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KEY FINDINGS

1. Number of travellers

The May 2008 data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 2 127 827 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through the ports of entry. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 709 594 South African residents and 1 418 233 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures indicates that 361 496 and 348 098 South African resident arrivals and departures respectively were recorded. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals and departures are 745 809 and 672 424 respectively. A comparison between movements in April and May 2008 indicates that there was a 3,1% decline in foreign arrivals. The decline in foreign arrivals between April and May has been observed in the last five years. The May 2008 figure (361 496) for South African resident arrivals shows an increase of 6,7% compared to the May 2007 figure of 338 883. Similarly, there was an increase of 6,6% for foreign arrivals from 699 450 in May 2007 to 745 809 in May 2008.

2. Mode of travel

It is observed from Table 2 that road transport was the most common (68,1%) mode of travel used by 1 449 717 out of the 2 127 827 travellers. The arrival data on South African residents show that 39,9% came by air and 59,7% by road. For their departure, 41,8% and 58,2% used air and road transport respectively. When taking into consideration the countries of residence of travellers, it was found that for foreign arrivals, overseas travellers generally used air (88,2%) compared to road transport (11,4%) whereas travellers from Africa used road (89,8%) more than air transport (7,9%). Information on specific countries from which travellers came 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 (78,7%) of foreign arrivals were from Africa whilst less than a quarter (20,4%) were from overseas countries. Information on the country of residence was not available on 0,9% of the travellers. A comparison of the changes between May 2007 and May 2008 indicates that the number of overseas arrivals increased by 9,8% from 138 837 in 2007 to 152 447 in 2008. Arrivals from Africa increased by 5,6% from 556 376 in May 2007 to 587 338 in May 2008.

3.1 Gender and age distribution

The travellers from Africa comprised of 323 857 males, 262 159 females and 1 016 with unspecified gender. The data on overseas travellers had 91 410 males, 60 881 females and gender was not specified in 156 cases. Overall, more males than females from African (males: 55,2%; females: 44,7%) and overseas countries (males: 60,0%; females: 39,9%) 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 (85,0%) of African travellers is clustered between ages 20-54, peaking at age group 25-29. However, the age distribution of overseas travellers is slightly spread out. Overall 85,5% of overseas travellers is between ages 20 to 64 years. The percentage of older persons (65 years and older) from overseas countries was significantly higher (8,1%) compared to that among persons from Africa (2,5%).

3.2 Regional and national distribution

Overseas travellers came mainly from Europe (54,0%), followed by North America (20,3%), Asia (14,6%), Australasia (5,7%), Central and South America (3,2%) and Middle East (2,1%). Virtually all arrivals (97,7%) from Africa came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining arrivals from Africa is as follows: East and Central Africa (1,1%), 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 SADC countries that have been escalating since 2005. The number of travellers from overseas countries has been increasing gradually since 2005 through to 2008.

Data presented in Figure 3 indicate that the UK, USA, Germany, France, Australia, India, Netherlands and Canada were the eight leading overseas source countries. Travellers from these eight countries constitute 67,7% of all travellers from overseas. A comparison of figures from overseas for May 2007 and May 2008 shows that there were increases in the number of travellers arriving from all the leading source countries, Netherlands (4,6% up from

5 637 to 5 897); Australia (1,2% up from 7 113 to 7 199); Canada (16,8% up from 3 579 to 4 180); India (23,3% up from 5 751 to 7 090); France (30,8% up from 7 431 to 9 717); UK (8,7% up from 26 675 to 28 994); USA (8,2% up from 24 784 to 26 812) and Germany (1,9% up from 13 083 to 13 337).

The eight leading source countries from SADC were Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Malawi as shown in Figure 4. Travellers from these eight SADC countries made up 96,2% of all arrivals from Africa. When comparing arrival figures from the SADC countries for May 2007 and May 2008, there were increases in the number of travellers arriving from Zimbabwe (20,9% up from 76 886 to 92 926); Zambia (8,8% up from 14 598 to 15 884); Lesotho (2,0% up from 176 124 to 179 576); Mozambique (1,2% up from 90 490 to 91 535); Malawi (2,9% up from 11 534 to 11 870); Botswana (2,0% up from 61 814 to 63 028) and Swaziland (5,6% up from 86 110 to 90 954). However, the number of arrivals from Namibia declined (2,2% down from 19 276 to 18 856).

The eight leading source countries from 'other' African countries, shown in Figure 5, are Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Uganda, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Congo and Egypt. A comparison of arrivals for 'other' African countries for May 2007 and that of May 2008 indicates that those from Ethiopia (4,4% up from 661 to 690); Cameroon (42,0% up from 369 to 524); Ghana (7,5% up from 1 170 to 1 258); Kenya (6,7% up from 2 191 to 2 338); Nigeria (0,8% up from 3 487 to 3 516); Uganda (19,6 from 996 to 1 191) and Egypt (3,2% up from 407 to 420) increased. But the number of arrivals from Congo (20,5% down from 542 to 431) declined.

