

STATISTICAL RELEASE

P0351

Tourism and migration

October 2016

**Embargoed until:
19 December 2016
09:00**

ENQUIRIES:

User Information Services
Tel: (012) 310 8600 / 4892 / 8390

FORTHCOMING ISSUE:

November 2016

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE:

23 January 2017

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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 October 2016. 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 3 527 820 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in October 2016. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 925 796 South African residents and 2 602 024 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 480 961 arrivals, 444 061 departures and 774 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 336 973, 1 193 994 and 71 057 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in October 2015 and October 2016 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, while the volume of transits decreased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 6,4% (from 452 153 in October 2015 to 480 961 in October 2016), departures increased by 1,4% (from 437 758 in October 2015 to 444 061 in October 2016), and transits decreased by 11,2% (from 872 in October 2015 to 774 in October 2016). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 5,3% (from 1 269 749 in October 2015 to 1 336 973 in October 2016), departures increased by 4,6% (from 1 142 021 in October 2015 to 1 193 994 in October 2016), and transits decreased by 5,9% (from 75 531 in October 2015 to 71 057 in October 2016).

A comparison between the movements in September 2016 and October 2016 indicates that the volume of arrivals increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of departures decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers, while the volume of transits decreased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 8,7% (from 442 285 in September 2016 to 480 961 in October 2016), departures decreased by 4,4% (from 464 440 in September 2016 to 444 061 in October 2016) and transits decreased by 6,4% (from 827 in September 2016 to 774 in October 2016). For foreign travellers, the volume of arrivals increased by 5,0% (from 1 273 734 in September 2016 to 1 336 973 in October 2016), departures increased by 2,9% (from 1 160 660 in September 2016 to 1 193 994 in October 2016), and transits decreased by 4,0% (from 74 056 in September 2016 to 71 057 in October 2016).

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 October 2016, 89 970 (6,7%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 247 003 (93,3%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in October 2016 but did not depart in October 2016 [291 300 (23,4%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in October 2016 and left in October 2016 [444 139 (35,6%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in October 2016 [511 564 (41,0%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In October 2016, there were 396 047 (31,8%) same-day visitors and 850 956 (68,2%) tourists. Between October 2015 and October 2016, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 6,6% (from 423 864 in October 2015 to 396 047 in October 2016) and that of tourists increased by 13,7% (from 748 561 in October 2015 to 850 956 in October 2016). Between September 2016 and October 2016, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 0,3% (from 397 190 in September 2016 to 396 047 in October 2016), while tourists increased by 7,2% (from 793 610 in September 2016 to 850 956 in October 2016).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 10 show that in October 2016, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 491 449 (70,6%) of the 3 527 820 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 1 028 225 (29,1%). Compared to use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 8 146 (0,2%) used sea transport. The arrivals data for South African residents show that 184 186 (38,3%) came by air, 296 563 (61,7%) came by road and 212 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. For departures, 161 675 (36,4%) used air, 282 159 (63,5%) used road and 227 (0,1%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit (774) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 315 838 (23,6%) arrived by air, 1 017 227 (76,1%) came by road and 3 908 (0,3%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 294 695 (24,7%) foreign travellers left by air, 895 500 (75,0%) left by road and 3 799 (0,3%) left by sea. All travellers in transit (71 057) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [375 505 (94,8%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 20 524 (5,2%) of same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that 574 138 (67,5%) used road transport, 276 564 (32,5%) came by air and 254 (less than 0,1%) 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 October 2016, 221 143 (88,2%) of overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 29 368 (11,7%) came in by road and 226 (0,1%) arrived by sea. 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 [543 454 (93,3%)] and by air [38 867 (6,7%)]. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 15 619 (92,7%), with 1 212 (7,2%) using road transport and 25 (0,1%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In October 2016, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 165 828 (66,1%); North America, 33 418 (13,3%); Asia, 28 802 (11,5%); Australasia, 10 307 (4,1%); Central and South America, 7 249 (2,9%) and Middle East, 5 133 (2,0%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 7 indicate that Germany, 40 492 (16,1%); the United Kingdom (UK), 39 696 (15,8%); United States of America (USA), 27 583 (11,0%); France, 19 009 (7,6%); The Netherlands, 16 988 (6,8%); China, 9 648 (3,8%); Australia, 8 422 (3,4%); Switzerland, 7 880 (3,1%); India, 7 527 (3,0%) and Belgium, 5 871 (2,3%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in October 2016. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 73,0% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in October 2015 and October 2016 shows that the number of tourists increased for all of the ten leading overseas countries. Germany had the largest increase of 30,0% (from 31 158 tourists in October 2015 to 40 492 in October 2016), while Australia had the smallest increase of 2,1% (from 8 250 tourists in October 2015 to 8 422 in October 2016).

