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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 November 2017. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country during this month. The tourists are classified by region and country of residence. Details of their mode of travel; purpose of visit; age and sex distribution are also provided.

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Statistician-General

1. Key findings

1.1 Travellers

1.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa shows that a total of 3 441 487 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in November 2017. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 830 885 South African residents and 2 610 602 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 409 446 arrivals, 420 665 departures and 774 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 329 025, 1 215 768 and 65 809 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in November 2016 and November 2017 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, while the volume of transits increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 4,6% (from 391 557 in November 2016 to 409 446 in November 2017), departures increased by 4,4% (from 402 766 in November 2016 to 420 665 in November 2017), and transits increased by 5,2% (from 736 in November 2016 to 774 in November 2017). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 2,7% (from 1 294 020 in November 2016 to 1 329 025 in November 2017), departures increased by 2,2% (from 1 189 434 in November 2016 to 1 215 768 in November 2017), and transits decreased by 4,0% (from 68 552 in November 2016 to 65 809 in November 2017).

A comparison between the movements in October 2017 and November 2017 indicates that the volume of arrivals and transits decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of departures decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 17,2% (from 494 392 in October 2017 to 409 446 in November 2017), departures decreased by 5,0% (from 442 838 in October 2017 to 420 665 in November 2017), and transits decreased by 6,9% (from 831 in October 2017 to 774 in November 2017). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 1,7% (from 1 351 940 in October 2017 to 1 329 025 in November 2017), departures increased by 2,1% (from 1 191 059 in October 2017 to 1 215 768 in November 2017), and transits decreased by 9,9% (from 73 003 in October 2017 to 65 809 in November 2017). The decline in number of travellers from October to November, although not as pronounced as that which occurs in June, is not atypical of this time of the year as it precedes the December peak holiday season in South Africa, characterised by high volumes of travellers between South Africa and the neighbouring SADC countries. It may be assumed that most travellers reduce their trips in November in preparation for the December-January holiday season.

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

As presented in Table 1 on page 9, in November 2017, 83 233 (6,3%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 245 792 (93,7%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in November 2017 but did not depart in November 2017 [291 069 (23,4%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in November 2017 and left in November 2017 [457 920 (36,8%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in November 2017 [496 803 (39,9%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In November 2017, there were 396 826 (31,9%) same-day visitors and 848 966 (68,1%) tourists. Between November 2016 and November 2017, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 1,5% (from 402 750 in November 2016 to 396 826 in November 2017) and that of tourists increased by 4,9% (from 809 349 in November 2016 to 848 966 in November 2017). Between October 2017 and November 2017, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 3,6% (from 382 965 in October 2017 to 396 826 in November 2017), while tourists decreased by 3,5% (from 880 168 in October 2017 to 848 966 in November 2017).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 10 show that in November 2017, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 390 257 (69,5%) of the 3 441 487 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 1 033 663 (30,0%). Compared to use of air and land transport, a small number of travellers, 17 567 (0,5%) used sea transport. The arrivals data for South African residents show that 155 753 (38,0%) came by air, 249 486 (60,9%) came by road and 4 207 (1,0%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 160 826 (38,2%) used air, 255 645 (60,8%) used road and 4 194 (1,0%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 774 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 318 069 (23,9%) arrived by air, 1 005 873 (75,7%) came by road and 5 083 (0,4%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 332 432 (27,3%) foreign travellers left by air, 879 253 (72,3%) left by road and 4 083 (0,3%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit 65 809 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 on page 10 further shows that of the 396 826 same-day visitors, an overwhelming majority, 378 019 (95,3%) arrived in the country by road, 18 752 (4,7%) flew into the country, and 55 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Data on tourists show that 565 701 (66,6%) used road transport, 282 423 (33,3%) came by air transport and 842 (0,1%) arrived by sea transport.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them according to their respective countries and regions. Information on the specific region and country of residence of the tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on pages 11–14. In November 2017, 227 560 (87,6%) of the 259 805 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 31 456 (12,1%) came in by road and 789 (0,3%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 532 925 (93,0%), 39 939 (7,0%) arrived by air transport and 32 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 13 815 (91,9%), with 1 199 (8,0%) using road transport and 21 (0,1%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In November 2017, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 180 402 (69,4%); North America, 32 520 (12,5%); Asia, 25 996 (10,0%); Australasia, 8 351 (3,2%); Central and South America, 8 281 (3,2%); and Middle East, 4 255 (1,6%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 11–12 indicate that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in November 2017 were Germany, 45 558 (17,5%); United Kingdom (UK), 40 489 (15,6%); United States of America (USA), 26 305 (10,1%); France, 22 354 (8,6%); The Netherlands, 16 371 (6,3%); China, 9 000 (3,5%); Switzerland, 7 536 (2,9%); India, 7 418 (2,9%); Australia, 7 284 (2,8%); and Sweden, 6 401 (2,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 72,6% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between November 2016 and November 2017 shows that the number of tourists increased for seven of the ten leading countries (France, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, UK and India), but decreased for China, USA and Australia. France had the largest increase of 14,5% (from 19 531 tourists in November 2016 to 22 354 in November 2017), while China had the largest decrease of 17,2% (from 10 876 tourists in November 2016 to 9 000 in November 2017).

