



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 September 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 3 248 359 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through South African ports of entry in September 2014. As presented in Table 1 on page 8, these travellers were made up of 864 706 South African residents and 2 383 653 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 432 682 arrivals, 431 199 departures and 825 travellers in transit. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals, departures and transit travellers were 1 210 682, 1 101 855 and 71 116, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in August 2014 and September 2014 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The travellers in transit increased for South African residents and decreased for foreign travellers. The volume of arrivals for South African residents decreased by 3,5% (from 448 485 in August 2014 to 432 682 in September 2014) while departures decreased by 8,5% (from 471 125 in August 2014 to 431 199 in September 2014) and South African residents in transit increased by 12,6% (from 733 in August 2014 to 825 in September 2014). Foreign arrivals decreased by 7,0% (from 1 302 154 in August 2014 to 1 210 682 in September 2014), foreign departures decreased by 7,2% (from 1 187 912 in August 2014 to 1 101 855 in September 2014) and foreign travellers in transit decreased by 19,6% (from 88 418 in August 2014 to 71 116 in September 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 September 2014, 40 654 (3,4%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 170 028 (96,6%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. arrivals only – comprising of visitors who entered the country in September 2014 but did not depart in September 2014 [347 646 (29,7%)];
- ii. single trips – visitors who came once in September 2014 and left in September 2014 [449 974 (38,5%)]; and
- iii. multiple trips – visitors who came and left more than once in September 2014 [372 408 (31,8%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In September 2014, there were 417 347 (35,7%) same-day visitors and 752 681 (64,3%) tourists. Between August 2014 and September 2014, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 3,0% (from 430 269 in August 2014 to 417 347 in September 2014) and tourists decreased by 9,2% (from 828 531 in August 2014 to 752 681 in September 2014).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Data presented in Table 2 on page 9 show that in September 2014, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 368 799 (72,9%) out of the 3 248 359 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 871 264 (26,8%). The arrivals data for South African residents show that 171 384 (39,6%) came by air and 261 101 (60,3%) came by road. For departures, 169 367 (39,3%) and 261 577 (60,7%) used air and road transport respectively. All travellers in transit used air transport (825).

In the case of foreign travellers, 234 946 (19,4%) arrived by air while those who came by road were 971 484 (80,2%). When departing South Africa, 223 626 (20,3%) foreign travellers left by air whilst 874 637 (79,4%) left by road. All travellers in transit used air transport (71 116). Table 2 further shows that an overwhelming majority [396 840 (95,1%)] of same-day visitors arrived in the country by road. Only 20 501 (4,9%) same-day visitors flew into the country. Data on tourists show that, 554 638 (73,7%) used road transport while 197 936 (26,3%) came by air.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them according to their respective countries and regions. Information on the specific region and country of residence of the tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on page 10. In September 2014, 149 533 (87,0%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air whilst 22 176 (12,9%) 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 [530 993 (94,1%)]. Only 33 256 (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 13 856 (91,5%); with 1 267 (8,4%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In September 2014, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows; Europe, 95 694 (55,7%); North America, 32 430 (18,9%); Asia, 19 830 (11,5%); Australasia, 15 099 (8,8%); Central and South America, 5 386 (3,1%); and Middle East, 3 352 (2,0%). Virtually all tourists from Africa came from the SADC countries, [564 250 (97,4%)]. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, [8 436 (1,5%)]; East and Central Africa, 5 612 (1,0%); and North Africa 1 099 (0,2%).

Data presented in Figure 1 on page 6 indicate that the United States of America (USA), 27 389 (15,9%); United Kingdom (UK), 26 944 (15,7%); Germany, 20 190 (11,8%); Australia, 12 870 (7,5%); The Netherlands, 10 563 (6,1%); France, 6 947 (4,0%); India, 6 337 (3,7%); China, 5 124 (3,0%); Canada, 5 040 (2,9%) and Italy, 4 909 (2,9%) were the ten leading overseas countries visiting South Africa in September 2014. Tourists from these ten countries constituted 73,5% of all tourists from overseas countries.

