



Statistical release

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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 2 467 403 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through South African ports of entry in February 2012. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 627 207 South African residents and 1 840 196 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 311 209 and 315 998 arrivals and departures respectively. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals and departures were 1 006 429 and 833 767 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in January 2012 and February 2012 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures declined for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents declined by 40,9% (from 526 250 in January 2012 to 311 209 in February 2012); while for foreign travellers, the arrivals declined by 19,4% (from 1 249 101 in January 2012 to 1 006 429 in February 2012). For departures, the volume declined by 9,7% (from 349 970 in January 2012 to 315 998 in February 2012) for South African residents and by 1,6% (from 846 915 in January 2012 to 833 767 in February 2012) for foreign travellers.

A comparison between the movements in February 2011 and February 2012 indicates that the volumes of arrivals and departures decreased for South African residents while the volumes increased for foreign travellers. For South African residents the volume of arrival decreased by 11,5% from 351 513 in February 2011 to 311 209 in February 2012 and departures decreased by 12,2% from 359 714 in February 2011 to 315 998 in February 2012. Conversely, the volume of arrivals for foreign travellers increased by 10,2% from 913 162 in February 2011 to 1 006 429 in February 2012 and departures increased by 7,6% from 774 619 in February 2011 to 833 767 in February 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 South African immigration officers. 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 February 2012, 53 559 (5,3%) foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 952 870 (94,7%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups: arrivals only comprising of visitors who entered the country in February 2012 but did not depart in February 2012 [359 614 (37,7%)]; visitors who came once in February 2012 and left in February 2012 [336 324 (35,3%)]; and those who came and left more than once in February 2012 [256 932 (27,0%)]. Visitors were further grouped as same day visitors [275 196 (28,9%)] and overnight visitors (tourists) [677 674 (71,1%)]. Between January 2012 and February 2012, the volume of same day visitors increased by 0,3% (from 274 455 in January 2012 to 275 196 in February 2012) and tourists declined by 23,6% (from 887 066 in January 2012 to 677 674 in February 2012). Furthermore, between February 2011 and February 2012, the volume of same day visitors also increased by 0,3% (from 274 368 in February 2011 to 275 196 in February 2012) while the volume of tourists increased by 8,6% (from 623 899 in February 2011 to 677 674 in February 2012) during the same period.

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 February 2012, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 1 710 741 (69,3%) out of the 2 467 403 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 746 575 (30,3%). The arrivals data on South African residents show that 109 825 (35,3%) came by air and 199 827 (64,2%) came by road. For departures, 114 650 (36,3%) and 199 571 (63,2%) used air and road transport respectively. In the case of foreign travellers, 283 490 (28,2%) arrived by air while those who came by road were 719 552 (71,5%). When departing South Africa, 238 610 (28,6%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 591 791 (71,0%) left by road. As shown in Table 2 an overwhelming majority, 263 002 (95,6%) of same day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 12 151 (4,4%) same day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that, 433 791 (64,0%) used road transport but 242 362 (35,8%) 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 February 2012, 193 153 (90,0%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 19 955 (9,3%) 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 [411 479 (92,4%)]. Only 34 066 (7,6%) 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 13 832 (89,6%); with 1 596 (10,3%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In February 2012, the distribution of overseas tourists were as follows; Europe, 140 230 (65,3%); followed by North America, 27 209 (12,7%); Asia, 25 219 (11,8%); Central and South America, 9 946 (4,6%); Australasia, 8 684 (4,0%); and Middle East, 3 306 (1,5%). Virtually all tourists from Africa came from the SADC countries, 445 557 (96,7%). The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 8 400 (1,8%); East and Central Africa, 6 040 (1,3%) and North Africa 1 001 (0,2%).

Data presented in Figure 1 indicate that United Kingdom (UK), 47 528 (22,1%); Germany, 25 878 (12,1%); United States of America (USA), 21 071 (9,8%); The Netherlands 11 387 (5,3%); France, 11 184 (5,2%); China, 8 340 (3,9%); Australia, 7 508 (3,5%); and India, 6 805 (3,2%) were the eight leading overseas countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2012. Tourists from these eight countries constituted 65,1% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in February 2011 and February 2012 shows that the number of tourists increased in all these eight countries. India had the highest increase of 24,9% from 5 449 tourists in February 2011 to 6 805 tourists in February 2012.

