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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 2019. 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; the purpose of visit; age and sex distribution are also provided.

Risenga Maluleke
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 3 632 618 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in April 2019. As presented in Table 1 on page 10, these travellers were made up of 1 000 776 South African residents and 2 631 842 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 493 734 arrivals, 506 224 departures and 818 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 350 167, 1 217 493 and 64 182, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in April 2018 and April 2019 indicates that the volume of arrivals and transits decreased for South African residents, while departures increased. For foreign travellers, arrivals, departures and transits all increased. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 6,7% (from 592 412 in April 2018 to 493 734 in April 2019). Departures increased by 1,8% (from 497 432 in April 2018 to 506 224 in April 2019), and transits decreased by 5,4% (from 865 in April 2018 to 818 in April 2019). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 4,0% (from 1 298 709 in April 2018 to 1 350 167 in April 2019), departures increased by 1,6% (from 1 198 469 in April 2018 to 1 217 493 in April 2019), and transits increased by 10,7% (from 57 955 in April 2018 to 64 182 in April 2019).

A comparison between the movements in March 2019 and April 2019 indicates that for South African residents, the volume of arrivals and transits increased, while the volume of departures decreased. For foreign travellers, the volume of arrivals, departures and transits all increased. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 1,3% (from 487 479 in March 2019 to 493 734 in April 2019), departures decreased by 1,8% (from 515 398 in March 2019 to 506 224 in April 2019), and transits increased by 17,2% (from 698 in March 2019 to 818 in April 2019). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 3,7% (from 1 301 855 in March 2019 to 1 350 167 in April 2019), departures increased by 0,6% (from 1 210 297 in March 2019 to 1 217 493 in April 2019), and transits increased by 10,0% (from 58 357 in March 2019 to 64 182 in April 2019).

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 10, in April 2019, 90 205 (6,7%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 259 962 (93,3%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in April 2019 but did not depart in April 2019 [327 768 (26,0%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in April 2019 and left in April 2019 [482 470 (38,3%); and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in April 2019 [449 724 (35,7%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In April 2019, there were 356 903 (28,3%) same-day visitors and 903 059 (71,7%) tourists. Between April 2018 and April 2019, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 1,0% (from 353 422 in April 2018 to 356 903 in April 2019) and that of tourists increased by 4,2% (from 866 894 in April 2018 to 903 059 in April 2019). Between March 2019 and April 2019, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 6,0% (from 379 521 in March 2019 to 356 903 in April 2019), and tourists increased by 7,7% (from 838 696 in March 2019 to 903 059 in April 2019).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Information presented in Table 2 on page 11 shows that in April 2019, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 556 867 (70,4%) of the 3 632 618 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 1 013 999 (27,9%). Compared to the use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 61 752 (1,7%) used sea transport. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 179 014 (36,3%) came by air, 294 382 (59,6%) came by road and 20 338 (4,1%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 191 013 (37,7%) used air, 295 784 (58,4%) used road and 19 427 (3,8%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 818 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 285 204 (21,1%) arrived by air, 1 055 813 (78,2%) came by road and 9 150 (0,7%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 293 768 (24,1%) foreign travellers left by air, 910 888 (74,8%) left by road and 12 837 (1,1%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit 64 182 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that of the 356 903 same-day visitors, an overwhelming majority, 337 838 (94,7%) arrived in the country by road, 18 930 (5,3%) flew into the country; and 135 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Information on tourists shows that 648 358 (71,8%) used road transport, 251 938 (27,9%) came by air transport and 2 763 (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 tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on pages 12 to 15. In April 2019, 193 904 (89,3%) of the 217 131 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 20 725 (9,5%) came in by road transport and 2 502 (1,2%) arrived by sea transport. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 625 962 (93,3%), followed by air travel, 44 865 (6,7%) and sea transport, 252 (less than 0,1%). The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 12 340 (89,9%), with 1 383 (10,1%) using road transport and 9 (0,1%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In April 2019, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 134 273 (61,8%); North America, 32 950 (15,2%); Asia, 24 952 (11,5%); Australasia, 11 889 (5,5%); Central and South America, 8 954 (4,1%); and the Middle East, 4 113 (1,9%).

Figure 1 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 12 to 13 indicate that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in April 2019 were United Kingdom (UK), 39 755 (18,3%), United States of America (USA), 27 760 (12,8%); Germany, 25 823 (11,9%); France, 14 275 (6,6%); The Netherlands, 11 273 (5,2%); Australia, 10 615 (4,9%); India, 8 534 (3,9%); China, 6 712 (3,1%); Belgium, 5 777 (2,7%); and Brazil, 5 534 (2,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 71,9% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between April 2018 and April 2019 shows that the number of tourists decreased for three of ten leading countries, France, China and USA. France had the largest decrease of 10,0% (from 15 861 tourists in April 2018 to 14 275 in April 2019). Germany, on the other hand, had the largest increase of 30,2% (from 19 827 tourists in April 2018 to 25 823 in April 2019).

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 671 079 (98,0%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 6 235 (0,9%); East and Central Africa, 5 729 (0,8%); and North Africa 1 768 (0,3%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in April 2019 were: Zimbabwe, 199 611 (29,7%); Lesotho, 144 143 (21,5%); Mozambique, 100 392 (15,0%); Swaziland, 90 022 (13,4%); Botswana, 75 903 (11,3%); Namibia, 20 030 (3,0%); Malawi, 13 647 (2,0%); Zambia, 13 571 (2,0%); Angola, 5 004 (0,7%) and Tanzania, 3 025 (0,5%). (See Figure 2 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13 to 14). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,1% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in April 2018 and April 2019 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for five of the ten leading countries (Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Botswana, Namibia, and Angola), and decreased for the other five (Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and Tanzania).

