



The South Africa I know, the home I understand

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# Statistical release

## P0351

# Tourism and Migration

## February 2015

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## Contents

<b>Preface</b>	.....	2
<b>1. Key findings</b>	.....	3
1.1 Travellers	.....	3
1.1.1 Number of travellers	.....	3
1.1.2 Mode of travel	.....	3
1.2 Tourists	.....	4
1.2.1 Mode of travel	.....	4
1.2.2 Regional and national distribution	.....	4
1.2.3 Purpose of visit	.....	5
1.2.4 Sex and age distribution	.....	5
<b>2. Figures</b>	.....	6
Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in February 2014 and February 2015	.....	6
Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in February 2014 and February 2015	.....	6
Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading ‘other’ African countries in February 2014 and February 2015	.....	7
<b>3. Tables</b>	.....	8
Table 1 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction	.....	8
Table 2 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel	.....	9
Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel	.....	10
Table 4 – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit	.....	14
Table 5 – Number of tourists from overseas, SADC and ‘other’ African regions by sex and age group	.....	18
<b>4. Explanatory notes</b>	.....	19
4.1 Introduction	.....	19
4.2 Purpose of the statistical release	.....	19
4.3 Scope and coverage	.....	19
4.4 Data	.....	19
4.5 Limitations	.....	20
4.6 Definitions of terms	.....	20
4.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)	.....	20
4.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release	.....	20
4.7 Symbols used	.....	21
<b>5. General information</b>	.....	21

## **Preface**

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in February 2015. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country during this month. The tourists are classified by region and country of residence. Details of their mode of travel; purpose of visit; and age and sex distribution are also provided.

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**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 2 840 508 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through South African ports of entry in February 2015. As presented in Table 1 on page 8, these travellers were made up of 650 348 South African residents and 2 190 160 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 324 107 arrivals, 325 697 departures and 544 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 133 411, 1 009 555 and 47 194 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in February 2014 and February 2015 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for South African residents and decreased for foreign travellers. The travellers in transit increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents increased by 4,3% (from 310 703 in February 2014 to 324 107 in February 2015) while departures increased by 1,1% (from 322 126 in February 2014 to 325 697 in February 2015) and South African residents in transit increased by 7,9% (from 504 in February 2014 to 544 in February 2015). Foreign arrivals decreased by 2,3% (from 1 160 486 in February 2014 to 1 133 411 in February 2015), foreign departures decreased by 4,3% (from 1 054 618 in February 2014 to 1 009 555 in February 2015) and foreign travellers in transit increased by 8,8% (from 43 366 in February 2014 to 47 194 in February 2015).

A comparison between the movements in January 2015 and February 2015 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents decreased by 45,4% (from 593 988 in January 2015 to 324 107 in February 2015), departures decreased by 16,6% (from 390 686 in January 2015 to 325 697 in February 2015) and South African residents in transit decreased by 20,9% (from 688 in January 2015 to 544 in February 2015). Foreign arrivals decreased by 19,0% (from 1 399 328 in January 2015 to 1 133 411 in February 2015), foreign departures decreased by 10,3% (from 1 124 873 in January 2015 to 1 009 555 in February 2015) and foreign travellers in transit decreased by 16,8% (from 56 742 in January 2015 to 47 194 in February 2015).

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

As presented in Table 1, in February 2015, 76 257 (6,7%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 057 154 (93,3%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising of visitors who entered the country in February 2015 but did not depart in February 2015 [307 187 (29,1%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came once in February 2015 and left in February 2015 [433 281 (41,0%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came and left more than once in February 2015 [316 686 (30,0%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In February 2015, there were 375 938 (35,6%) same-day visitors and 681 216 (64,4%) tourists. Between February 2014 and February 2015, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 1,7% (from 369 555 in February 2014 to 375 938 in February 2015) while the volume of tourists decreased by 7,2% (from 734 122 in February 2014 to 681 216 in February 2015). Likewise, between January 2015 and February 2015, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 10,4% (from 419 538 in January 2015 to 375 938 in February 2015) and tourists decreased by 22,4% (from 877 712 in January 2015 to 681 216 in February 2015).

#### 1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 9 show that in February 2015, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 035 935 (71,7%) out of the 2 840 508 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air

transport was 795 739 (28,0%). The arrivals data for South African residents show that 118 688 (36,6%) came by air and 204 801 (63,2%) came by road. For departures, 116 949 (35,9%) and 208 415 (64,0%) used air and road transport respectively. All travellers in transit used air transport (544).

In the case of foreign travellers, 261 527 (23,1%) arrived by air while 868 379 (76,6%) came by road. When departing South Africa, 250 837 (24,8%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 754 340 (74,7%) left by road. All travellers in transit, (47 194) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [362 995 (96,6%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 12 930 (3,4%) of same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that 448 940 (65,9%) used road transport while 232 118 (34,1%) came by air.

## 1.2 Tourists

### 1.2.1 Mode of travel

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them according to 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 on page 10. In February 2015, 183 806 (92,4%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 15 077 (7,6%) 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 [432 872 (92,6%)]. Only 34 409 (7,4%) tourists from the SADC countries came in by air. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 13 168 (93,9%); with 841 (5,9%) using road transport.

