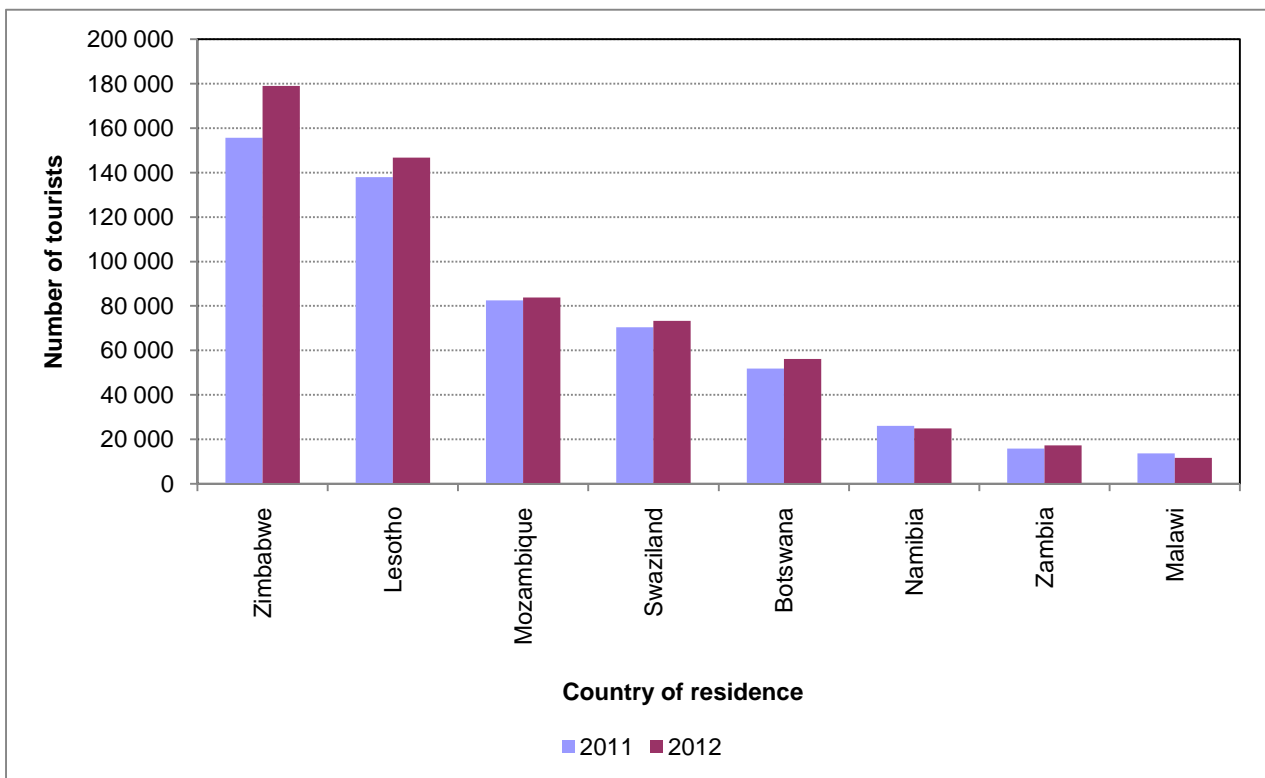
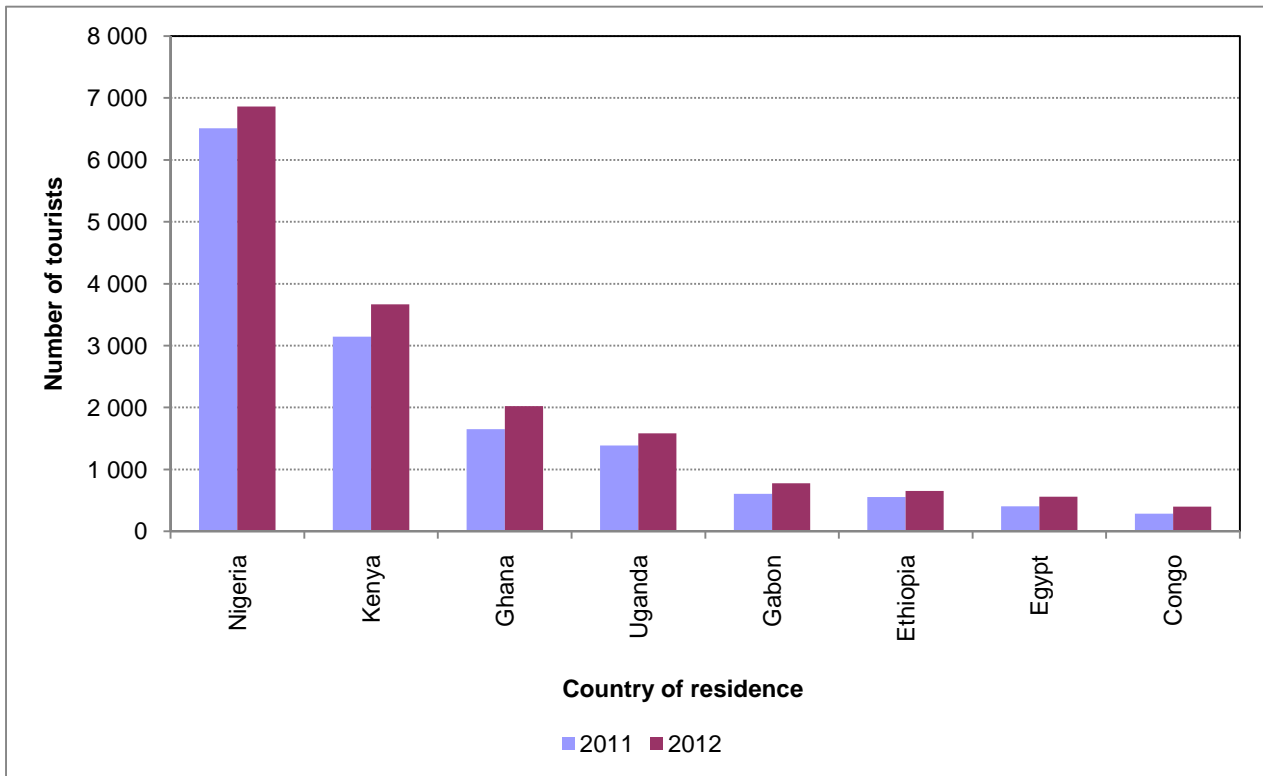