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 572 896 (97,4%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 7 468 (1,3%); East and Central Africa, 5 975 (1,0%); and North Africa 1 592 (0,3%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in November 2017 were: Zimbabwe, 153 702 (26,8%); Lesotho, 125 427 (21,9%); Mozambique, 112 832 (19,7%); Swaziland, 70 167 (12,2%); Botswana, 53 622 (9,4%); Namibia, 15 410 (2,7%); Malawi, 15 381 (2,7%); Zambia 14 215 (2,5%); Angola, 3 667 (0,6%) and Tanzania, 3 085 (0,5%). (See Figure 2 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 12–13). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,1% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in November 2016 and November 2017 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for six of the ten leading countries (Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Lesotho and Botswana), and decreased for four (Angola, Namibia, Zambia and Tanzania). Mozambique showed the largest increase of 16,2% (from 97 108 tourists in November 2016 to 112 832 in November 2017), while Angola showed the largest decrease of 5,5% (from 3 880 tourists in November 2016 to 3 667 in November 2017).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in November 2017 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13–14, were: Nigeria, 4 291 (28,5%); Kenya, 2 674 (17,8%); Ghana, 1 733 (11,5%); Uganda, 1 162 (7,7%); Egypt, 853 (5,7%); Ethiopia, 731 (4,9%); Cameroon, 427 (2,8%); Gabon, 344 (2,3%); Senegal, 290 (1,9%) and Congo, 220 (1,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 84,6% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in November 2016 and November 2017 shows that the number of tourists increased for five of the ten leading countries (Senegal, Egypt, Cameroon, Uganda and Ethiopia) and decreased for the other five (Gabon, Nigeria, Kenya, Congo and Ghana). Senegal showed the largest increase of 10,7% (from 262 tourists in November 2016 to 290 in November 2017). Gabon showed the largest decrease of 26,2% (from 466 tourists in November 2016 to 344 in November 2017), followed by Nigeria, which decreased by 16,9% (from 5 165 tourists in November 2016 to 4 291 in November 2017).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on pages 15–18, in November 2017, the majority of tourists, 817 319 (96,3%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 28 421 (3,3%) and 3 226 (0,4%) who were in South Africa for business and for study purposes respectively.

A total of 8 037 (97,1%) tourists from Central and South America, 8 059 (96,5%) from Australasia, 173 095 (95,9%) from Europe, 31 129 (95,7%) from North America, 23 220 (89,3%) from Asia and 3 782 (88,9%) from the Middle East were in South Africa for holiday. Compared to other overseas regions, Europe had the highest numbers of tourists, 173 095 (95,9%) who came for holiday, 7 074 (3,9%) who came for business, and 233 (0,1%) who came for study purposes.

Proportionately however, Asia had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, 10,2% (2 642), followed by Middle East, 10,0% (424). Middle East had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for study purposes, 1,2% (49).

The majority of African tourists, 568 960 (96,8%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, the following differences in terms of reasons for travel were observed between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 555 926 (97,0%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 13 034 (86,7%) 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 89,6% (6 688); 84,8% (5 067); and 80,3% (1 279) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 10,6% (1 587) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 2,6% (14 658) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 16,2% (258) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes.
- Students made up the highest proportion, 2,8% (414) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,4% (2 312) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion of its tourists, 3,5% (55) who came to South Africa for study purposes.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in November 2017, there were 476 471 (56,1%) male and 372 495 (43,9%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 140 613 (54,1%) male tourists and 119 192 (45,9%) female tourists.

