

STATISTICAL RELEASE

P0351

Tourism and migration

October 2018

Embargoed until:
19 December 2018
09:00

ENQUIRIES:

User Information Services
Tel: (012) 310 8600

FORTHCOMING ISSUE:

November 2018

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE:

28 January 2018

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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 October 2018. 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; the purpose of visit; age and sex distribution are also provided.

Risenga Maluleke
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 3 512 296 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry in October 2018. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 955 964 South African residents and 2 556 332 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 502 528 arrivals, 452 652 departures and 784 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 323 652, 1 166 107 and 66 573, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in October 2017 and October 2018 indicates that the volumes of arrivals and departures increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. Travellers in transit decreased for both groups. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 1,6% (from 494 392 in October 2017 to 502 528 in October 2018), departures increased by 2,2% (from 442 838 in October 2017 to 452 652 in October 2018), and transits decreased by 5,7% (from 831 in October 2017 to 784 in October 2018). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 2,1% (from 1 351 940 in October 2017 to 1 323 652 in October 2018), departures decreased by 2,1% (from 1 191 059 in October 2017 to 1 166 107 in October 2018), and transits decreased by 8,8% (from 73 003 in October 2017 to 66 573 in October 2018).

A comparison between the movements in September 2018 and October 2018 indicates that the volume of arrivals increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers whereas the volume of departures decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers. Travellers in transit decreased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 2,2% (from 491 800 in September 2018 to 502 528 in October 2018), departures decreased by 13,3% (from 522 365 in September 2018 to 452 652 in October 2018), and transits decreased by 4,9% (from 824 in September 2018 to 784 in October 2018). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 2,3% (from 1 293 615 in September 2018 to 1 323 652 in October 2018), departures increased by 0,3% (from 1 162 946 in September 2018 to 1 166 107 in October 2018), and transits decreased by 10,9% (from 74 745 in September 2018 to 66 573 in October 2018).

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 2018, 81 132 (6,1%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 242 520 (93,9%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in October 2018 but did not depart in October 2018 [310 428 (25,0%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in October 2018 and left in October 2018 [446 333 (35,9%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in October 2018 [485 759 (39,1%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In October 2018, there were 380 474 (30,6%) same-day visitors and 862 046 (69,4%) tourists. Between October 2017 and October 2018, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 0,7% (from 382 965 in October 2017 to 380 474 in October 2018) and that of tourists decreased by 2,1% (from 880 168 in October 2017 to 862 046 in October 2018). Between September 2018 and October 2018, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 1,8% (from 373 733 in September 2018 to 380 474 in October 2018), and tourists increased by 2,3% (from 842 361 in September 2018 to 862 046 in October 2018).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Information presented in Table 2 on page 10 shows that in October 2018, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 429 671 (69,2%) of the 3 512 296 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 1 074 333 (30,6%). Compared to the use of air and land transport, a small number of travellers, 8 292 (0,2%) used sea transport. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 212 542 (42,3%) came by air, 289 692 (57,6%) came by road and 294 (0,1%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 176 439 (39,0%) used air, 275 985 (61,0%) used road and 228 (0,1%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 784 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 318 989 (24,1%) arrived by air, 1 000 763 (75,6%) came by road and 3 900 (0,3%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 299 006 (25,6%) foreign travellers left by air, 863 231 (74,0%) left by road and 3 870 (0,3%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit 66 573 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 on page 10 further shows that of the 380 474 same-day visitors, an overwhelming majority, 357 606 (94,0%) arrived in the country by road, 22 845 (6,0%) flew into the country; and 23 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Information on tourists shows that 581 215 (67,4%) used road transport, 280 229 (32,5%) came by air transport and 602 (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 tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on pages 11 to 14. In October 2018, 223 980 (88,2%) of the 253 945 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 29 368 (11,6%) came in by road and 597 (0,2%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 550 366 (92,8%), followed by air travel, 42 684 (7,2%). The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 12 613 (90,9%), with 1 254 (9,0%) using road transport and 3 (less than 0,1%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In October 2018, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 166 610 (65,6%); North America, 36 500 (14,4%); Asia, 27 944 (11,0%); Australasia, 10 094 (4,0%); Central and South America, 9 655 (3,8%) and the Middle East, 3 142 (1,2%).

Figure 1 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 11 to 12 indicate that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in October 2018 were Germany, 42 644 (16,8%); United Kingdom (UK), 35 864 (14,1%); United States of America (USA), 29 650 (11,7%); France, 23 352 (9,2%); The Netherlands, 15 525 (6,1%); China, 9 204 (3,6%); Australia, 8 758 (3,4%); Switzerland, 7 326 (2,9%); Canada, 6 850 (2,7%) and India, 6 532 (2,6%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 73,1% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between October 2017 and October 2018 shows that the number of tourists increased for two of the ten leading countries (China and USA), but decreased for India, the Netherlands, Germany, France, UK, Switzerland, Australia and Canada. China had the largest increase of 1,4% (from 9 076 tourists in October 2017 to 9 204 in October 2018), while India had the largest decrease of 21,4% (from 8 306 tourists in October 2017 to 6 532 in October 2018). Annexure A on pages 20 to 21 shows that cumulatively, for January to October, the number of tourists from overseas countries decreased by 1,6% between 2017 and 2018 (from 2 191 600 in 2017 to 2 156 206 in 2018). While the countries of Central and South America and North America grew by 9,7% and 1,2% respectively, those of the Middle East, Asia, Europe and Australasia dropped by 12,0%, 2,9%, 2,5% and 1,8% respectively.