Botswana showed the largest increase of 50,2% (from 50 536 tourists in April 2018 to 75 903 in April 2019), while Lesotho showed the largest decrease of 12,1% (from 163 989 tourists in April 2018 to 144 143 in April 2019).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in April 2019 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 9 and Table 3 on pages 14 to 15, were: Nigeria, 3 711 (27,0%); Kenya, 2 616 (19,1%); Ghana, 1 414 (10,3%); Uganda, 1 105 (8,0%); Egypt, 967 (7,0%); Ethiopia, 493 (3,6%); Cameroon, 437 (3,2%); Gabon, 411 (3,0%); Morocco, 215 (1,6%) and Congo, 194 (1,4%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 84,2% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in April 2018 and April 2019 shows that the number of tourists increased for four of the ten leading countries (Kenya, Egypt, Cameroon and Morocco) and decreased for six of the leading countries (Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, Ethiopia, Gabon and Congo). Egypt showed the largest increase of 61,4% (from 599 tourists in April 2018 to 967 in April 2019), while Ethiopia showed the largest decrease of 31,7% (from 722 tourists in April 2018 to 493 in April 2019).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed in Table 4 on pages 16 to 19, in April 2019, the majority of tourists, 881 530 (97,6%), were in South Africa for holiday¹ compared to 15 583 (1,7%); 5 472 (0,6%) and 474 (0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and for medical treatment respectively.

Compared to other overseas regions, Europe had the highest numbers of tourists, 130 699 (62,0%) who came for holiday, 3 054 (57,0%) who came for business, 467 (47,7%) who came for study and 53 (62,4%) who came for medical treatment.

Within the overseas regions, Australasia had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for holiday, 98,7% (11 733), followed by Central and South America, 98,6% (8 832), North America, 97,6% (32 164), Europe, 97,3% (130 699), the Middle East, 95,2% (3 915), and Asia, 93,7% (23 369).

Asia, 5,3% (1 321) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by the Middle East, 3,4% (140), Europe, 2,3% (3 054), North America, 1,9% (618), Australasia, 1,1% (134), and Central and South America, 1,0% (87).

The Middle East, 1,4% (57) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to study, followed by Asia, 1,0% (253), North America, 0,5% (152), Central and South America, 0,4% (35), Europe, 0,3% (467), and Australasia, 0,1% (16).

Australasia had 0,1% of their tourists who came for medical treatment. North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East had less than 0,1% of their tourists who came for medical treatment, whereas, Central and South America had no medical treatment tourists.

The majority of African tourists, 669 756 (97,8%) 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:

- A higher proportion of tourists from SADC countries, 98,0% (657 649) were on holiday, compared to 88,2% (12 107) from 'other' African countries who came for the same purpose. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 90,4% (5 637) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from North Africa and East and Central Africa; 87,7% (1 550); and 85,9% (4 920) respectively.
- Business persons constituted 7,5% (1 024) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 1,4% (9 154) from SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 9,4% (167) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed closely by East and Central Africa, 8,7% (496) and West Africa, 5,8% (361).
- Students constituted 4,0% (545) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,6% (3 947) from SADC countries. East and Central Africa, 4,7% (271) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by West Africa, 3,6% (225) and North Africa, 2,8% (49).

¹ The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons. See section 5.5.2 on page 26 for a more detailed discussion.

- Medical treatment tourists constituted 0,4% (56) of tourists from 'other' African countries, while those from SADC constituted less than 0,1% (329) of its tourists. East and Central Africa, 0,7% (42) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by West Africa, 0,2% (12) and North Africa, 0,1% (2).

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 20 shows that in April 2019, there were 492 705 (54,6%) male and 410 354 (45,4%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 114 579 (52,8%) male tourists and 102 552 (47,2%) female tourists. There were 368 866 (55,0%) male and 302 213 (45,0%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 8 584 (62,5%) male and 5 148 (37,5%) female tourists.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into seven broad groups (see Table 5 for detailed classification). The results presented in Table 5 further show that the majority of tourists were aged between 35 and 44 years [247 852 (27,4%)], followed closely by the age group 25 to 34 years [233 233 (25,8%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [206 134 (30,7%)] and those from 'other' African countries [4 322 (31,5%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years whereas those from overseas countries [39 619 (18,2%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years. The second highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [189 663 (28,3%)] and those from 'other' African countries [3 805 (27,7%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years, whereas those from overseas countries [39 278 (18,1%)] were aged between 45 and 54 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 43, 36 and 37 years respectively. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 9,5% (20 676) compared to those from 'other' African countries, 6,5% (892) and to those from SADC countries, 5,9% (39 479).

