



The South Africa I know, the home I understand

Statistical release

P0351

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Preface

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in February 2014. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country during this month. The tourists are classified by region and nationality. Details of their mode of travel; purpose of visit; and age and sex distribution are also provided.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

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 2 891 803 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through South African ports of entry in February 2014. As presented in Table 1 on page 8, these travellers were made up of 633 333 South African residents and 2 258 470 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 310 703 arrivals, 322 126 departures and 504 transit travellers. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers were 1 160 486, 1 054 618 and 43 366, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in January 2014 and February 2014 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents decreased by 45,5% (from 570 578 in January 2014 to 310 703 in February 2014) while departures decreased by 14,4% (from 376 258 in January 2014 to 322 126 in February 2014). South African residents in transit decreased by 16,4% (from 603 in January 2014 to 504 in February 2014). Foreign arrivals decreased by 21,0% (from 1 468 288 in January 2014 to 1 160 486 in February 2014) and foreign departures decreased by 7,9% (from 1 144 878 in January 2014 to 1 054 618 in February 2014). Foreign travellers in transit decreased by 21,8% (from 55 457 in January 2014 to 43 366 in February 2014).

Detailed information on the departures of travellers is not available in the movement control system. Data on the purpose of travel and the number of days South African residents intend to spend or spent abroad are not collected by the DHA. Hence, it is not possible to categorise South African residents as tourists and non-tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation.

As presented in Table 1, in February 2014, 56 809 (4,9%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 103 677 (95,1%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. arrivals only – comprising of visitors who entered the country in February 2014 but did not depart in February 2014 [364 175 (33,0%)];
- ii. single trips – visitors who came once in February 2014 and left in February 2014 [417 191 (37,8%)]; and
- iii. multiple trips – visitors who came and left more than once in February 2014 [322 311 (29,2%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In February 2014, there were 369 555 (33,5%) same-day visitors and 734 122 (66,5%) tourists. Between January 2014 and February 2014, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 10,8% (from 414 453 in January 2014 to 369 555 in February 2014) and tourists decreased by 22,7% (from 949 403 in January 2014 to 734 122 in February 2014).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 9 show that in February 2014, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 065 197 (71,4%) out of the 2 891 803 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 817 930 (28,3%). The arrivals data for South African residents show that 104 557 (33,7%) came by air and 205 839 (66,2%) came by road. For departures, 109 437 (34,0%) and 212 285 (65,9%) used air and road transport respectively. All travellers in transit used air transport (504).

In the case of foreign travellers, 286 971 (24,7%) arrived by air while those who came by road were 870 225 (75,0%). When departing South Africa, 273 097 (25,9%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 776 846 (73,7%) left by road. A total of 43 364 out of 43 366 transit travellers used air transport. Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [356 404 (96,4%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 13 118 (3,5%) same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that, 486 043 (66,2%) used road transport while 247 808 (33,8%) came by air.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel

The nationality¹ of tourists is used to categorise them according to their respective countries and regions. Information on the specific region and nationality of the tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on page 10. In February 2014, 198 445 (89,4%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 23 239 (10,5%) 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 [461 296 (93,0%)]. Only 34 496 (7,0%) tourists from the SADC countries came in by air. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 14 282 (91,2%); with 1 376 (8,8%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In February 2014, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows; Europe, 151 113 (68,1%); North America, 26 727 (12,0%); Asia, 26 100 (11,8%); Australasia, 8 553 (3,9%); Central and South America, 6 420 (2,9%); and Middle East, 3 032 (1,4%). Virtually all tourists from Africa came from the SADC countries, [495 801 (96,9%)]. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, [8 583 (1,7%)]; East and Central Africa, 5 954 (1,2%) and North Africa 1 122 (0,2%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 6 indicate that the United Kingdom (UK), 45 841 (20,7%); Germany, 32 595 (14,7%); United States of America (USA), 20 930 (9,4%); France, 13 371 (6,0%); The Netherlands, 12 295 (5,5%); China, 11 457 (5,2%); Australia, 7 363 (3,3%); India, 6 707 (3,0%); Sweden, 5 970 (2,7%) and Switzerland, 5 802 (2,6%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in February 2014. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 73,1% of all tourists from overseas countries.

The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2014 were Zimbabwe, 145 394 (29,3%); Lesotho, 104 430 (21,1%); Mozambique, 96 306 (19,4%); Swaziland, 62 701 (12,6%); Botswana, 35 274 (7,1%); Zambia, 13 784 (2,8%); Namibia, 13 283 (2,7%); Malawi, 11 749 (2,4%); Angola, 5 271 (1,1%) and Tanzania, 2 774 (0,6%) (see Figure 2 on page 6). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,0% of all tourists from the SADC countries.

