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Contents

Page

KEY FINDINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Number of travellers | 2 |
| 2. Mode of travel | 2 |
| 3. Foreign arrivals | 2 |
| 3.1 <i>Gender and age distribution</i> | 2 |
| 3.2 <i>Regional and national distribution</i> | 2 |
| 3.3 <i>Purpose of travel</i> | 3 |

Figures

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Percentage distribution of overseas and African arrivals by age group in February 2007 | 4 |
| 2. Number of February arrivals by region (2003 - 2007) | 4 |
| 3. Number of overseas travellers arriving from leading source countries in February 2007 compared to February 2006 | 5 |
| 4. Number of travellers from SADC countries arriving from leading source countries in February 2007 compared to February 2006 | 5 |
| 5. Number of travellers from 'other' African countries arriving from leading source countries in February 2007 compared to February 2006 | 6 |

Tables

| | |
|--|----|
| 1. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction | 7 |
| 2. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel | 7 |
| 3. Number of foreign arrivals by country and mode of travel | 8 |
| 4. Number of foreign arrivals by purpose of travel | 13 |
| 5. Number of foreign arrivals by country and purpose of travel | 14 |

EXPLANATORY NOTES

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Introduction | 19 |
| 2. Purpose of the statistical release | 19 |
| 3. Scope and coverage..... | 19 |
| 4. Data | 19 |
| 5. Limitations | 20 |
| 6. Glossary of terms | 20 |
| 7. Symbols and abbreviations used | 21 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| GENERAL INFORMATION | 22 |
|----------------------------------|----|

KEY FINDINGS

1. Number of travellers

The February 2007 data collected by Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 1 854 297 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through the ports of entry. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 540 453 South African residents and 1 313 844 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures indicates that 270 151 and 270 302 South African resident arrivals and departures respectively were recorded. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals and departures are 707 102 and 606 742. A comparison between the movements in January 2007 and February 2007 indicates that there was a decline in all movements. The February 2007 figure (270 151) for South African resident arrivals shows an increase of 5,5% compared to the February 2006 figure of 256 107. Similarly, there was an increase of 9,5% for foreign arrivals from 645 701 in February 2006 to 707 102 February 2007.

2. Mode of travel

It is observed from Table 2 that road transport was the most common (60,4%) mode of travel used by 1 120 740 out of the 1 854 297 travellers. Besides road transport, OR Tambo International Airport was used by a quarter (483 454) of all travellers. For arrival, 39,0% South African residents came by air and 57,6% by road. For departures, 40,4% and 56,9% used air and road transport respectively. When taking into consideration the countries of residence of these travellers, it was found that for foreign arrivals, overseas travellers generally used air (89,3%) compared to road transport (9,9%) whereas travellers from African used road (83,5%) more than air transport (7,9%). Information on specific countries from which travellers came from and the mode of travel used is provided in Table 3

3. Foreign arrivals

The data on travellers received from the DHA do not provide detailed information on departures; neither do they provide any information other than total numbers, travel direction and mode of travel of South African residents. Therefore the following findings pertain to foreign arrivals.

Data presented in Table 3 show that more than two thirds (69,8%) of foreign arrivals were from Africa whilst less than a third (29,7%) were from overseas countries. Information on the country of residence was not available on 0,5% of the travellers. A comparison of the changes between February 2006 and February 2007 indicates that the number of overseas arrivals increased by 8,4% from 193 647 in 2006 to 209 835 in 2007. Arrivals from Africa increased by 9,9% from 449 450 in 2006 to 493 820 in 2007.

3.1 Gender and age distribution

The travellers from Africa comprised 279 763 males, 212 920 females and 1 137 unspecified gender. The data on overseas travellers were 119 302 males, 90 271 females and 262 unspecified gender. Overall, slightly more males than females from African (males: 56,7%; females: 43,1%) and overseas countries (males: 56,9%; females: 43,0%) came to South Africa. The age distribution of foreign arrivals presented in Figure 1 shows that travellers from Africa are generally younger compared to those from overseas. Thus the bulk (84,6%) of African travellers is clustered between ages 15-49, peaking at 25-29 age group. However, the age distribution of overseas travellers is widely spread. Thus 87,2% of overseas travellers were between ages 20 to 69 years. The percentage of older persons (65 years and older) from overseas countries was significantly higher (12,5%) compared to that among persons from Africa (2,6%). This would have implications for spending capacity.

3.2 Regional and national distribution

The breakdown of the foreign travellers shows that overseas travellers came mainly from Europe (72,5%) followed by North America (10,8%), Asia (9,1%), Australasia (3,8%), Central and South America (2,1%) and Middle East (1,8%). Virtually all arrivals (97,5%) from Africa came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining arrivals from Africa is as follows: East and Central Africa (1,2%), West Africa (1,1%) and North Africa (0,2%). February data for the past five years (See figure 2) reveal that, arrivals from 'other' African countries have been quite stable unlike from SADC countries that have been escalating since 2004. There was a sharp increase in overseas arrivals from 2006 to 2007. Data presented in Figure 3 indicates that the UK, Germany, USA, Netherlands, France, Australia, Sweden and Canada were the eight leading overseas source countries. Travellers from these eight countries constitute 69,3% of all travellers from overseas. The number of travellers from these overseas countries increased in February 2007 compared to February 2006 with the highest increase by France (15,3% from 9 516 in February 2006 to 10 975 in February 2007).

The eight leading countries from SADC and the 'other' African countries are shown in Figures 4 and 5. Whereas travellers from the eight SADC countries made up 96,1% of all arrivals from Africa, the eight 'other' countries from Africa constituted only 2,0%. The number of travellers from these African countries was higher in February 2007 compared to February 2006 with the exception of two countries - Namibia and Congo. Travellers from Namibia declined by 2,0% from 14 595 to 14 300 and those from Congo by 4,2% from 690 to 661. The largest number of travellers from the SADC countries was from Lesotho (31,5%) whilst travellers from Nigeria made up 26,9% of those from 'other' African countries.

3.3 Purpose of travel

As observed from data given in Table 4, an overwhelming majority (92,6%) of foreign arrivals was admitted into South Africa on visitors' temporary residence permit. These visitors are mainly made up of same-day travellers as well as tourists. This is in vast contrast to those who have come to study (1,6%), those on business (2,3%) and those who have come for work (1,2%).

Overall, 92,7% of overseas travellers came to South Africa to visit. A detailed analysis reveals that with the exception of Asia (80,7%), all the regions had more than 85,0% travellers coming to South Africa for holidays, travellers from Europe (94,4%), Australasia (93,9%), Central and South America (91,9%), North America (91,9%) and the Middle East (89,8%) were admitted into South Africa as visitors. Travellers from Asia were more diverse in their purpose and consequently Asia had the highest proportion of travellers who came here for work (10,5%), for business (5,7%) and to study (1,5%).