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 (2,2%), those who have come for work (1,6%) and those who have come to study (0,9%).

Overall, 90,7% of overseas travellers came to South Africa to visit. A detailed analysis of overseas travellers by region reveals that all the overseas regions had more than 79,0% travellers coming to South Africa for holidays. Travellers from Australasia (95,2%), North America (94,5%), Central and South America (93,0%), Europe (91,7%), the Middle East (85,4%) and Asia (79,9%) were admitted into South Africa as visitors. Travellers from Asia were more diverse in their purpose, for instance, 11,6% of travellers came into the country for work, 6,5% for business and 0,7% for study.

Although the majority (94,1%) 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 94,4% of travellers from the SADC countries were recorded as on holiday, 81,0% of travellers from 'other' African countries were admitted on visitor's permit. Proportionally, the lowest percentage (68,5%) of visitors came from North Africa, a region where, one in every five travellers were in South Africa for business.
- A relatively higher percentage of 'other' African than SADC travellers were here to study, work or for business.
- Overall, North Africa, West Africa and East and Central Africa had 7,0% each, of travellers who were in South Africa for work as compared to only 0,6% among the SADC travellers.



PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

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

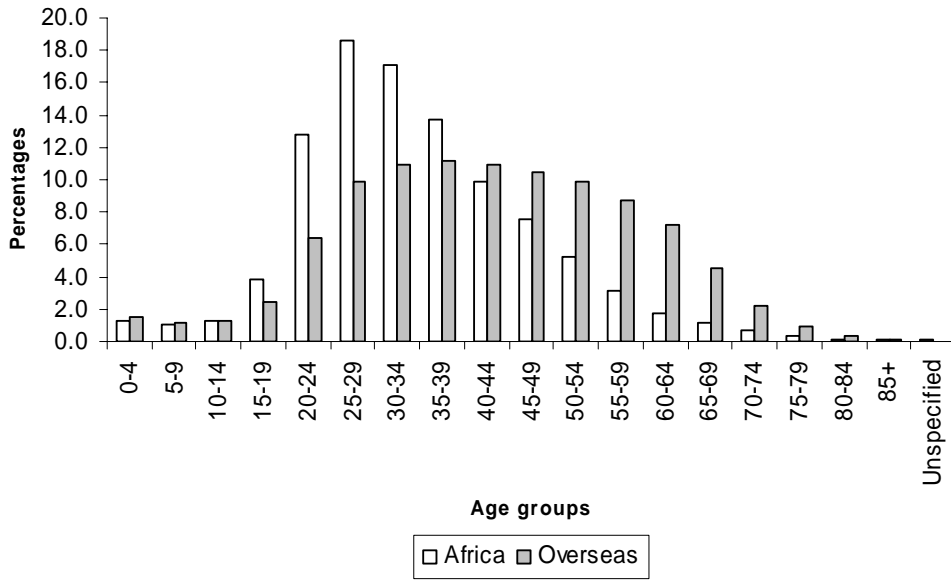


Figure 2: Number of May arrivals by region (2004 - 2008)

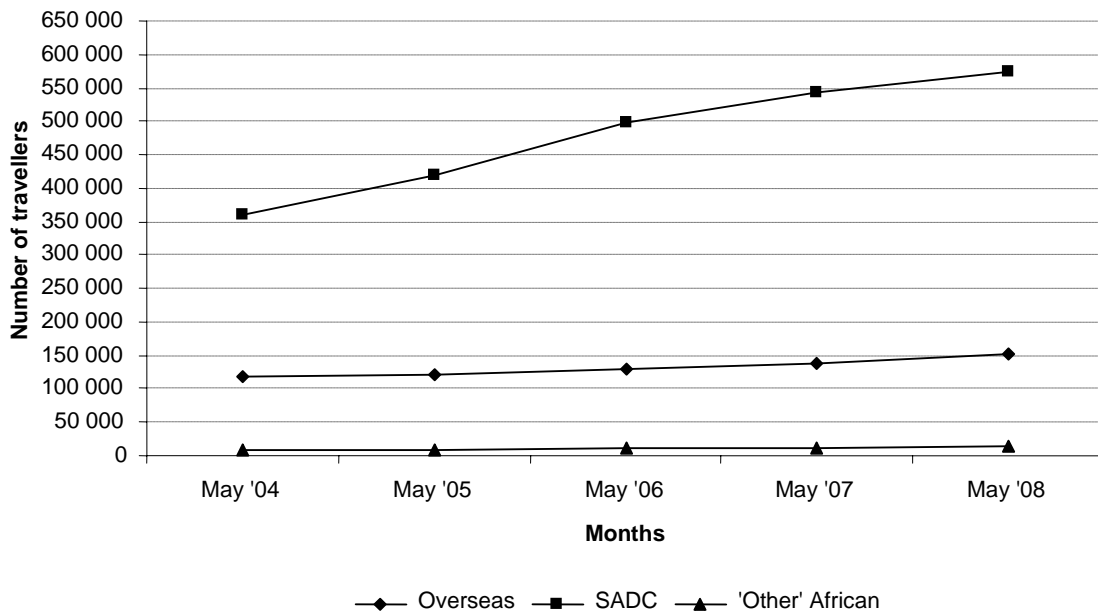


Figure 3: Number of overseas travellers arriving from leading source countries in May 2008 compared to May 2007

