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Contents

Page

KEY FINDINGS

1. Number of travellers	2
2. Mode of travel	2
3. Foreign arrivals	2
3.1 <i>Gender and age distribution</i>	2
3.2 <i>Regional and national distribution</i>	2
3.3 <i>Purpose of travel</i>	3

Figures

1. Percentage distribution of overseas and African arrivals by age group in March 2008.....	4
2. Number of March arrivals by region (2004 - 2008).....	4
3. Number of overseas travellers arriving from leading source countries in March 2008 compared to March 2007.....	5
4. Number of travellers from SADC countries arriving from leading source countries in March 2008 compared to March 2007.....	5
5. Number of travellers from 'other' African countries arriving from leading source countries in March 2008 compared to March 2007.....	6

Tables

1. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction	7
2. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel	7
3. Number of foreign arrivals by country and mode of travel	8
4. Number of foreign arrivals by purpose of travel	13
5. Number of foreign arrivals by country and purpose of travel	14

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. Introduction	19
2. Purpose of the statistical release	19
3. Scope and coverage.....	19
4. Data	19
5. Limitations	20
6. Glossary of terms	20
7. Symbols and abbreviations used	21

GENERAL INFORMATION	22
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KEY FINDINGS

1. Number of travellers

The March 2008 data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 2 435 006 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through the ports of entry. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 768 765 South African residents and 1 666 241 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures indicates that 368 151 and 400 614 South African resident arrivals and departures respectively were recorded. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals and departures are 875 950 and 790 291 respectively. A comparison between the movements in February 2008 and March 2008 indicates that there was an increase in all movements. The March 2008 figure (368 151) for South African resident arrivals shows an increase of 24,6% compared to the March 2007 figure of 295 577. Similarly, there was an increase of 21,1% for foreign arrivals from 723 090 in March 2007 to 875 950 in March 2008.

2. Mode of travel

It is observed from Table 2 that road transport was the most common (66,2%) mode of travel used by 1 612 984 out of the 2 435 006 travellers. The arrival data on South African residents show that 37,0% came by air and 62,7% by road. For their departure, 40,8% and 59,2% used air and road transport respectively. When taking into consideration the countries of residence of travellers, it was found that for foreign arrivals, overseas travellers generally used air (89,3%) compared to road transport (10,4%) whereas travellers from Africa used road (90,5%) more than air transport (7,6%). 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 (74,1%) of foreign arrivals were from Africa whilst a quarter (25,2%) were from overseas countries. Information on the country of residence was not available on 0,7% of the travellers. A comparison of the changes between March 2007 and March 2008 indicates that the number of overseas arrivals increased by 21,2% from 182 062 in 2007 to 220 654 in 2008. Arrivals from Africa increased by 20,8% from 537 201 in March 2007 to 648 682 in March 2008.

3.1 Gender and age distribution

The travellers from Africa comprised of 361 043 males, 286 413 females and 1 226 with unspecified gender. The data on overseas travellers had 125 065 males, 95 344 females and gender was not specified in 245 cases. Overall, more males than females from African (males: 55,7%; females: 44,2%) and overseas countries (males: 56,7%; females: 43,2%) came to South Africa. The age distribution of foreign arrivals presented in Figure 1 shows that travellers from Africa are generally younger compared to those from overseas. Thus the bulk (84,1%) of African travellers is clustered between ages 20-54, peaking at age group 25-29. However, the age distribution of overseas travellers is widely spread. Thus 80,2% of overseas travellers is between ages 25 to 69 years. The percentage of older persons (65 years and older) from overseas countries was significantly higher (9,3%) compared to that among persons from Africa (2,5%). This would have implications for spending capacity.

3.2 Regional and national distribution

Overseas travellers came mainly from Europe (66,8%), followed by North America (15,0%), Asia (9,1%), Australasia (4,5%), Central and South America (2,4%) and Middle East (2,2%). Virtually all arrivals (97,6%) from Africa came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining arrivals from Africa is as follows: East and Central Africa (1,2%), West Africa (1,0%) 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. The number of travellers from overseas countries decreased during 2006 and 2007 and increased in 2008. Data presented in Figure 3 indicate that the UK, Germany, USA, France, Netherlands, Australia, Canada and Ireland were the eight leading overseas source countries. Travellers from these eight countries constitute 68,4% of all travellers from overseas. Compared to March 2007, the March 2008 number of travellers from all these leading overseas source countries increased.

The eight leading source countries from SADC were Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Malawi as shown in Figure 4. Travellers from the eight SADC countries made up 96,2% of all arrivals from Africa. The number of travellers from all these SADC countries increased in March 2008 when compared to March 2007. The eight leading source countries from 'other' African countries, shown in Figure 5, are Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Uganda, Ethiopia, Egypt, Cameroon and Congo. The number of travellers from 'other' African countries increased except Congo (24,3% decline from 584 in March 2007 to 442 in March 2008).

