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CONTENTS

	Page
Key Findings	2
1. Travellers	2
1.1 Number of travellers.....	2
1.2 Mode of travel of travellers	2
2. Tourists	2
2.1 Mode of travel of tourists.....	2
2.2 Regional and national distribution of tourists.....	2
2.3 Purpose of visit of tourists.....	3
2.4 Sex and age distribution of tourists	3
Figures	4
Figure 1. Number of tourists from eight leading overseas countries in March 2011 and March 2010.....	4
Figure 2. Number of tourists from eight leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in March 2011 and March 2010.....	4
Figure 3. Number of tourists from eight leading 'other' African countries in March 2011 and March 2010	5
Tables	6
Table 1. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction.....	6
Table 2. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel	7
Table 3. Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel	8
Table 4. Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit.....	12
Table 5. Number of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African regions by sex and age group.....	16
EXPLANATORY NOTES	17
1. Introduction	17
2. Purpose of the statistical release	17
3. Scope and coverage	17
4. Data	17
5. Limitations.....	18
6. Definitions of terms	18
6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).....	18
6.2 Definitions used specifically in this report.....	18
7. Symbols and abbreviations used	18
GENERAL INFORMATION	19

KEY FINDINGS

1. Travellers

1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 2 609 508 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through South African ports of entry in March 2011. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 821 786 South African residents and 1 787 722 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures indicates that there were 394 692 and 427 094 South African residents' arrivals and departures respectively. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals and departures were 942 748 and 844 974 respectively. A comparison between the movements in February 2011 and March 2011 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals increased by 12,3% (from 351 513 in February 2011 to 394 692 in March 2011) for South African residents and by 3,2% (from 913 162 in February 2011 to 942 748 in March 2011) for foreign travellers. The volume of departures increased by 18,7% (from 359 714 in February 2011 to 427 094 in March 2011) for South African residents and by 9,1% (from 774 619 in February 2011 to 844 974 in March 2011) for foreign travellers.

A comparison between movements in March 2010 and March 2011 indicates that there was an increase in both arrivals and departures of South African residents and foreign travellers. Thus, South African residents' arrivals increased by 20,5% from 327 444 in March 2010 to 394 692 in March 2011 and foreign arrivals increased by 9,3% from 862 333 in March 2010 to 942 748 in March 2011. Detailed information on the departure of travellers is not available in the movement data. Data on the purpose of travel and the number of days South African travellers intend to spend or spent abroad are not collected by South Africa immigration officers. Hence, it is not possible to categorise them as tourists and non tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation. As presented in Table 1, in March 2011, 17 432 (1,8%) foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 925 316 (98,2%) were visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups: arrivals only comprising of visitors who entered the country in March 2011 but did not depart in March 2011 (305 456); visitors who came once in March 2011 and left in March 2011 (326 804); and those who came more than once in March 2011 and left in March 2011 (293 056). Visitors were further grouped as same day visitors 293 965 (31,8%) and overnight visitors/tourists 631 351 (68,2%). The volume of same day visitors increased by 7,1% from 274 368 in February 2011 to 293 965 in March 2011 whereas overnight visitors/tourists increased by 1,2% from 623 899 in February 2011 to 631 351 in March 2011. There was an increase of 30,4% and 4,6% of same day visitors and overnight visitors/tourists respectively between March 2010 and March 2011.

1.2 Mode of travel of travellers

Travellers who cross South Africa's borders rarely use trains and ships since these are mainly used for transporting goods. Data presented in Table 2 show that in March 2011, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 1 857 621 (71,2%) out of the 2 609 508 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 742 305 (28,4%). The arrivals data on South African residents show that 133 309 (33,8%) came by air and 259 622 (65,8%) by road. For departures, 153 219 (35,9%) and 272 018 (63,7%) used air and road transport respectively. In the case of foreign travellers, 224 701 (23,8%) arrived by air. Those who came by road were 715 169 (75,9%). When departing South Africa, 231 076 (27,3%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 610 812 (72,3%) left by road. As shown in Table 2 an overwhelming majority, 278 287 (94,7%) of same day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 15 669 (5,3%) same day visitors flew into the country. However, data on overnight visitors/tourists show that, 430 534 (68,2%) used road transport whereas 199 777 (31,6%) came by air.

2. Tourists

2.1 Mode of travel of tourists

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them into their respective regions and countries. 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. In March 2011, 155 384 (88,3%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 19 470 (11,1%) came in by road. This is in contrast to tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries who came into South Africa predominantly by road 408 668 (93,0%). Only 30 638 (7,0%) tourists from the SADC countries came in by air. A relatively high number 12 408 (87,8%) of tourists from 'other' African countries flew into the country with only 1 717 (12,1%) using road transport.