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 12,8% (14 713) of male and 13,4% (13 713) 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 4,0% of both male and female tourists. From SADC countries, elderly tourists made up 2,4% (8 760) and 3,7% (11 177) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,6% (219) and 3,0% (155) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in April 2018 and April 2019

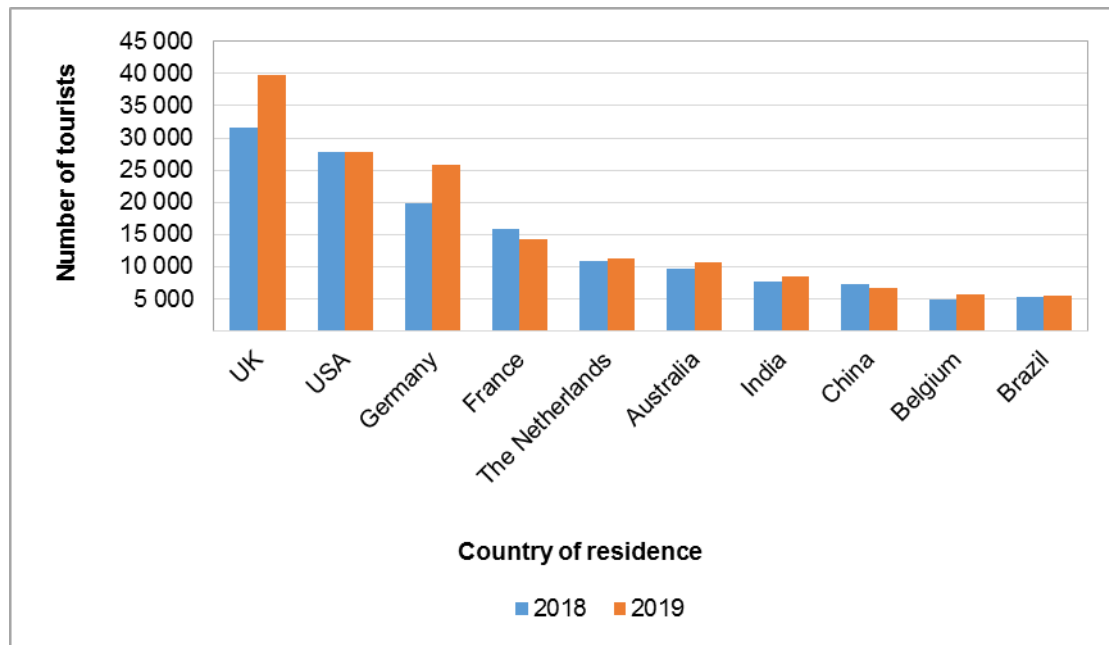


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in April 2018 and April 2019

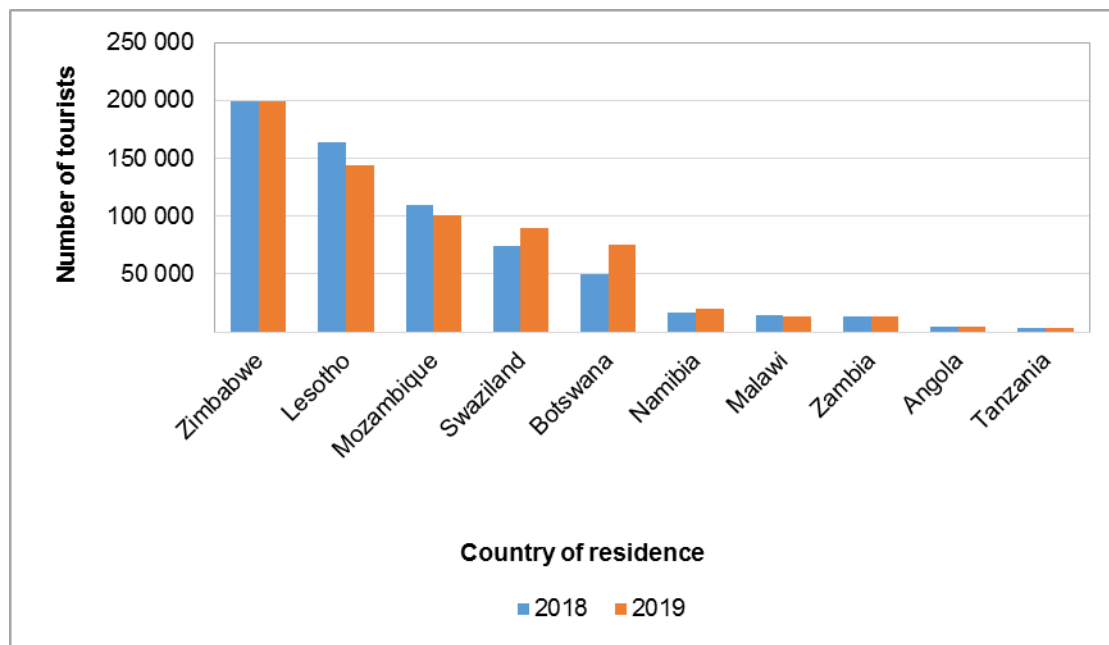
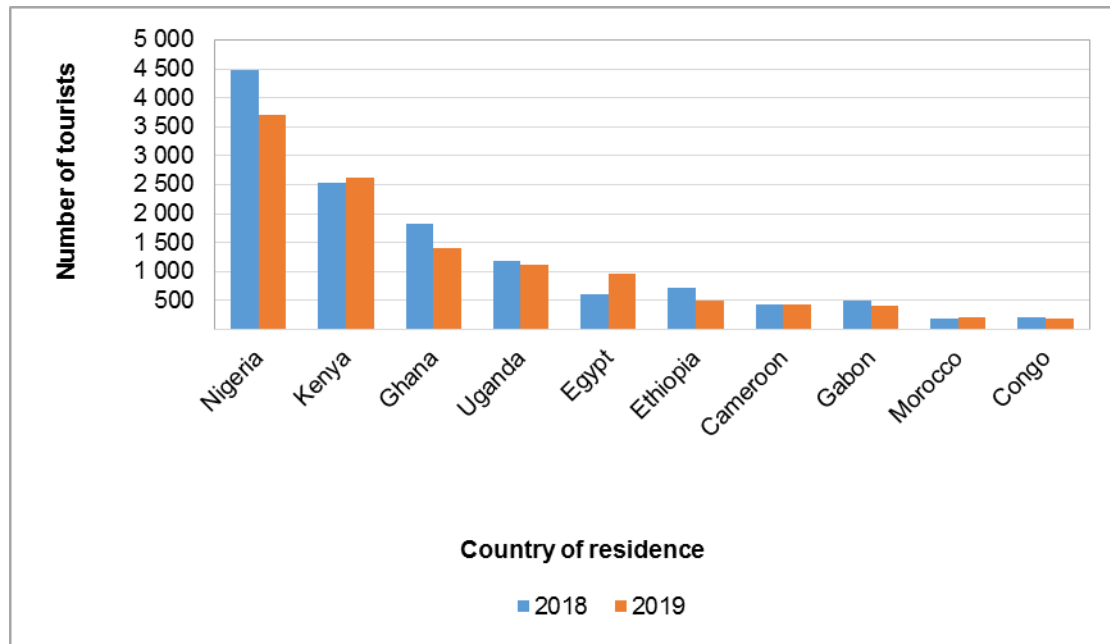


