



The South Africa I know, the home I understand

Statistical release

P0351

Tourism and Migration

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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 November 2015. 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; and age and sex distribution are also provided.

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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 3 337 233 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in November 2015. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 789 949 South African residents and 2 547 284 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 398 968 arrivals, 390 175 departures and 806 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 305 140, 1 173 778 and 68 366 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in November 2014 and November 2015 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers. Travellers in transit increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 0,3% (from 400 271 in November 2014 to 398 968 in November 2015), departures decreased by 1,6% (from 396 672 in November 2014 to 390 175 in November 2015), and transits increased by 15,0% (from 701 in November 2014 to 806 in November 2015). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 3,4% (from 1 262 450 in November 2014 to 1 305 140 in November 2015), departures increased by 0,5% (from 1 167 548 in November 2014 to 1 173 778 in November 2015), and transits increased by 3,9% (from 65 815 in November 2014 to 68 366 in November 2015).

A comparison between the movements in October 2015 and November 2015 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers, while transits decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents decreased by 11,8% (from 452 153 in October 2015 to 398 968 in November 2015), departures decreased by 10,9% (from 437 758 in October 2015 to 390 175 in November 2015) and transits decreased by 7,6% (from 872 in October 2015 to 806 in November 2015). For foreign travellers, the volume of arrivals increased by 2,8% (from 1 269 749 in October 2015 to 1 305 140 in November 2015), departures increased by 2,8% (from 1 142 021 in October 2015 to 1 173 778 in November 2015) and transits decreased by 9,5% (from 75 531 in October 2015 to 68 366 in November 2015).

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, in November 2015, 102 602 (7,9%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 202 538 (92,1%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in November 2015 but did not depart in November 2015 [259 415 (21,6%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in November 2015 and left in November 2015 [478 163 (39,8%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in November 2015 [464 960 (38,7%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In November 2015, there were 428 160 (35,6%) same-day visitors and 774 378 (64,4%) tourists. Between November 2014 and November 2015, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 6,6% (from 401 487 in November 2014 to 428 160 in November 2015) and that of tourists decreased by 6,3% (from 826 163 in November 2014 to 774 378 in November 2015). Between October 2015 and November 2015, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 1,0% (from 423 864 in October 2015 to 428 160 in November 2015), and tourists increased by 3,4% (from 748 561 in October 2015 to 774 378 in November 2015).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 10 show that in November 2015, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 382 210 (71,4%) of the 3 337 233 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 940 681 (28,2%). Compared to use of air and land transport, a much smaller number of travellers, 14 342 (0,4%) used sea transport. The arrivals data for South African residents show that 148 849 (37,3%) came by air, 249 898 (62,6%) came by road and 221 (0,1%) arrived by sea. For departures, 146 454 (37,5%) used air, 243 393 (62,4%) used road and 328 (0,1%) sea transport. All travellers in transit (806) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 285 220 (21,9%) arrived by air, 1 012 983 (77,6%) came by road and 6 937 (0,5%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 290 986 (24,8%) foreign travellers left by air, 875 936 (74,6%) left by road and 6 856 (0,6%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, (68 366) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [409 256 (95,6%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 18 862 (4,4%) of same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that 524 251 (67,7%) used road transport, 247 959 (32,0%) came by air and 2 168 (0,3%) arrived by sea.

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 page 11. In November 2015, 195 442 (88,4%) of overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 23 563 (10,7%) 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 [499 394 (93,2%)]. Only 36 513 (6,8%) tourists from SADC countries came in by air. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 14 844 (92,7%), with 1 153 (7,2%) using road transport. For all three regions, overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries, less than 1,0% of tourists used sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In November 2015, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 146 224 (66,1%); North America, 30 794 (13,9%); Asia, 28 049 (12,7%); Australasia, 8 982 (4,1%); Central and South America, 4 025 (1,8%), and Middle East, 3 075 (1,4%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 7 indicate that the United Kingdom (UK), 35 641 (16,1%); Germany, 35 370 (16,0%); United States of America (USA), 24 429 (11,0%); France, 15 103 (6,8%); The Netherlands, 13 340 (6,0%); China, 12 519 (5,7%); India, 7 767 (3,5%); Australia, 7 539 (3,4%); Switzerland, 6 739 (3,0%); and Canada, 6 365 (2,9%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in November 2015. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 74,5% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in November 2014 and November 2015 shows that the number of tourists decreased for four of the ten leading overseas countries and increased for the other six. China had the largest increase of 136,4% (from 5 296 tourists in November 2014 to 12 519 in November 2015) and Australia had the largest decrease of 13,2% (from 8 688 tourists in November 2014 to 7 539 in November 2015).

