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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 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.

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Statistician-General

1. Key findings

1.1 Travellers

1.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa shows that a total of 3 039 744 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in February 2019. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 731 074 South African residents and 2 308 670 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 360 186 arrivals, 370 186 departures and 702 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 205 901, 1 055 331 and 47 438, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in February 2018 and February 2019 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. Travellers in transit increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 0,6% (from 358 135 in February 2018 to 360 186 in February 2019), departures increased by 1,2% (from 365 633 in February 2018 to 370 186 in February 2019), and transits increased by 21,7% (from 577 in February 2018 to 702 in February 2019). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 2,1% (from 1 181 071 in February 2018 to 1 205 901 in February 2019), departures increased by 0,6% (from 1 049 469 in February 2018 to 1 055 331 in February 2019), and transits decreased by 0,4% (from 47 632 in February 2018 to 47 438 in February 2019).

A comparison between the movements in January 2019 and February 2019 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 42,5% (from 626 128 in January 2019 to 360 186 in February 2019), departures decreased by 8,6% (from 405 062 in January 2019 to 370 186 in February 2019), and transits decreased by 15,5% (from 831 in January 2019 to 702 in February 2019). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 22,8% (from 1 561 510 in January 2019 to 1 205 901 in February 2019), departures decreased by 9,8% (from 1 169 796 in January 2019 to 1 055 331 in February 2019), and transits decreased by 14,0% (from 55 135 in January 2019 to 47 438 in February 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 9, in February 2019, 73 338 (6,1%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 132 563 (93,9%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in February 2019 but did not depart in February 2019 [327 483 (28,9%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in February 2019 and left in February 2019 [418 632 (37,0%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in February 2019 [386 448 (34,1%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In February 2019, there were 335 382 (29,6%) same-day visitors and 797 181 (70,4%) tourists. Between February 2018 and February 2019, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 6,5% (from 314 896 in February 2018 to 335 382 in February 2019) and that of tourists decreased by 0,6% (from 802 252 in February 2018 to 797 181 in February 2019). Between January 2019 and February 2019, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 12,5% (from 383 332 in January 2019 to 335 382 in February 2019), and tourists decreased by 25,4% (from 1 068 190 in January 2019 to 797 181 in February 2019).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Information presented in Table 2 on page 10 shows that in February 2019, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 060 132 (67,8%) of the 3 039 744 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 936 354 (30,8%). Compared to the use of air and land transport, a small number of travellers, 43 258 (1,4%) used sea transport. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 131 217 (36,4%) came by air, 211 590 (58,7%) came by road and 17 379 (4,8%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 138 452 (37,4%) used air, 214 535 (58,0%) used road and 17 199 (4,6%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 702 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 313 334 (26,0%) arrived by air, 888 500 (73,7%) came by road and 4 067 (0,3%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 305 211 (28,9%) foreign travellers left by air, 745 507 (70,6%) left by road and 4 613 (0,4%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit 47 438 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 on page 10 further shows that of the 335 382 same-day visitors, an overwhelming majority, 320 529 (95,6%) arrived in the country by road, 14 481 (4,3%) flew into the country; and 372 (0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Information on tourists shows that 512 322 (64,3%) used road transport, 284 482 (35,7%) came by air transport and 377 (less than 0,1%) 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 11 to 14. In February 2019, 227 295 (92,2%) of the 246 394 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 18 843 (7,6%) came in by road transport and 256 (0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 492 183 (92,0%), followed by air travel, 42 566 (8,0%) and sea transport, 117 (less than 0,1%). The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 13 561 (93,0%), with 1 014 (7,0%) using road transport and 4 (less than 0,1%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In February 2019, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 169 025 (68,6%); North America, 30 016 (12,2%); Asia, 25 890 (10,5%); Central and South America, 9 950 (4,0%); Australasia, 7 447 (3,0%) and the Middle East, 4 066 (1,7%).

Figure 1 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 11 to 12 indicate that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2019 were United Kingdom (UK), 50 125 (20,3%); Germany, 36 692 (14,9%); United States of America (USA), 23 867 (9,7%); France, 17 246 (7,0%); The Netherlands, 13 297 (5,4%); China, 9 948 (4,0%); Australia, 6 696 (2,7%); Sweden, 6 688 (2,7%); India, 6 619 (2,7%) and Switzerland, 6 207 (2,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 72,0% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between February 2018 and February 2019 shows that the number of tourists decreased for all the ten leading countries. India had the largest decrease of 12,3% (from 7 544 tourists in February 2018 to 6 619 in February 2019).

