



The South Africa I know, the home I understand

Statistical release

P0351

Tourism and Migration

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Preface

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

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

1. Key findings

1.1 Travellers

1.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 3 365 711 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in May 2016. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 851 878 South African residents and 2 513 833 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 434 520 arrivals, 416 488 departures and 870 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 279 297, 1 166 255 and 68 281 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in May 2015 and May 2016 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers, while the volume of transits increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 0,4% (from 436 323 in May 2015 to 434 520 in May 2016), departures decreased by 1,3% (from 421 985 in May 2015 to 416 488 in May 2016), and transits increased by 1,4% (from 858 in May 2015 to 870 in May 2016). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 6,4% (from 1 202 795 in May 2015 to 1 279 297 in May 2016), departures increased by 5,4% (from 1 106 591 in May 2015 to 1 166 255 in May 2016), and transits increased by 2,1% (from 66 909 in May 2015 to 68 281 in May 2016).

A comparison between the movements in April 2016 and May 2016 indicates that the volume of arrivals increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. Departures decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, while the volume of transits increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 6,9% (from 406 482 in April 2016 to 434 520 in May 2016), departures decreased by 4,3% (from 435 094 in April 2016 to 416 488 in May 2016) and transits increased by 2,6% (from 848 in April 2016 to 870 in May 2016). For foreign travellers, the volume of arrivals decreased by 3,1% (from 1 320 375 in April 2016 to 1 279 297 in May 2016), departures decreased by 5,8% (from 1 238 684 in April 2016 to 1 166 255 in May 2016), and transits increased by 7,3% (from 63 609 in April 2016 to 68 281 in May 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 May 2016, 85 148 (6,7%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 194 149 (93,3%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in May 2016 but did not depart in May 2016 [255 804 (21,4%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in May 2016 and left in May 2016 [428 349 (35,9%)];
and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in May 2016 [509 996 (42,7%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In May 2016, there were 433 400 (36,3%) same-day visitors and 760 749 (63,7%) tourists. Between May 2015 and May 2016, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 1,2% (from 428 131 in May 2015 to 433 400 in May 2016) and that of tourists increased by 11,0% (from 685 407 in May 2015 to 760 749 in May 2016). Between April 2016 and May 2016, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 2,7% (from 445 255 in April 2016 to 433 400 in May 2016), while tourists decreased by 4,4% (from 795 919 in April 2016 to 760 749 in May 2016).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 10 show that in May 2016, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 494 038 (74,1%) of the 3 365 711 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 859 577 (25,5%). Compared to use of air and land transport, a much smaller number of travellers, 12 096 (0,4%) used sea transport. The arrivals data for South African residents show that 158 402 (36,5%) came by air, 274 456 (63,2%) came by road and 1 662 (0,4%) arrived by sea. For departures, 162 360 (39,0%) used air, 251 894 (60,5%) used road and 2 234 (0,5%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit (870) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 227 555 (17,8%) arrived by air, 1 047 808 (81,9%) came by road and 3 934 (0,3%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 242 109 (20,8%) foreign travellers left by air, 919 880 (78,9%) left by road and 4 266 (0,4%) left by sea. All travellers in transit (68 281) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [415 096 (95,8%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 18 293 (4,2%) of same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that 568 604 (74,7%) used road transport, 191 988 (25,2%) came by air and 157 (less than 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 May 2016, 142 286 (88,6%) of overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 18 204 (11,3%) came in by road and 137 (0,1%) 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 [549 028 (94,1%)], 34 442 (5,9%) by air and 10 (less than 0,1%) by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 14 260 (91,9%), with 1 247 (8,0%) using road transport and 10 (0,1%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In May 2016, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 75 706 (47,1%); North America, 35 872 (22,3%); Asia, 31 635 (19,7%); Australasia, 9 319 (5,8%); Central and South America, 4 445 (2,8%); and Middle East, 3 650 (2,3%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 7 indicate that the United States of America (USA), 31 367 (19,5%); United Kingdom (UK), 22 390 (13,9%); India, 14 237 (8,9%); Germany, 13 562 (8,4%); France, 8 659 (5,4%); China, 8 247 (5,1%); Australia, 7 736 (4,8%); The Netherlands, 6 585 (4,1%); Canada, 4 505 (2,8%) and Italy, 3 370 (2,1%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in May 2016. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 75,1% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in May 2015 and May 2016 shows that the number of tourists increased for all of the ten leading overseas countries. China had the largest increase of 49,9% (from 5 501 tourists in May 2015 to 8 247 in May 2016), followed closely by India which had an increase of 36,7% (from 10 414 tourists in May 2015 to 14 237 in May 2016). Australia had the smallest increase of 6,0% (from 7 295 tourists in May 2015 to 7 736 in May 2016).

