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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 February 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.

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 3 002 517 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in February 2018. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 724 345 South African residents and 2 278 172 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 358 135 arrivals, 365 633 departures and 577 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 181 071, 1 049 469 and 47 632, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in February 2017 and February 2018 indicates that the volume of arrivals increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, while the volume of departures increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. The volume of transits decreased for both South African residents and foreigners. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 7,8% (from 332 116 in February 2017 to 358 135 in February 2018), departures increased by 8,8% (from 336 129 in February 2017 to 365 633 in February 2018), and transits decreased by 8,8% (from 633 in February 2017 to 577 in February 2018). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 0,1% (from 1 180 301 in February 2017 to 1 181 071 in February 2018), departures decreased by 0,1% (from 1 050 062 in February 2017 to 1 049 469 in February 2018), and transits decreased by 0,7% (from 47 948 in February 2017 to 47 632 in February 2018).

A comparison between the movements in January 2018 and February 2018 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and transits decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 43,9% (from 638 928 in January 2018 to 358 135 in February 2018), departures decreased by 12,0% (from 415 543 in January 2018 to 365 633 in February 2018), and transits decreased by 27,6% (from 797 in January 2018 to 577 in February 2018). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 26,1% (from 1 598 893 in January 2018 to 1 181 071 in February 2018), departures decreased by 13,3% (from 1 209 841 in January 2018 to 1 049 469 in February 2018), and transits decreased by 11,6% (from 53 909 in January 2018 to 47 632 in February 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 February 2018, 63 923 (5,4%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 117 148 (94,6%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in February 2018 but did not depart in February 2018 [323 741 (29,0%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in February 2018 and left in February 2018 [412 209 (36,9%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in February 2018 [381 198 (34,1%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In February 2018, there were 314 896 (28,2%) same-day visitors and 802 252 (71,8%) tourists. Between February 2017 and February 2018, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 4,7% (from 330 566 in February 2017 to 314 896 in February 2018) and that of tourists increased by 3,4% (from 775 824 in February 2017 to 802 252 in February 2018). Between January 2018 and February 2018, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 21,1% (from 399 049 in January 2018 to 314 896 in February 2018), and tourists decreased by 27,3% (from 1 103 940 in January 2018 to 802 252 in February 2018).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 10 show that in February 2018, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 015 081 (67,1%) of the 3 002 517 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 944 696 (31,5%). Compared to use of air and land transport, a small number of travellers, 42 740 (1,4%) used sea transport. The arrivals data for South African residents show that 129 909 (36,3%) came by air, 211 723 (59,1%) came by road and 16 503 (4,6%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 134 124 (36,7%) used air, 215 833 (59,0%) used road and 15 676 (4,3%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 577 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 319 981 (27,1%) arrived by air, 855 919 (72,5%) came by road and 5 171 (0,4%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 312 473 (29,8%) foreign travellers left by air, 731 606 (69,7%) left by road and 5 390 (0,5%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit 47 632 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 on page 10 further shows that of the 314 896 same-day visitors, an overwhelming majority, 300 860 (95,5%) arrived in the country by road, 13 871 (4,4%) flew into the country, and 165 (0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Data on tourists show that 509 356 (63,5%) used road transport, 291 517 (36,3%) came by air transport and 1 379 (0,2%) arrived by sea transport.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them according to their respective countries and regions. Information on the specific region and country of residence of the tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on pages 11–14. In February 2018, 237 046 (91,5%) of the 259 123 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 20 896 (8,1%) came in by road and 1 181 (0,5%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 487 393 (92,4%), 39 903 (7,6%) arrived by air transport and 187 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 13 696 (93,7%), with 915 (6,3%) using road transport and 11 (0,1%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In February 2018, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 177 473 (68,5%); North America, 31 648 (12,2%); Asia, 27 509 (10,6%); Central and South America, 10 245 (4,0%); Australasia, 7 995 (3,1%) and the Middle East, 4 253 (1,6%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 11–12 indicate that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2018 were the United Kingdom (UK), 50 772 (19,6%); Germany, 40 730 (15,7%); United States of America (USA), 25 435 (9,8%); France, 18 700 (7,2%); The Netherlands, 13 782 (5,3%); China, 11 145 (4,3%), India, 7 544 (2,8%), Australia, 7 154 (2,8%); Sweden, 7 148 (2,8%); Switzerland, 6 594 (2,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 72,9% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between February 2017 and February 2018 shows that the number of tourists increased for five of the ten leading countries (India, China, USA, Germany and Australia), but decreased for the UK, Sweden, France, Switzerland and The Netherlands. India had the largest increase of 25,0% (from 6 035 tourists in February 2017 to 7 544 in February 2018), while the UK had the largest decrease of 6,0% (from 53 990 tourists in February 2017 to 50 772 in February 2018). Annexure (A) on page 20 shows that cumulatively, for January to February the number of tourists from the overseas countries increased by 0,6% between 2017 and 2018 (from 500 975 in 2017 to 503 780 in 2018). While the countries of Central and South America, North America and Australasia grew by 13,5%, 3,6%, 0,6% and 0,2% respectively, those of Asia and Middle East dropped by 3,7% and 1,7% respectively.

