



The South Africa I know, the home I understand

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# Statistical release

## P0351

# Tourism and Migration

## July 2015

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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 July 2015. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country during this month. The tourists are classified by region and country of residence. Details of their mode of travel; purpose of visit; and age and sex distribution are also provided.

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## 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 3 399 693 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in July 2015. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 970 834 South African residents and 2 428 859 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 514 248 arrivals, 455 663 departures and 923 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 255 430, 1 092 179 and 81 250 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in July 2014 and July 2015 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and transits increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents the volume of arrivals increased by 2,7% (from 500 622 in July 2014 to 514 248 in July 2015), departures increased by 2,2% (from 445 854 in July 2014 to 455 663 in July 2015), and transits increased by 33,6% (from 691 in July 2014 to 923 in July 2015). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 7,8% (from 1 164 444 in July 2014 to 1 255 430 in July 2015), departures increased by 6,5% (from 1 025 994 in July 2014 to 1 092 179 in July 2015), and transits increased by 13,8% (from 71 418 in July 2014 to 81 250 in July 2015).

A comparison between the movements in June 2015 and July 2015 indicates that the volume of arrivals and transits increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, while the volume of departures decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents increased by 28,3% (from 400 910 in June 2015 to 514 248 in July 2015), departures decreased by 2,3% (from 466 451 in June 2015 to 455 663 in July 2015) and South African residents in transit increased by 6,3% (from 868 in June 2015 to 923 in July 2015). For foreign travellers, the volume of arrivals increased by 15,5% (from 1 087 067 in June 2015 to 1 255 430 in July 2015), departures increased by 8,5% (from 1 006 275 in June 2015 to 1 092 179 in July 2015) and foreign travellers in transit increased by 25,1% (from 64 928 in June 2015 to 81 250 in July 2015).

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

As presented in Table 1, in July 2015, 90 866 (7,2%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 164 564 (92,8%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in July 2015 but did not depart in July 2015 [282 611 (24,3%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in July 2015 and left in July 2015 [421 327 (36,2%)];  
and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who visited South Africa and left more than once in July 2015 [460 626 (39,6%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In July 2015, there were 431 673 (37,1%) same-day visitors and 732 891 (62,9%) tourists. Between July 2014 and July 2015, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 7,6% (from 401 349 in July 2014 to 431 673 in July 2015) and that of tourists increased by 1,2% (from 724 199 in July 2014 to 732 891 in July 2015). Between June 2015 and July 2015, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 8,9% (from 396 507 in June 2015 to 431 673 in July 2015), and tourists increased by 20,1% (from to 610 092 in June 2015 to 732 891 in July 2015).

### 1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 10 show that in July 2015, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 466 093 (72,5%) out of the 3 399 693 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 925 478 (27,2%). Compared to use of air and land transport, a very small number of travellers, 8 122 (0,2%) used sea transport. The arrivals data for South African residents show that 224 820 (43,7%) came by air, 289 147 (56,2%) came by road and 281 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. For departures, 172 007 (37,7%), 283 347 (62,2%) and 309 (less than 0,1%) used air, road and sea transport respectively. All travellers in transit (923) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 236 865 (18,9%) arrived by air, 1 014 165 (80,8%) came by road and 4 400 (0,4%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 209 613 (19,2%) foreign travellers left by air, 879 434 (80,5%) left by road and 3 132 (0,3%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, (81 250) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [410 780 (95,2%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 20 890 (4,8%) of same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that 535 338 (73,0%) used road transport, 197 422 (26,9%) came by air and a small number, 131 (less than 0,1%) 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 page 11. In July 2015, 144 737 (88,9%) of overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 17 890 (11,0%) came in by road. This is in contrast to the number of tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries who came into South Africa predominantly by road [516 240 (92,9%)]. Only 39 345 (7,1%) tourists from the SADC countries came in by air. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 12 476 (92,1%); with 1 053 (7,8%) using road transport and 21 (0,2%) using sea transport.

### 1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In July 2015, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 91 741 (56,4%); North America, 32 580 (20,0%); Asia, 18 750 (11,5%); Australasia, 10 104 (6,2%); Central and South America, 4 848 (3,0%); and Middle East, 4 710 (2,9%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 7 indicate that the United Kingdom (UK), 29 486 (18,1%); United States of America (USA), 29 076 (17,9%); The Netherlands, 15 326 (9,4%); Germany, 10 609 (6,5%); France, 8 795 (5,4%); Australia, 8 242 (5,1%); India, 6 095 (3,7%); China, 5 389 (3,3%); Italy, 4 181 (2,6%) and Belgium, 4 098 (2,5%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in July 2015. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 74,5% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in July 2014 and July 2015 shows that, with the exception of the UK, The Netherlands and Belgium where the number of tourists increased, the number of tourists decreased for all the other seven leading overseas countries. China had the largest decrease of 18,9% (from 6 645 tourists in July 2014 to 5 389 in July 2015) while France had the lowest decrease of 0,4% (from 8 833 tourists in July 2014 to 8 795 in July 2015).