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 583 480 (97,4%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 8 774 (1,5%); East and Central Africa, 5 374 (0,9%); and North Africa 1 369 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in May 2016 were: Zimbabwe, 152 264 (26,1%); Lesotho, 147 177 (25,2%); Mozambique, 104 975 (18,0%); Swaziland, 75 237 (12,9%); Botswana, 48 225 (8,3%); Namibia, 19 342 (3,3%); Zambia, 14 459 (2,5%); Malawi, 11 676 (2,0%); Tanzania, 3 045 (0,5%) and Angola, 3 029 (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 May 2015 and May 2016 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that, with the exception of Angola where the number of tourists decreased, the number of tourists increased for the other nine leading countries. Lesotho showed the largest increase of 25,5% (from 117 318 tourists in May 2015 to 147 177 tourists in May 2016), followed closely by Malawi which showed an increase of 22,0% (from 9 568 tourists in May 2015 to 11 676 in May 2016). Tourists from Angola decreased by 19,0% (from 3 741 in May 2015 to 3 029 in May 2016).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in May 2016 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8, were: Nigeria, 5 991 (38,6%); Kenya, 2 203 (14,2%); Ghana, 1 527 (9,8%); Uganda, 1 068 (6,9%); Egypt, 744 (4,8%); Ethiopia, 679 (4,4%); Gabon, 478 (3,1%); Cameroon, 381 (2,5%); Senegal, 251 (1,6%) and Congo, 228 (1,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 87,3% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in May 2015 and May 2016 shows that, with the exception of Congo where the number of tourists decreased, the number of tourists increased for the other nine leading countries. Senegal had the largest increase of 41,0% (from 178 tourists in May 2015 to 251 in May 2016), followed closely by Nigeria which showed an increase of 38,8% (from 4 315 tourists in May 2015 to 5 991 in May 2016). The number of tourists from Congo decreased by 18,0% (from 278 tourists in May 2015 to 228 in May 2016).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on page 15, in May 2016, the majority of tourists, 732 436 (96,3%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 23 225 (3,1%) and 5 088 (0,7%) 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 holiday. A total of 9 048 (97,1%) tourists from Australasia, 34 681 (96,7%) from North America, 4 238 (95,3%) from Central and South America, 29 825 (94,3%) from Asia, 71 001 (93,8%) from Europe and 3 368 (92,3%) from the Middle East were in South Africa for holiday. The Middle East had the highest proportions of tourists who came to South Africa for business [6,6% (240)] and for study purposes [1,2% (42)] compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists, 579 245 (96,7%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 565 190 (96,9%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 14 055 (90,6%) 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 93,1% (8 166); 88,5% (4 757); and 82,7% (1 132) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 6,2% (966) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 2,5% (14 559) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 13,8% (189) of its tourists to South Africa who came for business purposes.
- Students made up 3,2% (496) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,6% (3 731) from the SADC countries. East and central Africa had the highest proportion, 4,0% (215) of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in May 2016, there were 433 180 (56,9%) male and 327 569 (43,1%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 90 996 (56,7%) male tourists and 69 631 (43,3%) female tourists. There were 330 981 (56,7%) male and 252 499 (43,3%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 10 488 (67,6%) male and 5 029 (32,4%) 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 29 465 (3,9%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 698 509 (91,8%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 32 775 (4,3%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 14 682 (94,6%) of 'other' African countries' and 548 803 (94,1%) of SADC tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 133 919 (83,4%) of tourists in the same age range from overseas. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was lower among tourists from 'other' African countries, 3,2% (491), than among those from SADC countries, 3,6% (20 993) and overseas countries, 5,0% (7 977).