3.3 Purpose of travel

As observed from data given in Table 4, an overwhelming majority (93,6%) 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 on business (2,1%), those who have come for work (1,3%) and those who have come to study (0,9%).

Overall, 93,2% of overseas travellers came to South Africa to visit. A detailed analysis reveals that all the overseas regions had more than 75,0% travellers coming to South Africa for holidays. Travellers from Australasia (95,7%), Europe (94,8%), North America (94,4%), Central and South America (93,7%), the Middle East (90,8%) and Asia (78,0%) were admitted into South Africa as visitors. Travellers from Asia were more diverse in their purpose for instance, 12,8% of travellers came into the country for work, 6,5% for business and 1,0% for study.

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, 84,5% of travellers from 'other' African countries were admitted on visitor's permit. Proportionally, the lowest percentage (79,8%) of visitors came from North Africa, a region where, a large percentage of travellers were in South Africa for business (10,2%).
- A relatively higher percentage of 'other' African than SADC travellers were here to study, work or for business.
- Overall, North Africa and West Africa had 6,5% and 5,9% respectively of travellers who were in South Africa for work as compared to only 0,4% among the SADC travellers.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

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

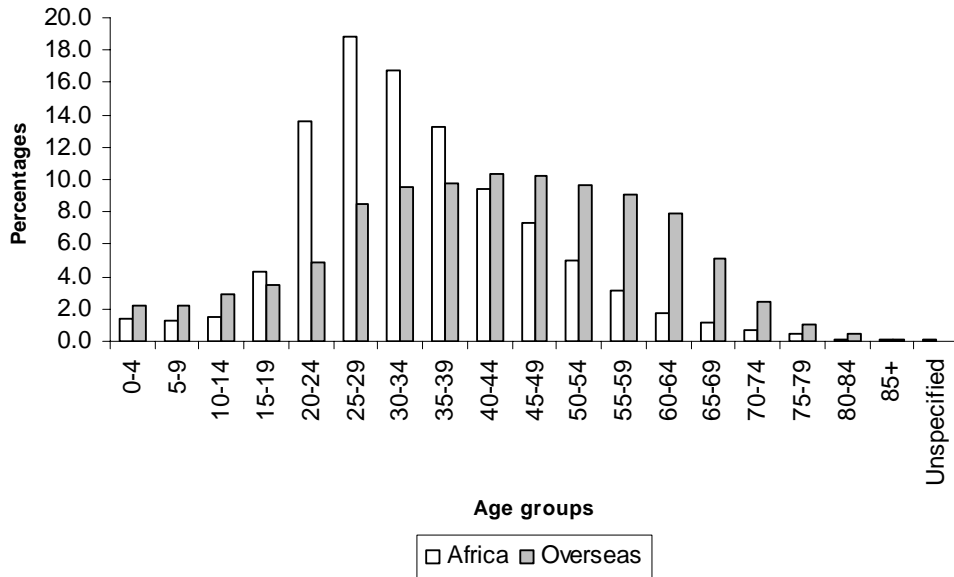


Figure 2: Number of March arrivals by region (2004 - 2008)

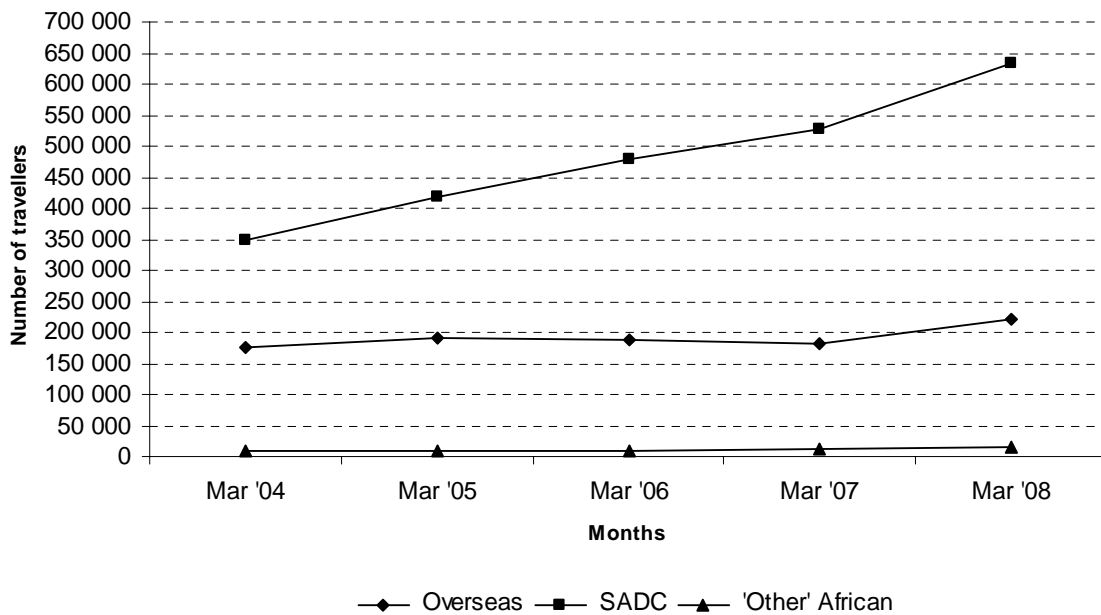


Figure 3: Number of overseas travellers arriving from leading source countries in March 2008 compared to March 2007

