

Statistical release

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Tourism and Migration

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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 2 751 213 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through South African ports of entry in September 2011. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 834 478 South African residents and 1 916 735 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures indicates that there were 404 130 and 430 348 South African residents' arrivals and departures respectively. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals and departures were 1 033 426 and 883 309 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in August 2011 and September 2011 indicates that the volume of arrivals decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers while departures increased for South Africans but decreased for foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents decreased by 1,4% (from 409 951 in August 2011 to 404 130 in September 2011) while departures increased by 1,5% (from 424 168 in August 2011 to 430 348 in September 2011). For foreign arrivals there was a decrease of 3,4% (from 1 069 990 in August 2011 to 1 033 426 in September 2011) while departures decreased by 1,7% (from 898 310 in August 2011 to 883 309 in September 2011).

A comparison between the movements in September 2010 and September 2011 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for South African residents while the volume of arrivals and departures increased for foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals decreased by 12,2% (from 460 444 in September 2010 to 404 130 in September 2011) for South African residents while departures decreased by 11,0% (from 483 727 in September 2010 to 430 348 in September 2011). On the contrary, the volume of foreign arrivals increased by 7,5% (from 960 976 in September 2010 to 1 033 426 in September 2011) and departures increased by 8,3% (from 815 333 in September 2010 to 883 309 in September 2011).

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 African immigration officers. Hence, it is not possible to categorise them as tourists and non-tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation.

As presented in Table 1, in September 2011, 53 007 (5,1%) foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 980 419 (94,9%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups: arrivals only comprising of visitors who entered the country in September 2011 but did not depart in September 2011 [344 910, (35,2%)]; visitors who came once in September 2011 and left in September 2011 [337 839, (34,5%)]; and those who came more than once in September 2011 and left in September 2011 [297 670, (30,4%)]. Visitors were further grouped as same day visitors [303 986, (31,0%)] and overnight visitors /tourists [676 433, (69,0%)]. The volume of same day visitors decreased by 1,3% from 308 047 in August 2011 to 303 986 in September 2011 and overnight visitors/tourists decreased by 4,6% from 708 882 in August 2011 to 676 433 in September 2011. Conversely, the volume of same day visitors increased by 6,1% (from 286 614 in September 2010 to 303 986 in September 2011) and the volume of overnight visitors/tourists increased by 2,7% (from 658 565 to 676 433) during the same period.

1.2 Mode of travel of travellers

Travellers who cross South Africa's borders rarely use trains and ships since these are mainly used for transporting goods. Data presented in Table 2 show that in September 2011, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 1 971 673 (71,7%) out of the 2 751 213 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 774 440 (28,1%). The arrivals data on South African residents show that 154 541 (38,2%) came by air and 249 452 (61,7%) by road. For departures, 165 517 (38,5%) and 264 576 (61,5%) used air and road transport respectively. In the case of foreign travellers, 250 115 (24,2%) arrived by air while those who came by road were 780 621 (75,5%). When departing South Africa, 204 267 (23,1%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 677 024 (76,6%) left by road. As shown in Table 2 an overwhelming majority, 283 479 (93,3%) of same day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 20 499 (6,7%) same day visitors flew into the country. Data on overnight visitors/tourists show that, 471 084 (69,6%) used road transport whereas 204 583 (30,2%) 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 September 2011, 152 295 (87,8%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 20 440 (11,8%) came in by road. This is in contrast to a total number of tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries who came into South Africa predominantly by road [448 234 (92,6%)]. Only 35 905 (7,4%) tourists from the SADC countries came in by air. A relatively high number [14 909 (89,9%)] of tourists from 'other' African countries flew into the country with 1 663 (10,0%) using road transport.

2.2 Regional and national distribution of tourists

In September 2011, the distribution of the overseas from Europe, 93 756 (54,0%); followed by North America, 29 912 (17,2%); Asia, 26 739 (15,4%); Australasia, 12 188 (7,0%); Central and South America, 8 004 (4,6%) and Middle East, 2 898 (1,6%). Virtually all tourists from Africa came from the SADC countries, 484 139 (96,7%). The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 9 261 (1,8%); East and Central Africa, 6 050 (1,2%) and North Africa 1 264 (0,3%).

Data presented in Figure 1 indicate that United Kingdom (UK), 29 694 (17,1%); United States of America (USA), 25 395 (14,6%); Germany, 18 563 (10,7%); Australia 10 719 (6,2%); The Netherlands, 8 184 (4,7%); India, 7 940 (4,6%); China, 7 770 (4,5%); and France, 6 625 (3,8%) were the eight leading overseas countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in September 2011. Tourists from these eight countries constituted 66,2% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in September 2010 and September 2011 shows that the number of tourists increased in four of these countries (Germany, India, USA and China) while the number of tourists declined in the other four countries (Australia, France, The Netherlands and UK). Germany had the highest increase of 13,9% from 16 291 tourists in September 2010 to 18 563 tourists in September 2011. Among the countries that showed a decrease in the number of tourists, Australia had the greatest decline of 12,1% from 12 194 tourists in September 2010 to 10 719 tourists in September 2011.