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 534 866 (97,3%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 6 830 (1,2%); East and Central Africa, 6 134 (1,1%); and North Africa 1 615 (0,3%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2019 were: Zimbabwe, 162 604 (30,4%); Lesotho, 108 081 (20,2%); Mozambique, 106 481 (19,9%); Swaziland, 62 622 (11,7%); Botswana, 40 437 (7,6%); Malawi, 14 723 (2,8%); Namibia, 13 381 (2,5%); Zambia, 12 129 (2,3%); Angola, 5 936 (1,1%) and Tanzania, 2 958 (0,6%). (See Figure 2 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 12 to 13). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,0% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in February 2018 and February 2019 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for six of the ten leading countries (Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania, Malawi, Swaziland and Angola) and decreased for the other four (Lesotho, Botswana, Zambia and Namibia). Zimbabwe showed the largest increase of 12,1% (from 145 096 tourists in February 2018 to 162 604 in February 2019), while Lesotho showed the largest decrease of 11,6% (from 122 311 tourists in February 2018 to 108 081 in February 2019).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2019 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13 to 14, were: Nigeria, 3 600 (24,7%); Kenya, 2 613 (17,9%); Ghana, 1 798 (12,3%); Uganda, 1 288 (8,8%); Egypt, 886 (6,1%); Ethiopia, 614 (4,2%); Gabon, 505 (3,5%); Cameroon, 392 (2,7%); Côte d'Ivoire, 330 (2,3%) and Congo, 244 (1,7%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 84,2% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in February 2018 and February 2019 shows that the number of tourists increased for five of the ten leading countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Egypt, Uganda and Cameroon) and decreased for the other five leading countries (Ethiopia, Nigeria, Gabon, Congo and Kenya). Côte d'Ivoire showed the largest increase of 36,9% (from 241 tourists in February 2018 to 330 in February 2019), while Ethiopia showed the largest decrease of 21,9% (from 786 tourists in February 2018 to 614 in February 2019).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed in Table 4 on pages 15 to 18, in February 2019, the majority of tourists, 769 894 (96,6%), were in South Africa for holiday¹ compared to 20 404 (2,6%); 6 341 (0,8%) and 542 (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, 163 489 (68,9%) who came for holiday, 5 014 (60,4%) who came for business, 470 (53,3%) who came for study and 52 (54,2%) who came for medical treatment.

Within the overseas regions, Central and South America had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for holiday, 98,2% (9 771), followed by Europe, 96,7% (163 489), North America, 96,2% (28 868), Australasia, 96,1% (7 155), Asia, 93,1% (24 108), and the Middle East, 91,7% (3 728).

The Middle East, 6,9% (280) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed closely by Asia, 6,0% (1 546), Australasia, 3,7% (277), North America, 3,5% (1 045), Europe, 3,0% (5 014), and Central and South America, 1,4% (135).

The Middle East, 1,4% (58) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to study, followed by Asia, 0,9% (221), Central and South America, 0,4% (44), Europe, 0,3% (470), North America, 0,3% (78), and Australasia 0,1% (11).

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

The majority of African tourists, 531 575 (96,7%) 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, 97,1% (519 497) were on holiday, compared to 82,8% (12 078) from 'other' African countries who came for the same purpose. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that tourists on holiday constituted 86,3% (5 891); 80,3% (4 923); and 78,3% (1 264) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 9,7% (1 407) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 2,0% (10 565) from SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 14,3% (231) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed closely by East and Central Africa, 10,6% (653) and West Africa, 7,7% (523).
- Students constituted 7,0% (1 018) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,8% (4 439) from SADC countries. East and Central Africa, 8,3% (509) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed closely by North Africa, 7,4% (119) and West Africa, 5,7% (390).

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 25 for a more detailed discussion.

- Medical treatment tourists constituted 0,5% (76) of tourists from 'other' African countries, while those from SADC constituted 0,1% (365) of its tourists. East and Central Africa, 0,8% (49) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for medical treatment.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in February 2019, there were 448 900 (56,3%) male and 348 281 (43,7%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 131 198 (53,2%) male tourists and 115 196 (46,8%) female tourists. There were 307 399 (57,5%) male and 227 467 (42,5%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 9 483 (65,0%) male and 5 096 (35,0%) female tourists.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into seven broad groups. The results presented in Table 5 on page 19 show that the majority of tourists were aged between 35 and 44 years [215 095 (27,0%)], followed closely by the age group 25 to 34 years [210 748 (26,4%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [170 442 (31,9%)] and those from 'other' African countries [4 824 (33,1%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years whereas those from overseas countries [46 409 (18,8%)] were aged between 55 and 64 years. The second highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [162 476 (30,4%)] and those from 'other' African countries [4 057 (27,8%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years, whereas those from overseas countries [44 053 (17,9%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 47, 36 and 37 years respectively. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 5,8% (14 212) compared to those from SADC countries, 3,2% (17 255) and to those from 'other' African countries, 3,2% (468).

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 16,9% (22 116) of male and 17,2% (19 829) 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 2,2% (6 849) and 3,5% (7 903) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,5% (237) and 3,3% (166) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

