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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 2018. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country during this month. The tourists are classified by region and country of residence. Details of their mode of travel; purpose of visit; age and sex distribution are also provided.

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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 3 917 911 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in January 2018. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 1 055 268 South African residents and 2 862 643 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 638 928 arrivals, 415 543 departures and 797 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 598 893, 1 209 841 and 53 909, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in January 2017 and January 2018 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, while the volume of transits increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 6,2% (from 601 521 in January 2017 to 638 928 in January 2018), departures increased by 5,6% (from 393 508 in January 2017 to 415 543 in January 2018), and transits increased by 14,2% (from 698 in January 2017 to 797 in January 2018). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 2,5% (from 1 559 295 in January 2017 to 1 598 893 in January 2018), departures increased by 0,4% (from 1 204 768 in January 2017 to 1 209 841 in January 2018), and transits decreased by 3,1% (from 55 612 in January 2017 to 53 909 in January 2018).

A comparison between the movements in December 2017 and January 2018 indicates that the volume of arrivals increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of departures and transits decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 8,1% (from 590 949 in December 2017 to 638 928 in January 2018), departures decreased by 48,4% (from 805 778 in December 2017 to 415 543 in January 2018), and transits decreased by 11,8% (from 904 in December 2017 to 797 in January 2018). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 2,4% (from 1 561 724 in December 2017 to 1 598 893 in January 2018), departures decreased by 25,4 (from 1 621 875 in December 2017 to 1 209 841 in January 2018), and transits decreased by 8,0% (from 58 618 in December 2017 to 53 909 in January 2018).

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

As presented in Table 1 on page 9, in January 2018, 95 904 (6,0%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 502 989 (94,0%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in January 2018 but did not depart in January 2018 [586 277 (39,0%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in January 2018 and left in January 2018 [424 946 (28,3%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in January 2018 [491 766 (32,7%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In January 2018, there were 399 049 (26,6%) same-day visitors and 1 103 940 (73,4%) tourists. Between January 2017 and January 2018, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 0,2% (from 398 388 in January 2017 to 399 049 in January 2018) and that of tourists increased by 6,1% (from 1 040 534 in January 2017 to 1 103 940 in January 2018). Between December 2017 and January 2018, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 18,1% (from 487 251 in December 2017 to 399 049 in January 2018), while tourists increased by 11,3% (from 991 579 in December 2017 to 1 103 940 in January 2018).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 10 show that in January 2018, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 766 018 (70,6%) of the 3 917 911 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 1 113 669 (28,4%). Compared to use of air and land transport, a small number of travellers, 38 224 (1,0%) used sea transport. The arrivals data for South African residents show that 240 688 (37,7%) came by air, 388 670 (60,8%) came by road and 9 570 (1,5%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 165 323 (39,8%) used air, 241 324 (58,1%) used road and 8 896 (2,1%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 797 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 316 778 (19,8%) arrived by air, 1 271 794 (79,5%) came by road and 10 321 (0,6%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 336 174 (27,8%) foreign travellers left by air, 864 230 (71,4%) left by road and 9 437 (0,8%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit 53 909 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 on page 10 further shows that of the 399 049 same-day visitors, an overwhelming majority, 381 333 (95,6%) arrived in the country by road, 17 267 (4,3%) flew into the country, and 449 (0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Data on tourists show that 823 872 (74,6%) used road transport, 276 404 (25,0%) came by air transport and 3 664 (0,3%) arrived by sea transport.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them according to their respective countries and regions. Information on the specific region and country of residence of the tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on pages 11–14. In January 2018, 219 867 (89,9%) of the 244 657 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 21 216 (8,7%) came in by road and 3 574 (1,5%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 801 397 (94,8%), 43 680 (5,6%) arrived by air transport and 86 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 12 267 (91,9%), with 1 071 (8,0%) using road transport and 4 (less than 0,1%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In January 2018, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 166 328 (68,0%); North America, 28 834 (11,8%); Asia, 22 856 (9,3%); Central and South America, 12 626 (5,2%); Australasia, 9 855 (4,0%) and Middle East, 4 158 (1,7%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 11–12 indicate that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2018 were United Kingdom (UK), 48 663 (19,9%); Germany, 35 434 (14,5%); United States of America (USA), 23 454 (9,6%); France, 15 681 (6,4%); The Netherlands, 13 665 (5,6%); Australia, 8 871 (3,6%); Sweden, 7 898 (3,2%); Brazil, 7 558 (3,1%); India, 7 115 (2,9%) and Switzerland, 6 696 (2,7%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 71,5% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between January 2017 and January 2018 shows that the number of tourists increased for eight of the ten leading countries (Brazil, India, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, Australia, UK and USA), but decreased for France and The Netherlands. Brazil had the largest increase of 23,6% (from 6 114 tourists in January 2017 to 7 558 in January 2018), while The Netherlands had the largest decrease of 4,7% (from 14 346 tourists in January 2017 to 13 665 in January 2018). Annexure (A) on page 20 shows that overall, the number of tourists from the overseas countries decreased by 0,2% between January 2017 and January 2018 (from 245 074 in 2017 to 244 657 in 2018). While the countries of Europe, North America, and Central and South America grew by 2,1%, 0,3% and 21,7% respectively, those of Australasia, Middle East and Asia dropped by 1,9%, 3,2% and 20,3%, respectively.