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 11,2% (10 232) of male tourists and 12,2% (8 499) 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 3,0% or less of both male and female tourists. From the SADC countries elderly tourists made up 1,9% (6 224) and 3,0% (7 460) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,0% (207) and 2,7% (137) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

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

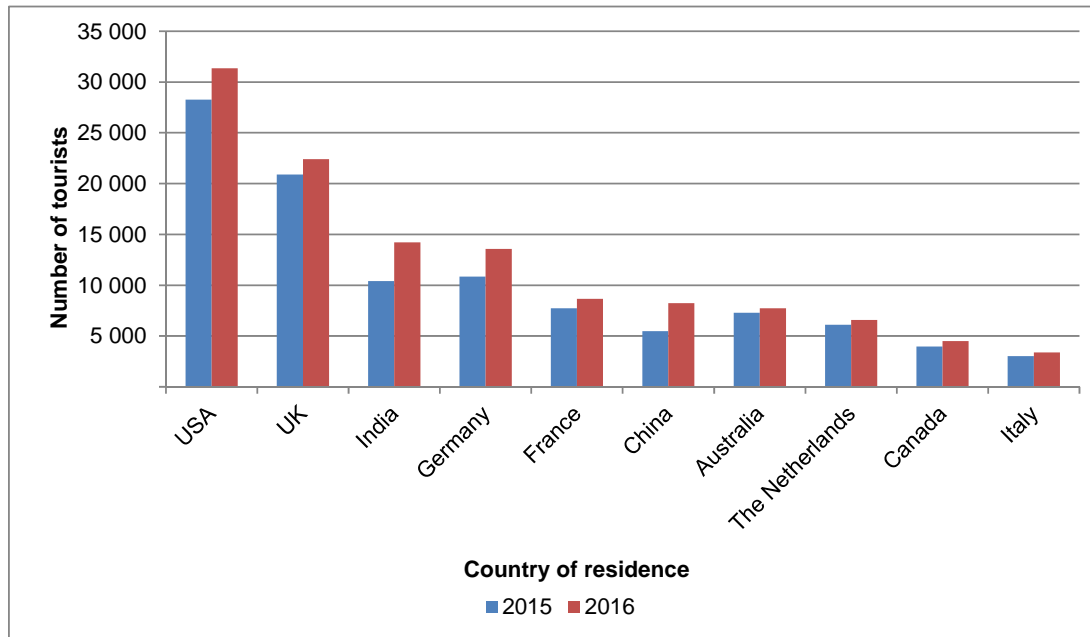


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in May 2015 and May 2016

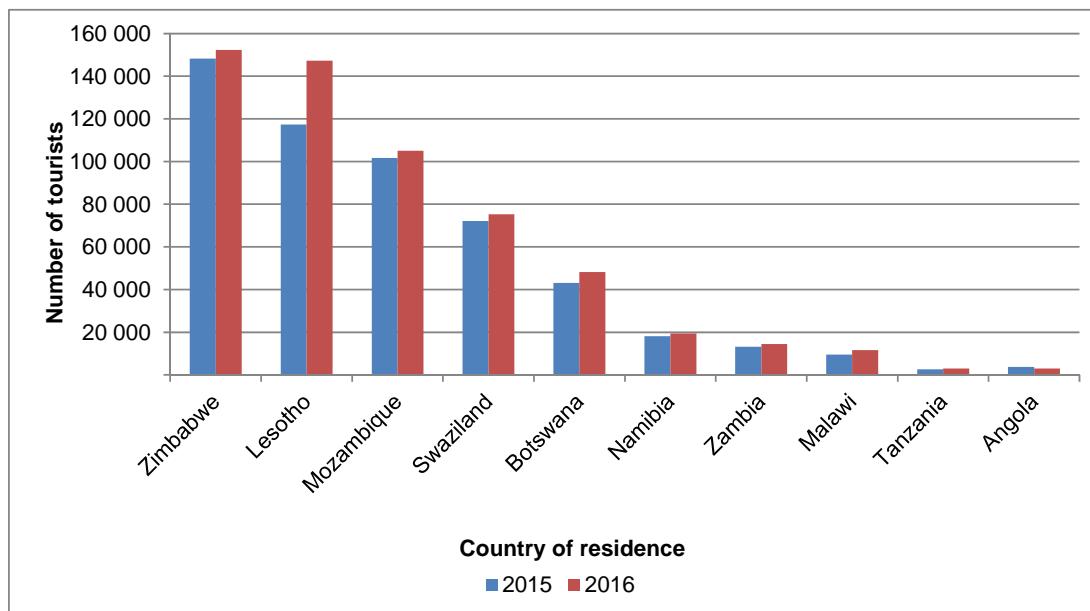
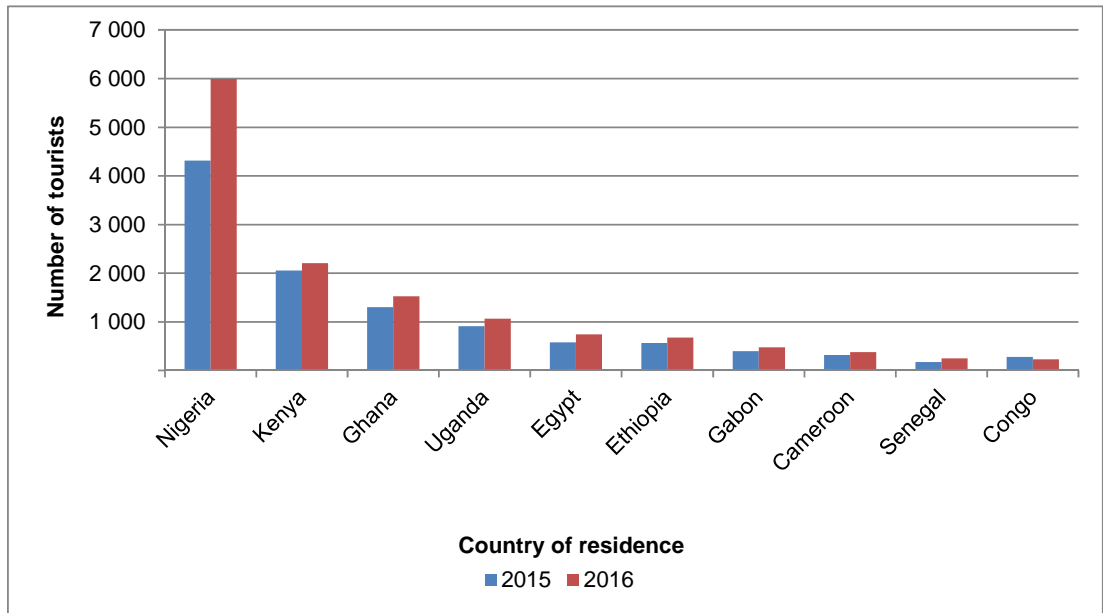


