



The South Africa I know, the home I understand

Statistical release

P0351

Tourism and Migration

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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 January 2016. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country during this month. The tourists are classified by region and country of residence. Details of their mode of travel; purpose of visit; and age and sex distribution are also provided.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

1. Key findings

1.1 Travellers

1.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 3 814 331 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in January 2016. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 976 667 South African residents and 2 837 664 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 584 653 arrivals, 391 185 departures and 829 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 558 854, 1 220 540 and 58 270 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in January 2015 and January 2016 indicates that the volume of arrivals decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers. Departures and transits increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 1,6% (from 593 988 in January 2015 to 584 653 in January 2016), departures increased by 0,1% (from 390 686 in January 2015 to 391 185 in January 2016), and transits increased by 20,5% (from 688 in January 2015 to 829 in January 2016). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 11,4% (from 1 399 328 in January 2015 to 1 558 854 in January 2016), departures increased by 8,5% (from 1 124 873 in January 2015 to 1 220 540 in January 2016), and transits increased by 2,7% (from 56 742 in January 2015 to 58 270 in January 2016).

A comparison between the movements in December 2015 and January 2016 indicates that the volume of arrivals increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, while departures and transits decreased for both. The volume of arrivals for South African residents increased by 9,3% (from 534 979 in December 2015 to 584 653 in January 2016); departures decreased by 46,1% (from 726 210 in December 2015 to 391 185 in January 2016); and transits decreased by 3,4% (from 858 in December 2015 to 829 in January 2016). For foreign travellers, the volume of arrivals increased by 0,7% (from 1 547 900 in December 2015 to 1 558 854 in January 2016); departures decreased by 21,2% (from 1 549 157 in December 2015 to 1 220 540 in January 2016); and transits decreased by 5,5% (from 61 673 in December 2015 to 58 270 in January 2016).

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

As presented in Table 1, in January 2016, 117 369 (7,5%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 441 485 (92,5%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in January 2016 but did not depart in January 2016 [497 274 (34,5%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in January 2016 and left in January 2016 [429 745 (29,8%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in January 2016 [514 466 (35,7%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In January 2016, there were 428 844 (29,8%) same-day visitors and 1 012 641 (70,2%) tourists. Between January 2015 and January 2016, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 2,2% (from 419 537 in January 2015 to 428 844 in January 2016) and that of tourists increased by 15,4% (from 877 715 in January 2015 to 1 012 641 in January 2016). Between December 2015 and January 2016, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 22,0% (from 550 118 in December 2015 to 428 844 in January 2016), and tourists increased by 13,4% (from 892 720 in December 2015 to 1 012 641 in January 2016).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 10 show that in January 2016, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 786 051 (73,0%) of the 3 814 331 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 1 006 591 (26,4%). Compared to use of air and land transport, a much smaller number of travellers, 21 689 (0,6%) used sea transport. The arrivals data for South African residents show that 212 173 (36,3%) came by air, 370 223 (63,3%) came by road and 2 257 (0,4%) arrived by sea. For departures, 149 955 (38,3%) used air, 237 720 (60,8%) used road and 3 510 (0,9%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit (829) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 284 053 (18,2%) arrived by air, 1 266 420 (81,2%) came by road and 8 381 (0,5%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 301 311 (24,7%) foreign travellers left by air, 911 688 (74,7%) left by road and 7 541 (0,6%) left by sea. All travellers in transit (58 270) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [413 019 (96,3%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 15 617 (3,6%) of same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that 765 410 (75,6%) used road transport, 244 657 (24,2%) came by air and 2 574 (0,3%) arrived by sea.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them according to their respective countries and regions. Information on the specific region and country of residence of the tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on page 11. In January 2016, 192 003 (89,3%) of overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 20 353 (9,5%) came in by road and 2 547 (1,2%) arrived by sea. This is in contrast to the number of tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries who came into South Africa predominantly by road [743 624 (95,1%)]. Only 38 372 (4,9%) tourists from SADC countries came in by air and 6 (less than 0,1%) came by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 13 739 (91,3%), with 1 288 (8,6%) using road transport and 21 (0,1%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In January 2016, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 144 130 (67,1%); North America, 26 962 (12,5%); Asia, 25 002 (11,6%); Australasia, 10 011 (4,7%); Central and South America, 5 332 (2,5%), and Middle East, 3 466 (1,6%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 7 indicate that the United Kingdom (UK), 46 264 (21,5%); Germany, 28 944 (13,5%); United States of America (USA), 21 786 (10,1%); The Netherlands, 11 980 (5,6%); France, 11 728 (5,5%); China, 9 406 (4,4%); Australia, 8 508 (4,0%); India, 6 638 (3,1%); Sweden, 5 625 (2,6%); and Switzerland, 5 424 (2,5%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in January 2016. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 72,7% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in January 2015 and January 2016 shows that the number of tourists increased for all of the ten leading overseas countries. China had the largest increase of 92,5% (from 4 885 tourists in January 2015 to 9 406 in January 2016), while Switzerland had the lowest increase of 2,0% (from 5 320 tourists in January 2015 to 5 424 in January 2016).