The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in September 2014 were Zimbabwe, 160 381 (28,4%); Lesotho, 117 716 (20,9%); Mozambique, 102 819 (18,2%); Swaziland, 74 009 (13,1%); Botswana, 52 522 (9,3%); Namibia, 16 410 (2,9%); Malawi, 15 766 (2,8%); Zambia, 14 354 (2,5%); Angola, 3 949 (0,7%) and Tanzania, 2 680 (0,5%) (see Figure 2 on page 6). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,4% of all tourists from the SADC countries.

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in September 2014 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 7, were Nigeria, 5 609 (37,0%); Kenya, 2 170 (14,3%); Ghana, 1 671 (11,0%); Uganda, 959 (6,3%); Gabon, 822 (5,4%); Ethiopia, 683 (4,5%); Egypt, 533 (3,5%); Cameroon, 341 (2,3%); Congo, 265 (1,7%) and Senegal, 195 (1,3%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 87,5% of all tourists from 'other' African countries.

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed from data shown in Table 4 on page 14, in September 2014, a majority of tourists [720 521 (95,7%)] were in South Africa for holidays compared with only 26 801 (3,6%) and 5 359 (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 14 761 (97,8%) tourists from Australasia; 5 228 (97,1%) from Central and South America; 31 125 (96,0%) from North America; 90 470 (94,5%) from Europe; 3 126 (93,3%) from Middle East and 18 115 (91,4%) from Asia were in South Africa for holidays. Asia (7,8%) and Middle East (5,7%) 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 [556 318 (96,0%)] came to South Africa for holidays. However, there were differences between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries namely:

- Whereas 542 635 (96,2%) of tourists from the SADC countries were on holidays; 13 683 (90,3%) 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 92,7% (7 824); 87,6% (4 916) and 85,8% (943) for West Africa; East and central Africa and North Africa respectively.
- Business persons constituted 5,8% (877) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 3,2% (18 036) from the SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion [9,0% (99)] of its tourists in South Africa for business.
- Students made up 3,9% (587) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,6% (3 579) from the SADC countries. East and Central Africa had the highest proportion [5,7% (322)] of student tourists in South Africa.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 18 shows that in September 2014, there were 426 904 (56,7%) male and 325 776 (43,3%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 96 236 (56,0%) male tourists and 75 555 (44,0%) female tourists. There were 319 584 (56,6%) male and 244 665 (43,4%) female tourists from the SADC countries. The tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 10 159 (67,1%) males and 4 988 (32,9%) 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 32 405 (4,3%) tourists were aged less than 15 years; 680 635 (90,4%) were aged between 15 and 64 years; and 39 641 (5,3%) were aged 65 years and older.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results further show that 139 099 (81,0%) of overseas tourists were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with 526 094 (93,2%) and 13 959 (92,2%) of tourists in the same age range from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries respectively. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was slightly higher among tourists from 'other' African countries [6,0% (909)] than among tourists from SADC countries [4,4% (24 649)] and those from overseas countries [4,0% (6 844)].

A comparison of the three regions shows relatively high proportions of the elderly among both male [14,0% (13 474)] and female [16,4% (12 374)] tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to the pattern observed among tourists from the other two regions. Thus, 1,9% (6 098) of male and 3,0% (7 409) of female tourists from the SADC countries were aged 65 years and older. Likewise 1,7% (174) of male and 2,1% (105) 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 September 2014

