



The South Africa I know, the home I understand

Statistical release

P0351

Tourism and Migration

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Preface

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in December 2014. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country during this month. The tourists are classified by region and country of residence. Details of their mode of travel; purpose of visit; and age and sex distribution are also provided.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

1. Key findings

1.1 Travellers

1.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 4 195 456 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through South African ports of entry in December 2014. As presented in Table 1 on page 8, these travellers were made up of 1 263 363 South African residents and 2 932 093 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 529 208 arrivals, 733 336 departures and 819 travellers in transit. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers were 1 447 598, 1 423 408 and 61 087, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in November 2014 and December 2014 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The travellers in transit increased for South African residents and decreased for foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents increased by 32,2% (from 400 271 in November 2014 to 529 208 in December 2014) while departures increased by 84,9% (from 396 672 in November 2014 to 733 336 in December 2014) and South African residents in transit increased by 16,8% (from 701 in November 2014 to 819 in December 2014). Foreign arrivals increased by 14,7% (from 1 262 450 in November 2014 to 1 447 598 in December 2014), foreign departures increased by 21,9% (from 1 167 548 in November 2014 to 1 423 408 in December 2014) and foreign travellers in transit decreased by 7,2% (from 65 815 in November 2014 to 61 087 in December 2014).

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

As presented in Table 1, in December 2014, 31 133 (2,2%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 416 465 (97,8%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. arrivals only – comprising of visitors who entered the country in December 2014 but did not depart in December 2014 [419 350 (29,6%)];
- ii. single trips – visitors who came once in December 2014 and left in December 2014 [481 156 (34,0%)]; and
- iii. multiple trips – visitors who came and left more than once in December 2014 [515 959 (36,4%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In December 2014, there were 481 766 (34,0%) same-day visitors and 934 699 (66,0%) tourists. Between November 2014 and December 2014, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 20,0% (from 401 487 in November 2014 to 481 766 in December 2014) and tourists increased by 13,1% (from 826 163 in November 2014 to 934 699 in December 2014).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 9 show that in December 2014, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 3 158 781 (75,3%) out of the 4 195 456 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 1 024 150 (24,4%). The arrivals data for South African residents show that 187 790 (35,5%) came by air and 341 110 (64,5%) came by road. For departures, 230 194 (31,4%) and 502 575 (68,5%) used air and road transport respectively. All travellers in transit used air transport (819).

In the case of foreign travellers, 287 059 (19,8%) arrived by air while those who came by road were 1 154 865 (79,8%). When departing South Africa, 257 201 (18,1%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 1 160 231 (81,5%) left by road. All travellers in transit used air transport (61 087). Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [466 009 (96,7%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 15 632 (3,2%) same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that, 678 704 (72,6%) used road transport while 254 898 (27,3%) came by air.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them according to their respective countries and regions. Information on the specific region and country of residence of the tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on page 10. In December 2014, 197 813 (89,4%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 22 446 (10,1%) came in by road. This is in contrast to the number of tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries who came into South Africa predominantly by road [654 257 (93,9%)]. Only 42 176 (6,1%) tourists from the SADC countries came in by air. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 13 633 (88,9%); with 1 695 (11,1%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In December 2014, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows; Europe, 148 884 (67,3%); North America, 32 640 (14,7%); Asia, 17 004 (7,7%); Australasia, 14 916 (6,7%); Central and South America, 5 253 (2,4%); and Middle East, 2 651 (1,2%). Virtually all tourists from Africa came from the SADC countries, [696 438 (97,8%)]. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, [7 668 (1,1%)]; East and Central Africa, 6 664 (0,9%); and North Africa 999 (0,1%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 6 indicate that, the United Kingdom (UK), 47 714 (21,6%); Germany, 27 218 (12,3%); United States of America (USA), 26 209 (11,8%); The Netherlands, 12 982 (5,9%); Australia, 11 882 (5,4%); France, 10 977 (5,0%); Sweden, 7 532 (3,4%); Canada, 6 431 (2,9%); India, 6 250 (2,8%) and Italy, 5 736 (2,6%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in December 2014. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 73,6% of all tourists from overseas countries.

