



The South Africa I know, the home I understand

Statistical release

P0351

Tourism and migration

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Preface

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in April 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 3 465 092 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in April 2016. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 842 424 South African residents and 2 622 668 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 406 482 arrivals, 435 094 departures and 848 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 320 375, 1 238 684 and 63 609 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in April 2015 and April 2016 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers, while the volume of transits increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 13,0% (from 467 372 in April 2015 to 406 482 in April 2016), departures decreased by 8,4% (from 474 853 in April 2015 to 435 094 in April 2016), and transits increased by 18,6% (from 715 in April 2015 to 848 in April 2016). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 12,9% (from 1 169 290 in April 2015 to 1 320 375 in April 2016), departures increased by 10,2% (from 1 124 179 in April 2015 to 1 238 684 in April 2016), and transits increased by 15,6% (from 55 046 in April 2015 to 63 609 in April 2016).

A comparison between the movements in March 2016 and April 2016 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, while the volume of transits increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 9,8% (from 450 637 in March 2016 to 406 482 in April 2016), departures decreased by 10,2% (from 484 750 in March 2016 to 435 094 in April 2016) and transits increased by 17,0% (from 725 in March 2016 to 848 in April 2016). For foreign travellers, the volume of arrivals decreased by 8,0% (from 1 435 879 in March 2016 to 1 320 375 in April 2016), departures decreased by 6,6% (from 1 326 244 in March 2016 to 1 238 684 in April 2016), and transits increased by 4,1% (from 61 087 in March 2016 to 63 609 in April 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 April 2016, 79 201 (6,0%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 241 174 (94,0%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in April 2016 but did not depart in April 2016 [288 706 (23,3%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in April 2016 and left in April 2016 [465 602 (37,5%)];
and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in April 2016 [486 866 (39,2%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In April 2016, there were 445 255 (35,9%) same-day visitors and 795 919 (64,1%) tourists. Between April 2015 and April 2016, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 21,8% (from 365 608 in April 2015 to 445 255 in April 2016) and that of tourists increased by 10,6% (from 719 557 in April 2015 to 795 919 in April 2016). Between March 2016 and April 2016, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 1,1% (from 440 493 in March 2016 to 445 255 in April 2016), while tourists decreased by 12,0% (from 904 594 in March 2016 to 795 919 in April 2016).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 10 show that in April 2016, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 515 757 (72,6%) of the 3 465 092 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 933 066 (26,9%). Compared to use of air and land transport, a much smaller number of travellers, 16 269 (0,5%) used sea transport. The arrivals data for South African residents show that 159 868 (39,3%) came by air, 246 156 (60,6%) came by road and 458 (0,1%) arrived by sea. For departures, 168 135 (38,6%) used air, 266 423 (61,2%) used road and 536 (0,1%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit (848) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 252 988 (19,2%) arrived by air, 1 060 141 (80,3%) came by road and 7 246 (0,5%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 287 618 (23,2%) foreign travellers left by air, 943 037 (76,1%) left by road and 8 029 (0,6%) left by sea. All travellers in transit (63 609) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [428 831 (96,3%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 16 398 (3,7%) of same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that 572 512 (71,9%) used road transport, 220 603 (27,7%) came by air and 2 804 (0,4%) 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 April 2016, 165 191 (87,6%) of overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 20 507 (10,9%) came in by road and 2 793 (1,5%) 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 [550 588 (93,2%)], 39 863 (6,8%) by air and 5 (less than 0,1%) by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 14 711 (92,0%), with 1 279 (8,0%) using road transport and 6 (less than 0,1%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In April 2016, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 110 860 (58,8%); North America, 30 665 (16,3%); Asia, 26 786 (14,2%); Australasia, 10 989 (5,8%); Central and South America, 4 606 (2,4%) and Middle East, 4 585 (2,4%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 7 indicate that the United Kingdom (UK), 34 680 (18,4%); United States of America (USA), 25 537 (13,5%); Germany, 18 423 (9,8%); France, 13 481 (7,2%); The Netherlands, 10 958 (5,8%); China, 10 046 (5,3%); Australia, 9 052 (4,8%); India, 7 595 (4,0%); Canada, 5 128 (2,7%) and Switzerland, 4 320 (2,3%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in April 2016. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 73,9% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in April 2015 and April 2016 shows that the number of tourists increased for all of the ten leading overseas countries. The Netherlands had the largest increase of 60,6% (from 6 823 tourists in April 2015 to 10 958 in April 2016), followed closely by China which had an increase of 50,1% (from 6 694 tourists in April 2015 to 10 046 in April 2016). The UK had the smallest increase of 16,3% (from 29 825 tourists in April 2015 to 34 680 in April 2016).