The eight leading countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2012 from the SADC countries (see Figure 2) were Zimbabwe, 119 292 (26,8%); Lesotho, 108 637 (24,4%); Mozambique 88 166 (19,8%); Swaziland, 54 887 (12,3%); Botswana, 27 893 (6,3%); Namibia, 13 386 (3,0%); Zambia, 11 480 (2,6%) and Malawi, 9 992 (2,2%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 97,3% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in February 2011 and February 2012 shows that the number of tourists increased in six countries (Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique and Lesotho) and declined in the remaining two (Botswana and Zambia). Zimbabwe had the highest increase of 15,7% from 103 076 tourists in February 2011 to 119 292 tourists in February 2012 while Botswana had the greatest decline of 23,7% from 36 541 tourists in February 2011 to 27 893 tourists in February 2012.

The eight leading countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2012 from 'other' African countries, shown in Figure 3, were Nigeria, 5 666 (36,7%); Kenya, 2 244 (14,5%); Ghana, 1 534 (9,9%); Uganda, 1 260 (8,2%); Gabon, 653 (4,2%); Ethiopia, 607 (3,9%); Cameroon, 529 (3,4%) and Egypt, 484 (3,1%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 84,0% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in February 2011 and February 2012 shows that the number of tourists increased in seven of these countries (Egypt, Nigeria, Gabon, Cameroon, Uganda, Ghana and Kenya) while the number of tourists declined only for Ethiopia. Egypt had the highest increase of 65,8% from 292 tourists in February 2011 to 484 tourists in February 2012 while Ethiopia had a decline of 24,6% from 805 tourists in February 2011 to 607 tourists in February 2012.

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data given in Table 4, in February 2012, an overwhelming majority 616 676 (91,0%) of tourists were in South Africa for holidays compared to only 21 537 (3,2%) and 10 047 (1,5%) 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 67,0% came to South Africa for holidays. Tourists from Europe 123 588 (88,1%); North America 22 642 (83,2%); Middle East 2 697 (81,6%); Australasia 6 852 (78,9%); Central and South America 6 936 (69,7%) and Asia 17 046 (67,6%) were in South Africa mostly for holidays. Middle East and Australasia had a higher proportion (9,3% and 9,0% respectively) of their tourists in South Africa for business compared to other overseas regions.

The majority 435 210 (94,4%) of African tourists came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries namely:

- Whereas 423 782 (95,1%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holidays; 11 428 (74,0%) of tourists on holidays came from 'other' African countries. Data on the regions of 'other' African countries show that tourists on holidays constituted 6 609 (78,7%); 4 167 (69,0%) and 652 (65,1%) for West Africa; East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 956 (6,2%) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 7 567 (1,7%) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion 18,3% (183) of its tourists in South Africa for business.
- Students made up 1 417 (9,2%) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 7 220 (1,6%) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa had the highest proportion 14,2% (857) of their tourists in South Africa for study purposes.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 shows that, in February 2012, there were 390 976 (57,7%) male and 285 873 (42,2%) female tourists. The overseas tourists were made up of 122 433 (57,1%) male tourists and 91 906 (42,8%) female tourists. There were 256 547 (57,6%) male and 188 448 (42,3%) female tourists from the SADC countries. The tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 10 688 (69,2%) males and 4 748 (30,7%) 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 608 171 (89,7%) of tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years; 29 593 (4,4%) were aged less than 15 years and 39 369 (5,8%) were aged 65 years and older. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 172 659 (80,5%) of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 419 058 (94,1%) and 14 509 (94,0%) of tourists in the same age range from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries respectively.

For tourists aged less than 15 years, the overseas and 'other' African tourists had a proportion of 5,9% (12 712) and 4,5% (700) respectively while the SADC countries had a lower proportion of 3,6% (16 138). There was a higher proportion of young female tourists in comparison to young male tourists for the three regions (overseas, SADC and 'other' Africa).

A comparison of the three regions shows relatively high proportions of the elderly among both male 13,0% (15 916) and female 14,3% (13 173) tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to tourists from the SADC countries amongst which 1,8% (4 660) of males and 2,8% (5 189) of females were aged 65 years and older. Similarly among tourists from 'other' African countries, 1,4% (147) of males and 1,7% (82) of females were aged 65 years and older.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

