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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 October 2016 and October 2017	7
Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in October 2016 and October 2017	7
Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in October 2016 and October 2017	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 (October 2017)	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. Explanatory notes	20
4.1 Introduction	20
4.2 Purpose of the statistical release	20
4.3 Scope and coverage	20
4.4 Data	20
4.5 Limitations	21
4.6 Definition of terms	21
4.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)	21
4.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release	21
4.7 Symbols used	22
4.8 Rounding off	22
5. General information	22

Preface

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in October 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 3 554 063 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in October 2017. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 938 061 South African residents and 2 616 002 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 494 392 arrivals, 442 838 departures and 831 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 351 940, 1 191 059 and 73 003 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in October 2016 and October 2017 indicates that the volume of arrivals and transits increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, while the volume of departures decreased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 2,8% (from 480 961 in October 2016 to 494 392 in October 2017), departures decreased by 0,3% (from 444 061 in October 2016 to 442 838 in October 2017), and transits increased by 7,4% (from 774 in October 2016 to 831 in October 2017). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 1,1% (from 1 336 973 in October 2016 to 1 351 940 in October 2017), departures decreased by 0,2% (from 1 193 994 in October 2016 to 1 191 059 in October 2017), and transits increased by 2,7% (from 71 057 in October 2016 to 73 003 in October 2017).

A comparison between the movements in September 2017 and October 2017 indicates that the volume of arrivals increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, while the volume of departures decreased for both. The volume of travellers in transit decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 5,0% (from 470 712 in September 2017 to 494 392 in October 2017), departures decreased by 13,2% (from 509 984 in September 2017 to 442 838 in October 2017), and transits decreased by 9,7% (from 920 in September 2017 to 831 in October 2017). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 4,0% (from 1 300 502 in September 2017 to 1 351 940 in October 2017), departures decreased by 0,8% (from 1 200 187 in September 2017 to 1 191 059 in October 2017), and transits increased by 5,1% (from 69 456 in September 2017 to 73 003 in October 2017).

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 October 2017, 88 807 (6,6%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 263 133 (93,4%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in October 2017 but did not depart in October 2017 [311 404 (24,7%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in October 2017 and left in October 2017 [445 015 (35,2%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in October 2017 [506 714 (40,1%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In October 2017, there were 382 965 (30,3%) same-day visitors and 880 168 (69,7%) tourists. Between October 2016 and October 2017, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 3,3% (from 396 047 in October 2016 to 382 965 in October 2017) and that of tourists increased by 3,4% (from 850 956 in October 2016 to 880 168 in October 2017). Between September 2017 and October 2017, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 1,1% (from 387 291 in September 2017 to 382 965 in October 2017), while tourists increased by 5,7% (from 833 078 in September 2017 to 880 168 in October 2017).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 10 show that in October 2017, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 475 861 (69,7%) of the 3 554 063 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 1 068 686 (30,1%). Compared to use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 9 516 (0,3%) used sea transport. The arrivals data for South African residents show that 198 291 (40,1%) came by air, 295 730 (59,8%) came by road and 371 (0,1%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 169 216 (38,2%) used air, 273 341 (61,7%) used road and 281 (0,1%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 831 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 325 853 (24,1%) arrived by air, 1 021 854 (75,6%) came by road and 4 233 (0,3%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 301 492 (25,3%) foreign travellers left by air, 884 936 (74,3%) left by road and 4 631 (0,4%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit 73 003 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 on page 10 further shows that of the 382 965 same-day visitors, an overwhelming majority, 363 049 (94,8%) arrived in the country by road, 19 907 (5,2%) flew into the country, and 9 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Data on tourists show that 591 138 (67,2%) used road transport, 288 398 (32,8%) came by air transport and 632 (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 October 2017, 234 420 (87,8%) of the 267 025 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 31 987 (12,0%) came in by road and 618 (0,2%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 557 981 (93,4%), 39 438 (6,6%) arrived by air transport and 5 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 13 356 (92,7%), with 1 046 (7,3%) using road transport and 9 (0,1%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In October 2017, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 176 969 (66,3%); North America, 36 277 (13,6%); Asia, 29 513 (11,1%); Australasia, 10 711 (4,0%); Central and South America, 9 341 (3,5%); and Middle East, 4 214 (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 October 2017 were Germany, 46 290 (17,3%); United Kingdom (UK), 38 350 (14,4%); United States of America (USA), 29 328 (11,0%); France, 25 221 (9,4%); The Netherlands, 17 211 (6,4%); China, 9 076 (3,4%); Australia, 9 060 (3,4%); India, 8 306 (3,1%); Switzerland, 7 651 (2,9%) and Canada, 6 949 (2,6%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 73,9% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between October 2016 and October 2017 shows that the number of tourists increased for seven of the ten leading countries (France, Canada, Germany, India, Australia, USA and The Netherlands), but decreased for China, UK and Switzerland. France had the largest increase of 32,7% (from 19 009 tourists in October 2016 to 25 221 in October 2017), while China had the largest decrease of 5,9% (from 9 648 tourists in October 2016 to 9 076 in October 2017).