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 590 456 (97,4%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 8 342 (1,4%); East and Central Africa, 5 809 (1,0%); and North Africa 1 845 (0,3%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in April 2016 were: Zimbabwe, 171 996 (29,1%); Lesotho, 132 161 (22,4%); Mozambique, 105 415 (17,9%); Swaziland, 70 936 (12,0%); Botswana, 52 875 (9,0%); Namibia, 18 665 (3,2%); Zambia, 15 103 (2,6%); Malawi, 11 255 (1,9%); Tanzania, 3 388 (0,6%) and Angola, 3 205 (0,5%) (see Figure 2 on page 7). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,1% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in April 2015 and April 2016 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for six of the ten leading countries (Malawi, Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia, Lesotho and Zimbabwe), and decreased for the other four (Botswana, Angola, Namibia and Swaziland). Malawi showed the largest increase of 40,2% (from 8 027 tourists in April 2015 to 11 255 tourists in April 2016), while Botswana showed the largest decrease of 14,6% (from 61 919 tourists in April 2015 to 52 875 in April 2016).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in April 2016 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8, were: Nigeria, 5 664 (35,4%); Kenya, 2 436 (15,2%); Ghana, 1 316 (8,2%); Egypt, 994 (6,2%); Uganda, 983 (6,1%); Gabon, 668 (4,2%); Ethiopia, 652 (4,1%); Cameroon, 461 (2,9%); Côte d'Ivoire, 320 (2,0%) and Congo, 276 (1,7%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 86,1% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in April 2015 and April 2016 shows that, with the exception of Nigeria where the number of tourists decreased, the number of tourists increased for the other nine leading countries. Côte d'Ivoire had the largest increase of 164,5% (from 121 tourists in April 2015 to 320 in April 2016). The number of tourists from Nigeria decreased by 1,8% (from 5 767 tourists in April 2015 to 5 664 in April 2016).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on page 15, in April 2016, the majority of tourists, 769 727 (96,7%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 19 318 (2,4%) and 6 874 (0,9%) 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 10 743 (97,8%) tourists from Australasia, 4 465 (96,9%) from Central and South America, 29 478 (96,1%) from North America, 105 884 (95,5%) from Europe, 4 320 (94,2%) from the Middle East and 25 047 (93,5%) from Asia were in South Africa for holidays. Asia had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business [5,6% (1 510)] followed closely by Middle East [4,9% (224)]. The Middle East and Asia had the highest proportions of tourists who came for study purposes [0,9% (41)] and [0,9% (229)] respectively, compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists, 588 884 (97,1%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 574 385 (97,3%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 14 499 (90,6%) 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 92,8% (7 740); 88,7% (5 152); and 87,1% (1 607) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 5,4% (865) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 1,9% (11 016) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 10,2% (188) of its tourists to South Africa who came for business purposes.
- Students made up 4,0% (632) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,9% (5 055) from the SADC countries. East and central Africa had the highest proportion, 5,1% (296) 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 April 2016, there were 433 351 (54,4%) male and 362 568 (45,6%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 103 200 (54,8%) male tourists and 85 291 (45,2%) female tourists. There were 319 193 (54,1%) male and 271 263 (45,9%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 10 361 (64,8%) male and 5 635 (35,2%) 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 44 784 (5,6%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 709 022 (89,1%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 42 113 (5,3%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 543 788 (92,1%) of SADC and 14 891 (93,1%) of 'other' African countries tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 149 387 (79,3%) of tourists in the same age range from overseas. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was lower among tourists from 'other' African countries, 4,7% (751), than among those from SADC countries, 5,4% (31 905) and overseas countries, 6,4% (12 125).