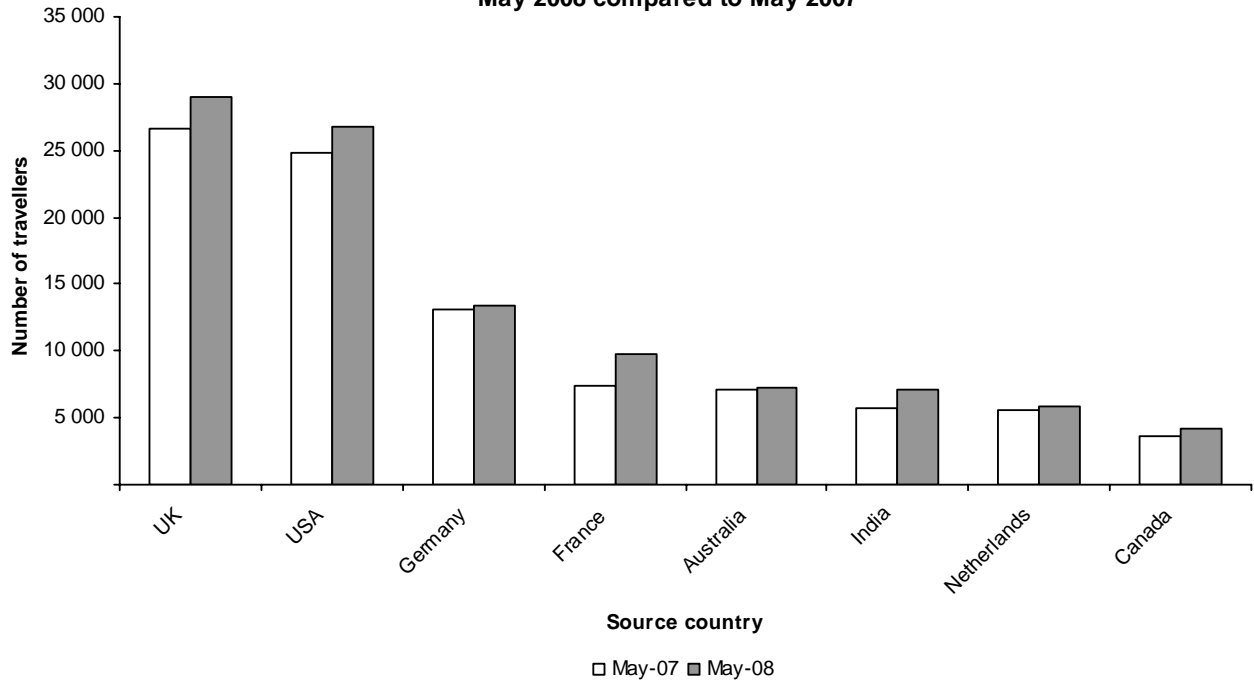


Figure 4: Number of travellers from SADC countries arriving from leading source countries in May 2008 compared to May 2007

