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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 2019. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country during this month. The tourists are classified by region and country of residence. Details of their mode of travel; the purpose of visit; age and sex distribution are also provided.

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

1. Key findings

1.1 Travellers

1.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa shows that a total of 3 818 462 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in January 2019. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 1 032 021 South African residents and 2 786 441 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 626 128 arrivals, 405 062 departures and 831 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 561 510, 1 169 796 and 55 135, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in January 2018 and January 2019 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. Travellers in transit increased for both groups. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 2,0% (from 638 928 in January 2018 to 626 128 in January 2019), departures decreased by 2,5% (from 415 543 in January 2018 to 405 062 in January 2019), and transits increased by 4,3% (from 797 in January 2018 to 831 in January 2019). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 2,3% (from 1 598 893 in January 2018 to 1 561 510 in January 2019), departures decreased by 3,3% (from 1 209 841 in January 2018 to 1 169 796 in January 2019), and transits increased by 2,3% (from 53 909 in January 2018 to 55 135 in January 2019).

A comparison between the movements in December 2018 and January 2019 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 0,7% (from 630 785 in December 2018 to 626 128 in January 2019), departures decreased by 52,0% (from 843 975 in December 2018 to 405 062 in January 2019), and transits decreased by 11,5% (from 939 in December 2018 to 831 in January 2019). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 2,0% (from 1 594 112 in December 2018 to 1 561 510 in January 2019), departures decreased by 27,1% (from 1 605 326 in December 2018 to 1 169 796 in January 2019), and transits decreased by 9,3% (from 60 757 in December 2018 to 55 135 in January 2019).

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

As presented in Table 1 on page 9, in January 2019, 109 988 (7,0%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 451 522 (93,0%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in January 2019 but did not depart in January 2019 [577 621 (39,8%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in January 2019 and left in January 2019 [412 844 (28,4%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in January 2019 [461 057 (31,8%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In January 2019, there were 383 332 (26,4%) same-day visitors and 1 068 190 (73,6%) tourists. Between January 2018 and January 2019, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 3,9% (from 399 049 in January 2018 to 383 332 in January 2019) and that of tourists decreased by 3,2% (from 1 103 940 in January 2018 to 1 068 190 in January 2019). Between December 2018 and January 2019, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 24,6% (from 508 193 in December 2018 to 383 332 in January 2019), and tourists increased by 6,1% (from 1 007 155 in December 2018 to 1 068 190 in January 2019).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Information presented in Table 2 on page 10 shows that in January 2019, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 669 646 (69,9%) of the 3 818 462 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 1 103 754 (28,9%). Compared to the use of air and land transport, a small number of travellers, 45 062 (1,2%) used sea transport. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 240 931 (38,5%) came by air, 373 942 (59,7%) came by road and 11 255 (1,8%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 163 896 (40,5%) used air, 230 293 (56,9%) used road and 10 873 (2,7%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 831 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 308 409 (19,8%) arrived by air, 1 242 408 (79,6%) came by road and 10 693 (0,7%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 334 552 (28,6%) foreign travellers left by air, 823 003 (70,4%) left by road and 12 241 (1,0%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit 55 135 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 on page 10 further shows that of the 383 332 same-day visitors, an overwhelming majority, 365 774 (95,4%) arrived in the country by road, 17 350 (4,5%) flew into the country; and 208 (0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Information on tourists shows that 793 850 (74,3%) used road transport, 270 105 (25,3%) came by air transport and 4 235 (0,4%) arrived by sea transport.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them according to their respective countries and regions. Information on the specific region and country of residence of tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on pages 11 to 14. In January 2019, 210 308 (90,3%) of the 232 872 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 18 417 (7,9%) came in by road transport and 4 147 (1,8%) arrived by sea transport. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 773 993 (94,4%), followed by air travel, 45 818 (5,6%) and sea transport, 84 (less than 0,1%). The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 13 343 (92,0%), with 1 159 (8,0%) using road transport and 4 (less than 0,1%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In January 2019, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 151 933 (65,2%); North America, 30 120 (12,9%); Asia, 25 429 (10,9%); Central and South America, 11 961 (5,1%); Australasia, 9 867 (4,2%) and the Middle East, 3 562 (1,5%).

Figure 1 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 11 to 12 indicate that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2019 were United Kingdom (UK), 46 633 (20,0%); Germany, 31 501 (13,5%); United States of America (USA), 24 193 (10,4%); France, 13 595 (5,8%); The Netherlands, 12 888 (5,5%); Australia, 8 980 (3,9%); China, 7 962 (3,4%); India, 6 900 (3,0%); Brazil, 6 523 (2,8%) and Sweden, 6 128 (2,6%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 71,0% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between January 2018 and January 2019 shows that the number of tourists increased for three of the ten leading countries (China, USA and Australia), but decreased for Sweden, Brazil, France, Germany, The Netherlands, UK, and India. China had the largest increase of 22,4% (from 6 506 tourists in January 2018 to 7 962 in January 2019), while Sweden had the largest decrease of 22,4% (from 7 898 tourists in January 2018 to 6 128 in January 2019).