Figure 3. Number of tourists from eight leading 'other' African countries in December 2011 and December 2012



3. Tables

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

Travel direction	December	November	December	% change	
	2011	2012	2012	December 2011 - December 2012	November 2012 - December 2012
Total	3 647 159	2 923 795	3 828 607	5,0	30,9
South African residents	1 210 785	721 972	1 219 202	0,7	68,9
Arrivals	519 047	356 473	520 238	0,2	45,9
Departures	691 738	365 499	698 964	1,0	91,2
Foreign travellers	2 436 374	2 201 823	2 609 405	7,1	18,5
Arrivals	1 241 599	1 190 293	1 331 934	7,3	11,9
Departures	1 194 775	1 011 530	1 277 471	6,9	26,3
Foreign arrivals	1 241 599	1 190 293	1 331 934	7,3	11,9
Non-visitors	50 523	52 710	61 644	22,0	16,9
Visitors	1 191 076	1 137 583	1 270 290	6,7	11,7
Visitors	1 191 076	1 137 583	1 270 290	6,7	11,7
Arrivals only	394 600	387 304	432 822	9,7	11,8
Single trips	434 453	419 012	468 744	7,9	11,9
Multiple trips	362 023	331 267	368 724	1,9	11,3
Visitors	1 191 076	1 137 583	1 270 290	6,7	11,7
Same day	379 972	356 487	398 516	4,9	11,8
Overnight (tourists)	811 104	781 096	871 774	7,5	11,6

