



The South Africa I know, the home I understand

Statistical release

P0351

Tourism and Migration

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Contents

Preface	2
1. Key findings	3
1.1 Travellers	3
1.1.1 Number of travellers	3
1.1.2 Mode of travel	4
1.2 Tourists	4
1.2.1 Mode of travel	4
1.2.2 Regional and national distribution	4
1.2.3 Purpose of visit	5
1.2.4 Sex and age distribution	5
2. Figures	7
Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in March 2015 and March 2016	7
Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in March 2015 and March 2016	7
Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading ‘other’ African countries in March 2015 and March 2016	8
3. Tables	9
Table 1 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction	9
Table 2 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel	10
Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel	11
Table 4 – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit	15
Table 5 – Number of tourists from overseas, SADC and ‘other’ African regions by sex and age group	19
4. Annexure	20
Annex – Number of tourists: Quarterly changes by country of residence and month of travel	20
5. Explanatory notes	25
5.1 Introduction	25
5.2 Purpose of the statistical release	25
5.3 Scope and coverage	25
5.4 Data	25
5.5 Limitations	26
5.6 Definition of terms	26
5.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)	26
5.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release	26
5.7 Symbols used	27
6. General information	27

Preface

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in March 2016. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country during this month. The tourists are classified by region and country of residence. Details of their mode of travel; purpose of visit; and age and sex distribution are also provided.

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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 3 759 322 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in March 2016. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 936 112 South African residents and 2 823 210 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 450 637 arrivals, 484 750 departures and 725 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 435 879, 1 326 244 and 61 087 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in March 2015 and March 2016 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, while the volume of transits decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 17,1% (from 384 922 in March 2015 to 450 637 in March 2016), departures increased by 18,4% (from 409 260 in March 2015 to 484 750 in March 2016), and transits decreased by 1,4% (from 735 in March 2015 to 725 in March 2016). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 16,2% (from 1 235 571 in March 2015 to 1 435 879 in March 2016), departures increased by 17,6% (from 1 127 979 in March 2015 to 1 326 244 in March 2016), and transits increased by 3,0% (from 59 287 in March 2015 to 61 087 in March 2016).

A comparison between the movements in February 2016 and March 2016 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and transits increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents increased by 36,2% (from 330 895 in February 2016 to 450 637 in March 2016), departures increased by 44,2% (from 336 167 in February 2016 to 484 750 in March 2016) and transits increased by 17,3% (from 618 in February 2016 to 725 in March 2016). For foreign travellers, the volume of arrivals increased by 11,7% (from 1 285 698 in February 2016 to 1 435 879 in March 2016), departures increased by 16,4% (from 1 139 669 in February 2016 to 1 326 244 in March 2016), and transits increased by 19,3% (from 51 211 in February 2016 to 61 087 in March 2016).

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

As presented in Table 1, in March 2016, 90 792 (6,3%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 345 087 (93,7%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in March 2016 but did not depart in March 2016 [324 319 (24,1%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in March 2016 and left in March 2016 [486 761 (36,2%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in March 2016 [534 007 (39,7%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In March 2016, there were 440 493 (32,7%) same-day visitors and 904 594 (67,3%) tourists. Between March 2015 and March 2016, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 5,8% (from 416 399 in March 2015 to 440 493 in March 2016) and that of tourists increased by 23,4% (from 733 241 in March 2015 to 904 594 in March 2016). Between February 2016 and March 2016, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 9,1% (from 403 805 in February 2016 to 440 493 in March 2016), and tourists increased by 12,5% (from 803 770 in February 2016 to 904 594 in March 2016).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 10 show that in March 2016, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 758 499 (73,4%) of the 3 759 322 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 989 994 (26,3%). Compared to use of air and land transport, a much smaller number of travellers, 10 829 (0,3%) used sea transport. The arrivals data for South African residents show that 154 553 (34,3%) came by air, 295 335 (65,5%) came by road and 749 (0,2%) arrived by sea. For departures, 168 878 (34,8%) used air, 315 502 (65,1%) used road and 370 (0,1%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit (725) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 295 386 (20,6%) arrived by air, 1 135 579 (79,1%) came by road and 4 914 (0,3%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 309 365 (23,3%) foreign travellers left by air, 1 012 083 (76,3%) left by road and 4 796 (0,4%) left by sea. All travellers in transit (61 087) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [424 997 (96,5%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 15 489 (3,5%) of same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that 641 329 (70,9%) used road transport, 262 135 (29,0%) came by air and 1 130 (0,1%) arrived by sea.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them according to their respective countries and regions. Information on the specific region and country of residence of the tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on page 11. In March 2016, 210 737 (89,4%) of overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 23 795 (10,1%) came in by road and 1 108 (0,5%) arrived by sea. This is in contrast to the number of tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries who came into South Africa predominantly by road [616 079 (94,3%)] and the rest, 37 519 (5,7%) came in by air. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 13 103 (90,9%), with 1 297 (9,0%) using road transport and 22 (0,2%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In March 2016, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 153 395 (65,1%); North America, 36 622 (15,5%); Asia, 25 469 (10,8%); Australasia, 10 143 (4,3%); Middle East, 5 275 (2,2%) and Central and South America, 4 736 (2,0%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 7 indicate that the United Kingdom (UK), 49 095 (20,8%); Germany, 36 759 (15,6%); United States of America (USA), 30 914 (13,1%); France, 13 930 (5,9%); China, 9 780 (4,2%); The Netherlands, 8 845 (3,8%); Australia, 8 325 (3,5%); India, 6 546 (2,8%); Canada, 5 708 (2,4%) and Belgium, 4 945 (2,1%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in March 2016. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 74,2% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in March 2015 and March 2016 shows that the number of tourists increased for seven of the ten leading overseas countries (China, Belgium, USA, Germany, UK, India and France) and decreased for the other three (Australia, Canada and The Netherlands). China had the largest increase of 51,1% (from 6 471 tourists in March 2015 to 9 780 in March 2016), while Australia had the largest decrease of 2,4% (from 8 533 tourists in March 2015 to 8 325 in March 2016).