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 782 002 (98,1%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 7 849 (1,0%); East and Central Africa, 5 812 (0,7%); and North Africa 1 387 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2016 were Zimbabwe, 250 514 (32,0%); Lesotho, 209 403 (26,8%); Mozambique, 145 775 (18,6%); Swaziland, 75 176 (9,6%); Botswana, 44 458 (5,7%); Namibia, 17 033 (2,2%); Zambia, 13 758 (1,8%); Malawi, 12 282 (1,6%); Angola, 5 565 (0,7%) and Tanzania, 2 968 (0,4%) (see Figure 2 on page 7). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,4% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in January 2015 and January 2016 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists decreased for two of the ten leading countries (Malawi and Angola), and increased for the rest. Malawi showed the largest decrease of 15,4% (from 14 519 tourists in January 2015 to 12 282 tourists in January 2016), while Lesotho showed the largest increase of 33,7% (from 156 571 tourists in January 2015 to 209 403 tourists in January 2016).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2016 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8, were: Nigeria, 5 381 (35,8%); Kenya, 2 097 (13,9%); Ghana,

1 398 (9,3%); Uganda, 1 147 (7,6%); Gabon, 780 (5,2%); Egypt, 779 (5,2%); Cameroon, 632 (4,2%); Ethiopia, 450 (3,0%); Congo, 317 (2,1%) and Côte d'Ivoire, 230 (1,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 87,8% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in January 2015 and January 2016 shows that the number of tourists increased for five of the ten leading countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Gabon, Egypt and Uganda), and decreased for the other five (Congo, Ghana, Ethiopia, Cameroon and Kenya). Côte d'Ivoire had the largest increase of 27,1% (from 181 tourists in January 2015 to 230 in January 2016), while Congo had the largest decrease of 21,5% (from 404 tourists in January 2015 to 317 in January 2016).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on page 15, in January 2016, the majority of tourists, 972 836 (96,1%), were in South Africa for holidays compared to 25 275 (2,5%) and 14 530 (1,4%) who were in South Africa for business and for study purposes respectively. A detailed analysis reveals that of all the tourists from each of the overseas regions, more than 90,0% came to South Africa for holidays. A total of 9 814 (98,0%) tourists from Australasia, 138 816 (96,3%) from Europe, 5 117 (96,0%) from Central and South America, 25 426 (94,3%) from North America, 3 220 (92,9%) from the Middle East and 23 146 (92,6%) from Asia were in South Africa for holidays. Middle East had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business [4,2% (145)] while Asia had the highest proportion of tourists who came for study purposes [3,3% (814)] compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists, 766 651 (96,2%) came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 754 254 (96,5%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 12 397 (82,4%) 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 86,5% (6 790); 78,2% (1 084); and 77,8% (4 523) for West Africa, North Africa and East and Central Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 5,2% (776) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 2,4% (18 646) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 11,1% (154) of its tourists to South Africa who came for business purposes.
- Students made up 12,5% (1 875) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,2% (9 102) from the SADC countries. East and central Africa had the highest proportion, 17,0% (988) of student tourists in South Africa.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in January 2016, there were 567 876 (56,1%) male and 444 765 (43,9%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 116 750 (54,3%) male tourists and 98 153 (45,7%) female tourists. There were 440 783 (56,4%) male and 341 219 (43,6%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 9 954 (66,1%) male and 5 094 (33,9%) female tourists.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into three broad groups: Those younger than 15 years, 15 to 64 years, and 65 years and older. The overall results presented in Table 5 show that 49 775 (4,9%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 907 096 (89,6%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 55 770 (5,5%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 730 658 (93,4%) of SADC and 13 898 (92,4%) of 'other' African countries tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 161 867 (75,3%) of tourists in the same age range from overseas. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was lower among tourists from SADC countries, 4,9% (38 168), than among those from overseas countries, 5,0% (10 737) and 'other' African countries, 5,7% (858).

