



The South Africa I know, the home I understand

Statistical release

P0351

Tourism and Migration

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Contents

Preface	2
1. Key findings	3
1.1 Travellers	3
1.1.1 Number of travellers.....	3
1.1.2 Mode of travel	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.....	5
2. Figures	7
Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in February 2015 and February 2016.....	7
Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in February 2015 and February 2016.....	7
Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading ‘other’ African countries in February 2015 and February 2016.....	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.....	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. Explanatory notes	20
4.1 Introduction	20
4.2 Purpose of the statistical release.....	20
4.3 Scope and coverage	20
4.4 Data	20
4.5 Limitations.....	21
4.6 Definition of terms	21
4.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).....	21
4.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release.....	21
4.7 Symbols used.....	22
5. General information	22

Preface

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in February 2016. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country during this month. The tourists are classified by region and country of residence. Details of their mode of travel; purpose of visit; and age and sex distribution are also provided.

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Statistician-General

1. Key findings

1.1 Travellers

1.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 3 144 258 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in February 2016. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 667 680 South African residents and 2 476 578 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 330 895 arrivals, 336 167 departures and 618 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 285 698, 1 139 669 and 51 211 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in February 2015 and February 2016 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and transits increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 2,1% (from 324 107 in February 2015 to 330 895 in February 2016), departures increased by 3,2% (from 325 697 in February 2015 to 336 167 in February 2016), and transits increased by 13,6% (from 544 in February 2015 to 618 in February 2016). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 13,4% (from 1 133 411 in February 2015 to 1 285 698 in February 2016), departures increased by 12,9% (from 1 009 555 in February 2015 to 1 139 669 in February 2016), and transits increased by 8,5% (from 47 194 in February 2015 to 51 211 in February 2016).

A comparison between the movements in January 2016 and February 2016 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and transits decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents decreased by 43,4% (from 584 653 in January 2016 to 330 895 in February 2016), departures decreased by 14,1% (from 391 185 in January 2016 to 336 167 in February 2016) and transits decreased by 25,5% (from 829 in January 2016 to 618 in February 2016). For foreign travellers, the volume of arrivals decreased by 17,5% (from 1 558 854 in January 2016 to 1 285 698 in February 2016), departures decreased by 6,6% (from 1 220 540 in January 2016 to 1 139 669 in February 2016), and transits decreased by 12,1% (from 58 270 in January 2016 to 51 211 in February 2016).

Detailed information on the departure of travellers is not available in the movement control system. Data on the purpose of travel and the number of days South African residents intend to spend or spent abroad are not collected by the DHA. Hence, it is not possible to categorise South African residents as tourists or non-tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation.

