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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 2 827 924 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through South African ports of entry in November 2011. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 807 413 South African residents and 2 020 511 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 402 258 and 405 155 arrivals and departures respectively. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals and departures were 1 080 029 and 940 482 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in October 2011 and November 2011 indicates that the volume of arrivals decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers while departures increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. On one hand, the volume of arrivals for South African residents decreased by 6,9% (from 432 107 in October 2011 to 402 258 in November 2011) while for foreign travellers the arrivals decreased by 1,4% (from 1 094 813 in October 2011 to 1 080 029 in November 2011). On the other hand, the volume of departures increased by 0,3% (from 403 918 in October 2011 to 405 155 in November 2011) for South African residents and by 1,6% (from 926 095 in October 2011 to 940 482 in November 2011) for foreign travellers.

A comparison between the movements in November 2010 and November 2011 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for South African residents while the volume of arrivals and departures increased for foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals decreased by 1,4% (from 408 001 in November 2010 to 402 258 in November 2011) for South African residents and departures decreased by 1,1% (from 409 857 in November 2010 to 405 155 in November 2011). On the contrary, the volume of foreign arrivals increased by 7,6% (from 1 003 953 in November 2010 to 1 080 029 in November 2011) and departures increased by 8,8% (from 864 552 in November 2010 to 940 482 in November 2011).

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 them as tourists and non-tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation.

As presented in Table 1, in November 2011, 45 911 (4,3%) foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 034 118 (95,7%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups: arrivals only comprising of visitors who entered the country in November 2011 but did not depart in November 2011 [334 990, (32,4%)]; visitors who came once in November 2011 and left in November 2011 [380 736, (36,8%)]; and those who came and left more than once in November 2011 [318 392, (30,8%)]. Visitors were further grouped as same day visitors [329 385, (31,9%)] and overnight visitors (tourists) [704 733, (68,1%)]. The volume of same day visitors increased by 3,7% (from 317 561 in October 2011 to 329 385 in November 2011) and overnight visitors (tourists) decreased by 2,6% (from 723 247 in October 2011 to 704 733 in November 2011). Furthermore, the volume of same day visitors increased by 6,5% (from 309 287 in November 2010 to 329 385 in November 2011) and the volume of overnight visitors (tourists) increased by 3,7% (from 679 904 in November 2010 to 704 733 in November 2011) during the same period.

1.1.2 Mode of travel of travellers

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 November 2011, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 021 655 (71,5%) out of the 2 827 924 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 783 546 (27,7%). The arrivals data on South African residents show that 128 160 (31,9%) came by air and 266 199 (66,2%) by road. For departures, 126 596 (31,2%) and 268 913 (66,4%) used air and road transport respectively. In the case of foreign travellers, 277 992 (25,7%) arrived by air while those who came by road were 798 736 (74,0%). When departing South Africa, 250 798 (26,7%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 687 807 (73,1%) left by road. As shown in Table 2 an overwhelming majority, 311 527 (94,6%) of same day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 17 746 (5,4%) same day visitors flew into the country. Data on overnight visitors (tourists) show that, 463 957 (65,8%) used road transport whereas 239 618 (34,0%) came by air.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel of tourists

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them into their respective regions and countries. 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 November 2011, 188 457 (87,6%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 25 717 (11,9%) 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 [435 846 (93,0%)]. Only 32 841 (7,0%) 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 16 170 (90,4%), with 1 701 (9,5%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution of tourists

In November 2011, the distribution of overseas tourists were as follows; Europe, 137 584 (63,9%); followed by Asia, 29 722 (13,8%); North America, 26 563 (12,3%); Australasia, 10 267 (4,8%); Central and South America, 7 900 (3,7%) and Middle East, 3 199 (1,5%). Virtually all tourists from Africa came from the SADC countries, 468 758 (96,3%). The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 9 738 (2,0%); East and Central Africa, 6 866 (1,4%) and North Africa 1 291 (0,3%).

Data presented in Figure 1 indicate that United Kingdom (UK), 38 286 (17,8%); Germany, 29 849 (13,9%); United States of America (USA), 21 371 (9,9%); The Netherlands, 12 987 (6,0%); France, 11 231 (5,2%); China, 10 935 (5,1%); Australia 8 481 (3,9%) and India, 7 470 (3,5%) were the eight leading overseas countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in November 2011. Tourists from these eight countries constituted 65,3% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in November 2010 and November 2011 shows that the number of tourists increased in five of these countries (China, Germany, The Netherlands, USA and India) while the number of tourists declined in the other three countries (France, UK and Australia). China had the highest increase of 45,3% from 7 524 tourists in November 2010 to 10 935 tourists in November 2011 while France had the greatest decline of 4,9% from 11 808 tourists in November 2010 to 11 231 tourists in November 2011.