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 597 424 (97,6%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 7 282 (1,2%); East and Central Africa, 5 715 (0,9%); and North Africa 1 414 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in October 2017 were: Zimbabwe, 155 949 (26,1%); Lesotho, 144 151 (24,1%); Mozambique, 109 904 (18,4%); Swaziland, 73 529 (12,3%); Botswana, 54 029 (9,0%); Namibia, 17 799 (3,0%); Malawi, 16 415 (2,7%); Zambia 14 558 (2,4%); Angola, 3 407 (0,6%) and Tanzania, 2 971 (0,5%). (See Figure 2 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 12–13). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,2% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in October 2016 and October 2017 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for five of the ten leading countries (Mozambique, Malawi, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Namibia), and decreased for Tanzania, Swaziland, Lesotho, Zambia and Angola. Mozambique showed the largest increase of

12,2% (from 97 978 tourists in October 2016 to 109 904 in October 2017), while Tanzania showed the largest decrease of 16,4% (from 3 552 tourists in October 2016 to 2 971 in October 2017).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in October 2017 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13–14, were: Nigeria, 4 240 (29,4%); Kenya, 2 105 (14,6%); Ghana, 1 576 (10,9%); Uganda, 1 240 (8,6%); Ethiopia, 807 (5,6%); Egypt, 731 (5,1%); Gabon, 437 (3,0%); Cameroon, 415 (2,9%); Senegal, 300 (2,1%) and Congo, 293 (2,0%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 84,3% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in October 2016 and October 2017 shows that the number of tourists increased for three of the ten leading countries (Senegal, Ethiopia and Congo) and decreased for the other seven (Nigeria, Gabon, Kenya, Cameroon, Uganda, Ghana and Egypt). Senegal showed the largest increase of 18,6% (from 253 tourists in October 2016 to 300 in October 2017), Nigeria showed the largest decrease of 23,6% (from 5 553 tourists in October 2016 to 4 240 in October 2017), followed closely by Gabon, which decreased by 23,2% (from 569 tourists in October 2016 to 437 in October 2017), and Kenya, which decreased by 21,2% (from 2 670 tourists in October 2016 to 2 105 in October 2017).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on pages 15–18, in October 2017, the majority of tourists, 849 278 (96,5%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 24 786 (2,8%) and 6 104 (0,7%) who were in South Africa for business and for study purposes respectively.

A total of 9 126 (97,7%) tourists from Central and South America, 10 410 (97,2%) from Australasia, 171 543 (96,9%) from Europe, 35 058 (96,6%) from North America, 27 660 (93,7%) from Asia and 3 891 (92,3%) from Middle East were in South Africa for holiday. Compared to other overseas regions, Europe had the highest numbers of tourists, 171 543 (96,9%) who came for holiday, 4 841 (2,7%) who came for business, and 585 (0,3%), who came for study purposes. However, Asia had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business, 5,6% (1 640), followed closely by Middle East, 5,4% (227). Middle East had the highest proportion of tourists who came for study purposes, 2,3% (96).