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

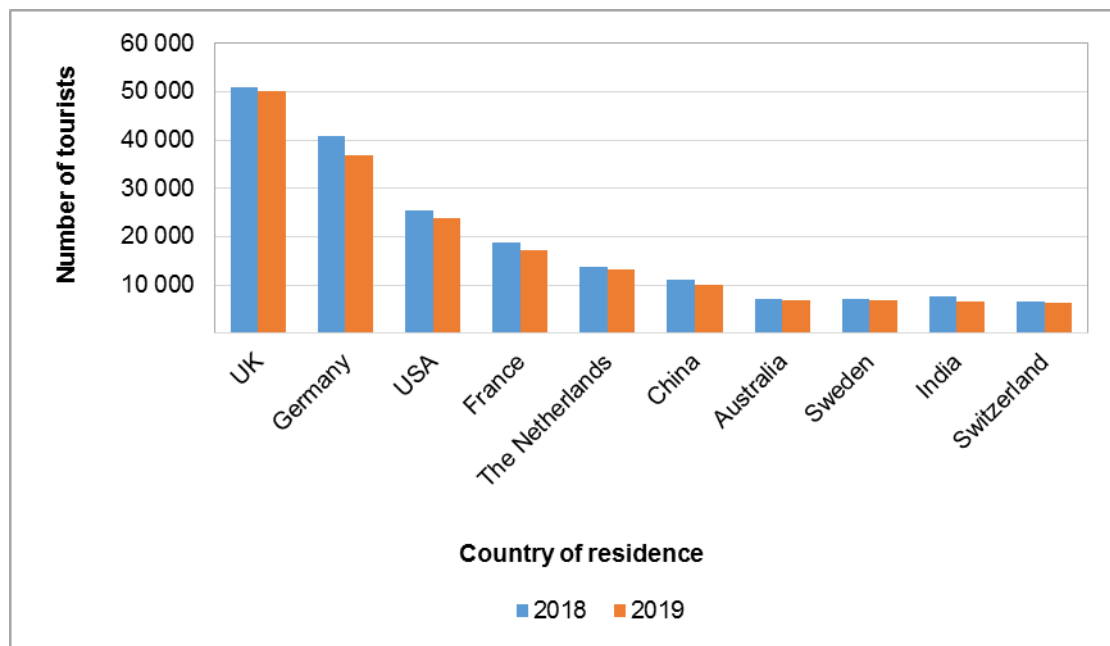


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in February 2018 and February 2019

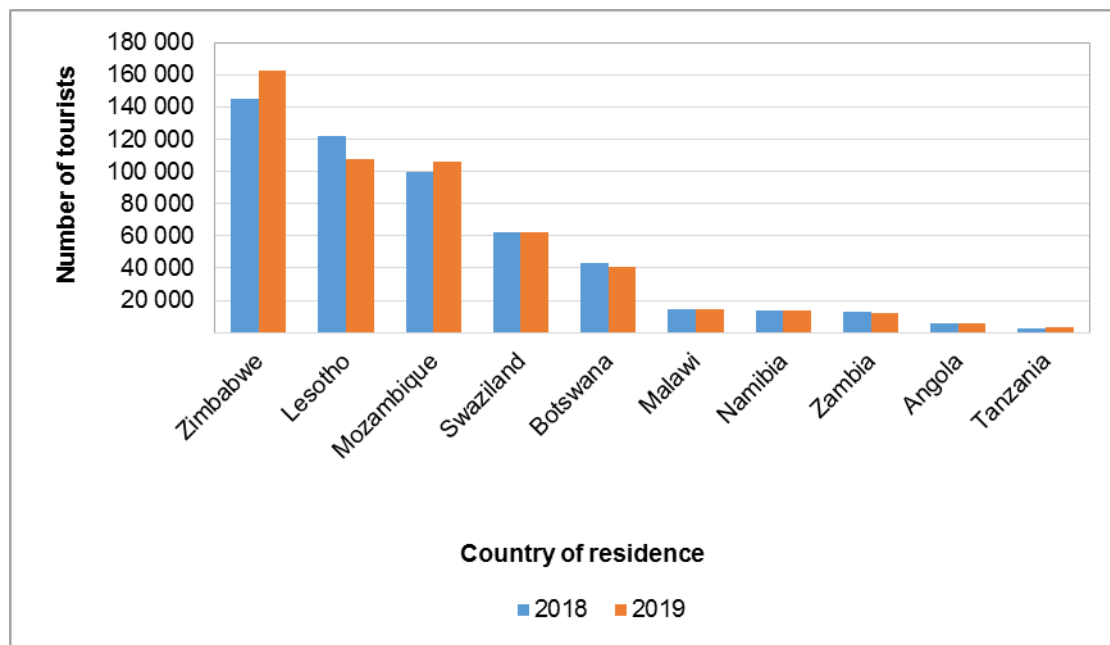
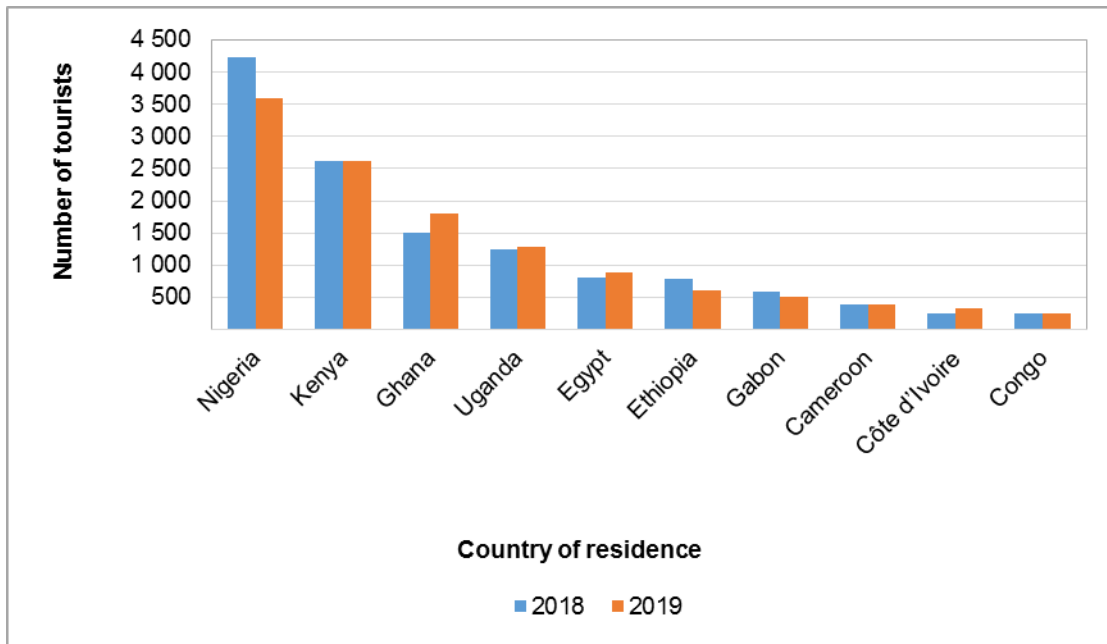


