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1. Key findings

1.1 Travellers

1.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 2 768 119 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through South African ports of entry in March 2012. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 755 291 South African residents and 2 012 828 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 356 312 and 398 979 arrivals and departures respectively. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals and departures were 1 072 496 and 940 332 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in February 2012 and March 2012 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents increased by 14,5% (from 311 209 in February 2012 to 356 312 in March 2012) while for foreign travellers, the arrivals increased by 6,6% (from 1 006 429 in February 2012 to 1 072 496 in March 2012). For departures, the volume increased by 26,3% (from 315 998 in February 2012 to 398 979 in March 2012) for South African residents and by 12,8% (from 833 767 in February 2012 to 940 332 in March 2012) for foreign travellers.

A comparison between the movements in March 2011 and March 2012 indicates that the volumes of arrivals and departures decreased for South African residents while the volumes increased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 9,7% (from 394 692 in March 2011 to 356 312 in March 2012) and departures decreased by 6,6% (from 427 094 in March 2011 to 398 979 in March 2012). Conversely, the volume of arrivals for foreign travellers increased by 13,8% (from 942 748 in March 2011 to 1 072 496 in March 2012) and departures increased by 11,3% (from 844 974 in March 2011 to 940 332 in March 2012).

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

As presented in Table 1, in March 2012, 51 906 (4,8%) foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 020 590 (95,2%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups: arrivals only comprising of visitors who entered the country in March 2012 but did not depart in March 2012 [353 525 (34,6%)]; visitors who came once in March 2012 and left in March 2012 [358 780 (35,2%)]; and those who came and left more than once in March 2012 [308 285 (30,2%)]. Visitors were further grouped as same day visitors [317 523 (31,1%)] and overnight visitors (tourists) [703 067 (68,9%)]. Between February 2012 and March 2012, the volume of same day visitors increased by 15,4% (from 275 196 in February 2012 to 317 523 in March 2012) and tourists increased by 3,7% (from 677 674 in February 2012 to 703 067 in March 2012). Furthermore, between March 2011 and March 2012, the volume of same day visitors increased by 8,0% (from 293 965 in March 2011 to 317 523 in March 2012) while the volume of tourists increased by 11,4% (from 631 351 in March 2011 to 703 067 in March 2012) during the same period.

1.1.2 Mode of travel

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 2012, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 1 916 548 (69,2%) out of the 2 768 119 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 846 019 (30,6%). The arrivals data on South African residents show that 137 949 (38,7%) came by air and 217 950 (61,2%) came by road. For departures, 155 854 (39,1%) and 242 878 (60,9%) used air and road transport respectively. In the case of foreign travellers, 291 938 (27,2%) arrived by air while those who came by road were 778 167 (72,6%). When departing South Africa, 260 278 (27,7%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 677 553 (72,1%) left by road. As shown in Table 2 an overwhelming majority, 302 613 (95,3%) of same day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 14 826 (4,7%) same day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that 452 381 (64,3%) used road transport but 250 244 (35,6%) came by air.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them into their respective countries and regions. Information on the specific region and country of residence of the tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3. In March 2012, 196 910 (90,1%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 21 100 (9,7%) came in by road. This is in contrast to the number of tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries who came into South Africa predominantly by road [429 041 (92,0%)]. Only 37 084 (8,0%) tourists from the SADC countries came in by air. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 14 694 (90,2%); with 1 599 (9,8%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In March 2012, the distribution of overseas tourists were as follows; Europe, 131 951 (60,4%); North America, 35 199 (16,1%); Asia, 28 348 (13,0%); Australasia, 10 362 (4,7%); Central and South America, 8 403 (3,8%) and Middle East, 4 173 (1,9%). Virtually all tourists from Africa came from the SADC countries, 466 137 (96,6%). The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 9 040 (1,9%); East and Central Africa, 6 083 (1,3%) and North Africa 1 174 (0,2%)

Data presented in Figure 1 indicate that the eight leading overseas countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in March 2012 were United Kingdom (UK), 43 919 (20,1%); Germany, 29 439 (13,5%); United States of America (USA), 28 249 (12,9%); France, 10 929 (5,0%); China, 10 112 (4,6%); Australia, 8 781 (4,0%); The Netherlands 8 276 (3,8%) and India, 7 138 (3,3%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 67,2% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in March 2011 and March 2012 shows that the number of tourists increased in all the eight countries. China had the highest increase of 66,0% (from 6 090 tourists in March 2011 to 10 112 tourists in March 2012) while The Netherlands had the least increase of 2,6% (from 8 067 tourists in March 2011 to 8 276 tourists in March 2012).

