



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 October 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 3 284 188 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through South African ports of entry in October 2014. As presented in Table 1 on page 8, these travellers were made up of 872 862 South African residents and 2 411 326 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 440 730 arrivals, 431 378 departures and 754 travellers in transit. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers were 1 233 249, 1 108 479 and 69 598, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in September 2014 and October 2014 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. Furthermore the travellers in transit decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents increased by 1,9% (from 432 682 in September 2014 to 440 730 in October 2014) while departures increased by 0,04% (from 431 199 in September 2014 to 431 378 in October 2014) and South African residents in transit decreased by 8,6% (from 825 in September 2014 to 754 in October 2014). Foreign arrivals increased by 1,9% (from 1 210 682 in September 2014 to 1 233 249 in October 2014), foreign departures increased by 0,6% (from 1 101 855 in September 2014 to 1 108 479 in October 2014) and foreign travellers in transit decreased by 2,1% (from 71 116 in September 2014 to 69 598 in October 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 October 2014, 32 205 (2,6%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 201 044 (97,4%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. arrivals only – comprising of visitors who entered the country in October 2014 but did not depart in October 2014 [358 339 (29,8%)];
- ii. single trips – visitors who came once in October 2014 and left in October 2014 [400 016 (33,3%)]; and
- iii. multiple trips – visitors who came and left more than once in October 2014 [442 689 (36,9%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In October 2014, there were 380 369 (31,7%) same-day visitors and 820 675 (68,3%) tourists. Between September 2014 and October 2014, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 8,9% (from 417 347 in September 2014 to 380 369 in October 2014) and tourists increased by 9,0% (from 752 681 in September 2014 to 820 675 in October 2014).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 9 show that in October 2014, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 369 244 (72,1%) out of the 3 284 188 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 903 894 (27,5%). The arrivals data for South African residents show that 173 532 (39,4%) came by air and 266 739 (60,5%) came by road. For departures, 151 902 (35,2%) and 277 766 (64,4%) used air and road transport respectively. All travellers in transit used air transport (754).

In the case of foreign travellers, 261 882 (21,2%) arrived by air while those who came by road were 966 783 (78,4%). When departing South Africa, 246 226 (22,2%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 857 956 (77,4%) left by road. All travellers in transit used air transport (69 598). Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [361 162 (95,0%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 19 128 (5,0%) same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that, 593 157 (72,3%) used road transport while 226 990 (27,7%) 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 October 2014, 177 552 (85,3%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 30 194 (14,5%) 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 [561 476 (94,1%)]. Only 35 101 (5,9%) 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 13 047 (91,4%); with 1 215 (8,5%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In October 2014, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows; Europe, 140 786 (67,6%); North America, 31 290 (15,0%); Asia, 18 383 (8,8%); Australasia, 10 113 (4,9%); Central and South America, 4 455 (2,1%); and Middle East, 3 236 (1,6%). Virtually all tourists from Africa came from the SADC countries, [596 582 (97,7%)]. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, [7 853 (1,3%)]; East and Central Africa, 5 282 (0,9%); and North Africa 1 132 (0,2%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 6 indicate that, the United Kingdom (UK), 35 206 (16,9%); Germany, 32 916 (15,8%); United States of America (USA), 25 235 (12,1%); The Netherlands, 15 797 (7,6%); France, 15 593 (7,5%); Australia, 8 256 (4,0%); India, 6 465 (3,1%); Switzerland, 6 239 (3,0%); Canada, 6 055 (2,9%) and Belgium, 4 888 (2,3%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in October 2014. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 75,2% of all tourists from overseas countries.