The eight leading countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in September 2011 from the SADC countries (see Figure 2) were Zimbabwe, 123 783 (25,6%); Lesotho, 117 858 (24,3%); Mozambique 87 104 (18,0%); Swaziland, 59 937 (12,4%); Botswana, 44 597 (9,2%); Namibia, 16 144 (3,3%); Zambia, 12 458 (2,6%) and Malawi, 11 967 (2,5%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 97,9% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in September 2010 and September 2011 shows that the number of tourists increased in five countries (Swaziland, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Botswana) and declined in the remaining three (Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi). Swaziland had the highest increase of 11,1% from 53 967 tourists in September 2010 to 59 937 tourists in September 2011 while Zambia had the greatest decline of 4,4% from 13 025 tourists in September 2010 to 12 458 tourists in September 2011.

The eight leading countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in September 2011 from 'other' African countries, shown in Figure 3, were Nigeria, 6 076 (36,7%); Kenya, 2 619 (15,8%); Ghana, 1 814 (10,9%); Uganda, 1 229 (7,4%); Egypt, 640 (3,9%); Ethiopia, 582 (3,5%); Gabon, 461 (2,8%) and Cameroon, 412 (2,5%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 83,5% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in September 2010 and September 2011 shows that the number of tourists increased in five of these countries (Nigeria, Ghana, Egypt, Kenya and Uganda) while the number of tourists declined in the other three (Ethiopia, Gabon and Cameroon). The increase was highest in Nigeria at 61,9% from 3 752 tourists in September 2010 to 6 076 tourists in September 2011 while Ethiopia had the greatest decline of 21,5% from 741 tourists in September 2010 to 582 tourists in September 2011.

2.3 Purpose of visit of tourists

As observed from data given in Table 4, in September 2011, an overwhelming majority (92,2%) of tourists were in South Africa for holidays compared to only 2,2% and 0,9% of tourists who were in South Africa for business and study purposes respectively. A detailed analysis reveals that of all the tourists from each of the overseas regions, at least 71,0% came to South Africa for holidays. Tourists from Australasia (90,3%), North America (85,9%), Middle East (85,9%), Europe (84,8%), Asia (73,2%) and Central and South America (71,4%) were in South Africa mostly for holidays. Middle East and Asia had the highest proportion (7,5% and 6,4% respectively) of their tourists in South Africa for business compared to other overseas regions.

The majority (95,5%) of African tourists came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries namely:

- Whereas 95,9% of tourists from the SADC countries were on holidays; 83,0% of tourists on holiday came from 'other' African countries. Data on the regions of 'other' African countries show that tourists on holiday constituted 85,2%; 82,7% and 67,6% for West Africa; East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 4,5% of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,6% from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion (11,7%) of its tourists in South Africa for business.
- Students made up 3,2% of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,9% from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion (4,9%) of tourists in South Africa for study purposes.

2.4 Sex and age distribution of tourists

Table 5 shows that, in September 2011, there were 387 276 (57,3%) male and 288 261 (42,6%) female tourists. The overseas tourists were made up of 100 331 (57,8%) male tourists and 72 969 (42,1%) female tourists. There were 274 103 (56,6%) male and 209 345 (43,2%) female tourists from SADC countries. The tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 11 399 (68,8%) males and 5 170 (31,2%) females.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into three broad groups namely; those younger than 15 years, 15 to 64 years, and 65 years and older. The overall results presented in Table 5 show that 91,1% of tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years; 4,0% were aged less than 15 years and 4,9% were aged 65 years and older. Taking the region of residence into consideration, the results further show that 84,2% of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 93,4% and 93,2% of tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries respectively in the same age range.

For tourists aged less than 15 years, the overseas and SADC tourists had a similar proportion of 4,0% and 3,9%, respectively while 'other' African countries had a higher proportion (5,2%). There was a higher proportion of young female tourists in comparison to young male tourists for overseas, the SADC countries and 'other' African countries.

A comparison of the three regions shows relatively high proportions of the elderly among both male (10,9%) and female (12,9%) tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to tourists from the SADC countries amongst which 2,1% of males and 3,0% of females were aged 65 years and older. Similarly among tourists from 'other' African countries, 1,6% of males and 1,7% of females were aged 65 years and older.

