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Statistical release

P0351

Tourism and Migration

February 2008

**Embargoed until:
24 April 2008
13:00**

Enquiries:

User Information Services
Tel.: (012) 310 8600 / 4892 / 8390

Forthcoming issue:

March 2008

Expected release date

Statistics South Africa • Mbalo-mbalo dza Afrika Tshipembe • Tinhlayo-tiko ta Afrika-Dzonga • Dipalopalo tsa Aforika Borwa • Ezezibalo zaseNingizimu Afrika
Dipalopalo tša Afrika Borwa • Dipalopalo tsa Afrika Borwa • Ubalo lwaseMzantsi Afrika • Telubalo eNingizimu Afrika • iNanimbalo leSewula Afrika • Statistiek Suid-Afrika

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KEY FINDINGS

1. Number of travellers

The February 2008 data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 1 992 597 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through the ports of entry. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 558 154 South African residents and 1 434 443 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures indicates that 276 096 and 282 058 South African resident arrivals and departures respectively were recorded. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals and departures are 779 094 and 655 349 respectively. A comparison between the movements in January 2008 and February 2008 indicates that there was a decrease in all movements. The February 2008 figure (276 096) for South African resident arrivals shows an increase of 2,2% compared to the February 2007 figure of 270 151. Similarly, there was an increase of 10,2% for foreign arrivals from 707 102 in February 2007 to 779 094 in February 2008.

2. Mode of travel

It is observed from Table 2 that road transport was the most common (63,7%) mode of travel used by 1 270 174 out of the 1 992 597 travellers. The arrival data on South African residents show that 40,1% came by air and 59,5% by road. For their departure, 41,4% and 58,6% used air and road transport respectively. When taking into consideration the countries of residence of travellers, it was found that for foreign arrivals, overseas travellers generally used air (89,7%) compared to road transport (10,1%) whereas travellers from Africa used road (89,3%) more than air transport (8,4%). 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 (70,5%) of foreign arrivals were from Africa whilst less than a third (28,7%) were from overseas countries. Information on the country of residence was not available on 0,8% of the travellers. A comparison of the changes between February 2007 and February 2008 indicates that the number of overseas arrivals increased by 6,7% from 209 835 in 2007 to 223 792 in 2008. Arrivals from Africa increased by 11,3% from 493 820 in February 2007 to 549 428 in February 2008.

3.1 Gender and age distribution

The travellers from Africa comprised of 311 981 males, 236 434 females and 1 013 with unspecified gender. The data on overseas travellers had 127 227 males, 96 310 females and gender was not specified in 255 cases. Overall, more males than females from African (males: 56,8%; females: 43,0%) 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 (89,6%) of African travellers is clustered between ages 15-54, peaking at age group 25-29. However, the age distribution of overseas travellers is widely spread. Thus 87,2% of overseas travellers is between ages 20 to 69 years. The percentage of older persons (65 years and older) from overseas countries was significantly higher (12,2%) compared to that among persons from Africa (2,5%). This would have implications for spending capacity.

3.2 Regional and national distribution

Overseas travellers came mainly from Europe (70,8%), followed by North America (11,6%), Asia (9,5%), Australasia (3,9%), Central and South America (2,3%) and Middle East (1,9%). 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. The number of travellers from overseas countries has been increasing gradually since February 2005. Data presented in Figure 3 indicate that the UK, Germany, USA, France, Netherlands, Australia, Sweden and Canada were the eight leading overseas source countries. Travellers from these eight countries constitute 68,8% of all travellers from overseas. Compared to February 2007, the February 2008 number of travellers from all these leading overseas source countries increased.

The eight leading source countries from SADC were Lesotho, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Malawi as shown in Figure 4. Travellers from the eight SADC countries made up 96,0% of all arrivals from Africa. The number of travellers from all these SADC countries increased in February 2008 when compared to February 2007. The eight leading source countries from 'other' African countries, shown in Figure 5, are Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Ethiopia, Egypt, Cameroon and Gabon. The number of travellers from all 'other' African countries increased in February 2008 when compared to February 2007.

3.3 Purpose of travel

As observed from data given in Table 4, an overwhelming majority (92,7%) 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 on business (2,4%), those who have come to study (1,4%) and those who have come for work (1,3%).

Overall, 93,1% of overseas travellers came to South Africa to visit. A detailed analysis reveals that all the overseas regions had more than 80,0% travellers coming to South Africa for holidays. Travellers from Europe (94,9%), Australasia (94,1%), North America (93,1%), Central and South America (92,7%), the Middle East (88,1%) and Asia (80,4%) were admitted into South Africa as visitors. Travellers from Asia were more diverse in their purpose for instance, 11,4% of travellers came into the country for work, 5,7% for business and 1,4% for study.