The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in October 2014 were Zimbabwe, 169 006 (28,3%); Lesotho, 133 158 (22,3%); Mozambique, 110 392 (18,5%); Swaziland, 79 421 (13,3%); Botswana, 44 780 (7,5%); Namibia, 18 113 (3,0%); Malawi, 15 628 (2,6%); Zambia, 14 859 (2,5%); Angola, 3 879 (0,6%) and Tanzania, 3 364 (0,6%) (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 October 2014 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 7, were Nigeria, 5 214 (36,5%); Kenya, 2 289 (16,0%); Ghana, 1 594 (11,2%); Uganda, 895 (6,3%); Ethiopia, 612 (4,3%); Egypt, 547 (3,8%); Gabon, 497 (3,5%); Cameroon, 349 (2,4%); Congo, 308 (2,2%) and Senegal, 207 (1,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 87,7% 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 October 2014, a majority of tourists [786 447 (95,8%)] were in South Africa for holidays compared with only 28 844 (3,5%) and 5 384 (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 91,0% came to South Africa for holidays. A total of 9 829 (97,2%) tourists from Australasia; 4 303 (96,6%) from Central and South America; 135 647 (96,3%) from Europe; 30 136 (96,3%) from North America; 3 033 (93,7%) from Middle East and 16 896 (91,9%) from Asia were in South Africa for holidays. Asia (7,2%) and Middle East (5,3%) 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 [585 114 (95,8%)] came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries namely:

- Whereas 572 178 (95,9%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holidays; 12 936 (90,7%) 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 93,4% (7 335); 87,9% (4 641) and 84,8% (960) for West Africa; East and central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 6,1% (868) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 3,4% (20 396) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion [10,2% (115)] of its tourists in South Africa for business.
- Students made up 3,2% (463) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,7% (4 008) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa [5,0% (264)] and North Africa [5,0% (57)] had the highest proportions of student tourists in South Africa.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 18 shows that in October 2014, there were 459 751 (56,0%) male and 360 924 (44,0%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 112 280 (53,9%) male tourists and 95 983 (46,1%) female tourists. There were 336 860 (56,5%) male and 259 722 (43,5%) female tourists from the SADC countries. The tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 9 682 (67,9%) males and 4 585 (32,1%) 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 37 135 (4,5%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 735 313 (89,6%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 48 227 (5,9%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 162 408 (78,0%) of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 557 901 (93,5%) and 13 455 (94,3%) 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 [5,7% (11 844)] than among tourists from SADC countries [4,2% (24 766)] and those from 'other' African countries [3,7% (521)].

A comparison of the three regions shows relatively high proportions of the elderly among both male [15,5% (17 362)] and female [17,3% (16 649)] tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to the pattern observed among tourists from the other two regions. Thus, 1,9% (6 317) of male and 2,9% (7 598) of female tourists from the SADC countries were aged 65 years and older. Likewise 2,0% (196) of male and 2,1% (95) 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 October 2014

