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KEY FINDINGS

1. Number of travellers

The January 2008 data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 2 316 283 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through the ports of entry. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 764 049 South African residents and 1 552 234 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures indicates that 454 720 and 309 329 South African resident arrivals and departures respectively were recorded. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals and departures are 869 659 and 682 575 respectively. A comparison between the movements in December 2007 and January 2008 indicates that there was a decrease in all movements. The January 2008 figure (454 720) for South African resident arrivals shows a decrease of 4,0% compared to the January 2007 figure of 473 764. On the contrary, there was an increase of 5,5% for foreign arrivals from 824 249 in January 2007 to 869 659 in January 2008.

2. Mode of travel

It is observed from Table 2 that road transport was the most common (65,1%) mode of travel used by 1 508 422 out of the 2 316 283 travellers. The arrival data on South African residents show that 39,8% came by air and 59,9% by road. For their departure, 45,6% and 54,4% used air and road transport respectively. When taking into consideration the countries of residence of travellers, it was found that for foreign arrivals, overseas travellers generally used air (89,4%) compared to road transport (10,4%) whereas travellers from Africa used road (90,6%) more than air transport (7,2%). Information on specific countries from which travellers came from and the mode of travel used is provided in Table 3.

3. Foreign arrivals

The data on travellers received from the DHA do not provide detailed information on departures; neither do they provide any information other than total numbers, travel direction and mode of travel of South African residents. Therefore the following findings pertain to foreign arrivals.

Data presented in Table 3 show that more than two thirds (75,8%) of foreign arrivals were from Africa whilst almost a quarter (23,3%) were from overseas countries. Information on the country of residence was not available on 0,9% of the travellers. A comparison of the changes between January 2007 and January 2008 indicates that the number of overseas arrivals increased by 5,2% from 192 972 in 2007 to 202 990 in 2008. Arrivals from Africa increased by 5,2% from 626 404 in January 2007 to 658 900 in January 2008.

3.1 Gender and age distribution

The travellers from Africa comprised of 379 477 males, 278 281 females and 1 142 with unspecified gender. The data on overseas travellers had 115 490 males, 87 207 females and gender was not specified in 293 cases. Overall, more males than females from African (males: 57,6%; females: 42,2%) and overseas countries (males: 56,9%; females: 43,0%) came to South Africa. The age distribution of foreign arrivals presented in Figure 1 shows that travellers from Africa are generally younger compared to those from overseas. Thus the bulk (84,7%) of African travellers is clustered between ages 15-49, peaking at age group 25-29. However, the age distribution of overseas travellers is widely spread. Thus 86,5% of overseas travellers is between ages 20 to 69 years. The percentage of older persons (65 years and older) from overseas countries was significantly higher (11,8%) compared to that among persons from Africa (2,1%). This would have implications for spending capacity.

3.2 Regional and national distribution

Overseas travellers came mainly from Europe (68,5%), followed by North America (11,8%), Asia (9,8%), Australasia (4,7%), Central and South America (3,0%) and Middle East (2,0%). Virtually all arrivals (97,8%) from Africa came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining arrivals from Africa is as follows: East and Central Africa (1,1%), West Africa (0,9%) and North Africa (0,2%). January data for the past five years (See figure 2) reveal that, arrivals from 'other' African countries have been quite stable unlike from SADC countries that have been escalating since 2004. The number of travellers from overseas countries has been increasing gradually since January 2004. Data presented in Figure 3 indicate that the UK, Germany, USA, France, Netherlands, Australia, Sweden and Ireland were the eight leading overseas source countries. Travellers from these eight countries constitute 65,9% of all travellers from overseas. The number of travellers from these leading overseas source countries increased with the exception of UK (2,8% decline from 49 755 in January 2007 to 48 357 in January

2008) and Netherlands (2,5% decline from 11 389 in January 2007 to 11 103 in January 2008).

The eight leading source countries from SADC were Lesotho, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Malawi as shown in Figure 4. Travellers from the eight SADC countries made up 96,4% of all arrivals from Africa. The number of travellers from these SADC countries increased except Botswana (4,4% decline from 59 207 in January 2007 to 56 623 in January 2008). The eight leading source countries from 'other' African countries, shown in Figure 5, are Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Egypt and Gabon. The number of travellers from 'other' African countries increased with the exception of Ethiopia (17,7% decline from 790 in January 2007 to 650 in January 2008).

3.3 Purpose of travel

As observed from data given in Table 4, an overwhelming majority (91,8%) of foreign arrivals was admitted into South Africa on visitors' temporary residence permit. These visitors are mainly made up of same-day travellers as well as tourists. This is in vast contrast to those who have come to study (2,4%), those on business (2,1%) and those who have come for work (1,5%).

Overall, 91,1% of overseas travellers came to South Africa to visit. A detailed analysis reveals that all the overseas regions had more than 75,0% travellers coming to South Africa for holidays. Travellers from Australasia (94,7%), Europe (93,4%), Central and South America (91,4%), North America (90,5%), the Middle East (87,3%) and Asia (75,1%) were admitted into South Africa as visitors. Travellers from Asia were more diverse in their purpose for instance, 14,6% of travellers came into the country for work, 5,3% for business and 3,6% for study.