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 593 052 (97,7%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 7 095 (1,2%); East and Central Africa, 5 470 (0,9%); and North Africa 1 305 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in October 2018 were: Zimbabwe, 169 316 (28,5%); Lesotho, 130 174 (21,9%); Mozambique, 106 964 (18,0%);

Swaziland, 73 659 (12,4%); Botswana, 53 027 (8,9%); Malawi, 17 654 (3,0%); Namibia, 16 533 (2,8%); Zambia 13 261 (2,2%); Angola, 4 654 (0,8%) and Tanzania, 3 017 (0,5%). (See Figure 2 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 12 to 13). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,2% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in October 2017 and October 2018 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for five of the ten leading countries (Angola, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania and Swaziland) and decreased for the other five (Lesotho, Zambia, Namibia, Mozambique and Botswana). Angola showed the largest increase of 36,6% (from 3 407 tourists in October 2017 to 4 654 in October 2018), while Lesotho showed the largest decrease of 9,7% (from 144 151 tourists in October 2017 to 130 174 in October 2018). Cumulatively, for January to October, Annexure A on pages 21 to 22 shows that the number of tourists from SADC countries increased by 2,9% between 2017 and 2018 (from 6 099 674 in 2017 to 6 279 337 in 2018).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in October 2018 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13 to 14, were: Nigeria, 4 271 (30,8%); Kenya, 2 470 (17,8%); Ghana, 1 756 (12,7%); Uganda, 890 (6,4%); Ethiopia, 720 (5,2%); Egypt, 646 (4,7%); Cameroon, 405 (2,9%); Gabon, 345 (2,5%); Côte d'Ivoire, 229 (1,7%) and Somalia, 209 (1,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 86,1% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in October 2017 and October 2018 shows that the number of tourists increased for four of the ten leading countries (Somalia, Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria) and decreased for five leading countries (Uganda, Gabon, Egypt, Ethiopia and Cameroon). Côte d'Ivoire had the same number of tourists (229) in 2017 and in 2018. Somalia showed the largest increase of 164,6% (from 79 tourists in October 2017 to 209 in October 2018). Uganda showed the largest decrease of 28,2% (from 1 240 tourists in October 2017 to 890 in October 2018). Annexure A on page 22 to 23 shows that for January to October cumulatively, the number of tourists from 'other' African countries increased by 0,4% between 2017 and 2018 (from 142 887 in 2017 to 143 441 in 2018). While the countries of West Africa grew by 4,2%, those of North Africa and East and Central Africa dropped by 5,3% and 2,8% respectively.

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed in Table 4 on pages 15 to 18, in October 2018, the majority of tourists, 832 961 (96,6%), were in South Africa for holiday¹ compared to 23 455 (2,7%); 5 032 (0,6%) and 598 (0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and for medical treatment respectively.

Compared to other overseas regions, Europe had the highest numbers of tourists, 161 474 (65,9%) who came for holiday, 4 538 (58,2%) who came for business, 520 (55,1%) who came for study and 78 (69,6%) who came for medical treatment.

Within overseas regions, Central and South America had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for holiday, 98,0% (9 465), followed by Australasia, 97,8% (9 869), North America, 97,1% (35 438), Europe, 96,9% (161 474), Asia, 93,1% (26 009), and the Middle East, 90,2% (2 835).

The Middle East, 7,3% (229) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by Asia, 6,2% (1 746), Europe, 2,7% (4 538), North America, 2,6% (938), Australasia, 2,0% (201), and Central and South America, 1,5% (148).

The Middle East, 2,5% (77) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to study, followed by Asia, 0,6% (177), Central and South America, 0,4% (39), Europe, 0,3% (520), North America, 0,3% (113), and Australasia 0,2% (17).

Australasia had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for medical treatment, 0,1% (7). For the other overseas regions, less than 0,1% of their tourists came for medical treatment.

¹ The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons. See section 5.5.2 for a detailed discussion.

The majority of African tourists, 586 789 (96,7%) 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 574 692 (96,9%) of tourists from SADC countries were on holiday; 12 097 (87,2%) of tourists from 'other' African countries came for the same purpose. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that tourists on holiday constituted 91,3% (6 480); 83,3% (4 556); and 81,3% (1 061) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 8,7% (1 203) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 2,4% (14 359) from SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 14,3% (187) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed closely by East and Central Africa, 11,6% (635).
- Students constituted 3,7% (515) of tourists from 'other' African countries, much higher compared with 0,6% (3 571) from SADC countries. East and Central Africa, 4,5% (245) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed closely by North Africa, 4,1% (53).

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in October 2018, there were 476 734 (55,3%) male and 385 312 (44,7%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 131 816 (51,9%) male tourists and 122 129 (48,1%) female tourists. There were 335 007 (56,5%) male and 258 045 (43,5%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 9 160 (66,0%) male and 4 710 (34,0%) female tourists.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into seven broad groups. The results presented in Table 5 on page 19 show that the majority of tourists were aged between 25 and 34 years [232 299 (26,9%)], followed closely by the age group aged 35 to 44 years [229 442 (26,6%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [186 461 (31,4%)] and those from 'other' African countries [4 601 (33,2%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years, followed by those aged between 25 and 34 years for both SADC [182 485 (30,8%)] and 'other' African countries [4 135 (29,8%)]. The median ages were 36 and 37 years for SADC and 'other' African countries respectively. Most tourists from overseas [51 994 (20,5%)] were aged between 55 and 64 years, followed by those aged between 45 and 54 years, [46 637 (18,4%)], with a median age of 48 years. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 5,4% (13 742) compared to those from SADC countries, 3,8% (22 564), and those from 'other' African countries, 3,6% (495).