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 555 589 (97,6%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 7 064 (1,2%); East and Central Africa, 5 600 (1,0%); and North Africa 886 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in July 2015 were Zimbabwe, 158 287 (28,5%); Lesotho, 124 988 (22,5%); Mozambique, 98 686 (17,8%); Swaziland, 68 271 (12,3%); Botswana, 50 671 (9,1%); Namibia, 17 164 (3,1%); Zambia, 14 254 (2,6%); Malawi, 11 962 (2,2%); Angola, 3 475 (0,6%) and Tanzania, 3 003 (0,5%) (see Figure 2 on page 7). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,1% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in July 2014 and July 2015 for the ten leading countries shows that the number of tourists increased in half of the countries and decreased in the other. Number of tourists increased by 19,5% (from 42 404 in July 2014 to 50 671 in July 2015 for Botswana, 16,2% (from 2 585 in July 2014 to 3 003 in July 2015) for Tanzania, 11,9% (from 15 344 in July 2014 to 17 164 in July 2015) for Namibia, 1,4% (from 123 257 in July 2014 to 124 988 in July 2015) for Lesotho and 0,5%

(from 98 182 in July 2014 to 98 686 in July 2015) for Mozambique. Malawi showed the largest decrease of 15,0% (from 14 081 tourists in July 2014 to 11 962 tourists in July 2015).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in July 2015 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8, were: Nigeria, 4 980 (36,8%); Kenya, 2 156 (15,9%); Ghana, 1 054 (7,8%); Uganda, 971 (7,2%); Gabon, 762 (5,6%); Ethiopia, 616 (4,5%); Egypt, 440 (3,2%); Cameroon, 416 (3,1%); Congo, 346 (2,6%); and Benin, 194 (1,4%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 88,1% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in July 2014 and July 2015 shows that number of tourists increased in four countries: Egypt, Benin, Kenya and Congo, and decreased in the rest of the ten leading countries. Egypt had the largest increase of 58,8% (from 277 in July 2014 to 440 in July 2015), while Ghana had the largest decrease of 26,8% (from 1 440 in July 2014 to 1 054 in July 2015).

### 1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on page 15, in July 2015, the majority of tourists, 694 066 (94,7%), were in South Africa for holidays compared to 25 874 (3,5%) and 12 951 (1,8%) who were in South Africa for business and for study purposes respectively. A detailed analysis reveals that of all the tourists from each of the overseas regions, at least 90,0% came to South Africa for holidays. A total of 9 820 (97,2%) tourists from Australasia, 4 647 (95,9%) from Central and South America, 31 209 (95,8%) from North America, 4 481 (95,1%) from the Middle East, 86 431 (94,2%) from Europe and 16 955 (90,4%) from Asia were in South Africa for holidays. Asia had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business [6,9% (1 300)] and study purposes [2,6% (495)] compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists, 539 577 (94,8%) came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries namely:

- Whereas 527 702 (95,0%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 11 875 (87,6%) 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 91,1% (6 432); 84,0% (4 706) and 83,2% (737) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 5,2% (705) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 3,5% (19 255) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 9,6% (85) of its tourists to South Africa who came for business purposes.
- Students made up 7,2% (970) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,6% (8 632) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa had the highest proportion, 9,7% (541) of student tourists in South Africa.

### 1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in July 2015, there were 403 862 (55,1%) male and 329 029 (44,9%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 90 038 (55,3%) male tourists and 72 695 (44,7%) female tourists. There were 304 407 (54,8%) male and 251 182 (45,2%) female tourists from the SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 8 821 (65,1%) male and 4 729 (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 41 495 (5,7%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 666 859 (91,0%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 24 537 (3,3%) were aged 65 years and older.

