



The South Africa I know, the home I understand

Statistical release

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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 May 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 3 254 548 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through South African ports of entry in May 2014. As presented in Table 1 on page 8, these travellers were made up of 851 292 South African residents and 2 403 256 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 431 876 arrivals, 418 737 departures and 679 were in transit. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit were 1 198 052, 1 133 326 and 71 878, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in April 2014 and May 2014 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents decreased by 7,3% (from 465 666 in April 2014 to 431 876 in May 2014) while departures decreased by 15,6% (from 496 319 in April 2014 to 418 737 in May 2014). South African residents in transit increased by 18,5% (from 573 in April 2014 to 679 in May 2014). Foreign arrivals decreased by 8,4% (from 1 308 531 in April 2014 to 1 198 052 in May 2014) and foreign departures decreased by 6,1% (from 1 207 210 in April 2014 to 1 133 326 in May 2014). Foreign travellers in transit increased by 25,5% (from 57 264 in April 2014 to 71 878 in May 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 May 2014, 38 502 (3,2%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 159 550 (96,8%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. arrivals only – comprising of visitors who entered the country in May 2014 but did not depart in May 2014 [311 709 (26,9%)];
- ii. single trips – visitors who came once in May 2014 and left in May 2014 [456 544 (39,4%)];
- iii. multiple trips – visitors who came and left more than once in May 2014 [391 297 (33,7%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In May 2014, there were 445 429 (38,4%) same-day visitors and 714 121 (61,6%) tourists. Between April 2014 and May 2014, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 4,6% (from 426 020 in April 2014 to 445 429 in May 2014) and tourists decreased by 15,0% (from 840 100 in April 2014 to 714 121 in May 2014).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 9 show that in May 2014, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 418 850 (74,3%) out of the 3 254 548 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 826 899 (25,4%). The arrivals data for South African residents show that 165 078 (38,2%) came by air and 266 534 (61,7%) came by road. For departures, 151 735 (36,2%) and 266 726 (63,7%) used air and road transport respectively.

In the case of foreign travellers, 212 805 (17,8%) arrived by air while those who came by road were 980 835 (81,9%). When departing South Africa, 224 724 (19,8%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 904 755 (79,8%) left by road. All travellers in transit used air transport (71 878). Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [426 908 (95,8%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 18 504 (4,2%) same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that, 536 796 (75,2%) used road transport while 177 223 (24,8%) 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 May 2014, 128 889 (88,1%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 17 391 (11,9%) 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 [517 795 (93,9%)]. Only 33 893 (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 13 470 (90,9%); with 1 309 (8,8%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In May 2014, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows; Europe, 68 924 (47,1%); North America, 33 290 (22,7%); Asia, 26 511 (18,1%); Australasia, 9 322 (6,4%); Central and South America, 5 871 (4,0%); and Middle East, 2 426 (1,7%). Virtually all tourists from Africa came from the SADC countries, [551 691 (97,4%)]. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, [7 896 (1,4%)]; East and Central Africa, 5 672 (1,0%) and North Africa 1 246 (0,2%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 6 indicate that the United States of America (USA), 28 734 (19,6%); United Kingdom (UK), 21 264 (14,5%); Germany, 11 601 (7,9%); India, 11 090 (7,6%); Australia, 7 941 (5,4%); France, 7 554 (5,2%); China, 6 311 (4,3%); The Netherlands, 5 677 (3,9%); Canada, 4 556 (3,1%) and Brazil, 3 881 (2,7%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in May 2014. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 74,2% of all tourists from overseas countries.

The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in May 2014 were Zimbabwe, 169 448 (30,7%); Lesotho, 110 356 (20,0%); Mozambique, 102 485 (18,6%); Swaziland, 73 137 (13,3%); Botswana, 43 471 (7,9%); Namibia, 17 327 (3,1%); Zambia, 13 726 (2,5%); Malawi, 9 907 (1,8%); Angola, 5 017 (0,9%) and Tanzania, 2 771 (0,5%) (see Figure 2 on page 6). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,3% of all tourists from the SADC countries.