2. Figures

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

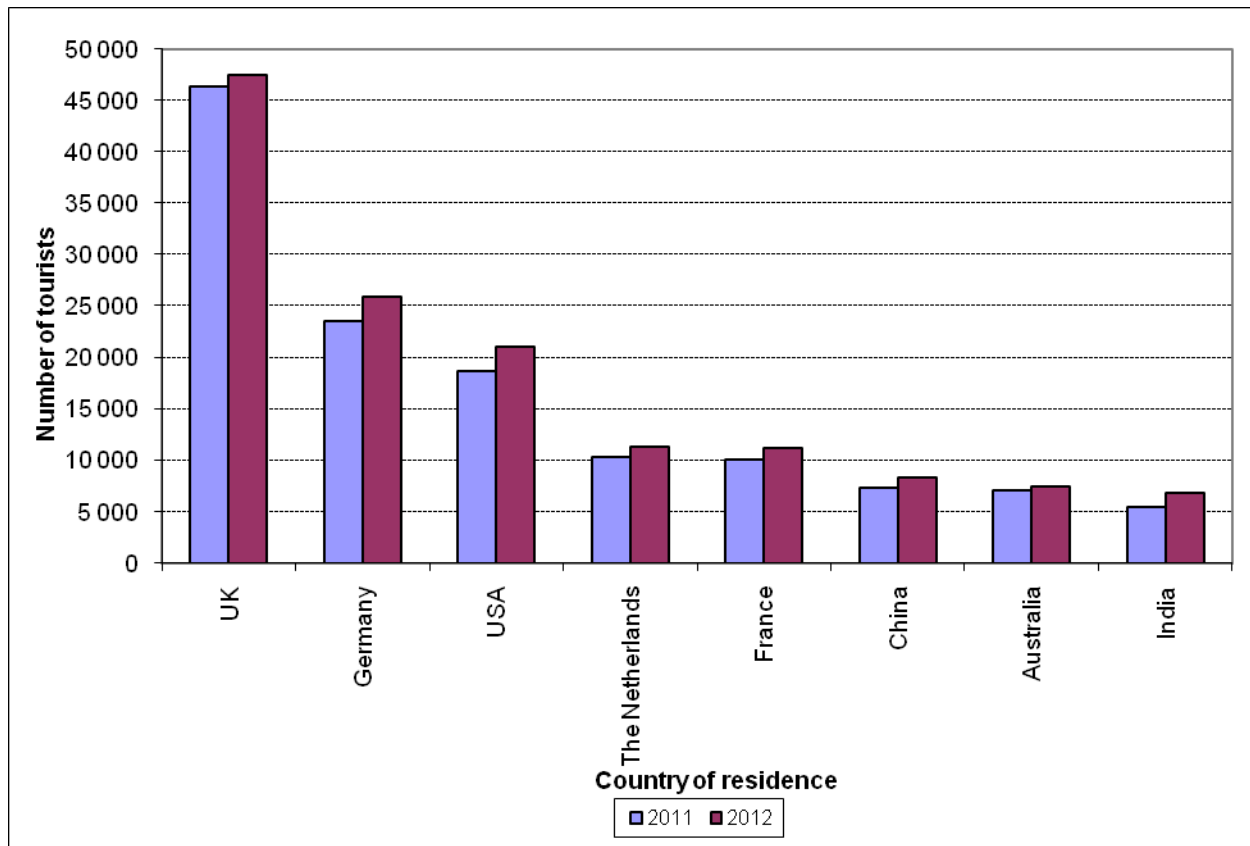


Figure 2. Number of tourists from eight leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in February 2011 and February 2012