Although the majority (93,0%) of African travellers came into the country on visitors' permits, there is a significant difference between travellers from SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 93,4% of travellers from the SADC countries were recorded as on holiday, 77,7% of travellers from 'other' African countries were admitted on visitor's permit. The lowest percentage (73,4%) of visitors came from North Africa, a region where proportionally, a large percentage of travellers were in South Africa as workers (9,1%) and business persons (12,5%).
- A relatively high percentage of 'other' African travellers were here to study, work or for business.
- Overall, 10,4% and 6,2% of travellers from East and Central Africa and West Africa respectively were admitted on study permits compared to only 1,8% among the SADC travellers.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Figure 1: Percentage distribution of overseas and African arrivals by age group in February 2007

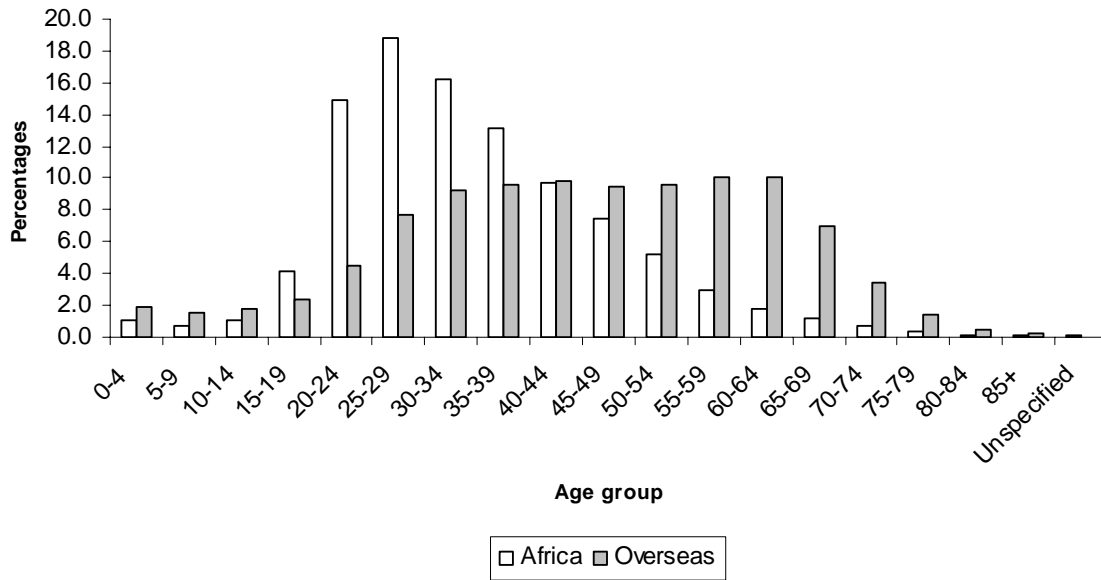


Figure 2: Number of February arrivals by region (2003 - 2007)

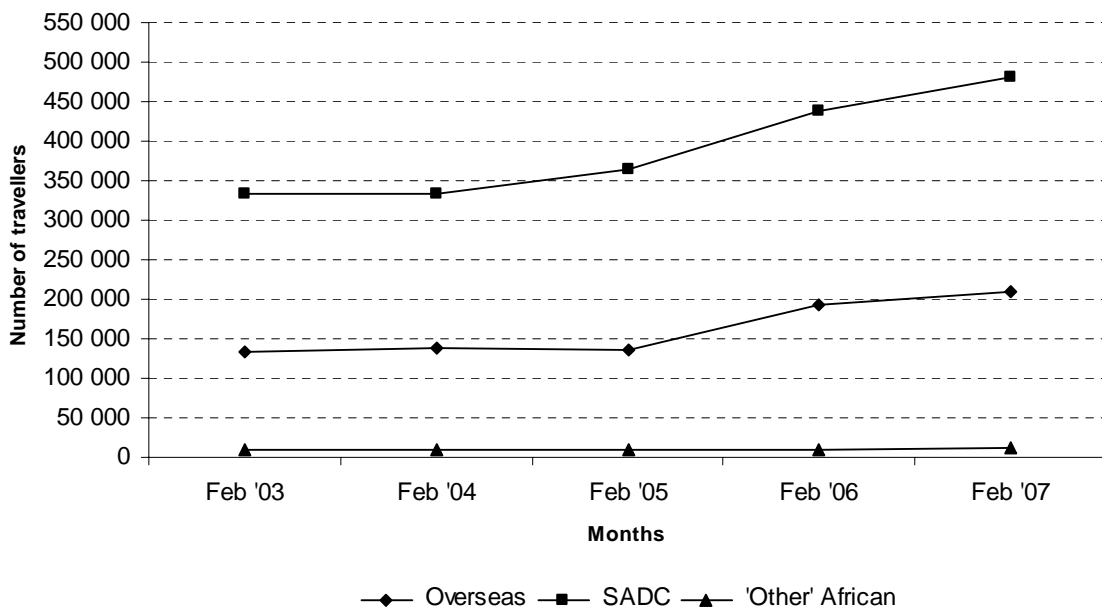


Figure 3: Number of overseas travellers arriving from leading source countries in February 2007 compared to February 2006

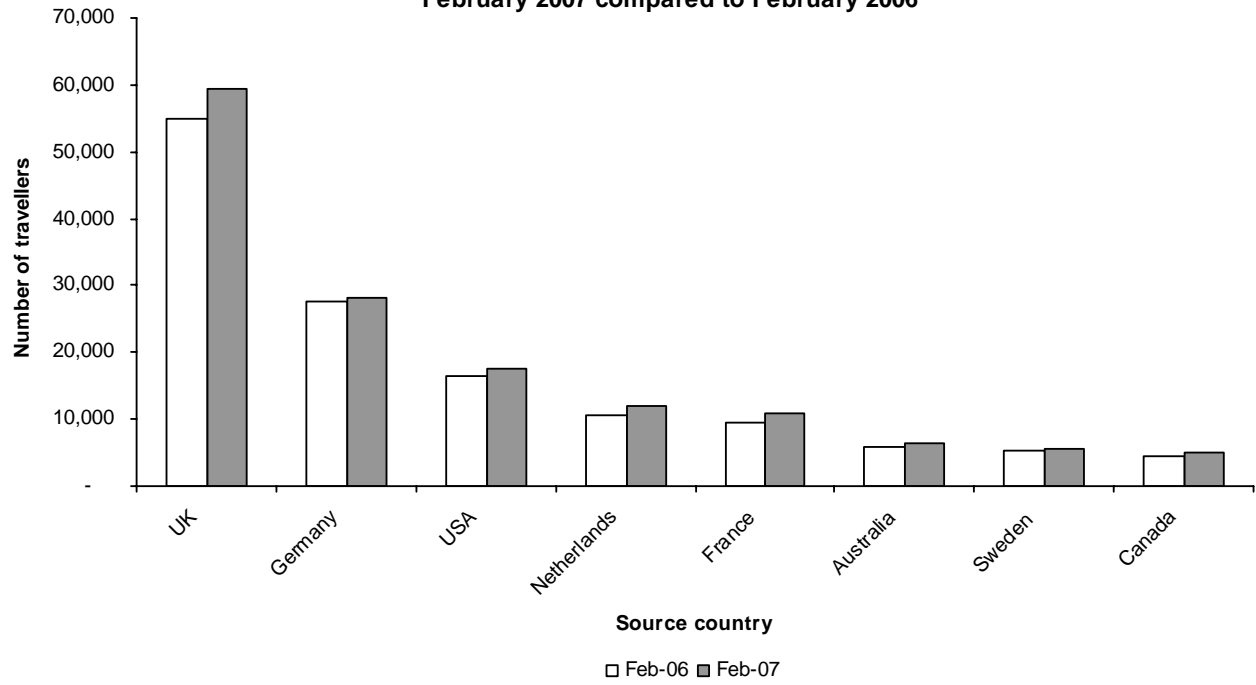


Figure 4: The number of travellers from SADC countries arriving from leading source countries in February 2006 and February 2007

