



The South Africa I know, the home I understand

Statistical release

P0351

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Preface

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in March 2014. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country during this month. The tourists are classified by region and country of residence. Details of their mode of travel; purpose of visit; and age and sex distribution are also provided.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

1. Key findings

1.1 Travellers

1.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 3 216 441 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through South African ports of entry in March 2014. As presented in Table 1 on page 8, these travellers were made up of 770 654 South African residents and 2 445 787 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 371 169 arrivals, 398 947 departures and 538 travellers in transit. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit were 1 227 853, 1 167 962 and 49 972, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in February 2014 and March 2014 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 19,5% (from 310 703 in February 2014 to 371 169 in March 2014) while departures increased by 23,8% (from 322 126 in February 2014 to 398 947 in March 2014). South African residents in transit increased by 6,7% (from 504 in February 2014 to 538 in March 2014). Foreign arrivals increased by 5,8% (from 1 160 486 in February 2014 to 1 227 853 in March 2014) and foreign departures increased by 10,7% (from 1 054 618 in February 2014 to 1 167 962 in March 2014). Foreign travellers in transit increased by 15,2% (from 43 366 in February 2014 to 49 972 in March 2014).

Detailed information on the departures of travellers is not available in the movement control system. Data on the purpose of travel and the number of days South African residents intend to spend or spent abroad are not collected by the DHA. Hence, it is 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 2014, 62 326 (5,1%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 165 527 (94,9%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. arrivals only – comprising of visitors who entered the country in March 2014 but did not depart in March 2014 [333 391 (28,6%)];
- ii. single trips – visitors who came once in March 2014 and left in March 2014 [453 890 (38,9%)]; and
- iii. multiple trips – visitors who came and left more than once in March 2014 [378 246 (32,5%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In March 2014, there were 413 711 (35,5%) same-day visitors and 751 816 (64,5%) tourists. Between February 2014 and March 2014, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 11,9% (from 369 555 in February 2014 to 413 711 in March 2014) and tourists increased by 2,4% (from 734 122 in February 2014 to 751 816 in March 2014).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 9 show that in March 2014, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 306 356 (71,7%) out of the 3 216 441 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 901 174 (28,0%). The arrivals data for South African residents show that 126 716 (34,1%) came by air and 243 992 (65,7%) came by road. For departures, 143 213 (35,9%) and 255 259 (64,0%) used air and road transport respectively. All travellers in transit used air transport (538).

In the case of foreign travellers, 276 099 (22,5%) arrived by air while those who came by road were 947 827 (77,2%). When departing South Africa, 304 636 (26,1%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 859 278 (73,6%) left by road. All travellers in transit used air transport (49 972). Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [398 031 (96,2%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 15 658 (3,8%) same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that, 519 271 (69,1%) used road transport while 232 112 (30,9%) came by air.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel

The nationality¹ of tourists is used to categorise them according to their respective countries and regions. Information on the specific region and nationality of the tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on page 10. In March 2014, 182 865 (88,3%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 23 798 (11,5%) 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 [493 900 (93,6%)]. Only 33 772 (6,4%) 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 14 712 (91,2%); with 1 419 (8,8%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In March 2014, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows; Europe, 129 166 (62,4%); North America, 34 156 (16,5%); Asia, 23 708 (11,4%); Australasia, 9 165 (4,4%); Central and South America, 6 406 (3,1%); and Middle East, 4 492 (2,2%). Virtually all tourists from Africa came from the SADC countries, [527 675 (97,0%)]. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, [8 666 (1,6%)]; East and Central Africa, 6 044 (1,1%) and North Africa 1 421 (0,3%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 6 indicate that the United Kingdom (UK), 37 688 (18,2%); Germany, 30 189 (14,6%); United States of America (USA), 27 822 (13,4%); France, 13 922 (6,7%); The Netherlands, 9 391 (4,5%); China, 9 206 (4,4%); Australia, 7 751 (3,7%); Canada, 6 333 (3,1%); India, 6 167 (3,0%) and Italy, 4 258 (2,1%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in March 2014. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 73,7% of all tourists from overseas countries.

The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in March 2014 were Zimbabwe, 151 711 (28,8%); Lesotho, 114 180 (21,6%); Mozambique, 96 207 (18,2%); Swaziland, 72 154 (13,7%); Botswana, 38 016 (7,2%); Namibia, 15 823 (3,0%); Zambia, 14 757 (2,8%); Malawi, 12 949 (2,5%); Angola, 4 301 (0,8%) and Tanzania, 2 857 (0,5%) (see Figure 2 on page 6). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,1% of all tourists from the SADC countries.