2.2 Regional and national distribution of tourists

In March 2011, overseas tourists came mainly from Europe, 108 819 (61,9%); followed by North America, 29 331 (16,7%); Asia, 19 512 (11,1%); Australasia, 7 895 (4,5%); Central and South America, 6 659 (3,8%) and Middle East, 3 660 (2,1%). Virtually all tourists from Africa came from the SADC countries, 439 312 (96,9%). The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 7 108 (1,6%); East and Central Africa, 5 633 (1,2%) and North Africa 1 395 (0,3%).

Data presented in Figure 1 indicate that United Kingdom (UK), 36 638 (20,8%); United States of America (USA), 23 939 (13,6%); Germany, 22 680 (12,9%); France, 9 639 (5,5%); The Netherlands, 8 067 (4,6%); Australia 6 679 (3,8%); China, 6 090 (3,5%); and Canada, 5 392 (3,1%) were the eight leading overseas countries. Tourists from these eight countries constitute 67,7% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in March 2010 and March 2011 shows that the number of tourists from China, Canada and USA increased, whereas the number of tourists from Australia, UK, Germany, the Netherlands and France declined. China had the highest increase of 61,2% from 3 779 in March 2010 to 6 090 in March 2011. Australia recorded the greatest decline of 16,4% from 7 985 in March 2010 to 6 679 in March 2011.

The eight leading countries from the SADC countries (see Figure 2) were Lesotho, 115 422 (26,3%); Zimbabwe, 112 117 (25,5%); Mozambique 78 187 (17,8%); Swaziland, 49 261 (11,2%); Botswana, 37 924 (8,6%); Namibia, 14 619 (3,3%); Zambia, 12 290 (2,8%) and Malawi, 10 419 (2,4%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 97,9% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in March 2010 and March 2011 shows that, the number of tourists increased in Lesotho, Malawi, Botswana and Swaziland, whereas the number of tourists declined in Namibia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Zambia. Lesotho had the highest increase of 35,0% from 85 482 in March 2010 to 115 422 in March 2011. Namibia recorded the greatest decline of 5,4% from 15 455 in March 2010 to 14 619 in March 2011.

The eight leading countries from 'other' African countries, shown in Figure 3, were Nigeria, 4 824 (34,1%); Kenya, 2 242 (15,9%); Ghana, 1 271 (9,0%); Uganda, 989 (7,0%); Ethiopia, 835 (5,9%); Egypt, 699 (4,9%); Gabon, 441 (3,1%) and Cameroon, 399 (2,8%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 82,8% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in March 2010 and March 2011 shows that the number of tourists increased in all these countries with the exception of Cameroon and Ethiopia. The volume of tourists from Cameroon declined by 2,9% from 411 in March 2010 to 399 in March 2011 and Ethiopia declined by 0,7% from 841 in March 2010 to 835 in March 2011.

2.3 Purpose of visit of tourists

As observed from data given in Table 4, in March 2011, an overwhelming majority (96,0%) of tourists were in South Africa for holidays compared to only 2,3% and 0,7% of tourists who were in South Africa for business and study purposes respectively. A detailed analysis reveals that of all the tourists from the overseas regions, at least 84,0% came to South Africa for holidays. Tourists from Australasia (95,5%), Europe (94,0%), North America (93,8%), Middle East (92,1%), Central and South America (87,4%) and Asia (84,0%) were in South Africa mostly for holidays. Tourists from Asia and Central and South America were more diverse in their purpose of visit. For example, Asia had the highest proportion (7,6%) of its tourists in South Africa for business compared to the other overseas regions.

The majority (97,3%) of African tourists came to South Africa for holiday. There were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries namely:

- Whereas 97,5% of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 90,1% of tourists on holiday came from 'other' African countries. Data on the regions of 'other' African countries show that tourists on holiday constituted 93,0%; 89,2% and 79,4% for West Africa; East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 1,5% from the SADC countries compared to 5,3% from 'other' African countries.
- Students made up 0,8% of tourists from the SADC countries compared to 2,8% tourists from 'other' African countries.

2.4 Sex and age distribution of tourists

As indicated in Table 5, in March 2011, there were 365 720 (57,9%) male and 264 682 (41,9%) female tourists. The overseas tourists were made up of 101 418 (57,7%) male tourists and 74 220 (42,2%) female tourists. Tourists from 'other' African countries had a higher proportion (69,4%) of males compared to those from the SADC countries (57,6%). The proportions of female tourists from 'other' African countries and the SADC countries were 30,6% and 42,2% respectively.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into three broad groups namely; those younger than 15 years, 15 to 64 years, and 65 years and older. The overall results presented in Table 5 show that 91,2% of tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years; 3,5% were aged less than 15 years and 5,1% were aged 65 years and older. Taking the country of residence into consideration, the results further show that 82,7% of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared to 94,5% and 94,8% of tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries respectively. There were few tourists younger than 15 years and those aged 65 years and older.

