



The South Africa I know, the home I understand



Statistical release

P0351

Tourism and Migration

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Contents

Preface	2
1. Key findings	3
1.1 Travellers	3
1.1.1 Number of travellers	3
1.1.2 Mode of travel	.....	3
1.2 Tourists	.....	4
1.2.1 Mode of travel	.....	4
1.2.2 Regional and national distribution	.....	4
1.2.3 Purpose of visit	.....	5
1.2.4 Sex and age distribution	.....	5
2. Figures	.....	6
Figure 1. Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in September 2012 compared to September 2013	.....	6
Figure 2. Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in September 2012 compared to September 2013	.....	6
Figure 3. Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in September 2012 compared to September 2013	.....	7
3. Tables	.....	8
Table 1. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction	.....	8
Table 2. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel	.....	9
Table 3. Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel	.....	10
Table 4. Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit	.....	14
Table 5. Number of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African regions by sex and age group	.....	18
4. Explanatory notes	.....	19
4.1 Introduction	.....	19
4.2 Purpose of the statistical release	.....	19
4.3 Scope and coverage	.....	19
4.4 Data	.....	19
4.5 Limitations	.....	20
4.6 Definitions of terms	.....	20
4.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)	.....	20
4.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release	.....	20
4.7 Symbols used	.....	20
5. General information	.....	21

Preface

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in September 2013. 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 3 216 028 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through South African ports of entry in September 2013. As presented in Table 1 on page 8, these travellers were made up of 880 024 South African residents and 2 336 004 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 437 427 arrivals and 442 597 departures. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals and departures were 1 252 142 and 1 083 862, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in August 2013 and September 2013 indicates that the volumes of arrivals and departures increased for South African residents while the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents increased by 9,1% (from 400 857 in August 2013 to 437 427 in September 2013) and their departures increased by 1,8% (from 434 949 in August 2013 to 442 597 in September 2013). Foreign arrivals decreased by 5,2% (from 1 321 184 in August 2013 to 1 252 142 in September 2013) and foreign departures decreased by 5,4% (from 1 145 486 in August 2013 to 1 083 862 in September 2013).

A comparison between the movements in September 2012 and September 2013 indicates that the volumes of arrivals and departures increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 8,5% (from 403 196 in September 2012 to 437 427 in September 2013) while the volume of their departures increased by 3,6% (from 427 123 in September 2012 to 442 597 in September 2013). Similarly, the volume of arrivals for foreign travellers increased by 9,0% (from 1 148 598 in September 2012 to 1 252 142 in September 2013) and the volume of their departures increased by 12,8% (from 960 843 in September 2012 to 1 083 862 in September 2013).

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

As presented in Table 1, in September 2013, 69 887 (5,6%) foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 182 255 (94,4%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. arrivals only – comprising of visitors who entered the country in September 2013 but did not depart in September 2013 [390 184 (33,0%)];
- ii. single trips – visitors who came once in September 2013 and left in September 2013 [434 939 (36,8%)];
and
- iii. multiple trips – visitors who came and left more than once in September 2013 [357 132 (30,2%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In September 2013, there were 398 322 (33,7%) same-day visitors and 783 933 (66,3%) tourists. Between August 2013 and September 2013, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 5,9% (from 423 189 in August 2013 to 398 322 in September 2013) and tourists decreased by 5,4% (from 829 021 in August 2013 to 783 933 in September 2013). Conversely, between September 2012 and September 2013, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 23,8% (from 321 821 in September 2012 to 398 322 in September 2013) while the volume of tourists increased by 2,4% (from 765 398 in September 2012 to 783 933 in September 2013).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Travellers who cross South Africa's borders rarely use trains since they are mainly used for transporting goods. Data presented in Table 2 on page 9 show that in September 2013, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 339 432 (72,7%) out of the 3 216 028 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 870 018 (27,1%). The arrivals data on South African residents show that 156 333 (35,7%) came by air and 280 912 (64,2%) came by road. For departures, 165 710 (37,4%) and 276 568 (62,5%) used air and road transport respectively.

In the case of foreign travellers, 315 561 (25,2%) arrived by air while those who came by road were 933 460 (74,5%). When departing South Africa, 232 414 (21,4%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 848 492 (78,3%) left by road. Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [379 646 (95,3%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 18 676 (4,7%) same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that, 517 952 (66,1%) used road transport while 265 835 (33,9%) came by air.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them into 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 10. In September 2013, 195 631 (89,9%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 21 915 (10,1%) came in by road. This is in contrast to the number of tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries who came into South Africa predominantly by road [494 023 (90,9%)]. Only 49 642 (9,1%) tourists from the SADC countries came in by air. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 19 215 (92,8%); with 1 464 (7,1%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In September 2013, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows; Europe, 112 054 (51,5%); Asia, 39 013 (17,9%); North America, 35 278 (16,2%); Australasia, 16 344 (7,5%); Central and South America, 11 311 (5,2%) and Middle East, 3 645 (1,7%). Virtually all tourists from Africa came from the SADC countries, [543 675 (96,3%)]. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, [11 388 (2,0%)]; East and Central Africa, 7 738 (1,4%) and North Africa 1 590 (0,3%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 6 indicate that United Kingdom (UK), 30 874 (14,2%); United States of America (USA), 30 040 (13,8%); Germany, 25 489 (11,7%); China, 15 308 (7,0%); Australia 14 038 (6,4%); The Netherlands, 9 692 (4,5%); France, 8 416 (3,9%); India, 8 086 (3,7%); Brazil, 7 186 (3,3%) and Italy, 5 723 (2,6%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in September 2013. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 71,1% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in September 2012 and September 2013 shows that the number of tourists increased in eight of these countries (China, Germany, The Netherlands, Brazil, USA, Italy, France and Australia) and decreased in two countries (India and UK). China had the highest increase of 17,5% (from 13 030 tourists in September 2012 to 15 308 tourists in September 2013) while India had the largest decrease of 10,9% (from 9 077 tourists in September 2012 to 8 086 tourists in September 2013).

