

Statistical release

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Tourism and Migration

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NOTICE

Users who would like to continue using foreign arrival (rather than tourists) as their base denominator for comparison and trend analysis purposes could send their data request to: TshwaroG@statssa.gov.za or DuduzileGu@statssa.gov.za

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KEY FINDINGS

1. Travellers

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 2 732 572 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through South African ports of entry in October 2010. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 897 179 South African residents and 1 835 393 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures indicates that there were 466 104 and 431 075 South African residents' arrivals and departures respectively. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals and departures were 1 003 661 and 831 732 respectively. A comparison between the movements in September 2010 and October 2010 indicates that the volume of arrivals increased for both South African residents and for foreign travellers. The South African residents' departures declined whereas foreign departures increased. There was an increase of 1,2% from 460 444 in September 2010 to 466 104 in October 2010 for South African arrivals and a decline of 10,9% from 483 727 in September 2010 to 431 075 in October 2010 for South African departures. Foreign arrivals increased by 4,4% from 960 976 in September 2010 to 1 003 661 in October 2010 and foreign departures increased by 2,0% from 815 333 in September 2010 to 831 732 in October 2010.

A comparison between movements in October 2009 and October 2010 indicates that there was an increase in all movements. Thus, South African residents arrivals increased by 24,7% from 373 807 in October 2009 to 466 104 in October 2010 and foreign arrivals increased by 12,8% from 889 529 in October 2009 to 1 003 661 in October 2010. Detailed information on the departure of travellers is not available in the movement data. Data on the purpose of travel and the number of days South African travellers intend to spend or spent abroad are not collected by South Africa immigration officers. Hence, it is not possible to categorise them as tourists and non tourists. However, data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation. As presented in Table 1, in October 2010, 14 757 (1,5%) foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 988 904 (98,5%) were visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups: arrivals only comprising of visitors who entered the country in October 2010 but did not depart in October 2010 (367 568); visitors who came once in October 2010 and left in October 2010 (331 733); and those who came more than once in October 2010 and left in October 2010 (289 603). Visitors were further grouped as same day visitors 282 065 (28,5%) and overnight visitors/tourists 706 839 (71,5%).

1.2 Mode of travel of travellers and same day visitors

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 October 2010, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 1 921 758 (70,3%) out of the 2 732 572 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 807 316 (29,5%). The arrivals data on South African residents show that 177 079 (38,0%) came by air and 288 818 (62,0%) by road. For departures, 150 935 (35,0%) and 279 824 (64,9%) used air and road transport respectively. In the case of foreign travellers, 269 309 (26,8%) arrived by air. Those who came by road were 732 509 (73,0%). When departing South Africa, 209 993 (25,2%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 620 607 (74,6%) left by road. As shown in Table 2 an overwhelming majority, 257 853 (91,4%) of same day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 24 205 (8,6%) same day visitors flew into the country. However, data on overnight visitors/tourists show that, 469 750 (66,5%) used road transport whereas 236 142 (33,4%) came by air.

2. Tourists

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 October 2010, 181 110 (87,0%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 26 273 (12,6%) came in by road. This is in contrast to tourists from SADC countries who came into South Africa predominantly by road 441 125 (91,8%). Only 39 612 (8,2%) tourists from SADC countries came in by air. A relatively high number 13 666 (89,3%) of tourists from 'other' African countries flew into the country with only 1 615 (10,6%) using road transport.

2.2 Regional and national distribution of tourists

In October 2010, overseas tourists came mainly from Europe, 133 166 (63,9%); followed by North America, 29 670 (14,2%); Asia, 24 144 (11,6%); Australasia, 10 959 (5,3%); Central and South America, 7 317 (3,5%); and Middle East, 3 020 (1,4%). Virtually all tourists from Africa came from the SADC countries, 480 766 (96,9%). The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 7 381 (1,5%); East and Central Africa, 6 655 (1,3%) and North Africa 1 269 (0,3%).

Data presented in Figure 1 indicate that UK, 39 642 (19,0%); Germany, 24 895 (12,0%); USA, 24 002 (11,5%); The Netherlands, 14 796 (7,1%); France, 12 995 (6,2%); Australia, 9 339 (4,5%); India, 6 291 (3,0%) and China, 5 697 (2,7%) were the eight leading overseas countries. Tourists from these eight countries constitute 66,1% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in October 2009 and October 2010 shows that the number of tourists increased in all these countries with the exception of UK and The Netherlands. The volume of tourists from UK declined by 2,9% from 40 829 in October 2009 to 39 642 in October 2010 and the number of tourists from The Netherlands declined by 5,2% from 15 612 in October 2009 to 14 796 in October 2010.