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in May 2015 and May 2016



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	May 2015	April 2016	May 2016	% Change	
				Apr 2016 – May 2016	May 2015 – May 2016
Total	3 235 461	3 465 092	3 365 711	-2,9%	4,0%
South African residents	859 166	842 424	851 878	1,1%	-0,8%
Arrivals	436 323	406 482	434 520	6,9%	-0,4%
Departures	421 985	435 094	416 488	-4,3%	-1,3%
Transit	858	848	870	2,6%	1,4%
Foreign travellers	2 376 295	2 622 668	2 513 833	-4,1%	5,8%
Arrivals	1 202 795	1 320 375	1 279 297	-3,1%	6,4%
Departures	1 106 591	1 238 684	1 166 255	-5,8%	5,4%
Transit	66 909	63 609	68 281	7,3%	2,1%
Foreign Arrivals	1 202 795	1 320 375	1 279 297	-3,1%	6,4%
Non-visitors	89 257	79 201	85 148	7,5%	-4,6%
Visitors	1 113 538	1 241 174	1 194 149	-3,8%	7,2%
Visitors	1 113 538	1 241 174	1 194 149	-3,8%	7,2%
Arrivals only	226 928	288 706	255 804	-11,4%	12,7%
Single trips	427 636	465 602	428 349	-8,0%	0,2%
Multiple trips	458 974	486 866	509 996	4,8%	11,1%
Visitors	1 113 538	1 241 174	1 194 149	-3,8%	7,2%
Same day	428 131	445 255	433 400	-2,7%	1,2%
Overnight (tourists)	685 407	795 919	760 749	-4,4%	11,0%

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	3 365 711	122 349	27 343	700 498	9 387	859 577	2 494 038	12 096
South African residents	851 878	45 478	17 045	252 598	6 511	321 632	526 350	3 896
Arrivals	434 520	21 078	8 352	125 810	3 162	158 402	274 456	1 662
Departures	416 488	24 369	8 693	125 951	3 347	162 360	251 894	2 234
Transit	870	31	-	837	2	870	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 513 833	76 871	10 298	447 900	2 876	537 945	1 967 688	8 200
Arrivals	1 279 297	35 738	4 774	185 837	1 206	227 555	1 047 808	3 934
Departures	1 166 255	40 978	5 524	193 937	1 670	242 109	919 880	4 266
Transit	68 281	155	-	68 126	-	68 281	-	-
Visitors	1 194 149	33 111	3 712	172 635	823	210 281	983 700	168
Same day	433 400	394	30	17 789	80	18 293	415 096	11
Tourist	760 749	32 717	3 682	154 846	743	191 988	568 604	157

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

Country of residence	May		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Grand Total	685 407	760 749	32 717	3 682	154 846	743	191 988	568 604	157
Overseas	138 258	160 627	28 711	3 165	109 790	620	142 286	18 204	137
Europe	67 486	75 706	14 761	1 904	47 994	136	64 795	10 816	95
Austria	850	1 252	327	43	713	6	1 089	159	4
Belgium	1 874	2 391	405	32	1 617	2	2 056	335	-
Denmark	1 130	1 152	212	28	803	-	1 043	109	-
France	7 748	8 659	1 511	112	5 598	8	7 229	1 426	4
Germany	10 860	13 562	2 674	178	8 477	19	11 348	2 206	8
Ireland	1 613	1 569	348	103	948	8	1 407	161	1
Italy	3 018	3 370	766	86	2 218	10	3 080	290	-
Portugal	2 926	2 845	298	29	1 454	12	1 793	1 052	-
Spain	1 713	1 928	361	50	1 244	1	1 656	272	-
Sweden	1 317	1 958	306	27	1 471	2	1 806	151	1
Switzerland	2 036	2 067	375	42	1 230	8	1 655	410	2
The Netherlands	6 097	6 585	1 519	125	3 286	6	4 936	1 649	-
Turkey	1 021	1 218	444	54	617	-	1 115	103	-
UK	20 895	22 390	4 202	830	15 307	40	20 379	1 937	74
Other	4 388	4 760	1 013	165	3 011	14	4 203	556	1
North America	32 259	35 872	6 160	403	25 760	337	32 660	3 197	15
Canada	3 980	4 505	937	83	2 888	23	3 931	569	5
USA	28 279	31 367	5 223	320	22 872	314	28 729	2 628	10
Central and South America	3 834	4 445	455	24	3 499	16	3 994	448	3
Argentina	366	566	28	1	510	-	539	27	-
Brazil	2 434	2 339	128	8	1 913	3	2 052	286	1
Mexico	196	309	55	1	238	7	301	8	-
Other	838	1 231	244	14	838	6	1 102	127	2