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 535 911 (97,1%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 8 074 (1,5%); East and Central Africa, 6 351 (1,2%); and North Africa 1 591 (0,3%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in November 2015 were Zimbabwe, 145 854 (27,2%); Lesotho, 122 578 (22,9%); Mozambique, 98 003 (18,3%); Swaziland, 67 509 (12,6%); Botswana, 47 802 (8,9%); Namibia, 16 862 (3,1%); Zambia, 13 113 (2,4%); Malawi, 12 479 (2,3%); Angola, 3 562 (0,7%) and Tanzania, 3 005 (0,6%) (see Figure 2 on page 7). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,0% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in November 2014 and November 2015 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists decreased in all but one of the ten leading countries, Tanzania (see comments under *Explanatory Notes* [4.5] on Tanzania). Angola showed the largest decrease of 26,5% (from 4 849 tourists in November 2014 to 3 562 tourists in November 2015).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in November 2015 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8, were: Nigeria, 4 738 (29,6%); Kenya, 2 843 (17,8%); Ghana, 1 555 (9,7%); Uganda, 1 075 (6,7%); Ethiopia, 697 (4,4%); Egypt, 615 (3,8%); Cameroon, 597 (3,7%); Gabon, 410 (2,6%); Senegal, 319 (2,0%) and Tunisia, 309 (1,9%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 82,2% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in November 2014 and November 2015 shows that the number of tourists increased in four of the ten leading countries: Tunisia, Cameroon, Senegal and Ethiopia, and decreased in the rest. Tunisia had the largest increase of 228,7% (from 94 tourists in November 2014 to 309 in November 2015), while Gabon had the largest decrease of 24,5% (from 543 tourists in November 2014 to 410 in November 2015).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on page 15, in November 2015, the majority of tourists, 738 248 (95,3%), were in South Africa for holidays compared to 33 292 (4,3%) and 2 838 (0,4%) who were in South Africa for business and for study purposes respectively. A detailed analysis reveals that of all the tourists from each of the overseas regions, more than 85,0% came to South Africa for holidays. A total of 8 714 (97,0%) tourists from Australasia, 29 458 (95,7%) from North America, 3 826 (95,1%) from Central and South America, 138 664 (94,8%) from Europe, 25 842 (92,1%) from Asia, and 2 715 (88,3%) from the Middle East were in South Africa for holidays. The Middle East had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business [10,4% (319)] and for study purposes [1,3% (41)] compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists, 527 866 (95,6%) came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 513 537 (95,8%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 14 329 (89,5%) 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 91,5% (7 387); 88,5% (5 620) and 83,1% (1 322) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 8,3% (1 329) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 3,8% (20 430) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 14,3% (227) of its tourists to South Africa who came for business purposes.
- Students made up 2,2% (358) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,4% (1 944) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 2,6% (42) of student tourists in South Africa.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in November 2015, there were 430 462 (55,6%) male and 343 915 (44,4%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 122 197 (55,3%) male tourists and 98 952 (44,7%) female tourists. There were 296 604 (55,3%) male and 239 306 (44,7%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 10 879 (67,9%) male and 5 137 (32,1%) 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 show that 29 327 (3,8%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 695 332 (89,8%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 49 719 (6,4%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 500 124 (93,3%) of SADC and 15 214 (95,0%) of 'other' African countries tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 178 702 (80,8%) of tourists in the same age range from overseas. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was lower among tourists from 'other' African countries, 2,6% (420), than among those from overseas countries, 3,0% (6 557) and SADC countries, 4,2% (22 349).