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

Travel Direction	December		Mode of travel (December 2012)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	3 647 159	3 828 607	164 879	23 837	766 340	5 988	961 044	2 825 427	42 121	15
South African residents	1 210 785	1 219 202	45 954	15 811	314 153	3 777	379 695	807 595	31 912	-
Arrivals	519 047	520 238	21 014	6 777	142 560	1 848	172 199	332 825	15 214	-
Departures	691 738	698 964	24 940	9 034	171 593	1 929	207 496	474 770	16 698	-
Foreign travellers	2 436 374	2 609 405	118 925	8 026	452 187	2 211	581 349	2 017 832	10 209	15
Arrivals	1 241 599	1 331 934	65 835	4 786	251 954	979	323 554	1 003 113	5 252	15
Departures	1 194 775	1 277 471	53 090	3 240	200 233	1 232	257 795	1 014 719	4 957	-
Visitors	1 191 076	1 270 290	61 866	4 039	234 597	735	301 237	967 609	1 435	9
Same day	379 972	398 516	364	11	15 764	103	16 242	381 943	331	-
Overnight (tourists)	811 104	871 774	61 502	4 028	218 833	632	284 995	585 666	1 104	9

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

Country of residence	December		Mode of travel (December 2012)							
	2011	2012	Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
			Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	811 104	871 774	61 502	4 028	218 833	632	284 995	585 666	1 104	9
Overseas	226 360	243 718	57 897	3 415	159 064	512	220 888	22 126	697	7
Europe	140 303	147 841	46 665	2 402	84 567	274	133 908	13 520	412	1
Austria	2 497	2 553	958	49	1 305	7	2 319	227	7	-
Belgium	3 850	4 302	1 182	17	2 601	17	3 817	481	4	-
Denmark	2 330	2 341	607	23	1 480	10	2 120	217	4	-
France	9 384	10 488	2 476	69	6 791	6	9 342	1 080	66	-
Germany	23 950	27 642	9 760	250	14 731	89	24 830	2 749	63	-
Ireland	3 566	3 486	1 141	100	2 014	2	3 257	224	5	-
Italy	5 697	5 552	1 648	98	3 387	5	5 138	389	25	-
Norway	2 458	2 581	947	3	1 455	4	2 409	171	1	-
Portugal	4 448	5 312	446	58	3 448	23	3 975	1 334	3	-
Spain	2 227	1 734	403	17	1 127	8	1 555	171	8	-
Sweden	5 972	6 853	2 561	26	3 610	2	6 199	651	3	-
Switzerland	4 656	5 251	1 918	46	2 797	12	4 773	471	7	-
The Netherlands	12 912	12 665	4 782	144	6 085	11	11 022	1 635	8	-
UK	48 361	48 398	15 447	1 400	28 315	58	45 220	3 025	153	-
Other	7 995	8 683	2 389	102	5 421	20	7 932	695	55	1
North America	32 140	33 745	5 220	154	25 308	168	30 850	2 874	21	-
Canada	6 538	6 857	1 254	45	4 936	11	6 246	608	3	-
USA	25 601	26 888	3 966	109	20 372	157	24 604	2 266	18	-
Other	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central and South America	10 432	11 375	315	12	10 373	24	10 724	616	35	-
Argentina	1 293	1 292	27	1	1 215	-	1 243	49	-	-
Brazil	7 103	7 822	118	7	7 294	2	7 421	392	9	-
Mexico	330	380	51	-	297	19	367	13	-	-
Other	1 706	1 881	119	4	1 567	3	1 693	162	26	-

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

Country of residence	December		Mode of travel (December 2012)							
	2011	2012	Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
			Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Australasia	13 612	15 446	1 934	534	12 089	17	14 574	859	13	-
Australia	10 906	12 090	1 433	364	9 594	14	11 405	677	8	-
New Zealand	2 613	3 292	500	170	2 436	3	3 109	179	4	-
Other	93	64	1	-	59	-	60	3	1	-
Middle East	3 191	3 178	357	28	2 545	7	2 937	234	7	-
Cyprus	222	243	8	10	195	1	214	29	-	-
Israel	1 589	1 726	97	-	1 477	1	1 575	147	4	-
Lebanon	250	370	51	4	293	-	348	22	-	-
Other	1 130	839	201	14	580	5	800	36	3	-
Asia	26 682	32 133	3 406	285	24 182	22	27 895	4 023	209	6
China	7 499	9 852	921	20	8 164	2	9 107	713	32	-
India	7 667	9 110	590	106	6 551	10	7 257	1 792	61	-
Japan	1 929	2 398	173	14	2 078	1	2 266	130	2	-
Malaysia	1 140	920	379	27	476	1	883	37	-	-
Pakistan	1 483	1 665	229	56	930	-	1 215	436	12	2
Philippines	756	1 306	65	10	994	2	1 071	215	20	-
Singapore	1 266	1 248	568	16	636	5	1 225	23	-	-
South Korea	1 658	1 655	209	12	1 254	-	1 475	176	4	-
Vietnam	291	784	7	-	775	-	782	2	-	-
Other	2 993	3 195	265	24	2 324	1	2 614	499	78	4
Africa	582 069	625 773	3 427	604	58 528	119	62 678	562 702	391	2
SADC	565 139	606 324	3 128	575	41 313	113	45 129	560 900	295	
Angola	3 977	4 065	446	-	3 429	4	3 879	181	5	-
Botswana	51 810	56 160	383	17	2 915	19	3 334	52 817	9	-
DRC	2 670	3 402	13	1	2 593	4	2 611	791	-	-
Lesotho	137 957	146 734	2	-	675	3	680	145 995	59	-
Madagascar	255	428	8	-	376	-	384	18	26	-

