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1. Key findings

1.1 Travellers

1.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 2 679 806 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through South African ports of entry in May 2012. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 734 253 South African residents and 1 945 553 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 376 540 and 357 713 arrivals and departures respectively. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals and departures were 1 067 556 and 877 997 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in April 2012 and May 2012 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents decreased by 17,4% (from 455 895 in April 2012 to 376 540 in May 2012); while for foreign travellers, the arrivals decreased by 7,8% (from 1 157 430 in April 2012 to 1 067 556 in May 2012). For departures, the volume for South African residents decreased by 21,8% (from 457 250 in April 2012 to 357 713 in May 2012) and by 9,5% (from 970 112 in April 2012 to 877 997 in May 2012) for foreign travellers.

A comparison between the movements in May 2011 and May 2012 indicates that the volumes of arrivals and departures decreased for South African residents while they increased for foreign travellers. For South African residents the volume of arrivals decreased by 17,4% (from 456 026 in May 2011 to 376 540 in May 2012) and departures decreased by 11,4% (from 403 602 in May 2011 to 357 713 in May 2012). Conversely, the volume of arrivals for foreign travellers increased by 8,7% (from 982 056 in May 2011 to 1 067 556 in May 2012) and departures had an increase of 5,4% (from 832 803 in May 2011 to 877 997 in May 2012).

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

As presented in Table 1, in May 2012, 60 856 (5,7%) foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 006 700 (94,3%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups: arrivals only comprising of visitors who entered the country in May 2012 but did not depart in May 2012 [364 551 (36,2%)]; visitors who came once in May 2012 and left in May 2012 [345 494 (34,3%)]; and those who came and left more than once in May 2012 [296 655 (29,5%)]. Visitors were further grouped as same day visitors [314 654 (31,3%)] and overnight visitors (tourists) [692 046 (68,7%)].

Between April 2012 and May 2012, the volume of same day visitors increased by 6,8% (from 294 482 in April 2012 to 314 654 in May 2012) but tourists decreased by 13,8% (from 802 834 in April 2012 to 692 046 in May 2012). Furthermore, between May 2011 and May 2012, the volume of same day visitors increased by 0,5% (from 313 071 in May 2011 to 314 654 in May 2012) and the volume of tourists increased by 7,0% (from 646 785 in May 2011 to 692 046 in May 2012) during the same period.

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Travellers who cross South Africa's borders rarely use trains and ships since these are mainly used for transporting goods. Data presented in Table 2 show that in May 2012, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 1 938 531 (72,3%) out of the 2 679 806 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 736 822 (27,5%). The arrivals data on South African residents show that 140 215 (37,2%) came by air and 236 013 (62,7%) came by road. For departures, 140 057 (39,2%) and 217 478 (60,8%) used air and road transport respectively. In the case of foreign travellers, 256 081 (24,0%) arrived by air while those who came by road were 809 129 (75,8%). When departing South Africa, 200 469 (22,8%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 675 911 (77,0%) left by road. As shown in Table 2 an overwhelming majority, 298 603 (94,9%) of same day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 16 016 (5,1%) of same day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that, 481 726 (69,6%) used road transport while 209 591 (30,3%) came by air.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them into their respective countries and regions. Information on the specific region and country of residence of the tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3. In May 2012, 151 868 (90,0%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 16 217 (9,6%) 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 [463 401 (91,8%)]. Only 41 623 (8,2%) 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 14 361 (90,3%); with 1 528 (9,6%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In May 2012, the distribution of overseas tourists were as follows; Europe, 75 967 (45,0%); Asia, 35 907 (21,3%); North America, 35 151 (20,8%); Australasia, 10 042 (5,9%); Central and South America, 9 011 (5,3%) and Middle East, 2 718 (1,6%). Virtually all tourists from Africa came from the SADC countries, 505 027 (96,9%). The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 8 634 (1,7%); East and Central Africa, 6 100 (1,2%) and North Africa 1 169 (0,2%).

Data presented in Figure 1 indicate that United States of America (USA), 30 286 (17,9%); United Kingdom (UK), 23 677 (14,0%); Germany, 12 928 (7,7%); India, 12 641 (7,5%); China, 9 802 (5,8%); Australia, 8 597 (5,1%); France, 7 815 (4,6%) and The Netherlands 5 978 (3,5%) were the eight leading overseas countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in May 2012. Tourists from these eight countries constituted 66,2% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in May 2011 and May 2012 shows that the number of tourists increased in all of these countries. China had the highest increase of 72,7% (from 5 676 tourists in May 2011 to 9 802 tourists in May 2012) while UK had the least increase of 5,3% (from 22 484 tourists in May 2011 to 23 677 tourists in May 2012).

