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KEY FINDINGS

1. Number of travellers

The March 2007 data collected by Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 2 002 378 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through the ports of entry. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 626 641 South African residents and 1 375 737 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures indicates that 295 577 and 331 064 South African resident arrivals and departures respectively were recorded. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals and departures are 723 090 and 652 647. A comparison between the movements in February 2007 and March 2007 indicates that there was an increase in all movements. The March 2007 figure (295 577) for South African resident arrivals shows a decline of 3,4% compared to the March 2006 figure of 305 947. On the contrary, there was an increase of 6,7% for foreign arrivals from 677 427 in March 2006 to 723 090 March 2007.

2. Mode of travel

It is observed from Table 2 that road transport was the most common (64,7%) mode of travel used by 1 294 802 out of the 2 002 378 travellers. Besides road transport, OR Tambo International Airport was used by 22,4% of all travellers. The arrival data on South African residents show that 35,9% came by air and 61,2% by road. For their departure, 36,7% and 60,7% used air and road transport respectively. When taking into consideration the countries of residence of these travellers, it was found that for foreign arrivals, overseas travellers generally used air (86,9%) compared to road transport (11,8%) whereas travellers from Africa used road (85,8%) more than air transport (6,3%). Information on specific countries from which travellers came from and the mode of travel used is provided in Table 3.

3. Foreign arrivals

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

Data presented in Table 3 show that more than two thirds (74,3%) of foreign arrivals were from Africa whilst less than a third (25,2%) were from overseas countries. Information on the country of residence was not available on 0,5% of the travellers. A comparison of the changes between March 2006 and March 2007 indicates that the number of overseas arrivals decreased by 2,5% from 186 738 in 2006 to 182 062 in 2007. Arrivals from Africa increased by 10,1% from 487 775 in 2006 to 537 201 in 2007.

3.1 Gender and age distribution

The travellers from Africa comprised of 298 054 males, 237 920 females and 1 227 with unspecified gender. The data on overseas travellers had 104 576 males, 77 257 females and gender was not specified in 229 cases. Overall, slightly more males than females from African (males: 55,5%; females: 44,3%) and overseas countries (males: 57,4%; females: 42,4%) came to South Africa. The age distribution of foreign arrivals presented in Figure 1 shows that travellers from Africa are generally younger compared to those from overseas. Thus the bulk (83,7%) of African travellers is clustered between ages 15-49, peaking at age group 25-29. However, the age distribution of overseas travellers is widely spread. Thus 86,7% of overseas travellers were between ages 20 to 69 years. The percentage of older persons (65 years and older) from overseas countries was significantly higher (11,0%) compared to that among persons from Africa (2,7%). This would have implications for spending capacity.

3.2 Regional and national distribution

Overseas travellers came mainly from Europe (68,8%) followed by North America (13,8%), Asia (8,9%), Australasia (4,3%), Central and South America (2,4%) and Middle East (1,8%). Virtually all arrivals (97,9%) from Africa came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining arrivals from Africa is as follows: East and Central Africa (1,0%), West Africa (0,9%) and North Africa (0,2%). March data for the past five years (See figure 2) reveal that, arrivals from 'other' African countries have been quite stable unlike from SADC countries that have been escalating since 2004. There were minor fluctuations in overseas arrivals from 2003 to 2007. Data presented in Figure 3 indicates that the UK, Germany, USA, France, Netherlands, Australia, Canada and India were the eight leading overseas source countries. Travellers from these eight countries constitute 69,7% of all travellers from overseas. The number of travellers from these overseas countries decreased in March 2007 compared to March 2006 with the exception of Canada and India (4,1% from 4 931 in March 2006 to 5 135 in March 2007 and 5,4% from 3 521 in March 2006 to 3 710 in March 2007 respectively).

The eight leading countries from SADC and the 'other' African countries are shown in Figures 4 and 5. Whereas travellers from the eight SADC countries made up 96,8% of all arrivals from Africa, the eight 'other' countries from Africa constituted only 1,5%. The number of travellers from these SADC countries was higher in March 2007 compared to March 2006 with the exception of two countries - Namibia and Zimbabwe. Travellers from Namibia declined by 5,4% from 18 094 to 17 120 and those from Zimbabwe by 11,6% from 78 021 to 69 006. Although travellers from Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia and Congo increased, those from Kenya, Uganda, Cameroon and Egypt declined when the March 2006 data are compared with the March 2007.

3.3 Purpose of travel

As observed from data given in Table 4, an overwhelming majority (93,4%) of foreign arrivals was admitted into South Africa on visitors' temporary residence permit. These visitors are mainly made up of same-day travellers as well as tourists. This is in vast contrast to those who have come to study (0,8%), those on business (2,2%) and those who have come for work (1,3%).

Overall, 91,8% of overseas travellers came to South Africa to visit. A detailed analysis reveals that with the exception of Asia (73,3%), all the regions had more than 85,0% travellers coming to South Africa for holidays, travellers from Europe (93,6%), Australasia (94,4%), Central and South America (92,5%), North America (93,9%) and the Middle East (89,3%) were admitted into South Africa as visitors. Travellers from Asia were more diverse in their purpose and consequently Asia had the highest proportion of travellers who came here for work (17,2%), for business (6,2%) and to study (1,0%).

