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Preface

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in May 2017. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country during this month. The tourists are classified by region and country of residence. Details of their mode of travel; purpose of visit; age and sex distribution are also provided.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

1. Key findings

1.1 Travellers

1.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 3 334 881 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in May 2017. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 874 240 South African residents and 2 460 641 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 448 314 arrivals, 425 134 departures and 792 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 249 433, 1 153 149 and 58 059 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in May 2016 and May 2017 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers, while the volume of travellers in transit decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 3,2% (from 434 520 in May 2016 to 448 314 in May 2017), departures increased by 2,1% (from 416 488 in May 2016 to 425 134 in May 2017), and transits decreased by 9,0% (from 870 in May 2016 to 792 in May 2017). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 2,3% (from 1 279 297 in May 2016 to 1 249 433 in May 2017), departures decreased by 1,1% (from 1 166 255 in May 2016 to 1 153 149 in May 2017), and transits decreased by 15,0% (from 68 281 in May 2016 to 58 059 in May 2017).

A comparison between the movements in April 2017 and May 2017 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, whereas the volume of travellers in transit increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 13,0% (from 515 265 in April 2017 to 448 314 in May 2017), departures decreased by 23,0% (from 552 015 in April 2017 to 425 134 in May 2017), and transits increased by 0,9% (from 785 in April 2017 to 792 in May 2017). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 10,5% (from 1 395 241 in April 2017 to 1 249 433 in May 2017), departures decreased by 12,5% (from 1 317 866 in April 2017 to 1 153 149 in May 2017), and transits decreased by 3,8% (from 60 347 in April 2017 to 58 059 in May 2017).

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 the DHA. Hence, it is not possible to categorise South African residents as tourists or non-tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation.

As presented in Table 1 on page 9, in May 2017, 82 149 (6,6%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 167 284 (93,4%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in May 2017 but did not depart in May 2017 [263 747 (22,6%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in May 2017 and left in May 2017 [409 129 (35,0%); and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in May 2017 [494 408 (42,4%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In May 2017, there were 400 225 (34,3%) same-day visitors and 767 059 (65,7%) tourists. Between May 2016 and May 2017, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 7,7% (from 433 400 in May 2016 to 400 225 in May 2017) and that of tourists increased by 0,8% (from 760 749 in May 2016 to 767 059 in May 2017). Between April 2017 and May 2017, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 2,5% (from 390 389 in April 2017 to 400 225 in May 2017), while tourists decreased by 16,5% (from 919 084 in April 2017 to 767 059 in May 2017).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 10 show that in May 2017, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 416 904 (72,5%) of the 3 334 881 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 907 065 (27,2%). Compared to use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 10 912 (0,3%) used sea transport. The arrivals data for South African residents show that 175 613 (39,2%) came by air, 270 287 (60,3%) came by road and 2 414 (0,5%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 173 214 (40,7%) used air, 250 690 (59,0%) used road and 1 230 (0,3%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit 792 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 239 652 (19,2%) arrived by air, 1 006 540 (80,6%) came by road and 3 241 (0,3%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 259 735 (22,5%) foreign travellers left by air, 889 387 (77,1%) left by road and 4 027 (0,3%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit 58 059 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 on page 10 further shows that of the 400 225 same day visitors, an overwhelming majority, 380 496 (95,1%) arrived in the country by road. Only 19 710 (4,9%) of same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that 563 305 (73,4%) used road transport, 203 577 (26,5%) came by air transport and 177 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them according to 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 on pages 11–14. In May 2017, 152 499 (89,0%) of the 171 417 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 18 782 (11,0%) came in by road and 136 (0,1%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 543 238 (93,5%), followed by air travel, 37 725 (6,5%) and 19 (less than 0,1%) arriving by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 12 443 (91,4%), with 1 150 (8,4%) using road transport and 22 (0,2%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In May 2017, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 80 816 (47,1%); North America, 39 821 (23,2%); Asia, 30 349 (17,7%); Australasia, 9 814 (5,7%); Central and South America, 7 698 (4,5%); and Middle East, 2 919 (1,7%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 11–12 indicate that the United States of America (USA), 34 965 (20,4%); United Kingdom (UK), 22 322 (13,0%); India, 14 628 (8,5%); Germany, 14 256 (8,3%); France, 12 093 (7,1%); Australia, 8 655 (5,0%); The Netherlands, 6 750 (3,9%); China, 6 524 (3,8%); Canada, 4 856 (2,8%); and Brazil, 4 754 (2,8%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in May 2017. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 75,7% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between May 2016 and May 2017 shows that the number of tourists increased for eight of the ten leading countries (Brazil, France, Australia, USA, Canada, Germany, The Netherlands and India) but decreased for China and UK. Brazil had the largest increase of 103,2% (from 2 339 tourists in May 2016 to 4 754 in May 2017), followed by France, which increased by 39,7% (from 8 659 in May 2016 to 12 093 in May 2017). China decreased by 20,9% (from 8 247 tourists in May 2016 to 6 524 in May 2017), followed by UK, which decreased by 0,3% (from 22 390 in May 2016 to 22 322 in May 2017).