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in March 2014 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 7, were Nigeria, 5 448 (33,8%); Kenya, 2 373 (14,7%); Ghana, 1 843 (11,4%); Uganda, 1 243 (7,7%); Egypt, 717 (4,4%); Ethiopia, 609 (3,8%); Gabon, 587 (3,6%); Cameroon, 398 (2,5%); Congo, 355 (2,2%) and Senegal, 246 (1,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 85,7% of all tourists from 'other' African countries.

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on page 14, in March 2014, a majority of tourists [717 745 (95,5%)] were in South Africa for holidays compared with only 30 317 (4,0%) and 3 754 (0,5%) of tourists who were in South Africa for business and for study purposes respectively. A detailed analysis reveals that of all the tourists from each of the overseas regions, at least 92,0% came to South Africa for holidays. A total of 6 186 (96,6%) tourists from Central and South America; 32 798 (96,0%) from North America; 8 787 (95,9%) from Australasia; 122 876 (95,0%) from Europe; 4 108 (93,8%) from Middle East and 21 845 (92,1%) from Asia were in South Africa for holidays. Asia (7,3%) and Middle East (5,4%) had a higher proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business. Middle East (0,8%) had a higher proportion of student tourists compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists [520 280 (95,7%)] came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries namely:

¹The nationality of travel document is used instead of country of residence as done in releases for 2013 and earlier (see page 20)

- Whereas 505 645 (95,8%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holidays; 14 635 (90,7%) of tourists from 'other' African countries came for the same purpose. Data on the regions of 'other' African countries show that tourists on holidays constituted 92,4% (8 005); 89,3% (5 398) and 86,7% (1 232) for West Africa; East and central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 5,8% (937) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 3,7% (19 472) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion of 8,7% (124) of its tourists in South Africa for business.
- Students made up 3,5% (559) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,5% (2 558) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion [4,6% (65)] of student tourists in South Africa.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 18 shows that in March 2014, there were 435 751 (58,0%) male and 316 065 (42,0%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 116 154 (56,1%) male tourists and 90 939 (43,9%) female tourists. There were 307 880 (58,3%) male and 219 795 (41,7%) female tourists from the SADC countries. The tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 11 134 (69,0%) males and 4 997 (31,0%) females.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into three broad groups: those younger than 15 years, 15 to 64 years, and 65 years and older. The overall results presented in Table 5 show that 30 431 (4,0%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 681 801 (90,7%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 39 267 (5,2%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of nationality into consideration, the results further show that 167 878 (81,1%) of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 497 769 (94,3%) and 15 256 (94,6%) of tourists in the same age range from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries respectively. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was slightly higher among tourists from overseas [5,3% (11 047)] than among tourists from SADC countries [3,6% (18 831)] and those from 'other' African countries [3,4% (544)].

A comparison of the three regions shows relatively high proportions of the elderly among both male [12,9% (14 939)] and female [14,4% (13 140)] tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to the pattern observed among tourists from the other two regions. Thus, 1,6% (4 906) of male and 2,7% (5 949) of female tourists from the SADC countries were aged 65 years and older. Likewise 1,7% (178) of male and 2,9% (146) of female tourists from 'other' African countries were aged 65 years and older.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in March 2014