Although the majority (94,5%) of African travellers came into the country on visitors' permits, there is a significant difference between travellers from SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 94,7% of travellers from the SADC countries were recorded as on holiday, 80,5% of travellers from 'other' African countries were admitted on visitor's permit. The lowest percentage (76,9%) of visitors came from North Africa, a region where proportionally, a large percentage of travellers were in South Africa as workers (6,3%) and business persons (12,9%).
- A relatively high percentage of 'other' African travellers were here to study, work or for business.
- Overall, 8,2% and 6,7% of travellers from West Africa and East and Central Africa respectively were in South Africa for business as compared to only 1,5% among the SADC travellers.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Figure 1: Percentage distribution of overseas and African arrivals by age groups in March 2007

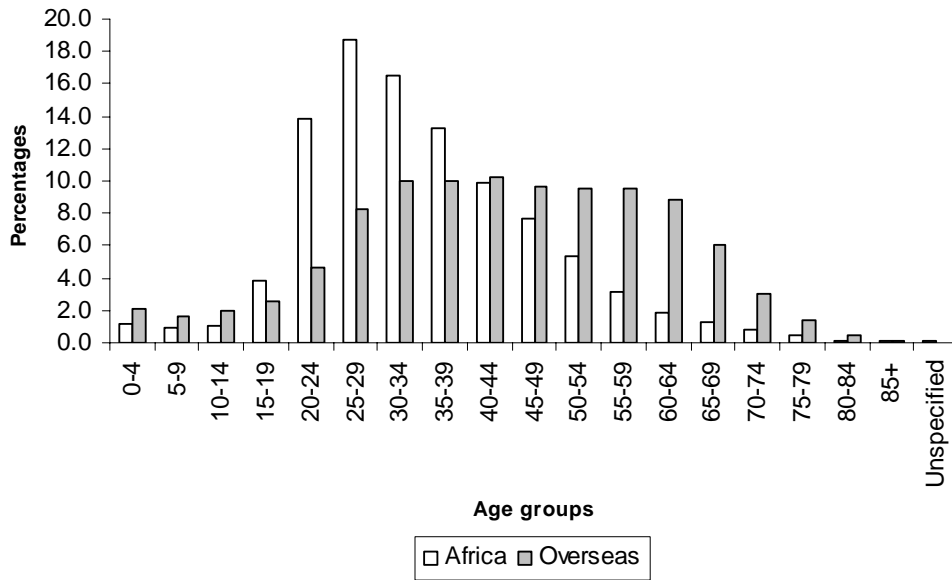


Figure 2: Number of March arrivals by region (2003 - 2007)

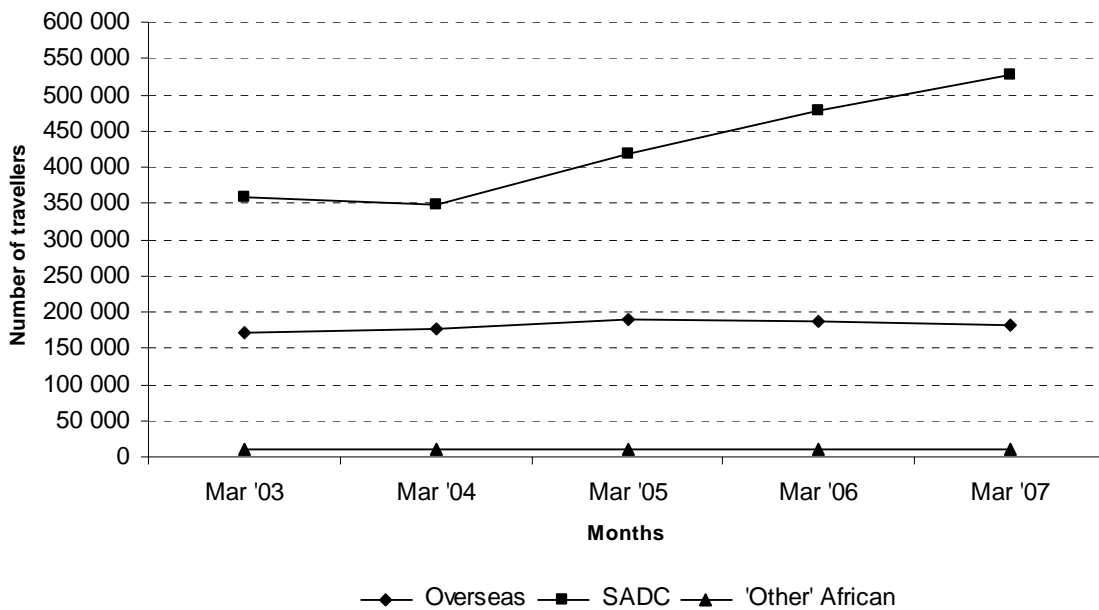


Figure 3: Number of overseas travellers arriving from leading source countries in March 2007 compared to March 2006