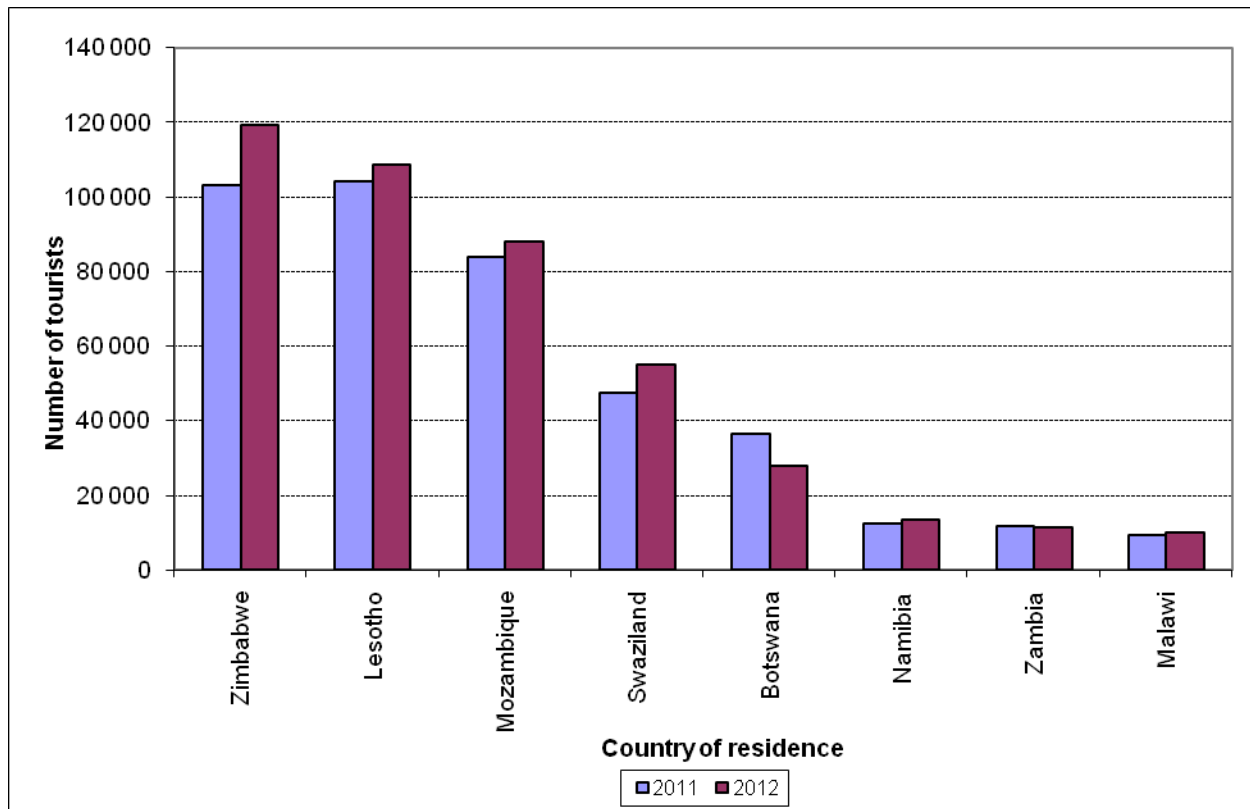
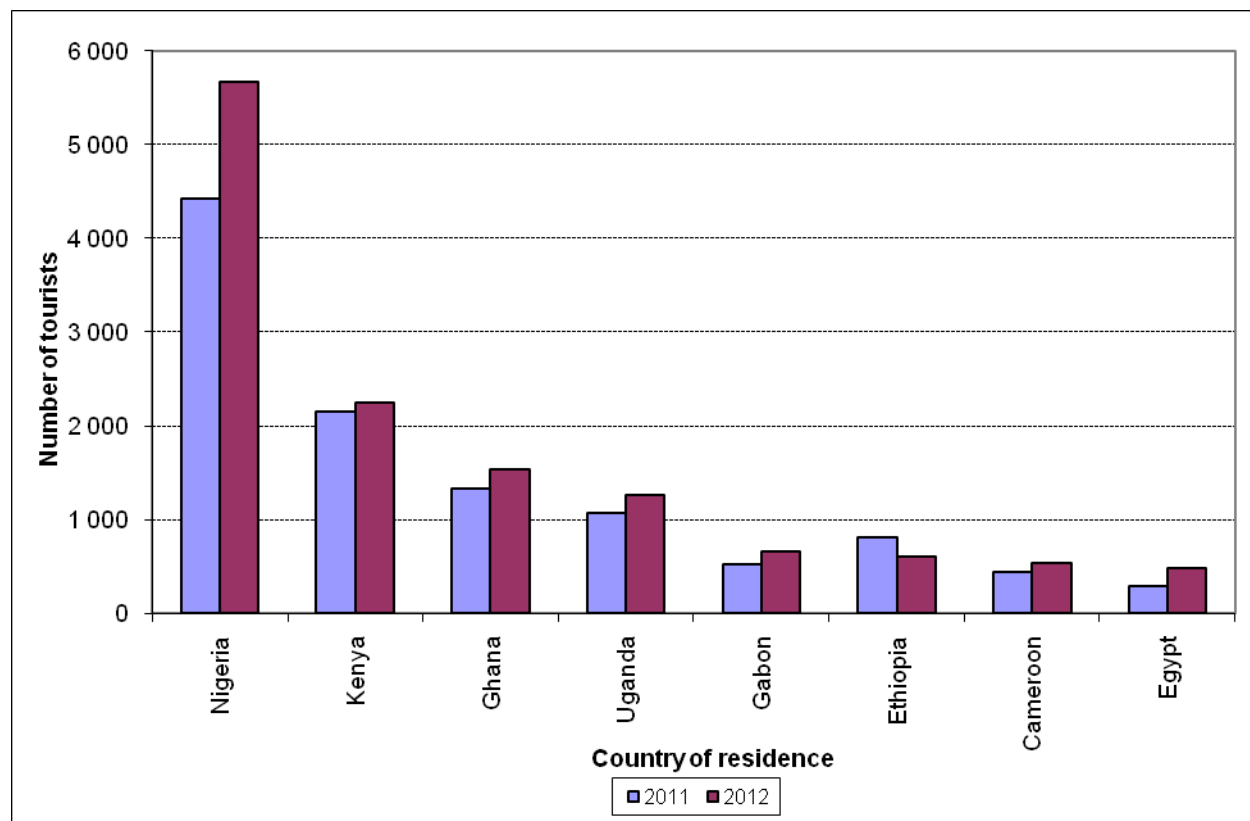


Figure 3. Number of tourists from eight leading 'other' African countries in February 2011 and February 2012