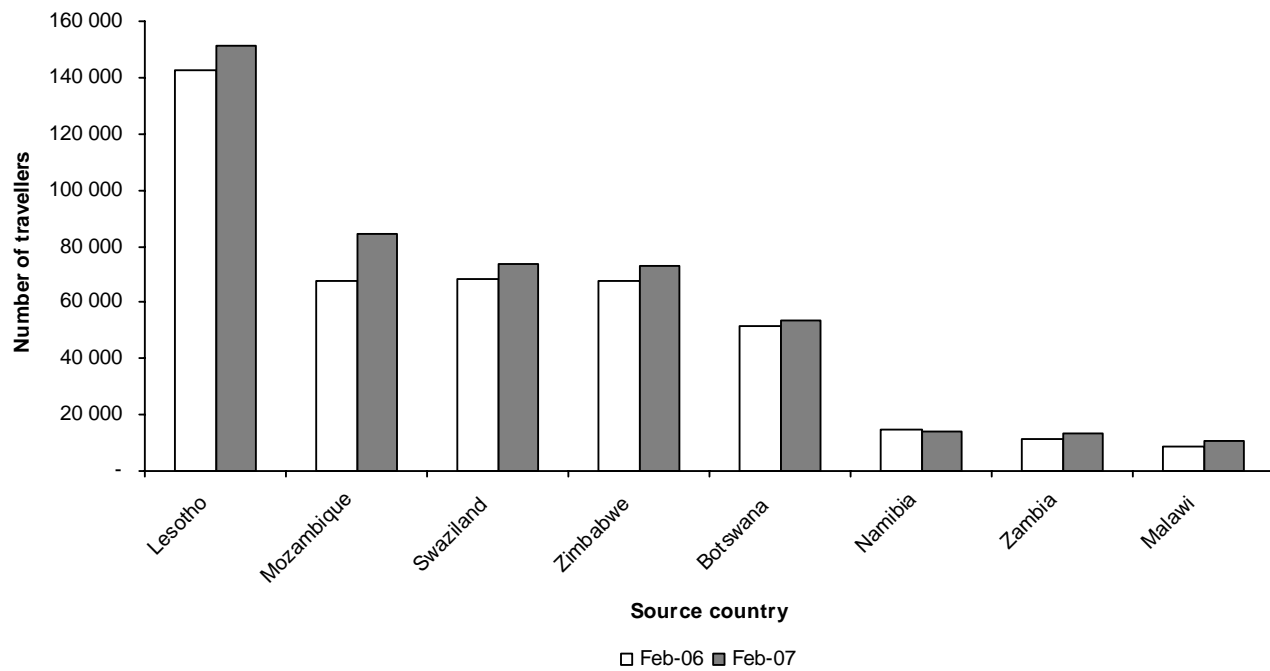


Figure 5: The number of travellers from 'other' African countries arriving from leading source countries in February 2006 and February 2007

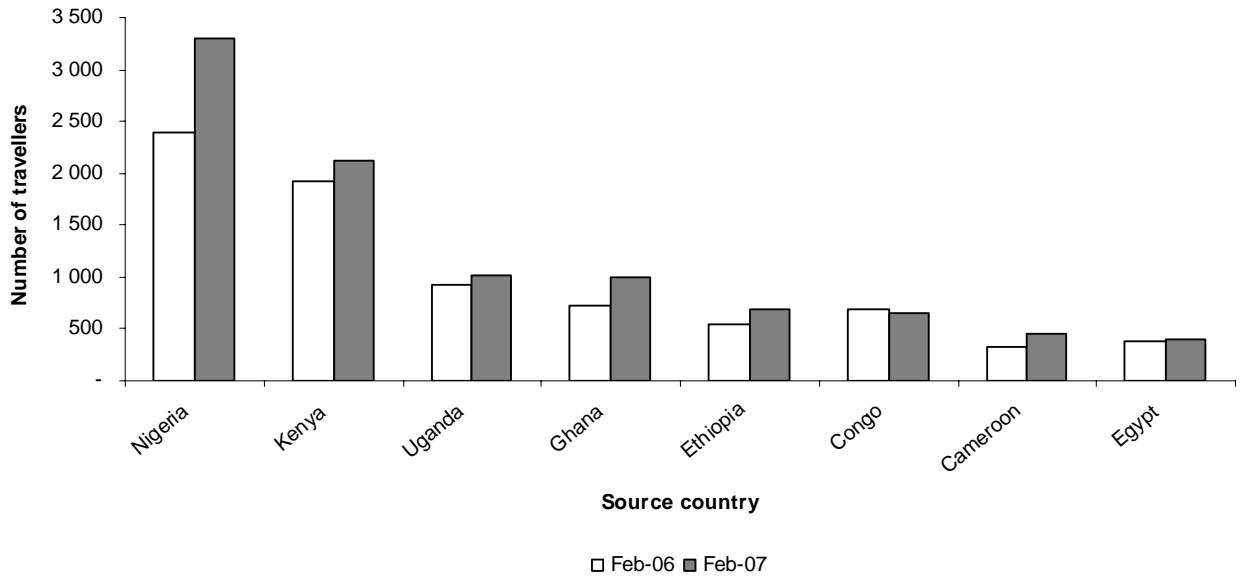


Table 1. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction

| Travel direction | February | January | February | % change | % change |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 2006 | 2006 | 2007 | Feb 06–Feb 07 | Jan 07–Feb 07 |
| South African residents | | | | | |
| Arrivals | 256 107 | 473 764 | 270 151 | 5,5 | -43,0 |
| Departures | 258 047 | 315 512 | 270 302 | 4,7 | -14,3 |
| Foreign travellers | | | | | |
| Arrivals | 645 701 | 824 249 | 707 102 | 9,5 | -14,2 |
| Departures | 558 832 | 663 157 | 606 742 | 8,6 | -8,5 |
| Grand total | 1 718 687 | 2 276 682 | 1 854 297 | 7,9 | -18,6 |

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

| Travel direction | Total | Mode of travel (February 2007) | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|-----------|------------------|------------|---------------|
| | | Air | | | | | Rail | Road | Sea | Unspec. |
| | | (C/Town) | (Durban) | (OR Tambo) | (Other) | Total | | | | |
| Grand total: | 1 854 297 | 150 596 | 2 949 | 483 454 | 7 328 | 644 327 | 59 | 1 120 740 | 778 | 88 393 |
| Arrivals: | 977 253 | 77 465 | 1 379 | 249 948 | 3 724 | 332 516 | 59 | 589 824 | 495 | 54 359 |
| South African residents | 270 151 | 12 423 | 1 008 | 89 186 | 2 773 | 105 390 | 1 | 155 618 | 65 | 9 077 |
| Foreign travellers | 707 102 | 65 042 | 371 | 160 762 | 951 | 227 126 | 58 | 434 206 | 430 | 45 282 |
| Overseas | 209 835 | 63 107 | 171 | 123 624 | 575 | 187 477 | 6 | 20 844 | 393 | 1 115 |
| Africa | 493 820 | 1 883 | 199 | 36 375 | 375 | 38 832 | 33 | 412 125 | - | 42 830 |
| Unspecified | 3 447 | 52 | 1 | 763 | 1 | 817 | 19 | 1 237 | 37 | 1 337 |
| Departures: | 877 044 | 73 131 | 1 570 | 233 506 | 3 604 | 311 811 | | 530 916 | 283 | 34 034 |
| South African residents | 270 302 | 12 081 | 1 240 | 92 990 | 2 767 | 109 078 | - | 153 890 | 62 | 7 272 |
| Foreign travellers | 606 742 | 61 050 | 330 | 140 516 | 837 | 202 733 | - | 377 026 | 221 | 26 762 |

