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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 2017. 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.

PJ Lehohla
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 3 841 519 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in April 2017. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 1 068 065 South African residents and 2 773 454 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 515 265 arrivals, 552 015 departures and 785 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 395 241, 1 317 866 and 60 347 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in April 2016 and April 2017 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, while the volume of travellers in transit decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 26,8% (from 406 482 in April 2016 to 515 265 in April 2017), departures increased by 26,9% (from 435 094 in April 2016 to 552 015 in April 2017), and transits decreased by 7,4% (from 848 in April 2016 to 785 in April 2017). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 5,7% (from 1 320 375 in April 2016 to 1 395 241 in April 2017), departures increased by 6,4% (from 1 238 684 in April 2016 to 1 317 866 in April 2017), and transits decreased by 5,1% (from 63 609 in April 2016 to 60 347 in April 2017).

A comparison between the movements in March 2017 and April 2017 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 30,0% (from 396 471 in March 2017 to 515 265 in April 2017), departures increased by 30,9% (from 421 743 in March 2017 to 552 015 in April 2017), and transits increased by 6,9% (from 734 in March 2017 to 785 in April 2017). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 10,9% (from 1 258 642 in March 2017 to 1 395 241 in April 2017), departures increased by 12,1% (from 1 175 596 in March 2017 to 1 317 866 in April 2017), and transits increased by 6,8% (from 56 526 in March 2017 to 60 347 in April 2017).

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 on page 9, in April 2017, 85 768 (6,1%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 309 473 (93,9%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in April 2017 but did not depart in April 2017 [327 725 (25,0%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in April 2017 and left in April 2017 [486 251 (37,1%)];
and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in April 2017 [495 497 (37,8%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In April 2017, there were 390 389 (29,8%) same-day visitors and 919 084 (70,2%) tourists. Between April 2016 and April 2017, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 12,3% (from 445 255 in April 2016 to 390 389 in April 2017) and that of tourists increased by 15,5% (from 795 919 in April 2016 to 919 084 in April 2017). Between March 2017 and April 2017, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 4,1% (from 374 846 in March 2017 to 390 389 in April 2017), while tourists increased by 14,1% (from 805 857 in March 2017 to 919 084 in April 2017).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 10 show that in April 2017, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 772 398 (72,2%) of the 3 841 519 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 1 053 741 (27,4%). Compared to use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 15 380 (0,4%) used sea transport. The arrivals data for South African residents show that 191 081 (37,1%) came by air, 323 482 (62,8%) came by road and 702 (0,1%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 204 553 (37,1%) used air, 344 280 (62,4%) used road and 3 182 (0,6%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit 785 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 285 576 (20,5%) arrived by air, 1 103 289 (79,1%) came by road and 6 376 (0,5%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 311 399 (23,6%) foreign travellers left by air, 1 001 347 (76,0%) left by road and 5 120 (0,4%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit 60 347 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 on page 10 further shows that of the 390 389 same day visitors, an overwhelming majority, 372 154 (95,3%) arrived in the country by road. Only 18 229 (4,7%) of same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that 666 427 (72,5%) used road transport, 250 720 (27,3%) came by air transport and 1 937 (0,2%) arrived by sea transport.

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 pages 11–14. In April 2017, 194 863 (87,8%) of the 222 055 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 25 288 (11,4%) came in by road and 1 904 (0,9%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 639 734 (94,0%), followed by air travel, 41 176 (6,0%) and 8 (less than 0,1%) arriving by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 13 763 (91,4%), with 1 264 (8,4%) using road transport and 25 (0,2%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In April 2017, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 137 988 (62,1%); North America, 33 641 (15,1%); Asia, 25 962 (11,7%); Australasia, 12 058 (5,4%); Central and South America, 8 186 (3,7%); and Middle East, 4 220 (1,9%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 11–12 indicate that the United Kingdom (UK), 40 211 (18,1%); United States of America (USA), 28 118 (12,7%); Germany, 27 720 (12,5%); France, 16 786 (7,6%); The Netherlands, 12 230 (5,5%); Australia, 10 309 (4,6%); India, 8 689 (3,9%); China, 7 151 (3,2%); Switzerland, 5 600 (2,5%); and Canada, 5 523 (2,5%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in April 2017. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 73,1% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between April 2016 and April 2017 shows that the number of tourists increased for nine countries but decreased for China. Germany had the largest increase of 50,5% (from 18 423 tourists in April 2016 to 27 720 in April 2017), followed by Switzerland, which increased by 29,6% (from 4 320 in April 2016 to 5 600 in April 2017). China decreased by 28,8% (from 10 046 tourists in April 2016 to 7 151 in April 2017).