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 582 324 (97,2%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 8 706 (1,5%); East and Central Africa, 6 559 (1,1%); and North Africa 1 591 (0,3%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in October 2016 were: Zimbabwe, 151 981 (26,1%); Lesotho, 146 591 (25,2%); Mozambique, 97 978 (16,8%); Swaziland, 76 511 (13,1%); Botswana, 50 515 (8,7%); Namibia, 17 498 (3,0%); Malawi, 14 829 (2,5%); Zambia, 14 585 (2,5%); Tanzania, 3 552 (0,6%) and Angola, 3 413 (0,6%). (See Figure 2 on page 7). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,2% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in October 2015 and October 2016 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for eight of the ten leading countries and decreased for two, Mozambique and Angola. Lesotho showed the largest increase of 39,1% (from 105 400 tourists in October 2015 to 146 591 tourists in October 2016), while Mozambique showed the largest decrease of 1,2% (from 99 216 tourists in October 2015 to 97 978 tourists in October 2016).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in October 2016 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8, were: Nigeria, 5 553 (32,9%); Kenya, 2 670 (15,8%); Ghana, 1 697 (10,1%); Uganda, 1 382 (8,2%); Egypt, 782 (4,6%); Ethiopia, 763 (4,5%); Gabon, 569 (3,4%); Cameroon, 477 (2,8%); Congo, 285 (1,7%) and Senegal, 253 (1,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 85,6% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in October 2015 and October 2016 shows that the number of tourists increased for all of the ten leading countries. Uganda showed the largest increase of 51,4% (from 913 tourists in October 2015 to 1 382 in October 2016), while Congo showed the smallest increase of 2,2% (from 279 tourists in October 2015 to 285 in October 2016).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on page 15, in October 2016, the majority of tourists, 820 535 (96,4%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 24 143 (2,8%) and 6 278 (0,7%) 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 90,0% came to South Africa for holiday. A total of 7 110 (98,1%) tourists from Central and South America, 10 074 (97,7%) from Australasia, 160 791 (97,0%) from Europe, 32 368 (96,9%) from North America, 4 888 (95,2%) from the Middle East and 26 799 (93,0%) from Asia were in South Africa for holiday. Asia had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business [6,2% (1 781)] while the Middle East had the highest proportion of tourists who came for study purposes [1,1% (55)] compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists, 577 547 (96,4%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 562 503 (96,6%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 15 044 (89,3%) of tourists from 'other' African countries came for the same purpose. Data on the regions of 'other' African countries show that tourists on holiday constituted 92,5% (8 049); 86,5% (5 671); and 83,2% (1 324) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 7,3% (1 238) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 2,6% (15 117) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 12,9% (206) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes.
- Students made up 3,4% (574) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,8% (4 704) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa had the highest proportion, 3,9% (256) of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in October 2016, there were 475 126 (55,8%) male and 375 830 (44,2%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 132 038 (52,7%) male tourists and 118 699 (47,3%) female tourists. There were 331 128 (56,9%) male and 251 196 (43,1%) female tourists from the SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 11 316 (67,1%) male and 5 540 (32,9%) 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 37 657 (4,4%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 760 198 (89,3%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 53 101 (6,2%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 15 947 (94,6%) tourists of 'other' African countries and 545 487 (93,7%) tourists from SADC countries were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 197 745 (78,9%) 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, 3,2% (543) than among those from SADC countries, 3,9% (22 625), and from overseas countries, 5,8% (14 486).