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 819 895 (98,3%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 6 868 (0,8%); East and Central Africa, 5 871 (0,7%); and North Africa 1 767 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2019 were: Zimbabwe, 291 293 (35,5%); Lesotho, 195 516 (23,8%); Mozambique, 162 393 (19,8%); Swaziland, 69 643 (8,5%); Botswana, 39 709 (4,8%); Malawi, 17 415 (2,1%); Namibia, 14 483 (1,8%); Zambia, 13 056 (1,6%); Angola, 8 355 (1,0%) and Tanzania, 3 021 (0,4%). (See Figure 2 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 12 to 13). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,4% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in January 2018 and January 2019 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for four of the ten leading countries (Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi) and decreased for the other six (Lesotho, Botswana, Angola, Namibia, Swaziland and Zambia).

Tanzania showed the largest increase of 7,3% (from 2 815 tourists in January 2018 to 3 021 in January 2019), while Lesotho showed the largest decrease of 18,4% (from 239 647 tourists in January 2018 to 195 516 in January 2019).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2019 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13 to 14, were: Nigeria, 4 374 (30,2%); Kenya, 2 172 (15,0%); Ghana, 1 545 (10,7%); Uganda, 1 244 (8,6%); Egypt, 872 (6,0%); Gabon, 674 (4,6%); Ethiopia, 631 (4,3%); Cameroon, 437 (3,0%); Algeria, 246 (1,7%) and Congo, 220 (1,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 85,6% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in January 2018 and January 2019 shows that the number of tourists increased for six of the ten leading countries (Algeria, Ghana, Gabon, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda) and decreased for the other four leading countries (Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia and Cameroon). Algeria showed the largest increase of 246,5% (from 71 tourists in January 2018 to 246 in January 2019), while Congo showed the largest decrease of 17,9% (from 268 tourists in January 2018 to 220 in January 2019).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed in Table 4 on pages 15 to 18, in January 2019, the majority of tourists, 1 036 173 (97,0%), were in South Africa for holiday¹ compared to 18 845 (1,8%); 12 604 (1,2%) and 568 (0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and for medical treatment respectively.

Compared to other overseas regions, Europe had the highest numbers of tourists, 146 638 (65,6%) who came for holiday, 3 694 (62,7%) who came for business, 1 531 (47,4%) who came for study and 70 (68,6%) who came for medical treatment.

Within overseas regions, Central and South America had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for holiday, 98,0% (11 717), followed by Australasia, 97,8% (9 648), Europe, 96,5% (146 638), North America, 96,0% (28 906), Asia, 92,3% (23 466), and the Middle East, 91,8% (3 271).

Asia, 4,5% (1 142) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed closely by the Middle East, 4,2% (150), Europe, 2,4% (3 694), North America, 2,2% (660), Australasia, 1,5% (151), and Central and South America, 0,8% (99).

The Middle East, 3,9% (140) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to study, followed by Asia, 3,2% (808), North America, 1,8% (545), Central and South America, 1,2% (144), Europe, 1,0% (1 531), and Australasia 0,6% (60).

Australasia and Asia had 0,1% of their tourists who came for medical treatment. For the other overseas regions, less than 0,1% of their tourists came for medical treatment.

The majority of African tourists, 811 672 (97,3%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, the following differences in terms of reasons for travel were observed between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- A higher proportion of tourists from SADC countries, 97,5% (799 687) were on holiday, compared to 82,6% (11 985) from 'other' African countries who came for the same purpose. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that tourists on holiday constituted 87,7% (6 025); 80,1% (1 416); and 77,4% (4 544) for West Africa, North Africa and East and Central Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 5,3% (773) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 1,5% (12 116) from SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 10,6% (188) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed closely by East and Central Africa, 6,4% (373).
- Students constituted 11,6% (1 686) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,9% (7 690) from SADC countries. East and Central Africa, 15,6% (918) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes.

¹ The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons. See section 5.5.2 on page 25 for a more detailed discussion.

- Medical treatment tourists constituted 0,4% (62) of tourists from 'other' African countries, while those from SADC constituted 0,05% (402) of its tourists. East and Central Africa, 0,6% (36) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for medical treatment.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in January 2019, there were 601 691 (56,3%) male and 466 499 (43,7%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 123 506 (53,0%) male tourists and 109 366 (47,0%) female tourists. There were 468 038 (57,1%) male and 351 857 (42,9%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 9 565 (65,9%) male and 4 941 (34,1%) female tourists.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into seven broad groups. The results presented in Table 5 on page 19 show that the majority of tourists were aged between 35 and 44 years [301 588 (28,2%)], followed closely by the age group 25 to 34 years [297 054 (27,8%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [261 398 (31,9%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years and those from 'other' African countries [4 339 (29,9%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years, with median ages of 36 and 35 years, respectively. Overseas tourists aged 30 years were in the majority [4 788 (2,1%)]. Looking at broader age groups however, those aged 65 years and above were the highest, [47 829 (20,5%)], followed closely by those aged 55 to 64 years [41 321 (17,7%)] and 25 to 34 years, [41 255 (17,7%)], with a median age of 47 years. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was higher among tourists from 'other' African countries, 6,4% (931) compared to those from overseas countries, 5,4% (12 519) and to those from SADC countries, 5,0% (41 241).