### 1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In February 2015, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows; Europe, 142 805 (71,8%); North America, 23 817 (12,0%); Asia, 18 595 (9,3%); Australasia, 7 247 (3,6%); Central and South America, 3 828 (1,9%); and Middle East, 2 737 (1,4%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 6 indicate that the United Kingdom (UK), 45 917 (23,1%); Germany, 29 352 (14,7%); United States of America (USA), 18 560 (9,3%); France, 13 512 (6,8%); The Netherlands, 10 838 (5,4%); China, 7 748 (3,9%); Australia, 6 123 (3,1%); Switzerland, 5 437 (2,7%); Sweden, 5 395 (2,7%); and Canada, 5 257 (2,6%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in February 2015. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 74,4% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in February 2014 and February 2015 shows that the number of tourists increased in France and the UK and decreased in the other eight countries (China, Australia, The Netherlands, USA, Germany, Sweden, Canada and Switzerland). France had the highest increase of 1,1% (from 13 371 tourists in February 2014 to 13 512 tourists in February 2015) while China had the largest decrease of 32,4% (from 11 457 tourists in February 2014 to 7 748 tourists in February 2015).

Virtually all tourists, 467 282 (97,1%), from Africa came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 7 248 (1,5%); East and Central Africa, 5 648 (1,2%); and North Africa 1 124 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2015 were Zimbabwe, 136 381 (29,2%); Mozambique, 92 327 (19,8%); Lesotho, 92 044 (19,7%); Swaziland, 59 495 (12,7%); Botswana, 36 642 (7,8%); Namibia, 13 622 (2,9%); Zambia, 13 187 (2,8%); Malawi, 10 953 (2,3%); Angola, 4 798 (1,0%) and Tanzania, 2 912 (0,6%) (see Figure 2 on page 6). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 98,9% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in February 2014 and February 2015 for the ten leading countries shows that the number of tourists increased in three countries, Tanzania, Botswana and Namibia, and decreased in Lesotho, Angola, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Zambia, and Mozambique. Tanzania had the highest increase of 5,0% (from 2 774 tourists in February 2014 to 2 912 in February 2015), while Lesotho showed the largest decrease of 11,9% (from 104 430 tourists in February 2014 to 92 044 tourists in February 2015).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2015 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 7, were Nigeria, 4 596 (32,8%); Kenya, 2 179 (15,5%); Ghana, 1 588 (11,3%); Gabon, 891 (6,4%); Uganda, 890 (6,3%); Egypt, 582 (4,2%); Ethiopia, 543 (3,9%); Cameroon, 393 (2,8%); Congo, 369 (2,6%); and Senegal, 217 (1,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 87,4% of all tourists from 'other African' countries. A comparison between movements in February 2014 and February 2015

shows that of these ten leading 'other African' countries, the number of tourists increased in five countries, (Gabon, Congo, Cameroon, Egypt and Senegal) and decreased in the other five (Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia and Kenya). Gabon had the highest increase of 26,4% (from 705 tourists in February 2014 to 891 in February 2015) while Uganda showed the largest decrease of 25,3% (from 1 192 tourists in February 2014 to 890 in February 2015).

### 1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on page 14, in February 2015, the majority of tourists, 650 840 (95,5%), were in South Africa for holidays compared to 23 438 (3,4%) and 6 938 (1,0%) 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 3 690 (96,4%) tourists from Central and South America, 137 185 (96,1%) from Europe, 22 708 (95,3%) from North America, 6 879 (94,9%) from Australasia, 17 176 (92,4%) from Asia and 2 464 (90,0%) from the Middle East were in South Africa for holidays. The Middle East (8,0%) and Asia (6,4%) had the highest proportions of tourists who came to South Africa for business. The Middle East had a higher proportion (2,0%) of student tourists compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists, 459 938 (95,6%) came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries namely:

- Whereas 447 853 (95,8%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holidays; 12 085 (86,2%) 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 89,1% (6 458); 83,7% (4 726) and 80,2% (901) for West Africa; East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 5,9% (821) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 3,1% (14 574) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 14,5% (163) of its tourists in South Africa who came for business purposes.
- Students made up 7,9% (1 114) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,0% (4 855) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa had the highest proportion, 10,8% (608) of student tourists in South Africa.

### 1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 18 shows that in February 2015, there were 388 291 (57,0%) male and 292 923 (43%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 110 965 (55,8%) male tourists and 88 064 (44,2%) female tourists. There were 267 411 (57,2%) male and 199 869 (42,8%) female tourists from the SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 9 386 (66,9%) male and 4 634 (33,1%) female tourists.