The ten leading SADC countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in September 2013 were Zimbabwe, 160 094 (29,4%); Lesotho, 110 080 (20,2%); Mozambique, 87 278 (16,1%); Swaziland, 72 939 (13,4%); Botswana, 48 776 (9,0%); Malawi, 17 952 (3,3%); Namibia, 17 818 (3,3%); Zambia, 15 588 (2,9%); Angola, 4 820 (0,9%) and Tanzania, 3 167 (0,6%) (see Figure 2 on page 6). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,1% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in September 2012 and September 2013 shows that the number of tourists increased in seven of these countries (Malawi, Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe) and decreased in three countries (Lesotho, Mozambique and Tanzania). Malawi had the highest increase of 37,4% (from 13 061 tourists in September 2012 to 17 952 tourists in September 2013) while Lesotho had the largest decrease of 16,1% (from 131 271 tourists in September 2012 to 110 080 tourists in September 2013).

The ten leading countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in September 2013 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 7, were Nigeria, 7 479 (36,1%); Kenya, 2 911 (14,1%); Ghana, 2 230 (10,8%); Uganda, 1 599 (7,7%); Ethiopia, 863 (4,2%); Egypt, 785 (3,8%); Gabon, 745 (3,6%); Cameroon, 478 (2,3%); Congo, 410 (2,0%); and Senegal, 343 (1,7%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 86,1% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in September 2012 and September 2013 shows that the number of tourists increased in five of these countries (Uganda, Gabon, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Ghana) and decreased in five countries (Kenya, Senegal, Congo, Cameroon and Egypt). Uganda had the highest increase of 21,3% (from 1 318 tourists in September 2012 to 1 599 tourists in September 2013). Kenya showed the largest decrease of 8,0% (from 3 165 tourists in September 2012 to 2 911 tourists in September 2013).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data given in Table 4 on page 14, in September 2013, a majority [692 738 (88,4%)] of tourists were in South Africa for holidays compared to only 70 011 (8,9%), 15 074 (1,9%), and 6 110 (0,8%) of tourists who were in South Africa in transit; for business and for study purposes respectively. A detailed analysis reveals that of all the tourists from each of the overseas regions, at least 55,0% came to South Africa for holidays. A total of 3 023 (82,9%) from Middle East; 13 455 (82,3%) tourists from Australasia; 27 923 (79,2%) from North America; 82 334 (73,5%) from Europe, 26 332 (67,5%) from Asia and 6 234 (55,1%) from Central and South America were in South Africa for holidays. Middle East had a higher proportion (4,6%) of its tourists in South Africa for business compared to other overseas regions while Central and South America (43,2%) had higher proportions of their tourists in transit in South Africa.

The majority of African tourists [532 108 (94,3%)] came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries namely:

- Whereas 516 442 (95,0%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holidays; 15 666 (75,6%) of tourists from 'other' African countries came for the same purpose. Data on the regions of 'other' African countries show that tourists on holidays constituted 78,8% (8 978); 74,0% (5 729) and 60,3% (959) for West Africa; East and Central Africa; and North Africa, respectively.
- Business persons constituted 4,7% (981) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 1,2% (6 392) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion of 7,2% (115) of its tourists in South Africa for business.
- Students made up 2,9% (605) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,8% (4 363) from the SADC countries. There were higher proportions of students among tourists from North Africa [4,9% (78)] and East and Central Africa [3,7% (284)] than among tourists from West Africa [2,1% (243)].
- The proportion of tourists in transit was higher for those from 'other' African countries [16,7% (3 464)] compared to those from SADC countries [3,0% (16 478)]. North Africa [27,5% (438)] had a higher proportion of their tourists in transit than tourists from East and Central Africa [17,0% (1 313)] and West Africa [15,0% (1 713)].

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 18 shows that, in September 2013, there were 443 058 (56,5%) male and 340 027 (43,4%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 123 647 (56,8%) male tourists and 93 799 (43,1%) female tourists. There were 304 215 (56,0%) male and 238 817 (43,9%) female tourists from the SADC countries. The tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 13 982 (67,5%) males and 6 730 (32,5%) 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 32 777 (4,2%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 709 296 (90,5%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 41 390 (5,3%) were aged 65 years and older. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 180 810 (83,1%) of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 507 370 (93,3%) and 19 260 (93,0%) of tourists in the same age range from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries respectively.