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 680 918 (97,8%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 7 854 (1,1%); East and Central Africa, 5 771 (0,8%); and North Africa 1 427 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in April 2017 were: Zimbabwe, 188 743 (27,7%); Lesotho, 159 175 (23,4%); Mozambique, 107 597 (15,8%); Swaziland, 84 036 (12,3%); Botswana, 81 570 (12,0%); Namibia, 20 608 (3,0%); Zambia 14 838 (2,2%); Malawi, 12 857 (1,9%); Angola, 3 590 (0,5%) and Tanzania, 2 897 (0,4%). (See Figure 2 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 12–13). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,3% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in April 2016 and April 2017 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for eight of the ten leading countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Malawi, Angola, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique), and decreased for the other two (Tanzania and Zambia). Botswana showed the largest increase of 54,3% (from 52 875 tourists in April 2016 to 81 570 in April 2017), while Tanzania showed the largest decrease of 14,5% (from 3 388 tourists in April 2016 to 2 897 in April 2017).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in April 2017 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13–14, were: Nigeria, 5 073 (33,7%); Kenya, 2 456 (16,3%); Ghana, 1 480 (9,8%); Uganda, 1 121 (7,4%); Egypt, 769 (5,1%); Ethiopia, 627 (4,2%); Gabon, 562 (3,7%); Cameroon, 425 (2,8%); Congo, 255 (1,7%) and Côte d'Ivoire, 225 (1,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 86,3% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in April 2016 and April 2017 shows that the number of tourists decreased for seven of the ten leading countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Nigeria, Cameroon, Congo and Ethiopia), and increased for the other three (Uganda, Ghana and Kenya). Côte d'Ivoire showed the largest decrease of 29,7% (from 320 tourists in April 2016 to 225 in April 2017), followed by Egypt, which decreased by 22,6% (from 994 tourists in April 2016 to 769 in April 2017). Uganda showed the largest increase of 14,0% (from 983 tourists in April 2016 to 1 121 in April 2017), followed by Ghana, which increased by 12,5% (from 1 316 tourists in April 2016 to 1 480 in April 2017).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on pages 15–18, in April 2017, the majority of tourists, 895 760 (97,5%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 16 533 (1,8%) and 6 791 (0,7%) who were in South Africa for business and for study purposes respectively. A detailed analysis reveals that of all the tourists from each of the overseas regions, more than 93,0% came to South Africa for holiday.

A total of 11 880 (98,5%) tourists from Australasia, 8 039 (98,2%) from Central and South America, 32 770 (97,4%) from North America, 134 370 (97,4%) from Europe, 24 638 (94,9%) from Asia and 3 960 (93,8%) from Middle East were in South Africa for holiday. Compared to other overseas regions, Middle East and Asia had higher proportions of tourists who came to South Africa for business, 4,9% (205) and 4,3% (1 111) respectively. Middle East had the highest proportion of tourists who came for study purposes, 1,3% (55).