The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in December 2014 were Zimbabwe, 223 531 (32,1%); Lesotho, 135 717 (19,5%); Mozambique, 105 498 (15,1%); Swaziland, 90 278 (13,0%); Botswana, 71 209 (10,2%); Namibia, 26 520 (3,8%); Zambia, 17 882 (2,6%); Malawi, 15 066 (2,2%); Angola, 5 090 (0,7%) and DRC, 3 787 (0,5%) (see Figure 2 on page 6). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,7% of all tourists from the SADC countries.

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in December 2014 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 7, were Nigeria, 5 235 (34,1%); Kenya, 3 139 (20,5%); Ghana, 1 513 (9,9%); Uganda, 1 186 (7,7%); Gabon, 880 (5,7%); Ethiopia, 501 (3,3%); Egypt, 465 (3,0%); Congo, 363 (2,4%); Cameroon, 280 (1,8%) and Senegal, 157 (1,0%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 89,5% of all tourists from 'other' African countries.

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on page 14, in December 2014, a majority of tourists [916 703 (98,1%)] were in South Africa for holidays compared with only 15 350 (1,6%) and 2 646 (0,3%) of tourists who were in South Africa for business and for study purposes respectively. A detailed analysis reveals that of all the tourists from each of the overseas regions, at least 95,0% came to South Africa for holidays. A total of 14 809 (99,3%) tourists from Australasia; 32 089 (98,3%) from North America; 5 162 (98,3%) from Central and South America; 146 211 (98,2%) from Europe; 2 538 (95,7%) from Middle East and 16 180 (95,2%) from Asia were in South Africa for holidays. Asia (4,2%) and Middle East (3,7%) had a higher proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business. Asia (0,7%) had a higher proportion of student tourists compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists [698 209 (98,1%)] came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries namely:

- Whereas 683 666 (98,2%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holidays; 14 543 (94,9%) of tourists from 'other' African countries came for the same purpose. Data on the regions of 'other' African countries show that tourists on holidays constituted 95,7% (7 335); 95,3% (6 354) and 85,5% (854) for West Africa; East and central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 3,0% (466) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 1,6% (11 204) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion [9,6% (96)] of its tourists in South Africa for business.
- Students made up 2,1% (322) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,2% (1 568) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion [4,9% (49)] of student tourists in South Africa.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 18 shows that in December 2014, there were 490 013 (52,4%) male and 444 685 (47,6%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 117 494 (53,1%) male tourists and 103 854 (46,9%) female tourists. There were 362 509 (52,1%) male and 333 928 (47,9%) female tourists from the SADC countries. The tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 9 081 (59,2%) males and 6 250 (40,8%) females.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into three broad groups: those younger than 15 years, 15 to 64 years, and 65 years and older. The overall results presented in Table 5 show that 100 524 (10,8%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 798 653 (85,4%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 35 522 (3,8%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 173 316 (78,3%) of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 610 832 (87,7%) and 12 975 (84,6%) of tourists in the same age range from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries respectively. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was slightly higher among tourists from 'other' African countries [13,2% (2 023)] than among tourists from SADC countries [10,2% (70 874)] and those from overseas countries [12,5% (27 589)].

A comparison of the three regions shows relatively high proportions of the elderly among both male [9,1% (10 665)] and female [9,4% (9 778)] tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to the pattern observed among tourists from the other two regions. Thus, 1,8% (6 508) of male and 2,5% (8 224) of female tourists from the SADC countries were aged 65 years and older. Likewise 2,0% (185) of male and 2,4% (148) of female tourists from 'other' African countries were aged 65 years and older.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in December 2014