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 20,3% (25 024) of male and 20,9% (22 805) 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 2,5% of both male and female tourists. From SADC countries, elderly tourists made up 1,5% (6 904) and 2,3% (7 964) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 1,9% (177) and 2,2% (111) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

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

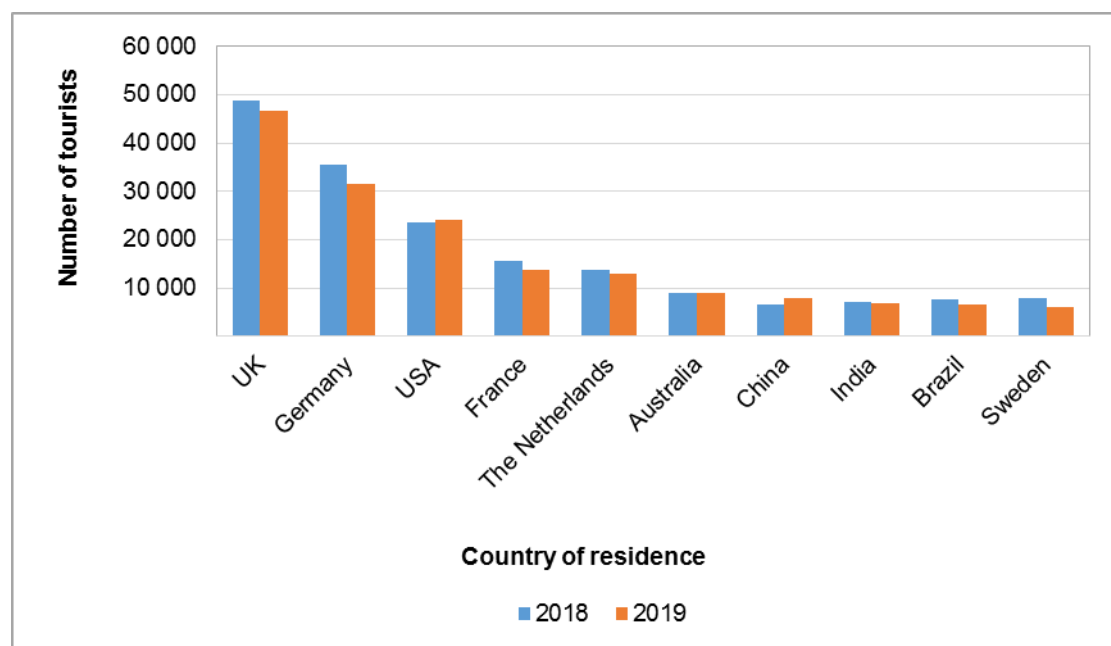


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in January 2018 and January 2019

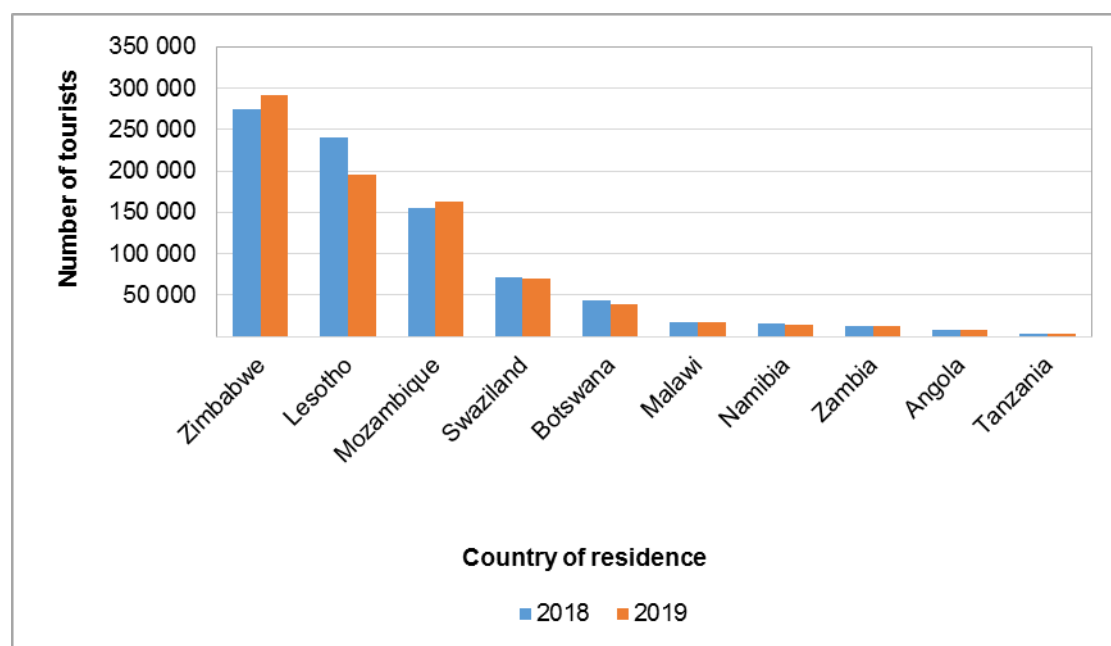
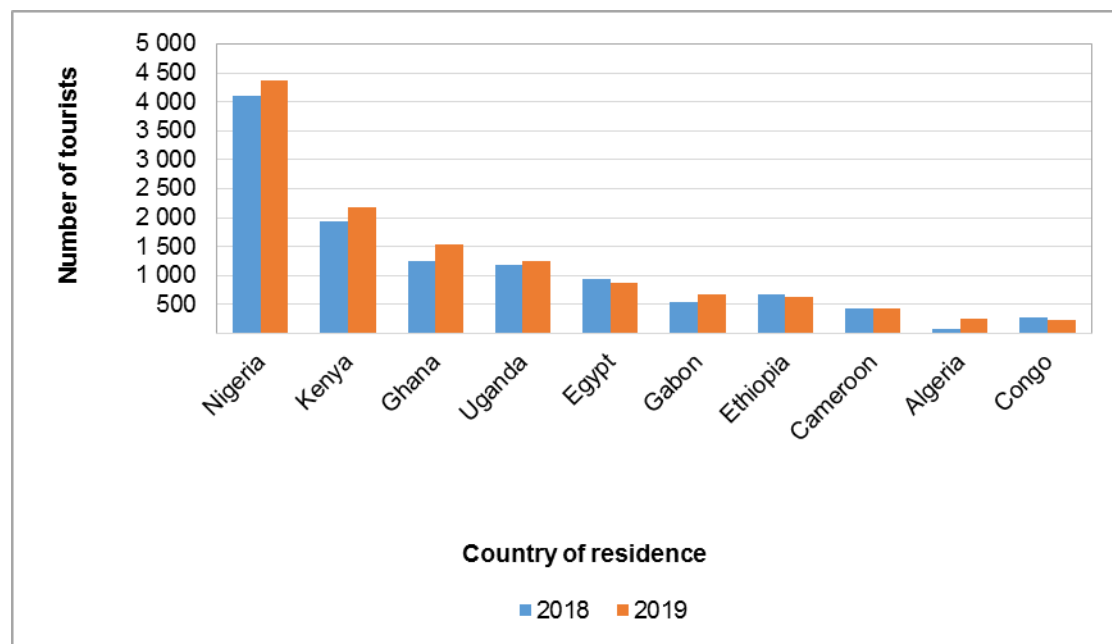