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 16,6% (21 885) of male and 17,9% (21 801) 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 SADC countries, elderly tourists made up 2,1% (7 077) and 3,4% (8 819) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,2% (197) and 2,7% (126) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in October 2017 and October 2018

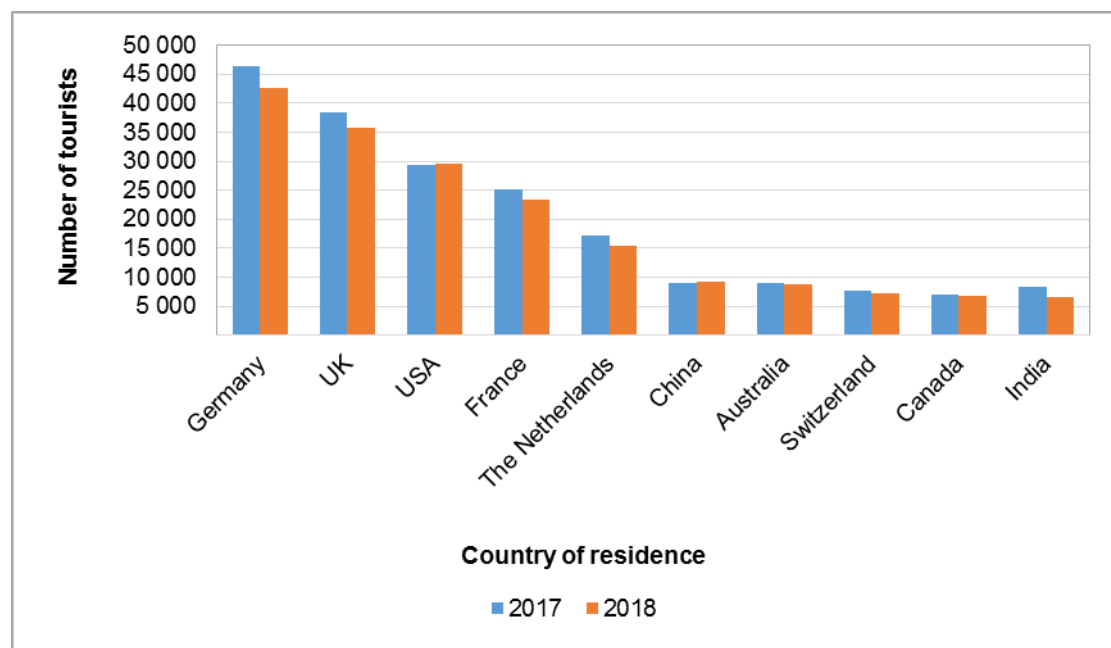


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in October 2017 and October 2018

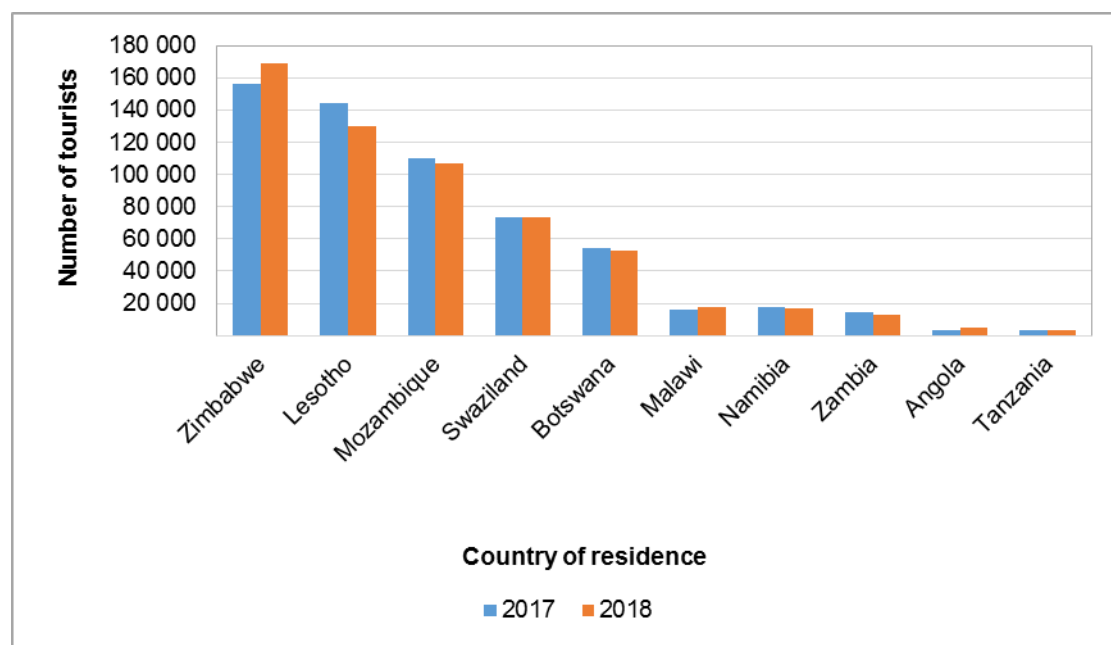
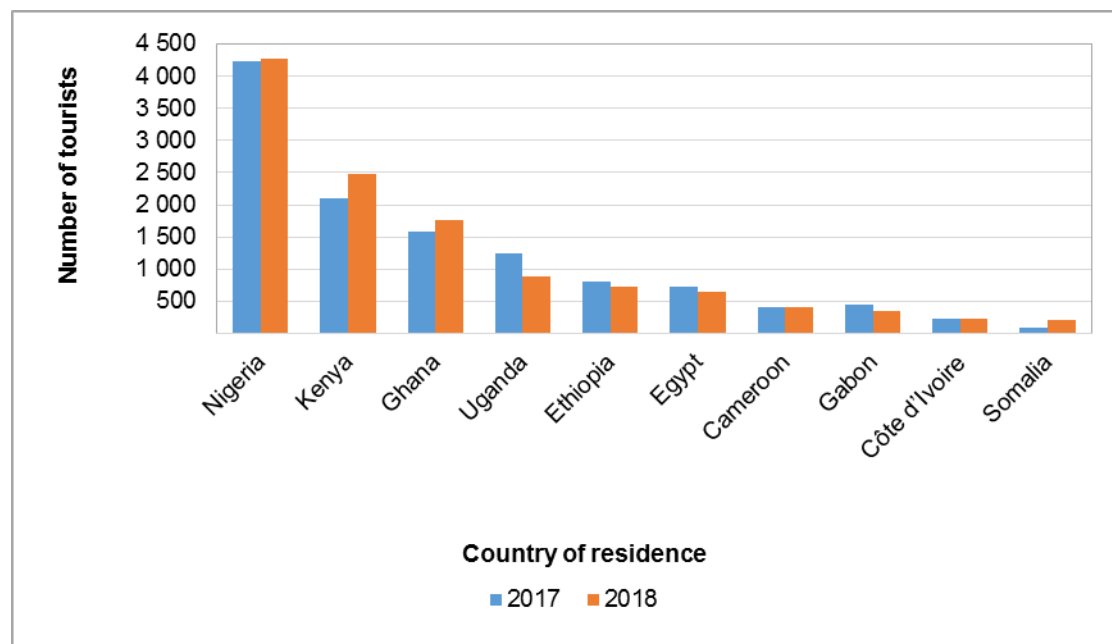