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 580 982 (97,7%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 6 632 (1,1%); East and Central Africa, 5 536 (0,9%); and North Africa 1 447 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in May 2017 were: Zimbabwe, 155 009 (26,7%); Lesotho, 141 816 (24,4%); Mozambique, 110 832 (19,1%); Swaziland, 70 467 (12,1%); Botswana, 45 923 (7,9%); Namibia, 19 209 (3,3%); Zambia 14 284 (2,5%); Malawi, 12 904 (2,2%); Angola, 3 624 (0,6%) and Tanzania, 3 020 (0,5%). (See Figure 2 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 12–13). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,3% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in May 2016 and May 2017 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for four of the ten leading countries (Angola, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe) and decreased for the other six countries (Swaziland, Botswana, Lesotho, Zambia, Tanzania and Namibia). Angola showed the largest

increase of 19,6% (from 3 029 tourists in May 2016 to 3 624 in May 2017), while Swaziland showed the largest decrease of 6,3% (from 75 237 tourists in May 2016 to 70 467 in May 2017).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in May 2017 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13–14, were: Nigeria, 3 931 (28,9%); Kenya, 2 277 (16,7%); Ghana, 1 493 (11,0%); Uganda, 1 198 (8,8%); Ethiopia, 751 (5,5%); Egypt, 748 (5,5%); Gabon, 413 (3,0%); Cameroon, 389 (2,9%); Senegal, 230 (1,7%) and Congo, 210 (1,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 85,5% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in May 2016 and May 2017 shows that the number of tourists increased for five of the ten leading countries (Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Cameroon and Egypt) and decreased for the other five (Nigeria, Gabon, Senegal, Congo and Ghana). Uganda showed the largest increase of 12,2% (from 1 068 tourists in May 2016 to 1 198 in May 2017), followed by Ethiopia, which increased by 10,6% (from 679 tourists in May 2016 to 751 in May 2017). Nigeria showed the largest decrease of 34,4% (from 5 991 tourists in May 2016 to 3 931 in May 2017), followed by Gabon, which decreased by 13,6% (from 478 tourists in May 2016 to 413 in May 2017).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on pages 15–18, in May 2017, the majority of tourists, 739 961 (96,5%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 21 931 (2,9%) and 5 167 (0,7%) who were in South Africa for business and for study purposes respectively.

A total of 7 544 (98,0%) tourists from Central and South America, 9 595 (97,8%) from Australasia, 38 687 (97,2%) from North America, 76 032 (94,1%) from Europe, 28 405 (93,6%) from Asia and 2 599 (89,0%) from Middle East were in South Africa for holiday. Middle East had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business, 9,5% (277) and study purposes, 1,5% (43) compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists, 576 137 (96,9%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 564 112 (97,1%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 12 025 (88,3%) of tourists from 'other' African countries came for the same purpose. Data on the regions of 'other' African countries show that tourists on holiday constituted 90,4% (5 993); 86,9% (4 810); and 84,5% (1 222) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 7,8% (1 057) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 2,3% (13 152) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 11,9% (172) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes.
- Students made up 3,9% (533) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,6% (3 718) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa, 4,4% (245) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in May 2017, there were 439 744 (57,3%) male and 327 315 (42,7%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 96 129 (56,1%) male tourists and 75 288 (43,9%) female tourists. There were 333 825 (57,5%) male and 247 157 (42,5%) female tourists from the SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 9 163 (67,3%) male and 4 452 (32,7%) female tourists.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into three broad groups: Those younger than 15 years, 15 to 64 years, and 65 years and older. The overall results presented in Table 5 on page 19 show that 28 155 (3,7%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 700 694 (91,3%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 38 210 (5,0%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 546 256 (94,0%) tourists from SADC countries and 12 846 (94,4%) tourists of 'other' African countries were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 140 571 (82,0%) tourists in the same age range from overseas. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas, 4,4% (7 526), than among those from SADC, 3,5% (20 184) and from 'other' African countries, 3,2% (441).