A comparison of the three regions shows relatively higher proportions of the elderly among both male and female tourists from overseas. Tourists aged 65 years and older comprised 19,4% (22 637) of male tourists and 20,0% (19 662) of female tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to the pattern observed among tourists from the other two regions where tourists aged 65 years and older comprised less than 3,0% of both male and female tourists. From the SADC countries elderly tourists made up 1,4% (5 962) and 2,1% (7 214) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 1,5% (151) and 2,8% (141) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

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

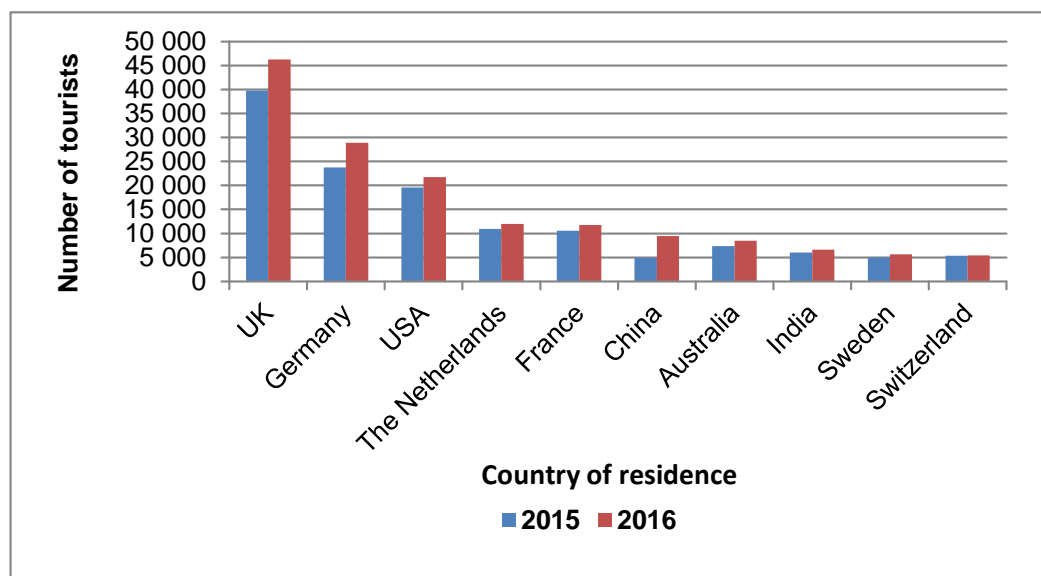


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in January 2015 and January 2016