The majority of African tourists, 590 386 (98,5%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 577 754 (96,7%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 12 632 (87,7%) 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 90,1% (6 562); 85,7% (4 900); and 82,7% (1 170) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 8,6% (1 241) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 2,6% (15 258) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 12,8% (181) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes.
- Students made up 3,7% (538) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,7% (4 412) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa, 4,7% (266) and North Africa, 4,5% (63) had higher proportions of tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes compared to West Africa, 2,9% (209).

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in October 2017, there were 488 998 (55,6%) male and 391 170 (44,4%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 138 562 (51,9%) male tourists and 128 463 (48,1%) female tourists. There were 339 990 (56,9%) male and 257 434 (43,1%) female tourists from the SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 9 653 (67,0%) male and 4 758 (33,0%) 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 on page 19 show that 37 380 (4,2%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 783 513 (89,0%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 59 275 (6,7%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 13 528 (93,9%) tourists from 'other' African countries and 560 077 (93,7%) tourists from SADC were aged between 15 and 64 years, compared to 208 635 (78,1%) tourists in the same age range from overseas. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas, 5,4% (14 502) than from SADC, 3,7% (22 362) and 'other' African countries, 3,6% (512).

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 15,9% (22 064) of male and 17,0% (21 824) 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 2,0% (6 681) and 3,2% (8 304) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,4% (236) and 2,8% (135) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

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

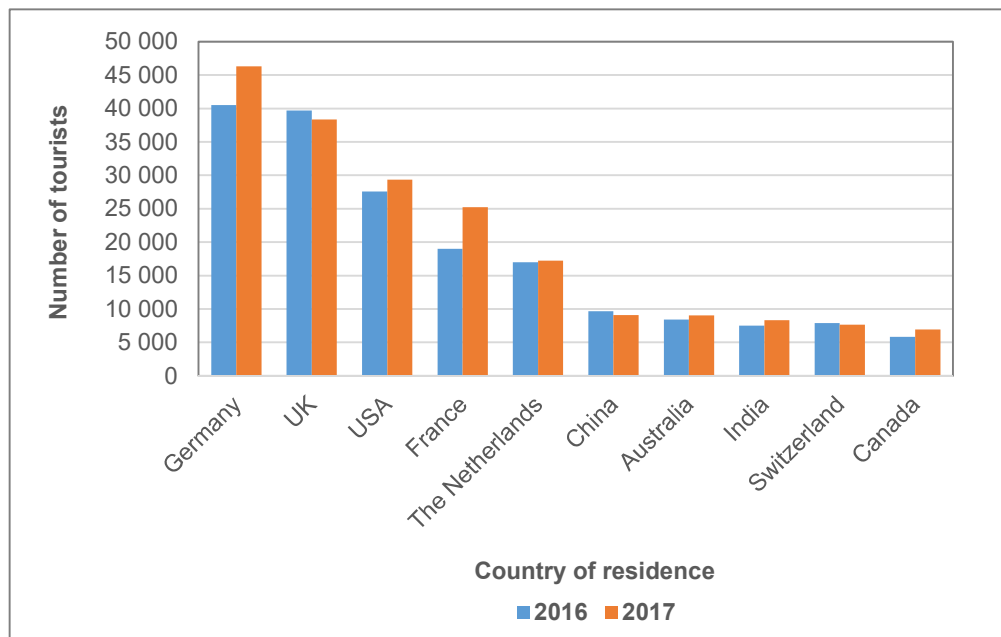


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in October 2016 and October 2017