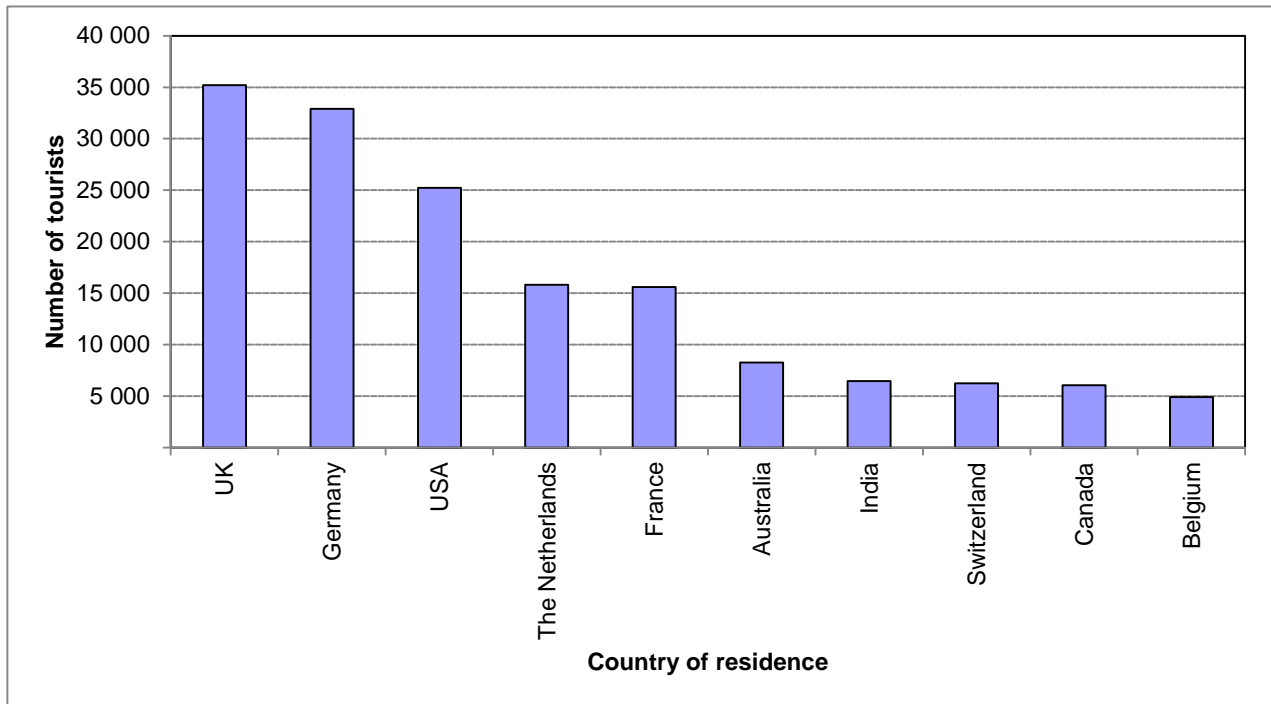


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in October 2014