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in January 2018 and January 2019



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	Jan 2018	Dec 2018	Jan 2019	% Change Dec 2018 – Jan 2019	% Change Jan 2018 –Jan 2019
Total	3 917 911	4 735 894	3 818 462	-19,4%	-2,5%
South African residents	1 055 268	1 475 699	1 032 021	-30,1%	-2,2%
Arrivals	638 928	630 785	626 128	-0,7%	-2,0%
Departures	415 543	843 975	405 062	-52,0%	-2,5%
Transits	797	939	831	-11,5%	4,3%
Foreign travellers	2 862 643	3 260 195	2 786 441	-14,5%	-2,7%
Arrivals	1 598 893	1 594 112	1 561 510	-2,0%	-2,3%
Departures	1 209 841	1 605 326	1 169 796	-27,1%	-3,3%
Transits	53 909	60 757	55 135	-9,3%	2,3%
Foreign arrivals	1 598 893	1 594 112	1 561 510	-2,0%	-2,3%
Non-visitors	95 904	78 764	109 988	39,6%	14,7%
Visitors	1 502 989	1 515 348	1 451 522	-4,2%	-3,4%
Visitors	1 502 989	1 515 348	1 451 522	-4,2%	-3,4%
Arrivals only	586 277	368 845	577 621	56,6%	-1,5%
Single trips	424 946	569 018	412 844	-27,4%	-2,8%
Multiple trips	491 766	577 485	461 057	-20,2%	-6,2%
Visitors	1 502 989	1 515 348	1 451 522	-4,2%	-3,4%
Same-Day	399 049	508 193	383 332	-24,6%	-3,9%
Overnight (Tourists)	1 103 940	1 007 155	1 068 190	6,1%	-3,2%

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

Travel direction	Total	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O. R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	3 818 462	281 500	37 691	779 125	5 438	1 103 754	2 669 646	45 062
South African residents	1 032 021	71 771	25 301	305 629	2 957	405 658	604 235	22 128
Arrivals	626 128	42 643	15 026	181 814	1 448	240 931	373 942	11 255
Departures	405 062	29 128	10 275	122 984	1 509	163 896	230 293	10 873
Transit	831	-	-	831	-	831	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 786 441	209 729	12 390	473 496	2 481	698 096	2 065 411	22 934
Arrivals	1 561 510	101 498	5 126	200 790	995	308 409	1 242 408	10 693
Departures	1 169 796	108 044	7 264	217 758	1 486	334 552	823 003	12 241
Transit	55 135	187	-	54 948	-	55 135	-	-
Visitors	1 451 522	96 851	4 226	185 625	753	287 455	1 159 624	4 443
Same day	383 332	629	11	16 636	74	17 350	365 774	208
Tourist	1 068 190	96 222	4 215	168 989	679	270 105	793 850	4 235

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

Country of residence	January		Air					Road	Sea
	2018	2019	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	1 103 940	1 068 190	96 222	4 215	168 989	679	270 105	793 850	4 235
Overseas	244 657	232 872	87 204	3 656	118 881	567	210 308	18 417	4 147
Europe	166 328	151 933	68 636	2 700	66 236	218	137 790	12 050	2 093
Austria	3 190	3 363	2 086	119	949	2	3 156	203	4
Belgium	4 130	3 687	1 636	59	1 629	1	3 325	353	9
Denmark	3 917	3 132	1 013	39	1 867	6	2 925	200	7
France	15 681	13 595	4 637	53	6 835	12	11 537	2 042	16
Germany	35 434	31 501	16 485	251	12 214	18	28 968	2 467	66
Ireland	3 173	3 022	1 546	83	1 221	5	2 855	147	20
Italy	4 906	4 617	1 763	75	2 438	7	4 283	318	16
Norway	2 351	1 927	956	45	804	4	1 809	113	5
Portugal	2 641	2 437	339	21	1 088	3	1 451	978	8
Spain	2 500	2 325	674	41	1 408	5	2 128	192	5
Sweden	7 898	6 128	3 247	76	2 381	-	5 704	417	7
Switzerland	6 696	5 793	3 015	40	2 254	18	5 327	457	9
The Netherlands	13 665	12 888	6 440	96	4 772	20	11 328	1 539	21
UK	48 663	46 633	20 170	1 480	21 128	66	42 844	1 920	1 869
Other	11 483	10 885	4 629	222	5 248	51	10 150	704	31
North America	28 834	30 120	9 297	250	17 399	222	27 168	2 242	710
Canada	5 380	5 927	2 117	57	3 048	13	5 235	467	225
USA	23 454	24 193	7 180	193	14 351	209	21 933	1 775	485
Central and South America	12 626	11 961	1 120	26	10 073	31	11 250	701	10
Argentina	3 142	3 417	67	-	3 207	4	3 278	139	-
Brazil	7 558	6 523	810	9	5 274	15	6 108	412	3
Chile	599	632	28	1	580	-	609	23	-
Other	1 327	1 389	215	16	1 012	12	1 255	127	7