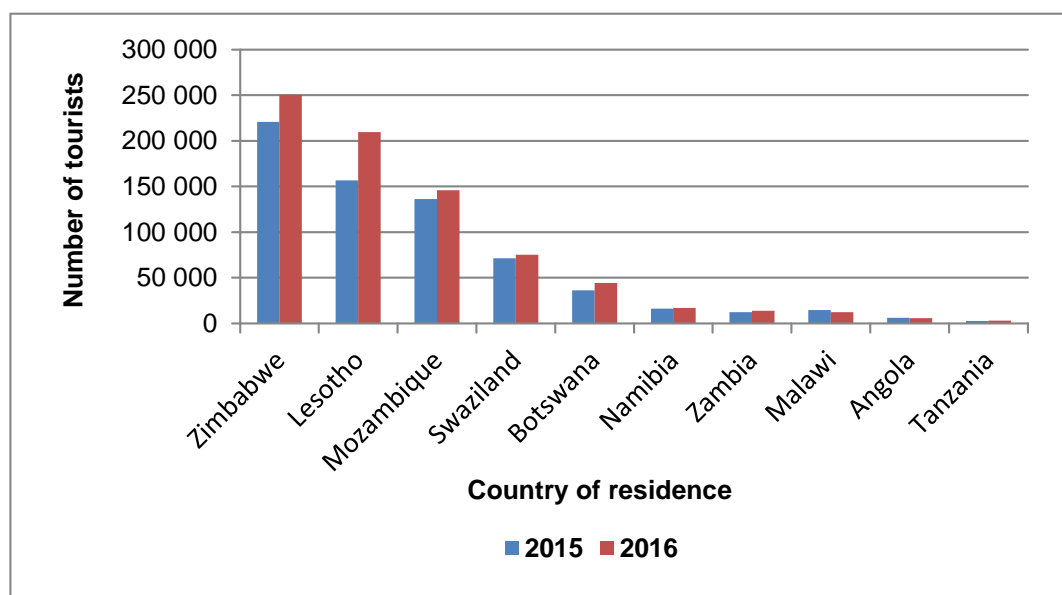
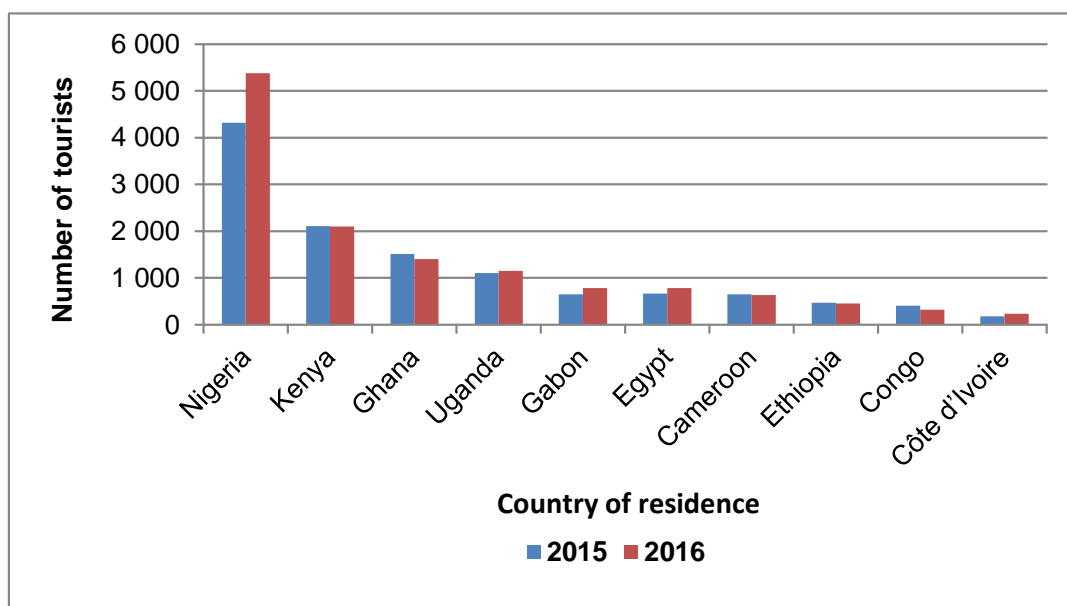


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in January 2015 and January 2016



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	January 2015	December 2015	January 2016	% Change Dec 2015 - Jan 2016	% Change Jan 2015 - Jan 2016
Total	3 566 305	4 420 777	3 814 331	-13,7%	7,0%
South African residents	985 362	1 262 047	976 667	-22,6%	-0,9%
Arrivals	593 988	534 979	584 653	9,3%	-1,6%
Departures	390 686	726 210	391 185	-46,1%	0,1%
Transit	688	858	829	-3,4%	20,5%
Foreign travellers	2 580 943	3 158 730	2 837 664	-10,2%	9,9%
Arrivals	1 399 328	1 547 900	1 558 854	0,7%	11,4%
Departures	1 124 873	1 549 157	1 220 540	-21,2%	8,5%
Transit	56 742	61 673	58 270	-5,5%	2,7%
Foreign arrivals	1 399 328	1 547 900	1 558 854	0,7%	11,4%
Non-visitors	102 076	105 062	117 369	11,7%	15,0%
Visitors	1 297 252	1 442 838	1 441 485	-0,1%	11,1%
Visitors	1 297 252	1 442 838	1 441 485	-0,1%	11,1%
Arrivals only	436 818	328 456	497 274	51,4%	13,8%
Single trips	416 685	546 371	429 745	-21,3%	3,1%
Multiple trips	443 749	568 011	514 466	-9,4%	15,9%
Visitors	1 297 252	1 442 838	1 441 485	-0,1%	11,1%
Same day	419 537	550 118	428 844	-22,0%	2,2%
Overnight (tourists)	877 715	892 720	1 012 641	13,4%	15,4%