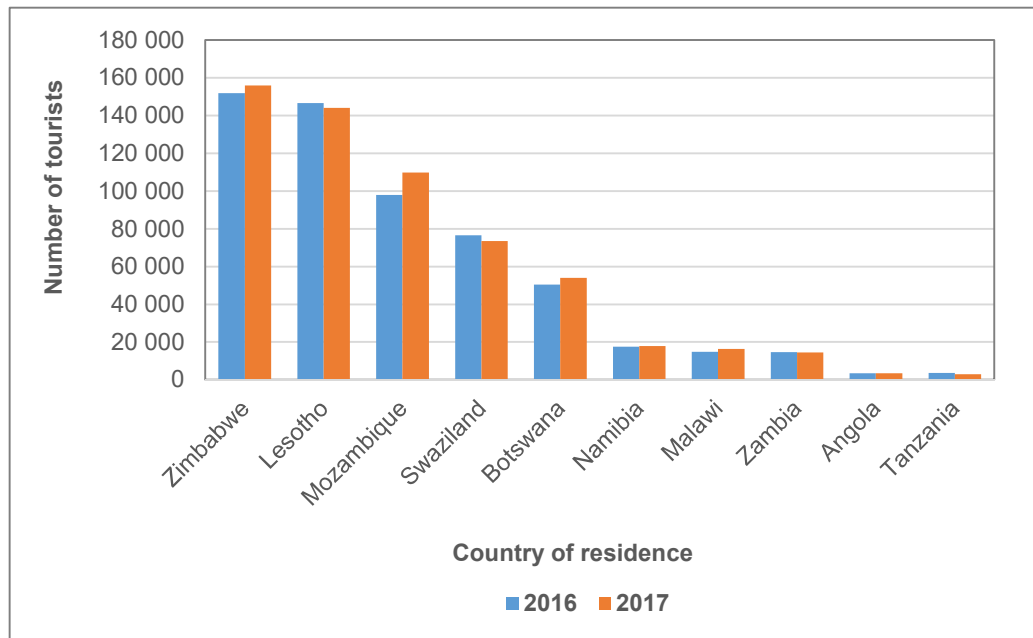
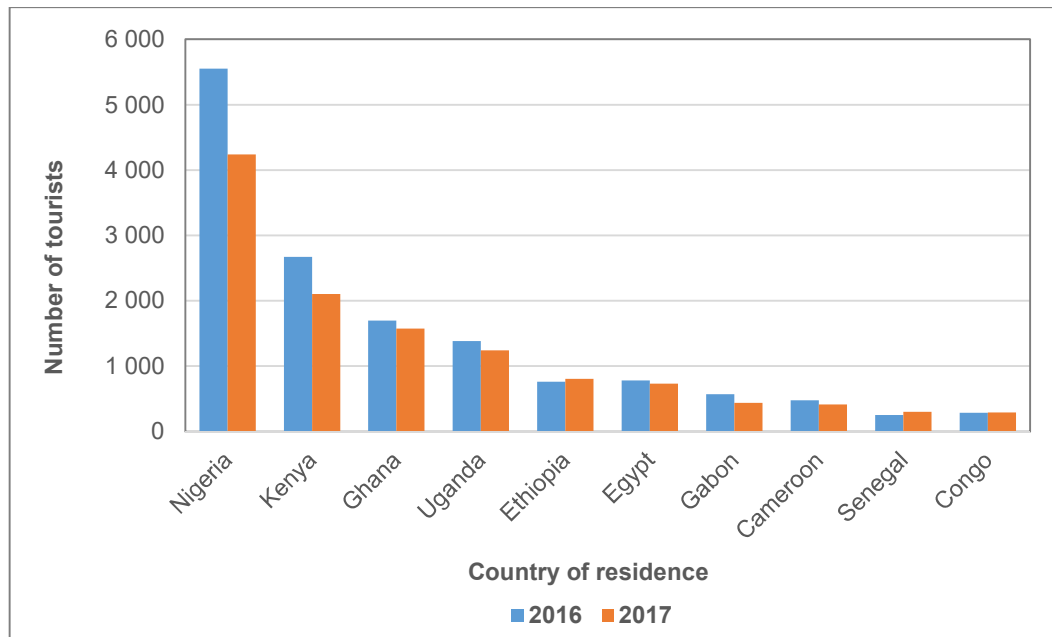


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in October 2016 and October 2017



