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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	4
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	6
2. Figures	7
Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in April 2017 and April 2018.....	7
Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in April 2017 and April 2018	7
Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading ‘other’ African countries in April 2017 and April 2018.....	8
3. Tables	9
Table 1 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction	9
Table 2 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel	10
Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (April 2018)	11
Table 4 – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit.....	15
Table 5 – Number of tourists from overseas, SADC and ‘other’ African regions by sex and age group.....	19
4. Annexure	20
4.1 Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists: Jan – April, 2017 – 2018 changes by country of residence.....	20
5. Explanatory notes	24
5.1 Introduction	24
5.2 Purpose of the statistical release	24
5.3 Scope and coverage.....	24
5.4 Data.....	24
5.5 Limitations.....	25
5.6 Definition of terms.....	25
5.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)	25
5.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release	25
5.7 Symbols used	26
5.8 Rounding off	26
6. General information	26

Preface

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in April 2018. 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; 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 shows that a total of 3 582 842 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in April 2018. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 1 027 709 South African residents and 2 555 133 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 529 412 arrivals, 497 432 departures and 865 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 298 709, 1 198 469 and 57 955, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in April 2017 and April 2018 indicates that the volume of arrivals increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. The volume of departures decreased for both groups of travellers, while the volume of transits increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 2,7% (from 515 265 in April 2017 to 529 412 in April 2018), departures decreased by 9,9% (from 552 015 in April 2017 to 497 432 in April 2018), and transits increased by 10,2% (from 785 in April 2017 to 865 in April 2018). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 6,9% (from 1 395 241 in April 2017 to 1 298 709 in April 2018), departures decreased by 9,1% (from 1 317 866 in April 2017 to 1 198 469 in April 2018), and transits decreased by 4,0% (from 60 347 in April 2017 to 57 955 in April 2018).

A comparison between the movements in March 2018 and April 2018 indicates that the volume of arrivals increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. The volume of departures decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, while the volume of transits increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 24,4% (from 425 546 in March 2018 to 529 412 in April 2018), departures decreased by 4,9% (from 523 059 in March 2018 to 497 432 in April 2018), and transits increased by 14,3% (from 757 in March 2018 to 865 in April 2018). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 1,5% (from 1 317 875 in March 2018 to 1 298 709 in April 2018), departures decreased by 3,0% (from 1 236 166 in March 2018 to 1 198 469 in April 2018), and transits increased by 1,7% (from 56 981 in March 2018 to 57 955 in April 2018).

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 therefore 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 2018, 78 393 (6,0%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 220 316 (94,0%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in April 2018 but did not depart in April 2018 [333 862 (27,4%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in April 2018 and left in April 2018 [441 072 (36,1%)];
and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in April 2018 [445 382 (36,5%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In April 2018, there were 353 422 (29,0%) same-day visitors and 866 894 (71,0%) tourists. Between April 2017 and April 2018, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 9,5% (from 390 389 in April 2017 to 353 422 in April 2018) and that of tourists decreased by 5,7% (from 919 084 in April 2017 to 866 894 in April 2018). Between March 2018 and April 2018, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 2,0% (from 360 645 in March 2018 to 353 422 in April 2018), and tourists decreased by 1,8% (from 882 749 in March 2018 to 866 894 in April 2018).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Information presented in Table 2 on page 10 shows that in April 2018, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 525 737 (70,5%) of the 3 582 842 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 1 022 843 (28,5%). Compared to use of air and land transport, a small number of travellers, 34 262 (1,0%) used sea transport. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 194 693 (36,8%) came by air, 326 337 (61,6%) came by road and 8 382 (1,6%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 204 156 (41,0%) used air, 284 614 (57,2%) used road and 8 662 (1,7%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 865 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 263 344 (20,3%) arrived by air, 1 027 380 (79,1%) came by road and 7 985 (0,6%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 301 830 (25,2%) foreign travellers left by air, 887 406 (74,0%) left by road and 9 233 (0,8%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit 57 955 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 on page 10 further shows that of the 353 422 same-day visitors, an overwhelming majority, 335 836 (95,0%) arrived in the country by road, 17 509 (5,0%) flew into the country, and 77 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Information on tourists shows that 633 934 (73,1%) used road transport, 230 100 (26,5%) came by air transport and 2 860 (0,3%) 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 to 14. In April 2018, 170 970 (88,1%) of the 194 017 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 20 256 (10,4%) came in by road and 2 791 (1,4%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 612 174 (93,2%), 44 777 (6,8%) arrived by air transport and 69 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 13 536 (91,4%), with 1 278 (8,6%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In April 2018, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 113 734 (58,6%); North America, 33 332 (17,2%); Asia, 24 444 (12,6%); Australasia, 11 136 (5,7%); Central and South America, 8 362 (4,3%) and the Middle East, 3 009 (1,6%).