The eight leading countries from SADC (see Figure 2) were Zimbabwe, 132 571 (27,6%); Lesotho, 121 402 (25,3%); Mozambique, 86 905 (18,1%); Swaziland, 49 599 (10,3%); Botswana, 38 506 (8,0%); Namibia, 15 486 (3,2%); Zambia, 13 790 (2,9%) and Malawi, 13 107 (2,7%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 98,0% of all tourists from SADC countries.

A comparison between movements in October 2009 and October 2010 shows that the number of tourists from all these countries increased with the exception of Swaziland and Botswana. The volume of tourists from Swaziland declined by 5,2% from 52 320 in October 2009 to 49 599 in October 2010 and the tourists from Botswana declined by 0,9% from 38 841 in October 2009 to 38 506 in October 2010.

The eight leading countries from 'other' African countries, shown in Figure 3, were Nigeria, 4 295 (28,1%); Kenya, 2 520 (16,5%); Ghana, 1 490 (9,7%); Uganda, 1 263 (8,3%); Ethiopia, 792 (5,2%); Egypt, 586 (3,8%); Cameroon, 537 (3,5%) and Gabon, 398 (2,6%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 77,6% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in October 2009 and October 2010 shows that the number of tourists increased in all these countries with the exception of Ethiopia. The volume of tourists from Ethiopia declined by 23,0% from 1 029 in October 2009 to 792 in October 2010.

2.3 Purpose of visit of tourists

As observed from data given in Table 4, in October 2010, an overwhelming majority (91,1%) of tourists were in South Africa for holidays compared to only 0,9% and 4,1% of tourists who were in South Africa to study and for business purposes respectively. A detailed analysis reveals that of all the tourists from the overseas regions, at least 71,0% came to South Africa for holidays. Tourists from Australasia (90,1%), Europe (89,8%), North America (88,6%), Middle East (86,4%), Asia (74,0%) and Central and South America (71,2%) and were in South Africa mostly for holidays. Tourists from Asia and Central and South America were more diverse in terms of visit. Asia and Central and South America had 6,5% and 1,9% respectively of their tourists in South Africa for business. Furthermore, students made up 0,6% and 0,3% of tourists from Asia and Central and South America respectively.

The majority (92,8%) of African tourists came to South Africa for holidays. There were differences between tourists from the sub-regions of Africa, namely:

- Whereas 93,1% of tourists from the SADC countries were on holidays; 83,9% of tourists on holiday came from West Africa; tourists on holidays from East and Central Africa and North Africa were 83,6% and 77,3% respectively.
- Business persons constituted 14,3% of tourists from North Africa compared with 3,8% from West Africa, 4,5% from SADC countries and 5,9% from East and Central Africa and SADC countries were 5,9% and 4,5% respectively.
- Students made up 3,0% of tourists from North Africa compared with 2,6% from East and Central Africa, 1,6% from West Africa and 1,0% from SADC countries.