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

Country of residence	January		Air					Road	Sea
	2018	2019	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	9 855	9 867	1 391	159	7 236	35	8 821	826	220
Australia	8 871	8 980	1 206	138	6 652	34	8 030	737	213
New Zealand	971	872	183	20	574	1	778	87	7
Other	13	15	2	1	10	-	13	2	-
Middle East	4 158	3 562	998	22	2 329	6	3 355	207	-
Israel	2 194	2 189	484	3	1 553	5	2 045	144	-
Lebanon	249	216	66	3	137	-	206	10	-
Saudi Arabia	803	455	159	3	293	-	455	-	-
Other	912	702	289	13	346	1	649	53	-
Asia	22 856	25 429	5 762	499	15 608	55	21 924	2 391	1 114
Bangladesh	525	514	67	32	181	-	280	234	-
China	6 506	7 962	2 120	52	5 423	3	7 598	258	106
India	7 115	6 900	1 130	185	4 828	3	6 146	748	6
Japan	1 621	2 679	490	86	1 152	7	1 735	96	848
Malaysia	385	438	101	23	269	-	393	24	21
Pakistan	1 230	1 356	130	54	658	12	854	502	-
Philippines	444	441	82	7	284	1	374	51	16
South Korea	3 201	3 046	1 056	31	1 645	25	2 757	283	6
Taiwan	344	568	102	4	320	-	426	58	84
Thailand	394	416	87	13	300	-	400	12	4
Other	1 091	1 109	397	12	548	4	961	125	23
Africa	858 505	834 401	8 964	557	49 528	112	59 161	775 152	88
SADC	845 163	819 895	7 264	513	37 937	104	45 818	773 993	84
Angola	8 680	8 355	3 312	4	4 418	6	7 740	613	2
Botswana	43 427	39 709	24	140	2 058	19	2 241	37 456	12
DRC	2 403	2 588	146	1	1 895	9	2 051	537	-
Lesotho	239 647	195 516	1	-	403	-	404	195 107	5

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

Country of residence	January		Air					Road	Sea
	2018	2019	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	164	192	12	-	174	-	186	6	-
Malawi	16 961	17 415	17	1	1 831	2	1 851	15 564	-
Mauritius	1 559	1 716	531	64	993	1	1 589	120	7
Mozambique	155 819	162 393	4	17	3 579	8	3 608	158 763	22
Namibia	15 039	14 483	1 843	179	2 224	11	4 257	10 197	29
Seychelles	467	515	22	-	481	-	503	12	-
Swaziland	71 113	69 643	3	-	408	-	411	69 232	-
Tanzania	2 815	3 021	164	-	1 559	8	1 731	1 290	-
Zambia	13 061	13 056	61	84	3 340	7	3 492	9 564	-
Zimbabwe	274 008	291 293	1 124	23	14 574	33	15 754	275 532	7
'Other' African	13 342	14 506	1 700	44	11 591	8	13 343	1 159	4
East and Central Africa	5 454	5 871	905	7	4 349	3	5 264	605	2
Burundi	69	71	12	-	55	-	67	4	-
Cameroon	439	437	63	1	332	1	397	40	-
Central African Republic	14	6	-	-	6	-	6	-	-
Chad	32	18	1	-	16	-	17	1	-
Comoros	13	16	2	-	14	-	16	-	-
Congo	268	220	78	-	133	1	212	8	-
Djibouti	6	9	2	-	7	-	9	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	48	37	5	-	32	-	37	-	-
Eritrea	85	83	4	-	71	-	75	8	-
Ethiopia	663	631	85	3	467	-	555	76	-
Gabon	551	674	117	-	548	-	665	9	-
Kenya	1 935	2 172	386	2	1 574	1	1 963	207	2
Réunion	8	8	8	-	-	-	8	-	-
Rwanda	71	67	12	-	52	-	64	3	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	7	4	1	-	3	-	4	-	-
Somalia	59	174	7	-	23	-	30	144	-
Uganda	1 186	1 244	122	1	1 016	-	1 139	105	-