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

Country of residence	December		Mode of travel (December 2012)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Malawi	13 629	11 681	3	4	1 709	6	1 722	9 954	5	-
Mauritius	1 574	1 676	297	99	1 022	-	1 418	251	7	-
Mozambique	82 459	83 843	118	49	3 953	14	4 134	79 698	11	-
Namibia	26 061	24 955	1 681	-	4 139	24	5 844	19 008	103	-
Seychelles	321	634	1	2	623	-	626	8	-	-
Swaziland	70 359	73 301	-	2	680	6	688	72 607	6	-
Tanzania	2 592	3 102	9	1	1 698	1	1 709	1 392	1	-
Zambia	15 857	17 333	36	222	5 751	6	6 015	11 312	6	-
Zimbabwe	155 618	179 010	131	178	11 750	26	12 085	166 868	57	-
'Other' Africa	16 930	19 449	299	29	17 215	6	17 549	1 802	96	2
East and Central Africa	6 848	8 107	65	7	7 121	5	7 198	856	53	-
Burundi	83	129	-	-	123	-	123	6	-	-
Cameroon	408	381	2	-	338	-	340	33	8	-
Central African Republic	9	21	-	-	19	1	20	1	-	-
Chad	42	21	-	-	20	-	20	1	-	-
Comoros	11	13	2	-	8	-	10	3	-	-
Congo	287	398	3	-	356	-	359	12	27	-
Djibouti	6	3	-	-	2	-	2	-	1	-
Equatorial Guinea	18	24	-	-	24	-	24	-	-	-
Eritrea	44	86	2	-	80	-	82	4	-	-
Ethiopia	553	654	15	2	539	-	556	95	3	-
Gabon	603	778	4	-	756	1	761	15	2	-
Kenya	3 143	3 667	19	4	3 173	3	3 199	460	8	-
Rwanda	237	337	1	1	312	-	314	22	1	-
Sao Tome and Principe	7	8	2	-	6	-	8	-	-	-
Somalia	9	7	-	-	5	-	5	1	1	-
Uganda	1 388	1 580	15	-	1 360	-	1 375	203	2	-

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

Country of residence	December		Mode of travel (December 2012)							
	2011	2012	Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
			Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
West Africa	9 241	10 245	103	8	9 193	1	9 305	904	36	-
Benin	81	121	2	-	111	-	113	6	2	-
Burkina Faso	49	66	-	-	63	-	63	3	-	-
Cape Verde Island	43	66	8	-	42	-	50	16	-	-
Côte D'Ivoire	98	194	5	1	176	-	182	12	-	-
Gambia	48	87	-	-	80	-	80	7	-	-
Ghana	1 652	2 021	31	-	1 827	-	1 858	160	3	-
Guinea	194	222	3	-	111	-	114	108	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	7	16	1	-	12	-	13	3	-	-
Liberia	59	40	1	-	38	-	39	1	-	-
Madeira Islands	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Mali	87	97	3	-	70	-	73	24	-	-
Mauritania	10	8	-	-	8	-	8	-	-	-
Niger	34	28	-	-	23	-	23	5	-	-
Nigeria	6 513	6 864	42	7	6 258	1	6 308	532	24	-
Saint Helena	7	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
Senegal	251	291	5	-	274	-	279	12	-	-
Sierra Leone	60	70	1	-	57	-	58	11	1	-
Togo	47	47	1	-	43	-	44	3	-	-
North Africa	841	1 097	131	14	901	-	1 046	42	7	2
Algeria	99	206	20	-	176	-	196	9	1	-
Egypt	403	556	33	4	496	-	533	18	3	2
Libya	69	92	36	3	43	-	82	8	2	-
Morocco	95	98	26	3	64	-	93	5	-	-
The Sudan	94	79	7	-	70	-	77	1	1	-
Tunisia	79	66	9	4	52	-	65	1	-	-
Western Sahara	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	2 675	2 283	178	9	1 241	1	1 429	838	16	-