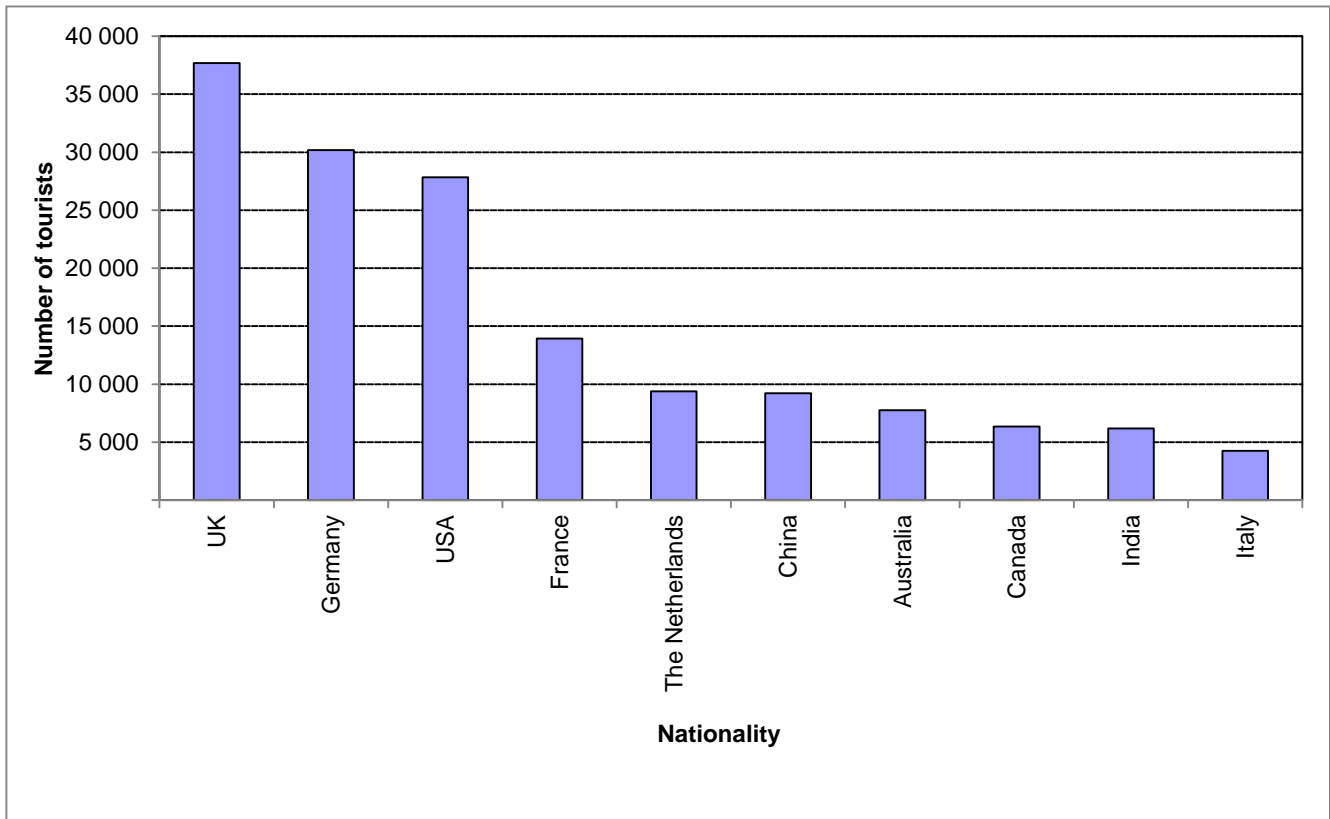


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in March 2014