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 845 163 (98,4%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 6 312 (0,7%); East and Central Africa, 5 454 (0,6%); and North Africa 1 576 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2018 were: Zimbabwe, 274 008 (32,4%); Lesotho, 239 647 (28,4%); Mozambique, 155 819 (18,4%); Swaziland, 71 113 (8,4%); Botswana, 43 427 (5,1%); Malawi, 16 961 (2,0%); Namibia, 15 039 (1,8%); Zambia 13 061 (1,5%); Angola, 8 680 (1,0%) and Tanzania, 2 815 (0,3%). (See Figure 2 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 12–13.)

Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,5% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in January 2017 and January 2018 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for six of the ten leading countries (Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Lesotho), and decreased for four (Tanzania, Namibia, Zambia and Swaziland). Angola showed the largest increase of 51,7% (from 5 720 tourists in January 2017 to 8 680 in January 2018), while Tanzania showed the largest decrease of 5,4% (from 2 976 tourists in January 2017 to 2 815 in January 2018). Overall, Annexure (A) shows that the number of tourists from SADC countries increased by 8,3% between January 2017 and January 2018 (from 780 275 in 2017 to 845 163 in 2018).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2018 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13–14, were: Nigeria, 4 093 (30,7%); Kenya, 1 935 (14,5%); Ghana, 1 252 (9,4%); Uganda, 1 186 (8,9%); Egypt, 939 (7,0%); Ethiopia, 663 (5,0%); Gabon, 551 (4,1%); Cameroon, 439 (3,3%); Congo, 268 (2,0%) and Côte d'Ivoire, 189 (1,4%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 86,3% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in January 2017 and January 2018 shows that the number of tourists increased for three of the ten leading countries (Egypt, Ethiopia and Uganda) and decreased for the other seven leading countries (Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire). Egypt showed the largest increase of 34,0% (from 701 tourists in January 2017 to 939 in January 2018). Cameroon showed the largest decrease of 33,6% (from 661 tourists in January 2017 to 439 in January 2018), followed by Gabon, which decreased by 27,8% (from 763 tourists in January 2017 to 551 in January 2018). Annexure (A) shows that the number of tourists from 'other' African countries decreased by 7,4% between January 2017 and January 2018 (from 14 402 in 2017 to 13 342 in 2018).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on pages 15–18, in January 2018, the majority of tourists, 1 068 229 (96,8%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 21 115 (1,9%); 13 994 (1,3%) and 602 (0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and for other purposes, respectively. The 'other' visit category includes those tourists who came for medical treatment or exchange programmes.

A total of 12 349 (97,8%) tourists from Central and South America, 9 630 (97,7%) from Australasia, 160 888 (96,7%) from Europe, 27 654 (95,9%) from North America, 3 828 (92,1%) from the Middle East and 20 746 (90,8%) from Asia were in South Africa for holiday. Compared to other overseas regions, Europe had the highest number of tourists, 160 888 (96,7%) who came for holiday, 3 735 (2,2%) who came for business, 1 637 (1,0%) who came for study and 68 (less than 0,1%) who came for other purposes.

Proportionately, Asia had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, 5,4% (1 224), followed by the Middle East, 4,3% (178). Asia had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for study purposes, 3,8% (872).

The majority of African tourists, 832 403 (97,0%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, the following differences in terms of reasons for travel were observed between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 821 744 (97,2%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 10 659 (79,9%) 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 83,7% (5 284); 80,9% (1 275); and 75,2% (4 100) for West Africa, North Africa and East and Central Africa, respectively.
- Business persons constituted 5,5% (733) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 1,7% (14 273) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 8,8% (138) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes.
- Students made up the highest proportion, 14,0% (1 862) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,0% (8 742) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa had the highest proportion of its tourists, 17,6% (961) who came to South Africa for study purposes.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in January 2018, there were 620 644 (56,2%) male and 483 296 (43,8%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 129 566 (53,0%) male tourists and 115 091 (47,0%) female tourists. There were 482 013 (57,0%) male and 363 150 (43,0%) female tourists from the SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 8 595 (64,4%) male and 4 747 (35,6%) female tourists.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into three broad groups: Those younger than 15 years, those that were 15 to 64 years old, and those that were 65 years and older. The overall results presented in Table 5 on page 19 show that 53 974 (4,9%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 983 275 (89,1%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 66 691 (6,0%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 789 791 (93,4%) tourists from SADC and 12 146 (91,0%) from 'other' African countries were aged between 15 and 64 years, compared to 180 582 (73,8%) tourists in the same age range from overseas. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was slightly lower among tourists from SADC, 4,8% (40 343) compared to those from overseas, 5,2% (12 775) and 'other' African countries, 6,4% (853).

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 20,9% (27 098) of male and 21,0% (24 202) of female tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to the pattern observed among tourists from the other two regions where tourists aged 65 years and older comprised less than 3,5% of both male and female tourists. From the SADC countries elderly tourists made up 1,4% (6 882) and 2,2% (8 147) of male and female tourists, respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,3% (196) and 3,1% (147) of male and female tourists, respectively.