The majority of African tourists, 679 122 (97,6%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 665 418 (97,7%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 13 704 (91,0%) 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 93,6% (7 349); 89,3% (5 153); and 84,2% (1 202) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 5,1% (762) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 1,5% (10 439) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 11,7% (167) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes.
- Students made up 3,9% (586) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,7% (5 061) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa, 4,7% (273) and North Africa, 4,1% (58) had higher proportions of 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 2017, there were 496 984 (54,1%) male and 422 100 (45,9%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 116 526 (52,5%) male tourists and 105 529 (47,5%) female tourists. There were 370 397 (54,4%) male and 310 521 (45,6%) female tourists from the SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 9 462 (62,9%) male and 5 590 (37,1%) 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 62 262 (6,8%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 809 670 (88,1%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 47 152 (5,1%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 621 087 (91,2%) tourists from SADC countries and 13 753 (91,4%) tourists of 'other' African countries were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 173 792 (78,3%) tourists in the same age range from overseas. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas, 9,0% (19 961), than among those from SADC, 6,1% (41 417) and from 'other' African countries, 5,8% (880).

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 12,7% (14 750) of male and 12,8% (13 552) 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 2,2% (8 092) and 3,3% (10 322) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,6% (243) and 3,1% (176) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in April 2016 and April 2017

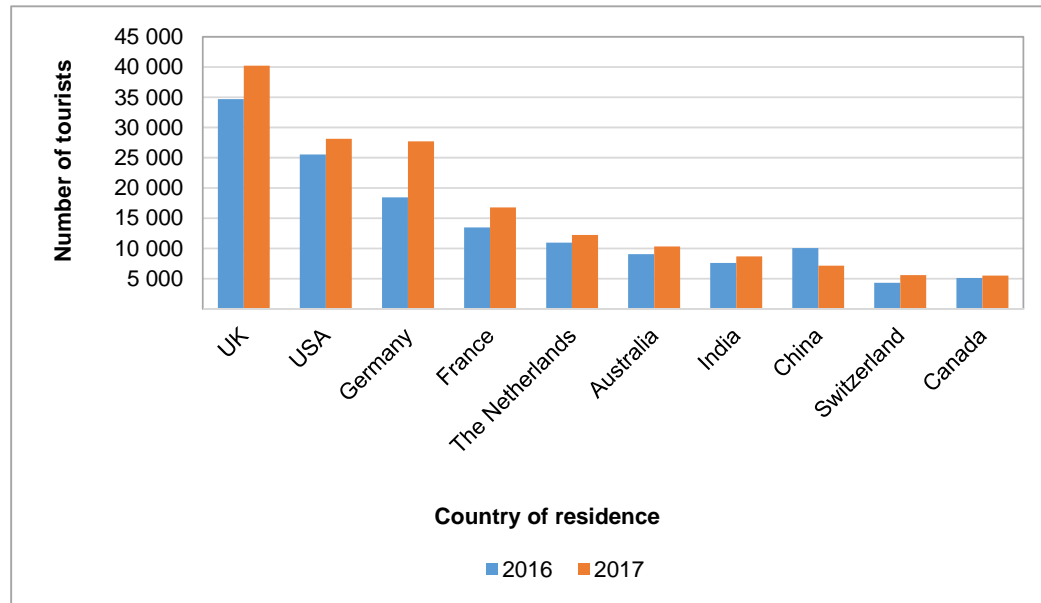


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in April 2016 and April 2017