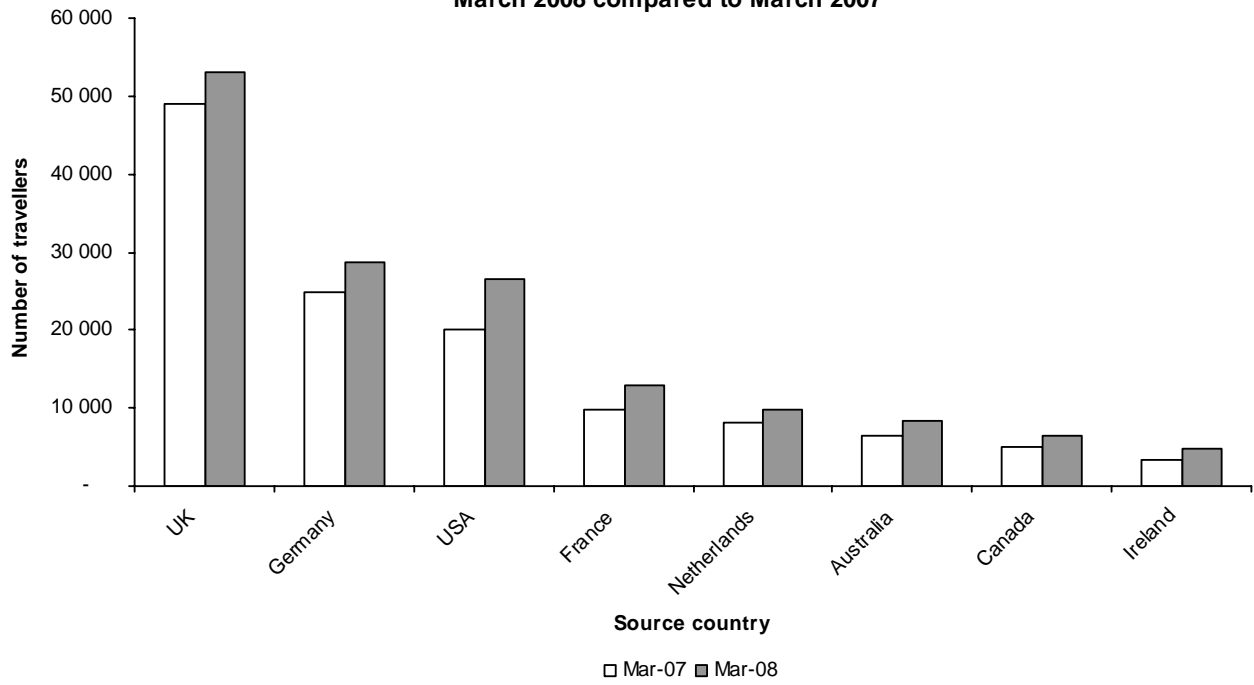


Figure 4: Number of travellers from SADC countries arriving from leading source countries in March 2008 compared to March 2007