The eight leading countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in March 2012 from the SADC countries (see Figure 2) were Zimbabwe, 123 349 (26,5%); Lesotho, 119 149 (25,6%); Mozambique, 83 624 (17,9%); Swaziland, 57 635 (12,4%); Botswana, 33 319 (7,1%); Namibia, 16 146 (3,5%); Zambia, 12 539 (2,7%) and Malawi, 10 247 (2,2%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 97,8% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in March 2011 and March 2012 shows that the number of tourists increased in six countries (Swaziland, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique Lesotho and Zambia) and decreased in the remaining two (Botswana and Malawi). Swaziland had the highest increase of 17,0% (from 49 261 tourists in March 2011 to 57 635 tourists in March 2012) while Botswana had the greatest decline of 12,1% (from 37 924 tourists in March 2011 to 33 319 tourists in March 2012).

The eight leading countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in March 2012 from 'other' African countries, shown in Figure 3, were Nigeria, 5 741 (35,2%); Kenya, 2 511 (15,4%); Ghana, 1 956 (12,0%); Uganda, 1 184 (7,3%); Ethiopia, 685 (4,2%); Egypt, 643 (3,9%); Cameroon, 435 (2,7%) and Gabon, 409 (2,5%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 83,2% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in March 2011 and March 2012 shows that the number of tourists increased in five of these countries (Ghana, Uganda, Nigeria, Kenya and Cameroon) and decreased in the remaining three (Gabon, Egypt and Ethiopia). Ghana had the highest increase of 53,9% (from 1 271 tourists in March 2011 to 1 956 tourists in March 2012) while Ethiopia had a decline of 18,0% (from 835 tourists in March 2011 to 685 tourists in March 2012).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data given in Table 4, in March 2012, an overwhelming majority 638 839 (90,9%) of tourists were in South Africa for holidays compared to only 21 595 (3,1%) and 4 637 (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 each of the overseas regions, at least 62,0% came to South Africa for holidays. Tourists from Middle East 3 609 (86,5%); Europe 113 995 (86,4%); Australasia 8 616 (83,1%); North America 29 200 (83,0%); Asia 19 017 (67,1%) and Central and South America 5 206 (62,0%) were in South Africa mostly for holidays. Asia and Middle East had a higher proportion (7,3% and 7,2% respectively) of their tourists in South Africa for business compared to other overseas regions.

The majority 457 493 (94,8%) of African tourists came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries namely:

- Whereas 445 379 (95,5%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holidays; 12 114 (74,3%) of tourists on holidays came from 'other' African countries. Data on the regions of 'other' African countries show that tourists on holidays constituted 6 915 (76,5%); 4 368 (71,8%) and 831 (70,8%) for West Africa; East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 1 385 (8,5%) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 8 140 (1,7%) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion [15,1% (177)] of its tourists in South Africa for business.
- Students made up 733 (4,5%) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 3 049 (0,7%) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa had the highest proportion [13,1% (799)] of their tourists in South Africa for study purposes.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 shows that in March 2012, there were 397 748 (56,6%) male and 304 487 (43,3%) female tourists. The overseas tourists were made up of 124 954 (57,2%) male tourists and 93 262 (42,7%) female tourists. There were 259 961 (55,8%) male and 205 567 (44,1%) female tourists from the SADC countries. The tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 11 482 (70,5%) males and 4 813 (29,5%) females.

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 633 441 (90,1%) of tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years; 31 825 (4,5%) were aged less than 15 years and 37 228 (5,3%) were aged 65 years and older. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 179 042 (82,0%) of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 437 009 (93,8%) and 15 359 (94,2%) of tourists in the same age range from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries respectively.

For tourists aged less than 15 years, the overseas and 'other' African tourists had a proportion of 6,7% (14 648) and 4,1% (666) respectively whereas the SADC countries had a lower proportion of 3,5% (16 452). There was a higher proportion of young female tourists in comparison to young male tourists for the three regions (overseas, SADC and 'other' Africa).

A comparison of the three regions shows relatively high proportions of the elderly among both male 10,7% (13 329) and female 12,1% (11 268) tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to tourists from the SADC countries amongst which 2,1% (5 446) of males and 3,3% (6 694) of females were aged 65 years and older. Similarly among tourists from 'other' African countries, 1,5% (167) of males and 2,1% (101) of females were aged 65 years and older.