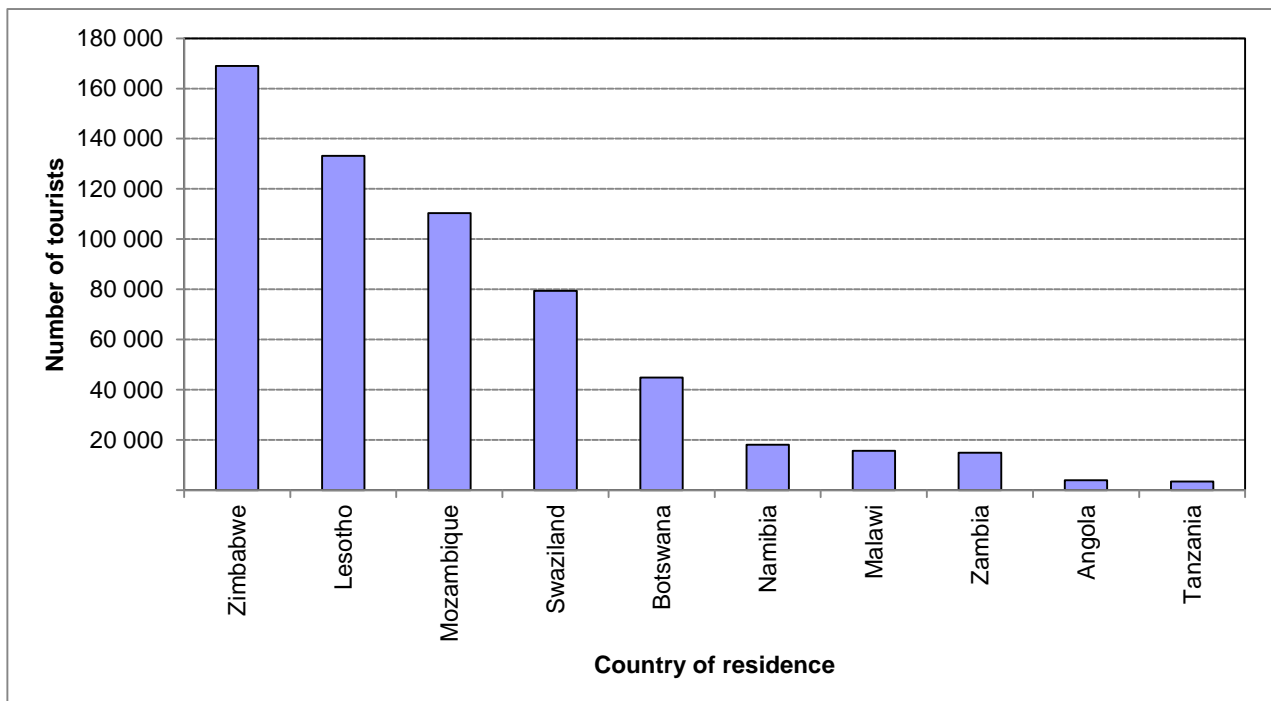
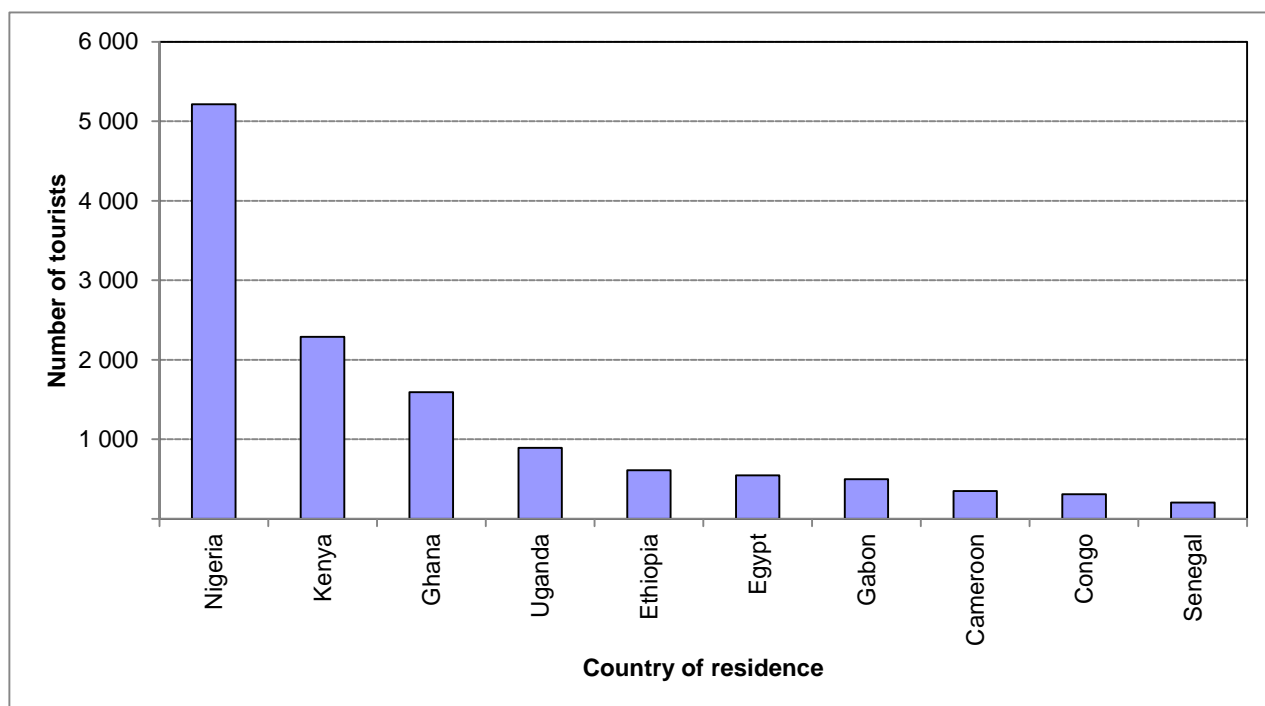