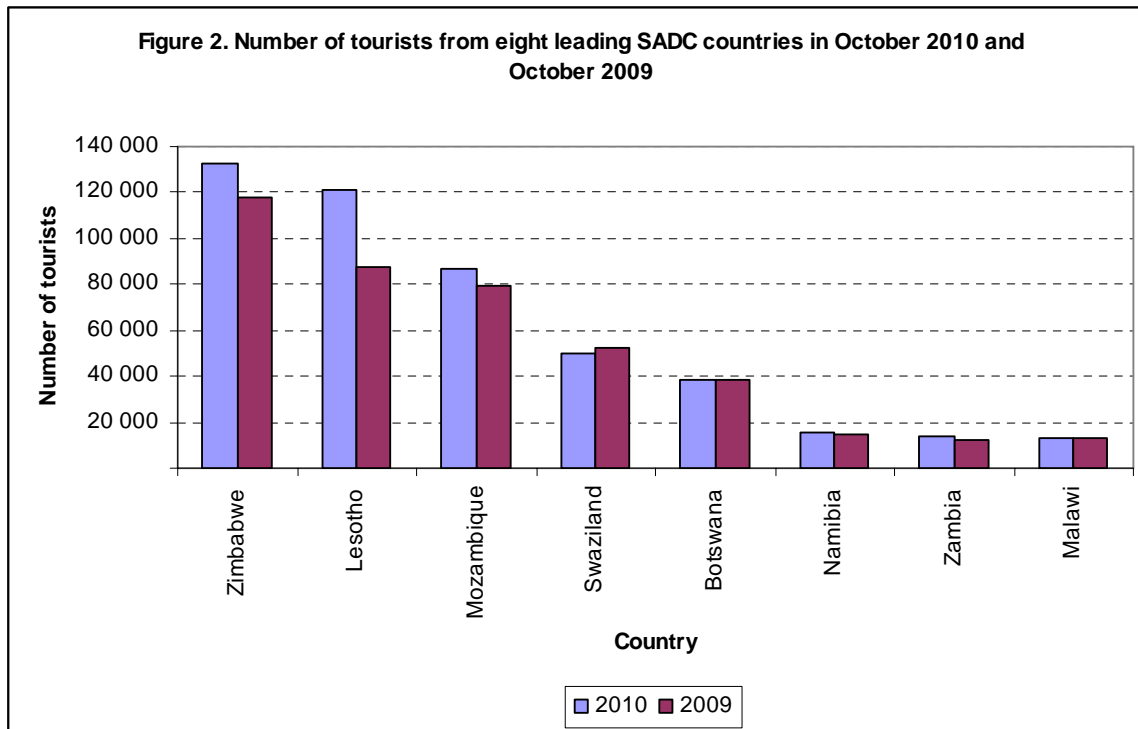
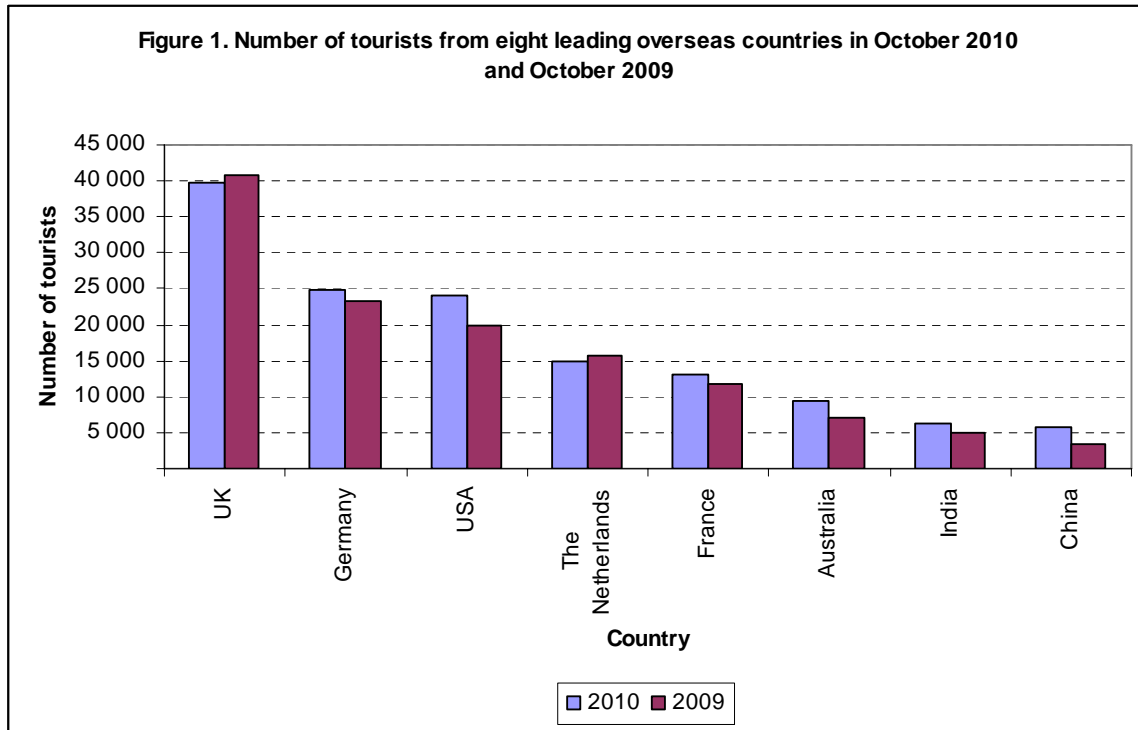
2.4 Sex and age distribution of tourists

As indicated in Table 5, in October 2010, there were 405 595 (57,4%) male and 300 208 (42,5%) female tourists. The overseas tourists were made up of 116 492 (55,9%) male tourists and 91 568 (44,0%) female tourists. Tourists from 'other' African countries had a high proportion (67,2%) of males compared with those from SADC (57,7%). The proportions of female tourists from 'other' African countries and SADC countries were 32,8% and 42,2% respectively.