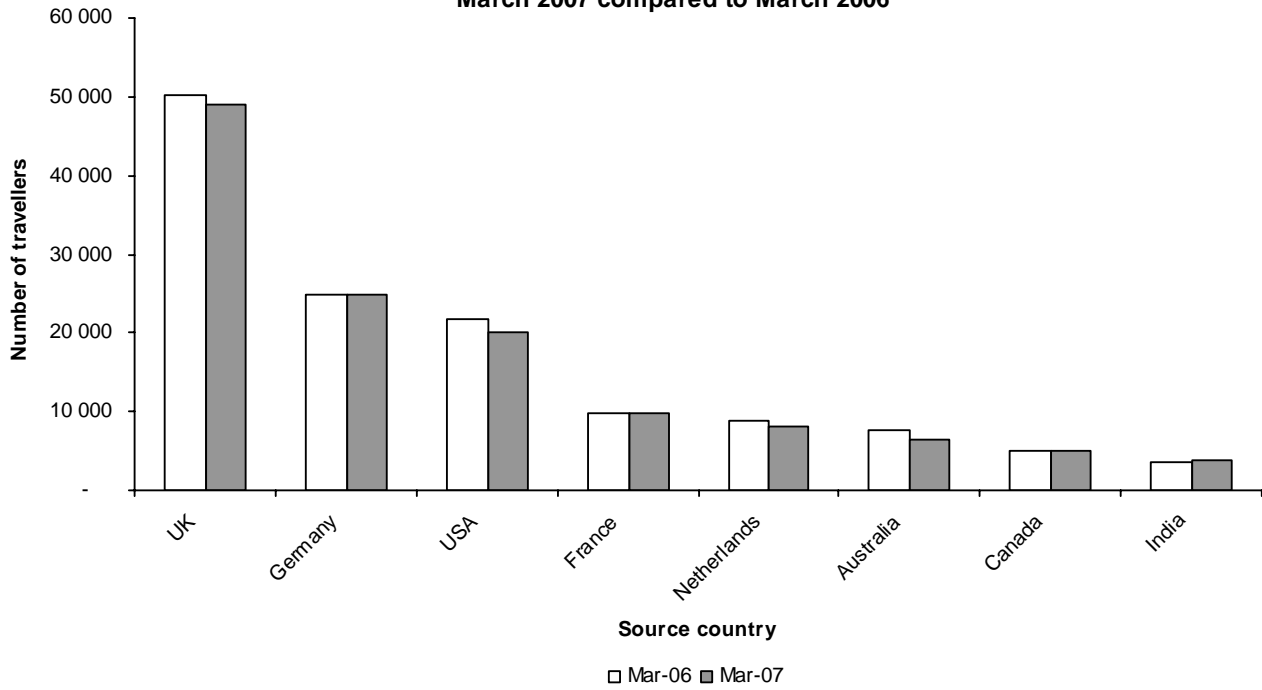


Figure 4: Number of travellers from SADC countries arriving from leading source countries in March 2007 compared to March 2006