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in October 2014

3. Tables

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

Travel direction	September	October	% change
	2014	2014	September 2014 – October 2014
Total	3 248 359	3 284 188	1,1
South African residents	864 706	872 862	0,9
Arrivals	432 682	440 730	1,9
Departures	431 199	431 378	0,0
Transit	825	754	-8,6
Foreign travellers	2 383 653	2 411 326	1,2
Arrivals	1 210 682	1 233 249	1,9
Departures	1 101 855	1 108 479	0,6
Transit	71 116	69 598	-2,1
Foreign arrivals	1 210 682	1 233 249	1,9
Non-visitors	40 654	32 205	-20,8
Visitors	1 170 028	1 201 044	2,7
Visitors	1 170 028	1 201 044	2,7
Arrivals only	347 646	358 339	3,1
Single trips	449 974	400 016	-11,1
Multiple trips	372 408	442 689	18,9
Visitors	1 170 028	1 201 044	2,7
Same day	417 347	380 369	-8,9
Overnight (tourists)	752 681	820 675	9,0

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

Travel Direction	Total	Mode of travel (October 2014)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	3 284 188	127 424	24 913	742 524	9 033	903 894	2 369 244	11 050
South African residents	872 862	38 879	16 066	265 932	5 311	326 188	544 505	2 169
Arrivals	440 730	21 287	8 542	141 102	2 601	173 532	266 739	459
Departures	431 378	17 591	7 524	124 077	2 710	151 902	277 766	1 710
Transit	754	1	-	753		754	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 411 326	88 545	8 847	476 592	3 722	577 706	1 824 739	8 881
Arrivals	1 233 249	47 273	4 361	208 735	1 513	261 882	966 783	4 584
Departures	1 108 479	41 265	4 486	198 266	2 209	246 226	857 956	4 297
Transit	69 598	7	-	69 591		69 598	-	-
Visitors	1 201 044	44 549	3 391	197 019	1 159	246 118	954 319	607
Same day	380 369	639	5	18 369	115	19 128	361 162	79
Overnight (tourists)	820 675	43 910	3 386	178 650	1 044	226 990	593 157	528

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

Country of residence	Total	Mode of travel (October 2014)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	820 675	43 910	3 386	178 650	1 044	226 990	593 157	528
Overseas	208 263	40 754	2 838	133 168	792	177 552	30 194	517
Europe	140 786	33 478	2 151	81 862	233	117 724	22 554	508
Austria	2 395	481	35	1 440	5	1 961	429	5
Belgium	4 888	783	21	3 003	5	3 812	1 074	2
Denmark	2 889	516	20	1 948	1	2 485	403	1
France	15 593	3 588	77	8 572	30	12 267	3 317	9
Germany	32 916	8 141	420	18 805	27	27 393	5 401	122
Ireland	2 186	638	67	1 263	2	1 970	209	7
Italy	4 426	1 134	85	2 786	3	4 008	408	10
Norway	1 702	556	1	930	-	1 487	197	18
Portugal	3 501	406	14	1 701	10	2 131	1 370	-
Spain	2 263	427	27	1 429	19	1 902	361	-
Sweden	4 185	1 146	46	2 599	1	3 792	390	3
Switzerland	6 239	1 898	67	3 255	18	5 238	945	56
The Netherlands	15 797	3 440	160	7 774	7	11 381	4 348	68
UK	35 206	8 758	966	22 172	96	31 992	3 007	207
Other	6 600	1 566	145	4 185	9	5 905	695	
North America	31 290	3 793	222	23 385	458	27 858	3 428	4
Canada	6 055	1 135	38	3 937	22	5 132	920	3
USA	25 235	2 658	184	19 448	436	22 726	2 508	1
Central and South America	4 455	202	14	3 677	20	3 913	542	-
Argentina	347	15	-	293	-	308	39	-
Brazil	2 790	80	7	2 311	13	2 411	379	-
Chile	220	7	1	194	-	202	18	-
Other	1 098	100	6	879	7	992	106	

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

Country of residence	Total	Mode of travel (October 2014)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	10 113	663	101	8 268	46	9 078	1 030	5
Australia	8 256	506	76	6 855	38	7 475	779	2
New Zealand	1 844	156	25	1 402	8	1 591	250	3
Other	13	1		11		12	1	
Middle East	3 236	368	24	2 581	11	2 984	252	-
Israel	2 106	129	-	1 781	5	1 915	191	-
Lebanon	208	38	8	133	-	179	29	-
Saudi Arabia	263	27	2	233	-	262	1	-
Other	659	174	14	434	6	628	31	
Asia	18 383	2 250	326	13 395	24	15 995	2 388	-
China	4 039	523	38	2 980	2	3 543	496	-
India	6 465	794	133	4 739	-	5 666	799	-
Japan	2 896	187	41	2 565	10	2 803	93	-
Malaysia	461	126	44	270	-	440	21	-
Pakistan	949	115	30	445	1	591	358	-
Philippines	460	40	7	301	9	357	103	-
South Korea	807	99	11	586	-	696	111	-
Taiwan	609	74	2	416	-	492	117	-
Thailand	410	45	3	332	-	380	30	-
Other	1 287	247	17	761	2	1 027	260	
Africa	610 849	3 131	544	44 221	252	48 148	562 691	10
SADC	596 582	2 869	486	31 580	166	35 101	561 476	5
Angola	3 876	721	-	2 972	7	3 700	176	-
Botswana	44 780	112	1	2 099	33	2 245	42 535	-
DRC	1 930	7	2	1 383	-	1 392	538	-
Lesotho	133 158	2	3	516	-	521	132 637	-
Madagascar	203	1	-	193	-	194	9	-

