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KEY FINDINGS

1. Number of travellers

The May 2007 data collected by Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 1 977 669 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through the ports of entry. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 665 937 South African residents and 1 311 732 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures indicates that 338 883 and 327 054 South African resident arrivals and departures respectively were recorded. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals and departures are 699 450 and 612 282. A comparison between the movements in April 2007 and May 2007 indicates that there was a decrease in all movements. The May 2007 figure (338 883) for South African resident arrivals shows an increase of 0,9% compared to the May 2006 figure of 335 811. Similarly, there was an increase of 9,0% for foreign arrivals from 641 700 in May 2006 to 699 450 May 2007.

2. Mode of travel

It is observed from Table 2 that road transport was the most common (64,7%) mode of travel used by 1 279 248 out of the 1 977 669 travellers. Besides road transport, OR Tambo International Airport was used by 26,0% of all travellers. The arrival data on South African residents show that 40,0% came by air and 57,4% by road. For their departure, 43,8% and 54,0% used air and road transport respectively. When taking into consideration the countries of residence of these travellers, it was found that for foreign arrivals, overseas travellers generally used air (88,0%) compared to road transport (11,3%) whereas travellers from Africa used road (84,3%) more than air transport (7,5%). Information on specific countries from which travellers came from and the mode of travel used is provided in Table 3.

3. Foreign arrivals

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

Data presented in Table 3 show that more than two thirds (79,5%) of foreign arrivals were from Africa whilst approximately one fifth (19,9 %) were from overseas countries. Information on the country of residence was not available on 0,6% of the travellers. A comparison of the changes between May 2006 and May 2007 indicates that the number of overseas arrivals increased by 7,3% from 129 439 in 2006 to 138 837 in 2007. Arrivals from Africa increased by 9,2% from 509 301 in 2006 to 556 376 in 2007.

3.1 Gender and age distribution

The travellers from Africa comprised of 309 550 males, 245 619 females and 1 207 with unspecified gender. The data on overseas travellers had 83 079 males, 55 623 females and gender was not specified in 135 cases. Overall, slightly more males than females from African (males: 55,6%; females: 44,1%) and overseas countries (males: 59,8%; females: 40,1%) came to South Africa. The age distribution of foreign arrivals presented in Figure 1 shows that travellers from Africa are generally younger compared to those from overseas. Thus the bulk (83,5%) of African travellers is clustered between ages 15-49, peaking at age group 25-29. However, the age distribution of overseas travellers is widely spread. Thus 90,2% of overseas travellers were between ages 20 to 69 years. The percentage of older persons (65 years and older) from overseas countries was significantly higher (8,7%) compared to that among persons from Africa (2,6%). This would have implications for spending capacity.

3.2 Regional and national distribution

Overseas travellers came mainly from Europe (54,8%) followed by North America (20,4%), Asia (14,3%), Australasia (6,1%), Central and South America (2,8%) and Middle East (1,6%). Virtually all arrivals (97,8%) from Africa came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining arrivals from Africa is as follows: East and Central Africa (1,0%), West Africa (1,0%) and North Africa (0,2%). May data for the past five years (See figure 2) reveal that, arrivals from 'other' African countries have been quite stable unlike from SADC countries that have been escalating since 2004. There were minor fluctuations in overseas arrivals from 2003 to 2007. Data presented in Figure 3 indicates that the UK, USA, Germany, France, Australia, India, Netherlands and China were the eight leading overseas source countries. Travellers from these eight countries constitute 67,8% of all travellers from overseas. The number of travellers from these overseas countries increased in May 2007 compared to May 2006 with the exception of Germany (3,1% from 13 501 in May 2006 to 13 083 in May 2007).

The eight leading countries from SADC and the 'other' African countries are shown in Figures 4 and 5. Whereas travellers from the eight SADC countries made up 96,5% of all arrivals from Africa, the eight 'other' countries from Africa constituted only 1,8%. The number of travellers from these SADC countries was higher in May 2007 compared to May 2006 with the exception of Zimbabwe (10,5% from 85 874 in May 2006 to 76 866 in May 2007). The number of travellers from 'other' African countries increased with the exception of Ethiopia (17,5% from 801 in May 2006 to 661 in May 2007).

3.3 *Purpose of travel*

As observed from data given in Table 4, an overwhelming majority (92,8%) of foreign arrivals was admitted into South Africa on visitors' temporary residence permit. These visitors are mainly made up of same-day travellers as well as tourists. This is in vast contrast to those on business (2,4%), those who have come for work (1,4%) and those who have come to study (0,9%).

Overall, 89,2% of overseas travellers came to South Africa to visit. A detailed analysis reveals that with the exception of Asia (77,6%), all the overseas regions had more than 80,0% travellers coming to South Africa for holidays, travellers from Europe (90,1%), Australasia (94,0%), Central and South America (90,9%), North America (93,8%) and the Middle East (83,7%) were admitted into South Africa as visitors. Travellers from Asia were more diverse in their purpose and consequently Asia had the highest proportion of overseas travellers who came here for work (11,8%). It also had a relatively high percentage of travellers who came for business (7,8%) and study (0,7%).