The eight leading countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in May 2012 from the SADC countries (see Figure 2) were Zimbabwe, 139 811 (27,7%); Lesotho, 130 441 (25,8%); Mozambique, 90 281 (17,9%); Swaziland, 60 610 (12,0%); Botswana, 31 978 (6,3%); Namibia, 16 315 (3,2%); Zambia, 13 739 (2,7%) and Malawi, 11 892 (2,4%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 98,0% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in May 2011 and May 2012 shows that the number of tourists increased in all the countries except Botswana. Malawi had the highest increase of 18,9% (from 10 004 tourists in May 2011 to 11 892 tourists in May 2012) while Botswana had a decrease of 11,4% (from 36 094 tourists in May 2011 to 31 978 tourists in May 2012).

The eight leading countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in May 2012 from 'other' African countries, shown in Figure 3, were Nigeria, 5 340 (33,6%); Kenya, 2 564 (16,1%); Ghana, 1 773 (11,1%); Uganda, 1 212 (7,6%); Egypt, 598 (3,8%); Ethiopia, 578 (3,6%); Cameroon, 477 (3,0%) and Gabon, 383 (2,4%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 81,3% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in May 2011 and May 2012 shows that the number of tourists increased in five of these countries (Egypt, Ghana, Cameroon, Kenya and Uganda) and decreased in three countries (Ethiopia, Gabon and Nigeria). The increase was highest in Egypt at 33,2% (from 449 tourists in May 2011 to 598 tourists in May 2012) while Ethiopia had the greatest decrease of 24,0% (from 761 tourists in May 2011 to 578 tourists in May 2012).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data given in Table 4, in May 2012, an overwhelming majority 611 012 (88,3%) of tourists were in South Africa for holidays compared to 19 688 (2,8%) and 5 389 (0,8%) of tourists who were in South Africa for business and study purposes respectively. A detailed analysis reveals that of all the tourists from each of the overseas regions, at least 54,0% came to South Africa for holidays. Australasia had the highest proportion of tourists in South Africa for holidays (77,5% – 7 778), followed by North America (76,5% – 26 888), Middle East (73,1% – 1 986), Europe (72,0% – 54 673), Asia (63,6% – 22 822) and Central and South America (54,7% – 4 925). Middle East and Europe had a higher proportion (12,4% and 7,8% respectively) of their tourists in South Africa for business compared to other overseas regions.

The majority [490 266 (94,1%)] of African tourists came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries namely:

- Whereas 94,8% (478 578) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holidays; 73,5% (11 688) of tourists on holidays came from 'other' African countries. Data on the regions of 'other' African countries show that tourists on holidays constituted 74,9% (6 470); 72,6% (4 430) and 67,4% (788) for West Africa; East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 6,9% (1 104) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,6% (8 170) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion (16,0% – 187) of its tourists in South Africa for business.
- Students made up 2,8% (440) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,8% (4 090) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa had the highest proportion (3,9% – 237) of their tourists in South Africa for study purposes.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 shows that, in May 2012, there were 404 572 (58,5%) male and 286 686 (41,4%) female tourists. The overseas tourists were made up of 103 246 (61,2%) male tourists and 65 421 (38,8%) female tourists. There were 288 344 (57,1%) male and 216 026 (42,8%) female tourists from the SADC countries. The tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 11 436 (71,9%) males and 4 465 (28,1%) females.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into three broad groups namely; those younger than 15 years, 15 to 64 years, and 65 years and older. The overall results presented in Table 5 show that 637 783 (92,2%) of tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years; 26 133 (3,8%) were aged less than 15 years and 27 499 (4,0%) were aged 65 years and older. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 144 974 (85,9%) of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 475 377 (94,1%) and 15 199 (95,6%) of tourists in the same age range from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries respectively.

For tourists aged less than 15 years, SADC and 'other' African tourists had a proportion of 3,5% (17 892) and 2,8% (445) respectively, while overseas countries had a proportion of 4,6% (7 769). There was a higher proportion of young female tourists in comparison to young male tourists from SADC and 'other' African countries.

A comparison of the three regions shows relatively high proportions of the elderly among both male 8,8% (9 074) and female 10,5% (6 847) tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to tourists from the SADC countries amongst which 1,8% (5 242) of males and 2,8% (5 949) of females were aged 65 years and older. Similarly among tourists from 'other' African countries, 1,7% (193) of males and 1,3% (60) of females were aged 65 years and older.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

2. Figures

Figure1. Number of tourists from eight leading overseas countries in May 2011 and May 2012

