



The South Africa I know, the home I understand

Statistical release

P0351

Tourism and Migration

May 2015

**Embargoed until:
31 August 2015
14:30**

Enquiries:

User Information Services
Tel.: (012) 310 8600 / 4892 / 8390

Forthcoming issue:

June 2015

Expected release date:

September 2015

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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 2015. 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.

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Statistician-General

1. Key findings

1.1 Travellers

1.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 3 235 461 travellers (arrivals, departures and transit) passed through South African ports of entry in May 2015. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 859 166 South African residents and 2 376 295 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 436 323 arrivals, 421 985 departures and 858 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers was 1 202 795, 1 106 591 and 66 909 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in May 2014 and May 2015 indicates that the volume of departures increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. Travellers in transit increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents increased by 1,0% (from 431 876 in May 2014 to 436 323 in May 2015), departures increased by 0,8% (from 418 737 in May 2014 to 421 985 in May 2015), and South African residents in transit increased by 26,4% (from 679 in May 2014 to 858 in May 2015). Foreign arrivals increased by 0,4% (from 1 198 052 in May 2014 to 1 202 795 in May 2015), foreign departures decreased by 2,4% (from 1 133 326 in May 2014 to 1 106 591 in May 2015), and foreign travellers in transit decreased by 6,9% (from 71 878 in May 2014 to 66 909 in May 2015).

A comparison between the movements in April 2015 and May 2015 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures for South African residents decreased. For foreign travellers, the volume of arrivals increased while departures decreased. The volume of travellers in transit increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents decreased by 6,6% (from 467 372 in April 2015 to 436 323 in May 2015), departures decreased by 11,1% (from 474 853 in April 2015 to 421 985 in May 2015) and South African residents in transit increased by 20,0% (from 715 in April 2015 to 858 in May 2015). Foreign arrivals increased by 2,9% (from 1 169 290 in April 2015 to 1 202 795 in May 2015), foreign departures decreased by 1,6% (from 1 124 179 in April 2015 to 1 106 591 in May 2015), and foreign travellers in transit increased by 21,6% (from 55 046 in April 2015 to 66 909 in May 2015).

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 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 2015, 89 257 (7,4%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 113 538 (92,6%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in May 2015 but did not depart in May 2015 [226 928 (20,4%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came once in May 2015 and left in May 2015 [427 636 (38,4%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came and left more than once in May 2015 [458 974 (41,2%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In May 2015, there were 428 131 (38,4%) same-day visitors and 685 407 (61,6%) tourists. Between May 2014 and May 2015, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 3,9% (from 445 429 in May 2014 to 428 131 in May 2015) and that of tourists decreased by 4,0% (from 714 121 in May 2014 to 685 407 in May 2015). Between April 2015 and May 2015, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 17,1% (from 365 608 in April 2015 to 428 131 in May 2015), and tourists decreased by 4,7% (from 719 557 in April 2015 to 685 407 in May 2015).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 10 show that in May 2015, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 399 612 (74,2%) out of the 3 235 461 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 826 385 (25,5%). The arrivals data for South African residents show that 172 658 (39,6%) came by air and 263 244 (60,3%) came by road. For departures, 163 991 (38,9%) and 257 718 (61,1%) used air and road transport respectively. All travellers in transit (858) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 206 424 (17,2%) arrived by air while 992 532 (82,5%) came by road. When departing South Africa, 215 545 (19,5%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 886 118 (80,1%) left by road. All travellers in transit, (66 909) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [410 622 (95,9%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 17 497 (4,1%) of same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that 514 477 (75,1%) used road transport while 170 832 (24,9%) 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 11. In May 2015, 123 635 (89,4%) of overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 14 544 (10,5%) 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 [498 874 (93,5%)]. Only 34 485 (6,5%) 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 11 645 (92,5%); with 932 (7,4%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In May 2015, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows; Europe, 67 486 (48,8%); North America, 32 259 (23,3%); Asia, 23 899 (17,3%); Australasia, 8 516 (6,2%); Central and South America, 3 834 (2,8%); and Middle East, 2 264 (1,6%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 7 indicate that the United States of America (USA), 28 279 (20,5%); United Kingdom (UK), 20 895 (15,1%); Germany, 10 860 (7,9%); India, 10 414 (7,5%); France, 7 748 (5,6%); Australia, 7 295 (5,3%); The Netherlands, 6 097 (4,4%); China, 5 501 (4,0%); Canada, 3 980 (2,9%) and Italy, 3 018 (2,2%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in May 2015. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 75,3% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison between movements in May 2014 and May 2015 shows that, with the exception of France and The Netherlands where the number of tourists increased, the number of tourists decreased in all the other eight leading overseas countries. Italy had the largest decrease of 19,0% (from 3 727 tourists in May 2014 to 3 018 in May 2015) while the USA had the lowest decrease of 1,6% (from 28 734 tourists in May 2014 to 28 279 in May 2015).