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3. Figures

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

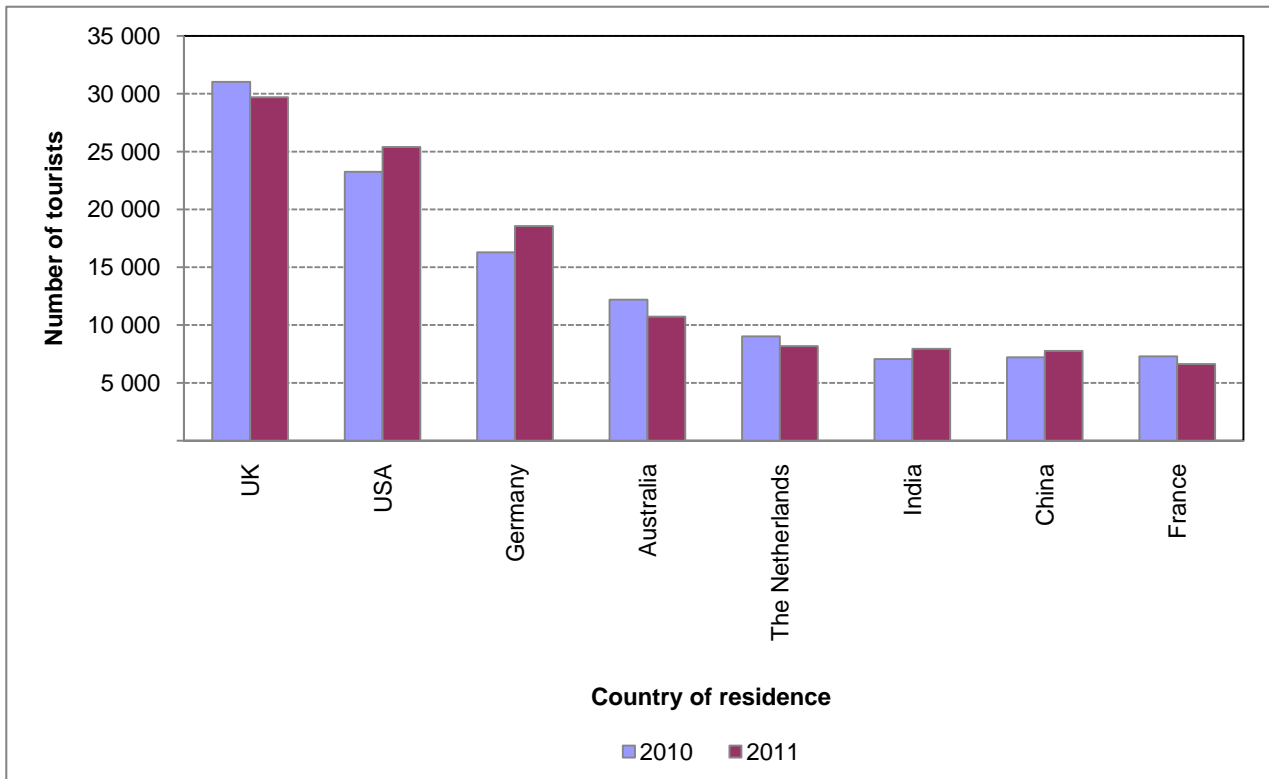


Figure 2. Number of tourists from eight leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in September 2010 and September 2011