Although the majority (94,2%) of African travellers came into the country on visitors' permits, there is a significant difference between travellers from SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 94,5% of travellers from the SADC countries were recorded as on holiday, 80,0% of travellers from 'other' African countries were admitted on visitor's permit. Proportionally, the lowest percentage (72,3%) of visitors came from North Africa, a region where proportionally, a large percentage of travellers were in South Africa as business persons (18,9%) and workers (6,1%).
- A relatively high percentage of 'other' African travellers were here to study, work or for business.
- Overall, 8,9% and 9,3% of travellers from West Africa and East and Central Africa respectively were in South Africa for business as compared to only 1,5% among the SADC travellers.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

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

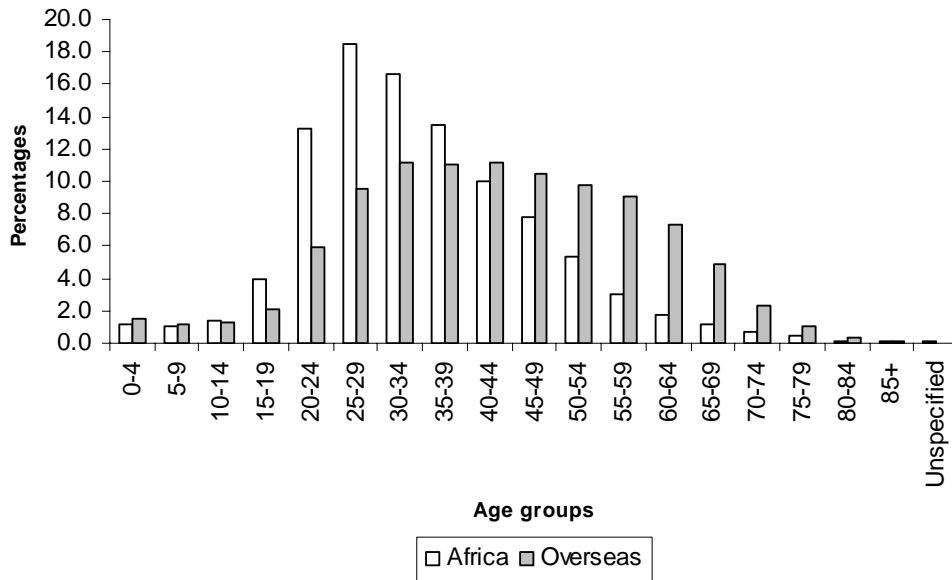


Figure 2: Number of May arrivals by region (2003 - 2007)

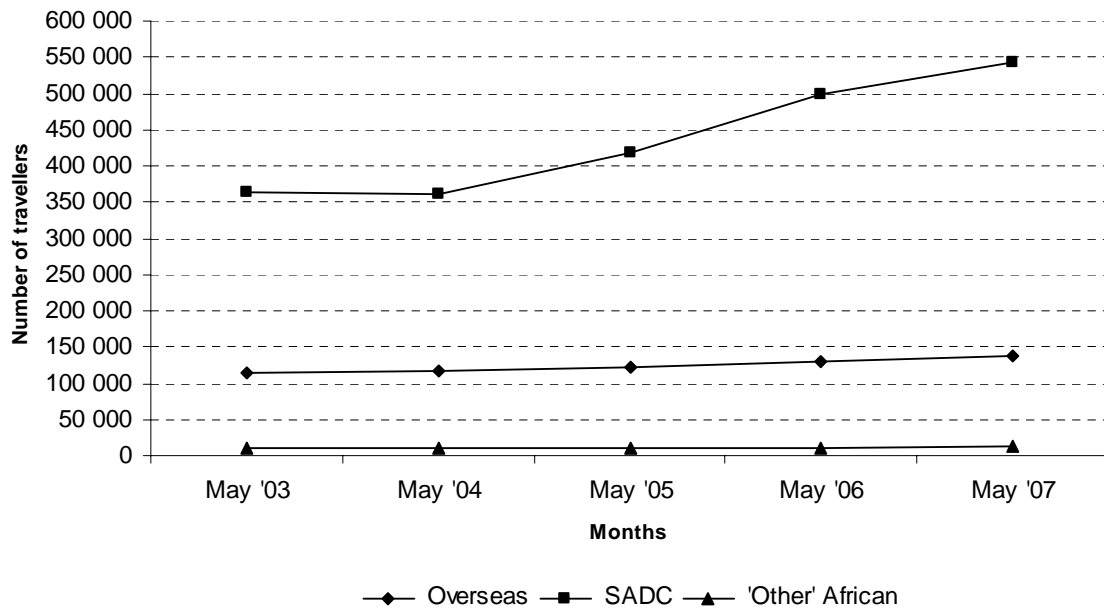


Figure 3: Number of overseas travellers arriving from leading source countries in May 2007 compared to May 2006