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in February 2018 and February 2019



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	Feb 2018	Jan 2019	Feb 2019	% Change Jan 2019 – Feb 2019	% Change Feb 2018 –Feb 2019
Total	3 002 517	3 818 462	3 039 744	-20,4%	1,2%
South African residents	724 345	1 032 021	731 074	-29,2%	0,9%
Arrivals	358 135	626 128	360 186	-42,5%	0,6%
Departures	365 633	405 062	370 186	-8,6%	1,2%
Transits	577	831	702	-15,5%	21,7%
Foreign travellers	2 278 172	2 786 441	2 308 670	-17,1%	1,3%
Arrivals	1 181 071	1 561 510	1 205 901	-22,8%	2,1%
Departures	1 049 469	1 169 796	1 055 331	-9,8%	0,6%
Transits	47 632	55 135	47 438	-14,0%	-0,4%
Foreign arrivals	1 181 071	1 561 510	1 205 901	-22,8%	2,1%
Non-visitors	63 923	109 988	73 338	-33,3%	14,7%
Visitors	1 117 148	1 451 522	1 132 563	-22,0%	1,4%
Visitors	1 117 148	1 451 522	1 132 563	-22,0%	1,4%
Arrivals only	323 741	577 621	327 483	-43,3%	1,2%
Single trips	412 209	412 844	418 632	1,4%	1,6%
Multiple trips	381 198	461 057	386 448	-16,2%	1,4%
Visitors	1 117 148	1 451 522	1 132 563	-22,0%	1,4%
Same-Day	314 896	383 332	335 382	-12,5%	6,5%
Overnight (Tourists)	802 252	1 068 190	797 181	-25,4%	-0,6%

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	3 039 744	244 815	27 745	659 209	4 585	936 354	2 060 132	43 258
South African residents	731 074	43 332	15 777	208 439	2 823	270 371	426 125	34 578
Arrivals	360 186	21 349	7 413	101 059	1 396	131 217	211 590	17 379
Departures	370 186	21 980	8 364	106 681	1 427	138 452	214 535	17 199
Transit	702	3	-	699	-	702	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 308 670	201 483	11 968	450 770	1 762	665 983	1 634 007	8 680
Arrivals	1 205 901	101 449	5 727	205 468	690	313 334	888 500	4 067
Departures	1 055 331	99 955	6 241	197 943	1 072	305 211	745 507	4 613
Transit	47 438	79	-	47 359	-	47 438	-	-
Visitors	1 132 563	98 301	4 933	195 206	523	298 963	832 851	749
Same day	335 382	465	35	13 912	69	14 481	320 529	372
Tourist	797 181	97 836	4 898	181 294	454	284 482	512 322	377

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (February 2019)