PJ Lehohla
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2. Figures

Figure 1. Number of tourists from eight leading overseas countries in March 2011 and March 2012

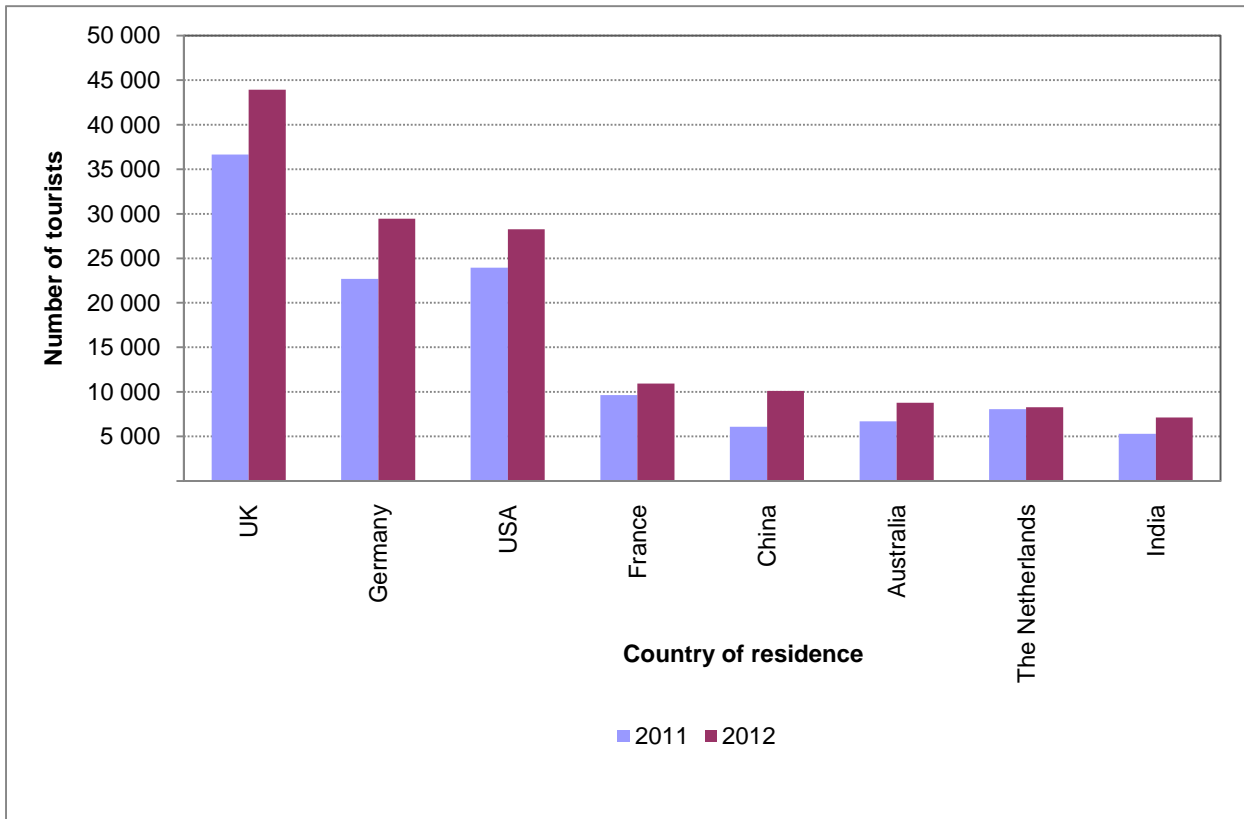


Figure 2. Number of tourists from eight leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in March 2011 and March 2012

