

STATISTICAL RELEASE

P0351

Tourism and migration

July 2017

Embargoed until:
28 September 2017
09:30

ENQUIRIES:

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

FORTHCOMING ISSUE:

August 2017

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE:

23 October 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 July 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; 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 shows that a total of 3 710 937 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in July 2017. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 1 108 937 South African residents and 2 602 000 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 578 028 arrivals, 530 077 departures and 832 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 347 125, 1 186 438 and 68 437 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in July 2016 and July 2017 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, while the volume of travellers in transit decreased for both. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 6,3% (from 543 725 in July 2016 to 578 028 in July 2017), departures increased by 13,3% (from 467 673 in July 2016 to 530 077 in July 2017), and transits decreased by 5,5% (from 880 in July 2016 to 832 in July 2017). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 2,1% (from 1 319 955 in July 2016 to 1 347 125 in July 2017), departures increased by 3,6% (from 1 145 550 in July 2016 to 1 186 438 in July 2017), and transits decreased by 16,9% (from 82 331 in July 2016 to 68 437 in July 2017).

A comparison between the movements in June 2017 and July 2017 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 34,8% (from 428 773 in June 2017 to 578 028 in July 2017), departures increased by 9,8% (from 482 804 in June 2017 to 530 077 in July 2017), and transits increased by 4,4% (from 797 in June 2017 to 832 in July 2017). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 16,6% (from 1 155 058 in June 2017 to 1 347 125 in July 2017), departures increased by 11,3% (from 1 066 296 in June 2017 to 1 186 438 in July 2017), and transits increased by 15,7% (from 59 130 in June 2017 to 68 437 in July 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 therefore 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 on page 9, in July 2017, 85 207 (6,3%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 261 918 (93,7%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in July 2017 but did not depart in July 2017 [325 791 (25,8%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in July 2017 and left in July 2017 [423 096 (33,5%)];
and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in July 2017 [513 031 (40,7%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In July 2017, there were 400 187 (31,7%) same-day visitors and 861 731 (68,3%) tourists. Between July 2016 and July 2017, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 2,7% (from 411 461 in Jul 2016 to 400 187 in July 2017) and that of tourists increased by 4,8% (from 822 416 in July 2016 to 861 731 in July 2017). Between June 2017 and July 2017, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 7,1% (from 373 697 in June 2017 to 400 187 in July 2017), while tourists increased by 21,5% (from 708 978 in June 2017 to 861 731 in July 2017).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 10 show that in July 2017, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 661 135 (71,7%) of the 3 710 937 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 1 042 501 (28,1%). Compared to use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 7 301 (0,2%) used sea transport. The arrivals data for South African residents show that 241 388 (41,8%) came by air, 336 092 (58,1%) came by road and 548 (0,1%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 205 044 (38,7%) used air, 324 651 (61,2%) used road and 382 (0,1%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit 832 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 277 061 (20,6%) arrived by air, 1 066 727 (79,2%) came by road and 3 337 (0,2%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 249 739 (21,0%) foreign travellers left by air, 933 665 (78,7%) left by road and 3 034 (0,3%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit 68 437 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 on page 10 further shows that of the 400 187 same day visitors, an overwhelming majority, 377 649 (94,4%) arrived in the country by road. Only 22 498 (5,6%) of same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that 624 661 (72,5%) used road transport, 236 886 (27,5%) came by air transport and 184 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport.