Country of residence	February		Air				Road	Sea	
	2018	2019	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other			Total
Total	802 252	797 181	97 836	4 898	181 294	454	284 482	512 322	377
Overseas	259 123	246 394	90 031	4 288	132 631	345	227 295	18 843	256
Europe	177 473	169 025	72 580	3 399	79 819	156	155 954	12 897	174
Austria	4 115	4 493	2 690	71	1 353	13	4 127	360	6
Belgium	5 339	4 703	1 831	63	2 360	8	4 262	437	4
Denmark	4 123	3 813	1 094	99	2 380	1	3 574	239	-
France	18 700	17 246	5 709	148	9 195	14	15 066	2 168	12
Germany	40 730	36 692	17 625	294	15 796	16	33 731	2 933	28
Ireland	2 822	2 901	1 357	83	1 309	3	2 752	145	4
Italy	4 537	4 603	1 770	53	2 482	1	4 306	294	3
Norway	3 102	2 835	1 416	92	1 148	3	2 659	176	-
Portugal	2 830	2 773	512	11	1 148	9	1 680	1 092	1
Spain	2 218	2 243	542	41	1 437	7	2 027	212	4
Sweden	7 148	6 688	3 339	122	2 903	1	6 365	322	1
Switzerland	6 594	6 207	3 120	66	2 578	10	5 774	431	2
The Netherlands	13 782	13 297	6 060	98	5 738	5	11 901	1 394	2
UK	50 772	50 125	21 458	1 959	24 692	52	48 161	1 879	85
Other	10 661	10 406	4 057	199	5 300	13	9 569	815	22
North America	31 648	30 016	8 588	180	18 690	124	27 582	2 409	25
Canada	6 213	6 149	2 011	32	3 528	13	5 584	563	2
USA	25 435	23 867	6 577	148	15 162	111	21 998	1 846	23
Central and South America	10 245	9 950	1 226	23	8 050	1	9 300	646	4
Argentina	3 119	2 523	95	9	2 278	-	2 382	141	-
Brazil	4 780	4 838	851	4	3 622	-	4 477	358	3
Chile	1 115	1 223	69	1	1 106	-	1 176	47	-
Other	1 231	1 366	211	9	1 044	1	1 265	100	1

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

Country of residence	February		Air				Total	Road	Sea
	2018	2019	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other			
Australasia	7 995	7 447	1 015	93	5 919	14	7 041	388	18
Australia	7 154	6 696	887	73	5 359	12	6 331	352	13
New Zealand	821	730	115	20	554	2	691	34	5
Other	20	21	13	-	6	-	19	2	-
Middle East	4 253	4 066	1 060	29	2 765	12	3 866	199	1
Israel	2 700	2 567	564	4	1 829	12	2 409	158	-
Jordan	162	248	58	5	168	-	231	17	-
Saudi Arabia	434	502	212	2	288	-	502	-	-
Other	957	749	226	18	480	-	724	24	1
Asia	27 509	25 890	5 562	564	17 388	38	23 552	2 304	34
Bangladesh	405	585	74	45	214	-	333	251	1
China	11 145	9 948	2 193	56	7 487	2	9 738	208	2
India	7 544	6 619	1 138	314	4 395	7	5 854	745	20
Japan	1 784	1 908	427	29	1 349	1	1 806	102	-
Malaysia	468	509	191	11	277	-	479	30	-
Pakistan	1 177	1 217	116	62	579	-	757	458	2
Philippines	419	480	116	10	273	1	400	77	3
South Korea	1 939	2 148	592	10	1 312	18	1 932	216	-
Taiwan	566	565	83	2	375	-	460	105	-
Thailand	559	497	182	8	300	-	490	7	-
Other	1 503	1 414	450	17	827	9	1 303	105	6
Africa	542 105	549 445	7 719	610	47 690	108	56 127	493 197	121
SADC	527 483	534 866	5 619	565	36 296	86	42 566	492 183	117
Angola	5 918	5 936	2 041	6	3 363	3	5 413	520	3
Botswana	43 514	40 437	27	128	2 273	23	2 451	37 984	2
DRC	2 310	2 753	187	3	2 068	-	2 258	495	-
Lesotho	122 311	108 081	9	1	411	-	421	107 647	13

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

Country of residence	February		Air				Road	Sea	
	2018	2019	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other			Total
Madagascar	244	189	18	-	165	-	183	6	-
Malawi	14 446	14 723	27	-	1 744	3	1 774	12 948	1
Mauritius	1 789	1 838	541	72	1 178	-	1 791	45	2
Mozambique	99 773	106 481	9	15	2 710	9	2 743	103 693	45
Namibia	13 466	13 381	1 753	197	2 623	11	4 584	8 779	18
Seychelles	789	734	3	2	723	1	729	5	-
Swaziland	62 079	62 622	2	1	353	1	357	62 264	1
Tanzania	2 772	2 958	176	-	1 559	2	1 737	1 220	1
Zambia	12 976	12 129	53	118	3 110	7	3 288	8 840	1
Zimbabwe	145 096	162 604	773	22	14 016	26	14 837	147 737	30
'Other' African	14 622	14 579	2 100	45	11 394	22	13 561	1 014	4
East and Central Africa	6 242	6 134	991	10	4 639	21	5 661	470	3
Burundi	67	89	21	-	61	-	82	7	-
Cameroon	383	392	57	-	302	-	359	31	2
Central African Republic	19	13	6	-	7	-	13	-	-
Chad	29	36	9	-	27	-	36	-	-
Comoros	21	16	1	-	14	-	15	1	-
Congo	255	244	87	1	154	-	242	2	-
Djibouti	22	11	2	-	9	-	11	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	46	48	3	-	44	-	47	1	-
Eritrea	48	54	7	-	42	-	49	5	-
Ethiopia	786	614	90	6	442	18	556	58	-
Gabon	584	505	101	-	402	-	503	2	-
Kenya	2 618	2 613	466	1	1 982	2	2 451	161	1
Réunion	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Rwanda	72	72	10	-	57	-	67	5	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	6	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-
Somalia	40	135	13	-	28	-	41	94	-
Uganda	1 246	1 288	117	2	1 065	1	1 185	103	-