A comparison of the three regions shows relatively high proportions of the elderly among both male (11,3%) and female (13,2%) tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to tourists from the SADC countries amongst which 2,0% of males and 3,0% of females were aged 65 years and older. Similarly among tourists from 'other' African countries, 1,7% of males and 2,1% of females were aged 65 years and older.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Figure 1. Number of tourists from eight leading overseas countries in March 2011 and March 2010

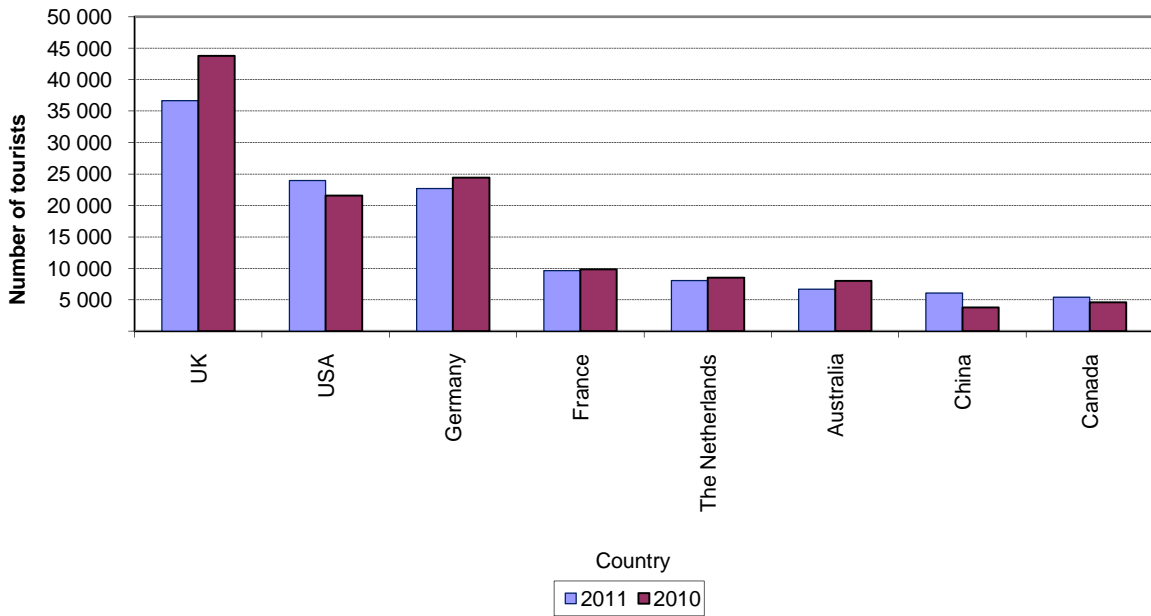
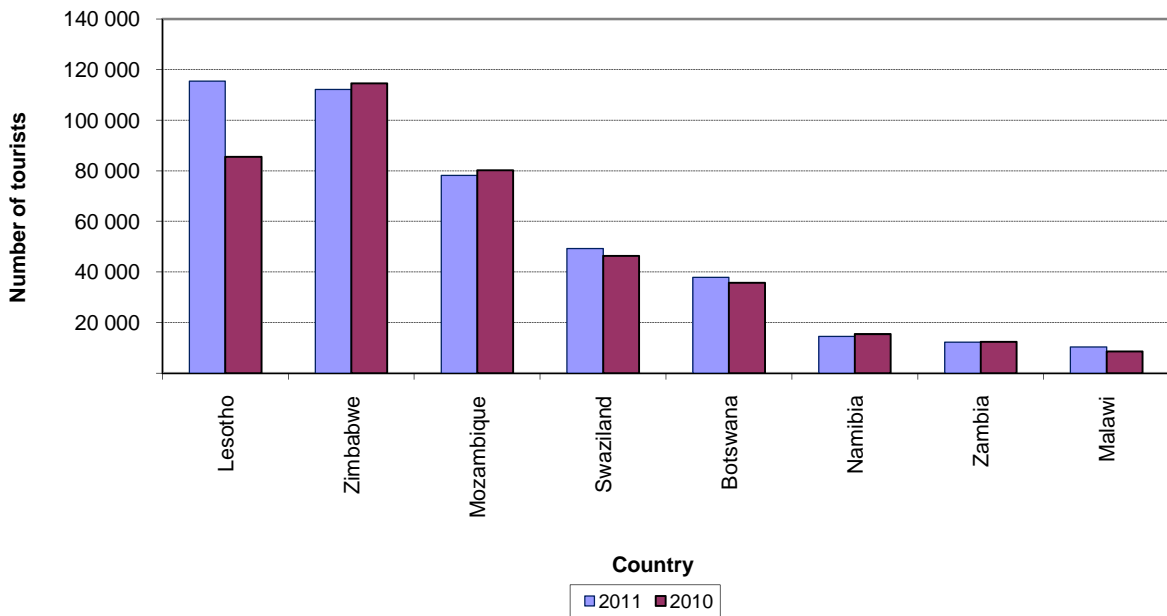