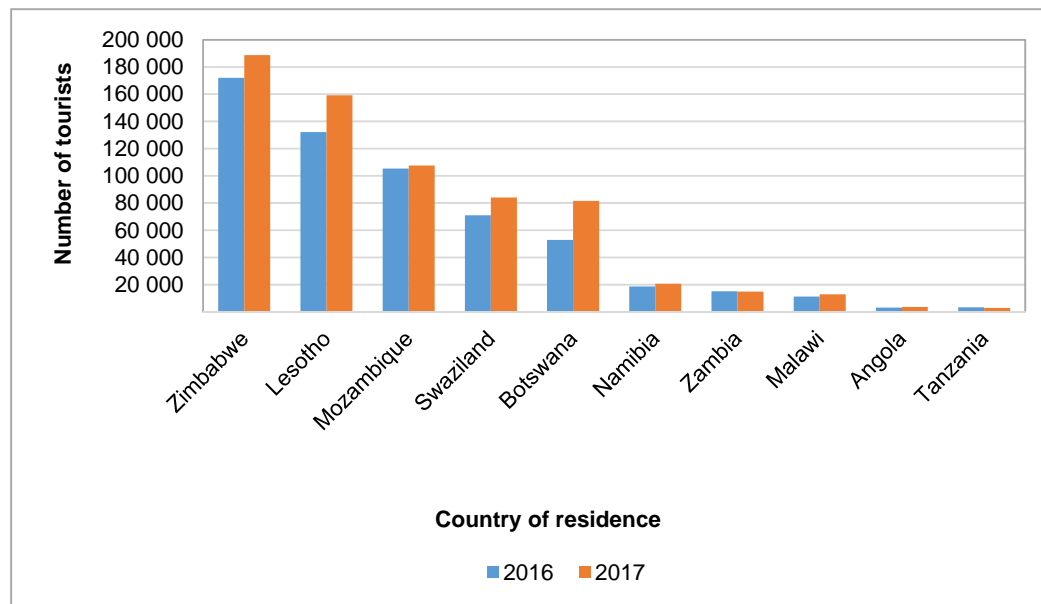
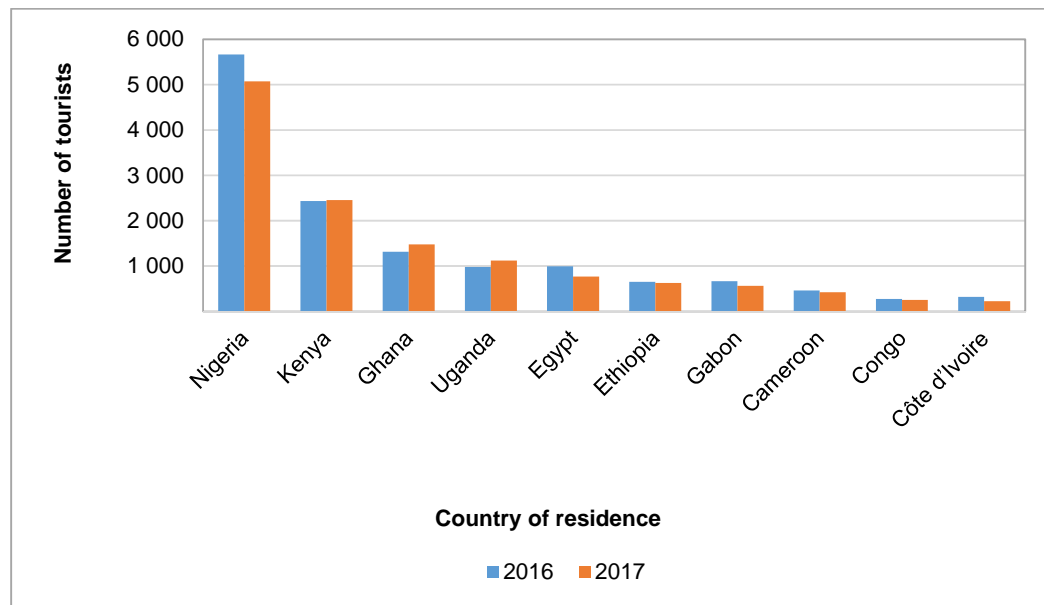


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in April 2016 and April 2017

3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	April 2016	March 2017	April 2017	% Change	% Change
				Mar – Apr 2017	Apr 2016 – Apr 2017
Total	3 465 092	3 309 712	3 841 519	16,1%	10,9%
South African residents	842 424	818 948	1 068 065	30,4%	26,8%
Arrivals	406 482	396 471	515 265	30,0%	26,8%
Departures	435 094	421 743	552 015	30,9%	26,9%
Transits	848	734	785	6,9%	-7,4%
Foreign travellers	2 622 668	2 490 764	2 773 454	11,3%	5,7%
Arrivals	1 320 375	1 258 642	1 395 241	10,9%	5,7%
Departures	1 238 684	1 175 596	1 317 866	12,1%	6,4%
Transits	63 609	56 526	60 347	6,8%	-5,1%
Foreign arrivals	1 320 375	1 258 642	1 395 241	10,9%	5,7%
Non-visitors	79 201	77 939	85 768	10,0%	8,3%
Visitors	1 241 174	1 180 703	1 309 473	10,9%	5,5%
Visitors	1 241 174	1 180 703	1 309 473	10,9%	5,5%
Arrivals only	288 706	286 182	327 725	14,5%	13,5%
Single trips	465 602	422 983	486 251	15,0%	4,4%
Multiple trips	486 866	471 538	495 497	5,1%	1,8%
Visitors	1 241 174	1 180 703	1 309 473	10,9%	5,5%
Same-Day	445 255	374 846	390 389	4,1%	-12,3%
Overnight (Tourists)	795 919	805 857	919 084	14,1%	15,5%