Figure 1 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 11 to 12 indicate that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in April 2018 were the United Kingdom (UK), 31 641 (16,3%); United States of America (USA), 27 775 (14,3%); Germany, 19 827 (10,2%); France, 15 861 (8,2%); The Netherlands, 10 892 (5,6%); Australia, 9 740 (5,0%), India, 7 652 (3,9%), China, 7 280 (3,8%); Canada, 5 557 (2,9%) and Brazil, 5 247 (2,7%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 72,9% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between April 2017 and April 2018 shows that the number of tourists increased for three of the ten leading countries (Brazil, China and Canada), but decreased for Germany, UK, India, The Netherlands, Australia, France and USA. Brazil had the largest increase of 16,3% (from 4 511 tourists in April 2017 to 5 247 in April 2018), while Germany had the largest decrease of 28,5% (from 27 720 tourists in April 2017 to 19 827 in April 2018). Annexure A on pages 20 to 21 shows that cumulatively, for January to April, the number of tourists from the overseas countries decreased by 1,5% between 2017 and 2018 (from 972 671 in 2017 to 958 311 in 2018). While the countries of Central and South America, North America and Australasia grew by 10,6%, 1,8% and 1,2% respectively, those of the Middle East, Asia and Europe dropped by 11,0%, 4,7% and 2,2% respectively.

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 657 020 (97,8%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 7 525 (1,1%); East and Central Africa, 5 982 (0,9%); and North Africa 1 307 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in April 2018 were: Zimbabwe, 199 567 (30,4%); Lesotho, 163 989 (25,0%); Mozambique, 109 483 (16,7%); Swaziland, 74 359 (11,3%); Botswana, 50 536 (7,7%); Namibia, 17 214 (2,6%); Malawi, 14 774 (2,2%); Zambia 13 868 (2,1%); Angola, 4 849 (0,7%) and Tanzania, 3 133 (0,5%). (See Figure 2 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 12 to 13).

Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,2% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in April 2017 and April 2018 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for six of the ten leading countries (Angola, Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Mozambique), and decreased for four (Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland and Zambia). Angola showed the largest increase of 35,1% (from 3 590 tourists in April 2017 to 4 849 in April 2018), while Botswana showed the largest decrease of 38,0% (from 81 570 tourists in April 2017 to 50 536 in April 2018). Cumulatively, for January to April, Annexure A on pages 21 to 22 shows that the number of tourists from SADC countries increased by 5,2% between 2017 and 2018 (from 2 505 141 in 2017 to 2 636 564 in 2018).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in April 2018 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13 to 14, were: Nigeria, 4 480 (30,2%); Kenya, 2 540 (17,1%); Ghana, 1 825 (12,3%); Uganda, 1 185 (8,0%); Ethiopia, 722 (4,9%); Egypt, 599 (4,0%); Gabon, 487 (3,3%); Cameroon, 421 (2,8%); Côte d'Ivoire, 248 (1,7%) and Senegal, 246 (1,7%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 86,1% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in April 2017 and April 2018 shows that the number of tourists increased for six of the ten leading countries (Ghana, Ethiopia, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Uganda and Kenya) and decreased for the other four leading countries (Egypt, Gabon, Nigeria and Cameroon). Ghana showed the largest increase of 23,3% (from 1 480 tourists in April 2017 to 1 825 in April 2018). Egypt showed the largest decrease of 22,1% (from 769 tourists in April 2017 to 599 in April 2018). Annexure A on page 22 to 23 shows that for January to April cumulatively, the number of tourists from 'other' African countries decreased by 4,5% between 2017 and 2018 (from 59 656 in 2017 to 56 943 in 2018).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed in Table 4 on pages 15 to 18, in April 2018, the majority of tourists, 841 588 (97,1%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 17 546 (2,0%); 7 202 (0,8%) and 558 (0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and for medical treatment, respectively.

A total of 10 909 (98,0%) tourists from Australasia, 8 184 (97,9%) from Central and South America, 32 347 (97,0%) from North America, 109 619 (96,4%) from Europe, 22 876 (93,6%) from Asia and 2 749 (91,4%) from the Middle East were in South Africa for holiday. Compared to other overseas regions, Europe had the highest number of tourists, 109 619 (58,7%) who came for holiday, 3 368 (56,4%) who came for business, 687 (53,9%) who came for study and 60 (69,0%) who came for medical treatment.

Purpose of visit comparisons within each region show that the Middle East had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, 6,7% (203), and for study purposes, 1,8% (55). Asia had the second highest proportion of tourists who came for business, 5,3% (1 307) and for study purposes, 1,0% (254).

The majority of African tourists, 653 925 (97,3%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, the following differences in terms of reasons for travel were observed between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 640 970 (97,6%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 12 955 (87,5%) of tourists from 'other' African countries came for the same purpose. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that tourists on holiday constituted 89,6% (6 746); 85,9% (5 141); and 81,7% (1 068) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa, respectively.
- Business persons constituted 7,2% (1 067) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 1,6% (10 446) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 14,2% (185) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes.
- Students made up the highest proportion, 4,8% (711) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,8% (5 216) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa had the highest proportion of its tourists, 6,0% (356) who came to South Africa for study purposes.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in April 2018, there were 478 428 (55,2%) male and 388 466 (44,8%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 104 541 (53,9%) male tourists and 89 476 (46,1%) female tourists. There were 363 851 (55,4%) male and 293 169 (44,6%) female tourists from the SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 9 439 (63,7%) male and 5 375 (36,3%) female tourists.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into three broad groups: Those younger than 15 years, those that were 15 to 64 years old, and those that were 65 years and older. The overall results presented in Table 5 on page 19 show that 46 996 (5,4%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 772 752 (89,1%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 47 146 (5,4%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 607 136 (92,4%) tourists from SADC countries and 13 666 (92,3%) tourists from 'other' African countries were aged between 15 and 64 years, compared to 150 928 (77,8%) 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, 5,2% (773) and SADC countries, 5,1% (33 451) compared to those from overseas, 6,6% (12 770).