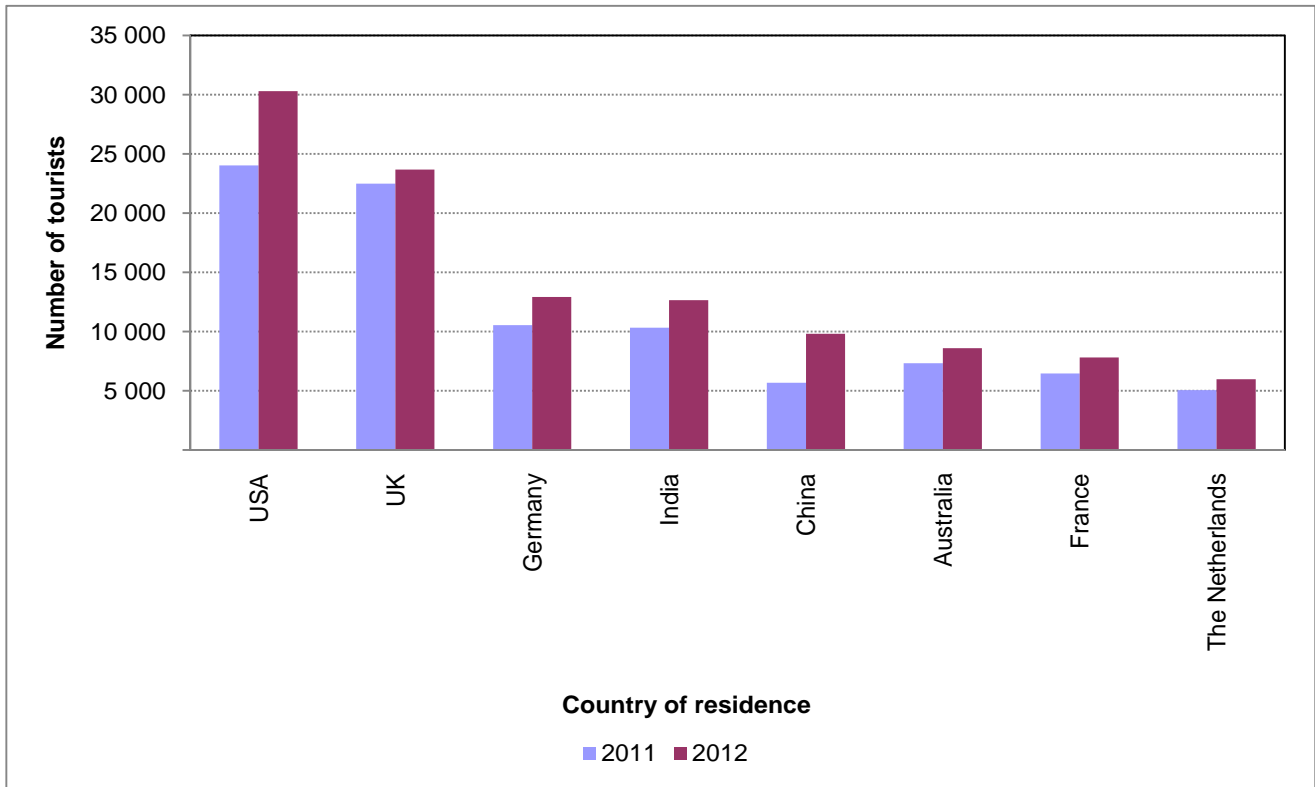


Figure 2. Number of tourists from eight leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in May 2011 and May 2012

