



The South Africa I know, the home I understand

Statistical release

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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 March 2015. 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.

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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 show that a total of 3 217 754 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through South African ports of entry in March 2015. As presented in Table 1 on page 8, these travellers were made up of 794 917 South African residents and 2 422 837 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 384 922 arrivals, 409 260 departures and 735 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 235 571, 1 127 979 and 59 287 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in March 2014 and March 2015 indicates that the volumes of arrivals increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. While volumes of departures increased for South African residents, they decreased for foreign travellers. Travellers in transit increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents increased by 3,7% (from 371 169 in March 2014 to 384 922 in March 2015) while departures increased by 2,6% (from 398 947 in March 2014 to 409 260 in March 2015), and South African residents in transit increased by 36,6% (from 538 in March 2014 to 735 in March 2015). Foreign arrivals increased by 0,6% (from 1 227 853 in March 2014 to 1 235 571 in March 2015), but departures decreased by 3,4% (from 1 167 962 in March 2014 to 1 127 979 in March 2015). Foreign travellers in transit increased by 18,6% (from 49 972 in March 2014 to 59 287 in March 2015).

A comparison between the movements in February 2015 and March 2015 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents increased by 18,8% (from 324 107 in February 2015 to 384 922 in March 2015), departures increased by 25,7% (from 325 697 in February 2015 to 409 260 in March 2015) and South African residents in transit increased by 35,1% (from 544 in February 2015 to 735 in March 2015). Foreign arrivals increased by 9,0% (from 1 133 411 in February 2015 to 1 235 571 in March 2015), foreign departures increased by 11,7% (from 1 009 555 in February 2015 to 1 127 979 in March 2015), and foreign travellers in transit increased by 25,6% (from 47 194 in February 2015 to 59 287 in March 2015).

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 and non-tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation.

As presented in Table 1, in March 2015, 85 931 (7,0%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 149 640 (93,0%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in March 2015 but did not depart in March 2015 [265 068 (23,1%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came once in March 2015 and left in March 2015 [439 257 (38,2%)];
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came and left more than once in March 2015 [445 315 (38,7%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In March 2015, there were 416 399 (36,2%) same-day visitors and 733 241 (63,8%) tourists. Between March 2014 and March 2015, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 0,6% (from 413 711 in March 2014 to 416 399 in March 2015) while the volume of tourists decreased by 2,5% (from 751 816 in March 2014 to 733 241 in March 2015). Likewise, between February 2015 and March 2015, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 10,8% (from 375 938 in February 2015 to 416 399 in March 2015) and tourists increased by 7,6% (from 681 216 in February 2015 to 733 241 in March 2015).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 9 show that in March 2015, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 281 366 (70,9%) out of the 3 217 754 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air

transport was 925 759 (28,8%). The arrivals data for South African residents show that 146 296 (38,0%) came by air and 238 367 (61,9%) came by road. For departures, 161 304 (39,4%) and 247 402 (60,5%) used air and road transport respectively. All South African travellers in transit used air transport (735).

In the case of foreign travellers, 275 524 (22,3%) arrived by air while 955 354 (77,3%) came by road. When departing South Africa, 282 613 (25,1%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 840 243 (74,5%) left by road. All travellers in transit, (59 287) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [400 905 (96,3%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 15 485 (3,7%) of same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that 491 091 (67,0%) used road transport while 241 341 (32,9%) came by air.

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 10. In March 2015, 188 551 (91,6%) of overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 16 571 (8,0%) came in by road. This is in contrast to the number of tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries who came into South Africa predominantly by road [473 460 (92,8%)]. Only 36 868 (7,2%) tourists from the SADC countries came in by air. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 14 934 (94,1%); with 910 (5,7%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In March 2015, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows; Europe, 136 104 (66,1%); North America, 31 764 (15,4%); Asia, 19 619 (9,5%); Australasia, 10 172 (4,9%); Central and South America, 4 168 (2,0%); and Middle East, 4 082 (2,0%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 6 indicate that the United Kingdom (UK), 43 527 (21,1%); Germany, 32 110 (15,6%); United States of America (USA), 25 978 (12,6%); France, 13 554 (6,6%); The Netherlands, 8 919 (4,3%); Australia, 8 533 (4,1%); China, 6 471 (3,1%); India, 6 080 (3,0%); Canada, 5 786 (2,8%) and Switzerland, 4 083 (2,0%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in March 2015. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 75,3% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in March 2014 and March 2015 shows that the number of tourists increased in the UK, Australia, Germany and Switzerland and decreased in the other six countries (China, Canada, USA, The Netherlands, France and India). The UK had the highest increase of 15,5% (from 37 688 tourists in March 2014 to 43 527 in March 2015) while China had the largest decrease of 29,7% (from 9 206 tourists in March 2014 to 6 471 in March 2015).

