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KEY FINDINGS

1. Number of travellers

The October 2008 data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into South Africa show that a total of 2 270 350 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through the ports of entry. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 711 943 South African residents and 1 558 407 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures indicates that 370 702 and 341 241 South African resident arrivals and departures respectively were recorded. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals and departures are 839 260 and 719 147 respectively. A comparison between the movements in September 2008 and October 2008 indicates that there was an increase in all movements except South African departures. The October 2008 figure (370 702) for South African resident arrivals shows an increase of 6,9% compared to the October 2007 figure of 346 791. Similarly, there was an increase of 4,6% for foreign arrivals from 802 652 in October 2007 to 839 260 in October 2008.

2. Mode of travel

It is observed from Table 2 that road transport was the most common (66,7%) mode of travel used by 1 514 547 out of the 2 270 350 travellers. The arrival data on South African residents show that 41,4% came by air and 57,9% by road. For their departure, 39,8% and 60,1% used air and road transport respectively. When taking into consideration the countries of residence of travellers, it was found that for foreign arrivals, overseas travellers generally used air (86,9%) compared to road transport (12,8%) whereas travellers from Africa used road (89,7%) more than air transport (8,0%). Information on specific countries from which travellers came from and the mode of travel used is provided in Table 3.

3. Foreign arrivals

The data on travellers received from the DHA do not provide detailed information on departures; neither do they provide any information other than total numbers, travel direction and mode of travel of South African residents. Therefore the following findings pertain to foreign arrivals.

Data presented in Table 3 show that slightly less than three quarters (73,8%) of foreign arrivals were from Africa whilst a quarter (25,4%) were from overseas countries. Information on the country of residence was not available on 0,8% of the travellers. A comparison of the changes between October 2007 and October 2008 indicates that the number of overseas arrivals declined by 6,4% from 227 357 in 2007 to 212 908 in 2008. Arrivals from Africa increased by 8,7% from 569 720 in October 2007 to 619 300 in October 2008.

3.1 Gender and age distribution

The travellers from Africa comprised of 338 386 males, 279 839 females and 1 075 with unspecified gender. The data on overseas travellers had 118 765 males, 93 963 females and gender was not specified in 180 cases. Overall, more males than females from African (males: 54,6%; females: 45,2%) and overseas countries (males: 55,8%; females:44,1%) came to South Africa. The age distribution of foreign arrivals presented in Figure 1 shows that travellers from Africa are generally younger compared to those from overseas. The bulk (84,5%) of African travellers is clustered between ages 20-54, peaking at age group 25-29. However, the age distribution of overseas travellers is widely spread. Thus 80,6% of overseas travellers is between ages 20 to 64 years. The percentage of older persons (65 years and older) from overseas countries was significantly higher (12,7%) compared to that among persons from Africa (2,5%).

3.2 Regional and national distribution

Overseas travellers came mainly from Europe (67,2%), followed by North America (14,2%), Asia (9,3%), Australasia (5,0%), Central and South America (2,7%) and Middle East (1,5%). Virtually all arrivals (97,6%) from Africa came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining arrivals from Africa is as follows: West Africa (1,1%), East and Central Africa (1,1%) and North Africa (0,2%). October data for the past five years (See Figure 2) reveal that, arrivals from 'other' African countries have been stable unlike SADC countries that have been escalating since 2004. The number of travellers from overseas had a steady growth from 2004 to 2007 but dropped between 2007 and 2008.

Figure 3 show the eight leading overseas source countries. These are UK, Germany, USA, The Netherlands, France, Australia, Canada and India. Travellers from these eight countries constitute 67,6% of all travellers from overseas. A comparison of figures from overseas for October 2007 and October 2008 shows that there were decreases in the number of travellers arriving from UK (4,7% down from 46 934 to 44 706); Germany (17,0% down from 30 251 to 25 113); USA (0,03 down from 24 893 to 24 886); The Netherlands (8,7% down from 18 427 to

16 817); and India (7,9% down from 5 293 to 4 873). However, there was an increase in the number of arrivals from France (13,3% up from 11 819 to 13 388); Australia (2,6% up from 8 636 to 8 860) and Canada (1,4% up from 5 292 to 5 364).