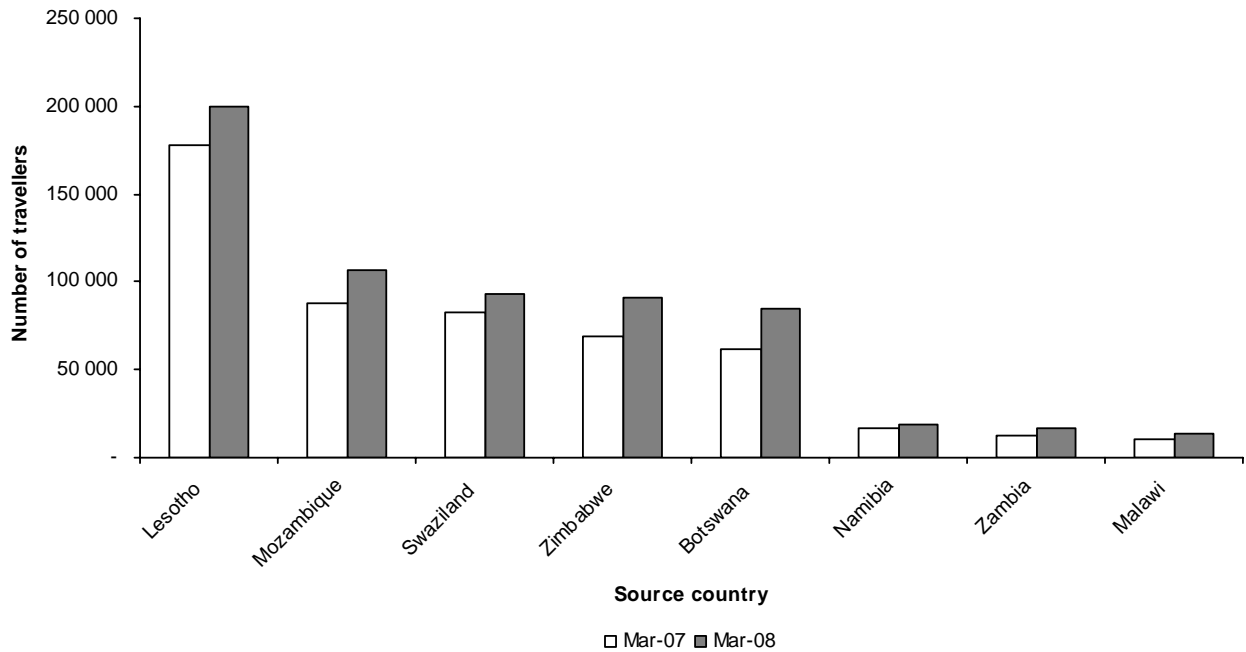


Figure 5: Number of travellers from 'other' African countries arriving from leading source countries in March 2008 compared to March 2007

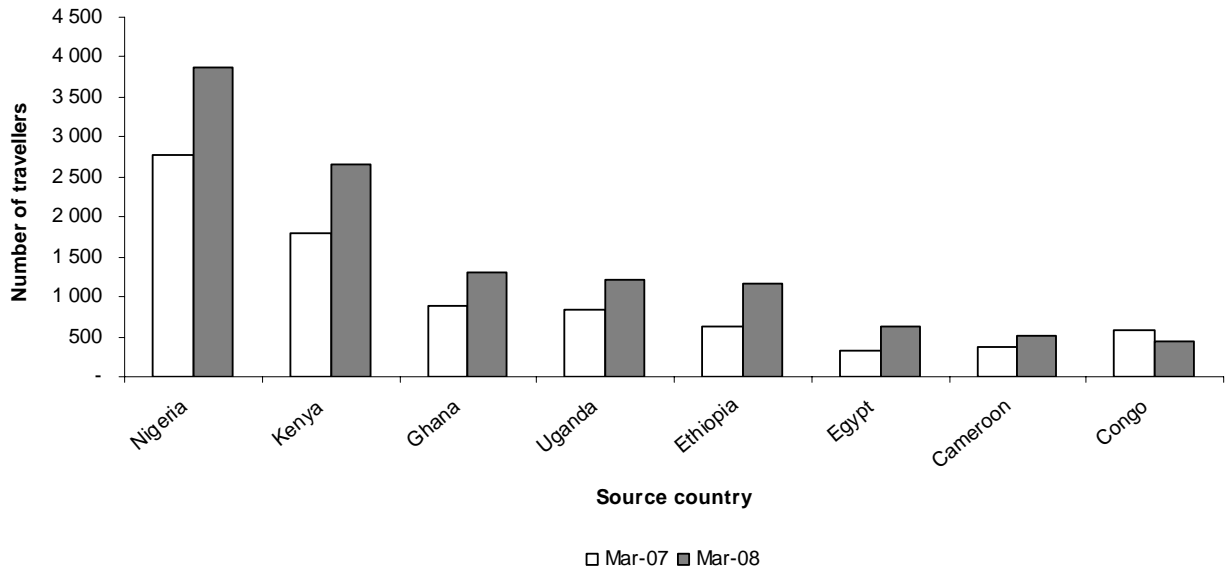


Table 1. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction

Travel direction	March	February	March	% change	% change
	2007	2008	2008	Mar 07–Mar 08	Feb –Mar 08
South African residents					
Arrivals	295 577	276 096	368 151	24,6	33,3
Departures	331 064	282 058	400 614	21,0	42,0
Foreign travellers					
Arrivals	723 090	779 094	875 950	21,1	12,4
Departures	652 647	655 349	790 291	21,1	20,6
Grand total	2 002 378	1 992 597	2 435 006	21,6	22,2

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

Travel direction	Total	Mode of travel (March 2008)								
		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
		(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Grand total	2 435 006	168 217	4 295	623 008	9 301	804 821	279	1 612 984	464	16 458
Arrivals:	1 244 101	77 319	2 091	299 705	4 811	383 926	92	843 487	269	16 327
South African residents	368 151	15 503	1 542	115 585	3 462	136 092	14	231 006	92	947
Foreign travellers	875 950	61 816	549	184 120	1 349	247 834	78	612 481	177	15 380
Overseas	220 654	59 478	317	136 572	787	197 154	22	23 049	130	299
Africa	648 682	2 274	228	46 189	501	49 192	56	586 936	46	12 452
Unspecified	6 614	64	4	1 359	61	1 488	-	2 496	1	2 629
Departures:	1 190 905	90 898	2 204	323 303	4 490	420 895	187	769 497	195	131
South African residents	400 614	18 665	1 745	139 770	3 314	163 494	58	236 981	75	6
Foreign travellers	790 291	72 233	459	183 533	1 176	257 401	129	532 516	120	125