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in April 2018 and April 2019



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	Apr 2018	Mar 2019	Apr 2019	% Change Mar 2019 – Apr 2019	% Change Apr 2018 – Apr 2019
Total	3 582 842	3 574 084	3 632 618	1,6%	1,4%
South African residents	1 027 709	1 003 575	1 000 776	-0,3%	-2,6%
Arrivals	529 412	487 479	493 734	1,3%	-6,7%
Departures	497 432	515 398	506 224	-1,8%	1,8%
Transits	865	698	818	17,2%	-5,4%
Foreign travellers	2 555 133	2 570 509	2 631 842	2,4%	3,0%
Arrivals	1 298 709	1 301 855	1 350 167	3,7%	4,0%
Departures	1 198 469	1 210 297	1 217 493	0,6%	1,6%
Transits	57 955	58 357	64 182	10,0%	10,7%
Foreign arrivals	1 298 709	1 301 855	1 350 167	3,7%	4,0%
Non-visitors	78 393	83 638	90 205	7,9%	15,1%
Visitors	1 220 316	1 218 217	1 259 962	3,4%	3,2%
Visitors	1 220 316	1 218 217	1 259 962	3,4%	3,2%
Arrivals only	333 862	289 840	327 768	13,1%	-1,8%
Single trips	441 072	459 658	482 470	5,0%	9,4%
Multiple trips	445 382	468 719	449 724	-4,1%	1,0%
Visitors	1 220 316	1 218 217	1 259 962	3,4%	3,2%
Same-Day	353 422	379 521	356 903	-6,0%	1,0%
Overnight (Tourists)	866 894	838 696	903 059	7,7%	4,2%

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	Total		
Total	3 632 618	206 862	32 410	768 519	6 208	1 013 999	2 556 867	61 752
South African residents	1 000 776	60 584	20 086	286 833	3 342	370 845	590 166	39 765
Arrivals	493 734	29 406	10 350	137 688	1 570	179 014	294 382	20 338
Departures	506 224	31 175	9 736	148 330	1 772	191 013	295 784	19 427
Transit	818	3	-	815	-	818	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 631 842	146 278	12 324	481 686	2 866	643 154	1 966 701	21 987
Arrivals	1 350 167	71 538	6 068	206 572	1 026	285 204	1 055 813	9 150
Departures	1 217 493	74 682	6 256	210 990	1 840	293 768	910 888	12 837
Transit	64 182	58	-	64 124	-	64 182	-	-
Visitors	1 259 962	68 642	5 204	196 151	871	270 868	986 196	2 898
Same day	356 903	603	85	18 159	83	18 930	337 838	135
Tourist	903 059	68 039	5 119	177 992	788	251 938	648 358	2 763

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, April 2019

Country of residence	April		April 2019						
	2018	2019	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	866 894	903 059	68 039	5 119	177 992	788	251 938	648 358	2 763
Overseas	194 017	217 131	58 521	4 387	130 318	678	193 904	20 725	2 502
Europe	113 734	134 273	42 485	3 200	73 618	233	119 536	13 460	1 277
Austria	1 744	2 304	1 113	30	937	4	2 084	207	13
Belgium	4 846	5 777	2 000	59	2 977	4	5 040	729	8
Denmark	1 655	2 155	511	79	1 388	-	1 978	172	5
France	15 861	14 275	3 965	129	7 715	18	11 827	2 425	23
Germany	19 827	25 823	9 293	272	13 416	28	23 009	2 617	197
Ireland	2 218	2 745	1 033	99	1 430	7	2 569	162	14
Italy	4 089	5 519	1 850	51	3 274	12	5 187	327	5
Norway	1 009	1 834	728	13	937	7	1 685	129	20
Portugal	2 769	3 230	691	20	1 245	5	1 961	1 263	6
Spain	2 421	3 625	807	32	2 429	12	3 280	329	16
Sweden	2 432	2 481	849	126	1 309	5	2 289	182	10
Switzerland	4 581	5 398	2 201	84	2 487	14	4 786	575	37
The Netherlands	10 892	11 273	4 072	117	5 652	4	9 845	1 408	20
UK	31 641	39 755	10 467	1 932	24 151	82	36 632	2 264	859
Other	7 749	8 079	2 905	157	4 271	31	7 364	671	44
North America	33 332	32 950	7 538	314	21 151	313	29 316	2 826	808
Canada	5 557	5 190	1 470	81	2 897	18	4 466	603	121
USA	27 775	27 760	6 068	233	18 254	295	24 850	2 223	687
Central and South America	8 362	8 954	851	21	7 419	18	8 309	630	15
Argentina	1 302	1 158	32	1	1 038	-	1 071	86	1
Brazil	5 247	5 534	497	9	4 637	6	5 149	378	7
Mexico	314	499	173	2	303	9	487	12	-
Other	1 499	1 763	149	9	1 441	3	1 602	154	7