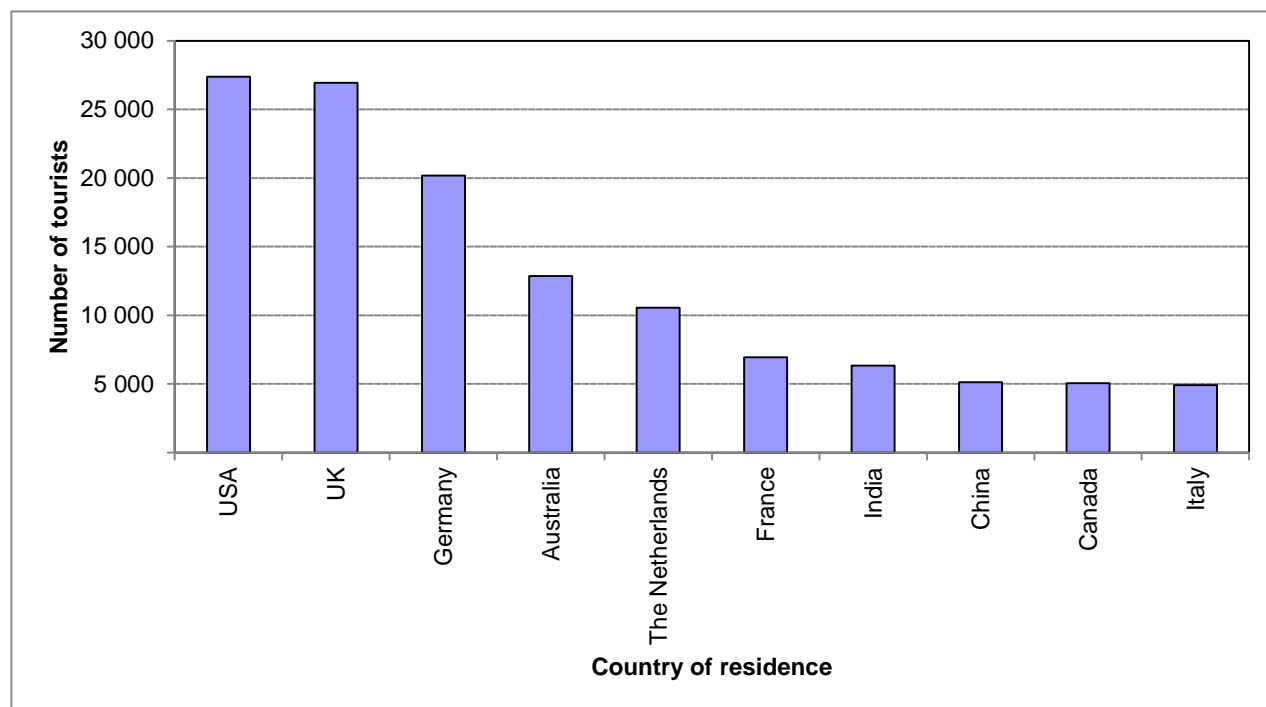


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in