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

Country of residence	February		Air					Road	Sea
	2018	2019	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	6 938	6 830	645	23	5 680	1	6 349	480	1
Benin	102	128	16	-	104	-	120	8	-
Burkina Faso	69	86	43	-	41	-	84	2	-
Cape Verde Island	26	30	8	-	17	-	25	5	-
Côte d'Ivoire	241	330	52	-	274	-	326	4	-
Gambia	47	45	6	1	30	-	37	8	-
Ghana	1 502	1 798	107	6	1 602	-	1 715	83	-
Guinea	149	154	26	-	90	-	116	38	-
Guinea-Bissau	15	16	1	-	12	-	13	3	-
Liberia	56	73	7	-	66	-	73	-	-
Mali	144	145	68	-	41	-	109	35	1
Mauritania	35	21	4	-	17	-	21	-	-
Niger	27	49	24	-	24	-	48	1	-
Nigeria	4 221	3 600	236	14	3 076	1	3 327	273	-
Saint Helena	33	10	1	-	9	-	10	-	-
Senegal	192	173	20	2	141	-	163	10	-
Sierra Leone	48	111	11	-	90	-	101	10	-
Togo	31	61	15	-	46	-	61	-	-
North Africa	1 442	1 615	464	12	1 075	-	1 551	64	-
Algeria	83	134	10	1	113	-	124	10	-
Egypt	811	886	268	7	585	-	860	26	-
Libya	62	47	17	2	15	-	34	13	-
Morocco	169	182	63	-	109	-	172	10	-
South Sudan	52	69	13	-	56	-	69	-	-
The Sudan	167	165	64	2	97	-	163	2	-
Tunisia	98	132	29	-	100	-	129	3	-
Unspecified	1 024	1 342	86	-	973	1	1 060	282	-

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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit (February 2019)			
	2018	2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	802 252	797 181	20 404	769 894	6 341	542
Overseas	259 123	246 394	8 297	237 119	882	96
Europe	177 473	169 025	5 014	163 489	470	52
Austria	4 115	4 493	77	4 408	8	-
Belgium	5 339	4 703	173	4 486	44	-
Denmark	4 123	3 813	69	3 740	3	1
France	18 700	17 246	554	16 627	63	2
Germany	40 730	36 692	775	35 837	79	1
Ireland	2 822	2 901	96	2 797	6	2
Italy	4 537	4 603	302	4 283	17	1
Norway	3 102	2 835	66	2 761	7	1
Portugal	2 830	2 773	103	2 659	11	-
Spain	2 218	2 243	123	2 111	9	-
Sweden	7 148	6 688	142	6 540	6	-
Switzerland	6 594	6 207	85	6 109	13	-
The Netherlands	13 782	13 297	335	12 862	94	6
UK	50 772	50 125	1 571	48 458	62	34
Other	10 661	10 406	543	9 811	48	4
North America	31 648	30 016	1 045	28 868	78	25
Canada	6 213	6 149	216	5 919	10	4
USA	25 435	23 867	829	22 949	68	21
Central and South America	10 245	9 950	135	9 771	44	-
Argentina	3 119	2 523	15	2 506	2	-
Brazil	4 780	4 838	44	4 764	30	-
Chile	1 115	1 223	11	1 211	1	-
Other	1 231	1 366	65	1 290	11	-

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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit (February 2019)			
	2018	2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Australasia	7 995	7 447	277	7 155	11	4
Australia	7 154	6 696	249	6 434	9	4
New Zealand	821	730	24	704	2	-
Other	20	21	4	17	-	-
Middle East	4 253	4 066	280	3 728	58	-
Israel	2 700	2 567	77	2 486	4	-
Jordan	162	248	37	211	-	-
Saudi Arabia	434	502	62	419	21	-
Other	957	749	104	612	33	-
Asia	27 509	25 890	1 546	24 108	221	15
Bangladesh	405	585	34	542	9	-
China	11 145	9 948	263	9 651	32	2
India	7 544	6 619	744	5 800	73	2
Japan	1 784	1 908	154	1 743	9	2
Malaysia	468	509	33	464	12	-
Pakistan	1 177	1 217	58	1 129	25	5
Philippines	419	480	28	446	5	1
South Korea	1 939	2 148	48	2 074	26	-
Taiwan	566	565	30	532	3	-
Thailand	559	497	25	470	2	-
Other	1 503	1 414	129	1 257	25	3
Africa	542 105	549 445	11 972	531 575	5 457	441
SADC	527 483	534 866	10 565	519 497	4 439	365
Angola	5 918	5 936	100	5 469	334	33
Botswana	43 514	40 437	410	39 620	297	110
DRC	2 310	2 753	131	2 338	239	45
Lesotho	122 311	108 081	1 890	105 223	968	-