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in May 2014 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 7, were Nigeria, 5 122 (34,6%); Kenya, 2 392 (16,1%); Ghana, 1 626 (11,0%); Uganda, 1 118 (7,5%); Ethiopia, 604 (4,1%); Egypt, 512 (3,5%); Gabon, 484 (3,3%); Cameroon, 315 (2,1%); Congo, 265 (1,8%); and Senegal, 205 (1,4%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 86,3% 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 May 2014, a majority of tourists [682 827 (95,6%)] were in South Africa for holidays compared with only 26 459 (3,7%) and 4 835 (0,7%) 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 90,0% came to South Africa for holidays. A total of 9 029 (96,9%) tourists from Australasia; 5 681 (96,8%) from Central and South America; 32 070 (96,3%) from North America; 24 952 (94,1%) from Asia; 63 843 (92,6%) from Europe and 2 191 (90,3%) from Middle East were in South Africa for holidays. Middle East (8,7%) and Europe (6,7%) had a higher proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business. Middle East (1,0%) had a higher proportion of student tourists compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists [543 829 (96,0%)] came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries namely:

- Whereas 530 523 (96,2%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holidays; 13 307 (89,8%) 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 92,8% (7 329); 86,9% (4 931) and 84,0% (1 047) for West Africa; East and central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 6,6% (974) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 3,2% (17 719) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion of 11,4% (142) of its tourists in South Africa for business.
- Students made up 3,6% (533) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,6% (3 449) from the SADC countries. West Africa had the least proportion [2,6% (207)] of student tourists in South Africa.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 18 shows that in May 2014, there were 402 448 (56,4%) male and 311 673 (43,6%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 84 753 (57,9%) male tourists and 61 591 (42,1%) female tourists. There were 306 601 (55,6%) male and 245 090 (44,4%) female tourists from the SADC countries. The tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 10 291 (69,5%) males and 4 523 (30,5%) 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 32 627 (4,6%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 650 593 (91,1%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 30 901 (4,3%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 122 160 (83,5%) of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 513 163 (93,0%) and 14 016 (94,6%) 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 overseas [4,9% (7 120)] than among tourists from SADC countries [4,5% (24 969)] and those from 'other' African countries [3,6% (532)].

A comparison of the three regions shows relatively high proportions of the elderly among both male [10,9% (9 234)] and female [12,7% (7 830)] tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to the pattern observed among tourists from the other two regions. Thus, 1,9% (5 890) of male and 3,1% (7 669) of female tourists from the SADC countries were aged 65 years and older. Likewise 1,8% (188) of male and 1,7% (78) 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 May 2014