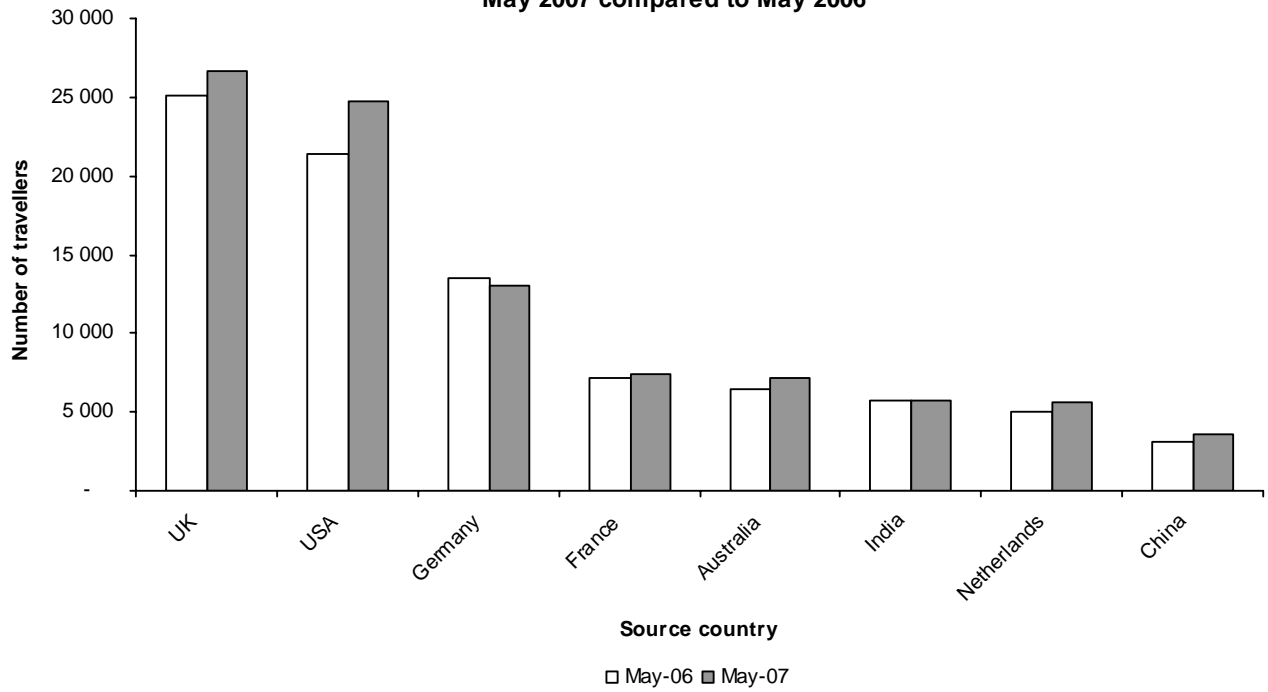


Figure 4: Number of travellers from SADC countries arriving from leading source countries in May 2007 compared to May 2006