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 July 2017, 182 715 (88,4%) of the 206 737 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 23 858 (11,5%) came in by road and 164 (0,1%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 599 509 (93,6%), followed by air travel, 40 680 (6,4%) and 4 (less than 0,1%) arriving by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 12 585 (91,2%), with 1 191 (8,6%) using road transport and 16 (0,1%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In July 2017, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 113 098 (54,7%); North America, 40 686 (19,7%); Asia, 25 264 (12,2%); Australasia, 11 513 (5,6%); Central and South America, 9 866 (4,8%); and Middle East, 6 310 (3,1%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 11–12 indicate that the United States of America (USA), 36 678 (17,7%); United Kingdom (UK), 30 076 (14,5%); The Netherlands, 19 832 (9,6%); Germany, 14 419 (7,0%); France, 13 687 (6,6%); Australia, 9 591 (4,6%); India, 7 315 (3,5%); China, 7 137 (3,5%); Belgium, 6 326 (3,1%); and Brazil, 6 092 (2,9%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in July 2017. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 73,1% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between July 2016 and July 2017 shows that the number of tourists increased for seven of the ten leading countries (Brazil, Belgium, The Netherlands, France, Germany, USA and Australia) but decreased for China, India and the UK. Brazil had the largest increase of 81,4% (from 3 358 tourists in July 2016 to 6 092 in July 2017) while China had the largest decrease of 19,1% (from 8 827 tourists in July 2016 to 7 137 in July 2017).

Figure 2 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 12–13 show that virtually all tourists from Africa, 640 193 (97,9%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 6 513 (1,0%); East and Central Africa, 6 000 (0,9%); and North Africa 1 279 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in July 2017 were: Lesotho, 169 080 (26,4%); Zimbabwe, 161 492 (25,2%); Mozambique, 119 689 (18,7%); Swaziland, 74 716 (11,7%); Botswana, 56 367 (8,8%); Malawi, 16 423 (2,6%); Namibia, 15 833 (2,5%); Zambia 14 569 (2,3%); Angola, 3 474 (0,5%) and Tanzania, 3 183 (0,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,2% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in July 2016 and July 2017 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for five of the ten leading countries (Malawi, Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe and Lesotho) and decreased for the other five countries (Botswana, Swaziland, Zambia, Namibia and Tanzania). Malawi showed the largest

increase of 22,4% (from 13 414 tourists in July 2016 to 16 423 in July 2017), closely followed by Mozambique, which increased by 22,2% (from 97 910 tourists in July 2016 to 119 689 in July 2017). Botswana showed the largest decrease of 7,3% (from 60 788 tourists in July 2016 to 56 367 in July 2017, closely followed by Swaziland, which had a decrease of 7,0% (from 80 353 tourists in July 2016 to 74 716 in July 2017).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in July 2017 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13–14, were: Nigeria, 3 973 (28,8%); Kenya, 2 305 (16,7%); Ghana, 1 381 (10,0%); Uganda, 962 (7,0%); Gabon, 833 (6,0%); Ethiopia, 793 (5,7%); Egypt, 668 (4,8%); Cameroon, 406 (2,9%); Congo, 309 (2,2%) and Côte d'Ivoire, 200 (1,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 85,8% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in July 2016 and July 2017 shows that the number of tourists increased for three of the ten leading countries (Ghana, Ethiopia and Egypt) and decreased for the other seven (Uganda, Nigeria, Gabon, Cameroon, Kenya, Congo and Côte d'Ivoire). Ghana showed the largest increase of 13,1% (from 1 221 tourists in July 2016 to 1 381 in July 2017). Uganda showed the largest decrease of 37,9% (from 1 548 tourists in July 2016 to 962 in July 2017), closely followed by Nigeria, which decreased by 32,3% (from 5 869 tourists in July 2016 to 3 973 in July 2017).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on pages 15–18, in July 2017, the majority of tourists, 829 532 (96,3%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 20 264 (2,4%) and 11 935 (1,4%) who were in South Africa for business and for study purposes respectively.

A total of 9 697 (98,3%) tourists from Central and South America, 11 294 (98,1%) from Australasia, 39 594 (97,3%) from North America, 108 165 (95,6%) from Europe, 5 925 (93,9%) from Middle East and 23 362 (92,5%) from Asia were in South Africa for holiday. Asia had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business, 5,2% (1 303), while Middle East had the highest proportion of tourists who came for study purposes, 2,6% (166) compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists, 630 536 (96,4%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 618 609 (96,6%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 11 927 (86,5%) 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 89,1% (5 805); 84,3% (5 060); and 83,0% (1 062) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 6,1% (844) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 2,2% (13 792) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 9,5% (121) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes.
- Students made up 7,4% (1 021) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,2% (7 792) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa, 8,8% (528) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in July 2017, there were 475 180 (55,1%) male and 386 551 (44,9%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 110 269 (53,3%) male tourists and 96 468 (46,7%) female tourists. There were 355 480 (55,5%) male and 284 713 (44,5%) female tourists from the SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 8 862 (64,3%) male and 4 930 (35,7%) 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 on page 19 show that 51 711 (6,0%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 780 170 (90,5%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 29 850 (3,5%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 596 105 (93,1%) tourists from SADC countries and 12 653 (91,7%) tourists from 'other' African countries were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 170 422 (82,4%) tourists in the same age range from overseas. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years