A comparison of the three regions shows higher proportions of the elderly among both male and female tourists from overseas. Tourists aged 65 years and older comprised 14,8% (15 435) of male and 16,6% (14 884) 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 2,0% (7 161) and 3,2% (9 272) of male and female tourists, respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,2% (204) and 3,2% (171) of male and female tourists, respectively.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in April 2017 and April 2018

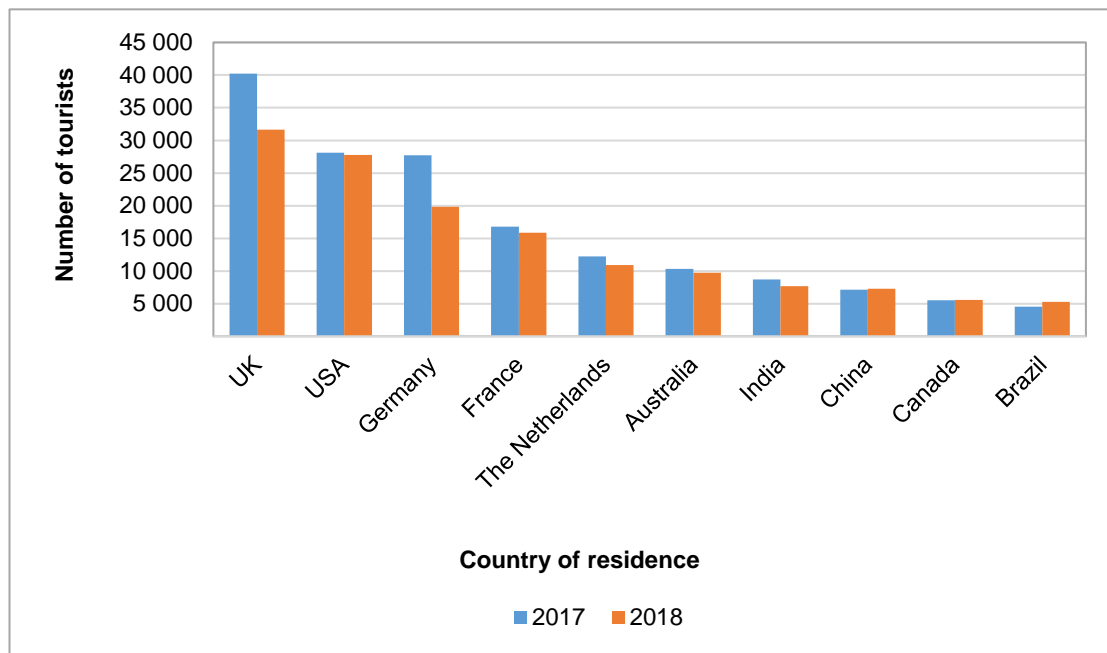


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in April 2017 and April 2018

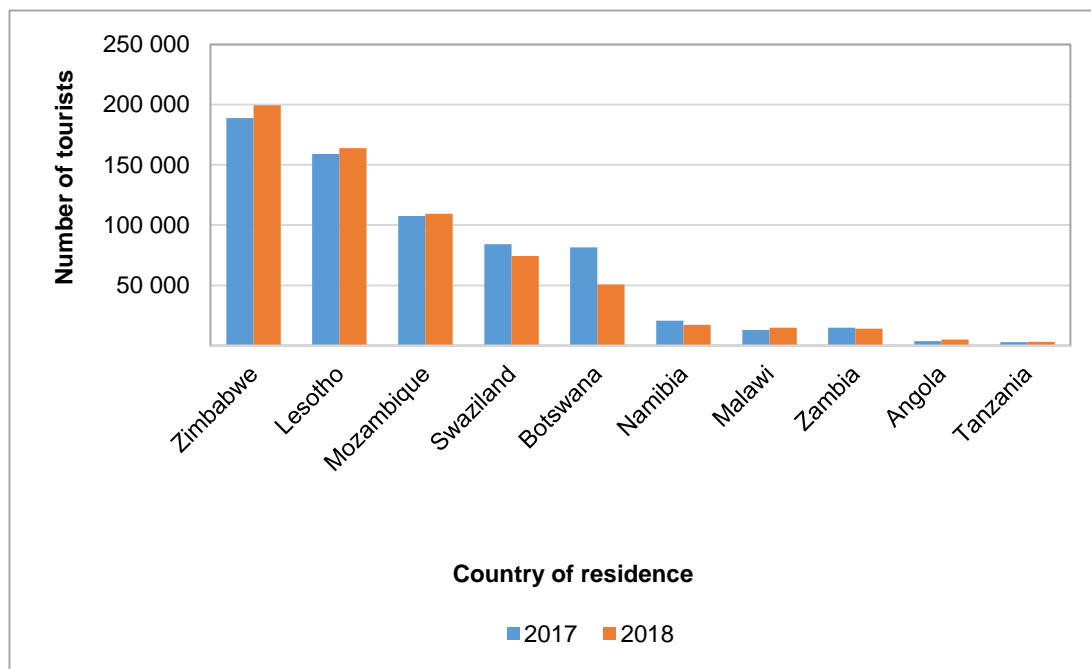
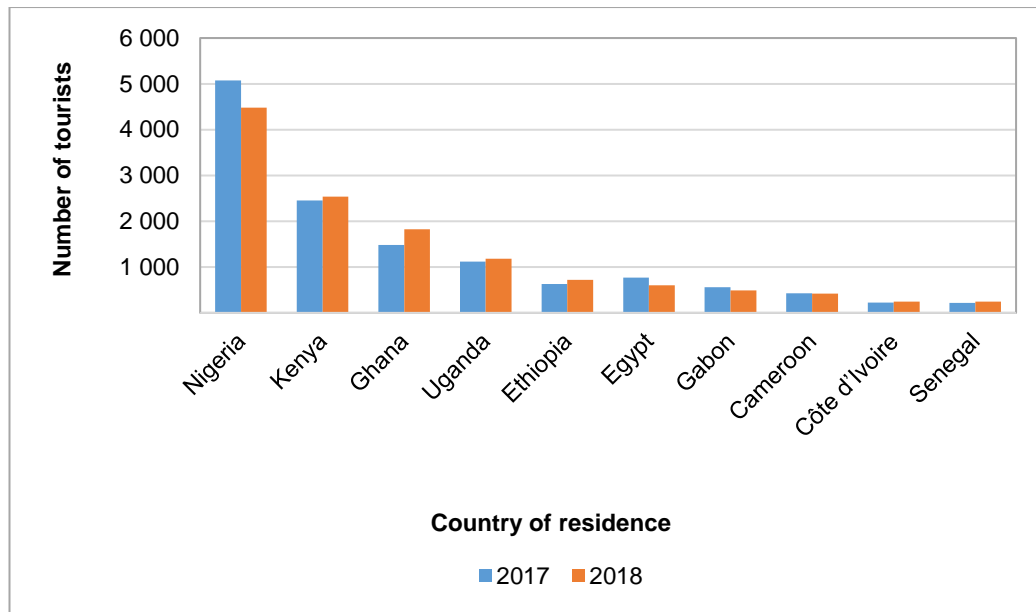