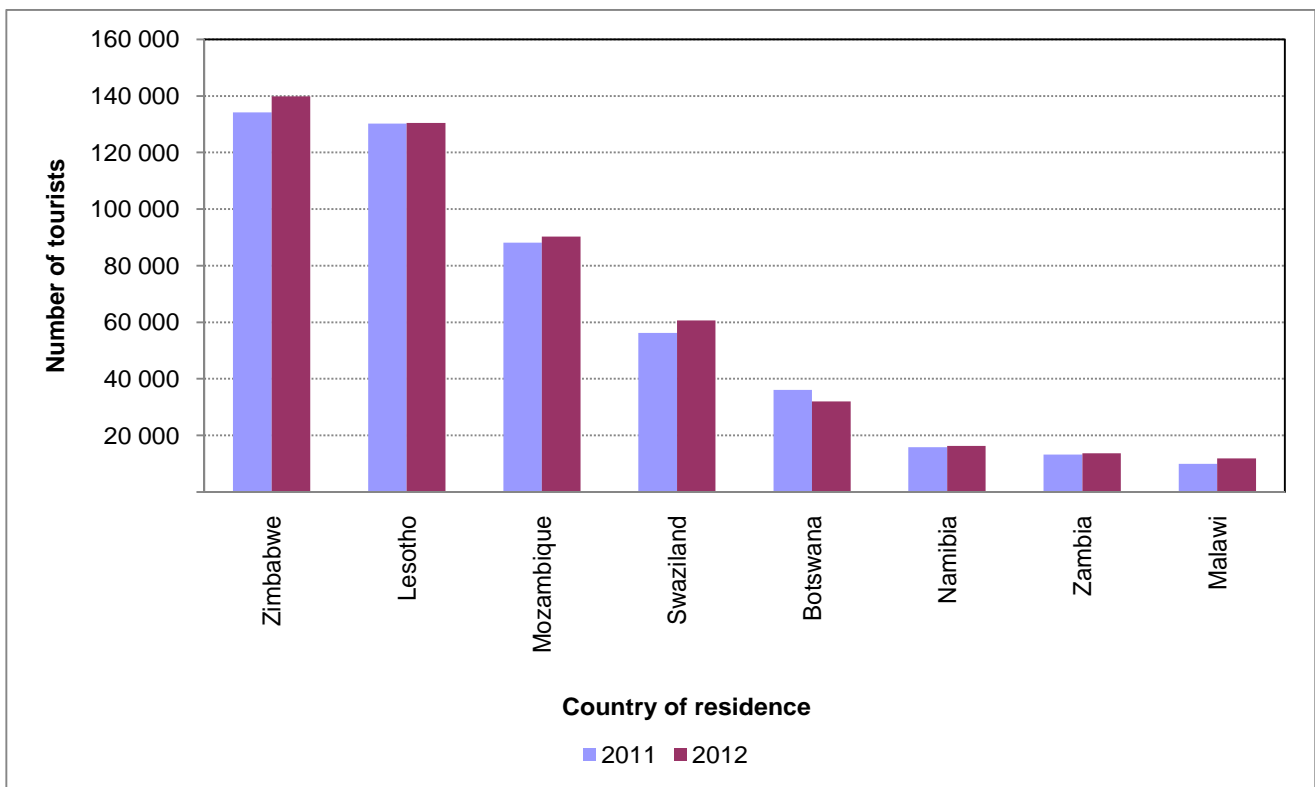
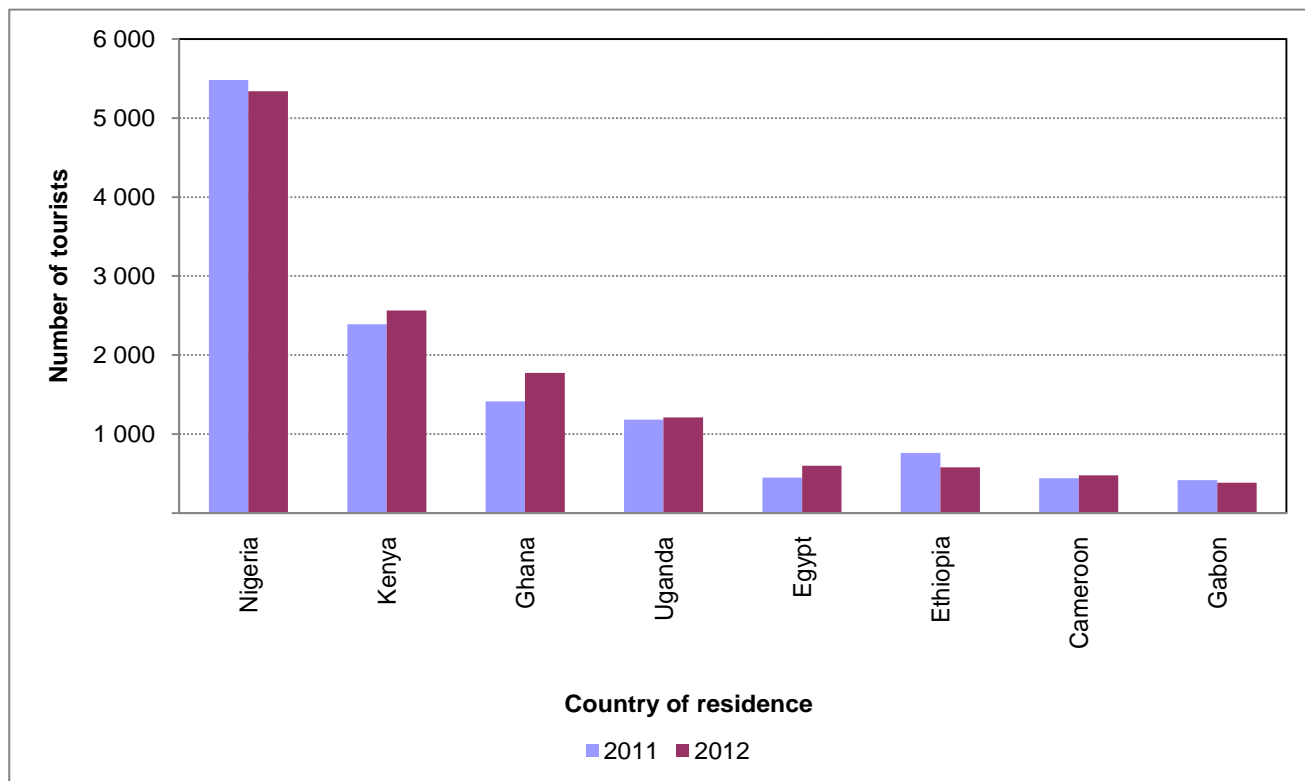