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2014 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 7, were Nigeria, 5 680 (36,3%); Kenya, 2 284 (14,6%); Ghana, 1 788 (11,4%); Uganda, 1 192 (7,6%); Gabon, 705 (4,5%); Ethiopia, 611 (3,9%); Egypt, 527 (3,4%); Cameroon, 347 (2,2%); Congo, 307 (2,0%) and Rwanda, 237 (1,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 87,3% of all tourists from 'other' African countries.

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on page 14, in February 2014, a majority of tourists [699 139 (95,2%)] were in South Africa for holidays compared with only 28 239 (3,8%) and 6 744 (0,9%) of tourists who were in South Africa for business and for study purposes respectively. A detailed analysis reveals that of all the tourists from each of the overseas regions, at least 90,0% came to South Africa for holidays. A total of 6 245 (97,3%) tourists from Central and South America; 144 693 (95,8%) from Europe; 25 469 (95,3%) from North America; 8 101 (94,7%) from Australasia; 24 431 (93,6%) from Asia and 2 748 (90,6%) from Middle East were in South Africa for holidays. Middle East (8,2%) and Asia (5,6%) had a higher proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business. Middle East (1,1%) had a higher proportion of student tourists compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists [486 769 (95,2%)] came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries namely:

¹The nationality of travel document is used instead of country of residence as done in releases for 2013 and earlier (see page 20)

- Whereas 473 062 (95,4%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holidays; 13 707 (87,5%) of tourists from 'other' African countries came for the same purpose. Data on the regions of 'other' African countries show that tourists on holidays constituted 91,3% (7 832); 83,6% (4 976) and 80,1% (899) for West Africa; East and central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 5,1% (794) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 3,7% (18 201) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion of 11,5% (129) of its tourists in South Africa for business.
- Students made up 7,4% (1 158) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,9% (4 538) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa had the highest proportion [10,8% (643)] of student tourists in South Africa.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 18 shows that in February 2014, there were 423 035 (57,6%) male and 311 084 (42,4%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 123 388 (55,6%) male tourists and 98 557 (44,4%) female tourists. There were 288 553 (58,2%) male and 207 245 (41,8%) female tourists from the SADC countries. The tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 10 645 (68,0%) males and 5 014 (32,0%) females.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into three broad groups: those younger than 15 years, 15 to 64 years, and 65 years and older. The overall results presented in Table 5 show that 33 455 (4,6%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 657 588 (89,6%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 43 078 (5,9%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of nationality into consideration, the results further show that 176 012 (79,3%) of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 466 111 (94,0%) and 14 756 (94,2%) of tourists in the same age range from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries respectively. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was slightly higher among tourists from overseas [5,9% (13 167)] than among tourists from SADC countries [4,0% (19 633)] and those from 'other' African countries [4,2% (654)].

A comparison of the three regions shows relatively high proportions of the elderly among both male [14,3% (17 588)] and female [15,4% (15 178)] tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to the pattern observed among tourists from the other two regions. Thus, 1,5% (4 463) of male and 2,7% (5 593) of female tourists from the SADC countries were aged 65 years and older. Likewise 1,5% (157) of male and 1,8% (92) of female tourists from 'other' African countries were aged 65 years and older.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in February 2014