As presented in Table 1, in February 2016, 78 123 (6,1%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 207 575 (93,9%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in February 2016 but did not depart in February 2016 [313 823 (26,0%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in February 2016 and left in February 2016 [436 533 (36,1%)];
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in February 2016 [457 219 (37,9%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In February 2016, there were 403 805 (33,4%) same-day visitors and 803 770 (66,6%) tourists. Between February 2015 and February 2016, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 7,4% (from 375 938 in February 2015 to 403 805 in February 2016) and that of tourists increased by 18,0% (from 681 216 in February 2015 to 803 770 in February 2016). Between January 2016 and February 2016, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 5,8% (from 428 844 in January 2016 to 403 805 in February 2016), and tourists decreased by 20,6% (from 1 012 641 in January 2016 to 803 770 in February 2016).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 10 show that in February 2016, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 260 723 (71,9%) of the 3 144 258 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 871 388 (27,7%). Compared to use of air and land transport, a much smaller number of travellers, 12 147 (0,4%) used sea transport. The arrivals data for South African residents show that 119 065 (36,0%) came by air, 211 129 (63,8%) came by road and 701 (0,2%) arrived by sea. For departures, 121 551 (36,2%) used air, 213 357 (63,5%) used road and 1 259 (0,4%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit (618) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 293 636 (22,8%) arrived by air, 986 510 (76,7%) came by road and 5 552 (0,4%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 285 307 (25,0%) foreign travellers left by air, 849 727 (74,6%) left by road and 4 635 (0,4%) left by sea. All travellers in transit (51 211) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [390 640 (96,7%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 13 088 (3,2%) of same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that 538 212 (67,0%) used road transport, 264 068 (32,9%) came by air and 1 490 (0,2%) arrived by sea.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them according to their respective countries and regions. Information on the specific region and country of residence of the tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on page 11. In February 2016, 212 752 (90,6%) of overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 20 486 (8,7%) came in by road and 1 469 (0,6%) arrived by sea. This is in contrast to the number of tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries who came into South Africa predominantly by road [516 525 (93,4%)]. Only 36 486 (6,6%) tourists from SADC countries came in by air and 2 (less than 0,1%) came by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 14 051 (92,8%), with 1 079 (7,1%) using road transport and 19 (0,1%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In February 2016, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 163 283 (69,6%); North America, 28 247 (12,0%); Asia, 26 867 (11,4%); Australasia, 7 875 (3,4%); Central and South America, 4 591 (2,0%), and Middle East, 3 844 (1,6%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 7 indicate that the United Kingdom (UK), 52 280 (22,3%); Germany, 35 779 (15,2%); United States of America (USA), 22 367 (9,5%); France, 14 463 (6,2%); The Netherlands, 12 849 (5,5%); China, 12 370 (5,3%); India, 6 776 (2,9%); Australia, 6 616 (2,8%); Switzerland, 6 157 (2,6%) and Sweden, 6 003 (2,6%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in February 2016. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 74,8% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in February 2015 and February 2016 shows that the number of tourists increased for all of the ten leading overseas countries. China had the largest increase of 59,7% (from 7 748 tourists in February 2015 to 12 370 in February 2016), while France had the lowest increase of 7,0% (from 13 512 tourists in February 2015 to 14 463 in February 2016).

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 553 013 (97,3%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 7 891 (1,4%); East and Central Africa, 5 839 (1,0%); and North Africa 1 419 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2016 were Zimbabwe, 147 859 (26,7%); Lesotho, 128 739 (23,3%); Mozambique, 116 138 (21,0%); Swaziland, 64 936 (11,7%); Botswana, 44 280 (8,0%); Namibia, 14 113 (2,6%); Zambia, 13 570 (2,5%); Malawi, 10 837 (2,0%); Angola, 4 006 (0,7%) and Tanzania, 3 034 (0,5%) (see Figure 2 on page 7). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,0% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in February 2015 and February 2016 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists decreased for two of the ten leading countries (Malawi and Angola), and increased for the rest. Angola showed the largest decrease of 16,5% (from 4 798 tourists in February 2015 to 4 006 tourists in February 2016), while Lesotho showed the largest increase of 39,9% (from 92 044 tourists in February 2015 to 128 739 tourists in February 2016).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2016 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8, were: Nigeria, 5 456 (36,0%); Kenya, 2 301 (15,2%); Ghana,

