

Statistical release

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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 2 972 236 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through South African ports of entry in January 2012. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 876 220 South African residents and 2 096 016 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 526 250 and 349 970 arrivals and departures respectively. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals and departures were 1 249 101 and 846 915 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in December 2011 and January 2012 indicates that the volume of arrivals increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, while a decline was observed for the departures. The volume of arrivals for South African residents increased by 1,4% (from 519 047 in December 2011 to 526 250 in January 2012) while for foreign travellers, the arrivals increased by 0,6% (from 1 241 599 in December 2011 to 1 249 101 in January 2012). For departures, the volume declined by 49,4% (from 691 738 in December 2011 to 349 970 in January 2012) for South African residents and by 29,1% (from 1 194 775 in December 2011 to 846 915 in January 2012) for foreign travellers.

A comparison between the movements in January 2011 and January 2012 indicates that the volume of arrivals declined for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals decreased by 16,1% (from 627 199 in January 2011 to 526 250 in January 2012) for South African residents while that of foreign travellers increased by 10,6% (from 1 129 054 in January 2011 to 1 249 101 in January 2012). With regard to departures, there was a decrease of 17,1% (from 422 214 in January 2011 to 349 970 in January 2012) for South African residents and a decrease of 1,2% (from 856 890 in January 2011 to 846 915 in January 2012) for foreign travellers.

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 South African immigration officers. Hence, it is not possible to categorise South African residents as tourists and non-tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation.

As presented in Table 1, in January 2012, 87 580 (7,0%) foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 161 521 (93,0%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups: arrivals only comprising of visitors who entered the country in January 2012 but did not depart in January 2012 [576 852, (49,7%)]; visitors who came once in January 2012 and left in January 2012 [327 065, (28,2%)]; and those who came and left more than once in January 2012 [257 604, (22,2%)]. Visitors were further grouped as same day visitors [274 455, (23,6%)] and overnight visitors (tourists) [887 066, (76,4%)]. Between December 2011 and January 2012, the volume of same day visitors decreased by 27,8% (from 379 972 in December 2011 to 274 455 in January 2012) and tourists increased by 9,4% (from 811 104 in December 2011 to 887 066 in January 2012). Furthermore, between January 2011 and January 2012, the volume of same day visitors decreased by 11,3% (from 309 581 in January 2011 to 274 455 in January 2012) while the volume of tourists increased by 11,4% (from 796 526 in January 2011 to 887 066 in January 2012) during the same period.

1.1.2 Mode of travel of travellers

Travellers who cross South Africa's borders rarely use trains and ships since these are mainly used for transporting goods. Data presented in Table 2 show that in January 2012, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 082 810 (70,1%) out of the 2 972 236 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 875 163 (29,4%). The arrivals data on South African residents show that 177 495 (33,7%) came by air and 344 827 (65,5%) by road. For departures, 135 432 (38,7%) and 211 771 (60,5%) used air and road transport respectively. In the case of foreign travellers, 295 355 (23,6%) arrived by air while those who came by road were 948 729 (76,0%). When departing South Africa, 266 881 (31,5%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 577 483 (68,2%) left by road. As shown in Table 2 an overwhelming majority, 259 183 (94,4%) of same day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 15 136 (5,5%) same day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that, 642 558 (72,4%) used road transport but 241 882 (27,3%) came by air.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel of tourists

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them into 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. In January 2012, 188 057 (89,4%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 19 825 (9,4%) came in by road. 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 [620 368 (94,3%)]. Only 37 683 (5,7%) tourists from the SADC countries came in by air. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 14 878 (89,9%), with 1 537 (9,3%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution of tourists

In January 2012, the distribution of overseas tourists were as follows; Europe, 126 501 (60,2%); followed by Asia, 31 623 (15,0%); North America, 25 768 (12,3%); Central and South America, 12 503 (5,9%); Australasia, 10 769 (5,1%); and Middle East, 3 089 (1,5%). Virtually all tourists from Africa came from the SADC countries, 658 157 (97,5%). The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 8 461 (1,3%); East and Central Africa, 7 143 (1,1%) and North Africa 937 (0,1%).

Data presented in Figure 1 indicate that United Kingdom (UK), 42 284 (20,1%); Germany, 22 451 (10,7%); United States of America (USA), 20 775 (9,9%); China, 12 429 (5,9%); The Netherlands 10 839 (5,2%); Australia, 9 289 (4,4%); France, 9 183 (4,4%); and Brazil, 8 228 (3,9%) were the eight leading overseas countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2012. Tourists from these eight countries constituted 64,4% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in January 2011 and January 2012 shows that the number of tourists increased in all the eight countries. China had the highest increase of 150,2% from 4 968 tourists in January 2011 to 12 429 tourists in January 2012 while France had the lowest increase of 1,6% from 9 036 tourists in January 2011 to 9 183 tourists in January 2012.