3. Tables

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

Travel direction	February	January	February	% change	
	2011	2012	2012	February 2011 - February 2012	January 2012 - February 2012
Total	2 399 008	2 972 236	2 467 403	2,9	-17,0
South African residents	711 227	876 220	627 207	-11,8	-28,4
Arrivals	351 513	526 250	311 209	-11,5	-40,9
Departures	359 714	349 970	315 998	-12,2	-9,7
Foreign travellers	1 687 781	2 096 016	1 840 196	9,0	-12,2
Arrivals	913 162	1 249 101	1 006 429	10,2	-19,4
Departures	774 619	846 915	833 767	7,6	-1,6
Foreign arrivals	913 162	1 249 101	1 006 429	10,2	-19,4
Non-visitors	14 895	87 580	53 559	259,6	-38,8
Visitors	898 267	1 161 521	952 870	6,1	-18,0
Visitors	898 267	1 161 521	952 870	6,1	-18,0
Arrivals only	316 907	576 852	359 614	13,5	-37,7
Single trips	318 894	327 065	336 324	5,5	2,8
Multiple trips	262 466	257 604	256 932	-2,1	-0,3
Visitors	898 267	1 161 521	952 870	6,1	-18,0
Same day	274 368	274 455	275 196	0,3	0,3
Overnight (tourists)	623 899	887 066	677 674	8,6	-23,6

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

Travel Direction	February		Mode of travel (February 2012)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	2 399 008	2 467 403	163 448	17 168	559 061	6 898	746 575	1 710 741	10 076	11
South African residents	711 227	627 207	28 478	10 800	180 646	4 551	224 475	399 398	3 334	-
Arrivals	351 513	311 209	14 062	5 140	88 428	2 195	109 825	199 827	1 557	-
Departures	359 714	315 998	14 416	5 660	92 218	2 356	114 650	199 571	1 777	-
Foreign travellers	1 687 781	1 840 196	134 970	6 368	378 415	2 347	522 100	1 311 343	6 742	11
Arrivals	913 162	1 006 429	68 545	3 264	210 516	1 165	283 490	719 552	3 378	9
Departures	774 619	833 767	66 425	3 104	167 899	1 182	238 610	591 791	3 364	2
Visitors	898 267	952 870	65 443	2 576	185 676	818	254 513	696 793	1 557	7
Same day	274 368	275 196	539	10	11 503	99	12 151	263 002	43	-
Overnight (tourists)	623 899	677 674	64 904	2 566	174 173	719	242 362	433 791	1 514	7

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

Country of residence	February		Mode of travel (February 2012)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	623 899	677 674	64 904	2 566	174 173	719	242 362	433 791	1 514	7
Overseas	190 865	214 594	61 861	2 314	128 463	515	193 153	19 955	1 483	3
Europe	129 438	140 230	52 320	1 782	72 223	288	126 613	13 218	399	-
Austria	2 548	2 709	1 037	71	1 350	3	2 461	245	3	-
Belgium	3 702	3 877	1 169	6	2 263	9	3 447	424	6	-
Denmark	3 143	3 406	776	21	2 245	1	3 043	356	7	-
France	10 071	11 184	3 542	99	6 329	9	9 979	1 198	7	-
Germany	23 521	25 878	9 950	226	12 809	109	23 094	2 751	33	-
Ireland	2 661	2 549	1 046	55	1 189	4	2 294	248	7	-
Italy	3 532	3 856	1 137	80	2 348	13	3 578	273	5	-
Norway	2 436	3 275	1 158	4	1 846	9	3 017	257	1	-
Portugal	3 342	3 889	341	12	2 162	5	2 520	1 369	-	-
Spain	1 444	1 664	314	2	1 220	3	1 539	123	2	-
Sweden	5 530	5 737	2 122	10	3 103	6	5 241	486	10	-
Switzerland	3 920	4 839	1 785	45	2 507	4	4 341	481	17	-
The Netherlands	10 378	11 387	4 858	57	4 898	5	9 818	1 559	10	-
UK	46 435	47 528	20 615	1 019	22 762	87	44 483	2 764	281	-
Other	6 775	8 452	2 470	75	5 192	21	7 758	684	10	-
North America	24 033	27 209	4 636	79	18 729	189	23 633	2 590	985	1
Canada	5 299	6 138	1 435	29	3 809	28	5 301	797	40	-
USA	18 734	21 071	3 201	50	14 920	161	18 332	1 793	945	1
Central and South America	6 351	9 946	363	14	8 933	9	9 319	613	14	-
Argentina	2 154	2 403	116	-	2 213	-	2 329	73	1	-
Brazil	2 954	5 894	93	10	5 369	6	5 478	412	4	-
Chile	390	456	16	1	408	2	427	29	-	-
Other	853	1 193	138	3	943	1	1 085	99	9	-