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	3 814 331	197 789	30 450	773 273	5 079	1 006 591	2 786 051	21 689
South African residents	976 667	46 766	20 113	293 051	3 027	362 957	607 943	5 767
Arrivals	584 653	27 287	11 925	171 443	1 518	212 173	370 223	2 257
Departures	391 185	19 478	8 188	120 780	1 509	149 955	237 720	3 510
Transit	829	1	-	828	-	829	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 837 664	151 023	10 337	480 222	2 052	643 634	2 178 108	15 922
Arrivals	1 558 854	75 100	4 372	203 686	895	284 053	1 266 420	8 381
Departures	1 220 540	75 852	5 965	218 337	1 157	301 311	911 688	7 541
Transit	58 270	71	-	58 199	-	58 270	-	-
Visitors	1 441 485	70 797	3 086	185 753	638	260 274	1 178 429	2 782
Same day	428 844	414	10	15 107	86	15 617	413 019	208
Tourist	1 012 641	70 383	3 076	170 646	552	244 657	765 410	2 574

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

Country of residence	January		Air (January 2016)					(January 2016)	
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total	Road	Sea
Total	877 712	1 012 641	70 383	3 076	170 646	552	244 657	765 410	2 574
Overseas	184 864	214 903	65 832	2 582	123 202	387	192 003	20 353	2 547
Europe	127 260	144 130	55 883	1 846	71 492	159	129 380	13 102	1 648
Austria	2 792	2 902	1 164	92	1 402	-	2 658	226	18
Belgium	3 465	3 749	1 448	18	1 909	3	3 378	363	8
Denmark	3 279	3 413	1 145	26	1 983	6	3 160	250	3
France	10 534	11 728	3 886	127	5 959	2	9 974	1 741	13
Germany	23 792	28 944	12 893	214	12 792	27	25 926	2 399	619
Ireland	2 547	2 708	1 165	68	1 284	5	2 522	178	8
Italy	3 981	4 617	1 548	93	2 432	6	4 079	536	2
Norway	2 066	2 022	878	20	905	4	1 807	192	23
Portugal	3 784	3 529	436	27	1 682	3	2 148	1 377	4
Spain	1 779	2 074	524	36	1 242	21	1 823	248	3
Sweden	4 988	5 625	2 437	74	2 611	6	5 128	491	6
Switzerland	5 320	5 424	2 564	65	2 318	16	4 963	445	16
The Netherlands	10 960	11 980	5 168	58	5 181	4	10 411	1 536	33
UK	39 776	46 264	17 538	816	24 641	49	43 044	2 343	877
Other	8 197	9 151	3 089	112	5 151	7	8 359	777	15
North America	24 219	26 962	5 545	191	18 465	121	24 322	2 469	171
Canada	4 632	5 176	1 527	30	3 010	8	4 575	552	49
USA	19 587	21 786	4 018	161	15 455	113	19 747	1 917	122
Central and South America	4 914	5 332	322	11	4 432	25	4 790	539	3
Argentina	586	1 082	36	2	996	-	1 034	48	-
Brazil	3 127	2 870	165	4	2 318	6	2 493	376	1
Mexico	166	272	32	2	219	10	263	8	1
Other	1 035	1 108	89	3	899	9	1 000	107	1

