

STATISTICAL RELEASE

P0351

Tourism and migration

January 2017

Embargoed until:
27 March 2017
09:00

ENQUIRIES:

User Information Services
Tel: (012) 310 8600 / 4892 / 8390

FORTHCOMING ISSUE:

February 2017

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE:

24 April 2017

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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 January 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.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

1. Key findings

1.1 Travellers

1.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 3 815 402 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in January 2017. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 995 727 South African residents and 2 819 675 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 601 521 arrivals, 393 508 departures and 698 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 559 295, 1 204 768 and 55 612 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in January 2016 and January 2017 indicates that, for both South African residents and foreign travellers the volume of arrivals increased. The volume of departures increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers, while the volume of transits decreased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 2,9% (from 584 653 in January 2016 to 601 521 in January 2017), departures increased by 0,6% (from 391 185 in January 2016 to 393 508 in January 2017), and transits decreased by 15,8% (from 829 in January 2016 to 698 in January 2017). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by less than 0,1% (from 1 558 854 in January 2016 to 1 559 295 in January 2017), departures decreased by 1,3% (from 1 220 540 in January 2016 to 1 204 768 in January 2017), and transits decreased by 4,6% (from 58 270 in January 2016 to 55 612 in January 2017).

A comparison between the movements in December 2016 and January 2017 indicates that the volume of arrivals increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, while the volumes of departures and transits decreased for both groups. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 6,2% (from 566 635 in December 2016 to 601 521 in January 2017), departures decreased by 48,7% (from 766 332 in December 2016 to 393 508 in January 2017), and transits decreased by 22,7% (from 903 in December 2016 to 698 in January 2017). For foreign travellers, the volume of arrivals increased by 0,3% (from 1 554 048 in December 2016 to 1 559 295 in January 2017), departures decreased by 24,2% (from 1 589 855 in December 2016 to 1 204 768 in January 2017), and transits decreased by 14,1% (from 64 775 in December 2016 to 55 612 in January 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 January 2017, 120 373 (7,7%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 438 922 (92,3%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in January 2017 but did not depart in January 2017 [531 481 (36,9%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in January 2017 and left in January 2017 [410 265 (28,5%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in January 2017 [497 176 (34,6%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In January 2017, there were 398 388 (27,7%) same-day visitors and 1 040 534 (72,3%) tourists. Between January 2016 and January 2017, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 7,1% (from 428 844 in January 2016 to 398 388 in January 2017) and that of tourists increased by 2,8% (from 1 012 641 in January 2016 to 1 040 534 in January 2017). Between December 2016 and January 2017, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 21,5% (from 507 351 in December 2016 to 398 388 in January 2017), while tourists increased by 7,8% (from 965 107 in December 2016 to 1 040 534 in January 2017).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 10 show that in January 2017, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 717 021 (71,2%) of the 3 815 402 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 1 069 913 (28,0%). Compared to use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 28 468 (0,7%) used sea transport. The arrivals data for South African residents show that 215 953 (35,9%) came by air, 380 781 (63,3%) came by road and 4 787 (0,8%) arrived by sea. For departures, 154 683 (39,3%) used air, 233 740 (59,4%) used road and 5 085 (1,3%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit (698) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 311 833 (20,0%) arrived by air, 1 238 185 (79,4%) came by road and 9 277 (0,6%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 331 134 (27,5%) foreign travellers left by air, 864 315 (71,7%) left by road and 9 319 (0,8%) left by sea. All travellers in transit (55 612) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [381 092 (95,7%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 16 485 (4,1%) of same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that 765 599 (73,6%) used road transport, 271 688 (26,1%) came by air and 3 247 (0,3%) arrived by sea.