Although the majority (93,2%) 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 93,6% of travellers from the SADC countries were recorded as on holiday, 79,4% of travellers from 'other' African countries were admitted on visitor's permit. Proportionally, the lowest percentage (76,3%) of visitors came from North Africa, a region where, a large percentage of travellers were in South Africa for business (13,2%).
- A relatively higher percentage of 'other' African than SADC travellers were here to study, work or for business.
- Overall, West Africa and North Africa had 6,7% and 5,4% respectively of travellers who were in South Africa for work as compared to only 0,4% among the SADC travellers.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Figure 1: Percentage distribution of overseas and African arrivals by age groups in February 2008

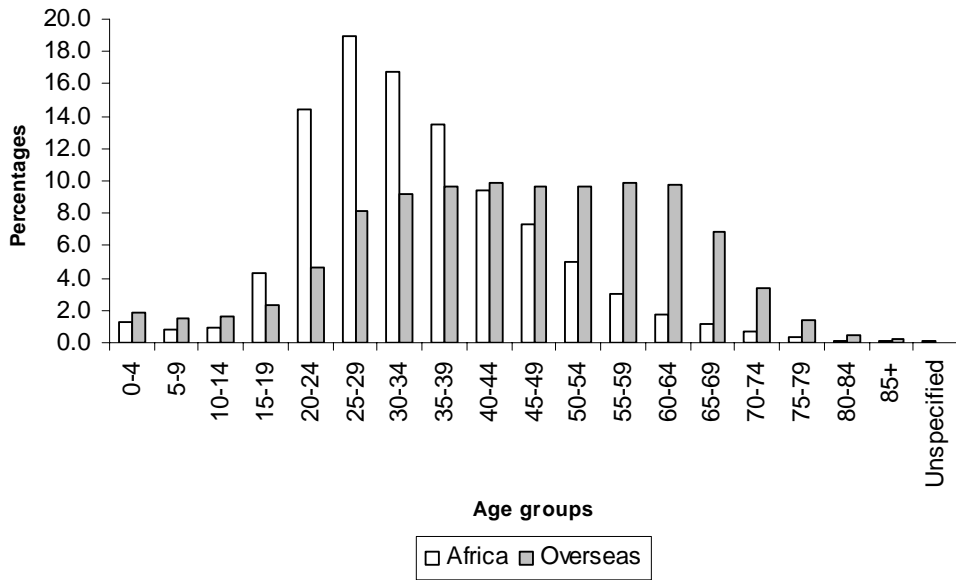


Figure 2: Number of February arrivals by region (2004 - 2008)

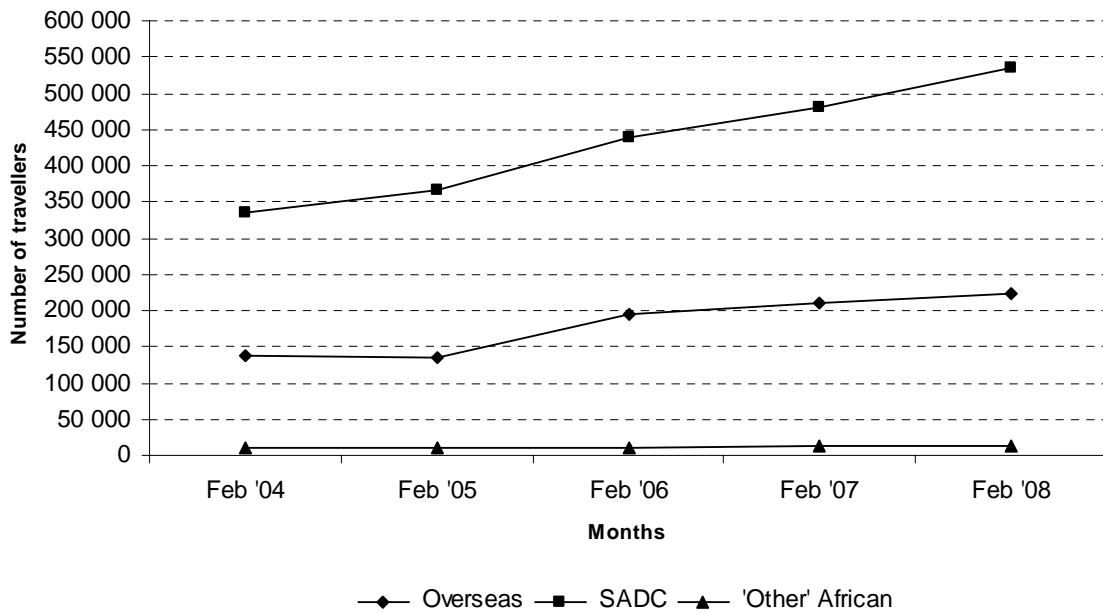


Figure 3: Number of overseas travellers arriving from leading source countries in February 2008 compared to February 2007