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 653 598 (97,8%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 7 678 (1,1%); East and Central Africa, 5 548 (0,8%); and North Africa 1 196 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in March 2016 were Zimbabwe, 168 945 (25,8%); Lesotho, 154 690 (23,7%); Mozambique, 117 221 (17,9%); Swaziland, 80 466 (12,3%); Botswana, 75 650 (11,6%); Namibia, 20 492 (3,1%); Zambia, 13 523 (2,1%); Malawi, 11 318 (1,7%); Angola, 3 380 (0,5%) and Tanzania, 3 207 (0,5%) (see Figure 2 on page 7). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,3% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in March 2015 and March 2016 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for seven of the ten leading countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania), and decreased for the other three (Angola, Zambia and Malawi). Botswana showed the largest increase of 81,2% (from 41 758 tourists in March 2015 to 75 650 tourists in March 2016), while Angola showed the largest decrease of 19,1% (from 4 177 tourists in March 2015 to 3 380 in March 2016).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in March 2016 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8, were: Nigeria, 5 410 (37,5%); Kenya, 2 170 (15,0%); Ghana, 1 152 (8,0%); Uganda, 950 (6,6%); Ethiopia, 662 (4,6%); Gabon, 661 (4,6%); Egypt, 537 (3,7%); Cameroon, 453 (3,1%); Congo, 326 (2,3%) and Senegal, 204 (1,4%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 86,8% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in March 2015 and March 2016 shows that the number of tourists increased for four of the ten leading countries (Cameroon, Gabon, Ethiopia and Congo), and decreased for the other six (Ghana, Senegal, Egypt, Kenya, Uganda and Nigeria). Cameroon had the largest increase of 14,7% (from 395 tourists in March 2015 to 453 in March 2016), while Ghana had the largest decrease of 32,0% (from 1 694 tourists in March 2015 to 1 152 in March 2016).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on page 15, in March 2016, the majority of tourists, 878 168 (97,1%), were in South Africa for holidays compared to 21 213 (2,3%) and 5 213 (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, more than 90,0% came to South Africa for holidays. A total of 9 920 (97,8%) tourists from Australasia, 4 617 (97,5%) from Central and South America, 35 574 (97,1%) from North America, 148 955 (97,1%) from Europe, 5 022 (95,2%) from the Middle East and 24 012 (94,3%) from Asia were in South Africa for holidays. Asia had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business [5,1% (1 303)] while the Middle East had the highest proportion who came for study purposes [0,6% (32)] compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists, 649 210 (97,2%) came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 636 321 (97,4%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 12 889 (89,4%) of tourists from 'other' African countries came for the same purpose. Data on the regions of 'other' African countries show that tourists on holiday constituted 91,9% (7 057); 86,8% (4 813); and 85,2% (1 019) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 6,2% (896) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 2,1% (13 618) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 11,2% (134) of its tourists to South Africa who came for business purposes.
- Students made up 4,4% (637) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,6% (3 659) from the SADC countries. East and central Africa had the highest proportion, 5,7% (315) of student tourists in South Africa.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in March 2016, there were 500 174 (55,3%) male and 404 420 (44,7%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 125 042 (53,1%) male tourists and 110 598 (46,9%) female tourists. There were 365 254 (55,9%) male and 288 344 (44,1%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 9 329 (64,7%) male and 5 093 (35,3%) 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 50 994 (5,6%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 804 132 (88,9%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 49 468 (5,5%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 605 150 (92,6%) of SADC and 13 331 (92,4%) of 'other' African countries tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 184 738 (78,4%) of tourists in the same age range from overseas. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was lower among tourists from SADC countries, 4,8% (31 148), than among those from 'other' African countries, 5,2% (757) and overseas countries, 8,1% (19 080).

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 13,4% (16 721) of male tourists and 13,7% (15 101) 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 2,1% (7 707) and 3,3% (9 593) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,2% (206) and 2,5% (128) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

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

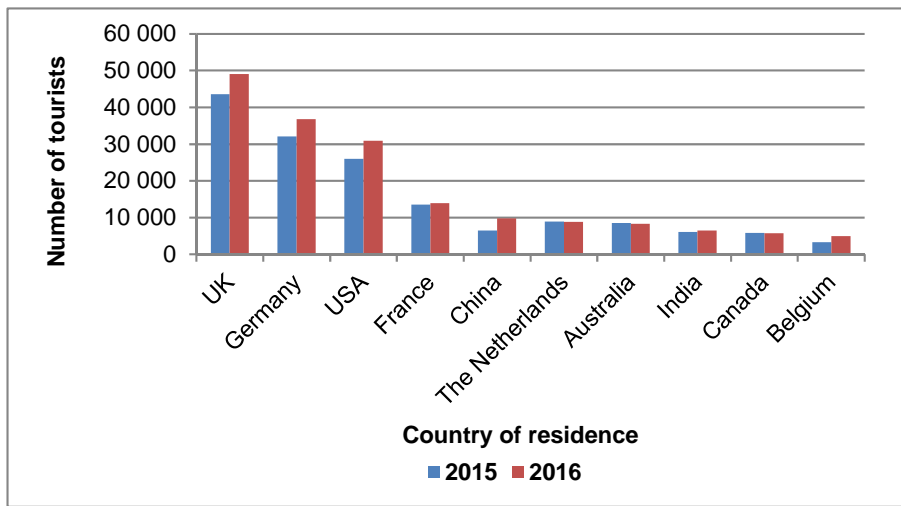


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in March 2015 and March 2016