The eight leading countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2012 from the SADC countries (see Figure 2) were Zimbabwe, 208 691 (31,7%); Lesotho, 174 466 (26,5%); Mozambique 122 959 (18,7%); Swaziland, 66 442 (10,1%); Botswana, 27 322 (4,2%); Namibia, 16 886 (2,6%); Malawi, 13 769 (2,1%) and Zambia, 13 694 (2,1%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 97,9% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in January 2011 and January 2012 shows that the number of tourists increased in six countries (Zimbabwe, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia, Namibia, and Lesotho) and declined in the remaining two (Botswana and Mozambique). Zimbabwe had the highest increase of 43,4% from 145 557 tourists in January 2011 to 208 691 tourists in January 2012 while Botswana had the greatest decline of 20,1% from 34 174 tourists in January 2011 to 27 322 tourists in January 2012.

The eight leading countries in the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2012 from 'other' African countries, shown in Figure 3, were Nigeria, 5 659 (34,2%); Kenya, 2 651 (16,0%); Ghana, 1 649 (10,0%); Uganda, 1 469 (8,9%); Gabon, 784 (4,7%); Cameroon, 687 (4,2%); Ethiopia, 561 (3,4%) and Egypt, 504 (3,0%). Tourists from these eight countries constituted 84,4% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in January 2011 and January 2012 shows that the number of tourists increased in five of these countries (Nigeria, Gabon, Cameroon, Ghana and Kenya) while the number of tourists declined in the other three countries (Egypt, Ethiopia and Uganda). The increase was highest in Nigeria by 34,1% from 4 220 tourists in January 2011 to 5 659 tourists in January 2012 while Egypt had the greatest decline of 18,7% from 620 tourists in January 2011 to 504 tourists in January 2012.

1.2.3 Purpose of visit of tourists

As observed from data given in Table 4, in January 2012, an overwhelming majority (92,4%) of tourists were in South Africa for holidays compared to only 1,7% and 2,0% of tourists who were in South Africa for business and study purposes respectively. A detailed analysis reveals that of all the tourists from each of the overseas regions, at least 69,0% came to South Africa for holidays. Tourists from Europe (87,4%), Middle East (84,6%), Australasia (83,8%), North America (81,1%), Asia (72,0%), and Central and South America (69,8%) were in South Africa mostly for holidays. Middle East and Europe had a higher proportion (6,6% and 4,2% respectively) of their tourists in South Africa for business compared to other overseas regions.

The majority (95,3%) of African tourists came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries namely:

- Whereas 95,9% of tourists from the SADC countries were on holidays; 72,8% of tourists on holiday came from 'other' African countries. Data on the regions of 'other' African countries show that tourists on holiday constituted 77,1%; 68,7% and 64,6% for West Africa; East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 3,1% of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,0% from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion (10,8%) of its tourists in South Africa for business.
- Students made up 13,8% of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,8% from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa had the highest proportion (19,9%) of their tourists in South Africa for study purposes.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution of tourists

Table 5 shows that, in January 2012, there were 511 858 (57,7%) male and 374 233 (42,2%) female tourists. The overseas tourists were made up of 117 005 (55,6%) male tourists and 93 008 (44,2%) female tourists. There were 382 504 (58,1%) male and 274 924 (41,8%) female tourists from the SADC countries. The tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 11 018 (66,6%) males and 5 520 (33,4%) females.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into three broad groups namely; those younger than 15 years, 15 to 64 years, and 65 years and older. The overall results presented in Table 5 show that 90,2% of tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years; 5,3% were aged less than 15 years and 4,4% were aged 65 years and older. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 79,9% of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 93,5% and 90,8% of tourists in the same age range from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries respectively.

For tourists aged less than 15 years, the overseas and 'other' African tourists had a proportion of 6,5% and 7,5%, respectively while the SADC countries had a lower proportion of 4,8%. There was a higher proportion of young female tourists in comparison to young male tourists for the SADC countries and 'other' African countries and vice versa for young tourists from overseas.

A comparison of the three regions shows relatively high proportions of the elderly among both male (13,2%) and female (14,0%) tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to tourists from the SADC countries amongst which 1,3% of males and 2,0% of females were aged 65 years and older. Similarly among tourists from 'other' African countries, 1,4% of males and 2,1% of females were aged 65 years and older.