was higher among tourists from overseas, 10,2% (21 082), than among those from 'other' African countries, 6,4% (880) and from SADC, 4,6% (29 741).

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 7,4% (8 207) of male and 7,3% (7 026) of female tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to the pattern observed among tourists from the other two regions where tourists aged 65 years and older comprised less than 3,0% of both male and female tourists. From the SADC countries elderly tourists made up 1,8% (6 288) and 2,8% (8 059) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 1,6% (141) and 2,4% (118) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

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

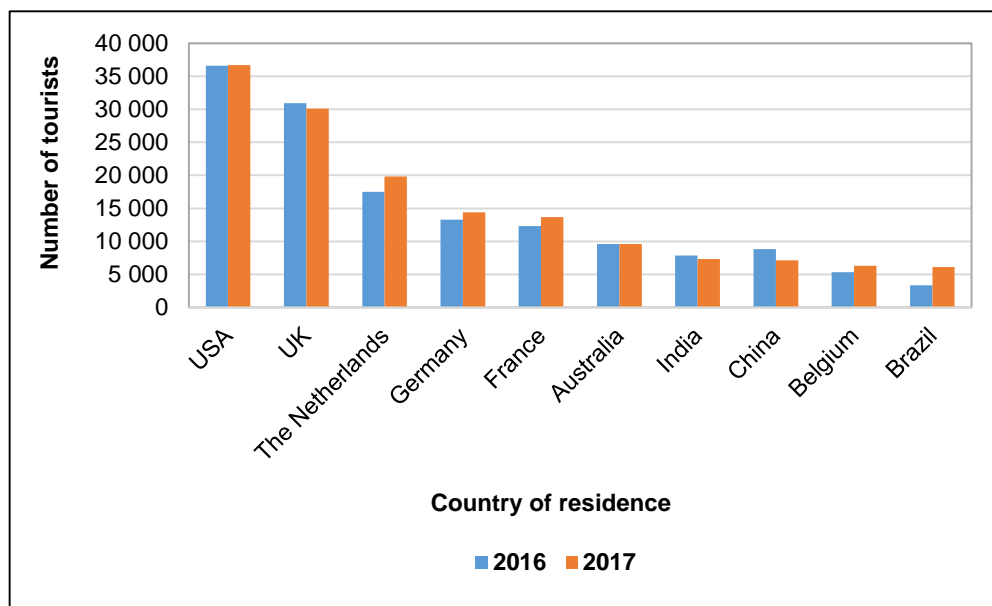


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in July 2016 and July 2017

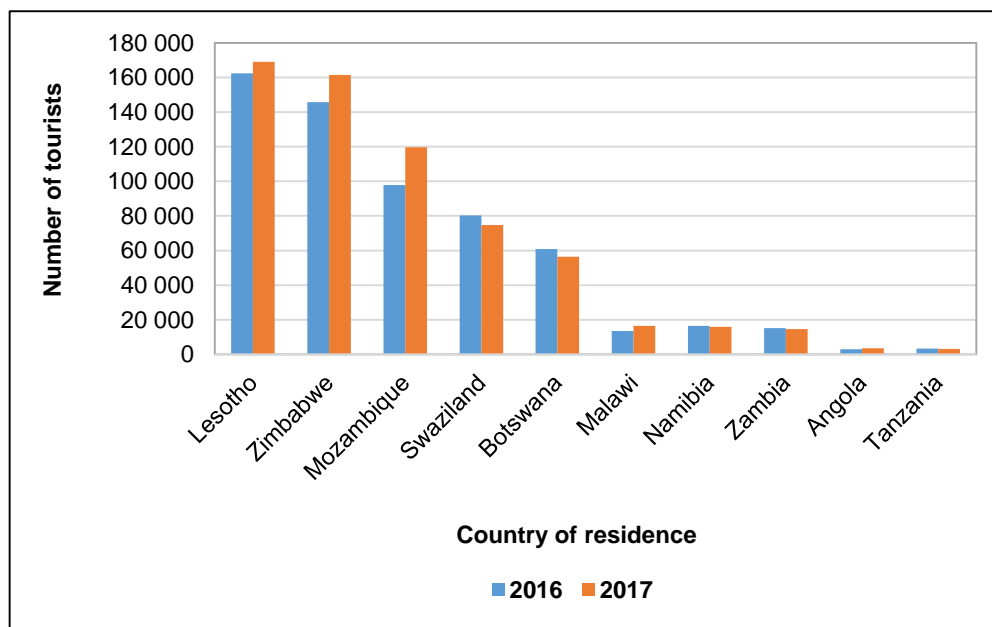
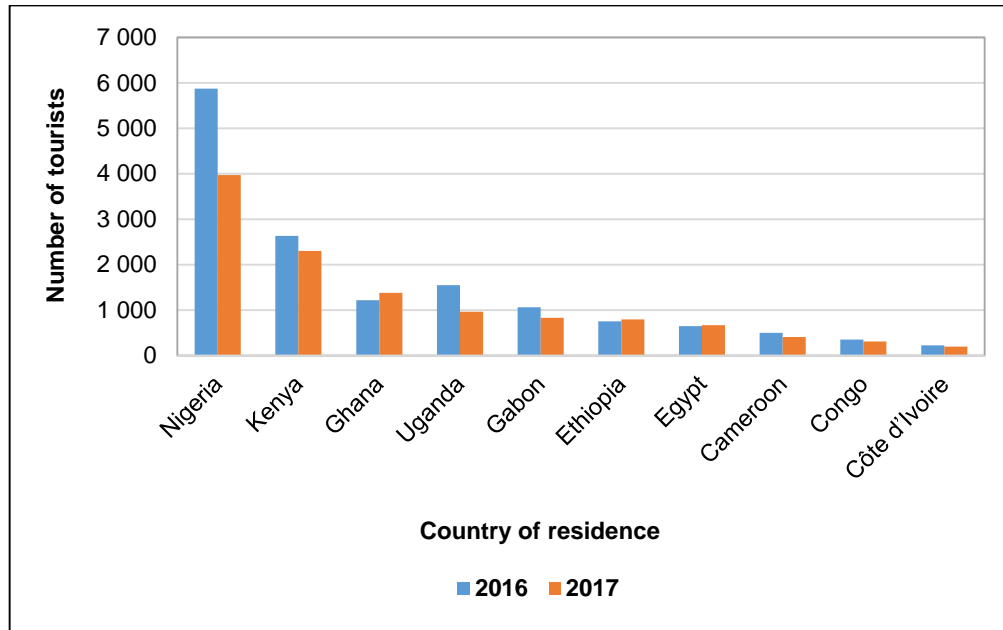


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in July 2016 and July 2017