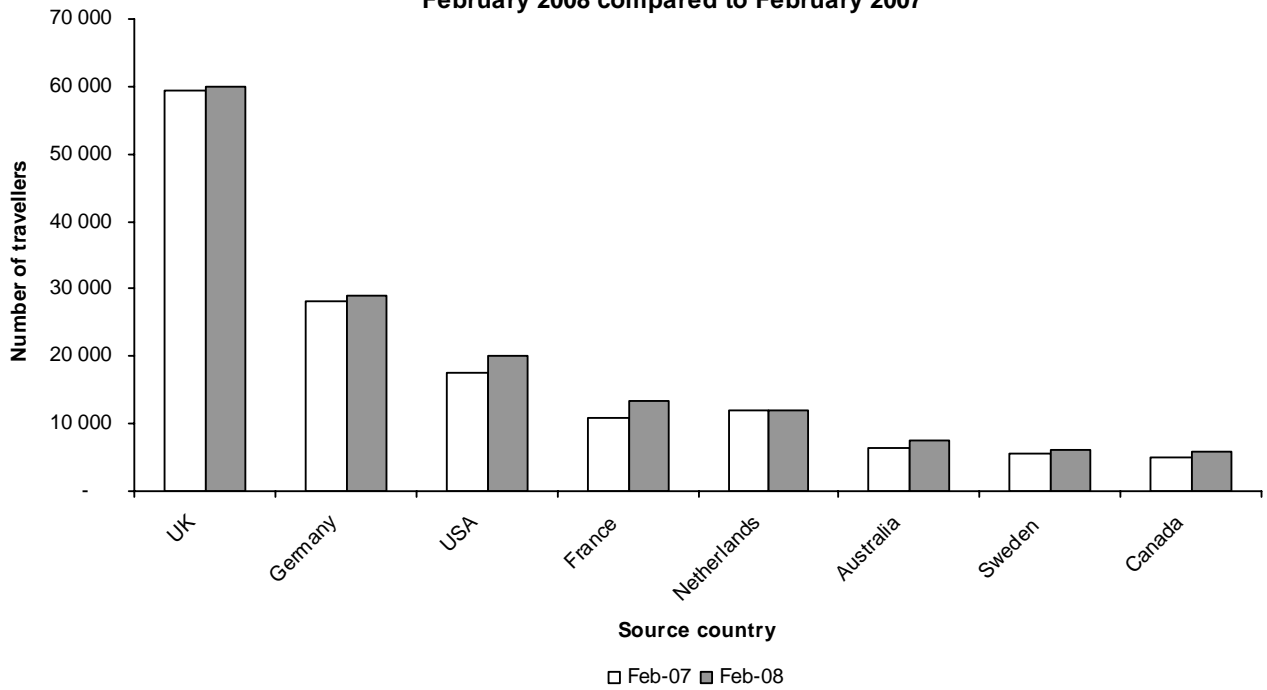


Figure 4: Number of travellers from SADC countries arriving from leading source countries in February 2008 compared to February 2007