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 January 2017, 219 537 (89,6%) of overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 22 314 (9,1%) came in by road and 3 223 (1,3%) arrived by sea. 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 [742 141 (95,1%)] and by air [38 119 (4,9%)]. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 13 393 (93,0%), with 1 000 (6,9%) using road transport and 9 (0,1%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In January 2017, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 162 959 (66,5%); North America, 28 734 (11,7%); Asia, 28 663 (11,7%); Central and South America, 10 375 (4,2%); Australasia, 10 048 (4,1%); and Middle East, 4 295 (1,8%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 11–14 indicate that the United Kingdom (UK), 48 165 (19,7%); Germany, 33 413 (13,6%); United States of America (USA), 23 289 (9,5%); France, 15 725 (6,4%); The Netherlands, 14 346 (5,9%); China, 12 066 (4,9%); Australia, 8 762 (3,6%); Sweden, 7 233 (3,0%); Switzerland, 6 554 (2,7%); and India, 6 293 (2,6%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in January 2017. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 71,8% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in January 2016 and January 2017 shows that the number of tourists increased for all but one (India), of the ten leading overseas countries. France had the largest increase of 34,1% (from 11 728 tourists in January 2016 to 15 725 in January 2017), followed by Sweden, which increased by 28,6% (from 5 625 in January 2016 to 7 233 in January 2017) and China, which increased by 28,3% (from 9 406 in January 2016 to 12 066 in January 2017). India decreased by 5,2% (from 6 638 tourists in January 2016 to 6 293 in January 2017).

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 780 275 (98,2%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 7 102 (0,9%); East and Central Africa, 5 948 (0,7%); and North Africa 1 352 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2017 were: Zimbabwe, 244 966 (31,4%); Lesotho, 227 031 (29,1%); Mozambique, 137 972 (17,7%); Swaziland, 72 685 (9,3%); Botswana, 40 604 (5,2%); Namibia, 15 711 (2,0%); Malawi, 14 856 (1,9%); Zambia, 13 404 (1,7%); Angola, 5 720 (0,7%) and Tanzania, 2 976 (0,4%). (See Figure 2 on page 7 and Table 3 on page 12). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,4% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in January 2016 and January 2017 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for four of the ten leading countries (Malawi, Lesotho, Angola and Tanzania), and decreased for the other six (Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe). Malawi showed the largest increase of 21,0% (from 12 282 tourists in January 2016 to 14 856 in January 2017), while Botswana showed the largest decrease of 8,7% (from 44 458 tourists in January 2016 to 40 604 in January 2017).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2017 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13 & 14, were: Nigeria, 4 791 (33,3%); Kenya, 2 106 (14,6%); Ghana, 1 323 (9,2%); Uganda, 1 159 (8,0%); Gabon, 763 (5,3%); Egypt, 701 (4,9%); Cameroon, 661 (4,6%); Ethiopia, 584 (4,1%); Congo, 314 (2,2%) and Côte d'Ivoire, 194 (1,3%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 87,5% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in January 2016 and January 2017 shows that the number of tourists increased for four of the ten leading countries (Ethiopia, Cameroon, Uganda and Kenya), and decreased for the other six (Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Egypt, Ghana, Gabon, and Congo). Ethiopia showed the largest increase of 29,8% (from 450 tourists in January 2016 to 584 in January 2017), while Côte d'Ivoire showed the largest decrease of 15,7% (from 230 tourists in January 2016 to 194 in January 2017).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on pages 15–18, in January 2017, the majority of tourists, 1 006 752 (96,8%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 19 620 (1,9%) and 14 162 (1,4%) 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 90,0% came to South Africa for holiday. A total of 9 876 (98,3%) tourists from Australasia, 10 164 (98,0%) from Central and South America, 157 590 (96,7%) from Europe, 27 563 (95,9%) from North America, 26 726 (93,2%) from Asia and 3 994 (93,0%) from the Middle East were in South Africa for holiday. The Middle East and Asia had higher proportions of tourists who came to South Africa for business [4,3% (186) and 3,8% (1 098), respectively]. The two regions also had higher proportions of tourists who came for study purposes [2,9% (839) and 2,7% (115) for Asia and Middle East respectively], compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists, 770 130 (96,9%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 758 292 (97,2%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 11 838 (82,2%) of tourists from 'other' African countries came for the same purpose. Data on the regions of 'other' African countries show that tourists on holiday constituted 86,9% (6 174); 80,3% (1 086); and 77,0% (4 578) for West Africa, North Africa and East and Central Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 5,1% (741) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 1,6% (12 822) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 10,4% (140) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes.
- Students made up 12,7% (1 823) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,2% (9 161) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa had the highest proportion, 17,3% (1 030) 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 January 2017, there were 585 075 (56,2%) male and 455 459 (43,8%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 130 079 (53,1%) male tourists and 114 995 (46,9%) female tourists. There were 445 126 (57,0%) male and 335 149 (43,0%) female tourists from the SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 9 396 (65,2%) male and 5 006 (34,8%) 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 50 728 (4,9%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 926 578 (89,0%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 63 228 (6,1%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 730 199 (93,6%) tourists from SADC countries and 13 282 (92,2%) tourists of 'other' African countries were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 182 329 (74,4%) tourists in the same age range from overseas. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was lower among tourists from SADC, 4,7% (36 759), than among those from overseas, 5,4% (13 122) and from 'other' African countries, 5,9% (843).