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2. Figures

Figure 1. Number of tourists from eight leading overseas countries in January 2011 and January 2012

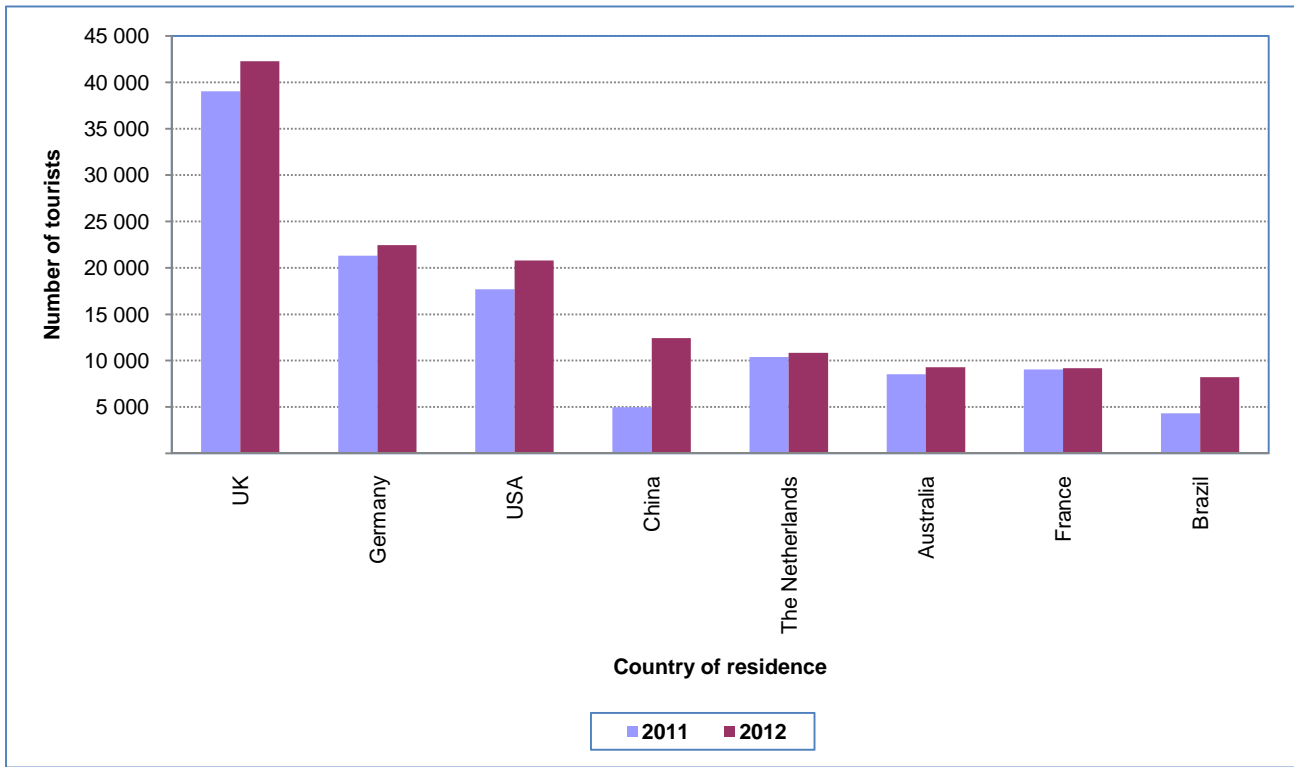


Figure 2. Number of tourists from eight leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in January 2011 and January 2012