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

Country of residence	February		Mode of travel (February 2012)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Australasia	8 357	8 684	980	69	7 071	12	8 132	519	33	-
Australia	7 167	7 508	802	56	6 153	11	7 022	454	32	-
New Zealand	1 174	1 159	176	13	903	1	1 093	65	1	-
Other	16	17	2	-	15	-	17	-	-	-
Middle East	2 768	3 306	457	35	2 559	2	3 053	252	1	-
Iran	252	321	62	3	250	-	315	6	-	-
Israel	1 509	1 920	108	-	1 636	1	1 745	174	1	-
Lebanon	178	255	25	3	189	-	217	38	-	-
Other	829	810	262	29	484	1	776	34	-	-
Asia	19 918	25 219	3 105	335	18 948	15	22 403	2 763	51	2
China	7 344	8 340	1 127	58	6 616	4	7 805	523	12	-
India	5 449	6 805	944	162	4 663	1	5 770	1 027	8	-
Japan	1 404	1 959	186	8	1 670	2	1 866	89	4	-
Malaysia	588	522	153	23	326	1	503	18	1	-
Pakistan	990	1 367	61	46	858	-	965	396	5	1
Philippines	452	867	48	7	646	3	704	156	7	-
Singapore	504	632	205	5	406	1	617	13	2	-
South Korea	1 236	1 858	160	3	1 535	-	1 698	160	-	-
Taiwan	667	795	36	1	665	-	702	87	5	1
Other	1 284	2 074	185	22	1 563	3	1 773	294	7	-
Africa	431 265	460 998	2 789	251	44 658	200	47 898	413 075	21	4
SADC	418 083	445 557	2 450	182	31 271	163	34 066	411 479	12	-
Angola	2 915	4 534	466	-	3 881	9	4 356	177	1	-
Botswana	36 541	27 893	1	8	2 592	39	2 640	25 252	1	-
DRC	2 781	2 407	5	1	1 752	18	1 776	631	-	-
Lesotho	104 132	108 637	2	3	523	1	529	108 106	2	-
Madagascar	187	400	2	-	364	-	366	34	-	-

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

Country of residence	February		Mode of travel (February 2012)							
	2011	2012	Air				Total	Road	Sea	Unspecified
			Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other				
Malawi	9 227	9 992	6	-	1 499	8	1 513	8 478	1	-
Mauritius	1 234	1 412	236	102	916	-	1 254	157	1	-
Mozambique	83 959	88 166	102	57	3 032	24	3 215	84 951	-	-
Namibia	12 289	13 386	1 541	-	3 095	20	4 656	8 726	4	-
Seychelles	421	295	4	1	287	-	292	3	-	-
Swaziland	47 584	54 887	3	-	555	1	559	54 328	-	-
Tanzania	2 099	2 776	2	2	1 644	1	1 649	1 127	-	-
Zambia	11 638	11 480	26	2	3 874	12	3 914	7 565	1	-
Zimbabwe	103 076	119 292	54	6	7 257	30	7 347	111 944	1	-
'Other' Africa	13 182	15 441	339	69	13 387	37	13 832	1 596	9	4
East and Central Africa	5 768	6 040	66	7	5 217	19	5 309	727	4	-
Burundi	65	79	3	-	66	1	70	9	-	-
Cameroon	432	529	9	-	469	-	478	50	1	-
Central African Republic	13	5	-	-	4	-	4	1	-	-
Chad	12	26	1	-	23	-	24	1	1	-
Comoros	14	9	-	-	9	-	9	-	-	-
Congo	239	286	2	-	258	14	274	12	-	-
Djibouti	4	5	-	-	5	-	5	-	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	18	43	-	-	43	-	43	-	-	-
Eritrea	65	45	7	-	35	-	42	3	-	-
Ethiopia	805	607	5	5	537	-	547	60	-	-
Gabon	518	653	17	-	632	-	649	3	1	-
Kenya	2 154	2 244	14	2	1 931	4	1 951	292	1	-
Rwanda	238	222	2	-	204	-	206	16	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	7	15	1	-	14	-	15	-	-	-
Somalia	117	12	-	-	9	-	9	3	-	-
Uganda	1 067	1 260	5	-	978	-	983	277	-	-