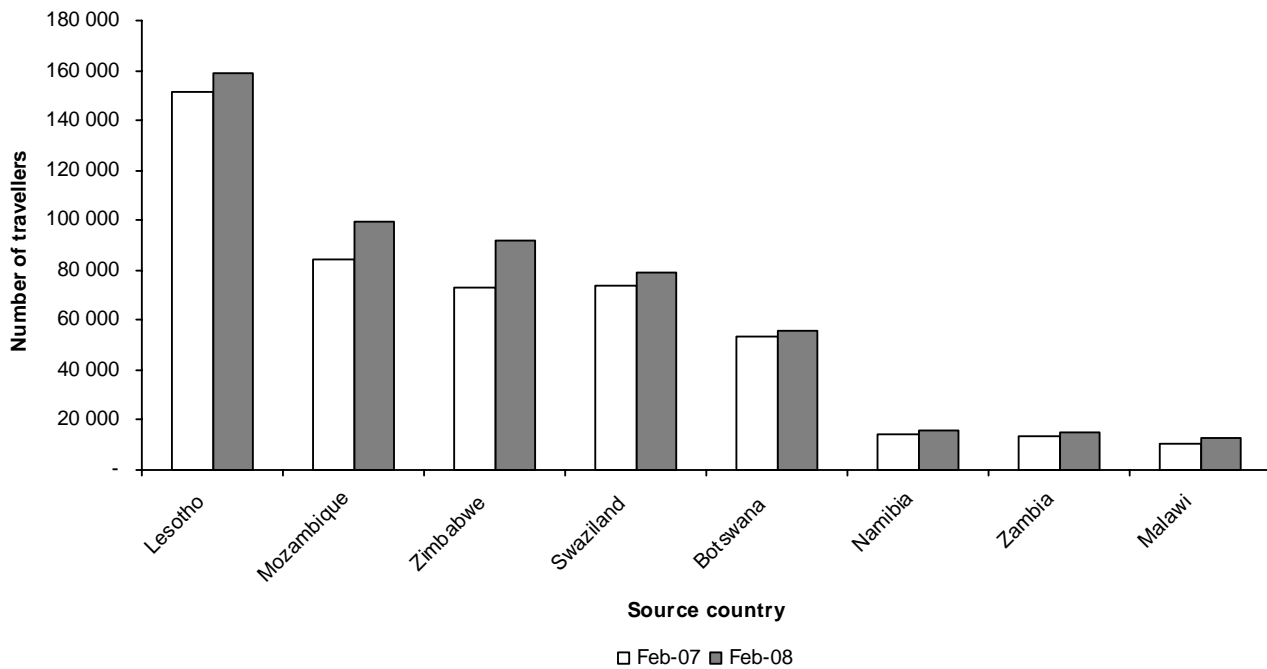


Figure 5: Number of travellers from 'other' African countries arriving from leading source countries in February 2008 compared to February 2007

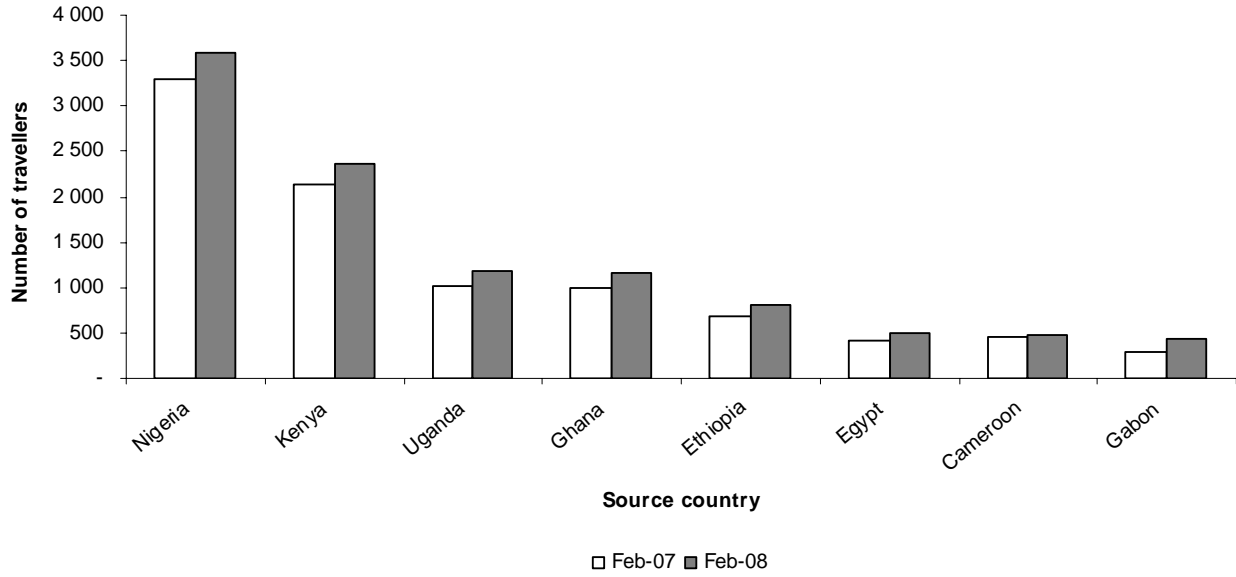


Table 1. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction

Travel direction	February	January	February	% change	% change
	2007	2008	2008	Feb 07–Feb 08	Jan –Feb 08
South African residents					
Arrivals	270 151	454 720	276 096	2,2	-39,3
Departures	270 302	309 329	282 058	4,3	-8,8
Foreign travellers					
Arrivals	707 102	869 659	779 094	10,2	-10,4
Departures	606 742	682 575	655 349	8,0	-4,0
Grand total	1 854 297	2 316 283	1 992 597	7,5	-14,0

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

Travel direction	Total	Mode of travel (February 2008)								
		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
		(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Grand total	1 992 597	162 189	3 521	531 774	8 195	705 679	60	1 270 174	348	16 336
Arrivals:	1 055 190	82 916	1 740	270 191	4 101	358 948	30	679 851	106	16 255
South African residents	276 096	12 864	1 296	93 701	2 988	110 849	-	164 210	39	998
Foreign travellers	779 094	70 052	444	176 490	1 113	248 099	30	515 641	67	15 257
Overseas	223 792	67 886	179	132 014	675	200 754	14	22 685	66	273
Africa	549 428	2 114	261	43 350	427	46 152	16	490 756	1	12 503
Unspecified	5 874	52	4	1 126	11	1 193	-	2 200	-	2 481
Departures:	937 407	79 273	1 781	261 583	4 094	346 731	30	590 323	242	81
South African residents	282 058	12 856	1 444	99 354	3 064	116 718	14	165 237	80	9
Foreign travellers	655 349	66 417	337	162 229	1 030	230 013	16	425 086	162	72