Table 3. Number of foreign arrivals by country and mode of travel

| Country | Mode of travel (February 2007) | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|----------|----------|------------|---------|---------|------|---------|-----|---------|
| | February | | Air | | | | | Rail | Road | Sea | Unspec. |
| | 2006 | 2007 | (C/Town) | (Durban) | (OR Tambo) | (Other) | Total | | | | |
| Grand total | 645 701 | 707 102 | 65 042 | 371 | 160 762 | 951 | 227 126 | 58 | 434 206 | 430 | 45 282 |
| Overseas total | 193 647 | 209 835 | 63 107 | 171 | 123 624 | 575 | 187 477 | 6 | 20 844 | 393 | 1 115 |
| Europe | 142 355 | 152 056 | 56 691 | 127 | 78 357 | 336 | 135 511 | 4 | 15 815 | 240 | 486 |
| Austria | 2 430 | 2 804 | 1 097 | 29 | 1 330 | 21 | 2 477 | - | 323 | 2 | 2 |
| Belgium | 3 236 | 3 601 | 911 | - | 2 114 | 12 | 3 037 | - | 554 | 2 | 8 |
| Denmark | 3 143 | 3 610 | 769 | 1 | 2 332 | - | 3 102 | - | 482 | 8 | 18 |
| France | 9 516 | 10 975 | 1 137 | 6 | 8 449 | 11 | 9 603 | 2 | 1 316 | 41 | 13 |
| Germany | 27 687 | 28 179 | 12 946 | 5 | 11 137 | 24 | 24 112 | - | 3 912 | 22 | 133 |
| Greece | 705 | 681 | 67 | - | 515 | 5 | 587 | - | 93 | 1 | - |
| Ireland | 3 802 | 3 783 | 2 076 | 5 | 1 428 | 7 | 3 516 | - | 252 | - | 15 |
| Italy | 3 529 | 3 580 | 1 009 | 2 | 2 223 | 5 | 3 239 | - | 325 | 5 | 11 |
| Netherlands | 10 610 | 12 040 | 4 242 | 6 | 5 600 | 16 | 9 864 | - | 2 127 | 3 | 46 |
| Portugal | 2 111 | 2 235 | 106 | 14 | 1 107 | 9 | 1 236 | - | 991 | - | 8 |
| Spain | 1 931 | 1 939 | 222 | 22 | 1 560 | 47 | 1 851 | - | 86 | 1 | 1 |
| Sweden | 5 233 | 5 528 | 2 319 | 7 | 2 678 | 5 | 5 009 | - | 499 | 6 | 14 |
| Switzerland | 4 907 | 4 002 | 815 | - | 2 582 | 7 | 3 404 | 1 | 577 | 4 | 16 |
| UK | 55 013 | 59 425 | 25 767 | 30 | 29 856 | 144 | 55 797 | - | 3 409 | 54 | 165 |
| Other | 8 502 | 9 674 | 3 208 | - | 5 446 | 23 | 8 677 | 1 | 869 | 91 | 36 |
| North America | 20 914 | 22 706 | 3 437 | 12 | 16 895 | 130 | 20 474 | - | 2 069 | 16 | 147 |
| Canada | 4 402 | 5 016 | 1 095 | - | 3 354 | 35 | 4 484 | - | 504 | 4 | 24 |
| USA | 16 507 | 17 680 | 2 338 | 12 | 13 539 | 95 | 15 984 | - | 1 561 | 12 | 123 |
| Other | 5 | 10 | 4 | - | 2 | - | 6 | - | 4 | - | - |
| Central and South America | 4 820 | 4 355 | 440 | 3 | 3 459 | 18 | 3 920 | - | 426 | 1 | 8 |
| Argentina | 1 138 | 821 | 224 | 2 | 561 | - | 787 | - | 34 | - | - |
| Brazil | 2 414 | 2 171 | 42 | 1 | 1 927 | 7 | 1 977 | - | 194 | - | - |
| Chile | 406 | 397 | 26 | - | 344 | 1 | 371 | - | 26 | - | - |
| Other | 862 | 966 | 148 | - | 627 | 10 | 785 | - | 172 | 1 | 8 |

Table 3. Number of foreign arrivals by country and mode of travel (continued)

| Country | Mode of travel (February 2007) | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|----------|----------|------------|---------|--------|------|-------|-----|---------|
| | February | | Air | | | | | Rail | Road | Sea | Unspec. |
| | 2006 | 2007 | (C/Town) | (Durban) | (OR Tambo) | (Other) | Total | | | | |
| Australasia | 6 900 | 7 890 | 661 | 13 | 6 513 | 22 | 7 209 | - | 603 | 42 | 36 |
| Australia | 5 787 | 6 552 | 527 | 12 | 5 430 | 19 | 5 988 | - | 496 | 35 | 33 |
| New Zealand | 1 060 | 1 281 | 121 | 1 | 1 055 | 3 | 1 180 | - | 95 | 4 | 2 |
| Other | 53 | 57 | 13 | - | 28 | - | 41 | - | 12 | 3 | 1 |
| Middle East | 2 970 | 3 776 | 254 | 2 | 3 197 | 37 | 3 490 | - | 276 | 2 | 8 |
| Israel | 1 388 | 1 992 | 74 | - | 1 775 | 1 | 1 850 | - | 140 | - | 2 |
| Saudi Arabia | 286 | 316 | 51 | - | 248 | 4 | 303 | - | 11 | 2 | - |
| Turkey | 455 | 579 | 86 | - | 413 | 30 | 529 | - | 50 | - | - |
| Other | 841 | 889 | 43 | 2 | 761 | 2 | 808 | - | 75 | - | 6 |
| Asia | 15 688 | 19 052 | 1 624 | 14 | 15 203 | 32 | 16 873 | 2 | 1 655 | 92 | 430 |
| China | 3 573 | 3 730 | 313 | - | 3 131 | - | 3 444 | - | 196 | - | 90 |
| Hong Kong | 650 | 1 160 | 88 | - | 1 060 | - | 1 148 | - | 12 | - | - |
| India | 3 259 | 3 776 | 141 | 12 | 2 928 | 10 | 3 091 | 2 | 574 | 5 | 104 |
| Japan | 1 863 | 2 214 | 170 | - | 1 943 | 10 | 2 123 | - | 72 | 13 | 6 |
| Malaysia | 651 | 656 | 200 | - | 441 | 1 | 642 | - | 10 | 2 | 2 |
| Philippines | 596 | 691 | 78 | - | 419 | 4 | 501 | - | 54 | 30 | 106 |
| Rep of China (Taiwan) | 1 002 | 2 157 | 198 | - | 1 683 | 3 | 1 884 | - | 179 | 20 | 74 |
| Rep of Korea | 1 858 | 1 405 | 113 | - | 1 158 | 1 | 1 272 | - | 122 | - | 11 |
| Singapore | 350 | 499 | 109 | 1 | 376 | - | 486 | - | 11 | - | 2 |
| Other | 1 886 | 2 764 | 214 | 1 | 2 064 | 3 | 2 282 | - | 425 | 22 | 35 |