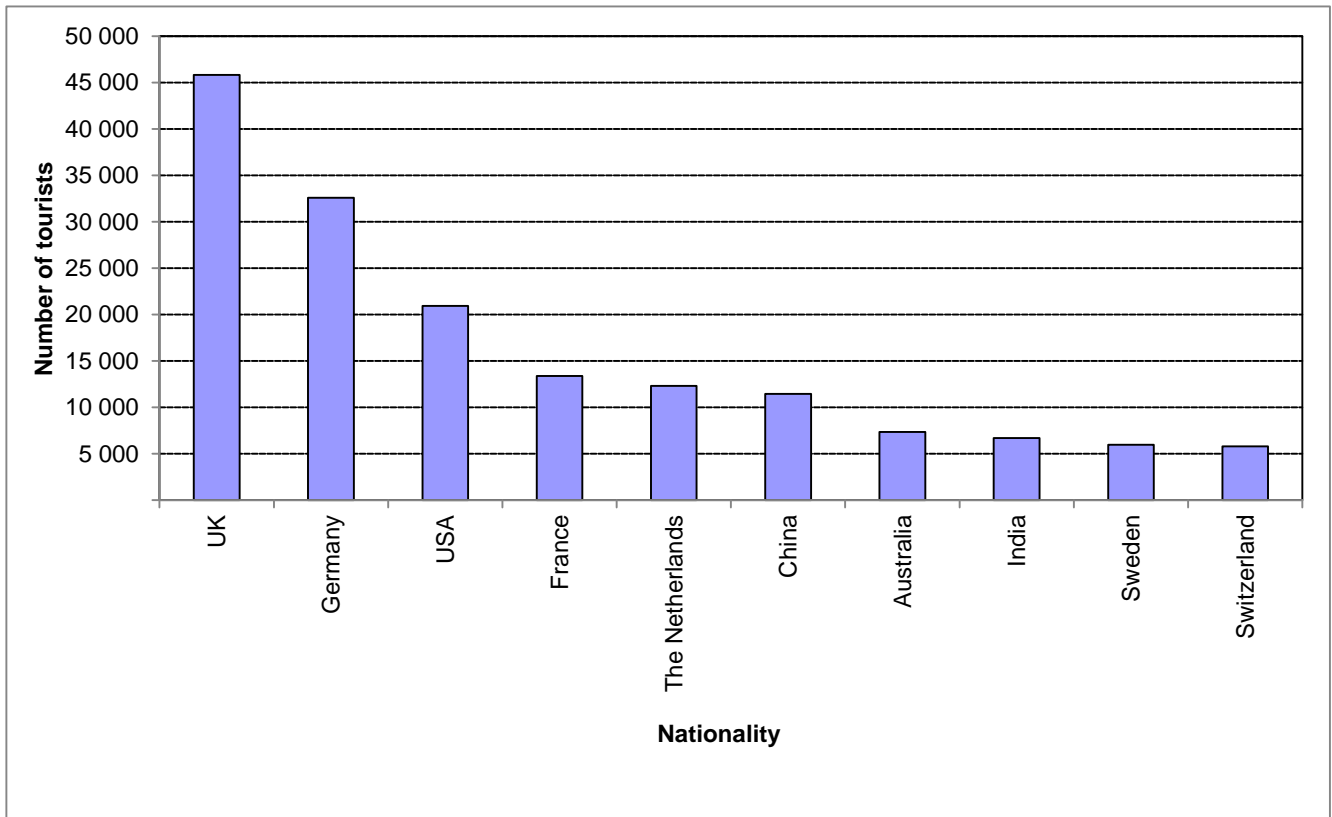


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in