1 268 (8,4%); Egypt, 904 (6,0%); Uganda, 851 (5,6%); Gabon, 806 (5,3%); Ethiopia, 655 (4,3%); Cameroon, 421 (2,8%); Congo, 412 (2,7%) and Côte d'Ivoire, 216 (1,4%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 87,7% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in February 2015 and February 2016 shows that the number of tourists increased for seven of the ten leading countries (Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo, Cameroon and Kenya), and decreased for the other three (Ghana, Gabon and Uganda). Egypt had the largest increase of 55,3% (from 582 tourists in February 2015 to 904 in February 2016), while Ghana had the largest decrease of 20,2% (from 1 588 tourists in February 2015 to 1 268 in February 2016).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on page 15, in February 2016, the majority of tourists, 775 828 (96,5%), were in South Africa for holidays compared to 20 188 (2,5%) and 7 754 (1,0%) who were in South Africa for business and for study purposes respectively. A detailed analysis reveals that of all the tourists from each of the overseas regions, more than 90,0% came to South Africa for holidays. A total of 157 817 (96,7%) tourists from Europe, 4 437 (96,6%) from Central and South America, 27 216 (96,4%) from North America, 7 583 (96,3%) from Australasia, 25 243 (94,0%) from Asia and 3 556 (92,5%) from the Middle East were in South Africa for holidays. Middle East had the highest proportions of tourists who came to South Africa for business [6,3% (241)] and for study purposes [1,2% (47)] compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists, 549 162 (96,7%) came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 536 251 (97,0%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 12 911 (85,2%) 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 88,4% (6 978); 81,9% (4 784); and 81,0% (1 149) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 6,1% (927) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 2,0% (11 303) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 13,0% (184) of its tourists to South Africa who came for business purposes.
- Students made up 8,7% (1 311) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,0% (5 459) from the SADC countries. East and central Africa had the highest proportion, 11,6% (680) of student tourists in South Africa.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in February 2016, there were 455 416 (56,7%) male and 348 354 (43,3%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 128 636 (54,8%) male tourists and 106 071 (45,2%) female tourists. There were 316 166 (57,2%) male and 236 847 (42,8%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 10 093 (66,6%) male and 5 056 (33,4%) 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 31 560 (3,9%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 718 056 (89,3%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 54 154 (6,7%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 521 979 (94,4%) of SADC and 14 271 (94,2%) of 'other' African countries tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 180 932 (77,1%) of tourists in the same age range from overseas. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was lower among tourists from SADC countries, 3,3% (18 308), than among those from 'other' African countries, 3,6% (552) and overseas countries, 5,4% (12 698).

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 17,1% (21 980) of male tourists and 18,0% (19 097) 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 3,0% of both male and female tourists. From the SADC countries elderly tourists made up 1,9% (5 918) and 2,9% (6 808) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,0% (203) and 2,4% (123) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

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

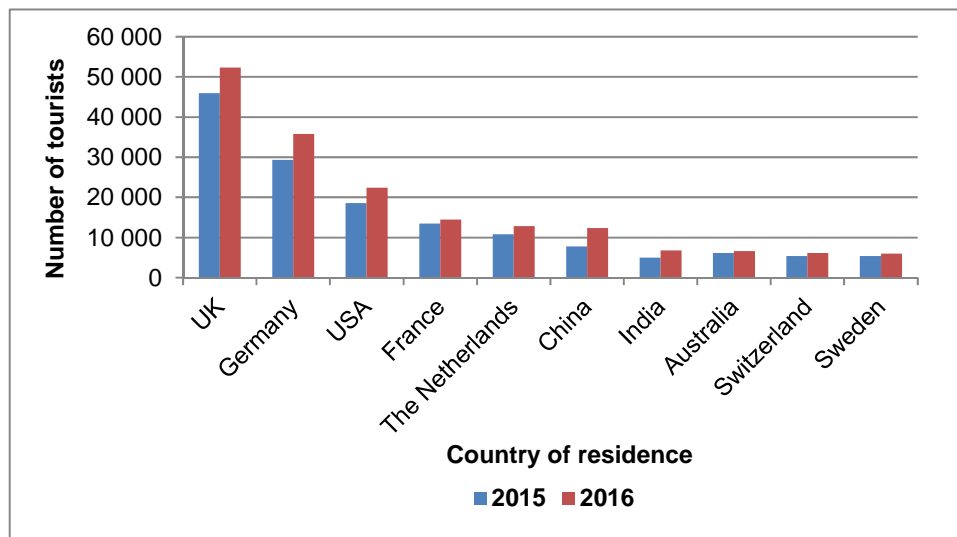


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in February 2015 and February 2016