Virtually all tourists, 533 361 (97,7%), from Africa came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 6 658 (1,2%); East and Central Africa, 4 842 (0,9%); and North Africa 1 094 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in May 2015 were Zimbabwe, 148 246 (27,8%); Lesotho, 117 318 (22,0%); Mozambique, 101 639 (19,1%); Swaziland, 72 100 (13,5%); Botswana, 43 145 (8,1%); Namibia, 18 085 (3,4%); Zambia, 13 144 (2,5%); Malawi, 9 568 (1,8%); Angola, 3 741 (0,7%) and Tanzania, 2 655 (0,5%) (see Figure 2 on page 7). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,3% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in May 2014 and May 2015 for the ten leading countries shows that, with the exception of Lesotho and Namibia where the number of tourists increased by 6,3% (from 110 356 in May 2014 to 117 318 in May 2015) and 4,4% (from 17 327 in May 2014 to 18 085 in May 2015) for Lesotho and Namibia respectively, the number of tourists decreased in all the other eight leading SADC countries. Angola showed the largest decrease of 25,4% (from 5 017 tourists in May 2014 to 3 741 tourists in May 2015).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in May 2015 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8, were Nigeria, 4 315 (34,3%); Kenya, 2 058 (16,3%); Ghana, 1 302 (10,3%); Uganda, 914 (7,3%); Egypt, 576 (4,6%); Ethiopia, 566 (4,5%); Gabon, 401 (3,2%); Cameroon, 319 (2,5%); Congo, 278 (2,2%); and Senegal, 178 (1,4%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 86,6% of all tourists from 'other African' countries. A comparison between movements in May 2014 and May 2015 shows that, with the exception of Egypt, Congo and Cameroon, where the number of tourists increased, the number of tourists decreased in the other seven leading 'other' African countries. Egypt had the largest increase of 12,5% (from 512 in May 2014 to 576 in May 2015), while Ghana had the largest decrease of 19,9% (from 1 626 in May 2014 to 1 302 in May 2015).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on page 15, in May 2015, the majority of tourists, 653 420 (95,3%), were in South Africa for holidays compared to 27 663 (4,0%) and 4 324 (0,6%) 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 8 218 (96,5%) tourists from Australasia, 31 007 (96,1%) from North America, 3 681 (96,0%) from Central and South America, 62 483 (92,6%) from Europe, 21 993 (92,0%) from Asia, and 2 010 (88,8%) from the Middle East were in South Africa for holidays. The Middle East had the highest proportions of tourists who came to South Africa for business [9,6% (218)] and study [1,6% (36)] purposes compared to other overseas regions.

The majority of African tourists, 522 951 (95,8%) came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries namely:

- Whereas 511 665 (95,9%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holiday; 11 286 (89,6%) 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 91,4% (6 088); 88,8% (4 300) and 82,1% (898) for West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 7,2% (901) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 3,5% (18 489) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 14,6% (160) of its tourists in South Africa who came for business purposes.
- Students made up 3,2% (407) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,6% (3 207) from the SADC countries. East and central Africa had the highest proportion, 3,5% (170) of student tourists in South Africa.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in May 2015, there were 388 891 (56,7%) male and 296 516 (43,3%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 80 687 (58,4%) male tourists and 57 571 (41,6%) female tourists. There were 298 853 (56,0%) male and 234 508 (44,0%) female tourists from the SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 8 615 (68,4%) male and 3 979 (31,6%) female tourists.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into three broad groups: those younger than 15 years, 15 to 64 years, and 65 years and older. The overall results presented in Table 5 show that 30 344 (4,4%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 626 330 (91,4%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 28 733 (4,2%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 116 554 (84,3%) of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 496 642 (93,1%) and 11 967 (95,0%) 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 countries 4,9% (6 770) than among tourists from SADC countries, 4,3% (23 200) and those from 'other' African countries, 2,9% (370).