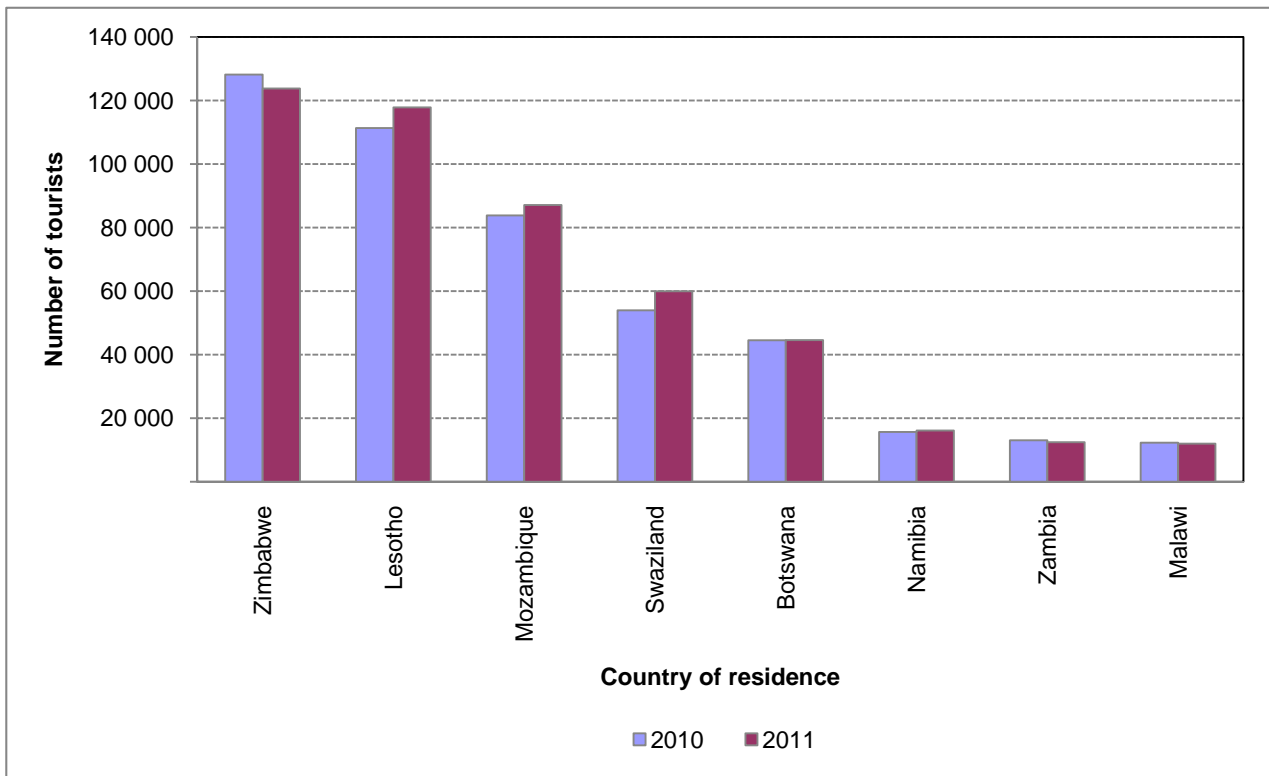
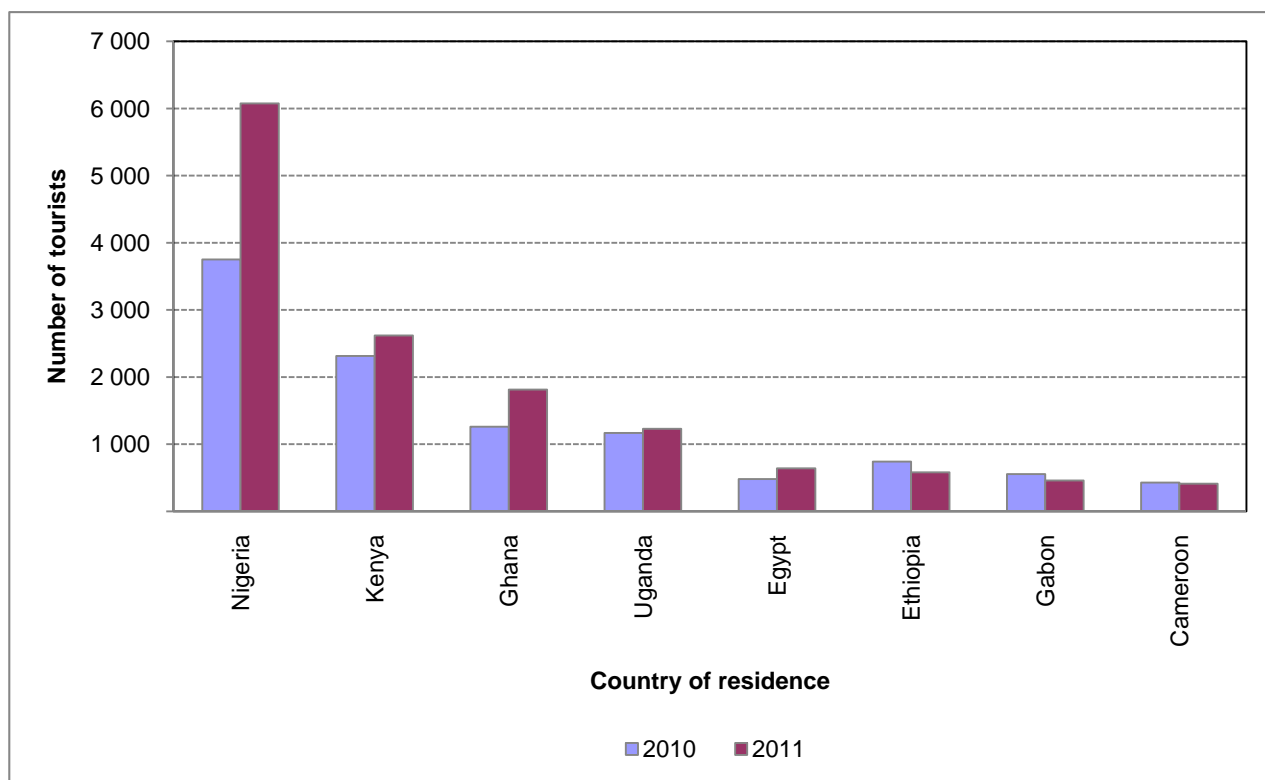


Figure 3. Number of tourists from eight leading 'other' African countries in September 2010 and September 2011