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	July 2016	June 2017	July 2017	% Change	
				June – July 2017	July 2016 – July 2017
Total	3 560 114	3 192 858	3 710 937	16,2%	4,2%
South African residents	1 012 278	912 374	1 108 937	21,5%	9,5%
Arrivals	543 725	428 773	578 028	34,8%	6,3%
Departures	467 673	482 804	530 077	9,8%	13,3%
Transits	880	797	832	4,4%	-5,5%
Foreign travellers	2 547 836	2 280 484	2 602 000	14,1%	2,1%
Arrivals	1 319 955	1 155 058	1 347 125	16,6%	2,1%
Departures	1 145 550	1 066 296	1 186 438	11,3%	3,6%
Transits	82 331	59 130	68 437	15,7%	-16,9%
Foreign arrivals	1 319 955	1 155 058	1 347 125	16,6%	2,1%
Non-visitors	86 078	72 383	85 207	17,7%	-1,0%
Visitors	1 233 877	1 082 675	1 261 918	16,6%	2,3%
Visitors	1 233 877	1 082 675	1 261 918	16,6%	2,3%
Arrivals only	305 522	263 230	325 791	23,8%	6,6%
Single trips	421 228	373 950	423 096	13,1%	0,4%
Multiple trips	507 127	445 495	513 031	15,2%	1,2%
Visitors	1 233 877	1 082 675	1 261 918	16,6%	2,3%
Same-Day	411 461	373 697	400 187	7,1%	-2,7%
Overnight (Tourists)	822 416	708 978	861 731	21,5%	4,8%