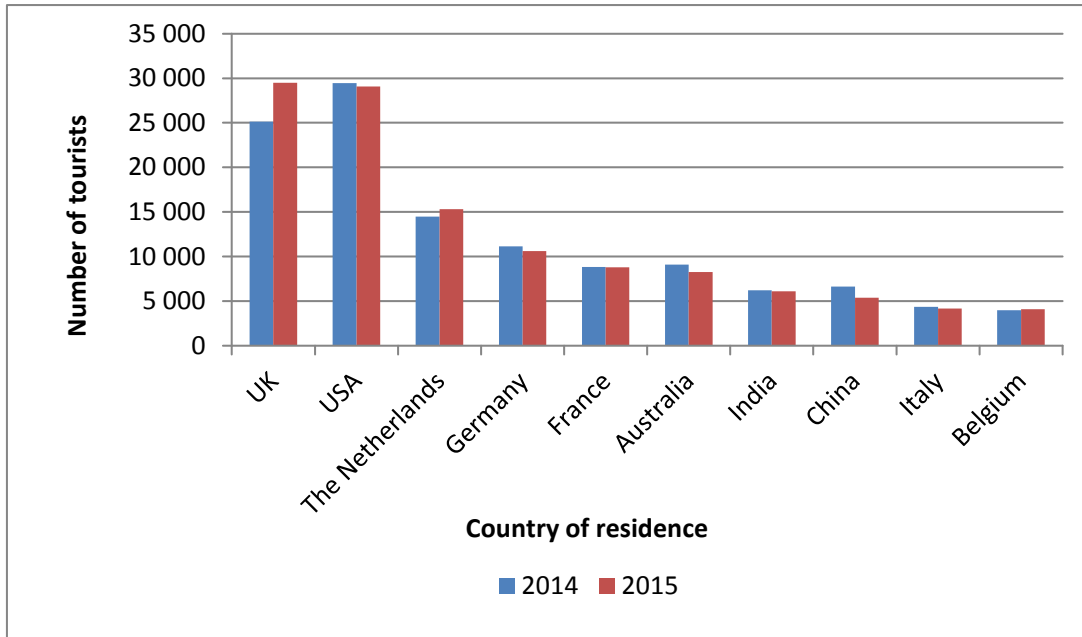
Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 134 911 (82,9%) of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 518 531 (93,3%) and 12 436 (91,8%) of tourists in the same age range from the SADC and 'other' African countries respectively. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries 10,1% (16 407) than among tourists from 'other' African countries 6,3% (848) and those from SADC countries, 4,4% (24 211).

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 6,9% (6 217) of male tourists and 7,2% (5 198) of female tourists. This is in contrast to the pattern observed among tourists from the other two regions where tourists aged 65 years and older comprised less than 3,0% of both male and female tourists.

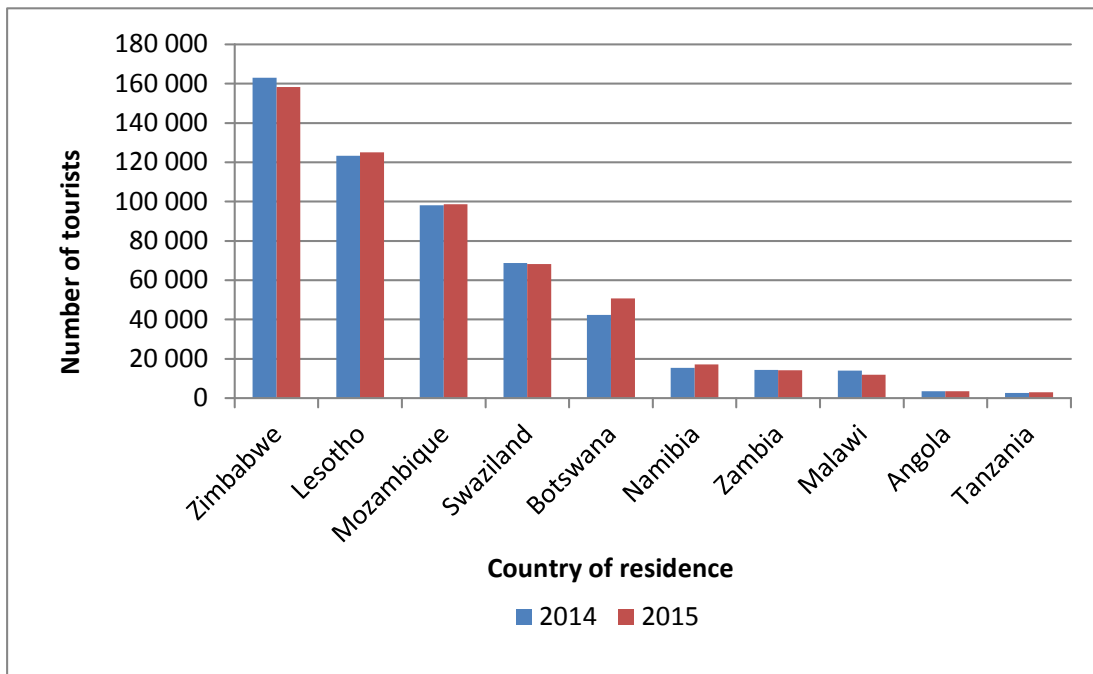
From the SADC countries elderly tourists made up 1,8% (5 623) and 2,9% (7 224) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 1,8% (160) and 2,2% (106) of male and female tourists respectively.