There were 325 036 (56,7%) male and 247 860 (43,3%) female tourists from the SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 10 069 (67,0%) male and 4 966 (33,0%) female tourists.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into three broad groups: Those younger than 15 years, those that were 15 to 64 years old, and those that were 65 years and older. The overall results presented in Table 5 on page 19 show that 29 649 (3,5%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 758 119 (89,3%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 61 198 (7,2%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 14 199 (94,4%) tourists from 'other' African countries and 535 892 (93,5%) tourists from SADC were aged between 15 and 64 years, compared to 206 828 (79,6%) tourists in the same age range from overseas. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was slightly lower among tourists from overseas, 2,7% (6 941) compared to those from SADC, 3,9% (22 271) and 'other' African countries, 2,9% (433).

A comparison of the three regions shows higher proportions of the elderly among both male and female tourists from overseas. Tourists aged 65 years and older comprised 17,0% (23 931) of male and 18,5% (22 105) 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% (6 795) and 3,2% (7 938) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,6% (261) and 2,9% (142) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in November 2016 and November 2017

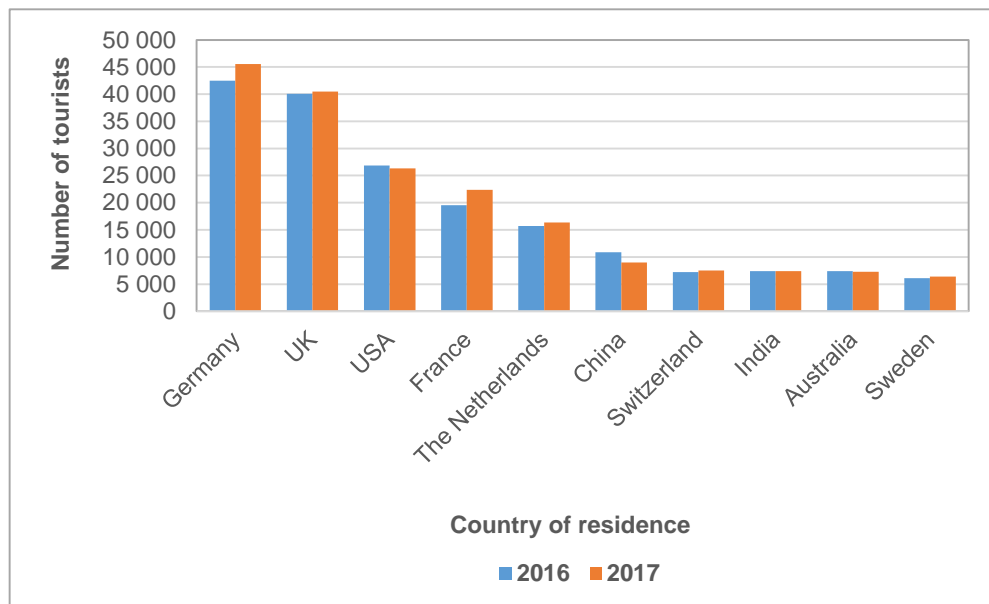


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in November 2016 and November 2017