September 2014

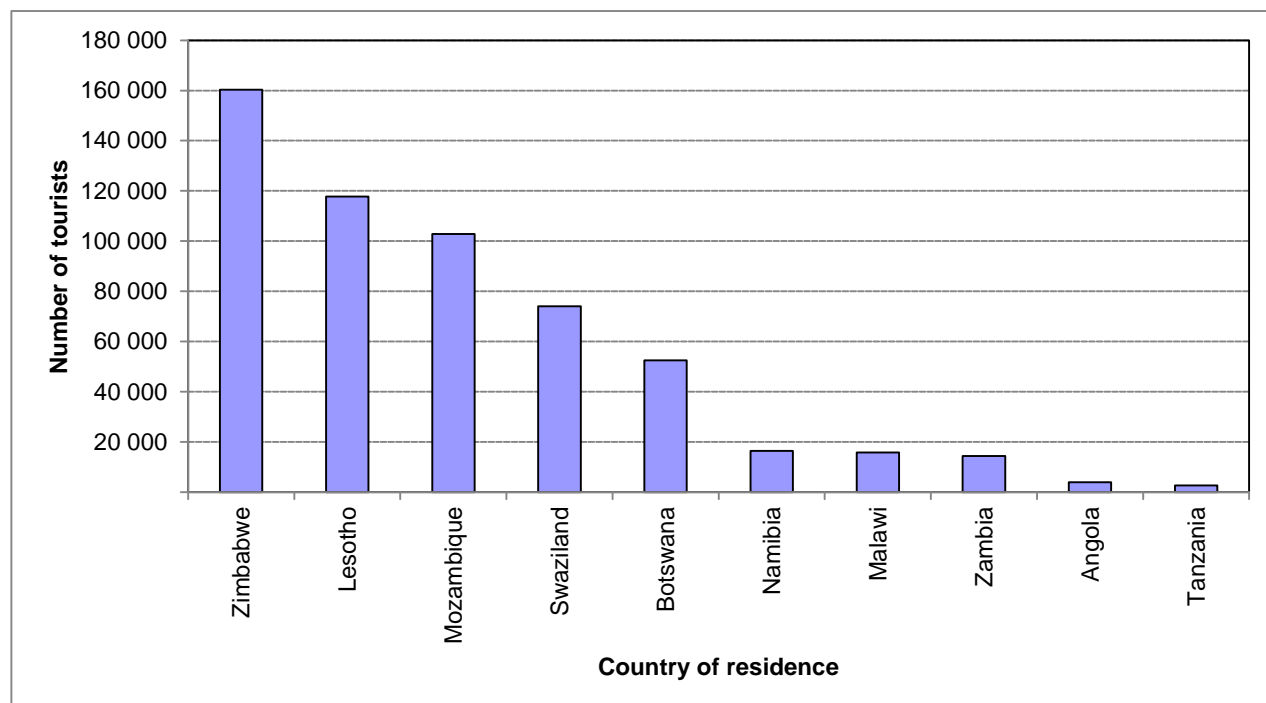
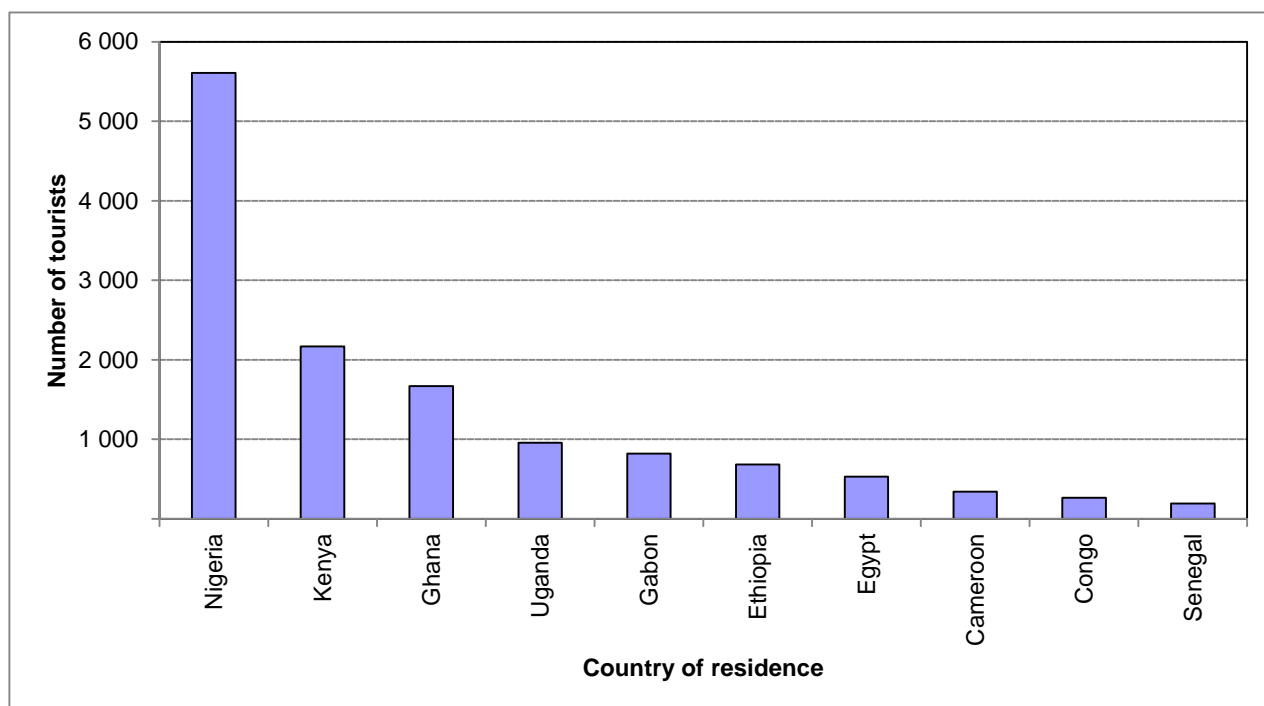