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 20,1% (26 132) of male and 20,4% (23 491) 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 2,5% of both male and female tourists. From the SADC countries elderly tourists made up 1,4% (6 219) and 2,1% (7 098) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 1,7% (157) and 2,4% (120) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

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

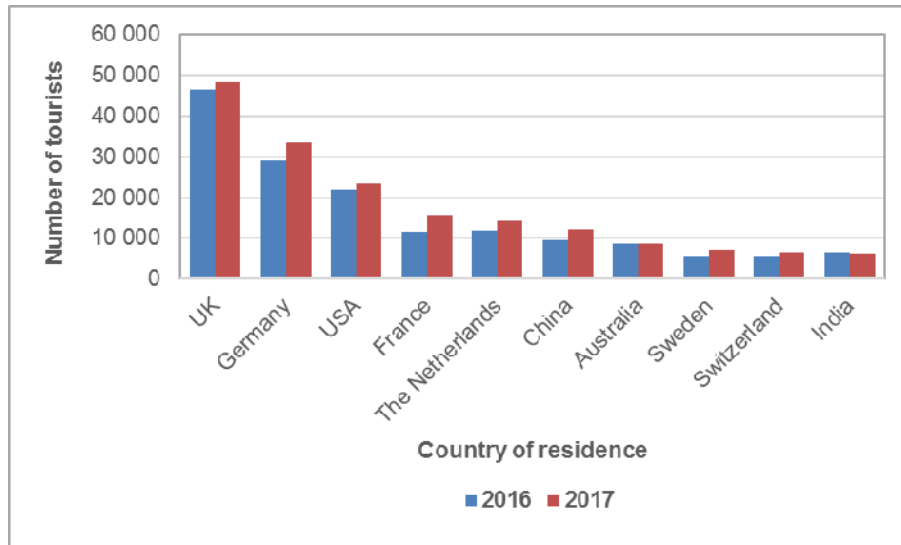


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in January 2016 and January 2017