Virtually all tourists, 510 331 (97,0%), from Africa came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 8 638 (1,6%); East and Central Africa, 5 823 (1,1%); and North Africa 1 402 (0,3%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in March 2015 were Zimbabwe, 146 513 (28,7%); Lesotho, 107 617 (21,1%); Mozambique, 94 445 (18,5%); Swaziland, 64 702 (12,7%); Botswana, 41 758 (8,2%); Namibia, 16 784 (3,3%); Zambia, 14 912 (2,9%); Malawi, 11 770 (2,3%); Angola, 4 177 (0,8%) and Tanzania, 3 131 (0,6%) (see Figure 2 on page 6). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,1% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in March 2014 and March 2015 for the ten leading countries shows that the number of tourists increased in four countries, Botswana, Tanzania, Namibia and Zambia and decreased in Swaziland, Malawi, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Angola and Mozambique. Botswana had the highest increase of 9,8% (from 38 016 tourists in March 2014 to 41 758 in March 2015), while Swaziland showed the largest decrease of 10,3% (from 72 154 tourists in March 2014 to 64 702 tourists in March 2015).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in March 2015 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 7, were Nigeria, 5 582 (35,2%); Kenya, 2 426 (15,3%); Ghana, 1 694 (10,7%); Uganda, 1 042 (6,6%); Egypt, 639 (4,0%); Ethiopia, 636 (4,0%); Gabon, 619 (3,9%); Cameroon, 395 (2,5%); Congo, 317 (2,0%); and Senegal, 289 (1,8%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 86,0% of all tourists from 'other African' countries. A comparison between movements in March 2014 and March 2015 shows

that of these ten leading 'other African' countries, the number of tourists increased in five countries, (Senegal, Gabon, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Kenya) and decreased in the other five (Uganda, Egypt, Congo, Ghana and Cameroon). Senegal had the highest increase of 17,5% (from 246 tourists in March 2014 to 289 in March 2015) while Uganda showed the largest decrease of 16,2% (from 1 243 tourists in March 2014 to 1 042 in March 2015).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on page 14, in March 2015, the majority of tourists, 702 709 (95,8%), were in South Africa for holidays compared to 26 324 (3,6%) and 4 208 (0,6%) 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, at least 91,0% came to South Africa for holidays. A total of 9 842 (96,8%) tourists from Australasia; 4 029 (96,7%) from Central and South America; 30 617 (96,4%) from North America; 130 464 (95,9%) from Europe; 3 816 (93,5%) from the Middle East and 17 862 (91,0%) from Asia were in South Africa for holidays. Asia (8,1%) and the Middle East (5,8%) had the highest proportions of tourists who came to South Africa for business. Asia had a higher proportion (0,8%) of student tourists compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists, 505 035 (96,0%) came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries namely:

- Whereas 490 808 (96,2%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 14 227 (89,7%) of tourists from 'other' African countries came for the same purpose. Data on the regions of 'other' African countries show that tourists on holidays constituted 91,5% (7 901); 88,3% (5 142) and 84,5% (1 184) for West Africa; East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 6,3% (996) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 3,3% (16 701) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 13,3% (186) of its tourists in South Africa who came for business purposes.
- Students made up 4,0% (640) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,6% (2 822) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa had the highest proportion, 5,0% (292) of student tourists in South Africa.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 18 shows that in March 2015, there were 415 802 (56,7%) male and 317 436 (43,3%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 114 478 (55,6%) male tourists and 91 431 (44,4%) female tourists. There were 289 953 (56,8%) male and 220 403 (43,2%) female tourists from the SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 10 699 (67,4%) male and 5 164 (32,6%) 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 34 220 (4,7%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 657 942 (89,7%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 41 079 (5,6%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 164 019 (79,7%) of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 477 884 (93,6%) and 14 953 (94,3%) of tourists in the same age range from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries respectively. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years, was slightly higher among tourists from overseas countries 6,9% (14 203) than among tourists from SADC countries, 3,8% (19 481) and those from 'other' African countries, 3,3% (529).