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 15,1% (19 936) of male and 15,6% (18 570) 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 1,9% (6 448) and 3,1% (7 764) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,1% (234) and 2,4% (132) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in October 2015 and October 2016

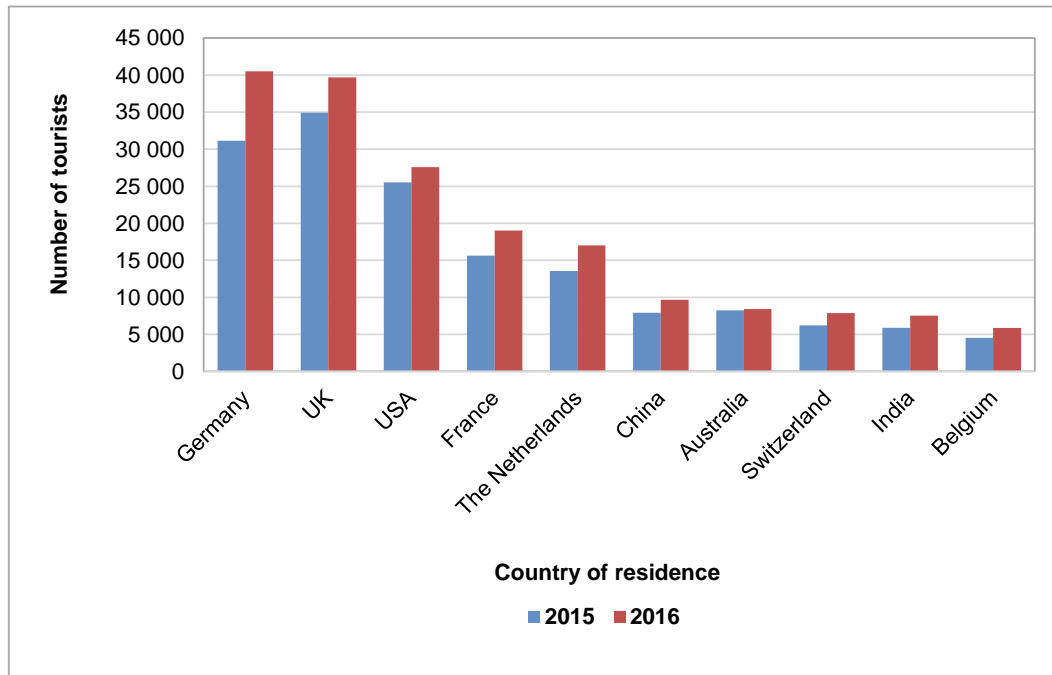


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in October 2015 and October 2016