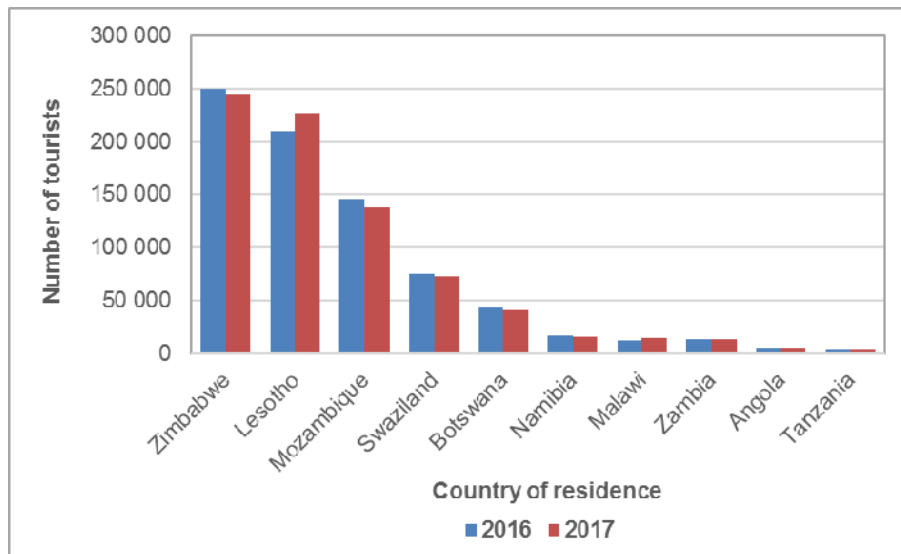
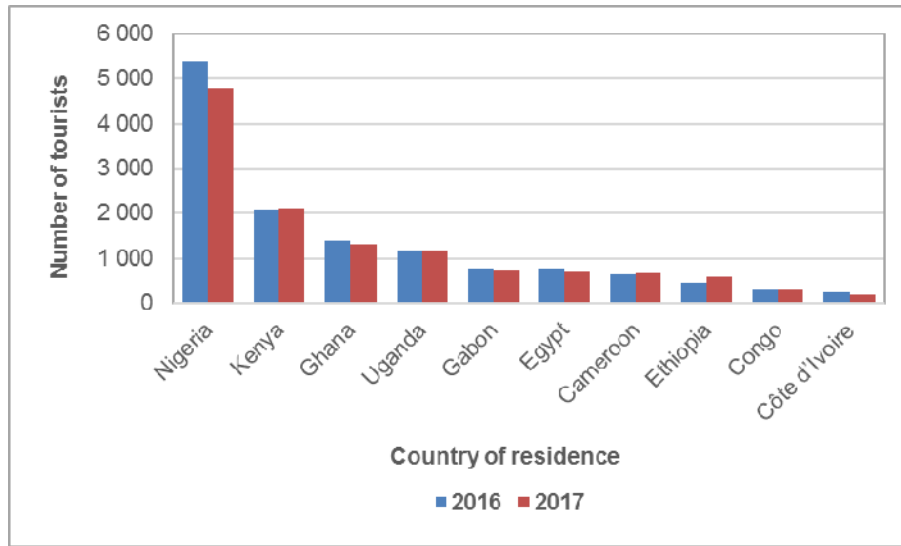


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in January 2016 and January 2017



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	January 2016	December 2016	January 2017	% Change	
				Dec 2016 – Jan 2017	Jan 2016 – Jan 2017
Total	3 814 331	4 542 548	3 815 402	-16,0%	0,03%
South African residents	976 667	1 333 870	995 727	-25,4%	2,0%
Arrivals	584 653	566 635	601 521	6,2%	2,9%
Departures	391 185	766 332	393 508	-48,7%	0,6%
Transit	829	903	698	-22,7%	-15,8%
Foreign travellers	2 837 664	3 208 678	2 819 675	-12,1%	-0,6%
Arrivals	1 558 854	1 554 048	1 559 295	0,3%	0,03%
Departures	1 220 540	1 589 855	1 204 768	-24,2%	-1,3%
Transit	58 270	64 775	55 612	-14,1%	-4,6%
Foreign arrivals	1 558 854	1 554 048	1 559 295	0,3%	0,03%
Non-visitors	117 369	81 590	120 373	47,5%	2,6%
Visitors	1 441 485	1 472 458	1 438 922	-2,3%	-0,2%
Visitors	1 441 485	1 472 458	1 438 922	-2,3%	-0,2%
Arrivals only	497 274	357 103	531 481	48,8%	6,9%
Single trips	429 745	527 960	410 265	-22,3%	-4,5%
Multiple trips	514 466	587 395	497 176	-15,4%	-3,4%
Visitors	1 441 485	1 472 458	1 438 922	-2,3%	-0,2%
Same day	428 844	507 351	398 388	-21,5%	-7,1%
Overnight (tourists)	1 012 641	965 107	1 040 534	7,8%	2,8%