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	Oct 2016	Sept 2017	Oct 2017	% Change	
				Sep – Oct 2017	Oct 2016 – Oct 2017
Total	3 527 820	3 551 761	3 554 063	0,1%	0,7%
South African residents	925 796	981 616	938 061	-4,4%	1,3%
Arrivals	480 961	470 712	494 392	5,0%	2,8%
Departures	444 061	509 984	442 838	-13,2%	-0,3%
Transits	774	920	831	-9,7%	7,4%
Foreign travellers	2 602 024	2 570 145	2 616 002	1,8%	0,5%
Arrivals	1 336 973	1 300 502	1 351 940	4,0%	1,1%
Departures	1 193 994	1 200 187	1 191 059	-0,8%	-0,2%
Transits	71 057	69 456	73 003	5,1%	2,7%
Foreign arrivals	1 336 973	1 300 502	1 351 940	4,0%	1,1%
Non-visitors	89 970	80 133	88 807	10,8%	-1,3%
Visitors	1 247 003	1 220 369	1 263 133	3,5%	1,3%
Visitors	1 247 003	1 220 369	1 263 133	3,5%	1,3%
Arrivals only	291 300	297 165	311 404	4,8%	6,9%
Single trips	444 139	438 785	445 015	1,4%	0,2%
Multiple trips	511 564	484 419	506 714	4,6%	-0,9%
Visitors	1 247 003	1 220 369	1 263 133	3,5%	1,3%
Same-Day	396 047	387 291	382 965	-1,1%	-3,3%
Overnight (Tourists)	850 956	833 078	880 168	5,7%	3,4%

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	3 554 063	204 390	30 431	826 260	7 605	1 068 686	2 475 861	9 516
South African residents	938 061	56 057	19 682	288 497	4 102	368 338	569 071	652
Arrivals	494 392	31 162	10 646	154 517	1 966	198 291	295 730	371
Departures	442 838	24 884	9 036	133 160	2 136	169 216	273 341	281
Transit	831	11	-	820	-	831	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 616 002	148 333	10 749	537 763	3 503	700 348	1 906 790	8 864
Arrivals	1 351 940	78 544	5 056	240 883	1 370	325 853	1 021 854	4 233
Departures	1 191 059	69 730	5 693	223 936	2 133	301 492	884 936	4 631
Transit	73 003	59	-	72 944	-	73 003	-	-
Visitors	1 263 133	75 347	4 296	227 681	981	308 305	954 187	641
Same day	382 965	535	31	19 250	91	19 907	363 049	9
Tourist	880 168	74 812	4 265	208 431	890	288 398	591 138	632

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

Country of residence	October		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	850 956	880 168	74 812	4 265	208 431	890	288 398	591 138	632
Overseas	250 737	267 025	69 268	3 533	160 871	748	234 420	31 987	618
Europe	165 828	176 969	53 398	2 581	96 251	295	152 525	24 260	184
Austria	3 276	3 085	1 047	40	1 637	1	2 725	359	1
Belgium	5 871	5 755	1 527	24	3 226	6	4 783	969	3
Denmark	3 223	3 232	595	37	2 246	5	2 883	347	2
France	19 009	25 221	6 245	242	12 222	11	18 720	6 499	2
Germany	40 492	46 290	15 967	298	24 374	27	40 666	5 594	30
Ireland	2 906	2 862	1 181	106	1 403	4	2 694	163	5
Italy	5 181	5 659	2 256	87	2 925	7	5 275	384	-
Norway	1 673	1 527	525	22	754	23	1 324	201	2
Portugal	3 255	2 895	516	16	1 458	5	1 995	899	1
Spain	3 656	4 144	808	53	2 711	67	3 639	504	1
Sweden	4 883	4 773	1 792	47	2 640	2	4 481	290	2
Switzerland	7 880	7 651	2 811	92	3 842	31	6 776	870	5
The Netherlands	16 988	17 211	4 520	126	8 584	5	13 235	3 972	4
UK	39 696	38 350	11 291	1 194	23 179	79	35 743	2 490	117
Other	7 839	8 314	2 317	197	5 050	22	7 586	719	9
North America	33 418	36 277	8 161	264	23 445	284	32 154	3 756	367
Canada	5 835	6 949	2 020	56	3 822	28	5 926	1 014	9
USA	27 583	29 328	6 141	208	19 623	256	26 228	2 742	358
Central and South America	7 249	9 341	630	24	8 118	37	8 809	527	5
Argentina	1 029	1 214	20	-	1 148	-	1 168	45	1
Brazil	4 345	5 976	362	13	5 277	2	5 654	320	2
Chile	426	477	13	-	446	-	459	18	-
Other	1 449	1 674	235	11	1 247	35	1 528	144	2