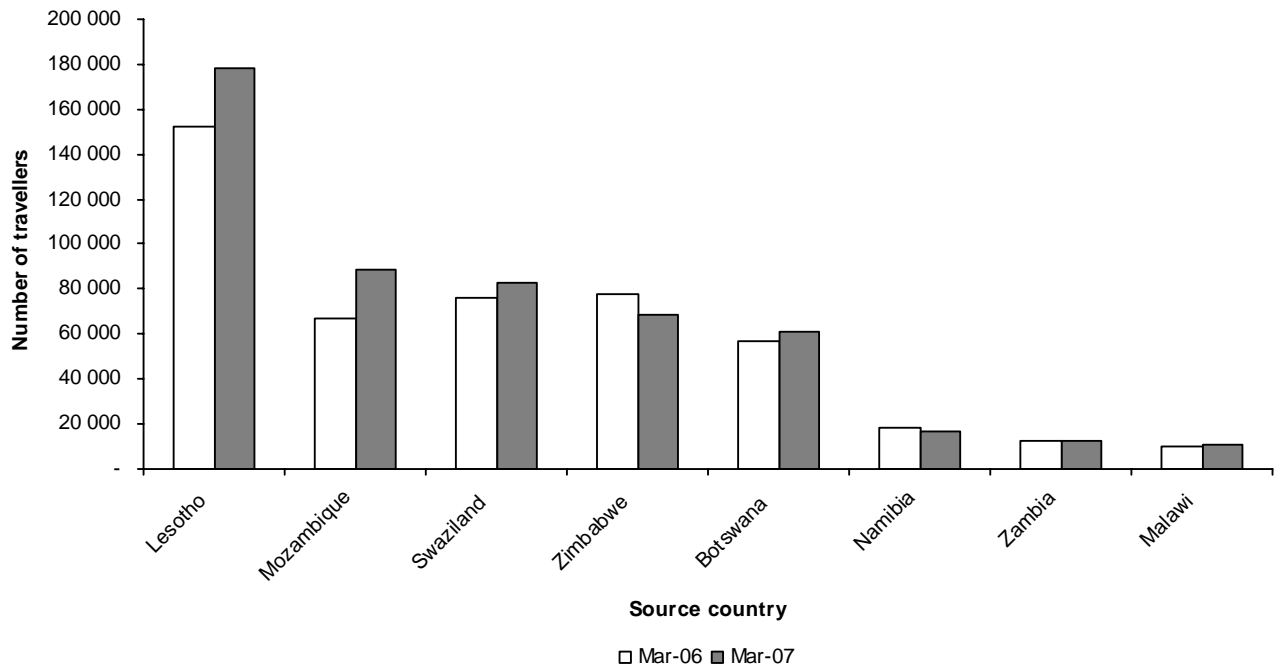


Figure 5: Number of travellers from 'other' African countries arriving from leading source countries in March 2007 compared to March 2006

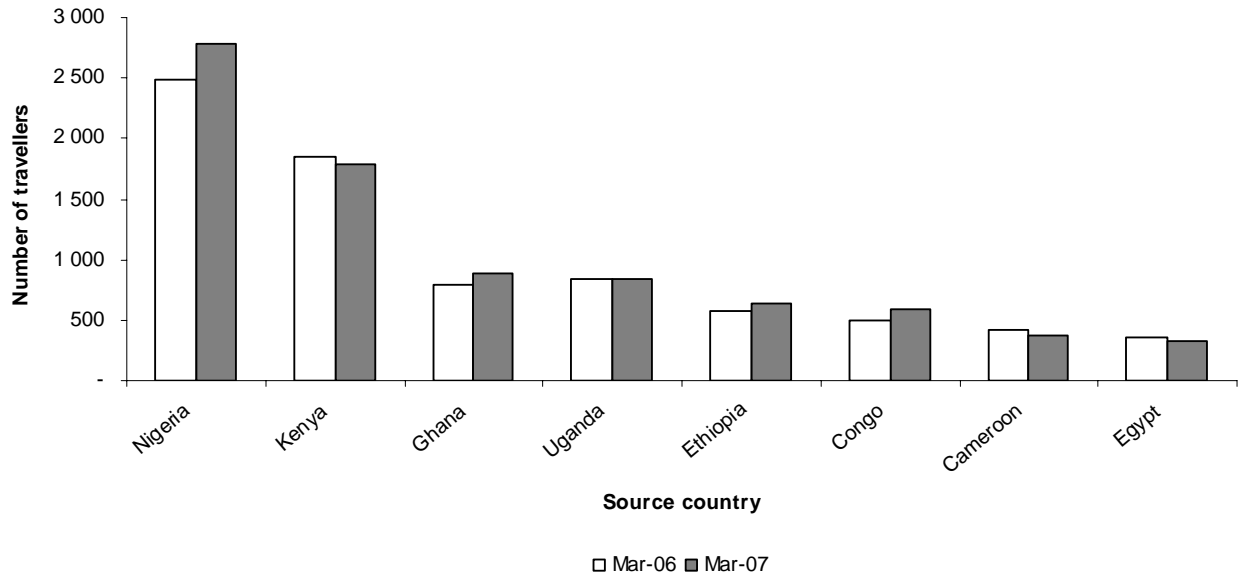


Table 1. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction

Travel direction	March	February	March	% change	% change
	2006	2006	2007	Mar 06–Mar 07	Feb 07–Mar 07
South African residents					
Arrivals	305 947	270 151	295 577	-3.4	9.4
Departures	321 977	270 302	331 064	2.8	22.5
Foreign travellers					
Arrivals	677 427	707 102	723 090	6.7	2.3
Departures	621 304	606 742	652 647	5.0	7.6
Grand total	1 926 655	1 854 297	2 002 378	3.9	8.0

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

Travel direction	Total	Mode of travel (March 2007)								
		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
		(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Grand total:	2 002 378	154 692	2 991	448 311	8 702	614 696	91	1 294 802	2 428	90 361
Arrivals:	1 018 667	71 225	1 480	221 889	4 414	299 008	51	664 288	1 457	53 863
South African residents	295 577	14 800	1 053	86 872	3 381	106 106	4	180 766	214	8 487
Foreign travellers	723 090	56 425	427	135 017	1 033	192 902	47	483 522	1 243	45 376
Overseas	182 062	54 368	178	102 979	671	158 196	17	21 422	1 191	1 236
Africa	537 201	2 009	249	31 265	352	33 875	30	461 082	17	42 197
Unspecified	3 827	48	-	773	10	831	-	1 018	35	1 943
Departures:	983 711	83 467	1 511	226 422	4 288	315 688	40	630 514	971	36 498
South African residents	331 064	17 391	1 067	99 810	3 294	121 562	19	201 125	97	8 261
Foreign travellers	652 647	66 076	444	126 612	994	194 126	21	429 389	874	28 237