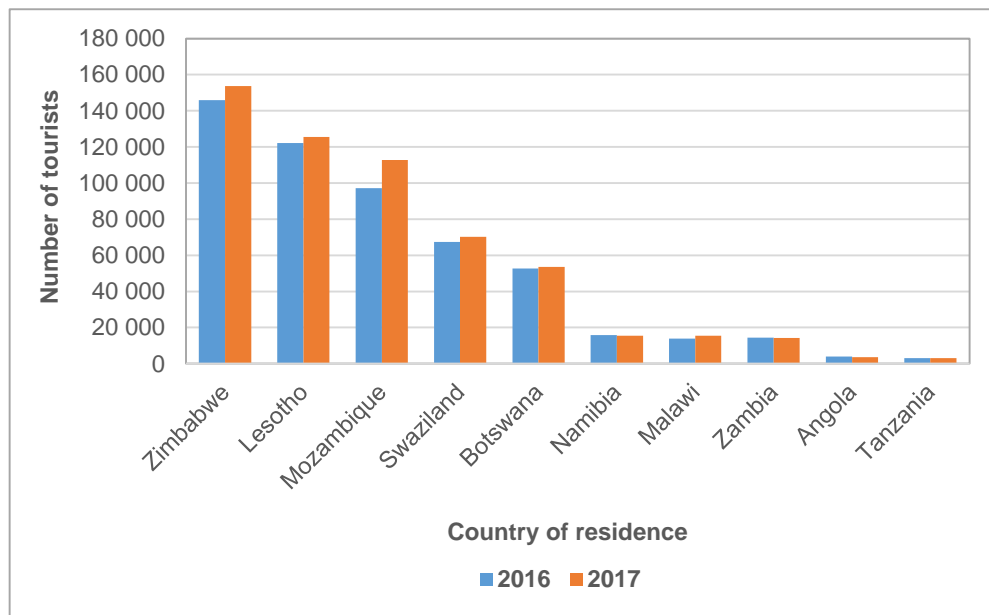
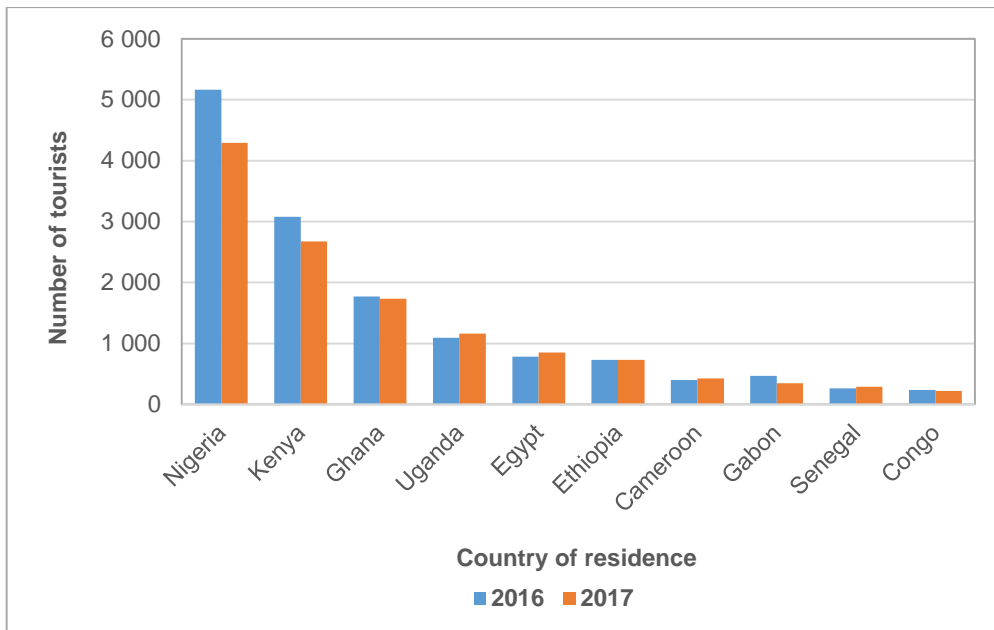


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in November 2016 and November 2017



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	Nov 2016	Oct 2017	Nov 2017	% Change Oct – Nov 2017	% Change Nov 2016 – Nov 2017
Total	3 347 065	3 554 063	3 441 487	-3,2%	2,8%
South African residents	795 059	938 061	830 885	-11,4%	4,5%
Arrivals	391 557	494 392	409 446	-17,2%	4,6%
Departures	402 766	442 838	420 665	-5,0%	4,4%
Transit	736	831	774	-6,9%	5,2%
Foreign travellers	2 552 006	2 616 002	2 610 602	-0,2%	2,3%
Arrivals	1 294 020	1 351 940	1 329 025	-1,7%	2,7%
Departures	1 189 434	1 191 059	1 215 768	2,1%	2,2%
Transit	68 552	73 003	65 809	-9,9%	-4,0%
Foreign arrivals	1 294 020	1 351 940	1 329 025	-1,7%	2,7%
Non-visitors	81 921	88 807	83 233	-6,3%	1,6%
Visitors	1 212 099	1 263 133	1 245 792	-1,4%	2,8%
Visitors	1 212 099	1 263 133	1 245 792	-1,4%	2,8%
Arrivals only	272 590	311 404	291 069	-6,5%	6,8%
Single trips	444 547	445 015	457 920	2,9%	3,0%
Multiple trips	494 962	506 714	496 803	-2,0%	0,4%
Visitors	1 212 099	1 263 133	1 245 792	-1,4%	2,8%
Same-Day	402 750	382 965	396 826	3,6%	-1,5%
Overnight (Tourists)	809 349	880 168	848 966	-3,5%	4,9%