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 527 483 (97,3%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 6 938 (1,3%); East and Central Africa, 6 242 (1,2%); and North Africa 1 442 (0,3%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2018 were: Zimbabwe, 145 096 (27,5%); Lesotho, 122 311 (23,2%); Mozambique, 99 773 (18,9%); Swaziland,

62 079 (11,8%); Botswana, 43 514 (8,2%); Malawi, 14 446 (2,7%); Namibia, 13 466 (2,6%); Zambia 12 976 (2,5%); Angola, 5 918 (1,1%) and Tanzania, 2 772 (0,5%). (See Figure 2 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 12–13). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,0% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in February 2017 and February 2018 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for eight of the ten leading countries (Angola, Malawi, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Lesotho, Mozambique, and Zambia), and decreased for two (Tanzania and Namibia). Angola showed the largest increase of 32,7% (from 4 459 tourists in February 2017 to 5 918 in February 2018), while Tanzania showed the largest decrease of 8,1% (from 3 017 tourists in February 2017 to 2 772 in February 2018). Cumulatively, for January and February, Annexure (A) shows that the number of tourists from SADC countries increased by 6,9% between 2017 and 2018 (from 1 283 536 in 2017 to 1 372 646 in 2018).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2018 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13–14, were: Nigeria, 4 221 (28,9%); Kenya, 2 618 (17,9%); Ghana, 1 502 (10,3%); Uganda, 1 246 (8,5%); Egypt, 811 (5,5%); Ethiopia, 786 (5,4%); Gabon, 584 (4,0%); Cameroon, 383 (2,6%); Congo, 255 (1,7%) and Côte d'Ivoire, 241 (1,6%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 86,5% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in February 2017 and February 2018 shows that the number of tourists increased for two of the ten leading countries (Ethiopia and Ghana) and decreased for the other eight leading countries (Gabon, Congo, Kenya, Cameroon, Egypt, Uganda, Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire). Ethiopia showed the largest increase of 9,8% (from 716 tourists in February 2017 to 786 in February 2018). Gabon showed the largest decrease of 18,4% (from 716 tourists in February 2017 to 584 in February 2018). Annexure (A) shows that for January and February cumulatively, the number of tourists from 'other' African countries decreased by 7,0% between 2017 and 2018 (from 30 078 in 2017 to 27 964 in 2018).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on pages 15–18, in February 2018, the majority of tourists, 772 114 (96,2%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 22 134 (2,8%); 7 432 (0,9%) and 572 (0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and for other purposes, respectively. The 'other' visit category includes those tourists who came for medical treatment and/or exchange programmes.

A total of 10 080 (98,4%) tourists from Central and South America, 172 044 (96,9%) from Europe, 30 405 (96,1%) from North America, 7 641 (95,6%) from Australasia, 25 778 (93,7%) from Asia and 3 962 (93,2%) from the Middle East were in South Africa for holiday. Compared to other overseas regions, Europe had the highest number of tourists, 172 044 (96,9%) who came for holiday, 4 705 (2,7%) who came for business, 657 (0,4%) who came for study and 67 (less than 0,1%) who came for medical treatment.

Purpose of visit comparisons within each region show that Asia had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, 5,3% (1 452), followed closely by the Middle East, 5,2% (222). The Middle East had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for study purposes, 1,6% (69), followed by Asia, 1,0% (268).

The majority of African tourists, 521 283 (96,2%) 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 509 392 (96,6%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 11 891 (81,3%) 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 84,3% (5 852); 79,3% (1 143); and 78,4% (4 896) for West Africa, North Africa and East and Central Africa, respectively.
- Business persons constituted 8,6% (1 264) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 2,4% (12 921) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 13,7% (198) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes.
- Students made up the highest proportion, 9,5% (1 394) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,9% (4 780) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa had the highest proportion of its tourists, 10,7% (666) who came to South Africa for study purposes.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in February 2018, there were 454 539 (56,7%) male and 347 713 (43,3%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 138 305 (53,4%) male tourists and 120 818 (46,6%) female tourists. There were 306 300 (58,1%) male and 221 183 (41,9%) female tourists from the SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 9 340 (63,9%) male and 5 282 (36,1%) 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 30 887 (3,9%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 711 286 (88,7%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 60 079 (7,5%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 498 057 (94,4%) tourists from SADC and 13 791 (94,3%) from 'other' African countries were aged between 15 and 64 years, compared to 198 432 (76,6%) 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, 3,0% (440) and SADC, 3,0% (15 759) compared to those from overseas, 5,7% (14 685).

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 17,5% (24 257) of male and 18,0% (21 749) 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% (6 259) and 3,3% (7 408) of male and female tourists, respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,5% (230) and 3,0% (161) of male and female tourists, respectively.