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

Country of residence	January		Air					Road	Sea
	2018	2019	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	6 312	6 868	490	16	5 888	3	6 397	471	-
Benin	103	124	9	-	107	-	116	8	-
Burkina Faso	50	43	5	-	37	-	42	1	-
Cape Verde Island	31	26	1	-	22	-	23	3	-
Côte d'Ivoire	189	200	17	2	179	-	198	2	-
Gambia	33	27	-	-	21	-	21	6	-
Ghana	1 252	1 545	86	3	1 351	2	1 442	103	-
Guinea	145	115	2	-	87	-	89	26	-
Guinea-Bissau	15	10	1	-	8	-	9	1	-
Liberia	34	56	4	-	51	-	55	1	-
Mali	116	80	6	1	41	-	48	32	-
Mauritania	9	8	-	-	7	-	7	1	-
Niger	21	17	1	-	16	-	17	-	-
Nigeria	4 093	4 374	335	8	3 763	1	4 107	267	-
Saint Helena	8	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-
Senegal	140	153	13	2	129	-	144	9	-
Sierra Leone	48	49	4	-	35	-	39	10	-
Togo	25	34	6	-	27	-	33	1	-
North Africa	1 576	1 767	305	21	1 354	2	1 682	83	2
Algeria	71	246	20	1	223	-	244	2	-
Egypt	939	872	126	4	699	2	831	41	-
Libya	55	116	34	7	47	-	88	28	-
Morocco	173	187	39	3	139	-	181	6	-
South Sudan	82	57	8	-	48	-	56	1	-
The Sudan	177	159	57	5	92	-	154	5	-
Tunisia	79	128	21	1	104	-	126	-	2
Western Sahara	-	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
Unspecified	778	917	54	2	580	-	636	281	-

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

Country of residence	January		Purpose of visit (January 2019)			
	2018	2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	1 103 940	1 068 190	18 845	1 036 173	12 604	568
Overseas	244 657	232 872	5 896	223 646	3 228	102
Europe	166 328	151 933	3 694	146 638	1 531	70
Austria	3 190	3 363	54	3 289	20	-
Belgium	4 130	3 687	89	3 535	63	-
Denmark	3 917	3 132	50	3 061	17	4
France	15 681	13 595	373	12 995	225	2
Germany	35 434	31 501	657	30 484	354	6
Ireland	3 173	3 022	66	2 929	25	2
Italy	4 906	4 617	174	4 382	59	2
Norway	2 351	1 927	57	1 820	50	-
Portugal	2 641	2 437	53	2 337	44	3
Spain	2 500	2 325	125	2 146	54	-
Sweden	7 898	6 128	87	6 023	18	-
Switzerland	6 696	5 793	85	5 641	67	-
The Netherlands	13 665	12 888	215	12 551	113	9
UK	48 663	46 633	1 198	45 109	290	36
Other	11 483	10 885	411	10 336	132	6
North America	28 834	30 120	660	28 906	545	9
Canada	5 380	5 927	107	5 782	38	-
USA	23 454	24 193	553	23 124	507	9
Central and South America	12 626	11 961	99	11 717	144	1
Argentina	3 142	3 417	7	3 404	6	-
Brazil	7 558	6 523	50	6 374	99	-
Chile	599	632	1	627	4	-
Other	1 327	1 389	41	1 312	35	1

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

Country of residence	January		Purpose of visit (January 2019)			
	2018	2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Australasia	9 855	9 867	151	9 648	60	8
Australia	8 871	8 980	138	8 785	49	8
New Zealand	971	872	12	850	10	-
Other	13	15	1	13	1	-
Middle East	4 158	3 562	150	3 271	140	1
Israel	2 194	2 189	57	2 116	16	-
Lebanon	249	216	37	175	3	1
Saudi Arabia	803	455	16	391	48	-
Other	912	702	40	589	73	-
Asia	22 856	25 429	1 142	23 466	808	13
Bangladesh	525	514	17	483	14	-
China	6 506	7 962	288	7 571	100	3
India	7 115	6 900	489	6 084	322	5
Japan	1 621	2 679	117	2 534	28	-
Malaysia	385	438	21	384	33	-
Pakistan	1 230	1 356	35	1 248	70	3
Philippines	444	441	19	405	16	1
South Korea	3 201	3 046	42	2 872	132	-
Taiwan	344	568	20	526	22	-
Thailand	394	416	19	374	23	-
Other	1 091	1 109	75	985	48	1
Africa	858 505	834 401	12 889	811 672	9 376	464
SADC	845 163	819 895	12 116	799 687	7 690	402
Angola	8 680	8 355	44	7 668	571	72
Botswana	43 427	39 709	433	38 561	625	90
DRC	2 403	2 588	68	2 194	294	32
Lesotho	239 647	195 516	1 944	192 678	891	3

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

Country of residence	January		Purpose of visit (January 2019)			
	2018	2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Madagascar	164	192	5	163	24	-
Malawi	16 961	17 415	209	16 952	243	11
Mauritius	1 559	1 716	55	1 513	139	9
Mozambique	155 819	162 393	2 608	159 482	274	29
Namibia	15 039	14 483	1 690	11 198	1 565	30
Seychelles	467	515	11	494	10	-
Swaziland	71 113	69 643	227	68 967	447	2
Tanzania	2 815	3 021	76	2 638	288	19
Zambia	13 061	13 056	1 440	11 207	385	24
Zimbabwe	274 008	291 293	3 306	285 972	1 934	81
'Other' African	13 342	14 506	773	11 985	1 686	62
East and Central Africa	5 454	5 871	373	4 544	918	36
Burundi	69	71	3	52	15	1
Cameroon	439	437	16	349	64	8
Central African Republic	14	6	-	4	2	-
Chad	32	18	1	13	4	-
Comoros	13	16	-	9	7	-
Congo	268	220	6	141	66	7
Djibouti	6	9	1	4	4	-
Equatorial Guinea	48	37	1	25	11	-
Eritrea	85	83	1	76	5	1
Ethiopia	663	631	39	543	41	8
Gabon	551	674	5	514	152	3
Kenya	1 935	2 172	213	1 609	345	5
Réunion	8	8	-	7	1	-
Rwanda	71	67	4	46	17	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	7	4	-	4	-	-
Somalia	59	174	21	150	2	1
Uganda	1 186	1 244	62	998	182	2