Figure 2. Number of tourists from eight leading SADC countries in March 2011 and March 2010



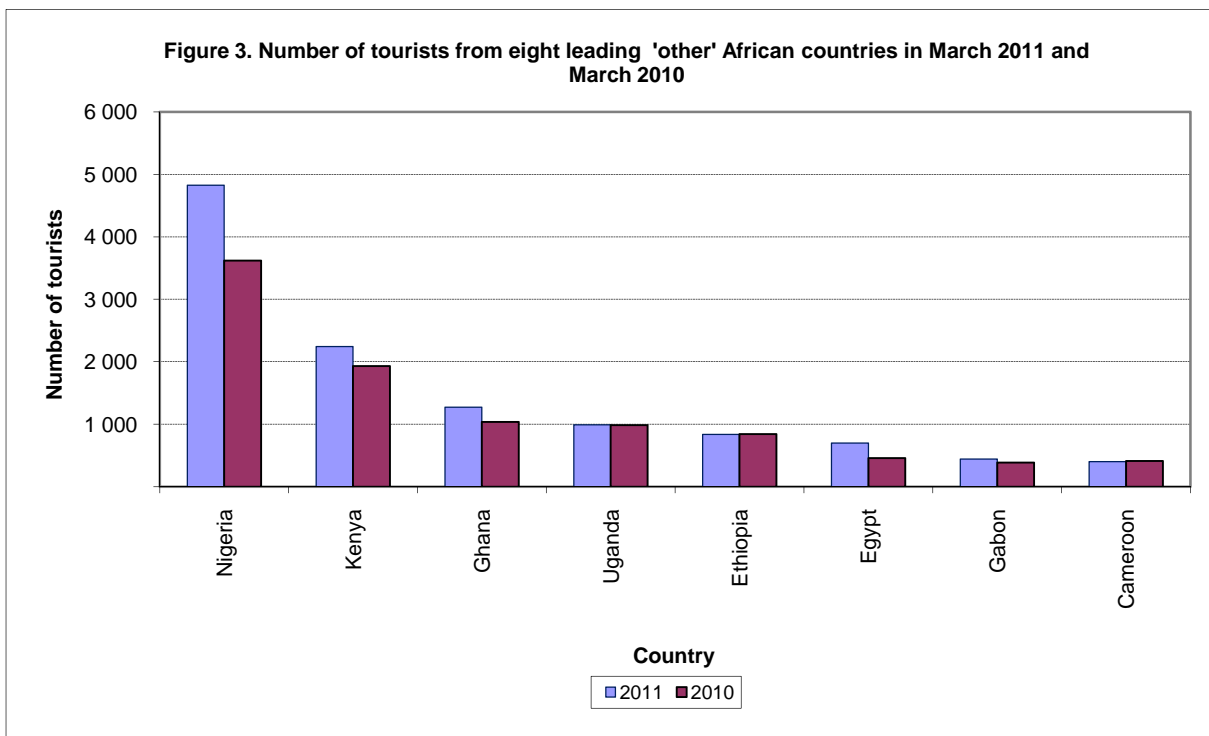


Table 1. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction

Travel direction	March	February	March	% change	% change
	2010	2011	2011	March 10 - March 11	February 11 - March 11
Grand total	2 305 958	2 399 008	2 609 508	13,2	8,8
South African residents	692 357	711 227	821 786	18,7	15,5
Arrivals	327 444	351 513	394 692	20,5	12,3
Departures	364 913	359 714	427 094	17,0	18,7
Foreign travellers	1 613 601	1 687 781	1 787 722	10,8	5,9
Arrivals	862 333	913 162	942 748	9,3	3,2
Departures	751 268	774 619	844 974	12,5	9,1
Foreign arrivals	862 333	913 162	942 748	9,3	3,2
Non-visitors	33 355	14 895	17 432	-47,7	17,0
Visitors	828 978	898 267	925 316	11,6	3,0
Visitors	828 978	898 267	925 316	11,6	3,0
Arrivals only	286 405	316 907	305 456	6,7	-3,6
Single trips	328 138	318 894	326 804	-0,4	2,5
Multiple trips	214 435	262 466	293 056	36,7	11,7
Visitors	828 978	898 267	925 316	11,6	3,0
Same day	225 499	274 368	293 965	30,4	7,1
Overnight (tourists)	603 479	623 899	631 351	4,6	1,2