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in April 2017 and April 2018



3. Tables

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

Travel direction	April 2017	March 2018	April 2018	% change Mar 2018 – Apr 2018	% change Apr 2017 – Apr 2018
Total	3 841 519	3 560 384	3 582 842	0,6	-6,7
South African residents	1 068 065	949 362	1 027 709	8,3	-3,8
Arrivals	515 265	425 546	529 412	24,4	2,7
Departures	552 015	523 059	497 432	-4,9	-9,9
Transits	785	757	865	14,3	10,2
Foreign travellers	2 773 454	2 611 022	2 555 133	-2,1	-7,9
Arrivals	1 395 241	1 317 875	1 298 709	-1,5	-6,9
Departures	1 317 866	1 236 166	1 198 469	-3	-9,1
Transits	60 347	56 981	57 955	1,7	-4
Foreign arrivals	1 395 241	1 317 875	1 298 709	-1,5	-6,9
Non-visitors	85 768	74 481	78 393	5,3	-8,6
Visitors	1 309 473	1 243 394	1 220 316	-1,9	-6,8
Visitors	1 309 473	1 243 394	1 220 316	-1,9	-6,8
Arrivals only	327 725	336 159	333 862	-0,7	1,9
Single trips	486 251	448 388	441 072	-1,6	-9,3
Multiple trips	495 497	458 847	445 382	-2,9	-10,1
Visitors	1 309 473	1 243 394	1 220 316	-1,9	-6,8
Same-Day	390 389	360 645	353 422	-2	-9,5
Overnight (Tourists)	919 084	882 749	866 894	-1,8	-5,7

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	3 582 842	196 168	34 682	785 296	6 697	1 022 843	2 525 737	34 262
South African residents	1 027 709	63 860	22 829	309 705	3 320	399 714	610 951	17 044
Arrivals	529 412	30 735	11 460	151 043	1 455	194 693	326 337	8 382
Departures	497 432	33 115	11 369	157 807	1 865	204 156	284 614	8 662
Transit	865	10	-	855	-	865	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 555 133	132 308	11 853	475 591	3 377	623 129	1 914 786	17 218
Arrivals	1 298 709	59 024	5 457	197 589	1 274	263 344	1 027 380	7 985
Departures	1 198 469	73 126	6 396	220 205	2 103	301 830	887 406	9 233
Transit	57 955	158	-	57 797	-	57 955	-	-
Visitors	1 220 316	56 176	4 430	186 000	1 003	247 609	969 770	2 937
Same day	353 422	423	82	16 835	169	17 509	335 836	77
Tourist	866 894	55 753	4 348	169 165	834	230 100	633 934	2 860

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (April 2018)