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 12,8% (14 665) of male tourists and 14,2% (13 022) of female tourists. This is in contrast to the pattern observed among tourists from the other two regions where tourists aged 65 years and older comprised less than 4,0% of both male and female tourists. From the SADC countries elderly tourists made up 2,0% (5 881) and 3,2% (7 113) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other African' countries elderly tourists made up 2,3% (248) and 2,6% (133) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in March 2014 and March 2015

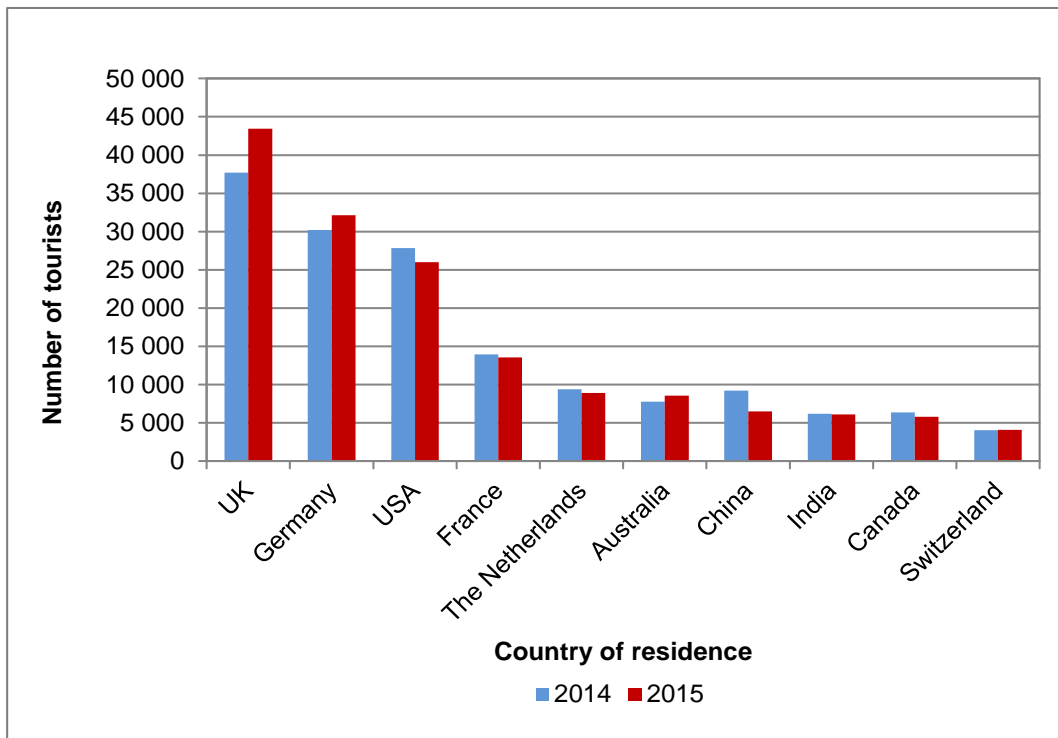


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in March 2014 and March 2015