2. Figures

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

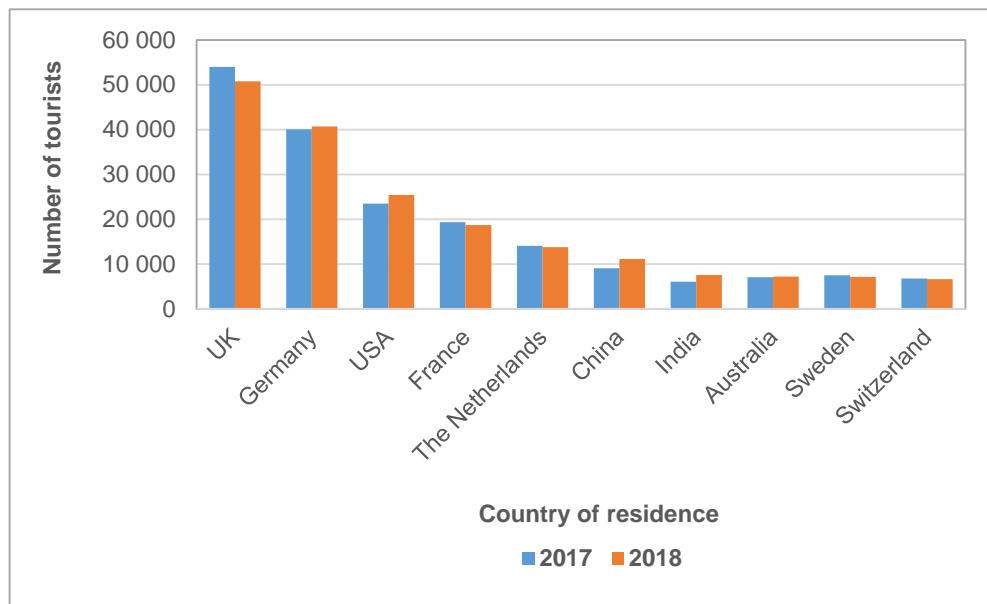


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in February 2017 and February 2018

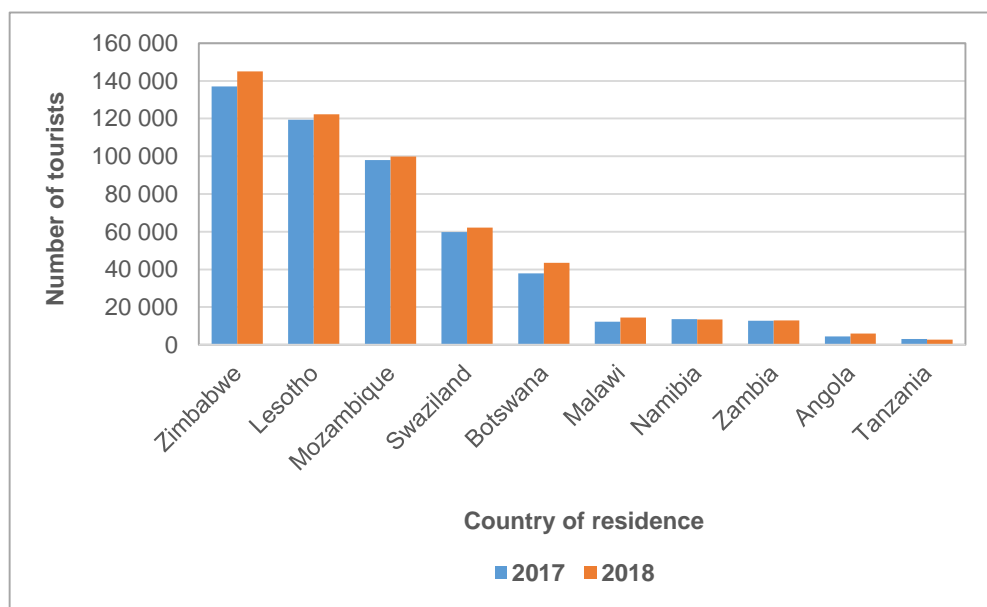
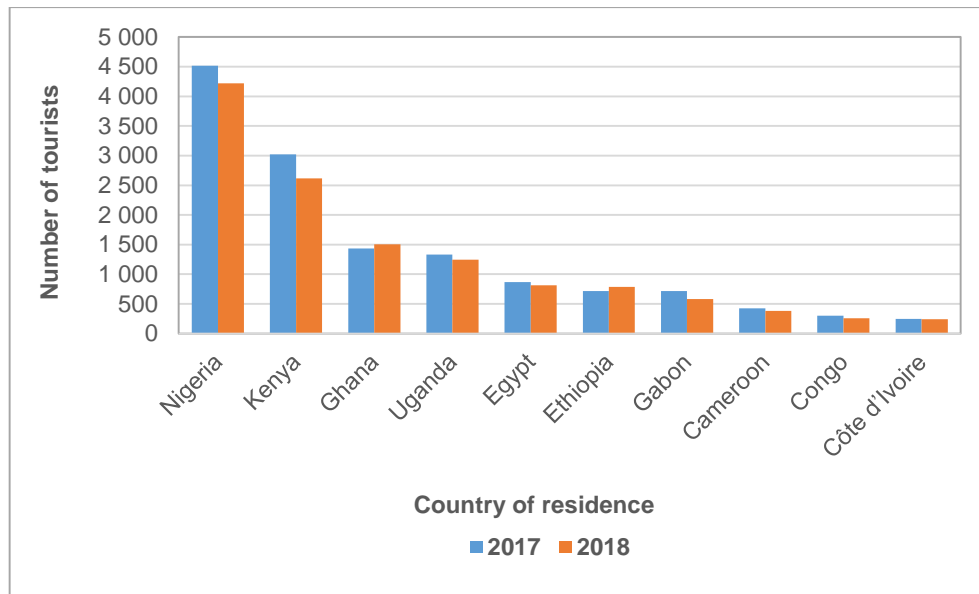