Figure 3. Number of tourists from eight leading 'other' African countries in May 2011 and May 2012



3. Tables

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

Travel direction	May	April	May	% change	
	2011	2012	2012	May 2011 - May 2012	April 2012 - May 2012
Total	2 674 487	3 040 687	2 679 806	0,2	-11,9
South African residents	859 628	913 145	734 253	-14,6	-19,6
Arrivals	456 026	455 895	376 540	-17,4	-17,4
Departures	403 602	457 250	357 713	-11,4	-21,8
Foreign travellers	1 814 859	2 127 542	1 945 553	7,2	-8,6
Arrivals	982 056	1 157 430	1 067 556	8,7	-7,8
Departures	832 803	970 112	877 997	5,4	-9,5
Foreign arrivals	982 056	1 157 430	1 067 556	8,7	-7,8
Non-visitors	22 200	60 114	60 856	174,1	1,2
Visitors	959 856	1 097 316	1 006 700	4,9	-8,3
Visitors	959 856	1 097 316	1 006 700	4,9	-8,3
Arrivals only	325 682	426 140	364 551	11,9	-14,5
Single trips	329 012	390 677	345 494	5,0	-11,6
Multiple trips	305 162	280 499	296 655	-2,8	5,8
Visitors	959 856	1 097 316	1 006 700	4,9	-8,3
Same day	313 071	294 482	314 654	0,5	6,8
Overnight (tourists)	646 785	802 834	692 046	7,0	-13,8

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

Travel Direction	May		Mode of travel (May 2012)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	2 674 487	2 679 806	89 933	17 677	619 693	9 519	736 822	1 938 531	4 447	6
South African residents	859 628	734 253	35 753	11 346	227 531	5 642	280 272	453 491	490	-
Arrivals	456 026	376 540	16 787	5 715	114 861	2 852	140 215	236 013	312	-
Departures	403 602	357 713	18 966	5 631	112 670	2 790	140 057	217 478	178	-
Foreign travellers	1 814 859	1 945 553	54 180	6 331	392 162	3 877	456 550	1 485 040	3 957	6
Arrivals	982 056	1 067 556	25 640	2 909	225 645	1 887	256 081	809 129	2 340	6
Departures	832 803	877 997	28 540	3 422	166 517	1 990	200 469	675 911	1 617	-
Visitors	959 856	1 006 700	22 174	1 973	200 174	1 286	225 607	780 329	764	-
Same day	313 071	314 654	363	33	15 469	151	16 016	298 603	35	-
Overnight (tourists)	646 785	692 046	21 811	1 940	184 705	1 135	209 591	481 726	729	-

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

Country of residence	May		Mode of travel (May 2012)						
			Air					Road	Sea
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	646 785	692 046	21 811	1 940	184 705	1 135	209 591	481 726	729
Overseas	135 922	168 796	19 140	1 746	130 127	855	151 868	16 217	711
Europe	66 436	75 967	11 015	1 033	54 544	284	66 876	8 871	220
Austria	956	1 093	115	21	867	4	1 007	80	6
Belgium	1 921	2 219	219	3	1 698	12	1 932	286	1
Denmark	1 122	1 253	138	4	987	3	1 132	118	3
France	6 456	7 815	882	48	5 947	48	6 925	877	13
Germany	10 552	12 928	1 316	155	9 787	16	11 274	1 642	12
Ireland	1 590	1 695	334	15	1 131	10	1 490	205	-
Italy	2 969	3 707	704	63	2 698	8	3 473	234	-
Portugal	2 789	3 398	219	19	1 977	24	2 239	1 157	2
Spain	1 748	1 780	192	5	1 425	12	1 634	146	-
Sweden	1 547	1 636	198	7	1 240	5	1 450	185	1
Switzerland	1 788	2 465	277	16	1 866	17	2 176	287	2
The Netherlands	5 055	5 978	1 200	40	3 657	8	4 905	1 068	5
Turkey	668	928	221	3	615	-	839	89	-
UK	22 484	23 677	4 121	567	16 692	98	21 478	2 031	168
Other	4 791	5 395	879	67	3 957	19	4 922	466	7
North America	27 954	35 151	3 720	142	27 790	328	31 980	2 788	383
Canada	3 920	4 865	662	55	3 547	21	4 285	487	93
USA	24 034	30 286	3 058	87	24 243	307	27 695	2 301	290
Central and South America	5 174	9 011	204	6	8 256	74	8 540	444	27
Argentina	661	1 240	20	-	1 182	3	1 205	35	-
Brazil	3 214	5 841	73	3	5 396	55	5 527	291	23
Chile	211	291	9	-	253	-	262	28	1
Other	1 088	1 639	102	3	1 425	16	1 546	90	3