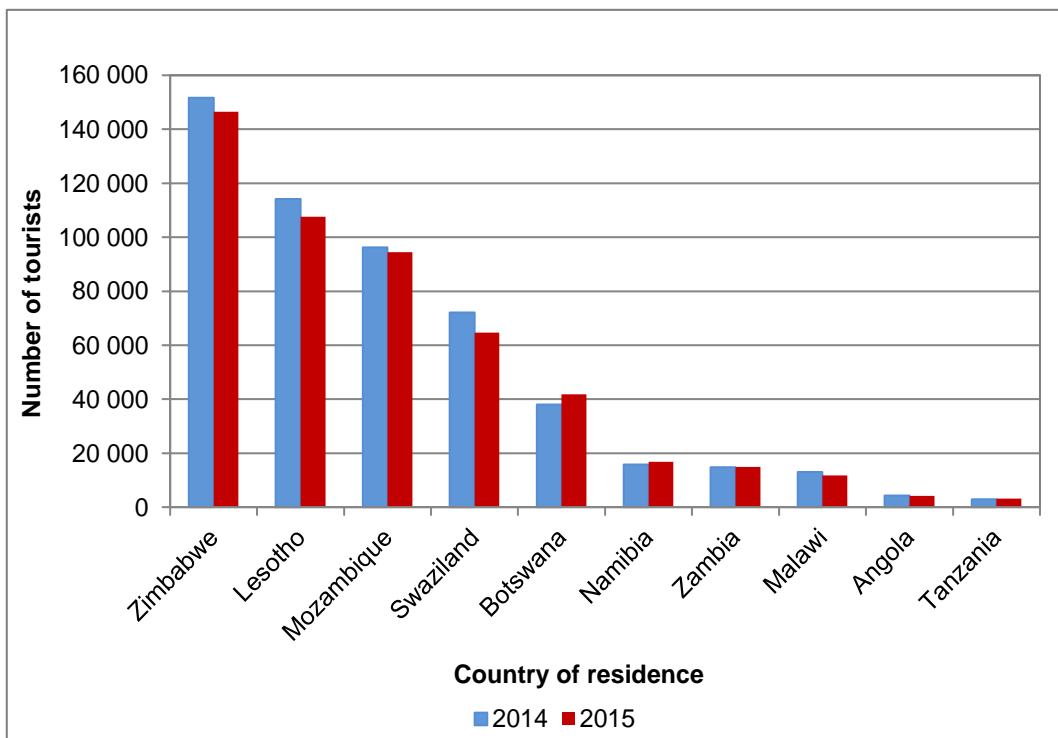
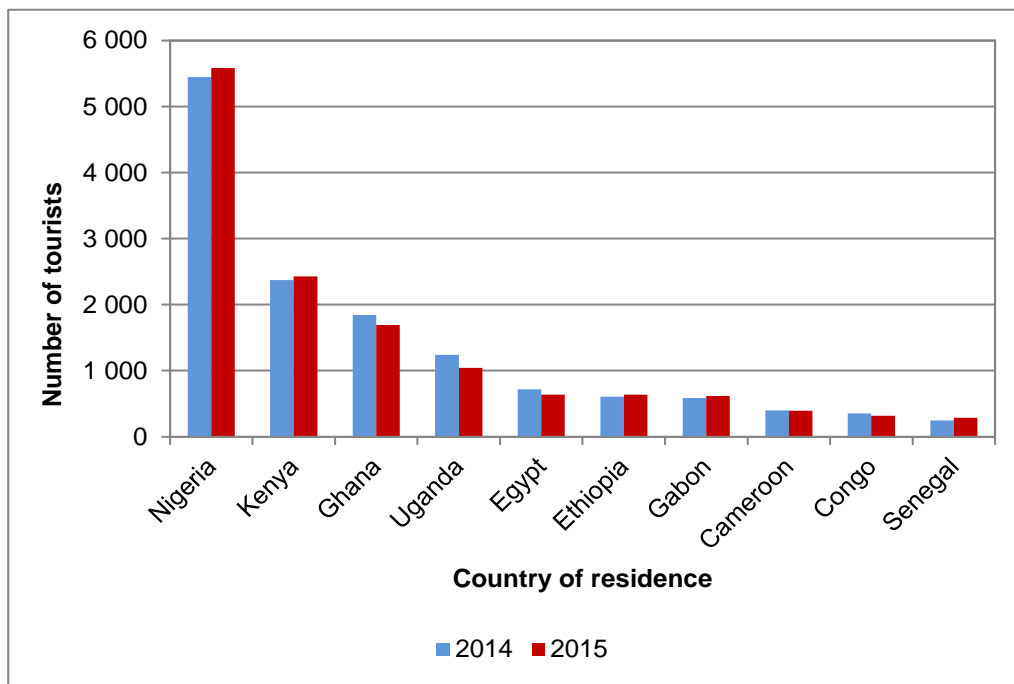


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading ‘other’ African countries in March 2014 and March 2015