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in February 2017 and February 2018



3. Tables

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

Travel direction	February 2017	January 2018	February 2018	% change Jan 2018 – Feb 2018	% change Feb 2017 – Feb 2018
Total	2 947 189	3 917 911	3 002 517	-23,4%	1,9%
South African residents	668 878	1 055 268	724 345	-31,4%	8,3%
Arrivals	332 116	638 928	358 135	-43,9%	7,8%
Departures	336 129	415 543	365 633	-12,0%	8,8%
Transit	633	797	577	-27,6%	-8,8%
Foreign travellers	2 278 311	2 862 643	2 278 172	-20,4%	0,01%
Arrivals	1 180 301	1 598 893	1 181 071	-26,1%	0,1%
Departures	1 050 062	1 209 841	1 049 469	-13,3%	-0,1%
Transit	47 948	53 909	47 632	-11,6%	-0,7%
Foreign arrivals	1 180 301	1 598 893	1 181 071	-26,1%	0,1%
Non-visitors	73 911	95 904	63 923	-33,3%	-13,5%
Visitors	1 106 390	1 502 989	1 117 148	-25,7%	1,0%
Visitors	1 106 390	1 502 989	1 117 148	-25,7%	1,0%
Arrivals only	313 632	586 277	323 741	-44,8%	3,2%
Single trips	398 453	424 946	412 209	-3,0%	3,5%
Multiple trips	394 305	491 766	381 198	-22,5%	-3,3%
Visitors	1 106 390	1 502 989	1 117 148	-25,7%	1,0%
Same-day	330 566	399 049	314 896	-21,1%	-4,7%
Overnight (tourists)	775 824	1 103 940	802 252	-27,3%	3,4%

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	3 002 517	247 205	24 884	667 991	4 616	944 696	2 015 081	42 740
South African residents	724 345	41 732	14 863	205 458	2 557	264 610	427 556	32 179
Arrivals	358 135	20 616	7 102	100 999	1 192	129 909	211 723	16 503
Departures	365 633	21 112	7 761	103 886	1 365	134 124	215 833	15 676
Transit	577	4	-	573	-	577	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 278 172	205 473	10 021	462 533	2 059	680 086	1 587 525	10 561
Arrivals	1 181 071	102 713	4 744	211 689	835	319 981	855 919	5 171
Departures	1 049 469	102 654	5 277	203 318	1 224	312 473	731 606	5 390
Transit	47 632	106	-	47 526	-	47 632	-	-
Visitors	1 117 148	99 340	3 974	201 400	674	305 388	810 216	1 544
Same-day	314 896	423	18	13 341	89	13 871	300 860	165
Tourist	802 252	98 917	3 956	188 059	585	291 517	509 356	1 379

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

Country of residence	February		Air				Road	Sea	
	2017	2018	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other			Total
Total	775 824	802 252	98 917	3 956	188 059	585	291 517	509 356	1 379
Overseas	255 901	259 123	92 759	3 350	140 480	457	237 046	20 896	1 181
Europe	180 867	177 473	75 622	2 560	83 655	221	162 058	14 994	421
Austria	3 854	4 115	2 058	104	1 650	21	3 833	273	9
Belgium	4 824	5 339	2 396	49	2 411	3	4 859	469	11
Denmark	4 644	4 123	1 016	59	2 739	6	3 820	300	3
France	19 318	18 700	6 125	117	9 457	12	15 711	2 983	6
Germany	40 084	40 730	18 668	326	18 188	18	37 200	3 467	63
Ireland	3 110	2 822	1 360	75	1 223	2	2 660	156	6
Italy	4 090	4 537	1 873	86	2 273	5	4 237	289	11
Norway	2 860	3 102	1 423	55	1 311	-	2 789	308	5
Portugal	3 593	2 830	518	14	1 275	4	1 811	1 016	3
Spain	2 182	2 218	555	27	1 454	-	2 036	176	6
Sweden	7 480	7 148	3 166	73	3 474	4	6 717	422	9
Switzerland	6 761	6 594	3 265	89	2 674	18	6 046	533	15
The Netherlands	14 039	13 782	6 279	88	5 751	8	12 126	1 645	11
UK	53 990	50 772	22 605	1 166	24 543	85	48 399	2 130	243
Other	10 038	10 661	4 315	232	5 232	35	9 814	827	20
North America	29 668	31 648	8 477	208	19 620	162	28 467	2 538	643
Canada	6 187	6 213	2 107	33	3 357	18	5 515	572	126
USA	23 481	25 435	6 370	175	16 263	144	22 952	1 966	517
Central and South America	9 771	10 245	991	17	8 691	16	9 715	509	21
Argentina	1 840	3 119	65	-	2 951	-	3 016	98	5
Brazil	5 733	4 780	680	4	3 827	12	4 523	245	12
Chile	1 220	1 115	37	2	1 016	2	1 057	58	-
Other	978	1 231	209	11	897	2	1 119	108	4