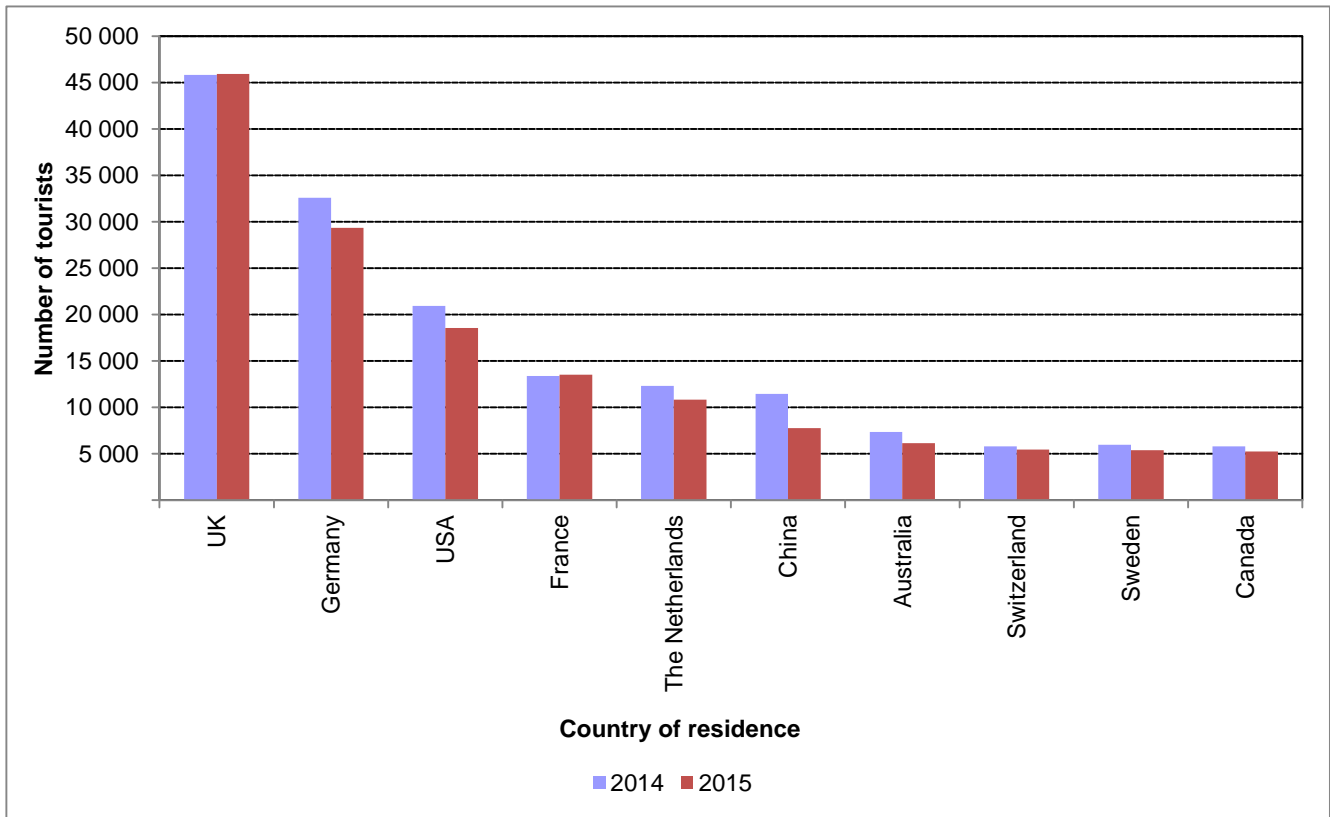
The ages of the tourists were categorised into three broad groups: those younger than 15 years, 15 to 64 years, and 65 years and older. The overall results presented in Table 5 show that 29 914 (4,4%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 608 491 (89,3%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 42 811 (6,3%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 156 061 (78,4%) of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 438 297 (93,8%) and 13 260 (94,6%) 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 countries 5,8% (11 447) than among tourists from SADC countries, 3,9% (18 002) and those from 'other' African countries, 3,3% (459).