## 2. Figures

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

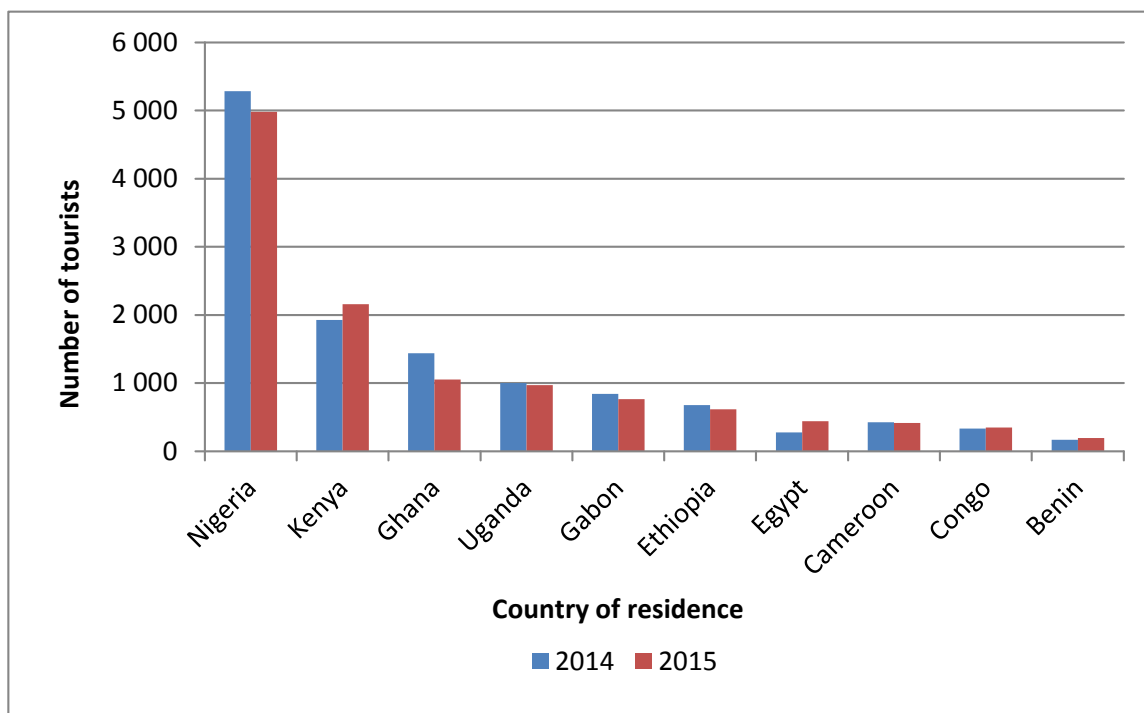


**Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in July 2014 and July 2015**





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



### 3. Tables

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

<b>Travel Direction</b>	<b>July 2014</b>	<b>June 2015</b>	<b>July 2015</b>	<b>% Change June - July 2015</b>	<b>% Change July 2014 - July 2015</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 209 023</b>	<b>3 026 499</b>	<b>3 399 693</b>	<b>12,3%</b>	<b>5,9%</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>947 167</b>	<b>868 229</b>	<b>970 834</b>	<b>11,8%</b>	<b>2,5%</b>
Arrivals	500 622	400 910	514 248	28,3%	2,7%
Departures	445 854	466 451	455 663	-2,3%	2,2%
Transit	691	868	923	6,3%	33,6%
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>2 261 856</b>	<b>2 158 270</b>	<b>2 428 859</b>	<b>12,5%</b>	<b>7,4%</b>
Arrivals	1 164 444	1 087 067	1 255 430	15,5%	7,8%
Departures	1 025 994	1 006 275	1 092 179	8,5%	6,5%
Transit	71 418	64 928	81 250	25,1%	13,8%
<b>Foreign arrivals</b>	<b>1 164 444</b>	<b>1 087 067</b>	<b>1 255 430</b>	<b>15,5%</b>	<b>7,8%</b>
Non-visitors	38 896	80 468	90 866	12,9%	133,6%
Visitors	1 125 548	1 006 599	1 164 564	15,7%	3,5%
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>1 125 548</b>	<b>1 006 599</b>	<b>1 164 564</b>	<b>15,7%</b>	<b>3,5%</b>
Arrivals only	373 496	224 187	282 611	26,1%	-24,3%
Single trips	414 504	376 676	421 327	11,9%	1,6%
Multiple trips	337 548	405 736	460 626	13,5%	36,5%
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>1 125 548</b>	<b>1 006 599</b>	<b>1 164 564</b>	<b>15,7%</b>	<b>3,5%</b>
Same-Day	401 349	396 507	431 673	8,9%	7,6%
Overnight (Tourists)	724 199	610 092	732 891	20,1%	1,2%