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

Country of residence	February		Air					Road	Sea
	2017	2018	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	7 697	7 995	1 026	89	6 479	18	7 612	340	43
Australia	7 041	7 154	873	72	5 844	16	6 805	313	36
New Zealand	642	821	145	17	623	2	787	27	7
Other	14	20	8	-	12	-	20	-	-
Middle East	4 265	4 253	1 128	25	2 902	2	4 057	193	3
Iran	262	288	109	4	171	1	285	3	-
Israel	2 408	2 700	564	6	1 969	-	2 539	158	3
Saudi Arabia	621	434	133	6	295	-	434	-	-
Other	974	831	322	9	467	1	799	32	-
Asia	23 633	27 509	5 515	451	19 133	38	25 137	2 322	50
China	9 027	11 145	1 987	60	8 790	12	10 849	287	9
India	6 035	7 544	1 503	222	4 901	5	6 631	881	32
Japan	1 844	1 784	371	36	1 287	4	1 698	82	4
Malaysia	520	468	142	26	277	1	446	22	-
Pakistan	1 244	1 177	107	44	645	-	796	380	1
Philippines	397	419	88	9	243	3	343	73	3
Singapore	507	514	160	6	329	-	495	18	1
South Korea	2 251	1 939	504	11	1 158	13	1 686	253	-
Taiwan	419	566	118	2	360	-	480	86	-
Thailand	375	559	208	12	331	-	551	8	-
Other	1 014	1 394	327	23	812	-	1 162	232	-
Africa	518 937	542 105	6 079	602	46 791	127	53 599	488 308	198
SADC	503 261	527 483	4 434	563	34 793	113	39 903	487 393	187
Angola	4 459	5 918	1 780	4	3 835	11	5 630	287	1
Botswana	37 797	43 514	81	137	2 022	26	2 266	41 236	12
DRC	2 108	2 310	113	-	1 817	-	1 930	380	-
Lesotho	119 441	122 311	4	1	428	-	433	121 827	51

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

Country of residence	February		Air					Road	Sea
	2017	2018	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	296	244	14	-	228	-	242	2	-
Malawi	12 240	14 446	13	2	1 866	7	1 888	12 558	-
Mauritius	1 658	1 789	280	87	1 328	2	1 697	89	3
Mozambique	97 962	99 773	6	21	2 663	18	2 708	97 015	50
Namibia	13 600	13 466	1 824	197	2 589	15	4 625	8 807	34
Seychelles	1 190	789	13	-	764	-	777	12	-
Swaziland	59 704	62 079	3	-	397	-	400	61 675	4
Tanzania	3 017	2 772	86	3	1 611	8	1 708	1 064	-
Zambia	12 766	12 976	47	77	3 333	6	3 463	9 513	-
Zimbabwe	137 023	145 096	170	34	11 912	20	12 136	132 928	32
'Other' African	15 676	14 622	1 645	39	11 998	14	13 696	915	11
East and Central Africa	6 825	6 242	839	18	5 023	8	5 888	351	3
Burundi	75	67	9	1	57	-	67	-	-
Cameroon	426	383	53	2	284	1	340	43	-
Central African Republic	14	19	3	-	13	-	16	3	-
Chad	21	29	4	-	25	-	29	-	-
Comoros	13	21	-	-	21	-	21	-	-
Congo	298	255	81	-	170	1	252	3	-
Djibouti	13	22	4	-	18	-	22	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	41	46	4	-	41	-	45	1	-
Eritrea	39	48	3	1	43	-	47	1	-
Ethiopia	716	786	108	10	615	-	733	53	-
Gabon	716	584	129	-	450	3	582	2	-
Kenya	3 019	2 618	330	4	2 158	3	2 495	120	3
Rwanda	80	72	4	-	61	-	65	7	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	8	6	1	-	4	-	5	1	-
Somalia	12	40	9	-	6	-	15	25	-
Uganda	1 333	1 246	97	-	1 057	-	1 154	92	-