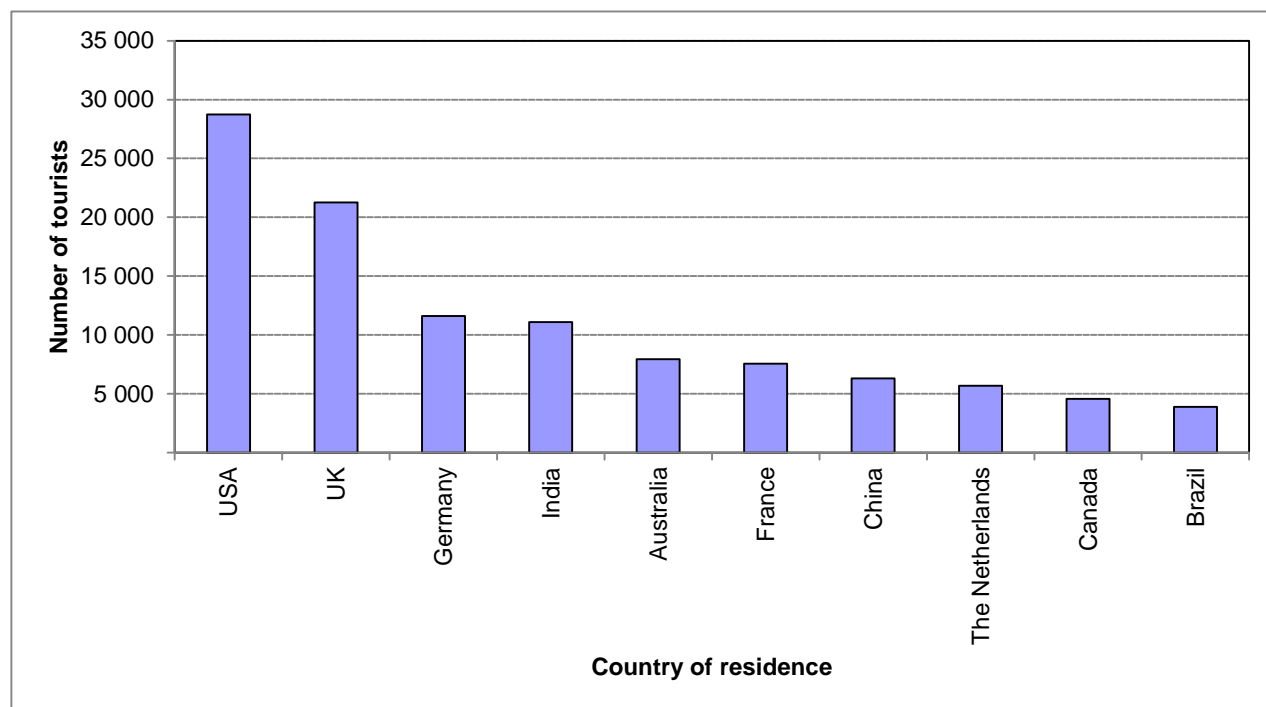


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in May 2014

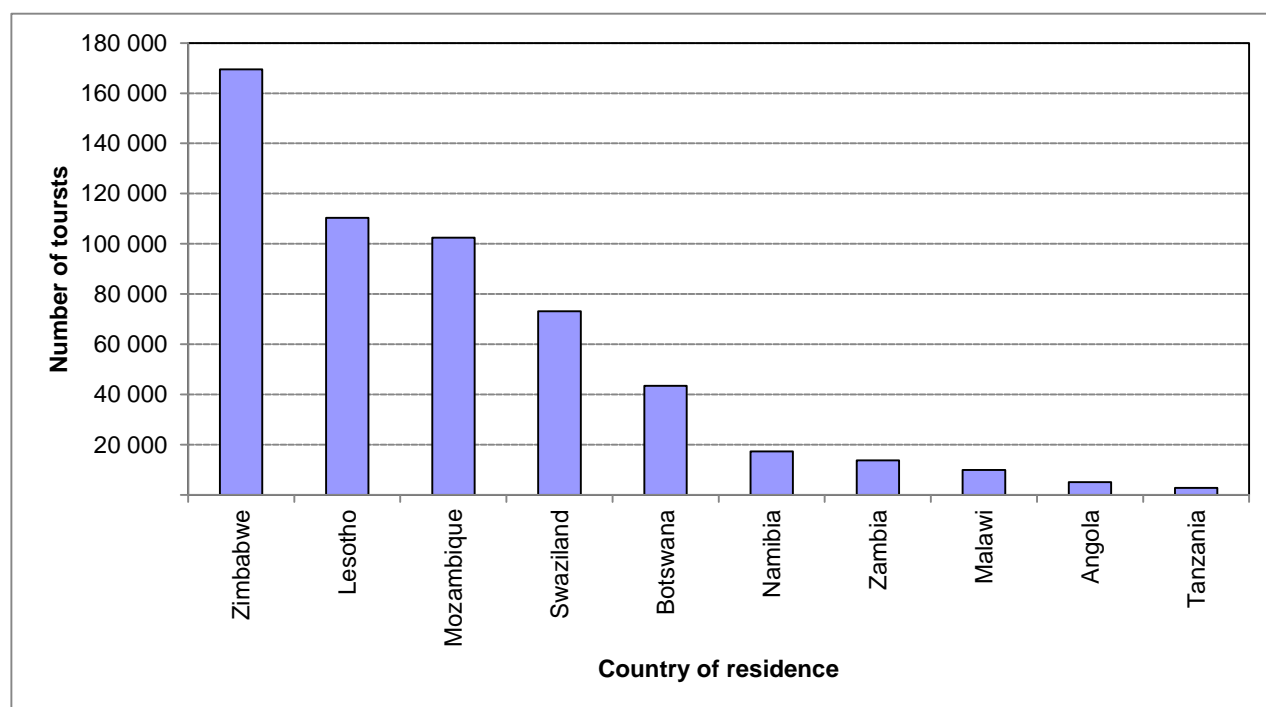
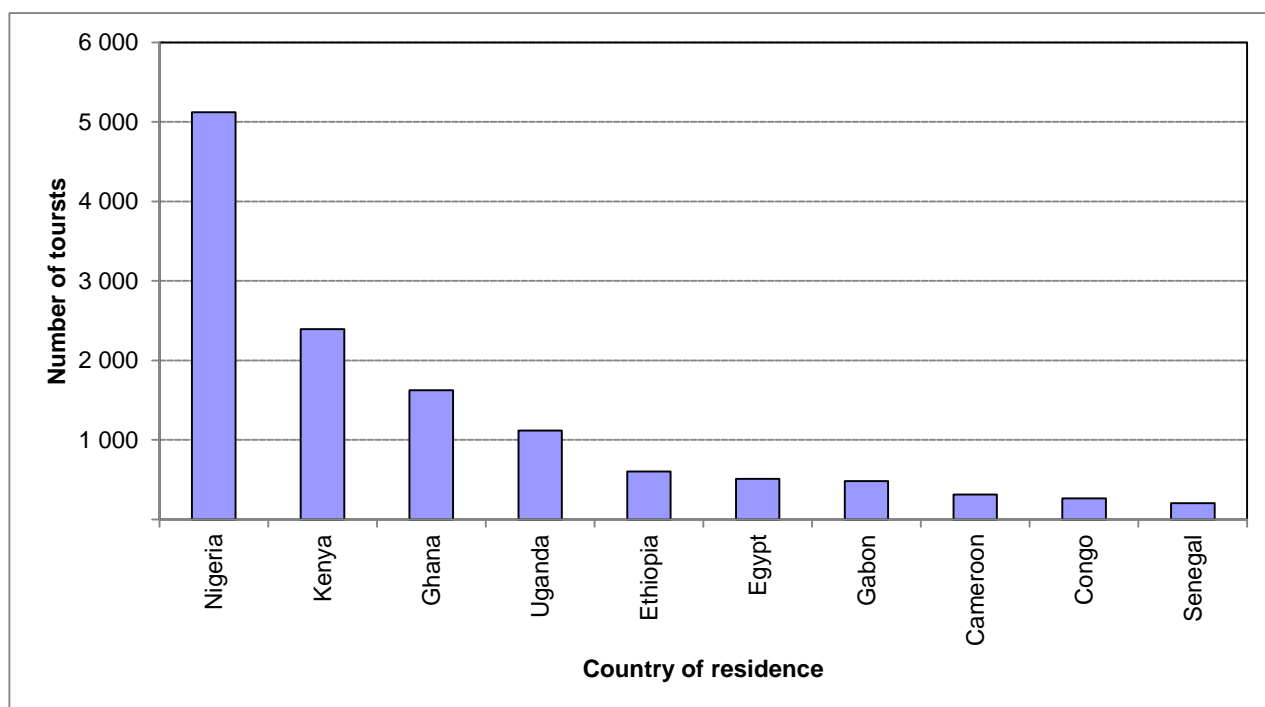