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

Country of residence	January		Purpose of visit (January 2019)			
	2018	2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
West Africa	6 312	6 868	212	6 025	605	26
Benin	103	124	4	104	14	2
Burkina Faso	50	43	4	37	2	-
Cape Verde Island	31	26	-	25	1	-
Côte d'Ivoire	189	200	18	161	21	-
Gambia	33	27	-	25	2	-
Ghana	1 252	1 545	57	1 377	101	10
Guinea	145	115	1	102	9	3
Guinea-Bissau	15	10	-	10	-	-
Liberia	34	56	3	46	5	2
Mali	116	80	7	70	3	-
Mauritania	9	8	-	8	-	-
Niger	21	17	3	13	1	-
Nigeria	4 093	4 374	97	3 833	437	7
Saint Helena	8	7	-	7	-	-
Senegal	140	153	7	140	5	1
Sierra Leone	48	49	4	43	2	-
Togo	25	34	7	24	2	1
North Africa	1 576	1 767	188	1 416	163	-
Algeria	71	246	60	177	9	-
Egypt	939	872	74	767	31	-
Libya	55	116	-	78	38	-
Morocco	173	187	19	159	9	-
South Sudan	82	57	7	36	14	-
The Sudan	177	159	8	98	53	-
Tunisia	79	128	20	99	9	-
Western Sahara	-	2	-	2	-	-
Unspecified	778	917	60	855	-	2

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

Sex	Age group	January		Region (January 2019)			
		2018	2019	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	1 103 940	1 068 190	232 872	819 895	14 506	917
	0-14	53 974	54 693	12 519	41 241	931	2
	15-24	110 999	101 475	18 073	81 656	1 727	19
	25-34	313 327	297 054	41 255	251 314	4 339	146
	35-44	302 816	301 588	35 588	261 398	4 331	271
	45-54	164 670	162 349	36 287	123 654	2 105	303
	55-64	91 463	88 034	41 321	45 764	785	164
	65+	66 691	62 997	47 829	14 868	288	12
Male	Total	620 644	601 691	123 506	468 038	9 565	582
	0-14	26 883	27 292	6 375	20 452	464	1
	15-24	59 819	54 582	7 854	45 770	946	12
	25-34	172 405	162 940	20 499	139 521	2 829	91
	35-44	181 156	180 119	21 316	155 511	3 141	151
	45-54	96 984	96 749	20 860	74 206	1 473	210
	55-64	49 206	47 896	21 578	25 674	535	109
	65+	34 191	32 113	25 024	6 904	177	8
Female	Total	483 296	466 499	109 366	351 857	4 941	335
	0-14	27 091	27 401	6 144	20 789	467	1
	15-24	51 180	46 893	10 219	35 886	781	7
	25-34	140 922	134 114	20 756	111 793	1 510	55
	35-44	121 660	121 469	14 272	105 887	1 190	120
	45-54	67 686	65 600	15 427	49 448	632	93
	55-64	42 257	40 138	19 743	20 090	250	55
	65+	32 500	30 884	22 805	7 964	111	4

4. Annexures

4.1 Annexure A – Number of tourists: Jan 2018 and Jan 2019, changes by country of residence

Country of residence	January			
	2018	2019	Difference 2018 – 2019	% change 2018 – 2019
Total	1 103 940	1 068 190	-35 750	-3,2%
Overseas	244 657	232 872	-11 785	-4,8%
Europe	166 328	151 933	-14 395	-8,7%
Austria	3 190	3 363	173	5,4%
Belgium	4 130	3 687	-443	-10,7%
Denmark	3 917	3 132	-785	-20,0%
France	15 681	13 595	-2 086	-13,3%
Germany	35 434	31 501	-3 933	-11,1%
Ireland	3 173	3 022	-151	-4,8%
Italy	4 906	4 617	-289	-5,9%
Norway	2 351	1 927	-424	-18,0%
Portugal	2 641	2 437	-204	-7,7%
Spain	2 500	2 325	-175	-7,0%
Sweden	7 898	6 128	-1 770	-22,4%
Switzerland	6 696	5 793	-903	-13,5%
The Netherlands	13 665	12 888	-777	-5,7%
UK	48 663	46 633	-2 030	-4,2%
Other	11 483	10 885	-598	-5,2%
North America	28 834	30 120	1 286	4,5%
Canada	5 380	5 927	547	10,2%
USA	23 454	24 193	739	3,2%
Central and South America	12 626	11 961	-665	-5,3%
Argentina	3 142	3 417	275	8,8%
Brazil	7 558	6 523	-1 035	-13,7%
Chile	599	632	33	5,5%
Other	1 327	1 389	62	4,7%