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

Country	Mode of travel (February 2008)										
	February		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Grand total	707 102	779 094	70 052	444	176 490	1 113	248 099	30	515 641	67	15 257
Overseas total	209 835	223 792	67 886	179	132 014	675	200 754	14	22 685	66	273
Europe	152 056	158 393	60 171	112	81 104	358	141 745	7	16 518	30	93
Austria	2 804	2 717	1 044	-	1 429	3	2 476	-	238	3	-
Belgium	3 601	3 854	1 098	-	2 200	26	3 324	-	530	-	-
Denmark	3 610	3 780	1 099	-	2 261	-	3 360	-	415	1	4
France	10 975	13 332	2 973	15	9 012	25	12 025	-	1 305	-	2
Germany	28 179	29 109	12 926	6	12 240	53	25 225	5	3 861	8	10
Greece	681	771	109	2	552	2	665	-	105	-	1
Ireland	3 783	4 152	2 355	1	1 475	13	3 844	-	301	-	7
Italy	3 580	3 764	967	2	2 431	10	3 410	-	354	-	-
Netherlands	12 040	12 038	4 241	7	5 663	17	9 928	1	2 107	1	1
Portugal	2 235	2 490	173	30	1 148	5	1 356	-	1 127	-	7
Spain	1 939	2 122	380	17	1 615	10	2 022	-	100	-	-
Sweden	5 528	6 106	2 642	-	2 866	3	5 511	-	593	-	2
Switzerland	4 002	3 937	1 107	1	2 273	20	3 401	-	535	-	1
UK	59 425	59 901	25 604	29	30 091	130	55 854	1	3 989	10	47
Other	9 674	10 320	3 453	2	5 848	41	9 344	-	958	7	11
North America	22 706	26 039	3 550	21	19 982	185	23 738	1	2 261	5	34
Canada	5 016	5 939	1 241	3	4 024	67	5 335	1	598	3	2
USA	17 680	20 094	2 306	18	15 955	118	18 397	-	1 663	2	32
Other	10	6	3	-	3	-	6	-	-	-	-
Central and South America	4 355	5 124	761	1	3 889	16	4 667	-	457	-	-
Argentina	821	1 012	502	-	483	-	985	-	27	-	-
Brazil	2 171	2 652	77	1	2 324	9	2 411	-	241	-	-
Chile	397	395	41	-	314	-	355	-	40	-	-
Other	966	1 065	141	-	768	7	916	-	149	-	-

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

Country	Mode of travel (February 2008)										
	February		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Australasia	7 890	8 739	828	16	7 165	68	8 077	-	656	2	4
Australia	6 552	7 393	678	16	6 109	59	6 862	-	525	2	4
New Zealand	1 281	1 254	133	-	1 009	9	1 151	-	103	-	-
Other	57	92	17	-	47	-	64	-	28	-	-
Middle East	3 776	4 230	608	8	3 319	15	3 950	-	277	-	3
Israel	1 992	1 883	56	-	1 669	11	1 736	-	147	-	-
Saudi Arabia	316	415	20	-	392	-	412	-	3	-	-
Turkey	579	841	300	2	503	-	805	-	35	-	1
Other	889	1 091	232	6	755	4	997	-	92	-	2
Asia	19 052	21 267	1 968	21	16 555	33	18 577	6	2 516	29	139
China	3 730	5 268	253	-	4 658	-	4 911	-	332	-	25
Hong Kong	1 160	1 161	116	1	1 002	-	1 119	-	42	-	-
India	3 776	4 282	159	16	3 342	12	3 529	4	692	12	45
Japan	2 214	2 520	173	-	2 170	2	2 345	-	175	-	-
Malaysia	656	737	314	2	391	1	708	-	29	-	-
Philippines	691	720	84	-	528	1	613	-	91	6	10
Rep of Korea	1 405	1 847	122	-	1 557	-	1 679	-	167	-	1
Singapore	499	596	183	1	404	-	588	-	8	-	-
Taiwan	2 157	1 488	177	-	878	-	1 055	-	385	9	39
Other	2 764	2 648	387	1	1 625	17	2 030	2	595	2	19

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

Country	Mode of travel (February 2008)										
	February		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Africa total	493 820	549 428	2 114	261	43 350	427	46 152	16	490 756	1	12 503
SADC	481 567	535 708	1 950	253	32 178	336	34 717	15	488 510	1	12 465
Angola	2 499	2 822	131	-	2 500	25	2 656	-	166	-	-
Botswana	53 732	55 441	25	3	2 344	126	2 498	-	52 859	-	84
DRC	1 990	2 432	1	-	1 737	29	1 767	-	665	-	-
Lesotho	151 489	158 585	6	1	621	-	628	-	146 425	-	11 532
Madagascar	186	283	-	1	271	1	273	-	10	-	-
Malawi	10 429	12 723	2	-	1 917	2	1 921	1	10 795	-	6
Mauritius	1 113	1 218	203	135	765	-	1 103	-	111	-	4
Mozambique	84 377	99 111	106	85	2 125	30	2 346	-	96 487	1	277
Namibia	14 300	15 734	1 421	-	2 360	21	3 802	-	11 896	-	36
Swaziland	73 932	78 982	2	21	733	13	769	2	78 108	-	103
Tanzania	1 254	1 569	2	2	1 266	2	1 272	-	297	-	-
Zambia	13 352	15 104	11	1	5 961	29	6 002	4	9 086	-	12
Zimbabwe	72 914	91 704	40	4	9 578	58	9 680	8	81 605	-	411