2. Figures

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

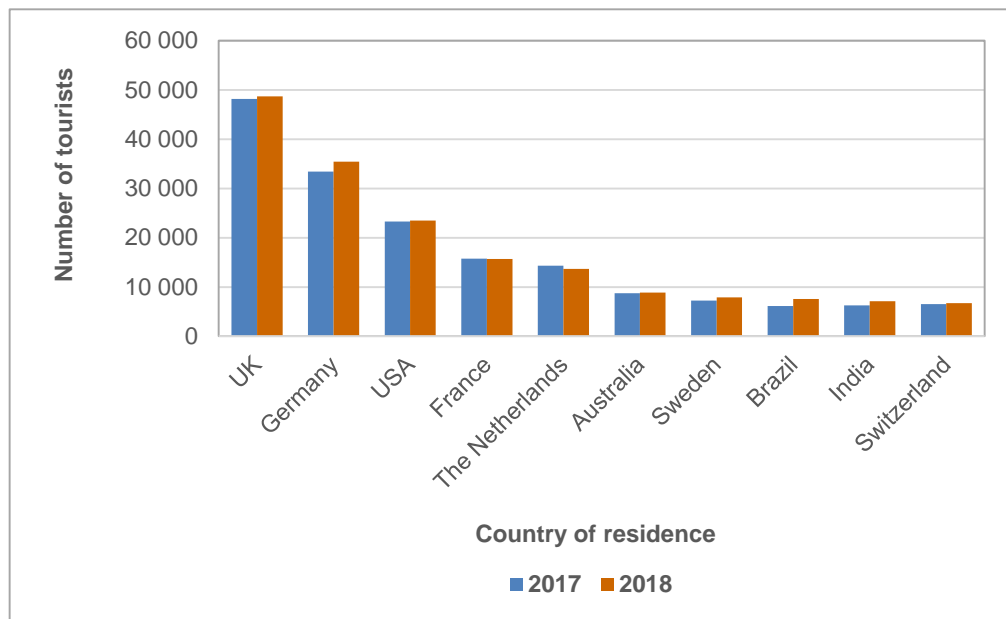


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in January 2017 and January 2018

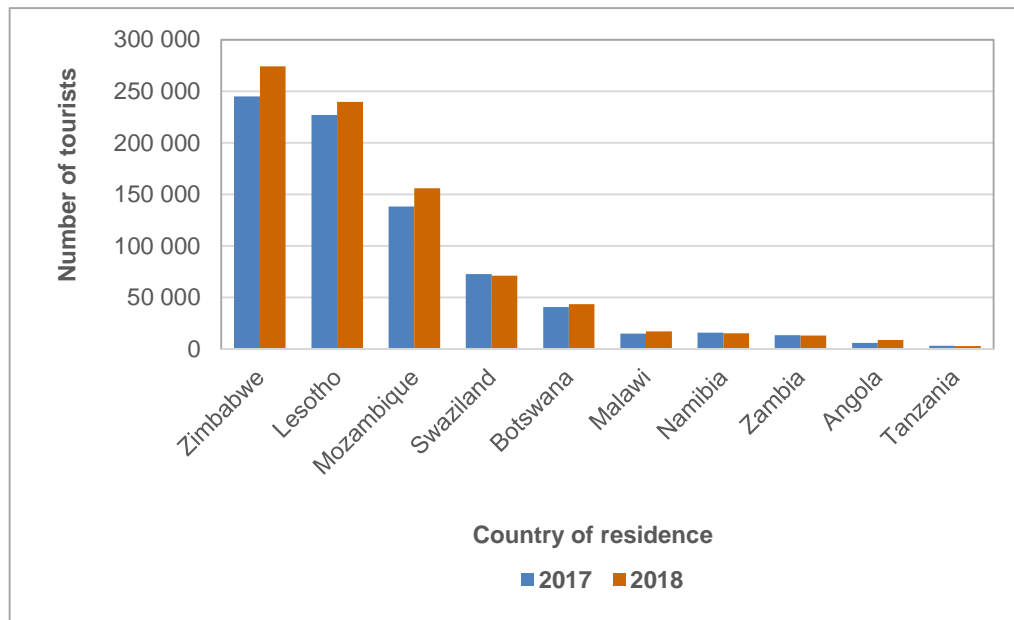
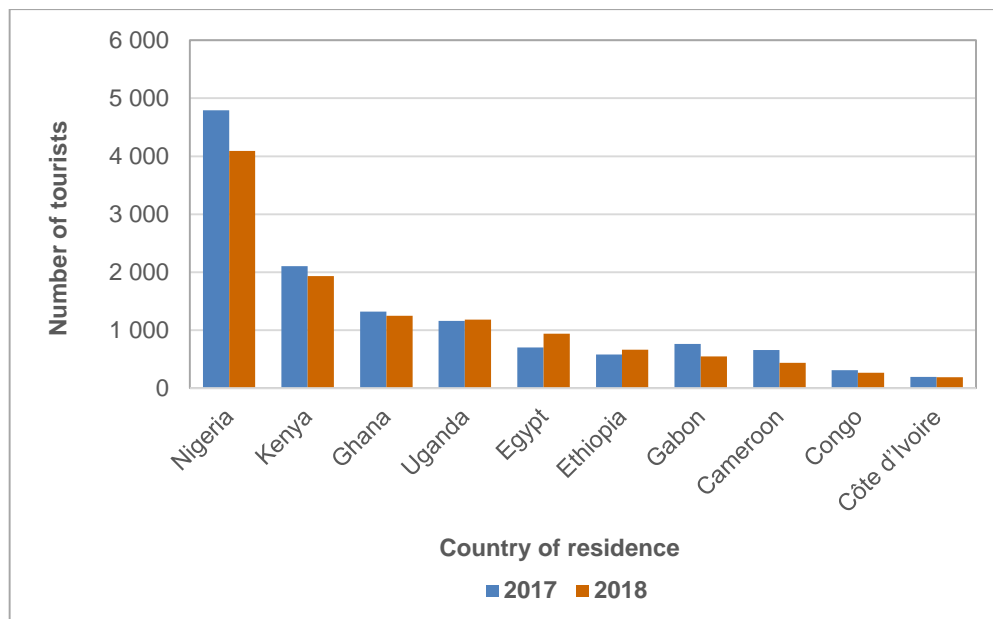