February 2014

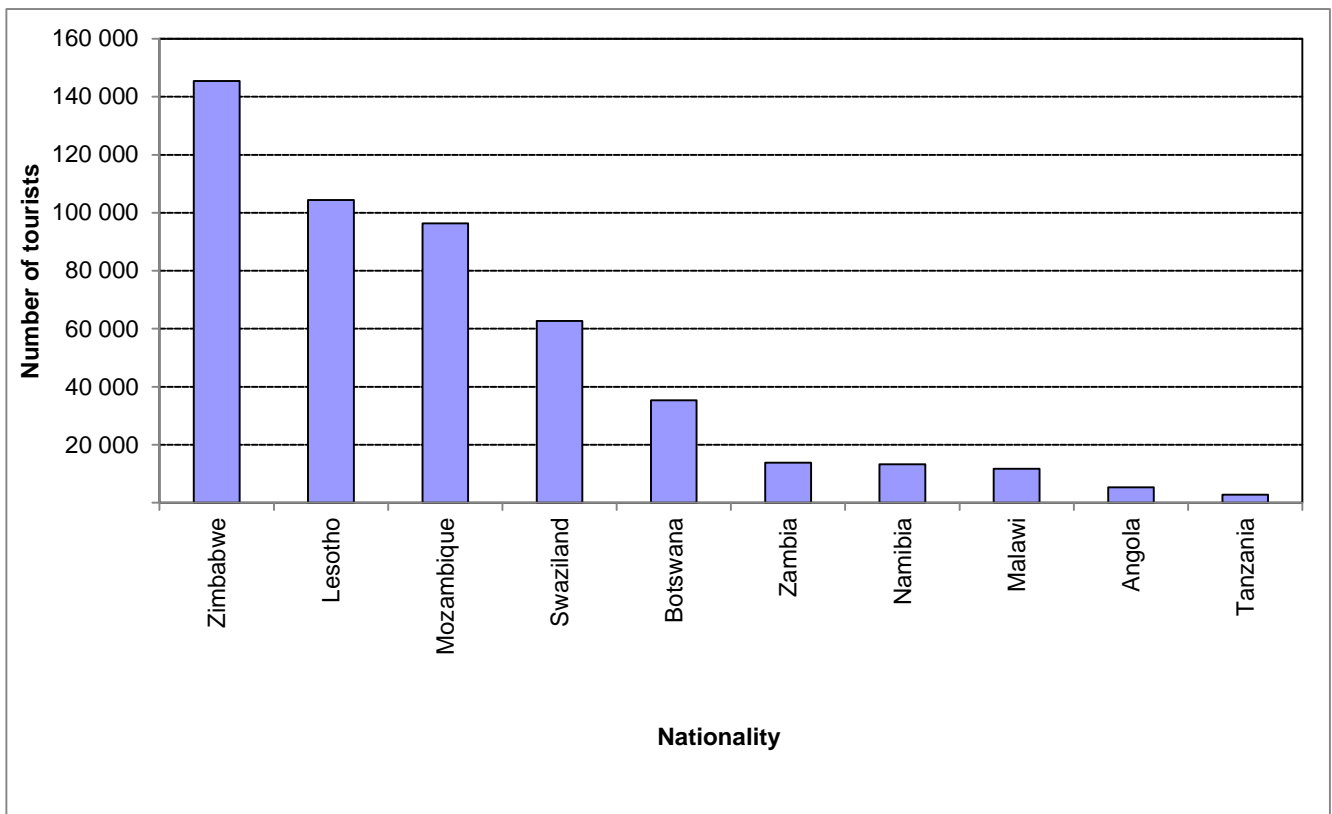
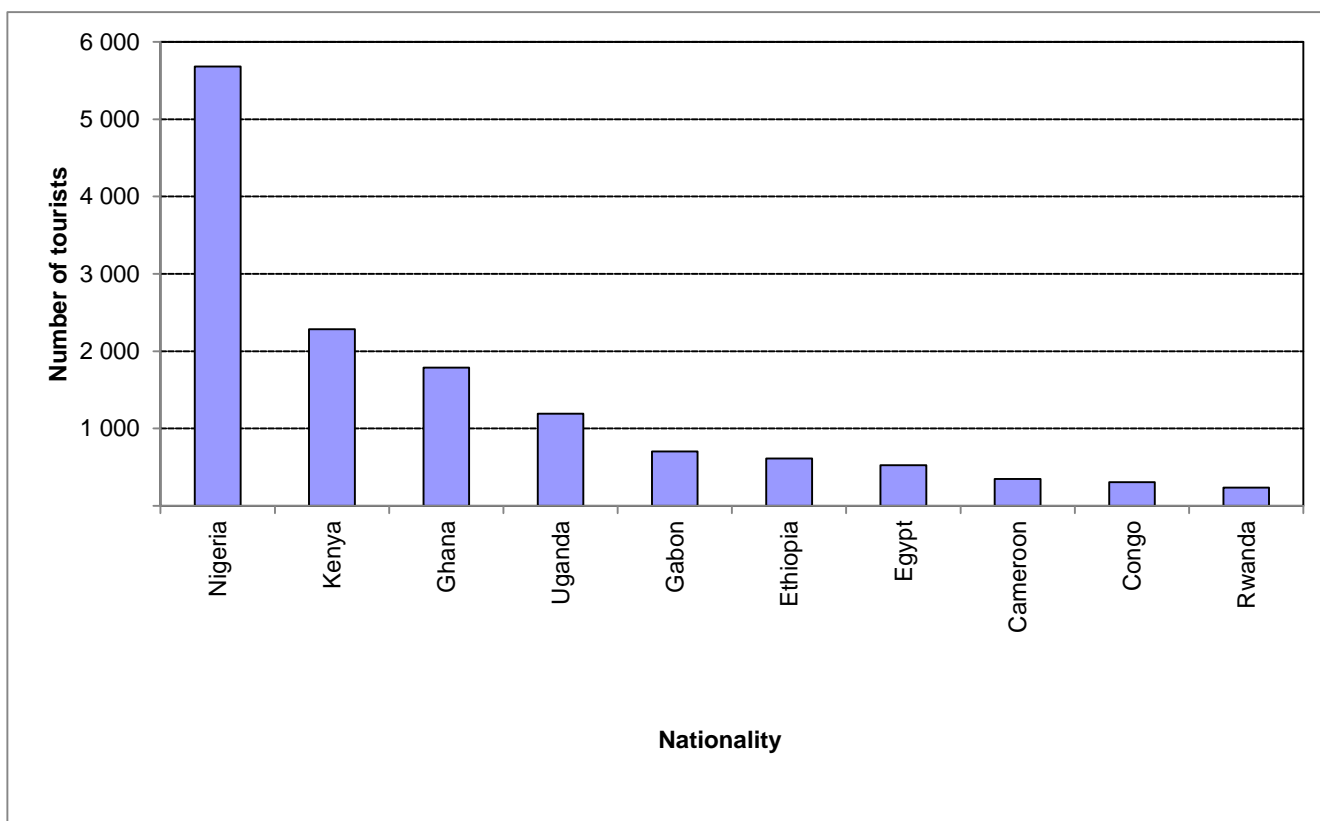