The eight leading countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in November 2011 from the SADC countries (see Figure 2) were Lesotho, 121 049 (25,8%); Zimbabwe, 121 021 (25,8%); Mozambique 83 893 (17,9%); Swaziland, 54 746 (11,7%); Botswana, 36 774 (7,8%); Namibia, 14 575 (3,1%); Zambia, 13 445 (2,9%) and Malawi, 12 896 (2,8%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 97,8% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in November 2010 and November 2011 shows that the number of tourists increased in five countries (Swaziland, Zambia, Namibia, Lesotho and Malawi) and declined in the remaining three (Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique). Swaziland had the highest increase of 16,9% from 46 817 tourists in November 2010 to 54 746 tourists in November 2011 while Botswana had the greatest decline of 11,0% from 41 316 tourists in November 2010 to 36 774 tourists in November 2011.

The eight leading countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in November 2011 from 'other' African countries, shown in Figure 3, were Nigeria, 6 226 (34,8%); Kenya, 2 937 (16,4%); Ghana, 1 830 (10,2%); Uganda, 1 354 (7,6%); Ethiopia, 742 (4,1%); Egypt, 636 (3,6%); Cameroon, 499 (2,8%) and Gabon, 471 (2,6%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 82,1% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in November 2010 and November 2011 shows that the number of tourists increased in seven of these countries (Egypt, Nigeria, Gabon, Ghana, Cameroon, Kenya and Uganda) while the number of tourists declined for Ethiopia. The increase was highest in Egypt at 50,0% from 424 tourists in November 2010 to 636 tourists in November 2011 while Ethiopia declined by 8,1% from 807 tourists in November 2010 to 742 tourists in November 2011.

1.2.3 Purpose of visit of tourists

As observed from data given in Table 4, in November 2011, an overwhelming majority (94,4%) of tourists were in South Africa for holidays compared to only 2,8% and 0,5% 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 79,0% came to South Africa for holidays. Tourists from Australasia (93,5%), Europe (91,6%), North America (90,6%), Middle East (86,5%), Asia (79,2%) and Central and South America (79,1%) were in South Africa mostly for holidays. Middle East and Asia had a higher proportion (9,2% and 8,0% respectively) of their tourists in South Africa for business compared to other overseas regions.

The majority (96,7%) 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 97,1% of tourists from the SADC countries were on holidays; 86,3% of tourists on holiday came from 'other' African countries. Data on the regions of 'other' African countries show that tourists on holiday constituted 88,6%; 84,6% and 77,9% for West Africa; East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 6,2% of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,5% from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion (13,7%) of its tourists in South Africa for business.
- Students made up 2,0% of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,5% from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion (3,1%) of tourists in South Africa for study purposes.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution of tourists

Table 5 shows that, in November 2011, there were 399 943 (56,8%) male and 303 832 (43,1%) female tourists. The overseas tourists were made up of 125 255 (58,2%) male tourists and 89 743 (41,7%) female tourists. There were 260 355 (55,5%) male and 207 686 (44,3%) female tourists from SADC countries. The tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 12 569 (70,2%) males and 5 322 (29,7%) 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 90,5% of tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years; 3,9% were aged less than 15 years and 5,5% were aged 65 years and older. Taking the region of residence into consideration, the results further show that 84,1% of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 93,2% and 95,0% of tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries respectively in the same age range.

For tourists aged less than 15 years, the overseas and 'other' African tourists had a similar proportion of 3,4% and 3,0%, respectively while the SADC countries had a higher proportion of 4,2%. There was a higher proportion of young female tourists in comparison to young male tourists for overseas, the SADC countries and 'other' African countries.

A comparison of the three regions shows relatively high proportions of the elderly among both male (11,7%) and female (13,5%) tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to tourists from the SADC countries amongst which 2,1% of males and 2,9% of females were aged 65 years and older. Similarly among tourists from 'other' African countries, 1,8% of males and 2,2% of females were aged 65 years and older.

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Statistician-General

2. Figures

Figure 1. Number of tourists from eight leading overseas countries in November 2010 and November 2011