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 15,6% (19 047) of male tourists and 17,0% (16 843) 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% (5 803) and 3,2% (7 635) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,2% (244) and 2,7% (138) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in November 2014 and November 2015

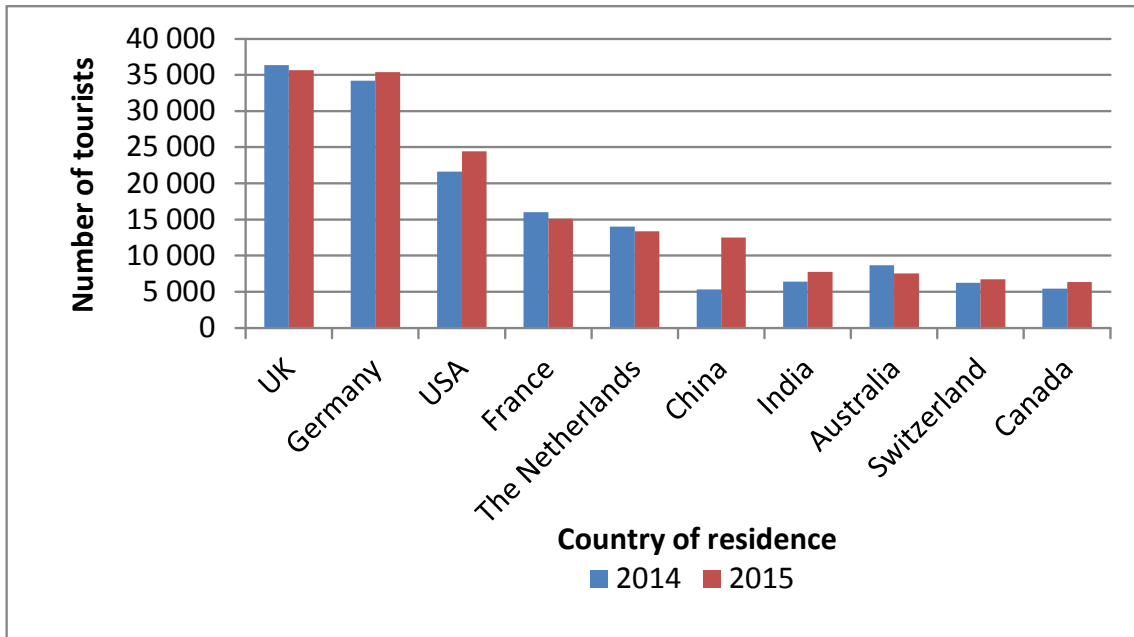


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in November 2014 and November 2015