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, April 2019 (continued)

Country of residence	April		April 2019						
	2018	2019	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	11 136	11 889	1 377	357	9 210	69	11 013	629	247
Australia	9 740	10 615	1 165	332	8 265	66	9 828	558	229
New Zealand	1 367	1 247	212	25	918	3	1 158	71	18
Other	29	27	-	-	27	-	27	-	-
Middle East	3 009	4 113	1 024	20	2 882	15	3 941	169	3
Israel	1 507	2 558	556	1	1 896	13	2 466	90	2
Lebanon	282	354	75	4	247	-	326	28	-
Saudi Arabia	375	341	88	2	250	-	340	1	-
Other	845	860	305	13	489	2	809	50	1
Asia	24 444	24 952	5 246	475	16 038	30	21 789	3 011	152
Bangladesh	461	453	78	29	170	-	277	176	-
China	7 280	6 712	1 196	40	5 130	-	6 366	339	7
India	7 652	8 534	1 858	179	5 216	7	7 260	1 199	75
Japan	2 034	2 161	311	38	1 686	9	2 044	103	14
Malaysia	629	701	253	20	382	1	656	38	7
Pakistan	1 381	1 310	83	90	667	1	841	468	1
Philippines	541	784	141	21	499	-	661	101	22
Singapore	656	720	305	2	387	12	706	9	5
South Korea	1 427	1 145	225	26	644	-	895	245	5
Thailand	853	919	313	7	576	-	896	23	-
Other	1 530	1 513	483	23	681	-	1 187	310	16
Africa	671 834	684 811	9 472	731	46 893	109	57 205	627 345	261
SADC	657 020	671 079	7 376	673	36 718	98	44 865	625 962	252
Angola	4 849	5 004	1 725	2	2 797	9	4 533	471	-
Botswana	50 536	75 903	282	173	2 477	16	2 948	72 930	25
DRC	2 909	2 759	118	3	2 117	3	2 241	516	2
Lesotho	163 989	144 143	5	5	427	1	438	143 686	19

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, April 2019 (continued)

Country of residence	April		March 2019						
	2018	2019	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	218	228	16	-	211	-	227	1	-
Malawi	14 774	13 647	37	1	2 149	1	2 188	11 450	9
Mauritius	1 754	2 323	742	135	1 361	-	2 238	80	5
Mozambique	109 483	100 392	13	6	2 473	5	2 497	97 892	3
Namibia	17 214	20 030	2 852	233	2 886	5	5 976	13 971	83
Seychelles	367	421	5	1	406	-	412	9	-
Swaziland	74 359	90 022	1	7	515	1	524	89 491	7
Tanzania	3 133	3 025	300	1	1 482	1	1 784	1 241	-
Zambia	13 868	13 571	48	64	3 523	13	3 648	9 920	3
Zimbabwe	199 567	199 611	1 232	42	13 894	43	15 211	184 304	96
'Other' African	14 814	13 732	2 096	58	10 175	11	12 340	1 383	9
East and Central Africa	5 982	5 729	1 059	13	3 927	4	5 003	720	6
Burundi	60	56	14	-	36	-	50	6	-
Cameroon	421	437	106	-	281	-	387	49	1
Central African Republic	20	9	1	-	8	-	9	-	-
Chad	33	47	9	-	38	-	47	-	-
Comoros	21	18	1	-	16	-	17	1	-
Congo	209	194	61	-	128	-	189	5	-
Djibouti	8	9	-	-	9	-	9	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	32	21	12	-	9	-	21	-	-
Eritrea	50	55	5	1	43	-	49	6	-
Ethiopia	722	493	97	8	303	1	409	84	-
Gabon	487	411	80	-	328	-	408	2	1
Kenya	2 540	2 616	552	3	1 816	1	2 372	240	4
Réunion	-	2	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
Rwanda	70	73	5	-	51	-	56	17	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	23	5	2	-	3	-	5	-	-
Somalia	101	178	9	-	22	-	31	147	-
Uganda	1 185	1 105	103	1	836	2	942	163	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, April 2019 (concluded)

