

# STATISTICAL RELEASE

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## Tourism and migration

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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 2017. 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 2 947 189 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in February 2017. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 668 878 South African residents and 2 278 311 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 332 116 arrivals, 336 129 departures and 633 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 180 301, 1 050 062 and 47 948 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in February 2016 and February 2017 indicates that the volume of arrivals, and travellers in transit increased for South African residents while departures decreased. For foreign travellers the volume of arrivals, departures and transits decreased. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 0,4% (from 330 895 in February 2016 to 332 116 in February 2017), departures decreased by less than 0,1% (from 336 167 in February 2016 to 336 129 in February 2017), and transits increased by 2,4% (from 618 in February 2016 to 633 in February 2017). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 8,2% (from 1 285 698 in February 2016 to 1 180 301 in February 2017), departures decreased by 7,9% (from 1 139 669 in February 2016 to 1 050 062 in February 2017), and transits decreased by 6,4% (from 51 211 in February 2016 to 47 948 in February 2017).

A comparison between the movements in January 2017 and February 2017 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 44,8% (from 601 521 in January 2017 to 332 116 in February 2017), departures decreased by 14,6% (from 393 508 in January 2017 to 336 129 in February 2017), and transits decreased by 9,3% (from 698 in January 2017 to 633 in February 2017). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 24,3% (from 1 559 295 in January 2017 to 1 180 301 in February 2017), departures decreased by 12,8% (from 1 204 768 in January 2017 to 1 050 062 in February 2017), and transits decreased by 13,8% (from 55 612 in January 2017 to 47 948 in February 2017).

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 or non-tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation.

As presented in Table 1, in February 2017, 73 911 (6,3%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 106 390 (93,7%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in February 2017 but did not depart in February 2017 [313 632 (28,3%)].
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in February 2017 and left in February 2017 [398 453 (36,0%)].
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in February 2017 [394 305 (35,6%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In February 2017, there were 330 566 (29,9%) same-day visitors and 775 824 (70,1%) tourists. Between February 2016 and February 2017, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 18,1% (from 403 805 in February 2016 to 330 566 in February 2017) and that of tourists decreased by 3,5% (from 803 770 in February 2016 to 775 824 in February 2017). Between January 2017 and February 2017, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 17,0% (from 398 388 in January 2017 to 330 566 in February 2017), while tourists decreased by 25,4% (from 1 040 534 in January 2017 to 775 824 in February 2017).

### 1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 10 shows that in February 2017, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 017 897 (68,5%) of the 2 947 189 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 920 547 (31,2%). A smaller number of travellers, 8 745 (0,3%) used sea transport. The arrivals data for South African residents show that 123 969 (37,3%) came by air, 207 764 (62,6%) came by road and 383 (0,1%) arrived by sea. For departures, 126 641 (37,7%) used air transport, 209 281 (62,3%) travelled by road and 207 (0,1%) left by sea. All travellers in transit (633) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 316 715 (26,8%) arrived by air, 860 327 (72,9%) came by road and 3 259 (0,3%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 304 641 (29,0%) foreign travellers left by air, 740 525 (70,5%) left by road and 4 896 (0,5%) left by sea. All travellers in transit (47 948) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [317 006 (95,9%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 13 550 (4,1%) of same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that 488 989 (63,0%) used road transport, 286 706 (37,0%) 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 pages 11–14. In February 2017, 233 719 (91,3%) of overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 22 071 (8,6%) came in by road and 111 (0,04%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 465 885 (92,6%), followed by air travel, 37 372 (7,4%). The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 14 748 (94,1%), with 914 (5,8%) using road transport and 14 (0,1%) using sea transport.

### 1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In February 2017, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 180 867 (70,7%); North America, 29 668 (11,6%); Asia, 23 633 (9,2%); Central and South America, 9 771 (3,8%); Australasia, 7 697 (3,0%); and Middle East, 4 265 (1,7%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 11–12 indicate that the United Kingdom (UK), 53 990 (21,1%); Germany, 40 084 (15,7%); United States of America (USA), 23 481 (9,2%); France, 19 318 (7,5%); The Netherlands, 14 039 (5,5%); China, 9 027 (3,5%); Sweden, 7 480 (2,9%); Australia, 7 041 (2,8%); Switzerland, 6 761 (2,6%); and Canada, 6 187 (2,4%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in February 2017. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 73,2% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in February 2016 and February 2017 shows that the number of tourists increased for all nine countries but decreased for China. France had the largest increase of 33,6% (from 14 463 tourists in February 2016 to 19 318 in February 2017), followed by Sweden, which increased by 24,6% (from 6 003 in February 2016 to 7 480 in February 2017). China decreased by 27,0% (from 12 370 tourists in February 2016 to 9 027 in February 2017).