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

Travel direction	March		Mode of travel (March 2011)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2010	2011	Cape Town	K. Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Grand Total	2 305 958	2 609 508	143 684	16 234	574 810	7 577	742 305	1 857 621	9 544	38
South African Residents	692 357	821 786	36 557	10 975	233 768	5 228	286 528	531 640	3 609	9
Arrivals	327 444	394 692	16 274	5 042	109 447	2 546	133 309	259 622	1 752	9
Departures	364 913	427 094	20 283	5 933	124 321	2 682	153 219	272 018	1 857	-
Foreign travellers	1 613 601	1 787 722	107 127	5 259	341 042	2 349	455 777	1 325 981	5 935	29
Arrivals	862 333	942 748	48 580	2 731	172 266	1 124	224 701	715 169	2 849	29
Departures	751 268	844 974	58 547	2 528	168 776	1 225	231 076	610 812	3 086	-
Visitors	828 978	925 316	46 325	2 119	166 184	818	215 446	708 821	1 030	19
Same day	225 499	293 965	468	22	15 069	110	15 669	278 287	9	-
Overnight (Tourists)	603 479	631 351	45 857	2 097	151 115	708	199 777	430 534	1 021	19

Table 3. Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel

Country of residence	Mode of travel (March 2011)									
	March		Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2010	2011	Cape Town	K. Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	603 479	631 351	45 857	2 097	151 115	708	199 777	430 534	1 021	19
Overseas	181 125	175 876	42 876	1 881	110 171	456	155 384	19 470	1 016	6
Europe	120 256	108 819	33 760	1 211	59 430	258	94 659	13 186	973	1
Austria	1 855	1 730	600	26	893	5	1 524	201	5	-
Belgium	3 054	3 032	901	3	1 691	16	2 611	416	5	-
Denmark	2 435	1 871	372	4	1 261	1	1 638	233	-	-
France	9 860	9 639	2 014	87	6 015	29	8 145	1 492	2	-
Germany	24 432	22 680	7 482	189	11 571	47	19 289	3 384	7	-
Ireland	2 994	2 353	871	25	1 178	6	2 080	270	3	-
Italy	3 314	3 318	901	88	2 047	11	3 047	268	3	-
Norway	2 255	1 749	588	-	927	5	1 520	227	2	-
Portugal	2 457	3 266	270	14	1 691	20	1 995	1 271	-	-
Spain	1 974	1 774	247	2	1 380	1	1 630	140	4	-
Sweden	4 021	3 443	1 042	2	1 918	2	2 964	476	3	-
Switzerland	2 892	2 974	856	32	1 723	9	2 620	351	3	-
The Netherlands	8 513	8 067	2 755	48	3 957	4	6 764	1 301	1	1
UK	43 776	36 638	13 050	586	19 383	94	33 113	2 599	926	-
Other	6 424	6 285	1 811	105	3 795	8	5 719	557	9	-
North America	26 138	29 331	4 753	151	21 537	133	26 574	2 740	17	-
Canada	4 587	5 392	1 106	41	3 598	14	4 759	629	4	-
USA	21 548	23 939	3 647	110	17 939	119	21 815	2 111	13	-
Other	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central and South America	5 696	6 659	874	9	5 309	12	6 204	454	1	-
Argentina	1 692	1 436	661	3	744	-	1 408	28	-	-
Brazil	2 368	3 856	94	2	3 487	3	3 586	269	1	-
Chile	203	274	11	-	244	-	255	19	-	-
Other	1 433	1 093	108	4	834	9	955	138	-	-