Country of residence	April		April 2019						
	2018	2019	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	7 525	6 235	536	23	5 084	-	5 643	589	3
Benin	119	141	10	-	124	-	134	7	-
Burkina Faso	54	84	19	-	63	-	82	2	-
Cape Verde Island	31	32	10	-	15	-	25	7	-
Côte d'Ivoire	248	190	42	-	140	-	182	8	-
Gambia	41	28	6	-	19	-	25	3	-
Ghana	1 825	1 414	86	4	1 239	-	1 329	85	-
Guinea	114	111	15	-	39	-	54	57	-
Guinea-Bissau	18	7	1	-	3	-	4	3	-
Liberia	39	54	3	-	49	-	52	2	-
Mali	148	98	21	-	38	-	59	39	-
Mauritania	23	18	-	-	14	-	14	4	-
Niger	36	32	6	-	26	-	32	-	-
Nigeria	4 480	3 711	265	13	3 082	-	3 360	348	3
Saint Helena	11	10	-	-	10	-	10	-	-
Senegal	246	194	36	5	141	-	182	12	-
Sierra Leone	45	53	4	1	38	-	43	10	-
Togo	47	58	12	-	44	-	56	2	-
North Africa	1 307	1 768	501	22	1 164	7	1 694	74	-
Algeria	124	150	60	1	87	-	148	2	-
Egypt	599	967	262	17	656	-	935	32	-
Libya	72	80	16	2	29	7	54	26	-
Morocco	185	215	65	2	143	-	210	5	-
South Sudan	71	89	18	-	70	-	88	1	-
The Sudan	166	136	35	-	95	-	130	6	-
Tunisia	90	128	45	-	81	-	126	2	-
Western Sahara	-	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-
Unspecified	1 043	1 117	46	1	781	1	829	288	-

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

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit (April 2019)			
	2018	2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	866 894	903 059	15 583	881 530	5 472	474
Overseas	194 017	217 131	5 354	210 712	980	85
Europe	113 734	134 273	3 054	130 699	467	53
Austria	1 744	2 304	44	2 258	2	-
Belgium	4 846	5 777	103	5 654	19	1
Denmark	1 655	2 155	47	2 096	12	-
France	15 861	14 275	341	13 868	60	6
Germany	19 827	25 823	439	25 300	84	-
Ireland	2 218	2 745	70	2 665	10	-
Italy	4 089	5 519	192	5 304	23	-
Norway	1 009	1 834	34	1 787	13	-
Portugal	2 769	3 230	51	3 168	9	2
Spain	2 421	3 625	93	3 524	8	-
Sweden	2 432	2 481	88	2 381	12	-
Switzerland	4 581	5 398	60	5 328	8	2
The Netherlands	10 892	11 273	233	10 993	36	11
UK	31 641	39 755	893	38 718	121	23
Other	7 749	8 079	366	7 655	50	8
North America	33 332	32 950	618	32 164	152	16
Canada	5 557	5 190	98	5 073	14	5
USA	27 775	27 760	520	27 091	138	11
Central and South America	8 362	8 954	87	8 832	35	-
Argentina	1 302	1 158	15	1 143	-	-
Brazil	5 247	5 534	39	5 468	27	-
Mexico	314	499	10	489	-	-
Other	1 499	1 763	23	1 732	8	-

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

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit (April 2019)			
	2018	2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Australasia	11 136	11 889	134	11 733	16	6
Australia	9 740	10 615	107	10 489	13	6
New Zealand	1 367	1 247	25	1 219	3	-
Other	29	27	2	25	-	-
Middle East	3 009	4 113	140	3 915	57	1
Israel	1 507	2 558	35	2 511	11	1
Lebanon	282	354	42	310	2	-
Saudi Arabia	375	341	13	321	7	-
Other	845	860	50	773	37	-
Asia	24 444	24 952	1 321	23 369	253	9
Bangladesh	461	453	22	425	6	-
China	7 280	6 712	318	6 340	53	1
India	7 652	8 534	655	7 778	95	6
Japan	2 034	2 161	93	2 036	32	-
Malaysia	629	701	29	670	2	-
Pakistan	1 381	1 310	45	1 241	22	2
Philippines	541	784	12	767	5	-
Singapore	656	720	19	700	1	-
South Korea	1 427	1 145	40	1 090	15	-
Thailand	853	919	10	907	2	-
Other	1 530	1 513	78	1 415	20	-
Africa	671 834	684 811	10 178	669 756	4 492	385
SADC	657 020	671 079	9 154	657 649	3 947	329
Angola	4 849	5 004	63	4 748	150	43
Botswana	50 536	75 903	435	74 855	505	108
DRC	2 909	2 759	98	2 498	118	45
Lesotho	163 989	144 143	964	142 211	968	-

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

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit (April 2019)			
	2018	2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Madagascar	218	228	15	208	5	-
Malawi	14 774	13 647	181	13 362	97	7
Mauritius	1 754	2 323	87	2 210	25	1
Mozambique	109 483	100 392	2 200	97 971	192	29
Namibia	17 214	20 030	2 187	17 205	613	25
Seychelles	367	421	9	405	6	1
Swaziland	74 359	90 022	151	89 451	419	1
Tanzania	3 133	3 025	86	2 854	76	9
Zambia	13 868	13 571	1 441	11 986	123	21
Zimbabwe	199 567	199 611	1 237	197 685	650	39
'Other' African	14 814	13 732	1 024	12 107	545	56
East and Central Africa	5 982	5 729	496	4 920	271	42
Burundi	60	56	5	49	2	-
Cameroon	421	437	28	363	32	14
Central African Republic	20	9	1	8	-	-
Chad	33	47	1	41	5	-
Comoros	21	18	2	14	2	-
Congo	209	194	7	142	40	5
Djibouti	8	9	-	9	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	32	21	4	15	-	2
Eritrea	50	55	4	51	-	-
Ethiopia	722	493	51	431	5	6
Gabon	487	411	1	374	35	1
Kenya	2 540	2 616	275	2 241	91	9
Réunion	-	2	-	2	-	-
Rwanda	70	73	6	60	6	1
São Tomé and Príncipe	23	5	2	3	-	-
Somalia	101	178	21	154	3	-
Uganda	1 185	1 105	88	963	50	4