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

Country of residence	February		Air					Road	Sea
	2017	2018	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	7 328	6 938	514	13	5 899	6	6 432	498	8
Benin	139	102	8	-	88	-	96	6	-
Burkina Faso	64	69	21	-	48	-	69	-	-
Cape Verde Island	49	26	-	-	25	-	25	1	-
Côte d'Ivoire	245	241	23	2	208	2	235	6	-
Gambia	38	47	4	-	41	-	45	2	-
Ghana	1 434	1 502	77	4	1 339	1	1 421	81	-
Guinea	158	149	10	1	87	-	98	51	-
Guinea-Bissau	8	15	3	-	7	-	10	5	-
Liberia	52	56	-	-	54	-	54	2	-
Mali	191	144	27	-	63	-	90	54	-
Mauritania	14	35	14	-	21	-	35	-	-
Niger	41	27	9	-	18	-	27	-	-
Nigeria	4 514	4 221	289	6	3 650	3	3 948	272	1
Saint Helena	14	33	8	-	18	-	26	-	7
Senegal	231	192	12	-	169	-	181	11	-
Sierra Leone	83	48	3	-	38	-	41	7	-
Togo	53	31	6	-	25	-	31	-	-
North Africa	1 523	1 442	292	8	1 076	-	1 376	66	-
Algeria	64	83	15	3	62	-	80	3	-
Egypt	868	811	134	2	649	-	785	26	-
Libya	59	62	21	-	26	-	47	15	-
Morocco	161	169	48	-	105	-	153	16	-
South Sudan	53	52	3	-	48	-	51	1	-
The Sudan	227	167	54	3	106	-	163	4	-
Tunisia	87	98	17	-	80	-	97	1	-
Western Sahara	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	986	1 024	79	4	788	1	872	152	-

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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit (February 2018)			
	2017	2018	Business	Holiday	Study	Other
Total	775 824	802 252	22 134	772 114	7 432	572
Overseas	255 901	259 123	7 851	249 910	1 257	105
Europe	180 867	177 473	4 705	172 044	657	67
Austria	3 854	4 115	68	4 035	11	1
Belgium	4 824	5 339	155	5 138	44	2
Denmark	4 644	4 123	61	4 057	5	-
France	19 318	18 700	486	18 149	65	-
Germany	40 084	40 730	750	39 823	153	4
Ireland	3 110	2 822	106	2 705	5	6
Italy	4 090	4 537	237	4 267	32	1
Norway	2 860	3 102	85	2 980	34	3
Portugal	3 593	2 830	75	2 735	15	5
Spain	2 182	2 218	137	2 065	16	-
Sweden	7 480	7 148	118	7 018	10	2
Switzerland	6 761	6 594	95	6 484	13	2
The Netherlands	14 039	13 782	295	13 359	124	4
UK	53 990	50 772	1 516	49 143	80	33
Other	10 038	10 661	521	10 086	50	4
North America	29 668	31 648	1 017	30 405	208	18
Canada	6 187	6 213	228	5 969	16	-
USA	23 481	25 435	789	24 436	192	18
Central and South America	9 771	10 245	117	10 080	44	4
Argentina	1 840	3 119	9	3 109	1	-
Brazil	5 733	4 780	48	4 709	21	2
Chile	1 220	1 115	6	1 106	2	1
Other	978	1 231	54	1 156	20	1

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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit (February 2018)			
	2017	2018	Business	Holiday	Study	Other
Australasia	7 697	7 995	338	7 641	11	5
Australia	7 041	7 154	311	6 829	9	5
New Zealand	642	821	24	795	2	-
Other	14	20	3	17	-	-
Middle East	4 265	4 253	222	3 962	69	-
Iran	262	288	12	266	10	-
Israel	2 408	2 700	88	2 608	4	-
Saudi Arabia	621	434	23	390	21	-
Other	974	831	99	698	34	-
Asia	23 633	27 509	1 452	25 778	268	11
China	9 027	11 145	252	10 862	27	4
India	6 035	7 544	765	6 673	101	5
Japan	1 844	1 784	148	1 625	10	1
Malaysia	520	468	12	445	11	-
Pakistan	1 244	1 177	60	1 100	17	-
Philippines	397	419	22	386	10	1
Singapore	507	514	47	462	5	-
South Korea	2 251	1 939	36	1 861	42	-
Taiwan	419	566	13	548	5	-
Thailand	375	559	17	533	9	-
Other	1 014	1 394	80	1 283	31	-
Africa	518 937	542 105	14 185	521 283	6 174	463
SADC	503 261	527 483	12 921	509 392	4 780	390
Angola	4 459	5 918	52	5 418	407	41
Botswana	37 797	43 514	635	42 435	310	134
DRC	2 108	2 310	110	1 922	253	25
Lesotho	119 441	122 311	881	120 663	765	2

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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit (February 2018)			
	2017	2018	Business	Holiday	Study	Other
Madagascar	296	244	30	211	2	1
Malawi	12 240	14 446	434	13 854	150	8
Mauritius	1 658	1 789	73	1 593	120	3
Mozambique	97 962	99 773	2 994	96 611	148	20
Namibia	13 600	13 466	1 826	11 054	528	58
Seychelles	1 190	789	6	778	4	1
Swaziland	59 704	62 079	227	61 196	644	12
Tanzania	3 017	2 772	96	2 496	169	11
Zambia	12 766	12 976	1 400	11 327	226	23
Zimbabwe	137 023	145 096	4 157	139 834	1 054	51
'Other' African	15 676	14 622	1 264	11 891	1 394	73
East and Central Africa	6 825	6 242	640	4 896	666	40
Burundi	75	67	6	55	6	-
Cameroon	426	383	34	282	61	6
Central African Republic	14	19	3	16	-	-
Chad	21	29	3	21	5	-
Comoros	13	21	-	19	1	1
Congo	298	255	6	176	67	6
Djibouti	13	22	1	21	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	41	46	3	29	12	2
Eritrea	39	48	3	44	1	-
Ethiopia	716	786	75	676	30	5
Gabon	716	584	6	413	157	8
Kenya	3 019	2 618	344	2 038	227	9
Rwanda	80	72	11	59	2	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	8	6	-	6	-	-
Somalia	12	40	10	30	-	-
Uganda	1 333	1 246	135	1 011	97	3