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

Country of residence	February		Mode of travel (February 2012)							
	2011	2012	Air				Road	Sea	Unspecified	
			Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other				Total
West Africa	6 689	8 400	107	41	7 397	17	7 562	829	5	4
Benin	71	93	-	-	82	-	82	11	-	-
Burkina Faso	48	47	2	-	45	-	47	-	-	-
Cape Verde Island	36	43	4	1	32	-	37	6	-	-
Côte D'Ivoire	109	145	14	-	128	-	142	3	-	-
Gambia	37	78	-	-	75	-	75	3	-	-
Ghana	1 332	1 534	46	1	1 315	2	1 364	169	-	1
Guinea	152	220	3	1	128	-	132	84	4	-
Guinea-Bissau	16	10	-	-	6	-	6	4	-	-
Liberia	39	48	3	-	41	-	44	4	-	-
Mali	70	86	-	-	64	-	64	22	-	-
Mauritania	37	21	4	-	15	-	19	2	-	-
Niger	26	31	2	-	28	-	30	1	-	-
Nigeria	4 426	5 666	24	1	5 133	14	5 172	490	1	3
Senegal	183	243	2	34	196	-	232	11	-	-
Sierra Leone	75	89	2	3	65	-	70	19	-	-
Togo	32	46	1	-	44	1	46	-	-	-
North Africa	725	1 001	166	21	773	1	961	40	-	-
Algeria	80	73	10	-	57	-	67	6	-	-
Egypt	292	484	60	3	403	1	467	17	-	-
Libya	87	54	26	-	24	-	50	4	-	-
Morocco	93	156	47	1	97	-	145	11	-	-
The Sudan	117	167	11	17	139	-	167	-	-	-
Tunisia	56	66	12	-	53	-	65	1	-	-
Western Sahara	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	1 769	2 082	254	1	1 052	4	1 311	761	10	-

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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit (February 2012)			
	2011	2012	Holiday	Business	Study	Transit
Total	623 899	677 674	616 676	21 537	10 047	29 414
Overseas	190 865	214 594	179 761	12 879	1 367	20 587
Europe	129 438	140 230	123 588	7 948	732	7 962
Austria	2 548	2 709	2 480	98	14	117
Belgium	3 702	3 877	3 431	232	38	176
Denmark	3 143	3 406	2 982	119	9	296
France	10 071	11 184	9 836	708	52	588
Germany	23 521	25 878	23 278	1 477	183	940
Ireland	2 661	2 549	2 211	179	12	147
Italy	3 532	3 856	3 088	378	12	378
Norway	2 436	3 275	2 884	81	52	258
Portugal	3 342	3 889	3 135	135	14	605
Spain	1 444	1 664	1 234	204	8	218
Sweden	5 530	5 737	4 956	283	26	472
Switzerland	3 920	4 839	4 410	137	23	269
The Netherlands	10 378	11 387	10 519	410	131	327
UK	46 435	47 528	42 135	2 903	128	2 362
Other	6 775	8 452	7 009	604	30	809
North America	24 033	27 209	22 642	1 680	182	2 705
Canada	5 299	6 138	5 122	418	31	567
USA	18 734	21 071	17 520	1 262	151	2 138
Central and South America	6 351	9 946	6 936	254	93	2 663
Argentina	2 154	2 403	2 072	29	4	298
Brazil	2 954	5 894	3 732	123	55	1 984
Chile	390	456	384	6	1	65
Other	853	1 193	748	96	33	316

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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit (February 2012)			
	2011	2012	Holiday	Business	Study	Transit
Australasia	8 357	8 684	6 852	778	24	1 030
Australia	7 167	7 508	5 866	708	19	915
New Zealand	1 174	1 159	976	70	5	108
Other	16	17	10	-	-	7
Middle East	2 768	3 306	2 697	308	45	256
Iran	252	321	286	19	12	4
Israel	1 509	1 920	1 603	154	1	162
Lebanon	178	255	173	29	3	50
Other	829	810	635	106	29	40
Asia	19 918	25 219	17 046	1 911	291	5 971
China	7 344	8 340	5 482	455	72	2 331
India	5 449	6 805	5 044	713	87	961
Japan	1 404	1 959	1 255	228	3	473
Malaysia	588	522	348	72	7	95
Pakistan	990	1 367	1 035	83	17	232
Philippines	452	867	370	17	30	450
Singapore	504	632	440	93	-	99
South Korea	1 236	1 858	1 405	109	46	298
Taiwan	667	795	486	22	2	285
Other	1 284	2 074	1 181	119	27	747
Africa	431 265	460 998	435 210	8 523	8 637	8 628
SADC	418 083	445 557	423 782	7 567	7 220	6 988
Angola	2 915	4 534	3 562	74	304	594
Botswana	36 541	27 893	25 935	213	816	929
DRC	2 781	2 407	1 983	76	219	129
Lesotho	104 132	108 637	106 430	76	1 948	183
Madagascar	187	400	267	10	16	107