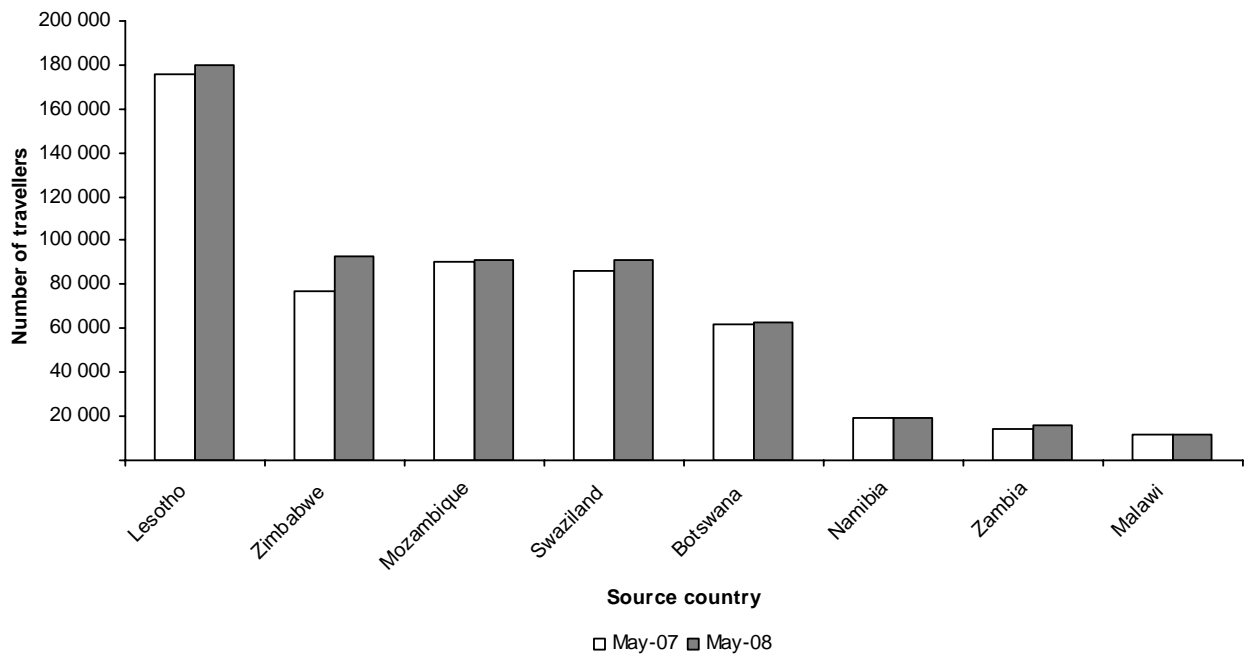


Figure 5: Number of travellers from 'other' African countries arriving from leading source countries in May 2008 compared to May 2007

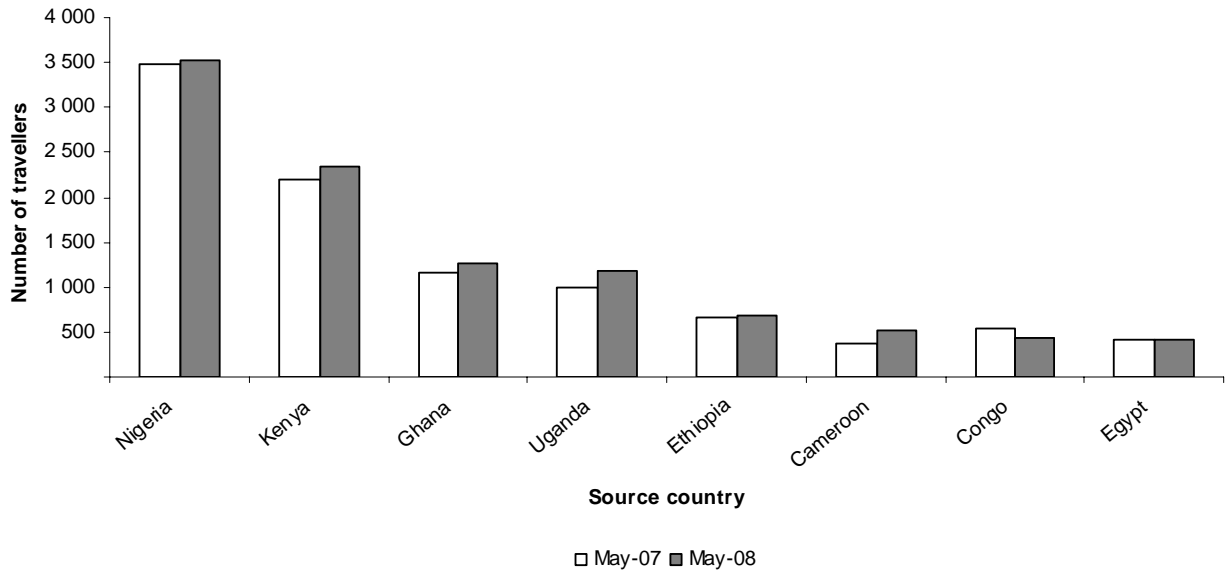


Table 1. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction

Travel direction	May	April	May	% change	% change
	2007	2008	2008	May 07–May 08	April 08 – May 08
South African residents					
Arrivals	338 883	358 969	361 496	6,7	0,7
Departures	327 054	375 406	348 098	6,4	-7,3
Foreign travellers					
Arrivals	699 450	769 545	745 809	6,6	-3,1
Departures	612 282	689 254	672 424	9,8	-2,4
Grand Total	1 977 669	2 193 174	2 127 827	7,6	-3,0