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

Country	Mode of travel (March 2007)										
	March		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2006	2007	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Grand total	677 427	723 090	56 425	427	135 017	1 033	192 902	47	483 522	1 243	45 376
Overseas total	186 738	182 062	54 368	178	102 979	671	158 196	17	21 422	1 191	1 236
Europe	127 817	125 246	46 834	85	61 122	411	108 452	7	15 730	579	478
Austria	1 880	1 860	772	-	898	4	1 674	1	184	1	-
Belgium	3 378	3 549	851	-	2 049	29	2 929	-	611	3	6
Denmark	2 200	2 539	584	-	1 593	5	2 182	-	340	10	7
France	9 855	9 703	1 154	20	7 054	91	8 319	-	1 306	48	30
Germany	24 927	24 895	11 469	4	9 130	30	20 633	1	4 108	32	121
Greece	635	618	65	-	443	3	511	-	95	5	7
Ireland	3 198	3 337	1 647	1	1 320	9	2 977	-	338	2	20
Italy	3 547	3 216	942	5	1 877	5	2 829	-	374	3	10
Netherlands	8 770	8 063	2 685	3	3 572	14	6 274	1	1 703	36	49
Portugal	2 035	2 357	156	19	1 054	15	1 244	-	1 109	1	3
Spain	2 072	1 882	277	-	1 404	1	1 682	-	149	51	-
Sweden	4 063	3 530	1 344	7	1 625	14	2 990	-	531	4	5
Switzerland	3 487	3 315	710	1	1 982	14	2 707	-	605	-	3
UK	50 210	48 902	21 757	25	23 239	125	45 146	3	3 401	166	186
Other	7 560	7 480	2 421	-	3 882	52	6 355	1	876	217	31
North America	26 580	25 176	4 053	28	18 147	170	22 398	1	2 542	33	202
Canada	4 931	5 135	999	3	3 350	38	4 390	1	714	8	22
USA	21 642	20 036	3 053	25	14 794	132	18 004	-	1 827	25	180
Other	7	5	1	-	3	-	4	-	1	-	-
Central and South America	4 305	4 371	781	3	3 158	19	3 961	-	376	29	5
Argentina	968	1 017	553	-	438	1	992	-	25	-	-
Brazil	2 089	2 108	63	1	1 824	16	1 904	-	199	5	-
Chile	198	186	26	-	150	1	177	-	7	-	2
Other	1 050	1 060	139	2	746	1	888	-	145	24	3

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

Country	Mode of travel (March 2007)										
	March		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2006	2007	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Australasia	9 055	7 771	768	26	6 244	30	7 068	1	649	26	27
Australia	7 696	6 473	627	26	5 247	17	5 917	1	519	15	21
New Zealand	1 301	1 235	135	-	961	12	1 108	-	116	11	-
Other	58	63	6	-	36	1	43	-	14	-	6
Middle East	3 275	3 352	291	12	2 813	13	3 129	-	207	9	7
Israel	1 354	1 588	64	-	1 429	4	1 497	-	88	1	2
Saudi Arabia	170	146	21	2	111	1	135	-	10	1	-
Turkey	512	433	80	9	293	-	382	-	43	5	3
Other	1 239	1 185	126	1	980	8	1 115	-	66	2	2
Asia	15 706	16 146	1 641	24	11 495	28	13 188	8	1 918	515	517
China	3 229	2 820	202	-	2 271	1	2 474	-	231	1	114
Hong Kong	403	439	76	-	353	-	429	-	7	-	3
India	3 521	3 710	127	22	2 710	3	2 862	4	654	57	133
Japan	2 366	2 116	188	-	1 769	15	1 972	-	84	47	13
Malaysia	762	731	230	-	446	-	676	-	39	11	5
Philippines	613	737	71	-	399	3	473	1	43	121	99
Rep of China (Taiwan)	827	1 105	103	-	585	1	689	-	224	116	76
Rep of Korea	1 216	1 440	123	-	1 114	-	1 237	-	179	15	9
Singapore	487	456	183	-	242	-	425	-	26	3	2
Other	2 282	2 592	338	2	1 606	5	1 951	3	431	144	63

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

Country	Mode of travel (March 2007)										
	March		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2006	2007	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Africa total	487 775	537 201	2 009	249	31 265	352	33 875	30	461 082	17	42 197
SADC	477 496	526 533	1 863	225	22 992	307	25 387	28	459 081	13	42 024
Angola	2 343	2 331	112	-	2 046	21	2 179	-	132	1	19
Botswana	56 831	61 231	40	7	1 812	148	2 007	7	59 006	-	211
DRC	1 587	1 970	3	-	1 220	15	1 238	-	729	-	3
Lesotho	152 653	177 924	5	-	440	9	454	3	137 002	-	40 465
Madagascar	219	256	2	5	227	1	235	-	8	12	1
Malawi	9 775	10 779	6	1	1 285	5	1 297	1	9 420	-	61
Mauritius	1 261	989	157	100	615	2	874	-	95	-	20
Mozambique	67 294	88 341	43	66	1 809	27	1 945	1	86 187	-	208
Namibia	18 094	17 120	1 450	-	2 001	8	3 459	3	13 545	-	113
Swaziland	76 083	82 929	2	22	549	4	577	7	82 133	-	212
Tanzania	951	995	4	-	705	1	710	-	271	-	14
Zambia	12 384	12 662	4	-	4 339	11	4 354	1	8 246	-	61
Zimbabwe	78 021	69 006	35	24	5 944	55	6 058	5	62 307	-	636