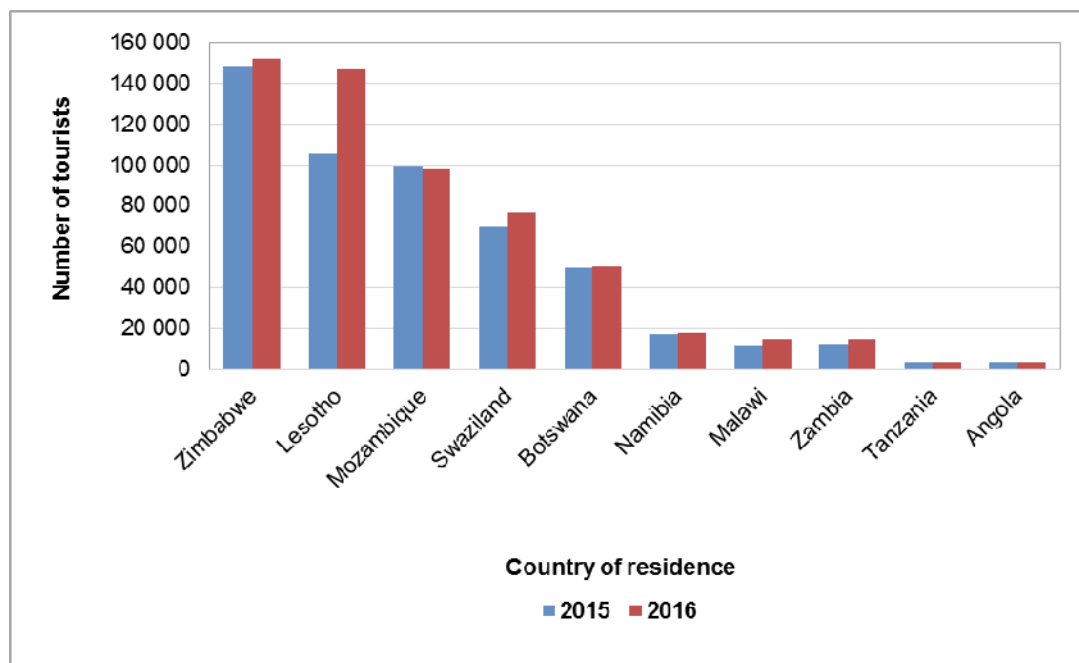
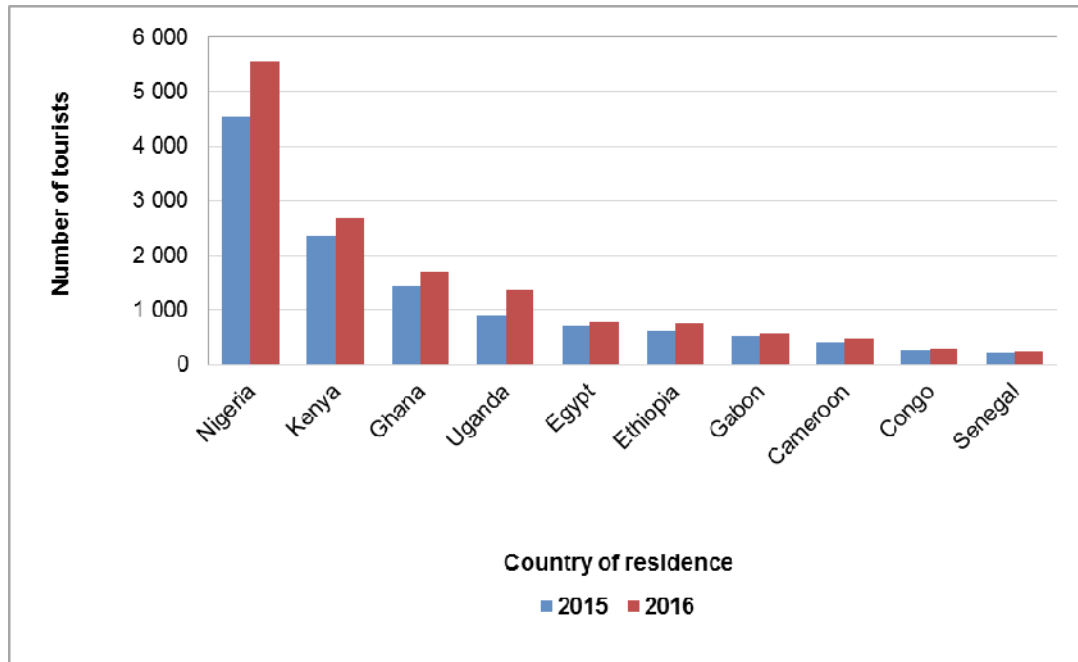


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in October 2015 and October 2016



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	October 2015	September 2016	October 2016	% Change	
				Sept – Oct 2016	Oct 2015 – Oct 2016
Total	3 378 084	3 416 002	3 527 820	3,3%	4,4%
South African residents	890 783	907 552	925 796	2,0%	3,9%
Arrivals	452 153	442 285	480 961	8,7%	6,4%
Departures	437 758	464 440	444 061	-4,4%	1,4%
Transit	872	827	774	-6,4%	-11,2%
Foreign travellers	2 487 301	2 508 450	2 602 024	3,7%	4,6%
Arrivals	1 269 749	1 273 734	1 336 973	5,0%	5,3%
Departures	1 142 021	1 160 660	1 193 994	2,9%	4,6%
Transit	75 531	74 056	71 057	-4,0%	-5,9%
Foreign arrivals	1 269 749	1 273 734	1 336 973	5,0%	5,3%
Non-visitors	97 324	82 934	89 970	8,5%	-7,6%
Visitors	1 172 425	1 190 800	1 247 003	4,7%	6,4%
Visitors	1 172 425	1 190 800	1 247 003	4,7%	6,4%
Arrivals only	260 400	286 102	291 300	1,8%	11,9%
Single trips	456 494	422 881	444 139	5,0%	-2,7%
Multiple trips	455 531	481 817	511 564	6,2%	12,3%
Visitors	1 172 425	1 190 800	1 247 003	4,7%	6,4%
Same-Day	423 864	397 190	396 047	-0,3%	-6,6%
Overnight (Tourists)	748 561	793 610	850 956	7,2%	13,7%