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

Travel direction	Total	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O. R. Tambo	Other Airports	Total		
Total	3 815 402	254 200	36 943	773 829	4 941	1 069 913	2 717 021	28 468
South African residents	995 727	59 099	23 932	285 464	2 839	371 334	614 521	9 872
Arrivals	601 521	34 095	14 191	166 292	1 375	215 953	380 781	4 787
Departures	393 508	24 994	9 741	118 484	1 464	154 683	233 740	5 085
Transit	698	10	-	688	-	698	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 819 675	195 101	13 011	488 365	2 102	698 579	2 102 500	18 596
Arrivals	1 559 295	95 685	4 936	210 392	820	311 833	1 238 185	9 277
Departures	1 204 768	99 326	8 075	222 451	1 282	331 134	864 315	9 319
Transit	55 612	90	-	55 522	-	55 612	-	-
Visitors	1 438 922	90 883	3 456	193 234	600	288 173	1 146 691	4 058
Same day	398 388	441	19	15 935	90	16 485	381 092	811
Tourist	1 040 534	90 442	3 437	177 299	510	271 688	765 599	3 247

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

Country of residence	January		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	1 012 641	1 040 534	90 442	3 437	177 299	510	271 688	765 599	3 247
Overseas	214 903	245 074	84 672	2 893	131 576	396	219 537	22 314	3 223
Europe	144 130	162 959	70 110	1 893	73 515	161	145 679	14 853	2 427
Austria	2 902	3 110	1 438	91	1 326	6	2 861	242	7
Belgium	3 749	4 213	1 752	35	1 956	5	3 748	451	14
Denmark	3 413	3 625	1 296	38	2 062	8	3 404	217	4
France	11 728	15 725	4 885	95	7 769	14	12 763	2 933	29
Germany	28 944	33 413	16 112	267	14 259	11	30 649	2 629	135
Ireland	2 708	3 277	1 694	56	1 354	2	3 106	128	43
Italy	4 617	4 960	1 903	83	2 473	10	4 469	478	13
Norway	2 022	2 264	1 130	17	852	3	2 002	255	7
Portugal	3 529	3 255	526	30	1 592	7	2 155	1 100	-
Spain	2 074	2 285	599	16	1 442	7	2 064	203	18
Sweden	5 625	7 233	3 824	76	2 842	2	6 744	480	9
Switzerland	5 424	6 554	2 999	67	2 915	6	5 987	542	25
The Netherlands	11 980	14 346	6 767	102	5 357	9	12 235	2 066	45
UK	46 264	48 165	21 225	749	21 829	54	43 857	2 261	2 047
Other	9 151	10 534	3 960	171	5 487	17	9 635	868	31
North America	26 962	28 734	7 152	256	18 116	125	25 649	2 504	581
Canada	5 176	5 445	1 610	39	3 124	23	4 796	484	165
USA	21 786	23 289	5 542	217	14 992	102	20 853	2 020	416
Central and South America	5 332	10 375	910	40	8 613	28	9 591	761	23
Argentina	1 082	2 473	58	3	2 232	2	2 295	178	-
Brazil	2 870	6 114	652	23	4 964	3	5 642	457	15
Chile	255	578	12	1	529	4	546	29	3
Other	1 125	1 210	188	13	888	19	1 108	97	5