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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit (February 2018)			
	2017	2018	Business	Holiday	Study	Other
West Africa	7 328	6 938	426	5 852	627	33
Benin	139	102	5	93	4	-
Burkina Faso	64	69	20	45	3	1
Cape Verde Island	49	26	-	26	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	245	241	31	194	16	-
Gambia	38	47	2	40	5	-
Ghana	1 434	1 502	107	1 310	70	15
Guinea	158	149	8	132	8	1
Guinea-Bissau	8	15	1	10	4	-
Liberia	52	56	6	47	3	-
Mali	191	144	21	120	3	-
Mauritania	14	35	5	28	2	-
Niger	41	27	5	21	1	-
Nigeria	4 514	4 221	176	3 533	498	14
Saint Helena	14	33	2	30	-	1
Senegal	231	192	21	166	5	-
Sierra Leone	83	48	10	33	4	1
Togo	53	31	6	24	1	-
North Africa	1 523	1 442	198	1 143	101	-
Algeria	64	83	5	74	4	-
Egypt	868	811	143	638	30	-
Libya	59	62	5	46	11	-
Morocco	161	169	23	142	4	-
South Sudan	53	52	5	43	4	-
The Sudan	227	167	9	114	44	-
Tunisia	87	98	8	86	4	-
Western Sahara	4	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	986	1 024	98	921	1	4

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

Sex	Age group	February		Region (February 2018)			
		2017	2018	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	775 824	802 252	259 123	527 483	14 622	1 024
	0-14	30 871	30 887	14 685	15 759	440	3
	15-64	686 373	711 286	198 432	498 057	13 791	1 006
	65+	58 580	60 079	46 006	13 667	391	15
Male	Total	440 958	454 539	138 305	306 300	9 340	594
	0-14	15 594	15 732	7 522	7 981	229	-
	15-64	395 179	408 050	106 526	292 060	8 881	583
	65+	30 185	30 757	24 257	6 259	230	11
Female	Total	334 866	347 713	120 818	221 183	5 282	430
	0-14	15 277	15 155	7 163	7 778	211	3
	15-64	291 194	303 236	91 906	205 997	4 910	423
	65+	28 395	29 322	21 749	7 408	161	4

4.1 Annexure A – Number of tourists to date: Jan – Feb, 2017 – 2018, changes by country of residence and period of travel

Country of residence	January – February				
	Total	2017	2018	Difference	
				2017 – 2018	%change 2017 – 2018%
Total	3 722 550	1 816 358	1 906 192	89 834	4,9%
Overseas	1 004 755	500 975	503 780	2 805	0,6%
Europe	687 627	343 826	343 801	-25	0,0%
Austria	14 269	6 964	7 305	341	4,9%
Belgium	18 506	9 037	9 469	432	4,8%
Denmark	16 309	8 269	8 040	-229	-2,8%
France	69 424	35 043	34 381	-662	-1,9%
Germany	149 661	73 497	76 164	2 667	3,6%
Ireland	12 382	6 387	5 995	-392	-6,1%
Italy	18 493	9 050	9 443	393	4,3%
Norway	10 577	5 124	5 453	329	6,4%
Portugal	12 319	6 848	5 471	-1 377	-20,1%
Spain	9 185	4 467	4 718	251	5,6%
Sweden	29 759	14 713	15 046	333	2,3%
Switzerland	26 605	13 315	13 290	-25	-0,2%
The Netherlands	55 832	28 385	27 447	-938	-3,3%
UK	201 590	102 155	99 435	-2 720	-2,7%
Other	42 716	20 572	22 144	1 572	7,6%
North America	118 884	58 402	60 482	2 080	3,6%
Canada	23 225	11 632	11 593	-39	-0,3%
USA	95 659	46 770	48 889	2 119	4,5%
Central and South America	43 017	20 146	22 871	2 725	13,5%
Argentina	10 574	4 313	6 261	1 948	45,2%
Brazil	24 185	11 847	12 338	491	4,1%
Chile	3 512	1 798	1 714	-84	-4,7%
Other	4 742	2 184	2 558	374	17,1%

Annexure A – Number of tourists to date: Jan – Feb, 2017 – 2018, changes by country of residence and period of travel (continued)