Table 3. Number of foreign arrivals by country and mode of travel (continued)

| Country | Mode of travel (February 2007) | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------|----------|----------|------------|---------|--------|------|---------|-----|---------|
| | February | | Air | | | | | Rail | Road | Sea | Unspec. |
| | 2006 | 2007 | (C/Town) | (Durban) | (OR Tambo) | (Other) | Total | | | | |
| Africa total | 449 450 | 493 820 | 1 883 | 199 | 36 375 | 375 | 38 832 | 33 | 412 125 | - | 42 830 |
| SADC | 439 099 | 481 567 | 1 758 | 186 | 26 142 | 339 | 28 425 | 31 | 410 425 | - | 42 686 |
| Angola | 2 393 | 2 499 | 122 | - | 2 255 | 33 | 2 410 | - | 87 | - | 2 |
| Botswana | 51 812 | 53 732 | 88 | 2 | 2 208 | 67 | 2 365 | - | 51 251 | - | 116 |
| DRC | 1 655 | 1 990 | 1 | - | 1 276 | 13 | 1 290 | - | 698 | - | 2 |
| Lesotho | 142 301 | 151 489 | 10 | - | 493 | 121 | 624 | 25 | 109 529 | - | 41 311 |
| Madagascar | 188 | 186 | - | - | 183 | - | 183 | - | 2 | - | 1 |
| Malawi | 8 501 | 10 429 | 7 | - | 1 574 | 3 | 1 584 | - | 8 768 | - | 77 |
| Mauritius | 1 139 | 1 113 | 204 | 124 | 695 | - | 1 023 | - | 83 | - | 7 |
| Mozambique | 67 863 | 84 377 | 45 | 45 | 2 091 | 25 | 2 206 | 2 | 81 970 | - | 199 |
| Namibia | 14 595 | 14 300 | 1 185 | - | 2 040 | 7 | 3 232 | - | 11 023 | - | 45 |
| Swaziland | 67 977 | 73 932 | 18 | 13 | 553 | 1 | 585 | 4 | 73 105 | - | 238 |
| Tanzania | 1 138 | 1 254 | 22 | 2 | 908 | - | 932 | - | 310 | - | 12 |
| Zambia | 11 592 | 13 352 | 10 | - | 4 964 | 11 | 4 985 | - | 8 297 | - | 70 |
| Zimbabwe | 67 945 | 72 914 | 46 | - | 6 902 | 58 | 7 006 | - | 65 302 | - | 606 |

Table 3. Number of foreign arrivals by country and mode of travel (continued)

| Country | Mode of travel (February 2007) | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|----------|----------|------------|---------|-------|------|-------|-----|---------|
| | February | | Air | | | | | Rail | Road | Sea | Unspec. |
| | 2006 | 2007 | (C/Town) | (Durban) | (OR Tambo) | (Other) | Total | | | | |
| East and Central | 5 563 | 6 141 | 33 | 13 | 4 904 | 25 | 4 975 | 1 | 1 104 | - | 61 |
| Burundi | 94 | 87 | - | - | 66 | - | 66 | - | 21 | - | - |
| Cameroon | 326 | 448 | 2 | - | 407 | 2 | 411 | - | 30 | - | 7 |
| Central African Rep | 7 | 19 | - | - | 15 | 4 | 19 | - | - | - | - |
| Chad | 15 | 21 | - | - | 20 | - | 20 | - | 1 | - | - |
| Comoros | 21 | 23 | - | - | 23 | - | 23 | - | - | - | - |
| Congo | 690 | 661 | 17 | - | 508 | 8 | 533 | 1 | 114 | - | 13 |
| Djibouti | 4 | 6 | - | - | 4 | - | 4 | - | 2 | - | - |
| Equatorial Guinea | 31 | 24 | - | - | 7 | - | 7 | - | 17 | - | - |
| Eritrea | 57 | 49 | - | - | 40 | - | 40 | - | 9 | - | - |
| Ethiopia | 536 | 685 | - | - | 431 | 2 | 433 | - | 250 | - | 2 |
| Gabon | 318 | 299 | - | - | 292 | 2 | 294 | - | 5 | - | - |
| Kenya | 1 929 | 2 126 | 9 | 2 | 1 859 | 7 | 1 877 | - | 233 | - | 16 |
| Reunion | 21 | 22 | - | 9 | 13 | - | 22 | - | - | - | - |
| Rwanda | 249 | 263 | - | - | 217 | - | 217 | - | 45 | - | 1 |
| Sao Tome and Principe | 13 | 10 | - | - | 7 | - | 7 | - | 2 | - | 1 |
| Seychelles | 218 | 233 | - | - | 231 | - | 231 | - | 2 | - | - |
| Somalia | 108 | 147 | - | 1 | 12 | - | 13 | - | 133 | - | 1 |
| Tristan da Cunha | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Uganda | 926 | 1 018 | 5 | 1 | 752 | - | 758 | - | 240 | - | 20 |

Table 3. Number of foreign arrivals by country and mode of travel (concluded)

| Country | Mode of travel (February 2007) | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------|----------|----------|------------|---------|-------|------|-------|-----|---------|
| | February | | Air | | | | | Rail | Road | Sea | Unspec. |
| | 2006 | 2007 | (C/Town) | (Durban) | (OR Tambo) | (Other) | Total | | | | |
| West Africa | 3 957 | 5 286 | 36 | - | 4 648 | 10 | 4 694 | - | 519 | - | 73 |
| Ascension | 1 | 2 | - | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| Benin | 84 | 80 | - | - | 73 | - | 73 | - | 7 | - | - |
| Burkina Faso | 39 | 52 | - | - | 50 | - | 50 | - | 2 | - | - |
| Cape Verde Island | 44 | 32 | 1 | - | 24 | - | 25 | - | 7 | - | - |
| Cote D'Ivoire | 145 | 155 | 4 | - | 144 | 1 | 149 | - | 6 | - | - |
| Gambia | 41 | 47 | 5 | - | 38 | - | 43 | - | 2 | - | 2 |
| Ghana | 721 | 1 002 | 2 | - | 875 | 1 | 878 | - | 113 | - | 11 |
| Guinea | 86 | 114 | 2 | - | 82 | - | 84 | - | 30 | - | - |
| Guinea-Bissau | 13 | 15 | - | - | 6 | - | 6 | - | 9 | - | - |
| Liberia | 27 | 38 | - | - | 36 | - | 36 | - | 2 | - | - |
| Madeira Island | 16 | 11 | 11 | - | - | - | 11 | - | - | - | - |
| Mali | 54 | 88 | - | - | 79 | - | 79 | - | 9 | - | - |
| Mauritania | 20 | 24 | - | - | 23 | - | 23 | - | 1 | - | - |
| Niger | 10 | 25 | 1 | - | 21 | - | 22 | - | - | - | 3 |
| Nigeria | 2 387 | 3 298 | 8 | - | 2 911 | 8 | 2 927 | - | 316 | - | 55 |
| St Helena | 8 | 179 | - | - | 173 | - | 173 | - | 4 | - | 2 |
| Senegal | 192 | 72 | - | - | 70 | - | 70 | - | 2 | - | - |
| Sierra Leone | 36 | 8 | 1 | - | 4 | - | 5 | - | 3 | - | - |
| Togo | 33 | 44 | 1 | - | 37 | - | 38 | - | 6 | - | - |
| North Africa | 831 | 826 | 56 | - | 681 | 1 | 738 | 1 | 77 | - | 10 |
| Algeria | 158 | 95 | 3 | - | 56 | - | 59 | - | 35 | - | 1 |
| Egypt | 378 | 408 | 15 | - | 372 | - | 387 | 1 | 17 | - | 3 |
| Libya | 30 | 56 | 3 | - | 42 | - | 45 | - | 7 | - | 4 |
| Morocco | 76 | 81 | 12 | - | 64 | 1 | 77 | - | 4 | - | - |
| Sudan | 133 | 136 | 20 | - | 103 | - | 123 | - | 11 | - | 2 |
| Tunisia | 56 | 50 | 3 | - | 44 | - | 47 | - | 3 | - | - |
| Unspecified | 2 604 | 3 447 | 52 | 1 | 763 | 1 | 817 | 19 | 1 237 | 37 | 1 337 |