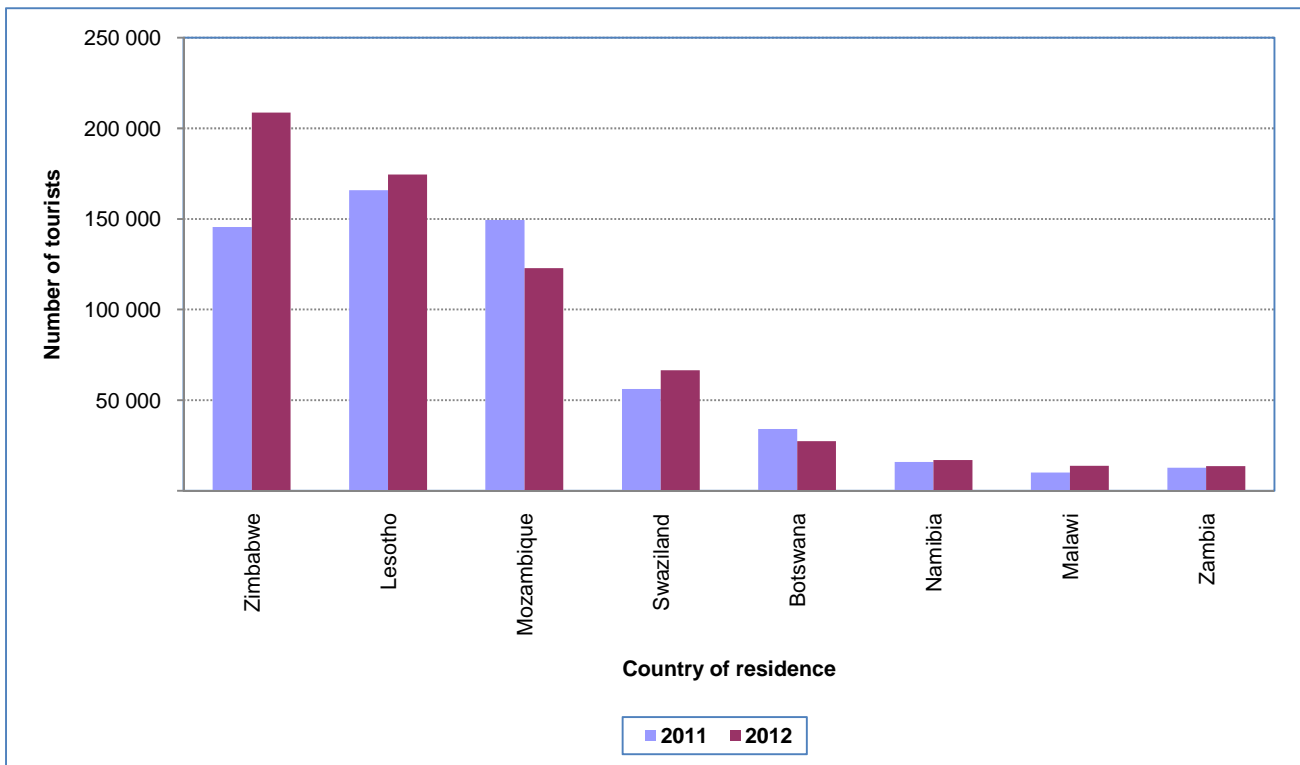
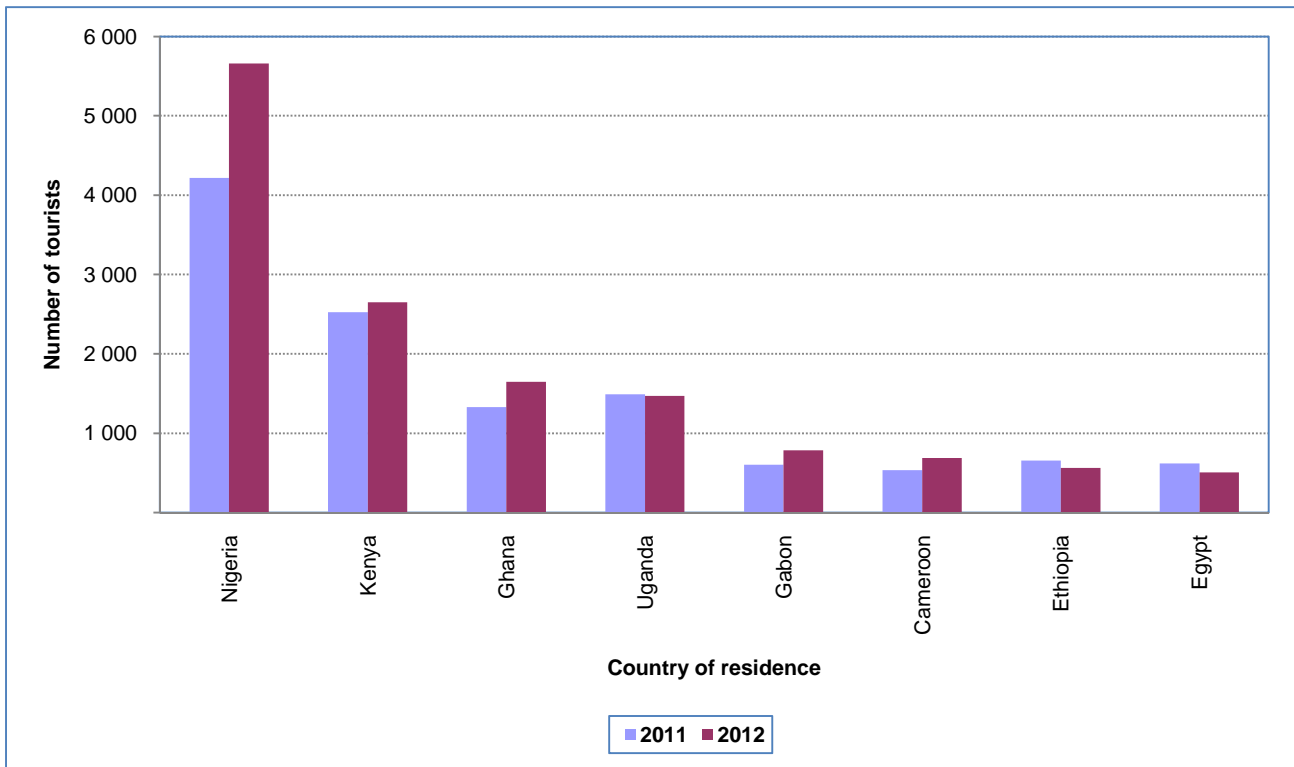


Figure 3. Number of tourists from eight leading 'other' African countries in January 2011 and January 2012