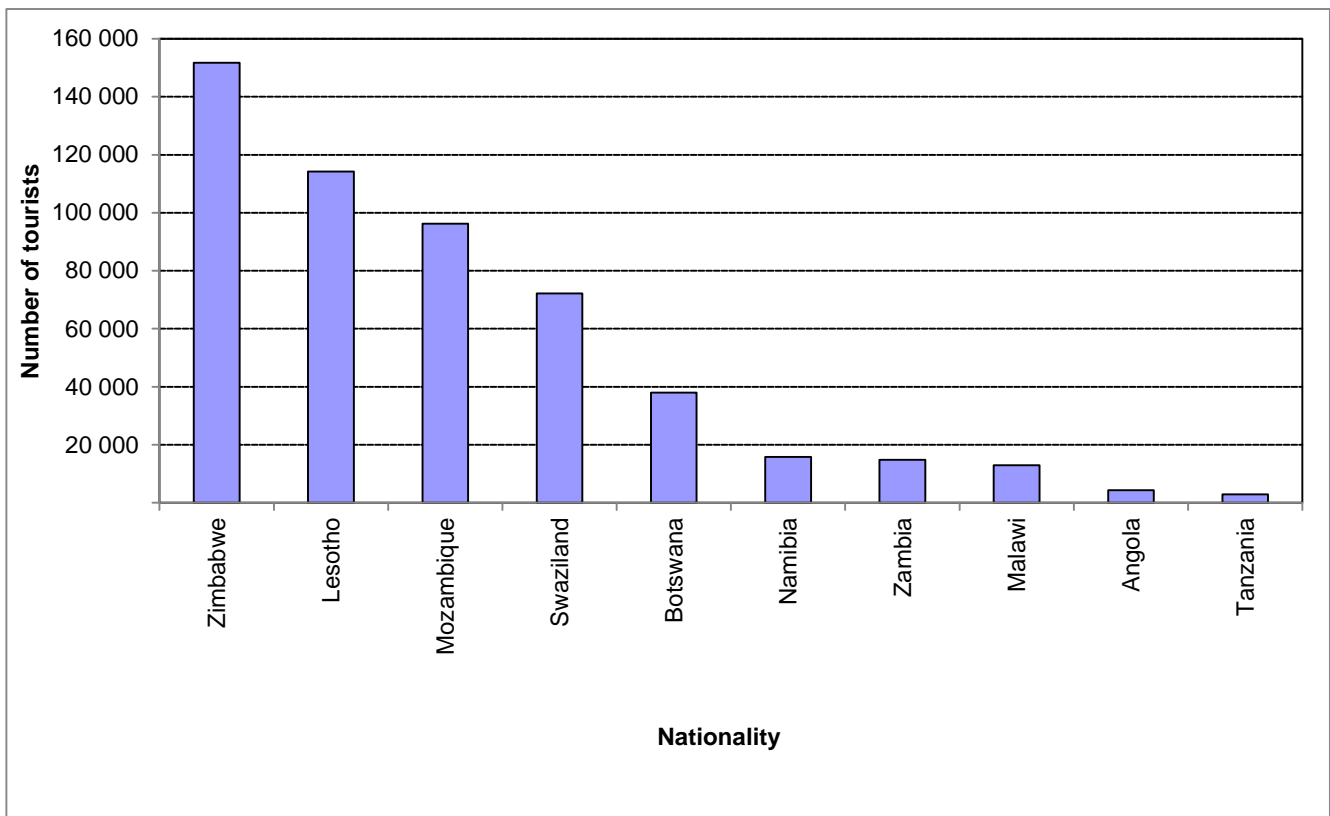
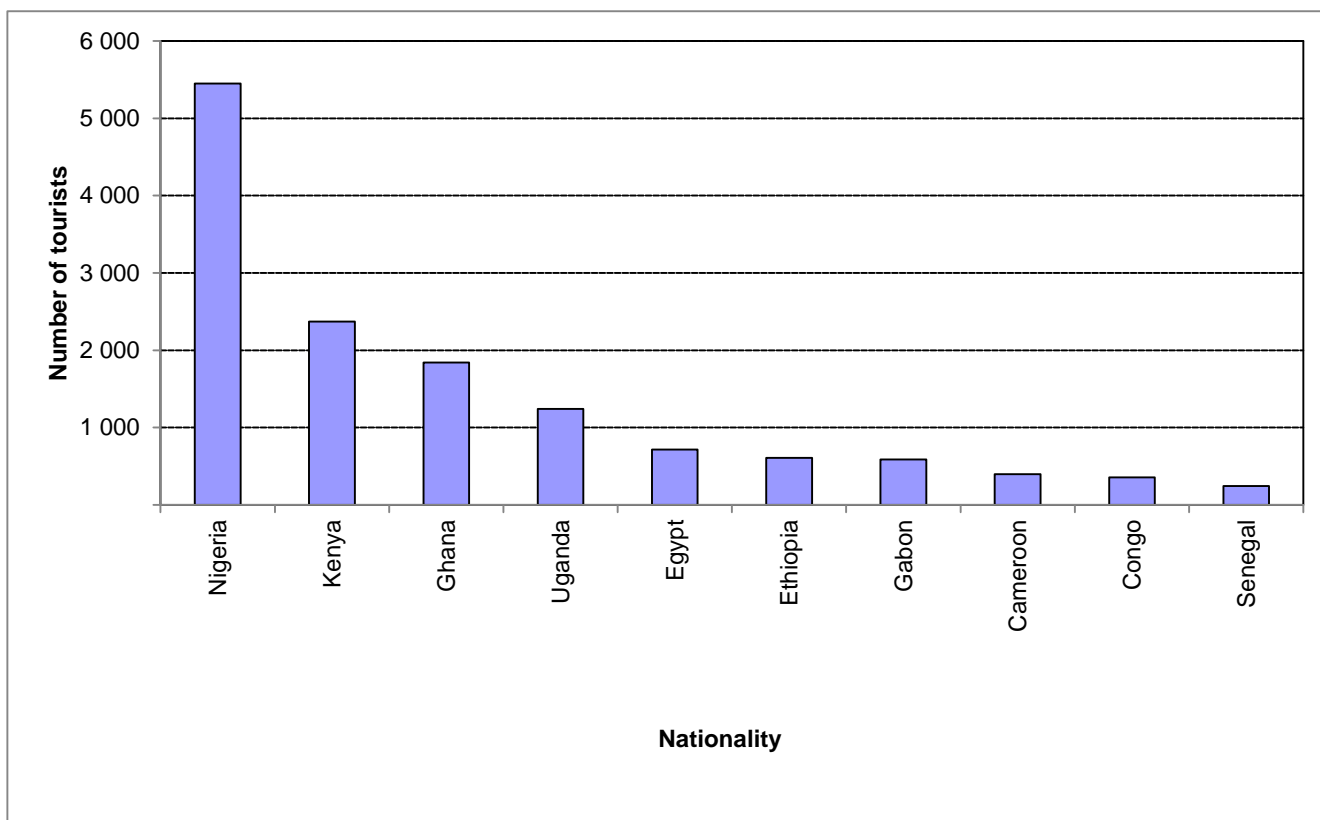