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in January 2017 and January 2018



3. Tables

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

Travel direction	January 2017	December 2017	January 2018	% change	
				Dec 2017 – Jan 2018	Jan 2017 – Jan 2018
Total	3 815 402	4 639 848	3 917 911	-15,6%	2,7%
South African residents	995 727	1 397 631	1 055 268	-24,5%	6,0%
Arrivals	601 521	590 949	638 928	8,1%	6,2%
Departures	393 508	805 778	415 543	-48,4%	5,6%
Transit	698	904	797	-11,8%	14,2%
Foreign travellers	2 819 675	3 242 217	2 862 643	-11,7%	1,5%
Arrivals	1 559 295	1 561 724	1 598 893	2,4%	2,5%
Departures	1 204 768	1 621 875	1 209 841	-25,4%	0,4%
Transit	55 612	58 618	53 909	-8,0%	-3,1%
Foreign arrivals	1 559 295	1 561 724	1 598 893	2,4%	2,5%
Non-visitors	120 373	82 894	95 904	15,7%	-20,3%
Visitors	1 438 922	1 478 830	1 502 989	1,6%	4,5%
Visitors	1 438 922	1 478 830	1 502 989	1,6%	4,5%
Arrivals only	531 481	368 060	586 277	59,3%	10,3%
Single trips	410 265	543 146	424 946	-21,8%	3,6%
Multiple trips	497 176	567 624	491 766	-13,4%	-1,1%
Visitors	1 438 922	1 478 830	1 502 989	1,6%	4,5%
Same-day	398 388	487 251	399 049	-18,1%	0,2%
Overnight (tourists)	1 040 534	991 579	1 103 940	11,3%	6,1%

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

Travel direction	Total	Air				Total	Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other Airports			
Total	3 917 911	278 421	34 784	795 240	5 224	1 113 669	2 766 018	38 224
South African residents	1 055 268	67 672	23 944	312 492	2 700	406 808	629 994	18 466
Arrivals	638 928	40 773	13 968	184 579	1 368	240 688	388 670	9 570
Departures	415 543	26 899	9 976	127 116	1 332	165 323	241 324	8 896
Transit	797	-	-	797	-	797	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 862 643	210 749	10 840	482 748	2 524	706 861	2 136 024	19 758
Arrivals	1 598 893	103 577	4 293	207 758	1 150	316 778	1 271 794	10 321
Departures	1 209 841	107 128	6 547	221 133	1 366	336 174	864 230	9 437
Transit	53 909	44	-	53 857	8	53 909	-	-
Visitors	1 502 989	98 796	3 351	190 589	935	293 671	1 205 205	4 113
Same-day	399 049	689	9	16 463	106	17 267	381 333	449
Tourist	1 103 940	98 107	3 342	174 126	829	276 404	823 872	3 664

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

Country of residence	January		Air					Road	Sea
	2017	2018	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	1 040 534	1 103 940	98 107	3 342	174 126	829	276 404	823 872	3 664
Overseas	245 074	244 657	90 927	2 728	125 529	683	219 867	21 216	3 574
Europe	162 959	166 328	74 563	1 897	72 015	334	148 809	14 655	2 864
Austria	3 110	3 190	1 666	93	1 211		2 970	199	21
Belgium	4 213	4 130	1 774	48	1 855	5	3 682	435	13
Denmark	3 625	3 917	1 284	13	2 280	3	3 580	332	5
France	15 725	15 681	5 419	138	7 375	18	12 950	2 715	16
Germany	33 413	35 434	17 438	253	14 088	18	31 797	2 907	730
Ireland	3 277	3 173	1 666	66	1 204	4	2 940	203	30
Italy	4 960	4 906	1 843	77	2 552	5	4 477	415	14
Norway	2 264	2 351	1 269	15	835	2	2 121	221	9
Portugal	3 255	2 641	375	22	1 258	1	1 656	975	10
Spain	2 285	2 500	560	28	1 673	8	2 269	225	6
Sweden	7 233	7 898	4 191	76	3 121	3	7 391	497	10
Switzerland	6 554	6 696	3 229	65	2 686	9	5 989	638	69
The Netherlands	14 346	13 665	6 753	57	5 051	9	11 870	1 773	22
UK	48 165	48 663	22 340	748	21 270	192	44 550	2 235	1 878
Other	10 534	11 483	4 756	198	5 556	57	10 567	885	31
North America	28 734	28 834	7 865	184	17 717	196	25 962	2 434	438
Canada	5 445	5 380	1 747	30	2 913	29	4 719	585	76
USA	23 289	23 454	6 118	154	14 804	167	21 243	1 849	362
Central and South America	10 375	12 626	1 751	17	10 066	33	11 867	715	44
Argentina	2 473	3 142	76	3	2 908	-	2 987	150	5
Brazil	6 114	7 558	1 444	7	5 657	18	7 126	405	27
Chile	578	599	34	2	533	-	569	30	-
Other	1 210	1 327	197	5	968	15	1 185	130	12