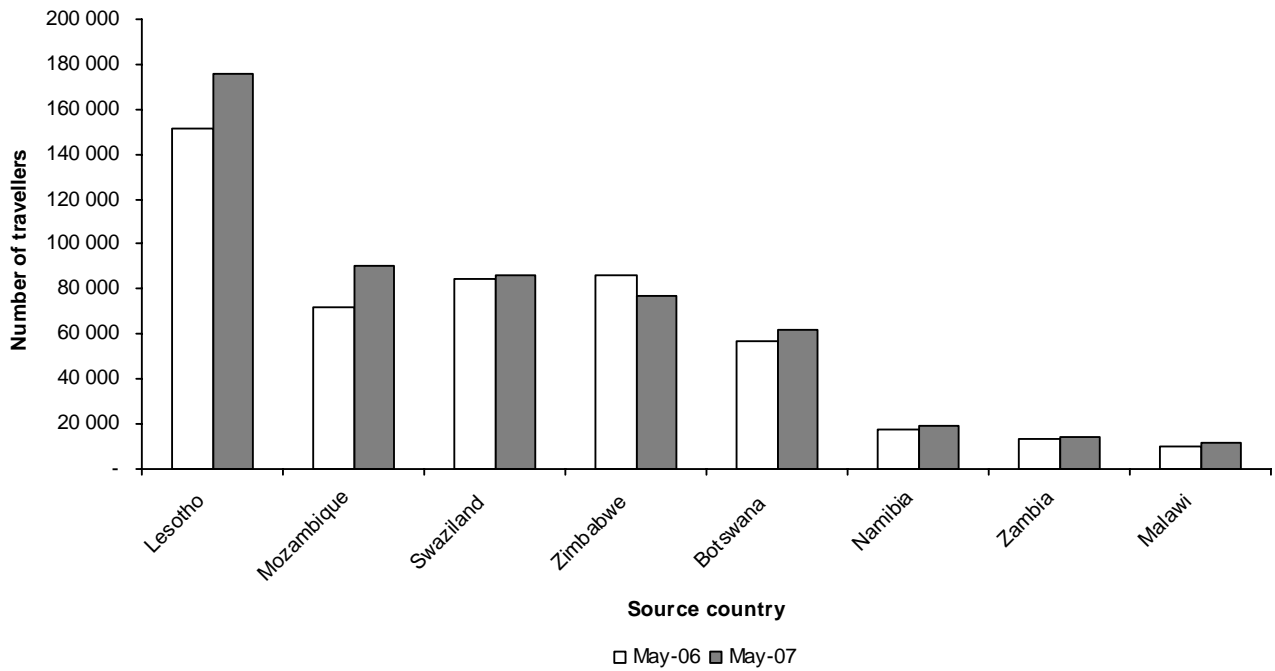


Figure 5: Number of travellers from 'other' African countries arriving from leading source countries in May 2007 compared to May 2006

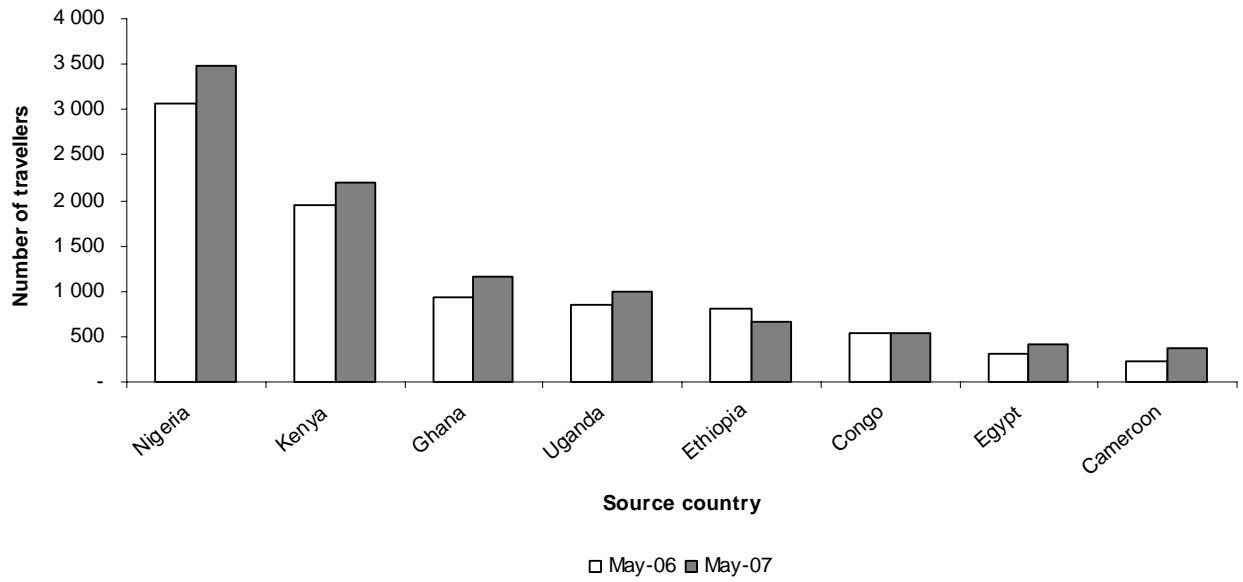


Table 1. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction

Travel direction	May	April	May	% change	% change
	2006	2007	2007	May 06–May 07	Apr 07–May 07
South African residents					
Arrivals	335 811	423 311	338 883	0,9	-19,9
Departures	320 251	425 568	327 054	2,1	-23,1
Foreign travellers					
Arrivals	641 700	795 901	699 450	9,0	-12,1
Departures	582 120	695 724	612 282	5,2	-12,0
Grand total	1 879 882	2 340 504	1 977 669	5,2	-15,5

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

Travel direction	Total	Mode of travel (May 2007)								
		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
		(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Grand total	1 977 669	78 002	2 902	513 842	9 414	604 160	46	1 279 248	365	93 850
Arrivals:	1 038 333	36 255	1 465	257 500	4 828	300 048	8	680 145	242	57 890
South African residents	338 883	14 440	1 050	116 251	3 675	135 416	3	194 448	135	8 881
Foreign travellers	699 450	21 815	415	141 249	1 153	164 632	5	485 697	107	49 009
Overseas	138 837	20 043	157	101 195	652	122 047	1	15 612	95	1 082
Africa	556 376	1 730	255	39 040	477	41 502	4	468 903	12	45 955
Unspecified	4 237	42	3	1 014	24	1 083	-	1 182	-	1 972
Departures:	939 336	41 747	1 437	256 342	4 586	304 112	38	599 103	123	35 960
South African residents	327 054	17 462	1 007	121 292	3 503	143 264	7	176 508	46	7 229
Foreign travellers	612 282	24 285	430	135 050	1 083	160 848	31	422 595	77	28 731