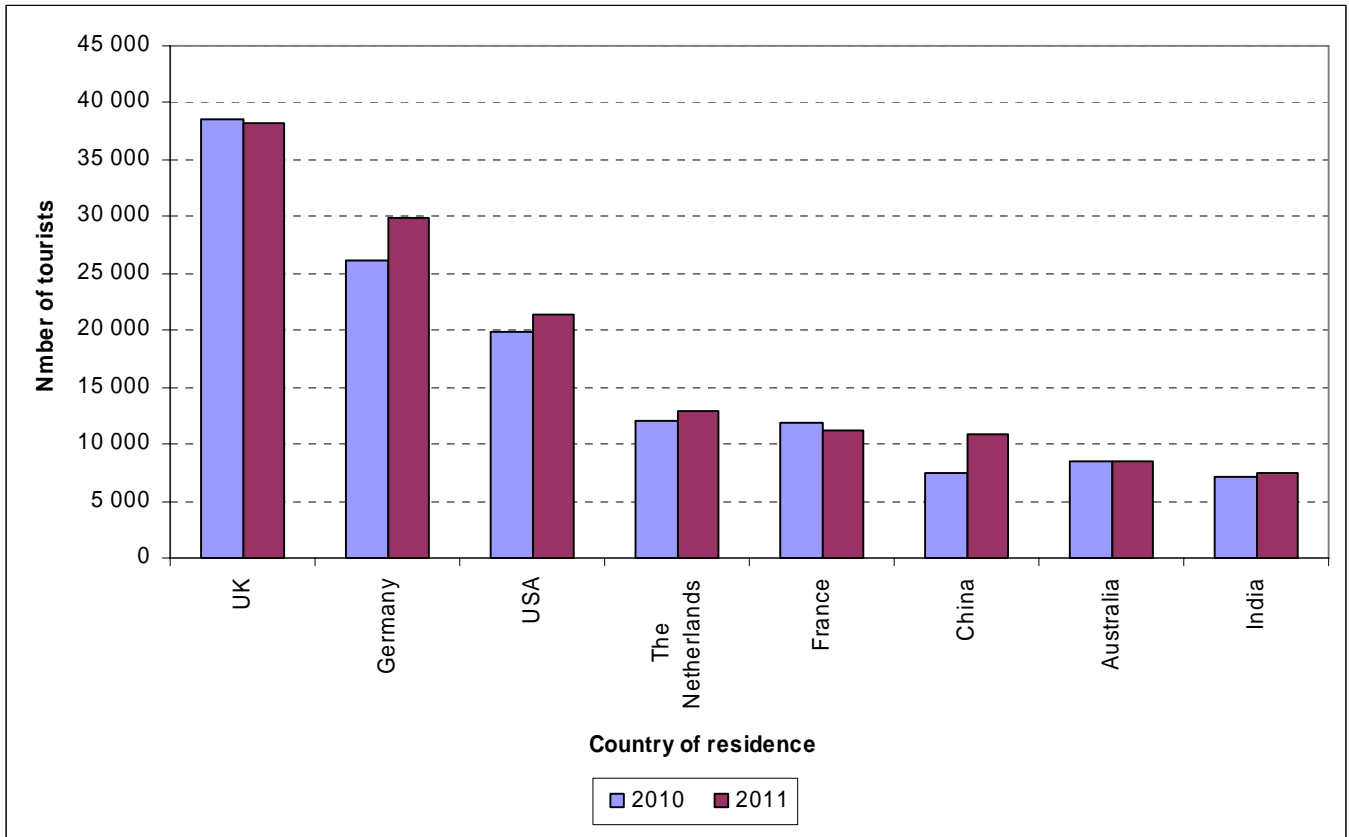


Figure 2. Number of tourists from eight leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in November 2010 and November 2011