A comparison of the three regions shows relatively higher proportions of the elderly among both male and female tourists from overseas. Tourists aged 65 years and older comprised 10,1% (8 121) of male tourists and 11,8% (6 813) of female tourists. 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 4,0% of both male and female tourists. From the SADC countries elderly tourists made up 2,0% (6 036) and 3,2% (7 483) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other African' countries elderly tourists made up 2,0% (170) and 2,2% (87) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in May 2014 and May 2015

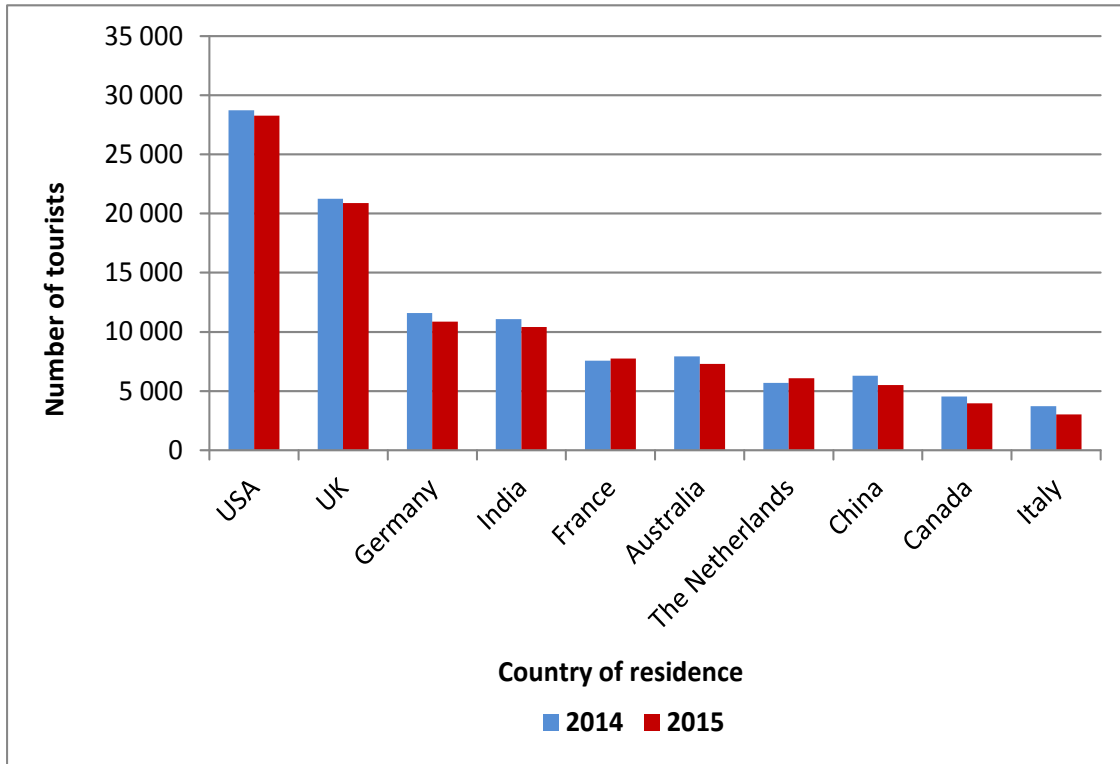


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in May 2014 and May 2015

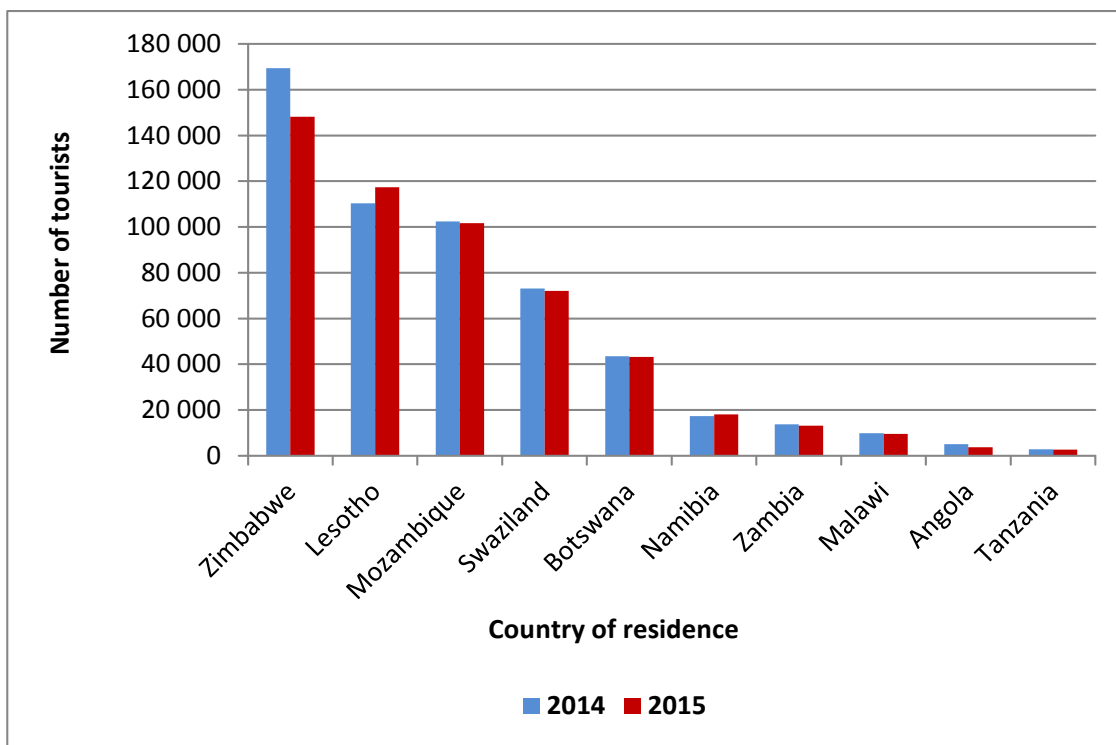
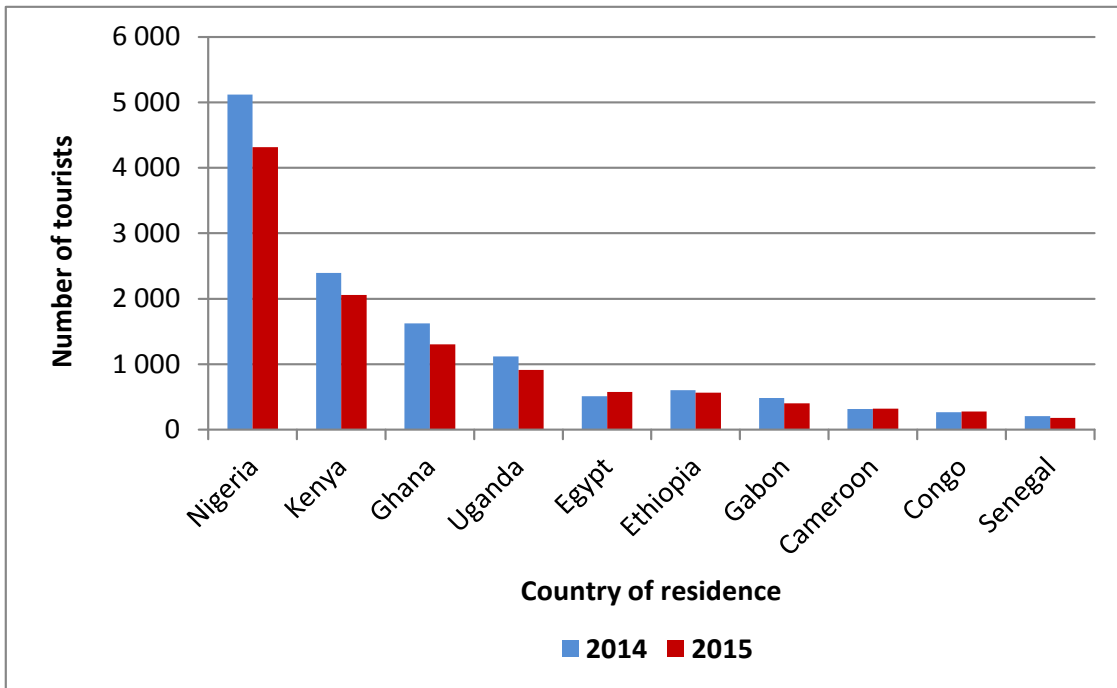