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 503 261 (97,0%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 7 328 (1,4%); East and Central Africa, 6 825 (1,3%); and North Africa 1 523 (0,3%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2017 were: Zimbabwe, 137 023 (27,2%); Lesotho, 119 441 (23,7%); Mozambique, 97 962 (19,5%); Swaziland, 59 704 (11,9%); Botswana, 37 797 (7,5%); Namibia, 13 600 (2,7%); Zambia 12 766 (2,5%); Malawi, 12 240 (2,4%); Angola, 4 459 (0,9%) and Tanzania, 3 017 (0,6%). (See Figure 2 on page 7 and Table 3 on page 12–13). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,0% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in February 2016 and February 2017 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for two of the ten leading countries (Malawi and Angola), and decreased for the other eight (Mozambique, Botswana, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Zambia, Namibia and Tanzania). Malawi showed the largest increase of 12,9% (from 10 837 tourists in February 2016 to 12 240 in February 2017), while Mozambique showed the largest decrease of 15,7% (from 116 138 tourists in February 2016 to 97 962 in February 2017).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2017 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13 & 14, were: Nigeria, 4 514 (28,8%); Kenya, 3 019 (19,3%); Ghana, 1 434 (9,1%); Uganda, 1 333 (8,5%); Egypt, 868 (5,5%); Ethiopia, 716 (4,6%); Gabon, 716 (4,6%); Cameroon, 426 (2,7%); Congo, 298 (1,9%) and Côte d'Ivoire, 245 (1,6%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 86,6% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in February 2016 and February 2017 shows that the number of tourists increased for six of the ten leading countries (Uganda, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Ethiopia and Cameroon), and decreased for the other four (Congo, Nigeria, Gabon and Egypt). Uganda showed the largest increase of 56,6% (from 851 tourists in February 2016 to 1 333 in February 2017), while Congo showed the largest decrease of 27,7% (from 412 tourists in February 2016 to 298 in February 2017).

### 1.2.3 Purpose of visit

Table 4 on pages 15–18 shows that in February 2017, the majority of tourists, 745 066 (96,0%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 22 776 (2,9%) and 7 982 (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, more than 90% came to South Africa for holiday. A total of 9 641 (98,7%) tourists from Central and South America, 175 027 (96,8%) from Europe, 7 404 (96,2%) from Australasia, 28 261 (95,3%) from North America, 21 889 (92,6%) from Asia and 3 943 (92,5%) from the Middle East were in South Africa for holiday. The Middle East and Asia had the highest proportions of tourists who came to South Africa for business [6,5% (278) and 6,2% (1 470), respectively]. The two regions also had the highest proportions of tourists who came for study purposes [1,2% (274) and 1,0% (44) for Asia and Middle East respectively], compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists, 497 999 (96,0%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 484 926 (96,4%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 13 073 (83,4%) of tourists from 'other' African countries came for the same purpose. From the 'other' African countries, tourists on holiday constituted 87,1% (6 386); 81,0% (5 525); and 76,3% (1 162) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 8,6% (1 349) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 2,5% (12 763) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 17,9% (273) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes.
- Students made up 8,0% (1 254) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,1% (5 572) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa had the highest proportion, 9,7% (665) of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes.

### 1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in February 2017, there were 440 958 (56,8%) male and 334 866 (43,2%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 137 412 (53,7%) male tourists and 118 489 (46,3%) female tourists. There were 292 768 (58,2%) male and 210 493 (41,8%) female tourists from the SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 10 204 (65,1%) male and 5 472 (34,9%) 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 30 871 (4,0%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 686 373 (88,5%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 58 580 (7,6%) were aged 65 years and older.