Although the majority (92,8%) of African travellers came into the country on visitors' permits, there is a significant difference between travellers from SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 93,2% of travellers from the SADC countries were recorded as on holiday, 72,3% of travellers from 'other' African countries were admitted on visitor's permit. Proportionally, the lowest percentage (68,7%) of visitors came from East and Central Africa, a region where, a large percentage of travellers were in South Africa as students (18,6%).
- A relatively higher percentage of 'other' African than SADC travellers were here to study, work or for business.
- Overall, North Africa and West Africa had 9,7% and 8,3% respectively of travellers who were in South Africa for work as compared to only 0,5% among the SADC travellers.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

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

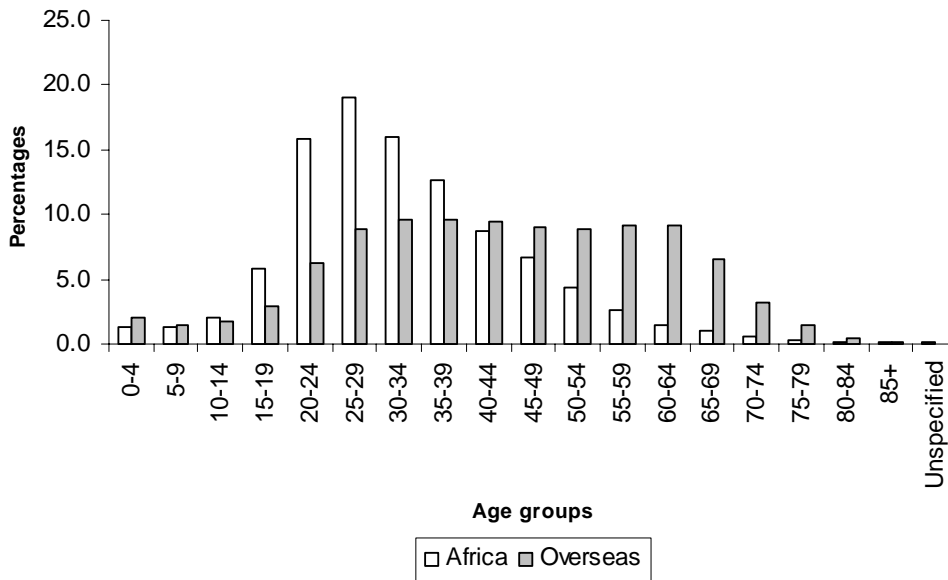


Figure 2: Number of January arrivals by region (2004 - 2008)

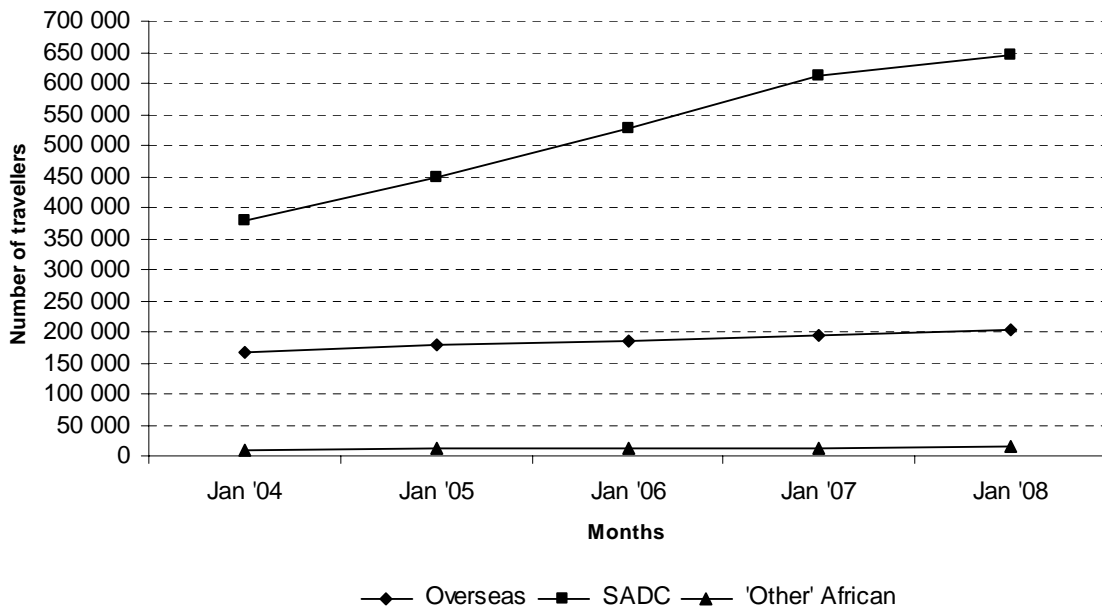


Figure 3: Number of overseas travellers arriving from leading source countries in January 2008 compared to January 2007