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

Country	Mode of travel (March 2007)										
	March		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2006	2007	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
East and Central	5 215	5 243	23	22	3 761	32	3 838	-	1 322	3	80
Burundi	84	106	-	-	73	3	76	-	30	-	-
Cameroon	416	370	6	1	331	-	338	-	28	1	3
Central African Rep	17	8	-	-	7	-	7	-	1	-	-
Chad	11	21	-	-	20	-	20	-	1	-	-
Comoros	14	15	-	-	15	-	15	-	-	-	-
Congo	503	584	4	-	455	2	461	-	105	-	18
Djibouti	4	4	-	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	22	41	-	-	24	-	24	-	17	-	-
Eritrea	58	36	1	-	24	-	25	-	10	-	1
Ethiopia	575	639	1	-	295	6	302	-	324	-	13
Gabon	236	168	-	-	162	1	163	-	5	-	-
Kenya	1 853	1 794	4	3	1 429	17	1 453	-	323	-	18
Reunion	97	44	-	18	26	-	44	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	196	188	1	-	151	-	152	-	33	-	3
Sao Tome and Principe	7	9	-	-	9	-	9	-	-	-	-
Seychelles	171	169	1	-	161	-	162	-	4	-	3
Somalia	111	208	1	-	13	-	14	-	194	-	-
Tristan da Cunha	2	4	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	2	-
Uganda	838	835	4	-	562	3	569	-	245	-	21

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

Country	Mode of travel (March 2007)										
	March		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2006	2007	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
West Africa	4 208	4 632	47	2	3 894	13	3 956	-	593	1	82
Ascension	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Benin	101	87	-	-	76	-	76	-	11	-	-
Burkina Faso	31	34	2	-	32	-	34	-	-	-	-
Cape Verde Island	58	39	2	-	31	-	33	-	6	-	-
Cote D'Ivoire	200	198	5	-	185	1	191	-	7	-	-
Gambia	34	31	1	-	26	-	27	-	4	-	-
Ghana	786	879	6	1	743	4	754	-	106	1	18
Guinea	64	127	1	-	89	-	90	-	37	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	6	20	-	-	9	-	9	-	11	-	-
Liberia	33	38	3	-	32	-	35	-	3	-	-
Madeira Island	8	15	6	-	4	-	10	-	5	-	-
Mali	62	56	1	-	49	-	50	-	5	-	1
Mauritania	17	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-	-	-
Niger	15	14	-	-	10	-	10	-	3	-	1
Nigeria	2 486	2 776	16	1	2 322	8	2 347	-	367	-	62
St Helena	8	195	2	-	181	-	183	-	12	-	-
Senegal	231	71	1	-	64	-	65	-	6	-	-
Sierra Leone	34	8	1	-	2	-	3	-	5	-	-
Togo	34	38	-	-	34	-	34	-	4	-	-
Western Sahara	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
North Africa	856	793	76	-	618	-	694	2	86	-	11
Algeria	214	96	8	-	52	-	60	1	34	-	1
Egypt	350	330	14	-	285	-	299	1	25	-	5
Libya	30	41	3	-	29	-	32	-	6	-	3
Morocco	60	83	17	-	60	-	77	-	4	-	2
Sudan	140	174	28	-	129	-	157	-	17	-	-
Tunisia	62	69	6	-	63	-	69	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	2 914	3 827	48	-	773	10	831	-	1 018	35	1 943

Table 4. Number of foreign arrivals by purpose of travel

Region	Total	Purpose of travel (March 2007)							Contract worker	Border Traffic
		Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
Grand total	723 090	16 090	675 503	5 477	9 361	2 463	92	708 986	-	14 104
Overseas total	182 062	7 241	167 109	525	6 281	600	11	181 767	-	295
Europe	125 246	4 694	117 272	268	2 676	258	-	125 168	-	78
North America	25 176	920	23 630	59	464	57	-	25 130	-	46
Central and South America	4 371	136	4 044	22	128	40	-	4 370	-	1
Australasia	7 771	274	7 336	6	119	31	-	7 766	-	5
Middle East	3 352	217	2 995	15	112	12	-	3 351	-	1
Asia	16 146	1 000	11 832	155	2 782	202	11	15 982	-	164
Africa total	537 201	8 803	507 471	4 635	2 452	1 852	81	525 294	-	11 907
SADC	526 533	7 965	498 879	4 245	1 795	1 752	43	514 679	-	11 854
East and Central Africa	5 243	355	4 243	216	310	63	33	5 220	-	23
West Africa	4 632	380	3 739	157	297	27	5	4 605	-	27
North Africa	793	103	610	17	50	10	-	790	-	3
Unspecified	3 827	46	923	317	628	11	-	1 925	-	1 902