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading ‘other’ African countries in May 2014 and May 2015



3. Tables

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

Travel direction	May	April	May	% Change	% Change
	2014	2015	2015	April - May 2015	May 2014 – May 2015
Total	3 254 548	3 291 455	3 235 461	-1,7%	-0,6%
South African residents	851 292	942 940	859 166	-8,9%	0,9%
Arrivals	431 876	467 372	436 323	-6,6%	1,0%
Departures	418 737	474 853	421 985	-11,1%	0,8%
Transit	679	715	858	20,0%	26,4%
Foreign travellers	2 403 256	2 348 515	2 376 295	1,2%	-1,1%
Arrivals	1 198 052	1 169 290	1 202 795	2,9%	0,4%
Departures	1 133 326	1 124 179	1 106 591	-1,6%	-2,4%
Transit	71 878	55 046	66 909	21,6%	-6,9%
Foreign Arrivals	1 198 052	1 169 290	1 202 795	2,9%	0,4%
Non-visitors	38 502	84 125	89 257	6,1%	131,8%
Visitors	1 159 550	1 085 165	1 113 538	2,6%	-4,0%
Visitors	1 159 550	1 085 165	1 113 538	2,6%	-4,0%
Arrivals only	311 709	265 842	226 928	-14,6%	-27,2%
Single trips	456 544	427 211	427 636	0,1%	-6,3%
Multiple trips	391 297	392 112	458 974	17,1%	17,3%
Visitors	1 159 550	1 085 165	1 113 538	2,6%	-4,0%
Same day	445 429	365 608	428 131	17,1%	-3,9%
Tourists	714 121	719 557	685 407	-4,7%	-4,0%

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

Travel Direction	Total	Mode of travel (May 2015)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	3 235 461	105 216	22 137	690 995	8 037	826 385	2 399 612	9 464
South African residents	859 166	44 826	15 195	272 151	5 335	337 507	520 962	697
Arrivals	436 323	21 631	7 934	140 430	2 663	172 658	263 244	421
Departures	421 985	23 194	7 261	130 864	2 672	163 991	257 718	276
Transit	858	1	-	857	-	858	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 376 295	60 390	6 942	418 844	2 702	488 878	1 878 650	8 767
Arrivals	1 202 795	28 984	3 492	172 748	1 200	206 424	992 532	3 839
Departures	1 106 591	31 385	3 448	179 210	1 502	215 545	886 118	4 928
Transit	66 909	21	2	66 886	-	66 909	-	-
Visitors	1 113 538	26 500	2 586	158 446	797	188 329	925 099	110
Same day	428 131	329	16	17 070	82	17 497	410 622	12
Tourists	685 407	26 171	2 570	141 376	715	170 832	514 477	98

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

Country of residence	May		Mode of travel (May 2015)						
	2014	2015	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	714 121	685 407	26 171	2 570	141 376	715	170 832	514 477	98
Overseas	146 342	138 258	22 884	2 097	98 117	537	123 635	14 544	79
Europe	68 922	67 486	12 227	1 276	45 103	130	58 736	8 693	57
Austria	894	850	163	17	586	4	770	80	-
Belgium	1 792	1 874	326	17	1 262	2	1 607	267	-
Denmark	1 039	1 130	180	7	848	-	1 035	95	-
France	7 554	7 748	1 272	95	4 913	5	6 285	1 458	5
Germany	11 601	10 860	1 423	142	7 979	12	9 556	1 304	-
Ireland	1 380	1 613	430	58	977	2	1 467	146	-
Italy	3 727	3 018	655	56	2 055	7	2 773	245	-
Portugal	3 334	2 926	375	26	1 508	4	1 913	1 013	-
Spain	1 942	1 713	317	23	1 230	2	1 572	141	-
Sweden	1 296	1 317	244	10	914	-	1 168	149	-
Switzerland	1 843	2 036	372	21	1 336	38	1 767	268	1
The Netherlands	5 677	6 097	1 496	65	3 323	11	4 895	1 200	2
Turkey	962	1 021	212	2	751	-	965	56	-
UK	21 264	20 895	3 895	671	14 467	41	19 074	1 781	40
Other	4 617	4 388	867	66	2 954	2	3 889	490	9
North America	33 290	32 259	5 059	191	23 980	332	29 562	2 693	4
Canada	4 556	3 980	850	43	2 591	27	3 511	469	-
USA	28 734	28 279	4 209	148	21 389	305	26 051	2 224	4
Central and South America	5 871	3 834	182	13	3 159	9	3 363	471	-
Argentina	463	366	13	-	323	-	336	30	-
Brazil	3 881	2 434	86	7	2 008	2	2 103	331	-
Mexico	346	196	34	-	154	3	191	5	-
Other	1 181	838	49	6	674	4	733	105	-