A comparison of the three regions shows relatively higher proportions of the elderly among both male and female tourists from overseas. Tourists aged 65 years and older comprised 13,0% (12 504) of male and 14,4% (10 816) of female tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to the pattern observed among tourists from the other two regions where tourists aged 65 years and older comprised less than 3,5% of both male and female tourists. From the SADC countries elderly tourists made up 2,0% (6 622) and 3,2% (7 920) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,2% (198) and 2,9% (130) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in May 2016 and May 2017

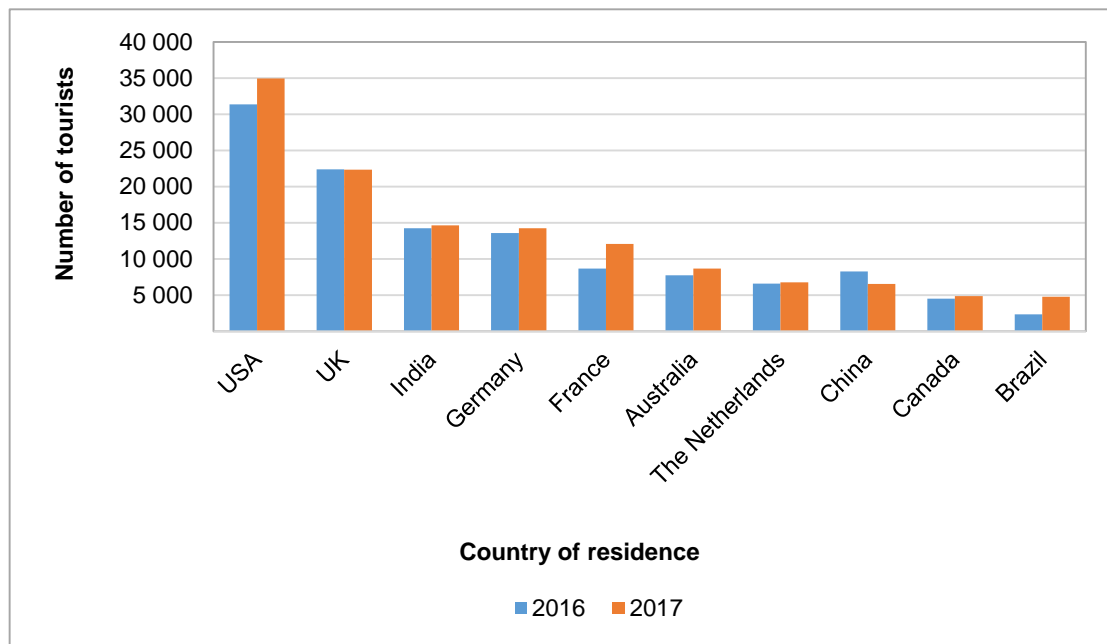


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in May 2016 and May 2017

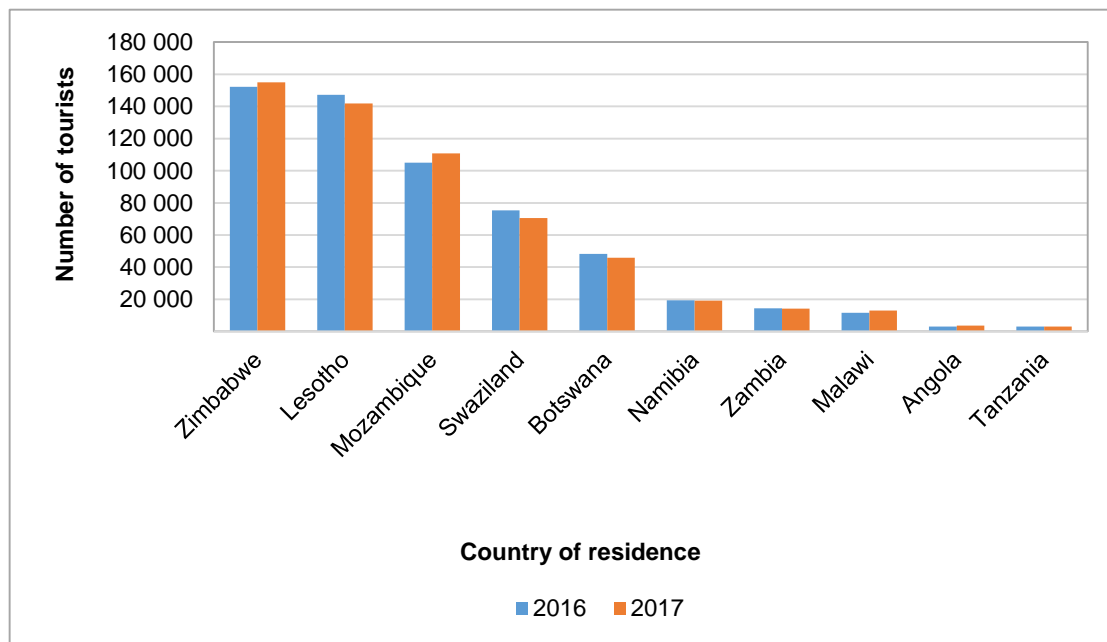
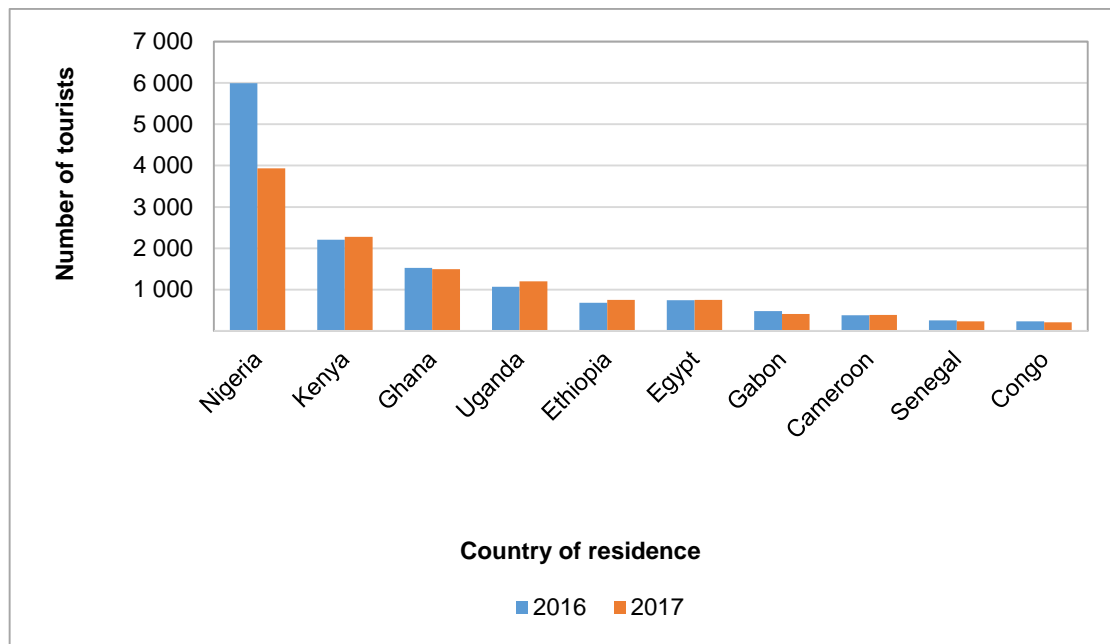


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in May 2016 and May 2017



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	May 2016	April 2017	May 2017	% Change	