3. Tables

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

Travel direction	January	December	January	% change	
	2011	2011	2012	January 2011 - January 2012	December 2011 - January 2012
Grand total	3 035 357	3 647 159	2 972 236	-2,1	-18,5
South African residents	1 049 413	1 210 785	876 220	-16,5	-27,6
Arrivals	627 199	519 047	526 250	-16,1	1,4
Departures	422 214	691 738	349 970	-17,1	-49,4
Foreign travellers	1 985 944	2 436 374	2 096 016	5,5	-14,0
Arrivals	1 129 054	1 241 599	1 249 101	10,6	0,6
Departures	856 890	1 194 775	846 915	-1,2	-29,1
Foreign arrivals	1 129 054	1 241 599	1 249 101	10,6	0,6
Non-visitors	22 947	50 523	87 580	281,7	73,3
Visitors	1 106 107	1 191 076	1 161 521	5,0	-2,5
Visitors	1 106 107	1 191 076	1 161 521	5,0	-2,5
Arrivals only	486 778	394 600	576 852	18,5	46,2
Single trips	321 684	434 453	327 065	1,7	-24,7
Multiple trips	297 645	362 023	257 604	-13,5	-28,8
Visitors	1 106 107	1 191 076	1 161 521	5,0	-2,5
Same day	309 581	379 972	274 455	-11,3	-27,8
Overnight (tourists)	796 526	811 104	887 066	11,4	9,4

Table 2. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel

Travel Direction	January		Mode of travel (January 2012)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	3 035 357	2 972 236	185 981	18 768	662 860	7 554	875 163	2 082 810	13 527	736
South African residents	1 049 413	876 220	43 770	12 602	251 819	4 736	312 927	556 598	6 687	8
Arrivals	627 199	526 250	24 275	6 941	143 881	2 398	177 495	344 827	3 923	5
Departures	422 214	349 970	19 495	5 661	107 938	2 338	135 432	211 771	2 764	3
Foreign travellers	1 985 944	2 096 016	142 211	6 166	411 041	2 818	562 236	1 526 212	6 840	728
Arrivals	1 129 054	1 249 101	69 908	2 773	221 316	1 358	295 355	948 729	4 622	395
Departures	856 890	846 915	72 303	3 393	189 725	1 460	266 881	577 483	2 218	333
Visitors	1 106 107	1 161 521	64 866	2 074	189 149	926	257 015	901 745	2 655	106
Same day	309 581	274 455	489	28	14 515	101	15 133	259 187	135	-
Overnight (tourists)	796 526	887 066	64 377	2 046	174 634	825	241 882	642 558	2 520	106

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

Country of residence	January		Mode of travel (January 2012)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Total	796 526	887 066	64 377	2 046	174 634	825	241 882	642 558	2 520	106
Overseas	179 493	210 253	60 928	1 849	124 702	578	188 057	19 825	2 355	16
Europe	117 476	126 501	48 827	1 222	61 773	217	112 039	12 536	1 918	8
Austria	2 070	2 455	870	61	1 254	3	2 188	250	17	-
Belgium	3 106	3 407	1 191	10	1 760	9	2 970	435	2	-
Denmark	2 489	2 737	873	31	1 592	3	2 499	177	60	1
France	9 036	9 183	2 700	57	5 157	36	7 950	1 218	14	1
Germany	21 313	22 451	9 553	183	10 191	35	19 962	2 423	66	-
Ireland	3 002	2 923	1 354	29	1 285	6	2 674	238	11	-
Italy	4 222	4 664	1 526	68	2 671	6	4 271	386	4	3
Norway	2 078	2 221	945	6	1 079	-	2 030	186	5	-
Portugal	3 101	3 800	312	12	2 178	15	2 517	1 274	8	1
Spain	1 451	1 710	349	3	1 243	2	1 597	108	5	-
Sweden	5 292	4 715	1 994	15	2 259	6	4 274	437	4	-
Switzerland	3 768	4 601	1 765	56	2 195	7	4 023	569	8	1
The Netherlands	10 400	10 839	4 791	54	4 354	5	9 204	1 613	22	-
UK	39 041	42 284	17 728	583	19 614	65	37 990	2 635	1 659	-
Other	7 107	8 511	2 876	54	4 941	19	7 890	587	33	1
North America	22 193	25 768	5 046	65	17 728	240	23 079	2 366	323	-
Canada	4 508	4 993	1 108	34	3 270	23	4 435	475	83	-
USA	17 685	20 775	3 938	31	14 458	217	18 644	1 891	240	-
Central and South America	7 019	12 503	719	12	11 050	18	11 799	696	8	-
Argentina	1 471	2 501	405	2	1 997	2	2 406	92	3	-
Brazil	4 331	8 228	175	8	7 553	6	7 742	485	1	-
Chile	233	293	23	-	247	-	270	19	4	-
Other	984	1 481	116	2	1 253	10	1 381	100	-	-