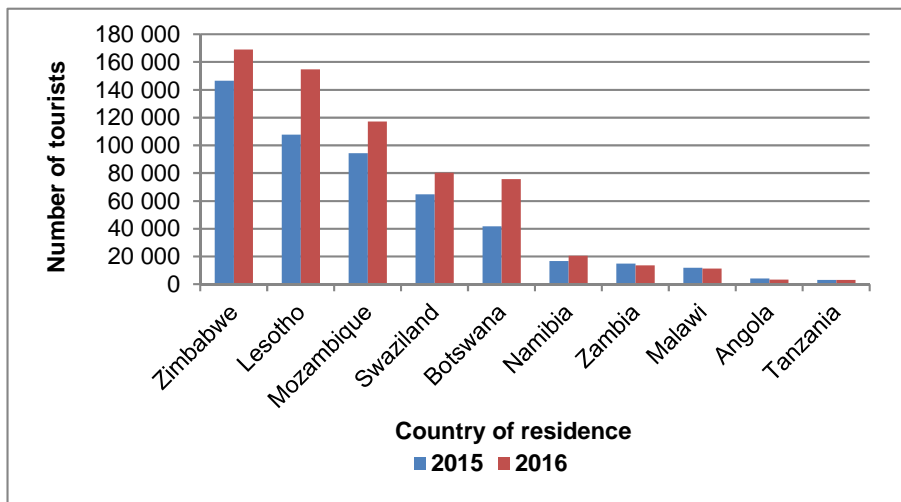
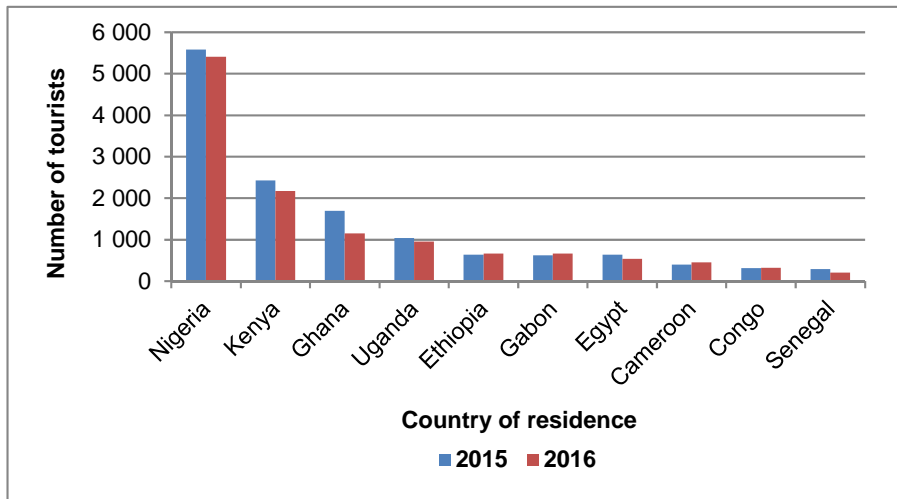


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in March 2015 and March 2016



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	March 2015	February 2016	March 2016	% Change	
				Feb 2016 -Mar 2016	Mar 2015 - Mar 2016
Total	3 217 754	3 144 258	3 759 322	19,6%	16,8%
South African residents	794 917	667 680	936 112	40,2%	17,8%
Arrivals	384 922	330 895	450 637	36,2%	17,1%
Departures	409 260	336 167	484 750	44,2%	18,4%
Transit	735	618	725	17,3%	-1,4%
Foreign travellers	2 422 837	2 476 578	2 823 210	14,0%	16,5%
Arrivals	1 235 571	1 285 698	1 435 879	11,7%	16,2%
Departures	1 127 979	1 139 669	1 326 244	16,4%	17,6%
Transit	59 287	51 211	61 087	19,3%	3,0%
Foreign Arrivals	1 235 571	1 285 698	1 435 879	11,7%	16,2%
Non-visitors	85 931	78 123	90 792	16,2%	5,7%
Visitors	1 149 640	1 207 575	1 345 087	11,4%	17,0%
Visitors	1 149 640	1 207 575	1 345 087	11,4%	17,0%
Arrivals only	265 068	313 823	324 319	3,3%	22,4%
Single trips	439 257	436 533	486 761	11,5%	10,8%
Multiple trips	445 315	457 219	534 007	16,8%	19,9%
Visitors	1 149 640	1 207 575	1 345 087	11,4%	17,0%
Same day	416 399	403 805	440 493	9,1%	5,8%
Overnight (tourists)	733 241	803 770	904 594	12,5%	23,4%

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

Travel direction	Total	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O. R. Tambo	Other Airports	Total		
Total	3 759 322	197 364	29 841	756 267	6 522	989 994	2 758 499	10 829
South African residents	936 112	43 171	18 317	258 840	3 828	324 156	610 837	1 119
Arrivals	450 637	20 785	8 355	123 606	1 807	154 553	295 335	749
Departures	484 750	22 384	9 962	134 511	2 021	168 878	315 502	370
Transit	725	2	-	723	-	725	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 823 210	154 193	11 524	497 427	2 694	665 838	2 147 662	9 710
Arrivals	1 435 879	74 050	5 515	214 727	1 094	295 386	1 135 579	4 914
Departures	1 326 244	80 054	6 009	221 702	1 600	309 365	1 012 083	4 796
Transit	61 087	89	-	60 998	-	61 087	-	-
Visitors	1 345 087	71 002	4 509	201 367	746	277 624	1 066 326	1 137
Same day	440 493	418	24	14 976	71	15 489	424 997	7
Tourist	904 594	70 584	4 485	186 391	675	262 135	641 329	1 130