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

Travel direction	Total	Mode of travel (May 2008)								
		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
		(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Grand Total	2 127 827	94 281	2 676	552 712	10 297	659 966	177	1 449 717	458	17 509
Arrivals:	1 107 305	43 774	1 343	277 125	4 918	327 160	158	762 264	312	17 411
South African residents	361 496	17 619	1 004	122 103	3 653	144 379	28	215 847	101	1 141
Foreign travellers	745 809	26 155	339	155 022	1 265	182 781	130	546 417	211	16 270
Overseas	152 447	24 068	126	109 545	766	134 505	21	17 430	183	308
Africa	587 032	1 968	213	43 909	479	46 569	109	526 872	14	13 468
Unspecified	6 330	119	-	1 568	20	1 707	-	2 115	14	2 494
Departures:	1 020 522	50 507	1 333	275 587	5 379	332 806	19	687 453	146	98
South African residents	348 098	21 253	948	119 608	3 551	145 360	7	202 653	52	26
Foreign travellers	672 424	29 254	385	155 979	1 828	187 446	12	484 800	94	72

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

Country	Mode of travel (May 2008)										
	May		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Grand Total	699 450	745 809	26 155	339	155 022	1 265	182 781	130	546 417	211	16 270
Overseas Total	138 837	152 447	24 068	126	109 545	766	134 505	21	17 430	183	308
Europe	76 346	82 903	17 356	67	54 467	368	72 258	11	10 483	82	69
Austria	1 267	1 145	346	-	661	23	1 030	-	115	-	-
Belgium	2 188	2 235	263	-	1 651	39	1 953	-	279	3	-
Denmark	1 352	1 412	172	2	1 008	11	1 193	-	212	5	2
France	7 431	9 717	1 474	15	7 183	27	8 699	-	1 015	2	1
Germany	13 083	13 337	3 639	2	7 585	31	11 257	-	2 060	15	5
Ireland	2 225	2 133	632	1	1 218	9	1 860	1	270	-	2
Italy	3 207	3 132	569	2	2 241	21	2 833	-	288	6	5
Netherlands	5 637	5 897	1 297	6	3 206	16	4 525	3	1 365	4	-
Norway	873	1 028	255	2	660	1	918	-	108	-	2
Portugal	2 182	2 310	194	6	1 203	11	1 414	-	895	-	1
Spain	2 188	2 209	167	-	1 866	6	2 039	-	170	-	-
Sweden	1 567	1 787	330	1	1 230	4	1 565	-	220	1	1
Switzerland	1 916	1 954	314	-	1 324	9	1 647	1	301	5	-
United Kingdom	26 675	28 994	6 497	26	19 665	122	26 310	5	2 637	19	23
Other	4 555	5 613	1 207	4	3 766	38	5 015	1	548	22	27
North America	28 370	30 998	2 802	19	25 206	254	28 281	1	2 674	29	13
Canada	3 579	4 180	604	2	3 022	34	3 662	-	514	2	2
USA	24 784	26 812	2 195	17	22 182	220	24 614	1	2 159	27	11
Other	7	6	3	-	2	-	5	-	1	-	-
Central and South America	3 897	4 950	435	-	3 964	15	4 414	-	530	4	2
Argentina	464	624	266	-	311	2	579	-	45	-	-
Brazil	2272	3 039	49	-	2 700	8	2 757	-	282	-	-
Mexico	181	273	34	-	211	1	246	-	27	-	-
Other	980	1 014	86	-	742	4	832	-	176	4	2

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

Country	Mode of travel (May 2008)										
	May		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Australasia	8 429	8 684	530	13	7 244	56	7 843	-	835	5	1
Australia	7 113	7 199	414	12	6 038	49	6 513	-	680	5	1
New Zealand	1 260	1 419	116	1	1 167	7	1 291	-	128	-	-
Other	56	66	-	-	39	-	39	-	27	-	-
Middle East	2 245	2 703	219	1	2 253	8	2 481	-	221	-	1
Israel	943	1 375	25	-	1 238	5	1 268	-	107	-	-
Saudi Arabia	136	248	17	-	211	-	228	-	20	-	-
United Arab Emirates	219	242	50	-	192	-	242	-	-	-	-
Other	947	838	127	1	612	3	743	-	94	-	1
Asia	19 852	22 209	2 726	26	16 411	65	19 228	9	2 687	63	222
China	3 634	3 455	276	-	2 632	4	2 912	-	467	1	75
India	5 751	7 090	944	21	5 229	31	6 225	5	778	18	64
Japan	2 908	2 793	135	3	2 549	7	2 694	-	99	-	-
Malaysia	852	859	350	-	477	1	828	-	31	-	-
Pakistan	711	1 033	104	1	685	10	800	4	225	-	4
Philippines	805	920	90	-	634	4	728	-	142	23	27
Rep Of Korea	1 302	1 468	120	1	1 250	1	1 372	-	95	-	1
Singapore	531	1 050	180	-	846	-	1 026	-	23	-	1
Taiwan	1 200	1 268	256	-	513	3	772	-	444	19	33
Other	2 158	2 273	271	-	1 596	4	1 871	-	383	2	17