4. Tables

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

Travel direction	September	August	September	% change	
	2010	2011	2011	September 2010 - September 2011	August 2011 - September 2011
Grand total	2 720 480	2 802 419	2 751 213	1,1	-1,8
South African residents	944 171	834 119	834 478	-11,6	0,0
Arrivals	460 444	409 951	404 130	-12,2	-1,4
Departures	483 727	424 168	430 348	-11,0	1,5
Foreign travellers	1 776 309	1 968 300	1 916 735	7,9	-2,6
Arrivals	960 976	1 069 990	1 033 426	7,5	-3,4
Departures	815 333	898 310	883 309	8,3	-1,7
Foreign arrivals	960 976	1 069 990	1 033 426	7,5	-3,4
Non-visitors	15 797	53 061	53 007	235,6	-0,1
Visitors	945 179	1 016 929	980 419	3,7	-3,6
Visitors	945 179	1 016 929	980 419	3,7	-3,6
Arrivals only	348 408	361 468	344 910	-1,0	-4,6
Single trips	314 677	346 805	337 839	7,4	-2,6
Multiple trips	282 094	308 656	297 670	5,5	-3,6
Visitors	945 179	1 016 929	980 419	3,7	-3,6
Same day	286 614	308 047	303 986	6,1	-1,3
Overnight (tourists)	658 565	708 882	676 433	2,7	-4,6

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

Travel Direction	September		Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2010	2011	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	2 720 480	2 751 213	98 249	15 456	648 706	12 029	774 440	1 971 673	5 089	11
SA residents	944 171	834 478	39 848	10 150	262 487	7 573	320 058	514 028	392	-
Arrivals	460 444	404 130	18 475	4 621	127 827	3 618	154 541	249 452	137	-
Departures	483 727	430 348	21 373	5 529	134 660	3 955	165 517	264 576	255	-
Foreign travelers	1 776 309	1 916 735	58 401	5 306	386 219	4 456	454 382	1 457 645	4 697	11
Arrivals	960 976	1 033 426	30 560	2 736	214 687	2 132	250 115	780 621	2 679	11
Departures	815 333	883 309	27 841	2 570	171 532	2 324	204 267	677 024	2 018	-
Visitors	945 179	980 419	25 967	1 728	195 800	1 587	225 082	754 563	771	3
Same day	286 614	303 986	277	22	19 971	229	20 499	283 479	8	-
Overnight (tourists)	658 565	676 433	25 690	1 706	175 829	1 358	204 583	471 084	763	3

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

Country of residence	Mode of travel (September 2011)									
	September		Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2010	2011	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	658 565	676 433	25 690	1 706	175 829	1 358	204 583	471 084	763	3
Overseas	171 158	173 497	23 233	1 509	126 681	872	152 295	20 440	760	2
Europe	94 167	93 756	16 547	968	62 822	339	80 676	12 941	139	-
Austria	1 354	1 454	243	6	995	1	1 245	208	1	-
Belgium	3 378	3 047	401	9	2 076	19	2 505	538	4	-
Denmark	1 498	1 578	223	15	1 173	4	1 415	162	1	-
France	7 297	6 625	855	23	4 720	38	5 636	987	2	-
Germany	16 291	18 563	2 909	170	12 335	24	15 438	3 125	-	-
Ireland	2 200	1 870	451	11	1 182	9	1 653	216	1	-
Italy	4 645	4 912	942	41	3 509	11	4 503	407	2	-
Norway	1 150	1 269	253	3	906	-	1 162	104	3	-
Portugal	2 876	3 368	209	14	1 806	22	2 051	1 311	6	-
Spain	2 514	2 595	215	4	2 048	17	2 284	309	2	-
Sweden	1 898	1 810	311	4	1 329	4	1 648	161	1	-
Switzerland	3 277	3 272	487	15	2 334	17	2 853	418	1	-
The Netherlands	9 018	8 184	1 746	40	4 767	18	6 571	1 608	5	-
UK	31 028	29 694	6 354	569	19 668	121	26 712	2 881	101	-
Other	5 743	5 515	948	44	3 974	34	5 000	506	9	-
North America	27 193	29 912	2 622	72	23 644	368	26 706	2 614	592	-
Canada	3 937	4 517	659	17	3 257	25	3 958	546	13	-
USA	23 256	25 395	1 963	55	20 387	343	22 748	2 068	579	-
Central and South America	6 536	8 004	241	9	7 095	42	7 387	612	5	-
Argentina	1 134	1 064	97	-	918	2	1 017	46	1	-
Brazil	3 791	5 215	54	3	4 705	32	4 794	420	1	-
Mexico	217	280	34	-	233	1	268	12	-	-
Other	1 394	1 445	56	6	1 239	7	1 308	134	3	-