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	3 441 487	244 498	26 604	755 641	6 920	1 033 663	2 390 257	17 567
South African residents	830 885	48 759	16 632	247 995	3 967	317 353	505 131	8 401
Arrivals	409 446	24 707	7 831	121 378	1 837	155 753	249 486	4 207
Departures	420 665	24 047	8 801	125 848	2 130	160 826	255 645	4 194
Transit	774	5	-	769	-	774	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 610 602	195 739	9 972	507 646	2 953	716 310	1 885 126	9 166
Arrivals	1 329 025	96 507	4 423	216 049	1 090	318 069	1 005 873	5 083
Departures	1 215 768	99 098	5 549	225 922	1 863	332 432	879 253	4 083
Transit	65 809	134	-	65 675	-	65 809	-	-
Visitors	1 245 792	92 722	3 575	204 171	707	301 175	943 720	897
Same day	396 826	573	17	18 078	84	18 752	378 019	55
Tourist	848 966	92 149	3 558	186 093	623	282 423	565 701	842

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (November 2017)

Country of residence	November		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	809 349	848 966	92 149	3 558	186 093	623	282 423	565 701	842
Overseas	250 017	259 805	86 209	2 883	138 016	452	227 560	31 456	789
Europe	170 081	180 402	68 875	1 882	83 869	206	154 832	24 834	736
Austria	3 371	3 860	1 636	45	1 653	3	3 337	507	16
Belgium	5 023	5 665	2 005	39	2 560	11	4 615	1 050	-
Denmark	2 803	2 762	746	14	1 762	-	2 522	238	2
France	19 531	22 354	7 064	128	9 164	15	16 371	5 969	14
Germany	42 489	45 558	18 556	193	19 900	23	38 672	6 301	585
Ireland	2 794	2 975	1 492	52	1 271	2	2 817	156	2
Italy	4 467	4 835	1 768	84	2 516	3	4 371	457	7
Norway	2 087	2 332	1 134	25	967	-	2 126	203	3
Portugal	3 823	3 611	883	24	1 593	19	2 519	1 088	4
Spain	3 316	3 312	897	45	1 961	11	2 914	390	8
Sweden	6 089	6 401	2 886	42	2 915	8	5 851	545	5
Switzerland	7 192	7 536	3 320	47	3 211	10	6 588	936	12
The Netherlands	15 726	16 371	6 032	92	6 831	9	12 964	3 390	17
UK	40 086	40 489	15 589	818	21 559	54	38 020	2 415	54
Other	11 284	12 341	4 867	234	6 006	38	11 145	1 189	7
North America	32 306	32 520	8 302	125	20 728	203	29 358	3 151	11
Canada	5 459	6 215	1 998	17	3 153	21	5 189	1 024	2
USA	26 847	26 305	6 304	108	17 575	182	24 169	2 127	9
Central and South America	7 157	8 281	826	26	6 852	8	7 712	564	5
Argentina	836	881	27	9	802	-	838	41	2
Brazil	4 522	5 482	485	3	4 603	2	5 093	387	2
Chile	345	389	28	-	344	-	372	16	1
Other	1 454	1 529	286	14	1 103	6	1 409	120	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (November 2017) (continued)

