

## STATISTICAL RELEASE

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# Domestic Tourism Survey

Bi-annual report 2017

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## CONTENTS

<b>1. Summary of key findings .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Key findings .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.1 Number of most recent day and overnight trips inside South Africa .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.2 Main purpose of trips .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.3 Province of destination for trips .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2.4 Expenditure by travellers .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2.5 Main mode of transport used by travellers .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2.6 Main types of accommodation used by travellers .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>3. Definition of terms .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4. Abbreviations .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5. Source of data .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>General information .....</b>	<b>10</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Summary table of key findings – Most recent trips.....	2
Table 2: Number of most recent person day and overnight trips, January–June, 2017.....	3
Table 3a: Number of most recent person day trips, January–June, 2017 .....	3
Table 3b: Number of most recent person overnight trips, January–June, 2017 .....	4
Table 4a: Main purpose of most recent day trips, January–June, 2017 .....	5
Table 4b: Main purpose of most recent overnight trips, January–June, 2017 .....	5
Table 5a: Province of destination by most recent day trips, January–June, 2017 .....	6
Table 5b: Province of destination by most recent overnight trips, January–June, 2017 .....	6
Table 6a: Most recent day trips expenditure, January–June, 2017.....	7
Table 6b: Most recent overnight trips expenditure, January–June, 2017 .....	7
Table 7a: Main mode of transport by most recent day trips, January–June, 2017 .....	8
Table 7b: Main mode of transport by most recent overnight trips, January–June, 2017 .....	8
Table 8: Overnight trips principal type of accommodation, January–June, 2017.....	9

## 1. Summary of key findings

The number of day trips undertaken increased from 4,4 million in Quarter 1 to 4,9 million in Quarter 2. There was an increase in the number of overnight trips between Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, from 6,1 million to 7,2 million, respectively.

During Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, most day travellers visited Gauteng, Limpopo and Western Cape. Limpopo was the main destination for tourists in both Quarter 1 and Quarter 2. In Quarter 1, the second most visited province was KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape. In Quarter 2, the second most visited province remained KwaZulu-Natal followed by Gauteng.

Day trip expenditure increased from R2,9 billion in Quarter 1 to R3,2 billion in Quarter 2. On the other hand, overnight expenditure increased from R8,5 billion in Quarter 1 to R9,1 billion in Quarter 2.

In both quarters, day travellers spent most of their money on shopping, domestic transport, food and beverages. The same pattern of spending was observed during overnight trips.

In Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, most day travellers undertook trips mainly for shopping, followed by visiting friends and relatives and leisure. In both quarters, most tourists undertook trips to visit friends and relatives followed by leisure and religious purposes.

The modes of transport mostly used during day and overnight trips, in both quarters, were cars followed by taxis.

Staying with friends and relatives was used by tourists as the principal form of accommodation during their stay at their destinations in both quarter 1 and quarter 2. In quarter 1 it was followed by self-catering establishments and holiday homes. In quarter 2 hotels were the second most used type of accommodation followed by self-catering establishments.

**Risenga Maluleke**  
**Statistician-General**

## 2. Key findings

**Table 1: Summary table of key findings – Most recent trips**

Key metrics		2017	
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2
Travel indicators			
Travel incidence			
Most recent trips by quarter	Day trips	4 399	4 907
	Overnight trips	6 067	7 151
Main destination	Day trips	Limpopo: 21,4% Gauteng: 20,5% Western Cape: 13,2%	Gauteng: 23,1% Limpopo: 21,7% Western Cape: 12,9%
	Overnight trips	Limpopo: 17,2% KwaZulu-Natal: 15,7% Eastern Cape: 14,8%	Limpopo: 18,3% KwaZulu-Natal: 15,5% Gauteng: 13,6%
Total quarterly spend	Day trips	R2,9 billion	R3,2 billion
	Overnight trips	R8,5 billion	R9,1 billion
Expenditure	Day trips	Shopping: R1,7 billion Domestic transport: R610 million Food and beverages: R353 million	Shopping: R1,9 billion Domestic transport: R763 million Food and beverages: R387 million
	Overnight trips	Shopping: R3,0 billion Domestic transport: R2,7 billion Food and beverages: R1,4 billion	Domestic transport: R3,1 billion Shopping: R3,0 billion Food and beverages: R1,5 billion
Main purpose	Day trips	Shopping: 27,5% Visiting friends and relatives: 22,2% Leisure: 15,3%	Shopping: 29,7% Visiting friends and relatives: 19,8% Leisure: 10,6%
	Overnight trips	Visiting friends and relatives: 50,0% Leisure: 19,1% Religion: 4,5%	Visiting friends and relatives: 42,9% Leisure: 18,4% Religion: 11,0%
Mode of transport	Day trips	Car: 56,5% Taxi: 33,1%	Car: 59,2% Taxi: 30,6%
	Overnight	Car: 46,7% Taxi: 38,5%	Car: 48,0% Taxi: 36,9%
Type of accommodation	Overnight	Stayed with friends and relatives: 74,7% Holiday home/second home: 4,9% Self-catering establishment: 4,9%	Stayed with friends and relatives: 71,1% Hotel: 5,8% Self-catering establishment: 3,6%