				Apr – May 2017	May 2016 – May 2017
Total	3 365 711	3 841 519	3 334 881	-13,2%	-0,9%
South African residents	851 878	1 068 065	874 240	-18,1%	2,6%
Arrivals	434 520	515 265	448 314	-13,0%	3,2%
Departures	416 488	552 015	425 134	-23,0%	2,1%
Transits	870	785	792	0,9%	-9,0%
Foreign travellers	2 513 833	2 773 454	2 460 641	-11,3%	-2,1%
Arrivals	1 279 297	1 395 241	1 249 433	-10,5%	-2,3%
Departures	1 166 255	1 317 866	1 153 149	-12,5%	-1,1%
Transits	68 281	60 347	58 059	-3,8%	-15,0%
Foreign arrivals	1 279 297	1 395 241	1 249 433	-10,5%	-2,3%
Non-visitors	85 148	85 768	82 149	-4,2%	-3,5%
Visitors	1 194 149	1 309 473	1 167 284	-10,9%	-2,2%
Visitors	1 194 149	1 309 473	1 167 284	-10,9%	-2,2%
Arrivals only	255 804	327 725	263 747	-19,5%	3,1%
Single trips	428 349	486 251	409 129	-15,9%	-4,5%
Multiple trips	509 996	495 497	494 408	-0,2%	-3,1%
Visitors	1 194 149	1 309 473	1 167 284	-10,9%	-2,2%
Same-Day	433 400	390 389	400 225	2,5%	-7,7%
Overnight (Tourists)	760 749	919 084	767 059	-16,5%	0,8%