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

Country of residence	January		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	10 011	10 048	1 170	209	7 697	40	9 116	839	93
Australia	8 508	8 762	985	163	6 814	27	7 989	681	92
New Zealand	1 494	1 264	183	46	866	13	1 108	155	1
Other	9	22	2	-	17	-	19	3	-
Middle East	3 466	4 295	948	31	3 097	9	4 085	201	9
Iran	226	336	84	4	238	-	326	10	-
Israel	1 812	2 158	271	15	1 708	2	1 996	157	5
Saudi Arabia	621	848	246	1	594	7	848	-	-
Other	807	953	347	11	557	-	915	34	4
Asia	25 002	28 663	4 382	464	20 538	33	25 417	3 156	90
Bangladesh	399	381	51	6	164	-	221	160	-
China	9 406	12 066	1 815	58	9 752	12	11 637	417	12
India	6 638	6 293	713	230	4 403	8	5 354	936	3
Japan	2 579	2 325	298	16	1 371	-	1 685	586	54
Malaysia	413	524	211	23	262	1	497	27	-
Pakistan	1 157	1 243	124	51	589	-	764	479	-
Singapore	317	447	151	4	270	5	430	12	5
South Korea	2 187	3 053	560	36	2 181	-	2 777	275	1
Taiwan	408	653	78	-	517	2	597	55	1
Thailand	389	457	101	14	307	3	425	28	4
Other	1 109	1 221	280	26	722	2	1 030	181	10
Africa	797 050	794 677	5 695	542	45 161	114	51 512	743 141	24
SADC	782 002	780 275	4 572	477	32 973	97	38 119	742 141	15
Angola	5 565	5 720	1 904	1	3 649	2	5 556	164	-
Botswana	44 458	40 604	186	62	1 774	20	2 042	38 561	1
DRC	2 493	2 167	59	1	1 700	-	1 760	407	-
Lesotho	209 403	227 031	6	4	430	1	441	226 589	1

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

Country of residence	January		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	204	182	5	-	173	-	178	4	-
Malawi	12 282	14 856	11	-	1 841	5	1 857	12 999	-
Mauritius	1 753	1 466	309	83	949	3	1 344	122	-
Mozambique	145 775	137 972	7	66	3 247	15	3 335	134 636	1
Namibia	17 033	15 711	1 840	70	2 302	12	4 224	11 477	10
Seychelles	620	535	7	-	513	-	520	15	-
Swaziland	75 176	72 685	7	2	390	-	399	72 286	-
Tanzania	2 968	2 976	41	5	1 722	9	1 777	1 199	-
Zambia	13 758	13 404	48	94	2 905	4	3 051	10 352	1
Zimbabwe	250 514	244 966	142	89	11 378	26	11 635	233 330	1
'Other' African	15 048	14 402	1 123	65	12 188	17	13 393	1 000	9
East and Central Africa	5 812	5 948	540	28	4 936	13	5 517	431	-
Burundi	80	70	11	1	47	-	59	11	-
Cameroon	632	661	43	-	585	2	630	31	-
Central African Republic	23	7	1	-	6	-	7	-	-
Chad	12	18	5	-	12	-	17	1	-
Comoros	9	9	2	-	6	-	8	1	-
Congo	317	314	36	-	270	1	307	7	-
Djibouti	4	9	1	-	8	-	9	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	45	56	5	-	50	1	56	-	-
Eritrea	64	51	5	-	46	-	51	-	-
Ethiopia	450	584	92	15	409	-	516	68	-
Gabon	780	763	33	-	716	6	755	8	-
Kenya	2 097	2 106	233	7	1 697	2	1 939	167	-
Réunion	21	7	7	-	-	-	7	-	-
Rwanda	104	101	10	1	84	-	95	6	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	6	6	-	-	4	-	4	2	-
Somalia	21	27	6	-	20	-	26	1	-
Uganda	1 147	1 159	50	4	976	1	1 031	128	-