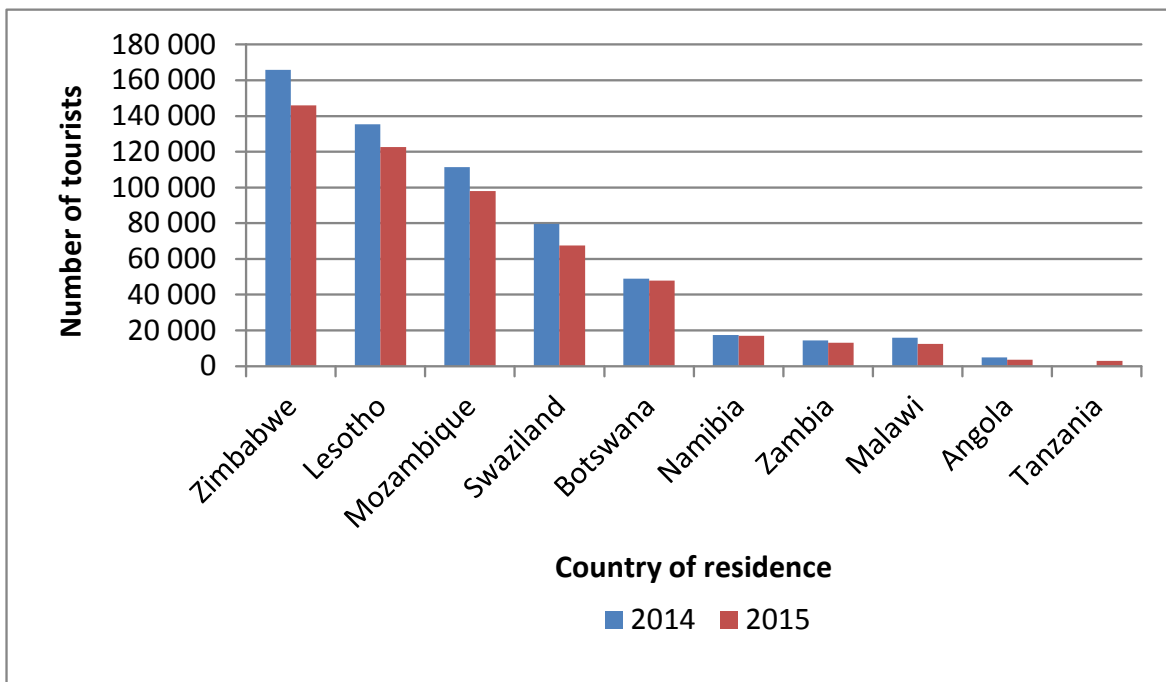
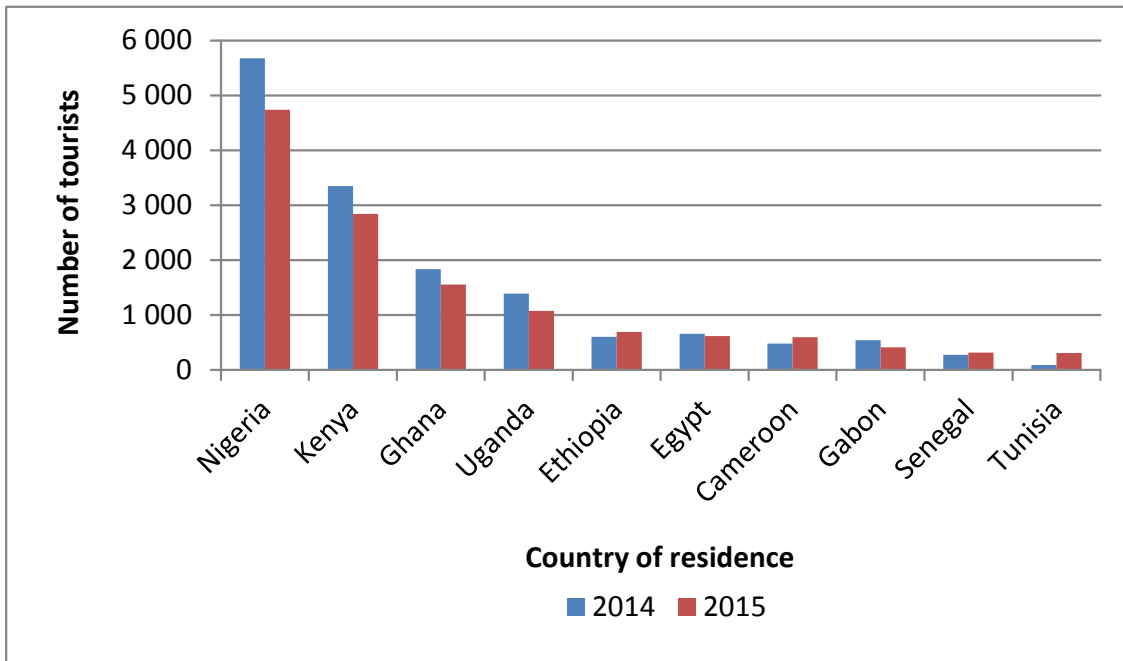


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in November 2014 and November 2015