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

Country	Mode of travel (May 2007)										
	May		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2006	2007	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Grand total	641 700	699 450	21 815	415	141 249	1 153	164 632	5	485 697	107	49 009
Overseas total	129 439	138 837	20 043	157	101 195	652	122 047	1	15 612	95	1 082
Europe	72 434	76 044	15 520	88	49 554	358	65 520	-	10 119	63	342
Austria	1 107	1 267	276	2	828	3	1 109	-	153	-	5
Belgium	1 744	2 188	335	3	1 601	26	1 965	-	216	-	7
Denmark	1 241	1 352	194	-	943	4	1 141	-	203	-	8
France	7 179	7 431	423	28	6 030	16	6 497	-	930	2	2
Germany	13 501	13 083	3 632	9	7 218	50	10 909	-	2 064	15	95
Greece	526	514	30	1	401	1	433	-	79	-	2
Ireland	1 758	2 225	688	1	1 229	10	1 928	-	263	6	28
Italy	2 947	3 207	664	2	2 231	5	2 902	-	303	-	2
Netherlands	5 058	5 637	1 487	4	3 003	5	4 499	-	1 110	1	27
Portugal	1 898	2 182	94	8	959	11	1 072	-	1 099	-	11
Spain	2 488	2 188	151	1	1 867	34	2 053	-	133	-	2
Sweden	1 568	1 567	296	-	1 056	4	1 356	-	205	-	6
Switzerland	1 870	1 916	307	2	1 269	7	1 585	-	325	4	2
UK	25 121	26 675	6 021	25	17 875	137	24 058	-	2 487	26	104
Other	4 428	4 612	922	2	3 044	45	4 013	-	549	9	41
North America	24 649	28 370	2 306	16	23 169	212	25 703	-	2 454	10	203
Canada	3 203	3 579	406	4	2 650	29	3 089	-	467	-	23
USA	21 442	24 784	1 899	12	20 513	183	22 607	-	1 987	10	180
Other	4	7	1	-	6	-	7	-	-	-	-
Central and South America	3 788	3 897	285	2	3 194	9	3 490	-	392	-	15
Argentina	460	464	109	2	322	3	436	-	25	-	3
Brazil	2 193	2 272	45	-	2 016	1	2 062	-	207	-	3
Chile	258	181	39	-	130	3	172	-	9	-	-
Other	877	980	92	-	726	2	820	-	151	-	9

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

Country	Mode of travel (May 2007)										
	May		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2006	2007	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Australasia	7 789	8 429	430	20	7 267	32	7 749	-	649	9	22
Australia	6 452	7 113	328	19	6 210	29	6 586	-	502	5	20
New Zealand	1 280	1 260	99	1	1 025	3	1 128	-	127	4	1
Other	57	56	3	-	32	-	35	-	20	-	1
Middle East	2 431	2 245	130	2	1 924	16	2 072	1	169	-	3
Israel	950	943	17	-	853	1	871	-	70	-	2
Saudi Arabia	154	136	3	-	111	13	127	-	9	-	-
Turkey	428	302	42	-	230	-	272	1	29	-	-
Other	899	864	68	2	730	2	802	-	61	-	1
Asia	18 348	19 852	1 372	29	16 087	25	17 513	-	1 829	13	497
China	3 120	3 634	284	-	2 960	-	3 244	-	236	-	154
Hong Kong	451	372	70	1	284	-	355	-	15	-	2
India	5 686	5 751	91	19	4 898	16	5 024	-	579	-	148
Japan	2 744	2 908	132	3	2 698	-	2 833	-	72	-	3
Malaysia	770	852	268	1	540	1	810	-	31	-	11
Philippines	522	805	64	-	634	5	703	-	32	11	59
Rep of China (Taiwan)	1 082	1 200	107	-	694	-	801	-	331	-	68
Rep of Korea	982	1 302	74	-	1 132	-	1 206	-	91	-	5
Singapore	499	531	143	2	365	-	510	-	19	-	2
Other	2 492	2 497	139	3	1 882	3	2 027	-	423	2	45

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

Country	Mode of travel (May 2007)										
	May		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2006	2007	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Africa total	509 301	556 376	1 730	255	39 040	477	41 502	4	468 903	12	45 955
SADC	498 307	543 893	1 641	226	28 697	406	30 970	4	467 147	12	45 760
Angola	2 332	2 488	94	-	2 223	35	2 352	-	135	-	1
Botswana	57 228	61 814	12	-	2 619	170	2 801	-	58 820	-	193
DRC	1 732	2 065	1	-	1 380	11	1 392	-	669	-	4
Lesotho	151 815	176 124	3	-	581	52	636	-	131 210	-	44 278
Madagascar	234	212	1	-	203	-	204	-	7	-	1
Malawi	9 624	11 534	1	-	1 896	1	1 898	-	9 573	2	61
Mauritius	1 006	1 143	100	120	804	3	1 027	-	106	-	10
Mozambique	71 876	90 490	35	62	2 068	36	2 201	4	88 014	-	271
Namibia	17 569	19 276	1 364	6	2 914	26	4 310	-	14 946	1	19
Swaziland	84 693	86 110	3	27	775	2	807	-	85 127	-	176
Tanzania	1 193	1 173	1	2	922	-	925	-	237	-	11
Zambia	13 131	14 598	3	-	6 077	9	6 089	-	8 438	-	71
Zimbabwe	85 874	76 866	23	9	6 235	61	6 328	-	69 865	9	664