Country of residence	January – February				
	Total	2017	2018	Difference	%change
				2017 – 2018	2017 – 2018%
Australasia	35 595	17 745	17 850	105	0,6%
Australia	31 828	15 803	16 025	222	1,4%
New Zealand	3 698	1 906	1 792	-114	-6,0%
Other	69	36	33	-3	-8,3%
Middle East	16 971	8 560	8 411	-149	-1,7%
Iran	1 183	598	585	-13	-2,2%
Israel	9 460	4 566	4 894	328	7,2%
Saudi Arabia	2 706	1 469	1 237	-232	-15,8%
Other	3 542	1 847	1 695	-152	-8,2%
Asia	102 661	52 296	50 365	-1 931	-3,7%
Bangladesh	1 676	746	930	184	24,7%
China	38 744	21 093	17 651	-3 442	-16,3%
India	26 987	12 328	14 659	2 331	18,9%
Japan	7 574	4 169	3 405	-764	-18,3%
Pakistan	4 894	2 487	2 407	-80	-3,2%
Philippines	1 641	778	863	85	10,9%
Singapore	1 863	954	909	-45	-4,7%
South Korea	10 444	5 304	5 140	-164	-3,1%
Taiwan	1 982	1 072	910	-162	-15,1%
Thailand	1 785	832	953	121	14,5%
Other	4 773	2 235	2 538	303	13,6%
Africa	2 714 224	1 313 614	1 400 610	86 996	6,6%
SADC	2 656 182	1 283 536	1 372 646	89 110	6,9%
Angola	24 777	10 179	14 598	4 419	43,4%
Botswana	165 342	78 401	86 941	8 540	10,9%
DRC	8 988	4 275	4 713	438	10,2%
Lesotho	708 430	346 472	361 958	15 486	4,5%

Annexure A – Number of tourists to date: Jan – Feb, 2017 – 2018, changes by country of residence and period of travel (continued)

Country of residence	January – February				
	Total	2017	2018	Difference 2017 – 2018	% change 2017 – 2018
Madagascar	886	478	408	-70	-14,6%
Malawi	58 503	27 096	31 407	4 311	15,9%
Mauritius	6 472	3 124	3 348	224	7,2%
Mozambique	491 526	235 934	255 592	19 658	8,3%
Namibia	57 816	29 311	28 505	-806	-2,7%
Seychelles	2 981	1 725	1 256	-469	-27,2%
Swaziland	265 581	132 389	133 192	803	0,6%
Tanzania	11 580	5 993	5 587	-406	-6,8%
Zambia	52 207	26 170	26 037	-133	-0,5%
Zimbabwe	801 093	381 989	419 104	37 115	9,7%
'Other' Africa	58 042	30 078	27 964	-2 114	-7,0%
East and Central Africa	24 469	12 773	11 696	-1 077	-8,4%
Burundi	281	145	136	-9	-6,2%
Cameroon	1 909	1 087	822	-265	-24,4%
Central African Republic	54	21	33	12	57,1%
Chad	100	39	61	22	56,4%
Comoros	56	22	34	12	54,5%
Congo	1 135	612	523	-89	-14,5%
Djibouti	50	22	28	6	27,3%
Equatorial Guinea	191	97	94	-3	-3,1%
Eritrea	223	90	133	43	47,8%
Ethiopia	2 749	1 300	1 449	149	11,5%
Gabon	2 614	1 479	1 135	-344	-23,3%
Kenya	9 678	5 125	4 553	-572	-11,2%
Réunion	16	8	8	0	0,0%
Rwanda	324	181	143	-38	-21,0%
São Tomé and Príncipe	27	14	13	-1	-7,1%
Somalia	138	39	99	60	153,8%
Uganda	4 924	2 492	2 432	-60	-2,4%

Annexure A – Number of tourists to date: Jan – Feb, 2017 – 2018, changes by country of residence and period of travel (concluded)

Country of residence	January – February				
	Total	2017	2018	Difference 2017 – 2018	% change 2017 – 2018
West Africa	27 680	14 430	13 250	-1 180	-8,2%
Benin	458	253	205	-48	-19,0%
Burkina Faso	237	118	119	1	0,8%
Cape Verde Island	159	102	57	-45	-44,1%
Côte d'Ivoire	869	439	430	-9	-2,1%
Gambia	147	67	80	13	19,4%
Ghana	5 511	2 757	2 754	-3	-0,1%
Guinea	566	272	294	22	8,1%
Guinea-Bissau	53	23	30	7	30,4%
Liberia	187	97	90	-7	-7,2%
Mali	556	296	260	-36	-12,2%
Mauritania	68	24	44	20	83,3%
Niger	103	55	48	-7	-12,7%
Nigeria	17 619	9 305	8 314	-991	-10,7%
Saint Helena	64	23	41	18	78,3%
Senegal	720	388	332	-56	-14,4%
Sierra Leone	221	125	96	-29	-23,2%
Togo	142	86	56	-30	-34,9%
North Africa	5 893	2 875	3 018	143	5,0%
Algeria	330	176	154	-22	-12,5%
Egypt	3 319	1 569	1 750	181	11,5%
Libya	249	132	117	-15	-11,4%
Morocco	640	298	342	44	14,8%
South Sudan	270	136	134	-2	-1,5%
The Sudan	722	378	344	-34	-9,0%
Tunisia	359	182	177	-5	-2,7%
Western Sahara	4	4	-	-	-
Unspecified	3 571	1 769	1 802	33	1,9%

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. A similar pattern has also been observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In February 2018, the DHA data was 1,7% higher than that of ACSA.

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.

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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