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading ‘other’ African countries in March 2014



3. Tables

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

Travel direction	February	March	% change
	2014	2014	February 2014–March 2014
Total	2 891 803	3 216 441	11,2
South African residents	633 333	770 654	21,7
Arrivals	310 703	371 169	19,5
Departures	322 126	398 947	23,8
Transit	504	538	6,7
Foreign travellers	2 258 470	2 445 787	8,3
Arrivals	1 160 486	1 227 853	5,8
Departures	1 054 618	1 167 962	10,7
Transit	43 366	49 972	15,2
Foreign arrivals	1 160 486	1 227 853	5,8
Non-visitors	56 809	62 326	9,7
Visitors	1 103 677	1 165 527	5,6
Visitors	1 103 677	1 165 527	5,6
Arrivals only	364 175	333 391	-8,5
Single trips	417 191	453 890	8,8
Multiple trips	322 311	378 246	17,4
Visitors	1 103 677	1 165 527	5,6
Same day	369 555	413 711	11,9
Overnight (tourists)	734 122	751 816	2,4

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

Travel Direction	Total	Mode of travel (March 2014)							
		Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	3 216 441	171 823	24 045	699 406	5 900	901 174	2 306 356	7 488	1 423
South African residents	770 654	33 226	14 197	219 001	4 043	270 467	499 251	481	455
Arrivals	371 169	15 684	6 481	102 592	1 959	126 716	243 992	245	216
Departures	398 947	17 542	7 716	115 871	2 084	143 213	255 259	236	239
Transit	538	-	-	538	-	538	-	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 445 787	138 597	9 848	480 405	1 857	630 707	1 807 105	7 007	968
Arrivals	1 227 853	62 845	4 393	207 910	951	276 099	947 827	3 485	442
Departures	1 167 962	75 751	5 455	222 524	906	304 636	859 278	3 522	526
Transit	49 972	1	-	49 971	-	49 972	-	-	-
Visitors	1 165 527	57 953	3 072	186 262	483	247 770	917 302	27	428
Same day	413 711	366	25	15 175	92	15 658	398 031	5	17
Overnight (tourists)	751 816	57 587	3 047	171 087	391	232 112	519 271	22	411

Table 3 – Number of tourists by nationality and mode of travel

Nationality	Total	Mode of travel (March 2014)							
		Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	751 816	57 587	3 047	171 087	391	232 112	519 271	22	411
Overseas	207 093	54 460	2 537	125 617	251	182 865	23 798	22	408
Europe	129 279	42 447	1 874	68 424	121	112 866	16 322	16	75
Austria	2 241	677	63	1 240	-	1 980	260	-	1
Belgium	3 596	1 080	9	2 015	3	3 107	489	-	-
Denmark	2 509	537	12	1 687	1	2 237	271	-	1
France	13 922	3 822	121	7 064	18	11 025	2 888	2	7
Germany	30 189	9 613	232	15 894	20	25 759	4 409	8	13
Ireland	2 564	1 152	52	1 133	-	2 337	227	-	-
Italy	4 258	1 448	79	2 379	3	3 909	346	2	1
Norway	2 052	706	6	1 061	-	1 773	275	-	4
Portugal	3 456	502	22	1 667	21	2 212	1 244	-	-
Spain	2 159	586	23	1 359	-	1 968	191	-	-
Sweden	3 547	1 272	15	1 865	3	3 155	392	-	-
Switzerland	4 026	1 734	39	1 808	9	3 590	432	1	3
The Netherlands	9 391	3 386	103	4 329	9	7 827	1 564	-	-
UK	37 688	13 706	996	20 437	29	35 168	2 476	2	42
Other	7 681	2 226	102	4 486	5	6 819	858	1	3
North America	34 156	6 216	190	24 015	38	30 459	3 395	4	298
Canada	6 333	1 496	73	3 962	13	5 544	766	1	22
USA	27 822	4 720	117	20 053	25	24 915	2 628	3	276
Other	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Central and South America	6 406	318	5	5 501	12	5 836	562	2	6
Argentina	1 636	20	-	1 568	-	1 588	48	-	-
Brazil	3 286	120	2	2 770	11	2 903	379	-	4
Mexico	319	73	2	238	-	313	5	-	1
Other	1 165	105	1	925	1	1 032	130	2	1