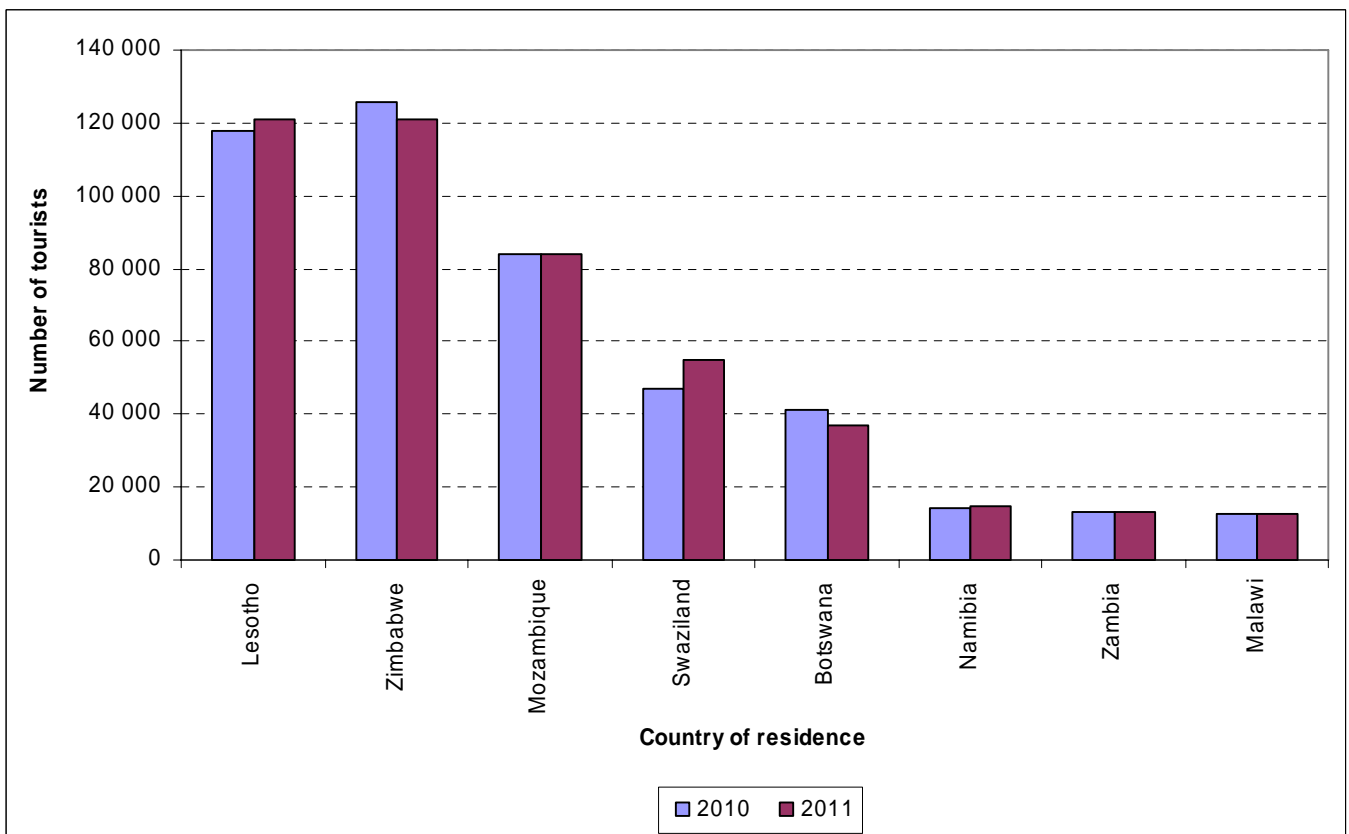
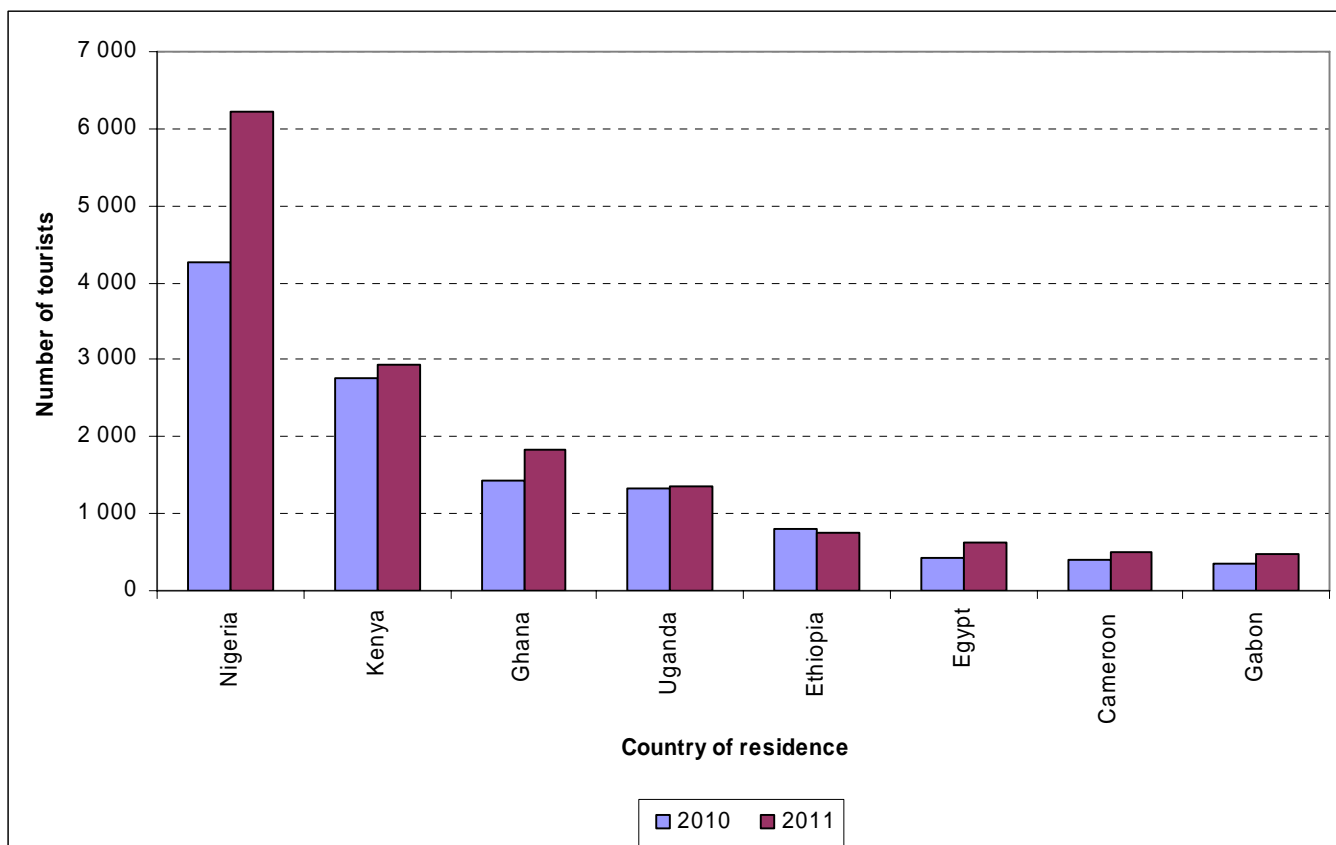