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in May 2014

3. Tables

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

Travel direction	April	May	% change
	2014	2014	April 2014–May 2014
Total	3 535 563	3 254 548	-7,9
South African residents	962 558	851 292	-11,6
Arrivals	465 666	431 876	-7,3
Departures	496 319	418 737	-15,6
Transit	573	679	18,5
Foreign travellers	2 573 005	2 403 256	-6,6
Arrivals	1 308 531	1 198 052	-8,4
Departures	1 207 210	1 133 326	-6,1
Transit	57 264	71 878	25,5
Foreign arrivals	1 308 531	1 198 052	-8,4
Non-visitors	42 411	38 502	-9,2
Visitors	1 266 120	1 159 550	-8,4
Visitors	1 266 120	1 159 550	-8,4
Arrivals only	372 416	311 709	-16,3
Single trips	506 514	456 544	-9,9
Multiple trips	387 190	391 297	1,1
Visitors	1 266 120	1 159 550	-8,4
Same day	426 020	445 429	4,6
Overnight (tourists)	840 100	714 121	-15,0

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

Travel Direction	Total	Mode of travel (May 2014)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	3 254 548	90 602	23 578	704 510	8 209	826 899	2 418 850	8 799
South African residents	851 292	36 374	16 233	260 105	4 780	317 492	533 260	540
Arrivals	431 876	17 357	8 609	136 623	2 489	165 078	266 534	264
Departures	418 737	19 017	7 624	122 809	2 285	151 735	266 726	276
Transit	679	-	-	673	6	679	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 403 256	54 228	7 345	444 405	3 429	509 407	1 885 590	8 259
Arrivals	1 198 052	25 511	3 431	182 367	1 496	212 805	980 835	4 412
Departures	1 133 326	28 717	3 912	190 173	1 922	224 724	904 755	3 847
Transit	71 878		2	71 865	11	71 878	-	-
Visitors	1 159 550	23 358	2 666	168 803	900	195 727	963 704	119
Same day	445 429	323	6	18 103	72	18 504	426 908	17
Overnight (tourists)	714 121	23 035	2 660	150 700	828	177 223	536 796	102