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

Country	Mode of travel (May 2008)										
	May		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Africa Total	556 376	587 032	1 968	213	43 909	479	46 569	109	526 872	14	13 468
SADC	543 893	573 338	1 760	204	32 787	356	35 107	99	524 704	12	13 416
Angola	2 488	3 009	108	-	2 692	44	2 844	-	165	-	-
Botswana	61 814	63 028	8	3	2 778	134	2 923	1	60 021	-	83
DRC	2 065	2 535	1	-	1 860	22	1 883	-	650	1	1
Lesotho	176 124	179 576	2	-	705	-	707	-	166 372	-	12 497
Madagascar	212	371	1	-	362	-	363	-	8	-	-
Malawi	11 534	11 870	1	1	2 204	9	2 215	1	9 641	-	13
Mauritius	1 143	1 356	116	108	995	1	1 220	-	134	-	2
Mozambique	90 490	91 535	71	88	2 556	36	2 751	3	88 598	1	182
Namibia	19 276	18 856	1 401	-	2 929	23	4 353	3	14 496	1	3
Swaziland	86 110	90 954	1	-	819	5	825	5	90 026	-	98
Tanzania	1 173	1 438	5	1	1 098	3	1 107	-	320	-	11
Zambia	14 598	15 884	4	-	6 411	6	6 421	1	9 450	1	11
Zimbabwe	76 866	92 926	41	3	7 378	73	7 495	85	84 823	8	515

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

Country	Mode of travel (May 2008)										
	May		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
East and Central Africa	5 753	6 386	51	6	5 053	68	5 178	1	1 187	1	19
Burundi	88	103	2	-	59	-	61	-	42	-	-
Cameroon	369	524	4	-	460	4	468	-	56	-	-
Central African Rep	8	15	-	-	15	-	15	-	-	-	-
Chad	48	40	3	-	33	-	36	-	4	-	-
Comoros	29	14	-	-	13	-	13	-	1	-	-
Congo	542	431	7	-	282	10	299	-	130	-	2
Djibouti	19	8	-	-	7	-	7	-	1	-	-
Equat Guinea	30	13	-	-	4	-	4	-	9	-	-
Eritrea	41	46	-	-	38	-	38	-	8	-	-
Ethiopia	661	690	2	-	546	2	550	-	134	-	6
Gabon	167	226	4	-	202	9	215	-	11	-	-
Kenya	2 191	2 338	9	2	2 000	34	2 045	-	285	1	7
Reunion	46	36	10	2	24	-	36	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	182	260	2	-	231	4	237	-	23	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	5	13	-	-	13	-	13	-	-	-	-
Seychelles	182	211	-	2	209	-	211	-	-	-	-
Somalia	149	226	1	-	7	-	8	-	218	-	-
Tristan Da Cunha	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Uganda	996	1 191	6	-	910	5	921	1	265	-	4

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

Country	Mode of travel (May 2008)										
	May		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
West Africa	5 729	6 085	35	2	5 112	43	5 192	8	867	1	17
Benin	95	124	1	-	98	1	100	-	24	-	-
Burkina Faso	61	45	-	-	44	-	44	-	1	-	-
Cape Verde Island	50	52	3	-	38	-	41	-	11	-	-
Cote D'Ivoire	199	233	2	-	225	-	227	-	6	-	-
Gambia	46	76	2	-	66	-	68	-	7	-	1
Ghana	1 170	1 258	6	-	1 079	4	1 089	1	165	-	3
Guinea	103	116	-	-	74	-	74	-	42	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	9	4	-	-	1	-	1	-	3	-	-
Liberia	32	53	-	-	49	-	49	-	4	-	-
Madeira Island	5	5	-	-	3	-	3	-	2	-	-
Mali	81	108	-	1	89	-	90	-	18	-	-
Mauritania	20	27	-	-	27	-	27	-	-	-	-
Niger	35	31	2	-	28	1	31	-	-	-	-
Nigeria	3 487	3 516	14	1	2 902	35	2 952	7	543	1	13
Saint Helena	6	8	4	-	1	-	5	-	3	-	-
Senegal	228	283	1	-	268	2	271	-	12	-	-
Sierra Leone	61	94	-	-	73	-	73	-	21	-	-
Togo	40	52	-	-	47	-	47	-	5	-	-
North Africa	1 001	1 223	122	1	957	12	1 092	1	114	-	16
Algeria	136	194	32	-	101	-	133	-	61	-	-
Egypt	407	420	9	-	373	12	394	1	25	-	-
Libya	76	97	23	-	48	-	71	-	12	-	14
Morocco	119	83	9	-	67	-	76	-	7	-	-
Sudan	153	251	19	-	224	-	243	-	7	-	1
Tunisia	106	177	30	1	144	-	175	-	1	-	1
Western Sahara	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	4 237	6 330	119	-	1 568	20	1 707	-	2 115	14	2 494