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

Country of residence	May		Mode of travel (May 2015)						
	2014	2015	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	9 322	8 516	509	109	7 256	53	7 927	589	-
Australia	7 941	7 295	395	88	6 291	43	6 817	478	-
New Zealand	1 362	1 199	114	21	948	10	1 093	106	-
Other	19	22	-	-	17	-	17	5	-
Middle East	2 426	2 264	310	25	1 832	-	2 167	97	-
Israel	1 180	976	48	1	873	-	922	54	-
Lebanon	221	233	29	3	183	-	215	18	-
Saudi Arabia	379	353	53	2	296	-	351	2	-
Other	646	702	180	19	480	-	679	23	-
Asia	26 511	23 899	4 597	483	16 787	13	21 880	2 001	18
China	6 311	5 501	643	47	4 427	2	5 119	382	-
India	11 090	10 414	2 385	274	7 004	8	9 671	740	3
Japan	2 211	1 716	192	29	1 434	-	1 655	61	-
Malaysia	1 016	1 152	557	25	563	-	1 145	7	-
Pakistan	1 141	1 489	369	42	744	-	1 155	334	-
Philippines	619	422	31	10	324	-	365	52	5
Singapore	905	475	130	5	333	2	470	5	-
South Korea	1 094	943	87	7	699	-	793	150	-
Taiwan	516	439	15	2	367	-	384	55	-
Thailand	524	412	89	13	294	1	397	7	8
Other	1 084	936	99	29	598	-	726	208	2
Africa	566 505	545 955	3 226	471	42 255	178	46 130	499 806	19
SADC	551 691	533 361	2 996	421	30 913	155	34 485	498 874	2
Angola	5 017	3 741	880	-	2 706	13	3 599	142	-
Botswana	43 471	43 145	118	6	2 028	42	2 194	40 951	-
DRC	2 130	1 788	11	2	1 280	-	1 293	495	-
Lesotho	110 356	117 318	3	-	426	-	429	116 889	-
Madagascar	302	252	2	-	244	-	246	5	1

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

Country of residence	May		Mode of travel (May 2015)						
			Air				Road	Sea	
	2014	2015	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other			Total
Malawi	9 907	9 568	2	2	1 673	6	1 683	7 885	-
Mauritius	1 289	1 236	109	101	914	-	1 124	112	-
Mozambique	102 485	101 639	8	82	3 092	12	3 194	98 445	-
Namibia	17 327	18 085	1 775	2	3 307	17	5 101	12 983	1
Seychelles	325	444	4	6	419	-	429	15	-
Swaziland	73 137	72 100	-	1	495	31	527	71 573	-
Tanzania	2 771	2 655	7	1	1 638	1	1 647	1 008	-
Zambia	13 726	13 144	10	76	3 517	2	3 605	9 539	-
Zimbabwe	169 448	148 246	67	142	9 174	31	9 414	138 832	-
'Other' African	14 814	12 594	230	50	11 342	23	11 645	932	17
East and Central Africa	5 672	4 842	40	9	4 432	17	4 498	344	-
Burundi	97	40	2	-	35	-	37	3	-
Cameroon	315	319	4	2	284	-	290	29	-
Central African Republic	14	8	-	-	8	-	8	-	-
Chad	55	29	-	-	29	-	29	-	-
Comoros	16	20	-	-	20	-	20	-	-
Congo	265	278	2	-	270	-	272	6	-
Djibouti	3	6	-	-	6	-	6	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	54	23	-	-	23	-	23	-	-
Eritrea	64	77	1	-	68	-	69	8	-
Ethiopia	604	566	8	5	494	-	507	59	-
Gabon	484	401	-	-	389	8	397	4	-
Kenya	2 392	2 058	12	-	1 893	9	1 914	144	-
Réunion	4	5	5	-	-	-	5	-	-
Rwanda	148	67	-	1	60	-	61	6	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	25	5	1	-	4	-	5	-	-
Somalia	14	26	1	-	24	-	25	1	-
Uganda	1 118	914	4	1	825	-	830	84	-