Country of residence	November		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	8 893	8 351	947	190	6 692	14	7 843	488	20
Australia	7 421	7 284	705	148	5 955	13	6 821	448	15
New Zealand	1 447	1 048	235	41	727	1	1 004	39	5
Other	25	19	7	1	10	-	18	1	-
Middle East	4 176	4 255	1 290	27	2 777	8	4 102	153	-
Iran	449	430	241	4	166	-	411	19	-
Israel	2 093	2 356	528	2	1 750	7	2 287	69	-
Saudi Arabia	693	499	129	1	361	-	491	8	-
Other	941	970	392	20	500	1	913	57	-
Asia	27 404	25 996	5 969	633	17 098	13	23 713	2 266	17
Bangladesh	479	573	144	6	240	-	390	183	-
China	10 876	9 000	1 815	47	6 775	2	8 639	351	10
India	7 367	7 418	1 784	315	4 699	6	6 804	609	5
Japan	1 895	2 048	383	72	1 509	3	1 967	81	-
Malaysia	719	761	339	60	325	-	724	37	-
Pakistan	1 289	1 259	193	43	538	-	774	485	-
Philippines	660	581	150	19	320	-	489	90	2
Singapore	655	806	380	9	395	1	785	21	-
South Korea	1 458	1 663	322	13	1 129	-	1 464	199	-
Taiwan	614	447	70	4	279	-	353	94	-
Other	1 392	1 440	389	45	889	1	1 324	116	-
Africa	558 193	587 931	5 803	675	47 105	171	53 754	534 124	53
SADC	542 058	572 896	4 215	588	35 015	121	39 939	532 925	32
Angola	3 880	3 667	1 065	3	2 421	28	3 517	150	-
Botswana	52 739	53 622	143	145	2 466	18	2 772	50 843	7
DRC	1 886	2 134	64	1	1 562	1	1 628	506	-
Lesotho	122 185	125 427	4	8	678	2	692	124 732	3

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (November 2017) (continued)

Country of residence	November		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	232	214	10	1	198	1	210	4	-
Malawi	13 937	15 381	17	1	2 031	6	2 055	13 326	-
Mauritius	2 015	2 114	516	115	1 390	-	2 021	93	-
Mozambique	97 108	112 832	10	36	2 807	3	2 856	109 973	3
Namibia	15 730	15 410	2 048	165	2 767	11	4 991	10 408	11
Seychelles	1 482	926	6	-	904	-	910	16	-
Swaziland	67 379	70 167	2	1	525	27	555	69 612	-
Tanzania	3 094	3 085	113	2	1 737	3	1 855	1 230	-
Zambia	14 478	14 215	46	88	3 411	1	3 546	10 669	-
Zimbabwe	145 913	153 702	171	22	12 118	20	12 331	141 363	8
'Other' African	16 135	15 035	1 588	87	12 090	50	13 815	1 199	21
East and Central Africa	6 305	5 975	720	5	4 769	8	5 502	473	-
Burundi	67	112	6	-	98	-	104	8	-
Cameroon	400	427	54	-	338	1	393	34	-
Central African Republic	13	15	-	-	14	-	14	1	-
Chad	29	35	5	-	30	-	35	-	-
Comoros	14	24	4	-	18	-	22	2	-
Congo	234	220	51	-	162	1	214	6	-
Djibouti	14	14	8	-	6	-	14	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	28	27	-	-	24	1	25	2	-
Eritrea	52	50	7	-	41	-	48	2	-
Ethiopia	728	731	93	3	565	-	661	70	-
Gabon	466	344	19	-	321	2	342	2	-
Kenya	3 078	2 674	367	2	2 109	1	2 479	195	-
Réunion	-	3	3	-	-	-	3	-	-
Rwanda	64	73	3	-	63	-	66	7	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	4	10	1	-	8	-	9	1	-
Somalia	22	54	7	-	28	-	35	19	-
Uganda	1 092	1 162	92	-	944	2	1 038	124	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (November 2017) (concluded)