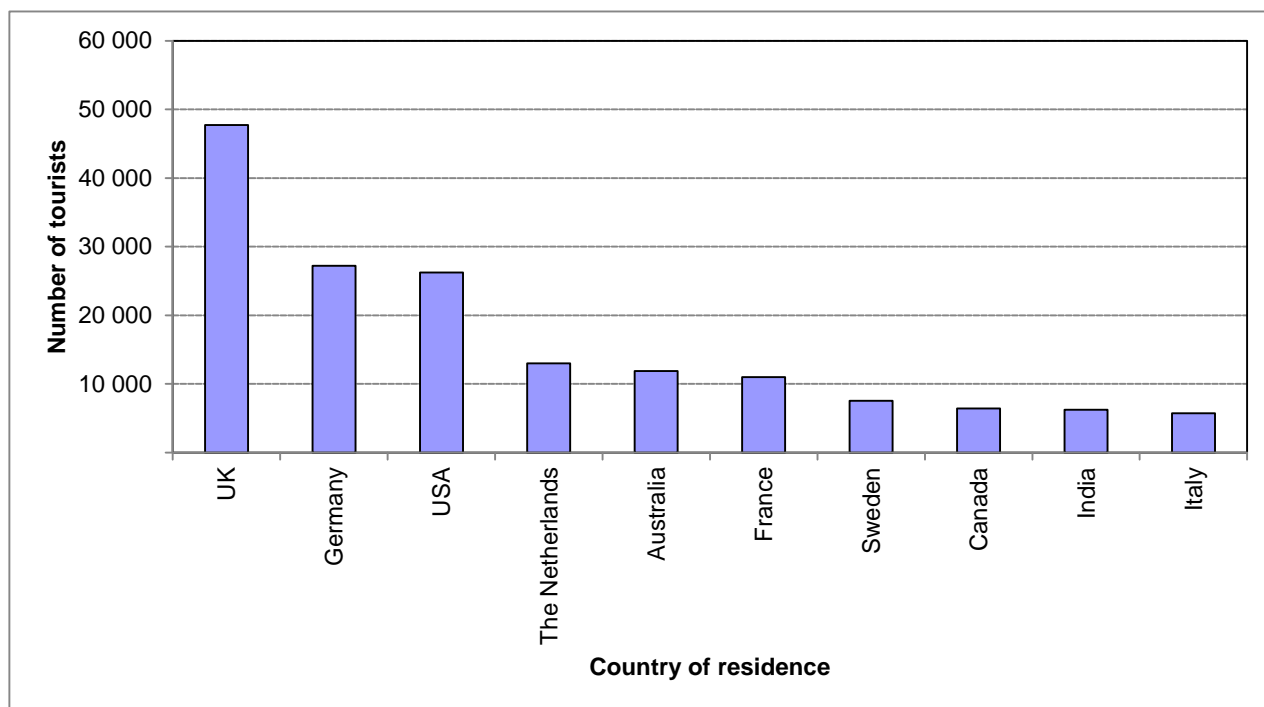


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in