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

Country of residence	October		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	10 307	10 711	1 168	90	8 474	88	9 820	876	15
Australia	8 422	9 060	877	72	7 298	84	8 331	719	10
New Zealand	1 846	1 618	280	17	1 158	4	1 459	154	5
Other	39	33	11	1	18	-	30	3	-
Middle East	5 133	4 214	959	71	2 919	13	3 962	251	1
Israel	3 520	2 554	502	3	1 844	11	2 360	194	-
Lebanon	236	241	51	8	169	-	228	13	-
Saudi Arabia	444	542	123	9	403	-	535	7	-
Other	933	877	283	51	503	2	839	37	1
Asia	28 802	29 513	4 952	503	21 664	31	27 150	2 317	46
China	9 648	9 076	1 334	35	7 316	10	8 695	356	25
India	7 527	8 306	1 689	227	5 694	8	7 618	682	6
Japan	3 305	3 891	451	39	3 323	-	3 813	78	-
Malaysia	873	622	202	12	370	-	584	38	-
Pakistan	1 314	1 092	83	56	547	-	686	406	-
Singapore	615	682	199	10	455	1	665	16	1
South Korea	1 241	1 930	254	26	1 402	5	1 687	243	-
Taiwan	893	650	130	2	386	-	518	132	-
Thailand	789	829	193	13	596	4	806	20	3
Vietnam	471	627	36	-	581	-	617	9	1
Other	2 126	1 808	381	83	994	3	1 461	337	10
Africa	599 180	611 835	5 464	730	46 459	141	52 794	559 027	14
SADC	582 324	597 424	4 231	647	34 439	121	39 438	557 981	5
Angola	3 413	3 407	894	2	2 388	4	3 288	118	1
Botswana	50 515	54 029	173	120	2 242	43	2 578	51 451	-
DRC	2 000	2 104	60	2	1 557	-	1 619	485	-
Lesotho	146 591	144 151	3	-	607	1	611	143 540	-

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

Country of residence	October		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	214	189	10	-	174	-	184	5	-
Malawi	14 829	16 415	8	3	1 987	8	2 006	14 409	-
Mauritius	1 584	1 804	294	81	1 329	5	1 709	94	1
Mozambique	97 978	109 904	10	32	2 603	15	2 660	107 243	1
Namibia	17 498	17 799	2 544	178	3 099	6	5 827	11 971	1
Seychelles	1 073	615	3	4	581	-	588	27	-
Swaziland	76 511	73 529	-	3	498	1	502	73 027	-
Tanzania	3 552	2 971	49	1	1 751	9	1 810	1 161	-
Zambia	14 585	14 558	34	175	3 481	5	3 695	10 863	-
Zimbabwe	151 981	155 949	149	46	12 142	24	12 361	143 587	1
'Other' African	16 856	14 411	1 233	83	12 020	20	13 356	1 046	9
East and Central Africa	6 559	5 715	590	10	4 682	16	5 298	416	1
Burundi	65	65	8	-	55	-	63	2	-
Cameroon	477	415	34	-	345	6	385	30	-
Central African Republic	14	13	3	-	7	-	10	3	-
Chad	73	43	5	-	37	-	42	1	-
Comoros	20	17	3	-	14	-	17	-	-
Congo	285	293	67	-	219	1	287	6	-
Djibouti	11	10	-	1	9	-	10	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	40	43	14	-	27	2	43	-	-
Eritrea	54	54	3	-	47	-	50	4	-
Ethiopia	763	807	103	5	647	-	755	52	-
Gabon	569	437	19	1	413	1	434	3	-
Kenya	2 670	2 105	244	2	1 709	5	1 960	145	-
Réunion	10	15	15	-	-	-	15	-	-
Rwanda	79	71	3	-	60	-	63	8	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	6	8	2	-	6	-	8	-	-
Somalia	41	79	5	1	27	-	33	46	-
Uganda	1 382	1 240	62	-	1 060	1	1 123	116	1