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

Country of residence	May		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	8 516	9 319	630	123	7 661	98	8 512	801	6
Australia	7 295	7 736	477	88	6 411	87	7 063	667	6
New Zealand	1 199	1 565	153	34	1 235	11	1 433	132	-
Other	22	18	-	1	15	-	16	2	-
Middle East	2 264	3 650	577	22	2 880	9	3 488	147	15
Iran	138	243	91	1	139	-	231	12	-
Israel	976	1 342	85	11	1 138	5	1 239	88	15
Saudi Arabia	353	1 031	135	1	888	1	1 025	6	-
Other	797	1 034	266	9	715	3	993	41	-
Asia	23 899	31 635	6 128	689	21 996	24	28 837	2 795	3
Bangladesh	335	549	58	14	258	-	330	219	-
China	5 501	8 247	1 042	57	6 742	1	7 842	405	-
India	10 414	14 237	3 305	393	9 524	2	13 224	1 012	1
Japan	1 716	2 092	229	35	1 727	11	2 002	90	-
Malaysia	1 152	731	282	10	409	1	702	29	-
Pakistan	1 489	1 452	185	66	660	-	911	541	-
Philippines	422	471	103	21	294	2	420	51	-
Singapore	475	746	281	7	439	1	728	18	-
South Korea	943	1 312	177	11	945	6	1 139	171	2
Thailand	412	498	105	15	363	-	483	15	-
Other	1 040	1 300	361	60	635	-	1 056	244	-
Africa	545 955	598 997	3 957	512	44 110	123	48 702	550 275	20
SADC	533 361	583 480	3 349	426	30 561	106	34 442	549 028	10
Angola	3 741	3 029	762	-	2 117	4	2 883	146	-
Botswana	43 145	48 225	203	3	2 045	29	2 280	45 945	-
DRC	1 788	1 841	22	3	1 389	1	1 415	426	-
Lesotho	117 318	147 177	6	-	464	-	470	146 707	-

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

Country of residence	May		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	252	243	1	-	232	-	233	10	-
Malawi	9 568	11 676	6	5	1 848	9	1 868	9 808	-
Mauritius	1 236	1 396	140	106	1 030	-	1 276	120	-
Mozambique	101 639	104 975	2	70	2 788	13	2 873	102 102	-
Namibia	18 085	19 342	2 041	1	3 561	10	5 613	13 719	10
Seychelles	444	571	1	1	532	-	534	37	-
Swaziland	72 100	75 237	1	1	497	6	505	74 732	-
Tanzania	2 655	3 045	18	6	1 757	3	1 784	1 261	-
Zambia	13 144	14 459	28	109	3 022	5	3 164	11 295	-
Zimbabwe	148 246	152 264	118	121	9 279	26	9 544	142 720	-
'Other' African	12 594	15 517	608	86	13 549	17	14 260	1 247	10
East and Central Africa	4 842	5 374	224	32	4 675	4	4 935	439	-
Burundi	40	59	7	-	47	-	54	5	-
Cameroon	319	381	22	1	324	-	347	34	-
Central African Republic	8	8	-	-	8	-	8	-	-
Chad	29	38	2	-	35	-	37	1	-
Comoros	20	13	3	1	7	-	11	2	-
Congo	278	228	13	-	213	-	226	2	-
Djibouti	6	12	-	1	11	-	12	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	23	20	2	-	18	-	20	-	-
Eritrea	77	46	2	-	40	-	42	4	-
Ethiopia	566	679	53	20	526	-	599	80	-
Gabon	401	478	18	-	455	1	474	4	-
Kenya	2 058	2 203	40	6	1 962	3	2 011	192	-
Réunion	5	31	31	-	-	-	31	-	-
Rwanda	67	75	4	2	60	-	66	9	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	5	10	-	-	10	-	10	-	-
Somalia	26	25	6	-	16	-	22	3	-
Uganda	914	1 068	21	1	943	-	965	103	-