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	November 2014	October 2015	November 2015	% Change October 2015 - November 2015	% Change November 2014 - November 2015
Total	3 293 457	3 378 084	3 337 233	-1,2%	1,3%
South African residents	797 644	890 783	789 949	-11,3%	-1,0%
Arrivals	400 271	452 153	398 968	-11,8%	-0,3%
Departures	396 672	437 758	390 175	-10,9%	-1,6%
Transit	701	872	806	-7,6%	15,0%
Foreign travellers	2 495 813	2 487 301	2 547 284	2,4%	2,1%
Arrivals	1 262 450	1 269 749	1 305 140	2,8%	3,4%
Departures	1 167 548	1 142 021	1 173 778	2,8%	0,5%
Transit	65 815	75 531	68 366	-9,5%	3,9%
Foreign arrivals	1 262 450	1 269 749	1 305 140	2,8%	3,4%
Non-visitors	34 800	97 324	102 602	5,4%	194,8%
Visitors	1 227 650	1 172 425	1 202 538	2,6%	-2,0%
Visitors	1 227 650	1 172 425	1 202 538	2,6%	-2,0%
Arrived only	338 014	260 400	259 415	-0,4%	-23,3%
Single trips	437 047	456 494	478 163	4,7%	9,4%
Multiple trips	452 589	455 531	464 960	2,1%	2,7%
Visitors	1 227 650	1 172 425	1 202 538	2,6%	-2,0%
Same day	401 487	423 864	428 160	1,0%	6,6%
Tourist	826 163	748 561	774 378	3,4%	-6,3%

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

Travel direction	Total	Air				Total	Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other			
Total	3 337 233	179 070	21 789	731 830	7 992	940 681	2 382 210	14 342
South African residents	789 949	37 466	12 514	241 354	4 775	296 109	493 291	549
Arrivals	398 968	19 717	6 031	120 858	2 243	148 849	249 898	221
Departures	390 175	17 749	6 483	119 698	2 524	146 454	243 393	328
Transit	806	-	-	798	8	806	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 547 284	141 604	9 275	490 476	3 217	644 572	1 888 919	13 793
Arrivals	1 305 140	71 473	4 019	208 530	1 198	285 220	1 012 983	6 937
Departures	1 173 778	70 110	5 254	213 604	2 018	290 986	875 936	6 856
Transit	68 366	21	2	68 342	1	68 366	-	-
Visitors	1 202 538	67 702	3 114	195 174	831	266 821	933 507	2 210
Same day	428 160	618	11	18 132	101	18 862	409 256	42
Tourist	774 378	67 084	3 103	177 042	730	247 959	524 251	2 168

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

Country of residence	November		Air					Road	Sea
	2014	2015	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	826 163	774 378	67 084	3 103	177 042	730	247 959	524 251	2 168
Overseas	207 801	221 149	63 018	2 710	129 186	528	195 442	23 563	2 144
Europe	146 612	146 224	50 760	1 973	74 703	241	127 677	17 460	1 087
Austria	3 084	3 458	1 122	41	1 749	6	2 918	523	17
Belgium	4 765	4 877	1 439	31	2 538	11	4 019	787	71
Denmark	2 360	2 532	701	16	1 610	2	2 329	199	4
France	15 991	15 103	5 147	117	6 481	17	11 762	3 311	30
Germany	34 202	35 370	13 432	197	17 315	87	31 031	3 867	472
Ireland	2 486	2 450	888	59	1 337	2	2 286	161	3
Italy	4 232	4 521	1 432	68	2 618	3	4 121	395	5
Norway	2 340	1 939	818	11	952	-	1 781	144	14
Portugal	4 264	3 768	609	20	1 766	9	2 404	1 357	7
Spain	2 288	2 864	752	55	1 751	3	2 561	295	8
Sweden	4 825	4 782	1 868	38	2 405	5	4 316	444	22
Switzerland	6 262	6 739	2 775	65	2 989	13	5 842	845	52
The Netherlands	14 027	13 340	4 708	113	6 049	9	10 879	2 395	66
UK	36 381	35 641	12 158	915	20 141	62	33 276	2 095	270
Other	9 105	8 840	2 911	227	5 002	12	8 152	642	46
North America	27 072	30 794	6 477	107	20 236	234	27 054	2 816	924
Canada	5 450	6 365	1 952	27	3 242	26	5 247	839	279
USA	21 622	24 429	4 525	80	16 994	208	21 807	1 977	645
Central and South America	3 962	4 025	313	9	3 285	3	3 610	406	9
Argentina	371	467	18	-	413	-	431	36	-
Brazil	2 402	2 205	107	4	1 825	-	1 936	265	4
Mexico	212	301	64	1	229	-	294	6	1
Other	977	1 052	124	4	818	3	949	99	4