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

Travel Direction	Total	Mode of travel (July 2015)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 399 693</b>	<b>108 572</b>	<b>24 436</b>	<b>782 710</b>	<b>9 760</b>	<b>925 478</b>	<b>2 466 093</b>	<b>8 122</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>970 834</b>	<b>54 498</b>	<b>16 606</b>	<b>320 980</b>	<b>5 666</b>	<b>397 750</b>	<b>572 494</b>	<b>590</b>
Arrivals	514 248	31 982	9 682	180 403	2 753	224 820	289 147	281
Departures	455 663	22 514	6 924	139 656	2 913	172 007	283 347	309
Transit	923	2	-	921	-	923	-	-
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>2 428 859</b>	<b>54 074</b>	<b>7 830</b>	<b>461 730</b>	<b>4 094</b>	<b>527 728</b>	<b>1 893 599</b>	<b>7 532</b>
Arrivals	1 255 430	29 337	4 212	202 045	1 271	236 865	1 014 165	4 400
Departures	1 092 179	24 684	3 618	178 488	2 823	209 613	879 434	3 132
Transit	81 250	53	-	81 197	-	81 250	-	-
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>1 164 564</b>	<b>26 723</b>	<b>3 329</b>	<b>187 395</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>218 312</b>	<b>946 118</b>	<b>134</b>
Same-Day	431 673	338	11	20 459	82	20 890	410 780	3
Tourists	732 891	26 385	3 318	166 936	783	197 422	535 338	131

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

Country of residence	July		Air					Road	Sea
	2014	2015	Cape Town	King Shaka	O. R. Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>Total</b>	<b>724 199</b>	<b>732 891</b>	<b>26 385</b>	<b>3 318</b>	<b>166 936</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>197 422</b>	<b>535 338</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>159 368</b>	<b>162 733</b>	<b>22 778</b>	<b>2 790</b>	<b>118 574</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>144 737</b>	<b>17 890</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>86 579</b>	<b>91 741</b>	<b>15 465</b>	<b>1 869</b>	<b>62 576</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>80 039</b>	<b>11 604</b>	<b>98</b>
Austria	1 317	1 390	255	34	930	2	1 221	169	-
Belgium	3 989	4 098	565	29	2 646	-	3 240	858	-
Denmark	1 388	1 662	151	16	1 329	-	1 496	166	-
France	8 833	8 795	1 295	81	6 253	10	7 639	1 155	1
Germany	11 128	10 609	1 575	205	7 625	16	9 421	1 183	5
Ireland	1 656	1 911	368	127	1 237	-	1 732	176	3
Italy	4 339	4 181	982	103	2 836	5	3 926	255	-
Norway	986	1 073	201	26	664	-	891	182	-
Portugal	2 739	2 782	298	34	1 314	8	1 654	1 128	-
Spain	2 459	2 554	567	49	1 665	7	2 288	265	1
Sweden	1 083	1 031	169	14	708	1	892	139	-
Switzerland	2 538	2 712	424	22	1 891	3	2 340	372	-
The Netherlands	14 465	15 326	2 585	181	9 398	2	12 166	3 159	1
UK	25 120	29 486	5 380	834	21 136	66	27 416	1 983	87
Other	4 539	4 131	650	114	2 944	9	3 717	414	-
<b>North America</b>	<b>33 122</b>	<b>32 580</b>	<b>3 569</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>25 599</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>29 847</b>	<b>2 730</b>	<b>3</b>
Canada	3 676	3 504	467	47	2 599	20	3 133	371	-
USA	29 446	29 076	3 102	335	23 000	277	26 714	2 359	3
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>4 257</b>	<b>4 848</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>3 991</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>4 345</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>-</b>
Argentina	248	457	78	2	358	-	438	19	-
Brazil	2 466	2 786	87	15	2 327	3	2 432	354	-
Mexico	470	431	47	-	330	42	419	12	-
Other	1 073	1 174	62	15	976	3	1 056	118	-