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	3 841 519	191 298	37 741	817 990	6 712	1 053 741	2 772 398	15 380
South African residents	1 068 065	57 565	23 941	311 460	3 453	396 419	667 762	3 884
Arrivals	515 265	27 433	11 933	150 099	1 616	191 081	323 482	702
Departures	552 015	30 128	12 008	160 580	1 837	204 553	344 280	3 182
Transits	785	4	-	781	-	785	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 773 454	133 733	13 800	506 530	3 259	657 322	2 104 636	11 496
Arrivals	1 395 241	62 929	6 455	214 919	1 273	285 576	1 103 289	6 376
Departures	1 317 866	70 718	7 345	231 350	1 986	311 399	1 001 347	5 120
Transits	60 347	86	-	60 261	-	60 347	-	-
Visitors	1 309 473	60 258	5 084	202 660	947	268 949	1 038 581	1 943
Same day	390 389	410	16	17 687	116	18 229	372 154	6
Tourist	919 084	59 848	5 068	184 973	831	250 720	666 427	1 937

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (April 2017)

Country of residence	April		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	795 919	919 084	59 848	5 068	184 973	831	250 720	666 427	1 937
Overseas	188 491	222 055	54 078	4 136	135 937	712	194 863	25 288	1 904
Europe	110 860	137 988	40 123	2 985	75 553	242	118 903	17 765	1 320
Austria	1 613	2 106	809	30	975	-	1 814	286	6
Belgium	2 942	4 857	1 362	66	2 596	3	4 027	826	4
Denmark	1 669	2 295	464	69	1 485	1	2 019	270	6
France	13 481	16 786	4 648	230	8 176	18	13 072	3 678	36
Germany	18 423	27 720	8 545	374	14 952	32	23 903	3 662	155
Ireland	2 146	2 823	990	142	1 464	6	2 602	204	17
Italy	4 159	4 092	1 377	92	2 222	7	3 698	389	5
Norway	1 285	1 806	591	62	874	1	1 528	274	4
Portugal	3 808	4 599	863	25	2 073	2	2 963	1 635	1
Spain	2 128	3 031	694	21	2 038	23	2 776	242	13
Sweden	2 110	2 797	1 056	60	1 395	4	2 515	280	2
Switzerland	4 320	5 600	2 013	65	2 890	23	4 991	585	24
The Netherlands	10 958	12 230	3 978	118	6 085	11	10 192	2 019	19
UK	34 680	40 211	10 697	1 451	24 261	85	36 494	2 708	1 009
Other	7 138	7 035	2 036	180	4 067	26	6 309	707	19
North America	30 665	33 641	6 799	398	23 142	180	30 519	2 921	201
Canada	5 128	5 523	1 353	116	3 355	27	4 851	620	52
USA	25 537	28 118	5 446	282	19 787	153	25 668	2 301	149
Central and South America	4 606	8 186	538	11	6 985	42	7 576	599	11
Argentina	692	1 281	35	1	1 176	1	1 213	63	5
Brazil	2 532	4 511	270	3	3 890	18	4 181	326	4
Mexico	255	396	81	1	274	18	374	20	2
Other	1 127	1 998	152	6	1 645	5	1 808	190	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (April 2017) (continued)