Country of residence	April		Air				Road	Sea	
	2017	2018	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other			Total
Total	919 084	866 894	55 753	4 348	169 165	834	230 100	633 934	2 860
Overseas	222 055	194 017	49 161	3 444	117 686	679	170 970	20 256	2 791
Europe	137 988	113 734	34 527	2 472	62 062	244	99 305	13 397	1 032
Austria	2 106	1 744	600	42	883	2	1 527	209	8
Belgium	4 857	4 846	1 662	56	2 371	24	4 113	728	5
Denmark	2 295	1 655	332	48	1 062	4	1 446	207	2
France	16 786	15 861	4 648	114	8 255	32	13 049	2 795	17
Germany	27 720	19 827	6 322	241	10 464	17	17 044	2 705	78
Ireland	2 823	2 218	697	103	1 249	8	2 057	150	11
Italy	4 092	4 089	1 155	94	2 529	6	3 784	299	6
Portugal	4 599	2 769	503	17	1 162	8	1 690	1 075	4
Russian Federation	992	1 478	570	28	756	20	1 374	94	10
Spain	3 031	2 421	482	25	1 655	-	2 162	240	19
Sweden	2 797	2 432	746	58	1 418	10	2 232	198	2
Switzerland	5 600	4 581	1 970	73	1 969	6	4 018	543	20
The Netherlands	12 230	10 892	3 811	83	5 702	2	9 598	1 247	47
UK	40 211	31 641	8 658	1 320	18 564	90	28 632	2 225	784
Other	7 849	7 280	2 371	170	4 023	15	6 579	682	19
North America	33 641	33 332	7 751	288	20 909	278	29 226	3 027	1 079
Canada	5 523	5 557	1 595	44	3 147	24	4 810	575	172
USA	28 118	27 775	6 156	244	17 762	254	24 416	2 452	907
Central and South America	8 186	8 362	643	21	7 073	14	7 751	538	73
Argentina	1 281	1 302	37	6	1 171	3	1 217	78	7
Brazil	4 511	5 247	413	5	4 427	7	4 852	336	59
Chile	375	479	12	1	443	-	456	23	-
Other	2 019	1 334	181	9	1 032	4	1 226	101	7

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (April 2018) (continued)

Country of residence	April		Air					Road	Sea
	2017	2018	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	12 058	11 136	1 057	165	8 616	113	9 951	650	535
Australia	10 309	9 740	904	122	7 534	101	8 661	564	515
New Zealand	1 687	1 367	149	43	1 059	12	1 263	84	20
Other	62	29	4	-	23	-	27	2	-
Middle East	4 220	3 009	693	18	2 103	1	2 815	194	-
Israel	2 254	1 507	281	1	1 091	1	1 374	133	-
Lebanon	310	282	75	5	183	-	263	19	-
Saudi Arabia	661	375	81	4	286	-	371	4	-
Other	995	845	256	8	543	-	807	38	-
Asia	25 962	24 444	4 490	480	16 923	29	21 922	2 450	72
Bangladesh	365	461	41	13	241	-	295	166	-
China	7 151	7 280	1 082	51	5 844	1	6 978	296	6
India	8 689	7 652	1 476	205	5 082	8	6 771	860	21
Japan	1 716	2 034	258	26	1 622	5	1 911	110	13
Malaysia	722	629	260	10	316	-	586	32	11
Pakistan	1 519	1 381	141	79	708	-	928	453	-
Philippines	964	541	115	16	322	2	455	82	4
Singapore	1 000	656	276	10	334	10	630	19	7
South Korea	1 602	1 427	259	12	970	-	1 241	185	1
Thailand	787	853	191	13	629	2	835	16	2
Other	1 447	1 530	391	45	855	1	1 292	231	7
Africa	695 970	671 834	6 550	898	50 710	155	58 313	613 452	69
SADC	680 918	657 020	4 986	849	38 803	139	44 777	612 174	69
Angola	3 590	4 849	1 612	-	2 907	6	4 525	324	-
Botswana	81 570	50 536	33	133	2 196	24	2 386	48 148	2
DRC	2 387	2 909	129	1	2 185	6	2 321	588	-
Lesotho	159 175	163 989	1	1	537	-	539	163 448	2

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (April 2018) (continued)

Country of residence	April		Air					Road	Sea
	2017	2018	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	196	218	6	-	210	-	216	2	-
Malawi	12 857	14 774	10	4	2 045	11	2 070	12 698	6
Mauritius	1 742	1 754	365	141	1 130	-	1 636	118	-
Mozambique	107 597	109 483	5	42	2 592	23	2 662	106 820	1
Namibia	20 608	17 214	2 421	331	3 121	16	5 889	11 311	14
Seychelles	682	367	8	-	355	-	363	4	-
Swaziland	84 036	74 359	2	-	497	3	502	73 853	4
Tanzania	2 897	3 133	136	2	1 801	6	1 945	1 187	1
Zambia	14 838	13 868	54	138	3 509	6	3 707	10 161	-
Zimbabwe	188 743	199 567	204	56	15 718	38	16 016	183 512	39
'Other' African	15 052	14 814	1 564	49	11 907	16	13 536	1 278	-
East and Central Africa	5 771	5 982	768	15	4 585	12	5 380	602	-
Burundi	64	60	11	-	40	1	52	8	-
Cameroon	425	421	37	1	344	-	382	39	-
Central African Republic	10	20	4	-	15	-	19	1	-
Chad	23	33	4	-	28	1	33	-	-
Comoros	10	21	1	-	16	-	17	4	-
Congo	255	209	50	-	151	7	208	1	-
Djibouti	8	8	2	-	6	-	8	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	39	32	1	-	27	1	29	3	-
Eritrea	58	50	7	-	36	-	43	7	-
Ethiopia	627	722	89	4	538	-	631	91	-
Gabon	562	487	62	-	419	-	481	6	-
Kenya	2 456	2 540	358	7	1 946	2	2 313	227	-
Réunion	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	82	70	5	1	49	-	55	15	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	6	23	-	-	23	-	23	-	-
Somalia	20	101	22	-	21	-	43	58	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (April 2018) (concluded)