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

Country of residence	July		Air					Road	Sea
	2014	2015	Cape Town	King Shaka	O. R. Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>10 862</b>	<b>10 104</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>8 629</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>9 253</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>-</b>
Australia	9 077	8 242	379	49	7 065	54	7 547	695	-
New Zealand	1 766	1 840	96	38	1 545	8	1 687	153	-
Other	19	22	-	-	19	-	19	3	-
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>2 864</b>	<b>4 710</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3 618</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4 608</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>1</b>
Israel	1 397	1 567	114	-	1 383	2	1 499	68	-
Saudi Arabia	589	1 829	320	2	1 506	-	1 828	1	-
United Arab Emirates	176	374	255	6	102	11	374	-	-
Other	702	940	256	23	627	1	907	32	1
<b>Asia</b>	<b>21 684</b>	<b>18 750</b>	<b>2 050</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>14 161</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>16 645</b>	<b>2 101</b>	<b>4</b>
China	6 645	5 389	533	37	4 431	1	5 002	386	1
India	6 221	6 095	725	227	4 392	9	5 353	742	-
Japan	2 170	1 492	92	29	1 275	2	1 398	94	-
Malaysia	772	516	83	9	402	1	495	21	-
Pakistan	708	945	84	42	520	7	653	292	-
Philippines	584	458	73	7	304	-	384	74	-
Singapore	546	415	117	5	264	15	401	14	-
South Korea	1 532	1 448	167	12	1 090	-	1 269	179	-
Taiwan	579	577	33	6	452	-	491	86	-
Thailand	535	454	49	1	385	-	435	18	1
Other	1 392	961	94	14	646	10	764	195	2
<b>Africa</b>	<b>563 697</b>	<b>569 139</b>	<b>3 566</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>47 544</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>51 821</b>	<b>517 293</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>549 783</b>	<b>555 589</b>	<b>3 231</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>35 456</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>39 345</b>	<b>516 240</b>	<b>4</b>
Angola	3 560	3 475	770	1	2 527	8	3 306	169	-
Botswana	42 404	50 671	177	1	2 223	44	2 445	48 226	-
DRC	2 642	2 627	6	-	2 095	-	2 101	526	-
Lesotho	123 257	124 988	1	-	504	-	505	124 483	-

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

Country of residence	July		Air					Road	Sea
	2014	2015	Cape Town	King Shaka	O. R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	199	159	4	-	150	-	154	5	-
Malawi	14 081	11 962	3	1	1 796	4	1 804	10 158	-
Mauritius	1 209	1 675	173	84	1 268	1	1 526	149	-
Mozambique	98 182	98 686	10	68	2 996	14	3 088	95 596	2
Namibia	15 344	17 164	1 981	-	3 625	13	5 619	11 543	2
Seychelles	245	367	5	-	358	-	363	4	-
Swaziland	68 756	68 271	2	4	532	1	539	67 732	-
Tanzania	2 585	3 003	12	3	1 927	-	1 942	1 061	-
Zambia	14 283	14 254	12	96	3 898	6	4 012	10 242	-
Zimbabwe	163 036	158 287	75	232	11 557	77	11 941	146 346	-
<b>'Other' African</b>	<b>13 914</b>	<b>13 550</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>12 088</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12 476</b>	<b>1 053</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>East and Central Africa</b>	<b>5 554</b>	<b>5 600</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 992</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5 148</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>-</b>
Burundi	87	57	2	-	52	-	54	3	-
Cameroon	426	416	8	-	363	-	371	45	-
Central African Republic	11	9	-	-	9	-	9	-	-
Chad	30	24	3	-	21	-	24	-	-
Comoros	12	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-
Congo	333	346	16	-	315	11	342	4	-
Djibouti	2	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	46	29	2	-	26	-	28	1	-
Eritrea	42	64	-	-	60	-	60	4	-
Ethiopia	675	616	39	-	510	-	549	67	-
Gabon	844	762	18	-	738	-	756	6	-
Kenya	1 927	2 156	24	1	1 940	1	1 966	190	-
Réunion	3	2	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
Rwanda	95	107	3	-	96	-	99	8	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	11	12	-	-	7	-	7	5	-
Somalia	10	19	2	-	12	-	14	5	-
Uganda	1 000	971	21	2	833	1	857	114	-