Country of residence	April		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	10 989	12 058	1 011	175	9 769	120	11 075	659	324
Australia	9 052	10 309	790	101	8 430	119	9 440	558	311
New Zealand	1 918	1 687	208	74	1 290	1	1 573	101	13
Other	19	62	13	-	49	-	62	-	-
Middle East	4 585	4 220	769	46	3 080	80	3 975	245	-
Israel	2 557	2 254	324	17	1 732	2	2 075	179	-
Lebanon	271	310	86	7	185	3	281	29	-
Saudi Arabia	758	661	112	3	531	6	652	9	-
Other	999	995	247	19	632	69	967	28	-
Asia	26 786	25 962	4 838	521	17 408	48	22 815	3 099	48
China	10 046	7 151	954	41	5 714	-	6 709	438	4
India	7 595	8 689	1 584	236	5 695	13	7 528	1 159	2
Japan	1 838	1 716	167	44	1 362	4	1 577	118	21
Malaysia	615	722	253	40	402	1	696	23	3
Pakistan	1 467	1 519	220	90	682	3	995	524	-
Philippines	626	964	376	7	480	4	867	93	4
Singapore	715	1 000	566	4	387	23	980	15	5
South Korea	1 177	1 602	172	9	1 154	-	1 335	265	2
Taiwan	524	408	62	3	200	-	265	143	-
Thailand	845	787	174	18	565	-	757	23	7
Other	1 338	1 404	310	29	767	-	1 106	298	-
Africa	606 452	695 970	5 693	921	48 206	119	54 939	640 998	33
SADC	590 456	680 918	4 642	816	35 626	92	41 176	639 734	8
Angola	3 205	3 590	922	-	2 513	1	3 436	154	-
Botswana	52 875	81 570	241	136	1 765	18	2 160	79 410	-
DRC	2 436	2 387	76	2	1 844	-	1 922	465	-
Lesotho	132 161	159 175	12	1	492	-	505	158 670	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (April 2017) (continued)

Country of residence	April		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	187	196	9	-	172	1	182	14	-
Malawi	11 255	12 857	13	8	1 987	6	2 014	10 843	-
Mauritius	2 021	1 742	389	77	1 133	-	1 599	140	3
Mozambique	105 415	107 597	9	54	2 592	6	2 661	104 936	-
Namibia	18 665	20 608	2 677	203	2 948	6	5 834	14 772	2
Seychelles	813	682	6	132	525	-	663	19	-
Swaziland	70 936	84 036	2	1	363	-	366	83 670	-
Tanzania	3 388	2 897	57	7	1 688	7	1 759	1 138	-
Zambia	15 103	14 838	82	103	3 598	10	3 793	11 045	-
Zimbabwe	171 996	188 743	147	92	14 006	37	14 282	174 458	3
'Other' African	15 996	15 052	1 051	105	12 580	27	13 763	1 264	25
East and Central Africa	5 809	5 771	504	49	4 677	12	5 242	529	-
Burundi	58	64	5	2	52	-	59	5	-
Cameroon	461	425	24	-	352	2	378	47	-
Central African Republic	11	10	-	-	9	-	9	1	-
Chad	23	23	3	-	19	-	22	1	-
Comoros	15	10	2	-	7	-	9	1	-
Congo	276	255	22	1	224	4	251	4	-
Djibouti	12	8	3	-	5	-	8	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	26	39	2	-	35	-	37	2	-
Eritrea	62	58	-	-	48	-	48	10	-
Ethiopia	652	627	63	33	444	-	540	87	-
Gabon	668	562	7	1	547	4	559	3	-
Kenya	2 436	2 456	313	10	1 930	1	2 254	202	-
Réunion	1	5	5	-	-	-	5	-	-
Rwanda	91	82	4	-	62	-	66	16	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	11	6	2	-	4	-	6	-	-
Somalia	23	20	2	-	18	-	20	-	-
Uganda	983	1 121	47	2	921	1	971	150	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (April 2017) (concluded)