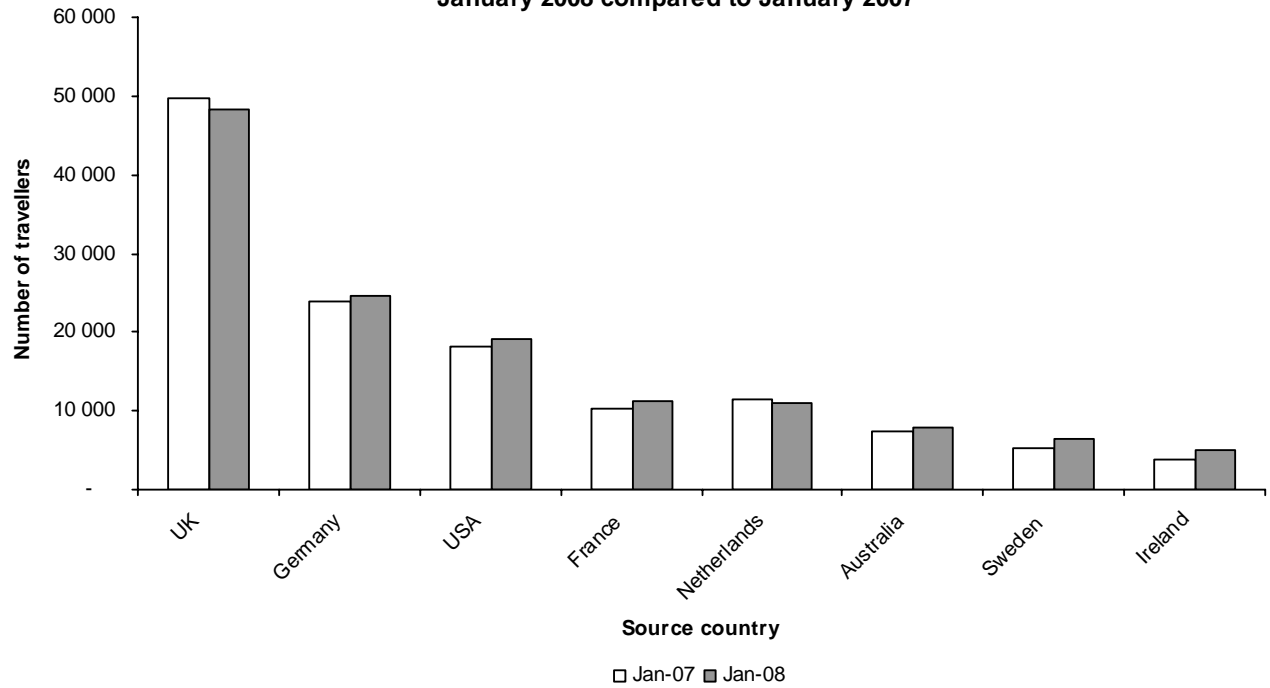


Figure 4: Number of travellers from SADC countries arriving from leading source countries in January 2008 compared to January 2007

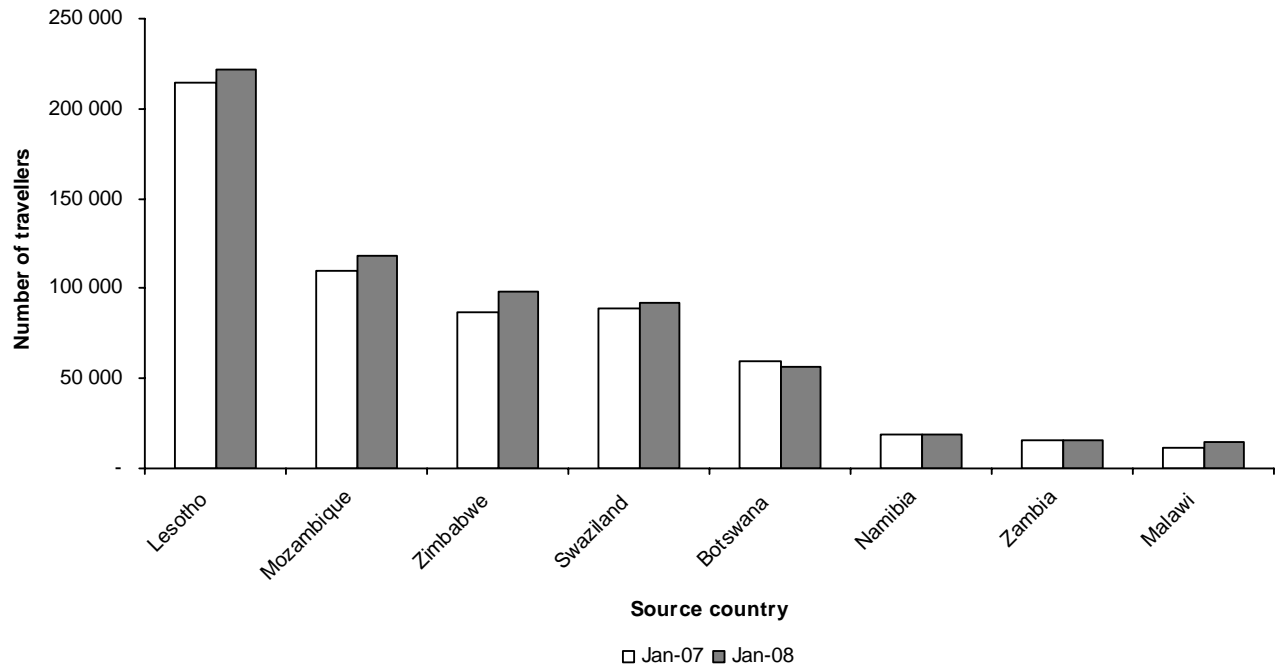


Figure 5: Number of travellers from 'other' African countries arriving from leading source countries in January 2008 compared to January 2007