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

Country	Mode of travel (February 2008)										
	February		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
East and Central Africa	6 141	6 684	48	6	5 207	45	5 306	-	1 366	-	12
Burundi	87	103	-	-	78	4	82	-	21	-	-
Cameroon	448	468	8	-	408	3	419	-	49	-	-
Central African Rep	19	12	-	-	12	-	12	-	-	-	-
Chad	21	10	-	-	10	-	10	-	-	-	-
Comoros	23	7	-	-	6	-	6	-	1	-	-
Congo	661	375	15	-	235	5	255	-	118	-	2
Djibouti	6	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	24	23	-	-	8	-	8	-	15	-	-
Eritrea	49	35	-	-	30	-	30	-	5	-	-
Ethiopia	685	813	1	-	591	10	602	-	211	-	-
Gabon	299	425	3	-	393	1	397	-	28	-	-
Kenya	2 126	2 361	7	2	1 994	19	2 022	-	331	-	8
Reunion	22	34	3	2	29	-	34	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	263	342	2	-	316	-	318	-	24	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	10	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-	-	-
Seychelles	233	178	2	2	173	-	177	-	1	-	-
Somalia	147	313	1	-	16	-	17	-	296	-	-
Tristan da Cunha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uganda	1 018	1 175	6	-	898	3	907	-	266	-	2

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

Country	Mode of travel (February 2008)										
	February		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
West Africa	5 286	5 903	48	2	5 002	45	5 097	1	782	-	23
Ascension	2	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Benin	80	138	1	-	112	-	113	-	25	-	-
Burkina Faso	52	68	1	-	64	-	65	-	3	-	-
Cape Verde Island	32	59	3	-	50	-	53	-	6	-	-
Cote D'Ivoire	155	181	4	-	162	-	166	-	15	-	-
Gambia	47	39	1	-	32	-	33	-	6	-	-
Ghana	1 002	1 162	5	2	980	4	991	-	168	-	3
Guinea	114	127	4	-	85	-	89	-	38	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	15	14	-	-	6	-	6	-	8	-	-
Liberia	38	30	-	-	27	-	27	-	3	-	-
Madeira Island	11	14	6	-	4	-	10	-	4	-	-
Mali	88	104	1	-	94	-	95	-	9	-	-
Mauritania	24	15	-	-	14	-	14	-	1	-	-
Niger	25	24	2	-	22	-	24	-	-	-	-
Nigeria	3 298	3 589	14	-	3 054	40	3 108	1	460	-	20
Saint Helena	8	8	4	-	1	-	5	-	3	-	-
Senegal	179	248	1	-	226	1	228	-	20	-	-
Sierra Leone	72	55	-	-	47	-	47	-	8	-	-
Togo	44	27	1	-	21	-	22	-	5	-	-
Western Sahara	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Africa	826	1 133	68	-	963	1	1 032	-	98	-	3
Algeria	95	158	8	-	117	-	125	-	33	-	-
Egypt	408	500	7	-	454	1	462	-	38	-	-
Libya	56	47	5	-	29	-	34	-	10	-	3
Morocco	81	98	13	-	79	-	92	-	6	-	-
Sudan	136	265	31	-	223	-	254	-	11	-	-
Tunisia	50	65	4	-	61	-	65	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	3 447	5 874	52	4	1 126	11	1 193	-	2 200	-	2 481

Table 4. Number of foreign arrivals by purpose of travel

Region	Total	Purpose of travel (February 2008)							Contract worker	Border Traffic
		Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
Grand total	779 094	18 382	721 856	11 257	9 943	2 416	11	763 865	-	15 229
Overseas total	223 792	7 505	208 386	1 217	6 044	391	3	223 546	-	246
Europe	158 393	4 590	150 340	539	2 660	182	2	158 313	-	80
North America	26 039	911	24 237	274	529	54	-	26 005	-	34
Central and South America	5 124	130	4 752	41	177	24	-	5 124	-	-
Australasia	8 739	337	8 225	33	121	19	-	8 735	-	4
Middle East	4 230	319	3 726	42	133	8	-	4 228	-	2
Asia	21 267	1 218	17 106	288	2 424	104	1	21 141	-	126
Africa total	549 428	10 835	512 293	8 859	2 908	2 023	8	536 926	-	12 502
SADC	535 708	9 895	501 403	7 858	2 129	1 951	8	523 244	-	12 464
East and Central Africa	6 684	432	5 177	714	323	26	-	6 672	-	12
West Africa	5 903	358	4 849	245	395	33	-	5 880	-	23
North Africa	1 133	150	864	42	61	13	-	1 130	-	3
Unspecified	5 874	42	1 177	1 181	991	2	-	3 393	-	2 481