December 2014

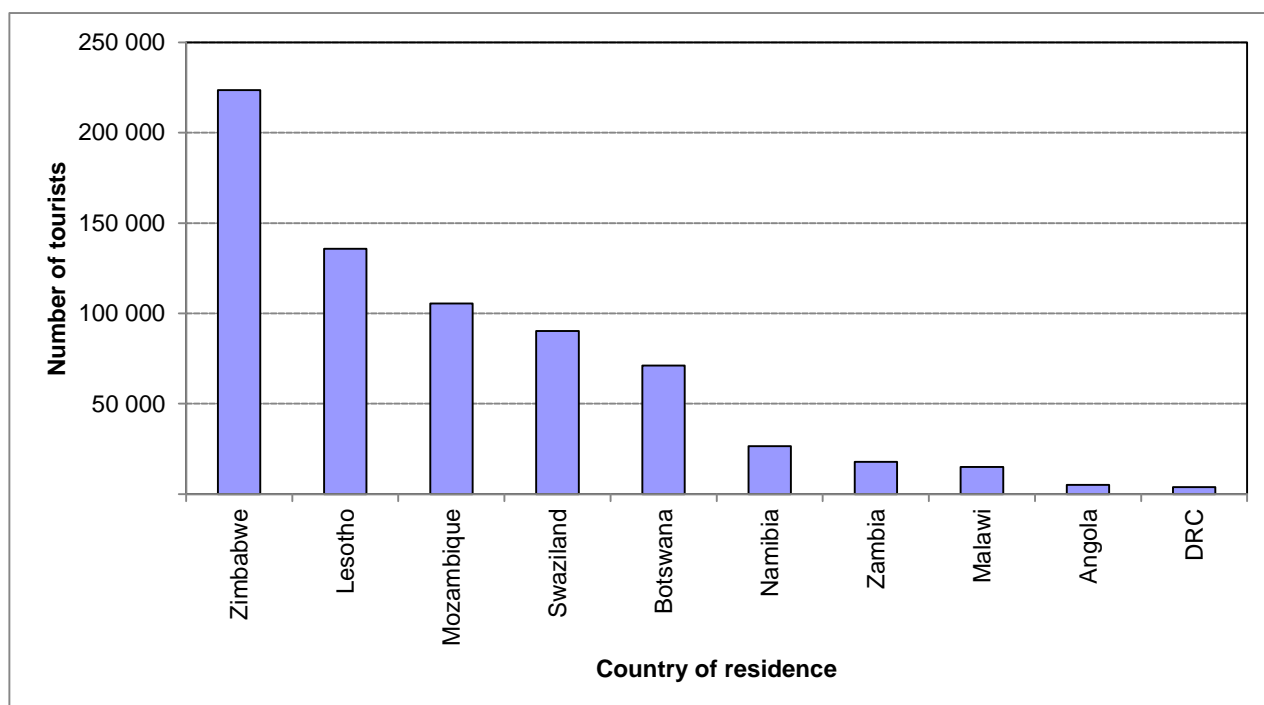
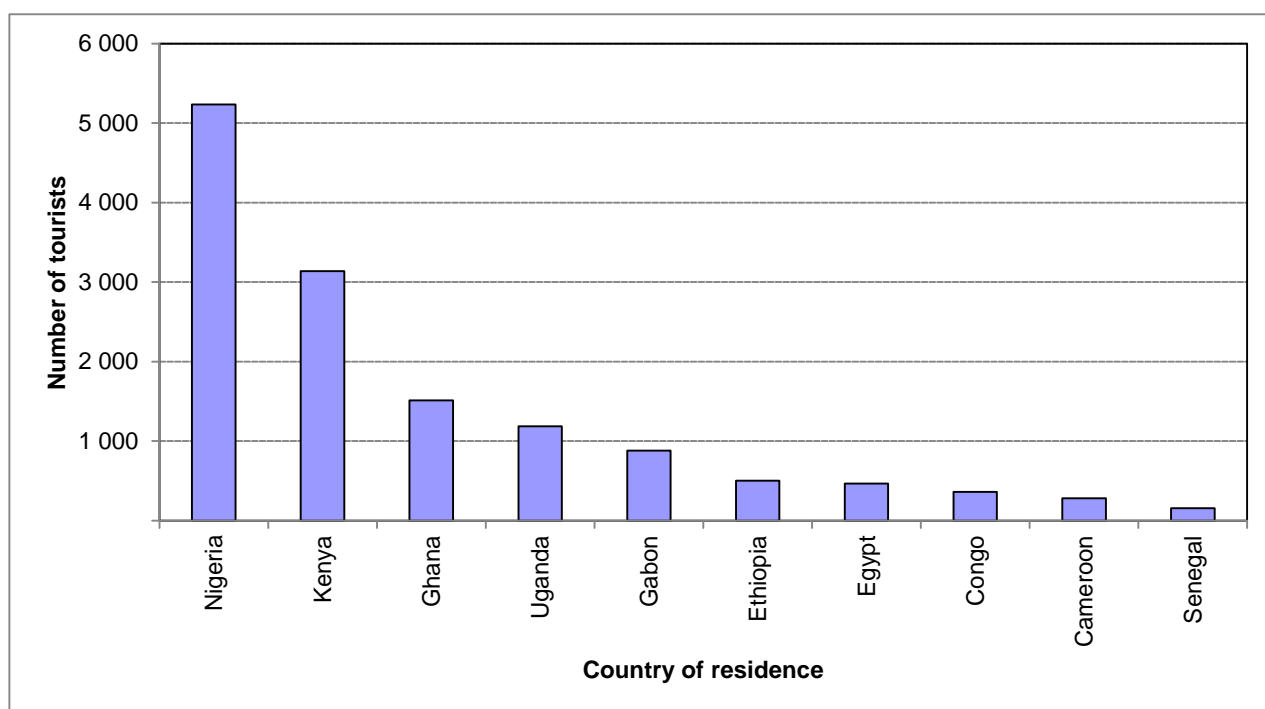