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading ‘other’ African countries in February 2014



3. Tables

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

Travel direction	January	February	% change
	2014	2014	January 2014–February 2014
Total	3 616 062	2 891 803	-20,0
South African residents	947 439	633 333	-33,2
Arrivals	570 578	310 703	-45,5
Departures	376 258	322 126	-14,4
Transit	603	504	-16,4
Foreign travellers	2 668 623	2 258 470	-15,4
Arrivals	1 468 288	1 160 486	-21,0
Departures	1 144 878	1 054 618	-7,9
Transit	55 457	43 366	-21,8
Foreign arrivals	1 468 288	1 160 486	-21,0
Non-visitors	104 432	56 809	-45,6
Visitors	1 363 856	1 103 677	-19,1
Visitors	1 363 856	1 103 677	-19,1
Arrivals only	578 113	364 175	-37,0
Single trips	418 664	417 191	-0,4
Multiple trips	367 079	322 311	-12,2
Visitors	1 363 856	1 103 677	-19,1
Same day	414 453	369 555	-10,8
Overnight (tourists)	949 403	734 122	-22,7

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

Travel Direction	Total	Mode of travel (February 2014)							
		Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	2 891 803	168 146	21 090	623 559	5 135	817 930	2 065 197	7 684	992
South African residents	633 333	25 408	11 343	174 529	3 218	214 498	418 124	340	371
Arrivals	310 703	12 633	5 372	84 956	1 596	104 557	205 839	137	170
Departures	322 126	12 775	5 971	89 069	1 622	109 437	212 285	203	201
Transit	504	-	-	504	-	504	-	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 258 470	142 738	9 747	449 030	1 917	603 432	1 647 073	7 344	621
Arrivals	1 160 486	71 914	4 915	209 152	990	286 971	870 225	3 016	274
Departures	1 054 618	70 824	4 832	196 514	927	273 097	776 846	4 328	347
Transit	43 366	-	-	43 364	-	43 364	2	-	-
Visitors	1 103 677	67 669	3 593	189 149	515	260 926	842 447	37	267
Same day	369 555	427	8	12 620	63	13 118	356 404	8	25
Overnight (tourists)	734 122	67 242	3 585	176 529	452	247 808	486 043	29	242

Table 3 – Number of tourists by nationality and mode of travel

Nationality	Total	Mode of travel (February 2014)							
		Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	734 122	67 242	3 585	176 529	452	247 808	486 043	29	242
Overseas	221 945	63 854	3 064	131 258	269	198 445	23 239	28	233
Europe	151 113	52 874	2 462	79 552	190	135 078	15 970	6	59
Austria	3 204	1 050	153	1 716	6	2 925	275	-	4
Belgium	3 949	1 182	22	2 275	14	3 493	456	-	-
Denmark	3 940	1 054	80	2 472	1	3 607	331	-	2
France	13 371	4 168	109	7 024	12	11 313	2 051	-	7
Germany	32 595	10 485	243	17 964	66	28 758	3 834	1	2
Ireland	2 699	1 068	70	1 313	2	2 453	244	-	2
Italy	4 222	1 344	79	2 498	5	3 926	295	1	-
Norway	2 909	1 068	5	1 500	-	2 573	336	-	-
Portugal	3 556	465	26	1 681	6	2 178	1 377	-	1
Spain	1 668	389	23	1 115	1	1 528	140	-	-
Sweden	5 970	2 146	48	3 147	2	5 343	619	-	8
Switzerland	5 802	2 234	165	2 752	13	5 164	635	-	3
The Netherlands	12 295	4 792	157	5 428	19	10 396	1 898	1	-
UK	45 841	18 364	1 132	23 599	38	43 133	2 676	3	29
Other	9 092	3 065	150	5 068	5	8 288	803	-	1
North America	26 727	4 753	130	18 719	50	23 652	2 933	1	141
Canada	5 797	1 427	45	3 498	10	4 980	807	-	10
USA	20 930	3 326	85	15 221	40	18 672	2 126	1	131
Central and South America	6 420	238	16	5 590	1	5 845	564	2	9
Argentina	1 698	15	1	1 625	-	1 641	57	-	-
Brazil	3 245	99	6	2 756	1	2 862	380	-	3
Chile	403	16	1	362	-	379	24	-	-
Other	1 074	108	8	847	-	963	103	2	6