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in October 2017 and October 2018



3. Tables

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

Travel direction	October 2017	September 2018	October 2018	% change Sep 2018 – Oct 2018	% change Oct 2017 – Oct 2018
Total	3 554 063	3 546 295	3 512 296	-1,0	-1,2
South African residents	938 061	1 014 989	955 964	-5,8	1,9
Arrivals	494 392	491 800	502 528	2,2	1,6
Departures	442 838	522 365	452 652	-13,3	2,2
Transits	831	824	784	-4,9	-5,7
Foreign travellers	2 616 002	2 531 306	2 556 332	1,0	-2,3
Arrivals	1 351 940	1 293 615	1 323 652	2,3	-2,1
Departures	1 191 059	1 162 946	1 166 107	0,3	-2,1
Transits	73 003	74 745	66 573	-10,9	-8,8
Foreign arrivals	1 351 940	1 293 615	1 323 652	2,3	-2,1
Non-visitors	88 807	77 521	81 132	4,7	-8,6
Visitors	1 263 133	1 216 094	1 242 520	2,2	-1,6
Visitors	1 263 133	1 216 094	1 242 520	2,2	-1,6
Arrivals only	311 404	310 386	310 428	0,01	-0,3
Single trips	445 015	442 366	446 333	0,9	0,3
Multiple trips	506 714	463 342	485 759	4,8	-4,1
Visitors	1 263 133	1 216 094	1 242 520	2,2	-1,6
Same-Day	382 965	373 733	380 474	1,8	-0,7
Overnight (Tourists)	880 168	842 361	862 046	2,3	-2,1

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	Total		
Total	3 512 296	221 749	30 641	814 716	7 227	1 074 333	2 429 671	8 292
South African residents	955 964	65 061	21 198	299 769	3 737	389 765	565 677	522
Arrivals	502 528	37 089	11 446	162 228	1 779	212 542	289 692	294
Departures	452 652	27 967	9 752	136 762	1 958	176 439	275 985	228
Transits	784	5	-	779	-	784	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 556 332	156 688	9 443	514 947	3 490	684 568	1 863 994	7 770
Arrivals	1 323 652	83 096	4 678	230 037	1 178	318 989	1 000 763	3 900
Departures	1 166 107	73 517	4 765	218 412	2 312	299 006	863 231	3 870
Transits	66 573	75	-	66 498	-	66 573	-	-
Visitors	1 242 520	79 360	3 969	218 692	1 053	303 074	938 821	625
Same-Day	380 474	670	18	21 997	160	22 845	357 606	23
Overnight (Tourists)	862 046	78 690	3 951	196 695	893	280 229	581 215	602

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (October 2018)