Country of residence	November		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	8 269	7 468	491	12	6 241	42	6 786	661	21
Benin	152	203	14	-	184	-	198	5	-
Burkina Faso	50	87	19	-	63	-	82	5	-
Cape Verde Island	62	48	6	-	39	-	45	3	-
Côte d'Ivoire	209	199	16	1	171	-	188	11	-
Gambia	48	48	10	-	37	-	47	1	-
Ghana	1 769	1 733	65	-	1 588	2	1 655	77	1
Guinea	138	153	10	-	76	-	86	67	-
Guinea-Bissau	10	13	3	-	9	-	12	1	-
Liberia	74	48	3	-	45	-	48	-	-
Mali	123	152	10	-	76	-	86	66	-
Mauritania	8	31	6	-	24	-	30	1	-
Niger	26	40	4	-	36	-	40	-	-
Nigeria	5 165	4 291	289	10	3 578	12	3 889	401	1
Saint Helena	34	30	3	-	8	-	11	-	19
Senegal	262	290	23	1	219	28	271	19	-
Sierra Leone	96	61	5	-	52	-	57	4	-
Togo	43	41	5	-	36	-	41	-	-
North Africa	1 561	1 592	377	70	1 080	-	1 527	65	-
Algeria	139	148	36	34	75	-	145	3	-
Egypt	784	853	170	11	649	-	830	23	-
Libya	82	88	28	2	33	-	63	25	-
Morocco	186	163	46	18	97	-	161	2	-
South Sudan	73	55	5	-	48	-	53	2	-
The Sudan	207	195	65	4	117	-	186	9	-
Tunisia	90	89	27	1	60	-	88	1	-
Western Sahara	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	1 139	1 230	137	-	972	-	1 109	121	-

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

Country of residence	November		Purpose of visit (November 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
Total	809 349	848 966	28 421	817 319	3 226
Overseas	250 017	259 805	11 984	247 322	499
Europe	170 081	180 402	7 074	173 095	233
Austria	3 371	3 860	97	3 758	5
Belgium	5 023	5 665	206	5 445	14
Denmark	2 803	2 762	108	2 652	2
France	19 531	22 354	704	21 618	32
Germany	42 489	45 558	1 086	44 405	67
Ireland	2 794	2 975	202	2 771	2
Italy	4 467	4 835	370	4 456	9
Norway	2 087	2 332	100	2 226	6
Portugal	3 823	3 611	146	3 463	2
Spain	3 316	3 312	246	3 058	8
Sweden	6 089	6 401	213	6 181	7
Switzerland	7 192	7 536	110	7 413	13
The Netherlands	15 726	16 371	462	15 896	13
UK	40 086	40 489	2 105	38 346	38
Other	11 284	12 341	919	11 407	15
North America	32 306	32 520	1 340	31 129	51
Canada	5 459	6 215	236	5 969	10
USA	26 847	26 305	1 104	25 160	41
Central and South America	7 157	8 281	224	8 037	20
Argentina	836	881	11	869	1
Brazil	4 522	5 482	91	5 382	9
Chile	345	389	16	372	1
Other	1 454	1 529	106	1 414	9

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

Country of residence	November		Purpose of visit (November 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	8 893	8 351	280	8 059	12
Australia	7 421	7 284	253	7 021	10
New Zealand	1 447	1 048	22	1 024	2
Other	25	19	5	14	-
Middle East	4 176	4 255	424	3 782	49
Iran	449	430	76	350	4
Israel	2 093	2 356	150	2 206	-
Saudi Arabia	693	499	26	457	16
Other	941	970	172	769	29
Asia	27 404	25 996	2 642	23 220	134
Bangladesh	479	573	60	511	2
China	10 876	9 000	723	8 250	27
India	7 367	7 418	1 065	6 307	46
Japan	1 895	2 048	195	1 849	4
Malaysia	719	761	67	694	-
Pakistan	1 289	1 259	136	1 120	3
Philippines	660	581	44	518	19
Singapore	655	806	60	744	2
South Korea	1 458	1 663	86	1 559	18
Taiwan	614	447	40	401	6
Other	1 392	1 440	166	1 267	7
Africa	558 193	587 931	16 245	568 960	2 726
SADC	542 058	572 896	14 658	555 926	2 312
Angola	3 880	3 667	105	3 473	89
Botswana	52 739	53 622	645	52 814	163
DRC	1 886	2 134	118	1 902	114
Lesotho	122 185	125 427	1 221	123 573	633