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

Country of residence	July		Air					Road	Sea
	2014	2015	Cape Town	King Shaka	O. R. Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>7 765</b>	<b>7 064</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6 388</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6 512</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>21</b>
Benin	170	194	-	-	183	1	184	10	-
Burkina Faso	48	44	2	-	34	-	36	8	-
Cape Verde Island	47	46	9	-	35	-	44	2	-
Côte d'Ivoire	171	175	4	1	163	-	168	7	-
Gambia	53	44	-	-	42	-	42	2	-
Ghana	1 440	1 054	13	6	983	-	1 002	52	-
Guinea	120	109	1	-	36	-	37	72	-
Guinea-Bissau	14	9	1	-	6	-	7	2	-
Liberia	32	60	-	-	56	-	56	4	-
Mali	42	76	2	-	51	-	53	23	-
Mauritania	58	12	-	-	12	-	12	-	-
Niger	20	14	-	-	14	-	14	-	-
Nigeria	5 284	4 980	66	5	4 565	5	4 641	339	-
Saint Helena	15	26	1	-	4	-	5	-	21
Senegal	154	159	3	-	150	-	153	6	-
Sierra Leone	54	36	1	1	30	-	32	4	-
Togo	43	26	1	-	24	1	26	-	-
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>-</b>
Algeria	51	66	23	2	36	-	61	5	-
Egypt	277	440	26	4	388	-	418	22	-
Libya	40	48	11	2	27	-	40	8	-
Morocco	52	79	13	3	58	-	74	5	-
South Sudan	61	74	1	-	70	-	71	3	-
The Sudan	68	122	14	2	80	-	96	26	-
Tunisia	45	56	3	4	48	-	55	1	-
Western Sahara	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>1 134</b>	<b>1 019</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>-</b>

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

Country of residence	July		Purpose of visit		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
<b>Total</b>	<b>724 199</b>	<b>732 891</b>	<b>25 874</b>	<b>694 066</b>	<b>12 951</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>159 368</b>	<b>162 733</b>	<b>5 844</b>	<b>153 543</b>	<b>3 346</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>86 579</b>	<b>91 741</b>	<b>3 264</b>	<b>86 431</b>	<b>2 046</b>
Austria	1 317	1 390	42	1 315	33
Belgium	3 989	4 098	104	3 921	73
Denmark	1 388	1 662	46	1 589	27
France	8 833	8 795	328	8 290	177
Germany	11 128	10 609	447	9 622	540
Ireland	1 656	1 911	80	1 791	40
Italy	4 339	4 181	242	3 848	91
Norway	986	1 073	19	1 015	39
Portugal	2 739	2 782	112	2 618	52
Spain	2 459	2 554	143	2 380	31
Sweden	1 083	1 031	38	946	47
Switzerland	2 538	2 712	59	2 574	79
The Netherlands	14 465	15 326	181	14 933	212
UK	25 120	29 486	1 165	27 854	467
Other	4 539	4 131	258	3 735	138
<b>North America</b>	<b>33 122</b>	<b>32 580</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>31 209</b>	<b>574</b>
Canada	3 676	3 504	109	3 351	44
USA	29 446	29 076	688	27 858	530
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>4 257</b>	<b>4 848</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>4 647</b>	<b>81</b>
Argentina	248	457	9	444	4
Brazil	2 466	2 786	38	2 707	41
Mexico	470	431	22	399	10
Other	1 073	1 174	51	1 097	26



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

Country of residence	July		Purpose of visit		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>10 862</b>	<b>10 104</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>9 820</b>	<b>64</b>
Australia	9 077	8 242	175	8 013	54
New Zealand	1 766	1 840	40	1 792	8
Other	19	22	5	15	2
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>2 864</b>	<b>4 710</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>4 481</b>	<b>86</b>
Israel	1 397	1 567	59	1 485	23
Saudi Arabia	589	1 829	14	1 788	27
United Arab Emirates	176	374	16	358	-
Other	702	940	54	850	36
<b>Asia</b>	<b>21 684</b>	<b>18 750</b>	<b>1 300</b>	<b>16 955</b>	<b>495</b>
China	6 645	5 389	368	4 928	93
India	6 221	6 095	551	5 404	140
Japan	2 170	1 492	127	1 339	26
Malaysia	772	516	11	447	58
Pakistan	708	945	61	862	22
Philippines	584	458	15	422	21
Singapore	546	415	27	384	4
South Korea	1 532	1 448	56	1 318	74
Taiwan	579	577	15	557	5
Thailand	535	454	34	407	13
Other	1392	961	35	887	39
<b>Africa</b>	<b>563 697</b>	<b>569 139</b>	<b>19 960</b>	<b>539 577</b>	<b>9 602</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>549 783</b>	<b>555 589</b>	<b>19 255</b>	<b>527 702</b>	<b>8 632</b>
Angola	3 560	3 475	61	2 875	539
Botswana	42 404	50 671	429	49 549	693
DRC	2 642	2 627	92	2 309	226
Lesotho	123 257	124 988	2 690	121 467	831