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 90,4% of tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years; 4,0% were aged less than 15 years and 5,4% were aged 65 years and older. Taking the country of residence into consideration, the results further show that 81,9% of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared to 94,0% and 94,6% of tourists from SADC and 'other' African countries respectively. There were few tourists younger than 15 years and those aged 65 years and older.

A comparison of the three regions however shows relatively high proportions of the elderly among both male (12,1%) and female (13,6%) tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to tourists from SADC countries amongst which 1,9% 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.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General



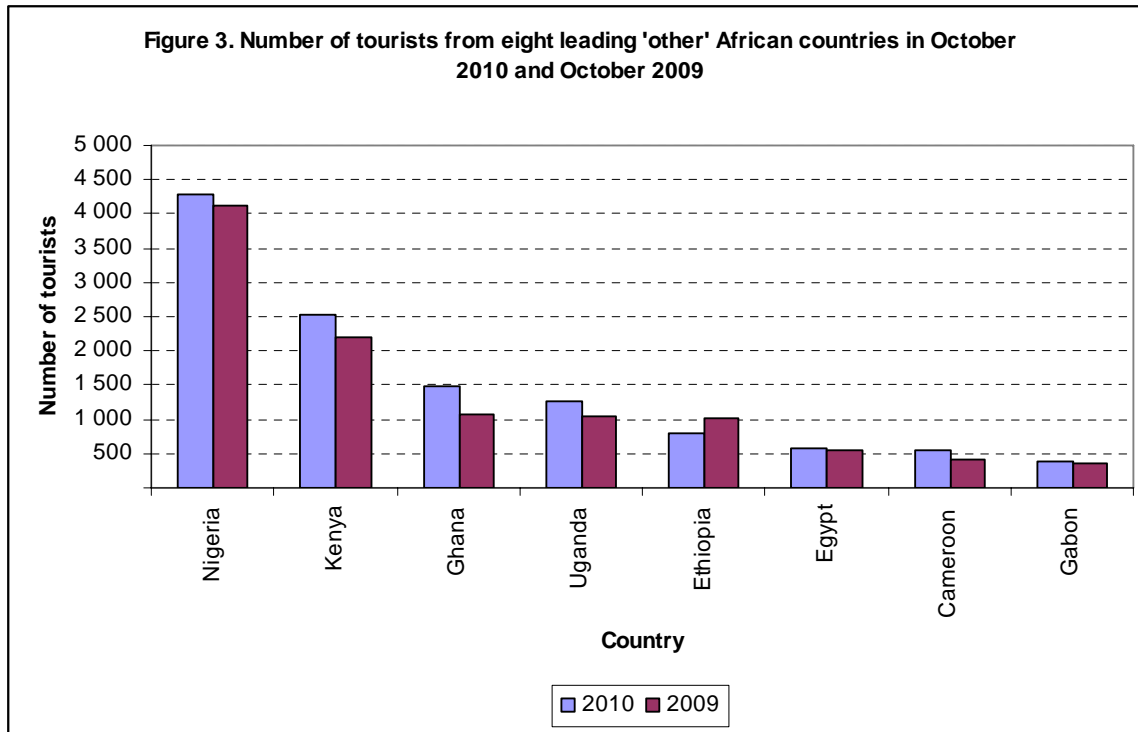


Table 1. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction

Travel direction	October	September	October	% change	
	2009	2010	2010	October 09 - October 10	September 10 - October 10
Grand total	2 375 289	2 720 480	2 732 572	15,0	0,4
South African residents	722 616	944 171	897 179	24,2	-5,0
Arrivals	373 807	460 444	466 104	24,7	1,2
Departures	348 809	483 727	431 075	23,6	-10,9
Foreign travellers	1 652 673	1 776 309	1 835 393	11,1	3,3
Arrivals	889 529	960 976	1 003 661	12,8	4,4
Departures	763 144	815 333	831 732	9,0	2,0
Foreign arrivals	889 529	960 976	1 003 661	12,8	4,4
Non-visitors	31 846	15 797	14 757	-53,7	-6,6
Visitors	857 683	945 179	988 904	15,3	4,6
Visitors	857 683	945 179	988 904	15,3	4,6
Arrivals only	274 220	348 408	367 568	34,0	5,5
Single trips	360 235	314 677	331 733	-7,9	5,4
Multiple trips	223 228	282 094	289 603	29,7	2,7
Visitors	857 683	945 179	988 904	15,3	4,6
Same day	225 579	286 614	282 065	25,0	-1,6
Overnight (tourists)	632 104	658 565	706 839	11,8	7,3