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in September 2014

3. Tables

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

Travel direction	August	September	% change
	2014	2014	August 2014 – September 2014
Total	3 498 827	3 248 359	-7,2
South African residents	920 343	864 706	-6,0
Arrivals	448 485	432 682	-3,5
Departures	471 125	431 199	-8,5
Transit	733	825	12,6
Foreign travellers	2 578 484	2 383 653	-7,6
Arrivals	1 302 154	1 210 682	-7,0
Departures	1 187 912	1 101 855	-7,2
Transit	88 418	71 116	-19,6
Foreign arrivals	1 302 154	1 210 682	-7,0
Non-visitors	43 354	40 654	-6,2
Visitors	1 258 800	1 170 028	-7,1
Visitors	1 258 800	1 170 028	-7,1
Arrivals only	369 449	347 646	-5,9
Single trips	488 987	449 974	-8,0
Multiple trips	400 364	372 408	-7,0
Visitors	1 258 800	1 170 028	-7,1
Same day	430 269	417 347	-3,0
Overnight (tourists)	828 531	752 681	-9,2

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

Travel Direction	Total	Mode of travel (September 2014)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	3 248 359	103 443	24 820	733 543	9 458	871 264	2 368 799	8 296
South African residents	864 706	43 060	17 078	276 203	5 235	341 576	522 678	452
Arrivals	432 682	21 318	8 133	139 311	2 622	171 384	261 101	197
Departures	431 199	21 742	8 945	136 067	2 613	169 367	261 577	255
Transit	825	-	-	825	-	825	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 383 653	60 383	7 742	457 340	4 223	529 688	1 846 121	7 844
Arrivals	1 210 682	31 794	3 833	197 761	1 558	234 946	971 484	4 252
Departures	1 101 855	28 586	3 908	188 467	2 665	223 626	874 637	3 592
Transit	71 116	3	1	71 112		71 116	-	-
Visitors	1 170 028	29 327	2 940	184 956	1 214	218 437	951 478	113
Same day	417 347	257	15	20 101	128	20 501	396 840	6
Overnight (tourists)	752 681	29 070	2 925	164 855	1 086	197 936	554 638	107

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

Country of residence	Total	Mode of travel (September 2014)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	752 681	29 070	2 925	164 855	1 086	197 936	554 638	107
Overseas	171 791	25 898	2 458	120 225	952	149 533	22 176	82
Europe	95 694	18 433	1 785	60 506	207	80 931	14 708	55
Austria	1 529	345	49	907	6	1 307	222	-
Belgium	3 011	458	12	1 920	8	2 398	613	-
Denmark	1 540	323	12	1 102	-	1 437	102	1
France	6 947	1 224	66	4 608	11	5 909	1 037	1
Germany	20 190	3 234	205	12 792	19	16 250	3 940	-
Ireland	1 766	514	59	1 019	6	1 598	168	-
Italy	4 909	1 070	86	3 341	4	4 501	407	1
Norway	1 224	333	16	755	4	1 108	116	-
Portugal	3 126	317	19	1 521	7	1 864	1 262	-
Spain	2 546	458	38	1 758	8	2 262	284	-
Sweden	1 682	422	25	1 061	5	1 513	169	-
Switzerland	3 629	933	47	2 193	9	3 182	447	-
The Netherlands	10 563	2 089	105	5 713	7	7 914	2 647	2
UK	26 944	5 408	758	17 946	78	24 190	2 705	49
Other	6 088	1 305	288	3 870	35	5 498	589	1
North America	32 430	3 533	174	25 292	517	29 516	2 898	16
Canada	5 040	1 037	42	3 393	16	4 488	548	4
USA	27 389	2 496	132	21 899	501	25 028	2 349	12
Other	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Central and South America	5 386	236	11	4 517	74	4 838	547	1
Argentina	650	55	-	553	4	612	38	-
Brazil	3 044	67	4	2 575	22	2 668	376	-
Mexico	314	50	1	235	18	304	10	-
Other	1 378	64	6	1 154	30	1 254	123	1