Country of residence	April		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	8 342	7 854	260	22	6 939	9	7 230	603	21
Benin	224	133	5	-	125	-	130	3	-
Burkina Faso	87	53	8	-	42	-	50	3	-
Cape Verde Island	37	56	14	-	36	-	50	6	-
Côte d'Ivoire	320	225	5	-	212	-	217	8	-
Gambia	27	53	2	1	45	-	48	5	-
Ghana	1 316	1 480	62	6	1 331	-	1 399	81	-
Guinea	112	103	5	-	54	-	59	44	-
Guinea-Bissau	3	21	-	-	20	-	20	1	-
Liberia	59	96	1	-	93	-	94	2	-
Mali	108	139	1	1	62	-	64	75	-
Mauritania	13	24	2	-	22	-	24	-	-
Niger	30	39	2	-	36	-	38	1	-
Nigeria	5 664	5 073	136	13	4 563	9	4 721	352	-
Saint Helena	4	24	3	-	-	-	3	-	21
Senegal	221	219	4	-	204	-	208	11	-
Sierra Leone	64	58	2	-	46	-	48	10	-
Togo	53	58	8	1	48	-	57	1	-
North Africa	1 845	1 427	287	34	964	6	1 291	132	4
Algeria	171	98	14	2	77	-	93	5	-
Egypt	994	769	176	10	539	5	730	37	2
Libya	89	111	10	4	38	-	52	59	-
Morocco	168	118	23	4	76	1	104	12	2
South Sudan	49	64	2	-	60	-	62	2	-
The Sudan	206	176	39	10	111	-	160	16	-
Tunisia	167	90	23	4	62	-	89	1	-
Western Sahara	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	976	1 059	77	11	830	-	918	141	-

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

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit (April 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
Total	795 919	919 084	16 533	895 760	6 791
Overseas	188 491	222 055	5 255	215 657	1 143
Europe	110 860	137 988	2 954	134 370	664
Austria	1 613	2 106	27	2 074	5
Belgium	2 942	4 857	108	4 717	32
Denmark	1 669	2 295	47	2 239	9
France	13 481	16 786	272	16 429	85
Germany	18 423	27 720	415	27 210	95
Ireland	2 146	2 823	69	2 745	9
Italy	4 159	4 092	193	3 856	43
Norway	1 285	1 806	33	1 757	16
Portugal	3 808	4 599	55	4 516	28
Spain	2 128	3 031	86	2 929	16
Sweden	2 110	2 797	213	2 574	10
Switzerland	4 320	5 600	66	5 524	10
The Netherlands	10 958	12 230	195	11 972	63
UK	34 680	40 211	868	39 149	194
Other	7 138	7 035	307	6 679	49
North America	30 665	33 641	737	32 770	134
Canada	5 128	5 523	108	5 392	23
USA	25 537	28 118	629	27 378	111
Central and South America	4 606	8 186	99	8 039	48
Argentina	692	1 281	21	1 260	-
Brazil	2 532	4 511	32	4 448	31
Mexico	255	396	10	384	2
Other	1 127	1 998	36	1 947	15

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

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit (April 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	10 989	12 058	149	11 880	29
Australia	9 052	10 309	127	10 155	27
New Zealand	1 918	1 687	17	1 669	1
Other	19	62	5	56	1
Middle East	4 585	4 220	205	3 960	55
Israel	2 557	2 254	56	2 187	11
Lebanon	271	310	39	271	-
Saudi Arabia	758	661	16	634	11
Other	999	995	94	868	33
Asia	26 786	25 962	1 111	24 638	213
China	10 046	7 151	325	6 809	17
India	7 595	8 689	436	8 176	77
Japan	1 838	1 716	74	1 616	26
Malaysia	615	722	20	699	3
Pakistan	1 467	1 519	62	1 440	17
Philippines	626	964	20	944	-
Singapore	715	1 000	29	967	4
South Korea	1 177	1 602	51	1 510	41
Taiwan	524	408	20	387	1
Thailand	845	787	8	777	2
Other	1 338	1 404	66	1 313	25
Africa	606 452	695 970	11 201	679 122	5 647
SADC	590 456	680 918	10 439	665 418	5 061
Angola	3 205	3 590	55	3 320	215
Botswana	52 875	81 570	516	80 554	500
DRC	2 436	2 387	69	2 207	111
Lesotho	132 161	159 175	962	157 687	526