Country of residence	October		Air					Road	Sea
	2017	2018	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	880 168	862 046	78 690	3 951	196 695	893	280 229	581 215	602
Overseas	267 025	253 945	72 209	3 338	147 695	738	223 980	29 368	597
Europe	176 969	166 610	54 437	2 334	87 336	252	144 359	22 188	63
Austria	3 085	3 419	1 470	38	1 576	6	3 090	329	-
Belgium	5 755	5 847	1 721	65	3 070	13	4 869	978	-
Denmark	3 232	3 032	659	45	2 115	15	2 834	198	-
France	25 221	23 352	6 513	252	11 001	9	17 775	5 570	7
Germany	46 290	42 644	15 946	315	20 627	31	36 919	5 717	8
Ireland	2 862	2 841	1 233	73	1 392	3	2 701	138	2
Italy	5 659	5 688	2 096	81	3 171	7	5 355	331	2
Norway	1 527	1 554	671	10	743	4	1 428	125	1
Portugal	2 895	2 912	466	37	1 373	3	1 879	1 033	-
Spain	4 144	3 971	913	29	2 542	19	3 503	466	2
Sweden	4 773	4 233	1 505	76	2 398	6	3 985	248	-
Switzerland	7 651	7 326	3 142	84	3 295	12	6 533	791	2
The Netherlands	17 211	15 525	4 552	113	7 560	4	12 229	3 296	-
UK	38 350	35 864	10 747	904	21 971	99	33 721	2 116	27
Other	8 314	8 402	2 803	212	4 502	21	7 538	852	12
North America	36 277	36 500	9 456	274	22 413	308	32 451	3 551	498
Canada	6 949	6 850	2 145	33	3 594	56	5 828	1 011	11
USA	29 328	29 650	7 311	241	18 819	252	26 623	2 540	487
Central and South America	9 341	9 655	836	17	8 139	25	9 017	630	8
Argentina	1 214	1 248	37	-	1 149	-	1 186	61	1
Brazil	5 976	6 108	520	5	5 190	11	5 726	382	-
Chile	477	476	21	1	424	-	446	30	-
Other	1 674	1 823	258	11	1 376	14	1 659	157	7

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (October 2018) (continued)

Country of residence	October		Air					Road	Sea
	2017	2018	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	10 711	10 094	1 289	107	7 864	77	9 337	754	3
Australia	9 060	8 758	1 095	91	6 858	64	8 108	648	2
New Zealand	1 618	1 319	190	16	996	13	1 215	103	1
Other	33	17	4	-	10	-	14	3	-
Middle East	4 214	3 142	703	32	2 223	30	2 988	148	6
Israel	2 554	1 750	374	3	1 253	21	1 651	95	4
Lebanon	241	238	44	5	174	-	223	15	-
Saudi Arabia	542	373	91	1	280	-	372	1	-
Other	877	781	194	23	516	9	742	37	2
Asia	29 513	27 944	5 488	574	19 720	46	25 828	2 097	19
Bangladesh	489	657	125	38	265	-	428	229	-
China	9 076	9 204	1 792	44	7 070	12	8 918	277	9
India	8 306	6 532	941	227	4 705	2	5 875	653	4
Japan	3 891	3 591	394	55	3 015	14	3 478	113	-
Pakistan	1 092	1 166	109	106	606	-	821	345	-
Philippines	616	779	230	5	474	1	710	69	-
South Korea	1 930	1 517	442	24	890	-	1 356	161	-
Taiwan	650	636	177	15	347	9	548	87	1
Thailand	829	971	305	10	639	2	956	14	1
Vietnam	627	741	107	2	618	-	727	14	-
Other	2 007	2 150	866	48	1 091	6	2 011	135	4
Africa	611 835	606 922	6 434	612	48 097	154	55 297	551 620	5
SADC	597 424	593 052	4 962	530	37 044	148	42 684	550 366	2
Angola	3 407	4 654	1 545	-	2 664	2	4 211	443	-
Botswana	54 029	53 027	28	158	2 823	16	3 025	50 002	-
DRC	2 104	2 352	94	1	1 744	9	1 848	504	-
Lesotho	144 151	130 174	16	-	560	-	576	129 598	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (October 2018) (continued)

Country of residence	October		Air					Road	Sea
	2017	2018	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	189	160	12	-	143	-	155	5	-
Malawi	16 415	17 654	21	3	2 060	11	2 095	15 559	-
Mauritius	1 804	1 627	316	100	1 134	-	1 550	77	-
Mozambique	109 904	106 964	17	2	2 684	7	2 710	104 253	1
Namibia	17 799	16 533	1 875	114	3 303	12	5 304	11 229	-
Seychelles	615	654	16	-	632	-	648	6	-
Swaziland	73 529	73 659	1	8	521	38	568	73 091	-
Tanzania	2 971	3 017	97	2	1 719	-	1 818	1 199	-
Zambia	14 558	13 261	53	92	3 333	12	3 490	9 771	-
Zimbabwe	155 949	169 316	871	50	13 724	41	14 686	154 629	1
'Other' African	14 411	13 870	1 472	82	11 053	6	12 613	1 254	3
East and Central Africa	5 715	5 470	717	9	4 145	3	4 874	595	1
Burundi	65	56	11	-	42	-	53	3	-
Cameroon	415	405	38	1	328	1	368	37	-
Central African Republic	13	5	-	-	5	-	5	-	-
Chad	43	23	3	-	20	-	23	-	-
Comoros	17	21	-	-	20	-	20	1	-
Congo	293	174	48	-	119	-	167	7	-
Djibouti	10	8	-	-	8	-	8	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	43	28	-	-	28	-	28	-	-
Eritrea	54	35	2	-	31	-	33	2	-
Ethiopia	807	720	83	5	556	1	645	75	-
Gabon	437	345	63	-	277	1	341	4	-
Kenya	2 105	2 470	348	2	1 917	-	2 267	203	-
Réunion	15	2	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
Rwanda	71	72	13	-	45	-	58	14	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	8	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-
Somalia	79	209	37	-	24	-	61	148	-
Uganda	1 240	890	69	1	718	-	788	101	1

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel (October 2018) (concluded)