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

Country of residence	Total	Mode of travel (May 2014)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	714 121	23 035	2 660	150 700	828	177 223	536 796	102
Overseas	146 342	20 034	2 164	106 125	565	128 888	17 390	64
Europe	68 922	11 626	1 321	45 560	130	58 637	10 227	58
Austria	894	130	21	628	3	782	111	1
Belgium	1 792	257	10	1 248	4	1 519	273	-
Denmark	1 039	187	6	740	4	937	102	-
France	7 554	1 117	59	5 161	11	6 348	1 205	1
Germany	11 601	1 294	134	8 232	10	9 670	1 918	13
Ireland	1 380	282	42	892	3	1 219	161	-
Italy	3 727	891	64	2 519	3	3 477	250	-
Portugal	3 334	315	36	1 574	4	1 929	1 405	-
Spain	1 942	417	14	1 350	7	1 788	154	-
Sweden	1 296	230	32	873	5	1 140	156	-
Switzerland	1 843	253	32	1 291	2	1 578	265	-
The Netherlands	5 677	1 259	53	3 033	3	4 348	1 328	1
Turkey	962	302	4	581	-	887	75	-
UK	21 264	3 948	745	14 267	57	19 017	2 206	41
Other	4 617	744	69	3 171	14	3 998	618	1
North America	33 290	4 261	304	25 212	281	30 058	3 227	5
Canada	4 556	761	137	3 102	10	4 010	543	3
USA	28 734	3 500	167	22 110	271	26 048	2 684	2
Central and South America	5 871	267	10	5 043	12	5 332	539	
Argentina	463	15	1	421	-	437	26	-
Brazil	3 881	73	4	3 468	8	3 553	328	-
Mexico	346	108	-	230	2	340	6	-
Other	1 181	71	5	924	2	1 002	179	

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

Country of residence	Total	Mode of travel (May 2014)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	9 322	478	97	7 775	86	8 436	886	
Australia	7 941	399	63	6 635	81	7 178	763	-
New Zealand	1 362	76	34	1 125	5	1 240	122	-
Other	19	3		15		18	1	
Middle East	2 426	275	25	2 004	4	2 308	118	
Israel	1 180	58	-	1 064	3	1 125	55	-
Lebanon	221	17	2	168	-	187	34	-
Saudi Arabia	379	54	4	320	-	378	1	-
Other	646	146	19	452	1	618	28	
Asia	26 511	3 127	407	20 531	52	24 117	2 393	1
China	6 311	486	39	5 308	-	5 833	478	-
India	11 090	1 076	188	8 900	38	10 202	887	-
Japan	2 211	131	34	1 956	-	2 121	90	-
Malaysia	1 016	517	37	438	-	992	24	-
Pakistan	1 141	115	56	645	-	816	325	-
Philippines	619	114	3	409	-	526	93	-
Singapore	905	313	4	564	13	894	11	-
South Korea	1 094	128	2	817	-	947	147	-
Thailand	524	69	14	432	1	516	8	1
Other	1 600	178	30	1 062	-	1 270	330	
Africa	566 505	2 976	492	43 632	263	47 363	519 104	38
SADC	551 691	2 690	468	29 515	220	33 893	517 795	3
Angola	5 017	775	-	4 008	39	4 822	195	-
Botswana	43 471	111	7	2 080	34	2 232	41 239	-
DRC	2 130	10	-	1 542	12	1 564	556	-
Lesotho	110 356	3	3	508	3	517	109 839	-
Madagascar	302	-	-	291	-	291	11	-