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

Country of residence	January		Air (January 2016)					(January 2016)	
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total	Road	Sea
Australasia	8 650	10 011	1 070	152	7 790	49	9 061	920	30
Australia	7 354	8 508	898	115	6 674	38	7 725	755	28
New Zealand	1 277	1 494	171	37	1 108	11	1 327	165	2
Other	19	9	1	-	8	-	9	-	-
Middle East	2 653	3 466	609	28	2 574	14	3 225	241	-
Iran	146	226	53	12	149	-	214	12	-
Israel	1 326	1 812	130	5	1 513	1	1 649	163	-
Saudi Arabia	514	621	146	-	463	12	621	-	-
Other	667	807	280	11	449	1	741	66	-
Asia	17 168	25 002	2 403	354	18 449	19	21 225	3 082	695
Bangladesh	407	399	27	2	190	-	219	180	-
China	4 885	9 406	657	69	8 248	-	8 974	429	3
India	6 010	6 638	595	152	4 960	8	5 715	919	4
Japan	1 228	2 579	266	27	1 153	3	1 449	494	636
Malaysia	407	413	76	13	281	-	370	40	3
Pakistan	1 016	1 157	49	35	561	-	645	512	-
Philippines	362	394	47	10	259	4	320	42	32
South Korea	1 306	2 187	419	14	1 581	-	2 014	172	1
Taiwan	381	408	29	3	301	-	333	75	-
Thailand	451	389	53	13	300	-	366	19	4
Other	715	1 032	185	16	615	4	820	200	12
Africa	692 035	797 050	4 524	494	46 928	165	52 111	744 912	27
SADC	678 068	782 002	3 948	408	33 868	148	38 372	743 624	6
Angola	6 292	5 565	1 587	-	3 668	-	5 255	310	-
Botswana	36 141	44 458	199	-	1 649	44	1 892	42 566	-
DRC	2 513	2 493	16	9	1 990	1	2 016	477	-
Lesotho	156 571	209 403	7	2	334	2	345	209 058	-

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

Country of residence	January		Air (January 2016)					(January 2016)	
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total	Road	Sea
Madagascar	224	204	1	-	199	-	200	4	-
Malawi	14 519	12 282	10	2	1 712	18	1 742	10 540	-
Mauritius	1 466	1 753	329	68	1 193	-	1 590	162	1
Mozambique	136 272	145 775	3	64	4 002	12	4 081	141 693	1
Namibia	16 352	17 033	1 675	-	2 568	8	4 251	12 779	3
Seychelles	321	620	-	-	609	-	609	11	-
Swaziland	71 376	75 176	3	-	395	3	401	74 774	1
Tanzania	2 834	2 968	5	2	1 852	-	1 859	1 109	-
Zambia	12 334	13 758	28	112	3 168	10	3 318	10 440	-
Zimbabwe	220 853	250 514	85	149	10 529	50	10 813	239 701	-
'Other' African	13 967	15 048	576	86	13 060	17	13 739	1 288	21
East and Central Africa	5 750	5 812	158	25	5 087	8	5 278	534	-
Burundi	77	80	2	1	68	-	71	9	-
Cameroon	651	632	21	1	571	-	593	39	-
Central African Republic	6	23	-	-	23	-	23	-	-
Chad	21	12	-	1	11	-	12	-	-
Comoros	14	9	-	-	8	-	8	1	-
Congo	404	317	17	-	296	-	313	4	-
Djibouti	2	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	70	45	1	-	42	2	45	-	-
Eritrea	37	64	5	2	53	-	60	4	-
Ethiopia	470	450	38	17	293	-	348	102	-
Gabon	646	780	11	-	756	6	773	7	-
Kenya	2 109	2 097	32	2	1 846	-	1 880	217	-
Réunion	7	21	20	-	-	-	20	1	-
Rwanda	113	104	5	-	92	-	97	7	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	7	6	1	-	4	-	5	1	-
Somalia	9	21	1	-	15	-	16	5	-
Uganda	1 107	1 147	4	1	1 005	-	1 010	137	-

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

Country of residence	January		Air (January 2016)					(January 2016)	
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total	Road	Sea
West Africa	6 874	7 849	120	23	6 979	9	7 131	697	21
Benin	158	181	2	-	165	1	168	13	-
Burkina Faso	97	46	6	-	39	-	45	1	-
Cape Verde Island	72	38	9	-	24	-	33	5	-
Côte d'Ivoire	181	230	1	-	221	-	222	8	-
Gambia	36	29	-	-	28	-	28	1	-
Ghana	1 515	1 398	14	4	1 221	-	1 239	159	-
Guinea	116	153	1	-	76	-	77	76	-
Guinea-Bissau	5	14	1	-	12	-	13	1	-
Liberia	15	42	-	-	38	-	38	4	-
Mali	63	72	2	1	45	-	48	24	-
Mauritania	15	2	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Niger	9	15	1	-	14	-	15	-	-
Nigeria	4 322	5 381	69	18	4 900	7	4 994	387	-
Saint Helena	14	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
Senegal	161	140	10	-	124	1	135	5	-
Sierra Leone	35	53	2	-	41	-	43	10	-
Togo	60	34	2	-	30	-	32	2	-
North Africa	1 343	1 387	298	38	994	-	1 330	57	-
Algeria	231	103	19	3	75	-	97	6	-
Egypt	667	779	193	11	548	-	752	27	-
Libya	77	75	19	10	39	-	68	7	-
Morocco	121	108	19	2	79	-	100	8	-
South Sudan	70	70	3	-	64	-	67	3	-
The Sudan	109	161	28	10	118	-	156	5	-
Tunisia	65	91	17	2	71	-	90	1	-
Western Sahara	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	813	688	27	-	516	-	543	145	-