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in December 2014

3. Tables

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

Travel direction	November	December	% change
	2014	2014	November 2014 – December 2014
Total	3 293 457	4 195 456	27,4
South African residents	797 644	1 263 363	58,4
Arrivals	400 271	529 208	32,2
Departures	396 672	733 336	84,9
Transit	701	819	16,8
Foreign travellers	2 495 813	2 932 093	17,5
Arrivals	1 262 450	1 447 598	14,7
Departures	1 167 548	1 423 408	21,9
Transit	65 815	61 087	-7,2
Foreign arrivals	1 262 450	1 447 598	14,7
Non-visitors	34 800	31 133	-10,5
Visitors	1 227 650	1 416 465	15,4
Visitors	1 227 650	1 416 465	15,4
Arrivals only	338 014	419 350	24,1
Single trips	437 047	481 156	10,1
Multiple trips	452 589	515 959	14,0
Visitors	1 227 650	1 416 465	15,4
Same day	401 487	481 766	20,0
Overnight (tourists)	826 163	934 699	13,1

Table 2 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel

Travel Direction	Total	Mode of travel (December 2014)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	4 195 456	182 455	31 332	803 933	6 430	1 024 150	3 158 781	12 525
South African residents	1 263 363	54 742	22 945	337 138	3 978	418 803	843 685	875
Arrivals	529 208	23 930	9 427	152 481	1 952	187 790	341 110	308
Departures	733 336	30 811	13 518	183 843	2 022	230 194	502 575	567
Transit	819	1	-	814	4	819	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 932 093	127 713	8 387	466 795	2 452	605 347	2 315 096	11 650
Arrivals	1 447 598	70 777	4 776	210 724	782	287 059	1 154 865	5 674
Departures	1 423 408	56 932	3 611	194 990	1 668	257 201	1 160 231	5 976
Transit	61 087	4	-	61 081	2	61 087	-	-
Visitors	1 416 465	68 065	4 101	197 789	575	270 530	1 144 713	1 222
Same day	481 766	469	12	15 090	61	15 632	466 009	125
Overnight (tourists)	934 699	67 596	4 089	182 699	514	254 898	678 704	1 097

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

Country of residence	Total	Mode of travel (December 2014)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	934 699	67 596	4 089	182 699	514	254 898	678 704	1 097
Overseas	221 348	63 417	3 505	130 501	390	197 813	22 446	1 089
Europe	148 884	52 714	2 725	78 571	156	134 166	14 506	212
Austria	2 748	1 169	62	1 273	5	2 509	238	1
Belgium	4 414	1 547	15	2 336	3	3 901	510	3
Denmark	2 478	739	20	1 546	-	2 305	172	1
France	10 977	2 827	85	6 671	8	9 591	1 379	7
Germany	27 218	10 275	244	13 702	35	24 256	2 924	38
Ireland	3 443	1 417	126	1 691	3	3 237	205	1
Italy	5 736	2 009	129	3 180	6	5 324	411	1
Norway	2 301	998	22	1 072	4	2 096	200	5
Portugal	4 824	854	48	2 375	15	3 292	1 532	-
Spain	1 953	579	15	1 133	6	1 733	217	3
Sweden	7 532	3 161	21	3 758	6	6 946	580	6
Switzerland	5 591	2 417	79	2 641	8	5 145	428	18
The Netherlands	12 982	4 955	125	5 962	9	11 051	1 927	4
UK	47 714	16 970	1 199	26 664	46	44 879	2 717	118
Other	8 973	2 797	535	4 567	2	7 901	1 066	6
North America	32 640	6 213	229	23 029	194	29 665	2 836	139
Canada	6 431	1 483	48	4 339	29	5 899	514	18
USA	26 209	4 730	181	18 690	165	23 766	2 322	121
Central and South America	5 253	328	9	4 442	6	4 785	458	10
Argentina	446	19	2	398	1	420	24	2
Brazil	3 525	150	3	3 070	3	3 226	299	-
Mexico	267	54	1	198	2	255	11	1
Other	1 015	105	3	776		884	124	7