Figure 3. Number of tourists from eight leading 'other' African countries in November 2010 and November 2011



3. Tables

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

Travel direction	November	October	November	% change	
	2010	2011	2011	November 2010 - November 2011	October 2011 - November 2011
Grand total	2 686 363	2 856 933	2 827 924	5,3	-1,0
South African residents	817 858	836 025	807 413	-1,3	-3,4
Arrivals	408 001	432 107	402 258	-1,4	-6,9
Departures	409 857	403 918	405 155	-1,1	0,3
Foreign travellers	1 868 505	2 020 908	2 020 511	8,1	0,0
Arrivals	1 003 953	1 094 813	1 080 029	7,6	-1,4
Departures	864 552	926 095	940 482	8,8	1,6
Foreign arrivals	1 003 953	1 094 813	1 080 029	7,6	-1,4
Non-visitors	14 762	54 005	45 911	211,0	-15,0
Visitors	989 191	1 040 808	1 034 118	4,5	-0,6
Visitors	989 191	1 040 808	1 034 118	4,5	-0,6
Arrivals only	338 940	353 702	334 990	-1,2	-5,3
Single trips	339 763	370 725	380 736	12,1	2,7
Multiple trips	310 488	316 381	318 392	2,5	0,6
Visitors	989 191	1 040 808	1 034 118	4,5	-0,6
Same day	309 287	317 561	329 385	6,5	3,7
Overnight (tourists)	679 904	723 247	704 733	3,7	-2,6

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

Travel Direction	November		Mode of travel (November 2011)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2010	2011	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	2 686 363	2 827 924	157 674	16 189	598 976	10 707	783 546	2 021 655	22 719	4
South African residents	817 858	807 413	31 677	8 766	207 260	7 053	254 756	535 112	17 545	-
Arrivals	408 001	402 258	16 885	4 515	103 242	3 518	128 160	266 199	7 899	-
Departures	409 857	405 155	14 792	4 251	104 018	3 535	126 596	268 913	9 646	-
Foreign travellers	1 868 505	2 020 511	125 997	7 423	391 716	3 654	528 790	1 486 543	5 174	4
Arrivals	1 003 953	1 080 029	64 188	4 051	208 017	1 736	277 992	798 736	3 297	4
Departures	864 552	940 482	61 809	3 372	183 699	1 918	250 798	687 807	1 877	-
Visitors	989 191	1 034 118	60 141	3 190	192 941	1 092	257 364	775 484	1 269	1
Same day	309 287	329 385	452	17	17 071	206	17 746	311 527	112	-
Overnight (tourists)	679 904	704 733	59 689	3 173	175 870	886	239 618	463 957	1 157	1

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

Country of residence	November		Mode of travel (November 2011)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2010	2011	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	679 904	704 733	59 689	3 173	175 870	886	239 618	463 957	1 157	1
Overseas	197 930	215 235	56 925	2 736	128 249	547	188 457	25 717	1 061	-
Europe	130 214	137 584	46 203	1 341	69 696	300	117 540	19 082	962	-
Austria	2 603	2 964	844	54	1 541	11	2 450	448	66	-
Belgium	4 233	4 658	1 148	11	2 379	10	3 548	1 096	14	-
Denmark	2 137	2 226	571	24	1 353	4	1 952	272	2	-
France	11 808	11 231	3 159	55	5 927	23	9 164	2 050	17	-
Germany	26 228	29 849	10 202	244	14 367	28	24 841	4 636	372	-
Ireland	3 174	3 290	1 586	26	1 403	17	3 032	253	5	-
Italy	3 735	4 296	1 291	66	2 481	9	3 847	429	20	-
Norway	1 935	2 307	859	10	1 157	3	2 029	271	7	-
Portugal	3 278	3 662	393	14	1 899	28	2 334	1 326	2	-
Spain	2 071	2 394	459	6	1 635	18	2 118	269	7	-
Sweden	5 350	4 805	1 743	9	2 424	1	4 177	622	6	-
Switzerland	4 604	5 018	1 709	49	2 472	19	4 249	595	174	-
The Netherlands	11 982	12 987	4 452	52	5 387	17	9 908	3 009	70	-
UK	38 539	38 286	14 260	604	20 044	102	35 010	3 103	173	-
Other	8 537	9 611	3 527	117	5 227	10	8 881	703	27	-
North America	24 794	26 563	4 046	177	19 470	128	23 821	2 714	28	-
Canada	4 986	5 192	991	60	3 503	12	4 566	622	4	-
USA	19 808	21 371	3 055	117	15 967	116	19 255	2 092	24	-
Central and South America	5 897	7 900	408	22	6 914	24	7 368	519	13	-
Argentina	882	1 136	131	4	959	-	1 094	41	1	-
Brazil	3 601	4 864	97	4	4 370	20	4 491	362	11	-
Mexico	224	329	55	-	268	-	323	6	-	-
Other	1 190	1 571	125	14	1 317	4	1 460	110	1	-