Table 3 – Number of tourists by nationality and mode of travel (continued)

Nationality	Total	Mode of travel (February 2014)							
		Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total			
Australasia	8 553	887	140	6 862	11	7 900	639	-	14
Australia	7 363	710	114	5 964	11	6 799	552	-	12
New Zealand	1 174	175	26	884	-	1 085	87	-	2
Other	16	2	-	14	-	16	-	-	-
Middle East	3 032	465	13	2 351	6	2 835	197	-	-
Iran	292	67	-	215	-	282	10	-	-
Israel	1 634	115	-	1 385	5	1 505	129	-	-
Saudi Arabia	366	72	1	293	-	366	-	-	-
Other	740	211	12	458	1	682	58	-	-
Asia	26 100	4 637	303	18 184	11	23 135	2 936	19	10
China	11 457	2 353	38	8 386	-	10 777	680	-	-
India	6 707	943	170	4 576	10	5 699	981	19	8
Japan	1 682	193	16	1 351	1	1 561	121	-	-
Malaysia	581	263	12	288	-	563	18	-	-
Pakistan	1 257	182	31	563	-	776	481	-	-
Philippines	391	92	7	195	-	294	97	-	-
Singapore	652	260	-	374	-	634	16	-	2
South Korea	1 387	108	5	1 104	-	1 217	170	-	-
Taiwan	505	26	-	377	-	403	102	-	-
Other	1 481	217	24	970	-	1 211	270	-	-
Africa	511 460	3 366	520	44 709	183	48 778	462 672	1	9
SADC	495 801	2 938	465	30 925	168	34 496	461 296	1	8
Angola	5 271	808	1	4 261	11	5 081	190	-	-
Botswana	35 274	176	-	1 942	72	2 190	33 081	-	3
DRC	2 382	9	-	1 801	3	1 813	569	-	-
Lesotho	104 430	2	-	379	1	382	104 048	-	-
Madagascar	239	-	-	222	1	223	15	1	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by nationality and mode of travel (continued)

Nationality	Total	Mode of travel (February 2014)							
		Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total			
Malawi	11 749	1	2	1 373	8	1 384	10 365	-	-
Mauritius	1 512	268	95	994	-	1 357	155	-	-
Mozambique	96 306	129	47	3 128	8	3 312	92 990	-	4
Namibia	13 283	1 452	-	2 532	16	4 000	9 283	-	-
Seychelles	702	-	1	699	-	700	2	-	-
Swaziland	62 701	-	1	454	2	457	62 244	-	-
Tanzania	2 774	11	1	1 601	5	1 618	1 156	-	-
Zambia	13 784	14	150	3 789	12	3 965	9 819	-	-
Zimbabwe	145 394	68	167	7 750	29	8 014	137 379	-	1
'Other' African	15 659	428	55	13 784	15	14 282	1 376	-	1
East and Central Africa	5 954	69	13	5 225	9	5 316	637	-	1
Burundi	78	-	-	68	-	68	10	-	-
Cameroon	347	2	2	303	-	307	40	-	-
Central African Republic	11	-	-	11	-	11	-	-	-
Chad	48	-	-	47	1	48	-	-	-
Comoros	13	-	-	7	-	7	6	-	-
Congo	307	11	-	280	6	297	10	-	-
Djibouti	3	-	-	2	-	2	1	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	53	3	-	50	-	53	-	-	-
Eritrea	41	1	4	34	-	39	2	-	-
Ethiopia	611	10	3	540	-	553	58	-	-
Gabon	705	6	-	697	-	703	2	-	-
Kenya	2 284	25	2	1 994	2	2 023	260	-	1
Reunion	2	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Rwanda	237	2	-	216	-	218	19	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	9	-	-	9	-	9	-	-	-
Somalia	13	2	-	10	-	12	1	-	-
Uganda	1 192	5	2	957	-	964	228	-	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by nationality and mode of travel (concluded)