Table 3 – Number of tourists by nationality and mode of travel (continued)

Nationality	Total	Mode of travel (March 2014)							
		Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total			
Australasia	9 165	752	106	7 730	16	8 604	539	-	22
Australia	7 751	608	77	6 574	15	7 274	461	-	16
New Zealand	1 392	144	29	1 135	1	1 309	77	-	6
Other	22	-	-	21	-	21	1	-	-
Middle East	4 379	940	32	3 213	53	4 238	141	-	-
Iran	1 375	509	13	840	-	1 362	13	-	-
Israel	1 571	157	-	1 337	2	1 496	75	-	-
Saudi Arabia	652	79	4	526	43	652	-	-	-
Other	781	195	15	510	8	728	53	-	-
Asia	23 708	3 787	330	16 734	11	20 862	2 839	-	7
China	9 206	1 684	52	6 823	1	8 560	646	-	-
India	6 167	801	138	4 332	7	5 278	887	-	2
Japan	2 224	263	34	1 768	-	2 065	157	-	2
Malaysia	464	124	16	298	-	438	26	-	-
Pakistan	1 158	131	51	550	1	733	425	-	-
Singapore	560	174	1	360	-	535	22	-	3
South Korea	1 207	147	3	883	-	1 033	174	-	-
Taiwan	577	47	6	403	-	456	121	-	-
Thailand	538	107	5	409	-	521	17	-	-
Other	1 606	308	24	908	2	1 242	364	-	-
Africa	543 806	3 102	507	44 735	140	48 484	495 319	-	3
SADC	527 675	2 704	456	30 493	119	33 772	493 900	-	3
Angola	4 301	601	1	3 492	11	4 105	196	-	-
Botswana	38 016	244	6	2 298	29	2 577	35 439	-	-
DRC	2 500	10	2	1 874	2	1 888	612	-	-
Lesotho	114 180	1	1	528	5	535	113 645	-	-
Madagascar	235	-	-	224	2	226	9	-	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by nationality and mode of travel (continued)

Nationality	Total	Mode of travel (March 2014)							
		Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total			
Malawi	12 949	3	2	1 367	6	1 378	11 571	-	-
Mauritius	1 350	145	78	1 000	-	1 223	125	-	2
Mozambique	96 207	106	46	3 078	8	3 238	92 968	-	1
Namibia	15 823	1 501	-	2 975	19	4 495	11 328	-	-
Seychelles	635	2	1	626	-	629	6	-	-
Swaziland	72 154	1	-	569	3	573	71 581	-	-
Tanzania	2 857	2	1	1 646	3	1 652	1 205	-	-
Zambia	14 757	17	140	3 813	3	3 973	10 784	-	-
Zimbabwe	151 711	71	178	7 003	28	7 280	144 431	-	-
'Other' African	16 131	398	51	14 242	21	14 712	1 419	-	-
East and Central Africa	6 044	74	18	5 313	14	5 419	625	-	-
Burundi	77	-	1	72	-	73	4	-	-
Cameroon	398	10	1	338	-	349	49	-	-
Central African Republic	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-	-
Chad	76	-	-	76	-	76	-	-	-
Comoros	10	-	-	10	-	10	-	-	-
Congo	355	3	-	339	9	351	4	-	-
Djibouti	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	45	1	-	43	-	44	1	-	-
Eritrea	39	-	5	31	-	36	3	-	-
Ethiopia	609	6	5	549	1	561	48	-	-
Gabon	587	4	1	570	-	575	12	-	-
Kenya	2 373	24	3	2 066	-	2 093	280	-	-
Reunion	10	10	-	-	-	10	-	-	-
Rwanda	176	2	-	165	-	167	9	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	15	1	-	13	-	14	1	-	-
Somalia	17	1	-	10	-	11	6	-	-
Uganda	1 243	12	2	1 017	4	1 035	208	-	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by nationality and mode of travel (concluded)