3. Tables

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

Travel direction	March	February	March	% Change	% Change
	2014	2015	2015	February 2015 – March 2015	March 2014 – March 2015
Total	3 216 441	2 840 508	3 217 754	13,3	0,04
South African residents	770 654	650 348	794 917	22,2	3,1
Arrivals	371 169	324 107	384 922	18,8	3,7
Departures	398 947	325 697	409 260	25,7	2,6
Transit	538	544	735	35,1	36,6
Foreign travellers	2 445 787	2 190 160	2 422 837	10,6	-0,9
Arrivals	1 227 853	1 133 411	1 235 571	9,0	0,6
Departures	1 167 962	1 009 555	1 127 979	11,7	-3,4
Transit	49 972	47 194	59 287	25,6	18,6
Foreign arrivals	1 227 853	1 133 411	1 235 571	9,0	0,6
Non-visitors	62 326	76 257	85 931	12,7	37,9
Visitors	1 165 527	1 057 154	1 149 640	8,7	-1,4
Visitors	1 165 527	1 057 154	1 149 640	8,7	-1,4
Arrivals only	333 391	307 187	265 068	-13,7	-20,5
Single trips	453 890	433 281	439 257	1,4	-3,2
Multiple trips	378 246	316 686	445 315	40,6	17,7
Visitors	1 165 527	1 057 154	1 149 640	8,7	-1,4
Same day	413 711	375 938	416 399	10,8	0,6
Overnight (tourists)	751 816	681 216	733 241	7,6	-2,5

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

Travel Direction	Total	Mode of travel (March 2015)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	3 217 754	182 707	23 466	711 873	7 713	925 759	2 281 366	10 629
South African residents	794 917	40 405	14 486	248 691	4 753	308 335	485 769	813
Arrivals	384 922	18 952	6 907	118 298	2 139	146 296	238 367	259
Departures	409 260	21 453	7 579	129 659	2 613	161 304	247 402	554
Transit	735	-	-	734	1	735	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 422 837	142 302	8 980	463 182	2 960	617 424	1 795 597	9 816
Arrivals	1 235 571	67 048	4 599	202 686	1 191	275 524	955 354	4 693
Departures	1 127 979	75 245	4 381	201 219	1 768	282 613	840 243	5 123
Transit	59 287	9	-	59 277	1	59 287	-	-
Visitors	1 149 640	64 089	3 577	188 434	726	256 826	891 996	818
Same day	416 399	395	16	15 011	63	15 485	400 905	9
Overnight (tourists)	733 241	63 694	3 561	173 423	663	241 341	491 091	809

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

Country of residence	March		Mode of travel (March 2015)						
			Air					Road	Sea
	2014	2015	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	751 816	733 241	63 694	3 561	173 423	663	241 341	491 091	809
Overseas	207 093	205 909	59 832	2 966	125 268	485	188 551	16 571	787
Europe	129 279	136 104	48 536	2 143	73 577	161	124 417	11 407	280
Austria	2 241	2 183	762	110	1 142	-	2 014	166	3
Belgium	3 596	3 304	1 165	27	1 751	3	2 946	353	5
Denmark	2 509	2 694	689	32	1 754	8	2 483	211	-
France	13 922	13 554	4 623	85	6 494	11	11 213	2 296	45
Germany	30 189	32 110	11 172	286	18 464	22	29 944	2 137	29
Ireland	2 564	2 811	1 158	102	1 398	8	2 666	145	-
Italy	4 258	3 888	1 307	78	2 220	2	3 607	228	53
Norway	2 052	2 398	1 053	8	1 134	3	2 198	198	2
Portugal	3 456	3 794	583	35	1 879	19	2 516	1 276	2
Spain	2 159	2 324	650	19	1 483	9	2 161	148	15
Sweden	3 547	3 262	1 157	37	1 834	1	3 029	233	-
Switzerland	4 026	4 083	1 785	52	1 850	6	3 693	379	11
The Netherlands	9 391	8 919	3 651	91	4 111	13	7 866	1 049	4
United Kingdom	37 688	43 527	16 427	1 069	23 956	49	41 501	1 928	98
Other	7 681	7 253	2 354	112	4 107	7	6 580	660	13
North America	34 156	31 764	6 206	198	22 272	252	28 928	2 376	460
Canada	6 333	5 786	1 656	60	3 407	26	5 149	620	17
United States of America	27 822	25 978	4 550	138	18 865	226	23 779	1 756	443
Other	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central and South America	6 406	4 168	336	9	3 368	6	3 719	430	19
Argentina	3 286	659	16	1	616	-	633	22	4
Brazil	1 636	2 224	102	4	1 823	2	1 931	291	2
Mexico	319	275	105	-	159	3	267	3	5
Other	1 165	1 010	113	4	770	1	888	114	8