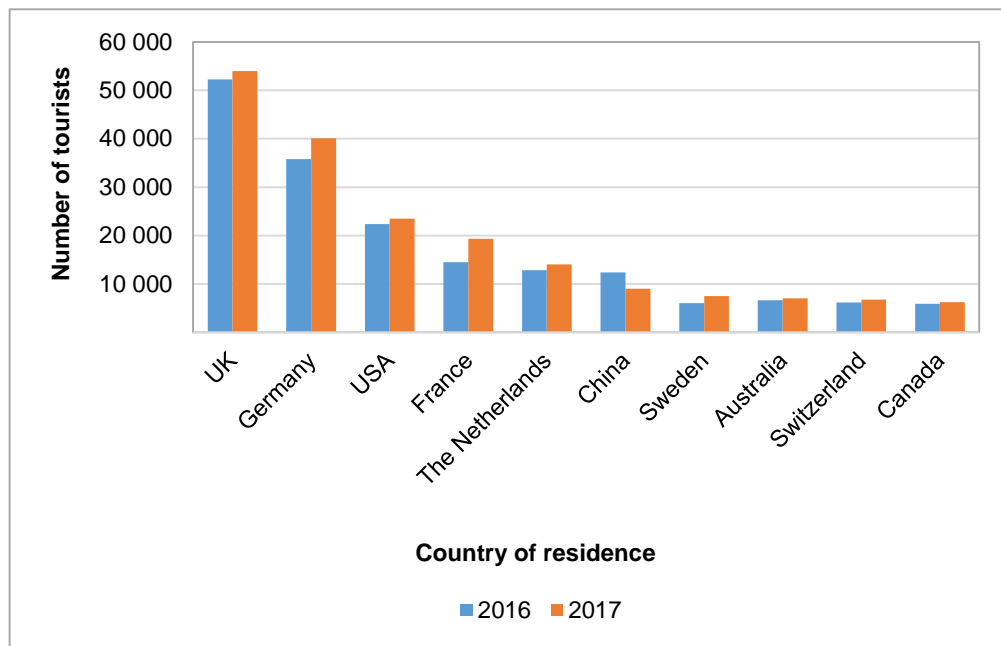
Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 475 133 (94,4%) tourists from SADC countries and 14 807 (94,5%) tourists of 'other' African countries were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 195 467 (76,4%) tourists in the same age range from overseas. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas, 5,6% (14 315), than among those from SADC, 3,2% (16 055) and from 'other' African countries, 3,2% (499).

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 17,6% (24 247) of male and 18,5% (21 872) of female tourists from overseas. 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 3,5% of both male and female tourists. From the SADC

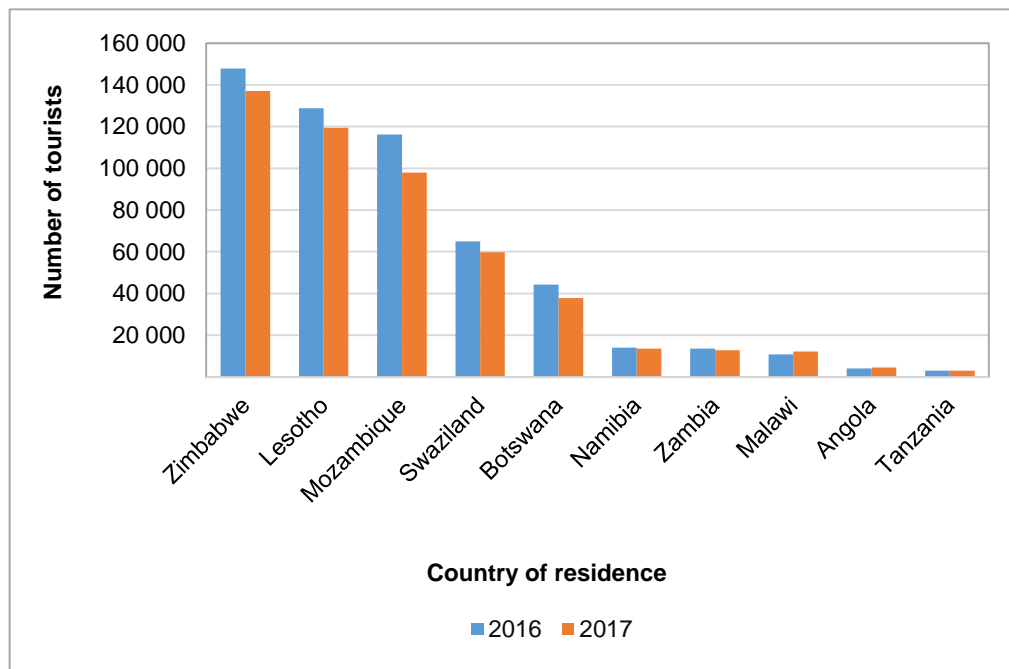
countries elderly tourists made up 1,9% (5 676) and 3,0% (6 397) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,4% (246) and 2,3% (124) of male and female tourists respectively.