Country of residence	April		Air					Road	Sea
	2017	2018	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	7 854	7 525	487	17	6 433	4	6 941	584	-
Benin	133	119	3	1	105	-	109	10	-
Burkina Faso	53	54	13	-	38	-	51	3	-
Cape Verde Island	56	31	7	-	21	-	28	3	-
Côte d'Ivoire	225	248	23	-	219	2	244	4	-
Gambia	53	41	2	-	36	-	38	3	-
Ghana	1 480	1 825	80	2	1 652	-	1 734	91	-
Guinea	103	114	7	-	63	-	70	44	-
Guinea-Bissau	21	18	3	-	11	-	14	4	-
Liberia	96	39	4	-	35	-	39	-	-
Mali	139	148	16	-	68	-	84	64	-
Mauritania	24	23	2	-	21	-	23	-	-
Niger	39	36	16	-	19	-	35	1	-
Nigeria	5 073	4 480	285	10	3 850	2	4 147	333	-
Saint Helena	24	11	-	-	11	-	11	-	-
Senegal	219	246	15	4	213	-	232	14	-
Sierra Leone	58	45	-	-	35	-	35	10	-
Togo	58	47	11	-	36	-	47	-	-
North Africa	1 427	1 307	309	17	889	-	1 215	92	-
Algeria	98	124	61	3	55	-	119	5	-
Egypt	769	599	88	5	476	-	569	30	-
Libya	111	72	15	1	20	-	36	36	-
Morocco	118	185	58	4	114	-	176	9	-
South Sudan	64	71	3	-	60	-	63	8	-
The Sudan	176	166	51	4	108	-	163	3	-
Tunisia	90	90	33	-	56	-	89	1	-
Western Sahara	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	1 059	1 043	42	6	769	-	817	226	-

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

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit (April 2018)			
	2017	2018	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	919 084	866 894	17 546	841 588	7 202	558
Overseas	222 055	194 017	5 971	186 684	1 275	87
Europe	137 988	113 734	3 368	109 619	687	60
Austria	2 106	1 744	57	1 680	6	1
Belgium	4 857	4 846	96	4 717	31	2
Denmark	2 295	1 655	81	1 565	7	2
France	16 786	15 861	321	15 425	108	7
Germany	27 720	19 827	538	19 168	116	5
Ireland	2 823	2 218	65	2 142	10	1
Italy	4 092	4 089	161	3 889	36	3
Portugal	4 599	2 769	43	2 698	23	5
Russian Federation	992	1 478	48	1 420	10	-
Spain	3 031	2 421	117	2 290	14	-
Sweden	2 797	2 432	136	2 282	13	1
Switzerland	5 600	4 581	60	4 496	24	1
The Netherlands	12 230	10 892	267	10 572	50	3
UK	40 211	31 641	1 005	30 419	191	26
Other	7 849	7 280	373	6 856	48	3
North America	33 641	33 332	769	32 347	202	14
Canada	5 523	5 557	122	5 407	22	6
USA	28 118	27 775	647	26 940	180	8
Central and South America	8 186	8 362	121	8 184	56	1
Argentina	1 281	1 302	5	1 294	3	-
Brazil	4 511	5 247	61	5 154	31	1
Chile	375	479	8	467	4	-
Other	2 019	1 334	47	1 269	18	-

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

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit (April 2018)			
	2017	2018	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Australasia	12 058	11 136	203	10 909	21	3
Australia	10 309	9 740	190	9 530	18	2
New Zealand	1 687	1 367	12	1 351	3	1
Other	62	29	1	28	-	-
Middle East	4 220	3 009	203	2 749	55	2
Israel	2 254	1 507	63	1 433	10	1
Lebanon	310	282	33	247	2	-
Saudi Arabia	661	375	20	343	12	-
Other	995	845	87	726	31	1
Asia	25 962	24 444	1 307	22 876	254	7
Bangladesh	365	461	23	423	14	1
China	7 151	7 280	344	6 903	33	-
India	8 689	7 652	586	6 969	92	5
Japan	1 716	2 034	73	1 947	14	-
Malaysia	722	629	18	605	6	-
Pakistan	1 519	1 381	76	1 272	32	1
Philippines	964	541	17	519	5	-
Singapore	1 000	656	34	621	1	-
South Korea	1 602	1 427	28	1 366	33	-
Thailand	787	853	12	840	1	-
Other	1 447	1 530	96	1 411	23	-
Africa	695 970	671 834	11 513	653 925	5 927	469
SADC	680 918	657 020	10 446	640 970	5 216	388
Angola	3 590	4 849	63	4 523	218	45
Botswana	81 570	50 536	602	49 204	596	134
DRC	2 387	2 909	82	2 629	162	36
Lesotho	159 175	163 989	814	162 486	684	5