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

Country of residence	May		Mode of travel (May 2012)						
			Air					Road	Sea
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	8 530	10 042	580	86	8 460	71	9 197	788	57
Australia	7 325	8 597	410	68	7 328	67	7 873	676	48
New Zealand	1 191	1 344	113	18	1 088	4	1 223	112	9
Other	14	101	57	-	44	-	101	-	-
Middle East	2 350	2 718	343	27	2 202	9	2 581	137	-
Israel	1 235	1 418	31	-	1 299	3	1 333	85	-
Lebanon	244	276	26	7	220	-	253	23	-
Saudi Arabia	193	294	78	5	206	5	294	-	-
Other	678	730	208	15	477	1	701	29	-
Asia	25 478	35 907	3 278	452	28 875	89	32 694	3 189	24
China	5 676	9 802	789	47	8 214	6	9 056	745	1
India	10 333	12 641	1 082	192	10 237	33	11 544	1 095	2
Japan	2 190	2 815	296	16	2 395	5	2 712	93	10
Malaysia	1 237	832	259	22	496	22	799	33	-
Pakistan	1 353	1 962	271	93	1 203	3	1 570	392	-
Philippines	658	1 575	85	26	1 251	4	1 366	203	6
South Korea	1 186	1 151	64	8	914	1	987	164	-
Taiwan	562	778	42	4	608	-	654	121	3
Vietnam	181	1 436	15	-	1 410	1	1 426	9	1
Other	2 102	2 915	375	44	2 147	14	2 580	334	1
Africa	508 776	520 930	2 609	186	52 909	280	55 984	464 929	17
SADC	493 644	505 027	2 281	159	38 955	228	41 623	463 401	3
Angola	2 751	3 046	270	-	2 652	19	2 941	105	-
Botswana	36 094	31 978	12	1	4 019	42	4 074	27 904	-
DRC	2 726	1 947	5	-	1 392	8	1 405	542	-
Lesotho	130 224	130 441	5	-	945	-	950	129 491	-
Madagascar	187	439	3	-	431	-	434	5	-

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

Country of residence	May		Mode of travel (May 2012)						
			Air					Road	Sea
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Malawi	10 004	11 892	-	1	2 626	11	2 638	9 254	-
Mauritius	1 211	1 317	99	79	1 019	2	1 199	118	-
Mozambique	88 202	90 281	119	61	4 534	36	4 750	85 531	-
Namibia	15 802	16 315	1 680	1	5 135	36	6 852	9 460	3
Seychelles	232	181	2	10	165	-	177	4	-
Swaziland	56 227	60 610	1	-	995	1	997	59 613	-
Tanzania	2 544	3 030	6	1	1 844	-	1 851	1 179	-
Zambia	13 272	13 739	19	1	4 729	20	4 769	8 970	-
Zimbabwe	134 168	139 811	60	4	8 469	53	8 586	131 225	-
'Other' Africa	15 132	15 903	328	27	13 954	52	14 361	1 528	14
East and Central Africa	5 932	6 100	41	10	5 352	33	5 436	664	-
Burundi	88	102	-	-	100	-	100	2	-
Cameroon	443	477	2	-	437	1	440	37	-
Central African Republic	17	24	-	-	22	2	24	-	-
Chad	31	43	-	-	42	-	42	1	-
Comoros	12	37	-	-	37	-	37	-	-
Congo	242	275	10	-	258	-	268	7	-
Djibouti	10	12	-	-	12	-	12	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	28	30	1	-	18	10	29	1	-
Eritrea	73	65	3	-	50	-	53	12	-
Ethiopia	761	578	3	4	499	-	506	72	-
Gabon	417	383	2	-	364	10	376	7	-
Kenya	2 391	2 564	11	5	2 231	4	2 251	313	-
Rwanda	212	270	-	-	255	-	255	15	-
Sao Tome and Principe	11	14	1	-	8	5	14	-	-
Somalia	13	14	1	-	11	1	13	1	-
Uganda	1 183	1 212	7	1	1 008	-	1 016	196	-