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

Travel direction	Total	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O. R. Tambo	Other Airports	Total		
Total	3 334 881	145 959	30 294	722 413	8 399	907 065	2 416 904	10 912
South African residents	874 240	54 452	19 216	270 879	5 072	349 619	520 977	3 644
Arrivals	448 314	25 802	9 659	137 637	2 515	175 613	270 287	2 414
Departures	425 134	28 641	9 557	132 459	2 557	173 214	250 690	1 230
Transits	792	9	-	783	-	792	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 460 641	91 507	11 078	451 534	3 327	557 446	1 895 927	7 268
Arrivals	1 249 433	41 742	5 096	191 513	1 301	239 652	1 006 540	3 241
Departures	1 153 149	49 635	5 982	202 094	2 024	259 735	889 387	4 027
Transits	58 059	130	-	57 927	2	58 059	-	-
Visitors	1 167 284	39 256	3 712	179 269	1 050	223 287	943 801	196
Same day	400 225	500	43	19 073	94	19 710	380 496	19
Tourist	767 059	38 756	3 669	160 196	956	203 577	563 305	177

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (May 2017)

Country of residence	May		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	760 749	767 059	38 756	3 669	160 196	956	203 577	563 305	177
Overseas	160 627	171 417	33 645	2 711	115 310	833	152 499	18 782	136
Europe	75 706	80 816	18 035	1 511	49 559	158	69 263	11 433	120
Austria	1 252	1 205	253	11	805	3	1 072	133	-
Belgium	2 391	2 545	505	27	1 666	3	2 201	344	-
Denmark	1 152	1 231	282	7	858	-	1 147	84	-
France	8 659	12 093	2 703	103	6 628	15	9 449	2 627	17
Germany	13 562	14 256	2 975	138	9 084	18	12 215	2 029	12
Ireland	1 569	1 513	427	66	894	1	1 388	124	1
Italy	3 370	3 264	740	69	2 174	5	2 988	272	4
Portugal	2 845	2 802	400	17	1 279	7	1 703	1 099	-
Spain	1 928	2 596	587	39	1 783	10	2 419	177	-
Sweden	1 958	1 587	493	34	922	4	1 453	131	3
Switzerland	2 067	2 251	442	31	1 418	13	1 904	343	4
The Netherlands	6 585	6 750	1 747	81	3 462	9	5 299	1 451	-
Turkey	1 218	1 171	375	20	629	-	1 024	147	-
UK	22 390	22 322	4 872	743	14 687	56	20 358	1 887	77
Other	4 760	5 230	1 234	125	3 270	14	4 643	585	2
North America	35 872	39 821	8 404	374	27 331	297	36 406	3 408	7
Canada	4 505	4 856	1 138	89	3 067	37	4 331	521	4
USA	31 367	34 965	7 266	285	24 264	260	32 075	2 887	3
Central and South America	4 445	7 698	407	17	6 762	10	7 196	498	4
Argentina	566	1 057	21	-	949	-	970	87	-
Brazil	2 339	4 754	199	8	4 265	1	4 473	277	4
Mexico	309	484	79	1	384	2	466	18	-
Other	1 231	1 403	108	8	1 164	7	1 287	116	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (May 2017) (continued)