The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was slightly higher among tourists from 'other' African countries [5,3% (1 098)] than among tourists from overseas [3,8% (8 280)] and those from the SADC countries [4,3% (23 384)].

A comparison of the three regions shows relatively high proportions of the elderly among both male [12,2% (15 090)] and female [14,2% (13 356)] tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to the pattern observed among tourists from the other two regions. Thus, 1,8% (5 621) of male and 2,9% (6 835) of female tourists from the SADC countries were aged 65 years and older. Likewise 1,7% (236) of male and 1,8% (119) of female tourists from 'other' African countries were aged 65 years and older.

2. Figures

Figure 1. Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in September 2012 and September 2013

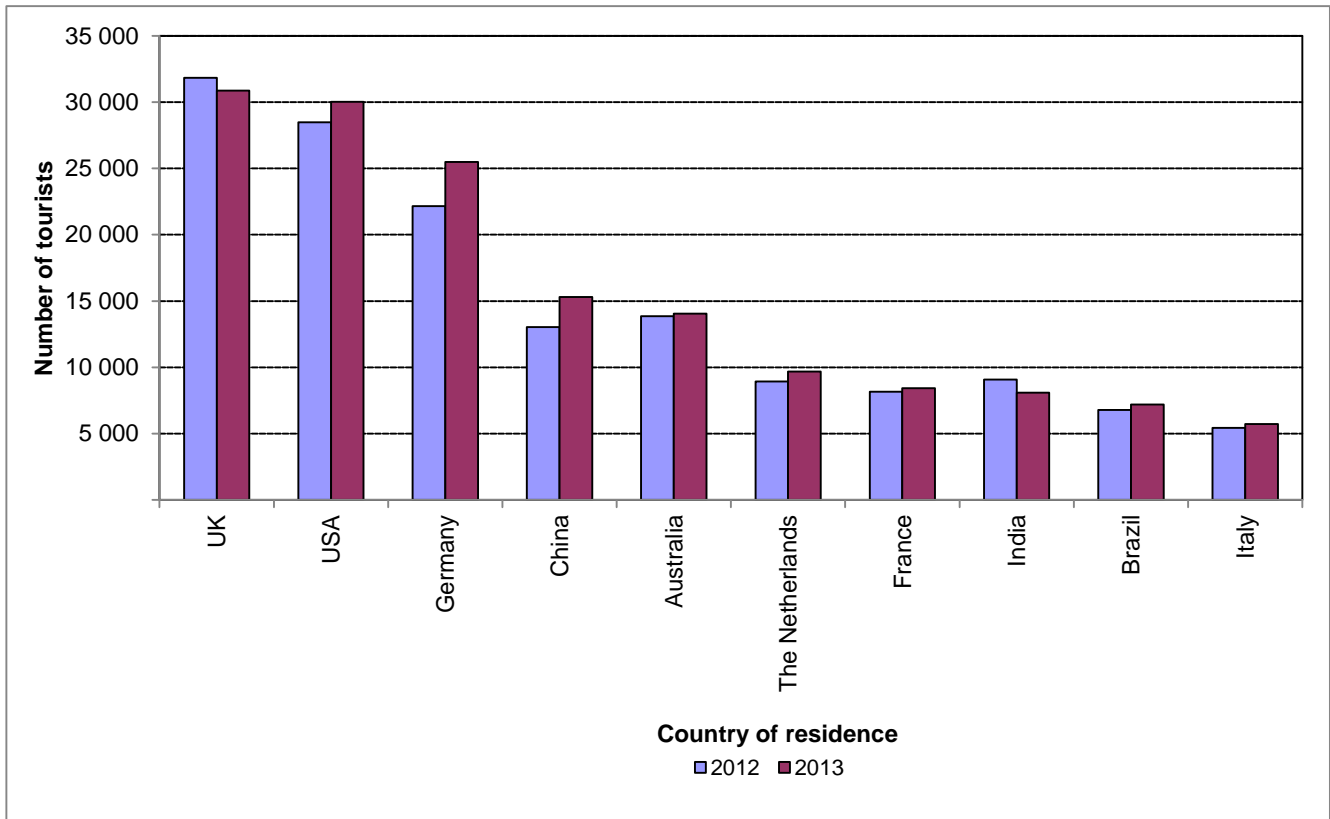


Figure 2. Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in September 2012 and September 2013