Table 4. Number of foreign arrivals by purpose of travel

| Region | Total | Purpose of travel (February 2007) | | | | | | | Contract worker | Border Traffic |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | | Business | Holiday | Study | Work | Transit | Unspec. | Total | | |
| Grand total | 707 102 | 16 585 | 654 930 | 11 442 | 8 527 | 2 780 | 47 | 694 311 | - | 12 791 |
| Overseas total | 209 835 | 7 617 | 194 593 | 1 163 | 5 543 | 633 | 7 | 209 556 | - | 279 |
| Europe | 152 056 | 4 881 | 143 543 | 548 | 2 714 | 279 | - | 151 965 | - | 91 |
| North America | 22 706 | 954 | 20 869 | 251 | 478 | 113 | - | 22 665 | - | 41 |
| Central and South America | 4 355 | 167 | 4 000 | 28 | 117 | 41 | - | 4 353 | - | 2 |
| Australasia | 7 890 | 332 | 7 406 | 20 | 98 | 29 | - | 7 885 | - | 5 |
| Middle East | 3 776 | 196 | 3 391 | 29 | 144 | 12 | - | 3 772 | - | 4 |
| Asia | 19 052 | 1 087 | 15 384 | 287 | 1 992 | 159 | 7 | 18 916 | - | 136 |
| Africa total | 493 820 | 8 932 | 459 372 | 9 694 | 2 431 | 2 143 | 40 | 482 612 | - | 11 208 |
| SADC | 481 567 | 7 972 | 449 857 | 8 696 | 1 769 | 2 070 | 25 | 470 389 | - | 11 178 |
| East and Central Africa | 6 141 | 399 | 4 736 | 636 | 293 | 47 | 15 | 6 126 | - | 15 |
| West Africa | 5 286 | 458 | 4 173 | 328 | 294 | 24 | - | 5 277 | - | 9 |
| North Africa | 826 | 103 | 606 | 34 | 75 | 2 | - | 820 | - | 6 |
| Unspecified | 3 447 | 36 | 965 | 585 | 553 | 4 | - | 2 143 | - | 1 304 |

Table 5. Number of foreign arrivals by country and purpose of travel

| Country | February | | Purpose of travel (February 2007) | | | | | | | Contract worker | Border traffic concession |
|----------------------------------|----------|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|--------|-------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| | 2006 | 2007 | Business | Holiday | Study | Work | Transit | Unspec. | Total | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grand total | 645 701 | 707 102 | 16 585 | 654 930 | 11 442 | 8 527 | 2 780 | 47 | 694 311 | - | 12 791 |
| Overseas total | 193 647 | 209 835 | 7 617 | 194 593 | 1 163 | 5 543 | 633 | 7 | 209 556 | - | 279 |
| Europe | 142 355 | 152 056 | 4 881 | 143 543 | 548 | 2 714 | 279 | - | 151 965 | - | 91 |
| Austria | 2 430 | 2 804 | 103 | 2 666 | 7 | 23 | 5 | - | 2 804 | - | - |
| Belgium | 3 236 | 3 601 | 140 | 3 342 | 22 | 93 | 4 | - | 3 601 | - | - |
| Denmark | 3 143 | 3 610 | 85 | 3 485 | 3 | 30 | 2 | - | 3 605 | - | 5 |
| France | 9 516 | 10 975 | 355 | 10 346 | 46 | 213 | 14 | - | 10 974 | - | 1 |
| Germany | 27 687 | 28 179 | 934 | 26 697 | 148 | 352 | 23 | - | 28 154 | - | 25 |
| Greece | 705 | 681 | 25 | 632 | 1 | 23 | - | - | 681 | - | - |
| Ireland | 3 802 | 3 783 | 87 | 3 628 | 12 | 49 | 1 | - | 3 777 | - | 6 |
| Italy | 3 529 | 3 580 | 199 | 3 305 | 11 | 50 | 13 | - | 3 578 | - | 2 |
| Netherlands | 10 610 | 12 040 | 304 | 11 481 | 99 | 137 | 14 | - | 12 035 | - | 5 |
| Portugal | 2 111 | 2 235 | 40 | 2 113 | 10 | 53 | 15 | - | 2 231 | - | 4 |
| Spain | 1 931 | 1 939 | 85 | 1 732 | 2 | 80 | 39 | - | 1 938 | - | 1 |
| Sweden | 5 233 | 5 528 | 169 | 5 254 | 12 | 86 | 6 | - | 5 527 | - | 1 |
| Switzerland | 4 907 | 4 002 | 84 | 3 864 | 14 | 35 | 5 | - | 4 002 | - | - |
| UK | 55 013 | 59 425 | 1 840 | 56 671 | 107 | 674 | 94 | - | 59 386 | - | 39 |
| Other | 8 502 | 9 674 | 431 | 8 327 | 54 | 816 | 44 | - | 9 672 | - | 2 |
| North America | 20 914 | 22 706 | 954 | 20 869 | 251 | 478 | 113 | - | 22 665 | - | 41 |
| Canada | 4 402 | 5 016 | 260 | 4 620 | 21 | 89 | 25 | - | 5 015 | - | 1 |
| USA | 16 507 | 17 680 | 694 | 16 239 | 230 | 389 | 88 | - | 17 640 | - | 40 |
| Other | 5 | 10 | - | 10 | - | - | - | - | 10 | - | - |
| Central and South America | 4 820 | 4 355 | 167 | 4 000 | 28 | 117 | 41 | - | 4 353 | - | 2 |
| Argentina | 1 138 | 821 | 34 | 768 | 10 | 8 | 1 | - | 821 | - | - |
| Brazil | 2 414 | 2 171 | 43 | 2 060 | 6 | 39 | 23 | - | 2 171 | - | - |
| Chile | 406 | 397 | 4 | 384 | 1 | 4 | 4 | - | 397 | - | - |
| Other | 862 | 966 | 86 | 788 | 11 | 66 | 13 | - | 964 | - | 2 |