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

Country of residence	January		Purpose of visit (January 2016)		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
Total	877 712	1 012 641	25 275	972 836	14 530
Overseas	184 864	214 903	5 812	205 539	3 552
Europe	127 260	144 130	3 675	138 816	1 639
Austria	2 792	2 902	56	2 829	17
Belgium	3 465	3 749	89	3 574	86
Denmark	3 279	3 413	67	3 326	20
France	10 534	11 728	335	11 175	218
Germany	23 792	28 944	675	27 936	333
Ireland	2 547	2 708	87	2 588	33
Italy	3 981	4 617	187	4 357	73
Norway	2 066	2 022	41	1 924	57
Portugal	3 784	3 529	62	3 403	64
Spain	1 779	2 074	103	1 916	55
Sweden	4 988	5 625	127	5 457	41
Switzerland	5 320	5 424	60	5 317	47
The Netherlands	10 960	11 980	257	11 601	122
UK	39 776	46 264	1 177	44 744	343
Other	8 197	9 151	352	8 669	130
North America	24 219	26 962	711	25 426	825
Canada	4 632	5 176	127	4 990	59
USA	19 587	21 786	584	20 436	766
Central and South America	4 914	5 332	89	5 117	126
Argentina	586	1 082	14	1 055	13
Brazil	3 127	2 870	33	2 794	43
Mexico	166	272	17	240	15
Other	1 035	1 108	25	1 028	55

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

Country of residence	January		Purpose of visit (January 2016)		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	8 650	10 011	150	9 814	47
Australia	7 354	8 508	126	8 349	33
New Zealand	1 277	1 494	24	1 458	12
Other	19	9	-	7	2
Middle East	2 653	3 466	145	3 220	101
Iran	146	226	5	191	30
Israel	1 326	1 812	54	1 748	10
Saudi Arabia	514	621	16	587	18
Other	667	807	70	694	43
Asia	17 168	25 002	1 042	23 146	814
Bangladesh	407	399	17	369	13
China	4 885	9 406	278	9 013	115
India	6 010	6 638	452	5 919	267
Japan	1 228	2 579	113	2 440	26
Malaysia	407	413	15	354	44
Pakistan	1 016	1 157	44	1 053	60
Philippines	362	394	9	364	21
South Korea	1 306	2 187	36	1 967	184
Taiwan	381	408	11	384	13
Thailand	451	389	15	362	12
Other	715	1 032	52	921	59
Africa	692 035	797 050	19 422	766 651	10 977
SADC	678 068	782 002	18 646	754 254	9 102
Angola	6 292	5 565	40	4 500	1 025
Botswana	36 141	44 458	492	43 334	632
DRC	2 513	2 493	86	1 906	501
Lesotho	156 571	209 403	3 145	205 607	651

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

Country of residence	January		Purpose of visit (January 2016)		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
Madagascar	224	204	8	170	26
Malawi	14 519	12 282	185	11 861	236
Mauritius	1 466	1 753	66	1 470	217
Mozambique	136 272	145 775	9 249	136 267	259
Namibia	16 352	17 033	1 649	13 688	1 696
Seychelles	321	620	8	590	22
Swaziland	71 376	75 176	619	73 599	958
Tanzania	2 834	2 968	90	2 591	287
Zambia	12 334	13 758	871	12 524	363
Zimbabwe	220 853	250 514	2 138	246 147	2 229
'Other' African	13 967	15 048	776	12 397	1 875
East and Central Africa	5 750	5 812	301	4 523	988
Burundi	77	80	4	62	14
Cameroon	651	632	26	472	134
Central African Republic	6	23	-	19	4
Chad	21	12	2	8	2
Comoros	14	9	-	8	1
Congo	404	317	5	203	109
Djibouti	2	4	-	3	1
Equatorial Guinea	70	45	-	28	17
Eritrea	37	64	2	60	2
Ethiopia	470	450	39	372	39
Gabon	646	780	3	580	197
Kenya	2 109	2 097	170	1 614	313
Réunion	7	21	-	21	-
Rwanda	113	104	3	73	28
São Tomé and Príncipe	7	6	1	5	-
Somalia	9	21	1	20	-
Uganda	1 107	1 147	45	975	127