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

Country of residence	January		Air					Road	Sea
	2017	2018	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	10 048	9 855	1 257	199	7 281	93	8 830	842	183
Australia	8 762	8 871	1 077	178	6 627	83	7 965	740	166
New Zealand	1 264	971	179	21	643	10	853	101	17
Other	22	13	1	-	11	-	12	1	-
Middle East	4 295	4 158	1 268	18	2 703	2	3 991	161	6
Iran	336	297	115	4	176	-	295	2	-
Israel	2 158	2 194	465	7	1 603	-	2 075	114	5
Saudi Arabia	848	803	334	1	466	-	801	1	1
Other	953	864	354	6	458	2	820	44	-
Asia	28 663	22 856	4 223	413	15 747	25	20 408	2 409	39
Bangladesh	381	525	74	16	230	-	320	205	-
China	12 066	6 506	993	53	5 061	6	6 113	391	2
India	6 293	7 115	1 206	176	5 013	9	6 404	707	4
Japan	2 325	1 621	227	29	1 235	3	1 494	122	5
Malaysia	524	385	107	10	245	1	363	19	3
Pakistan	1 243	1 230	142	45	658	-	845	385	-
Philippines	381	444	76	9	264	-	349	83	12
Singapore	447	395	141	6	233	3	383	7	5
South Korea	3 053	3 201	932	42	1 965	3	2 942	258	1
Thailand	457	394	83	9	272	-	364	29	1
Other	1 493	1 040	242	18	571	-	831	203	6
Africa	794 677	858 505	7 148	612	48 041	146	55 947	802 468	90
SADC	780 275	845 163	5 696	547	37 308	129	43 680	801 397	86
Angola	5 720	8 680	2 914	-	5 324	12	8 250	429	1
Botswana	40 604	43 427	180	140	1 721	25	2 066	41 358	3
DRC	2 167	2 403	103	2	1 844	8	1 957	444	2
Lesotho	227 031	239 647	2	3	384	-	389	239 246	12

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

Country of residence	January		Air					Road	Sea
	2017	2018	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	182	164	8	-	153	1	162	2	-
Malawi	14 856	16 961	17	-	1 933	4	1 954	15 006	1
Mauritius	1 466	1 559	310	82	1 046	4	1 442	117	-
Mozambique	137 972	155 819	5	49	3 296	20	3 370	152 438	11
Namibia	15 711	15 039	1 893	154	2 398	7	4 452	10 556	31
Seychelles	535	467	5	-	446	-	451	16	-
Swaziland	72 685	71 113	3	4	358	9	374	70 736	3
Tanzania	2 976	2 815	63	4	1 636	5	1 708	1 101	6
Zambia	13 404	13 061	43	70	3 181	4	3 298	9 762	1
Zimbabwe	244 966	274 008	150	39	13 588	30	13 807	260 186	15
'Other' African	14 402	13 342	1 452	65	10 733	17	12 267	1 071	4
East and Central Africa	5 948	5 454	685	24	4 239	13	4 961	492	1
Burundi	70	69	14	-	51	-	65	4	-
Cameroon	661	439	55	-	352	-	407	32	-
Central African Republic	7	14	1	-	12	-	13	1	-
Chad	18	32	1	-	29	1	31	1	-
Comoros	9	13	-	-	12	-	12	1	-
Congo	314	268	100	-	161	-	261	7	-
Djibouti	9	6	1	-	5	-	6	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	56	48	2	-	45	1	48	-	-
Eritrea	51	85	3	2	74	-	79	6	-
Ethiopia	584	663	86	3	480	-	569	93	1
Gabon	763	551	98	-	447	4	549	2	-
Kenya	2 106	1 935	229	17	1 496	7	1 749	186	-
Réunion	7	8	8	-	-	-	8	-	-
Rwanda	101	71	3	-	62	-	65	6	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	6	7	-	-	4	-	4	3	-
Somalia	27	59	11	1	26	-	38	21	-
Uganda	1 159	1 186	73	1	983	-	1 057	129	-

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

Country of residence	January		Air					Road	Sea
	2017	2018	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	7 102	6 312	406	17	5 368	4	5 795	514	3
Benin	114	103	7	-	93	-	100	3	-
Burkina Faso	54	50	9	-	35	-	44	6	-
Cape Verde Island	53	31	4	-	24	-	28	3	-
Côte d'Ivoire	194	189	23	-	162	-	185	4	-
Gambia	29	33	2	-	26	-	28	5	-
Ghana	1 323	1 252	50	1	1 132	-	1 183	67	2
Guinea	114	145	2	-	83	-	85	60	-
Guinea-Bissau	15	15	-	-	13	-	13	2	-
Liberia	45	34	5	1	27	-	33	1	-
Mali	105	116	12	-	44	-	56	60	-
Mauritania	10	9	6	-	2	-	8	1	-
Niger	14	21	4	-	17	-	21	-	-
Nigeria	4 791	4 093	260	12	3 543	4	3 819	274	-
Saint Helena	9	8	3	-	5	-	8	-	-
Senegal	157	140	13	3	105	-	121	19	-
Sierra Leone	42	48	2	-	37	-	39	8	1
Togo	33	25	4	-	20	-	24	1	-
North Africa	1 352	1 576	361	24	1 126	-	1 511	65	-
Algeria	112	71	17	7	46	-	70	1	-
Egypt	701	939	209	8	691	-	908	31	-
Libya	73	55	12	2	31	-	45	10	-
Morocco	137	173	30	4	130	-	164	9	-
South Sudan	83	82	10	-	69	-	79	3	-
The Sudan	151	177	62	3	101	-	166	11	-
Tunisia	95	79	21	-	58	-	79	-	-
Unspecified	783	778	32	2	556	-	590	188	-