Nationality	Total	Mode of travel (March 2014)							
		Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total			
West Africa	8 666	96	23	7 815	6	7 940	726	-	-
Benin	188	1	-	177	-	178	10	-	-
Burkina Faso	66	3	1	61	-	65	1	-	-
Cape Verde Island	62	1	-	54	-	55	7	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	225	8	5	208	-	221	4	-	-
Gambia	62	-	-	59	-	59	3	-	-
Ghana	1 843	24	8	1 624	-	1 656	187	-	-
Guinea	175	3	1	67	-	71	104	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	12	-	-	10	-	10	2	-	-
Liberia	50	1	-	46	-	47	3	-	-
Mali	87	3	-	62	-	65	22	-	-
Mauritania	31	3	-	27	-	30	1	-	-
Niger	31	-	-	29	-	29	2	-	-
Nigeria	5 448	46	6	5 021	6	5 079	369	-	-
Senegal	246	2	-	242	-	244	2	-	-
Sierra Leone	81	1	2	69	-	72	9	-	-
Togo	59	-	-	59	-	59	-	-	-
North Africa	1 421	228	10	1 114	1	1 353	68	-	-
Algeria	138	19	1	110	-	130	8	-	-
Egypt	717	58	2	631	1	692	25	-	-
Libya	102	48	4	29	-	81	21	-	-
Morocco	141	31	1	103	-	135	6	-	-
South Sudan	46	-	-	44	-	44	2	-	-
The Sudan	96	20	-	70	-	90	6	-	-
Tunisia	174	52	2	120	-	174	-	-	-
Western Sahara	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-	-
Unspecified	917	25	3	735	-	763	154	-	-

Table 4 – Number of tourists by nationality and purpose of visit

Nationality	Total	Purpose of visit (March 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
Total	751 816	30 317	717 745	3 754
Overseas	207 093	9 856	196 600	637
Europe	129 279	6 070	122 876	333
Austria	2 241	81	2 158	2
Belgium	3 596	166	3 413	17
Denmark	2 509	134	2 369	6
France	13 922	540	13 327	55
Germany	30 189	957	29 190	42
Ireland	2 564	155	2 407	2
Italy	4 258	356	3 890	12
Norway	2 052	86	1 949	17
Portugal	3 456	108	3 338	10
Spain	2 159	220	1 932	7
Sweden	3 547	174	3 358	15
Switzerland	4 026	103	3 911	12
The Netherlands	9 391	445	8 918	28
UK	37 688	2 061	35 544	83
Other	7 681	484	7 172	25
North America	34 156	1 261	32 798	97
Canada	6 333	219	6 100	14
USA	27 822	1 042	26 697	83
Other	1	-	1	-
Central and South America	6 406	194	6 186	26
Argentina	1 636	37	1 596	3
Brazil	3 286	78	3 194	14
Mexico	319	23	293	3
Other	1 165	56	1 103	6

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

Nationality	Total	Purpose of visit (March 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	9 165	367	8 787	11
Australia	7 751	303	7 438	10
New Zealand	1 392	61	1 330	1
Other	22	3	19	-
Middle East	4 379	237	4 108	34
Iran	1 375	27	1 343	5
Israel	1 571	98	1 468	5
Saudi Arabia	652	19	623	10
Other	781	93	674	14
Asia	23 708	1 727	21 845	136
China	9 206	413	8 772	21
India	6 167	688	5 430	49
Japan	2 224	186	2 033	5
Malaysia	464	40	421	3
Pakistan	1 158	86	1 066	6
Singapore	560	37	523	-
South Korea	1 207	85	1 090	32
Taiwan	577	23	552	2
Thailand	538	32	504	2
Other	1 607	137	1 454	16
Africa	543 806	20 409	520 280	3 117
SADC	527 675	19 472	505 645	2 558
Angola	4 301	97	4 026	178
Botswana	38 016	365	37 292	359
DRC	2 500	90	2 302	108
Lesotho	114 180	2 060	111 579	541
Madagascar	235	11	216	8