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	3 710 937	167 702	36 196	830 163	8 440	1 042 501	2 661 135	7 301
South African residents	1 108 937	79 021	25 066	338 773	4 404	447 264	660 743	930
Arrivals	578 028	42 987	13 572	182 671	2 158	241 388	336 092	548
Departures	530 077	36 028	11 494	155 276	2 246	205 044	324 651	382
Transits	832	6	-	826	-	832	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 602 000	88 681	11 130	491 390	4 036	595 237	2 000 392	6 371
Arrivals	1 347 125	47 748	5 632	221 978	1 703	277 061	1 066 727	3 337
Departures	1 186 438	40 826	5 498	201 082	2 333	249 739	933 665	3 034
Transits	68 437	107	-	68 330	-	68 437	-	-
Visitors	1 261 918	44 629	4 558	209 011	1 186	259 384	1 002 310	224
Same day	400 187	505	22	21 837	134	22 498	377 649	40
Tourist	861 731	44 124	4 536	187 174	1 052	236 886	624 661	184

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

Country of residence	July		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	822 416	861 731	44 124	4 536	187 174	1 052	236 886	624 661	184
Overseas	200 901	206 737	39 704	3 729	138 320	962	182 715	23 858	164
Europe	107 971	113 098	24 628	2 416	69 777	165	96 986	15 961	151
Austria	1 552	1 869	483	51	1 116	2	1 652	217	-
Belgium	5 332	6 326	1 050	66	3 707	11	4 834	1 492	-
Denmark	1 996	1 998	323	21	1 440	1	1 785	213	-
France	12 315	13 687	2 829	193	8 249	19	11 290	2 397	-
Germany	13 279	14 419	2 831	192	9 481	23	12 527	1 888	4
Ireland	2 083	2 228	771	108	1 163	4	2 046	176	6
Italy	5 281	5 102	1 528	105	3 136	2	4 771	329	2
Norway	1 084	1 176	353	41	640	6	1 040	136	-
Portugal	2 996	2 381	259	22	1 210	3	1 494	887	-
Spain	3 509	4 057	892	58	2 695	10	3 655	402	-
Sweden	1 355	1 327	462	36	666	3	1 167	160	-
Switzerland	3 414	3 412	713	68	2 183	11	2 975	437	-
The Netherlands	17 503	19 832	4 297	164	11 123	2	15 586	4 245	1
UK	30 937	30 076	6 811	1 131	19 607	58	27 607	2 332	137
Other	5 335	5 208	1 026	160	3 361	10	4 557	650	1
North America	41 069	40 686	8 278	529	28 028	517	37 352	3 332	2
Canada	4 473	4 008	884	54	2 668	47	3 653	355	-
USA	36 596	36 678	7 394	475	25 360	470	33 699	2 977	2
Central and South America	6 029	9 866	881	46	8 282	31	9 240	626	-
Argentina	671	1 149	31	1	1 059	-	1 091	58	-
Brazil	3 358	6 092	521	9	5 130	12	5 672	420	-
Mexico	542	768	168	4	566	4	742	26	-
Other	1 458	1 857	161	32	1 527	15	1 735	122	-