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 13,9% (14 316) of male tourists and 14,8% (12 663) of female tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to the pattern observed among tourists from the other two regions where tourists aged 65 years and older comprised less than 3,5% of both male and female tourists. From the SADC countries elderly tourists made up 2,1% (6 653) and 3,0% (8 110) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,2% (224) and 2,3% (130) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

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

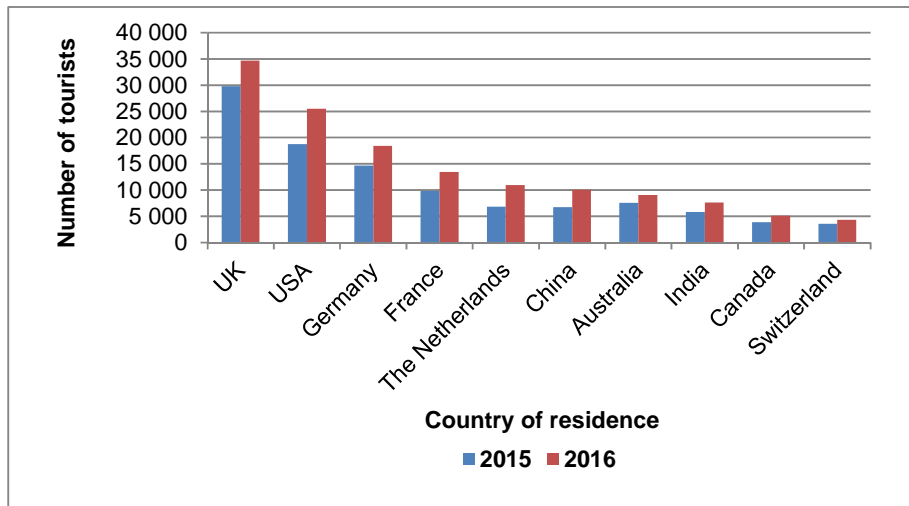


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in April 2015 and April 2016

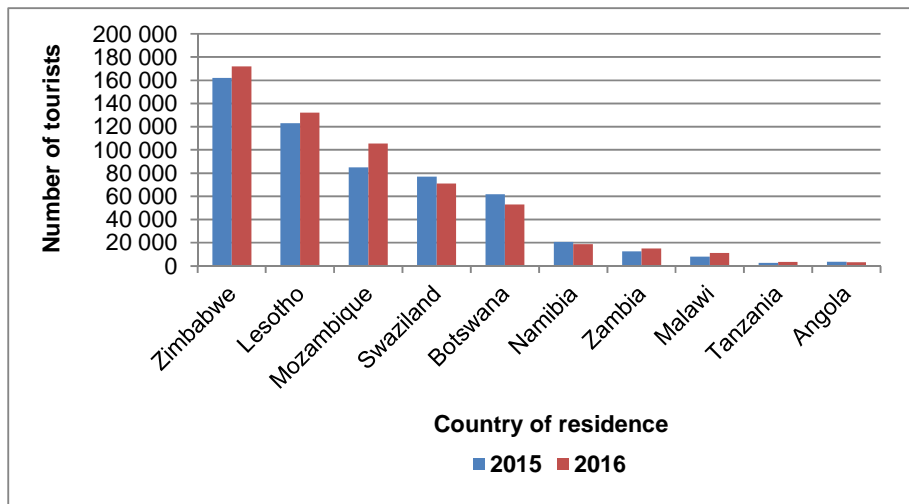
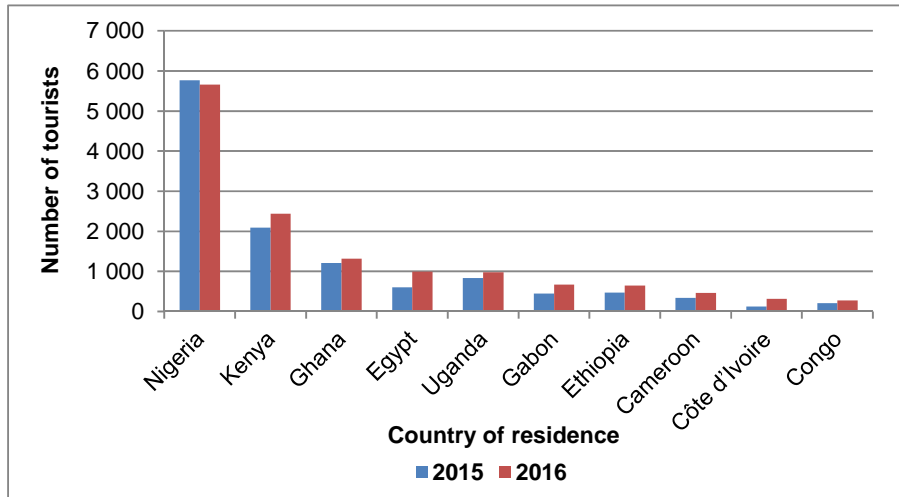