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

Country of residence	Mode of travel (March 2011)									
	March		Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2010	2011	Cape Town	K. Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Australasia	9 643	7 895	700	60	6 608	25	7 393	482	20	-
Australia	7 985	6 679	546	42	5 656	20	6 264	396	19	-
New Zealand	1 618	1 200	152	18	939	4	1 113	86	1	-
Other	40	16	2		13	1	16	-	-	-
Middle East	4 120	3 660	568	21	2 903	6	3 498	162	-	-
Iran	1 348	1 606	269	2	1 320	-	1 591	15	-	-
Israel	1 809	1 217	69	1	1 049	3	1 122	95	-	-
Lebanon	180	216	54	3	135	3	195	21	-	-
Other	783	621	176	15	399	-	590	31	-	-
Asia	15 272	19 512	2 221	429	14 384	22	17 056	2 446	5	5
China	3 779	6 090	628	55	4 844	9	5 536	554	-	-
India	3 822	5 308	518	236	3 708	5	4 467	840	-	1
Japan	1 862	1 608	97	8	1 394	2	1 501	107	-	-
Korea	1 034	1 134	115	6	903	2	1 026	108	-	-
Malaysia	487	723	237	3	458	-	698	24	1	-
Pakistan	1 013	1 257	114	57	774	-	945	306	3	3
Philippines	340	540	52	24	300	-	376	164	-	-
Singapore	406	602	245	3	336	1	585	16	1	-
Taiwan	657	842	28	14	649	-	691	150	-	1
Other	1 872	1 408	187	23	1 018	3	1 231	177	-	-
Africa	419 326	453 448	2 833	210	39 756	247	43 046	410 385	4	13
SADC	406 625	439 312	2 430	146	27 840	222	30 638	408 668	1	5
Angola	2 954	2 966	303	-	2 538	20	2 861	105	-	-
Botswana	35 672	37 924	10	-	2 138	57	2 205	35 719	-	-
DRC	2 183	2 372	10	-	1 742	24	1 776	595	-	1
Lesotho	85 482	115 422	2	2	406	1	411	115 009	-	2
Madagascar	204	205	-	-	201	2	203	2	-	-

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

Country of residence	Mode of travel (March 2011)									
	March		Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2010	2011	Cape Town	K. Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Malawi	8 620	10 419	2	-	1 577	6	1 585	8 834	-	-
Mauritius	1 126	1 253	132	90	847	-	1 069	184	-	-
Mozambique	80 221	78 187	110	43	2 338	32	2 523	75 664	-	-
Namibia	15 455	14 619	1 773	-	2 792	17	4 582	10 037	-	-
Seychelles	230	246	-	-	244	-	244	2	-	-
Swaziland	46 429	49 261	21	-	603	6	630	48 631	-	-
Tanzania	1 223	2 031	6	-	1 170	2	1 178	853	-	-
Zambia	12 355	12 290	16	1	4 266	15	4 298	7 992	-	-
Zimbabwe	114 471	112 117	45	10	6 978	40	7 073	105 041	1	2
'Other' Africa	12 701	14 136	403	64	11 916	25	12 408	1 717	3	8
East and Central Africa	6 173	5 633	50	17	4 619	16	4 702	924	-	7
Burundi	74	89	-	-	64	7	71	18	-	-
Cameroon	411	399	8	-	360	-	368	27	-	4
Central African Republic	8	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-	-
Chad	13	21	-	-	21	-	21	-	-	-
Comoros	12	17	-	-	16	-	16	1	-	-
Congo	576	270	2	-	213	-	215	53	-	2
Djibouti	6	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-	-
Equat Guinea	17	6	-	-	5	1	6	-	-	-
Eritrea	45	45	-	-	38	-	38	7	-	-
Ethiopia	841	835	3	13	619	-	635	200	-	-
Gabon	385	441	1	-	438	1	440	1	-	-
Kenya	1 931	2 242	24	2	1 868	5	1 899	343	-	-
Reunion	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	209	200	1	-	175	-	176	24	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	9	6	2	-	4	-	6	-	-	-
Somalia	599	59	-	-	5	-	5	54	-	-
Uganda	987	989	9	2	779	2	792	196	-	1

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

Country of residence	Mode of travel (March 2011)									
	March		Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2010	2011	Cape Town	K. Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
West Africa	5 594	7 108	57	6	6 332	8	6 403	701	3	1
Benin	113	74	2	-	66	-	68	6	-	-
Burkina Faso	32	48	-	-	47	-	47	1	-	-
Cape Verde Island	39	39	3	-	31	1	35	4	-	-
Cote D'Ivoire	148	116	9	-	107	-	116	-	-	-
Gambia	33	47	1	-	45	-	46	1	-	-
Ghana	1 038	1 271	4	-	1 140	-	1 144	126	1	-
Guinea	83	145	-	3	90	-	93	52	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	26	10	-	-	10	-	10	-	-	-
Liberia	35	31	-	-	29	-	29	2	-	-
Madeira Islands	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mali	62	78	2	-	61	-	63	15	-	-
Mauritania	15	18	-	-	18	-	18	-	-	-
Niger	16	22	-	-	22	-	22	-	-	-
Nigeria	3 621	4 824	27	3	4 312	7	4 349	472	2	1
Saint Helena	6	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Senegal	231	284	6	-	271	-	277	7	-	-
Sierra Leone	52	52	1	-	38	-	39	13	-	-
Togo	32	48	1	-	45	-	46	2	-	-
North Africa	934	1 395	296	41	965	1	1 303	92	-	-
Algeria	107	154	17	-	135	-	152	2	-	-
Egypt	456	699	151	7	516	1	675	24	-	-
Libya	66	82	1	-	42	-	43	39	-	-
Morocco	86	170	67	1	96	-	164	6	-	-
The Sudan	154	160	37	4	117	-	158	2	-	-
Tunisia	63	130	23	29	59	-	111	19	-	-
Western Sahara	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	3 028	2 027	148	6	1 188	5	1 347	679	1	-