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

Travel direction	October 2016	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other Airports	Total		
Total	3 527 820	178 275	32 065	810 099	7 786	1 028 225	2 491 449	8 146
South African residents	925 796	49 072	18 327	274 847	4 389	346 635	578 722	439
Arrivals	480 961	27 021	9 712	145 362	2 091	184 186	296 563	212
Departures	444 061	22 049	8 615	128 713	2 298	161 675	282 159	227
Transit	774	2	-	772	-	774	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 602 024	129 203	13 738	535 252	3 397	681 590	1 912 727	7 707
Arrivals	1 336 973	67 921	6 723	239 696	1 498	315 838	1 017 227	3 908
Departures	1 193 994	61 148	7 013	224 635	1 899	294 695	895 500	3 799
Transit	71 057	134	2	70 921	-	71 057	-	-
Visitors	1 247 003	64 408	5 399	226 120	1 161	297 088	949 643	272
Same day	396 047	532	22	19 815	155	20 524	375 505	18
Tourist	850 956	63 876	5 377	206 305	1 006	276 564	574 138	254

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (October 2016)

Country of residence	October		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	748 561	850 956	63 876	5 377	206 305	1 006	276 564	574 138	254
Overseas	208 020	250 737	59 355	4 672	156 276	840	221 143	29 368	226
Europe	136 686	165 828	47 039	3 325	93 043	400	143 807	21 898	123
Austria	2 408	3 276	1 059	64	1 744	1	2 868	408	-
Belgium	4 528	5 871	1 394	83	3 405	4	4 886	985	-
Denmark	3 175	3 223	619	45	2 292	1	2 957	266	-
France	15 631	19 009	4 721	216	10 041	37	15 015	3 982	12
Germany	31 158	40 492	12 223	480	22 146	160	35 009	5 481	2
Ireland	2 250	2 906	1 144	143	1 434	10	2 731	174	1
Italy	4 189	5 181	1 568	126	3 034	6	4 734	445	2
Norway	1 656	1 673	465	49	924	2	1 440	233	-
Portugal	3 391	3 255	400	24	1 677	5	2 106	1 149	-
Spain	2 506	3 656	823	74	2 303	7	3 207	449	-
Sweden	4 405	4 883	1 640	103	2 751	19	4 513	369	1
Switzerland	6 212	7 880	2 730	99	4 073	45	6 947	932	1
The Netherlands	13 559	16 988	4 604	144	8 452	4	13 204	3 783	1
UK	34 936	39 696	11 444	1 388	24 161	83	37 076	2 525	95
Other	6 682	7 839	2 205	287	4 606	16	7 114	717	8
North America	31 174	33 418	5 801	289	23 603	326	30 019	3 318	81
Canada	5 653	5 835	1 325	68	3 493	40	4 926	906	3
USA	25 521	27 583	4 476	221	20 110	286	25 093	2 412	78
Central and South America	4 715	7 249	379	44	6 311	11	6 745	504	-
Argentina	483	1 029	51	1	903	2	957	72	-
Brazil	2 795	4 345	187	15	3 841	-	4 043	302	-
Chile	217	426	11	-	400	2	413	13	-
Other	1 220	1 449	130	28	1 167	7	1 332	117	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (October 2016) (continued)