Country of residence	October		Air					Road	Sea
	2017	2018	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	7 282	7 095	487	41	5 966	3	6 497	596	2
Benin	163	128	10	-	107	-	117	11	-
Burkina Faso	132	48	3	-	43	-	46	2	-
Cape Verde Island	37	43	3	-	37	-	40	3	-
Côte d'Ivoire	229	229	34	1	184	1	220	9	-
Gambia	39	23	2	-	20	-	22	1	-
Ghana	1 576	1 756	108	7	1 579	-	1 694	62	-
Guinea	139	100	-	2	52	-	54	46	-
Guinea-Bissau	4	5	-	-	3	-	3	2	-
Liberia	59	57	4	-	53	-	57	-	-
Mali	148	102	4	-	45	-	49	53	-
Mauritania	31	11	-	-	11	-	11	-	-
Niger	29	17	3	-	14	-	17	-	-
Nigeria	4 240	4 271	293	22	3 574	2	3 891	379	1
Saint Helena	26	13	-	-	12	-	12	-	1
Senegal	300	197	10	9	158	-	177	20	-
Sierra Leone	86	53	11	-	34	-	45	8	-
Togo	44	42	2	-	40	-	42	-	-
North Africa	1 414	1 305	268	32	942	-	1 242	63	-
Algeria	102	103	13	1	83	-	97	6	-
Egypt	731	646	115	19	485	-	619	27	-
Libya	84	69	21	4	33	-	58	11	-
Morocco	142	172	39	6	121	-	166	6	-
South Sudan	95	45	3	-	41	-	44	1	-
The Sudan	161	180	49	-	124	-	173	7	-
Tunisia	95	90	28	2	55	-	85	5	-
Western Sahara	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	1 308	1 179	47	1	903	1	952	227	-

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

Country of residence	October		Purpose of visit (October 2018)			
	2017	2018	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	880 168	862 046	23 455	832 961	5 032	598
Overseas	267 025	253 945	7 800	245 090	943	112
Europe	176 969	166 610	4 538	161 474	520	78
Austria	3 085	3 419	95	3 319	5	-
Belgium	5 755	5 847	133	5 687	22	5
Denmark	3 232	3 032	85	2 942	5	-
France	25 221	23 352	466	22 806	74	6
Germany	46 290	42 644	610	41 919	106	9
Ireland	2 862	2 841	103	2 728	8	2
Italy	5 659	5 688	275	5 383	30	-
Norway	1 527	1 554	66	1 483	4	1
Portugal	2 895	2 912	87	2 800	20	5
Spain	4 144	3 971	145	3 808	16	2
Sweden	4 773	4 233	122	4 093	14	4
Switzerland	7 651	7 326	78	7 235	13	-
The Netherlands	17 211	15 525	284	15 183	47	11
UK	38 350	35 864	1 370	34 351	115	28
Other	8 314	8 402	619	7 737	41	5
North America	36 277	36 500	938	35 438	113	11
Canada	6 949	6 850	165	6 675	8	2
USA	29 328	29 650	773	28 763	105	9
Central and South America	9 341	9 655	148	9 465	39	3
Argentina	1 214	1 248	12	1 234	2	-
Brazil	5 976	6 108	57	6 022	28	1
Chile	477	476	11	465	-	-
Other	1 674	1 823	68	1 744	9	2

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

Country of residence	October		Purpose of visit (October 2018)			
	2017	2018	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Australasia	10 711	10 094	201	9 869	17	7
Australia	9 060	8 758	168	8 569	15	6
New Zealand	1 618	1 319	31	1 285	2	1
Other	33	17	2	15	-	-
Middle East	4 214	3 142	229	2 835	77	1
Israel	2 554	1 750	81	1 654	15	-
Lebanon	241	238	45	191	2	-
Saudi Arabia	542	373	11	333	28	1
Other	877	781	92	657	32	-
Asia	29 513	27 944	1 746	26 009	177	12
Bangladesh	489	657	63	587	7	-
China	9 076	9 204	410	8 776	13	5
India	8 306	6 532	704	5 758	66	4
Japan	3 891	3 591	160	3 417	14	-
Pakistan	1 092	1 166	55	1 102	8	1
Philippines	616	779	44	724	10	1
South Korea	1 930	1 517	48	1 442	27	-
Taiwan	650	636	25	609	2	-
Thailand	829	971	16	950	5	-
Vietnam	627	741	20	715	6	-
Other	2 007	2 150	201	1 929	19	1
Africa	611 835	606 922	15 562	586 789	4 086	485
SADC	597 424	593 052	14 359	574 692	3 571	430
Angola	3 407	4 654	97	4 385	115	57
Botswana	54 029	53 027	651	51 896	345	135
DRC	2 104	2 352	121	2 103	92	36
Lesotho	144 151	130 174	1 135	128 266	772	1

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

Country of residence	October		Purpose of visit (October 2018)			
	2017	2018	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Madagascar	189	160	10	142	7	1
Malawi	16 415	17 654	299	17 287	57	11
Mauritius	1 804	1 627	88	1 525	10	4
Mozambique	109 904	106 964	3 736	102 997	211	20
Namibia	17 799	16 533	2 106	13 747	639	41
Seychelles	615	654	11	630	11	2
Swaziland	73 529	73 659	267	72 793	596	3
Tanzania	2 971	3 017	124	2 817	57	19
Zambia	14 558	13 261	1 753	11 381	97	30
Zimbabwe	155 949	169 316	3 961	164 723	562	70
'Other' African	14 411	13 870	1 203	12 097	515	55
East and Central Africa	5 715	5 470	635	4 556	245	34
Burundi	65	56	4	49	1	2
Cameroon	415	405	34	331	33	7
Central African Republic	13	5	1	3	-	1
Chad	43	23	8	11	4	-
Comoros	17	21	1	15	5	-
Congo	293	174	9	131	31	3
Djibouti	10	8	1	7	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	43	28	2	23	3	-
Eritrea	54	35	1	34	-	-
Ethiopia	807	720	65	640	13	2
Gabon	437	345	6	306	31	2
Kenya	2 105	2 470	367	2 024	75	4
Réunion	15	2	-	2	-	-
Rwanda	71	72	5	60	7	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	8	7	1	6	-	-
Somalia	79	209	25	183	-	1
Uganda	1 240	890	105	731	42	12