Country of residence	May		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	9 319	9 814	644	93	7 928	307	8 972	841	1
Australia	7 736	8 655	555	68	6 971	299	7 893	761	1
New Zealand	1 565	1 139	89	24	938	8	1 059	80	-
Other	18	20	-	1	19	-	20	-	-
Middle East	3 650	2 919	618	32	2 108	3	2 761	158	-
Israel	1 342	1 197	152	17	952	1	1 122	75	-
Lebanon	236	318	69	3	218	1	291	27	-
Saudi Arabia	1 031	360	72	-	288	-	360	-	-
Other	1 041	1 044	325	12	650	1	988	56	-
Asia	31 635	30 349	5 537	684	21 622	58	27 901	2 444	4
Bangladesh	549	422	42	16	214	-	272	150	-
China	8 247	6 524	668	67	5 414	8	6 157	367	-
India	14 237	14 628	3 267	376	10 056	11	13 710	916	2
Japan	2 092	2 101	252	62	1 710	2	2 026	75	-
Malaysia	731	766	293	22	424	1	740	26	-
Pakistan	1 452	1 382	94	82	724	-	900	482	-
Philippines	471	655	160	13	415	11	599	56	-
Singapore	746	675	202	9	421	21	653	22	-
South Korea	1 312	1 334	168	11	997	2	1 178	156	-
Thailand	498	567	123	15	404	-	542	24	1
Other	1 300	1 295	268	11	843	2	1 124	170	1
Africa	598 997	594 597	5 076	949	44 020	123	50 168	544 388	41
SADC	583 480	580 982	4 050	790	32 775	110	37 725	543 238	19
Angola	3 029	3 624	1 138	-	2 365	1	3 504	120	-
Botswana	48 225	45 923	183	129	2 535	11	2 858	43 065	-
DRC	1 841	1 785	39	3	1 315	1	1 358	427	-
Lesotho	147 177	141 816	1	2	591	-	594	141 222	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (May 2017) (continued)

Country of residence	May		Air				Total	Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other			
Madagascar	243	188	12	-	172	2	186	1	1
Malawi	11 676	12 904	8	3	1 908	15	1 934	10 970	-
Mauritius	1 396	1 413	162	55	1 085	-	1 302	110	1
Mozambique	104 975	110 832	5	39	2 663	7	2 714	108 118	-
Namibia	19 342	19 209	2 263	209	3 188	17	5 677	13 517	15
Seychelles	571	508	3	90	398	-	491	15	2
Swaziland	75 237	70 467	2	48	552	1	603	69 864	-
Tanzania	3 045	3 020	41	12	1 710	9	1 772	1 248	-
Zambia	14 459	14 284	55	103	3 357	9	3 524	10 760	-
Zimbabwe	152 264	155 009	138	97	10 936	37	11 208	143 801	-
'Other' African	15 517	13 615	1 026	159	11 245	13	12 443	1 150	22
East and Central Africa	5 374	5 536	484	66	4 539	5	5 094	441	1
Burundi	59	54	1	2	47	-	50	4	-
Cameroon	381	389	27	2	327	2	358	31	-
Central African Republic	8	12	1	-	10	-	11	1	-
Chad	38	18	3	-	15	-	18	-	-
Comoros	13	16	-	-	15	-	15	1	-
Congo	228	210	21	1	186	-	208	2	-
Djibouti	12	11	2	-	9	-	11	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	20	37	5	2	30	-	37	-	-
Eritrea	46	31	2	2	21	-	25	6	-
Ethiopia	679	751	73	27	553	1	654	97	-
Gabon	478	413	4	-	404	1	409	4	-
Kenya	2 203	2 277	278	12	1 838	1	2 129	147	1
Réunion	31	12	12	-	-	-	12	-	-
Rwanda	75	58	2	-	52	-	54	4	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	10	2	1	-	1	-	2	-	-
Somalia	25	47	5	1	20	-	26	21	-
Uganda	1 068	1 198	47	17	1 011	-	1 075	123	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (May 2017) (concluded)