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

Country of residence	July		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	11 757	11 513	783	95	9 465	179	10 522	988	3
Australia	9 582	9 591	630	72	7 854	173	8 729	859	3
New Zealand	2 152	1 896	150	23	1 589	6	1 768	128	-
Other	23	26	3	-	22	-	25	1	-
Middle East	6 384	6 310	1 591	59	4 442	24	6 116	193	1
Israel	1 815	1 758	195	6	1 427	1	1 629	129	-
Saudi Arabia	2 442	2 356	435	21	1 900	-	2 356	-	-
United Arab Emirates	706	782	507	2	252	21	782	-	-
Other	1 421	1 414	454	30	863	2	1 349	64	1
Asia	27 691	25 264	3 543	584	18 326	46	22 499	2 758	7
China	8 827	7 137	904	76	5 786	-	6 766	371	-
India	7 856	7 315	917	262	5 195	26	6 400	913	2
Japan	2 046	2 181	222	37	1 816	5	2 080	101	-
Malaysia	915	677	120	27	508	1	656	21	-
Pakistan	1 477	1 488	138	71	794	-	1 003	485	-
Philippines	683	722	214	18	409	2	643	79	-
Singapore	684	801	253	6	511	5	775	26	-
South Korea	1 852	2 088	340	10	1 476	1	1 827	261	-
Taiwan	739	813	59	10	538	-	607	206	-
Thailand	704	591	110	19	431	-	560	26	5
Other	1 908	1 451	266	48	862	6	1 182	269	-
Africa	620 454	653 985	4 398	803	47 974	90	53 265	600 700	20
SADC	603 763	640 193	3 585	654	36 369	72	40 680	599 509	4
Angola	2 969	3 474	869	1	2 441	1	3 312	162	-
Botswana	60 788	56 367	173	177	2 169	23	2 542	53 825	-
DRC	3 067	3 059	96	2	2 405	1	2 504	555	-
Lesotho	162 392	169 080	4	1	625	-	630	168 450	-

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

Country of residence	July		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	165	188	6	1	180	-	187	1	-
Malawi	13 414	16 423	14	4	2 241	2	2 261	14 162	-
Mauritius	1 752	1 708	168	96	1 322	-	1 586	122	-
Mozambique	97 910	119 689	19	40	3 014	12	3 085	116 604	-
Namibia	16 386	15 833	1 994	131	3 015	8	5 148	10 683	2
Seychelles	410	412	1	54	340	-	395	17	-
Swaziland	80 353	74 716	6	6	557	2	571	74 145	-
Tanzania	3 280	3 183	44	12	1 974	4	2 034	1 149	-
Zambia	15 101	14 569	51	92	3 714	1	3 858	10 711	-
Zimbabwe	145 776	161 492	140	37	12 372	18	12 567	148 923	2
'Other' African	16 691	13 792	813	149	11 605	18	12 585	1 191	16
East and Central Africa	7 236	6 000	448	59	5 012	11	5 530	470	-
Burundi	91	65	13	2	48	-	63	2	-
Cameroon	502	406	34	3	331	3	371	35	-
Central African Republic	12	5	-	-	5	-	5	-	-
Chad	30	29	-	2	26	1	29	-	-
Comoros	11	27	3	2	21	-	26	1	-
Congo	352	309	42	1	260	3	306	3	-
Djibouti	5	14	2	1	11	-	14	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	41	32	4	-	24	-	28	4	-
Eritrea	61	81	8	2	63	-	73	8	-
Ethiopia	757	793	77	21	613	-	711	82	-
Gabon	1 064	833	42	1	788	1	832	1	-
Kenya	2 630	2 305	182	16	1 925	3	2 126	179	-
Réunion	-	5	5	-	-	-	5	-	-
Rwanda	93	72	5	-	62	-	67	5	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	7	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-
Somalia	32	58	6	1	19	-	26	32	-
Uganda	1 548	962	25	7	812	-	844	118	-