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

Country of residence	October		Purpose of visit (October 2018)			
	2017	2018	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
West Africa	7 282	7 095	381	6 480	217	17
Benin	163	128	5	118	4	1
Burkina Faso	132	48	7	41	-	-
Cape Verde Island	37	43	1	42	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	229	229	24	200	5	-
Gambia	39	23	-	22	1	-
Ghana	1 576	1 756	102	1 619	30	5
Guinea	139	100	3	93	4	-
Guinea-Bissau	4	5	-	5	-	-
Liberia	59	57	6	51	-	-
Mali	148	102	8	93	-	1
Mauritania	31	11	3	8	-	-
Niger	29	17	4	13	-	-
Nigeria	4 240	4 271	189	3 906	166	10
Saint Helena	26	13	-	13	-	-
Senegal	300	197	15	177	5	-
Sierra Leone	86	53	10	43	-	-
Togo	44	42	4	36	2	-
North Africa	1 414	1 305	187	1 061	53	4
Algeria	102	103	8	94	1	-
Egypt	731	646	110	516	17	3
Libya	84	69	3	48	18	-
Morocco	142	172	27	143	2	-
South Sudan	95	45	3	41	-	1
The Sudan	161	180	19	147	14	-
Tunisia	95	90	17	72	1	-
Western Sahara	4	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	1 308	1 179	93	1 082	3	1

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

Sex	Age group	October		Region (October 2018)			
		2017	2018	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	880 168	862 046	253 945	593 052	13 870	1 179
	0-14	37 380	36 810	13 742	22 564	495	9
	15-24	74 589	70 072	14 360	54 836	861	15
	25-34	243 766	232 299	45 536	182 485	4 135	143
	35-44	227 878	229 442	37 990	186 461	4 601	390
	45-54	142 556	140 295	46 637	90 776	2 473	409
	55-64	94 724	93 211	51 994	40 034	982	201
	65+	59 275	59 917	43 686	15 896	323	12
Male	Total	488 998	476 734	131 816	335 007	9 160	751
	0-14	18 901	18 421	7 044	11 136	237	4
	15-24	38 456	36 108	6 328	29 285	484	11
	25-34	135 156	128 066	22 544	102 874	2 572	76
	35-44	138 401	138 817	22 532	112 791	3 264	230
	45-54	80 714	79 100	25 467	51 600	1 752	281
	55-64	48 365	47 051	26 016	20 244	654	137
	65+	29 005	29 171	21 885	7 077	197	12
Female	Total	391 170	385 312	122 129	258 045	4 710	428
	0-14	18 479	18 389	6 698	11 428	258	5
	15-24	36 133	33 964	8 032	25 551	377	4
	25-34	108 610	104 233	22 992	79 611	1 563	67
	35-44	89 477	90 625	15 458	73 670	1 337	160
	45-54	61 842	61 195	21 170	39 176	721	128
	55-64	46 359	46 160	25 978	19 790	328	64
	65+	30 270	30 746	21 801	8 819	126	-

4. Annexures

4.1 Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists: Jan – Oct, 2017 – 2018, changes by country of residence

Country of residence	January – October			
	2017	2018	Difference 2017 – 2018	% change 2017 – 2018
Total	8 444 652	8 589 778	145 126	1,7
Overseas	2 191 600	2 156 206	-35 394	-1,6
Europe	1 312 714	1 279 983	-32 731	-2,5
Austria	22 582	22 726	144	0,6
Belgium	43 267	46 010	2 743	6,3
Denmark	23 497	22 806	-691	-2,9
France	159 447	152 498	-6 949	-4,4
Germany	271 093	267 050	-4 043	-1,5
Ireland	24 606	24 264	-342	-1,4
Italy	50 529	52 435	1 906	3,8
Norway	14 589	14 879	290	2,0
Portugal	31 354	25 556	-5 798	-18,5
Spain	33 800	35 172	1 372	4,1
Sweden	33 624	33 944	320	1,0
Switzerland	45 078	44 657	-421	-0,9
The Netherlands	128 187	117 124	-11 063	-8,6
UK	356 776	341 020	-15 756	-4,4
Other	74 285	79 842	5 557	7,5
North America	364 267	368 804	4 537	1,2
Canada	53 809	53 847	38	0,1
USA	310 458	314 957	4 499	1,4
Central and South America	88 169	96 679	8 510	9,7
Argentina	13 073	16 642	3 569	27,3
Brazil	54 219	57 837	3 618	6,7
Chile	5 299	5 882	583	11,0
Other	15 578	16 318	740	4,8