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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit (February 2019)			
	2018	2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Madagascar	244	189	14	164	10	1
Malawi	14 446	14 723	170	14 393	146	14
Mauritius	1 789	1 838	93	1 662	80	3
Mozambique	99 773	106 481	2 322	104 011	125	23
Namibia	13 466	13 381	1 942	10 991	418	30
Seychelles	789	734	13	715	2	4
Swaziland	62 079	62 622	207	62 134	275	6
Tanzania	2 772	2 958	117	2 707	117	17
Zambia	12 976	12 129	1 096	10 813	201	19
Zimbabwe	145 096	162 604	2 060	159 257	1 227	60
'Other' African	14 622	14 579	1 407	12 078	1 018	76
East and Central Africa	6 242	6 134	653	4 923	509	49
Burundi	67	89	10	70	9	-
Cameroon	383	392	38	285	51	18
Central African Republic	19	13	6	6	1	-
Chad	29	36	8	19	5	4
Comoros	21	16	-	15	1	-
Congo	255	244	11	179	52	2
Djibouti	22	11	3	8	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	46	48	1	34	13	-
Eritrea	48	54	5	48	1	-
Ethiopia	786	614	52	539	20	3
Gabon	584	505	10	378	110	7
Kenya	2 618	2 613	372	2 083	150	8
Réunion	-	1	-	1	-	-
Rwanda	72	72	6	60	6	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	6	3	-	3	-	-
Somalia	40	135	11	121	3	-
Uganda	1 246	1 288	120	1 074	87	7

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

Country of residence	February		Purpose of visit (February 2019)			
	2018	2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
West Africa	6 938	6 830	523	5 891	390	26
Benin	102	128	13	109	5	1
Burkina Faso	69	86	37	44	5	-
Cape Verde Island	26	30	2	26	1	1
Côte d'Ivoire	241	330	42	271	15	2
Gambia	47	45	7	37	1	-
Ghana	1 502	1 798	148	1 587	60	3
Guinea	149	154	21	128	4	1
Guinea-Bissau	15	16	3	13	-	-
Liberia	56	73	4	65	3	1
Mali	144	145	33	111	1	-
Mauritania	35	21	5	16	-	-
Niger	27	49	17	31	1	-
Nigeria	4 221	3 600	145	3 153	288	14
Saint Helena	33	10	-	9	-	1
Senegal	192	173	27	145	1	-
Sierra Leone	48	111	11	96	2	2
Togo	31	61	8	50	3	-
North Africa	1 442	1 615	231	1 264	119	1
Algeria	83	134	17	113	3	1
Egypt	811	886	134	719	33	-
Libya	62	47	-	28	19	-
Morocco	169	182	39	139	4	-
South Sudan	52	69	10	49	10	-
The Sudan	167	165	9	107	49	-
Tunisia	98	132	22	109	1	-
Unspecified	1 024	1 342	135	1 200	2	5

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

Sex	Age group	February		Region (February 2019)			
		2018	2019	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	802 252	797 181	246 394	534 866	14 579	1 342
	0-14	30 887	31 938	14 212	17 255	468	3
	15-24	72 367	68 339	17 206	50 073	1 039	21
	25-34	213 562	210 748	44 053	162 476	4 057	162
	35-44	211 398	215 095	39 423	170 442	4 824	406
	45-54	129 430	129 910	43 146	83 693	2 619	452
	55-64	84 529	84 023	46 409	36 175	1 169	270
	65+	60 079	57 128	41 945	14 752	403	28
Male	Total	454 539	448 900	131 198	307 399	9 483	820
	0-14	15 732	16 269	7 392	8 640	236	1
	15-24	37 750	35 624	7 740	27 270	596	18
	25-34	118 725	116 574	21 888	92 113	2 478	95
	35-44	130 659	130 955	23 200	104 178	3 347	230
	45-54	76 216	75 999	24 563	49 348	1 816	272
	55-64	44 700	44 254	24 299	19 001	773	181
	65+	30 757	29 225	22 116	6 849	237	23
Female	Total	347 713	348 281	115 196	227 467	5 096	522
	0-14	15 155	15 669	6 820	8 615	232	2
	15-24	34 617	32 715	9 466	22 803	443	3
	25-34	94 837	94 174	22 165	70 363	1 579	67
	35-44	80 739	84 140	16 223	66 264	1 477	176
	45-54	53 214	53 911	18 583	34 345	803	180
	55-64	39 829	39 769	22 110	17 174	396	89
	65+	29 322	27 903	19 829	7 903	166	5

4. Annexures

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

Country of residence	January – February			
	Jan – Feb 2018	Jan – Feb 2019	Difference 2018 – 2019	% change 2018 – 2019
Total	1 906 192	1 865 371	-40 821	-2,1%
Overseas	503 780	479 266	-24 514	-4,9%
Europe	343 801	320 958	-22 843	-6,6%
Austria	7 305	7 856	551	7,5%
Belgium	9 469	8 390	-1 079	-11,4%
Denmark	8 040	6 945	-1 095	-13,6%
France	34 381	30 841	-3 540	-10,3%
Germany	76 164	68 193	-7 971	-10,5%
Ireland	5 995	5 923	-72	-1,2%
Italy	9 443	9 220	-223	-2,4%
Norway	5 453	4 762	-691	-12,7%
Portugal	5 471	5 210	-261	-4,8%
Spain	4 718	4 568	-150	-3,2%
Sweden	15 046	12 816	-2 230	-14,8%
Switzerland	13 290	12 000	-1 290	-9,7%
The Netherlands	27 447	26 185	-1 262	-4,6%
UK	99 435	96 758	-2 677	-2,7%
Other	22 144	21 291	-853	-3,9%
North America	60 482	60 136	-346	-0,6%
Canada	11 593	12 076	483	4,2%
USA	48 889	48 060	-829	-1,7%
Central and South America	22 871	21 911	-960	-4,2%
Argentina	6 261	5 940	-321	-5,1%
Brazil	12 338	11 361	-977	-7,9%
Chile	1 714	1 855	141	8,2%
Other	2 558	2 755	197	7,7%