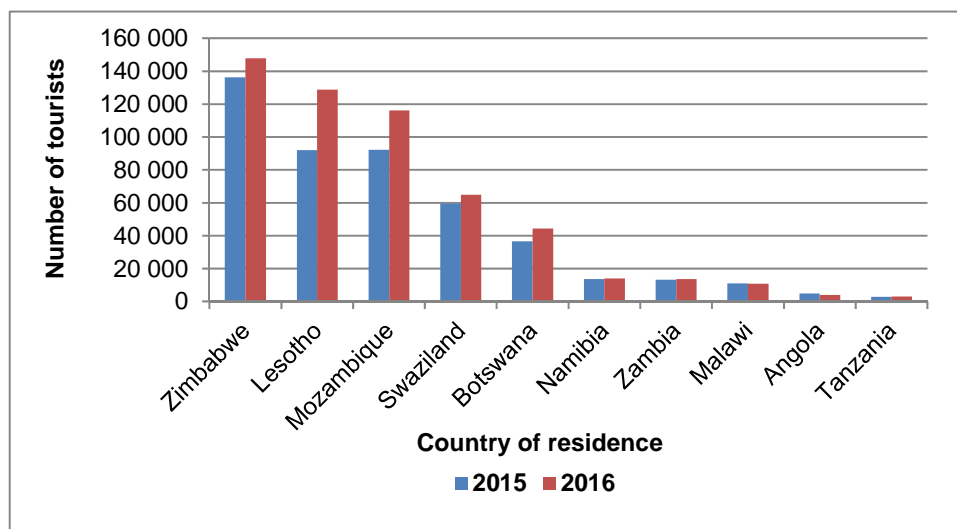
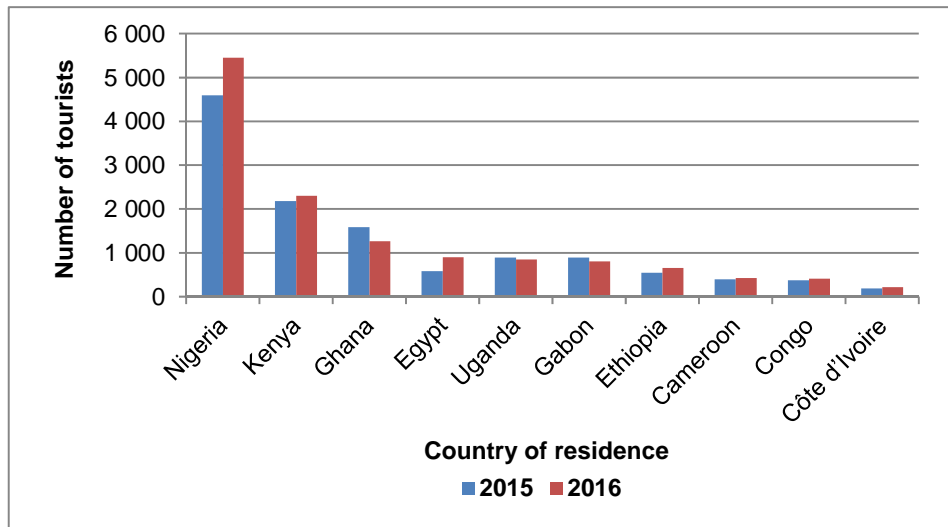


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in February 2015 and February 2016



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	February 2015	January 2016	February 2016	% Change	
				Jan 2016 - Feb 2016	Feb 2015 - Feb 2016
Total	2 840 508	3 814 331	3 144 258	-17,6%	10,7%
South African residents	650 348	976 667	667 680	-31,6%	2,7%
Arrivals	324 107	584 653	330 895	-43,4%	2,1%
Departures	325 697	391 185	336 167	-14,1%	3,2%
Transit	544	829	618	-25,5%	13,6%
Foreign travellers	2 190 160	2 837 664	2 476 578	-12,7%	13,1%
Arrivals	1 133 411	1 558 854	1 285 698	-17,5%	13,4%
Departures	1 009 555	1 220 540	1 139 669	-6,6%	12,9%
Transit	47 194	58 270	51 211	-12,1%	8,5%
Foreign Arrivals	1 133 411	1 558 854	1 285 698	-17,5%	13,4%
Non-visitors	76 257	117 369	78 123	-33,4%	2,4%
Visitors	1 057 154	1 441 485	1 207 575	-16,2%	14,2%
Visitors	1 057 154	1 441 485	1 207 575	-16,2%	14,2%
Arrivals only	307 187	497 274	313 823	-36,9%	2,2%
Single trips	433 281	429 745	436 533	1,6%	0,8%
Multiple trips	316 686	514 466	457 219	-11,1%	44,4%
Visitors	1 057 154	1 441 485	1 207 575	-16,2%	14,2%
Same day	375 938	428 844	403 805	-5,8%	7,4%
Overnight (tourists)	681 216	1 012 641	803 770	-20,6%	18,0%