Country of residence	October		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	9 774	10 307	819	135	8 464	62	9 480	821	6
Australia	8 250	8 422	632	85	6 998	55	7 770	649	3
New Zealand	1 496	1 846	175	45	1 446	7	1 673	171	2
Other	28	39	12	5	20	-	37	1	1
Middle East	2 885	5 133	796	85	3 808	14	4 703	430	-
Iran	188	290	73	19	186	-	278	12	-
Israel	1 619	3 520	405	26	2 693	14	3 138	382	-
Saudi Arabia	315	444	69	4	369	-	442	2	-
Other	763	879	249	36	560	-	845	34	-
Asia	22 786	28 802	4 521	794	21 047	27	26 389	2 397	16
China	7 902	9 648	1 047	71	8 129	1	9 248	399	1
India	5 891	7 527	1 516	374	4 925	16	6 831	695	1
Japan	2 829	3 305	273	39	2 916	6	3 234	70	1
Malaysia	496	873	396	17	416	1	830	31	12
Pakistan	1 332	1 314	106	81	622	-	809	505	-
Philippines	403	708	252	17	344	-	613	94	1
Singapore	491	615	186	11	404	2	603	12	-
South Korea	1 033	1 241	145	8	914	-	1 067	174	-
Taiwan	597	893	33	11	744	-	788	105	-
Thailand	417	789	149	20	572	-	741	48	-
Other	1 395	1 889	418	145	1 061	1	1 625	264	-
Africa	539 378	599 180	4 461	694	49 165	166	54 486	544 666	28
SADC	525 305	582 324	3 442	485	34 817	123	38 867	543 454	3
Angola	3 434	3 413	807	2	2 465	5	3 279	134	-
Botswana	49 364	50 515	220	13	2 268	33	2 534	47 981	-
DRC	2 021	2 000	44	12	1 463	3	1 522	478	-
Lesotho	105 400	146 591	6	3	655	1	665	145 926	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (October 2016) (continued)

Country of residence	October		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	248	214	4	1	207	-	212	2	-
Malawi	12 166	14 829	7	6	2 100	2	2 115	12 714	-
Mauritius	1 482	1 584	277	105	1 113	4	1 499	85	-
Mozambique	99 216	97 978	9	73	2 878	9	2 969	95 009	-
Namibia	17 076	17 498	1 881	28	3 496	24	5 429	12 068	1
Seychelles	736	1 073	-	5	1 046	-	1 051	22	-
Swaziland	70 158	76 511	4	1	616	-	621	75 890	-
Tanzania	3 479	3 552	26	2	2 163	6	2 197	1 355	-
Zambia	12 301	14 585	32	109	3 408	5	3 554	11 031	-
Zimbabwe	148 224	151 981	125	125	10 939	31	11 220	140 759	2
'Other' African	14 073	16 856	1 019	209	14 348	43	15 619	1 212	25
East and Central Africa	5 530	6 559	547	61	5 442	38	6 088	471	-
Burundi	104	65	8	1	52	-	61	4	-
Cameroon	408	477	34	5	400	1	440	37	-
Central African Republic	14	14	1	-	12	-	13	1	-
Chad	21	73	10	6	29	27	72	1	-
Comoros	23	20	1	-	19	-	20	-	-
Congo	279	285	19	-	259	1	279	6	-
Djibouti	9	11	2	3	6	-	11	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	88	40	5	1	30	2	38	2	-
Eritrea	62	54	3	4	46	-	53	1	-
Ethiopia	623	763	111	31	566	-	708	55	-
Gabon	515	569	31	-	530	4	565	4	-
Kenya	2 370	2 670	200	9	2 269	2	2 480	190	-
Réunion	2	10	10	-	-	-	10	-	-
Rwanda	66	79	7	-	64	-	71	8	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	13	6	2	-	4	-	6	-	-
Somalia	20	41	3	-	31	-	34	7	-
Uganda	913	1 382	100	1	1 125	1	1 227	155	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (October 2016) (concluded)