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

Country of residence	November		Air					Road	Sea
	2014	2015	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	10 293	8 982	904	192	7 257	34	8 387	517	78
Australia	8 688	7 539	721	133	6 149	31	7 034	435	70
New Zealand	1 595	1 422	182	59	1 089	3	1 333	81	8
Other	10	21	1	-	19	-	20	1	-
Middle East	2 403	3 075	709	29	2 233	2	2 973	91	11
Israel	1 323	1 604	204	5	1 341	1	1 551	44	9
Saudi Arabia	288	360	63	7	286	-	356	4	-
Lebanon	242	248	86	4	140	-	230	18	-
Other	550	863	356	13	466	1	836	25	2
Asia	17 459	28 049	3 855	400	21 472	14	25 741	2 273	35
Bangladesh	446	478	53	5	287	-	345	133	-
China	5 296	12 519	978	40	11 119	-	12 137	382	-
India	6 384	7 767	1 245	182	5 583	5	7 015	746	6
Japan	1 733	1 658	213	38	1 306	4	1 561	97	-
Malaysia	437	699	292	60	319	-	671	26	2
Pakistan	1 202	1 077	115	25	507	-	647	430	-
Philippines	472	485	90	8	288	-	386	82	17
Singapore	499	619	233	3	353	3	592	27	-
South Korea	3	1 139	214	19	755	-	988	151	-
Taiwan	-	434	58	3	313	-	374	58	2
Other	987	1 174	364	17	642	2	1 025	141	8
Africa	616 611	551 927	3 965	386	46 804	202	51 357	500 547	23
SADC	599 046	535 911	3 293	319	32 731	170	36 513	499 394	4
Angola	4 849	3 562	720	2	2 654	6	3 382	180	-
Botswana	49 014	47 802	177	-	2 135	49	2 361	45 441	-
DRC	2 454	2 341	13	-	1 711	6	1 730	611	-
Lesotho	135 285	122 578	6	5	512	-	523	122 055	-
Madagascar	282	221	2	-	210	1	213	8	-

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

Country of residence	November		Air					Road	Sea
	2014	2015	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Malawi	15 829	12 479	7	2	2 075	6	2 090	10 389	-
Mauritius	1 744	1 542	283	90	1 078	5	1 456	86	-
Mozambique	111 442	98 003	5	30	3 162	25	3 222	94 781	-
Namibia	17 483	16 862	1 932	-	3 235	27	5 194	11 666	2
Seychelles	748	1 040	8	3	1 019	-	1 030	10	-
Swaziland	79 591	67 509	39	-	681	2	722	66 787	-
Tanzania	-	3 005	16	-	1 930	1	1 947	1 058	-
Zambia	14 410	13 113	16	83	3 278	8	3 385	9 728	-
Zimbabwe	165 915	145 854	69	104	9 051	34	9 258	136 594	2
'Other' African	17 565	16 016	672	67	14 073	32	14 844	1 153	19
East and Central Africa	7 238	6 351	217	5	5 669	26	5 917	434	-
Burundi	161	131	12	-	115	-	127	4	-
Cameroon	481	597	26	-	527	-	553	44	-
Central African Republic	22	14	-	-	11	-	11	3	-
Chad	49	57	7	-	50	-	57	-	-
Comoros	19	15	1	-	13	1	15	-	-
Congo	336	301	8	-	268	17	293	8	-
Djibouti	12	29	10	-	19	-	29	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	60	25	3	-	22	-	25	-	-
Eritrea	73	43	2	-	38	-	40	3	-
Ethiopia	607	697	69	2	557	-	628	69	-
Gabon	543	410	3	-	400	4	407	3	-
Kenya	3 349	2 843	56	2	2 609	4	2 671	172	-
Réunion	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Rwanda	111	82	7	-	66	-	73	9	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	11	13	1	-	12	-	13	-	-
Somalia	15	18	1	1	15	-	17	1	-
Uganda	1 389	1 075	11	-	947	-	958	117	-