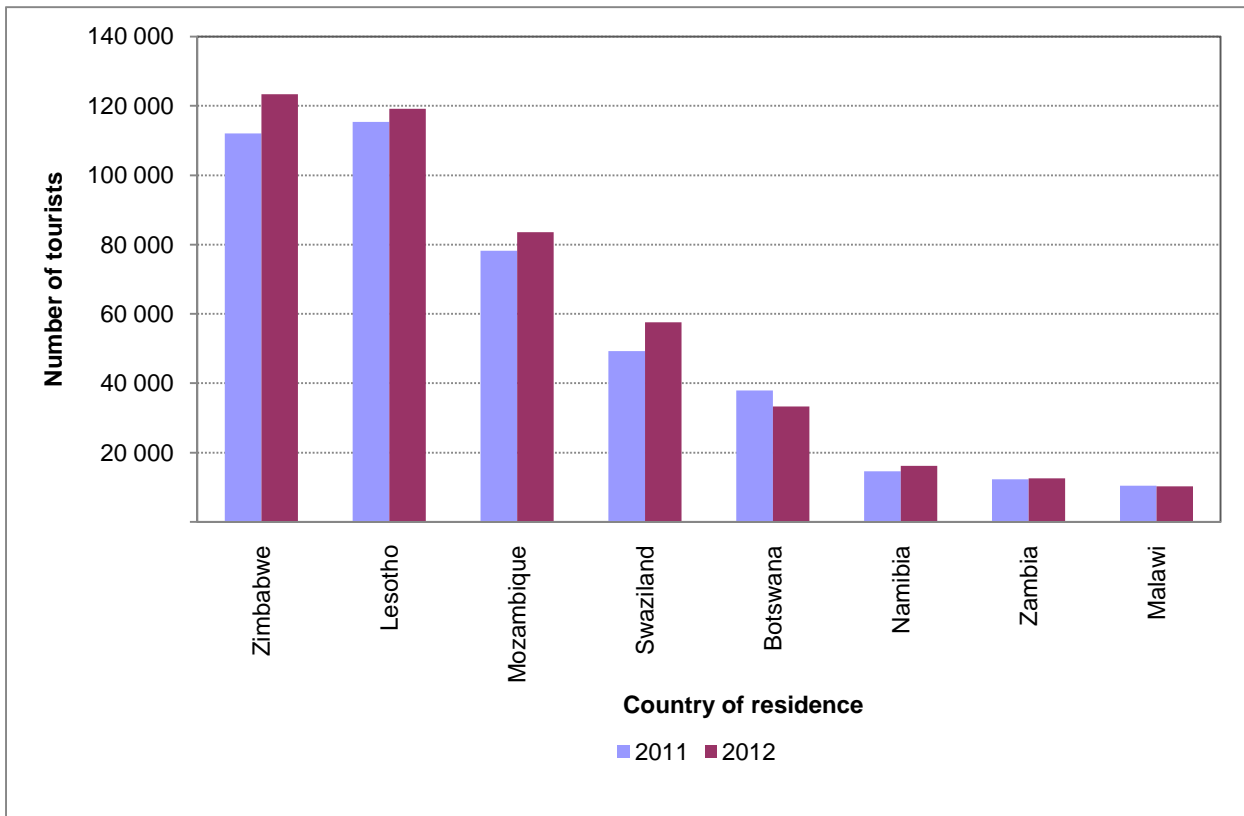
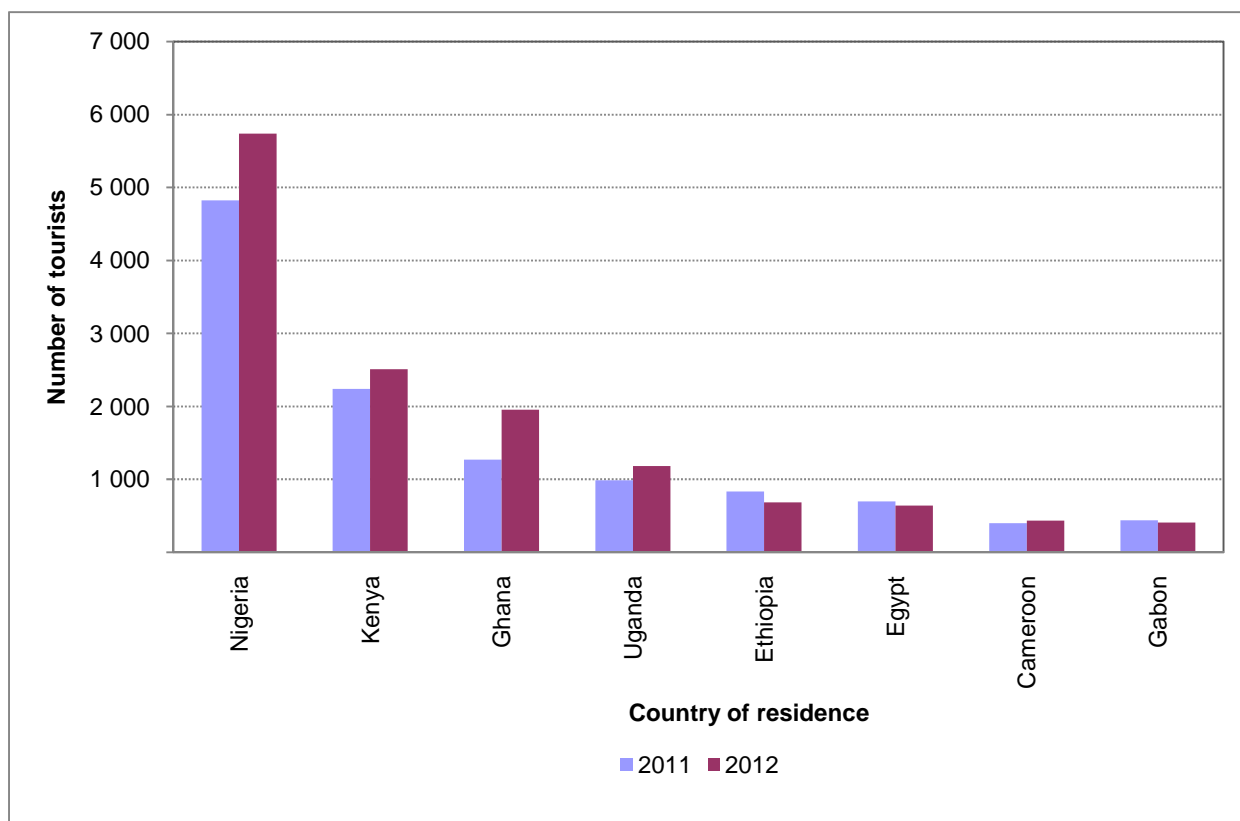