Nationality	Total	Mode of travel (February 2014)							
		Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total			
West Africa	8 583	95	9	7 798	6	7 908	675	-	-
Benin	160	4	-	151	-	155	5	-	-
Burkina Faso	54	3	-	50	-	53	1	-	-
Cape Verde Island	52	6	-	40	-	46	6	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	175	3	-	168	-	171	4	-	-
Gambia	30	-	1	26	-	27	3	-	-
Ghana	1 788	29	7	1 606	1	1 643	145	-	-
Guinea	174	-	-	71	-	71	103	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	6	-	-	2	-	2	4	-	-
Liberia	44	4	-	38	-	42	2	-	-
Mali	76	2	-	54	-	56	20	-	-
Mauritania	16	1	-	14	-	15	1	-	-
Niger	39	6	-	33	-	39	-	-	-
Nigeria	5 680	32	-	5 285	5	5 322	358	-	-
Senegal	199	3	-	183	-	186	13	-	-
Sierra Leone	62	2	1	50	-	53	9	-	-
Togo	28	-	-	27	-	27	1	-	-
North Africa	1 122	264	33	761	-	1 058	64	-	-
Algeria	99	22	9	63	-	94	5	-	-
Egypt	527	83	10	410	-	503	24	-	-
Libya	134	61	4	47	-	112	22	-	-
Morocco	121	31	7	74	-	112	9	-	-
South Sudan	61	-	-	58	-	58	3	-	-
The Sudan	69	16	2	50	-	68	1	-	-
Tunisia	110	51	1	58	-	110	-	-	-
Western Sahara	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Unspecified	717	22	1	562	-	585	132	-	-

Table 4 – Number of tourists by nationality and purpose of visit

Nationality	Total	Purpose of visit (February 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
Total	734 122	28 239	699 139	6 744
Overseas	221 945	9 210	211 687	1 048
Europe	151 113	5 812	144 693	608
Austria	3 204	78	3 123	3
Belgium	3 949	152	3 759	38
Denmark	3 940	109	3 824	7
France	13 371	556	12 761	54
Germany	32 595	961	31 503	131
Ireland	2 699	125	2 564	10
Italy	4 222	333	3 870	19
Norway	2 909	60	2 844	5
Portugal	3 556	121	3 417	18
Spain	1 668	186	1 474	8
Sweden	5 970	173	5 781	16
Switzerland	5 802	82	5 701	19
The Netherlands	12 295	403	11 764	128
UK	45 841	2 011	43 712	118
Other	9 092	462	8 596	34
North America	26 727	1 130	25 469	128
Canada	5 797	210	5 566	21
USA	20 930	920	19 903	107
Central and South America	6 420	137	6 245	38
Argentina	1 698	16	1 680	2
Brazil	3 245	65	3 160	20
Chile	403	5	395	3
Other	1 074	51	1 010	13

Table 4 – Number of tourists by nationality and purpose of visit (continued)

Nationality	Total	Purpose of visit (February 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	8 553	429	8 101	23
Australia	7 363	383	6 961	19
New Zealand	1 174	45	1 128	1
Other	16	1	12	3
Middle East	3 032	250	2 748	34
Iran	292	20	262	10
Israel	1 634	110	1 518	6
Saudi Arabia	366	15	344	7
Other	740	105	624	11
Asia	26 100	1 452	24 431	217
China	11 457	296	11 113	48
India	6 707	662	5 959	86
Japan	1 682	184	1 497	1
Malaysia	581	33	546	2
Pakistan	1 257	50	1 195	12
Philippines	391	22	359	10
Singapore	652	40	612	-
South Korea	1 387	59	1 300	28
Taiwan	505	12	485	8
Other	1 481	94	1 365	22
Africa	511 460	18 995	486 769	5 696
SADC	495 801	18 201	473 062	4 538
Angola	5 271	79	4 840	352
Botswana	35 274	470	34 248	556
DRC	2 382	81	2 106	195
Lesotho	104 430	2 184	101 562	684
Madagascar	239	22	199	18

Table 4 – Number of tourists by nationality and purpose of visit (continued)