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

Country of residence	November		Air					Road	Sea
	2014	2015	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	8 944	8 074	219	39	7 142	5	7 405	650	19
Benin	201	289	2	1	280	-	283	6	-
Burkina Faso	79	106	5	1	96	-	102	4	-
Cape Verde Island	59	52	13	-	32	1	46	6	-
Côte d'Ivoire	286	290	8	1	275	1	285	5	-
Gambia	63	53	2	-	45	-	47	6	-
Ghana	1 834	1 555	70	7	1 420	-	1 497	58	-
Guinea	153	168	3	-	78	-	81	87	-
Guinea-Bissau	20	5	-	-	5	-	5	-	-
Liberia	7	66	1	2	61	-	64	2	-
Mali	123	183	6	2	134	-	142	41	-
Mauritania	38	23	4	-	19	-	23	-	-
Niger	35	68	13	4	49	-	66	2	-
Nigeria	5 681	4 738	81	19	4 220	3	4 323	415	-
Saint Helena	-	19	-	-	1	-	1	-	18
Senegal	275	319	8	1	302	-	311	8	-
Sierra Leone	24	57	-	-	47	-	47	10	-
Togo	66	83	3	1	78	-	82	-	1
North Africa	1 383	1 591	236	23	1 262	1	1 522	69	-
Algeria	100	64	11	1	50	1	63	1	-
Egypt	662	615	95	13	471	-	579	36	-
Libya	72	58	18	3	25	-	46	12	-
Morocco	134	262	37	3	221	-	261	1	-
South Sudan	116	81	7	-	74	-	81	-	-
The Sudan	205	201	35	1	151	-	187	14	-
Tunisia	94	309	33	2	269	-	304	5	-
Western Sahara	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	1751	1 302	101	7	1 052	-	1 160	141	1

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

Country of residence	November		Purpose of visit		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
Total	826 163	774 378	33 292	738 248	2 838
Overseas	207 801	221 149	11 395	209 219	535
Europe	146 612	146 224	7 294	138 664	266
Austria	3 084	3 458	105	3 350	3
Belgium	4 765	4 877	209	4 658	10
Denmark	2 360	2 532	161	2 369	2
France	15 991	15 103	784	14 297	22
Germany	34 202	35 370	1 097	34 185	88
Ireland	2 486	2 450	174	2 274	2
Italy	4 232	4 521	358	4 152	11
Norway	2 340	1 939	82	1 854	3
Portugal	4 264	3 768	147	3 621	-
Spain	2 288	2 864	238	2 615	11
Sweden	4 825	4 782	267	4 503	12
Switzerland	6 262	6 739	155	6 578	6
The Netherlands	14 027	13 340	562	12 754	24
UK	36 381	35 641	2 136	33 473	32
Other	9 105	8 840	819	7 981	40
North America	27 072	30 794	1 260	29 458	76
Canada	5 450	6 365	210	6 147	8
USA	21 622	24 429	1 050	23 311	68
Central and South America	3 962	4 025	179	3 826	20
Argentina	371	467	14	453	-
Brazil	2 402	2 205	63	2 136	6
Mexico	212	301	30	270	1
Other	977	1 052	72	967	13

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

Country of residence	November		Purpose of visit		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	10 293	8 982	258	8 714	10
Australia	8 688	7 539	214	7 320	5
New Zealand	1 595	1 422	42	1 378	2
Other	10	21	2	16	3
Middle East	2 403	3 075	319	2 715	41
Israel	1 323	1 604	116	1 485	3
Saudi Arabia	288	360	21	334	5
Lebanon	242	248	53	194	1
Other	550	863	129	702	32
Asia	17 459	28 049	2 085	25 842	122
Bangladesh	446	478	45	429	4
China	5 296	12 519	652	11 848	19
India	6 384	7 767	737	6 979	51
Japan	1 733	1 658	189	1 467	2
Malaysia	437	699	52	646	1
Pakistan	1 202	1 077	83	987	7
Philippines	472	485	31	442	12
Singapore	499	619	45	573	1
South Korea	3	1 139	109	1 017	13
Taiwan	-	434	30	402	2
Other	987	1 174	112	1 052	10
Africa	616 611	551 927	21 759	527 866	2 302
SADC	599 046	535 911	20 430	513 537	1 944
Angola	4 849	3 562	113	3 313	136
Botswana	49 014	47 802	566	47 039	197
DRC	2 454	2 341	101	2 159	81
Lesotho	135 285	122 578	1 514	120 634	430
Madagascar	282	221	11	204	6