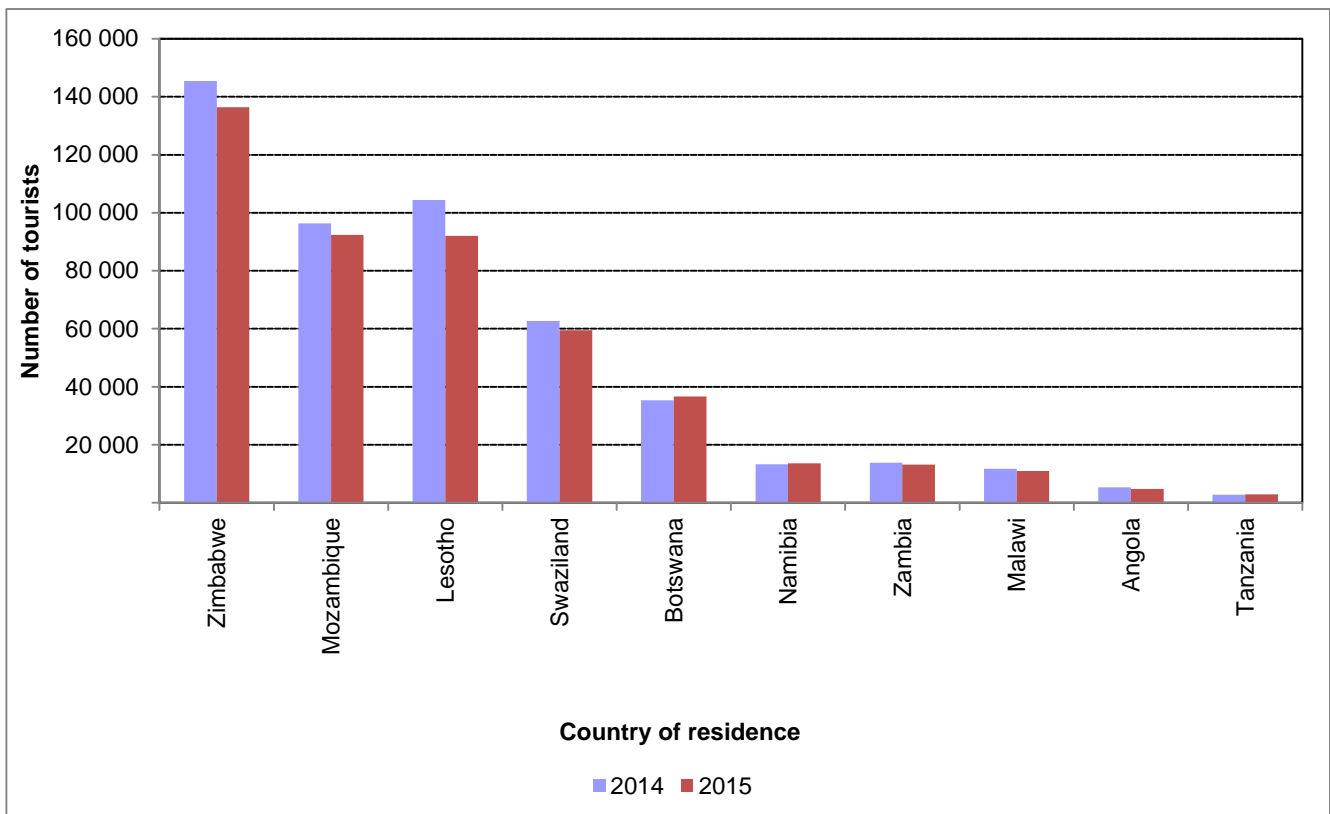
A comparison of the three regions shows relatively higher proportions of the elderly among both male and female tourists from overseas. Tourists aged 65 years and older comprised 15,3% (16 959) of male tourists and 16,5% (14 562) of female tourists. This is in contrast to the pattern observed among tourists from the other two regions where tourists aged 65 years and older comprised less than 3% of both male and female tourists. From the SADC countries elderly tourists made up 1,9% (5 046) and 3,0% (5 937) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other African' countries elderly tourists made up 2,2% (206) and 2,1% (95) of male and female tourists respectively.

## 2. Figures

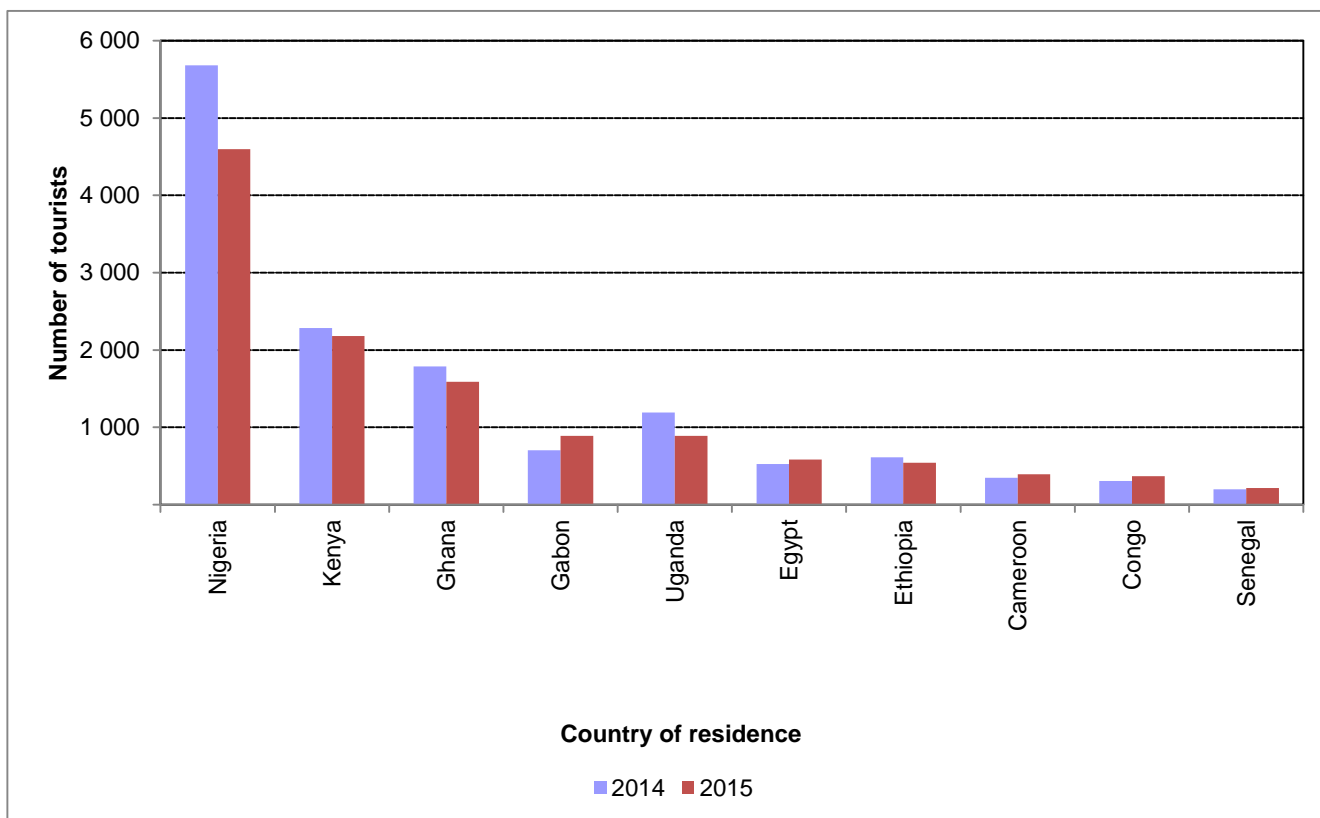
**Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in February 2014 and February 2015**



**Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in February 2014 and February 2015**



**Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading ‘other’ African countries in February 2014 and February 2015**





### 3. Tables

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

Travel direction	February	January	February	% change	
	2014	2015	2015	January 2015 - February 2015	February 2014 - February 2015
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 891 803</b>	<b>3 566 305</b>	<b>2 840 508</b>	<b>-20,4</b>	<b>-1,8</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>633 333</b>	<b>985 362</b>	<b>650 348</b>	<b>-34,0</b>	<b>2,7</b>
Arrivals	310 703	593 988	324 107	-45,4	4,3
Departures	322 126	390 686	325 697	-16,6	1,1
Transit	504	688	544	-20,9	7,9
<b>Foreign travelers</b>	<b>2 258 470</b>	<b>2 580 943</b>	<b>2 190 160</b>	<b>-15,1</b>	<b>-3,0</b>
Arrivals	1 160 486	1 399 328	1 133 411	-19,0	-2,3
Departures	1 054 618	1 124 873	1 009 555	-10,3	-4,3
Transit	43 366	56 742	47 194	-16,8	8,8
<b>Foreign arrivals</b>	<b>1 160 486</b>	<b>1 399 328</b>	<b>1 133 411</b>	<b>-19,0</b>	<b>-2,3</b>
Non-visitors	56 809	102 078	76 257	-25,3	34,2
Visitors	1 103 677	1 297 250	1 057 154	-18,5	-4,2
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>1 103 677</b>	<b>1 297 250</b>	<b>1 057 154</b>	<b>-18,5</b>	<b>-4,2</b>
Arrivals only	364 175	436 811	307 187	-29,7	-15,6
Single trips	417 191	416 686	433 281	4,0	3,9
Multiple trips	322 311	443 753	316 686	-28,6	-1,7
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>1 103 677</b>	<b>1 297 250</b>	<b>1 057 154</b>	<b>-18,5</b>	<b>-4,2</b>
Same day	369 555	419 538	375 938	-10,4	1,7
Overnight (tourists)	734 122	877 712	681 216	-22,4	-7,2

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

Travel Direction	Total	Mode of travel (February 2015)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 840 508</b>	<b>171 791</b>	<b>21 291</b>	<b>597 186</b>	<b>5 471</b>	<b>795 739</b>	<b>2 035 935</b>	<b>8 834</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>650 348</b>	<b>30 328</b>	<b>12 082</b>	<b>190 110</b>	<b>3 661</b>	<b>236 181</b>	<b>413 216</b>	<b>951</b>
Arrivals	324 107	15 288	5 883	95 674	1 843	118 688	204 801	618
Departures	325 697	15 040	6 199	93 892	1 818	116 949	208 415	333
Transit	544	-	-	544	-	544	-	-
<b>Foreign travelers</b>	<b>2 190 160</b>	<b>141 463</b>	<b>9 209</b>	<b>407 076</b>	<b>1 810</b>	<b>559 558</b>	<b>1 622 719</b>	<b>7 883</b>
Arrivals	1 133 411	71 531	4 405	184 603	988	261 527	868 379	3 505
Departures	1 009 555	69 920	4 804	175 291	822	250 837	754 340	4 378
Transit	47 194	12	-	47 182	-	47 194	-	-
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>1 057 154</b>	<b>68 728</b>	<b>3 571</b>	<b>172 114</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>245 048</b>	<b>811 935</b>	<b>171</b>
Same day	375 938	363	13	12 501	53	12 930	362 995	13
Overnight (tourists)	681 216	68 365	3 558	159 613	582	232 118	448 940	158

**Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel**

Country of residence	February		Mode of travel (February 2015)						
	2014	2015	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>Total</b>	<b>734 122</b>	<b>681 216</b>	<b>68 365</b>	<b>3 558</b>	<b>159 613</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>232 118</b>	<b>448 940</b>	<b>158</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>221 945</b>	<b>199 029</b>	<b>64 852</b>	<b>3 138</b>	<b>115 379</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>183 806</b>	<b>15 077</b>	<b>146</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>151 113</b>	<b>142 805</b>	<b>55 977</b>	<b>2 523</b>	<b>73 547</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>132 252</b>	<b>10 432</b>	<b>121</b>
Austria	3 204	2 786	1 107	115	1 378	5	2 605	181	-
Belgium	3 949	3 996	1 551	10	2 093	4	3 658	338	-
Denmark	3 940	3 549	1 119	21	2 204	1	3 345	204	-
France	13 371	13 512	4 497	121	7 432	11	12 061	1 446	5
Germany	32 595	29 352	11 929	250	15 229	73	27 481	1 836	35
Ireland	2 699	2 393	991	137	1 153	2	2 283	110	-
Italy	4 222	3 636	1 332	60	1 996	4	3 392	243	1
Norway	2 909	2 587	1 200	4	1 158	3	2 365	222	-
Poland	1 288	1 875	308	479	834	2	1 623	252	-
Portugal	3 556	3 633	539	21	1 757	10	2 327	1 306	-
Sweden	5 970	5 395	2 023	46	3 012	3	5 084	307	4
Switzerland	5 802	5 437	2 521	61	2 450	21	5 053	384	-
The Netherlands	12 295	10 838	4 765	71	4 962	4	9 802	1 034	2
UK	45 841	45 917	19 659	1 008	23 083	55	43 805	2 051	61
Other	9 472	7 899	2 436	119	4 806	7	7 368	518	13
<b>North America</b>	<b>26 727</b>	<b>23 817</b>	<b>4 702</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>16 727</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>21 761</b>	<b>2 052</b>	<b>4</b>
Canada	5 797	5 257	1 482	48	3 231	28	4 789	468	-
USA	20 930	18 560	3 220	94	13 496	162	16 972	1 584	4
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>6 420</b>	<b>3 828</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3 138</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3 401</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>1</b>
Argentina	1 698	422	30	-	363	-	393	29	-
Brazil	3 245	2 260	83	9	1 893	6	1 991	268	1
Chile	403	265	7	-	238	-	245	20	-
Other	1 074	881	116	4	644	8	772	109	-

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

Country of residence	February		Mode of travel (February 2015)						
	2014	2015	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>8 553</b>	<b>7 247</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>5 931</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6 861</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>5</b>
Australia	7 363	6 123	643	99	5 058	12	5 812	310	1
New Zealand	1 174	1 095	139	25	858	3	1 025	66	4
Other	16	29	9	-	15	-	24	5	-
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>3 032</b>	<b>2 737</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2 158</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2 632</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>-</b>
Iran	292	238	65	3	167	-	235	3	-
Israel	1 634	1 472	85	1	1 322	-	1 408	64	-
Saudi Arabia	366	299	53	2	244	-	299	-	-
Other	740	728	259	6	425	-	690	38	-
<b>Asia</b>	<b>26 100</b>	<b>18 595</b>	<b>2 684</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>13 878</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16 899</b>	<b>1 681</b>	<b>15</b>
Bangladesh	340	331	19	4	205	-	228	103	-
China	11 457	7 748	1 168	33	6 206	6	7 413	335	-
India	6 707	4 989	545	177	3 733	-	4 455	533	1
Japan	1 682	1 444	280	41	1 009	7	1 337	107	-
Pakistan	1 257	908	109	27	500	-	636	272	-
Philippines	391	419	47	3	313	-	363	56	-
Singapore	652	431	143	3	276	-	422	9	-
South Korea	1 387	871	143	4	624	-	771	100	-
Taiwan	505	440	52	3	330	-	385	55	-
Other	1 722	1 014	178	29	682	-	889	111	14
<b>Africa</b>	<b>511 460</b>	<b>481 302</b>	<b>3 474</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>43 539</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>47 577</b>	<b>433 713</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>495 801</b>	<b>467 282</b>	<b>3 133</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>30 789</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>34 409</b>	<b>432 872</b>	<b>1</b>
Angola	5 271	4 798	1 133	-	3 486	8	4 627	171	-
Botswana	35 274	36 642	108	1	1 818	34	1 961	34 681	-
DRC	2 382	2 361	12	3	1 840	-	1 855	506	-
Lesotho	104 430	92 044	1	1	352	4	358	91 686	-
Madagascar	239	223	2	-	219	-	221	2	-