## 2. Figures

**Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in February 2016 and February 2017**

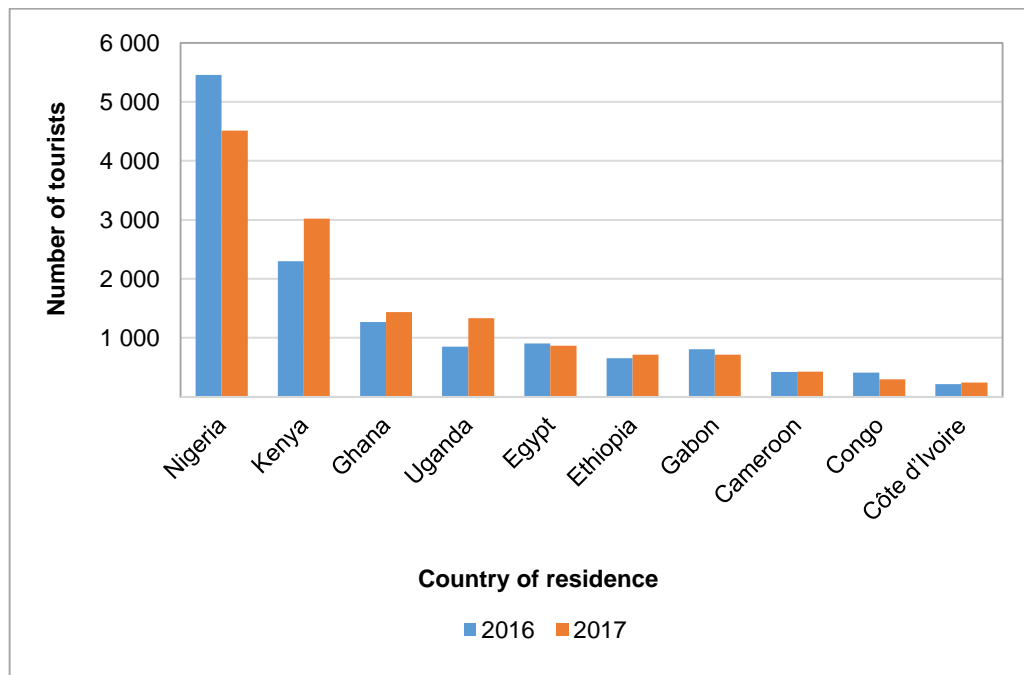


**Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in February 2016 and February 2017**





**Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in February 2016 and February 2017**



### 3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	February 2016	January 2017	February 2017	% Change	
				Jan – Feb 2017	Feb 2016 – Feb 2017
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 144 258</b>	<b>3 815 402</b>	<b>2 947 189</b>	<b>-22,8%</b>	<b>-6,3%</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>667 680</b>	<b>995 727</b>	<b>668 878</b>	<b>-32,8%</b>	<b>0,2%</b>
Arrivals	330 895	601 521	332 116	-44,8%	0,4%
Departures	336 167	393 508	336 129	-14,6%	-0,01%
Transits	618	698	633	-9,3%	2,4%
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>2 476 578</b>	<b>2 819 675</b>	<b>2 278 311</b>	<b>-19,2%</b>	<b>-8,0%</b>
Arrivals	1 285 698	1 559 295	1 180 301	-24,3%	-8,2%
Departures	1 139 669	1 204 768	1 050 062	-12,8%	-7,9%
Transits	51 211	55 612	47 948	-13,8%	-6,4%
<b>Foreign arrivals</b>	<b>1 285 698</b>	<b>1 559 295</b>	<b>1 180 301</b>	<b>-24,3%</b>	<b>-8,2%</b>
Non-visitors	78 123	120 373	73 911	-38,6%	-5,4%
Visitors	1 207 575	1 438 922	1 106 390	-23,1%	-8,4%
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>1 207 575</b>	<b>1 438 922</b>	<b>1 106 390</b>	<b>-23,1%</b>	<b>-8,4%</b>
Arrivals only	313 823	531 481	313 632	-41,0%	-0,1%
Single trips	436 533	410 265	398 453	-2,9%	-8,7%
Multiple trips	457 219	497 176	394 305	-20,7%	-13,8%
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>1 207 575</b>	<b>1 438 922</b>	<b>1 106 390</b>	<b>-23,1%</b>	<b>-8,4%</b>
Same-Day	403 805	398 388	330 566	-17,0%	-18,1%
Overnight (Tourists)	803 770	1 040 534	775 824	-25,4%	-3,5%