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	3 144 258	186 764	22 698	656 013	5 913	871 388	2 260 723	12 147
South African residents	667 680	29 637	11 893	196 368	3 336	241 234	424 486	1 960
Arrivals	330 895	14 848	5 413	97 193	1 611	119 065	211 129	701
Departures	336 167	14 789	6 480	98 557	1 725	121 551	213 357	1 259
Transit	618	-	-	618	-	618	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 476 578	157 127	10 805	459 645	2 577	630 154	1 836 237	10 187
Arrivals	1 285 698	78 812	5 149	208 392	1 283	293 636	986 510	5 552
Departures	1 139 669	78 228	5 656	200 129	1 294	285 307	849 727	4 635
Transit	51 211	87	-	51 124	-	51 211	-	-
Visitors	1 207 575	75 946	4 029	196 406	775	277 156	928 852	1 567
Same day	403 805	339	34	12 653	62	13 088	390 640	77
Tourist	803 770	75 607	3 995	183 753	713	264 068	538 212	1 490

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

Country of residence	February		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Grand Total	681 216	803 770	75 607	3 995	183 753	713	264 068	538 212	1 490
Overseas	199 029	234 707	71 214	3 620	137 339	579	212 752	20 486	1 469
Europe	142 805	163 283	59 648	2 799	85 722	175	148 344	14 005	934
Austria	2 786	3 144	1 394	89	1 442	-	2 925	216	3
Belgium	3 996	4 305	1 444	49	2 385	1	3 879	424	2
Denmark	3 549	4 118	1 095	59	2 616	-	3 770	340	8
France	13 512	14 463	4 475	100	7 978	26	12 579	1 877	7
Germany	29 352	35 779	14 277	398	17 950	25	32 650	3 041	88
Ireland	2 393	2 626	1 063	82	1 306	2	2 453	162	11
Italy	3 636	4 245	1 488	96	2 335	7	3 926	316	3
Norway	2 587	2 746	1 027	43	1 358	1	2 429	306	11
Portugal	3 633	3 681	651	31	1 621	8	2 311	1 368	2
Spain	1 708	1 952	425	69	1 199	2	1 695	255	2
Sweden	5 395	6 003	2 233	108	3 192	1	5 534	462	7
Switzerland	5 437	6 157	2 926	67	2 602	4	5 599	539	19
The Netherlands	10 838	12 849	5 115	96	6 090	8	11 309	1 537	3
UK	45 917	52 280	19 244	1 310	28 486	72	49 112	2 408	760
Other	8 066	8 935	2 791	202	5 162	18	8 173	754	8
North America	23 817	28 247	5 314	240	19 249	146	24 949	2 827	471
Canada	5 257	5 880	1 732	60	3 333	4	5 129	618	133
USA	18 560	22 367	3 582	180	15 916	142	19 820	2 209	338
Central and South America	3 828	4 591	544	15	3 461	36	4 056	523	12
Argentina	422	1 160	218	2	881	6	1 107	51	2
Brazil	2 260	2 080	152	6	1 558	26	1 742	332	6
Chile	265	380	17	1	342	1	361	19	-
Other	881	971	157	6	680	3	846	121	4