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

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit (April 2018)			
	2017	2018	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Madagascar	196	218	11	202	5	-
Malawi	12 857	14 774	269	14 413	82	10
Mauritius	1 742	1 754	65	1 656	27	6
Mozambique	107 597	109 483	2 203	107 005	242	33
Namibia	20 608	17 214	1 799	14 339	1 057	19
Seychelles	682	367	8	353	4	2
Swaziland	84 036	74 359	211	73 199	942	7
Tanzania	2 897	3 133	86	2 941	102	4
Zambia	14 838	13 868	1 287	12 372	176	33
Zimbabwe	188 743	199 567	2 946	195 648	919	54
'Other' African	15 052	14 814	1 067	12 955	711	81
East and Central Africa	5 771	5 982	448	5 141	356	37
Burundi	64	60	5	51	4	-
Cameroon	425	421	37	334	45	5
Central African Republic	10	20	3	17	-	-
Chad	23	33	5	28	-	-
Comoros	10	21	1	20	-	-
Congo	255	209	4	166	35	4
Djibouti	8	8	2	6	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	39	32	1	29	2	-
Eritrea	58	50		48	2	-
Ethiopia	627	722	59	637	21	5
Gabon	562	487	10	436	38	3
Kenya	2 456	2 540	207	2 183	135	15
Réunion	5	-	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	82	70	7	57	6	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	6	23	-	23	-	-
Somalia	20	101	8	93	-	-
Uganda	1 121	1 185	99	1 013	68	5

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

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit (April 2018)			
	2017	2018	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
West Africa	7 854	7 525	434	6 746	301	44
Benin	133	119	8	106	4	1
Burkina Faso	53	54	11	41	2	-
Cape Verde Island	56	31	1	30	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	225	248	30	214	3	1
Gambia	53	41	3	37	-	1
Ghana	1 480	1 825	130	1 652	37	6
Guinea	103	114	4	104	4	2
Guinea-Bissau	21	18	-	18	-	-
Liberia	96	39	5	32	1	1
Mali	139	148	15	131	1	1
Mauritania	24	23	4	17	2	-
Niger	39	36	17	17	2	-
Nigeria	5 073	4 480	173	4 041	237	29
Saint Helena	24	11	-	10	-	1
Senegal	219	246	16	224	6	-
Sierra Leone	58	45	4	40	-	1
Togo	58	47	13	32	2	-
North Africa	1 427	1 307	185	1 068	54	-
Algeria	98	124	30	93	1	-
Egypt	769	599	80	503	16	-
Libya	111	72	1	61	10	-
Morocco	118	185	33	144	8	-
South Sudan	64	71	5	63	3	-
The Sudan	176	166	15	137	14	-
Tunisia	90	90	21	67	2	-
Western Sahara	1	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	1 059	1 043	62	979	-	2

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

Sex	Age group	April		Region (April 2018)			
		2017	2018	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	919 084	866 894	194 017	657 020	14 814	1 043
	0-14	62 262	46 996	12 770	33 451	773	2
	15-64	809 670	772 752	150 928	607 136	13 666	1 022
	65+	47 152	47 146	30 319	16 433	375	19
Male	Total	496 984	478 428	104 541	363 851	9 439	597
	0-14	31 037	23 467	6 477	16 607	383	-
	15-64	442 848	432 147	82 629	340 083	8 852	583
	65+	23 099	22 814	15 435	7 161	204	14
Female	Total	422 100	388 466	89 476	293 169	5 375	446
	0-14	31 225	23 529	6 293	16 844	390	2
	15-64	366 822	340 605	68 299	267 053	4 814	439
	65+	24 053	24 332	14 884	9 272	171	5

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists: Jan – Apr, 2017 – 2018, changes by country of residence

Country of residence	January – April			
	2017	2018	Difference	% change
			2017 – 2018	2017 – 2018
Total	3 541 299	3 655 835	114 536	3,2
Overseas	972 671	958 311	-14 360	-1,5
Europe	638 988	624 905	-14 083	-2,2
Austria	11 842	11 978	136	1,1
Belgium	18 152	19 565	1 413	7,8
Denmark	13 195	12 834	-361	-2,7
France	72 223	69 300	-2 923	-4,0
Germany	138 976	138 747	-229	-0,2
Ireland	12 224	12 079	-145	-1,2
Italy	17 283	17 745	462	2,7
Norway	8 758	9 118	360	4,1
Portugal	14 825	11 581	-3 244	-21,9
Spain	10 405	10 292	-113	-1,1
Sweden	21 676	22 488	812	3,7
Switzerland	23 648	22 966	-682	-2,9
The Netherlands	51 413	48 120	-3 293	-6,4
UK	187 569	178 314	-9 255	-4,9
Other	36 799	39 778	2 979	8,1
North America	132 028	134 374	2 346	1,8
Canada	24 146	24 181	35	0,1
USA	107 882	110 193	2 311	2,1
Central and South America	37 684	41 687	4 003	10,6
Argentina	7 444	10 134	2 690	36,1
Brazil	21 904	22 948	1 044	4,8
Chile	2 651	2 844	193	7,3
Other	5 685	5 761	76	1,3