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

Country	March		Purpose of travel (March 2007)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
	2006	2007	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
Grand total	677 427	723 090	16 090	675 503	5 477	9 361	2 463	92	708 986	-	14 104
Overseas total	186 738	182 062	7 241	167 109	525	6 281	600	11	181 767	-	295
Europe	127 817	125 246	4 694	117 272	268	2 676	258	-	125 168	-	78
Austria	1 880	1 860	60	1 778	3	18	1	-	1 860	-	-
Belgium	3 378	3 549	135	3 345	9	55	5	-	3 549	-	-
Denmark	2 200	2 539	83	2 400	2	42	7	-	2 534	-	5
France	9 855	9 703	361	9 073	29	218	14	-	9 695	-	8
Germany	24 927	24 895	836	23 642	66	332	9	-	24 885	-	10
Greece	635	618	31	559	1	20	7	-	618	-	-
Ireland	3 198	3 337	93	3 197	7	35	1	-	3 333	-	4
Italy	3 547	3 216	187	2 962	11	34	14	-	3 208	-	8
Netherlands	8 770	8 063	284	7 602	36	121	16	-	8 059	-	4
Portugal	2 035	2 357	42	2 271	4	31	6	-	2 354	-	3
Spain	2 072	1 882	74	1 689	4	89	26	-	1 882	-	-
Sweden	4 063	3 530	173	3 261	8	80	8	-	3 530	-	-
Switzerland	3 487	3 315	76	3 205	5	20	9	-	3 315	-	-
UK	50 210	48 902	1 906	46 030	64	778	91	-	48 869	-	33
Other	7 560	7 480	353	6 258	19	803	44	-	7 477	-	3
North America	26 580	25 176	920	23 630	59	464	57	-	25 130	-	46
Canada	4 931	5 135	154	4 862	8	89	14	-	5 127	-	8
USA	21 642	20 036	766	18 763	51	375	43	-	19 998	-	38
Other	7	5	-	5	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
Central and South America	4 305	4 371	136	4 044	22	128	40	-	4 370	-	1
Argentina	968	1 017	23	977	3	14	-	-	1 017	-	-
Brazil	2 089	2 108	51	1 983	10	41	23	-	2 108	-	-
Chile	198	186	6	169	-	6	4	-	185	-	1
Other	1 050	1 060	56	915	9	67	13	-	1 060	-	-

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

Country	March		Purpose of travel (March 2007)								Contract worker	Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total			
	2006	2007										
Australasia	9 055	7 771	274	7 336	6	119	31	-	7 766	-	5	
Australia	7 696	6 473	241	6 117	3	85	22	-	6 468	-	5	
New Zealand	1 301	1 235	27	1 173	1	32	2	-	1 235	-	-	
Other	58	63	6	46	2	2	7	-	63	-	-	
Middle East	3 275	3 352	217	2 995	15	112	12	-	3 351	-	1	
Israel	1 354	1 588	69	1 477	2	39	1	-	1 588	-	-	
Saudi Arabia	170	146	16	120	1	9	-	-	146	-	-	
Turkey	512	433	34	366	2	22	9	-	433	-	-	
Other	1 239	1 185	98	1 032	10	42	2	-	1 184	-	1	
Asia	15 706	16 146	1 000	11 832	155	2 782	202	11	15 982	-	164	
China	3 229	2 820	162	1 824	51	720	23	-	2 780	-	40	
Hong Kong	403	439	17	411	1	8	1	-	438	-	1	
India	3 521	3 710	392	2 689	13	528	30	-	3 652	-	58	
Japan	2 366	2 116	126	1 812	6	164	7	-	2 115	-	1	
Malaysia	762	731	25	657	8	36	5	-	731	-	-	
Philippines	613	737	17	216	1	414	77	-	725	-	12	
Rep of China (Taiwan)	827	1 105	49	710	9	284	16	5	1 073	-	32	
Rep of Korea	1 216	1 440	52	1 263	43	73	7	-	1 438	-	2	
Singapore	487	456	40	399	-	16	-	-	455	-	1	
Other	2 282	2 592	120	1 851	23	539	36	6	2 575	-	17	

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

Country	March		Purpose of travel (March 2007)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
	2006	2007									
Africa total	487 775	537 201	8 803	507 471	4 635	2 452	1 852	81	525 294	-	11 907
SADC	477 496	526 533	7 965	498 879	4 245	1 795	1 752	43	514 679	-	11 854
Angola	2 343	2 331	99	2 040	118	57	16	1	2 331	-	-
Botswana	56 831	61 231	149	58 817	1 604	213	396	-	61 179	-	52
DRC	1 587	1 970	74	1 765	40	46	24	19	1 968	-	2
Lesotho	152 653	177 924	533	165 010	631	218	448	-	166 840	-	11 084
Madagascar	219	256	20	210	-	26	-	-	256	-	-
Malawi	9 775	10 779	489	10 185	29	49	18	2	10 772	-	7
Mauritius	1261	989	44	900	8	17	11	-	980	-	9
Mozambique	67 294	88 341	192	87 630	156	112	64	-	88 154	-	187
Namibia	18 094	17 120	1 993	14 220	246	123	525	-	17 107	-	13
Swaziland	76 083	82 929	440	81 395	702	141	90	-	82 768	-	161
Tanzania	951	995	106	801	43	43	1	1	995	-	-
Zambia	12 384	12 662	1 615	10 832	89	84	33	-	12 653	-	9
Zimbabwe	78 021	69 006	2 211	65 074	579	666	126	20	68 676	-	330