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

Country of residence	Total	Mode of travel (December 2014)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	14 916	1 529	312	12 227	17	14 085	773	58
Australia	11 882	1 155	197	9 857	16	11 225	602	55
New Zealand	2 991	370	114	2 333	1	2 818	170	3
Other	43	4	1	37	-	42	1	-
Middle East	2 651	440	10	2 002	3	2 455	196	-
Israel	1 664	98	-	1 421	2	1 521	143	-
Lebanon	271	75	4	168	-	247	24	-
Saudi Arabia	208	49	1	154	-	204	4	-
Other	508	218	5	259	1	483	25	-
Asia	17 004	2 193	220	10 230	14	12 657	3 677	670
Bangladesh	432	29	8	236	-	273	159	-
China	3 380	429	29	2 362	-	2 820	559	1
India	6 250	552	107	4 125	1	4 785	1 456	9
Japan	3 006	396	22	1 371	9	1 798	582	626
Malaysia	443	151	18	252	-	421	22	-
Pakistan	1 130	118	21	538	-	677	453	-
Philippines	498	53	5	265	-	323	162	13
Singapore	621	244	3	342	4	593	28	-
Thailand	452	73	2	337	-	412	39	1
Other	792	148	5	402	-	555	217	20
Africa	711 769	4 120	578	50 987	124	55 809	655 952	8
SADC	696 438	3 740	543	37 776	117	42 176	654 257	5
Angola	5 090	1 155	-	3 654	10	4 819	271	-
Botswana	71 209	226	8	1 815	42	2 091	69 118	-
DRC	3 787	12	2	2 761	6	2 781	1 006	-
Lesotho	135 717	11	1	418	-	430	135 287	-
Madagascar	201	2	1	196	-	199	-	2

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

Country of residence	Total	Mode of travel (December 2014)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Malawi	15 066	10	3	1 699	-	1 712	13 353	1
Mauritius	1 421	224	56	930	-	1 210	211	-
Mozambique	105 498	10	61	4 024	12	4 107	101 390	1
Namibia	26 520	1 944	1	2 786	11	4 742	21 778	-
Seychelles	238	1	-	224	-	225	13	-
Swaziland	90 278	1	-	454	1	456	89 822	-
Zambia	17 882	23	166	5 422	9	5 620	12 262	-
Zimbabwe	223 531	121	244	13 393	26	13 784	209 746	1
'Other' African	15 331	380	35	13 211	7	13 633	1 695	3
East and Central Africa	6 664	60	20	5 796	2	5 878	783	3
Burundi	69	1	-	61	-	62	7	-
Cameroon	280	5	-	230	-	235	45	-
Central African Republic	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-
Chad	28	-	-	28	-	28	-	-
Comoros	4	-	-	3	-	3	1	-
Congo	363	5	-	351	-	356	7	-
Djibouti	11	-	-	11	-	11	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	30	-	-	30	-	30	-	-
Eritrea	64	4	-	40	-	44	20	-
Ethiopia	501	5	6	369	-	380	121	-
Gabon	880	2	-	868	-	870	10	-
Kenya	3 139	22	13	2 737	2	2 774	362	3
Rwanda	77	2	-	58	-	60	17	-
Sao Tome and Principe	7	2	-	5	-	7	-	-
Somalia	21	2	-	18	-	20	1	-
Uganda	1 186	10	1	983	-	994	192	-