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

Country of residence	January		Mode of travel (January 2012)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Australasia	9 821	10 769	1 258	111	8 358	55	9 782	926	60	1
Australia	8 544	9 289	1 083	80	7 261	55	8 479	754	56	-
New Zealand	1 256	1 457	172	31	1 081	-	1 284	169	4	-
Other	21	23	3	-	16	-	19	3	-	1
Middle East	2 865	3 089	523	21	2 298	12	2 854	230	-	5
Iran	374	360	98	4	252	-	354	6	-	-
Israel	1 489	1 452	108	-	1 173	1	1 282	170	-	-
Saudi Arabia	215	514	124	-	382	8	514	-	-	-
Other	787	763	193	17	491	3	704	54	-	5
Asia	20 119	31 623	4 555	418	23 495	36	28 504	3 071	46	2
China	4 968	12 429	2 321	33	9 495	23	11 872	552	4	1
India	6 415	7 196	573	207	5 195	5	5 980	1 207	8	1
Japan	1 331	1 666	134	13	1 420	1	1 568	97	1	-
Malaysia	608	1 032	487	30	502	-	1 019	13	-	-
Pakistan	1 331	1 597	150	80	990	-	1 220	377	-	-
Philippines	571	1 194	53	9	995	5	1 062	121	11	-
Singapore	387	595	189	1	374	-	564	31	-	-
South Korea	1 945	2 312	368	10	1 673	-	2 051	259	2	-
Taiwan	901	1 369	82	-	1 217	-	1 299	64	6	-
Other	1 662	2 233	198	35	1 634	2	1 869	350	14	-
Africa	615 250	674 698	3 178	191	48 948	244	52 561	621 905	143	89
SADC	601 025	658 157	2 868	179	34 435	201	37 683	620 368	79	27
Angola	3 815	6 206	843	2	5 175	13	6 033	173	-	-
Botswana	34 174	27 322	16	-	2 648	15	2 679	24 609	33	1
DRC	3 018	2 758	13	-	1 937	12	1 962	788	8	-
Lesotho	165 921	174 466	2	-	396	3	401	174 065	-	-
Madagascar	223	333	-	-	326	-	326	3	1	3

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

Country of residence	January		Mode of travel (January 2012)							
			Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
	2011	2012	Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
Malawi	10 096	13 769	8	-	1 617	6	1 631	12 138	-	-
Mauritius	1 405	1 651	366	123	987	-	1 476	174	1	-
Mozambique	149 393	122 959	165	40	3 452	56	3 713	119 238	6	2
Namibia	15 937	16 886	1 346	-	3 050	29	4 425	12 445	12	4
Seychelles	244	270	3	-	261	-	264	6	-	-
Swaziland	56 297	66 442	4	2	537	2	545	65 895	2	-
Tanzania	2 146	2 710	6	-	1 502	1	1 509	1 184	-	17
Zambia	12 799	13 694	32	-	4 230	15	4 277	9 417	-	-
Zimbabwe	145 557	208 691	64	12	8 317	49	8 442	200 233	16	-
'Other' Africa	14 225	16 541	310	12	14 513	43	14 878	1 537	64	62
East and Central Africa	6 642	7 143	60	4	6 233	16	6 313	747	63	20
Burundi	78	101	1	-	96	-	97	4	-	-
Cameroon	534	687	9	-	629	1	639	48	-	-
Central African Republic	10	9	-	-	8	-	8	1	-	-
Chad	14	37	1	-	32	-	33	-	-	4
Comoros	12	18	1	-	15	-	16	2	-	-
Congo	314	331	4	-	295	6	305	14	-	12
Djibouti	4	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-	-
Equat Guinea	40	57	7	1	45	-	53	4	-	-
Eritrea	60	96	5	-	87	-	92	4	-	-
Ethiopia	653	561	5	1	499	1	506	55	-	-
Gabon	603	784	2	-	713	-	715	6	63	-
Kenya	2 524	2 651	18	-	2 297	1	2 316	335	-	-
Reunion	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	295	270	3	1	240	-	244	26	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	2	57	-	-	53	3	56	1	-	-
Somalia	7	11	-	-	8	-	8	3	-	-
Uganda	1 490	1 469	4	1	1 212	4	1 221	244	-	4