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

Country	Mode of travel (March 2008)										
	March		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Grand total	723 090	875 950	61 816	549	184 120	1 349	247 834	78	612 481	177	15 380
Overseas total	182 062	220 654	59 478	317	136 572	787	197 154	22	23 049	130	299
Europe	125 246	147 339	51 081	123	79 819	436	131 459	10	15 703	88	79
Austria	1 860	1 969	697	3	1 052	3	1 755	-	209	4	1
Belgium	3 549	4 516	1 128	1	2 597	43	3 769	-	746	-	1
Denmark	2 539	2 912	637	1	1 938	1	2 577	-	327	8	-
France	9 703	13 025	2 401	58	9 143	52	11 654	-	1 364	-	7
Germany	24 895	28 774	12 454	3	12 432	36	24 925	1	3 822	9	17
Greece	618	977	185	-	695	-	880	-	94	-	3
Ireland	3 337	4 852	2 491	4	1 946	6	4 447	-	402	2	1
Italy	3 216	3 663	889	-	2 448	12	3 349	-	309	-	5
Netherlands	8 063	9 884	3 575	2	4 691	30	8 298	-	1 570	13	3
Portugal	2 357	2 949	221	10	1 525	16	1 772	-	1 171	-	6
Spain	1 882	2 896	363	3	2 364	23	2 753	1	140	2	-
Sweden	3 530	4 337	1 510	3	2 157	3	3 673	-	650	14	-
Switzerland	3 315	3 698	1 061	3	2 130	19	3 213	-	477	7	1
UK	48 902	53 087	20 218	32	29 159	148	49 557	5	3 473	28	24
Other	7 480	9 800	3 251	-	5 542	44	8 837	3	949	1	10
North America	25 176	33 107	4 156	103	25 495	198	29 952	1	3 122	7	25
Canada	5 135	6 533	1 261	9	4 588	26	5 884	-	640	-	9
USA	20 036	26 570	2 895	94	20 903	172	24 064	1	2 482	7	16
Other	5	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-	-	-
Central and South America	4 371	5 312	700	3	4 114	16	4 833	-	476	-	3
Argentina	1 017	918	423	-	460	-	883	-	35	-	-
Brazil	2 108	2 641	47	1	2 355	12	2 415	-	225	-	1
Chile	186	299	32	2	236	-	270	-	29	-	-
Other	1 060	1 454	198	-	1 063	4	1 265	-	187	-	2

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

Country	Mode of travel (March 2008)										
	March		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Australasia	7 771	9 904	951	24	8 181	59	9 215	-	683	2	4
Australia	6 473	8 293	721	24	6 948	48	7 741	-	548	2	2
New Zealand	1 235	1 533	224	-	1 183	10	1 417	-	114	-	2
Other	63	78	6	-	50	1	57	-	21	-	-
Middle East	3 352	4 829	701	4	3 855	20	4 580	-	248	-	1
Israel	1 588	1 775	36	-	1 611	11	1 658	-	117	-	-
Saudi Arabia	146	265	24	1	228	2	255	-	10	-	-
Turkey	433	894	420	-	441	2	863	-	30	-	1
Other	1 185	1 895	221	3	1 575	5	1 804	-	91	-	-
Asia	16 146	20 163	1 889	60	15 108	58	17 115	11	2 817	33	187
China	2 820	3 799	207	-	3 160	2	3 369	1	383	-	46
Hong Kong	439	636	22	-	550	-	572	-	64	-	-
India	3 710	4 618	164	33	3 429	18	3 644	6	931	2	35
Japan	2 116	2 582	189	5	2 266	3	2 463	-	106	13	-
Malaysia	731	818	288	-	481	1	770	-	46	-	2
Philippines	737	866	52	-	630	1	683	-	152	8	23
Rep of Korea	1 440	1 764	159	2	1 431	-	1 592	-	168	-	4
Singapore	456	640	198	-	405	4	607	-	33	-	-
Taiwan	1 105	1 002	164	5	494	8	671	1	284	5	41
Other	2 592	3 438	446	15	2 262	21	2 744	3	650	5	36

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

Country	Mode of travel (March 2008)										
	March		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Africa total	537 201	648 682	2 274	228	46 189	501	49 192	56	586 936	46	12 452
SADC	526 533	633 132	2 071	222	33 952	336	36 581	55	584 041	45	12 410
Angola	2 331	3 264	146	-	2 946	18	3 110	-	154	-	-
Botswana	61 231	84 987	23	3	2 501	163	2 690	38	82 127	39	93
DRC	1 970	2 742	-	-	1 947	17	1 964	-	777	-	1
Lesotho	177 924	199 972	5	-	746	3	754	-	187 763	-	11 455
Madagascar	256	282	3	-	267	-	270	-	10	-	2
Malawi	10 779	13 375	4	1	2 189	10	2 204	-	11 165	-	6
Mauritius	989	1 262	125	86	904	-	1 115	-	146	-	1
Mozambique	88 341	106 980	100	99	2 431	20	2 650	2	104 096	-	232
Namibia	17 120	18 727	1 598	-	2 410	12	4 020	1	14 702	2	2
Swaziland	82 929	92 758	1	25	767	4	797	9	91 853	4	95
Tanzania	995	1 322	6	2	958	-	966	-	353	-	3
Zambia	12 662	16 875	10	1	6 379	12	6 402	2	10 455	-	16
Zimbabwe	69 006	90 586	50	5	9 507	77	9 639	3	80 440	-	504