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

Country of residence	February		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	7 247	7 875	689	110	6 532	16	7 347	489	39
Australia	6 123	6 616	502	67	5 583	13	6 165	417	34
New Zealand	1 095	1 251	186	43	943	3	1 175	72	4
Other	29	8	1	-	6	-	7	-	1
Middle East	2 737	3 844	693	28	2 737	166	3 624	220	-
Iran	238	320	123	7	186	-	316	4	-
Israel	1 472	2 122	160	11	1 795	1	1 967	155	-
Saudi Arabia	299	523	81	1	300	141	523	-	-
Other	728	879	329	9	456	24	818	61	-
Asia	18 595	26 867	4 326	428	19 638	40	24 432	2 422	13
Bangladesh	331	457	26	5	230	1	262	195	-
China	7 748	12 370	1 489	67	10 388	2	11 946	423	1
India	4 989	6 776	1 488	233	4 331	15	6 067	708	1
Japan	1 444	1 646	244	26	1 277	1	1 548	92	6
Malaysia	289	461	161	13	263	1	438	23	-
Pakistan	908	1 167	145	38	564	-	747	420	-
Singapore	431	485	144	6	314	-	464	20	1
South Korea	871	1 409	224	9	956	13	1 202	207	-
Taiwan	440	654	56	1	485	-	542	112	-
Thailand	273	352	71	7	250	1	329	23	-
Other	871	1 090	278	23	580	6	887	199	4
Africa	481 302	568 162	4 356	373	45 676	132	50 537	517 604	21
SADC	467 282	553 013	3 609	288	32 469	120	36 486	516 525	2
Angola	4 798	4 006	1 110	-	2 690	2	3 802	204	-
Botswana	36 642	44 280	197	5	1 829	43	2 074	42 206	-
DRC	2 361	2 366	17	3	1 755	1	1 776	590	-
Lesotho	92 044	128 739	1	-	357	5	363	128 376	-

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

Country of residence	February		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	223	226	1	-	221	2	224	2	-
Malawi	10 953	10 837	13	-	1 651	18	1 682	9 155	-
Mauritius	1 675	1 742	290	53	1 246	3	1 592	149	1
Mozambique	92 327	116 138	2	45	3 244	1	3 292	112 846	-
Namibia	13 622	14 113	1 840	4	2 791	18	4 653	9 460	-
Seychelles	662	1 167	3	3	1 148	-	1 154	13	-
Swaziland	59 495	64 936	2	1	442	4	449	64 487	-
Tanzania	2 912	3 034	16	-	1 953	-	1 969	1 065	-
Zambia	13 187	13 570	27	68	3 377	6	3 478	10 092	-
Zimbabwe	136 381	147 859	90	106	9 765	17	9 978	137 880	1
'Other' African	14 020	15 149	747	85	13 207	12	14 051	1 079	19
East and Central Africa	5 648	5 839	235	22	5 127	3	5 387	452	-
Burundi	65	139	2	7	125	-	134	5	-
Cameroon	393	421	23	-	370	-	393	28	-
Central African Republic	3	8	-	-	6	-	6	2	-
Chad	21	13	4	-	8	-	12	1	-
Comoros	18	23	-	-	21	-	21	2	-
Congo	369	412	30	-	366	1	397	15	-
Djibouti	4	8	-	-	8	-	8	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	89	44	1	-	41	2	44	-	-
Eritrea	57	37	2	-	28	-	30	7	-
Ethiopia	543	655	82	10	481	-	573	82	-
Gabon	891	806	25	-	778	-	803	3	-
Kenya	2 179	2 301	44	4	2 089	-	2 137	164	-
Réunion	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Rwanda	97	85	8	-	73	-	81	4	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	12	9	1	-	8	-	9	-	-
Somalia	16	26	2	-	21	-	23	3	-
Uganda	890	851	10	1	704	-	715	136	-

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

Country of residence	February		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	7 248	7 891	199	36	7 050	6	7 291	581	19
Benin	130	170	-	-	162	-	162	8	-
Burkina Faso	64	53	7	-	44	-	51	1	1
Cape Verde Island	50	50	13	-	31	-	44	6	-
Côte d'Ivoire	187	216	7	2	205	-	214	2	-
Gambia	50	26	-	-	25	-	25	1	-
Ghana	1 588	1 268	19	7	1 177	-	1 203	65	-
Guinea	140	129	5	-	70	-	75	54	-
Guinea-Bissau	11	9	-	-	9	-	9	-	-
Liberia	12	44	-	-	40	-	40	4	-
Mali	95	123	25	2	63	-	90	33	-
Mauritania	15	17	4	-	13	-	17	-	-
Niger	33	20	8	-	12	-	20	-	-
Nigeria	4 596	5 456	99	24	4 948	5	5 076	380	-
Saint Helena	15	21	2	-	-	-	2	1	18
Senegal	217	202	5	-	180	-	185	17	-
Sierra Leone	16	51	1	-	43	-	44	7	-
Togo	29	36	4	1	28	1	34	2	-
North Africa	1 124	1 419	313	27	1 030	3	1 373	46	-
Algeria	91	96	18	-	77	-	95	1	-
Egypt	582	904	182	7	691	1	881	23	-
Libya	59	35	8	3	13	-	24	11	-
Morocco	118	124	32	3	85	1	121	3	-
South Sudan	88	48	7	1	39	-	47	1	-
The Sudan	119	158	53	11	88	1	153	5	-
Tunisia	65	53	13	2	36	-	51	2	-
Western Sahara	2	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	885	901	37	2	738	2	779	122	-