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

Country	Mode of travel (May 2007)										
	May		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2006	2007	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
East and Central	5 232	5 753	23	16	4 533	28	4 600	-	1 072	-	81
Burundi	75	88	-	-	49	1	50	-	38	-	-
Cameroon	237	369	5	-	328	-	333	-	29	-	7
Central African Rep	4	8	-	-	8	-	8	-	-	-	-
Chad	21	48	-	-	47	-	47	-	1	-	-
Comoros	17	29	-	-	27	-	27	-	2	-	-
Congo	537	542	7	-	347	13	367	-	166	-	9
Djibouti	7	19	-	-	18	-	18	-	-	-	1
Equatorial Guinea	20	30	-	-	5	-	5	-	25	-	-
Eritrea	33	41	1	-	25	-	26	-	15	-	-
Ethiopia	801	661	1	-	451	4	456	-	194	-	11
Gabon	172	167	1	4	154	3	162	-	5	-	-
Kenya	1 952	2 191	7	1	1 919	1	1 928	-	245	-	18
Reunion	58	46	-	11	35	-	46	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	193	182	-	-	160	2	162	-	20	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	12	5	-	-	4	-	4	-	1	-	-
Seychelles	134	182	-	-	175	-	175	-	6	-	1
Somalia	103	149	-	-	10	-	10	-	134	-	5
Tristan da Cunha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uganda	856	996	1	-	771	4	776	-	191	-	29

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

Country	Mode of travel (May 2007)										
	May		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2006	2007	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
West Africa	4 939	5 733	25	1	4 973	34	5 033	-	598	-	102
Ascension	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Benin	93	95	-	-	86	-	86	-	9	-	-
Burkina Faso	29	61	-	-	55	1	56	-	5	-	-
Cape Verde Island	41	50	1	-	41	-	42	-	6	-	2
Cote D'Ivoire	178	199	1	-	193	-	194	-	5	-	-
Gambia	68	46	-	-	44	-	44	-	1	-	1
Ghana	929	1 170	3	1	1 036	2	1 042	-	111	-	17
Guinea	64	103	1	-	62	-	63	-	40	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	15	9	-	-	5	-	5	-	4	-	-
Liberia	46	32	-	-	30	-	30	-	1	-	1
Madeira Island	11	5	3	-	1	-	4	-	1	-	-
Mali	59	81	-	-	60	-	60	-	19	-	2
Mauritania	15	20	-	-	13	-	13	-	6	-	1
Niger	16	35	1	-	31	-	32	-	2	-	1
Nigeria	3 064	3 487	14	-	3 007	31	3 052	-	364	-	71
St Helena	1	6	-	-	2	-	2	-	4	-	-
Senegal	237	228	-	-	218	-	218	-	9	-	1
Sierra Leone	45	61	1	-	50	-	51	-	6	-	4
Togo	28	40	-	-	34	-	34	-	5	-	1
Western Sahara	-	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-	-	-
North Africa	823	997	41	12	837	9	899	-	86	-	12
Algeria	143	136	10	-	74	-	84	-	52	-	-
Egypt	312	407	6	1	374	5	386	-	18	-	3
Libya	45	76	2	11	53	3	69	-	5	-	2
Morocco	100	119	10	-	105	1	116	-	2	-	1
Sudan	137	153	3	-	138	-	141	-	7	-	5
Tunisia	86	106	10	-	93	-	103	-	2	-	1
Unspecified	2 960	4 237	42	3	1 014	24	1 083	-	1 182	-	1 972

Table 4. Number of foreign arrivals by purpose of travel

Region	Total	Purpose of travel (May 2007)							Contract worker	Border Traffic
		Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
Grand total	699 450	17 047	648 737	6 344	9 524	2 712	78	684 442	-	15 008
Overseas total	138 837	7 360	123 855	731	5 915	626	7	138 494	-	343
Europe	76 044	4 193	68 486	356	2 653	286	1	75 975	-	69
North America	28 370	919	26 609	140	563	105	-	28 336	-	34
Central and South America	3 897	161	3 544	22	133	37	-	3 897	-	-
Australasia	8 429	342	7 923	17	122	20	-	8 424	-	5
Middle East	2 245	199	1 879	59	95	11	-	2 243	-	2
Asia	19 852	1 546	15 414	137	2 349	167	6	19 619	-	233
Africa total	556 376	9 626	523 814	5 189	2 874	2 078	71	543 652	-	12 724
SADC	543 893	8 396	513 825	4 807	2 152	2 007	41	531 228	-	12 665
East and Central Africa	5 753	534	4 601	217	307	32	29	5 720	-	33
West Africa	5 733	508	4 667	155	354	28	1	5 713	-	20
North Africa	997	188	721	10	61	11	-	991	-	6
Unspecified	4 237	61	1 068	424	735	8	-	2 296	-	1 941