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

Country of residence	May		Mode of travel (May 2015)						
			Air					Road	Sea
	2014	2015	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	7 896	6 658	77	19	5 999	4	6 099	542	17
Benin	161	165	-	-	164	-	164	1	-
Burkina Faso	76	50	2	-	48	-	50	-	-
Cape Verde Island	55	52	3	-	45	-	48	4	-
Côte d'Ivoire	140	169	3	-	160	-	163	6	-
Gambia	54	40	-	-	37	1	38	2	-
Ghana	1 626	1 302	26	3	1 170	-	1 199	103	-
Guinea	157	117	-	-	46	-	46	71	-
Guinea-Bissau	9	8	-	-	8	-	8	-	-
Liberia	51	46	-	-	44	-	44	2	-
Mali	58	80	1	-	44	-	45	35	-
Mauritania	15	19	2	-	17	-	19	-	-
Niger	23	22	2	-	18	-	20	2	-
Nigeria	5 122	4 315	33	16	3 959	3	4 011	304	-
Saint Helena	35	21	3	-	-	-	3	1	17
Senegal	205	178	-	-	175	-	175	3	-
Sierra Leone	63	37	2	-	27	-	29	8	-
Togo	46	37	-	-	37	-	37	-	-
North Africa	1 246	1 094	113	22	911	2	1 048	46	-
Algeria	97	95	12	6	70	-	88	7	-
Egypt	512	576	43	10	503	-	556	20	-
Libya	191	55	14	2	30	-	46	9	-
Morocco	113	103	19	3	76	-	98	5	-
South Sudan	115	92	1	-	89	-	90	2	-
The Sudan	122	99	12	-	83	2	97	2	-
Tunisia	94	67	12	1	53	-	66	1	-
Western Sahara	2	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-
Unspecified	1 274	1 194	61	2	1 004	-	1 067	127	-

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

Country of residence	May		Purpose of visit		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
Total	714 121	685 407	27 663	653 420	4 324
Overseas	146 342	138 258	8 156	129 392	710
Europe	68 922	67 486	4 648	62 483	355
Austria	894	850	76	770	4
Belgium	1 792	1 874	138	1 719	17
Denmark	1 039	1 130	66	1 059	5
France	7 554	7 748	383	7 277	88
Germany	11 601	10 860	599	10 217	44
Ireland	1 380	1 613	142	1 467	4
Italy	3 727	3 018	300	2 705	13
Portugal	3 334	2 926	117	2 799	10
Spain	1 942	1 713	163	1 536	14
Sweden	1 296	1 317	138	1 175	4
Switzerland	1 843	2 036	87	1 940	9
The Netherlands	5 677	6 097	313	5 762	22
Turkey	962	1 021	117	890	14
UK	21 264	20 895	1 637	19 181	77
Other	4 617	4 388	372	3 986	30
North America	33 290	32 259	1 134	31 007	118
Canada	4 556	3 980	169	3 798	13
USA	28 734	28 279	965	27 209	105
Central and South America	5 871	3 834	133	3 681	20
Argentina	463	366	11	354	1
Brazil	3 881	2 434	68	2 355	11
Mexico	346	196	16	179	1
Other	1 181	838	38	793	7

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

Country of residence	May		Purpose of visit (May 2015)		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	9 322	8 516	278	8 218	20
Australia	7 941	7 295	247	7 030	18
New Zealand	1 362	1 199	30	1 167	2
Other	19	22	1	21	-
Middle East	2 426	2 264	218	2 010	36
Israel	1 180	976	57	917	2
Lebanon	221	233	36	196	1
Saudi Arabia	379	353	25	317	11
Other	646	702	100	580	22
Asia	26 511	23 899	1 745	21 993	161
China	6 311	5 501	443	5 018	40
India	11 090	10 414	676	9 668	70
Japan	2 211	1 716	173	1 542	1
Malaysia	1 016	1 152	90	1 060	2
Pakistan	1 141	1 489	104	1 377	8
Philippines	619	422	18	396	8
Singapore	905	475	48	427	-
South Korea	1 094	943	60	873	10
Taiwan	516	439	25	413	1
Thailand	524	412	23	387	2
Other	1 084	936	85	832	19
Africa	566 505	545 955	19 390	522 951	3 614
SADC	551 691	533 361	18 489	511 665	3 207
Angola	5 017	3 741	103	3 399	239
Botswana	43 471	43 145	397	42 280	468
DRC	2 130	1 788	68	1 621	99
Lesotho	110 356	117 318	1 256	115 515	547
Madagascar	302	252	13	235	4