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

Country of residence	Total	Mode of travel (October 2014)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Malawi	15 628	6	3	1 679	10	1 698	13 930	-
Mauritius	1 293	197	82	861	5	1 145	148	-
Mozambique	110 392	6	75	3 514	31	3 626	106 766	-
Namibia	18 113	1 717	2	3 235	9	4 963	13 149	1
Seychelles	559	3	1	550	-	554	5	-
Swaziland	79 421	-	3	557	2	562	78 859	-
Tanzania	3 364	10	-	2 225	10	2 245	1 119	-
Zambia	14 859	15	124	4 004	2	4 145	10 714	-
Zimbabwe	169 006	72	190	7 792	57	8 111	160 891	4
'Other' African	14 267	262	58	12 641	86	13 047	1 215	5
East and Central Africa	5 282	68	14	4 596	71	4 749	533	-
Burundi	82	-	-	79	-	79	3	-
Cameroon	349	4	1	311	-	316	33	-
Central African Republic	12	-	-	12	-	12	-	-
Chad	19	-	-	16	3	19	-	-
Comoros	25	-	-	25	-	25	-	-
Congo	308	4	-	232	66	302	6	-
Djibouti	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	37	3	-	34	-	37	-	-
Eritrea	49	2	-	44	-	46	3	-
Ethiopia	612	15	12	524	-	551	61	-
Gabon	497	6	-	486	-	492	5	-
Kenya	2 289	16	1	1 984	2	2 003	286	-
Reunion	7	7	-	-	-	7	-	-
Rwanda	59	-	-	49	-	49	10	-
Sao Tome and Principe	20	2	-	15	-	17	3	-
Somalia	15	-	-	15	-	15	-	-
Uganda	895	9	-	763	-	772	123	-

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

Country of residence	Total	Mode of travel (October 2014)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	7 853	69	14	7 126	15	7 224	624	5
Benin	141	-	-	137	-	137	4	-
Burkina Faso	51	2	-	46	-	48	3	-
Cape Verde Island	63	8	1	46	1	56	7	-
Côte d'Ivoire	146	4	1	138	-	143	3	-
Gambia	55	-	-	50	-	50	5	-
Ghana	1 594	20	6	1 484	-	1 510	84	-
Guinea	127	-	-	38	-	38	89	-
Guinea-Bissau	10	1	-	7	-	8	2	-
Liberia	6	-	-	4	-	4	2	-
Mali	105	-	-	65	11	76	29	-
Mauritania	41	-	-	41	-	41	-	-
Niger	27	-	-	27	-	27	-	-
Nigeria	5 214	29	6	4 791	3	4 829	385	-
Saint Helena	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Senegal	207	1	-	203	-	204	3	-
Sierra Leone	21	4	-	10	-	14	7	-
Togo	40	-	-	39	-	39	1	-
North Africa	1 132	125	30	919	-	1 074	58	-
Algeria	98	6	-	85	-	91	7	-
Egypt	547	53	13	465	-	531	16	-
Libya	65	30	-	18	-	48	17	-
Morocco	116	19	8	83	-	110	6	-
South Sudan	105	-	-	100	-	100	5	-
The Sudan	116	8	3	99	-	110	6	-
Tunisia	77	9	6	61	-	76	1	-
Western Sahara	8	-	-	8	-	8	-	-
Unspecified	1 563	25	4	1 261	-	1 290	272	1

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

Country of residence	Total	Purpose of visit (October 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
Total	820 675	28 844	786 447	5 384
Overseas	208 263	7 506	199 844	913
Europe	140 786	4 584	135 647	555
Austria	2 395	59	2 325	11
Belgium	4 888	147	4 725	16
Denmark	2 889	71	2 807	11
France	15 593	456	15 064	73
Germany	32 916	606	32 219	91
Ireland	2 186	86	2 092	8
Italy	4 426	266	4 129	31
Norway	1 702	49	1 632	21
Portugal	3 501	134	3 349	18
Spain	2 263	153	2 089	21
Sweden	4 185	156	3 999	30
Switzerland	6 239	102	6 120	17
The Netherlands	15 797	324	15 439	34
UK	35 206	1 522	33 551	133
Other	6 600	453	6 107	40
North America	31 290	1 051	30 136	103
Canada	6 055	169	5 865	21
USA	25 235	882	24 271	82
Central and South America	4 455	121	4 303	31
Argentina	347	10	336	1
Brazil	2 790	44	2 724	22
Chile	220	7	213	-
Other	1 098	60	1 030	8