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

Country of residence	January – February			
	Jan – Feb 2018	Jan – Feb 2019	Difference 2018 – 2019	% change 2018 – 2019
Australasia	17 850	17 314	-536	-3,0%
Australia	16 025	15 676	-349	-2,2%
New Zealand	1 792	1 602	-190	-10,6%
Other	33	36	3	9,1%
Middle East	8 411	7 628	-783	-9,3%
Israel	4 894	4 756	-138	-2,8%
Jordan	342	463	121	35,4%
Saudi Arabia	1 237	957	-280	-22,6%
Other	1 938	1 452	-486	-25,1%
Asia	50 365	51 319	954	1,9%
Bangladesh	930	1 099	169	18,2%
China	17 651	17 910	259	1,5%
India	14 659	13 519	-1 140	-7,8%
Japan	3 405	4 587	1 182	34,7%
Malaysia	853	947	94	11,0%
Pakistan	2 407	2 573	166	6,9%
Philippines	863	921	58	6,7%
South Korea	5 140	5 194	54	1,1%
Taiwan	910	1 133	223	24,5%
Thailand	953	913	-40	-4,2%
Other	2 594	2 523	-71	-2,7%
Africa	1 400 610	1 383 846	-16 764	-1,2%
SADC	1 372 646	1 354 761	-17 885	-1,3%
Angola	14 598	14 291	-307	-2,1%
Botswana	86 941	80 146	-6 795	-7,8%
DRC	4 713	5 341	628	13,3%
Lesotho	361 958	303 597	-58 361	-16,1%

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

Country of residence	January – February			
	Jan – Feb 2018	Jan – Feb 2019	Difference 2018 – 2019	% change 2018 – 2019
Madagascar	408	381	-27	-6,6%
Malawi	31 407	32 138	731	2,3%
Mauritius	3 348	3 554	206	6,2%
Mozambique	255 592	268 874	13 282	5,2%
Namibia	28 505	27 864	-641	-2,2%
Seychelles	1 256	1 249	-7	-0,6%
Swaziland	133 192	132 265	-927	-0,7%
Tanzania	5 587	5 979	392	7,0%
Zambia	26 037	25 185	-852	-3,3%
Zimbabwe	419 104	453 897	34 793	8,3%
'Other' African	27 964	29 085	1 121	4,0%
East and Central Africa	11 696	12 005	309	2,6%
Burundi	136	160	24	17,6%
Cameroon	822	829	7	0,9%
Central African Republic	33	19	-14	-42,4%
Chad	61	54	-7	-11,5%
Comoros	34	32	-2	-5,9%
Congo	523	464	-59	-11,3%
Djibouti	28	20	-8	-28,6%
Equatorial Guinea	94	85	-9	-9,6%
Eritrea	133	137	4	3,0%
Ethiopia	1 449	1 245	-204	-14,1%
Gabon	1 135	1 179	44	3,9%
Kenya	4 553	4 785	232	5,1%
Réunion	8	9	1	12,5%
Rwanda	143	139	-4	-2,8%
São Tomé and Príncipe	13	7	-6	-46,2%
Somalia	99	309	210	212,1%
Uganda	2 432	2 532	100	4,1%

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

Country of residence	January – February			
	Jan – Feb 2018	Jan – Feb 2019	Difference 2018 – 2019	% change 2018 – 2019
West Africa	13 250	13 698	448	3,4%
Benin	205	252	47	22,9%
Burkina Faso	119	129	10	8,4%
Cape Verde Island	57	56	-1	-1,8%
Côte d'Ivoire	430	530	100	23,3%
Gambia	80	72	-8	-10,0%
Ghana	2 754	3 343	589	21,4%
Guinea	294	269	-25	-8,5%
Guinea-Bissau	30	26	-4	-13,3%
Liberia	90	129	39	43,3%
Mali	260	225	-35	-13,5%
Mauritania	44	29	-15	-34,1%
Niger	48	66	18	37,5%
Nigeria	8 314	7 974	-340	-4,1%
Saint Helena	41	17	-24	-58,5%
Senegal	332	326	-6	-1,8%
Sierra Leone	96	160	64	66,7%
Togo	56	95	39	69,6%
North Africa	3 018	3 382	364	12,1%
Algeria	154	380	226	146,8%
Egypt	1 750	1 758	8	0,5%
Libya	117	163	46	39,3%
Morocco	342	369	27	7,9%
South Sudan	134	126	-8	-6,0%
The Sudan	344	324	-20	-5,8%
Tunisia	177	260	83	46,9%
Western Sahara	-	2	-	-
Unspecified	1 802	2 259	457	25,4%

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 February 2019, the DHA data was 1,8% higher 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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