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

Country of residence	January		Purpose of visit (January 2018)			
	2017	2018	Business	Holiday	Study	Other
Total	1 040 534	1 103 940	21 115	1 068 229	13 994	602
Overseas	245 074	244 657	6 065	235 095	3 388	109
Europe	162 959	166 328	3 735	160 888	1 637	68
Austria	3 110	3 190	39	3 123	28	-
Belgium	4 213	4 130	101	3 966	62	1
Denmark	3 625	3 917	85	3 818	14	-
France	15 725	15 681	354	15 069	253	5
Germany	33 413	35 434	645	34 431	352	6
Ireland	3 277	3 173	78	3 064	30	1
Italy	4 960	4 906	199	4 632	74	1
Norway	2 264	2 351	49	2 245	54	3
Portugal	3 255	2 641	56	2 530	48	7
Spain	2 285	2 500	112	2 324	64	-
Sweden	7 233	7 898	153	7 709	35	1
Switzerland	6 554	6 696	81	6 563	51	1
The Netherlands	14 346	13 665	230	13 280	147	8
UK	48 165	48 663	1 185	47 136	313	29
Other	10 534	11 483	368	10 998	112	5
North America	28 734	28 834	643	27 654	518	19
Canada	5 445	5 380	110	5 220	46	4
USA	23 289	23 454	533	22 434	472	15
Central and South America	10 375	12 626	109	12 349	167	1
Argentina	2 473	3 142	17	3 114	11	-
Brazil	6 114	7 558	60	7 403	95	-
Chile	578	599	2	593	4	-
Other	1 210	1 327	30	1 239	57	1

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

Country of residence	January		Purpose of visit (January 2018)			
	2017	2018	Business	Holiday	Study	Other
Australasia	10 048	9 855	176	9 630	43	6
Australia	8 762	8 871	161	8 672	33	5
New Zealand	1 264	971	15	946	9	1
Other	22	13	-	12	1	-
Middle East	4 295	4 158	178	3 828	151	1
Iran	336	297	12	254	31	-
Israel	2 158	2 194	72	2 096	26	-
Saudi Arabia	848	803	11	755	37	-
Other	953	864	83	723	57	1
Asia	28 663	22 856	1 224	20 746	872	14
Bangladesh	381	525	18	487	20	-
China	12 066	6 506	277	6 110	114	5
India	6 293	7 115	566	6 248	299	2
Japan	2 325	1 621	101	1 494	25	1
Malaysia	524	385	28	303	54	-
Pakistan	1 243	1 230	47	1 107	73	3
Philippines	381	444	11	416	16	1
Singapore	447	395	23	368	4	-
South Korea	3 053	3 201	91	2 933	176	1
Thailand	457	394	8	367	18	1
Other	1 493	1 040	54	913	73	-
Africa	794 677	858 505	15 006	832 403	10 604	492
SADC	780 275	845 163	14 273	821 744	8 742	404
Angola	5 720	8 680	38	7 724	870	48
Botswana	40 604	43 427	591	42 127	573	136
DRC	2 167	2 403	78	1 858	434	33
Lesotho	227 031	239 647	2 423	236 444	774	6

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

Country of residence	January		Purpose of visit (January 2018)			
	2017	2018	Business	Holiday	Study	Other
Madagascar	182	164	6	130	28	-
Malawi	14 856	16 961	430	16 259	266	6
Mauritius	1 466	1 559	57	1 385	112	5
Mozambique	137 972	155 819	3 757	151 651	375	36
Namibia	15 711	15 039	1 682	11 513	1 810	34
Seychelles	535	467	8	447	12	-
Swaziland	72 685	71 113	283	69 964	858	8
Tanzania	2 976	2 815	69	2 455	272	19
Zambia	13 404	13 061	1 266	11 432	347	16
Zimbabwe	244 966	274 008	3 585	268 355	2 011	57
'Other' African	14 402	13 342	733	10 659	1 862	88
East and Central Africa	5 948	5 454	345	4 100	961	48
Burundi	70	69	-	53	15	1
Cameroon	661	439	28	306	98	7
Central African Republic	7	14	-	11	3	-
Chad	18	32	3	23	5	1
Comoros	9	13	1	9	3	-
Congo	314	268	4	174	87	3
Djibouti	9	6	-	6	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	56	48	1	24	23	-
Eritrea	51	85	2	74	7	2
Ethiopia	584	663	34	595	31	3
Gabon	763	551	3	359	182	7
Kenya	2 106	1 935	198	1 399	322	16
Réunion	7	8	-	8	-	-
Rwanda	101	71	3	49	19	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	6	7	-	7	-	-
Somalia	27	59	3	48	3	5
Uganda	1 159	1 186	65	955	163	3

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

Country of residence	January		Purpose of visit (January 2018)			
	2017	2018	Business	Holiday	Study	Other
West Africa	7 102	6 312	250	5 284	739	39
Benin	114	103	4	88	10	1
Burkina Faso	54	50	4	36	10	-
Cape Verde Island	53	31	-	31	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	194	189	22	132	35	-
Gambia	29	33	-	33	-	-
Ghana	1 323	1 252	68	1 091	86	7
Guinea	114	145	3	130	11	1
Guinea-Bissau	15	15	-	15	-	-
Liberia	45	34	4	24	6	-
Mali	105	116	10	101	4	1
Mauritania	10	9	5	4	-	-
Niger	14	21	3	15	3	-
Nigeria	4 791	4 093	115	3 398	556	24
Saint Helena	9	8	-	7	-	1
Senegal	157	140	11	121	6	2
Sierra Leone	42	48	1	40	5	2
Togo	33	25	-	18	7	-
North Africa	1 352	1 576	138	1 275	162	1
Algeria	112	71	17	51	3	-
Egypt	701	939	89	806	44	-
Libya	73	55	1	33	21	-
Morocco	137	173	11	152	10	-
South Sudan	83	82	3	61	17	1
The Sudan	151	177	8	117	52	-
Tunisia	95	79	9	55	15	-
Unspecified	783	778	44	731	2	1