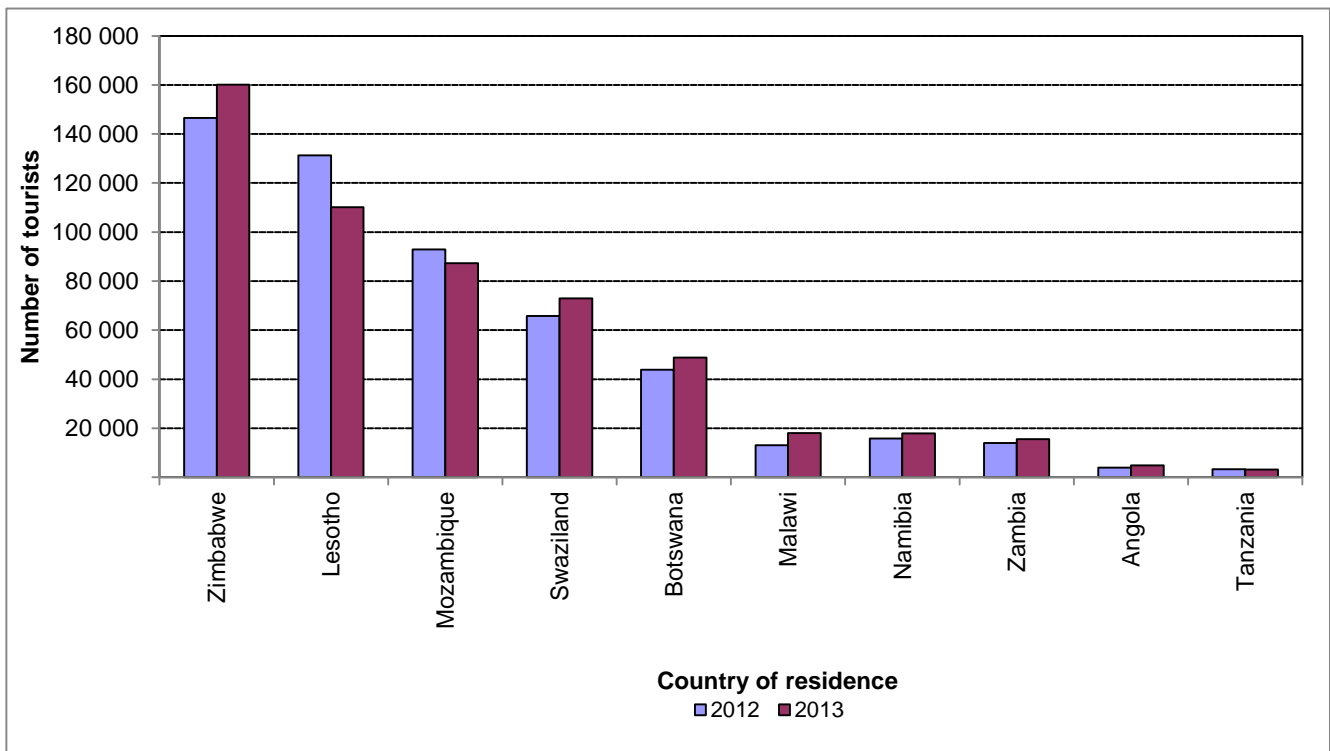
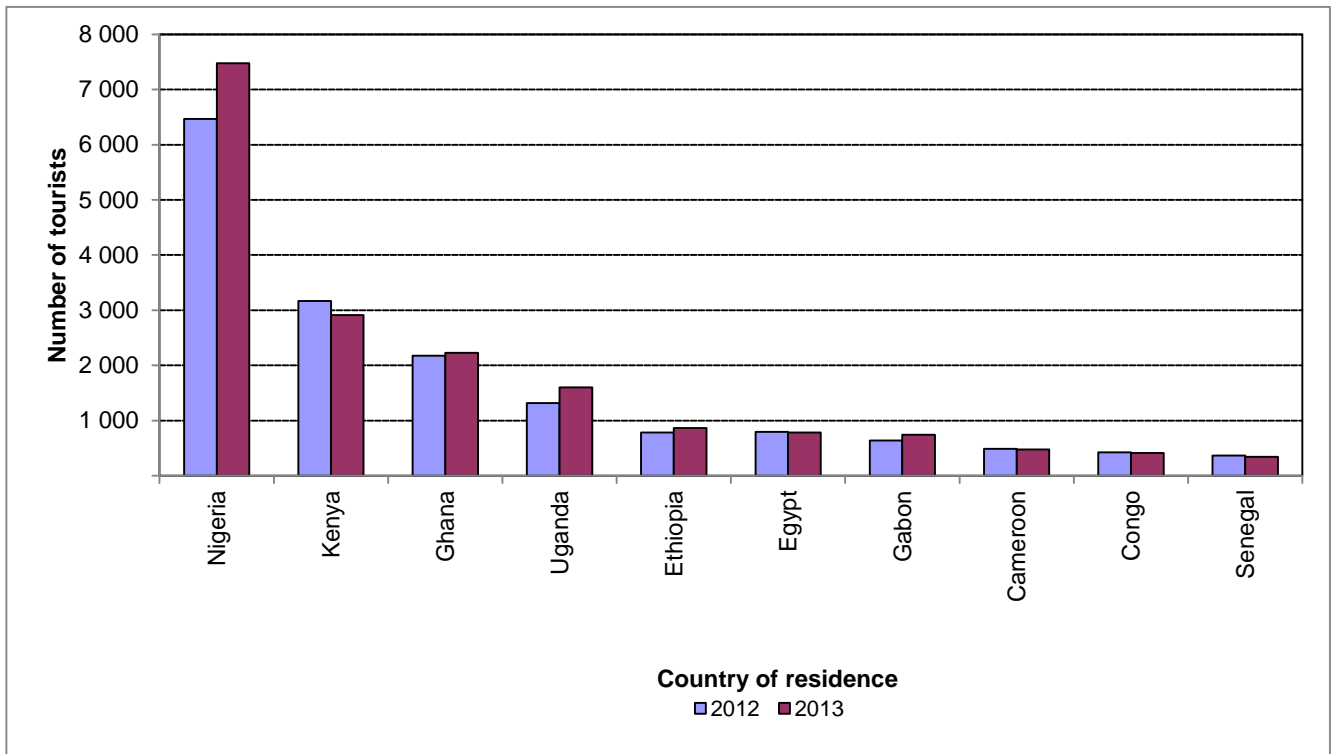