Table 4. Number of foreign arrivals by purpose of travel

Region	Total	Purpose of travel (May 2008)							Border Traffic Concession
		Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
Grand Total	745 809	16 524	692 031	6 831	11 917	2 287	29	729 619	16 190
Overseas Total	152 447	6 239	138 197	832	6 452	486	3	152 209	238
Europe	82 350	3 340	75 507	360	2 876	224	-	82 307	43
North America	30 998	808	29 299	204	596	78	-	30 985	13
Central and South America	4 950	161	4 604	21	136	27	-	4 949	1
Australasia	8 684	227	8 270	24	135	27	-	8 683	1
Middle East	3 256	251	2 779	70	141	15	-	3 256	-
Asia	22 209	1 452	17 738	153	2 568	115	3	22 029	180
Africa Total	587 032	10 229	552 232	5 099	4 194	1 795	25	573 574	13 458
SADC	573 338	9 199	541 136	4 667	3 237	1 676	17	559 932	13 406
East and Central Africa	6 386	502	5 099	253	449	56	8	6 367	19
West Africa	6 085	277	5 159	159	423	50	-	6 068	17
North Africa	1 223	251	838	20	85	13	-	1 207	16
Unspecified	6 330	56	1 602	900	1 271	6	1	3 836	2 494

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

Country	May		Purpose of travel (May 2008)							Border Traffic Concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
Grand Total	699 450	745 809	16 524	692 031	6 831	11 917	2 287	29	729 619	16 190
Overseas Total	138 837	152 447	6 239	138 197	832	6 452	486	3	152 209	238
Europe	76 346	82 903	3 381	75 976	365	2 914	224	-	-	43
Austria	1 267	1 145	65	1 052	1	24	3	-	1 145	-
Belgium	2 188	2 235	93	2 024	15	97	6	-	2 235	-
Denmark	1 352	1 412	44	1 312	4	45	5	-	1 410	2
France	7 431	9 717	261	9 090	59	284	22	-	9 716	1
Germany	13 083	13 337	477	12 266	76	493	20	-	13 332	5
Ireland	2 225	2 133	80	1 996	9	42	4	-	2 131	2
Italy	3 207	3 132	156	2 870	8	83	13	-	3 130	2
Netherlands	5 637	5 897	191	5 463	35	204	4	-	5 897	-
Norway	873	1 028	45	922	11	40	8	-	1 026	2
Portugal	2 182	2 310	36	2 226	9	31	7	-	2 309	1
Spain	2 188	2 209	44	2 086	2	55	22	-	2 209	-
Sweden	1 567	1 787	117	1 548	13	108	-	-	1 786	1
Switzerland	1 916	1 954	102	1 796	6	45	5	-	1 954	-
United Kingdom	26 675	28 994	1 335	26 796	90	700	51	-	28 972	22
Other	4 555	5 613	335	4 529	27	663	54	-	5 608	5
North America	28 370	30 998	808	29 299	204	596	78	-	30 985	13
Canada	3 579	4 180	128	3 886	25	126	13	-	4 178	2
USA	24 784	26 812	680	25 407	179	470	65	-	26 801	11
Other	7	6	-	6	-	-	-	-	6	-
Central and South America	3 897	4 950	161	4 604	21	136	27	-	4 949	1
Argentina	464	624	24	583	4	11	2	-	624	-
Brazil	2 272	3 039	63	2 910	7	46	13	-	3 039	-
Mexico	181	273	8	248	-	17	-	-	273	-
Other	980	1 014	66	863	10	62	12	-	1 013	1

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

Country	May		Purpose of travel (May 2008)							Border Traffic Concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
	2007	2008								
Australasia	8 429	8 684	227	8 270	24	135	27	-	8 683	1
Australia	7 113	7 199	189	6 866	17	106	20	-	7 198	1
New Zealand	1 260	1 419	34	1 352	3	25	5	-	1 419	-
Other	56	66	4	52	4	4	2	-	66	-
Middle East	2 245	2 703	210	2 310	65	103	15	-	-	-
Israel	943	1 375	64	1 246	3	54	8	-	1 375	-
Saudi Arabia	136	248	18	218	10	2	-	-	248	-
United Arab Emirates	219	242	34	160	45	2	1	-	-	-
Other	947	838	94	686	7	45	6	-	-	-
Asia	19 852	22 209	1 452	17 738	153	2,568	115	3	22 029	180
China	3 634	3 455	280	2 554	28	515	3	-	3 380	75
India	5 751	7 090	611	5 646	37	711	27	-	7 032	58
Japan	2 908	2 793	107	2 544	10	131	1	-	2 793	-
Malaysia	852	859	29	809	1	19	1	-	859	-
Pakistan	711	1 033	93	817	6	111	1	1	1 029	4
Philippines	805	920	25	389	-	463	37	-	914	6
Rep Of Korea	1 302	1 468	47	1 305	51	58	6	-	1 467	1
Singapore	531	1 050	32	997	-	16	4	-	1 049	1
Taiwan	1 200	1 268	116	850	10	253	13	-	1 242	26
Other	2 158	2 273	112	1 827	10	291	22	2	2 264	9