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

Country of residence	January		Purpose of visit (January 2016)		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	6 874	7 849	321	6 790	738
Benin	158	181	3	163	15
Burkina Faso	97	46	2	41	3
Cape Verde Island	72	38	-	37	1
Côte d'Ivoire	181	230	14	192	24
Gambia	36	29	2	24	3
Ghana	1 515	1 398	82	1 201	115
Guinea	116	153	3	144	6
Guinea-Bissau	5	14	-	10	4
Liberia	15	42	2	36	4
Mali	63	72	5	63	4
Mauritania	15	2	-	2	-
Niger	9	15	3	11	1
Nigeria	4 322	5 381	180	4 659	542
Saint Helena	14	21	-	21	-
Senegal	161	140	20	113	7
Sierra Leone	35	53	1	47	5
Togo	60	34	4	26	4
North Africa	1 343	1 387	154	1 084	149
Algeria	231	103	19	74	10
Egypt	667	779	97	643	39
Libya	77	75	-	52	23
Morocco	121	108	14	88	6
South Sudan	70	70	1	54	15
The Sudan	109	161	10	101	50
Tunisia	65	91	13	72	6
Western Sahara	3	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	813	688	41	646	1

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

Sex	Age group	January		Region (January 2016)			
		2015	2016	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	877 712	1 012 641	214 903	782 002	15 048	688
	0-14	47 166	49 775	10 737	38 168	858	12
	15-64	783 663	907 096	161 867	730 658	13 898	673
	65+	46 883	55 770	42 299	13 176	292	3
Male	Total	504 516	567 876	116 750	440 783	9 954	389
	0-14	23 662	24 671	5 472	18 760	430	9
	15-64	456 638	514 452	88 641	416 061	9 373	377
	65+	24 216	28 753	22 637	5 962	151	3
Female	Total	373 193	444 765	98 153	341 219	5 094	299
	0-14	23 504	25 104	5 265	19 408	428	3
	15-64	327 022	392 644	73 226	314 597	4 525	296
	65+	22 667	27 017	19 662	7 214	141	-

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 new Movement Control System (e-MCS) at the country's ports of entry. Currently the new system (e-MCS) is operational at over 80% of the country's ports of entry. The system roll-out is expected to be finalised by the end of 2015/16 financial year. The change affects the identification of Transit Travellers that are currently categorised under Direction instead of Purpose of Movement. The revision, Table 1 and Table 2 in the release now include a category for Transit while all tables reporting on tourists exclude transit travellers.

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) through all the air, land and sea ports of entry.

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 port's electronic database. No forms or cards are used (except in rare occasions when the capturing system is down) to collect information from travellers. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA
- Stats SA receives downloaded data covering a particular calendar month from the DHA.

- As part of data interrogation, data from the O.R. Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airport Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA is accompanied by an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern has been also observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In January 2016, the DHA data was 2,5% higher than that of ACSA.

5.5 Limitations

Due to technical problems at the data source not all required information could be captured in some of the months. Hence some information was missed on individuals or even countries affecting the volume of tourists from such countries. For example, the *purpose of visit* information that is used to determine whether a traveller is a *visitor* or *non-visitor*, was not recorded for travellers from Tanzania in November and December 2014. Therefore it was not possible to determine the number of tourists from the country during that period. This does not mean that there were no tourists from such countries but rather their volume could not be determined. Likewise either low or no numbers were observed from countries such as South Korea and Taiwan.

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 Definitions 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

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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Enquiries

Telephone: (012) 310 8600/ 8390/ 8351/ 4892/ 8496/ 8095 (user information services)
(012) 336 0251 (technical enquiries)
(012) 310 8161 (orders)
(012) 310 4883/4885/8018 (library)

Fax: (012) 310 8500/ 8495 (user information services)
(012) 310 6937 (technical enquiries)

Email: RamadimetjaM@statssa.gov.za (technical enquiries)
info@statssa.gov.za (user information services)
distribution@statssa.gov.za (orders)

Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

Produced by Stats SA