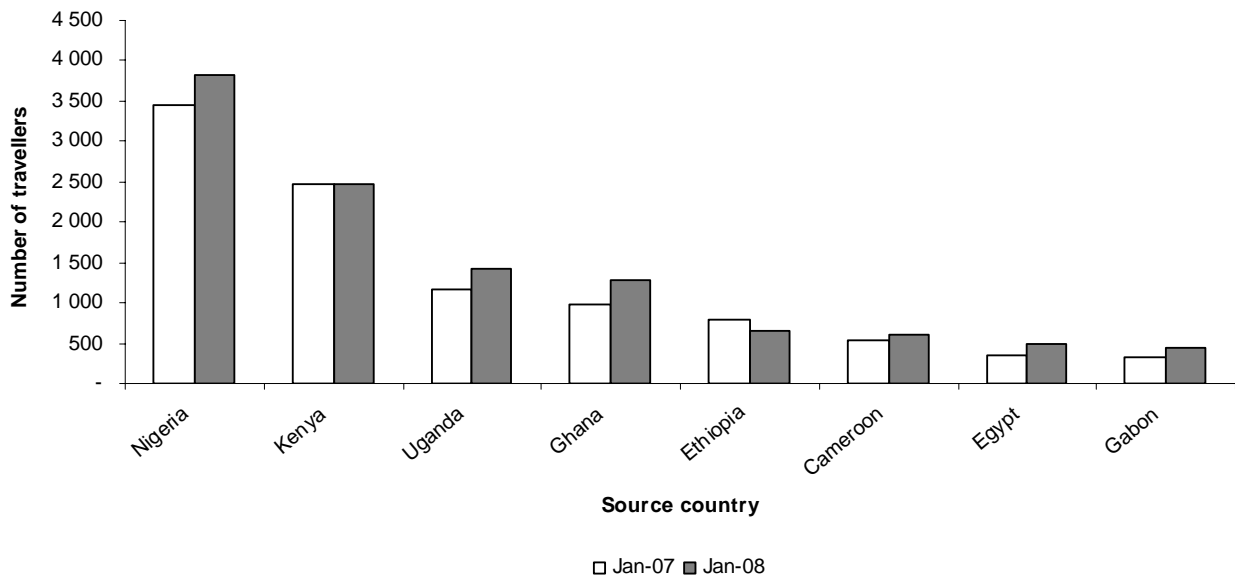


Table 1. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction

Travel direction	January	December	January	% change	% change
	2007	2007	2008	Jan 07–Jan 08	Dec 07–Jan 08
South African residents					
Arrivals	473 764	459 365	454 720	-4,0	-1,0
Departures	315 512	574 442	309 329	-2,0	-46,2
Foreign travellers					
Arrivals	824 249	890 391	869 659	5,5	-2,3
Departures	663 157	832 481	682 575	2,9	-18,0
Grand total	2 276 682	2 756 679	2 316 283	1,7	-16,0

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

Travel direction	Total	Mode of travel (January 2008)								
		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
		(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Grand total	2 316 283	169 611	3 671	608 992	6 799	789 073	46	1 508 422	329	18 413
Arrivals:	1 324 379	87 228	1 876	319 549	3 360	412 013	26	893 855	126	18 359
South African residents	454 720	22 783	1 496	154 106	2 441	180 826	-	272 578	17	1 299
Foreign travellers	869 659	64 445	380	165 443	919	231 187	26	621 277	109	17 060
Overseas	202 990	62 114	115	118 810	534	181 573	9	21 020	72	316
Africa	658 900	2 223	258	44 764	348	47 593	17	597 093	13	14 184
Unspecified	7 769	108	7	1 869	37	2 021	-	3 164	24	2 560
Departures:	991 904	82 383	1 795	289 443	3 439	377 060	20	614 567	203	54
South African residents	309 329	17 450	1 266	119 700	2 519	140 935	9	168 286	53	46
Foreign travellers	682 575	64 933	529	169 743	920	236 125	11	446 281	150	8

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

Country	Mode of travel (January 2008)										
	January		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Grand total	824 249	869 659	64 445	380	165 443	919	231 187	26	621 277	109	17 060
Overseas total	192 972	202 990	62 114	115	118 810	534	181 573	9	21 020	72	316
Europe	134 617	139 110	55 201	70	68 796	289	124 356	4	14 631	65	54
Austria	2 400	2 384	949	4	1 218	-	2 171	-	213	-	-
Belgium	3 280	3 421	1 012	-	1 919	16	2 947	-	473	-	1
Denmark	2 795	3 279	1 279	-	1 640	2	2 921	-	349	2	7
France	10 162	11 252	2 766	20	7 291	19	10 096	-	1 127	25	4
Germany	23 830	24 546	11 412	2	9 901	17	21 332	-	3 205	1	8
Greece	776	834	108	-	625	1	734	-	100	-	-
Ireland	3 877	4 928	2 701	-	1 888	6	4 595	-	329	1	3
Italy	4 262	4 505	1 384	2	2 717	9	4 112	1	390	-	2
Netherlands	11 389	11 103	4 026	5	4 984	10	9 025	-	2 078	-	-
Portugal	2 608	2 527	167	14	1 275	9	1 465	-	1 058	-	4
Spain	1 525	1 954	325	2	1 514	3	1 844	-	109	-	1
Sweden	5 157	6 363	3 389	-	2 373	3	5 765	-	587	11	-
Switzerland	3 573	3 743	1 279	1	1 961	7	3 248	-	488	5	2
UK	49 755	48 357	21 165	20	23 746	165	45 096	1	3 231	9	20
Other	9 228	9 914	3 239	-	5 744	22	9 005	2	894	11	2
North America	22 571	23 979	3 744	12	17 886	161	21 803	-	2 134	-	42
Canada	4 403	4 841	1 094	1	3 243	19	4 357	-	480	-	4
USA	18 162	19 132	2 647	11	14 640	142	17 440	-	1 654	-	38
Other	6	6	3	-	3	-	6	-	-	-	-
Central and South America	5 565	6 151	515	1	5 167	28	5 711	-	439	-	1
Argentina	1 011	1 150	317	-	768	8	1 093	-	57	-	-
Brazil	3 171	3 447	32	1	3 190	14	3 237	-	209	-	1
Chile	335	315	25	-	261	2	288	-	27	-	-
Other	1 048	1 239	141	-	948	4	1 093	-	146	-	-