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

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit (April 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
Madagascar	187	196	3	186	7
Malawi	11 255	12 857	220	12 553	84
Mauritius	2 021	1 742	58	1 653	31
Mozambique	105 415	107 597	2 533	104 862	202
Namibia	18 665	20 608	1 734	17 788	1 086
Seychelles	813	682	10	668	4
Swaziland	70 936	84 036	207	82 705	1 124
Tanzania	3 388	2 897	76	2 726	95
Zambia	15 103	14 838	1 340	13 365	133
Zimbabwe	171 996	188 743	2 656	185 144	943
'Other' African	15 996	15 052	762	13 704	586
East and Central Africa	5 809	5 771	345	5 153	273
Burundi	58	64	4	58	2
Cameroon	461	425	19	385	21
Central African Republic	11	10	-	9	1
Chad	23	23	2	18	3
Comoros	15	10	-	10	-
Congo	276	255	7	226	22
Djibouti	12	8	2	6	-
Equatorial Guinea	26	39	3	34	2
Eritrea	62	58	1	57	-
Ethiopia	652	627	37	576	14
Gabon	668	562	3	511	48
Kenya	2 436	2 456	195	2 165	96
Réunion	1	5	1	4	-
Rwanda	91	82	5	71	6
São Tomé and Príncipe	11	6	-	6	-
Somalia	23	20	-	20	-
Uganda	983	1 121	66	997	58

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

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit (April 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	8 342	7 854	250	7 349	255
Benin	224	133	3	125	5
Burkina Faso	87	53	3	46	4
Cape Verde Island	37	56	1	54	1
Côte d'Ivoire	320	225	10	210	5
Gambia	27	53	5	46	2
Ghana	1 316	1 480	72	1 379	29
Guinea	112	103	1	96	6
Guinea-Bissau	3	21	1	20	-
Liberia	59	96	1	95	-
Mali	108	139	2	135	2
Mauritania	13	24	1	23	-
Niger	30	39	3	36	-
Nigeria	5 664	5 073	127	4 753	193
Saint Helena	4	24	-	24	-
Senegal	221	219	11	204	4
Sierra Leone	64	58	2	56	-
Togo	53	58	7	47	4
North Africa	1 845	1 427	167	1 202	58
Algeria	171	98	8	88	2
Egypt	994	769	101	664	4
Libya	89	111	3	94	14
Morocco	168	118	18	99	1
South Sudan	49	64	5	50	9
The Sudan	206	176	18	131	27
Tunisia	167	90	14	75	1
Western Sahara	1	1	-	1	-
Unspecified	976	1 059	77	981	1

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

Sex	Age group	April		Region (April 2017)			
		2016	2017	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	795 919	919 084	222 055	680 918	15 052	1 059
	0-14	44 784	62 262	19 961	41 417	880	4
	15-64	709 022	809 670	173 792	621 087	13 753	1 038
	65+	42 113	47 152	28 302	18 414	419	17
Male	Total	433 351	496 984	116 526	370 397	9 462	599
	0-14	22 591	31 037	10 104	20 512	418	3
	15-64	389 552	442 848	91 672	341 793	8 801	582
	65+	21 208	23 099	14 750	8 092	243	14
Female	Total	362 568	422 100	105 529	310 521	5 590	460
	0-14	22 193	31 225	9 857	20 905	462	1
	15-64	319 470	366 822	82 120	279 294	4 952	456
	65+	20 905	24 053	13 552	10 322	176	3

4. Explanatory notes

NOTICE TO USERS

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

4.1 Introduction

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

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

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

4.2 Purpose of the statistical release

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

4.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data collected by DHA officials on travellers who entered the Republic of South Africa (RSA).

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 ports' 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 O.R. Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airport Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA is accompanied by an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern has also been observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In April 2017, the DHA data was 1,1% 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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