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

Country of residence	Mode of travel (September 2011)									
	September		Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2010	2011	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Australasia	14 360	12 188	842	33	10 316	74	11 265	922	1	-
Australia	12 194	10 719	711	24	9 114	66	9 915	803	1	-
New Zealand	2 150	1 447	131	9	1 180	8	1 328	119	-	-
Other	16	22	-	-	22	-	22	-	-	-
Middle East	2 977	2 898	501	35	2 183	8	2 727	170	1	-
Iran	374	424	96	2	318	1	417	7	-	-
Israel	1 489	1 332	82	-	1 134	3	1 219	113	-	-
Saudi Arabia	442	315	114	5	193	-	312	2	1	-
Other	672	827	209	28	538	4	779	48	-	-
Asia	25 925	26 739	2 480	392	20 621	41	23 534	3 181	22	2
China	7 209	7 770	749	31	6 381	4	7 165	605	-	-
India	7 057	7 940	661	179	5 830	11	6 681	1 255	4	-
Japan	2 677	2 605	151	7	2 353	7	2 518	84	3	-
Malaysia	1 488	830	241	21	548	1	811	19	-	-
Pakistan	1 125	1 500	75	72	933	1	1 081	419	-	-
Philippines	859	948	66	15	671	5	757	190	1	-
South Korea	1 371	1 194	113	11	941	3	1 068	126	-	-
Taiwan	800	731	76	2	523	-	601	125	4	1
Thailand	527	891	50	24	791	-	865	26	-	-
Other	2 812	2 330	298	30	1 650	9	1 987	332	10	1
Africa	485 090	500 714	2 366	193	47 773	482	50 814	449 897	2	1
SADC	471 667	484 139	2 194	141	33 151	419	35 905	448 234	-	-
Angola	3 267	3 517	342	-	3 015	22	3 379	138	-	-
Botswana	44 558	44 597	4	2	3 237	133	3 376	41 221	-	-
DRC	2 295	2 149	18	-	1 640	12	1 670	479	-	-
Lesotho	111 321	117 858	-	-	615	4	619	117 239	-	-
Madagascar	209	312	-	-	303	-	303	9	-	-

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

Country of residence	Mode of travel (September 2011)									
	September		Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2010	2011	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Malawi	12 298	11 967	5	2	1 989	6	2 002	9 965	-	-
Mauritius	1 256	1 435	84	51	1 118	4	1 257	178	-	-
Mozambique	83 841	87 104	103	68	2 824	104	3 099	84 005	-	-
Namibia	15 653	16 144	1 537	-	3 596	25	5 158	10 986	-	-
Seychelles	238	199	-	1	177	-	178	21	-	-
Swaziland	53 967	59 937	-	1	813	20	834	59 103	-	-
Tanzania	1 581	2 679	5	1	1 773	2	1 781	898	-	-
Zambia	13 025	12 458	50	-	4 290	17	4 357	8 101	-	-
Zimbabwe	128 158	123 783	46	15	7 761	70	7 892	115 891	-	-
'Other' African	13 423	16 575	172	52	14 622	63	14 909	1 663	2	1
East and Central Africa	5 967	6 050	43	9	5 252	18	5 322	726	1	1
Burundi	65	101	-	-	98	-	98	3	-	-
Cameroon	430	412	4	1	362	-	367	45	-	-
Central African Republic	17	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-	-
Chad	21	30	-	-	29	-	29	1	-	-
Comoros	21	16	-	-	15	-	15	1	-	-
Congo	304	239	2	-	220	-	222	16	-	1
Djibouti	10	10	-	-	10	-	10	-	-	-
Equat Guinea	16	34	-	-	29	3	32	2	-	-
Eritrea	49	48	2	-	43	-	45	3	-	-
Ethiopia	741	582	8	3	521	-	532	50	-	-
Gabon	556	461	2	-	454	1	457	4	-	-
Kenya	2 314	2 619	19	3	2 240	4	2 266	352	1	-
Reunion	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	202	234	2	1	219	-	222	12	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	10	16	-	-	14	-	14	2	-	-
Somalia	31	12	1	-	10	-	11	1	-	-
Uganda	1 167	1 229	3	1	981	10	995	234	-	-

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

Country of residence	Mode of travel (September 2011)									
	September		Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2010	2011	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
West Africa	6 257	9 261	55	15	8 297	43	8 410	851	-	-
Benin	91	112	2	-	108	-	110	2	-	-
Burkina Faso	55	60	-	-	58	-	58	2	-	-
Cape Verde Island	55	57	3	-	45	1	49	8	-	-
Cote D'Ivoire	140	205	8	2	193	-	203	2	-	-
Gambia	81	96	1	-	84	-	85	11	-	-
Ghana	1 260	1 814	11	2	1 627	20	1 660	154	-	-
Guinea	193	192	1	-	100	-	101	91	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	16	16	4	-	11	-	15	1	-	-
Liberia	51	60	1	-	58	-	59	1	-	-
Mali	91	118	-	-	101	-	101	17	-	-
Mauritania	11	17	-	-	17	-	17	-	-	-
Niger	73	25	1	-	22	-	23	2	-	-
Nigeria	3 752	6 076	21	11	5 488	22	5 542	534	-	-
Senegal	266	292	1	-	280	-	281	11	-	-
Sierra Leone	66	70	1	-	55	-	56	14	-	-
Togo	56	51	-	-	50	-	50	1	-	-
North Africa	1 199	1 264	74	28	1 073	2	1 177	86	1	-
Algeria	118	97	3	-	88	-	91	6	-	-
Egypt	481	640	32	18	570	1	621	19	-	-
Libya	174	81	8	3	29	-	40	41	-	-
Morocco	136	123	8	1	107	1	117	5	1	-
The Sudan	148	167	12	1	141	-	154	13	-	-
Tunisia	141	154	11	5	136	-	152	2	-	-
Western Sahara	1	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-
Unspecified	2 317	2 222	91	4	1 375	4	1 474	747	1	-