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

Country of residence	Total	Mode of travel (December 2014)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	7 668	88	5	6 709	2	6 804	864	-
Benin	135	1	-	124	-	125	10	-
Burkina Faso	30	1	-	25	-	26	4	-
Cape Verde Island	53	11	-	40	-	51	2	-
Côte d'Ivoire	130	4	-	117	-	121	9	-
Gambia	31	3	-	17	-	20	11	-
Ghana	1 513	14	2	1 346	-	1 362	151	-
Guinea	155	-	-	31	-	31	124	-
Guinea-Bissau	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-
Liberia	23	1	-	16	-	17	6	-
Mali	102	2	-	46	-	48	54	-
Mauritania	23	-	-	23	-	23	-	-
Niger	16	1	-	15	-	16	-	-
Nigeria	5 235	47	3	4 717	2	4 769	466	-
Senegal	157	1	-	141	-	142	15	-
Sierra Leone	36	1	-	23	-	24	12	-
Togo	22	1	-	21	-	22	-	-
North Africa	999	232	10	706	3	951	48	-
Algeria	68	3	-	57	-	60	8	-
Egypt	465	81	5	366	1	453	12	-
Libya	84	36	2	36	-	74	10	-
Morocco	86	28	1	51	-	80	6	-
South Sudan	111	2	-	103	2	107	4	-
The Sudan	89	34	1	50	-	85	4	-
Tunisia	95	48	1	42	-	91	4	-
Western Sahara	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	1 582	59	6	1 211	-	1 276	306	-

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

Country of residence	Total	Purpose of visit (December 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
Total	934 699	15 350	916 703	2 646
Overseas	221 348	3 605	216 989	754
Europe	148 884	2 178	146 211	495
Austria	2 748	16	2 719	13
Belgium	4 414	78	4 315	21
Denmark	2 478	42	2 433	3
France	10 977	251	10 668	58
Germany	27 218	272	26 821	125
Ireland	3 443	62	3 374	7
Italy	5 736	132	5 588	16
Norway	2 301	47	2 239	15
Portugal	4 824	59	4 755	10
Spain	1 953	74	1 868	11
Sweden	7 532	66	7 457	9
Switzerland	5 591	40	5 535	16
The Netherlands	12 982	164	12 775	43
UK	47 714	582	47 025	107
Other	8 973	293	8 639	41
North America	32 640	463	32 089	88
Canada	6 431	72	6 347	12
USA	26 209	391	25 742	76
Central and South America	5 253	67	5 162	24
Argentina	446	7	436	3
Brazil	3 525	19	3 491	15
Mexico	267	10	254	3
Other	1 015	31	981	3

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

Country of residence	Total	Purpose of visit (December 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	14 916	90	14 809	17
Australia	11 882	76	11 792	14
New Zealand	2 991	11	2 977	3
Other	43	3	40	-
Middle East	2 651	98	2 538	15
Israel	1 664	21	1 639	4
Lebanon	271	19	251	1
Saudi Arabia	208	11	193	4
Other	508	47	455	6
Asia	17 004	709	16 180	115
Bangladesh	432	18	412	2
China	3 380	166	3 193	21
India	6 250	267	5 936	47
Japan	3 006	94	2 907	5
Malaysia	443	29	401	13
Pakistan	1 130	59	1 062	9
Philippines	498	5	491	2
Singapore	621	15	604	2
Thailand	452	8	442	2
Other	792	48	732	12
Africa	711 769	11 670	698 209	1 890
SADC	696 438	11 204	683 666	1 568
Angola	5 090	69	4 922	99
Botswana	71 209	394	70 576	239
DRC	3 787	54	3 656	77
Lesotho	135 717	1 656	133 908	153
Madagascar	201	8	189	4

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

Country of residence	Total	Purpose of visit (December 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
Malawi	15 066	180	14 857	29
Mauritius	1 421	51	1 362	8
Mozambique	105 498	4 386	101 056	56
Namibia	26 520	1 601	24 772	147
Seychelles	238	1	237	-
Swaziland	90 278	276	89 821	181
Zambia	17 882	934	16 890	58
Zimbabwe	223 531	1 594	221 420	517
'Other' African	15 331	466	14 543	322
East and Central Africa	6 664	166	6 354	144
Burundi	69	1	68	-
Cameroon	280	16	251	13
Central African Republic	4	-	4	-
Chad	28	-	26	2
Comoros	4	-	3	1
Congo	363	5	332	26
Djibouti	11	-	8	3
Equatorial Guinea	30	-	28	2
Eritrea	64	-	63	1
Ethiopia	501	19	478	4
Gabon	880	3	848	29
Kenya	3 139	87	3 011	41
Rwanda	77	-	69	8
Sao Tome and Principe	7	1	6	-
Somalia	21	1	20	-
Uganda	1 186	33	1 139	14