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

Country of residence	April		Purpose of visit (April 2019)			
	2018	2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
West Africa	7 525	6 235	361	5 637	225	12
Benin	119	141	4	132	5	-
Burkina Faso	54	84	17	62	5	-
Cape Verde Island	31	32	4	28	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	248	190	16	166	7	1
Gambia	41	28	2	26	-	-
Ghana	1 825	1 414	129	1 254	28	3
Guinea	114	111	1	106	3	1
Guinea-Bissau	18	7	1	6	-	-
Liberia	39	54	5	48	1	-
Mali	148	98	8	89	-	1
Mauritania	23	18	2	15	1	-
Niger	36	32	6	25	1	-
Nigeria	4 480	3 711	119	3 425	163	4
Saint Helena	11	10	-	10	-	-
Senegal	246	194	27	163	3	1
Sierra Leone	45	53	5	40	7	1
Togo	47	58	15	42	1	-
North Africa	1 307	1 768	167	1 550	49	2
Algeria	124	150	15	132	2	1
Egypt	599	967	85	870	12	-
Libya	72	80	1	63	16	-
Morocco	185	215	26	187	2	-
South Sudan	71	89	16	71	2	-
The Sudan	166	136	8	116	12	-
Tunisia	90	128	16	108	3	1
Western Sahara	-	3	-	3	-	-
Unspecified	1 043	1 117	51	1 062	-	4

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

Sex	Age group	April		Region (April 2019)			
		2018	2019	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	866 894	903 059	217 131	671 079	13 732	1 117
	0-14	46 996	61 053	20 676	39 479	892	6
	15-24	76 156	79 437	17 834	60 670	908	25
	25-34	236 533	233 233	39 619	189 663	3 805	146
	35-44	242 360	247 852	37 060	206 134	4 322	336
	45-54	139 547	149 035	39 278	107 024	2 364	369
	55-64	78 156	83 691	34 238	48 172	1 067	214
	65+	47 146	48 758	28 426	19 937	374	21
Male	Male	478 428	492 705	114 579	368 866	8 584	676
	0-14	23 467	30 500	10 590	19 473	434	3
	15-24	39 762	40 627	8 379	31 779	454	15
	25-34	128 548	125 902	19 636	103 960	2 216	90
	35-44	143 142	145 262	21 177	120 964	2 936	185
	45-54	80 141	83 956	21 960	60 154	1 609	233
	55-64	40 554	42 750	18 124	23 776	716	134
	65+	22 814	23 708	14 713	8 760	219	16
Female	Female	388 466	410 354	102 552	302 213	5 148	441
	0-14	23 529	30 553	10 086	20 006	458	3
	15-24	36 394	38 810	9 455	28 891	454	10
	25-34	107 985	107 331	19 983	85 703	1 589	56
	35-44	99 218	102 590	15 883	85 170	1 386	151
	45-54	59 406	65 079	17 318	46 870	755	136
	55-64	37 602	40 941	16 114	24 396	351	80
	65+	24 332	25 050	13 713	11 177	155	5

4. Annexures

4.1 Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Apr 2018 and Jan – Apr 2019 by country of residence

Country of residence	Jan – Apr 2018	Jan – Apr 2019	Difference between Jan – Apr 2018 and Jan – Apr 2019	% change between Jan – Apr 2018 and Jan – Apr 2019
Total	3 655 835	3 607 126	-48 709	-1,3%
Overseas	958 311	933 044	-25 267	-2,6%
Europe	624 905	602 064	-22 841	-3,7%
Austria	11 978	12 962	984	8,2%
Belgium	19 565	18 856	-709	-3,6%
Denmark	12 834	11 363	-1 471	-11,5%
France	69 300	62 567	-6 733	-9,7%
Germany	138 747	127 956	-10 791	-7,8%
Ireland	12 079	11 576	-503	-4,2%
Italy	17 745	19 044	1 299	7,3%
Norway	9 118	8 075	-1 043	-11,4%
Portugal	11 581	11 427	-154	-1,3%
Spain	10 292	10 952	660	6,4%
Sweden	22 488	19 093	-3 395	-15,1%
Switzerland	22 966	22 056	-910	-4,0%
The Netherlands	48 120	47 822	-298	-0,6%
UK	178 314	179 285	971	0,5%
Other	39 778	39 030	-748	-1,9%
North America	134 374	135 359	985	0,7%
Canada	24 181	24 414	233	1,0%
USA	110 193	110 945	752	0,7%
Central and South America	41 687	40 740	-947	-2,3%
Argentina	10 134	8 618	-1 516	-15,0%
Brazil	22 948	23 318	370	1,6%
Chile	2 844	2 622	-222	-7,8%
Other	5 761	6 182	421	7,3%