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

Travel direction	Total	Air				Total	Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O. R. Tambo	Other Airports			
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 947 189</b>	<b>231 168</b>	<b>26 216</b>	<b>658 260</b>	<b>4 903</b>	<b>920 547</b>	<b>2 017 897</b>	<b>8 745</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>668 878</b>	<b>38 053</b>	<b>14 454</b>	<b>195 703</b>	<b>3 033</b>	<b>251 243</b>	<b>417 045</b>	<b>590</b>
Arrivals	332 116	19 008	6 807	96 682	1 472	123 969	207 764	383
Departures	336 129	19 040	7 647	98 393	1 561	126 641	209 281	207
Transits	633	5	-	628	-	633	-	-
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>2 278 311</b>	<b>193 115</b>	<b>11 762</b>	<b>462 557</b>	<b>1 870</b>	<b>669 304</b>	<b>1 600 852</b>	<b>8 155</b>
Arrivals	1 180 301	96 725	5 816	213 380	794	316 715	860 327	3 259
Departures	1 050 062	96 245	5 946	201 374	1 076	304 641	740 525	4 896
Transits	47 948	145	-	47 803	-	47 948	-	-
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>1 106 390</b>	<b>93 502</b>	<b>4 517</b>	<b>201 684</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>300 256</b>	<b>805 995</b>	<b>139</b>
Same day	330 566	367	18	13 080	85	13 550	317 006	10
Tourist	775 824	93 135	4 499	188 604	468	286 706	488 989	129

**Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (February 2017)**

Country of residence	February		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>Total</b>	<b>803 770</b>	<b>775 824</b>	<b>93 135</b>	<b>4 499</b>	<b>188 604</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>286 706</b>	<b>488 989</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>234 707</b>	<b>255 901</b>	<b>87 664</b>	<b>3 853</b>	<b>141 831</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>233 719</b>	<b>22 071</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>163 283</b>	<b>180 867</b>	<b>73 850</b>	<b>3 013</b>	<b>87 944</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>165 026</b>	<b>15 767</b>	<b>74</b>
Austria	3 144	3 854	1 722	137	1 712	6	3 577	277	-
Belgium	4 305	4 824	2 003	50	2 374	2	4 429	395	-
Denmark	4 118	4 644	1 289	90	2 855	4	4 238	406	-
France	14 463	19 318	5 970	146	9 901	39	16 056	3 258	4
Germany	35 779	40 084	17 066	431	19 175	32	36 704	3 375	5
Ireland	2 626	3 110	1 517	89	1 348	5	2 959	150	1
Italy	4 245	4 090	1 596	76	2 114	3	3 789	300	1
Norway	2 746	2 860	1 260	80	1 253	4	2 597	263	-
Portugal	3 681	3 593	775	27	1 613	16	2 431	1 162	-
Spain	1 952	2 182	606	39	1 315	13	1 973	208	1
Sweden	6 003	7 480	3 283	127	3 508	5	6 923	555	2
Switzerland	6 157	6 761	3 149	65	2 960	9	6 183	577	1
The Netherlands	12 849	14 039	6 157	88	6 156	3	12 404	1 633	2
UK	52 280	53 990	23 880	1 289	26 397	68	51 634	2 301	55
Other	8 935	10 038	3 577	279	5 263	10	9 129	907	2
<b>North America</b>	<b>28 247</b>	<b>29 668</b>	<b>7 382</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>19 049</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>26 775</b>	<b>2 861</b>	<b>32</b>
Canada	5 880	6 187	1 968	65	3 391	11	5 435	736	16
USA	22 367	23 481	5 414	164	15 658	104	21 340	2 125	16
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>4 591</b>	<b>9 771</b>	<b>1 300</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>7 809</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9 142</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>-</b>
Argentina	1 160	1 840	65	-	1 702	6	1 773	67	-
Brazil	2 080	5 733	1 052	13	4 256	3	5 324	409	-
Chile	380	1 220	41	-	1 113	-	1 154	66	-
Other	971	978	142	9	738	2	891	87	-

**Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (February 2017) (continued)**

Country of residence	February		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>7 875</b>	<b>7 697</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>6 420</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7 288</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>4</b>
Australia	6 616	7 041	693	68	5 897	5	6 663	374	4
New Zealand	1 251	642	92	8	510	1	611	31	-
Other	8	14	1	-	13	-	14	-	-
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>3 844</b>	<b>4 265</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>3 161</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 107</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>-</b>
Israel	2 122	2 408	309	20	1 980	2	2 311	97	-
Lebanon	284	351	82	6	238	-	326	25	-
Saudi Arabia	523	621	170	5	445	-	620	1	-
Other	915	885	341	10	498	1	850	35	-
<b>Asia</b>	<b>26 867</b>	<b>23 633</b>	<b>3 444</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>17 448</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21 381</b>	<b>2 251</b>	<b>1</b>
China	12 370	9 027	1 155	73	7 494	-	8 722	305	-
India	6 776	6 035	871	203	4 246	7	5 327	707	1
Japan	1 646	1 844	268	35	1 450	-	1 753	91	-
Malaysia	461	520	169	39	287	5	500	20	-
Pakistan	1 167	1 244	97	54	672	-	823	421	-
Philippines	335	397	95	5	245	-	345	52	-
Singapore	485	507	142	7	344	3	496	11	-
South Korea	1 409	2 251	322	15	1 661	1	1 999	252	-
Taiwan	654	419	43	3	254	-	300	119	-
Thailand	352	375	92	12	225	-	329	46	-
Other	1 212	1 014	190	26	570	1	787	227	-
<b>Africa</b>	<b>568 162</b>	<b>518 937</b>	<b>5 416</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>45 966</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>52 120</b>	<b>466 799</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>553 013</b>	<b>503 261</b>	<b>3 891</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>32 879</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>37 372</b>	<b>465 885</b>	<b>4</b>
Angola	4 006	4 459	1 250	-	3 063	2	4 315	144	-
Botswana	44 280	37 797	200	53	1 858	29	2 140	35 657	-
DRC	2 366	2 108	60	2	1 617	-	1 679	429	-
Lesotho	128 739	119 441	4	1	502	-	507	118 934	-

**Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (February 2017) (continued)**

Country of residence	February		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	226	296	12	-	276	6	294	2	-
Malawi	10 837	12 240	7	3	1 896	1	1 907	10 333	-
Mauritius	1 742	1 658	396	112	1 070	2	1 580	77	1
Mozambique	116 138	97 962	7	43	2 800	7	2 857	95 105	-
Namibia	14 113	13 600	1 779	145	2 431	7	4 362	9 238	-
Seychelles	1 167	1 190	-	-	1 183	-	1 183	7	-
Swaziland	64 936	59 704	2	4	453	-	459	59 245	-
Tanzania	3 034	3 017	52	7	1 827	4	1 890	1 127	-
Zambia	13 570	12 766	25	49	3 513	-	3 587	9 179	-
Zimbabwe	147 859	137 023	97	100	10 390	25	10 612	126 408	3
<b>'Other' African</b>	<b>15 149</b>	<b>15 676</b>	<b>1 525</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>13 087</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14 748</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>East and Central Africa</b>	<b>5 839</b>	<b>6 825</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>5 698</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6 442</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>-</b>
Burundi	139	75	13	2	57	-	72	3	-
Cameroon	421	426	35	2	350	1	388	38	-
Central African Republic	8	14	1	-	13	-	14	-	-
Chad	13	21	1	1	17	2	21	-	-
Comoros	23	13	-	-	13	-	13	-	-
Congo	412	298	52	-	238	3	293	5	-
Djibouti	8	13	3	-	10	-	13	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	44	41	4	-	36	-	40	1	-
Eritrea	37	39	6	-	29	-	35	4	-
Ethiopia	655	716	77	32	555	-	664	52	-
Gabon	806	716	36	-	679	1	716	-	-
Kenya	2 301	3 019	388	9	2 467	4	2 868	151	-
Réunion	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Rwanda	85	80	9	1	65	-	75	5	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	9	8	-	-	8	-	8	-	-
Somalia	26	12	1	1	8	-	10	2	-
Uganda	851	1 333	51	6	1 153	1	1 211	122	-

**Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (February 2017) (concluded)**

Country of residence	February		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>7 891</b>	<b>7 328</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>6 465</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6 847</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>14</b>
Benin	170	139	5	-	128	-	133	6	-
Burkina Faso	53	64	18	3	40	-	61	3	-
Cape Verde Island	50	49	14	-	33	-	47	2	-
Côte d'Ivoire	216	245	25	2	212	-	239	6	-
Gambia	26	38	-	-	37	-	37	1	-
Ghana	1 268	1 434	47	20	1 320	-	1 387	47	-
Guinea	129	158	9	-	110	-	119	39	-
Guinea-Bissau	9	8	-	-	6	-	6	2	-
Liberia	44	52	1	-	49	-	50	2	-
Mali	123	191	26	2	112	-	140	51	-
Mauritania	17	14	3	-	11	-	14	-	-
Niger	20	41	16	-	25	-	41	-	-
Nigeria	5 456	4 514	148	11	4 071	1	4 231	283	-
Saint Helena	21	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Senegal	202	231	11	1	203	-	215	16	-
Sierra Leone	51	83	12	-	62	-	74	9	-
Togo	36	53	7	-	46	-	53	-	-
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>1 419</b>	<b>1 523</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1 459</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>-</b>
Algeria	96	64	8	-	56	-	64	-	-
Egypt	904	868	334	12	491	1	838	30	-
Libya	35	59	20	4	17	-	41	18	-
Morocco	124	161	60	5	91	-	156	5	-
South Sudan	48	53	1	1	50	-	52	1	-
The Sudan	158	227	71	6	140	-	217	10	-
Tunisia	53	87	11	1	75	-	87	-	-
Western Sahara	1	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>-</b>

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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit (February 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
<b>Total</b>	<b>803 770</b>	<b>775 824</b>	<b>22 776</b>	<b>745 066</b>	<b>7 982</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>234 707</b>	<b>255 901</b>	<b>8 583</b>	<b>246 165</b>	<b>1 153</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>163 283</b>	<b>180 867</b>	<b>5 247</b>	<b>175 027</b>	<b>593</b>
Austria	3 144	3 854	71	3 767	16
Belgium	4 305	4 824	174	4 608	42
Denmark	4 118	4 644	99	4 542	3
France	14 463	19 318	474	18 804	40
Germany	35 779	40 084	850	39 097	137
Ireland	2 626	3 110	90	3 012	8
Italy	4 245	4 090	247	3 827	16
Norway	2 746	2 860	67	2 773	20
Portugal	3 681	3 593	77	3 504	12
Spain	1 952	2 182	158	2 015	9
Sweden	6 003	7 480	164	7 304	12
Switzerland	6 157	6 761	98	6 638	25
The Netherlands	12 849	14 039	373	13 551	115
UK	52 280	53 990	1 739	52 165	86
Other	8 935	10 038	566	9 420	52
<b>North America</b>	<b>28 247</b>	<b>29 668</b>	<b>1 213</b>	<b>28 261</b>	<b>194</b>
Canada	5 880	6 187	271	5 896	20
USA	22 367	23 481	942	22 365	174
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>4 591</b>	<b>9 771</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>9 641</b>	<b>34</b>
Argentina	1 160	1 840	8	1 832	-
Brazil	2 080	5 733	37	5 683	13
Chile	380	1 220	5	1 213	2
Other	971	978	46	913	19



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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit (February 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>7 875</b>	<b>7 697</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>7 404</b>	<b>14</b>
Australia	6 616	7 041	256	6 775	10
New Zealand	1 251	642	22	617	3
Other	8	14	1	12	1
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>3 844</b>	<b>4 265</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>3 943</b>	<b>44</b>
Israel	2 122	2 408	74	2 328	6
Lebanon	284	351	54	297	-
Saudi Arabia	523	621	42	570	9
Other	915	885	108	748	29
<b>Asia</b>	<b>26 867</b>	<b>23 633</b>	<b>1 470</b>	<b>21 889</b>	<b>274</b>
China	12 370	9 027	354	8 613	60
India	6 776	6 035	619	5 343	73
Japan	1 646	1 844	130	1 705	9
Malaysia	461	520	28	464	28
Pakistan	1 167	1 244	67	1 154	23
Philippines	335	397	39	353	5
Singapore	485	507	49	458	-
South Korea	1 409	2 251	83	2 132	36
Taiwan	654	419	17	392	10
Thailand	352	375	6	364	5
Other	1 212	1 014	78	911	25
<b>Africa</b>	<b>568 162</b>	<b>518 937</b>	<b>14 112</b>	<b>497 999</b>	<b>6 826</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>553 013</b>	<b>503 261</b>	<b>12 763</b>	<b>484 926</b>	<b>5 572</b>
Angola	4 006	4 459	54	3 958	447
Botswana	44 280	37 797	610	36 796	391
DRC	2 366	2 108	84	1 820	204
Lesotho	128 739	119 441	1 019	117 442	980