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

Country of residence	May		Air					Road	Sea
	2015	2016	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	6 658	8 774	158	32	7 842	10	8 042	722	10
Benin	165	186	4	-	171	-	175	11	-
Burkina Faso	50	46	6	1	39	-	46	-	-
Cape Verde Island	52	43	6	-	35	-	41	2	-
Côte d'Ivoire	169	206	13	1	184	-	198	8	-
Gambia	40	50	1	-	43	-	44	6	-
Ghana	1 302	1 527	31	4	1 390	-	1 425	102	-
Guinea	117	132	1	-	69	1	71	61	-
Guinea-Bissau	8	7	-	-	5	-	5	2	-
Liberia	46	63	-	-	62	-	62	1	-
Mali	80	115	3	-	72	-	75	40	-
Mauritania	19	12	1	-	10	-	11	1	-
Niger	22	38	1	-	35	-	36	2	-
Nigeria	4 315	5 991	77	25	5 415	9	5 526	465	-
Saint Helena	21	11	1	-	-	-	1	-	10
Senegal	178	251	8	1	236	-	245	6	-
Sierra Leone	37	50	1	-	44	-	45	5	-
Togo	37	46	4	-	32	-	36	10	-
North Africa	1 094	1 369	226	22	1 032	3	1 283	86	-
Algeria	95	89	13	-	74	-	87	2	-
Egypt	576	744	114	6	580	1	701	43	-
Libya	55	54	16	6	23	-	45	9	-
Morocco	103	152	27	2	109	-	138	14	-
South Sudan	92	88	-	-	83	-	83	5	-
The Sudan	99	142	31	7	93	2	133	9	-
Tunisia	67	96	25	1	66	-	92	4	-
Western Sahara	7	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-
Unspecified	1 194	1 125	49	5	946	-	1 000	125	-

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

Country of residence	May		Purpose of visit		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
Total	685 407	760 749	23 225	732 436	5 088
Overseas	138 258	160 627	7 607	152 161	859
Europe	67 486	75 706	4 296	71 001	409
Austria	850	1 252	44	1 204	4
Belgium	1 874	2 391	126	2 252	13
Denmark	1 130	1 152	84	1 062	6
France	7 748	8 659	397	8 145	117
Germany	10 860	13 562	482	13 025	55
Ireland	1 613	1 569	91	1 471	7
Italy	3 018	3 370	281	3 064	25
Portugal	2 926	2 845	102	2 727	16
Spain	1 713	1 928	166	1 758	4
Sweden	1 317	1 958	149	1 800	9
Switzerland	2 036	2 067	67	1 995	5
The Netherlands	6 097	6 585	330	6 217	38
Turkey	1 021	1 218	110	1 101	7
UK	20 895	22 390	1 455	20 858	77
Other	4 388	4 760	412	4 322	26
North America	32 259	35 872	1 027	34 681	164
Canada	3 980	4 505	200	4 287	18
USA	28 279	31 367	827	30 394	146
Central and South America	3 834	4 445	178	4 238	29
Argentina	366	566	18	546	2
Brazil	2 434	2 339	48	2 278	13
Mexico	196	309	15	290	4
Other	838	1 231	97	1 124	10

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

Country of residence	May		Purpose of visit		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	8 516	9 319	259	9 048	12
Australia	7 295	7 736	219	7 506	11
New Zealand	1 199	1 565	36	1 528	1
Other	22	18	4	14	-
Middle East	2 264	3 650	240	3 368	42
Iran	138	243	36	206	1
Israel	976	1 342	57	1 271	14
Saudi Arabia	353	1 031	20	1 003	8
Other	797	1 034	127	888	19
Asia	23 899	31 635	1 607	29 825	203
Bangladesh	335	549	25	516	8
China	5 501	8 247	392	7 800	55
India	10 414	14 237	602	13 570	65
Japan	1 716	2 092	143	1 941	8
Malaysia	1 152	731	39	689	3
Pakistan	1 489	1 452	107	1 319	26
Philippines	422	471	17	452	2
Singapore	475	746	56	686	4
South Korea	943	1 312	69	1 219	24
Thailand	412	498	26	472	-
Other	1 040	1 300	131	1 161	8
Africa	545 955	598 997	15 525	579 245	4 227
SADC	533 361	583 480	14 559	565 190	3 731
Angola	3 741	3 029	77	2 796	156
Botswana	43 145	48 225	500	47 255	470
DRC	1 788	1 841	105	1 660	76
Lesotho	117 318	147 177	1 176	145 239	762