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

Country of residence	September		Purpose of visit (September 2011)			
	2010	2011	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Total	658 565	676 433	14 931	623 907	6 196	31 399
Overseas	171 158	173 497	6 184	143 948	1 335	22 030
Europe	94 167	93 756	3 245	79 465	613	10 433
Austria	1 354	1 454	33	1 197	8	216
Belgium	3 378	3 047	78	2 639	18	312
Denmark	1 498	1 578	72	1 291	14	201
France	7 297	6 625	265	5 617	63	680
Germany	16 291	18 563	499	15 642	122	2 300
Ireland	2 200	1 870	81	1 630	18	141
Italy	4 645	4 912	154	4 143	10	605
Norway	1 150	1 269	37	1 007	33	192
Portugal	2 876	3 368	43	2 958	17	350
Spain	2 514	2 595	65	2 015	13	502
Sweden	1 898	1 810	111	1 457	20	222
Switzerland	3 277	3 272	59	2 581	22	610
The Netherlands	9 018	8 184	245	7 533	57	349
UK	31 028	29 694	1 157	25 330	166	3 041
Other	5 743	5 515	346	4 425	32	712
North America	27 193	29 912	754	25 706	276	3 176
Canada	3 937	4 517	137	3 889	57	434
USA	23 256	25 395	617	21 817	219	2 742
Central and South America	6 536	8 004	104	5 712	42	2 146
Argentina	1 134	1 064	14	855	-	195
Brazil	3 791	5 215	31	3 539	20	1 625
Mexico	217	280	16	234	3	27
Other	1 394	1 445	43	1 084	19	299

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

Country of residence	September		Purpose of visit (September 2011)			
	2010	2011	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Australasia	14 360	12 188	159	11 005	21	1 003
Australia	12 194	10 719	135	9 685	13	886
New Zealand	2 150	1 447	22	1 304	6	115
Other	16	22	2	16	2	2
Middle East	2 977	2 898	216	2 488	45	149
Iran	374	424	31	375	6	12
Israel	1 489	1 332	57	1 207	4	64
Saudi Arabia	442	315	14	284	16	1
Other	672	827	114	622	19	72
Asia	25 925	26 739	1 706	19 572	338	5 123
China	7 209	7 770	488	5 518	26	1 738
India	7 057	7 940	759	6 059	70	1 052
Japan	2 677	2 605	89	1 928	4	584
Malaysia	1 488	830	43	679	49	59
Pakistan	1 125	1 500	95	1 208	19	178
Philippines	859	948	22	444	19	463
South Korea	1 371	1 194	35	864	33	262
Taiwan	800	731	20	540	2	169
Thailand	527	891	46	707	63	75
Other	2 812	2 330	109	1 625	53	543
Africa	485 090	500 714	8 631	478 123	4 845	9 115
SADC	471 667	484 139	7 880	464 373	4 319	7 567
Angola	3 267	3 517	59	2 780	159	519
Botswana	44 558	44 597	172	42 796	527	1 102
DRC	2 295	2 149	86	1 872	96	95
Lesotho	111 321	117 858	289	115 873	1 491	205
Madagascar	209	312	5	161	11	135

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

Country of residence	September		Purpose of visit (September 2011)			
	2010	2011	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Malawi	12 298	11 967	284	11 128	67	488
Mauritius	1 256	1 435	38	1 169	24	204
Mozambique	83 841	87 104	978	85 178	76	872
Namibia	15 653	16 144	2 222	12 456	525	941
Seychelles	238	199	1	180	2	16
Swaziland	53 967	59 937	1 551	57 360	731	295
Tanzania	1 581	2 679	49	2 355	61	214
Zambia	13 025	12 458	986	10 555	82	835
Zimbabwe	128 158	123 783	1 160	120 510	467	1 646
'Other' African	13 423	16 575	751	13 750	526	1 548
East and Central Africa	5 967	6 050	335	5 004	277	434
Burundi	65	101	4	83	4	10
Cameroon	430	412	34	336	19	23
Central African Republic	17	7	-	6	-	1
Chad	21	30	1	24	4	1
Comoros	21	16	-	11	5	-
Congo	304	239	18	198	13	10
Djibouti	10	10	-	4	-	6
Equat Guinea	16	34	2	27	5	-
Eritrea	49	48	1	46	-	1
Ethiopia	741	582	28	479	19	56
Gabon	556	461	1	411	29	20
Kenya	2 314	2 619	148	2 170	121	180
Reunion	13	-	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	202	234	17	180	23	14
Sao Tome and Principe	10	16	-	9	-	7
Somalia	31	12	-	11	-	1
Uganda	1 167	1 229	81	1 009	35	104