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

Country of residence	March		Mode of travel (March 2015)						
			Air					Road	Sea
	2014	2015	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	9 165	10 172	951	179	8 649	28	9 807	355	10
Australia	7 751	8 533	705	113	7 393	28	8 239	286	8
New Zealand	1 392	1 618	244	66	1 243		1 553	64	1
Other	22	21	2	-	13	-	15	5	1
Middle East	4 379	4 082	706	43	3 227	11	3 987	94	1
Iran	1 375	893	199	34	656	-	889	4	-
Israel	1 571	1 760	135	-	1 556	4	1 695	65	-
Saudi Arabia	652	615	94	1	515	5	615	-	-
Other	781	814	278	8	500	2	788	25	1
Asia	23 708	19 619	3 097	394	14 175	27	17 693	1 909	17
China	9 206	6 471	893	47	5 197	1	6 138	323	10
India	6 167	6 080	945	235	4 222	9	5 411	666	3
Japan	2 224	1 606	191	23	1 271	5	1 490	116	-
Malaysia	464	445	95	13	318	-	426	19	-
Pakistan	1 158	963	96	30	544	-	670	292	1
Philippines	408	495	118	8	322	2	450	44	1
Singapore	560	522	203	-	304	3	510	12	-
South Korea	1 207	954	166	10	664	4	844	110	-
Taiwan	577	484	35	3	379	-	417	67	-
Thailand	538	479	77	14	308	-	399	79	1
Other	1 199	1 120	278	11	646	3	938	181	1
Africa	543 806	526 194	3 816	583	47 225	178	51 802	474 370	22
SADC	527 675	510 331	3 240	450	33 054	124	36 868	473 460	3
Angola	4 301	4 177	821	1	3 176	5	4 003	173	1
Botswana	38 016	41 758	203	8	2 179	20	2 410	39 348	-
DRC	2 500	2 297	10	2	1 703	32	1 747	550	-
Lesotho	114 180	107 617	3	4	486	-	493	107 124	-
Madagascar	235	274	2	-	243	1	246	28	-

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

Country of residence	March		Mode of travel (March 2015)						
	2014	2015	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Malawi	12 949	11 770	8	2	1 589	2	1 601	10 169	-
Mauritius	1 350	1 370	186	100	985	-	1 271	99	-
Mozambique	96 207	94 445	8	79	3 146	13	3 246	91 199	-
Namibia	15 823	16 784	1 895	3	3 146	12	5 056	11 727	1
Seychelles	635	581	2	-	576	-	578	3	-
Swaziland	72 154	64 702	-	3	474	1	478	64 224	-
Tanzania	2 857	3 131	15	-	2 016	2	2 033	1 098	-
Zambia	14 757	14 912	22	105	4 055	13	4 195	10 717	-
Zimbabwe	151 711	146 513	65	143	9 280	23	9 511	137 001	1
'Other' African	16 131	15 863	576	133	14 171	54	14 934	910	19
East and Central Africa	6 044	5 823	90	22	5 314	5	5 431	392	-
Burundi	77	109	1	-	99	-	100	9	-
Cameroon	398	395	7	1	364	-	372	23	-
Central African Republic	7	21	-	1	20	-	21	-	-
Chad	76	35	-	-	35	-	35	-	-
Comoros	10	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-
Congo	355	317	2	-	307	4	313	4	-
Djibouti	7	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	45	50	-	-	50	-	50	-	-
Eritrea	39	40	3	1	34	-	38	2	-
Ethiopia	609	636	19	13	537	-	569	67	-
Gabon	587	619	3	4	594	1	602	17	-
Kenya	2 373	2 426	26	1	2 248	-	2 275	151	-
Réunion	10	17	17	-	-	-	17	-	-
Rwanda	176	83	1	-	74	-	75	8	-
Sao Tome And Principe	15	10	1	-	9	-	10	-	-
Somalia	17	13	1	-	11	-	12	1	-
Uganda	1 243	1 042	9	1	922	-	932	110	-