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

Country of residence	May		Purpose of visit		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
Madagascar	252	243	8	232	3
Malawi	9 568	11 676	418	11 210	48
Mauritius	1 236	1 396	74	1 301	21
Mozambique	101 639	104 975	4 039	100 793	143
Namibia	18 085	19 342	1 846	16 983	513
Seychelles	444	571	16	547	8
Swaziland	72 100	75 237	342	74 034	861
Tanzania	2 655	3 045	106	2 874	65
Zambia	13 144	14 459	1 357	13 014	88
Zimbabwe	148 246	152 264	4 495	147 252	517
'Other' African	12 594	15 517	966	14 055	496
East and Central Africa	4 842	5 374	402	4 757	215
Burundi	40	59	1	57	1
Cameroon	319	381	32	336	13
Central African Republic	8	8	-	8	-
Chad	29	38	1	31	6
Comoros	20	13	3	10	-
Congo	278	228	10	183	35
Djibouti	6	12	2	10	-
Equatorial Guinea	23	20	-	20	-
Eritrea	77	46	2	43	1
Ethiopia	566	679	66	601	12
Gabon	401	478	7	433	38
Kenya	2 058	2 203	186	1 947	70
Réunion	5	31	-	31	-
Rwanda	67	75	10	61	4
São Tomé and Príncipe	5	10	-	10	-
Somalia	26	25	3	22	-
Uganda	914	1 068	79	954	35

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

Country of residence	May		Purpose of visit		
	2015	2016	Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	6 658	8 774	375	8 166	233
Benin	165	186	21	163	2
Burkina Faso	50	46	4	42	-
Cape Verde Island	52	43	2	41	-
Côte d'Ivoire	169	206	30	168	8
Gambia	40	50	3	46	1
Ghana	1 302	1 527	86	1 406	35
Guinea	117	132	5	126	1
Guinea-Bissau	8	7	-	7	-
Liberia	46	63	7	56	-
Mali	80	115	5	108	2
Mauritania	19	12	1	10	1
Niger	22	38	5	33	-
Nigeria	4 315	5 991	180	5 633	178
Saint Helena	21	11	-	11	-
Senegal	178	251	18	232	1
Sierra Leone	37	50	2	46	2
Togo	37	46	6	38	2
North Africa	1 094	1 369	189	1 132	48
Algeria	95	89	12	76	1
Egypt	576	744	98	636	10
Libya	55	54	1	40	13
Morocco	103	152	23	126	3
South Sudan	92	88	16	70	2
The Sudan	99	142	21	104	17
Tunisia	67	96	18	76	2
Western Sahara	7	4	-	4	-
Unspecified	1 194	1 125	93	1 030	2

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

Sex	Age group	May		Region			
		2015	2016	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	685 407	760 749	160 627	583 480	15 517	1 125
	<15	30 344	29 465	7 977	20 993	491	4
	15-64	626 330	698 509	133 919	548 803	14 682	1 105
	65+	28 733	32 775	18 731	13 684	344	16
Male	Total	388 891	433 180	90 996	330 981	10 488	715
	<15	15 350	15 067	4 220	10 581	263	3
	15-64	359 197	401 436	76 544	314 176	10 018	698
	65+	14 344	16 677	10 232	6 224	207	14
Female	Total	296 516	327 569	69 631	252 499	5 029	410
	<15	14 994	14 398	3 757	10 412	228	1
	15-64	267 133	297 073	57 375	234 627	4 664	407
	65+	14 389	16 098	8 499	7 460	137	2

4. 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 2016/17 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.

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), 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 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 May 2016, the DHA data was 1,0% higher 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 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.

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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