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

Country of residence	September		Purpose of visit (September 2011)			
	2010	2011	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
West Africa	6 257	9 261	268	7 892	187	914
Benin	91	112	7	96	1	8
Burkina Faso	55	60	1	41	3	15
Cape Verde Island	55	57	1	48	1	7
Cote D'Ivoire	140	205	17	158	6	24
Gambia	81	96	3	52	2	39
Ghana	1 260	1 814	50	1 403	15	346
Guinea	193	192	3	144	4	41
Guinea-Bissau	16	16	1	12	-	3
Liberia	51	60	5	50	3	2
Mali	91	118	12	75	3	28
Mauritania	11	17	2	7	-	8
Niger	73	25	4	16	-	5
Nigeria	3 752	6 076	132	5 494	141	309
Senegal	266	292	26	206	4	56
Sierra Leone	66	70	3	52	3	12
Togo	56	51	1	38	1	11
North Africa	1 199	1 264	148	854	62	200
Algeria	118	97	7	75	10	5
Egypt	481	640	94	461	7	78
Libya	174	81	2	55	11	13
Morocco	136	123	17	78	14	14
The Sudan	148	167	16	121	18	12
Tunisia	141	154	12	62	2	78
Western Sahara	1	2	-	2	-	-
Unspecified	2 317	2 222	116	1 836	16	254

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

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (September 2011)			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	676 433	173 497	484 139	16 575	2 222
	<15	26 855	6 856	19 105	856	38
	15-64	616 061	146 136	452 361	15 452	2 112
	65+	32 827	20 399	12 092	265	71
	Unspecified	690	106	581	2	1
Male	Total	387 276	100 331	274 103	11 399	1 443
	<15	13 488	3 605	9 407	460	16
	15-64	356 546	85 710	258 698	10 760	1 378
	65+	16 875	10 951	5 696	179	49
	Unspecified	367	65	302	-	-
Female	Total	288 261	72 969	209 345	5 170	777
	<15	13 367	3 251	9 698	396	22
	15-64	258 779	60 283	193 076	4 687	733
	65+	15 865	9 405	6 352	86	22
	Unspecified	250	30	219	1	-
Unspecified	Total	896	197	691	6	2
	<15	-	-	-	-	-
	15-64	736	143	587	5	1
	65+	87	43	44	-	-
	Unspecified	73	11	60	1	1

5. Explanatory notes

5.1 Introduction

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

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

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

The information on documented migrants provides crucial information on receiving countries of South African emigrants which could be targeted in initiatives geared towards attracting back migrants into the country. In addition, the data on permanent residents are valuable in assessing not only the demographic and economic profiles of immigrants but also their contribution to national social and economic programmes.

5.2 Purpose of the statistical release

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

5.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data on arrivals and departures of South African residents and foreign travellers. A detailed analysis of the data on foreign tourists with respect to: mode of travel, purpose of visit, sex and age distribution is covered in the release. Statistics on documented migration, that is self-declared emigrants, are not reported due to the unavailability of data.

5.4 Data

Information published in this release is based on data obtained from the following data sources within the DHA.

- Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all road, air and sea entry ports on all travellers (South African residents and foreign travellers) arriving into or departing from South Africa are captured into the DHA's population Movement Control System (MCS). The counts/statistics relate to the number of individual movements, rather than to the number of people. Hence, the multiple movements of individual people during the calendar month are each counted separately. Generally the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the port's electronic database. No forms or cards are used (except in rare occasions when the capturing system is down) to collect information from travellers. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA.
- Stats SA downloads the data covering a particular calendar month from the mainframe of the State Information Technology Agency (SITA), where the DHA stores its data.
- As part of data interrogation, data from the OR Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airport Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA has been accompanied by an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern was also observed when the volume of travellers decreased. However, the volume of passengers recorded by ACSA is generally higher than that of the DHA because of, among other reasons, travellers who are in transit and those who boarded airplanes but refused entry into the country. In September 2011, the DHA data was 12,6% lower than that of ACSA.

5.5 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.

5.6 Definitions of terms

5.6.1 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.

5.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this report

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

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

Region refers to the following country classification: Overseas: Europe, North America, Central and South America, Australasia, the Middle East, Asia, Africa: SADC, East and Central Africa, West Africa and North Africa.

Country refers to individual countries within a region. The country of residence is used. The country of residence should not be confused with the country from which the visitor travelled.

Africa refers to all the countries in Africa (both mainland and island countries).

SADC refers to the fourteen countries, excluding South Africa, which belongs to the Southern African Development Community.

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

Overseas refers to all countries outside Africa.

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

5.7 Symbols and abbreviations used

- = nil

Unspec. = unspecified

6. 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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