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

Country of residence	Total	Mode of travel (September 2014)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	15 099	884	90	12 807	98	13 879	1 217	3
Australia	12 870	724	75	10 937	84	11 820	1 047	3
New Zealand	2 195	159	15	1 838	14	2 026	169	-
Other	34	1	-	32	-	33	1	-
Middle East	3 352	420	61	2 656	18	3 155	197	-
Iran	327	75	15	222	-	312	15	-
Israel	1 552	103	1	1 300	2	1 406	146	-
Saudi Arabia	698	48	15	620	14	697	1	-
Other	775	194	30	514	2	740	35	-
Asia	19 830	2 392	337	14 447	38	17 214	2 609	7
China	5 124	543	67	3 994	5	4 609	515	-
India	6 337	644	123	4 664	22	5 453	881	3
Japan	2 536	193	24	2 138	2	2 357	179	-
Malaysia	662	254	12	355	1	622	40	-
Pakistan	1 111	210	27	469	-	706	405	-
Philippines	442	54	11	280	1	346	94	2
Singapore	601	164	3	417	7	591	10	-
South Korea	870	84	18	653	-	755	115	-
Taiwan	498	36	2	337	-	375	123	-
Other	1 649	210	50	1 140	-	1 400	247	2
Africa	579 397	3 103	462	43 413	134	47 112	532 260	25
SADC	564 250	2 746	403	29 980	127	33 256	530 993	1
Angola	3 949	708	-	3 110	7	3 825	124	-
Botswana	52 522	149	1	2 021	47	2 218	50 304	-
DRC	1 960	12	-	1 405	4	1 421	539	-
Lesotho	117 716	7	-	480	2	489	117 227	-
Madagascar	217	3	-	208	-	211	6	-

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

Country of residence	Total	Mode of travel (September 2014)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Malawi	15 766	7	3	1 574	5	1 589	14 177	-
Mauritius	1 150	140	78	795	-	1 013	137	-
Mozambique	102 819	7	74	3 752	13	3 846	98 973	-
Namibia	16 410	1 636	1	2 708	19	4 364	12 046	-
Seychelles	317	1	-	313	-	314	3	-
Swaziland	74 009	-	1	497	-	498	73 511	-
Tanzania	2 680	8	-	1 618	1	1 627	1 053	-
Zambia	14 354	13	104	3 786	6	3 909	10 445	-
Zimbabwe	160 381	55	141	7 713	23	7 932	152 448	1
'Other' African	15 147	357	59	13 433	7	13 856	1 267	24
East and Central Africa	5 612	104	12	4 990	-	5 106	506	-
Burundi	105	3	-	98	-	101	4	-
Cameroon	341	7	2	281	-	290	51	-
Central African Republic	9	-	-	9	-	9	-	-
Chad	26	-	-	24	-	24	2	-
Comoros	21	-	1	19	-	20	1	-
Congo	265	28	-	235	-	263	2	-
Djibouti	12	-	-	8	-	8	4	-
Equatorial Guinea	37	-	-	33	-	33	4	-
Eritrea	42	5	-	31	-	36	6	-
Ethiopia	683	13	5	577	-	595	88	-
Gabon	822	6	-	811	-	817	5	-
Kenya	2 170	22	3	1 946	-	1 971	199	-
Rwanda	84	-	-	70	-	70	14	-
Sao Tome and Principe	14	1	-	9	-	10	4	-
Somalia	22	2	-	18	-	20	2	-
Uganda	959	17	1	821	-	839	120	-