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in April 2015 and April 2016



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	April 2015	March 2016	April 2016	% Change	
				Mar 2016 – Apr 2016	Apr 2015 – Apr 2016
Total	3 291 455	3 759 322	3 465 092	-7,8%	5,3%
South African residents	942 940	936 112	842 424	-10,0%	-10,7%
Arrivals	467 372	450 637	406 482	-9,8%	-13,0%
Departures	474 853	484 750	435 094	-10,2%	-8,4%
Transit	715	725	848	17,0%	18,6%
Foreign travellers	2 348 515	2 823 210	2 622 668	-7,1%	11,7%
Arrivals	1 169 290	1 435 879	1 320 375	-8,0%	12,9%
Departures	1 124 179	1 326 244	1 238 684	-6,6%	10,2%
Transit	55 046	61 087	63 609	4,1%	15,6%
Foreign Arrivals	1 169 290	1 435 879	1 320 375	-8,0%	12,9%
Non-visitors	84 125	90 792	79 201	-12,8%	-5,9%
Visitors	1 085 165	1 345 087	1 241 174	-7,7%	14,4%
Visitors	1 085 165	1 345 087	1 241 174	-7,7%	14,4%
Arrivals only	265 842	324 319	288 706	-11,0%	8,6%
Single trips	427 211	486 761	465 602	-4,3%	9,0%
Multiple trips	392 112	534 007	486 866	-8,8%	24,2%
Visitors	1 085 165	1 345 087	1 241 174	-7,7%	14,4%
Same day	365 608	440 493	445 255	1,1%	21,8%
Overnight (tourists)	719 557	904 594	795 919	-12,0%	10,6%

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

Travel direction	Total	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O. R. Tambo	Other Airports	Total		
Total	3 465 092	147 106	29 418	749 596	6 946	933 066	2 515 757	16 269
South African residents	842 424	42 136	17 299	265 103	4 313	328 851	512 579	994
Arrivals	406 482	20 244	8 396	128 833	2 395	159 868	246 156	458
Departures	435 094	21 887	8 903	135 427	1 918	168 135	266 423	536
Transit	848	5	-	843	-	848	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 622 668	104 970	12 119	484 493	2 633	604 215	2 003 178	15 275
Arrivals	1 320 375	48 073	5 129	198 784	1 002	252 988	1 060 141	7 246
Departures	1 238 684	56 790	6 990	222 207	1 631	287 618	943 037	8 029
Transit	63 609	107	-	63 502	-	63 609	-	-
Visitors	1 241 174	45 488	3 948	186 865	700	237 001	1 001 343	2 830
Same day	445 255	436	40	15 849	73	16 398	428 831	26
Tourist	795 919	45 052	3 908	171 016	627	220 603	572 512	2 804

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

Country of residence	April		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	719 557	795 919	45 052	3 908	171 016	627	220 603	572 512	2 804
Overseas	144 771	188 491	40 358	3 382	120 932	519	165 191	20 507	2 793
Europe	88 194	110 860	28 143	2 374	64 853	161	95 531	13 261	2 068
Austria	1 124	1 613	423	51	964	-	1 438	175	-
Belgium	4 032	2 942	712	45	1 594	4	2 355	580	7
Denmark	1 275	1 669	282	47	1 167	2	1 498	165	6
France	9 850	13 481	3 035	109	8 430	23	11 597	1 875	9
Germany	14 640	18 423	4 689	231	10 895	7	15 822	2 538	63
Ireland	1 757	2 146	660	78	1 168	4	1 910	215	21
Italy	2 865	4 159	1 133	96	2 566	10	3 805	353	1
Portugal	3 001	3 808	543	30	1 683	3	2 259	1 549	-
Spain	1 618	2 128	365	51	1 443	11	1 870	248	10
Sweden	1 859	2 110	562	53	1 268	7	1 890	212	8
Switzerland	3 527	4 320	1 587	73	2 172	11	3 843	439	38
The Netherlands	6 823	10 958	3 730	142	5 628	1	9 501	1 449	8
Turkey	767	1 510	550	74	720	2	1 346	164	-
UK	29 825	34 680	8 142	1 096	20 925	59	30 222	2 570	1 888
Other	5 231	6 913	1 730	198	4 230	17	6 175	729	9
North America	22 617	30 665	5 950	304	21 159	230	27 643	2 759	263
Canada	3 841	5 128	1 244	72	3 200	18	4 534	512	82
USA	18 776	25 537	4 706	232	17 959	212	23 109	2 247	181
Central and South America	3 511	4 606	285	11	3 778	11	4 085	512	9
Argentina	318	692	12	-	644	-	656	30	6
Brazil	2 161	2 532	122	2	2 067	3	2 194	338	-
Mexico	228	255	46	-	199	-	245	9	1
Other	804	1 127	105	9	868	8	990	135	2