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

Country of residence	May		Mode of travel (May 2012)						
			Air				Road	Sea	
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other			Total
West Africa	8 170	8 634	156	4	7 642	18	7 820	800	14
Benin	158	114	-	-	105	-	105	9	-
Burkina Faso	85	75	1	-	71	-	72	3	-
Cape Verde Island	33	54	7	-	44	-	51	3	-
Côte D'Ivoire	152	159	9	-	146	-	155	4	-
Gambia	64	123	6	-	104	1	111	12	-
Ghana	1 412	1 773	84	1	1 548	2	1 635	138	-
Guinea	138	264	4	-	159	-	163	101	-
Guinea-Bissau	13	15	-	-	14	-	14	1	-
Liberia	50	64	1	-	61	1	63	1	-
Mali	120	107	1	-	93	-	94	13	-
Mauritania	19	25	-	-	24	-	24	1	-
Niger	20	37	4	-	32	-	36	1	-
Nigeria	5 480	5 340	37	3	4 796	14	4 850	490	-
Saint Helena	26	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Senegal	259	325	2	-	317	-	319	6	-
Sierra Leone	73	74	-	-	57	-	57	17	-
Togo	68	71	-	-	71	-	71	-	-
North Africa	1 030	1 169	131	13	960	1	1 105	64	-
Algeria	123	113	9	-	99	-	108	5	-
Egypt	449	598	48	2	522	1	573	25	-
Libya	67	70	18	2	31	-	51	19	-
Morocco	101	136	18	8	104	-	130	6	-
The Sudan	222	167	23	1	141	-	165	2	-
Tunisia	68	83	15	-	61	-	76	7	-
Western Sahara	-	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
Unspecified	2 087	2 320	62	8	1 669	-	1 739	580	1

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

Country of residence	May		Purpose of visit (May 2012)			
	2011	2012	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Total	646 785	692 046	19 688	611 012	5 389	55 957
Overseas	135 922	168 796	10 271	119 072	844	38 609
Europe	66 436	75 967	5 893	54 673	397	15 004
Austria	956	1 093	88	712	1	292
Belgium	1 921	2 219	157	1 708	17	337
Denmark	1 122	1 253	106	845	2	300
France	6 456	7 815	486	5 689	64	1 576
Germany	10 552	12 928	794	8 870	64	3 200
Ireland	1 590	1 695	134	1 300	9	252
Italy	2 969	3 707	332	2 606	13	756
Portugal	2 789	3 398	143	2 519	14	722
Spain	1 748	1 780	177	1 187	5	411
Sweden	1 547	1 636	180	1 117	7	332
Switzerland	1 788	2 465	95	1 521	10	839
The Netherlands	5 055	5 978	415	4 968	30	565
Turkey	668	928	97	675	6	150
UK	22 484	23 677	2 246	17 244	135	4 052
Other	4 791	5 395	443	3 712	20	1 220
North America	27 954	35 151	1 434	26 888	204	6 625
Canada	3 920	4 865	234	3 653	11	967
USA	24 034	30 286	1 200	23 235	193	5 658
Central and South America	5 174	9 011	219	4 925	23	3 844
Argentina	661	1 240	24	781	-	435
Brazil	3 214	5 841	118	2 974	14	2 735
Chile	211	291	10	198	1	82
Other	1 088	1 639	67	972	8	592

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

Country of residence	May		Purpose of visit (May 2012)			
	2011	2012	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Australasia	8 530	10 042	459	7 778	16	1 789
Australia	7 325	8 597	391	6 651	14	1 541
New Zealand	1 191	1 344	63	1 049	2	230
Other	14	101	5	78	-	18
Middle East	2 350	2 718	338	1 986	34	360
Israel	1 235	1 418	116	1 090	-	212
Lebanon	244	276	37	157	1	81
Saudi Arabia	193	294	50	227	10	7
Other	678	730	135	512	23	60
Asia	25 478	35 907	1 928	22 822	170	10 987
China	5 676	9 802	546	5 362	23	3 871
India	10 333	12 641	717	9 724	76	2 124
Japan	2 190	2 815	143	1 722	3	947
Malaysia	1 237	832	50	665	4	113
Pakistan	1 353	1 962	109	1 439	8	406
Philippines	658	1 575	44	694	9	828
South Korea	1 186	1 151	84	758	20	289
Taiwan	562	778	40	453	1	284
Vietnam	181	1 436	22	73	-	1 341
Other	2 102	2 915	173	1 932	26	784
Africa	508 776	520 930	9 274	490 266	4 530	16 860
SADC	493 644	505 027	8 170	478 578	4 090	14 189
Angola	2 751	3 046	88	1 982	132	844
Botswana	36 094	31 978	342	29 036	695	1 905
DRC	2 726	1 947	76	1 648	73	150
Lesotho	130 224	130 441	70	128 789	1 107	475
Madagascar	187	439	11	222	7	199