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

Country of residence	March		Purpose of visit (March 2011)			
	2010	2011	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Total	603 479	631 351	14 683	605 798	4 340	6 530
Overseas	181 125	175 876	7 443	162 923	607	4 903
Europe	120 256	108 819	4 403	102 277	313	1 826
Austria	1 855	1 730	54	1 649	3	24
Belgium	3 054	3 032	129	2 859	10	34
Denmark	2 435	1 871	72	1 754	3	42
France	9 860	9 639	311	9 138	40	150
Germany	24 432	22 680	646	21 634	65	335
Ireland	2 994	2 353	98	2 219	3	33
Italy	3 314	3 318	221	3 004	17	76
Norway	2 255	1 749	47	1 638	10	54
Portugal	2 457	3 266	67	3 107	12	80
Spain	1 974	1 774	86	1 633	3	52
Sweden	4 021	3 443	182	3 183	10	68
Switzerland	2 892	2 974	67	2 823	10	74
The Netherlands	8 513	8 067	348	7 598	54	67
UK	43 776	36 638	1 684	34 318	54	582
Other	6 424	6 285	391	5 720	19	155
North America	26 138	29 331	1 041	27 519	99	672
Canada	4 587	5 392	164	5 093	13	122
USA	21 548	23 939	877	22 426	86	550
Other	3	-	-	-	-	-
Central and South America	5 696	6 659	115	5 821	24	699
Argentina	1 692	1 436	9	1 340	-	87
Brazil	2 368	3 856	44	3 278	15	519
Chile	203	274	4	250	-	20
Other	1 433	1 093	58	953	9	73

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

Country of residence	March		Purpose of visit (March 2011)			
	2010	2011	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Australasia	9 643	7 895	200	7 542	11	142
Australia	7 985	6 679	161	6 388	10	120
New Zealand	1 618	1 200	36	1 142	-	22
Other	40	16	3	12	1	-
Middle East	4 120	3 660	208	3 372	23	57
Iran	1 348	1 606	29	1 566	4	7
Israel	1 809	1 217	57	1 126	1	33
Lebanon	180	216	38	164	1	13
Other	783	621	84	516	17	4
Asia	15 272	19 512	1 476	16 392	137	1 507
China	3 779	6 090	406	5 056	37	591
India	3 822	5 308	605	4 422	28	253
Japan	1 862	1 608	75	1 386	1	146
Korea	1 034	1 134	59	985	29	61
Malaysia	487	723	30	649	1	43
Pakistan	1 013	1 257	95	1 102	5	55
Philippines	340	540	28	348	21	143
Singapore	406	602	73	517	-	12
Taiwan	657	842	26	753	1	62
Other	1 872	1 408	79	1 174	14	141
Africa	419 326	453 448	7 130	441 020	3 721	1 577
SADC	406 625	439 312	6 379	428 282	3 323	1 328
Angola	2 954	2 966	77	2 644	117	128
Botswana	35 672	37 924	103	37 224	471	126
DRC	2 183	2 372	84	2 220	56	12
Lesotho	85 482	115 422	88	114 266	995	73
Madagascar	204	205	5	192	1	7

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

Country of residence	March		Purpose of visit (March 2011)			
	2010	2011	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Malawi	8 620	10 419	229	10 086	32	72
Mauritius	1 126	1 253	35	1 156	12	50
Mozambique	80 221	78 187	849	77 142	44	152
Namibia	15 455	14 619	2 036	11 906	499	178
Seychelles	230	246	1	243	-	2
Swaziland	46 429	49 261	887	47 604	691	79
Tanzania	1 223	2 031	31	1 923	29	48
Zambia	12 355	12 290	750	11 324	76	140
Zimbabwe	114 471	112 117	1 204	110 352	300	261
'Other' African	12 701	14 136	751	12 738	398	249
East and Central Africa	6 173	5 633	300	5 022	238	73
Burundi	74	89	8	79	2	-
Cameroon	411	399	29	316	44	10
Central African Republic	8	7	-	7	-	-
Chad	13	21	1	15	5	-
Comoros	12	17	-	9	7	1
Congo	576	270	11	247	11	1
Djibouti	6	7	1	6	-	-
Equat Guinea	17	6	1	4	1	-
Eritrea	45	45	2	43	-	-
Ethiopia	841	835	32	790	8	5
Gabon	385	441	6	371	61	3
Kenya	1 931	2 242	151	2 006	57	28
Reunion	50	-	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	209	200	13	167	18	2
Sao Tome and Principe	9	6	-	5	-	1
Somalia	599	59	-	59	-	-
Uganda	987	989	45	898	24	22