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

Country	Mode of travel (January 2008)										
	January		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Australasia	9 145	9 641	722	15	8 010	31	8 778	-	858	-	5
Australia	7 515	7 988	548	10	6 749	25	7 332	-	651	-	5
New Zealand	1 557	1 583	169	5	1 225	6	1 405	-	178	-	-
Other	73	70	5	-	36	-	41	-	29	-	-
Middle East	3 241	4 117	665	-	3 194	7	3 866	-	249	-	2
Israel	1 471	1 594	63	-	1 390	5	1 458	-	136	-	-
Saudi Arabia	132	231	14	-	209	-	223	-	8	-	-
Turkey	672	1 127	454	-	650	1	1 105	-	22	-	-
Other	966	1 165	134	-	945	1	1 080	-	83	-	2
Asia	17 833	19 992	1 267	17	15 757	18	17 059	5	2 709	7	212
China	2 913	4 207	124	-	3 495	4	3 623	-	510	-	74
Hong Kong	397	421	25	-	359	-	384	-	37	-	-
India	4 283	4 678	78	6	3 763	1	3 848	4	750	1	75
Japan	2 134	2 152	115	4	1 961	1	2 081	-	71	-	-
Malaysia	505	579	133	-	424	-	557	-	21	-	1
Philippines	588	772	45	-	567	2	614	-	141	6	11
Rep of Korea	3 114	2 796	268	-	2 338	-	2 606	-	190	-	-
Singapore	301	335	69	-	250	1	320	-	15	-	-
Taiwan	1 374	1 331	148	3	776	-	927	-	376	-	28
Other	2 224	2 721	262	4	1 824	9	2 099	1	598	-	23

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

Country	Mode of travel (January 2008)										
	January		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Africa total	626 404	658 900	2 223	258	44 764	348	47 593	17	597 093	13	14 184
SADC	613 153	644 453	2 014	254	32 789	300	35 357	15	594 916	12	14 153
Angola	3 444	3 765	224	-	3 309	18	3 551	-	214	-	-
Botswana	59 207	56 623	36	13	2 516	131	2 696	-	53 849	-	78
DRC	2 215	2 705	-	-	1 908	15	1 923	-	782	-	-
Lesotho	213 928	221 462	8	1	499	-	508	-	208 009	-	12 945
Madagascar	210	288	37	4	234	-	275	-	13	-	-
Malawi	11 994	14 352	8	2	1 823	3	1 836	-	12 511	1	4
Mauritius	1 347	1 294	285	119	765	1	1 170	-	120	-	4
Mozambique	109 929	118 051	166	93	2 278	20	2 557	-	114 886	-	608
Namibia	18 314	18 377	1 185	-	2 116	15	3 316	-	15 061	-	-
Swaziland	89 423	92 216	3	16	713	1	733	11	91 361	-	111
Tanzania	1 245	1 306	5	2	977	1	985	-	316	-	5
Zambia	15 218	15 795	13	2	5 977	30	6 022	-	9 761	2	10
Zimbabwe	86 679	98 219	44	2	9 674	65	9 785	4	88 033	9	388

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

Country	Mode of travel (January 2008)										
	January		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
East and Central Africa	7 134	7 180	78	4	5 746	34	5 862	1	1 303	1	13
Burundi	101	124	1	-	87	-	88	-	36	-	-
Cameroon	536	598	5	-	559	-	564	-	33	-	1
Central African Rep	10	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Chad	21	17	2	-	15	-	17	-	-	-	-
Comoros	21	21	-	-	17	-	17	-	4	-	-
Congo	761	380	9	-	234	8	251	-	127	1	1
Djibouti	1	5	-	-	2	-	2	-	3	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	34	42	-	-	15	-	15	-	27	-	-
Eritrea	78	47	-	-	33	1	34	-	11	-	2
Ethiopia	790	650	2	-	459	8	469	1	178	-	2
Gabon	322	444	2	-	433	1	436	-	8	-	-
Kenya	2 460	2 475	6	-	2 207	14	2 227	-	247	-	1
Reunion	52	130	41	3	86	-	130	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	385	347	1	1	310	-	312	-	33	-	2
Sao Tome and Principe	5	9	2	-	5	-	7	-	2	-	-
Seychelles	226	173	-	-	170	-	170	-	2	-	1
Somalia	157	302	1	-	6	-	7	-	295	-	-
Tristan da Cunha	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uganda	1 171	1 414	6	-	1 106	2	1 114	-	297	-	3