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

Travel direction	October		Mode of travel (October 2010)								
			Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2009	2010	Cape Town	K. Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total				
Grand total	2 375 289	2 732 572	101 414	15 201	666 589	24 112	807 316	128	1 921 758	3 142	228
South African residents	722 616	897 179	33 245	10 083	273 817	10 869	328 014	73	568 642	365	85
Arrivals	373 807	466 104	18 406	5 265	146 812	6 596	177 079	19	288 818	166	22
Departures	348 809	431 075	14 839	4 818	127 005	4 273	150 935	54	279 824	199	63
Foreign travellers	1 652 673	1 835 393	68 169	5 118	392 772	13 243	479 302	55	1 353 116	2 777	143
Arrivals	889 529	1003 661	37 384	2 742	220 138	9 045	269 309	35	732 509	1 710	98
Departures	763 144	831 732	30 785	2 376	172 634	4 198	209 993	20	620 607	1 067	45
Visitors	857 683	988 904	35 861	2 279	213 700	8 507	260 347	27	727 603	901	26
Same day	225 579	282 065	187	38	20 251	3 729	24 205	1	257 853	6	-
Overnight (tourists)	632 104	706 839	35 674	2 241	193 449	4 778	236 142	26	469 750	895	26

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

Country	Mode of travel (October 2010)										
	October		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2009	2010	Cape Town	K. Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total				
Total	632 104	706 839	35 674	2 241	193 449	4 778	236 142	26	469 750	895	26
Overseas	189 932	208 276	33 158	2 049	144 797	1 106	181 110	-	26 273	868	25
Europe	130 232	133 166	26 517	1 517	85 775	473	114 282	-	18 805	65	14
Austria	1 848	2 106	306	22	1 532	1	1 861	-	244	1	-
Belgium	4 809	4 927	697	4	3 193	13	3 907	-	1 020	-	-
Denmark	2 804	2 792	453	10	2 009	6	2 478	-	310	4	-
France	11 834	12 995	1 811	99	8 665	21	10 596	-	2 391	4	4
Germany	23 300	24 895	5 006	204	16 242	50	21 502	-	3 384	9	-
Ireland	2 857	2 662	759	15	1 568	20	2 362	-	298	2	-
Italy	3 899	4 814	922	52	3 406	8	4 388	-	426	-	-
Norway	1 745	1 877	425	10	1 204	22	1 661	-	215	-	1
Portugal	2 463	3 317	166	24	1 672	13	1 875	-	1 441	1	-
Spain	2 600	2 271	250	4	1 773	9	2 036	-	235	-	-
Sweden	4 299	4 372	977	4	2 888	6	3 875	-	496	-	1
Switzerland	3 983	5 097	696	62	3 639	24	4 421	-	671	5	-
The Netherlands	15 612	14 796	2 935	69	8 090	15	11 109	-	3 685	-	2
UK	40 829	39 642	9 854	863	25 306	145	36 168	-	3 436	35	3
Other	7 350	6 603	1 260	75	4 588	120	6 043	-	553	4	3
North America	24 076	29 670	2 813	99	22 440	329	25 681	-	3 225	761	3
Canada	4 536	5 668	754	31	4 024	30	4 839	-	820	9	-
USA	19 536	24 002	2 059	68	18 416	299	20 842	-	2 405	752	3
Other	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central and South America	5 886	7 317	390	5	6 345	34	6 774	-	538	4	1
Argentina	917	1 185	165	-	981	3	1 149	-	35	-	1
Brazil	3 151	4 278	37	4	3 862	21	3 924	-	352	2	-
Chile	283	321	31	-	268	-	299	-	22	-	-
Other	1 535	1 533	157	1	1 234	10	1 402	-	129	2	-