Table 5. Number of foreign arrivals by country and purpose of travel (continued)

| Country | February | | Purpose of travel (February 2007) | | | | | | | | Contract worker | Border traffic concession |
|-----------------------|----------|--------|-----------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|---------|---------|--------|---|-----------------|---------------------------|
| | | | Business | Holiday | Study | Work | Transit | Unspec. | Total | | | |
| | 2006 | 2007 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Australasia | 6 900 | 7 890 | 332 | 7 406 | 20 | 98 | 29 | - | 7 885 | - | 5 | |
| Australia | 5 787 | 6 552 | 290 | 6 140 | 15 | 80 | 24 | - | 6 549 | - | 3 | |
| New Zealand | 1 060 | 1 281 | 34 | 1 222 | 2 | 16 | 5 | - | 1 279 | - | 2 | |
| Other | 53 | 57 | 8 | 44 | 3 | 2 | - | - | 57 | - | - | |
| Middle East | 2 970 | 3 776 | 196 | 3 391 | 29 | 144 | 12 | - | 3 772 | - | 4 | |
| Israel | 1 388 | 1 992 | 62 | 1 883 | 1 | 40 | 6 | - | 1 992 | - | - | |
| Saudi Arabia | 286 | 316 | 20 | 279 | 2 | 15 | - | - | 316 | - | - | |
| Turkey | 455 | 579 | 30 | 488 | 6 | 54 | 1 | - | 579 | - | - | |
| Other | 841 | 889 | 84 | 741 | 20 | 35 | 5 | - | 885 | - | 4 | |
| Asia | 15 688 | 19 052 | 1 087 | 15 384 | 287 | 1 992 | 159 | 7 | 18 916 | - | 136 | |
| China | 3 573 | 3 730 | 119 | 3 136 | 100 | 330 | 2 | - | 3 687 | - | 43 | |
| Hong Kong | 650 | 1 160 | 10 | 1 135 | 4 | 7 | 4 | - | 1 160 | - | - | |
| India | 3 259 | 3 776 | 410 | 2 735 | 60 | 488 | 28 | 1 | 3 722 | - | 54 | |
| Japan | 1 863 | 2 214 | 156 | 1 921 | 7 | 121 | 9 | - | 2 214 | - | - | |
| Malaysia | 651 | 656 | 28 | 558 | 5 | 60 | 5 | - | 656 | - | - | |
| Philippines | 596 | 691 | 20 | 268 | 1 | 340 | 51 | - | 680 | - | 11 | |
| Rep of China (Taiwan) | 1 002 | 2 157 | 54 | 1 910 | 29 | 122 | 19 | 4 | 2 138 | - | 19 | |
| Rep of Korea | 1 858 | 1 405 | 51 | 1 257 | 30 | 52 | 15 | - | 1 405 | - | - | |
| Singapore | 350 | 499 | 32 | 430 | 1 | 30 | 6 | - | 499 | - | - | |
| Other | 1 886 | 2 764 | 207 | 2 034 | 50 | 442 | 20 | 2 | 2 755 | - | 9 | |

Table 5. Number of foreign arrivals by country and purpose of travel (continued)

| Country | February | | Purpose of travel (February 2007) | | | | | | | Contract worker | Border traffic concession |
|---------------------|----------|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| | | | Business | Holiday | Study | Work | Transit | Unspec. | Total | | |
| | 2006 | 2007 | | | | | | | | | |
| Africa total | 449 450 | 493 820 | 8 932 | 459 372 | 9 694 | 2 431 | 2 143 | 40 | 482 612 | - | 11 208 |
| SADC | 439 099 | 481 567 | 7 972 | 449 857 | 8 696 | 1 769 | 2 070 | 25 | 470 389 | - | 11 178 |
| Angola | 2 393 | 2 499 | 74 | 2 065 | 270 | 79 | 11 | - | 2 499 | - | - |
| Botswana | 51 812 | 53 732 | 144 | 50 233 | 2 580 | 206 | 511 | - | 53 674 | - | 58 |
| DRC | 1 655 | 1 990 | 79 | 1 753 | 80 | 57 | 13 | 8 | 1 990 | - | - |
| Lesotho | 142 301 | 151 489 | 403 | 138 753 | 1 109 | 175 | 650 | - | 141 090 | - | 10 399 |
| Madagascar | 188 | 186 | 5 | 148 | 9 | 11 | 13 | - | 186 | - | - |
| Malawi | 8 501 | 10 429 | 480 | 9 755 | 113 | 39 | 28 | 7 | 10 422 | - | 7 |
| Mauritius | 1 139 | 1 113 | 41 | 901 | 130 | 24 | 14 | - | 1 110 | - | 3 |
| Mozambique | 67 863 | 84 377 | 189 | 83 541 | 294 | 101 | 74 | - | 84 199 | - | 178 |
| Namibia | 14 595 | 14 300 | 1 802 | 11 153 | 846 | 35 | 424 | - | 14 260 | - | 40 |
| Swaziland | 67 977 | 73 932 | 539 | 71 800 | 1 125 | 179 | 164 | - | 73 807 | - | 125 |
| Tanzania | 1 138 | 1 254 | 157 | 899 | 154 | 34 | 3 | - | 1 247 | - | 7 |
| Zambia | 11 592 | 13 352 | 1 708 | 11 201 | 315 | 70 | 47 | - | 13 341 | - | 11 |
| Zimbabwe | 67 945 | 72 914 | 2 351 | 67 655 | 1 671 | 759 | 118 | 10 | 72 564 | - | 350 |

Table 5. Number of foreign arrivals by country and purpose of travel (continued)

| Country | February | | Purpose of travel (February 2007) | | | | | | | Contract worker | Border traffic concession |
|-------------------------|----------|-------|-----------------------------------|---------|-------|------|---------|---------|-------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| | 2006 | 2007 | Business | Holiday | Study | Work | Transit | Unspec. | Total | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| East and Central | 5 563 | 6 141 | 399 | 4 736 | 636 | 293 | 47 | 15 | 6 126 | - | 15 |
| Burundi | 94 | 87 | 3 | 71 | 8 | 3 | - | 2 | 87 | - | - |
| Cameroon | 326 | 448 | 41 | 328 | 41 | 31 | 4 | - | 445 | - | 3 |
| Central African Rep | 7 | 19 | 1 | 17 | - | 1 | - | - | 19 | - | - |
| Chad | 15 | 21 | 1 | 15 | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | 21 | - | - |
| Comoros | 21 | 23 | 1 | 13 | - | 5 | 4 | - | 23 | - | - |
| Congo | 690 | 661 | 28 | 564 | 31 | 24 | 10 | 1 | 658 | - | 3 |
| Djibouti | 4 | 6 | 2 | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | 6 | - | - |
| Equatorial Guinea | 31 | 24 | - | 19 | 4 | 1 | - | - | 24 | - | - |
| Eritrea | 57 | 49 | 4 | 42 | 1 | 2 | - | - | 49 | - | - |
| Ethiopia | 536 | 685 | 42 | 593 | 19 | 28 | 2 | - | 684 | - | 1 |
| Gabon | 318 | 299 | 3 | 182 | 109 | 5 | - | - | 299 | - | - |
| Kenya | 1 929 | 2 126 | 196 | 1 557 | 235 | 126 | 7 | - | 2 121 | - | 5 |
| Reunion | 21 | 22 | - | 22 | - | - | - | - | 22 | - | - |
| Rwanda | 249 | 263 | 12 | 175 | 56 | 10 | 7 | 3 | 263 | - | - |
| Sao Tome and Principe | 13 | 10 | - | 9 | - | 1 | - | - | 10 | - | - |
| Seychelles | 218 | 233 | 2 | 229 | - | 2 | - | - | 233 | - | - |
| Somalia | 108 | 147 | 1 | 134 | 1 | 2 | - | 8 | 146 | - | 1 |
| Tristan da Cunha | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Uganda | 926 | 1 018 | 62 | 764 | 129 | 48 | 12 | 1 | 1 016 | - | 2 |