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

Country of residence	January		Mode of travel (January 2012)							
	2011	2012	Air					Road	Sea	Unspecified
			Cape Town	K Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total			
West Africa	6 363	8 461	128	2	7 535	21	7 686	735	-	40
Benin	97	79	2	-	70	-	72	7	-	-
Burkina Faso	34	49	3	-	37	2	42	1	-	6
Cape Verde Island	41	65	4	-	50	-	54	11	-	-
Côte D'Ivoire	119	149	16	1	132	-	149	-	-	-
Gambia	28	76	4	-	71	-	75	1	-	-
Ghana	1 328	1 649	49	-	1 458	3	1 510	133	-	6
Guinea	133	237	2	-	144	-	146	77	-	14
Guinea-Bissau	11	13	-	-	10	-	10	3	-	-
Liberia	23	48	1	-	43	-	44	4	-	-
Mali	54	86	3	-	65	-	68	18	-	-
Mauritania	10	21	2	-	12	-	14	-	-	7
Niger	14	28	3	-	13	4	20	1	-	7
Nigeria	4 220	5 659	31	1	5 162	12	5 206	453	-	-
Saint Helena	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senegal	143	188	-	-	176	-	176	12	-	-
Sierra Leone	61	50	3	-	33	-	36	14	-	-
Togo	33	64	5	-	59	-	64	-	-	-
North Africa	1 220	937	122	6	745	6	879	55	1	2
Algeria	94	65	2	-	49	6	57	8	-	-
Egypt	620	504	41	3	432	-	476	28	-	-
Libya	207	82	27	-	46	-	73	7	-	2
Morocco	117	98	24	3	66	-	93	5	-	-
The Sudan	125	115	16	-	93	-	109	6	-	-
Tunisia	55	68	12	-	54	-	66	1	1	-
Western Sahara	2	5	-	-	5	-	5	-	-	-
Unspecified	1 783	2 115	271	6	984	3	1 264	828	22	1

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

Country of residence	January		Purpose of visit (January 2012)			
	2011	2012	Holiday	Business	Study	Transit
Total	796 526	887 066	819 565	15 142	18 141	34 218
Overseas	179 493	210 253	174 615	7 804	4 201	23 633
Europe	117 476	126 501	110 596	5 285	1 856	8 764
Austria	2 070	2 455	2 195	88	26	146
Belgium	3 106	3 407	3 004	124	63	216
Denmark	2 489	2 737	2 293	116	25	303
France	9 036	9 183	7 837	455	216	675
Germany	21 313	22 451	19 872	964	407	1 208
Ireland	3 002	2 923	2 548	143	36	196
Italy	4 222	4 664	3 882	279	53	450
Norway	2 078	2 221	1 775	109	83	254
Portugal	3 101	3 800	2 982	81	39	698
Spain	1 451	1 710	1 312	118	29	251
Sweden	5 292	4 715	4 172	173	54	316
Switzerland	3 768	4 601	4 099	109	63	330
The Netherlands	10 400	10 839	10 016	315	186	322
UK	39 041	42 284	37 401	1 821	455	2 607
Other	7 107	8 511	7 208	390	121	792
North America	22 193	25 768	20 891	910	1 039	2 928
Canada	4 508	4 993	4 235	135	95	528
USA	17 685	20 775	16 656	775	944	2 400
Central and South America	7 019	12 503	8 733	148	341	3 281
Argentina	1 471	2 501	2 126	17	17	341
Brazil	4 331	8 228	5 430	80	241	2 477
Chile	233	293	228	4	3	58
Other	984	1 481	949	47	80	405

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

Country of residence	January		Purpose of visit (January 2012)			
	2011	2012	Holiday	Business	Study	Transit
Australasia	9 821	10 769	9 023	240	70	1 436
Australia	8 544	9 289	7 797	201	61	1 230
New Zealand	1 256	1 457	1 218	39	9	191
Other	21	23	8			15
Middle East	2 865	3 089	2 612	204	70	203
Iran	374	360	326	12	15	7
Israel	1 489	1 452	1 256	84	13	99
Saudi Arabia	215	514	484	9	17	4
Other	787	763	546	99	25	93
Asia	20 119	31 623	22 760	1 017	825	7 021
China	4 968	12 429	9 488	183	109	2 649
India	6 415	7 196	5 087	482	219	1 408
Japan	1 331	1 666	1 079	101	29	457
Malaysia	608	1 032	876	21	42	93
Pakistan	1 331	1 597	1 170	72	40	315
Philippines	571	1 194	452	22	21	699
Singapore	387	595	471	31	14	79
South Korea	1 945	2 312	1 632	63	261	356
Taiwan	901	1 369	1 163	8	34	164
Other	1 662	2 233	1 342	34	56	801
Africa	615 250	674 698	643 181	7 258	13 882	10 377
SADC	601 025	658 157	631 144	6 745	11 603	8 665
Angola	3 815	6 206	4 532	30	964	680
Botswana	34 174	27 322	24 756	137	1 324	1 105
DRC	3 018	2 758	2 210	36	397	115
Lesotho	165 921	174 466	173 139	222	958	147
Madagascar	223	333	168	6	37	122