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

Country of residence	March		Purpose of visit (March 2011)			
	2010	2011	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
West Africa	5 594	7 108	208	6 609	136	155
Benin	113	74	6	65	3	-
Burkina Faso	32	48	4	40	1	3
Cape Verde Island	39	39	2	36	-	1
Cote D'Ivoire	148	116	12	103	-	1
Gambia	33	47	1	28	-	18
Ghana	1 038	1 271	38	1 198	11	24
Guinea	83	145	6	117	1	21
Guinea-Bissau	26	10	1	7	-	2
Liberia	35	31	1	28	1	1
Madeira Islands	12	-	-	-	-	-
Mali	62	78	8	63	1	6
Mauritania	15	18	1	16	1	-
Niger	16	22	1	21	-	-
Nigeria	3 621	4 824	102	4 545	113	64
Saint Helena	6	1	-	1	-	-
Senegal	231	284	17	256	3	8
Sierra Leone	52	52	5	43	-	4
Togo	32	48	3	42	1	2
North Africa	934	1 395	243	1 107	24	21
Algeria	107	154	3	149	2	-
Egypt	456	699	142	543	1	13
Libya	66	82	2	73	6	1
Morocco	86	170	40	126	1	3
The Sudan	154	160	37	109	13	1
Tunisia	63	130	19	107	1	3
Western Sahara	2	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	3 028	2 027	110	1 855	12	50

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

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (March 2011)			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	631 351	175 876	439 312	14 136	2 027
	<15	22 297	9 032	12 765	475	25
	15-64	575 976	145 427	415 200	13 396	1 953
	65+	32 341	21 320	10 712	261	48
	Unspecified	737	97	635	4	1
Male	Total	365 720	101 418	253 227	9 808	1 267
	<15	11 334	4 734	6 353	236	11
	15-64	337 203	85 170	241 410	9 399	1 224
	65+	16 789	11 445	5 142	171	31
	Unspecified	394	69	322	2	1
Female	Total	264 682	74 220	185 383	4 322	757
	<15	10 961	4 296	6 412	239	14
	15-64	237 997	60 077	173 203	3 991	726
	65+	15 448	9 824	5 517	90	17
	Unspecified	276	23	251	2	-
Unspecified	Total	949	238	702	6	3
	<15	2	2	-	-	-
	15-64	776	180	587	6	3
	65+	104	51	53	-	-
	Unspecified	67	5	62	-	-

Explanatory notes

1. Introduction

Legal movements across South African borders as well as legal immigration into South Africa fall under the jurisdiction of the DHA. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) 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; 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 South African residents and foreign travellers. Detailed information on the gender and age structure; mode of travel; national and regional distribution; and purpose of travel of overnight visitors or tourists are provided.

3. Scope and coverage

The release covers data on arrivals and departures of South African residents and foreign travellers. A detailed analysis of the data on foreign tourists with respect to: mode of travel, purpose of visit, sex and age distribution is covered in the release. Statistics on documented migration, that is self-declared emigrants, are not reported due to the unavailability of data.

4. Data

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

- Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all road, air and sea entry ports on all travellers (South African residents and foreign travellers) arriving into or departing from South Africa are captured into the DHA's population Movement Control System (MCS). The counts/statistics relate to the number of individual movements, rather than to the number of people. Hence, the multiple movements of individual people during the calendar month are each counted separately. Generally the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the port's electronic database. No forms or cards are used (except in rare occasions when the capturing system is down) to collect information from travellers. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA.
- Stats SA downloads the data covering a particular calendar month from the mainframe of the State Information Technology Agency (SITA), where the DHA stores its data.
- As part of data interrogation, data from the OR Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airport Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA has been accompanied by an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern was also observed when the volume of travellers decreased. However, the volume of passengers recorded by ACSA is higher than that of the DHA because of, among other reasons, travellers who are in transit and those who boarded airplanes but refused entry into the country. In March 2011, the DHA data was 17,8% lower than that of ACSA.

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.

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. Definitions of terms

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.

6.2 Definitions used specifically in this report

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, Asia, Africa: SADC, 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 thirteen countries, excluding South Africa, that 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.

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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