## 2.1 Number of most recent day and overnight trips inside South Africa

**Table 2: Number of most recent person day and overnight trips, January–June, 2017**

Type of trip	Number of most recent person trips ('000)	
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2
Day trip in South Africa	4 399	4 907
Overnight trip in South Africa	6 067	7 151

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 2 indicates that the number of most recent day trips increased from 4,4 million to 4,9 million between the two quarters of 2017. The number of most recent overnight trips also increased from 6,1 million in Quarter 1 to 7,2 million in Quarter 2.

**Table 3a: Number of most recent person day trips, January–June, 2017**

Month	Most recent person day trips	
	Number ('000)	Per cent
<b>Quarter 1</b>		
January	1 355	30,8
February	1 434	32,6
March	1 609	36,6
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 399</b>	<b>100,0</b>
<b>Quarter 2</b>		
April	1 310	26,7
May	2 103	42,8
June	1 495	30,5
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 907</b>	<b>100,0</b>

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 3a shows the most recent day trips by quarter for the reference period January to June 2017. In Quarter 1, most day trips were undertaken in March (36,6%), whereas in Quarter 2, most day trips were undertaken in May (42,8%).

**Table 3b: Number of most recent person overnight trips, January–June, 2017**

Month	Most recent person overnight trips	
	Number ('000)	Per cent
<b>Quarter 1</b>		
January	2 512	41,4
February	1 675	27,6
March	1 880	31,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 067</b>	<b>100,0</b>
<b>Quarter 2</b>		
April	3 171	44,3
May	1 923	26,9
June	2 057	28,8
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 151</b>	<b>100,0</b>

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

As displayed in Table 3b, in Quarter 1 of 2017, most overnight trips were undertaken in January (41,4%) while fewer trips were recorded for February (27,6%). In Quarter 2, most overnight trips were undertaken during April (44,3%). May had the least number of overnight trips in Quarter 2 (26,9%).

## 2.2 Main purpose of trips

**Table 4a: Main purpose of most recent day trips, January–June, 2017**

Main purpose	Day trip			
	Quarter 1		Quarter 2	
	Number ('000)	Per cent	Number ('000)	Per cent
Leisure	671	15,3	520	10,6
Shopping	1 209	27,5	1 458	29,7
Sporting	118	2,7	159	3,2
Visiting friends and relatives	976	22,2	972	19,8
Business	243	5,5	316	6,4
Religion	166	3,8	341	7,0
Other <sup>1</sup>	891	20,3	1 126	22,9
Unspecified	125	2,8	15	0,3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 399</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4 907</b>	<b>100,0</b>

<sup>1</sup>'Other' includes 'Funeral', 'Study/educational', 'Medical/health', 'Wellness', 'Child care', 'Cultural occasion' and 'Other social events'

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 4a summarises day trips by main purpose for which day trips were undertaken from January to June of 2017. In Quarter 1, most day travellers undertook trips mainly for shopping (27,5%), followed by visiting friends and relatives (VFR) - 22,2%. In Quarter 2, slightly above a quarter (29,7%) of day trips were undertaken for shopping purposes. This reason was followed by visiting friends and relatives (19,8%) and leisure (10,6%).