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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit (February 2012)			
	2011	2012	Holiday	Business	Study	Transit
Malawi	9 227	9 992	9 227	290	187	288
Mauritius	1 234	1 412	1 069	107	97	139
Mozambique	83 959	88 166	86 071	956	113	1 026
Namibia	12 289	13 386	9 837	2 312	523	714
Seychelles	421	295	257	16	13	9
Swaziland	47 584	54 887	52 591	1 059	1 024	213
Tanzania	2 099	2 776	2 096	114	186	380
Zambia	11 638	11 480	9 463	874	319	824
Zimbabwe	103 076	119 292	114 994	1 390	1 455	1 453
'Other' Africa	13 182	15 441	11 428	956	1 417	1 640
East and Central Africa	5 768	6 040	4 167	415	857	601
Burundi	65	79	62	4	4	9
Cameroon	432	529	307	24	149	49
Central African Republic	13	5	3	-	2	-
Chad	12	26	20	3	1	2
Comoros	14	9	7	-	1	1
Congo	239	286	219	10	37	20
Djibouti	4	5	3	-	-	2
Equatorial Guinea	18	43	14	3	26	-
Eritrea	65	45	37	4	1	3
Ethiopia	805	607	498	38	32	39
Gabon	518	653	446	6	173	28
Kenya	2 154	2 244	1 567	231	248	198
Rwanda	238	222	124	22	40	36
Sao Tome and Principe	7	15	13	1	-	1
Somalia	117	12	8	2	-	2
Uganda	1 067	1 260	839	67	143	211

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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit (February 2012)			
	2011	2012	Holiday	Business	Study	Transit
West Africa	6 689	8 400	6 609	358	492	941
Benin	71	93	77	6	4	6
Burkina Faso	48	47	29	12	1	5
Cape Verde Island	36	43	34	2	1	6
Côte D'Ivoire	109	145	82	23	9	31
Gambia	37	78	27	1	-	50
Ghana	1 332	1 534	1 237	97	48	152
Guinea	152	220	152	8	5	55
Guinea-Bissau	16	10	7	-	-	3
Liberia	39	48	34	4	8	2
Mali	70	86	58	9	4	15
Mauritania	37	21	13	7	-	1
Niger	26	31	22	6	1	2
Nigeria	4 426	5 666	4 576	150	405	535
Senegal	183	243	163	25	3	52
Sierra Leone	75	89	68	6	3	12
Togo	32	46	30	2	-	14
North Africa	725	1 001	652	183	68	98
Algeria	80	73	50	11	4	8
Egypt	292	484	320	89	15	60
Libya	87	54	27	6	19	2
Morocco	93	156	96	41	2	17
The Sudan	117	167	114	20	27	6
Tunisia	56	66	44	16	1	5
Western Sahara	-	1	1	-	-	-
Unspecified	1 769	2 082	1 705	135	43	199

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

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (February 2012)			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	677 674	214 594	445 557	15 441	2 082
	<15	29 593	12 712	16 138	700	43
	15 - 64	608 171	172 659	419 058	14 509	1 945
	65+	39 369	29 153	9 896	229	91
	Unspecified	541	70	465	3	3
Male	Total	390 976	122 433	256 547	10 688	1 308
	<15	14 886	6 609	7 889	370	18
	15 - 64	355 031	99 871	243 759	10 170	1 231
	65+	20 781	15 916	4 660	147	58
	Unspecified	278	37	239	1	1
Female	Total	285 873	91 906	188 448	4 748	771
	<15	14 707	6 103	8 249	330	25
	15 - 64	252 494	72 607	174 839	4 336	712
	65+	18 477	13 173	5 189	82	33
	Unspecified	195	23	171	-	1
Unspecified	Total	825	255	562	5	3
	<15	-	-	-	-	-
	15 - 64	646	181	460	3	2
	65+	111	64	47	-	-
	Unspecified	68	10	55	2	1

4. Explanatory notes

4.1 Introduction

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

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

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

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

4.2 Purpose of the statistical release

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

4.3 Scope and coverage

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

4.4 Data

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

- Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all road, air and sea entry ports on all travellers (South African residents and foreign travellers) arriving into or departing from South Africa are captured into the DHA's population Movement Control System (MCS). The counts/statistics relate to the number of individual movements, rather than to the number of people. Hence, the multiple movements of individual people during the calendar month are each counted separately. Generally the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the port's electronic database. No forms or cards are used (except in rare occasions when the capturing system is down) to collect information from travellers. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA.
- Stats SA downloads the data covering a particular calendar month from the mainframe of the State Information Technology Agency (SITA), where the DHA stores its data.
- As part of data interrogation, data from the OR Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airport Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA has been accompanied by an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern was also observed when the volume of travellers decreased. However, the volume of passengers recorded by ACSA is generally higher than that of the DHA because of, among other reasons, travellers who are in transit and those who boarded airplanes but refused entry into the country. In February 2012, the DHA data was 4,6% 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
- + = and above

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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