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists: Jan – Oct, 2017 – 2018, changes by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	January – October			
	2017	2018	Difference 2017 – 2018	% change 2017 – 2018
Australasia	110 357	108 329	-2 028	-1,8
Australia	96 215	95 884	-331	-0,3
New Zealand	13 844	12 234	-1 610	-11,6
Other	298	211	-87	-29,2
Middle East	48 042	42 259	-5 783	-12,0
Iran	4 659	3 015	-1 644	-35,3
Israel	21 335	21 558	223	1,0
Saudi Arabia	10 257	7 167	-3 090	-30,1
Other	11 791	10 519	-1 272	-10,8
Asia	268 051	260 152	-7 899	-2,9
Bangladesh	4 162	4 781	619	14,9
China	82 793	81 956	-837	-1,0
India	82 464	77 090	-5 374	-6,5
Japan	23 597	23 662	65	0,3
Malaysia	7 583	6 198	-1 385	-18,3
Pakistan	13 051	12 425	-626	-4,8
Philippines	6 044	6 111	67	1,1
Singapore	8 756	7 076	-1 680	-19,2
South Korea	18 676	18 795	119	0,6
Thailand	5 957	6 672	715	12,0
Other	14 968	15 386	418	2,8
Africa	6 242 561	6 422 778	180 217	2,9
SADC	6 099 674	6 279 337	179 663	2,9
Angola	38 339	52 917	14 578	38,0
Botswana	533 563	541 395	7 832	1,5
DRC	23 424	28 083	4 659	19,9
Lesotho	1 484 030	1 484 941	911	0,1

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists: Jan – Oct, 2017 – 2018, changes by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	January – October			
	2017	2018	Difference 2017 – 2018	% change 2017 – 2018
Madagascar	2 091	2 118	27	1,3
Malawi	144 601	163 892	19 291	13,3
Mauritius	15 361	15 489	128	0,8
Mozambique	1 114 087	1 134 559	20 472	1,8
Namibia	166 786	159 478	-7 308	-4,4
Seychelles	6 487	4 457	-2 030	-31,3
Swaziland	722 536	720 496	-2 040	-0,3
Tanzania	29 657	29 227	-430	-1,4
Zambia	141 961	136 243	-5 718	-4,0
Zimbabwe	1 676 751	1 806 042	129 291	7,7
'Other' African	142 887	143 441	554	0,4
East and Central Africa	59 956	58 291	-1 665	-2,8
Burundi	694	664	-30	-4,3
Cameroon	4 280	4 245	-35	-0,8
Central African Republic	116	135	19	16,4
Chad	283	280	-3	-1,1
Comoros	186	255	69	37,1
Congo	2 870	2 234	-636	-22,2
Djibouti	107	84	-23	-21,5
Equatorial Guinea	389	301	-88	-22,6
Eritrea	554	559	5	0,9
Ethiopia	7 247	7 755	508	7,0
Gabon	6 759	5 373	-1 386	-20,5
Kenya	23 628	22 929	-699	-3,0
Réunion	65	17	-48	-73,8
Rwanda	815	836	21	2,6
São Tomé and Príncipe	59	95	36	61,0
Somalia	465	1 183	718	154,4
Uganda	11 439	11 346	-93	-0,8

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists: Jan – Oct, 2017 – 2018, changes by country of residence (concluded)

Country of residence	January – October			
	2017	2018	Difference 2017 – 2018	% change 2017 – 2018
West Africa	69 293	72 231	2 938	4,2
Benin	1 408	1 242	-166	-11,8
Burkina Faso	651	591	-60	-9,2
Cape Verde Island	512	303	-209	-40,8
Côte d'Ivoire	2 095	2 246	151	7,2
Gambia	488	429	-59	-12,1
Ghana	14 437	17 014	2 577	17,8
Guinea	1 238	1 296	58	4,7
Guinea-Bissau	130	126	-4	-3,1
Liberia	579	546	-33	-5,7
Mali	1 314	1 196	-118	-9,0
Mauritania	202	172	-30	-14,9
Niger	271	257	-14	-5,2
Nigeria	42 551	43 686	1 135	2,7
Saint Helena	201	117	-84	-41,8
Senegal	2 157	1 983	-174	-8,1
Sierra Leone	581	522	-59	-10,2
Togo	478	505	27	5,6
North Africa	13 638	12 919	-719	-5,3
Algeria	992	853	-139	-14,0
Egypt	6 944	6 382	-562	-8,1
Libya	811	708	-103	-12,7
Morocco	1 390	1 577	187	13,5
South Sudan	696	678	-18	-2,6
The Sudan	1 792	1 838	46	2,6
Tunisia	994	862	-132	-13,3
Western Sahara	19	21	2	10,5
Unspecified	10 491	10 794	303	2,9

5. Explanatory notes

NOTICE TO USERS

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) has made changes in the *Tourism and Migration* statistical release starting from the January 2014 statistics. This change has become necessary as a result of the implementation of the 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.

5.1 Introduction

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

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

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

5.2 Purpose of the statistical release

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

5.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data collected by DHA officials on travellers who entered the Republic of South Africa (RSA).

5.4 Data

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

- Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all road, air and sea entry ports on all travellers (South African residents and foreign travellers) arriving into or departing from South Africa are captured into the DHA's population Movement Control System (MCS). The counts/statistics relate to the number of individual movements, rather than to the number of people. Hence, the multiple movements of individual people during the calendar month are each counted separately. Generally, the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the ports' electronic database. No forms or cards are used (except on 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. In October 2018, the DHA data was 2,0% higher than that of ACSA.

5.5 Limitations

5.5.1 Outbound tourists

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

5.5.2 Purpose of visit

The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons such as attending weddings. While it's possible to separate 'visiting friends and relatives' from the broad category of Holiday, shopping and other reasons for visiting South Africa are all combined with vacation in the DHA movement control system. Discussions are in progress with the Department of Home Affairs to capture vacation and shopping as separate categories for a clearer breakdown of visit-purpose.

5.6 Definition of terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release

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

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

Region refers to the following country classification:

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

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

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

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

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

Overseas refers to all countries outside Africa.

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

5.7 Symbols used

- = nil

< = less than

5.8 Rounding off

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

6. General information

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

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