Country of residence	October		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	7 123	8 706	248	46	7 704	5	8 003	678	25
Benin	186	218	15	-	193	-	208	10	-
Burkina Faso	64	66	13	-	46	-	59	7	-
Cape Verde Island	56	53	7	-	45	-	52	1	-
Côte d'Ivoire	144	247	8	1	235	-	244	3	-
Gambia	63	60	-	-	55	-	55	5	-
Ghana	1 431	1 697	37	11	1 563	1	1 612	85	-
Guinea	125	124	5	-	67	-	72	52	-
Guinea-Bissau	6	17	-	-	15	-	15	2	-
Liberia	53	88	-	-	85	-	85	3	-
Mali	97	114	6	3	48	1	58	56	-
Mauritania	17	25	6	-	17	-	23	2	-
Niger	19	29	3	3	22	-	28	1	-
Nigeria	4 537	5 553	123	25	4 970	2	5 120	433	-
Saint Helena	10	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
Senegal	226	253	15	3	226	-	244	9	-
Sierra Leone	43	86	5	-	72	1	78	8	-
Togo	46	51	5	-	45	-	50	1	-
North Africa	1 420	1 591	224	102	1 202	-	1 528	63	-
Algeria	132	159	17	2	136	-	155	4	-
Egypt	716	782	88	34	635	-	757	25	-
Libya	74	84	27	7	35	-	69	15	-
Morocco	151	186	29	14	137	-	180	6	-
South Sudan	103	66	2	-	56	-	58	8	-
The Sudan	141	197	39	37	118	-	194	3	-
Tunisia	95	116	22	8	84	-	114	2	-
Western Sahara	8	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	1 163	1 039	60	11	864	-	935	104	-

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

Country of residence	October		Purpose of visit (October 2016)		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
Total	748 561	850 956	24 143	820 535	6 278
Overseas	208 020	250 737	7 708	242 030	999
Europe	136 686	165 828	4 495	160 791	542
Austria	2 408	3 276	54	3 218	4
Belgium	4 528	5 871	158	5 698	15
Denmark	3 175	3 223	86	3 128	9
France	15 631	19 009	420	18 525	64
Germany	31 158	40 492	570	39 808	114
Ireland	2 250	2 906	98	2 800	8
Italy	4 189	5 181	265	4 891	25
Norway	1 656	1 673	71	1 596	6
Portugal	3 391	3 255	105	3 120	30
Spain	2 506	3 656	134	3 508	14
Sweden	4 405	4 883	121	4 746	16
Switzerland	6 212	7 880	91	7 776	13
The Netherlands	13 559	16 988	366	16 573	49
UK	34 936	39 696	1 457	38 121	118
Other	6 682	7 839	499	7 283	57
North America	31 174	33 418	923	32 368	127
Canada	5 653	5 835	114	5 709	12
USA	25 521	27 583	809	26 659	115
Central and South America	4 715	7 249	104	7 110	35
Argentina	483	1 029	15	1 008	6
Brazil	2 795	4 345	43	4 288	14
Chile	217	426	5	421	-
Other	1 220	1 449	41	1 393	15

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

Country of residence	October		Purpose of visit (October 2016)		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	9 774	10 307	215	10 074	18
Australia	8 250	8 422	181	8 231	10
New Zealand	1 496	1 846	33	1 806	7
Other	28	39	1	37	1
Middle East	2 885	5 133	190	4 888	55
Iran	188	290	17	263	10
Israel	1 619	3 520	53	3 458	9
Saudi Arabia	315	444	17	416	11
Other	763	879	103	751	25
Asia	22 786	28 802	1 781	26 799	222
China	7 902	9 648	395	9 236	17
India	5 891	7 527	679	6 756	92
Japan	2 829	3 305	122	3 174	9
Malaysia	496	873	52	816	5
Pakistan	1 332	1 314	70	1 227	17
Philippines	403	708	104	591	13
Singapore	491	615	50	565	-
South Korea	1 033	1 241	51	1 140	50
Taiwan	597	893	43	848	2
Thailand	417	789	9	780	-
Other	1 395	1 889	206	1 666	17
Africa	539 378	599 180	16 355	577 547	5 278
SADC	525 305	582 324	15 117	562 503	4 704
Angola	3 434	3 413	87	3 158	168
Botswana	49 364	50 515	540	49 478	497
DRC	2 021	2 000	110	1 781	109
Lesotho	105 400	146 591	1 242	144 534	815