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

Country	Mode of travel (January 2008)										
	January		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
West Africa	5 333	6 206	39	-	5 375	12	5 426	1	763	-	16
Ascension	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Benin	79	106	2	-	84	-	86	-	20	-	-
Burkina Faso	24	29	-	-	25	-	25	-	4	-	-
Cape Verde Island	47	48	1	-	36	-	37	-	10	-	1
Cote D'Ivoire	150	189	2	-	181	4	187	-	2	-	-
Gambia	55	53	3	-	38	-	41	-	12	-	-
Ghana	977	1 272	3	-	1 099	1	1 103	-	165	-	4
Guinea	123	181	2	-	115	4	121	-	60	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	20	20	1	-	5	-	6	-	14	-	-
Liberia	44	41	-	-	35	1	36	-	5	-	-
Madeira Island	16	7	3	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	1
Mali	53	75	-	-	56	-	56	-	19	-	-
Mauritania	5	13	-	-	12	-	12	-	1	-	-
Niger	9	14	3	-	10	-	13	-	1	-	-
Nigeria	3 441	3 821	14	-	3 387	2	3 403	1	407	-	10
Saint Helena	7	10	3	-	4	-	7	-	3	-	-
Senegal	199	244	-	-	217	-	217	-	27	-	-
Sierra Leone	49	41	-	-	37	-	37	-	4	-	-
Togo	34	41	2	-	33	-	35	-	6	-	-
Western Sahara	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Africa	784	1 061	92	-	854	2	948	-	111	-	2
Algeria	133	178	4	-	105	1	110	-	68	-	-
Egypt	347	478	58	-	407	-	465	-	13	-	-
Libya	66	88	3	-	61	-	64	-	22	-	2
Morocco	73	69	14	-	50	-	64	-	5	-	-
Sudan	120	149	6	-	140	-	146	-	3	-	-
Tunisia	45	99	7	-	91	1	99	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	4 873	7 769	108	7	1 869	37	2 021	-	3 164	24	2 560

Table 4. Number of foreign arrivals by purpose of travel

Region	Total	Purpose of travel (January 2008)							Contract worker	Border Traffic
		Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
Grand total	869 659	18 032	798 366	20 493	13 427	2 245	43	852 606	-	17 053
Overseas total	202 990	6 365	185 023	3 172	7 679	435	2	202 676	-	314
Europe	139 110	3 977	129 957	1 488	3 411	223	-	139 056	-	54
North America	23 979	762	21 703	703	715	55	-	23 938	-	41
Central and South America	6 151	118	5 623	89	270	51	-	6 151	-	-
Australasia	9 641	230	9 131	60	192	23	-	9 636	-	5
Middle East	4 117	219	3 596	110	182	8	-	4 115	-	2
Asia	19 992	1 059	15 013	722	2 909	75	2	19 780	-	212
Africa total	658 900	11 611	611 396	15 385	4 482	1 807	40	644 721	-	14 179
SADC	644 453	10 881	600 945	13 364	3 347	1 743	25	630 305	-	14 148
East and Central Africa	7 180	338	4 934	1 336	518	26	15	7 167	-	13
West Africa	6 206	267	4 771	607	514	31	-	6 190	-	16
North Africa	1 061	125	746	78	103	7	-	1 059	-	2
Unspecified	7 769	56	1 947	1 936	1 266	3	1	5 209	-	2 560

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

Country	January		Purpose of travel (January 2008)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
	2007	2008									
Grand total	824 249	869 659	18 032	798 366	20 493	13 427	2 245	43	852 606	-	17 053
Overseas total	192 972	202 990	6 365	185 023	3 172	7 679	435	2	202 676	-	314
Europe	134 617	139 110	3 977	129 957	1 488	3 411	223	-	139 056	-	54
Austria	2 400	2 384	58	2 278	14	34	-	-	2 384	-	-
Belgium	3 280	3 421	114	3 158	47	94	7	-	3 420	-	1
Denmark	2 795	3 279	75	3 132	8	53	4	-	3 272	-	7
France	10 162	11 252	335	10 369	144	383	17	-	11 248	-	4
Germany	23 830	24 546	786	22 865	345	518	24	-	24 538	-	8
Greece	776	834	23	751	13	46	1	-	834	-	-
Ireland	3 877	4 928	84	4 737	31	64	9	-	4 925	-	3
Italy	4 262	4 505	136	4 210	35	106	16	-	4 503	-	2
Netherlands	11 389	11 103	200	10 551	159	183	10	-	11 103	-	-
Portugal	2 608	2 527	38	2 404	25	50	6	-	2 523	-	4
Spain	1 525	1 954	75	1 773	14	77	14	-	1 953	-	1
Sweden	5 157	6 363	146	6 041	68	107	1	-	6 363	-	-
Switzerland	3 573	3 743	62	3 557	42	70	10	-	3 741	-	2
UK	49 755	48 357	1 508	45 477	409	868	75	-	48 337	-	20
Other	9 228	9 914	337	8 654	134	758	29	-	9 912	-	2
North America	22 571	23 979	762	21 703	703	715	55	-	23 938	-	41
Canada	4 403	4 841	162	4 425	69	169	12	-	4 837	-	4
USA	18 162	19 132	600	17 272	634	546	43	-	19 095	-	37
Other	6	6	-	6	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
Central and South America	5 565	6 151	118	5 623	89	270	51	-	6 151	-	-
Argentina	1 011	1 150	11	1 098	10	22	9	-	1 150	-	-
Brazil	3 171	3 447	25	3 263	33	96	30	-	3 447	-	-
Chile	335	315	3	292	1	17	2	-	315	-	-
Other	1 048	1 239	79	970	45	135	10	-	1 239	-	-