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

Country of residence	December		Purpose of visit (December 2012)			
	2011	2012	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Total	811 104	871 774	9 369	820 758	2 668	38 979
Overseas	226 360	243 718	4 142	212 470	649	26 457
Europe	140 303	147 841	2 445	134 734	359	10 303
Austria	2 497	2 553	35	2 355	6	157
Belgium	3 850	4 302	70	3 992	7	233
Denmark	2 330	2 341	47	2 091	2	201
France	9 384	10 488	241	9 352	48	847
Germany	23 950	27 642	430	25 227	93	1 892
Ireland	3 566	3 486	59	3 256	3	168
Italy	5 697	5 552	130	4 905	15	502
Norway	2 458	2 581	55	2 303	17	206
Portugal	4 448	5 312	35	3 958	9	1 310
Spain	2 227	1 734	70	1 449	8	207
Sweden	5 972	6 853	62	6 489	3	299
Switzerland	4 656	5 251	32	4 765	2	452
The Netherlands	12 912	12 665	205	12 082	23	355
UK	48 361	48 398	734	44 871	90	2 703
Other	7 995	8 683	240	7 639	33	771
North America	32 140	33 745	494	30 157	93	3 001
Canada	6 538	6 857	62	6 248	8	539
USA	25 601	26 888	432	23 909	85	2 462
Other	1	-	-	-	-	-
Central and South America	10 432	11 375	81	7 431	34	3 829
Argentina	1 293	1 292	10	817	9	456
Brazil	7 103	7 822	44	5 012	12	2 754
Mexico	330	380	9	348	2	21
Other	1 706	1 881	18	1 254	11	598

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

Country of residence	December		Purpose of visit (December 2012)			
	2011	2012	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Australasia	13 612	15 446	123	13 924	16	1 383
Australia	10 906	12 090	102	10 801	8	1 179
New Zealand	2 613	3 292	21	3 069	4	198
Other	93	64	-	54	4	6
Middle East	3 191	3 178	109	2 789	27	253
Cyprus	222	243	2	233		8
Israel	1 589	1 726	52	1 515	7	152
Lebanon	250	370	12	289	7	62
Other	1 130	839	43	752	13	31
Asia	26 682	32 133	890	23 435	120	7 688
China	7 499	9 852	249	6 802	18	2 783
India	7 667	9 110	321	7 273	40	1 476
Japan	1 929	2 398	100	1 656	9	633
Malaysia	1 140	920	14	830	5	71
Pakistan	1 483	1 665	76	1 360	10	219
Philippines	756	1 306	1	644	4	657
Singapore	1 266	1 248	17	1 170	2	59
South Korea	1 658	1 655	40	1 292	25	298
Vietnam	291	784	4	58	-	722
Other	2 993	3 195	68	2 350	7	770
Africa	582 069	625 773	5 171	606 494	2 006	12 102
SADC	565 139	606 324	4 704	590 272	1 709	9 639
Angola	3 977	4 065	38	2 938	82	1 007
Botswana	51 810	56 160	137	54 479	237	1 307
DRC	2 670	3 402	52	3 151	78	121
Lesotho	137 957	146 734	29	146 236	210	259
Madagascar	255	428	4	218	5	201