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

Country of residence	October		Purpose of visit (October 2016)		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
Madagascar	248	214	4	201	9
Malawi	12 166	14 829	455	14 313	61
Mauritius	1 482	1 584	66	1 496	22
Mozambique	99 216	97 978	4 339	93 411	228
Namibia	17 076	17 498	2 001	14 781	716
Seychelles	736	1 073	6	1 064	3
Swaziland	70 158	76 511	329	74 903	1 279
Tanzania	3 479	3 552	109	3 382	61
Zambia	12 301	14 585	1 475	12 989	121
Zimbabwe	148 224	151 981	4 354	147 012	615
'Other' African	14 073	16 856	1 238	15 044	574
East and Central Africa	5 530	6 559	632	5 671	256
Burundi	104	65	6	59	-
Cameroon	408	477	35	421	21
Central African Republic	14	14	2	12	-
Chad	21	73	12	55	6
Comoros	23	20	2	17	1
Congo	279	285	10	245	30
Djibouti	9	11	5	6	-
Equatorial Guinea	88	40	4	28	8
Eritrea	62	54	2	51	1
Ethiopia	623	763	87	662	14
Gabon	515	569	16	512	41
Kenya	2 370	2 670	277	2 305	88
Réunion	2	10	-	10	-
Rwanda	66	79	11	57	11
São Tomé and Príncipe	13	6	-	6	-
Somalia	20	41	2	36	3
Uganda	913	1 382	161	1 189	32

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

Country of residence	October		Purpose of visit (October 2016)		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	7 123	8 706	400	8 049	257
Benin	186	218	11	201	6
Burkina Faso	64	66	17	47	2
Cape Verde Island	56	53	5	48	-
Côte d'Ivoire	144	247	20	216	11
Gambia	63	60	4	56	-
Ghana	1 431	1 697	100	1 570	27
Guinea	125	124	5	115	4
Guinea-Bissau	6	17	2	13	2
Liberia	53	88	8	80	-
Mali	97	114	8	103	3
Mauritania	17	25	5	18	2
Niger	19	29	4	23	2
Nigeria	4 537	5 553	177	5 183	193
Saint Helena	10	25	-	25	-
Senegal	226	253	17	234	2
Sierra Leone	43	86	11	73	2
Togo	46	51	6	44	1
North Africa	1 420	1 591	206	1 324	61
Algeria	132	159	11	145	3
Egypt	716	782	103	672	7
Libya	74	84	-	52	32
Morocco	151	186	20	166	-
South Sudan	103	66	4	59	3
The Sudan	141	197	47	135	15
Tunisia	95	116	21	94	1
Western Sahara	8	1	-	1	-
Unspecified	1 163	1 039	80	958	1

Table 5 – Number of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African regions by sex and age group (October 2016)

Sex	Age group	October		Region			
		2015	2016	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	748 561	850 956	250 737	582 324	16 856	1 039
	0-14	32 916	37 657	14 486	22 625	543	3
	15-64	669 626	760 198	197 745	545 487	15 947	1 019
	65+	46 018	53 101	38 506	14 212	366	17
Male	Total	413 385	475 126	132 038	331 128	11 316	644
	0-14	16 619	18 826	7 507	11 026	291	2
	15-64	373 899	429 668	104 595	313 654	10 791	628
	65+	22 867	26 632	19 936	6 448	234	14
Female	Total	335 175	375 830	118 699	251 196	5 540	395
	0-14	16 297	18 831	6 979	11 599	252	1
	15-64	295 727	330 530	93 150	231 833	5 156	391
	65+	23 151	26 469	18 570	7 764	132	3
Unspecified	Total	1	-	-	-	-	-
	0-14	-	-	-	-	-	-
	15-64	1	-	-	-	-	-
	65+	-	-	-	-	-	-

4. Explanatory notes

NOTICE TO USERS

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

4.1 Introduction

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

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

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

4.2 Purpose of the statistical release

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

4.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data collected by DHA officials on travellers who entered the Republic of South Africa (RSA) 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 receives downloaded data covering a particular calendar month from the DHA.

- 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 is accompanied by an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern has also been observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In October 2016, the DHA data was 0,6% higher than that of ACSA.

4.5 Limitations

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

4.6 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 belongs to the Southern African Development Community.

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

Overseas refers to all countries outside Africa.

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

4.7 Symbols used

- = nil
- < = less than

5. General information

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

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