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

Country of residence	April		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	9 121	10 989	778	117	8 958	84	9 937	643	409
Australia	7 570	9 052	576	80	7 490	76	8 222	494	336
New Zealand	1 526	1 918	200	36	1 452	8	1 696	149	73
Other	25	19	2	1	16	-	19	-	-
Middle East	2 737	4 585	820	66	3 414	12	4 312	273	-
Israel	1 437	2 557	304	18	2 014	1	2 337	220	-
Lebanon	205	271	72	7	170	-	249	22	-
Saudi Arabia	292	758	110	4	644	-	758	-	-
Other	803	999	334	37	586	11	968	31	-
Asia	18 591	26 786	4 382	510	18 770	21	23 683	3 059	44
China	6 694	10 046	1 452	57	8 082	-	9 591	437	18
India	5 808	7 595	1 309	264	4 842	10	6 425	1 169	1
Japan	1 375	1 838	223	38	1 457	3	1 721	107	10
Malaysia	392	615	161	10	389	1	561	53	1
Pakistan	933	1 467	203	43	700	-	946	521	-
Philippines	428	626	115	24	391	-	530	90	6
Singapore	377	715	252	8	420	6	686	25	4
South Korea	890	1 177	151	12	879	-	1 042	134	1
Taiwan	358	524	55	4	318	-	377	147	-
Thailand	452	845	206	19	586	1	812	31	2
Other	884	1 338	255	31	706	-	992	345	1
Africa	573 857	606 452	4 665	522	49 279	108	54 574	551 867	11
SADC	560 389	590 456	3 940	444	35 381	98	39 863	550 588	5
Angola	3 624	3 205	813	-	2 229	6	3 048	157	-
Botswana	61 919	52 875	214	4	1 887	30	2 135	50 740	-
DRC	1 950	2 436	30	1	1 836	-	1 867	569	-
Lesotho	123 066	132 161	1	2	385	-	388	131 773	-

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

Country of residence	April		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	165	187	6	-	180	-	186	1	-
Malawi	8 027	11 255	5	1	1 808	14	1 828	9 427	-
Mauritius	1 281	2 021	350	93	1 415	4	1 862	154	5
Mozambique	85 034	105 415	6	57	3 149	7	3 219	102 196	-
Namibia	20 714	18 665	2 350	-	3 300	12	5 662	13 003	-
Seychelles	375	813	3	-	799	-	802	11	-
Swaziland	76 908	70 936	2	-	412	13	427	70 509	-
Tanzania	2 670	3 388	17	4	2 077	-	2 098	1 290	-
Zambia	12 632	15 103	35	87	3 402	1	3 525	11 578	-
Zimbabwe	162 024	171 996	108	195	12 502	11	12 816	159 180	-
'Other' African	13 468	15 996	725	78	13 898	10	14 711	1 279	6
East and Central Africa	4 679	5 809	231	31	5 043	6	5 311	498	-
Burundi	88	58	3	4	46	-	53	5	-
Cameroon	341	461	16	2	419	-	437	24	-
Central African Republic	7	11	1	-	10	-	11	-	-
Chad	26	23	8	-	14	-	22	1	-
Comoros	6	15	1	-	14	-	15	-	-
Congo	209	276	23	-	249	-	272	4	-
Djibouti	10	12	1	2	8	-	11	1	-
Equatorial Guinea	39	26	3	-	21	-	24	2	-
Eritrea	43	62	2	-	54	-	56	6	-
Ethiopia	475	652	80	17	455	-	552	100	-
Gabon	445	668	26	-	638	-	664	4	-
Kenya	2 091	2 436	29	4	2 181	6	2 220	216	-
Réunion	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Rwanda	42	91	10	1	72	-	83	8	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	10	11	4	-	7	-	11	-	-
Somalia	15	23	7	-	13	-	20	3	-
Uganda	832	983	16	1	842	-	859	124	-