The eight leading source countries from SADC were Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland, Botswana, Namibia, Malawi and Zambia. Figure 4 shows that travellers from these eight SADC countries made up 96,1% of all arrivals from Africa. When comparing arrival figures from the SADC countries for October 2007 and October 2008, there was an increase in the number of travellers arriving from Zimbabwe (31,6% up from 85 367 to 112 333); Mozambique (21,7% up from 89 526 to 108 951); Swaziland (17,2% up from 77 133 to 90 434); Namibia (14,2% up from 15 722 to 17 953) and Malawi (17,3% up from 13 436 to 15 766). However, there was a decrease in the number of arrivals from Lesotho (7,6% down from 187 741 to 173 458); Botswana (1,9% down from 61 973 to 60 780) and Zambia (4,8% down from 16 316 to 15 535).

The eight leading source countries from 'other' African countries, shown in Figure 5, are Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Ethiopia, Egypt, Cameroon and Congo. A comparison of arrivals for 'other' African countries for October 2007 and that of October 2008, shows increases in the number of travellers arriving from Nigeria (13,7% up from 3 685 to 4 189), Kenya (5,3% up from 2 454 to 2 583); Uganda (13,6% up from 1 060 to 1 204); Egypt (34,8% up from 411 to 554) and Cameroon (5,7% up from 440 to 465). However, there was a decrease in the number of arrivals from Ghana (8,9% down from 1 282 to 1 168); Ethiopia (1,2% down from 842 to 832) and Congo (15,3% down from 498 to 422).