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

Country of residence	Total	Purpose of visit (December 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	7 668	204	7 335	129
Benin	135	10	123	2
Burkina Faso	30	2	28	-
Cape Verde Island	53	5	48	-
Côte d'Ivoire	130	7	120	3
Gambia	31	3	26	2
Ghana	1 513	33	1 468	12
Guinea	155	-	153	2
Guinea-Bissau	7	-	7	-
Liberia	23	2	21	-
Mali	102	3	98	1
Mauritania	23	4	19	-
Niger	16	1	14	1
Nigeria	5 235	119	5 015	101
Senegal	157	14	142	1
Sierra Leone	36	-	34	2
Togo	22	1	19	2
North Africa	999	96	854	49
Algeria	68	4	61	3
Egypt	465	37	417	11
Libya	84	3	51	30
Morocco	86	14	72	-
South Sudan	111	7	102	2
The Sudan	89	18	68	3
Tunisia	95	13	82	-
Western Sahara	1	-	1	-
Unspecified	1 582	75	1 505	2

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

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (December 2014)			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	934 699	221 348	696 438	15 331	1 582
	<15	100 524	27 589	70 874	2 023	38
	15-64	798 653	173 316	610 832	12 975	1 530
	65+	35 522	20 443	14 732	333	14
Male	Total	490 013	117 494	362 509	9 081	929
	<15	50 141	14 157	34 975	996	13
	15-64	422 505	92 672	321 026	7 900	907
	65+	17 367	10 665	6 508	185	9
Female	Total	444 685	103 854	333 928	6 250	653
	<15	50 383	13 432	35 899	1 027	25
	15-64	376 147	80 644	289 805	5 075	623
	65+	18 155	9 778	8 224	148	5
Unspecified	Total	1	-	1	-	-
	15-64	1	-	1	-	-

4. Explanatory notes

NOTICE TO USERS

Statistics South Africa has made changes in the *Tourism and Migration* statistical release starting from the January 2014 statistics. This change has become necessary as a result of the implementation of the new Movement Control System (e-MCS) at the country's ports of entry. Currently the new system (e-MCS) is operational at over 80% of the country's ports of entry. The system roll-out is expected to be finalised by end of 2015/16. The change affects the identification of Transit Travellers that are currently categorised under Direction instead of Purpose of Movement. With the revision, Table 1 and Table 2 in the release now include a category for Transit while all tables reporting on tourists exclude transit travellers.

4.1 Introduction

Legal movements across South African borders as well as legal immigration into South Africa fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). Statistics South Africa (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; and
- to provide information that can be used to (a) assess the extent of government's progress in strengthening bilateral political and economic relations by assessing the number of international tourist arrivals; and (b) benchmark surveys focusing on demand for local tourism services by foreign travellers.

4.2 Purpose of the statistical release

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

4.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data collected by DHA officials on travellers who entered the Republic of South Africa (RSA) through all the air, land and sea ports of entry.

4.4 Data

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

- Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all road, air and sea entry ports on all travellers (South African residents and foreign travellers) arriving into or departing from South Africa are captured into the DHA's population Movement Control System (MCS). The counts/statistics relate to the number of individual movements, rather than to the number of people. Hence, the multiple movements of individual people during the calendar month are each counted separately. Generally the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the port's electronic database. No forms or cards are used (except in rare occasions when the capturing system is down) to collect information from travellers. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA.

- Stats SA downloads the data covering a particular calendar month from the DHA database.
- As part of data interrogation, data from the O.R. Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airport Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA has been accompanied by an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern was also observed when the volume of travellers decreased. However, the volume of passengers recorded by ACSA is generally higher than that of the DHA. In April 2014, the DHA data was 0,5% lower than that of ACSA.

4.5 Limitations

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

4.6 Definitions of terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release

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

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

Region refers to the following country classification:

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

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

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

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

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

Overseas refers to all countries outside Africa.

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

4.7 Symbols used

- = nil

< = less than

5. General information

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

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