Figure 3. Number of tourists from eight leading 'other' African countries in March 2011 and March 2012



3. Tables

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

Travel direction	March	February	March	% change	
	2011	2012	2012	March 2011 - March 2012	February 2012 - March 2012
Total	2 609 508	2 467 403	2 768 119	6,1	12,2
South African residents	821 786	627 207	755 291	-8,1	20,4
Arrivals	394 692	311 209	356 312	-9,7	14,5
Departures	427 094	315 998	398 979	-6,6	26,3
Foreign travellers	1 787 722	1 840 196	2 012 828	12,6	9,4
Arrivals	942 748	1 006 429	1 072 496	13,8	6,6
Departures	844 974	833 767	940 332	11,3	12,8
Foreign arrivals	942 748	1 006 429	1 072 496	13,8	6,6
Non-visitors	17 432	53 559	51 906	197,8	-3,1
Visitors	925 316	952 870	1 020 590	10,3	7,1
Visitors	925 316	952 870	1 020 590	10,3	7,1
Arrivals only	305 456	359 614	353 525	15,7	-1,7
Single trips	326 804	336 324	358 780	9,8	6,7
Multiple trips	293 056	256 932	308 285	5,2	20,0
Visitors	925 316	952 870	1 020 590	10,3	7,1
Same day	293 965	275 196	317 523	8,0	15,4
Overnight (tourists)	631 351	677 674	703 067	11,4	3,7

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

Travel Direction	March		Mode of travel (March 2012)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	2 609 508	2 768 119	161 073	18 894	657 605	8 447	846 019	1 916 548	5 547	5
South African residents	821 786	755 291	37 702	12 069	238 563	5 469	293 803	460 828	660	-
Arrivals	394 692	356 312	16 884	5 733	112 680	2 652	137 949	217 950	413	-
Departures	427 094	398 979	20 818	6 336	125 883	2 817	155 854	242 878	247	-
Foreign travellers	1 787 722	2 012 828	123 371	6 825	419 042	2 978	552 216	1 455 720	4 887	5
Arrivals	942 748	1 072 496	57 836	3 577	229 175	1 350	291 938	778 167	2 386	5
Departures	844 974	940 332	65 535	3 248	189 867	1 628	260 278	677 553	2 501	-
Visitors	925 316	1 020 590	54 490	2 850	206 783	947	265 070	754 994	523	3
Same day	293 965	317 523	593	11	14 114	108	14 826	302 613	84	-
Overnight (tourists)	631 351	703 067	53 897	2 839	192 669	839	250 244	452 381	439	3

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

Country of residence	March		Mode of travel (March 2012)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	631 351	703 067	53 897	2 839	192 669	839	250 244	452 381	439	3
Overseas	175 876	218 436	50 783	2 663	142 871	593	196 910	21 100	426	-
Europe	108 819	131 951	40 650	1 906	75 501	230	118 287	13 445	219	-
Austria	1 730	2 087	577	49	1 272	4	1 902	184	1	-
Belgium	3 032	3 842	1 250	5	2 167	12	3 434	408	-	-
Denmark	1 871	2 563	703	27	1 619	-	2 349	214	-	-
France	9 639	10 929	2 888	151	6 351	20	9 410	1 509	10	-
Germany	22 680	29 439	8 796	268	16 663	37	25 764	3 626	49	-
Ireland	2 353	2 617	970	26	1 393	-	2 389	225	3	-
Italy	3 318	3 645	917	89	2 354	9	3 369	275	1	-
Norway	1 749	2 620	616	2	1 760	-	2 378	240	2	-
Portugal	3 266	4 240	413	5	2 352	17	2 787	1 452	1	-
Spain	1 774	2 206	343	2	1 717	1	2 063	143	-	-
Sweden	3 443	3 805	991	15	2 373	7	3 386	419	-	-
Switzerland	2 974	4 043	1 415	57	2 153	11	3 636	407	-	-
The Netherlands	8 067	8 276	2 991	87	4 094	6	7 178	1 098	-	-
UK	36 638	43 919	15 656	1 067	24 341	84	41 148	2 634	137	-
Other	6 285	7 720	2 124	56	4 892	22	7 094	611	15	-
North America	29 331	35 199	5 200	155	26 111	295	31 761	3 295	143	-
Canada	5 392	6 950	1 171	41	4 681	16	5 909	1 037	4	-
USA	23 939	28 249	4 029	114	21 430	279	25 852	2 258	139	-
Central and South America	6 659	8 403	183	4	7 594	8	7 789	611	3	-
Argentina	1 436	1 801	16	-	1 720	-	1 736	65	-	-
Brazil	3 856	5 011	62	1	4 529	4	4 596	415	-	-
Chile	274	285	3	-	259	1	263	22	-	-
Other	1 093	1 306	102	3	1 086	3	1 194	109	3	-