Figure 3. Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in September 2012 and September 2013



3. Tables

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

Travel direction	2012	2013		% change	
	September	August	September	September 2012 - September	August 2013 - September
Total	2 939 760	3 302 476	3 216 028	9,4	-2,6
South African residents	830 319	835 806	880 024	6,0	5,3
Arrivals	403 196	400 857	437 427	8,5	9,1
Departures	427 123	434 949	442 597	3,6	1,8
Foreign travellers	2 109 441	2 466 670	2 336 004	10,7	-5,3
Arrivals	1 148 598	1 321 184	1 252 142	9,0	-5,2
Departures	960 843	1 145 486	1 083 862	12,8	-5,4
Foreign arrivals	1 148 598	1 321 184	1 252 142	9,0	-5,2
Non-visitors	61 379	68 974	69 887	13,9	1,3
Visitors	1 087 219	1 252 210	1 182 255	8,7	-5,6
Visitors	1 087 219	1 252 210	1 182 255	8,7	-5,6
Arrivals only	399 660	403 153	390 184	-2,4	-3,2
Single trips	388 624	464 755	434 939	11,9	-6,4
Multiple trips	298 935	384 302	357 132	19,5	-7,1
Visitor	1 087 219	1 252 210	1 182 255	8,7	-5,6
Same-day	321 821	423 189	398 322	23,8	-5,9
Overnight (Tourists)	765 398	829 021	783 933	2,4	-5,4

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

Travel Direction	September		Mode of travel (September 2013)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2012	2013	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	2 939 760	3 216 028	99 184	12 755	750 770	7 309	870 018	2 339 432	6 481	97
South African residents	830 319	880 024	39 012	8 683	269 724	4 624	322 043	557 480	501	-
Arrivals	403 196	437 427	18 744	3 485	131 835	2 269	156 333	280 912	182	-
Departures	427 123	442 597	20 268	5 198	137 889	2 355	165 710	276 568	319	-
Foreign travellers	2 109 441	2 336 004	60 172	4 072	481 046	2 685	547 975	1 781 952	5 980	97
Arrivals	1 148 598	1 252 142	31 260	2 109	280 935	1 257	315 561	933 460	3 024	97
Departures	960 843	1 083 862	28 912	1 963	200 111	1 428	232 414	848 492	2 956	-
Visitors	1 087 219	1 182 255	26 439	1 414	255 741	917	284 511	897 598	100	46
Same-day	321 821	398 322	298	12	18 273	93	18 676	379 646	-	-
Overnight (Tourists)	765 398	783 933	26 141	1 402	237 468	824	265 835	517 952	100	46

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

Country of residence	September		Mode of travel (September 2013)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2012	2013	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	765 398	783 933	26 141	1 402	237 468	824	265 835	517 952	100	46
Overseas	208 203	217 645	23 210	1 130	170 642	649	195 631	21 915	68	31
Europe	108 104	112 054	15 306	787	81 878	201	98 172	13 851	29	2
Austria	1 779	2 025	220	15	1 530	1	1 766	259	-	-
Belgium	3 675	3 480	344	4	2 630	9	2 987	493	-	-
Denmark	1 680	1 514	190	3	1 199	2	1 394	120	-	-
France	8 169	8 416	835	25	6 501	25	7 386	1 026	4	-
Germany	22 171	25 489	3 026	93	18 689	13	21 821	3 665	2	1
Ireland	2 006	1 863	311	37	1 288	5	1 641	222	-	-
Italy	5 441	5 723	950	36	4 398	2	5 386	337	-	-
Norway	1 541	1 550	253	3	1 138		1 394	156	-	-
Portugal	4 175	4 186	280	12	2 597	14	2 903	1 283	-	-
Spain	2 800	3 356	379	8	2 682	2	3 071	284	1	-
Sweden	2 026	2 012	262	2	1 611	10	1 885	127	-	-
Switzerland	4 665	5 258	582	7	4 210	4	4 803	455	-	-
The Netherlands	8 923	9 692	1 751	49	5 749	16	7 565	2 127	-	-
UK	31 843	30 874	4 873	440	22 697	77	28 087	2 764	22	1
Other	7 210	6 616	1 050	53	4 959	21	6 083	533	-	-
North America	33 690	35 278	2 549	83	29 621	299	32 552	2 717	8	1
Canada	5 199	5 238	699	43	3 972	24	4 738	495	5	-
USA	28 491	30 040	1 850	40	25 649	275	27 814	2 222	3	1
Central and South America	10 141	11 311	157	14	10 539	13	10 723	588	-	-
Argentina	1 130	1 551	13	-	1 496	1	1 510	41	-	-
Brazil	6 774	7 186	59	3	6 697	9	6 768	418	-	-
Chile	375	410	9	1	385	-	395	15	-	-
Other	1 862	2 164	76	10	1 961	3	2 050	114	-	-