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists: Jan, 2017 – 2018, changes by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	January			
	2018	2019	Difference 2018 – 2019	% change 2018 – 2019
Australasia	9 855	9 867	12	0,1%
Australia	8 871	8 980	109	1,2%
New Zealand	971	872	-99	-10,2%
Other	13	15	2	15,4%
Middle East	4 158	3 562	-596	-14,3%
Israel	2 194	2 189	-5	-0,2%
Lebanon	249	216	-33	-13,3%
Saudi Arabia	803	455	-348	-43,3%
Other	912	702	-210	-23,0%
Asia	22 856	25 429	2 573	11,3%
Bangladesh	525	514	-11	-2,1%
China	6 506	7 962	1 456	22,4%
India	7 115	6 900	-215	-3,0%
Japan	1 621	2 679	1 058	65,3%
Malaysia	385	438	53	13,8%
Pakistan	1 230	1 356	126	10,2%
Philippines	444	441	-3	-0,7%
South Korea	3 201	3 046	-155	-4,8%
Taiwan	344	568	224	65,1%
Thailand	394	416	22	5,6%
Other	1 091	1 109	18	1,6%
Africa	858 505	834 401	-24 104	-2,8%
SADC	845 163	819 895	-25 268	-3,0%
Angola	8 680	8 355	-325	-3,7%
Botswana	43 427	39 709	-3 718	-8,6%
DRC	2 403	2 588	185	7,7%
Lesotho	239 647	195 516	-44 131	-18,4%

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists: Jan, 2017 – 2018, changes by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	January			
	2018	2019	Difference 2018 – 2019	% change 2018 – 2019
Madagascar	164	192	28	17,1%
Malawi	16 961	17 415	454	2,7%
Mauritius	1 559	1 716	157	10,1%
Mozambique	155 819	162 393	6 574	4,2%
Namibia	15 039	14 483	-556	-3,7%
Seychelles	467	515	48	10,3%
Swaziland	71 113	69 643	-1 470	-2,1%
Tanzania	2 815	3 021	206	7,3%
Zambia	13 061	13 056	-5	-0,04%
Zimbabwe	274 008	291 293	17 285	6,3%
'Other' African	13 342	14 506	1 164	8,7%
East and Central Africa	5 454	5 871	417	7,6%
Burundi	69	71	2	2,9%
Cameroon	439	437	-2	-0,5%
Central African Republic	14	6	-8	-57,1%
Chad	32	18	-14	-43,8%
Comoros	13	16	3	23,1%
Congo	268	220	-48	-17,9%
Djibouti	6	9	3	50,0%
Equatorial Guinea	48	37	-11	-22,9%
Eritrea	85	83	-2	-2,4%
Ethiopia	663	631	-32	-4,8%
Gabon	551	674	123	22,3%
Kenya	1 935	2 172	237	12,2%
Réunion	8	8	0	0,0%
Rwanda	71	67	-4	-5,6%
São Tomé and Príncipe	7	4	-3	-42,9%
Somalia	59	174	115	194,9%
Uganda	1 186	1 244	58	4,9%

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists: Jan, 2017 – 2018, changes by country of residence (concluded)

Country of residence	January			
	2018	2019	Difference 2018 – 2019	% change 2018 – 2019
West Africa	6 312	6 868	556	8,8%
Benin	103	124	21	20,4%
Burkina Faso	50	43	-7	-14,0%
Cape Verde Island	31	26	-5	-16,1%
Côte d'Ivoire	189	200	11	5,8%
Gambia	33	27	-6	-18,2%
Ghana	1 252	1 545	293	23,4%
Guinea	145	115	-30	-20,7%
Guinea-Bissau	15	10	-5	-33,3%
Liberia	34	56	22	64,7%
Mali	116	80	-36	-31,0%
Mauritania	9	8	-1	-11,1%
Niger	21	17	-4	-19,0%
Nigeria	4 093	4 374	281	6,9%
Saint Helena	8	7	-1	-12,5%
Senegal	140	153	13	9,3%
Sierra Leone	48	49	1	2,1%
Togo	25	34	9	36,0%
North Africa	1 576	1 767	191	12,1%
Algeria	71	246	175	246,5%
Egypt	939	872	-67	-7,1%
Libya	55	116	61	110,9%
Morocco	173	187	14	8,1%
South Sudan	82	57	-25	-30,5%
The Sudan	177	159	-18	-10,2%
Tunisia	79	128	49	62,0%
Western Sahara	-	2	2	-
Unspecified	778	917	139	17,9%

5. Explanatory notes

NOTE TO USERS

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

5.1 Introduction

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

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

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

5.2 Purpose of the statistical release

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

5.3 Scope and coverage

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

5.4 Data

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

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

- As part of data interrogation, data from O.R. Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA is also reflected in an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern has also been observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In January 2019, the DHA data was 2,3% higher than that of ACSA.

5.5 Limitations

5.5.1 Outbound tourists

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

5.5.2 Purpose of visit

The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons such as attending weddings. While it's possible to separate 'visiting friends and relatives' from the broad category of Holiday, shopping and other reasons for visiting South Africa are all combined with vacation in the DHA movement control system. Discussions are in progress with the Department of Home Affairs to capture vacation and shopping as separate categories for a clearer breakdown of tourists by purpose of visit.

5.6 Definition of terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release

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

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

Region refers to the following country classification:

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

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

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

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

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

Overseas refers to all countries outside Africa.

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

5.7 Symbols used

- = nil

< = less than

5.8 Rounding off

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

6. General information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages, since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities. Stats SA releases are published in English.

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