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

Country	January		Purpose of travel (January 2008)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
	2007	2008									
Australasia	9 145	9 641	230	9 131	60	192	23	-	9 636	-	5
Australia	7 515	7 988	204	7 564	43	152	20	-	7 983	-	5
New Zealand	1 557	1 583	25	1 517	9	30	2	-	1 583	-	-
Other	73	70	1	50	8	10	1	-	70	-	-
Middle East	3 241	4 117	219	3 596	110	182	8	-	4 115	-	2
Israel	1 471	1 594	65	1 454	10	63	2	-	1 594	-	-
Saudi Arabia	132	231	10	212	4	3	2	-	231	-	-
Turkey	672	1 127	43	1 020	12	52	-	-	1 127	-	-
Other	966	1 165	101	910	84	64	4	-	1 163	-	2
Asia	17 833	19 992	1 059	15 013	722	2 909	75	2	19 780	-	212
China	2 913	4 207	202	3 206	118	605	2	-	4 133	-	74
Hong Kong	397	421	12	393	4	10	2	-	421	-	-
India	4 283	4 678	446	3 184	115	827	29	2	4 603	-	75
Japan	2 134	2 152	98	1 805	19	229	1	-	2 152	-	-
Malaysia	505	579	37	482	23	33	3	-	578	-	1
Philippines	588	772	27	312	3	414	5	-	761	-	11
Rep of Korea	3 114	2 796	50	2 407	280	54	5	-	2 796	-	-
Singapore	301	335	34	284	3	14	-	-	335	-	-
Taiwan	1 374	1 331	45	991	74	189	4	-	1 303	-	28
Other	2 224	2 721	108	1 949	83	534	24	-	2 698	-	23

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

Country	January		Purpose of travel (January 2008)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
	2007	2008									
Africa total	626 404	658 900	11 611	611 396	15 385	4 482	1 807	40	644 721	-	14 179
SADC	613 153	644 453	10 881	600 945	13 364	3 347	1 743	25	630 305	-	14 148
Angola	3 444	3 765	57	2 757	868	73	10	-	3 765	-	-
Botswana	59 207	56 623	77	53 751	2 251	223	243	-	56 545	-	78
DRC	2 215	2 705	69	2 163	345	86	19	23	2 705	-	-
Lesotho	213 928	221 462	2 733	203 414	1 678	185	507	-	208 517	-	12 945
Madagascar	210	288	38	188	26	29	7	-	288	-	-
Malawi	11 994	14 352	550	13 405	256	121	16	-	14 348	-	4
Mauritius	1 347	1 294	46	1 004	190	42	8	-	1 290	-	4
Mozambique	109 929	118 051	548	116 349	379	122	49	-	117 447	-	604
Namibia	18 314	18 377	1 539	13 914	2 289	94	541	-	18 377	-	-
Swaziland	89 423	92 216	292	89 925	1 516	184	188	-	92 105	-	111
Tanzania	1 245	1 306	83	925	235	56	2	-	1 301	-	5
Zambia	15 218	15 795	2 050	13 066	465	163	41	-	15 785	-	10
Zimbabwe	86 679	98 219	2 799	90 084	2 866	1 969	112	2	97 832	-	387

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

Country	January		Purpose of travel (January 2008)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
East and Central Africa	7 134	7 180	338	4 934	1 336	518	26	15	7 167	-	13
Burundi	101	124	7	83	17	5	1	11	124	-	-
Cameroon	536	598	46	337	141	70	3	-	597	-	1
Central African Rep	10	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Chad	21	17	4	9	3	1	-	-	17	-	-
Comoros	21	21	1	16	3	1	-	-	21	-	-
Congo	761	380	8	284	62	25	-	-	379	-	1
Djibouti	1	5	-	5	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	34	42	1	33	8	-	-	-	42	-	-
Eritrea	78	47	2	35	5	3	-	-	45	-	2
Ethiopia	790	650	13	555	48	29	3	-	648	-	2
Gabon	322	444	2	233	194	14	1	-	444	-	-
Kenya	2 460	2 475	190	1 530	501	249	4	-	2 474	-	1
Reunion	52	130	1	127	2	-	-	-	130	-	-
Rwanda	385	347	11	189	125	14	5	1	345	-	2
Sao Tome and Principe	5	9	-	7	2	-	-	-	9	-	-
Seychelles	226	173	5	149	16	1	1	-	172	-	1
Somalia	157	302	1	299	-	-	-	2	302	-	-
Tristan da Cunha	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uganda	1 171	1 414	46	1 041	209	106	8	1	1 411	-	3