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

Country of residence	November		Purpose of visit		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
Malawi	15 829	12 479	332	12 108	39
Mauritius	1 744	1 542	71	1 462	9
Mozambique	111 442	98 003	11 488	86 464	51
Namibia	17 483	16 862	2 200	14 447	215
Seychelles	748	1 040	12	1 028	-
Swaziland	79 591	67 509	410	66 714	385
Tanzania	-	3 005	108	2 861	36
Zambia	14 410	13 113	990	12 077	46
Zimbabwe	165 915	145 854	2 514	143 027	313
'Other' African	17 565	16 016	1 329	14 329	358
East and Central Africa	7 238	6 351	573	5 620	158
Burundi	161	131	17	113	1
Cameroon	481	597	86	495	16
Central African Republic	22	14	2	12	-
Chad	49	57	10	46	1
Comoros	19	15	1	13	1
Congo	336	301	14	262	25
Djibouti	12	29	8	21	-
Equatorial Guinea	60	25	5	16	4
Eritrea	73	43	2	41	-
Ethiopia	607	697	66	621	10
Gabon	543	410	6	381	23
Kenya	3 349	2 843	260	2 531	52
Réunion	-	1	-	1	-
Rwanda	111	82	8	64	10
São Tomé and Príncipe	11	13	1	12	-
Somalia	15	18	-	17	1
Uganda	1 389	1 075	87	974	14

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

Country of residence	November		Purpose of visit		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	8 944	8 074	529	7 387	158
Benin	201	289	16	269	4
Burkina Faso	79	106	15	90	1
Cape Verde Island	59	52	4	48	-
Côte d'Ivoire	286	290	40	248	2
Gambia	63	53	5	48	-
Ghana	1 834	1 555	123	1 407	25
Guinea	153	168	11	156	1
Guinea-Bissau	20	5	-	5	-
Liberia	7	66	10	56	-
Mali	123	183	15	168	-
Mauritania	38	23	3	20	-
Niger	35	68	20	47	1
Nigeria	5 681	4 738	207	4 410	121
Saint Helena	-	19	-	19	-
Senegal	275	319	34	284	1
Sierra Leone	24	57	10	47	-
Togo	66	83	16	65	2
North Africa	1 383	1 591	227	1 322	42
Algeria	100	64	11	52	1
Egypt	662	615	84	525	6
Libya	72	58	2	31	25
Morocco	134	262	62	199	1
South Sudan	116	81	8	69	4
The Sudan	205	201	32	165	4
Tunisia	94	309	28	280	1
Western Sahara	-	1	-	1	-
Unspecified	1751	1 302	138	1 163	1

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

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (November 2015)			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	774 378	221 149	535 911	16 016	1 302
	0-14	29 327	6 557	22 349	420	1
	15-64	695 332	178 702	500 124	15 214	1 292
	65+	49 719	35 890	13 438	382	9
Male	Total	430 462	122 197	296 604	10 879	782
	0-14	14 743	3 451	11 077	214	1
	15-64	390 617	99 699	279 724	10 421	773
	65+	25 102	19 047	5 803	244	8
Female	Total	343 915	98 952	239 306	5 137	520
	0-14	14 583	3 106	11 271	206	-
	15-64	304 715	79 003	220 400	4 793	519
	65+	24 617	16 843	7 635	138	1
Unspecified	Total	1	-	1	-	-
	15-64	1	-	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 new 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 2015/16 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) through all the air, land and sea ports of entry.

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 DHA database.
- As part of data interrogation, data from the 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 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. In November 2015, the DHA data was 2,7% higher than that of ACSA.

4.5 Limitations

Due to technical problems at data source not all required information could be captured in some of the months. Hence some information was missed on individuals or even countries affecting the volume of tourists from such countries. For example, the *purpose of visit* information that is used to determine whether a traveller is a *visitor* or *non-visitor*, was not recorded for travellers from Tanzania in November and December 2014. Therefore it was not possible to determine the number of tourists from the country during the period. This does not mean there were no tourists from such countries but rather their volume could not be determined. Likewise either low or no numbers were observed from countries such as South Korea and Taiwan.

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 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 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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