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

Country of residence	November		Mode of travel (November 2011)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2010	2011	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Australasia	10 199	10 267	1 168	183	8 287	35	9 673	571	23	-
Australia	8 530	8 481	872	88	7 005	31	7 996	472	13	-
New Zealand	1 633	1 695	293	59	1 230	4	1 586	99	10	-
Other	36	91	3	36	52	-	91	-	-	-
Middle East	3 300	3 199	555	73	2 389	16	3 033	164	2	-
Iran	336	362	93	11	250	2	356	6	-	-
Israel	1 614	1 518	149	-	1 260	-	1 409	107	2	-
Saudi Arabia	418	323	87	10	224	2	323	-	-	-
Other	932	996	226	52	655	12	945	51	-	-
Asia	23 526	29 722	4 545	940	21 493	44	27 022	2 667	33	-
China	7 524	10 935	1 842	119	8 323	3	10 287	642	6	-
India	7 130	7 470	851	262	5 464	11	6 588	873	9	-
Japan	1 552	2 104	235	61	1 712	11	2 019	85	-	-
Malaysia	887	1 077	332	75	641	4	1 052	25	-	-
Pakistan	1 083	1 348	147	49	793	2	991	356	1	-
Philippines	980	951	65	63	615	4	747	200	4	-
Singapore	629	957	396	8	538	2	944	13	-	-
South Korea	1 142	1 495	223	53	1 107	3	1 386	106	3	-
Taiwan	675	748	41	22	615	-	678	66	4	-
Other	1 924	2 637	413	228	1 685	4	2 330	301	6	-
Africa	479 327	486 653	2 480	366	45 830	335	49 011	437 547	94	1
SADC	464 840	468 758	2 077	280	30 166	318	32 841	435 846	71	-
Angola	2 827	3 748	387	27	3 196	6	3 616	132	-	-
Botswana	41 316	36 774	2	-	2 457	49	2 508	34 259	7	-
DRC	2 545	1 932	6	-	1 349	51	1 406	526	-	-
Lesotho	117 776	121 049	1	1	658	-	660	120 389	-	-
Madagascar	273	247	2	-	239	2	243	4	-	-

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

Country of residence	November		Mode of travel (November 2011)							
			Air				Road	Sea	Unspecified	
	2010	2011	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other				Total
Malawi	12 577	12 896	7	3	1 717	5	1 732	11 161	3	-
Mauritius	1 467	1 438	194	139	946	-	1 279	159	-	-
Mozambique	83 920	83 893	99	98	2 656	107	2 960	80 929	4	-
Namibia	14 118	14 575	1 304	3	3 080	28	4 415	10 127	33	-
Seychelles	396	400	2	1	393	-	396	4	-	-
Swaziland	46 817	54 746	1	-	752	1	754	53 985	7	-
Tanzania	2 129	2 594	12	2	1 572	2	1 588	1 006	-	-
Zambia	12 972	13 445	17	1	4 126	15	4 159	9 286	-	-
Zimbabwe	125 707	121 021	43	5	7 025	52	7 125	113 879	17	-
'Other' Africa	14 487	17 895	403	86	15 664	17	16 170	1 701	23	1
East and Central Africa	6 518	6 866	66	32	5 902	8	6 008	856	1	1
Burundi	70	113	-	-	92	-	92	21	-	-
Cameroon	404	499	7	1	446	1	455	43	-	1
Central African Republic	19	19	-	-	18	-	18	1	-	-
Chad	24	59	-	21	37	-	58	1	-	-
Comoros	27	29	-	1	28	-	29	-	-	-
Congo	340	277	3	-	256	1	260	17	-	-
Djibouti	15	11	-	-	11	-	11	-	-	-
Equat Guinea	42	19	1	-	18	-	19	-	-	-
Eritrea	48	60	9	1	43	-	53	7	-	-
Ethiopia	807	742	5	3	688	-	696	46	-	-
Gabon	345	471	8	-	458	-	466	5	-	-
Kenya	2 754	2 937	22	3	2 450	4	2 479	457	1	-
Rwanda	258	245	2	2	216	1	221	24	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	16	20	-	-	20	-	20	-	-	-
Somalia	19	11	-	-	8	-	8	3	-	-
Uganda	1 330	1 354	9	-	1 113	1	1 123	231	-	-