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

Country of residence	April		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	7 738	8 342	142	35	7 471	3	7 651	685	6
Benin	102	224	1	-	219	-	220	4	-
Burkina Faso	45	87	4	-	80	-	84	3	-
Cape Verde Island	34	37	6	-	26	-	32	5	-
Côte d'Ivoire	121	320	2	-	312	-	314	6	-
Gambia	38	27	1	-	22	-	23	4	-
Ghana	1 209	1 316	29	6	1 184	-	1 219	97	-
Guinea	90	112	1	-	50	-	51	61	-
Guinea-Bissau	9	3	-	-	2	-	2	1	-
Liberia	23	59	2	-	55	-	57	2	-
Mali	76	108	7	-	54	-	61	47	-
Mauritania	9	13	1	-	12	-	13	-	-
Niger	16	30	1	-	26	-	27	3	-
Nigeria	5 767	5 664	77	25	5 115	3	5 220	442	2
Saint Helena	9	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Senegal	148	221	9	4	204	-	217	4	-
Sierra Leone	8	64	-	-	58	-	58	6	-
Togo	34	53	1	-	52	-	53	-	-
North Africa	1 051	1 845	352	12	1 384	1	1 749	96	-
Algeria	65	171	40	3	127	-	170	1	-
Egypt	603	994	186	3	753	-	942	52	-
Libya	48	89	8	2	59	-	69	20	-
Morocco	90	168	27	3	129	-	159	9	-
South Sudan	68	49	6	-	39	-	45	4	-
The Sudan	125	206	53	-	143	1	197	9	-
Tunisia	52	167	32	1	133	-	166	1	-
Western Sahara	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	929	976	29	4	805	-	838	138	-

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

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
Total	719 557	795 919	19 318	769 727	6 874
Overseas	144 771	188 491	7 367	179 937	1 187
Europe	88 194	110 860	4 318	105 884	658
Austria	1 124	1 613	55	1 551	7
Belgium	4 032	2 942	130	2 781	31
Denmark	1 275	1 669	85	1 579	5
France	9 850	13 481	400	12 990	91
Germany	14 640	18 423	546	17 781	96
Ireland	1 757	2 146	87	2 043	16
Italy	2 865	4 159	262	3 861	36
Portugal	3 001	3 808	104	3 670	34
Spain	1 618	2 128	164	1 952	12
Sweden	1 859	2 110	150	1 949	11
Switzerland	3 527	4 320	89	4 213	18
The Netherlands	6 823	10 958	348	10 565	45
Turkey	767	1 510	154	1 343	13
UK	29 825	34 680	1 283	33 206	191
Other	5 231	6 913	461	6 400	52
North America	22 617	30 665	987	29 478	200
Canada	3 841	5 128	145	4 967	16
USA	18 776	25 537	842	24 511	184
Central and South America	3 511	4 606	110	4 465	31
Argentina	318	692	10	678	4
Brazil	2 161	2 532	42	2 472	18
Mexico	228	255	15	236	4
Other	804	1 127	43	1 079	5

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

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	9 121	10 989	218	10 743	28
Australia	7 570	9 052	179	8 849	24
New Zealand	1 526	1 918	36	1 879	3
Other	25	19	3	15	1
Middle East	2 737	4 585	224	4 320	41
Israel	1 437	2 557	56	2 489	12
Saudi Arabia	292	758	19	738	1
Lebanon	205	271	41	228	2
Other	803	999	108	865	26
Asia	18 591	26 786	1 510	25 047	229
China	6 694	10 046	368	9 648	30
India	5 808	7 595	587	6 921	87
Japan	1 375	1 838	119	1 702	17
Malaysia	392	615	32	578	5
Pakistan	933	1 467	94	1 353	20
Philippines	428	626	39	583	4
Singapore	377	715	55	654	6
South Korea	890	1 177	44	1 102	31
Taiwan	358	524	29	490	5
Thailand	452	845	26	815	4
Other	884	1 338	117	1 201	20
Africa	573 857	606 452	11 881	588 884	5 687
SADC	560 389	590 456	11 016	574 385	5 055
Angola	3 624	3 205	66	2 954	185
Botswana	61 919	52 875	332	52 012	531
DRC	1 950	2 436	100	2 211	125
Lesotho	123 066	132 161	1 318	130 025	818