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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
Total	681 216	803 770	20 188	775 828	7 754
Overseas	199 029	234 707	7 871	225 852	984
Europe	142 805	163 283	4 929	157 817	537
Austria	2 786	3 144	50	3 086	8
Belgium	3 996	4 305	135	4 136	34
Denmark	3 549	4 118	96	4 014	8
France	13 512	14 463	470	13 950	43
Germany	29 352	35 779	803	34 855	121
Ireland	2 393	2 626	96	2 518	12
Italy	3 636	4 245	269	3 959	17
Norway	2 587	2 746	71	2 663	12
Portugal	3 633	3 681	86	3 585	10
Spain	1 708	1 952	167	1 780	5
Sweden	5 395	6 003	121	5 870	12
Switzerland	5 437	6 157	100	6 042	15
The Netherlands	10 838	12 849	356	12 375	118
UK	45 917	52 280	1 629	50 570	81
Other	8 066	8 935	480	8 414	41
North America	23 817	28 247	923	27 216	108
Canada	5 257	5 880	195	5 672	13
USA	18 560	22 367	728	21 544	95
Central and South America	3 828	4 591	118	4 437	36
Argentina	422	1 160	14	1 144	2
Brazil	2 260	2 080	38	2 031	11
Chile	265	380	3	376	1
Other	881	971	63	886	22

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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	7 247	7 875	278	7 583	14
Australia	6 123	6 616	251	6 351	14
New Zealand	1 095	1 251	25	1 226	-
Other	29	8	2	6	-
Middle East	2 737	3 844	241	3 556	47
Iran	238	320	27	283	10
Israel	1 472	2 122	89	2 022	11
Saudi Arabia	299	523	8	509	6
Other	728	879	117	742	20
Asia	18 595	26 867	1 382	25 243	242
Bangladesh	331	457	18	432	7
China	7 748	12 370	238	12 098	34
India	4 989	6 776	675	6 020	81
Japan	1 444	1 646	177	1 465	4
Malaysia	289	461	25	424	12
Pakistan	908	1 167	61	1 080	26
Singapore	431	485	31	454	-
South Korea	871	1 409	38	1 333	38
Taiwan	440	654	14	630	10
Thailand	273	352	6	344	2
Other	871	1 090	99	963	28
Africa	481 302	568 162	12 230	549 162	6 770
SADC	467 282	553 013	11 303	536 251	5 459
Angola	4 798	4 006	74	3 430	502
Botswana	36 642	44 280	441	43 370	469
DRC	2 361	2 366	85	2 019	262
Lesotho	92 044	128 739	1 291	126 784	664

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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
Madagascar	223	226	8	208	10
Malawi	10 953	10 837	215	10 453	169
Mauritius	1 675	1 742	78	1 565	99
Mozambique	92 327	116 138	4 075	111 935	128
Namibia	13 622	14 113	1 748	11 761	604
Seychelles	662	1 167	5	1 152	10
Swaziland	59 495	64 936	379	63 840	717
Tanzania	2 912	3 034	107	2 769	158
Zambia	13 187	13 570	845	12 478	247
Zimbabwe	136 381	147 859	1 952	144 487	1 420
'Other' African	14 020	15 149	927	12 911	1 311
East and Central Africa	5 648	5 839	375	4 784	680
Burundi	65	139	4	125	10
Cameroon	393	421	38	347	36
Central African Republic	3	8	-	6	2
Chad	21	13	2	10	1
Comoros	18	23	-	21	2
Congo	369	412	6	306	100
Djibouti	4	8	-	8	-
Equatorial Guinea	89	44	1	27	16
Eritrea	57	37	2	34	1
Ethiopia	543	655	63	566	26
Gabon	891	806	8	598	200
Kenya	2 179	2 301	206	1 900	195
Réunion	1	1	-	1	-
Rwanda	97	85	6	65	14
São Tomé and Príncipe	12	9	-	9	-
Somalia	16	26	1	25	-
Uganda	890	851	38	736	77