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

Country of residence	Total	Mode of travel (May 2014)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Malawi	9 907	8	3	1 319	10	1 340	8 567	-
Mauritius	1 289	146	90	865	3	1 104	185	-
Mozambique	102 485	53	52	3 040	20	3 165	99 320	-
Namibia	17 327	1 533	3	3 195	23	4 754	12 570	3
Seychelles	325	2	2	286	-	290	35	-
Swaziland	73 137	-	-	529	5	534	72 603	-
Tanzania	2 771	4	2	1 689	5	1 700	1 071	-
Zambia	13 726	9	133	3 398	3	3 543	10 183	-
Zimbabwe	169 448	36	173	7 765	63	8 037	161 411	-
'Other' African	14 814	286	24	13 117	43	13 470	1 309	35
East and Central Africa	5 672	64	5	5 044	15	5 128	544	-
Burundi	97	3	-	89	-	92	5	-
Cameroon	315	6	1	265	-	272	43	-
Central African Republic	14	-	-	14	-	14	-	-
Chad	55	2	-	53	-	55	-	-
Comoros	16	-	-	15	-	15	1	-
Congo	265	2	-	254	-	256	9	-
Djibouti	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	54	-	-	54	-	54	-	-
Eritrea	64	4	-	58	-	62	2	-
Ethiopia	604	12	1	517	-	530	74	-
Gabon	484	5	-	472	1	478	6	-
Kenya	2 392	16	3	2 119	14	2 152	240	-
Reunion	4	4	-	-	-	4	-	-
Rwanda	148	3	-	130	-	133	15	-
Sao Tome and Principe	25	3	-	22	-	25	-	-
Somalia	14	-	-	13	-	13	1	-
Uganda	1 118	4	-	966	-	970	148	-

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

Country of residence	Total	Mode of travel (May 2014)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	7 896	65	7	7 087	27	7 186	675	35
Benin	161	1	-	157	-	158	3	-
Burkina Faso	76	-	-	74	-	74	2	-
Cape Verde Island	55	7	-	39	-	46	9	-
Côte d'Ivoire	140	5	1	126	4	136	4	-
Gambia	54	-	-	49	-	49	5	-
Ghana	1 626	18	-	1 470	8	1 496	130	-
Guinea	157	1	-	56	-	57	100	-
Guinea-Bissau	9	-	-	9	-	9	-	-
Liberia	51	5	-	45	-	50	1	-
Mali	58	-	-	41	-	41	17	-
Mauritania	15	-	-	15	-	15	-	-
Niger	23	-	-	21	-	21	2	-
Nigeria	5 122	23	5	4 712	15	4 755	367	-
Saint Helena	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
Senegal	205	2	-	194	-	196	9	-
Sierra Leone	63	3	1	38	-	42	21	-
Togo	46	-	-	41	-	41	5	-
North Africa	1 246	157	12	986	1	1 156	90	-
Algeria	97	5	-	85	-	90	7	-
Egypt	512	50	3	424	1	478	34	-
Libya	191	74	-	88	-	162	29	-
Morocco	113	16	4	79	-	99	14	-
South Sudan	115	-	-	113	-	113	2	-
The Sudan	122	3	-	118	-	121	1	-
Tunisia	94	9	5	77	-	91	3	-
Western Sahara	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
Unspecified	1 274	25	4	943	-	972	302	-

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

Country of residence	Total	Purpose of visit (May 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
Total	714 121	26 459	682 827	4 835
Overseas	146 342	7 727	137 765	850
Europe	68 922	4 607	63 842	473
Austria	894	49	837	8
Belgium	1 792	158	1 610	24
Denmark	1 039	75	959	5
France	7 554	425	7 042	87
Germany	11 601	641	10 886	74
Ireland	1 380	107	1 263	10
Italy	3 727	318	3 391	18
Portugal	3 334	115	3 206	13
Spain	1 942	159	1 777	6
Sweden	1 296	104	1 184	8
Switzerland	1 843	67	1 765	11
The Netherlands	5 677	320	5 320	37
Turkey	962	146	809	7
UK	21 264	1 548	19 591	125
Other	4 617	375	4 202	40
North America	33 290	1 072	32 070	148
Canada	4 556	170	4 373	13
USA	28 734	902	27 697	135
Central and South America	5 871	151	5 681	39
Argentina	463	23	436	4
Brazil	3 881	66	3 799	16
Mexico	346	12	332	2
Other	1 181	50	1 114	17