Country of residence	May		Air				Road	Sea	
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other			Total
West Africa	8 774	6 632	275	60	5 652	5	5 992	619	21
Benin	186	109	7	-	98	-	105	4	-
Burkina Faso	46	57	9	1	44	1	55	2	-
Cape Verde Island	43	54	13	-	40	-	53	1	-
Côte d'Ivoire	206	160	16	-	141	-	157	3	-
Gambia	50	58	2	-	56	-	58	-	-
Ghana	1 527	1 493	44	6	1 339	4	1 393	100	-
Guinea	132	164	4	-	116	-	120	44	-
Guinea-Bissau	7	12	1	-	9	-	10	2	-
Liberia	63	47	3	-	43	-	46	1	-
Mali	115	129	18	-	48	-	66	63	-
Mauritania	12	36	4	-	32	-	36	-	-
Niger	38	29	4	2	20	-	26	3	-
Nigeria	5 991	3 931	128	27	3 394	-	3 549	382	-
Saint Helena	11	22	1	-	-	-	1	-	21
Senegal	251	230	7	24	189	-	220	10	-
Sierra Leone	50	47	3	-	41	-	44	3	-
Togo	46	54	11	-	42	-	53	1	-
North Africa	1 369	1 447	267	33	1 054	3	1 357	90	-
Algeria	89	109	8	-	99	1	108	1	-
Egypt	744	748	140	11	559	1	711	37	-
Libya	54	81	29	4	26	-	59	22	-
Morocco	152	159	30	7	108	-	145	14	-
South Sudan	88	58	2	-	50	-	52	6	-
The Sudan	142	177	38	11	118	-	167	10	-
Tunisia	96	110	20	-	89	1	110	-	-
Western Sahara	4	5	-	-	5	-	5	-	-
Unspecified	1 125	1 045	35	9	866	-	910	135	-

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

Country of residence	May		Purpose of visit (May 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
Total	760 749	767 059	21 931	739 961	5 167
Overseas	160 627	171 417	7 639	162 862	916
Europe	75 706	80 816	4 364	76 032	420
Austria	1 252	1 205	63	1 136	6
Belgium	2 391	2 545	165	2 362	18
Denmark	1 152	1 231	94	1 132	5
France	8 659	12 093	410	11 577	106
Germany	13 562	14 256	605	13 598	53
Ireland	1 569	1 513	89	1 413	11
Italy	3 370	3 264	236	3 015	13
Portugal	2 845	2 802	102	2 685	15
Spain	1 928	2 596	159	2 428	9
Sweden	1 958	1 587	130	1 450	7
Switzerland	2 067	2 251	77	2 167	7
The Netherlands	6 585	6 750	334	6 381	35
Turkey	1 218	1 171	117	1 049	5
UK	22 390	22 322	1 352	20 880	90
Other	4 760	5 230	431	4 759	40
North America	35 872	39 821	963	38 687	171
Canada	4 505	4 856	123	4 721	12
USA	31 367	34 965	840	33 966	159
Central and South America	4 445	7 698	114	7 544	40
Argentina	566	1 057	18	1 036	3
Brazil	2 339	4 754	43	4 696	15
Mexico	309	484	20	461	3
Other	1 231	1 403	33	1 351	19

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

Country of residence	May		Purpose of visit (May 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	9 319	9 814	202	9 595	17
Australia	7 736	8 655	179	8 462	14
New Zealand	1 565	1 139	21	1 116	2
Other	18	20	2	17	1
Middle East	3 650	2 919	277	2 599	43
Israel	1 342	1 197	72	1 121	4
Lebanon	236	318	54	262	2
Saudi Arabia	1 031	360	22	324	14
Other	1 041	1 044	129	892	23
Asia	31 635	30 349	1 719	28 405	225
Bangladesh	549	422	28	386	8
China	8 247	6 524	501	5 967	56
India	14 237	14 628	719	13 849	60
Japan	2 092	2 101	128	1 963	10
Malaysia	731	766	28	732	6
Pakistan	1 452	1 382	98	1 259	25
Philippines	471	655	28	615	12
Singapore	746	675	26	647	2
South Korea	1 312	1 334	46	1 270	18
Thailand	498	567	22	542	3
Other	1 300	1 295	95	1 175	25
Africa	598 997	594 597	14 209	576 137	4 251
SADC	583 480	580 982	13 152	564 112	3 718
Angola	3 029	3 624	60	3 379	185
Botswana	48 225	45 923	617	44 918	388
DRC	1 841	1 785	82	1 615	88
Lesotho	147 177	141 816	1 092	140 153	571