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

Country	January		Purpose of travel (January 2008)								Contract worker	Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total			
	2007	2008										
West Africa	5 333	6 206	267	4 771	607	514	31	-	6 190	-	16	
Ascension	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Benin	79	106	2	89	9	6	-	-	106	-	-	
Burkina Faso	24	29	5	17	1	5	1	-	29	-	-	
Cape Verde Island	47	48	-	46	1	-	-	-	47	-	1	
Cote D'Ivoire	150	189	18	119	12	34	6	-	189	-	-	
Gambia	55	53	9	39	-	2	3	-	53	-	-	
Ghana	977	1 272	36	1 023	86	119	4	-	1 268	-	4	
Guinea	123	181	6	137	22	12	4	-	181	-	-	
Guinea-Bissau	20	20	1	19	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	
Liberia	44	41	2	30	4	5	-	-	41	-	-	
Madeira Island	16	7	-	5	1	-	-	-	6	-	1	
Mali	53	75	5	60	8	1	1	-	75	-	-	
Mauritania	5	13	3	9	-	1	-	-	13	-	-	
Niger	9	14	5	5	2	2	-	-	14	-	-	
Nigeria	3 441	3 821	139	2 927	443	297	5	-	3 811	-	10	
Saint Helena	7	10	-	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	
Senegal	199	244	28	173	12	24	7	-	244	-	-	
Sierra Leone	49	41	4	28	5	4	-	-	41	-	-	
Togo	34	41	4	34	1	2	-	-	41	-	-	
Western Sahara	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
North Africa	784	1 061	125	746	78	103	7	-	1 059	-	2	
Algeria	133	178	24	122	19	11	2	-	178	-	-	
Egypt	347	478	63	332	18	62	3	-	478	-	-	
Libya	66	88	5	60	13	7	1	-	86	-	2	
Morocco	73	69	12	51	1	5	-	-	69	-	-	
Sudan	120	149	11	101	26	11	-	-	149	-	-	
Tunisia	45	99	10	80	1	7	1	-	99	-	-	
Unspecified	4 873	7 769	56	1 947	1 936	1 266	3	1	5 209	-	2 560	

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. Introduction

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

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

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

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

2. Purpose of the statistical release

This release reports on arrivals and departures of foreign and South African travellers. Travellers include (a) same-day visitors and tourists and (b) other travellers such as migrant workers from other countries paid in South Africa.

3. Scope and coverage

This release covers all the data as received from the DHA. The arrivals of foreign travellers are more detailed than departures as they are reported by mode of travel, gender, age and purpose of visit whereas statistics on South African residents are reported by mode of travel. Statistics on documented migration, i.e. self-declared emigrants and documented immigrants, are currently not reported due to the unavailability of data from the DHA.

4. Data

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

- Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) database on population Movement Control System (MCS): Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all land, air and sea entry ports on all travellers (South African residents and foreign travellers) arriving into or departing from South Africa are captured into the system. Generally the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the port's electronic database. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) downloads the data covering a particular calendar month from the mainframe of the State Information Technology Agency (SITA), where the DHA stores its data.
- DHA departure forms: the DHA departure forms are specifically designed for the collection of data from South African residents departing South Africa. The completed forms from OR Tambo, Cape Town and Durban international airports covering a particular calendar month are processed and analysed accordingly by Stats SA.
- The database for applicants for South African permanent residence: a printout of data on the successful applicants covering a particular calendar month is issued to Stats SA.

5. Limitations

The main limitation of the published information is its inability to directly measure the volume of tourists. The main aspects of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation's (UNWTO) definition of a tourist are duration of stay and whether individuals are remunerated in the place being visited. Although the intended duration of stay can be inferred from the expiry date of the temporary residence permit, this does not necessarily translate into actual duration of stay. In addition, the data do not provide information on the remuneration status of travellers in South Africa.

The information on the total number of arrivals and departures of South African residents is collected from the scanning of passports. However, data on country of final destination and purpose of visit will be available when the re-introduction of the departure forms is in full operational at the three international airports (OR Tambo, Cape Town and Durban). Processing of available departure forms from the three international airports is currently underway.

Due to unavailability of data from the DHA, information on documented immigrants is not included in this current publication. The documented immigration information will be provided as soon as it is made available to Stats SA.

6. Glossary of terms

Key terms used in this release are defined as follows:

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

Border traffic concession is granted to a person who crosses the border on a frequent basis. The concession is granted for a maximum period of six months after which it can be renewed if necessary.

Country refers to individual countries within a region. Note that not all the lists of countries available in the data are reported in the release owing to the few monthly arrivals from those countries. Data on these countries will be made available to individuals on request.

Foreign traveller refers to a traveller who is not a South African citizen or permanent resident.

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

Overseas refers to all other countries outside Africa.

Region refers to the following country classification: Europe, North America, Central and South America, Australasia, the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

SADC refers to the thirteen countries, excluding South Africa, that belong to the Southern African Development Community.

Same-day visitor is a visitor who visits a place for less than one night.

South African resident refers to either a South African citizen or a non-South African citizen with a South African permanent residence permit.

Tourism comprises the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited. The usual environment of a person consists of a certain area around his/her place of residence plus all other places he/she frequently visits. *Even though the data from the DHA used in this release do not provide information on duration of stay and remuneration status of the travellers, activities of most of these travellers will comprise tourism.*

Tourist (overnight visitor) is a visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the place visited. An international tourist is an international visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the country visited.

Traveller is any person on a trip between two or more localities (e.g. countries). Travellers can include Visitors (same-day and overnight) and other travellers such as workers paid in the country visited, migrants, refugees, diplomats and others within the usual environment.

Visitor is any person travelling to a place other than that of his/her usual environment for less than 12 months and whose main purpose of the trip is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited. However, in this release, the concept visitor is used to indicate an individual that entered the country on visitor's temporary permit.

7. Symbols and abbreviations used

- = nil
Unspec. = unspecified

General information

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

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