**Table 4b: Main purpose of most recent overnight trips, January–June, 2017**

Main purpose	Overnight trip			
	Quarter 1		Quarter 2	
	Number ('000)	Per cent	Number ('000)	Per cent
Leisure	1 158	19,1	1 314	18,4
Shopping	28	0,5	47	0,7
Sporting	27	0,4	84	1,2
Visiting friends and relatives	3 032	50,0	3 067	42,9
Business	238	3,9	204	2,8
Religion	276	4,5	783	11,0
Other <sup>1</sup>	1 224	20,2	1 483	20,7
Unspecified	86	1,4	169	2,4
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 067</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>7 151</b>	<b>100,0</b>

<sup>1</sup>'Other' includes 'Funeral', 'Study/educational', 'Medical/health', 'Wellness', 'Child care', 'Cultural occasion' and 'Other social events'

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals

In 2017, overnight trips were mostly undertaken to visit friends and relatives (VFR) with 50,0% and 42,9% in Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 respectively. Leisure was the second most popular reason provided for travel, with 19,1% in Quarter 1 and 18,4% in Quarter 2.

## 2.3 Province of destination for trips

**Table 5a: Province of destination by most recent day trips, January–June, 2017**

Main destination	Day trip			
	Quarter 1		Quarter 2	
	Number ('000)	Per cent	Number ('000)	Per cent
Western Cape	579	13,2	631	12,9
Eastern Cape	415	9,4	426	8,7
Northern Cape	190	4,3	185	3,8
Free State	204	4,6	263	5,4
KwaZulu-Natal	274	6,2	322	6,6
North West	376	8,5	309	6,3
Gauteng	900	20,5	1 136	23,1
Mpumalanga	346	7,9	474	9,7
Limpopo	939	21,4	1 066	21,7
Unspecified	176	4,0	96	2,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 399</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4 907</b>	<b>100,0</b>

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

The main destination for day trips in Quarter 1 of 2017 was Limpopo (21,4%), followed by Gauteng (20,5%) and then Western Cape province (13,2%). At 4,3%, Northern Cape had the least number of day trips in Quarter 1. In Quarter 2, the results show that Gauteng (23,1%) and Limpopo (21,7%) were the most visited provinces by day travellers.

**Table 5b: Province of destination by most recent overnight trips, January–June, 2017**

Main destination	Overnight trip			
	Quarter 1		Quarter 2	
	Number ('000)	Per cent	Number ('000)	Per cent
Western Cape	684	11,3	716	10,0
Eastern Cape	898	14,8	777	10,9
Northern Cape	167	2,7	219	3,1
Free State	290	4,8	417	5,8
KwaZulu-Natal	954	15,7	1 111	15,5
North West	477	7,9	473	6,6
Gauteng	614	10,1	974	13,6
Mpumalanga	524	8,6	696	9,7
Limpopo	1 041	17,2	1 306	18,3
Unspecified	417	6,9	462	6,5
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 067</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>7 151</b>	<b>100,0</b>

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.



Table 5b shows that in Quarter 1 of 2017, Limpopo (17,2%) and KwaZulu-Natal (15,7%) were the most visited destinations during overnight trips. A similar trend was observed in Quarter 2, where most tourists also visited Limpopo (18,3%) and KwaZulu-Natal (15,5%). Northern Cape was the least popular destination in both Quarter 1 and Quarter 2.

## 2.4 Expenditure

**Table 6a: Most recent day trips expenditure, January–June, 2017**

Expenditure	Day trips	
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2
	(R'000)	
Food and beverages	352 646	387 267
Domestic transport	610 434	763 469
Recreation and culture	17 185	13 960
Shopping	1 695 354	1 901 856
Other <sup>1</sup>	212 939	119 881
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 888 559</b>	<b>3 186 433</b>

<sup>1</sup>Other<sup>1</sup> includes categories of expenditure that were not included in the categories.  
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 6a shows that the total spending incurred by day travellers was R2,9 billion in Quarter 1 and R3,2 billion in Quarter 2 of 2017. Both quarters reflect a similar trend, as day travellers spent most of their money on shopping, followed by expenditure on domestic transport; and food and beverages.