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

Country of residence	May		Purpose of visit (May 2015)		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
Malawi	9 907	9 568	207	9 306	55
Mauritius	1 289	1 236	96	1 128	12
Mozambique	102 485	101 639	10 244	91 292	103
Namibia	17 327	18 085	2 139	15 475	471
Seychelles	325	444	8	433	3
Swaziland	73 137	72 100	449	71 021	630
Tanzania	2 771	2 655	81	2 535	39
Zambia	13 726	13 144	965	12 093	86
Zimbabwe	169 448	148 246	2 463	145 332	451
'Other' African	14 814	12 594	901	11 286	407
East and Central Africa	5 672	4 842	372	4 300	170
Burundi	97	40	2	37	1
Cameroon	315	319	32	274	13
Central African Republic	14	8	-	8	-
Chad	55	29	-	28	1
Comoros	16	20	1	19	-
Congo	265	278	7	242	29
Djibouti	3	6	-	6	-
Equatorial Guinea	54	23	2	19	2
Eritrea	64	77	2	74	1
Ethiopia	604	566	32	526	8
Gabon	484	401	4	375	22
Kenya	2 392	2 058	215	1 783	60
Réunion	4	5	-	5	-
Rwanda	148	67	3	59	5
São Tomé and Príncipe	25	5	-	5	-
Somalia	14	26	1	24	1
Uganda	1 118	914	71	816	27

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

Country of residence	May		Purpose of visit (May 2015)		
	2014	2015	Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	7 896	6 658	369	6 088	201
Benin	161	165	8	154	3
Burkina Faso	76	50	2	48	-
Cape Verde Island	55	52	2	50	-
Côte d'Ivoire	140	169	14	154	1
Gambia	54	40	4	36	-
Ghana	1 626	1 302	83	1 187	32
Guinea	157	117	1	116	-
Guinea-Bissau	9	8	-	8	-
Liberia	51	46	3	42	1
Mali	58	80	3	75	2
Mauritania	15	19	3	16	-
Niger	23	22	3	19	-
Nigeria	5 122	4 315	218	3 937	160
Saint Helena	35	21	-	21	-
Senegal	205	178	18	160	-
Sierra Leone	63	37	3	33	1
Togo	46	37	4	32	1
North Africa	1 246	1 094	160	898	36
Algeria	97	95	14	80	1
Egypt	512	576	99	468	9
Libya	191	55	-	43	12
Morocco	113	103	26	77	-
South Sudan	115	92	7	80	5
The Sudan	122	99	8	83	8
Tunisia	94	67	5	61	1
Western Sahara	2	7	1	6	-
Unspecified	1 274	1 194	117	1 077	-

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

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (May 2015)			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	685 407	138 258	533 361	12 594	1 194
	< 15	30 344	6 770	23 200	370	4
	15-64	626 330	116 554	496 642	11 967	1 167
	65+	28 733	14 934	13 519	257	23
Male	Total	388 891	80 687	298 853	8 615	736
	< 15	15 350	3 509	11 660	179	2
	15-64	359 197	69 057	281 157	8 266	717
	65+	14 344	8 121	6 036	170	17
Female	Total	296 516	57 571	234 508	3 979	458
	< 15	14 994	3 261	11 540	191	2
	15-64	267 133	47 497	215 485	3 701	450
	65+	14 389	6 813	7 483	87	6

4. Explanatory notes

NOTICE TO USERS

Statistics South (Stats SA) 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. 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). Stats SA then processes, analyses and publishes this information.

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

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

4.2 Purpose of the statistical release

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

4.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data collected by DHA officials on travellers who entered the Republic of South Africa (RSA) 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 2015, the DHA data was 1,1% 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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