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

Sex	Age group	January		Region (January 2018)			
		2017	2018	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	1 040 534	1 103 940	244 657	845 163	13 342	778
	0-14	50 728	53 974	12 775	40 343	853	3
	15-64	926 578	983 275	180 582	789 791	12 146	756
	65+	63 228	66 691	51 300	15 029	343	19
Male	Total	585 075	620 644	129 566	482 013	8 595	470
	0-14	25 255	26 883	6 673	19 779	428	3
	15-64	527 302	559 570	95 795	455 352	7 971	452
	65+	32 518	34 191	27 098	6 882	196	15
Female	Total	455 459	483 296	115 091	363 150	4 747	308
	0-14	25 473	27 091	6 102	20 564	425	-
	15-64	399 276	423 705	84 787	334 439	4 175	304
	65+	30 710	32 500	24 202	8 147	147	4

4.1 Annexure A – Number of tourists: Jan 2017 and Jan 2018 changes by country of residence and month of travel

Country of residence	January				
	Total	2017	2018	Difference 2017 – 2018	% change 2017 – 2018
Total	2 144 474	1 040 534	1 103 940	63 406	6,1%
Overseas	489 731	245 074	244 657	-417	-0,2%
Europe	329 287	162 959	166 328	3 369	2,1%
Austria	6 300	3 110	3 190	80	2,6%
Belgium	8 343	4 213	4 130	-83	-2,0%
Denmark	7 542	3 625	3 917	292	8,1%
France	31 406	15 725	15 681	-44	-0,3%
Germany	68 847	33 413	35 434	2 021	6,0%
Ireland	6 450	3 277	3 173	-104	-3,2%
Italy	9 866	4 960	4 906	-54	-1,1%
Norway	4 615	2 264	2 351	87	3,8%
Portugal	5 896	3 255	2 641	-614	-18,9%
Spain	4 785	2 285	2 500	215	9,4%
Sweden	15 131	7 233	7 898	665	9,2%
Switzerland	13 250	6 554	6 696	142	2,2%
The Netherlands	28 011	14 346	13 665	-681	-4,7%
UK	96 828	48 165	48 663	498	1,0%
Other	22 017	10 534	11 483	949	9,0%
North America	57 568	28 734	28 834	100	0,3%
Canada	10 825	5 445	5 380	-65	-1,2%
USA	46 743	23 289	23 454	165	0,7%
Central and South America	23 001	10 375	12 626	2 251	21,7%
Argentina	5 615	2 473	3 142	669	27,1%
Brazil	13 672	6 114	7 558	1 444	23,6%
Chile	1 177	578	599	21	3,6%
Other	2 537	1 210	1 327	117	9,7%

Annexure A – Number of tourists: Jan 2017 and Jan 2018 changes by country of residence and month of travel (continued)

Country of residence	January				
	Total	2017	2018	Difference 2017 – 2018	% change 2017 – 2018
Australasia	19 903	10 048	9 855	-193	-1,9%
Australia	17 633	8 762	8 871	109	1,2%
New Zealand	2 235	1 264	971	-293	-23,2%
Other	35	22	13	-9	-40,9%
Middle East	8 453	4 295	4 158	-137	-3,2%
Israel	4 352	2 158	2 194	36	1,7%
Saudi Arabia	1 651	848	803	-45	-5,3%
Iran	633	336	297	-39	-11,6%
Other	1 817	953	864	-89	-9,3%
Asia	51 519	28 663	22 856	-5 807	-20,3%
China	18 572	12 066	6 506	-5 560	-46,1%
India	13 408	6 293	7 115	822	13,1%
South Korea	6 254	3 053	3 201	148	4,8%
Japan	3 946	2 325	1 621	-704	-30,3%
Pakistan	2 473	1 243	1 230	-13	-1,0%
Taiwan	997	653	344	-309	-47,3%
Malaysia	909	524	385	-139	-26,5%
Bangladesh	906	381	525	144	37,8%
Thailand	851	457	394	-63	-13,8%
Singapore	842	447	395	-52	-11,6%
Other	2 361	1 221	1 140	-81	-6,6%
Africa	1 653 182	794 677	858 505	63 828	8,0%
SADC	1 625 438	780 275	845 163	64 888	8,3%
Angola	14 400	5 720	8 680	2 960	51,7%
Botswana	84 031	40 604	43 427	2 823	7,0%
DRC	4 570	2 167	2 403	236	10,9%
Lesotho	466 678	227 031	239 647	12 616	5,6%

Annexure A – Number of tourists: Jan 2017 and Jan 2018 changes by country of residence and month of travel (continued)