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

Country of residence	May		Purpose of visit (May 2012)			
	2011	2012	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Malawi	10 004	11 892	384	10 522	42	944
Mauritius	1 211	1 317	140	894	9	274
Mozambique	88 202	90 281	1 437	86 506	77	2 261
Namibia	15 802	16 315	1 508	12 211	453	2 143
Seychelles	232	181	12	138	2	29
Swaziland	56 227	60 610	1 091	58 158	899	462
Tanzania	2 544	3 030	128	2 310	55	537
Zambia	13 272	13 739	1 370	10 984	109	1 276
Zimbabwe	134 168	139 811	1 513	135 178	430	2 690
'Other' Africa	15 132	15 903	1 104	11 688	440	2 671
East and Central Africa	5 932	6 100	508	4 430	237	925
Burundi	88	102	12	66	3	21
Cameroon	443	477	41	331	24	81
Central African Republic	17	24	3	20	-	1
Chad	31	43	5	30	5	3
Comoros	12	37	2	24	-	11
Congo	242	275	19	219	17	20
Djibouti	10	12	-	9	-	3
Equatorial Guinea	28	30	-	23	5	2
Eritrea	73	65	-	58	-	7
Ethiopia	761	578	36	449	17	76
Gabon	417	383	9	315	18	41
Kenya	2 391	2 564	264	1 870	101	329
Rwanda	212	270	16	161	10	83
Sao Tome and Principe	11	14	-	13	-	1
Somalia	13	14	-	10	-	4
Uganda	1 183	1 212	101	832	37	242

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

Country of residence	May		Purpose of visit (May 2012)			
	2011	2012	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
West Africa	8 170	8 634	409	6 470	177	1 578
Benin	158	114	7	95	1	11
Burkina Faso	85	75	12	27	-	36
Cape Verde Island	33	54	2	44	-	8
Côte D'Ivoire	152	159	24	102	6	27
Gambia	64	123	9	44	2	68
Ghana	1 412	1 773	128	1 309	23	313
Guinea	138	264	8	189	2	65
Guinea-Bissau	13	15	-	6	1	8
Liberia	50	64	3	33	2	26
Mali	120	107	10	65	1	31
Mauritania	19	25	3	11	-	11
Niger	20	37	3	23	-	11
Nigeria	5 480	5 340	168	4 220	138	814
Saint Helena	26	14	-	14	-	-
Senegal	259	325	25	197	-	103
Sierra Leone	73	74	4	49	1	20
Togo	68	71	3	42	-	26
North Africa	1 030	1 169	187	788	26	168
Algeria	123	113	16	83	2	12
Egypt	449	598	96	391	11	100
Libya	67	70	2	49	5	14
Morocco	101	136	22	88	1	25
The Sudan	222	167	29	124	7	7
Tunisia	68	83	22	51	-	10
Western Sahara	-	2	-	2	-	-
Unspecified	2 087	2 320	143	1 674	15	488

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

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (May 2012)			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	692 046	168 796	505 027	15 903	2 320
	<15	26 133	7 769	17 892	445	27
	15 – 64	637 783	144 974	475 377	15 199	2 233
	65+	27 499	15 948	11 240	253	58
	Unspecified	631	105	518	6	2
Male	Total	404 572	103 246	288 344	11 436	1 546
	<15	13 028	4 029	8 759	224	16
	15 – 64	376 644	90 088	274 055	11 015	1 486
	65+	14 552	9 074	5 242	193	43
	Unspecified	348	55	288	4	1
Female	Total	286 686	65 421	216 026	4 465	774
	<15	13 105	3 740	9 133	221	11
	15 – 64	260 488	54 792	200 766	4 183	747
	65+	12 871	6 847	5 949	60	15
	Unspecified	222	42	178	1	1
Unspecified	Total	788	129	657	2	-
	<15	-	-	-	-	-
	15 – 64	651	94	556	1	-
	65+	76	27	49	-	-
	Unspecified	61	8	52	1	-

4. Explanatory notes

4.1 Introduction

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

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

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

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

4.2 Purpose of the statistical release

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

4.3 Scope and coverage

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

4.4 Data

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

- Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all road, air and sea entry ports on all travellers (South African residents and foreign travellers) arriving into or departing from South Africa are captured into the DHA's population Movement Control System (MCS). The counts/statistics relate to the number of individual movements, rather than to the number of people. Hence, the multiple movements of individual people during the calendar month are each counted separately. Generally the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the port's electronic database. No forms or cards are used (except in rare occasions when the capturing system is down) to collect information from travellers. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA.
- Stats SA downloads the data covering a particular calendar month from the mainframe of the State Information Technology Agency (SITA), where the DHA stores its data.
- As part of data interrogation, data from the OR Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airport Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA has been accompanied by an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern was also observed when the volume of travellers decreased. However, the volume of passengers recorded by ACSA is generally higher than that of the DHA because of, among other reasons, travellers who are in transit and those who boarded airplanes but refused entry into the country. In May 2012, the DHA data was 0,9% lower than that of ACSA.

4.5 Limitations

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

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

4.6 Definitions of terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release

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

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

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

Country refers to individual countries within a region. The country of residence is used. The country of residence should not be confused with the country from which the visitor travelled.

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

SADC refers to the fourteen countries, excluding South Africa, which belongs to the Southern African Development Community.

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

Overseas refers to all countries outside Africa.

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

4.7 Symbols used

- = nil

< = less than

5. General information

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

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