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

Country of residence	September		Mode of travel (September 2013)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2012	2013	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Australasia	16 395	16 344	817	51	14 213	85	15 166	1 171	7	-
Australia	13 848	14 038	669	36	12 205	78	12 988	1 043	7	-
New Zealand	2 509	2 262	147	15	1 966	7	2 135	127	-	-
Other	38	44	1	-	42	-	43	1	-	-
Middle East	3 934	3 645	398	13	2 923	10	3 344	299	1	1
Israel	2 443	2 207	148	-	1 826	4	1 978	228	1	-
Lebanon	253	307	33	2	242	1	278	29	-	-
Saudi Arabia	278	302	55	1	243	2	301	1	-	-
Other	960	829	162	10	612	3	787	41	-	1
Asia	35 939	39 013	3 983	182	31 468	41	35 674	3 289	23	27
China	13 030	15 308	1 489	20	13 164	1	14 674	633	1	-
India	9 077	8 086	439	67	6 233	6	6 745	1 335	5	1
Japan	3 508	4 018	285	9	3 595	7	3 896	120	2	-
Malaysia	1 138	1 135	385	8	691	4	1 088	47	-	-
Pakistan	1 898	1 673	139	30	1 038	-	1 207	453	3	10
Philippines	1 385	1 384	86	9	1 162	-	1 257	127	-	-
Singapore	719	1 575	664	3	886	10	1 563	11	1	-
South Korea	1 429	1 633	154	4	1 314	-	1 472	161	-	-
Taiwan	976	1 271	45	3	1 091	-	1 139	126	2	4
Other	2 779	2 930	297	29	2 294	13	2 633	276	9	12
Africa	555 093	564 391	2 893	267	65 523	174	68 857	495 487	32	15
SADC	535 699	543 675	2 657	250	46 592	143	49 642	494 023	8	2
Angola	3 954	4 820	510	-	4 137	15	4 662	158	-	-
Botswana	43 825	48 776	314	-	4 743	39	5 096	43 679	1	-
DRC	2 918	2 742	3	-	2 182	3	2 188	554	-	-
Lesotho	131 271	110 080	6	-	1 022	1	1 029	109 051	-	-
Madagascar	472	536	1	1	530	1	533	3	-	-

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

Country of residence	September		Mode of travel (September 2013)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2012	2013	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Malawi	13 061	17 952	15	7	2 190	10	2 222	15 729	1	-
Mauritius	1 591	1 436	96	29	1 149	3	1 277	159	-	-
Mozambique	92 949	87 278	110	31	5 350	13	5 504	81 774	-	-
Namibia	15 848	17 818	1 496	1	5 072	10	6 579	11 238	1	-
Seychelles	262	449	3	1	441	-	445	4	-	-
Swaziland	65 771	72 939	4	-	1 463	1	1 468	71 471	-	-
Tanzania	3 234	3 167	14	-	2 105	1	2 120	1 046	1	-
Zambia	14 028	15 588	14	60	5 437	9	5 520	10 068	-	-
Zimbabwe	146 515	160 094	71	120	10 771	37	10 999	149 089	4	2
'Other' Africa	19 394	20 716	236	17	18 931	31	19 215	1 464	24	13
East and Central Africa	7 490	7 738	52	5	6 977	14	7 048	681	7	2
Burundi	130	182	-	-	175	-	175	7	-	-
Cameroon	486	478	3	1	431	-	435	41	2	-
Central African Republic	23	14	-	-	14	-	14	-	-	-
Chad	41	60	-	-	60	-	60	-	-	-
Comoros	49	41	-	-	35	-	35	6	-	-
Congo	423	410	4	-	392	6	402	4	3	1
Djibouti	17	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	25	26	5	-	19	2	26	-	-	-
Eritrea	106	65	2	-	57	-	59	6	-	-
Ethiopia	782	863	13	2	779	-	794	69	-	-
Gabon	638	745	3	-	727	3	733	12	-	-
Kenya	3 165	2 911	15	2	2 584	1	2 602	307	1	1
Rwanda	248	315	-	-	287	2	289	26	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	19	21	-	-	21	-	21	-	-	-
Somalia	20	5	-	-	5	-	5	-	-	-
Uganda	1 318	1 599	7	-	1 388	-	1 395	203	1	-