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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	7 248	7 891	368	6 978	545
Benin	130	170	5	159	6
Burkina Faso	64	53	10	41	2
Cape Verde Island	50	50	1	48	1
Côte d'Ivoire	187	216	19	177	20
Gambia	50	26	3	22	1
Ghana	1 588	1 268	95	1 104	69
Guinea	140	129	5	117	7
Guinea-Bissau	11	9	1	8	-
Liberia	12	44	2	41	1
Mali	95	123	19	101	3
Mauritania	15	17	3	14	-
Niger	33	20	4	15	1
Nigeria	4 596	5 456	169	4 861	426
Saint Helena	15	21	-	20	1
Senegal	217	202	23	176	3
Sierra Leone	16	51	2	47	2
Togo	29	36	7	27	2
North Africa	1 124	1 419	184	1 149	86
Algeria	91	96	20	74	2
Egypt	582	904	104	770	30
Libya	59	35	-	21	14
Morocco	118	124	13	107	4
South Sudan	88	48	5	39	4
The Sudan	119	158	27	101	30
Tunisia	65	53	15	36	2
Western Sahara	2	1	-	1	-
Unspecified	885	901	87	814	-

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

Sex	Age group	February		Region (February 2016)			
		2015	2016	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	681 216	803 770	234 707	553 013	15 149	901
	0-14	29 414	31 560	12 698	18 308	552	2
	15-64	608 491	718 056	180 932	521 979	14 271	874
	65+	42 811	54 154	41 077	12 726	326	25
Male	Total	388 291	455 416	128 636	316 166	10 093	521
	0-14	15 189	16 047	6 643	9 112	291	1
	15-64	350 885	411 246	100 013	301 136	9 599	498
	65+	22 217	28 123	21 980	5 918	203	22
Female	Total	292 923	348 354	106 071	236 847	5 056	380
	0-14	14 725	15 513	6 055	9 196	261	1
	15-64	257 604	306 810	80 919	220 843	4 672	376
	65+	20 594	26 031	19 097	6 808	123	3
Unspecified	Total	2	-	-	-	-	-
	0-14	-	-	-	-	-	-
	15-64	2	-	-	-	-	-
	65+	-	-	-	-	-	-

4. Explanatory notes

NOTICE TO USERS

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) has made changes in the *Tourism and Migration* statistical release starting from the January 2014 statistics. This change has become necessary as a result of the implementation of the new Movement Control System (e-MCS) at the country's ports of entry. Currently the new system (e-MCS) is operational at over 80% of the country's ports of entry. The system roll-out is expected to be finalised by the end of 2015/16 financial year. The change affects the identification of Transit Travellers that are currently categorised under Direction instead of Purpose of Movement. The revision, Table 1 and Table 2 in the release now include a category for Transit while all tables reporting on tourists exclude transit travellers.

4.1 Introduction

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

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

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

4.2 Purpose of the statistical release

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

4.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data collected by DHA officials on travellers who entered the Republic of South Africa (RSA) through all the air, land and sea ports of entry.

4.4 Data

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

- Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all road, air and sea entry ports on all travellers (South African residents and foreign travellers) arriving into or departing from South Africa are captured into the DHA's population Movement Control System (MCS). The counts/statistics relate to the number of individual movements, rather than to the number of people. Hence, the multiple movements of individual people during the calendar month are each counted separately. Generally the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the port's electronic database. No forms or cards are used (except in rare occasions when the capturing system is down) to collect information from travellers. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA
- Stats SA receives downloaded data covering a particular calendar month from the DHA.

- As part of data interrogation, data from the O.R. Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airport Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA is accompanied by an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern has been also observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In February 2016, the DHA data was 1,3% 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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