Country of residence	January				
	Total	2017	2018	Difference 2017 – 2018	% change 2017 – 2018
Madagascar	346	182	164	-18	-9,9%
Malawi	31 817	14 856	16 961	2 105	14,2%
Mauritius	3 025	1 466	1 559	93	6,3%
Mozambique	293 791	137 972	155 819	17 847	12,9%
Namibia	30 750	15 711	15 039	-672	-4,3%
Seychelles	1 002	535	467	-68	-12,7%
Swaziland	143 798	72 685	71 113	-1 572	-2,2%
Tanzania	5 791	2 976	2 815	-161	-5,4%
Zambia	26 465	13 404	13 061	-343	-2,6%
Zimbabwe	518 974	244 966	274 008	29 042	11,9%
'Other' African	27 744	14 402	13 342	-1 060	-7,4%
East and Central Africa	11 402	5 948	5 454	-494	-8,3%
Burundi	139	70	69	-1	-1,4%
Cameroon	1 100	661	439	-222	-33,6%
Central African Republic	21	7	14	7	100,0%
Chad	50	18	32	14	77,8%
Comoros	22	9	13	4	44,4%
Congo	582	314	268	-46	-14,6%
Djibouti	15	9	6	-3	-33,3%
Equatorial Guinea	104	56	48	-8	-14,3%
Eritrea	136	51	85	34	66,7%
Ethiopia	1 247	584	663	79	13,5%
Gabon	1 314	763	551	-212	-27,8%
Kenya	4 041	2 106	1 935	-171	-8,1%
Réunion	15	7	8	1	14,3%
Rwanda	172	101	71	-30	-29,7%
São Tomé and Príncipe	13	6	7	1	16,7%
Somalia	86	27	59	32	118,5%
Uganda	2 345	1 159	1 186	27	2,3%

Annexure A – Number of tourists: Jan 2017 and Jan 2018 changes by country of residence and month of travel (concluded)

Country of residence	January				
	Total	2017	2018	Difference 2017 – 2018	% change 2017 – 2018
West Africa	13 414	7 102	6 312	-790	-11,1%
Benin	217	114	103	-11	-9,6%
Burkina Faso	104	54	50	-4	-7,4%
Cape Verde Island	84	53	31	-22	-41,5%
Côte d'Ivoire	383	194	189	-5	-2,6%
Gambia	62	29	33	4	13,8%
Ghana	2 575	1 323	1 252	-71	-5,4%
Guinea	259	114	145	31	27,2%
Guinea-Bissau	30	15	15	0	0,0%
Liberia	79	45	34	-11	-24,4%
Mali	221	105	116	11	10,5%
Mauritania	19	10	9	-1	-10,0%
Niger	35	14	21	7	50,0%
Nigeria	8 884	4 791	4 093	-698	-14,6%
Saint Helena	17	9	8	-1	-11,1%
Senegal	297	157	140	-17	-10,8%
Sierra Leone	90	42	48	6	14,3%
Togo	58	33	25	-8	-24,2%
North Africa	2 928	1 352	1 576	224	16,6%
Algeria	183	112	71	-41	-36,6%
Egypt	1 640	701	939	238	34,0%
Libya	128	73	55	-18	-24,7%
Morocco	310	137	173	36	26,3%
South Sudan	165	83	82	-1	-1,2%
The Sudan	328	151	177	26	17,2%
Tunisia	174	95	79	-16	-16,8%
Unspecified	1 561	783	778	-5	-0,6%

5. Explanatory notes

NOTICE TO USERS

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) has made changes in the *Tourism and Migration* statistical release starting from the January 2014 statistics. This change has become necessary as a result of the implementation of the enhanced Movement Control System (e-MCS) at the country's ports of entry. Currently the new system (e-MCS) is operational at over 95% of the country's ports of entry. The change affects the identification of Transit Travellers that are currently categorised under Direction instead of Purpose of Movement. With this revision, Table 1 and Table 2 in the release now include a category for Transit while all tables reporting on tourists exclude transit travellers.

5.1 Introduction

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

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

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

5.2 Purpose of the statistical release

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

5.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data collected by DHA officials on travellers who entered the Republic of South Africa (RSA).

5.4 Data

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

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

- As part of data interrogation, data from O.R. Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airport Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA is also reflected in an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern has also been observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In 2017, the DHA data was 0,7% higher than that of ACSA¹.

5.5 Limitations

The information on the total number of arrivals and departures of South African residents is collected from the scanning of passports. However, data are not collected from passengers on country visited; country of final destination, the duration of stay; intended duration of stay and purpose of visit. With this limitation, it is impossible to identify the number of tourists from the data on South African residents.

5.6 Definition of terms

5.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)

Traveller is someone who moves between different geographical locations for any purpose and any duration.

Visitor refers to any person travelling to a place other than that of his/her usual environment for less than 12 months and whose main purpose of the trip is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.

Same-day visitor is a visitor who visits a place for less than one night.

Tourist (overnight visitor) is a visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the place visited.

Tourism comprises the activities of persons travelling to, and staying in places outside their usual environment, for not more than one consecutive year, for leisure, business and other purposes. The usual environment of a person consists of a certain area around his/her place of residence, plus all other places he/she frequently visits.

5.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release

South African resident refers to either a South African citizen or a non-South African citizen with a South African permanent residence permit.

Foreign traveller refers to a traveller who is not a South African citizen or permanent resident.

Region refers to the following country classification:

- Overseas: Europe, North America, Central and South America, Australasia, the Middle East and Asia.
- Africa: SADC and 'other' Africa (East and Central Africa, West Africa and North Africa).

Country refers to individual countries within a region. The country of residence is used. The country of residence should not be confused with the country from which the visitor travelled.

Africa refers to all the countries in Africa (both mainland and island countries).

SADC refers to the fourteen countries, excluding South Africa, which belong to the Southern African Development Community.

'Other' African refers to all non-SADC African countries.

Overseas refers to all countries outside Africa.

Trip refers to the arrival and departure of a visitor in a specified month.

¹ ACSA passenger statistics for January 2018 were not ready at the time of publication of this release, thus a comparison of DHA and ACSA statistics could not be made.

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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