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

Country of residence	March		Mode of travel (March 2012)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Australasia	7 895	10 362	825	130	8 840	26	9 821	533	8	-
Australia	6 679	8 781	596	94	7 610	23	8 323	452	6	-
New Zealand	1 200	1 556	229	36	1 207	3	1 475	79	2	-
Other	16	25	-	-	23	-	23	2	-	-
Middle East	3 660	4 173	585	31	3 342	4	3 962	211	-	-
Iran	1 606	966	151	11	791	-	953	13	-	-
Israel	1 217	2 041	96	3	1 791	4	1 894	147	-	-
Saudi Arabia	152	338	109	6	222	-	337	1	-	-
Other	685	828	229	11	538	-	778	50	-	-
Asia	19 512	28 348	3 340	437	21 483	30	25 290	3 005	53	-
China	6 090	10 112	1 660	63	7 721	8	9 452	658	2	-
India	5 308	7 138	605	200	5 208	9	6 022	1 104	12	-
Japan	1 608	2 131	136	22	1 857	11	2 026	105	-	-
Malaysia	723	640	138	20	440	1	599	18	23	-
Pakistan	1 257	1 576	98	57	996	-	1 151	424	1	-
Philippines	540	1 132	69	15	922	1	1 007	114	11	-
South Korea	1 134	1 441	261	12	1 053	-	1 326	115	-	-
Taiwan	842	678	33	4	539	-	576	102	-	-
Vietnam	172	912	24	-	885	-	909	3	-	-
Other	1 838	2 588	316	44	1 862	-	2 222	362	4	-
Africa	453 448	482 434	2 921	163	48 450	244	51 778	430 640	13	3
SADC	439 312	466 137	2 538	138	34 216	192	37 084	429 041	11	1
Angola	2 966	3 654	324	10	3 184	13	3 531	122	1	-
Botswana	37 924	33 319	46	2	3 518	39	3 605	29 714	-	-
DRC	2 372	1 874	7	1	1 349	10	1 367	507	-	-
Lesotho	115 422	119 149	4	1	736	-	741	118 408	-	-
Madagascar	205	295	3	-	291	-	294	1	-	-

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

Country of residence	March		Mode of travel (March 2012)							
			Air				Road	Sea	Unspecified	
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other				Total
Malawi	10 419	10 247	7	1	2 004	5	2 017	8 230	-	-
Mauritius	1 253	1 266	128	61	917	-	1 106	160	-	-
Mozambique	78 187	83 624	78	44	3 629	38	3 789	79 834	-	1
Namibia	14 619	16 146	1 821	-	3 921	28	5 770	10 366	10	-
Seychelles	246	279	1	-	276	-	277	2	-	-
Swaziland	49 261	57 635	2	3	878	4	887	56 748	-	-
Tanzania	2 031	2 761	15	-	1 600	4	1 619	1 142	-	-
Zambia	12 290	12 539	37	1	4 173	6	4 217	8 322	-	-
Zimbabwe	112 117	123 349	65	14	7 740	45	7 864	115 485	-	-
'Other' Africa	14 136	16 297	383	25	14 234	52	14 694	1 599	2	2
East and Central Africa	5 633	6 083	49	4	5 313	15	5 381	700	2	-
Burundi	89	134	-	-	127	-	127	7	-	-
Cameroon	399	435	4	1	385	-	390	44	1	-
Central African Republic	7	11	-	-	11	-	11	-	-	-
Chad	21	20	-	-	20	-	20	-	-	-
Comoros	17	28	-	-	28	-	28	-	-	-
Congo	270	248	1	-	242	-	243	5	-	-
Djibouti	7	6	-	-	6	-	6	-	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	6	22	-	-	22	-	22	-	-	-
Eritrea	45	73	1	-	66	-	67	6	-	-
Ethiopia	835	685	11	3	602	-	616	69	-	-
Gabon	441	409	7	-	385	12	404	5	-	-
Kenya	2 242	2 511	16	-	2 176	3	2 195	316	-	-
Rwanda	200	279	2	-	252	-	254	25	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	6	15	-	-	14	-	14	1	-	-
Somalia	59	23	-	-	21	-	21	2	-	-
Uganda	989	1 184	7	-	956	-	963	220	1	-