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists: Jan – Apr, 2017 – 2018, changes by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	January – April			
	2017	2018	Difference	% change
			2017 – 2018	2017 – 2018
Australasia	39 866	40 361	495	1,2
Australia	34 972	35 714	742	2,1
New Zealand	4 773	4 556	-217	-4,5
Other	121	91	-30	-24,8
Middle East	19 977	17 782	-2 195	-11,0
Iran	3 010	2 172	-838	-27,8
Israel	9 637	9 887	250	2,6
Saudi Arabia	2 997	2 072	-925	-30,9
Other	4 333	3 651	-682	-15,7
Asia	104 128	99 202	-4 926	-4,7
Bangladesh	1 637	1 867	230	14,1
China	36 630	31 960	-4 670	-12,7
India	28 340	29 080	740	2,6
Japan	8 301	8 052	-249	-3,0
Malaysia	2 405	2 193	-212	-8,8
Pakistan	5 659	5 017	-642	-11,3
Philippines	2 244	2 117	-127	-5,7
Singapore	2 574	2 123	-451	-17,5
South Korea	8 450	8 509	59	0,7
Thailand	2 280	2 410	130	5,7
Other	5 608	5 874	266	4,7
Africa	2 564 797	2 693 507	128 710	5,0
SADC	2 505 141	2 636 564	131 423	5,2
Angola	17 776	24 874	7 098	39,9
Botswana	209 123	216 924	7 801	3,7
DRC	8 751	10 172	1 421	16,2
Lesotho	636 054	652 364	16 310	2,6

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists: Jan – Apr, 2017 – 2018, changes by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	January – April			
	2017	2018	Difference 2017 – 2018	% change 2017 – 2018
Madagascar	852	866	14	1,6
Malawi	52 716	62 160	9 444	17,9
Mauritius	6 366	6 651	285	4,5
Mozambique	444 071	466 208	22 137	5,0
Namibia	66 573	65 352	-1 221	-1,8
Seychelles	3 501	2 198	-1 303	-37,2
Swaziland	281 068	284 881	3 813	1,4
Tanzania	12 098	11 842	-256	-2,1
Zambia	54 802	53 152	-1 650	-3,0
Zimbabwe	711 390	778 920	67 530	9,5
'Other' African	59 656	56 943	-2 713	-4,5
East and Central Africa	24 653	23 269	-1 384	-5,6
Burundi	280	266	-14	-5,0
Cameroon	1 891	1 690	-201	-10,6
Central African Republic	38	63	25	65,8
Chad	99	130	31	31,3
Comoros	46	77	31	67,4
Congo	1 170	971	-199	-17,0
Djibouti	40	41	1	2,5
Equatorial Guinea	171	160	-11	-6,4
Eritrea	205	233	28	13,7
Ethiopia	2 740	3 084	344	12,6
Gabon	2 744	2 081	-663	-24,2
Kenya	10 013	9 197	-816	-8,1
Réunion	31	13	-18	-58,1
Rwanda	358	296	-62	-17,3
São Tomé and Príncipe	29	51	22	75,9
Somalia	76	298	222	292,1
Uganda	4 722	4 618	-104	-2,2

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists: Jan – Apr, 2017 – 2018, changes by country of residence (concluded)

Country of residence	January – April			
	2017	2018	Difference 2017 – 2018	% change 2017 – 2018
West Africa	29 097	28 109	-988	-3,4
Benin	565	457	-108	-19,1
Burkina Faso	227	228	1	0,4
Cape Verde Island	207	113	-94	-45,4
Côte d'Ivoire	917	947	30	3,3
Gambia	166	193	27	16,3
Ghana	5 764	6 339	575	10,0
Guinea	473	504	31	6,6
Guinea-Bissau	72	56	-16	-22,2
Liberia	261	184	-77	-29,5
Mali	575	522	-53	-9,2
Mauritania	63	90	27	42,9
Niger	128	100	-28	-21,9
Nigeria	18 308	17 143	-1 165	-6,4
Saint Helena	62	57	-5	-8,1
Senegal	858	816	-42	-4,9
Sierra Leone	259	178	-81	-31,3
Togo	192	182	-10	-5,2
North Africa	5 906	5 565	-341	-5,8
Algeria	376	363	-13	-3,5
Egypt	3 153	3 003	-150	-4,8
Libya	354	268	-86	-24,3
Morocco	576	656	80	13,9
South Sudan	265	270	5	1,9
The Sudan	779	665	-114	-14,6
Tunisia	397	337	-60	-15,1
Western Sahara	6	3	-3	-50,0
Unspecified	3 831	4 017	186	4,9

5. 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 95% of the country's ports of entry. The change affects the identification of Transit Travellers that are currently categorised under Direction instead of Purpose of Movement. With this revision, Table 1 and Table 2 in the release now include a category for Transit while all tables reporting on tourists exclude transit travellers.

5.1 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.

5.2 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.

5.3 Scope and coverage

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

5.4 Data

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

- Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all road, air and sea entry ports on all travellers (South African residents and foreign travellers) arriving into or departing from South Africa are captured into the DHA's population Movement Control System (MCS). The counts/statistics relate to the number of individual movements, rather than to the number of people. Hence, the multiple movements of individual people during the calendar month are each counted separately. Generally, the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the 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 also reflected in an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. Based on the trend for the last 12 months (March 2017 to March 2018) the DHA data was on average 1,0% higher than that of ACSA¹.

5.5 Limitations

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

5.6 Definition of terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this 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.

¹ ACSA passenger statistics for April 2018 were not ready at the time of publication of this release, thus a comparison of DHA and ACSA was based on the trend for March 2017 to March 2018.

5.7 Symbols used

- = nil

< = less than

5.8 Rounding off

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

6. General information

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

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