Nationality	Total	Purpose of visit (February 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
Malawi	11 749	201	11 430	118
Mauritius	1 512	75	1 350	87
Mozambique	96 306	8 573	87 662	71
Namibia	13 283	2 346	10 440	497
Seychelles	702	7	677	18
Swaziland	62 701	521	61 615	565
Tanzania	2 774	83	2 554	137
Zambia	13 784	1 031	12 516	237
Zimbabwe	145 394	2 528	141 863	1 003
'Other' African	15 659	794	13 707	1 158
East and Central Africa	5 954	335	4 976	643
Burundi	78	2	72	4
Cameroon	347	18	274	55
Central African Republic	11	1	10	-
Chad	48	2	41	5
Comoros	13	-	12	1
Congo	307	8	263	36
Djibouti	3	-	3	-
Equatorial Guinea	53	-	34	19
Eritrea	41	2	39	-
Ethiopia	611	42	539	30
Gabon	705	8	580	117
Kenya	2 284	164	1 872	248
Reunion	2	-	2	-
Rwanda	237	5	196	36
Sao Tome and Principe	9	-	9	-
Somalia	13	-	12	1
Uganda	1 192	83	1 018	91

Table 4 – Number of tourists by nationality and purpose of visit (concluded)

Nationality	Total	Purpose of visit (February 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	8 583	330	7 832	421
Benin	160	8	147	5
Burkina Faso	54	11	42	1
Cape Verde Island	52	-	51	1
Côte d'Ivoire	175	18	146	11
Gambia	30	1	29	-
Ghana	1 788	69	1 657	62
Guinea	174	6	163	5
Guinea-Bissau	6	-	6	-
Liberia	44	5	36	3
Mali	76	5	69	2
Mauritania	16	2	14	-
Niger	39	5	33	1
Nigeria	5 680	175	5 182	323
Senegal	199	14	184	1
Sierra Leone	62	6	53	3
Togo	28	5	20	3
North Africa	1 122	129	899	94
Algeria	99	15	79	5
Egypt	527	67	447	13
Libya	134	-	83	51
Morocco	121	12	107	2
South Sudan	61	5	48	8
The Sudan	69	7	48	14
Tunisia	110	23	86	1
Western Sahara	1	-	1	-
Unspecified	717	34	683	-

Table 5 – Number of tourists from overseas, SADC and ‘other’ African regions by sex and age group

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (February 2014)			
			Overseas	SADC	‘Other’ African	Unspecified
All	Total	734 122	221 945	495 801	15 659	717
	<15	33 455	13 167	19 633	654	1
	15-64	657 588	176 012	466 111	14 756	709
	65+	43 078	32 766	10 056	249	7
	Unspecified	1	-	1	-	-
Male	Total	423 035	123 388	288 553	10 645	449
	<15	16 939	6 840	9 743	355	1
	15-64	383 881	98 960	274 346	10 133	442
	65+	22 214	17 588	4 463	157	6
	Unspecified	1	-	1	-	-
Female	Total	311 084	98 557	207 245	5 014	268
	<15	16 516	6 327	9 890	299	-
	15-64	273 704	77 052	191 762	4 623	267
	65+	20 864	15 178	5 593	92	1
Unspecified	Total	3	-	3	-	-
	15-64	3	-	3	-	-

4. Explanatory notes

NOTICE TO USERS

Statistics South Africa has made changes in the *Tourism and Migration* statistical release starting from the January 2014 statistics. This change has become necessary as a result of the implementation of the new Movement Control System (e-MCS) at the country's ports of entry. Currently the new system (e-MCS) is operational at over 80% of the country's ports of entry. The system roll-out is expected to be finalised by end of 2015/16. The change affects the identification of Transit Travellers that are currently categorised under Direction instead of Purpose of Movement. With the revision, Table 1 and Table 2 in the release now include a category for Transit while all tables reporting on tourists exclude transit travellers.

4.1 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 (Stats SA) then processes, analyses 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 for the following:

- 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.

4.2 Purpose of the statistical release

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

4.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data collected by DHA officials on travellers who entered the Republic of South Africa (RSA) through all the air, land and sea ports of entry.

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 DHA database.
- As part of data interrogation, data from the O.R. 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. In February 2014, the DHA data was 0,01% 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.

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 and Asia.
- Africa: SADC and 'Other' Africa (East and Central Africa, West Africa and North Africa).

Nationality refers to individual countries within a region based on the country of the passport. That is, the nationality of travel document is used. The nationality should not be confused with the country from which the visitor travelled.

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

SADC refers to the fourteen countries, excluding South Africa, which belongs to the Southern African Development Community.

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

Overseas refers to all countries outside Africa.

Trip refers to the arrival and departure of a visitor in a specified month.

4.7 Symbols used

- = nil

< = less than

5. General information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English.

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