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

Country of residence	March		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Grand Total	733 241	904 594	70 584	4 485	186 391	675	262 135	641 329	1 130
Overseas	205 909	235 640	65 747	4 022	140 427	541	210 737	23 795	1 108
Europe	136 104	153 395	52 903	3 149	80 866	178	137 096	16 007	292
Austria	2 183	2 708	1 052	53	1 344	1	2 450	255	3
Belgium	3 304	4 945	1 667	66	2 647	2	4 382	563	-
Denmark	2 694	2 932	711	45	1 923	-	2 679	249	4
France	13 554	13 930	4 135	116	6 949	13	11 213	2 703	14
Germany	32 110	36 759	14 103	407	18 167	13	32 690	4 044	25
Ireland	2 811	3 740	1 525	144	1 856	7	3 532	201	7
Italy	3 888	3 919	1 191	89	2 263	12	3 555	362	2
Norway	2 398	2 686	1 127	37	1 182	11	2 357	323	6
Portugal	3 794	4 186	776	36	1 760	18	2 590	1 595	1
Spain	2 324	2 816	764	62	1 621	9	2 456	357	3
Sweden	3 262	4 087	1 498	114	2 075	3	3 690	396	1
Switzerland	4 083	4 701	1 895	60	2 229	10	4 194	506	1
The Netherlands	8 919	8 845	3 303	127	4 049	7	7 486	1 356	3
UK	43 527	49 095	16 679	1 609	28 121	55	46 464	2 436	195
Other	7 253	8 046	2 477	184	4 680	17	7 358	661	27
North America	31 764	36 622	6 887	289	25 234	251	32 661	3 247	714
Canada	5 786	5 708	1 515	63	3 481	15	5 074	616	18
USA	25 978	30 914	5 372	226	21 753	236	27 587	2 631	696
Central and South America	4 168	4 736	420	21	3 791	14	4 246	481	9
Argentina	659	876	22	1	809	-	832	43	1
Brazil	2 224	2 274	183	13	1 782	5	1 983	290	1
Mexico	275	306	63	1	228	2	294	9	3
Other	1 010	1 280	152	6	972	7	1 137	139	4

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

Country of residence	March		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	10 172	10 143	824	156	8 598	64	9 642	482	19
Australia	8 533	8 325	630	111	7 093	61	7 895	415	15
New Zealand	1 618	1 792	191	44	1 483	3	1 721	67	4
Other	21	26	3	1	22	-	26	-	-
Middle East	4 082	5 275	1 238	19	3 732	5	4 994	277	4
Iran	893	1 739	452	3	1 278	-	1 733	6	-
Israel	1 760	1 961	190	4	1 557	1	1 752	207	2
Saudi Arabia	615	626	165	-	457	4	626	-	-
Other	814	949	431	12	440	0	883	64	2
Asia	19 619	25 469	3 475	388	18 206	29	22 098	3 301	70
China	6 471	9 780	616	27	8 620	-	9 263	503	14
India	6 080	6 546	1 146	196	3 893	2	5 237	1 278	31
Japan	1 606	1 917	211	44	1 521	3	1 779	137	1
Malaysia	445	604	213	11	327	-	551	48	5
Pakistan	963	1 456	278	39	612	1	930	525	1
Philippines	495	523	108	12	314	1	435	83	5
Singapore	522	683	218	9	425	14	666	12	5
South Korea	954	1 463	199	9	1 080	4	1 292	171	-
Taiwan	484	552	39	2	379	-	420	132	-
Thailand	479	609	196	11	369	-	576	25	8
Other	1 120	1 336	251	28	666	4	949	387	-
Africa	526 194	668 020	4 765	461	45 262	134	50 622	617 376	22
SADC	510 331	653 598	4 153	310	32 958	98	37 519	616 079	-
Angola	4 177	3 380	926	1	2 271	8	3 206	174	-
Botswana	41 758	75 650	199	-	2 193	28	2 420	73 230	-
DRC	2 297	2 139	16	4	1 555	3	1 578	561	-
Lesotho	107 617	154 690	2	-	424	-	426	154 264	-

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

Country of residence	March		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	274	219	2	-	215	-	217	2	-
Malawi	11 770	11 318	8	3	1 665	16	1 692	9 626	-
Mauritius	1 370	1 435	145	53	1 092	1	1 291	144	-
Mozambique	94 445	117 221	15	27	2 926	5	2 973	114 248	-
Namibia	16 784	20 492	2 652	2	3 201	7	5 862	14 630	-
Seychelles	581	913	-	-	889	-	889	24	-
Swaziland	64 702	80 466	2	3	382	6	393	80 073	-
Tanzania	3 131	3 207	16	2	1 988	-	2 006	1 201	-
Zambia	14 912	13 523	40	76	3 110	-	3 226	10 297	-
Zimbabwe	146 513	168 945	130	139	11 047	24	11 340	157 605	-
'Other' African	15 863	14 422	612	151	12 304	36	13 103	1 297	22
East and Central Africa	5 823	5 548	243	75	4 680	12	5 010	538	-
Burundi	109	61	3	1	55	-	59	2	-
Cameroon	395	453	26	51	341	-	418	35	-
Central African Republic	21	22	-	1	21	-	22	-	-
Chad	35	20	4	-	16	-	20	-	-
Comoros	7	13	-	-	12	-	12	1	-
Congo	317	326	16	-	302	5	323	3	-
Djibouti	3	14	-	-	14	-	14	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	50	40	3	-	32	5	40	-	-
Eritrea	40	43	2	-	40	-	42	1	-
Ethiopia	636	662	63	17	487	-	567	95	-
Gabon	619	661	31	-	624	-	655	6	-
Kenya	2 426	2 170	66	4	1 872	2	1 944	226	-
Réunion	17	4	4	-	-	-	4	-	-
Rwanda	83	66	6	-	54	-	60	6	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	10	13	-	-	13	-	13	-	-
Somalia	13	30	4	-	21	-	25	5	-
Uganda	1 042	950	15	1	776	-	792	158	-