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

Nationality	Total	Purpose of visit (March 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
Malawi	12 949	241	12 678	30
Mauritius	1 350	99	1 238	13
Mozambique	96 207	9 663	86 479	65
Namibia	15 823	2 548	13 029	246
Seychelles	635	11	623	1
Swaziland	72 154	445	71 202	507
Tanzania	2 857	117	2 702	38
Zambia	14 757	751	13 915	91
Zimbabwe	151 711	2 974	148 364	373
'Other' African	16 131	937	14 635	559
East and Central Africa	6 044	415	5 398	231
Burundi	77	5	69	3
Cameroon	398	28	354	16
Central African Republic	7	-	7	-
Chad	76	2	67	7
Comoros	10	2	6	2
Congo	355	18	310	27
Djibouti	7	1	6	-
Equatorial Guinea	45	3	33	9
Eritrea	39	1	38	-
Ethiopia	609	49	553	7
Gabon	587	6	547	34
Kenya	2 373	205	2 092	76
Reunion	10	-	10	-
Rwanda	176	9	154	13
Sao Tome and Principe	15	1	14	-
Somalia	17	1	16	-
Uganda	1 243	84	1 122	37

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

Nationality	Total	Purpose of visit (March 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	8 666	398	8 005	263
Benin	188	8	179	1
Burkina Faso	66	13	52	1
Cape Verde Island	62	1	61	-
Côte d'Ivoire	225	23	194	8
Gambia	62	1	61	-
Ghana	1 843	85	1 735	23
Guinea	175	4	167	4
Guinea-Bissau	12	-	12	-
Liberia	50	3	47	-
Mali	87	7	78	2
Mauritania	31	1	30	-
Niger	31	-	31	-
Nigeria	5 448	216	5 012	220
Senegal	246	27	216	3
Sierra Leone	81	5	75	1
Togo	59	4	55	-
North Africa	1 421	124	1 232	65
Algeria	138	14	118	6
Egypt	717	60	643	14
Libya	102	8	57	37
Morocco	141	19	121	1
South Sudan	46	1	44	1
The Sudan	96	9	83	4
Tunisia	174	13	159	2
Western Sahara	7	-	7	-
Unspecified	917	52	865	-

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

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (March 2014)			
			Overseas	SADC	‘Other’ African	Unspecified
All	Total	751 816	207 093	527 675	16 131	917
	<15	30 431	11 047	18 831	544	9
	15-64	681 801	167 878	497 769	15 256	898
	65+	39 267	28 079	10 855	324	9
	Unspecified	317	89	220	7	1
Male	Total	435 751	116 154	307 880	11 134	583
	<15	15 387	5 674	9 446	263	4
	15-64	400 175	95 499	293 412	10 690	574
	65+	20 028	14 939	4 906	178	5
	Unspecified	161	42	116	3	-
Female	Total	316 065	90 939	219 795	4 997	334
	<15	15 044	5 373	9 385	281	5
	15-64	281 626	72 379	204 357	4 566	324
	65+	19 239	13 140	5 949	146	4
	Unspecified	156	47	104	4	1

4. Explanatory notes

NOTICE TO USERS

Statistics South Africa has made changes in the *Tourism and Migration* statistical release starting from the January 2014 statistics. This change has become necessary as a result of the implementation of the new Movement Control System (e-MCS) at the country's ports of entry. Currently the new system (e-MCS) is operational at over 80% of the country's ports of entry. The system roll-out is expected to be finalised by end of 2015/16. The change affects the identification of Transit Travellers that are currently categorised under Direction instead of Purpose of Movement. With the revision, Table 1 and Table 2 in the release now include a category for Transit while all tables reporting on tourists exclude transit travellers.

4.1 Introduction

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

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

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

4.2 Purpose of the statistical release

This release reports on arrivals, departures and transit travellers of South African residents and foreign travellers. Detailed information on the age and sex distribution; mode of travel; national and regional distribution; and purpose of travel of overnight visitors or tourists are also provided.

4.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data collected by DHA officials on travellers who entered the Republic of South Africa (RSA) through all the air, land and sea ports of entry.

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 DHA database.
- As part of data interrogation, data from the O.R. Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airport Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA 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. In March 2014, the DHA data was 1,4% lower than that of ACSA.

4.5 Limitations

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

4.6 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 and Asia.
- Africa: SADC and 'Other' Africa (East and Central Africa, West Africa and North Africa).

Nationality refers to individual countries within a region based on the country of the passport. That is, the nationality of travel document is used. The nationality 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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