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

Country of residence	January		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	7 849	7 102	268	17	6 294	4	6 583	510	9
Benin	181	114	2	-	108	-	110	4	-
Burkina Faso	46	54	4	-	44	-	48	6	-
Cape Verde Island	38	53	9	-	38	-	47	6	-
Côte d'Ivoire	230	194	6	2	176	-	184	10	-
Gambia	29	29	1	-	23	-	24	5	-
Ghana	1 398	1 323	61	3	1 202	-	1 266	57	-
Guinea	153	114	5	-	55	-	60	54	-
Guinea-Bissau	14	15	-	-	14	-	14	1	-
Liberia	42	45	3	-	41	-	44	1	-
Mali	72	105	7	-	47	-	54	51	-
Mauritania	2	10	1	-	8	-	9	1	-
Niger	15	14	5	-	9	-	14	-	-
Nigeria	5 381	4 791	147	11	4 332	4	4 494	297	-
Saint Helena	21	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Senegal	140	157	7	-	138	-	145	12	-
Sierra Leone	53	42	2	-	35	-	37	5	-
Togo	34	33	8	1	24	-	33	-	-
North Africa	1 387	1 352	315	20	958	-	1 293	59	-
Algeria	103	112	8	1	100	-	109	3	-
Egypt	779	701	212	8	452	-	672	29	-
Libya	75	73	26	3	31	-	60	13	-
Morocco	108	137	19	7	104	-	130	7	-
South Sudan	70	83	3	-	79	-	82	1	-
The Sudan	161	151	36	1	109	-	146	5	-
Tunisia	91	95	11	-	83	-	94	1	-
Unspecified	688	783	75	2	562	-	639	144	-

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

Country of residence	January		Purpose of visit (January 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
Total	1 012 641	1 040 534	19 620	1 006 752	14 162
Overseas	214 903	245 074	5 985	235 913	3 176
Europe	144 130	162 959	3 743	157 590	1 626
Austria	2 902	3 110	49	3 039	22
Belgium	3 749	4 213	111	4 038	64
Denmark	3 413	3 625	76	3 528	21
France	11 728	15 725	341	15 074	310
Germany	28 944	33 413	639	32 421	353
Ireland	2 708	3 277	77	3 179	21
Italy	4 617	4 960	219	4 661	80
Norway	2 022	2 264	63	2 164	37
Portugal	3 529	3 255	60	3 153	42
Spain	2 074	2 285	143	2 091	51
Sweden	5 625	7 233	117	7 084	32
Switzerland	5 424	6 554	67	6 445	42
The Netherlands	11 980	14 346	254	13 954	138
UK	46 264	48 165	1 119	46 738	308
Other	9 151	10 534	408	10 021	105
North America	26 962	28 734	736	27 563	435
Canada	5 176	5 445	108	5 285	52
USA	21 786	23 289	628	22 278	383
Central and South America	5 332	10 375	101	10 164	110
Argentina	1 082	2 473	10	2 451	12
Brazil	2 870	6 114	36	6 033	45
Chile	255	578	8	567	3
Other	1 125	1 210	47	1 113	50

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

Country of residence	January		Purpose of visit (January 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	10 011	10 048	121	9 876	51
Australia	8 508	8 762	108	8 613	41
New Zealand	1 494	1 264	12	1 242	10
Other	9	22	1	21	-
Middle East	3 466	4 295	186	3 994	115
Iran	226	336	6	295	35
Israel	1 812	2 158	58	2 087	13
Saudi Arabia	621	848	13	801	34
Other	807	953	109	811	33
Asia	25 002	28 663	1 098	26 726	839
Bangladesh	399	381	31	339	11
China	9 406	12 066	260	11 697	109
India	6 638	6 293	495	5 511	287
Japan	2 579	2 325	81	2 217	27
Malaysia	413	524	22	449	53
Pakistan	1 157	1 243	61	1 119	63
Singapore	317	447	21	417	9
South Korea	2 187	3 053	30	2 849	174
Taiwan	408	653	14	622	17
Thailand	389	457	15	422	20
Other	1 109	1 221	68	1 084	69
Africa	797 050	794 677	13 563	770 130	10 984
SADC	782 002	780 275	12 822	758 292	9 161
Angola	5 565	5 720	30	4 855	835
Botswana	44 458	40 604	463	39 538	603
DRC	2 493	2 167	65	1 772	330
Lesotho	209 403	227 031	1 183	224 982	866