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

Country of residence	March		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	8 638	7 678	159	25	6 792	22	6 998	658	22
Benin	152	156	3	-	143	5	151	5	-
Burkina Faso	66	48	3	1	44	-	48	-	-
Cape Verde Island	77	53	19	2	27	-	48	5	-
Côte d'Ivoire	271	175	5	-	166	-	171	4	-
Gambia	34	24	1	1	16	-	18	6	-
Ghana	1 694	1 152	36	-	1 025	-	1 061	91	-
Guinea	119	107	-	-	57	1	58	49	-
Guinea-Bissau	10	12	-	-	11	-	11	1	-
Liberia	27	64	-	-	61	-	61	3	-
Mali	134	117	13	1	55	-	69	48	-
Mauritania	19	13	-	1	12	-	13	-	-
Niger	39	31	1	-	30	-	31	-	-
Nigeria	5 582	5 410	70	16	4 875	16	4 977	432	1
Saint Helena	20	23	2	-	-	-	2	-	21
Senegal	289	204	4	3	192	-	199	5	-
Sierra Leone	29	51	-	-	43	-	43	8	-
Togo	76	38	2	-	35	-	37	1	-
North Africa	1 402	1 196	210	51	832	2	1 095	101	-
Algeria	81	109	15	5	87	-	107	2	-
Egypt	639	537	83	14	390	1	488	49	-
Libya	42	45	7	3	27	-	37	8	-
Morocco	207	163	29	10	106	-	145	18	-
South Sudan	100	60	7	-	49	-	56	4	-
The Sudan	183	146	25	3	102	1	131	15	-
Tunisia	147	132	44	16	67	-	127	5	-
Western Sahara	3	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-
Unspecified	1 138	934	72	2	702	-	776	158	-

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

Country of residence	March		Purpose of visit		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
Total	733 241	904 594	21 213	878 168	5 213
Overseas	205 909	235 640	6 624	228 100	916
Europe	136 104	153 395	3 940	148 955	500
Austria	2 183	2 708	40	2 664	4
Belgium	3 304	4 945	107	4 820	18
Denmark	2 694	2 932	99	2 827	6
France	13 554	13 930	399	13 431	100
Germany	32 110	36 759	562	36 101	96
Ireland	2 811	3 740	76	3 659	5
Italy	3 888	3 919	220	3 681	18
Norway	2 398	2 686	55	2 622	9
Portugal	3 794	4 186	82	4 086	18
Spain	2 324	2 816	123	2 670	23
Sweden	3 262	4 087	117	3 950	20
Switzerland	4 083	4 701	78	4 610	13
The Netherlands	8 919	8 845	293	8 511	41
UK	43 527	49 095	1 229	47 764	102
Other	7 253	8 046	460	7 559	27
North America	31 764	36 622	863	35 574	185
Canada	5 786	5 708	136	5 557	15
USA	25 978	30 914	727	30 017	170
Central and South America	4 168	4 736	91	4 617	28
Argentina	659	876	9	865	2
Brazil	2 224	2 274	47	2 218	9
Mexico	275	306	6	296	4
Other	1 010	1 280	29	1 238	13

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

Country of residence	March		Purpose of visit		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	10 172	10 143	206	9 920	17
Australia	8 533	8 325	170	8 144	11
New Zealand	1 618	1 792	34	1 753	5
Other	21	26	2	23	1
Middle East	4 082	5 275	221	5 022	32
Iran	893	1 739	10	1 724	5
Israel	1 760	1 961	55	1 898	8
Saudi Arabia	615	626	27	594	5
Other	814	949	129	806	14
Asia	19 619	25 469	1 303	24 012	154
China	6 471	9 780	284	9 470	26
India	6 080	6 546	526	5 968	52
Japan	1 606	1 917	141	1 763	13
Malaysia	445	604	29	567	8
Pakistan	963	1 456	67	1 376	13
Philippines	495	523	28	489	6
Singapore	522	683	56	626	1
South Korea	954	1 463	53	1 389	21
Taiwan	484	552	33	517	2
Thailand	479	609	16	591	2
Other	1 120	1 336	70	1 256	10
Africa	526 194	668 020	14 514	649 210	4 296
SADC	510 331	653 598	13 618	636 321	3 659
Angola	4 177	3 380	57	2 998	325
Botswana	41 758	75 650	554	74 767	329
DRC	2 297	2 139	88	1 908	143
Lesotho	107 617	154 690	1 241	152 781	668