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

Country	Mode of travel (March 2008)										
	March		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
East and Central Africa	5 243	7 558	72	2	5 466	47	5 587	-	1 950	1	20
Burundi	106	114	-	-	90	-	90	-	24	-	-
Cameroon	370	505	5	-	438	3	446	-	55	-	4
Central African Rep	8	20	-	-	20	-	20	-	-	-	-
Chad	21	19	-	-	18	-	18	-	-	1	-
Comoros	15	15	-	-	14	-	14	-	1	-	-
Congo	584	442	16	-	270	5	291	-	148	-	3
Djibouti	4	3	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	41	33	-	-	7	-	7	-	26	-	-
Eritrea	36	63	1	-	45	-	46	-	17	-	-
Ethiopia	639	1 172	5	-	569	6	580	-	591	-	1
Gabon	168	268	2	-	249	13	264	-	4	-	-
Kenya	1 794	2 663	10	2	2 250	16	2 278	-	380	-	5
Reunion	44	168	24	-	144	-	168	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	188	256	2	-	240	-	242	-	14	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	9	14	1	-	11	-	12	-	2	-	-
Seychelles	169	200	-	-	197	1	198	-	2	-	-
Somalia	208	387	2	-	15	-	17	-	370	-	-
Tristan da Cunha	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uganda	835	1 216	4	-	888	3	895	-	314	-	7

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

Country	Mode of travel (March 2008)										
	March		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
West Africa	4 632	6 662	72	3	5 714	31	5 820	1	825	-	16
Ascension	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Benin	87	150	1	-	116	4	121	-	29	-	-
Burkina Faso	34	61	-	-	59	-	59	-	2	-	-
Canary Isles	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Cape Verde Island	39	70	1	-	58	1	60	-	10	-	-
Cote D'Ivoire	198	332	20	-	301	-	321	-	10	-	1
Gambia	31	65	5	-	53	-	58	-	7	-	-
Ghana	879	1 306	6	3	1 104	2	1 115	-	187	-	4
Guinea	127	161	-	-	109	1	110	-	51	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	20	15	-	-	9	-	9	-	6	-	-
Liberia	38	37	-	-	31	1	32	-	1	-	4
Madeira Island	15	11	9	-	-	-	9	-	2	-	-
Mali	56	78	4	-	66	-	70	-	8	-	-
Mauritania	4	27	-	-	26	-	26	-	1	-	-
Niger	14	28	-	-	26	-	26	-	1	-	1
Nigeria	2 776	3 871	22	-	3 348	21	3 391	1	473	-	6
Saint Helena	8	7	-	-	4	-	4	-	3	-	-
Senegal	195	323	-	-	308	-	308	-	15	-	-
Sierra Leone	74	62	3	-	48	1	52	-	10	-	-
Togo	38	56	-	-	47	-	47	-	9	-	-
Western Sahara	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Africa	793	1 330	59	1	1 057	87	1 204	-	120	-	6
Algeria	96	192	8	1	126	-	135	-	57	-	-
Egypt	330	629	15	-	579	3	597	-	32	-	-
Libya	41	56	7	-	30	-	37	-	14	-	5
Morocco	83	82	12	-	66	1	79	-	3	-	-
Sudan	174	130	13	-	105	-	118	-	11	-	1
Tunisia	69	241	4	-	151	83	238	-	3	-	-
Unspecified	3 827	6 614	64	4	1 359	61	1 488	-	2 496	1	2 629

Table 4. Number of foreign arrivals by purpose of travel

Region	Total	Purpose of travel (March 2008)							Contract worker	Border Traffic
		Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
Grand total	875 950	18 144	819 837	8 150	11 085	3 471	20	860 707	-	15 243
Overseas total	220 654	7 120	205 547	986	6 232	546	2	220 433	-	221
Europe	147 339	4 319	139 719	417	2 604	225	-	147 284	-	55
North America	33 107	850	31 256	294	618	64	-	33 082	-	25
Central and South America	5 312	126	4 977	22	145	39	-	5 309	-	3
Australasia	9 904	267	9 477	18	126	13	-	9 901	-	3
Middle East	4 829	241	4 385	27	154	22	-	4 829	-	-
Asia	20 163	1 317	15 733	208	2 585	183	2	20 028	-	135
Africa total	648 682	10 959	612 757	6 004	3 631	2 920	15	636 286	-	12 396
SADC	633 132	9 997	599 625	5 579	2 787	2 782	6	620 776	-	12 356
East and Central Africa	7 558	478	6 379	267	363	43	9	7 539	-	19
West Africa	6 662	348	5 691	133	395	80	-	6 647	-	15
North Africa	1 330	136	1 062	25	86	15	-	1 324	-	6
Unspecified	6 614	65	1 533	1 160	1 222	5	3	3 988	-	2 626