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

Country of residence	July		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	8 205	6 513	220	54	5 612	6	5 892	608	13
Benin	179	150	3	-	145	-	148	2	-
Burkina Faso	54	62	4	1	54	-	59	3	-
Cape Verde Island	39	42	5	1	32	-	38	4	-
Côte d'Ivoire	226	200	2	-	186	-	188	12	-
Gambia	43	60	-	-	57	-	57	3	-
Ghana	1 221	1 381	35	13	1 247	-	1 295	86	-
Guinea	119	133	2	2	74	-	78	55	-
Guinea-Bissau	11	10	-	-	8	-	8	2	-
Liberia	41	57	6	-	48	-	54	3	-
Mali	96	117	5	1	50	-	56	61	-
Mauritania	10	6	1	-	4	-	5	1	-
Niger	23	16	5	2	9	-	16	-	-
Nigeria	5 869	3 973	129	32	3 451	6	3 618	354	1
Saint Helena	4	21	8	-	1	-	9	-	12
Senegal	177	188	9	-	169	-	178	10	-
Sierra Leone	61	52	1	-	41	-	42	10	-
Togo	32	45	5	2	36	-	43	2	-
North Africa	1 250	1 279	145	36	981	1	1 163	113	3
Algeria	86	94	6	1	82	-	89	5	-
Egypt	649	668	67	11	529	1	608	57	3
Libya	76	61	8	3	23	-	34	27	-
Morocco	135	111	9	2	93	-	104	7	-
South Sudan	42	59	5	-	52	-	57	2	-
The Sudan	188	196	42	15	131	-	188	8	-
Tunisia	70	90	8	4	71	-	83	7	-
Western Sahara	4								
Unspecified	1 061	1 009	22	4	880	-	906	103	-

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

Country of residence	July		Purpose of visit (July 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
Total	822 416	861 731	20 264	829 532	11 935
Overseas	200 901	206 737	5 580	198 037	3 120
Europe	107 971	113 098	3 074	108 165	1 859
Austria	1 552	1 869	61	1 775	33
Belgium	5 332	6 326	94	6 180	52
Denmark	1 996	1 998	46	1 919	33
France	12 315	13 687	297	13 204	186
Germany	13 279	14 419	495	13 423	501
Ireland	2 083	2 228	69	2 134	25
Italy	5 281	5 102	173	4 846	83
Norway	1 084	1 176	31	1 124	21
Portugal	2 996	2 381	67	2 282	32
Spain	3 509	4 057	113	3 910	34
Sweden	1 355	1 327	53	1 243	31
Switzerland	3 414	3 412	46	3 297	69
The Netherlands	17 503	19 832	228	19 342	262
UK	30 937	30 076	988	28 697	391
Other	5 335	5 208	313	4 789	106
North America	41 069	40 686	727	39 594	365
Canada	4 473	4 008	98	3 862	48
USA	36 596	36 678	629	35 732	317
Central and South America	6 029	9 866	85	9 697	84
Argentina	671	1 149	11	1 134	4
Brazil	3 358	6 092	33	6 015	44
Mexico	542	768	14	748	6
Other	1 458	1 857	27	1 800	30

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

Country of residence	July		Purpose of visit (July 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	11 757	11 513	172	11 294	47
Australia	9 582	9 591	146	9 414	31
New Zealand	2 152	1 896	25	1 856	15
Other	23	26	1	24	1
Middle East	6 384	6 310	219	5 925	166
Israel	1 815	1 758	73	1 661	24
Saudi Arabia	2 442	2 356	24	2 267	65
United Arab Emirates	706	782	10	769	3
Other	1 421	1 414	112	1 228	74
Asia	27 691	25 264	1 303	23 362	599
China	8 827	7 137	324	6 750	63
India	7 856	7 315	577	6 584	154
Japan	2 046	2 181	109	2 042	30
Malaysia	915	677	14	543	120
Pakistan	1 477	1 488	58	1 398	32
Philippines	683	722	19	690	13
Singapore	684	801	40	753	8
South Korea	1 852	2 088	34	1 951	103
Taiwan	739	813	20	790	3
Thailand	704	591	13	560	18
Other	1 908	1 451	95	1 301	55
Africa	620 454	653 985	14 636	630 536	8 813
SADC	603 763	640 193	13 792	618 609	7 792
Angola	2 969	3 474	51	2 960	463
Botswana	60 788	56 367	717	55 142	508
DRC	3 067	3 059	81	2 730	248
Lesotho	162 392	169 080	1 485	166 962	633