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

Country of residence	November		Mode of travel (November 2011)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2010	2011	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
West Africa	6 918	9 738	169	25	8 755	9	8 958	760	20	-
Ascension	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benin	105	187	29	-	148	1	178	9	-	-
Burkina Faso	72	70	5	-	65	-	70	-	-	-
Cape Verde Island	68	53	5	-	44	-	49	4	-	-
Cote D'Ivoire	144	260	11	3	244	-	258	2	-	-
Gambia	86	68	3	2	60	-	65	3	-	-
Ghana	1 428	1 830	53	3	1 662	2	1 720	110	-	-
Guinea	209	228	-	3	121	-	124	104	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	14	24	1	1	17	-	19	5	-	-
Liberia	32	68	-	-	63	-	63	5	-	-
Mali	95	135	3	1	108	-	112	23	-	-
Mauritania	21	39	4	1	34	-	39	-	-	-
Niger	19	48	-	2	46	-	48	-	-	-
Nigeria	4 259	6 226	46	8	5 679	6	5 739	473	14	-
Saint Helena	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
Senegal	215	316	5	1	304	-	310	6	-	-
Sierra Leone	91	92	2	-	74	-	76	16	-	-
Togo	57	88	2	-	86	-	88	-	-	-
North Africa	1 051	1 291	168	29	1 007	-	1 204	85	2	-
Algeria	78	116	7	-	101	-	108	8	-	-
Egypt	424	636	62	8	530	-	600	34	2	-
Libya	151	98	23	2	46	-	71	27	-	-
Morocco	121	142	41	6	93	-	140	2	-	-
The Sudan	189	173	8	2	156	-	166	7	-	-
Tunisia	88	126	27	11	81	-	119	7	-	-
Unspecified	2 647	2 845	284	71	1 791	4	2 150	693	2	-

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

Country of residence	October		Purpose of visit (November 2011)			
	2010	2011	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Total	679 904	704 733	19 479	665 492	3 338	16 424
Overseas	197 930	215 235	11 102	192 266	553	11 314
Europe	130 214	137 584	6 702	126 040	254	4 588
Austria	2 603	2 964	100	2 713	11	140
Belgium	4 233	4 658	165	4 352	11	130
Denmark	2 137	2 226	112	2 002	9	103
France	11 808	11 231	589	10 247	23	372
Germany	26 228	29 849	1 232	27 531	55	1 031
Ireland	3 174	3 290	259	2 981	6	44
Italy	3 735	4 296	316	3 813	10	157
Norway	1 935	2 307	87	2 092	12	116
Portugal	3 278	3 662	103	3 328	5	226
Spain	2 071	2 394	127	2 142	4	121
Sweden	5 350	4 805	245	4 319	7	234
Switzerland	4 604	5 018	142	4 630	6	240
The Netherlands	11 982	12 987	427	12 368	33	159
UK	38 539	38 286	2 069	35 061	37	1 119
Other	8 537	9 611	729	8 461	25	396
North America	24 794	26 563	1 193	24 057	82	1 231
Canada	4 986	5 192	215	4 711	11	255
USA	19 808	21 371	978	19 346	71	976
Central and South America	5 897	7 900	197	6 251	16	1 436
Argentina	882	1 136	21	936	1	178
Brazil	3 601	4 864	43	3 752	6	1 063
Mexico	224	329	44	270	1	14
Other	1 190	1 571	89	1 293	8	181

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

Country of residence	October		Purpose of visit (November 2011)			
	2010	2011	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Australasia	10 199	10 267	331	9 603	12	321
Australia	8 530	8 481	246	7 959	7	269
New Zealand	1 633	1 695	53	1 590	4	48
Other	36	91	32	54	1	4
Middle East	3 300	3 199	295	2 767	33	104
Iran	336	362	40	303	10	9
Israel	1 614	1 518	111	1 360	4	43
Saudi Arabia	418	323	17	296	10	-
Other	932	996	127	808	9	52
Asia	23 526	29 722	2 384	23 548	156	3 634
China	7 524	10 935	801	8 893	50	1 191
India	7 130	7 470	747	5 881	38	804
Japan	1 552	2 104	179	1 678	3	244
Malaysia	887	1 077	61	973	6	37
Pakistan	1 083	1 348	77	1 113	5	153
Philippines	980	951	58	532	17	344
Singapore	629	957	36	851	-	70
South Korea	1 142	1 495	101	1 199	12	183
Taiwan	675	748	22	559	2	165
Other	1 924	2 637	302	1 869	23	443
Africa	479 327	486 653	8 117	470 818	2 771	4 947
SADC	464 840	468 758	7 007	455 374	2 407	3 970
Angola	2 827	3 748	127	3 136	84	401
Botswana	41 316	36 774	177	35 820	312	465
DRC	2 545	1 932	76	1 748	58	50
Lesotho	117 776	121 049	35	119 835	1 035	144
Madagascar	273	247	10	176	3	58