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

Country of residence	March		Purpose of visit		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
Madagascar	274	219	13	199	7
Malawi	11 770	11 318	349	10 911	58
Mauritius	1 370	1 435	73	1 343	19
Mozambique	94 445	117 221	5 082	112 015	124
Namibia	16 784	20 492	1 737	18 305	450
Seychelles	581	913	2	909	2
Swaziland	64 702	80 466	379	79 488	599
Tanzania	3 131	3 207	67	3 069	71
Zambia	14 912	13 523	1 008	12 390	125
Zimbabwe	146 513	168 945	2 968	165 238	739
'Other' African	15 863	14 422	896	12 889	637
East and Central Africa	5 823	5 548	420	4 813	315
Burundi	109	61	5	55	1
Cameroon	395	453	73	349	31
Central African Republic	21	22	1	21	-
Chad	35	20	3	14	3
Comoros	7	13	-	13	-
Congo	317	326	7	274	45
Djibouti	3	14	1	13	-
Equatorial Guinea	50	40	3	29	8
Eritrea	40	43	-	43	-
Ethiopia	636	662	64	587	11
Gabon	619	661	6	557	98
Kenya	2 426	2 170	193	1 904	73
Réunion	17	4	-	4	-
Rwanda	83	66	4	55	7
São Tomé and Príncipe	10	13	-	12	1
Somalia	13	30	1	29	-
Uganda	1 042	950	59	854	37

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

Country of residence	March		Purpose of visit		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	8 638	7 678	342	7 057	279
Benin	152	156	9	144	3
Burkina Faso	66	48	8	40	-
Cape Verde Island	77	53	3	49	1
Côte d'Ivoire	271	175	7	156	12
Gambia	34	24	2	22	-
Ghana	1 694	1 152	79	1 050	23
Guinea	119	107	9	96	2
Guinea-Bissau	10	12	-	12	-
Liberia	27	64	4	60	-
Mali	134	117	8	108	1
Mauritania	19	13	4	9	-
Niger	39	31	-	30	1
Nigeria	5 582	5 410	178	5 002	230
Saint Helena	20	23	-	23	-
Senegal	289	204	20	179	5
Sierra Leone	29	51	4	46	1
Togo	76	38	7	31	-
North Africa	1 402	1 196	134	1 019	43
Algeria	81	109	15	92	2
Egypt	639	537	68	461	8
Libya	42	45	1	32	12
Morocco	207	163	19	143	1
South Sudan	100	60	5	52	3
The Sudan	183	146	7	123	16
Tunisia	147	132	18	113	1
Western Sahara	3	4	1	3	-
Unspecified	1 082	934	75	858	1

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

Sex	Age group	March		Region (March 2016)			
		2015	2016	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	733 241	904 594	235 640	653 598	14 422	934
	0-14	34 220	50 994	19 080	31 148	757	9
	15-64	657 942	804 132	184 738	605 150	13 331	913
	65+	41 079	49 468	31 822	17 300	334	12
Male	Total	415 802	500 174	125 042	365 254	9 329	549
	0-14	17 179	25 564	9 805	15 374	378	7
	15-64	377 815	449 967	98 516	342 173	8 745	533
	65+	20 808	24 643	16 721	7 707	206	9
Female	Total	317 436	404 420	110 598	288 344	5 093	385
	0-14	17 041	25 430	9 275	15 774	379	2
	15-64	280 124	354 165	86 222	262 977	4 586	380
	65+	20 271	24 825	15 101	9 593	128	3
Unspecified	Total	3	-	-	-	-	-
	0-14	-	-	-	-	-	-
	15-64	3	-	-	-	-	-
	65+	-	-	-	-	-	-

4. Annexure

Annex – Number of tourists: Quarterly changes by country of residence and month of travel

Country of residence	Quarter 4, 2015 - Quarter 1, 2016									
	Total Qtr 4 - Qtr 1	Oct	Nov	Dec	Qtr 4, 2015	Jan	Feb	Mar	Qtr 1, 2016	% Change Qtr 4 - Qtr 1
Total	5 136 664	748 561	774 378	892 720	2 415 659	1 012 641	803 770	904 594	2 721 005	12,6%
Overseas	1 348 942	208 020	221 149	234 523	663 692	214 903	234 707	235 640	685 250	3,2%
Europe	896 788	136 686	146 224	153 070	435 980	144 130	163 283	153 395	460 808	5,7%
Austria	17 236	2 408	3 458	2 616	8 482	2 902	3 144	2 708	8 754	3,2%
Belgium	26 757	4 528	4 877	4 353	13 758	3 749	4 305	4 945	12 999	-5,5%
Denmark	18 615	3 175	2 532	2 445	8 152	3 413	4 118	2 932	10 463	28,3%
France	81 555	15 631	15 103	10 700	41 434	11 728	14 463	13 930	40 121	-3,2%
Germany	195 414	31 158	35 370	27 404	93 932	28 944	35 779	36 759	101 482	8,0%
Ireland	16 850	2 250	2 450	3 076	7 776	2 708	2 626	3 740	9 074	16,7%
Italy	27 270	4 189	4 521	5 779	14 489	4 617	4 245	3 919	12 781	-11,8%
Norway	13 121	1 656	1 939	2 072	5 667	2 022	2 746	2 686	7 454	31,5%
Portugal	22 651	3 391	3 768	4 096	11 255	3 529	3 681	4 186	11 396	1,3%
Spain	14 326	2 506	2 864	2 114	7 484	2 074	1 952	2 816	6 842	-8,6%
Sweden	31 896	4 405	4 782	6 994	16 181	5 625	6 003	4 087	15 715	-2,9%
Switzerland	34 769	6 212	6 739	5 536	18 487	5 424	6 157	4 701	16 282	-11,9%
The Netherlands	73 396	13 559	13 340	12 823	39 722	11 980	12 849	8 845	33 674	-15,2%
UK	272 824	34 936	35 641	54 608	125 185	46 264	52 280	49 095	147 639	17,9%
Other	50 108	6 682	8 840	8 454	23 976	9 151	8 935	8 046	26 132	9,0%
North America	188 913	31 174	30 794	35 114	97 082	26 962	28 247	36 622	91 831	-5,4%
Canada	35 205	5 653	6 365	6 423	18 441	5 176	5 880	5 708	16 764	-9,1%
USA	153 708	25 521	24 429	28 691	78 641	21 786	22 367	30 914	75 067	-4,5%