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

Country	February		Purpose of travel (February 2008)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
Grand total	707 102	779 094	18 382	721 856	11 257	9 943	2 416	11	763 865	-	15 229
Overseas total	209 835	223 792	7 505	208 386	1 217	6 044	391	3	223 546	-	246
Europe	152 056	158 393	4 590	150 340	539	2 660	182	2	158 313	-	80
Austria	2 804	2 717	64	2 618	6	25	4	-	2 717	-	-
Belgium	3 601	3 854	151	3 612	25	63	3	-	3 854	-	-
Denmark	3 610	3 780	69	3 627	6	68	6	-	3 776	-	4
France	10 975	13 332	400	12 600	46	265	20	-	13 331	-	1
Germany	28 179	29 109	1 001	27 560	142	387	9	-	29 099	-	10
Greece	681	771	21	715	2	30	3	-	771	-	-
Ireland	3 783	4 152	74	4 027	6	37	1	-	4 145	-	7
Italy	3 580	3 764	149	3 538	11	53	13	-	3 764	-	-
Netherlands	12 040	12 038	260	11 528	89	153	7	-	12 037	-	1
Portugal	2 235	2 490	39	2 389	10	35	10	-	2 483	-	7
Spain	1 939	2 122	51	1 984	4	55	28	-	2 122	-	-
Sweden	5 528	6 106	139	5 851	16	96	1	1	6 104	-	2
Switzerland	4 002	3 937	75	3 812	14	32	3	-	3 936	-	1
UK	59 425	59 901	1 699	57 340	121	654	41	1	59 856	-	45
Other	9 674	10 320	398	9 139	41	707	33	-	10 318	-	2
North America	22 706	26 039	911	24 237	274	529	54	-	26 005	-	34
Canada	5 016	5 939	210	5 604	28	89	6	-	5 937	-	2
USA	17 680	20 094	700	18 628	246	440	48	-	20 062	-	32
Other	10	6	1	5	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
Central and South America	4 355	5 124	130	4 752	41	177	24	-	5 124	-	-
Argentina	821	1 012	11	989	3	8	1	-	1 012	-	-
Brazil	2 171	2 652	39	2 510	17	72	14	-	2 652	-	-
Chile	397	395	6	379	-	10	-	-	395	-	-
Other	966	1 065	74	874	21	87	9	-	1 065	-	-

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

Country	February		Purpose of travel (February 2008)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
	2007	2008									
Australasia	7 890	8 739	337	8 225	33	121	19	-	8 735	-	4
Australia	6 552	7 393	289	6 969	21	93	17	-	7 389	-	4
New Zealand	1 281	1 254	44	1 182	5	21	2	-	1 254	-	-
Other	57	92	4	74	7	7	-	-	92	-	-
Middle East	3 776	4 230	319	3 726	42	133	8	-	4 228	-	2
Israel	1 992	1 883	46	1 786	1	44	6	-	1 883	-	-
Saudi Arabia	316	415	33	357	19	6	-	-	415	-	-
Turkey	579	841	52	743	5	40	1	-	841	-	-
Other	889	1 091	188	840	17	43	1	-	1 089	-	2
Asia	19 052	21 267	1 218	17 106	288	2 424	104	1	21 141	-	126
China	3 730	5 268	162	4 323	94	662	2	-	5 243	-	25
Hong Kong	1 160	1 161	21	1 135		4	1	-	1 161	-	-
India	3 776	4 282	616	2 976	64	559	26	1	4 242	-	40
Japan	2 214	2 520	93	2 321	5	95	6	-	2 520	-	-
Malaysia	656	737	29	672	10	19	7	-	737	-	-
Philippines	691	720	33	233	5	404	41	-	716	-	4
Rep of Korea	1 405	1 847	33	1 729	28	53	4	-	1 847	-	-
Singapore	499	596	38	530		27	1	-	596	-	-
Taiwan	2 157	1 488	36	1 107	29	276	1	-	1 449	-	39
Other	2 764	2 648	157	2 080	53	325	15	-	2 630	-	18