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

Country	March		Purpose of travel (March 2007)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
	2006	2007	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
East and Central	5 215	5 243	355	4 243	216	310	63	33	5 220	-	23
Burundi	84	106	8	91	1	2	-	4	106	-	-
Cameroon	416	370	33	268	31	35	-	2	369	-	1
Central African Rep	17	8	-	7	1	-	-	-	8	-	-
Chad	11	21	5	13	1	2	-	-	21	-	-
Comoros	14	15	-	8	2	5	-	-	15	-	-
Congo	503	584	17	494	9	16	38	6	580	-	4
Djibouti	4	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	22	41	2	34	2	3	-	-	41	-	-
Eritrea	58	36	2	29	-	3	1	-	35	-	1
Ethiopia	575	639	22	566	7	27	2	10	634	-	5
Gabon	236	168	6	113	43	5	1	-	168	-	-
Kenya	1 853	1 794	184	1 383	65	147	10	-	1 789	-	5
Reunion	97	44	1	43	-	-	-	-	44	-	-
Rwanda	196	188	15	135	20	14	2	-	186	-	2
Sao Tome and Principe	7	9	1	8	-	-	-	-	9	-	-
Seychelles	171	169	4	158	1	-	6	-	169	-	-
Somalia	111	208	1	197	-	-	-	10	208	-	-
Tristan da Cunha	2	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Uganda	838	835	54	688	33	51	3	1	830	-	5

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

Country	March		Purpose of travel (March 2007)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
	2006	2007									
West Africa	4 208	4 632	380	3 739	157	297	27	5	4 605	-	27
Ascension	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Benin	101	87	6	79	-	-	2	-	87	-	-
Burkina Faso	31	34	7	20	3	3	1	-	34	-	-
Cape Verde Island	58	39	-	39	-	-	-	-	39	-	-
Cote D'Ivoire	200	198	19	149	9	18	1	2	198	-	-
Gambia	34	31	2	26	-	1	2	-	31	-	-
Ghana	786	879	83	701	18	61	3	1	867	-	12
Guinea	64	127	1	114	3	2	7	-	127	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	6	20	1	18	1	-	-	-	20	-	-
Liberia	33	38	5	28	2	3	-	-	38	-	-
Madeira Island	8	15	-	15	-	-	-	-	15	-	-
Mali	62	56	8	47	1	-	-	-	56	-	-
Mauritania	17	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Niger	15	14	1	12	-	1	-	-	14	-	-
Nigeria	2 486	2 776	209	2 255	118	172	5	2	2 761	-	15
St Helena	8	195	20	137	2	30	6	-	195	-	-
Senegal	231	71	11	59	-	1	-	-	71	-	-
Sierra Leone	34	8	-	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
Togo	34	38	6	27	-	5	-	-	38	-	-
Western Sahara	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
North Africa	856	793	103	610	17	50	10	-	790	-	3
Algeria	214	96	14	76	1	5	-	-	96	-	-
Egypt	350	330	37	259	3	26	5	-	330	-	-
Libya	30	41	5	29	1	2	2	-	39	-	2
Morocco	60	83	16	58	1	6	1	-	82	-	1
Sudan	140	174	16	141	10	7	-	-	174	-	-
Tunisia	62	69	15	47	1	4	2	-	69	-	-
Unspecified	2 914	3 827	46	923	317	628	11	-	1 925	-	1 902

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. Introduction

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

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

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

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

2. Purpose of the statistical release

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

3. Scope and coverage

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

4. Data

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

- Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) database on population Movement Control System (MCS): Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all land, air and sea entry ports on all travellers (South African residents and foreign travellers) arriving into or departing from South Africa are captured into the system. Generally the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the port's electronic database. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) downloads the data covering a particular calendar month from the mainframe of the State Information Technology Agency (SITA), where the DHA stores its data.
- DHA departure forms: the DHA departure forms are specifically designed for the collection of data from South African residents departing South Africa. The completion of the departure form is a voluntary exercise and as such not all eligible travellers will do so. The completed forms from OR Tambo, Cape Town and Durban international airports covering a particular calendar month are processed and analysed accordingly by Stats SA.
- The database for applicants for South African permanent residence: a printout of data on the successful applicants covering a particular calendar month is issued to Stats SA.

5. Limitations

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

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

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

6. Glossary of terms

Key terms used in this release are defined as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

Overseas refers to all other countries outside Africa.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. Symbols and abbreviations used

- = nil

Unspec. = unspecified

General information

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

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