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

Country of residence	March		Mode of travel (March 2015)						
			Air					Road	Sea
	2014	2015	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	8 666	8 638	138	24	7 942	45	8 149	471	18
Benin	188	152	1	-	149	1	151	1	-
Burkina Faso	66	66	1	-	64	-	65	1	-
Cape Verde	62	77	9	-	64	-	73	4	-
Côte d'Ivoire	225	271	22	2	238	2	264	7	-
Gambia	62	34	1	-	30	-	31	3	-
Ghana	1 843	1 694	43	16	1 576	4	1 639	55	-
Guinea	175	119	-	-	46	-	46	73	-
Guinea-Bissau	12	10	-	-	9	-	9	1	-
Liberia	50	27	2	-	19	-	21	6	-
Mali	87	134	-	-	101	4	105	29	-
Mauritania	31	19	-	-	19	-	19	-	-
Niger	31	39	1	-	38	-	39	-	-
Nigeria	5 448	5 582	47	5	5 218	34	5 304	278	-
Saint Helena	-	20	2	-	-	-	2	-	18
Senegal	246	289	2	1	278	-	281	8	-
Sierra Leone	81	29	2	-	22	-	24	5	-
Togo	59	76	5	-	71	-	76	-	-
North Africa	1 421	1 402	348	87	915	4	1 354	47	1
Algeria	138	81	22	-	55	1	78	3	-
Egypt	717	639	132	11	472	2	617	22	-
Libya	102	42	12	2	19	-	33	9	-
Morocco	141	207	54	71	74	-	199	8	-
South Sudan	46	100	-	-	98	-	98	2	-
The Sudan	96	183	46	-	133	-	179	3	1
Tunisia	174	147	82	3	61	1	147	-	-
Western Sahara	7	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-
Unspecified	917	1 138	46	12	930	-	988	150	-

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

Country of residence	March		Purpose of visit (March 2015)		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
Total	751 816	733 241	26 324	702 709	4 208
Overseas	207 093	205 909	8 550	196 630	729
Europe	129 279	136 104	5 243	130 464	397
Austria	2 241	2 183	70	2 109	4
Belgium	3 596	3 304	172	3 116	16
Denmark	2 509	2 694	94	2 596	4
France	13 922	13 554	516	12 935	103
Germany	30 189	32 110	779	31 283	48
Ireland	2 564	2 811	109	2 695	7
Italy	4 258	3 888	295	3 571	22
Norway	2 052	2 398	65	2 331	2
Portugal	3 456	3 794	100	3 683	11
Spain	2 159	2 324	159	2 157	8
Sweden	3 547	3 262	196	3 058	8
Switzerland	4 026	4 083	116	3 946	21
The Netherlands	9 391	8 919	372	8 516	31
United Kingdom	37 688	43 527	1 697	41 745	85
Other	7 681	7 253	503	6 723	27
North America	34 156	31 764	1 033	30 617	114
Canada	6 333	5 786	168	5 598	20
United States of America	27 822	25 978	865	25 019	94
Other	1	-	-	-	-
Central and South America	6 406	4 168	124	4 029	15
Argentina	1 636	659	14	644	1
Brazil	3 286	2 224	50	2 167	7
Mexico	319	275	24	250	1
Other	1 165	1 010	36	968	6

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

Country of residence	March		Purpose of visit (March 2015)		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	9 165	10 172	317	9 842	13
Australia	7 751	8 533	282	8 241	10
New Zealand	1 392	1 618	33	1 583	2
Other	22	21	2	18	1
Middle East	4 379	4 082	237	3 816	29
Iran	1 375	893	17	868	8
Israel	1 571	1 760	76	1 679	5
Saudi Arabia	652	615	15	595	5
Other	781	814	129	674	11
Asia	23 708	19 619	1 596	17 862	161
China	9 206	6 471	388	6 063	20
India	6 167	6 080	597	5 433	50
Japan	2 224	1 606	139	1 456	11
Malaysia	464	445	41	399	5
Pakistan	1 158	963	87	865	11
Philippines	408	495	52	439	4
Singapore	560	522	61	459	2
South Korea	1 207	954	82	843	29
Taiwan	577	484	16	467	1
Thailand	538	479	23	454	2
Other	1 199	1 120	110	984	26
Africa	543 806	526 194	17 697	505 035	3 462
SADC	527 675	510 331	16 701	490 808	2 822
Angola	4 301	4 177	47	3 830	300
Botswana	38 016	41 758	433	41 005	320
DRC	2 500	2 297	71	2 104	122
Lesotho	114 180	107 617	1 469	105 640	508