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

Country of residence	November		Purpose of visit (November 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
Madagascar	232	214	15	192	7
Malawi	13 937	15 381	479	14 865	37
Mauritius	2 015	2 114	113	1 982	19
Mozambique	97 108	112 832	3 959	108 824	49
Namibia	15 730	15 410	2 224	12 955	231
Seychelles	1 482	926	11	914	1
Swaziland	67 379	70 167	289	69 317	561
Tanzania	3 094	3 085	150	2 890	45
Zambia	14 478	14 215	1 274	12 891	50
Zimbabwe	145 913	153 702	4 055	149 334	313
'Other' African	16 135	15 035	1 587	13 034	414
East and Central Africa	6 305	5 975	746	5 067	162
Burundi	67	112	13	97	2
Cameroon	400	427	49	360	18
Central African Republic	13	15	2	13	-
Chad	29	35	9	25	1
Comoros	14	24	3	18	3
Congo	234	220	12	183	25
Djibouti	14	14	8	5	1
Equatorial Guinea	28	27	-	26	1
Eritrea	52	50	6	44	-
Ethiopia	728	731	94	629	8
Gabon	466	344	10	300	34
Kenya	3 078	2 674	393	2 243	38
Réunion	-	3	-	3	-
Rwanda	64	73	6	64	3
São Tomé and Príncipe	4	10	1	9	-
Somalia	22	54	8	46	-
Uganda	1 092	1 162	132	1 002	28

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

Country of residence	November		Purpose of visit (November 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	8 269	7 468	583	6 688	197
Benin	152	203	18	179	6
Burkina Faso	50	87	19	60	8
Cape Verde Island	62	48	5	43	-
Côte d'Ivoire	209	199	33	164	2
Gambia	48	48	10	37	1
Ghana	1 769	1 733	136	1 568	29
Guinea	138	153	6	140	7
Guinea-Bissau	10	13	5	7	1
Liberia	74	48	3	45	-
Mali	123	152	16	133	3
Mauritania	8	31	5	25	1
Niger	26	40	6	34	-
Nigeria	5 165	4 291	278	3 876	137
Saint Helena	34	30	-	30	-
Senegal	262	290	29	259	2
Sierra Leone	96	61	7	54	-
Togo	43	41	7	34	-
North Africa	1 561	1 592	258	1 279	55
Algeria	139	148	23	123	2
Egypt	784	853	135	710	8
Libya	82	88	6	63	19
Morocco	186	163	34	127	2
South Sudan	73	55	4	47	4
The Sudan	207	195	37	138	20
Tunisia	90	89	19	70	-
Western Sahara	-	1	-	1	-
Unspecified	1 139	1 230	192	1 037	1

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

Sex	Age group	November		Region (November 2017)			
		2016	2017	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	809 349	848 966	259 805	572 896	15 035	1 230
	0-14	29 621	29 649	6 941	22 271	433	4
	15-64	723 370	758 119	206 828	535 892	14 199	1 200
	65+	56 358	61 198	46 036	14 733	403	26
Male	Total	452 508	476 471	140 613	325 036	10 069	753
	0-14	14 460	14 774	3 532	11 033	206	3
	15-64	409 717	430 689	113 150	307 208	9 602	729
	65+	28 331	31 008	23 931	6 795	261	21
Female	Total	356 841	372 495	119 192	247 860	4 966	477
	0-14	15 161	14 875	3 409	11 238	227	1
	15-64	313 653	327 430	93 678	228 684	4 597	471
	65+	28 027	30 190	22 105	7 938	142	5

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 enhanced Movement Control System (e-MCS) at the country's ports of entry. Currently the new system (e-MCS) is operational at over 95% of the country's ports of entry. The change affects the identification of Transit Travellers that are currently categorised under Direction instead of Purpose of Movement. With this revision, Table 1 and Table 2 in the release now include a category for Transit while all tables reporting on tourists exclude transit travellers.

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).

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 ports' electronic database. No forms or cards are used (except in rare occasions when the capturing system is down) to collect information from travellers. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA.
- Stats SA receives downloaded data covering a particular calendar month from the DHA.

- As part of data interrogation, data from O.R. Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airport Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA is also reflected in an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern has also been observed when the volume of travellers decreased. Between January and September in 2017, on average the DHA data was 0,3% higher than that of ACSA¹.

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 Definition 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.

¹ACSA October and November 2017 passenger statistics were not ready at the time of publication of this release, thus the discussion is based on the trend from September 2016 to September 2017.

4.7 Symbols used

- = nil

< = less than

4.8 Rounding off

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

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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