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

Country	May		Purpose of travel (May 2007)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
	2006	2007									
Grand total	641 700	699 450	17 047	648 737	6 344	9 524	2 712	78	684 442	-	15 008
Overseas total	129 439	138 837	7 360	123 855	731	5 915	626	7	138 494	-	343
Europe	72 434	76 044	4 193	68 486	356	2 653	286	1	75 975	-	69
Austria	1 107	1 267	61	1 153	4	23	24	-	1 265	-	2
Belgium	1 744	2 188	136	1 964	10	71	6	-	2 187	-	1
Denmark	1 241	1 352	77	1 218	8	42	3	-	1 348	-	4
France	7 179	7 431	320	6 749	67	275	20	-	7 431	-	-
Germany	13 501	13 083	658	11 881	58	445	27	-	13 069	-	14
Greece	526	514	25	455	1	30	3	-	514	-	-
Ireland	1 758	2 225	84	2 070	8	49	13	-	2 224	-	1
Italy	2 947	3 207	168	2 965	10	52	11	-	3 206	-	1
Netherlands	5 058	5 637	243	5 182	29	165	13	-	5 632	-	5
Portugal	1 898	2 182	59	2 081	9	19	9	-	2 177	-	5
Spain	2 488	2 188	89	2 038	4	44	12	-	2 187	-	1
Sweden	1 568	1 567	127	1 336	10	91	3	-	1 567	-	-
Switzerland	1 870	1 916	111	1 744	9	44	8	-	1 916	-	-
UK	25 121	26 675	1 668	24 052	112	718	93	1	26 644	-	31
Other	4 428	4 612	367	3 598	17	585	41	-	4 608	-	4
North America	24 649	28 370	919	26 609	140	563	105	-	28 336	-	34
Canada	3 203	3 579	167	3 276	10	106	18	-	3 577	-	2
USA	21 442	24 784	752	23 326	130	457	87	-	24 752	-	32
Other	4	7	-	7	-	-	-	-	7	-	-
Central and South America	3 788	3 897	161	3 544	22	133	37	-	3 897	-	-
Argentina	460	464	20	423	4	11	6	-	464	-	-
Brazil	2 193	2 272	73	2 104	9	71	15	-	2 272	-	-
Chile	258	181	12	151	-	12	6	-	181	-	-
Other	877	980	56	866	9	39	10	-	980	-	-

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

Country	May		Purpose of travel (May 2007)								Contract worker	Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total			
	2006	2007										
Australasia	7 789	8 429	342	7 923	17	122	20	-	8 424	-	5	
Australia	6 452	7 113	294	6 680	12	104	18	-	7 108	-	5	
New Zealand	1 280	1 260	43	1 200	1	15	1	-	1 260	-	-	
Other	57	56	5	43	4	3	1	-	56	-	-	
Middle East	2 431	2 245	199	1 879	59	95	11	-	2 243	-	2	
Israel	950	943	66	837	-	36	3	-	942	-	1	
Saudi Arabia	154	136	6	124	1	5	-	-	136	-	-	
Turkey	428	302	29	235	4	26	8	-	302	-	-	
Other	899	864	98	683	54	28	-	-	863	-	1	
Asia	18 348	19 852	1 546	15 414	137	2 349	167	6	19 619	-	233	
China	3 120	3 634	309	2 727	26	488	7	-	3 557	-	77	
Hong Kong	451	372	30	338	-	3	1	-	372	-	-	
India	5 686	5 751	566	4 477	32	568	24	6	5 673	-	78	
Japan	2 744	2 908	170	2 563	4	151	20	-	2 908	-	-	
Malaysia	770	852	36	753	4	18	40	-	851	-	1	
Philippines	522	805	55	322	15	350	55	-	797	-	8	
Rep of China (Taiwan)	1 082	1 200	113	773	12	256	3	-	1 157	-	43	
Rep of Korea	982	1 302	60	1 170	24	42	5	-	1 301	-	1	
Singapore	499	531	45	447	-	35	3	-	530	-	1	
Other	2 492	2 497	162	1 844	20	438	9	-	2 473	-	24	