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

Country of residence	March		Mode of travel (March 2012)							
	2011	2012	Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
			Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
West Africa	7 108	9 040	150	6	7 998	36	8 190	848	-	2
Benin	74	97	1	-	91	1	93	4	-	-
Burkina Faso	48	67	5	-	58	-	63	4	-	-
Cape Verde Island	39	52	7	-	39	-	46	6	-	-
Côte D'Ivoire	116	150	10	-	135	-	145	5	-	-
Gambia	47	89	1	1	82	-	84	5	-	-
Ghana	1 271	1 956	68	-	1 729	14	1 811	144	-	1
Guinea	145	243	1	1	153	-	155	88	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	10	11	1	-	6	-	7	4	-	-
Liberia	31	47	2	-	40	-	42	5	-	-
Mali	78	91	-	-	83	-	83	8	-	-
Mauritania	18	12	2	-	10	-	12	-	-	-
Niger	22	28	1	1	23	-	25	3	-	-
Nigeria	4 824	5 741	43	3	5 131	20	5 197	543	-	1
Saint Helena	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senegal	284	334	5	-	324	-	329	5	-	-
Sierra Leone	52	69	1	-	47	-	48	21	-	-
Togo	48	53	2	-	47	1	50	3	-	-
North Africa	1 395	1 174	184	15	923	1	1 123	51	-	-
Algeria	154	85	3	-	67	1	71	14	-	-
Egypt	699	643	84	3	534	-	621	22	-	-
Libya	82	68	13	2	51	-	66	2	-	-
Morocco	170	117	25	6	82	-	113	4	-	-
The Sudan	160	152	32	-	118	-	150	2	-	-
Tunisia	130	109	27	4	71	-	102	7	-	-
Unspecified	2 027	2 197	193	13	1 348	2	1 556	641	-	-

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

Country of residence	March		Purpose of visit (March 2012)			
	2011	2012	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Total	631 351	703 067	21 595	638 839	4 637	37 996
Overseas	175 876	218 436	11 896	179 643	839	26 058
Europe	108 819	131 951	7 042	113 995	354	10 560
Austria	1 730	2 087	88	1 825	3	171
Belgium	3 032	3 842	213	3 376	17	236
Denmark	1 871	2 563	148	2 140	7	268
France	9 639	10 929	645	9 280	77	927
Germany	22 680	29 439	1 128	26 295	64	1 952
Ireland	2 353	2 617	161	2 284	3	169
Italy	3 318	3 645	347	2 886	9	403
Norway	1 749	2 620	80	2 175	22	343
Portugal	3 266	4 240	127	3 439	7	667
Spain	1 774	2 206	157	1 699	7	343
Sweden	3 443	3 805	262	3 043	12	488
Switzerland	2 974	4 043	110	3 512	12	409
The Netherlands	8 067	8 276	501	7 361	40	374
UK	36 638	43 919	2 462	38 642	55	2 760
Other	6 285	7 720	613	6 038	19	1 050
North America	29 331	35 199	1 683	29 200	181	4 135
Canada	5 392	6 950	258	5 820	25	847
USA	23 939	28 249	1 425	23 380	156	3 288
Central and South America	6 659	8 403	239	5 206	41	2 917
Argentina	1 436	1 801	36	1 412	6	347
Brazil	3 856	5 011	122	2 704	24	2 161
Chile	274	285	16	180	-	89
Other	1 093	1 306	65	910	11	320

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

Country of residence	March		Purpose of visit (March 2012)			
	2011	2012	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Australasia	7 895	10 362	554	8 616	15	1 177
Australia	6 679	8 781	482	7 258	11	1 030
New Zealand	1 200	1 556	68	1 344	4	140
Other	16	25	4	14	-	7
Middle East	3 660	4 173	302	3 609	32	230
Iran	1 606	966	25	923	9	9
Israel	1 217	2 041	134	1 775	1	131
Saudi Arabia	152	338	23	302	5	8
Other	685	828	120	609	17	82
Asia	19 512	28 348	2 076	19 017	216	7 039
China	6 090	10 112	555	6 826	47	2 684
India	5 308	7 138	822	5 092	65	1 159
Japan	1 608	2 131	156	1 404	6	565
Malaysia	723	640	47	459	12	122
Pakistan	1 257	1 576	81	1 194	12	289
Philippines	540	1 132	36	471	20	605
South Korea	1 134	1 441	157	1 055	31	198
Taiwan	842	678	35	474	1	168
Vietnam	172	912	9	145	-	758
Other	1 838	2 588	178	1 897	22	491
Africa	453 448	482 434	9 525	457 493	3 782	11 634
SADC	439 312	466 137	8 140	445 379	3 049	9 569
Angola	2 966	3 654	110	2 770	179	595
Botswana	37 924	33 319	337	31 178	445	1 359
DRC	2 372	1 874	104	1 538	93	139
Lesotho	115 422	119 149	82	117 740	1 005	322
Madagascar	205	295	15	145	7	128