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

Country of residence	July		Purpose of visit		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
Madagascar	199	159	9	138	12
Malawi	14 081	11 962	258	11 528	176
Mauritius	1 209	1 675	87	1 450	138
Mozambique	98 182	98 686	9 513	88 934	239
Namibia	15 344	17 164	2 246	13 190	1 728
Seychelles	245	367	19	336	12
Swaziland	68 756	68 271	382	66 802	1 087
Tanzania	2 585	3 003	84	2 719	200
Zambia	14 283	14 254	1 108	12 793	353
Zimbabwe	163 036	158 287	2 277	153 612	2 398
<b>'Other' African</b>	<b>13 914</b>	<b>13 550</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>11 875</b>	<b>970</b>
<b>East and Central Africa</b>	<b>5 554</b>	<b>5 600</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>4 706</b>	<b>541</b>
Burundi	87	57	1	50	6
Cameroon	426	416	21	363	32
Central African Republic	11	9	-	9	-
Chad	30	24	3	19	2
Comoros	12	7	-	6	1
Congo	333	346	7	296	43
Djibouti	2	3	-	3	-
Equatorial Guinea	46	29	-	23	6
Eritrea	42	64	2	60	2
Ethiopia	675	616	43	555	18
Gabon	844	762	2	686	74
Kenya	1 927	2 156	198	1 721	237
Réunion	3	2	-	2	-
Rwanda	95	107	8	82	17
São Tomé and Príncipe	11	12	-	12	-
Somalia	10	19	-	18	1
Uganda	1 000	971	68	801	102

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

Country of residence	July		Purpose of visit		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>7 765</b>	<b>7 064</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>6 432</b>	<b>365</b>
Benin	170	194	5	182	7
Burkina Faso	48	44	6	34	4
Cape Verde Island	47	46	1	43	2
Côte d'Ivoire	171	175	5	162	8
Gambia	53	44	5	39	-
Ghana	1 440	1 054	59	940	55
Guinea	120	109	4	102	3
Guinea-Bissau	14	9	-	7	2
Liberia	32	60	1	58	1
Mali	42	76	6	69	1
Mauritania	58	12	1	11	-
Niger	20	14	1	12	1
Nigeria	5 284	4 980	152	4 555	273
Saint Helena	15	26	-	26	-
Senegal	154	159	15	139	5
Sierra Leone	54	36	4	31	1
Togo	43	26	2	22	2
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>64</b>
Algeria	51	66	10	53	3
Egypt	277	440	38	384	18
Libya	40	48	1	35	12
Morocco	52	79	12	66	1
South Sudan	61	74	7	57	10
The Sudan	68	122	7	95	20
Tunisia	45	56	10	46	-
Western Sahara	1	1	-	1	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>1 134</b>	<b>1 019</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>3</b>

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

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (July 2015)			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
<b>All</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>732 891</b>	<b>162 733</b>	<b>555 589</b>	<b>13 550</b>	<b>1 019</b>
	0-14	41 495	16 407	24 211	848	29
	15-64	666 859	134 911	518 531	12 436	981
	65+	24 537	11 415	12 847	266	9
<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>403 862</b>	<b>90 038</b>	<b>304 407</b>	<b>8 821</b>	<b>596</b>
	0-14	20 945	8 561	11 934	435	15
	15-64	370 913	75 260	286 850	8 226	577
	65+	12 004	6 217	5 623	160	4
<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>329 029</b>	<b>72 695</b>	<b>251 182</b>	<b>4 729</b>	<b>423</b>
	0-14	20 550	7 846	12 277	413	14
	15-64	295 946	59 651	231 681	4 210	404
	65+	12 533	5 198	7 224	106	5

## 4. Explanatory notes

### NOTICE TO USERS

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

### 4.1 Introduction

Legal movements across South African borders as well as legal immigration into South Africa fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). DHA collects data on all travellers that pass through the air, land and sea ports of entry; as well as applicants for temporary and permanent residence status. Stats SA acquires, processes, analyses and publishes statistics on: travellers focussing on foreign tourists; and documented immigrants.

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

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

### 4.2 Purpose of the statistical release

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

### 4.3 Scope and coverage

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

### 4.4 Data

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

- Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all road, air and sea entry ports on all travellers (South African residents and foreign travellers) arriving into or departing from South Africa are captured into the DHA's population Movement Control System (MCS). The counts/statistics relate to the number of individual movements, rather than to the number of people. Hence, the multiple movements of individual people during the calendar month are each counted separately. Generally the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the port's electronic database. No forms or cards are used (except in rare occasions when the capturing system is down) to collect information from travellers. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA.

- Stats SA downloads the data covering a particular calendar month from the DHA database.
- As part of data interrogation, data from the O.R. Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airport Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA has been accompanied by an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern was also observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In July 2015, the DHA data was 1,2% 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 belongs to the Southern African Development Community.

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

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

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

#### **4.7 Symbols used**

- = nil

< = less than

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

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