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

Country of residence	October		Purpose of visit (November 2011)			
	2010	2011	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Malawi	12 577	12 896	217	12 464	24	191
Mauritius	1 467	1 438	42	1 313	12	71
Mozambique	83 920	83 893	828	82 478	34	553
Namibia	14 118	14 575	2 359	11 598	141	477
Seychelles	396	400	5	388	-	7
Swaziland	46 817	54 746	918	53 180	455	193
Tanzania	2 129	2 594	58	2 372	15	149
Zambia	12 972	13 445	1 015	11 948	56	426
Zimbabwe	125 707	121 021	1 140	118 918	178	785
'Other' Africa	14 487	17 895	1 110	15 444	364	977
East and Central Africa	6 518	6 866	518	5 808	144	396
Burundi	70	113	17	77	2	17
Cameroon	404	499	35	414	23	27
Central African Republic	19	19	4	14	-	1
Chad	24	59	26	29	3	1
Comoros	27	29	3	18	4	4
Congo	340	277	20	234	18	5
Djibouti	15	11	2	9	-	-
Equat Guinea	42	19	3	12	4	-
Eritrea	48	60	5	51	2	2
Ethiopia	807	742	47	638	6	51
Gabon	345	471	11	437	19	4
Kenya	2 754	2 937	224	2 525	37	151
Rwanda	258	245	14	205	5	21
Sao Tome and Principe	16	20	1	12	-	7
Somalia	19	11	-	8	-	3
Uganda	1 330	1 354	106	1 125	21	102

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

Country of residence	October		Purpose of visit (November 2011)			
	2010	2011	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
West Africa	6 918	9 738	415	8 630	180	513
Ascension	1	-	-	-	-	-
Benin	105	187	33	153	-	1
Burkina Faso	72	70	5	61	1	3
Cape Verde Island	68	53	4	37	-	12
Cote D'Ivoire	144	260	45	200	5	10
Gambia	86	68	8	39	-	21
Ghana	1 428	1 830	85	1 605	11	129
Guinea	209	228	11	178	2	37
Guinea-Bissau	14	24	2	21	-	1
Liberia	32	68	3	60	1	4
Mali	95	135	15	111	-	9
Mauritania	21	39	5	27	-	7
Niger	19	48	10	37	-	1
Nigeria	4 259	6 226	134	5 684	156	252
Saint Helena	2	6	-	6	-	-
Senegal	215	316	42	255	3	16
Sierra Leone	91	92	8	81	1	2
Togo	57	88	5	75	-	8
North Africa	1 051	1 291	177	1 006	40	68
Algeria	78	116	13	94	6	3
Egypt	424	636	80	502	4	50
Libya	151	98	7	68	21	2
Morocco	121	142	32	105	1	4
The Sudan	189	173	20	139	8	6
Tunisia	88	126	25	98	-	3
Unspecified	2 647	2 845	260	2 408	14	163

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

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (November 2011)			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	704 733	215 235	468 758	17 895	2 845
	<15	27 506	7 277	19 660	539	30
	15-64	637 811	181 111	436 973	17 009	2 718
	65+	38 793	26 778	11 578	341	96
	Unspecified	623	69	547	6	1
Male	Total	399 943	125 255	260 355	12 569	1 764
	<15	13 542	3 741	9 516	276	9
	15-64	365 749	106 876	245 103	12 064	1 706
	65+	20 315	14 597	5 444	225	49
	Unspecified	337	41	292	4	-
Female	Total	303 832	89 743	207 686	5 322	1 081
	<15	13 964	3 536	10 144	263	21
	15-64	271 288	74 065	191 269	4 942	1 012
	65+	18 358	12 119	6 077	115	47
	Unspecified	222	23	196	2	1
Unspecified	Total	958	237	717	4	-
	<15	-	-	-	-	-
	15-64	774	170	601	3	-
	65+	120	62	57	1	-
	Unspecified	64	5	59	-	-

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 November 2011, the DHA data was 16,5% 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 report

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 and abbreviations used

- = nil

Unspec. = unspecified

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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