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

Country of residence	October		Air					Road	Sea
	2016	2017	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	8 706	7 282	425	13	6 293	4	6 735	539	8
Benin	218	163	18	-	142	-	160	3	-
Burkina Faso	66	132	19	-	112	-	131	1	-
Cape Verde Island	53	37	3	-	34	-	37	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	247	229	39	-	185	-	224	5	-
Gambia	60	39	5	-	32	-	37	2	-
Ghana	1 697	1 576	52	1	1 464	2	1 519	57	-
Guinea	124	139	9	-	83	-	92	47	-
Guinea-Bissau	17	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-
Liberia	88	59	2	-	53	-	55	4	-
Mali	114	148	9	-	83	-	92	56	-
Mauritania	25	31	2	-	29	-	31	-	-
Niger	29	29	6	-	23	-	29	-	-
Nigeria	5 553	4 240	203	12	3 680	2	3 897	342	1
Saint Helena	25	26	4	-	15	-	19	-	7
Senegal	253	300	24	-	264	-	288	12	-
Sierra Leone	86	86	21	-	56	-	77	9	-
Togo	51	44	9	-	34	-	43	1	-
North Africa	1 591	1 414	218	60	1 045	-	1 323	91	-
Algeria	159	102	13	11	75	-	99	3	-
Egypt	782	731	130	13	550	-	693	38	-
Libya	84	84	14	-	40	-	54	30	-
Morocco	186	142	23	2	111	-	136	6	-
South Sudan	66	95	8	-	85	-	93	2	-
The Sudan	197	161	16	11	124	-	151	10	-
Tunisia	116	95	14	23	56	-	93	2	-
Western Sahara	1	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-
Unspecified	1 039	1 308	80	2	1 101	1	1 184	124	-

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

Country of residence	October		Purpose of visit (October 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
Total	850 956	880 168	24 786	849 278	6 104
Overseas	250 737	267 025	8 184	257 688	1 153
Europe	165 828	176 969	4 841	171 543	585
Austria	3 276	3 085	65	3 018	2
Belgium	5 871	5 755	136	5 586	33
Denmark	3 223	3 232	66	3 160	6
France	19 009	25 221	472	24 668	81
Germany	40 492	46 290	685	45 492	113
Ireland	2 906	2 862	114	2 738	10
Italy	5 181	5 659	317	5 311	31
Norway	1 673	1 527	66	1 452	9
Portugal	3 255	2 895	88	2 793	14
Spain	3 656	4 144	186	3 943	15
Sweden	4 883	4 773	149	4 608	16
Switzerland	7 880	7 651	79	7 554	18
The Netherlands	16 988	17 211	341	16 817	53
UK	39 696	38 350	1 558	36 652	140
Other	7 839	8 314	519	7 751	44
North America	33 418	36 277	1 053	35 058	166
Canada	5 835	6 949	160	6 769	20
USA	27 583	29 328	893	28 289	146
Central and South America	7 249	9 341	160	9 126	55
Argentina	1 029	1 214	8	1 203	3
Brazil	4 345	5 976	56	5 886	34
Chile	426	477	15	461	1
Other	1 449	1 674	81	1 576	17

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

Country of residence	October		Purpose of visit (October 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	10 307	10 711	263	10 410	38
Australia	8 422	9 060	239	8 790	31
New Zealand	1 846	1 618	22	1 589	7
Other	39	33	2	31	-
Middle East	5 133	4 214	227	3 891	96
Israel	3 520	2 554	70	2 475	9
Lebanon	236	241	40	199	2
Saudi Arabia	444	542	18	494	30
Other	933	877	99	723	55
Asia	28 802	29 513	1 640	27 660	213
China	9 648	9 076	395	8 655	26
India	7 527	8 306	641	7 579	86
Japan	3 305	3 891	163	3 720	8
Malaysia	873	622	42	577	3
Pakistan	1 314	1 092	72	999	21
Singapore	615	682	47	632	3
South Korea	1 241	1 930	60	1 842	28
Taiwan	893	650	32	616	2
Thailand	789	829	21	801	7
Vietnam	471	627	10	615	2
Other	2 126	1 808	157	1 624	27
Africa	599 180	611 835	16 499	590 386	4 950
SADC	582 324	597 424	15 258	577 754	4 412
Angola	3 413	3 407	76	3 164	167
Botswana	50 515	54 029	617	52 947	465
DRC	2 000	2 104	103	1 839	162
Lesotho	146 591	144 151	1 269	142 015	867