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

Country	March		Purpose of travel (March 2008)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
	2007	2008									
Grand total	723 090	875 950	18 144	819 837	8 150	11 085	3 471	20	860 707	-	15 243
Overseas total	182 062	220 654	7 120	205 547	986	6 232	546	2	220 433	-	221
Europe	125 246	147 339	4 319	139 719	417	2 604	225	-	147 284	-	55
Austria	1 860	1 969	61	1 888	4	9	6	-	1 968	-	1
Belgium	3 549	4 516	138	4 274	15	79	10	-	4 516	-	-
Denmark	2 539	2 912	82	2 766	8	54	2	-	2 912	-	-
France	9 703	13 025	389	12 286	42	273	28	-	13 018	-	7
Germany	24 895	28 774	721	27 551	98	374	23	-	28 767	-	7
Greece	618	977	25	919	5	22	6	-	977	-	-
Ireland	3 337	4 852	77	4 720	6	42	6	-	4 851	-	1
Italy	3 216	3 663	173	3 400	4	75	7	-	3 659	-	4
Netherlands	8 063	9 884	330	9 367	40	139	5	-	9 881	-	3
Portugal	2 357	2 949	40	2 857	9	32	5	-	2 943	-	6
Spain	1 882	2 896	61	2 772	2	48	13	-	2 896	-	-
Sweden	3 530	4 337	187	4 058	12	75	5	-	4 337	-	-
Switzerland	3 315	3 698	83	3 553	15	39	8	-	3 698	-	-
UK	48 902	53 087	1 391	50 821	110	676	65	-	53 063	-	24
Other	7 480	9 800	561	8 487	47	667	36	-	9 798	-	2
North America	25 176	33 107	850	31 256	294	618	64	-	33 082	-	25
Canada	5 135	6 533	133	6 242	25	114	10	-	6 524	-	9
USA	20 036	26 570	717	25 011	269	503	54	-	26 554	-	16
Other	5	4	-	3	-	1	-	-	4	-	-
Central and South America	4 371	5 312	126	4 977	22	145	39	-	5 309	-	3
Argentina	1 017	918	9	888	3	13	5	-	918	-	-
Brazil	2 108	2 641	38	2 512	8	65	17	-	2 640	-	1
Chile	186	299	11	277	1	9	1	-	299	-	-
Other	1 060	1 454	68	1 300	10	58	16	-	1 452	-	2

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

Country	March		Purpose of travel (March 2008)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
	2007	2008									
Australasia	7 771	9 904	267	9 477	18	126	13	-	9 901	-	3
Australia	6 473	8 293	222	7 947	10	100	12	-	8 291	-	2
New Zealand	1 235	1 533	35	1 468	7	22	-	-	1 532	-	1
Other	63	78	10	62	1	4	1	-	78	-	-
Middle East	3 352	4 829	241	4 385	27	154	22	-	4 829	-	-
Israel	1 588	1 775	79	1 629	1	49	17	-	1 775	-	-
Saudi Arabia	146	265	10	243	8	4	-	-	265	-	-
Turkey	433	894	66	775	7	44	2	-	894	-	-
Other	1 185	1 895	86	1 738	11	57	3	-	1 895	-	-
Asia	16 146	20 163	1 317	15 733	208	2 585	183	2	20 028	-	135
China	2 820	3 799	267	2 582	54	823	27	-	3 753	-	46
Hong Kong	439	636	10	616	2	7	1	-	636	-	-
India	3 710	4 618	526	3 436	36	554	34	-	4 586	-	32
Japan	2 116	2 582	93	2 363	1	119	6	-	2 582	-	-
Malaysia	731	818	39	736	4	35	2	-	816	-	2
Philippines	737	866	23	432	3	362	37	-	857	-	9
Rep of Korea	1 440	1 764	55	1 584	64	53	7	-	1 763	-	1
Singapore	456	640	40	581	-	18	1	-	640	-	-
Taiwan	1 105	1 002	38	764	14	141	21	1	979	-	23
Other	2 592	3 438	226	2 639	30	473	47	1	3 416	-	22