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

Country	May		Purpose of travel (May 2008)							Border Traffic Concession
			2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	
	Africa Total	556 376	587 032	10 229	552 232	5 099	4 194	1 795	25	
SADC	543 893	573 338	9 199	541 136	4 667	3 237	1 676	17	559 932	13 406
Angola	2 488	3 009	82	2 649	157	102	19	-	3 009	-
Botswana	61 814	63 028	123	61 224	1 198	224	176	-	62 945	83
DRC	2 065	2 535	100	2 223	58	91	51	11	2 534	1
Lesotho	176 124	179 576	695	165 238	502	164	480	-	167 079	12 497
Madagascar	212	371	32	298	3	12	26	-	371	-
Malawi	11 534	11 870	549	11 150	55	85	18	-	11 857	13
Mauritius	1 143	1 356	41	1 262	4	43	4	-	1 354	2
Mozambique	90 490	91 535	385	90 615	180	139	43	-	91 362	173
Namibia	19 276	18 856	1 904	15 582	727	79	561	-	18 853	3
Swaziland	86 110	90 954	357	89 186	970	193	150	-	90 856	98
Tanzania	1 173	1 438	168	1 151	56	45	7	-	1 427	11
Zambia	14 598	15 884	2 106	13 448	125	157	37	-	15 873	11
Zimbabwe	76 866	92 926	2 657	87 110	632	1 903	104	6	92 412	514

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

Country	May		Purpose of travel (May 2008)							Border Traffic Concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
East and Central Africa	5 753	6 386	502	5 099	253	449	56	8	6 367	19
Burundi	88	103	3	81	5	5	3	6	103	-
Cameroon	369	524	39	392	26	58	9	-	524	-
Central African Rep	8	15	1	14	-	-	-	-	15	-
Chad	48	40	11	22	1	5	1	-	40	-
Comoros	29	14	1	8	2	3	-	-	14	-
Congo	542	431	29	354	17	27	2	-	429	2
Djibouti	19	8	3	4	-	1	-	-	8	-
Equat Guinea	30	13	1	12	-	-	-	-	13	-
Eritrea	41	46	6	32	1	7	-	-	46	-
Ethiopia	661	690	49	590	15	28	1	1	684	6
Gabon	167	226	15	179	22	8	2	-	226	-
Kenya	2 191	2 338	230	1 774	91	223	13	-	2 331	7
Reunion	46	36	1	35	-	-	-	-	36	-
Rwanda	182	260	21	194	18	13	14	-	260	-
Sao Tome and Principe	5	13	-	9	-	4	-	-	13	-
Seychelles	182	211	-	209	1	1	-	-	211	-
Somalia	149	226	1	223	-	2	-	-	226	-
Tristan Da Cunha	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Uganda	996	1 191	91	967	53	64	11	1	1 187	4

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

Country	May		Purpose of travel (May 2008)							Border Traffic Concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
West Africa	5 729	6 085	277	5,159	159	423	50	-	6 068	17
Benin	95	124	3	114	1	6	-	-	124	-
Burkina Faso	61	45	10	29	1	4	1	-	45	-
Cape Verde Island	50	52	-	50	-	2	-	-	52	-
Cote D'Ivoire	199	233	17	179	10	25	2	-	233	-
Gambia	46	76	7	60	-	2	6	-	75	1
Ghana	1 170	1 258	24	1,139	8	79	5	-	1 255	3
Guinea	103	116	5	105	2	3	1	-	116	-
Guinea-Bissau	9	4	-	3	-	1	-	-	4	-
Liberia	32	53	7	39	1	6	-	-	53	-
Madeira Island	5	5	-	4	-	1	-	-	5	-
Mali	81	108	14	85	3	4	2	-	108	-
Mauritania	20	27	6	20	-	-	1	-	27	-
Niger	35	31	11	19	-	1	-	-	31	-
Nigeria	3 487	3 516	140	2,972	124	256	11	-	3 503	13
Saint Helena	6	8	-	8	-	-	-	-	8	-
Senegal	228	283	24	212	5	26	16	-	283	-
Sierra Leone	61	94	6	78	4	3	3	-	94	-
Togo	40	52	3	43	-	4	2	-	52	-
North Africa	1 001	1 223	251	838	20	85	13	-	1 207	16
Algeria	136	194	17	151	4	18	4	-	194	-
Egypt	407	420	47	322	4	43	4	-	420	-
Libya	76	97	25	48	2	3	5	-	83	14
Morocco	119	83	14	62	1	6	-	-	83	-
Sudan	153	251	58	172	9	11	-	-	250	1
Tunisia	106	177	90	82	-	4	-	-	176	1
Western Sahara	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Unspecified	4 237	6 330	56	1 602	900	1 271	6	1	3 836	2 494

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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