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

Country of residence	January		Purpose of visit (January 2012)			
	2011	2012	Holiday	Business	Study	Transit
Malawi	10 096	13 769	12 989	193	297	290
Mauritius	1 405	1 651	1 105	70	220	256
Mozambique	149 393	122 959	119 954	1 536	218	1 251
Namibia	15 937	16 886	11 983	1 841	2 123	939
Seychelles	244	270	237	5	19	9
Swaziland	56 297	66 442	63 836	750	1 635	221
Tanzania	2 146	2 710	2 055	41	318	296
Zambia	12 799	13 694	11 331	960	485	918
Zimbabwe	145 557	208 691	202 849	918	2 608	2 316
'Other' Africa	14 225	16 541	12 037	513	2 279	1 712
East and Central Africa	6 642	7 143	4 906	214	1 419	604
Burundi	78	101	75	4	10	12
Cameroon	534	687	417	12	196	62
Central African Republic	10	9	7	1	1	-
Chad	14	37	22	-	9	6
Comoros	12	18	13	-	2	3
Congo	314	331	220	2	97	12
Djibouti	4	4	1	1	1	1
Equat Guinea	40	57	22	3	32	-
Eritrea	60	96	78	6	7	5
Ethiopia	653	561	420	13	58	70
Gabon	603	784	620	3	143	18
Kenya	2 524	2 651	1 775	128	541	207
Reunion	2	-	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	295	270	158	6	93	13
Sao Tome and Principe	2	57	11	-	-	46
Somalia	7	11	10	-	-	1
Uganda	1 490	1 469	1 057	35	229	148

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

Country of residence	January		Purpose of visit (January 2012)			
	2011	2012	Holiday	Business	Study	Transit
West Africa	6 363	8 461	6 526	198	753	984
Benin	97	79	65	3	8	3
Burkina Faso	34	49	38	5	3	3
Cape Verde Island	41	65	62	-	-	3
Côte D'Ivoire	119	149	96	16	24	13
Gambia	28	76	27	-	1	48
Ghana	1 328	1 649	1 350	53	89	157
Guinea	133	237	148	1	10	78
Guinea-Bissau	11	13	9	1	-	3
Liberia	23	48	34	2	4	8
Mali	54	86	51	3	5	27
Mauritania	10	21	16	2	-	3
Niger	14	28	24	3	1	-
Nigeria	4 220	5 659	4 379	101	589	590
Saint Helena	14	-	-	-	-	-
Senegal	143	188	148	4	2	34
Sierra Leone	61	50	35	-	10	5
Togo	33	64	44	4	7	9
North Africa	1 220	937	605	101	107	124
Algeria	94	65	53	4	6	2
Egypt	620	504	340	51	25	88
Libya	207	82	44	2	26	10
Morocco	117	98	56	22	9	11
The Sudan	125	115	68	9	37	1
Tunisia	55	68	39	13	4	12
Western Sahara	2	5	5	-	-	-
Unspecified	1 783	2 115	1 769	80	58	208

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

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (January 2012)			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	887 066	210 253	658 157	16 541	2 115
	<15	46 739	13 748	31 665	1 245	81
	15 - 64	800 310	167 906	615 447	15 019	1 938
	65+	39 292	28 518	10 412	268	94
	Unspecified	725	81	633	9	2
Male	Total	511 858	117 005	382 504	11 018	1 331
	<15	23 535	7 108	15 774	617	36
	15 - 64	467 355	94 407	361 460	10 242	1 246
	65+	20 573	15 449	4 923	152	49
	Unspecified	395	41	347	7	-
Female	Total	374 233	93 008	274 924	5 520	781
	<15	23 203	6 640	15 891	628	44
	15 - 64	332 181	73 357	253 357	4 775	692
	65+	18 587	12 980	5 446	116	45
	Unspecified	262	31	230	1	-
Unspecified	Total	975	240	729	3	3
	<15	1	-	-	-	1
	15 - 64	774	142	630	2	-
	65+	132	89	43	-	-
	Unspecified	68	9	56	1	2

4. Explanatory notes

4.1 Introduction

Legal movements across South African borders as well as legal immigration into South Africa fall under the jurisdiction of the DHA. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) then processes 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 to estimate, monitor and understand salient characteristics of foreign travellers and volumes of South African residents travelling outside South Africa; and
- 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.

The information on documented migrants provides crucial information on receiving countries of South African emigrants which could be targeted in initiatives geared towards attracting back migrants into the country. In addition, the data on permanent residents are valuable in assessing not only the demographic and economic profiles of immigrants but also their contribution to national social and economic programmes.

4.2 Purpose of the statistical release

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

4.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data on arrivals and departures of South African residents and foreign travellers. A detailed analysis of the data on foreign tourists with respect to: mode of travel, purpose of visit, sex and age distribution is covered in the release. Statistics on documented migration, that is self-declared emigrants, are not reported due to the unavailability of data.

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 downloads the data covering a particular calendar month from the mainframe of the State Information Technology Agency (SITA), where the DHA stores its data.
- As part of data interrogation, data from the OR 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 has been accompanied by an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern was also observed when the volume of travellers decreased. However, the volume of passengers recorded by ACSA is generally higher than that of the DHA because of, among other reasons, travellers who are in transit and those who boarded airplanes but refused entry into the country. In January 2012, the DHA data was 6,0% lower 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.

Due to unavailability of data from the DHA, information on documented immigrants is not included in this current publication. The documented immigration information will be provided as soon as it is made available to Stats SA.

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 report

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, Asia, Africa: SADC, 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 belongs 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 Symbol used

- = nil

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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