Table 5. Number of foreign arrivals by country and purpose of travel (concluded)

| Country | February | | Purpose of travel (February 2007) | | | | | | | Contract worker | Border traffic concession |
|---------------------|----------|-------|-----------------------------------|---------|-------|------|---------|---------|-------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| | 2006 | 2007 | Business | Holiday | Study | Work | Transit | Unspec. | Total | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| West Africa | 3 957 | 5 286 | 458 | 4 173 | 328 | 294 | 24 | - | 5 277 | - | 9 |
| Ascension | 1 | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - |
| Benin | 84 | 80 | 5 | 70 | 1 | 4 | - | - | 80 | - | - |
| Burkina Faso | 39 | 52 | 11 | 37 | - | 3 | 1 | - | 52 | - | - |
| Cape Verde Island | 44 | 32 | 1 | 26 | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | 32 | - | - |
| Cote D'Ivoire | 145 | 155 | 11 | 125 | 3 | 16 | - | - | 155 | - | - |
| Gambia | 41 | 47 | 6 | 34 | 3 | 1 | 2 | - | 46 | - | 1 |
| Ghana | 721 | 1 002 | 135 | 738 | 50 | 73 | 4 | - | 1 000 | - | 2 |
| Guinea | 86 | 114 | 14 | 81 | 8 | 3 | 8 | - | 114 | - | - |
| Guinea-Bissau | 13 | 15 | 1 | 14 | - | - | - | - | 15 | - | - |
| Liberia | 27 | 38 | 4 | 30 | 3 | 1 | - | - | 38 | - | - |
| Madeira Island | 16 | 11 | 1 | 10 | - | - | - | - | 11 | - | - |
| Mali | 54 | 88 | 11 | 68 | 4 | 5 | - | - | 88 | - | - |
| Mauritania | 20 | 24 | 6 | 18 | - | - | - | - | 24 | - | - |
| Niger | 10 | 25 | 4 | 21 | - | - | - | - | 25 | - | - |
| Nigeria | 2 387 | 3 298 | 210 | 2 670 | 245 | 161 | 6 | - | 3 292 | - | 6 |
| St Helena | 8 | 179 | 25 | 130 | 1 | 21 | 2 | - | 179 | - | - |
| Senegal | 192 | 72 | 6 | 55 | 7 | 4 | - | - | 72 | - | - |
| Sierra Leone | 36 | 8 | - | 8 | - | - | - | - | 8 | - | - |
| Togo | 33 | 44 | 7 | 36 | 1 | - | - | - | 44 | - | - |
| North Africa | 831 | 826 | 103 | 606 | 34 | 75 | 2 | - | 820 | - | 6 |
| Algeria | 158 | 95 | 12 | 71 | 3 | 8 | 1 | - | 95 | - | - |
| Egypt | 378 | 408 | 51 | 303 | 6 | 46 | - | - | 406 | - | 2 |
| Libya | 30 | 56 | 1 | 42 | 7 | 2 | - | - | 52 | - | 4 |
| Morocco | 76 | 81 | 11 | 59 | 1 | 10 | - | - | 81 | - | - |
| Sudan | 133 | 136 | 9 | 101 | 17 | 8 | 1 | - | 136 | - | - |
| Tunisia | 56 | 50 | 19 | 30 | - | 1 | - | - | 50 | - | - |
| Unspecified | 2 604 | 3 447 | 36 | 965 | 585 | 553 | 4 | - | 2 143 | - | 1 304 |

EXPLANATORY NOTES

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). Statistics South Africa 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;
- can, in the absence of information on foreign tourists, be further analysed to provide some indication of international tourism; 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.

2. Purpose of the statistical release

This release reports on arrivals and departures of foreign and South African travellers. Travellers include (a) same-day visitors and tourists and (b) other travellers such as migrant workers from other countries paid in South Africa.

3. Scope and coverage

This release covers all the data as received from the DHA. The arrivals of foreign travellers are more detailed than departures as they are reported by mode of travel, gender, age and purpose of visit whereas statistics on South African residents are reported by mode of travel. Statistics on documented migration, i.e. self-declared emigrants and documented immigrants, are currently not reported due to the unavailability of data from the DHA.

4. Data

Information published in this release is based on data obtained from the following data sources within the DHA.

- Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) database on population Movement Control System (MCS): Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all land, 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 system. Generally the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the port's electronic database. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA. Statistics South Africa (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.
- DHA departure forms: the DHA departure forms are specifically designed for the collection of data from South African residents departing South Africa. The completion of the departure form is a voluntary exercise and as such not all eligible travellers will do so. The completed forms from OR Tambo, Cape Town and Durban international airports covering a particular calendar month are processed and analysed accordingly by Stats SA.
- The database for applicants for South African permanent residence: a printout of data on the successful applicants covering a particular calendar month is issued to Stats SA.

5. Limitations

The main limitation of the published information is its inability to directly measure the volume of tourists. The main aspects of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation's (UNWTO) definition of a tourist are duration of stay and whether individuals are remunerated in the place being visited. Although the intended duration of stay can be inferred from the expiry date of the temporary residence permit, this does not necessarily translate into actual duration of stay. In addition, the data do not provide information on the remuneration status of travellers in South Africa.

The information on the total number of arrivals and departures of South African residents is collected from the scanning of passports. However, data on country of final destination and purpose of visit will be available when the DHA re-introduces the completion of departure forms by South African residents at the three international airports (OR Tambo, Cape Town and Durban).

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.

6. Glossary of terms

Key terms used in this release are defined as follows:

Africa refers to all the countries in Africa (both mainland and island countries).

Border traffic concession is granted to a person who crosses the border on a frequent basis. The concession is granted for a maximum period of six months after which it can be renewed if necessary.

Country refers to individual countries within a region. Note that not all the lists of countries available in the data are reported in the release owing to the few monthly arrivals from those countries. Data on these countries will be made available to individuals on request.

Foreign traveller refers to a traveller who is not a South African citizen or permanent resident.

'Other' African countries refers to all African non SADC member countries.

Overseas refers to all other countries outside Africa.

Region refers to the following country classification: Europe, North America, Central and South America, Australasia, the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

SADC refers to the thirteen countries, excluding South Africa, that belong to the Southern African Development Community.

Same-day visitor is a visitor who visits a place for less than one night.

South African resident refers to either a South African citizen or a non-South African citizen with a South African permanent residence permit.

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 not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited. 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. *Even though the data from the DHA used in this release do not provide information on duration of stay and remuneration status of the travellers, activities of most of these travellers will comprise tourism.*

Tourist (overnight visitor) is a visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the place visited. An international tourist is an international visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the country visited.

Traveller is any person on a trip between two or more localities (e.g. countries). Travellers can include Visitors (same-day and overnight) and other travellers such as workers paid in the country visited, migrants, refugees, diplomats and others within the usual environment.

Visitor is 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. However, in this release, the concept visitor is used to indicate an individual that entered the country on visitor's temporary permit.

7. Symbols and abbreviations used

- = nil

Unspec. = unspecified

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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