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

Country of residence	September		Mode of travel (September 2013)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2012	2013	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
West Africa	10 368	11 388	74	4	10 522	17	10 617	747	16	8
Benin	164	168	3	-	156	-	159	9	-	-
Burkina Faso	95	90	2	-	85	-	87	3	-	-
Cape Verde Island	53	64	4	-	53	-	57	7	-	-
Côte D'Ivoire	241	222	5	-	213	3	221	1	-	-
Gambia	103	74	-	-	72	-	72	2	-	-
Ghana	2 176	2 230	17	2	2 035	-	2 054	174	1	1
Guinea	253	227	-	-	133	-	133	94	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	21	18	-	-	12	-	12	6	-	-
Liberia	67	105	1	-	98	-	99	6	-	-
Mali	116	177	2	-	149	-	151	26	-	-
Mauritania	26	25	2	-	21	-	23	2	-	-
Niger	30	34	1	-	33	-	34	-	-	-
Nigeria	6 469	7 479	35	2	7 017	14	7 068	396	9	6
Saint Helena	12	7	1	-	-	-	1	-	6	-
Senegal	366	343	-	-	334	-	334	8	-	1
Sierra Leone	89	84	-	-	72	-	72	12	-	-
Togo	87	41	1	-	39	-	40	1	-	-
North Africa	1 536	1 590	110	8	1 432	-	1 550	36	1	3
Algeria	159	164	23	2	135	-	160	4	-	-
Egypt	792	785	31	3	728	-	762	19	1	3
Libya	71	160	14	1	143	-	158	2	-	-
Morocco	239	127	15	2	107	-	124	3	-	-
South Sudan	-	61	-	-	59	-	59	2	-	-
The Sudan	147	132	19	-	108	-	127	5	-	-
Tunisia	127	161	8	-	152	-	160	1	-	-
Western Sahara	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	2 102	1 897	38	5	1 303	1	1 347	550	-	-

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

Country of residence	September		Purpose of visit (September 2013)			
	2012	2013	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Total	765 398	783 933	15 074	692 738	6 110	70 011
Overseas	208 203	217 645	7 647	159 301	1 134	49 563
Europe	108 104	112 054	4 487	82 334	645	24 588
Austria	1 779	2 025	64	1 348	9	604
Belgium	3 675	3 480	135	2 559	23	763
Denmark	1 680	1 514	78	1 126	8	302
France	8 169	8 416	395	5 697	63	2 261
Germany	22 171	25 489	609	17 917	118	6 845
Ireland	2 006	1 863	117	1 491	15	240
Italy	5 441	5 723	278	3 984	24	1 437
Norway	1 541	1 550	70	1 073	12	395
Portugal	4 175	4 186	107	3 088	22	969
Spain	2 800	3 356	150	2 087	16	1 103
Sweden	2 026	2 012	133	1 385	16	478
Switzerland	4 665	5 258	71	3 396	18	1 773
The Netherlands	8 923	9 692	323	8 571	71	727
UK	31 843	30 874	1 543	23 851	182	5 298
Other	7 210	6 616	414	4 761	48	1 393
North America	33 690	35 278	879	27 923	183	6 293
Canada	5 199	5 238	166	4 242	21	809
USA	28 491	30 040	713	23 681	162	5 484
Central and South America	10 141	11 311	155	6 234	33	4 889
Argentina	1 130	1 551	21	896	2	632
Brazil	6 774	7 186	74	3 729	19	3 364
Chile	375	410	8	275	1	126
Other	1 862	2 164	52	1 334	11	767

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

Country of residence	September		Purpose of visit (September 2013)			
	2012	2013	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Australasia	16 395	16 344	275	13 455	25	2 589
Australia	13 848	14 038	241	11 562	18	2 217
New Zealand	2 509	2 262	34	1 866	6	356
Other	38	44	-	27	1	16
Middle East	3 934	3 645	168	3 023	44	410
Israel	2 443	2 207	53	1 919	8	227
Lebanon	253	307	26	209	2	70
Saudi Arabia	278	302	31	236	12	23
Other	960	829	58	659	22	90
Asia	35 939	39 013	1 683	26 332	204	10 794
China	13 030	15 308	464	10 324	52	4 468
India	9 077	8 086	545	5 942	55	1 544
Japan	3 508	4 018	163	2 467	5	1 383
Malaysia	1 138	1 135	98	851	10	176
Pakistan	1 898	1 673	55	1 317	7	294
Philippines	1 385	1 384	19	595	12	758
Singapore	719	1 575	76	1 347	2	150
South Korea	1 429	1 633	103	1 044	28	458
Taiwan	976	1 271	22	888	4	357
Other	2 779	2 930	138	1 557	29	1 206
Africa	555 093	564 391	7 373	532 108	4 968	19 942
SADC	535 699	543 675	6 392	516 442	4 363	16 478
Angola	3 954	4 820	74	3 201	197	1 348
Botswana	43 825	48 776	273	45 349	593	2 561
DRC	2 918	2 742	61	2 263	120	298
Lesotho	131 271	110 080	51	108 871	677	481
Madagascar	472	536	12	187	7	330