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

Country of residence	Total	Purpose of visit (May 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	9 322	277	9 029	16
Australia	7 941	239	7 690	12
New Zealand	1 362	37	1 321	4
Other	19	1	18	
Middle East	2 426	210	2 191	25
Israel	1 180	81	1 096	3
Lebanon	221	27	194	-
Saudi Arabia	379	28	345	6
Other	646	74	556	16
Asia	26 511	1 410	24 952	149
China	6 311	365	5 920	26
India	11 090	516	10 522	52
Japan	2 211	165	2 045	1
Malaysia	1 016	26	988	2
Pakistan	1 141	104	1 029	8
Philippines	619	16	596	7
Singapore	905	44	859	2
South Korea	1 094	79	993	22
Thailand	524	13	509	2
Other	1 600	82	1 491	27
Africa	566 505	18 693	543 830	3 982
SADC	551 691	17 719	530 523	3 449
Angola	5 017	84	4 726	207
Botswana	43 471	386	42 571	514
DRC	2 130	64	1 982	84
Lesotho	110 356	2 145	107 691	520
Madagascar	302	9	284	9

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

Country of residence	Total	Purpose of visit (May 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
Malawi	9 907	239	9 624	44
Mauritius	1 289	88	1 192	9
Mozambique	102 485	7 925	94 461	99
Namibia	17 327	2 294	14 372	661
Seychelles	325	4	319	2
Swaziland	73 137	384	72 045	708
Tanzania	2 771	86	2 648	37
Zambia	13 726	1 035	12 581	110
Zimbabwe	169 448	2 976	166 027	445
'Other' African	14 814	974	13 307	533
East and Central Africa	5 672	472	4 931	269
Burundi	97	4	91	2
Cameroon	315	27	272	16
Central African Republic	14	1	12	1
Chad	55	4	50	1
Comoros	16	1	14	1
Congo	265	10	236	19
Djibouti	3	-	2	1
Equatorial Guinea	54	-	51	3
Eritrea	64	1	60	3
Ethiopia	604	25	569	10
Gabon	484	12	421	51
Kenya	2 392	287	2 002	103
Reunion	4	-	4	-
Rwanda	148	4	131	13
Sao Tome and Principe	25	-	17	8
Somalia	14	1	13	-
Uganda	1 118	95	986	37

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

Country of residence	Total	Purpose of visit (May 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	7 896	360	7 329	207
Benin	161	5	152	4
Burkina Faso	76	2	73	1
Cape Verde Island	55	1	54	-
Côte d'Ivoire	140	13	122	5
Gambia	54	4	50	-
Ghana	1 626	66	1 540	20
Guinea	157	4	152	1
Guinea-Bissau	9	-	9	-
Liberia	51	2	45	4
Mali	58	2	56	-
Mauritania	15	2	13	-
Niger	23	1	21	1
Nigeria	5 122	240	4 715	167
Saint Helena	35	-	35	-
Senegal	205	13	191	1
Sierra Leone	63	4	59	-
Togo	46	1	42	3
North Africa	1 246	142	1 047	57
Algeria	97	6	89	2
Egypt	512	79	429	4
Libya	191	10	139	42
Morocco	113	13	99	1
South Sudan	115	10	103	2
The Sudan	122	12	104	6
Tunisia	94	12	82	-
Western Sahara	2	-	2	-
Unspecified	1 274	39	1 232	3

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

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (May 2014)			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	714 121	146 344	551 691	14 814	1 274
	<15	32 627	7 120	24 969	532	7
	15-64	650 593	122 160	513 163	14 016	1 255
	65+	30 901	17 064	13 559	266	12
Male	Total	402 448	84 753	306 601	10 291	805
	<15	16 174	3 650	12 244	277	4
	15-64	370 953	71 869	288 467	9 826	792
	65+	15 321	9 234	5 890	188	9
Female	Total	311 673	61 591	245 090	4 523	469
	<15	16 453	3 470	12 725	255	3
	15-64	279 640	50 291	224 696	4 190	463
	65+	15 580	7 830	7 669	78	3

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 May 2014, the DHA data was 1,8% higher 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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Enquiries

Telephone: (012) 310 8600/ 8390/ 8351/ 4892/ 8496/ 8095 (user information services)
(012) 310 8692 (technical enquiries)
(012) 310 8161 (orders)
(012) 310 4883/4885/8018 (library)

Fax: (012) 310 8500/ 8495 (user information services)
(012) 310 6937 (technical enquiries)

Email: tshwarog@statssa.gov.za (technical enquiries)
info@statssa.gov.za (user information services)
distribution@statssa.gov.za (orders)

Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

Produced by Stats SA