Annex – Number of tourists: Quarterly changes by country of residence and month of travel

Country of residence	Quarter 4, 2015 - Quarter 1, 2016									
	Total Qtr 4 - Qtr 1	Oct	Nov	Dec	Qtr 4, 2015	Jan	Feb	Mar	Qtr 1, 2016	% Change Qtr 4 - Qtr 1
Central and South America	28 309	4 715	4 025	4 910	13 650	5 332	4 591	4 736	14 659	7,4%
Argentina	4 587	483	467	519	1 469	1 082	1 160	876	3 118	112,3%
Brazil	15 256	2 795	2 205	3 032	8 032	2 870	2 080	2 274	7 224	-10,1%
Mexico	1 660	256	301	331	888	272	194	306	772	-13,1%
Other	6 806	1 181	1 052	1 028	3 261	1 108	1 157	1 280	3 545	8,7%
Australasia	61 901	9 774	8 982	15 116	33 872	10 011	7 875	10 143	28 029	-17,3%
Australia	51 240	8 250	7 539	12 002	27 791	8 508	6 616	8 325	23 449	-15,6%
New Zealand	10 535	1 496	1 422	3 080	5 998	1 494	1 251	1 792	4 537	-24,4%
Other	126	28	21	34	83	9	8	26	43	-48,2%
Middle East	22 071	2 885	3 075	3 526	9 486	3 466	3 844	5 275	12 585	32,7%
Iran	2 997	188	210	314	712	226	320	1 739	2 285	220,9%
Israel	11 193	1 619	1 604	2 075	5 298	1 812	2 122	1 961	5 895	11,3%
Saudi Arabia	2 773	315	360	328	1 003	621	523	626	1 770	76,5%
Other	5 108	763	901	809	2 473	807	879	949	2 635	6,6%
Asia	150 960	22 786	28 049	22 787	73 622	25 002	26 867	25 469	77 338	5,0%
China	59 960	7 902	12 519	7 983	28 404	9 406	12 370	9 780	31 556	11,1%
India	39 972	5 891	7 767	6 354	20 012	6 638	6 776	6 546	19 960	-0,3%
Japan	12 254	2 829	1 658	1 625	6 112	2 579	1 646	1 917	6 142	0,5%
Malaysia	3 278	496	699	605	1 800	413	461	604	1 478	-17,9%
Pakistan	7 253	1 332	1 077	1 064	3 473	1 157	1 167	1 456	3 780	8,8%
Philippines	2 665	403	485	525	1 413	394	335	523	1 252	-11,4%
Singapore	3 536	491	619	941	2 051	317	485	683	1 485	-27,6%
South Korea	8 681	1 033	1 139	1 450	3 622	2 187	1 409	1 463	5 059	39,7%

Annex – Number of tourists: Quarterly changes by country of residence and month of travel

Country of residence	Quarter 4, 2015 - Quarter 1, 2016									
	Total Qtr 4 - Qtr 1	Oct	Nov	Dec	Qtr 4, 2015	Jan	Feb	Mar	Qtr 1, 2016	% Change Qtr 4 - Qtr 1
Taiwan	3 058	597	434	413	1 444	408	654	552	1 614	11,8%
Thailand	2 686	417	414	505	1 336	389	352	609	1 350	1,0%
Other	7 617	1 395	1 238	1 322	3 955	1 114	1 212	1 336	3 662	-7,4%
Africa	3 781 824	539 378	551 927	657 287	1 748 592	797 050	568 162	668 020	2 033 232	16,3%
SADC	3 692 550	525 305	535 911	642 721	1 703 937	782 002	553 013	653 598	1 988 613	16,7%
Angola	24 638	3 434	3 562	4 691	11 687	5 565	4 006	3 380	12 951	10,8%
Botswana	343 909	49 364	47 802	82 355	179 521	44 458	44 280	75 650	164 388	-8,4%
DRC	15 337	2 021	2 341	3 977	8 339	2 493	2 366	2 139	6 998	-16,1%
Lesotho	834 402	105 400	122 578	113 592	341 570	209 403	128 739	154 690	492 832	44,3%
Madagascar	1 332	248	221	214	683	204	226	219	649	-5,0%
Malawi	70 291	12 166	12 479	11 209	35 854	12 282	10 837	11 318	34 437	-4,0%
Mauritius	9 394	1 482	1 542	1 440	4 464	1 753	1 742	1 435	4 930	10,4%
Mozambique	672 543	99 216	98 003	96 190	293 409	145 775	116 138	117 221	379 134	29,2%
Namibia	112 514	17 076	16 862	26 938	60 876	17 033	14 113	20 492	51 638	-15,2%
Seychelles	5 129	736	1 040	653	2 429	620	1 167	913	2 700	11,2%
Swaziland	435 828	70 158	67 509	77 583	215 250	75 176	64 936	80 466	220 578	2,5%
Tanzania	19 075	3 479	3 005	3 382	9 866	2 968	3 034	3 207	9 209	-6,7%
Zambia	83 240	12 301	13 113	16 975	42 389	13 758	13 570	13 523	40 851	-3,6%
Zimbabwe	1 064 918	148 224	145 854	203 522	497 600	250 514	147 859	168 945	567 318	14,0%
'Other' African	89 274	14 073	16 016	14 566	44 655	15 048	15 149	14 422	44 619	-0,1%

Annex – Number of tourists: Quarterly changes by country of residence and month of travel