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Apr 2018 and Jan – Apr 2019 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – Apr 2018	Jan – Apr 2019	Difference between Jan – Apr 2018 and Jan – Apr 2019	% change between Jan – Apr 2018 and Jan – Apr 2019
Australasia	40 361	38 523	-1 838	-4,6%
Australia	35 714	34 390	-1 324	-3,7%
New Zealand	4 556	4 040	-516	-11,3%
Other	91	93	2	2,2%
Middle East	17 782	16 021	-1 761	-9,9%
Israel	9 887	9 298	-589	-6,0%
Lebanon	1 035	1 186	151	14,6%
Saudi Arabia	2 072	1 772	-300	-14,5%
Other	4 788	3 765	-1 023	-21,4%
Asia	99 202	100 337	1 135	1,1%
China	31 960	32 301	341	1,1%
India	29 080	29 096	16	0,1%
Japan	8 052	9 081	1 029	12,8%
Malaysia	2 193	2 133	-60	-2,7%
Pakistan	5 017	5 050	33	0,7%
Philippines	2 117	2 237	120	5,7%
Singapore	2 123	2 168	45	2,1%
South Korea	8 509	8 043	-466	-5,5%
Taiwan	1 707	2 193	486	28,5%
Thailand	2 410	2 386	-24	-1,0%
Other	6 034	5 649	-385	-6,4%
Africa	2 693 507	2 669 365	-24 142	-0,9%
SADC	2 636 564	2 613 029	-23 535	-0,9%
Angola	24 874	24 903	29	0,1%
Botswana	216 924	207 997	-8 927	-4,1%
DRC	10 172	10 744	572	5,6%
Lesotho	652 364	576 899	-75 465	-11,6%

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Apr 2018 and Jan – Apr 2019 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – Apr 2018	Jan – Apr 2019	Difference between Jan – Apr 2018 and Jan – Apr 2019	% change between Jan – Apr 2018 and Jan – Apr 2019
Madagascar	866	856	-10	-1,2%
Malawi	62 160	61 859	-301	-0,5%
Mauritius	6 651	7 554	903	13,6%
Mozambique	466 208	470 376	4 168	0,9%
Namibia	65 352	65 034	-318	-0,5%
Seychelles	2 198	2 287	89	4,0%
Swaziland	284 881	299 415	14 534	5,1%
Tanzania	11 842	12 201	359	3,0%
Zambia	53 152	51 279	-1 873	-3,5%
Zimbabwe	778 920	821 625	42 705	5,5%
'Other' African	56 943	56 336	-607	-1,1%
East and Central Africa	23 269	23 713	444	1,9%
Burundi	266	307	41	15,4%
Cameroon	1 690	1 705	15	0,9%
Central African Republic	63	31	-32	-50,8%
Chad	130	129	-1	-0,8%
Comoros	77	85	8	10,4%
Congo	971	870	-101	-10,4%
Djibouti	41	35	-6	-14,6%
Equatorial Guinea	160	126	-34	-21,3%
Eritrea	233	250	17	7,3%
Ethiopia	3 084	2 413	-671	-21,8%
Gabon	2 081	2 007	-74	-3,6%
Kenya	9 197	9 927	730	7,9%
Réunion	13	11	-2	-15,4%
Rwanda	296	324	28	9,5%
São Tomé and Príncipe	51	16	-35	-68,6%
Somalia	298	619	321	107,7%
Uganda	4 618	4 858	240	5,2%

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Apr 2018 and Jan – Apr 2019 by country of residence (concluded)

Country of residence	Jan – Apr 2018	Jan – Apr 2019	Difference between Jan – Apr 2018 and Jan – Apr 2019	% change between Jan – Apr 2018 and Jan – Apr 2019
West Africa	28 109	26 059	-2 050	-7,3%
Benin	457	547	90	19,7%
Burkina Faso	228	296	68	29,8%
Cape Verde Island	113	125	12	10,6%
Côte d'Ivoire	947	941	-6	-0,6%
Gambia	193	122	-71	-36,8%
Ghana	6 339	6 306	-33	-0,5%
Guinea	504	474	-30	-6,0%
Guinea-Bissau	56	41	-15	-26,8%
Liberia	184	243	59	32,1%
Mali	522	396	-126	-24,1%
Mauritania	90	75	-15	-16,7%
Niger	100	124	24	24,0%
Nigeria	17 143	15 138	-2 005	-11,7%
Saint Helena	57	29	-28	-49,1%
Senegal	816	722	-94	-11,5%
Sierra Leone	178	267	89	50,0%
Togo	182	213	31	17,0%
North Africa	5 565	6 564	999	18,0%
Algeria	363	634	271	74,7%
Egypt	3 003	3 442	439	14,6%
Libya	268	299	31	11,6%
Morocco	656	753	97	14,8%
South Sudan	270	294	24	8,9%
The Sudan	665	619	-46	-6,9%
Tunisia	337	517	180	53,4%
Western Sahara	3	6	3	100,0%
Unspecified	4 017	4 717	700	17,4%

5. Explanatory notes

NOTE 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 the 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 departed from or 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 on 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 Airports 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. A similar pattern has also been observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In April 2019, the DHA data was 0,3% lower than that of ACSA.

5.5 Limitations

5.5.1 Outbound tourists

The information on the total number of arrivals and departures of South African residents is collected from the scanning of passports. However, data on the country visited are not collected from passengers; 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.

5.5.2 Purpose of visit

The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons such as attending weddings. While it's possible to separate 'visiting friends and relatives' from the broad category of Holiday, shopping and other reasons for visiting South Africa are all combined with vacation in the DHA movement control system. Discussions are in progress with the Department of Home Affairs to capture vacation and shopping as separate categories for a clearer breakdown of tourists by purpose of visit.

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 the 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.

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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