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

Country of residence	October		Purpose of visit (October 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
Madagascar	214	189	10	170	9
Malawi	14 829	16 415	446	15 915	54
Mauritius	1 584	1 804	97	1 680	27
Mozambique	97 978	109 904	4 116	105 588	200
Namibia	17 498	17 799	2 210	14 894	695
Seychelles	1 073	615	12	602	1
Swaziland	76 511	73 529	293	72 263	973
Tanzania	3 552	2 971	130	2 776	65
Zambia	14 585	14 558	1 662	12 788	108
Zimbabwe	151 981	155 949	4 217	151 113	619
'Other' African	16 856	14 411	1 241	12 632	538
East and Central Africa	6 559	5 715	549	4 900	266
Burundi	65	65	3	59	3
Cameroon	477	415	36	360	19
Central African Republic	14	13	2	10	1
Chad	73	43	4	35	4
Comoros	20	17	2	15	-
Congo	285	293	19	229	45
Djibouti	11	10	1	8	1
Equatorial Guinea	40	43	11	31	1
Eritrea	54	54	6	47	1
Ethiopia	763	807	54	742	11
Gabon	569	437	8	370	59
Kenya	2 670	2 105	250	1 780	75
Réunion	10	15	-	15	-
Rwanda	79	71	9	56	6
São Tomé and Príncipe	6	8	-	8	-
Somalia	41	79	6	73	-
Uganda	1 382	1 240	138	1 062	40

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

Country of residence	October		Purpose of visit (October 2017)		
	2016	2017	Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	8 706	7 282	511	6 562	209
Benin	218	163	11	147	5
Burkina Faso	66	132	13	119	-
Cape Verde Island	53	37	-	37	-
Côte d'Ivoire	247	229	53	173	3
Gambia	60	39	5	33	1
Ghana	1 697	1 576	127	1 422	27
Guinea	124	139	11	122	6
Guinea-Bissau	17	4	-	4	-
Liberia	88	59	3	54	2
Mali	114	148	10	137	1
Mauritania	25	31	2	29	-
Niger	29	29	6	23	-
Nigeria	5 553	4 240	212	3 870	158
Saint Helena	25	26	-	26	-
Senegal	253	300	36	261	3
Sierra Leone	86	86	16	68	2
Togo	51	44	6	37	1
North Africa	1 591	1 414	181	1 170	63
Algeria	159	102	17	79	6
Egypt	782	731	99	608	24
Libya	84	84	3	62	19
Morocco	186	142	24	116	2
South Sudan	66	95	17	77	1
The Sudan	197	161	13	137	11
Tunisia	116	95	8	87	-
Western Sahara	1	4	-	4	-
Unspecified	1 039	1 308	103	1 204	1

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

Sex	Age group	October		Region (October 2017)			
		2016	2017	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	850 956	880 168	267 025	597 424	14 411	1 308
	0-14	37 657	37 380	14 502	22 362	512	4
	15-64	760 198	783 513	208 635	560 077	13 528	1 273
	65+	53 101	59 275	43 888	14 985	371	31
Male	Total	475 126	488 998	138 562	339 990	9 653	793
	0-14	18 826	18 901	7 561	11 077	261	2
	15-64	429 668	441 092	108 937	322 232	9 156	767
	65+	26 632	29 005	22 064	6 681	236	24
Female	Total	375 830	391 170	128 463	257 434	4 758	515
	0-14	18 831	18 479	6 941	11 285	251	2
	15-64	330 530	342 421	99 698	237 845	4 372	506
	65+	26 469	30 270	21 824	8 304	135	7

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.

¹ ACSA passenger statistics for October 2017 were not ready at the time of publication of this release, thus a comparison of DHA and ACSA statistics could not be made. The average difference over a year has been presented here instead.

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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