**Table 6b: Most recent overnight trips expenditure, January–June, 2017**

Expenditure	Overnight trips	
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2
	(R'000)	
Accommodation	1 104 544	1 156 153
Food and beverages	1 384 000	1 495 815
Domestic transport	2 685 068	3 097 608
Recreation and culture	90 502	168 697
Shopping	2 959 013	2 904 392
Other <sup>1</sup>	233 326	268 685
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 456 453</b>	<b>9 091 351</b>

<sup>1</sup>Other<sup>1</sup> includes categories of expenditure that were not included in the categories.  
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

There was an increase in overnight expenditure in Quarter between both quarters of 2017 (from R8,5 billion to R9,1 billion). In Quarter 1, most money was spent on shopping, domestic transport; and food and beverages with R3,0 billion, R2,7 billion and R1,4 billion, respectively. A different pattern was found in Quarter 2, where most of the expenditure was on domestic transport, shopping; and food and beverages with R3,1 billion, R2,9 billion and R1,5 billion, respectively.

## 2.5 Main mode of transport used by travellers

**Table 7a: Main mode of transport by most recent day trips, January–June, 2017**

Mode of transport	Day trips			
	Quarter 1		Quarter 2	
	Number ('000)	Per cent	Number ('000)	Per cent
Air	*	*	-	-
Bus	193	4,4	224	4,6
Car	2 485	56,5	2 903	59,2
Taxi	1 456	33,1	1 503	30,6
Other <sup>1</sup>	135	3,1	226	4,6
Unspecified	129	2,9	52	1,1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 399</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4 907</b>	<b>100,0</b>

\*Values based on three or less unweighted cases are considered too small to provide accurate estimates, and values are therefore replaced with asterisks.

<sup>1</sup>Other includes motorcycles, bicycles, trains, etc.

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 7a shows that cars were the mode of transport mostly used by day travellers in both Quarter 1 and Quarter 2. The other main mode of transport that was used most often was taxis, followed by buses.

**Table 7b: Main mode of transport by most recent overnight trips, January–June, 2017**

Mode of transport	Overnight trips			
	Quarter 1		Quarter 2	
	Number ('000)	Per cent	Number ('000)	Per cent
Air	175	2,9	316	4,4
Bus	493	8,1	559	7,8
Car	2 831	46,7	3 429	48,0
Taxi	2 334	38,5	2 640	36,9
Other <sup>1</sup>	145	2,4	168	2,4
Unspecified	89	1,5	39	0,5
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 067</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>7 151</b>	<b>100,0</b>

<sup>1</sup>Other includes motorcycles, bicycles, trains, etc.

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 7b shows the number of overnight trips undertaken by tourists using different modes of transport in Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2017. Similar to day travellers, tourists used cars in Quarter 1 (46,7%) and Quarter 2 (48,0%). Taxis were the second most used mode of transport with more than a third of tourists choosing this mode in both quarters of 2017.

## 2.6 Main types of accommodation used by travellers

**Table 8: Overnight trips principal type of accommodation, January–June, 2017**

Type of accommodation	Quarter 1		Quarter 2	
	('000)	%	('000)	%
Hotel	88	1,5	415	5,8
Guest house/farm	164	2,7	133	1,9
Bed and Breakfast	80	1,3	212	3,0
Lodge	107	1,8	142	2,0
Hostel/Backpackers	74	1,2	28	0,4
Self-catering establishments	300	4,9	257	3,6
Stayed with friends and relatives	4 531	74,7	5 081	71,1
Holiday home/second home	296	4,9	206	2,9
Campsite	71	1,2	146	2,0
Caravan park	44	0,7	11	0,2
Other <sup>1</sup>	219	3,6	489	6,8
Unspecified	92	1,5	32	0,4
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 067</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>7 151</b>	<b>100,0</b>

<sup>1</sup>Other' includes other types of accommodation not included in the categories.

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Tourists stayed with friends and relatives during overnight trips undertaken from January to June 2017. In Quarter 1, 74,7% of tourists stayed with friends and relatives during their trips, while in Quarter 2, 71,1% of tourists chose the same type of accommodation. The second most preferred types of accommodation in Quarter 1 were self-catering establishments and holiday home/second home with the same proportion (4,9%). In Quarter 2, the second most preferred type of accommodation was hotels (5,8%) followed by self-catering establishments (3,6%).

## 3. Definition of terms

**Quarter 1** refers to the period January to March.

**Quarter 2** refers to the period April to June.

## 4. Abbreviations

DTS = Domestic Tourism Survey

VFR = Visiting friends and relatives

## 5. Source of data

1. Domestic Tourism Survey 2017, January – June

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