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

Country of residence	May		Purpose of visit (May 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
Madagascar	243	188	14	172	2
Malawi	11 676	12 904	336	12 519	49
Mauritius	1 396	1 413	84	1 307	22
Mozambique	104 975	110 832	3 910	106 814	108
Namibia	19 342	19 209	2 187	16 393	629
Seychelles	571	508	15	488	5
Swaziland	75 237	70 467	282	69 226	959
Tanzania	3 045	3 020	104	2 852	64
Zambia	14 459	14 284	1 346	12 815	123
Zimbabwe	152 264	155 009	3 023	151 461	525
'Other' African	15 517	13 615	1 057	12 025	533
East and Central Africa	5 374	5 536	481	4 810	245
Burundi	59	54	4	46	4
Cameroon	381	389	39	328	22
Central African Republic	8	12	1	11	-
Chad	38	18	3	14	1
Comoros	13	16	1	15	-
Congo	228	210	11	162	37
Djibouti	12	11	3	8	-
Equatorial Guinea	20	37	9	21	7
Eritrea	46	31	-	31	-
Ethiopia	679	751	64	677	10
Gabon	478	413	1	381	31
Kenya	2 203	2 277	231	1 948	98
Réunion	31	12	-	12	-
Rwanda	75	58	5	47	6
São Tomé and Príncipe	10	2	-	2	-
Somalia	25	47	6	41	-
Uganda	1 068	1 198	103	1 066	29

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

Country of residence	May		Purpose of visit (May 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	8 774	6 632	404	5 993	235
Benin	186	109	12	96	1
Burkina Faso	46	57	8	47	2
Cape Verde Island	43	54	1	52	1
Côte d'Ivoire	206	160	26	130	4
Gambia	50	58	3	55	-
Ghana	1 527	1 493	109	1 340	44
Guinea	132	164	8	151	5
Guinea-Bissau	7	12	-	12	-
Liberia	63	47	4	42	1
Mali	115	129	15	112	2
Mauritania	12	36	6	30	-
Niger	38	29	3	26	-
Nigeria	5 991	3 931	160	3 597	174
Saint Helena	11	22	-	22	-
Senegal	251	230	37	193	-
Sierra Leone	50	47	6	41	-
Togo	46	54	6	47	1
North Africa	1 369	1 447	172	1 222	53
Algeria	89	109	4	103	2
Egypt	744	748	94	640	14
Libya	54	81	1	68	12
Morocco	152	159	29	129	1
South Sudan	88	58	5	48	5
The Sudan	142	177	26	133	18
Tunisia	96	110	13	96	1
Western Sahara	4	5	-	5	-
Unspecified	1 125	1 045	83	962	-

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

Sex	Age group	May		Region (May 2017)			
		2016	2017	Overseas	SADC	‘Other’ African	Unspecified
All	Total	760 749	767 059	171 417	580 982	13 615	1 045
	0-14	29 465	28 155	7 526	20 184	441	4
	15-64	698 509	700 694	140 571	546 256	12 846	1 021
	65+	32 775	38 210	23 320	14 542	328	20
Male	Total	433 180	439 744	96 129	333 825	9 163	627
	0-14	15 067	14 088	3 845	10 014	226	3
	15-64	401 436	406 313	79 780	317 189	8 739	605
	65+	16 677	19 343	12 504	6 622	198	19
Female	Total	327 569	327 315	75 288	247 157	4 452	418
	0-14	14 398	14 067	3 681	10 170	215	1
	15-64	297 073	294 381	60 791	229 067	4 107	416
	65+	16 098	18 867	10 816	7 920	130	1

4. Explanatory notes

NOTICE TO USERS

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) has made changes in the *Tourism and Migration* statistical release starting from the January 2014 statistics. This change has become necessary as a result of the implementation of the enhanced Movement Control System (e-MCS) at the country's ports of entry. Currently the new system (e-MCS) is operational at over 80% of the country's ports of entry. The system roll-out is expected to be finalised by the end of 2016/17 financial year. The change affects the identification of Transit Travellers that are currently categorised under Direction instead of Purpose of Movement. The revision, Table 1 and Table 2 in the release now include a category for Transit while all tables reporting on tourists exclude transit travellers.

4.1 Introduction

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

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

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

4.2 Purpose of the statistical release

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

4.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data collected by DHA officials on travellers who entered the Republic of South Africa (RSA).

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 ports' 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 receives downloaded data covering a particular calendar month from the DHA.

- As part of data interrogation, data from O.R. Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airport Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA is accompanied by an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern has also been observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In May 2017, the DHA data was 0,8% lower than that of ACSA.

4.5 Limitations

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

4.6 Definition of terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release

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

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

Region refers to the following country classification:

- Overseas: Europe, North America, Central and South America, Australasia, the Middle East and Asia.
- Africa: SADC and 'other' Africa (East and Central Africa, West Africa and North Africa).

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 belong 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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