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

Country	March		Purpose of travel (March 2008)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
	2007	2008									
Africa total	537 201	648 682	10 959	612 757	6 004	3 631	2 920	15	636 286	-	12 396
SADC	526 533	633 132	9 997	599 625	5 579	2 787	2 782	6	620 776	-	12 356
Angola	2 331	3 264	86	2 921	158	62	37	-	3 264	-	-
Botswana	61 231	84 987	132	82 763	1 543	271	227	-	84 936	-	51
DRC	1 970	2 742	120	2 464	63	64	25	5	2 741	-	1
Lesotho	177 924	199 972	1 498	184 681	776	168	1 394	-	188 517	-	11 455
Madagascar	256	282	19	231	2	23	5	-	280	-	2
Malawi	10 779	13 375	604	12 613	55	77	21	-	13 370	-	5
Mauritius	989	1 262	43	1 182	11	21	4	-	1 261	-	1
Mozambique	88 341	106 980	484	105 908	181	142	41	-	106 756	-	224
Namibia	17 120	18 727	1 805	15 472	668	72	708	-	18 725	-	2
Swaziland	82 929	92 758	355	90 917	1 096	180	115	-	92 663	-	95
Tanzania	995	1 322	122	1 094	47	45	11	-	1 319	-	3
Zambia	12 662	16 875	2 069	14 474	153	135	30	-	16 861	-	14
Zimbabwe	69 006	90 586	2 660	84 905	826	1 527	164	1	90 083	-	503

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

Country	March		Purpose of travel (March 2008)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
East and Central Africa	5 243	7 558	478	6 379	267	363	43	9	7 539	-	19
Burundi	106	114	3	101	4	3	1	2	114	-	-
Cameroon	370	505	55	360	37	45	4	-	501	-	4
Central African Rep	8	20	1	16	1	2	-	-	20	-	-
Chad	21	19	4	13	-	-	2	-	19	-	-
Comoros	15	15	2	9	1	3	-	-	15	-	-
Congo	584	442	18	387	19	14	1	-	439	-	3
Djibouti	4	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	41	33	-	31	1	1	-	-	33	-	-
Eritrea	36	63	1	51	4	7	-	-	63	-	-
Ethiopia	639	1 172	44	1 081	11	28	1	6	1 171	-	1
Gabon	168	268	6	217	30	15	-	-	268	-	-
Kenya	1 794	2 663	226	2 155	96	169	12	1	2 659	-	4
Reunion	44	168	3	165	-	-	-	-	168	-	-
Rwanda	188	256	37	181	16	11	11	-	256	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	9	14	-	13	-	-	1	-	14	-	-
Seychelles	169	200	2	196	1	-	1	-	200	-	-
Somalia	208	387	4	380	2	1	-	-	387	-	-
Tristan da Cunha	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uganda	835	1 216	71	1 021	44	64	9	-	1 209	-	7

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

Country	March		Purpose of travel (March 2008)								Contract worker	Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total			
	2007	2008										
West Africa	4 632	6 662	348	5 691	133	395	80	-	6 647	-	15	
Ascension	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Benin	87	150	5	135	-	8	2	-	150	-	-	
Burkina Faso	34	61	6	41	1	9	4	-	61	-	-	
Canary Isles		1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Cape Verde Island	39	70	-	67	-	3	-	-	70	-	-	
Cote D'Ivoire	198	332	28	256	7	40	1	-	332	-	-	
Gambia	31	65	5	48	-	3	9	-	65	-	-	
Ghana	879	1 306	48	1 152	8	87	7	-	1 302	-	4	
Guinea	127	161	6	142	1	7	5	-	161	-	-	
Guinea-Bissau	20	15	-	15	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	
Liberia	38	37	1	29	-	3	-	-	33	-	4	
Madeira Island	15	11	-	11	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	
Mali	56	78	14	60	1	1	2	-	78	-	-	
Mauritania	4	27	7	16	-	1	3	-	27	-	-	
Niger	14	28	4	19	-	2	2	-	27	-	1	
Nigeria	2 776	3 871	185	3 332	112	199	37	-	3 865	-	6	
Saint Helena	8	7	-	7	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	
Senegal	195	323	34	254	2	27	6	-	323	-	-	
Sierra Leone	74	62	4	55	1	1	1	-	62	-	-	
Togo	38	56	1	50	-	4	1	-	56	-	-	
Western Sahara	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
North Africa	793	1 330	136	1 062	25	86	15	-	1 324	-	6	
Algeria	96	192	26	154	4	5	3	-	192	-	-	
Egypt	330	629	45	543	6	34	1	-	629	-	-	
Libya	41	56	11	32	5	1	2	-	51	-	5	
Morocco	83	82	15	58	-	9	-	-	82	-	-	
Sudan	174	130	16	96	10	7	-	-	129	-	1	
Tunisia	69	241	23	179	-	30	9	-	241	-	-	
Unspecified	3 827	6 614	65	1 533	1 160	1 222	5	3	3 988	-	2 626	

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. Introduction

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

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

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

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

2. Purpose of the statistical release

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

3. Scope and coverage

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

4. Data

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

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

5. Limitations

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

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

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

6. Glossary of terms

Key terms used in this release are defined as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

Overseas refers to all other countries outside Africa.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. Symbols and abbreviations used

- = nil
Unspec. = unspecified

General information

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

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