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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit (February 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
Madagascar	226	296	15	266	15
Malawi	10 837	12 240	484	11 567	189
Mauritius	1 742	1 658	79	1 498	81
Mozambique	116 138	97 962	3 109	94 716	137
Namibia	14 113	13 600	1 810	11 293	497
Seychelles	1 167	1 190	10	1 176	4
Swaziland	64 936	59 704	272	58 578	854
Tanzania	3 034	3 017	95	2 766	156
Zambia	13 570	12 766	1 391	11 125	250
Zimbabwe	147 859	137 023	3 731	131 925	1367
<b>'Other' African</b>	<b>15 149</b>	<b>15 676</b>	<b>1 349</b>	<b>13 073</b>	<b>1 254</b>
<b>East and Central Africa</b>	<b>5 839</b>	<b>6 825</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>5 525</b>	<b>665</b>
Burundi	139	75	11	55	9
Cameroon	421	426	33	338	55
Central African Republic	8	14	-	11	3
Chad	13	21	1	16	4
Comoros	23	13	1	12	-
Congo	412	298	8	203	87
Djibouti	8	13	2	10	1
Equatorial Guinea	44	41	4	27	10
Eritrea	37	39	1	37	1
Ethiopia	655	716	91	591	34
Gabon	806	716	7	564	145
Kenya	2 301	3 019	350	2 449	220
Réunion	1	1	-	1	-
Rwanda	85	80	4	70	6
São Tomé and Príncipe	9	8	-	8	-
Somalia	26	12	1	10	1
Uganda	851	1 333	121	1 123	89

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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit (February 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>7 891</b>	<b>7 328</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>6 386</b>	<b>501</b>
Benin	170	139	10	124	5
Burkina Faso	53	64	18	40	6
Cape Verde Island	50	49	3	46	-
Côte d'Ivoire	216	245	28	198	19
Gambia	26	38	2	34	2
Ghana	1 268	1 434	96	1 290	48
Guinea	129	158	11	141	6
Guinea-Bissau	9	8	-	8	-
Liberia	44	52	4	41	7
Mali	123	191	35	152	4
Mauritania	17	14	5	9	-
Niger	20	41	14	26	1
Nigeria	5 456	4 514	160	3 963	391
Saint Helena	21	14	-	14	-
Senegal	202	231	38	186	7
Sierra Leone	51	83	9	71	3
Togo	36	53	8	43	2
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>1 419</b>	<b>1 523</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>1 162</b>	<b>88</b>
Algeria	96	64	5	59	-
Egypt	904	868	172	673	23
Libya	35	59	2	33	24
Morocco	124	161	37	117	7
South Sudan	48	53	4	47	2
The Sudan	158	227	43	154	30
Tunisia	53	87	8	77	2
Western Sahara	1	4	2	2	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>3</b>

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

Sex	Age group	February		Region (February 2017)			
		2016	2017	Overseas	SADC	‘Other’ African	Unspecified
<b>All</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>803 770</b>	<b>775 824</b>	<b>255 901</b>	<b>503 261</b>	<b>15 676</b>	<b>986</b>
	0-14	31 560	30 871	14 315	16 055	499	2
	15-64	718 056	686 373	195 467	475 133	14 807	966
	65+	54 154	58 580	46 119	12 073	370	18
<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>455 416</b>	<b>440 958</b>	<b>137 412</b>	<b>292 768</b>	<b>10 204</b>	<b>574</b>
	0-14	16 047	15 594	7 275	8 055	264	-
	15-64	411 246	395 179	105 890	279 037	9 694	558
	65+	28 123	30 185	24 247	5 676	246	16
<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>348 354</b>	<b>334 866</b>	<b>118 489</b>	<b>210 493</b>	<b>5 472</b>	<b>412</b>
	0-14	15 513	15 277	7 040	8 000	235	2
	15-64	306 810	291 194	89 577	196 096	5 113	408
	65+	26 031	28 395	21 872	6 397	124	2

## 4. Explanatory notes

### NOTICE TO USERS

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) 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 enhanced 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 the end of 2016/17 financial year. 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). 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)

#### 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 ports' 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 receives downloaded data covering a particular calendar month from the DHA.

- As part of data interrogation, data from 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 is accompanied by an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern has also been observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In February 2017, the DHA data was 0,8% higher 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 belong 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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