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

Country of residence	February		Mode of travel (February 2015)						
	2014	2015	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Malawi	11 749	10 953	8	-	1 416	1	1 425	9 528	-
Mauritius	1 512	1 675	352	91	1 129	-	1 572	103	-
Mozambique	96 306	92 327	8	55	3 322	14	3 399	88 928	-
Namibia	13 283	13 622	1 428	-	2 592	15	4 035	9 586	1
Seychelles	702	662	1	-	658	-	659	3	-
Swaziland	62 701	59 495	1	-	382	1	384	59 111	-
Tanzania	2 774	2 912	12	4	1 874	-	1 890	1 022	-
Zambia	13 784	13 187	13	117	3 711	6	3 847	9 340	-
Zimbabwe	145 394	136 381	54	96	7 990	36	8 176	128 205	-
<b>'Other' African</b>	<b>15 659</b>	<b>14 020</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>12 750</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>13 168</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>East and Central Africa</b>	<b>5 954</b>	<b>5 648</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5 264</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5 325</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>-</b>
Burundi	78	65	-	-	63	-	63	2	-
Cameroon	347	393	4	1	360	-	365	28	-
Central African Republic	11	3	1	-	2	-	3	-	-
Chad	48	21	-	-	21	-	21	-	-
Comoros	13	18	-	-	17	-	17	1	-
Congo	307	369	3	-	362	-	365	4	-
Djibouti	3	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	53	89	3	-	86	-	89	-	-
Eritrea	41	57	6	-	46	-	52	5	-
Ethiopia	611	543	13	6	478	-	497	46	-
Gabon	705	891	3	-	878	1	882	9	-
Kenya	2 284	2 179	9	1	2 050	1	2 061	118	-
Reunion	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Rwanda	237	97	1	-	84	-	85	12	-
Sao Tome and Principe	9	12	1	-	11	-	12	-	-
Somalia	13	16	2	-	14	-	16	-	-
Uganda	1 192	890	4	-	788	-	792	98	-

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

Country of residence	February		Mode of travel (February 2015)						
	2014	2015	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>8 583</b>	<b>7 248</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6 625</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6 764</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>11</b>
Benin	160	130	2	-	127	-	129	1	-
Burkina Faso	54	64	5	-	55	-	60	4	-
Cape Verde Island	52	50	7	-	39	-	46	4	-
Côte d'Ivoire	175	187	12	2	170	-	184	3	-
Gambia	30	50	2	-	41	-	43	7	-
Ghana	1 788	1 588	26	4	1 496	8	1 534	54	-
Guinea	174	140	1	-	64	-	65	75	-
Guinea-Bissau	6	11	-	-	11	-	11	-	-
Liberia	44	12	-	-	9	-	9	3	-
Mali	76	95	1	-	56	-	57	38	-
Mauritania	16	15	1	-	14	-	15	-	-
Niger	39	33	7	-	26	-	33	-	-
Nigeria	5 680	4 596	39	-	4 275	14	4 328	268	-
Saint Helena	-	15	4	-	-	-	4	-	11
Senegal	199	217	4	-	205	-	209	8	-
Sierra Leone	62	16	-	-	8	-	8	8	-
Togo	28	29	-	-	29	-	29	-	-
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>1 122</b>	<b>1 124</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1 079</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-</b>
Algeria	99	91	9	16	58	-	83	8	-
Egypt	527	582	105	12	454	1	572	10	-
Libya	134	59	19	2	24	1	46	13	-
Morocco	121	118	15	2	96	-	113	5	-
South Sudan	61	88	-	1	85	-	86	2	-
The Sudan	69	119	15	3	95	-	113	6	-
Tunisia	110	65	16	1	47	-	64	1	-
Western Sahara	1	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>-</b>

**Table 4 – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit**

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit (February 2015)		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
<b>Total</b>	<b>734 122</b>	<b>681 216</b>	<b>23 438</b>	<b>650 840</b>	<b>6 938</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>221 945</b>	<b>199 029</b>	<b>7 971</b>	<b>190 102</b>	<b>956</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>151 113</b>	<b>142 805</b>	<b>5 100</b>	<b>137 185</b>	<b>520</b>
Austria	3 204	2 786	72	2 710	4
Belgium	3 949	3 996	152	3 807	37
Denmark	3 940	3 549	76	3 467	6
France	13 371	13 512	517	12 953	42
Germany	32 595	29 352	740	28 504	108
Ireland	2 699	2 393	87	2 298	8
Italy	4 222	3 636	235	3 383	18
Norway	2 909	2 587	54	2 520	13
Poland	1 288	1 875	44	1 830	1
Portugal	3 556	3 633	120	3 503	10
Sweden	5 970	5 395	153	5 232	10
Switzerland	5 802	5 437	69	5 354	14
The Netherlands	12 295	10 838	341	10 397	100
UK	45 841	45 917	1 869	43 955	93
Other	9 472	7 899	571	7 272	56
<b>North America</b>	<b>26 727</b>	<b>23 817</b>	<b>1 006</b>	<b>22 708</b>	<b>103</b>
Canada	5 797	5 257	203	5 037	17
USA	20 930	18 560	803	17 671	86
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>6 420</b>	<b>3 828</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>3 690</b>	<b>24</b>
Argentina	1 698	422	12	407	3
Brazil	3 245	2 260	35	2 217	8
Chile	403	265	7	256	2
Other	1 074	881	60	810	11