Country of residence	Quarter 4, 2015 - Quarter 1, 2016									
	Total Qtr 4 - Qtr 1	Oct	Nov	Dec	Qtr 4, 2015	Jan	Feb	Mar	Qtr 1, 2016	% Change Qtr 4 - Qtr 1
East and Central Africa	35 138	5 530	6 351	6 058	17 939	5 812	5 839	5 548	17 199	-4,1%
Burundi	607	104	131	92	327	80	139	61	280	-14,4%
Cameroon	2 879	408	597	368	1 373	632	421	453	1 506	9,7%
Central African Republic	98	14	14	17	45	23	8	22	53	17,8%
Chad	159	21	57	36	114	12	13	20	45	-60,5%
Comoros	104	23	15	21	59	9	23	13	45	-23,7%
Congo	1 944	279	301	309	889	317	412	326	1 055	18,7%
Djibouti	85	9	29	21	59	4	8	14	26	-55,9%
Equatorial Guinea	346	88	25	104	217	45	44	40	129	-40,6%
Eritrea	293	62	43	44	149	64	37	43	144	-3,4%
Ethiopia	3 738	623	697	651	1 971	450	655	662	1 767	-10,4%
Gabon	4 049	515	410	877	1 802	780	806	661	2 247	24,7%
Kenya	14 085	2 370	2 843	2 304	7 517	2 097	2 301	2 170	6 568	-12,6%
Réunion	29	2	1	-	3	21	1	4	26	766,7%
Rwanda	462	66	82	59	207	104	85	66	255	23,2%
São Tomé and Príncipe	61	13	13	7	33	6	9	13	28	-15,2%
Somalia	139	20	18	24	62	21	26	30	77	24,2%
Uganda	6 060	913	1 075	1 124	3 112	1 147	851	950	2 948	-5,3%
West Africa	46 064	7 123	8 074	7 449	22 646	7 849	7 891	7 678	23 418	3,4%
Benin	1 104	186	289	122	597	181	170	156	507	-15,1%
Burkina Faso	356	64	106	39	209	46	53	48	147	-29,7%
Cape Verde Island	296	56	52	47	155	38	50	53	141	-9,0%
Côte d'Ivoire	1 216	144	290	161	595	230	216	175	621	4,4%

Annex – Number of tourists: Quarterly changes by country of residence and month of travel

Country of residence	Quarter 4, 2015 - Quarter 1, 2016									
	Total Qtr 4 - Qtr 1	Oct	Nov	Dec	Qtr 4, 2015	Jan	Feb	Mar	Qtr 1, 2016	% Change Qtr 4 - Qtr 1
Gambia	227	63	53	32	148	29	26	24	79	-46,6%
Ghana	8 123	1 431	1 555	1 319	4 305	1 398	1 268	1 152	3 818	-11,3%
Guinea	830	125	168	148	441	153	129	107	389	-11,8%
Guinea-Bissau	63	6	5	17	28	14	9	12	35	25,0%
Liberia	313	53	66	44	163	42	44	64	150	-8,0%
Mali	705	97	183	113	393	72	123	117	312	-20,6%
Mauritania	104	17	23	32	72	2	17	13	32	-55,6%
Niger	207	19	68	54	141	15	20	31	66	-53,2%
Nigeria	30 557	4 537	4 738	5 035	14 310	5 381	5 456	5 410	16 247	13,5%
Saint Helena	128	10	19	34	63	21	21	23	65	3,2%
Senegal	1 232	226	319	141	686	140	202	204	546	-20,4%
Sierra Leone	307	43	57	52	152	53	51	51	155	2,0%
Togo	296	46	83	59	188	34	36	38	108	-42,6%
North Africa	8 072	1 420	1 591	1 059	4 070	1 387	1 419	1 196	4 002	-1,7%
Algeria	597	132	64	93	289	103	96	109	308	6,6%
Egypt	4 083	716	615	532	1 863	779	904	537	2 220	19,2%
Libya	324	74	58	37	169	75	35	45	155	-8,3%
Morocco	915	151	262	107	520	108	124	163	395	-24,0%
South Sudan	489	103	81	127	311	70	48	60	178	-42,8%
The Sudan	927	141	201	120	462	161	158	146	465	0,6%
Tunisia	723	95	309	43	447	91	53	132	276	-38,3%
Western Sahara	14	8	1	-	9	-	1	4	5	-44,4%
Unspecified	5 898	1 163	1 302	910	3 375	688	901	934	2 523	-25,2%

5. Explanatory notes

NOTICE TO USERS

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) has made changes in the *Tourism and Migration* statistical release starting from the January 2014 statistics. This change has become necessary as a result of the implementation of the new Movement Control System (e-MCS) at the country's ports of entry. Currently the new system (e-MCS) is operational at over 80% of the country's ports of entry. The system roll-out is expected to be finalised by the end of 2015/16 financial year. The change affects the identification of Transit Travellers that are currently categorised under Direction instead of Purpose of Movement. The revision, Table 1 and Table 2 in the release now include a category for Transit while all tables reporting on tourists exclude transit travellers.

5.1 Introduction

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

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

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

5.2 Purpose of the statistical release

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

5.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data collected by DHA officials on travellers who entered the Republic of South Africa (RSA) through all the air, land and sea ports of entry.

5.4 Data

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

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

- As part of data interrogation, data from the O.R. Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airport Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA is accompanied by an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern has been also observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In March 2016, the DHA data was 1,6% higher than that of ACSA.

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 Definitions of terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release

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

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

Region refers to the following country classification:

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

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

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

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

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

Overseas refers to all countries outside Africa.

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

5.7 Symbols used

- = nil

< = less than

6. General information

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

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