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

Country	Mode of travel (October 2010)										
	October		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2009	2010	Cape Town	K.Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total				
Australasia	8 366	10 959	617	47	9 269	38	9 971	-	981	7	-
Australia	7 029	9 339	459	40	7 973	28	8 500	-	835	4	-
New Zealand	1 287	1 570	126	7	1 280	10	1 423	-	144	3	-
Other	50	50	32	-	16	-	48	-	2	-	-
Middle East	2 922	3 020	350	17	2 446	18	2 831	-	189	-	-
Iran	374	168	33	1	128	1	163	-	5	-	-
Israel	1 474	1 742	34	-	1 599	6	1 639	-	103	-	-
Lebanon	189	278	54	4	181	2	241	-	37	-	-
Other	885	832	229	12	538	9	788	-	44	-	-
Asia	18 450	24 144	2 471	364	18 522	214	21 571	-	2 535	31	7
China	3 280	5 697	583	21	4 484	26	5 114	-	582	1	-
India	5 047	6 291	505	148	4 755	35	5 443	-	841	5	2
Japan	2 995	3 737	200	7	3 448	3	3 658	-	75	4	-
Korea	949	1 175	132	3	955	2	1 092	-	83	-	-
Malaysia	618	806	240	17	489	-	746	-	60	-	-
Pakistan	909	1 205	91	74	691	4	860	-	339	6	-
Philippines	415	1 032	64	40	632	108	844	-	182	1	5
Taiwan	1 113	850	35	2	690	-	727	-	110	13	-
Thailand	621	717	57	4	625	5	691	-	26	-	-
Other	2 503	2 634	564	48	1 753	31	2 396	-	237	1	-
Africa	438 756	496 071	2 402	188	47 033	3 655	53 278	26	442 740	27	-
SADC	424 428	480 766	2 110	171	33 713	3 618	39 612	26	441 125	3	-
Angola	3 404	3 486	381	1	2 972	29	3 383	-	102	1	-
Botswana	38 841	38 506	10	5	2 850	71	2 936	26	35 544	-	-
DRC	2 739	2 581	2	-	1 962	14	1 978	-	603	-	-
Lesotho	87 286	121 402	6	-	665	3 321	3 992	-	117 410	-	-
Madagascar	167	332	1	-	321	-	322	-	10	-	-

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

Country	Mode of travel (October 2010)										
	October		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2009	2010	Cape Town	K.Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total				
Malawi	12 699	13 107	5	1	2 299	15	2 320	-	10 787	-	-
Mauritius	1 279	1 352	179	90	882	11	1 162	-	190	-	-
Mozambique	79 309	86 905	72	62	2 657	34	2 825	-	84 080	-	-
Namibia	14 841	15 486	1 404	-	3 461	26	4 891	-	10 594	1	-
Swaziland	52 320	49 599	1	2	959	34	996	-	48 603	-	-
Tanzania	1 332	1 649	5	-	1 112	4	1 121	-	528	-	-
Zambia	12 542	13 790	11	2	5 244	11	5 268	-	8 522	-	-
Zimbabwe	117 669	132 571	33	8	8 329	48	8 418	-	124 152	1	-
'Other' Africa	14 328	15 305	292	17	13 320	37	13 666	-	1 615	24	-
East and Central Africa	6 641	6 655	35	3	5 816	13	5 867	-	784	4	-
Burundi	74	78	-	-	72	-	72	-	6	-	-
Cameroon	407	537	3	-	498	-	501	-	35	1	-
Central African Republic	8	28	-	-	25	2	27	-	1	-	-
Chad	39	31	-	-	30	-	30	-	1	-	-
Comoros	12	10	-	-	10	-	10	-	-	-	-
Congo	505	297	4	-	263	1	268	-	28	1	-
Djibouti	14	5	-	-	5	-	5	-	-	-	-
Equat Guinea	41	35	1	-	30	-	31	-	4	-	-
Eritrea	64	45	1	-	40	-	41	-	4	-	-
Ethiopia	1 029	792	4	-	731	-	735	-	57	-	-
Gabon	345	398	1	-	395	2	398	-	-	-	-
Kenya	2 205	2 520	12	2	2 175	4	2 193	-	326	1	-
Reunion	25	11	1	-	9	-	10	-	1	-	-
Rwanda	231	262	1	-	238	-	239	-	23	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	15	11	1	-	9	-	10	-	1	-	-
Seychelles	255	318	1	1	309	-	311	-	7	-	-
Somalia	340	13	2	-	8	-	10	-	3	-	-
Tristan Da Cunha	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Uganda	1 032	1 263	3	-	969	4	976	-	287	-	-