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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit (February 2015)		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>8 553</b>	<b>7 247</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>6 879</b>	<b>18</b>
Australia	7 363	6 123	319	5 789	15
New Zealand	1 174	1 095	30	1 063	2
Other	16	29	1	27	1
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>3 032</b>	<b>2 737</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>2 464</b>	<b>54</b>
Iran	292	238	10	213	15
Israel	1 634	1 472	71	1 397	4
Saudi Arabia	366	299	14	272	13
Other	740	728	124	582	22
<b>Asia</b>	<b>26 100</b>	<b>18 595</b>	<b>1 182</b>	<b>17 176</b>	<b>237</b>
Bangladesh	340	331	19	304	8
China	11 457	7 748	213	7 503	32
India	6 707	4 989	528	4 380	81
Japan	1 682	1 444	185	1 248	11
Pakistan	1 257	908	53	847	8
Philippines	391	419	19	390	10
Singapore	652	431	32	398	1
South Korea	1 387	871	41	790	40
Taiwan	505	440	8	422	10
Other	1 722	1 014	84	894	36
<b>Africa</b>	<b>511 460</b>	<b>481 302</b>	<b>15 395</b>	<b>459 938</b>	<b>5 969</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>495 801</b>	<b>467 282</b>	<b>14 574</b>	<b>447 853</b>	<b>4 855</b>
Angola	5 271	4 798	103	4 094	601
Botswana	35 274	36 642	319	35 994	329
DRC	2 382	2 361	96	2 002	263
Lesotho	104 430	92 044	1 645	89 943	456
Madagascar	239	223	9	202	12



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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit (February 2015)		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
Malawi	11 749	10 953	161	10 657	135
Mauritius	1 512	1 675	80	1 467	128
Mozambique	96 306	92 327	7 359	84 848	120
Namibia	13 283	13 622	2 097	11 090	435
Seychelles	702	662	1	644	17
Swaziland	62 701	59 495	414	58 448	633
Tanzania	2 774	2 912	96	2 649	167
Zambia	13 784	13 187	541	12 418	228
Zimbabwe	145 394	136 381	1 653	133 397	1 331
<b>'Other' African</b>	<b>15 659</b>	<b>14 020</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>12 085</b>	<b>1 114</b>
<b>East and Central Africa</b>	<b>5 954</b>	<b>5 648</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>4 726</b>	<b>608</b>
Burundi	78	65	7	56	2
Cameroon	347	393	17	333	43
Central African Republic	11	3	1	2	-
Chad	48	21	2	18	1
Comoros	13	18	1	16	1
Congo	307	369	4	290	75
Djibouti	3	4	2	2	-
Equatorial Guinea	53	89	7	68	14
Eritrea	41	57	2	55	-
Ethiopia	611	543	40	484	19
Gabon	705	891	2	732	157
Kenya	2 284	2 179	180	1 796	203
Reunion	2	1	-	1	-
Rwanda	237	97	1	79	17
Sao Tome and Principe	9	12	-	12	-
Somalia	13	16	-	13	3
Uganda	1 192	890	48	769	73

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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit (February 2015)		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>8 583</b>	<b>7 248</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>6 458</b>	<b>446</b>
Benin	160	130	4	123	3
Burkina Faso	54	64	8	54	2
Cape Verde Island	52	50	3	47	-
Côte d'Ivoire	175	187	22	148	17
Gambia	30	50	7	39	4
Ghana	1 788	1 588	88	1 440	60
Guinea	174	140	6	131	3
Guinea-Bissau	6	11	-	11	-
Liberia	44	12	1	9	2
Mali	76	95	3	92	-
Mauritania	16	15	4	11	-
Niger	39	33	11	22	-
Nigeria	5 680	4 596	164	4 081	351
Saint Helena	-	15	-	15	-
Senegal	199	217	19	196	2
Sierra Leone	62	16	-	16	-
Togo	28	29	4	23	2
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>1 122</b>	<b>1 124</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>60</b>
Algeria	99	91	10	78	3
Egypt	527	582	107	459	16
Libya	134	59	1	44	14
Morocco	121	118	18	99	1
South Sudan	61	88	2	83	3
The Sudan	69	119	14	83	22
Tunisia	110	65	11	53	1
Western Sahara	1	2	-	2	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>13</b>

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

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (February 2015)			
			Overseas	SADC	‘Other’ African	Unspecified
<b>All</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>681 216</b>	<b>199 029</b>	<b>467 282</b>	<b>14 020</b>	<b>885</b>
	<15	29 914	11 447	18 002	459	6
	15-64	608 491	156 061	438 297	13 260	873
	65+	42 811	31 521	10 983	301	6
<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>388 291</b>	<b>110 965</b>	<b>267 411</b>	<b>9 386</b>	<b>529</b>
	<15	15 189	5 911	9 025	248	5
	15-64	350 885	88 095	253 340	8 932	518
	65+	22 217	16 959	5 046	206	6
<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>292 923</b>	<b>88 064</b>	<b>199 869</b>	<b>4 634</b>	<b>356</b>
	<15	14 725	5 536	8 977	211	1
	15-64	257 604	67 966	184 955	4 328	355
	65+	20 594	14 562	5 937	95	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	<15	-	-	-	-	-
	15-64	2	-	2	-	-
	65+	-	-	-	-	-

## 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. 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.
- To 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 2015, the DHA data was 1,6% 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.

#### 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).

**Country** refers to individual countries within a region. The country of residence is used. The country of residence should not be confused with the country from which the visitor travelled.

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

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

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

**Overseas** refers to all countries outside Africa.

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

#### **4.7 Symbols used**

- = nil

< = less than

#### **5. General information**

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