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

Country of residence	September		Purpose of visit (September 2013)			
	2012	2013	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
Malawi	13 061	17 952	234	16 937	87	694
Mauritius	1 591	1 436	70	1 030	21	315
Mozambique	92 949	87 278	588	84 122	76	2 492
Namibia	15 848	17 818	2 167	12 677	768	2 206
Seychelles	262	449	12	393	1	43
Swaziland	65 771	72 939	108	71 034	963	834
Tanzania	3 234	3 167	93	2 338	64	672
Zambia	14 028	15 588	1 127	12 683	131	1 647
Zimbabwe	146 515	160 094	1 522	155 357	658	2 557
'Other' Africa	19 394	20 716	981	15 666	605	3 464
East and Central Africa	7 490	7 738	412	5 729	284	1 313
Burundi	130	182	3	91	4	84
Cameroon	486	478	28	319	21	110
Central African Republic	23	14	-	8	1	5
Chad	41	60	2	32	6	20
Comoros	49	41	2	14	2	23
Congo	423	410	7	311	18	74
Djibouti	17	3	-	2	-	1
Equatorial Guinea	25	26	3	16	6	1
Eritrea	106	65	-	48	3	14
Ethiopia	782	863	29	713	11	110
Gabon	638	745	9	643	39	54
Kenya	3 165	2 911	230	2 100	107	474
Rwanda	248	315	11	201	21	82
Sao Tome and Principe	19	21	2	9	2	8
Somalia	20	5	1	2	1	1
Uganda	1 318	1 599	85	1 220	42	252

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

Country of residence	September		Purpose of visit (September 2013)			
	2012	2013	Business	Holiday	Study	Transit
West Africa	10 368	11 388	454	8 978	243	1 713
Benin	164	168	4	125	4	35
Burkina Faso	95	90	6	34	4	46
Cape Verde Island	53	64	1	44	-	19
Côte D'Ivoire	241	222	22	147	9	44
Gambia	103	74	-	37	-	37
Ghana	2 176	2 230	98	1 708	16	408
Guinea	253	227	5	159	3	60
Guinea-Bissau	21	18	-	10	-	8
Liberia	67	105	3	40	1	61
Mali	116	177	5	79	2	91
Mauritania	26	25	2	16	-	7
Niger	30	34	-	27	3	4
Nigeria	6 469	7 479	288	6 244	190	757
Saint Helena	12	7	-	7	-	-
Senegal	366	343	15	221	7	100
Sierra Leone	89	84	2	55	2	25
Togo	87	41	3	25	2	11
North Africa	1 536	1 590	115	959	78	438
Algeria	159	164	21	117	11	15
Egypt	792	785	47	494	12	232
Libya	71	160	5	49	25	81
Morocco	239	127	12	86	7	22
South Sudan	-	61	3	43	4	11
The Sudan	147	132	17	88	14	13
Tunisia	127	161	10	82	5	64
Western Sahara	1	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	2 102	1 897	54	1 329	8	506

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

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (September 2013)			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' Africa	Unspecified
All	Total	783 933	217 645	543 675	20 716	1 897
	<15	32 777	8 280	23 384	1 098	15
	15 - 64	709 296	180 810	507 370	19 260	1 856
	65+	41 390	28 488	12 521	355	26
	Unspecified	470	67	400	3	-
Male	Total	443 058	123 647	304 215	13 982	1 214
	<15	16 335	4 242	11 528	553	12
	15 - 64	405 515	104 283	286 858	13 192	1 182
	65+	20 967	15 090	5 621	236	20
	Unspecified	241	32	208	1	-
Female	Total	340 027	93 799	238 817	6 730	681
	<15	16 441	4 038	11 855	545	3
	15 - 64	303 105	76 381	219 987	6 065	672
	65+	20 316	13 356	6 835	119	6
	Unspecified	165	24	140	1	-
Unspecified	Total	848	199	643	4	2
	<15	1	-	1	-	-
	15 - 64	676	146	525	3	2
	65+	107	42	65	-	-
	Unspecified	64	11	52	1	-

4. Explanatory notes

4.1 Introduction

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

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

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

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

4.2 Purpose of the statistical release

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

4.3 Scope and coverage

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

4.4 Data

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

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

observed when the volume of travellers decreased. However, the volume of passengers recorded by ACSA is generally higher than that of the DHA because of, among other reasons, travellers who were in transit but whose information was not recorded by immigration and those who boarded airplanes but were refused entry into the country. In September 2013, the DHA data was 1,2% lower than that of ACSA.

4.5 Limitations

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

Due to unavailability of data from the DHA, information on documented immigrants is not included in this current publication. The documented immigration information will be provided as soon as it is made available to Stats SA.

4.6 Definitions of terms

4.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)

Traveller is someone who moves between different geographical locations for any purpose and any duration.

Visitor refers to any person travelling to a place other than that of his/her usual environment for less than 12 months and whose main purpose of the trip is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.

Same-day visitor is a visitor who visits a place for less than one night.

Tourist (overnight visitor) is a visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the place visited.

Tourism comprises the activities of persons travelling to, and staying in places outside their usual environment, for not more than one consecutive year, for leisure, business and other purposes. The usual environment of a person consists of a certain area around his/her place of residence, plus all other places he/she frequently visits.

4.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this 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, 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, 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.

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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