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

Country	Mode of travel (October 2010)										
	October		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2009	2010	Cape Town	K.Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total				
West Africa	6 420	7 381	81	1	6 500	19	6 601	-	761	19	-
Ascension	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benin	139	140	-	-	130	1	131	-	9	-	-
Burkina Faso	76	70	2	-	68	-	70	-	-	-	-
Cape Verde Island	51	41	2	-	34	2	38	-	3	-	-
Cote D'Ivoire	169	187	12	-	171	-	183	-	4	-	-
Gambia	112	110	1	-	108	-	109	-	1	-	-
Ghana	1 072	1 490	7	-	1 356	3	1 366	-	124	-	-
Guinea	148	229	13	-	146	-	159	-	70	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	18	14	-	-	14	-	14	-	-	-	-
Liberia	61	82	3	-	77	-	80	-	2	-	-
Madeira Islands	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mali	77	154	13	-	121	-	134	-	20	-	-
Mauritania	13	35	1	-	33	-	34	-	1	-	-
Niger	22	35	-	-	35	-	35	-	-	-	-
Nigeria	4 111	4 295	21	1	3 763	13	3 798	-	494	3	-
Saint Helena	6	18	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	16	-
Senegal	198	297	2	-	283	-	285	-	12	-	-
Sierra Leone	85	120	1	-	98	-	99	-	21	-	-
Togo	48	64	1	-	63	-	64	-	-	-	-
North Africa	1 267	1 269	176	13	1 004	5	1 198	-	70	1	-
Algeria	119	117	7	-	104	-	111	-	6	-	-
Egypt	543	586	84	3	474	4	565	-	21	-	-
Libya	152	148	31	-	91	-	122	-	26	-	-
Morocco	103	102	21	3	68	1	93	-	8	1	-
The Sudan	256	202	15	3	179	-	197	-	5	-	-
Tunisia	91	111	18	4	85	-	107	-	4	-	-
Western Sahara	3	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	3 416	2 492	114	4	1 619	17	1 754	-	737	-	1

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

Country	October		Purpose of visit (October 2010)			
	2009	2010	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Total	632 104	706 839	29 284	643 708	6 088	27 759
Overseas	189 932	208 276	6 513	181 435	759	19 569
Europe	130 232	133 166	3 401	119 589	465	9 711
Austria	1 848	2 106	28	1 736	8	334
Belgium	4 809	4 927	100	4 484	9	334
Denmark	2 804	2 792	55	2 494	4	239
France	11 834	12 995	281	11 721	41	952
Germany	23 300	24 895	454	22 278	108	2 055
Ireland	2 857	2 662	78	2 432	8	144
Italy	3 899	4 814	130	4 235	14	435
Norway	1 745	1 877	62	1 622	8	185
Portugal	2 463	3 317	37	3 070	8	202
Spain	2 600	2 271	60	1 861	7	343
Sweden	4 299	4 372	81	3 931	9	351
Switzerland	3 983	5 097	59	4 051	14	973
The Netherlands	15 612	14 796	358	13 915	53	470
UK	40 829	39 642	1 206	36 209	143	2 084
Other	7 350	6 603	412	5 550	31	610
North America	24 076	29 670	969	26 288	82	2 331
Canada	4 536	5 668	158	5 120	19	371
USA	19 536	24 002	811	21 168	63	1 960
Other	4	-	-	-	-	-
Central and South America	5 886	7 317	141	5 210	24	1 942
Argentina	917	1 185	20	810	2	353
Brazil	3 151	4 278	46	2 932	7	1 293
Chile	283	321	13	245	-	63
Other	1 535	1 533	62	1 223	15	233

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

Country	October		Purpose of visit (October 2010)			
	2009	2010	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Australasia	8 366	10 959	223	9 873	11	852
Australia	7 029	9 339	169	8 445	10	715
New Zealand	1 287	1 570	33	1 405	1	131
Other	50	50	21	23	-	6
Middle East	2 922	3 020	210	2 609	35	166
Iran	374	168	18	136	2	12
Israel	1 474	1 742	22	1 637	1	82
Lebanon	189	278	39	195	1	43
Other	885	832	131	641	31	29
Asia	18 450	24 144	1 569	17 866	142	4 567
China	3 280	5 697	314	3 965	32	1 386
India	5 047	6 291	596	4 818	33	844
Japan	2 995	3 737	64	3 070	2	601
Korea	949	1 175	64	914	30	167
Malaysia	618	806	68	635	3	100
Pakistan	909	1 205	114	936	7	148
Philippines	415	1 032	39	536	15	442
Taiwan	1 113	850	20	682	3	145
Thailand	621	717	20	667	5	25
Other	2 503	2 634	270	1 643	12	709
Africa	438 756	496 071	22 673	460 337	5 158	7 903
SADC	424 428	480 766	21 816	447 597	4 828	6 525
Angola	3 404	3 486	70	2 804	116	496
Botswana	38 841	38 506	305	36 400	935	866
DRC	2 739	2 581	66	2 351	76	88
Lesotho	87 286	121 402	3 081	116 951	1 069	301
Madagascar	167	332	5	237	2	88