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

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
Madagascar	165	187	7	175	5
Malawi	8 027	11 255	267	10 910	78
Mauritius	1 281	2 021	87	1 915	19
Mozambique	85 034	105 415	3 038	102 147	230
Namibia	20 714	18 665	1 877	15 846	942
Seychelles	375	813	6	803	4
Swaziland	76 908	70 936	237	69 738	961
Tanzania	2 670	3 388	101	3 203	84
Zambia	12 632	15 103	875	14 050	178
Zimbabwe	162 024	171 996	2 705	168 396	895
'Other' African	13 468	15 996	865	14 499	632
East and Central Africa	4 679	5 809	361	5 152	296
Burundi	88	58	1	52	5
Cameroon	341	461	31	408	22
Central African Republic	7	11	-	11	-
Chad	26	23	3	17	3
Comoros	6	15	-	15	-
Congo	209	276	10	238	28
Djibouti	10	12	1	10	1
Equatorial Guinea	39	26	2	23	1
Eritrea	43	62	-	61	1
Ethiopia	475	652	70	566	16
Gabon	445	668	1	620	47
Kenya	2 091	2 436	158	2 175	103
Réunion	-	1	1	-	-
Rwanda	42	91	4	72	15
São Tomé and Príncipe	10	11	-	11	-
Somalia	15	23	1	22	-
Uganda	832	983	78	851	54

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

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	7 738	8 342	316	7 740	286
Benin	102	224	9	212	3
Burkina Faso	45	87	9	78	-
Cape Verde Island	34	37	1	36	-
Côte d'Ivoire	121	320	25	285	10
Gambia	38	27	2	25	-
Ghana	1 209	1 316	86	1 194	36
Guinea	90	112	3	106	3
Guinea-Bissau	9	3	-	3	-
Liberia	23	59	4	52	3
Mali	76	108	3	104	1
Mauritania	9	13	2	11	-
Niger	16	30	3	27	-
Nigeria	5 767	5 664	145	5 293	226
Saint Helena	9	4	-	4	-
Senegal	148	221	10	208	3
Sierra Leone	8	64	6	57	1
Togo	34	53	8	45	-
North Africa	1 051	1 845	188	1 607	50
Algeria	65	171	20	150	1
Egypt	603	994	100	879	15
Libya	48	89	5	68	16
Morocco	90	168	15	152	1
South Sudan	68	49	2	44	3
The Sudan	125	206	24	169	13
Tunisia	52	167	22	144	1
Western Sahara	-	1	-	1	-
Unspecified	929	976	70	906	-

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

Sex	Age group	April		Region			
		2015	2016	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	719 557	795 919	188 491	590 456	15 996	976
	< 15	51 042	44 784	12 125	31 905	751	3
	15-64	636 406	709 022	149 387	543 788	14 891	956
	65+	32 109	42 113	26 979	14 763	354	17
Male	Total	397 698	433 351	103 200	319 193	10 361	597
	< 15	25 684	22 591	6 275	15 927	386	3
	15-64	356 094	389 552	82 609	296 613	9 751	579
	65+	15 920	21 208	14 316	6 653	224	15
Female	Total	321 856	362 568	85 291	271 263	5 635	379
	< 15	25 358	22 193	5 850	15 978	365	-
	15-64	280 309	319 470	66 778	247 175	5 140	377
	65+	16 189	20 905	12 663	8 110	130	2
Unspecified	Total	3	-	-	-	-	-
	< 15	-	-	-	-	-	-
	15-64	3	-	-	-	-	-
	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 new Movement Control System (e-MCS) at the country's ports of entry. Currently the new system (e-MCS) is operational at over 80% of the country's ports of entry. The system roll-out is expected to be finalised by the end of 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 been also observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In April 2016, the DHA data was 1,7% 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 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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