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

Country of residence	Total	Purpose of visit (October 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	10 113	258	9 829	26
Australia	8 256	222	8 010	24
New Zealand	1 844	36	1 806	2
Other	13	-	13	-
Middle East	3 236	171	3 033	32
Israel	2 106	71	2 027	8
Lebanon	208	35	172	1
Saudi Arabia	263	6	256	1
Other	659	59	578	22
Asia	18 383	1 321	16 896	166
China	4 039	316	3 694	29
India	6 465	535	5 885	45
Japan	2 896	188	2 703	5
Malaysia	461	36	417	8
Pakistan	949	49	888	12
Philippines	460	11	438	11
South Korea	807	59	716	32
Taiwan	609	13	592	4
Thailand	410	15	390	5
Other	1 287	99	1 173	15
Africa	610 849	21 264	585 114	4 471
SADC	596 582	20 396	572 178	4 008
Angola	3 876	84	3 595	197
Botswana	44 780	537	43 820	423
DRC	1 930	81	1 718	131
Lesotho	133 158	2 623	129 618	917
Madagascar	203	10	187	6

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

Country of residence	Total	Purpose of visit (October 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
Malawi	15 628	274	15 311	43
Mauritius	1 293	91	1 184	18
Mozambique	110 392	9 914	100 322	156
Namibia	18 113	2 571	15 016	526
Seychelles	559	13	546	-
Swaziland	79 421	469	78 104	848
Tanzania	3 364	138	3 168	58
Zambia	14 859	1 031	13 693	135
Zimbabwe	169 006	2 560	165 896	550
'Other' African	14 267	868	12 936	463
East and Central Africa	5 282	377	4 641	264
Burundi	82	7	75	-
Cameroon	349	20	312	17
Central African Republic	12	2	9	1
Chad	19	1	16	2
Comoros	25	3	20	2
Congo	308	15	273	20
Djibouti	7	-	7	-
Equatorial Guinea	37	4	29	4
Eritrea	49	2	46	1
Ethiopia	612	57	545	10
Gabon	497	10	431	56
Kenya	2 289	194	1 990	105
Reunion	7	-	7	-
Rwanda	59	3	50	6
Sao Tome and Principe	20	1	15	4
Somalia	15	-	14	1
Uganda	895	58	802	35

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

Country of residence	Total	Purpose of visit (October 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	7 853	376	7 335	142
Benin	141	13	128	-
Burkina Faso	51	8	42	1
Cape Verde Island	63	2	59	2
Côte d'Ivoire	146	21	124	1
Gambia	55	3	52	-
Ghana	1 594	86	1 490	18
Guinea	127	1	123	3
Guinea-Bissau	10	1	8	1
Liberia	6	-	6	-
Mali	105	4	101	-
Mauritania	41	1	40	-
Niger	27	2	25	-
Nigeria	5 214	215	4 887	112
Saint Helena	5	-	5	-
Senegal	207	12	191	4
Sierra Leone	21	2	19	-
Togo	40	5	35	-
North Africa	1 132	115	960	57
Algeria	98	7	87	4
Egypt	547	72	466	9
Libya	65	-	41	24
Morocco	116	13	101	2
South Sudan	105	2	101	2
The Sudan	116	7	94	15
Tunisia	77	14	62	1
Western Sahara	8	-	8	-
Unspecified	1 563	74	1 489	-

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

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (October 2014)			
			Overseas	SADC	‘Other’ African	Unspecified
All	Total	820 675	208 263	596 582	14 267	1 563
	<15	37 135	11 844	24 766	521	4
	15-64	735 313	162 408	557 901	13 455	1 549
	65+	48 227	34 011	13 915	291	10
Male	Total	459 751	112 280	336 860	9 682	929
	<15	18 764	6 103	12 390	268	3
	15-64	417 102	88 815	318 153	9 218	916
	65+	23 885	17 362	6 317	196	10
Female	Total	360 924	95 983	259 722	4 585	634
	<15	18 371	5 741	12 376	253	1
	15-64	318 211	73 593	239 748	4 237	633
	65+	24 342	16 649	7 598	95	-

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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