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

Country	October		Purpose of visit (October 2010)			
	2009	2010	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Malawi	12 699	13 107	68	12 592	36	411
Mauritius	1 279	1 352	55	1 106	11	180
Mozambique	79 309	86 905	12 757	73 400	67	681
Namibia	14 841	15 486	2 259	11 762	661	804
Swaziland	52 320	49 599	1 871	46 126	1 259	343
Tanzania	1 332	1 649	71	1 366	38	174
Zambia	12 542	13 790	744	12 108	114	824
Zimbabwe	117 669	132 571	464	130 394	444	1 269
'Other' Africa	14 328	15 305	857	12 740	330	1 378
East and Central Africa	6 641	6 655	392	5 563	175	525
Burundi	74	78	7	63	-	8
Cameroon	407	537	54	431	20	32
Central African Republic	8	28	7	20	-	1
Chad	39	31	3	25	1	2
Comoros	12	10	2	8	-	-
Congo	505	297	17	259	9	12
Djibouti	14	5	-	5	-	-
Equat Guinea	41	35	3	31	1	-
Eritrea	64	45	4	41	-	-
Ethiopia	1 029	792	39	700	14	39
Gabon	345	398	9	366	15	8
Kenya	2 205	2 520	169	2 026	82	243
Reunion	25	11	-	11	-	-
Rwanda	231	262	9	202	13	38
Sao Tome and Principe	15	11	2	8	-	1
Seychelles	255	318	5	279	2	32
Somalia	340	13	-	12	-	1
Tristan Da Cunha	-	1	-	1	-	-
Uganda	1 032	1 263	62	1 075	18	108

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

Country	October		Purpose of visit (October 2010)			
	2009	2010	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
West Africa	6 420	7 381	283	6 196	117	785
Ascension	3	-	-	-	-	-
Benin	139	140	9	128	-	3
Burkina Faso	76	70	8	51	1	10
Cape Verde Island	51	41	1	39	-	1
Cote D'Ivoire	169	187	22	147	4	14
Gambia	112	110	3	53	-	54
Ghana	1 072	1 490	40	1 268	14	168
Guinea	148	229	15	146	10	58
Guinea-Bissau	18	14	2	11	-	1
Liberia	61	82	9	48	1	24
Madeira Islands	11	-	-	-	-	-
Mali	77	154	14	122	-	18
Mauritania	13	35	1	29	-	5
Niger	22	35	4	22	1	8
Nigeria	4 111	4 295	115	3 751	81	348
Saint Helena	6	18	-	18	-	-
Senegal	198	297	28	222	3	44
Sierra Leone	85	120	6	91	2	21
Togo	48	64	6	50	-	8
North Africa	1 267	1 269	182	981	38	68
Algeria	119	117	11	102	1	3
Egypt	543	586	87	457	2	40
Libya	152	148	15	111	18	4
Morocco	103	102	20	72	4	6
The Sudan	256	202	27	160	13	2
Tunisia	91	111	22	77	-	12
Western Sahara	3	3	-	2	-	1
Unspecified	3 416	2 492	98	1 936	171	287

Table 5. Number of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African regions by sex and age group, October 2010

Sex	Age group	Total	Region			
			Overseas	SADC	'other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	706 839	208 276	480 766	15 305	2 492
	<15	28 387	10 939	16 831	518	99
	15-64	639 177	170 526	451 862	14 480	2309
	65+	38 224	26 654	11 195	294	81
	Unspecified	1 051	157	878	13	3
Males	Total	405 595	116 492	277 257	10 283	1 563
	<15	14 457	5 682	8 442	281	52
	15-64	370 841	96 563	263 002	9 809	1467
	65+	19 701	14 148	5 324	185	44
	Unspecified	596	99	489	8	-
Females	Total	300 208	91 568	202 700	5 017	923
	<15	13 929	5 257	8 388	237	47
	15-64	267 509	73 809	188 194	4 667	839
	65+	18 409	12 456	5 807	109	37
	Unspecified	361	46	311	4	-
Unspecified	Total	1 036	216	809	5	6
	<15	1	-	1	-	-
	15-64	827	154	666	4	3
	65+	114	50	64	-	-
	Unspecified	94	12	78	1	3

Explanatory notes

1. Introduction

Legal movements across South African borders as well as legal immigration into South Africa fall under the jurisdiction of the DHA. 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.

2. Purpose of the statistical release

This release reports on arrivals and departures of foreign and South African 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.

3. Scope and coverage

The release covers data on arrival and departure 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. 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 land, air and sea entry ports on all travellers (South African residents and foreign travellers) arriving into or departing from South Africa are captured into the 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.
- Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) downloads the data covering a particular calendar month from the mainframe of the State Information Technology Agency (SITA), where the DHA stores its data.
- 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 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 October 2010, the DHA data was 11,9% lower than that of ACSA.

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.

6. Definitions of terms

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.

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 thirteen countries, excluding South Africa, that 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.

7. Symbols and abbreviations used

- = nil

Unspec. = unspecified

General information

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

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