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

Country of residence	December		Purpose of visit (December 2012)			
	2011	2012	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Malawi	13 629	11 681	223	11 054	20	384
Mauritius	1 574	1 676	25	1 363	15	273
Mozambique	82 459	83 843	323	81 976	21	1 523
Namibia	26 061	24 955	1 420	22 154	149	1 232
Seychelles	321	634	5	607		22
Swaziland	70 359	73 301	201	72 585	262	253
Tanzania	2 592	3 102	52	2 665	27	358
Zambia	15 857	17 333	954	15 548	45	786
Zimbabwe	155 618	179 010	1 241	175 298	558	1 913
'Other' Africa	16 930	19 449	467	16 222	297	2 463
East and Central Africa	6 848	8 107	210	6 922	145	830
Burundi	83	129	9	92		28
Cameroon	408	381	7	275	20	79
Central African Republic	9	21	1	19	1	-
Chad	42	21	1	18	1	1
Comoros	11	13	-	10	3	-
Congo	287	398	11	304	35	48
Djibouti	6	3	1	1	1	-
Equatorial Guinea	18	24	1	21	1	1
Eritrea	44	86	1	74	1	10
Ethiopia	553	654	21	549	8	76
Gabon	603	778	8	731	17	22
Kenya	3 143	3 667	93	3 172	42	360
Rwanda	237	337	14	287	3	33
Sao Tome and Principe	7	8	-	6	-	2
Somalia	9	7	-	5	1	1
Uganda	1 388	1 580	42	1 358	11	169

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

Country of residence	December		Purpose of visit (December 2012)			
	2011	2012	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
West Africa	9 241	10 245	181	8 551	119	1 394
Benin	81	121	3	104	4	10
Burkina Faso	49	66	7	45	-	14
Cape Verde Island	43	66	-	57	-	9
Côte D'Ivoire	98	194	9	152	3	30
Gambia	48	87	2	37	1	47
Ghana	1 652	2 021	40	1 697	14	270
Guinea	194	222	5	163	2	52
Guinea-Bissau	7	16	-	8	-	8
Liberia	59	40	2	31	1	6
Madeira Islands	1	1	-	1	-	-
Mali	87	97	9	70	-	18
Mauritania	10	8	-	5	-	3
Niger	34	28	2	20	1	5
Nigeria	6 513	6 864	82	5 869	91	822
Saint Helena	7	6	-	6	-	-
Senegal	251	291	14	196	2	79
Sierra Leone	60	70	2	54	-	14
Togo	47	47	4	36	-	7
North Africa	841	1 097	76	749	33	239
Algeria	99	206	16	118	1	71
Egypt	403	556	30	397	3	126
Libya	69	92	2	60	19	11
Morocco	95	98	15	61	2	20
The Sudan	94	79	7	59	7	6
Tunisia	79	66	6	54	1	5
Western Sahara	2	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	2 675	2 283	56	1 794	13	420

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

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (December 2012)			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' Africa	Unspecified
All	Total	871 774	243 718	606 324	19 449	2 283
	<15	88 469	28 706	57 328	2 331	104
	15 - 64	749 890	195 736	535 315	16 722	2 117
	65+	32 824	19 178	13 190	395	61
	Unspecified	591	98	491	1	1
Male	Total	456 941	133 265	310 273	12 006	1 397
	<15	43 552	14 538	27 857	1 109	48
	15 - 64	396 847	108 625	276 223	10 684	1 315
	65+	16 228	10 056	5 925	213	34
	Unspecified	314	46	268	-	-
Female	Total	413 778	110 119	295 338	7 437	884
	<15	44 914	14 168	29 468	1 222	56
	15 - 64	352 196	86 861	258 502	6 033	800
	65+	16 476	9 059	7 208	182	27
	Unspecified	192	31	160	-	1
Unspecified	Total	1 055	334	713	6	2
	<15	3	-	3	-	-
	15 - 64	847	250	590	5	2
	65+	120	63	57	-	-
	Unspecified	85	21	63	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 were refused entry into the country. In December 2012, the DHA data was 1,9% 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 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, 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 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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Fax: (012) 310 8500/ 8495 (user information services)
(012) 310 6937 (technical enquiries)

Email: tshwarog@statssa.gov.za (technical enquiries)
info@statssa.gov.za (user information services)
distribution@statssa.gov.za (orders)

Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

Produced by Stats SA