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

Country	February		Purpose of travel (February 2008)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
	2007	2008									
Africa total	493 820	549 428	10 835	512 293	8 859	2 908	2 023	8	536 926	-	12 502
SADC	481 567	535 708	9 895	501 403	7 858	2 129	1 951	8	523 244	-	12 464
Angola	2 499	2 822	46	2 444	257	63	12	-	2 822	-	-
Botswana	53 732	55 441	119	53 075	1 862	193	108	-	55 357	-	84
DRC	1 990	2 432	112	2 115	99	68	31	7	2 432	-	-
Lesotho	151 489	158 585	1 696	143 074	1 088	101	1 094	1	147 054	-	11 531
Madagascar	186	283	10	248	8	14	3	-	283	-	-
Malawi	10 429	12 723	638	11 855	138	67	19	-	12 717	-	6
Mauritius	1 113	1 218	35	1 042	102	27	8	-	1 214	-	4
Mozambique	84 377	99 111	475	98 028	196	95	40	-	98 834	-	277
Namibia	14 300	15 734	1 741	12 785	746	44	382	-	15 698	-	36
Swaziland	73 932	78 982	355	77 182	1 074	123	145	-	78 879	-	103
Tanzania	1 254	1 569	165	1 163	201	33	7	-	1 569	-	-
Zambia	13 352	15 104	1 896	12 739	320	117	20	-	15 092	-	12
Zimbabwe	72 914	91 704	2 607	85 653	1 767	1 184	82	-	91 293	-	411

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

Country	February		Purpose of travel (February 2008)								Contract worker	Border traffic concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total			
East and Central Africa	6 141	6 684	432	5 177	714	323	26	-	6 672	-	12	
Burundi	87	103	5	85	12	-	1	-	103	-	-	
Cameroon	448	468	22	328	76	42	-	-	468	-	-	
Central African Rep	19	12	3	6	3	-	-	-	12	-	-	
Chad	21	10	1	6	2	1	-	-	10	-	-	
Comoros	23	7	-	6	1	-	-	-	7	-	-	
Congo	661	375	27	296	28	20	2	-	373	-	2	
Djibouti	6	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	
Equatorial Guinea	24	23	2	18	3	-	-	-	23	-	-	
Eritrea	49	35	2	27	1	5	-	-	35	-	-	
Ethiopia	685	813	27	729	26	31	-	-	813	-	-	
Gabon	299	425	6	285	127	7	-	-	425	-	-	
Kenya	2 126	2 361	217	1 732	231	169	4	-	2 353	-	8	
Reunion	22	34	2	32	-	-	-	-	34	-	-	
Rwanda	263	342	25	213	86	7	11	-	342	-	-	
Sao Tome and Principe	10	7	-	7	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	
Seychelles	233	178	2	165	9	2	-	-	178	-	-	
Somalia	147	313	-	312	-	1	-	-	313	-	-	
Tristan da Cunha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Uganda	1 018	1 175	91	927	109	38	8	-	1 173	-	2	

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

Country	February		Purpose of travel (February 2008)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
West Africa	5 286	5 903	358	4 849	245	395	33	-	5 880	-	23
Ascension	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Benin	80	138	3	124	7	4	-	-	138	-	-
Burkina Faso	52	68	13	46	2	7	-	-	68	-	-
Cape Verde Island	32	59	3	55	-	-	1	-	59	-	-
Cote D'Ivoire	155	181	25	128	5	22	1	-	181	-	-
Gambia	47	39	6	27	2	2	2	-	39	-	-
Ghana	1 002	1 162	37	1 018	23	81	-	-	1 159	-	3
Guinea	114	127	12	97	7	9	2	-	127	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	15	14	1	13	-	-	-	-	14	-	-
Liberia	38	30	-	25	2	3	-	-	30	-	-
Madeira Island	11	14	-	14	-	-	-	-	14	-	-
Mali	88	104	18	74	8	4	-	-	104	-	-
Mauritania	24	15	5	9	1	-	-	-	15	-	-
Niger	25	24	9	14	-	1	-	-	24	-	-
Nigeria	3 298	3 589	180	2 960	182	229	18	-	3 569	-	20
Saint Helena	8	8	-	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
Senegal	179	248	36	177	1	26	8	-	248	-	-
Sierra Leone	72	55	4	40	5	5	1	-	55	-	-
Togo	44	27	5	20	-	2	-	-	27	-	-
Western Sahara	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Africa	826	1 133	150	864	42	61	13	-	1 130	-	3
Algeria	95	158	20	113	6	16	3	-	158	-	-
Egypt	408	500	52	414	5	25	4	-	500	-	-
Libya	56	47	10	20	8	-	6	-	44	-	3
Morocco	81	98	21	69	2	6	-	-	98	-	-
Sudan	136	265	40	191	21	13	-	-	265	-	-
Tunisia	50	65	7	57	-	1	-	-	65	-	-
Unspecified	3 447	5 874	42	1 177	1 181	991	2	-	3 393	-	2 481

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 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 re-introduction of the departure forms is in full operational at the three international airports (OR Tambo, Cape Town and Durban). Processing of available departure forms from the three international airports is currently underway.

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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