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

Country of residence	March		Purpose of visit (March 2015)		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
Madagascar	235	274	14	257	3
Malawi	12 949	11 770	183	11 545	42
Mauritius	1 350	1 370	76	1 273	21
Mozambique	96 207	94 445	8 617	85 751	77
Namibia	15 823	16 784	2 330	14 204	250
Seychelles	635	581	11	568	2
Swaziland	72 154	64 702	485	63 753	464
Tanzania	2 857	3 131	127	2 948	56
Zambia	14 757	14 912	985	13 820	107
Zimbabwe	151 711	146 513	1 853	144 110	550
'Other' African	16 131	15 863	996	14 227	640
East and Central Africa	6 044	5 823	389	5 142	292
Burundi	77	109	5	100	4
Cameroon	398	395	29	343	23
Central African Republic	7	21	2	15	4
Chad	76	35	-	33	2
Comoros	10	7	-	6	1
Congo	355	317	8	265	44
Djibouti	7	3	1	2	-
Equatorial Guinea	45	50	3	41	6
Eritrea	39	40	1	38	1
Ethiopia	609	636	47	572	17
Gabon	587	619	7	548	64
Kenya	2 373	2 426	207	2 138	81
Réunion	10	17	-	17	-
Rwanda	176	83	6	65	12
Sao Tome and Principe	15	10	1	9	-
Somalia	17	13	-	11	2
Uganda	1 243	1 042	72	939	31

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

Country of residence	March		Purpose of visit (March 2015)		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	8 666	8 638	421	7 901	316
Benin	188	152	13	136	3
Burkina Faso	66	66	1	64	1
Cape Verde	62	77	6	69	2
Côte d'Ivoire	225	271	37	226	8
Gambia	62	34	3	30	1
Ghana	1 843	1 694	96	1 556	42
Guinea	175	119	-	114	5
Guinea-Bissau	12	10	2	5	3
Liberia	50	27	1	25	1
Mali	87	134	6	128	-
Mauritania	31	19	3	16	-
Niger	31	39	7	32	-
Nigeria	5 448	5 582	211	5 123	248
Saint Helena	-	20	-	20	-
Senegal	246	289	21	267	1
Sierra Leone	81	29	4	25	-
Togo	59	76	10	65	1
North Africa	1 421	1 402	186	1 184	32
Algeria	138	81	13	67	1
Egypt	717	639	88	546	5
Libya	102	42	-	31	11
Morocco	141	207	32	174	1
South Sudan	46	100	3	95	2
The Sudan	96	183	30	141	12
Tunisia	174	147	20	127	-
Western Sahara	7	3	-	3	-
Unspecified	917	1 138	77	1 044	17

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

Sex	Age_group	Total	Region (March 2015)			
			Overseas	SADC	‘Other’ African	Unspecified
All	Total	733 241	205 909	510 359	15 863	1 110
	< 15	34 220	14 203	19 481	529	7
	15-64	657 942	164 019	477 884	14 953	1 086
	65+	41 079	27 687	12 994	381	17
Male	Total	415 802	114 478	289 953	10 699	672
	< 15	17 179	7 234	9 651	293	1
	15-64	377 815	92 579	274 421	10 158	657
	65+	20 808	14 665	5 881	248	14
Female	Total	317 436	91 431	220 403	5 164	438
	< 15	17 041	6 969	9 830	236	6
	15-64	280 124	71 440	203 460	4 795	429
	65+	20 271	13 022	7 113	133	3
Unspecified	Total	3	-	3	-	-
	15-64	3	-	3	-	-

4. Explanatory notes

NOTICE TO USERS

Statistics South Africa 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 end of 2015/16. 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.

4.1 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). Statistics South Africa (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.

4.2 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.

4.3 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.

4.4 Data

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

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

- Stats SA downloads the data covering a particular calendar month from the DHA database.
- 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 has been accompanied by an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern was also observed when the volume of travellers decreased. However, the volume of passengers recorded by ACSA is generally higher than that of the DHA. In March 2015, the DHA data was 0,5% lower than that of ACSA.

4.5 Limitations

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

4.6 Definitions of terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this 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 belongs to the Southern African Development Community.

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

Overseas refers to all countries outside Africa.

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

4.7 Symbols used

- = nil

< = less than

5. General information

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

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