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

Country of residence	July		Purpose of visit (July 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
Madagascar	165	188	9	171	8
Malawi	13 414	16 423	321	15 902	200
Mauritius	1 752	1 708	56	1 569	83
Mozambique	97 910	119 689	3 569	115 825	295
Namibia	16 386	15 833	2 135	12 156	1 542
Seychelles	410	412	7	401	4
Swaziland	80 353	74 716	232	73 097	1 387
Tanzania	3 280	3 183	86	2 861	236
Zambia	15 101	14 569	1 465	12 777	327
Zimbabwe	145 776	161 492	3 578	156 056	1 858
'Other' African	16 691	13 792	844	11 927	1 021
East and Central Africa	7 236	6 000	412	5 060	528
Burundi	91	65	5	50	10
Cameroon	502	406	31	334	41
Central African Republic	12	5	-	4	1
Chad	30	29	5	24	-
Comoros	11	27	5	20	2
Congo	352	309	8	262	39
Djibouti	5	14	-	8	6
Equatorial Guinea	41	32	-	27	5
Eritrea	61	81	2	73	6
Ethiopia	757	793	57	704	32
Gabon	1 064	833	4	760	69
Kenya	2 630	2 305	238	1 853	214
Réunion	-	5	-	5	-
Rwanda	93	72	3	55	14
São Tomé and Príncipe	7	4	-	4	-
Somalia	32	58	4	52	2
Uganda	1 548	962	50	825	87

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

Country of residence	July		Purpose of visit (July 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	8 205	6 513	311	5 805	397
Benin	179	150	3	141	6
Burkina Faso	54	62	5	54	3
Cape Verde Island	39	42	1	41	-
Côte d'Ivoire	226	200	13	173	14
Gambia	43	60	10	50	-
Ghana	1 221	1 381	91	1 245	45
Guinea	119	133	4	121	8
Guinea-Bissau	11	10	-	6	4
Liberia	41	57	7	48	2
Mali	96	117	4	113	-
Mauritania	10	6	-	5	1
Niger	23	16	6	8	2
Nigeria	5 869	3 973	148	3 523	302
Saint Helena	4	21	-	21	-
Senegal	177	188	12	170	6
Sierra Leone	61	52	1	50	1
Togo	32	45	6	36	3
North Africa	1 250	1 279	121	1 062	96
Algeria	86	94	5	84	5
Egypt	649	668	77	558	33
Libya	76	61	1	45	15
Morocco	135	111	13	97	1
South Sudan	42	59	5	50	4
The Sudan	188	196	15	146	35
Tunisia	70	90	5	82	3
Western Sahara	4	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	1 061	1 009	48	959	2

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

Sex	Age group	July		Region (July 2017)			
		2016	2017	Overseas	SADC	‘Other’ African	Unspecified
All	Total	822 416	861 731	206 737	640 193	13 792	1 009
	0-14	49 567	51 711	21 082	29 741	880	8
	15-64	744 528	780 170	170 422	596 105	12 653	990
	65+	28 321	29 850	15 233	14 347	259	11
Male	Total	448 404	475 180	110 269	355 480	8 862	569
	0-14	24 803	26 067	10 965	14 648	449	5
	15-64	409 761	434 467	91 097	334 544	8 272	554
	65+	13 840	14 646	8 207	6 288	141	10
Female	Total	374 012	386 551	96 468	284 713	4 930	440
	0-14	24 764	25 644	10 117	15 093	431	3
	15-64	334 767	345 703	79 325	261 561	4 381	436
	65+	14 481	15 204	7 026	8 059	118	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 95% of the country's ports of entry. 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 July 2017, the DHA data was 0,3% lower than that of ACSA.

4.5 Limitations

The information on the total number of arrivals and departures of South African residents is collected from the scanning of passports. However, data are not collected from passengers on country visited; country of final destination, the duration of stay; intended duration of stay and purpose of visit. With this limitation, it is impossible to identify the number of tourists from the data on South African residents.

4.6 Definition 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

4.8 Rounding off

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

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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