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

Country of residence	January		Purpose of visit (January 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
Madagascar	204	182	5	155	22
Malawi	12 282	14 856	283	14 325	248
Mauritius	1 753	1 466	52	1 251	163
Mozambique	145 775	137 972	3 921	133 771	280
Namibia	17 033	15 711	1 691	12 238	1 782
Seychelles	620	535	5	520	10
Swaziland	75 176	72 685	393	71 214	1 078
Tanzania	2 968	2 976	76	2 600	300
Zambia	13 758	13 404	1 287	11 761	356
Zimbabwe	250 514	244 966	3 368	239 310	2 288
'Other' African	15 048	14 402	741	11 838	1 823
East and Central Africa	5 812	5 948	340	4 578	1 030
Burundi	80	70	2	55	13
Cameroon	632	661	26	509	126
Central African Republic	23	7	-	7	-
Chad	12	18	2	13	3
Comoros	9	9	1	7	1
Congo	317	314	4	227	83
Djibouti	4	9	2	7	-
Equatorial Guinea	45	56	1	40	15
Eritrea	64	51	2	45	4
Ethiopia	450	584	46	498	40
Gabon	780	763	7	580	176
Kenya	2 097	2 106	177	1 572	357
Réunion	21	7	-	7	-
Rwanda	104	101	3	73	25
São Tomé and Príncipe	6	6	-	6	-
Somalia	21	27	5	20	2
Uganda	1 147	1 159	62	912	185

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

Country of residence	January		Purpose of visit (January 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	7 849	7 102	261	6 174	667
Benin	181	114	2	103	9
Burkina Faso	46	54	6	46	2
Cape Verde Island	38	53	2	51	-
Côte d'Ivoire	230	194	12	150	32
Gambia	29	29	-	25	4
Ghana	1 398	1 323	59	1 144	120
Guinea	153	114	6	100	8
Guinea-Bissau	14	15	1	11	3
Liberia	42	45	2	39	4
Mali	72	105	10	88	7
Mauritania	2	10	1	9	-
Niger	15	14	3	10	1
Nigeria	5 381	4 791	139	4 196	456
Saint Helena	21	9	-	9	-
Senegal	140	157	13	134	10
Sierra Leone	53	42	2	35	5
Togo	34	33	3	24	6
North Africa	1 387	1 352	140	1 086	126
Algeria	103	112	14	95	3
Egypt	779	701	92	579	30
Libya	75	73	-	41	32
Morocco	108	137	17	113	7
South Sudan	70	83	4	62	17
The Sudan	161	151	5	114	32
Tunisia	91	95	8	82	5
Unspecified	688	783	72	709	2

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

Sex	Age group	January		Region (January 2017)			
		2016	2017	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	1 012 641	1 040 534	245 074	780 275	14 402	783
	0-14	49 775	50 728	13 122	36 759	843	4
	15-64	907 096	926 578	182 329	730 199	13 282	768
	65+	55 770	63 228	49 623	13 317	277	11
Male	Total	567 876	585 075	130 079	445 126	9 396	474
	0-14	24 671	25 255	6 717	18 117	419	2
	15-64	514 452	527 302	97 230	420 790	8 820	462
	65+	28 753	32 518	26 132	6 219	157	10
Female	Total	444 765	455 459	114 995	335 149	5 006	309
	0-14	25 104	25 473	6 405	18 642	424	2
	15-64	392 644	399 276	85 099	309 409	4 462	306
	65+	27 017	30 710	23 491	7 098	120	1

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 January 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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