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

Country of residence	Total	Mode of travel (September 2014)						
		Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	8 436	117	10	7 560	5	7 692	720	24
Benin	156	-	-	151	-	151	5	-
Burkina Faso	74	4	-	69	-	73	1	-
Cape Verde Island	59	13	-	39	1	53	6	-
Côte d'Ivoire	188	7	2	176	-	185	3	-
Gambia	54	4	-	46	-	50	4	-
Ghana	1 671	32	6	1 536	-	1 574	96	1
Guinea	165	-	-	38	-	38	127	-
Guinea-Bissau	10	1	-	7	-	8	2	-
Liberia	6	1	-	2	-	3	3	-
Mali	101	-	-	69	-	69	32	-
Mauritania	20	1	-	19	-	20	-	-
Niger	26	-	-	23	-	23	3	-
Nigeria	5 609	46	2	5 145	4	5 197	412	-
Saint Helena	29	6	-	-	-	6	-	23
Senegal	195	1	-	174	-	175	20	-
Sierra Leone	22	-	-	16	-	16	6	-
Togo	51	1	-	50	-	51	-	-
North Africa	1 099	136	37	883	2	1 058	41	-
Algeria	100	11	18	68	-	97	3	-
Egypt	533	33	6	476	2	517	16	-
Libya	63	29	3	23	-	55	8	-
Morocco	116	34	2	76	-	112	4	-
South Sudan	86	3	-	80	-	83	3	-
The Sudan	124	17	2	99	-	118	6	-
Tunisia	77	9	6	61	-	76	1	-
Unspecified	1 493	69	5	1 217	-	1 291	202	-

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

Country of residence	Total	Purpose of visit (September 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
Total	752 681	26 801	720 521	5 359
Overseas	171 791	7 774	162 825	1 192
Europe	95 694	4 513	90 470	711
Austria	1 529	49	1 472	8
Belgium	3 011	157	2 820	34
Denmark	1 540	118	1 414	8
France	6 947	445	6 435	67
Germany	20 190	604	19 462	124
Ireland	1 766	107	1 638	21
Italy	4 909	260	4 626	23
Norway	1 224	54	1 123	47
Portugal	3 126	101	3 004	21
Spain	2 546	140	2 388	18
Sweden	1 682	115	1 551	16
Switzerland	3 629	88	3 499	42
The Netherlands	10 563	353	10 158	52
UK	26 944	1 466	25 303	175
Other	6 088	456	5 577	55
North America	32 430	1 095	31 125	210
Canada	5 040	187	4 826	27
USA	27 389	908	26 298	183
Other	1	-	1	-
Central and South America	5 386	120	5 228	38
Argentina	650	15	635	-
Brazil	3 044	34	2 988	22
Mexico	314	25	287	2
Other	1 378	46	1 318	14

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

Country of residence	Total	Purpose of visit (September 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
Australasia	15 099	311	14 761	27
Australia	12 870	257	12 589	24
New Zealand	2 195	51	2 143	1
Other	34	3	29	2
Middle East	3 352	192	3 126	34
Iran	327	23	293	11
Israel	1 552	68	1 482	2
Saudi Arabia	698	11	678	9
Other	775	90	673	12
Asia	19 830	1 543	18 115	172
China	5 124	429	4 658	37
India	6 337	581	5 703	53
Japan	2 536	133	2 403	-
Malaysia	662	43	608	11
Pakistan	1 111	85	1 020	6
Philippines	442	17	412	13
Singapore	601	45	554	2
South Korea	870	72	768	30
Taiwan	498	18	480	-
Other	1 649	120	1 509	20
Africa	579 397	18 913	556 318	4 166
SADC	564 250	18 036	542 635	3 579
Angola	3 949	67	3 684	198
Botswana	52 522	487	51 559	476
DRC	1 960	81	1 768	111
Lesotho	117 716	2 053	115 037	626
Madagascar	217	22	181	14