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

Country	May		Purpose of travel (May 2007)							Contract worker	Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total		
	2006	2007									
Africa total	509 301	556 376	9 626	523 814	5 189	2 874	2 078	71	543 652	-	12 724
SADC	498 307	543 893	8 396	513 825	4 807	2 152	2 007	41	531 228	-	12 665
Angola	2 332	2 488	75	2 178	139	66	30	-	2 488	-	-
Botswana	57 228	61 814	136	59 483	1 634	216	287	-	61 756	-	58
DRC	1 732	2 065	75	1 835	40	55	24	36	2 065	-	-
Lesotho	151 815	176 124	654	162 334	617	134	645	-	164 384	-	11 740
Madagascar	234	212	20	181	-	5	6	-	212	-	-
Malawi	9 624	11 534	630	10 748	42	73	25	-	11 518	-	16
Mauritius	1 006	1 143	84	1 019	9	21	7	-	1 140	-	3
Mozambique	71 876	90 490	268	89 596	200	119	40	-	90 223	-	267
Namibia	17 569	19 276	1 926	16 019	561	109	656	-	19 271	-	5
Swaziland	84 693	86 110	411	84 404	896	169	108	-	85 988	-	122
Tanzania	1 193	1 173	165	911	48	39	4	1	1 168	-	5
Zambia	13 131	14 598	1 801	12 507	121	117	44	-	14 590	-	8
Zimbabwe	85 874	76 866	2 151	72 610	500	1 029	131	4	76 425	-	441

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

Country	May		Purpose of travel (May 2007)								Contract worker	Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total			
	2006	2007										
East and Central	5 232	5 753	534	4 601	217	307	32	29	5 720	-	33	
Burundi	75	88	9	64	6	4	2	3	88	-	-	
Cameroon	237	369	48	264	21	33	-	2	368	-	1	
Central African Rep	4	8	2	3	1	2	-	-	8	-	-	
Chad	21	48	10	35	2	1	-	-	48	-	-	
Comoros	17	29	1	27	1	-	-	-	29	-	-	
Congo	537	542	25	472	20	18	3	1	539	-	3	
Djibouti	7	19	4	15	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	
Equatorial Guinea	20	30	-	26	4	-	-	-	30	-	-	
Eritrea	33	41	1	36	1	1	-	2	41	-	-	
Ethiopia	801	661	59	552	6	26	1	10	654	-	7	
Gabon	172	167	5	137	14	11	-	-	167	-	-	
Kenya	1 952	2 191	238	1 714	82	143	7	-	2 184	-	7	
Reunion	58	46	9	36	1	-	-	-	46	-	-	
Rwanda	193	182	20	138	13	6	5	-	182	-	-	
Sao Tome and Principe	12	5	1	4	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	
Seychelles	134	182	1	180	1	-	-	-	182	-	-	
Somalia	103	149	1	132	-	2	-	10	145	-	4	
Tristan da Cunha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Uganda	856	996	100	766	44	60	14	1	985	-	11	

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

Country	May		Purpose of travel (May 2007)								Contract worker	Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspec.	Total			
	2006	2007										
West Africa	4 939	5 733	508	4 667	155	354	28	1	5 713	-	20	
Ascension	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Benin	93	95	9	82	1	3	-	-	95	-	-	
Burkina Faso	29	61	7	51	-	3	-	-	61	-	-	
Cape Verde Island	41	50	1	43	2	2	2	-	50	-	-	
Cote D'Ivoire	178	199	31	144	1	21	2	-	199	-	-	
Gambia	68	46	7	32	-	6	1	-	46	-	-	
Ghana	929	1 170	117	948	16	82	3	-	1 166	-	4	
Guinea	64	103	7	86	3	6	1	-	103	-	-	
Guinea-Bissau	15	9	1	8	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	
Liberia	46	32	4	27	-	1	-	-	32	-	-	
Madeira Island	11	5	-	5	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	
Mali	59	81	6	69	-	3	3	-	81	-	-	
Mauritania	15	20	1	17	1	-	-	-	19	-	1	
Niger	16	35	8	23	-	2	2	-	35	-	-	
Nigeria	3 064	3 487	270	2 879	124	191	9	1	3 474	-	13	
St Helena	1	6	-	6	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	
Senegal	237	228	25	169	-	30	4	-	228	-	-	
Sierra Leone	45	61	3	45	7	3	1	-	59	-	2	
Togo	28	40	11	28	-	1	-	-	40	-	-	
Western Sahara	-	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	
North Africa	823	997	188	721	10	61	11	-	991	-	6	
Algeria	143	136	26	98	4	8	-	-	136	-	-	
Egypt	312	407	53	316	1	34	2	-	406	-	1	
Libya	45	76	21	39	2	6	6	-	74	-	2	
Morocco	100	119	27	83	1	5	2	-	118	-	1	
Sudan	137	153	28	113	2	7	1	-	151	-	2	
Tunisia	86	106	33	72	-	1	-	-	106	-	-	
Unspecified	2 960	4 237	61	1 068	424	735	8	-	2 296	-	1 941	

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. Introduction

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

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

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

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

2. Purpose of the statistical release

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

3. Scope and coverage

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

4. Data

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

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

5. Limitations

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

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

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

6. Glossary of terms

Key terms used in this release are defined as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

Overseas refers to all other countries outside Africa.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. Symbols and abbreviations used

- = nil

Unspec. = unspecified

General information

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

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