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

Country of residence	March		Purpose of visit (March 2012)			
	2011	2012	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Malawi	10 419	10 247	303	9 323	42	579
Mauritius	1 253	1 266	111	878	12	265
Mozambique	78 187	83 624	961	81 218	52	1 393
Namibia	14 619	16 146	2 320	12 498	221	1 107
Seychelles	246	279	21	240	1	17
Swaziland	49 261	57 635	660	56 010	542	423
Tanzania	2 031	2 761	155	2 173	69	364
Zambia	12 290	12 539	1 318	10 162	91	968
Zimbabwe	112 117	123 349	1 643	119 506	290	1 910
'Other' Africa	14 136	16 297	1 385	12 114	733	2 065
East and Central Africa	5 633	6 083	602	4 368	799	314
Burundi	89	134	12	79	10	33
Cameroon	399	435	29	276	55	75
Central African Republic	7	11	2	7	-	2
Chad	21	20	1	14	1	4
Comoros	17	28	1	12	9	6
Congo	270	248	14	181	26	27
Djibouti	7	6	4	1	-	1
Equatorial Guinea	6	22	3	11	7	1
Eritrea	45	73	4	61	4	4
Ethiopia	835	685	69	523	9	84
Gabon	441	409	7	308	50	44
Kenya	2 242	2 511	323	1 848	86	254
Rwanda	200	279	18	167	24	70
Sao Tome and Principe	6	15	1	8	-	6
Somalia	59	23	-	16	-	7
Uganda	989	1 184	114	856	33	181

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

Country of residence	March		Purpose of visit (March 2012)			
	2011	2012	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
West Africa	7 108	9 040	606	6 915	367	1 152
Benin	74	97	10	73	3	11
Burkina Faso	48	67	15	45	1	6
Cape Verde Island	39	52	7	42	1	2
Côte D'Ivoire	116	150	26	98	8	18
Gambia	47	89	7	25	2	55
Ghana	1 271	1 956	135	1 568	22	231
Guinea	145	243	6	155	3	79
Guinea-Bissau	10	11	1	5	-	5
Liberia	31	47	2	36	1	8
Mali	78	91	15	45	3	28
Mauritania	18	12	-	9	-	3
Niger	22	28	4	18	1	5
Nigeria	4 824	5 741	329	4 469	317	626
Saint Helena	1	-	-	-	-	-
Senegal	284	334	39	241	2	52
Sierra Leone	52	69	6	48	2	13
Togo	48	53	4	38	1	10
North Africa	1 395	1 174	177	831	52	114
Algeria	154	85	9	68	3	5
Egypt	699	643	98	474	8	63
Libya	82	68	13	28	10	17
Morocco	170	117	17	84	3	13
The Sudan	160	152	27	93	27	5
Tunisia	130	109	13	84	1	11
Unspecified	2 027	2 197	174	1 703	16	304

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

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (March 2012)			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	703 067	218 436	466 137	16 297	2 197
	<15	31 825	14 648	16 452	666	59
	15 - 64	633 441	179 042	437 009	15 359	2 031
	65+	37 228	24 658	12 195	268	107
	Unspecified	573	88	481	4	-
Male	Total	397 748	124 954	259 961	11 482	1 351
	<15	16 161	7 548	8 241	341	31
	15 - 64	362 280	104 027	246 025	10 972	1 256
	65+	19 006	13 329	5 446	167	64
	Unspecified	301	50	249	2	-
Female	Total	304 487	93 262	205 567	4 813	845
	<15	15 664	7 100	8 211	325	28
	15 - 64	270 500	74 860	190 481	4 385	774
	65+	18 106	11 268	6 694	101	43
	Unspecified	217	34	181	2	-
Unspecified	Total	832	220	609	2	1
	<15	-	-	-	-	-
	15 - 64	661	155	503	2	1
	65+	116	61	55	-	-
	Unspecified	55	4	51	-	-

4. Explanatory notes

4.1 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.

4.2 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.

4.3 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.

4.4 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 generally 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 2012, the DHA data was 4,2% lower than that of ACSA.

4.5 Limitations

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

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.

4.6 Definitions of terms

4.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)

Traveller is someone who moves between different geographical locations for any purpose and any duration.

Visitor refers to any person travelling to a place other than that of his/her usual environment for less than 12 months and whose main purpose of the trip is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.

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

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

Tourism comprises the activities of persons travelling to, and staying in places outside their usual environment, for not more than one consecutive year, for leisure, business and other purposes. The usual environment of a person consists of a certain area around his/her place of residence, plus all other places he/she frequently visits.

4.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release

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

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

Region refers to the following country classification: Overseas: Europe, North America, Central and South America, Australasia, the Middle East, 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 fourteen countries, excluding South Africa, which belongs to the Southern African Development Community.

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

Overseas refers to all countries outside Africa.

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

4.7 Symbols used

- = nil

<= less than

5. General information

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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