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

Country of residence	Total	Purpose of visit (September 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
Malawi	15 766	208	15 518	40
Mauritius	1 150	83	1 041	26
Mozambique	102 819	9 271	93 462	86
Namibia	16 410	2 418	13 495	497
Seychelles	317	9	306	2
Swaziland	74 009	418	72 769	822
Tanzania	2 680	119	2 495	66
Zambia	14 354	983	13 243	128
Zimbabwe	160 381	1 817	158 077	487
'Other' African	15 147	877	13 683	587
East and Central Africa	5 612	374	4 916	322
Burundi	105	6	95	4
Cameroon	341	19	287	35
Central African Republic	9	1	8	-
Chad	26	2	22	2
Comoros	21	1	19	1
Congo	265	7	233	25
Djibouti	12	1	11	-
Equatorial Guinea	37	-	25	12
Eritrea	42	-	42	-
Ethiopia	683	35	624	24
Gabon	822	5	755	62
Kenya	2 170	198	1 876	96
Rwanda	84	4	69	11
Sao Tome and Principe	14	-	14	-
Somalia	22	2	20	-
Uganda	959	93	816	50

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

Country of residence	Total	Purpose of visit (September 2014)		
		Business	Holiday	Study
West Africa	8 436	404	7 824	208
Benin	156	6	147	3
Burkina Faso	74	14	58	2
Cape Verde Island	59	2	56	1
Côte d'Ivoire	188	16	168	4
Gambia	54	6	47	1
Ghana	1 671	82	1 565	24
Guinea	165	2	163	-
Guinea-Bissau	10	-	10	-
Liberia	6	-	6	-
Mali	101	13	87	1
Mauritania	20	-	20	-
Niger	26	4	20	2
Nigeria	5 609	235	5 212	162
Saint Helena	29	-	29	-
Senegal	195	20	173	2
Sierra Leone	22	-	21	1
Togo	51	4	42	5
North Africa	1 099	99	943	57
Algeria	100	6	90	4
Egypt	533	39	488	6
Libya	63	1	39	23
Morocco	116	14	100	2
South Sudan	86	8	73	5
The Sudan	124	19	91	14
Tunisia	77	12	62	3
Unspecified	1 493	114	1 378	1

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

Sex	Age group	Total	Region (September 2014)			
			Overseas	SADC	‘Other’ African	Unspecified
All	Total	752 681	171 791	564 250	15 147	1 493
	<15	32 405	6 844	24 649	909	3
	15-64	680 635	139 099	526 094	13 959	1 483
	65+	39 641	25 848	13 507	279	7
Male	Total	426 904	96 236	319 584	10 159	925
	<15	16 226	3 576	12 191	458	1
	15-64	390 928	79 186	301 295	9 527	920
	65+	19 750	13 474	6 098	174	4
Female	Total	325 776	75 555	244 665	4 988	568
	<15	16 179	3 268	12 458	451	2
	15-64	289 706	59 913	224 798	4 432	563
	65+	19 891	12 374	7 409	105	3
Unspecified	Total	1	-	1	-	-
	15-64	1	-	1	-	-

4. Explanatory notes

NOTICE TO USERS

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

4.1 Introduction

Legal movements across South African borders as well as legal immigration into South Africa fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) then processes, analyses and publishes this information.

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

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

4.2 Purpose of the statistical release

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

4.3 Scope and coverage

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

4.4 Data

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

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

- Stats SA downloads the data covering a particular calendar month from the DHA database.
- As part of data interrogation, data from the O.R. Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airport Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA has been accompanied by an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern was also observed when the volume of travellers decreased. However, the volume of passengers recorded by ACSA is generally higher than that of the DHA. In September 2014, the DHA data was 0,02% 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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