3.3 Purpose of travel

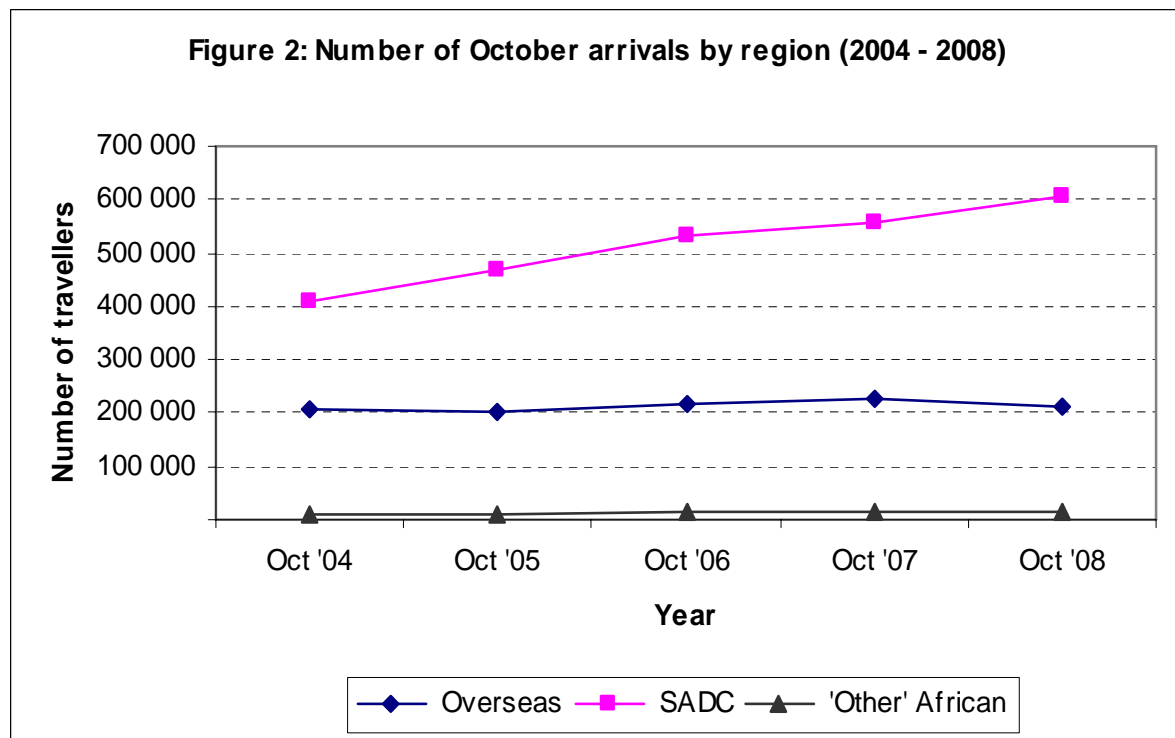
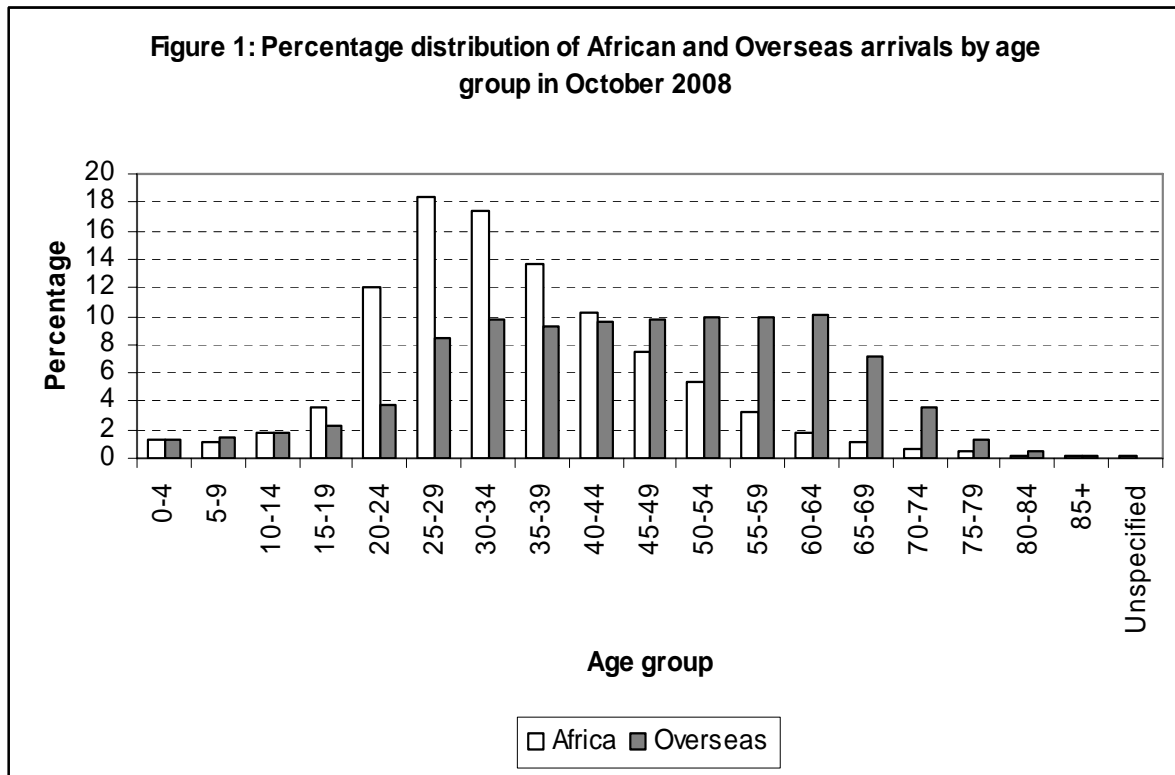
As observed from data given in Table 4, an overwhelming majority (93,4%) of foreign arrivals was admitted into South Africa on visitors' temporary residence permit. These visitors are mainly made up of same-day travellers as well as tourists. This is in vast contrast to those on business (2,0%), those who have come for work (1,4%) and those who have come to study (0,9%).

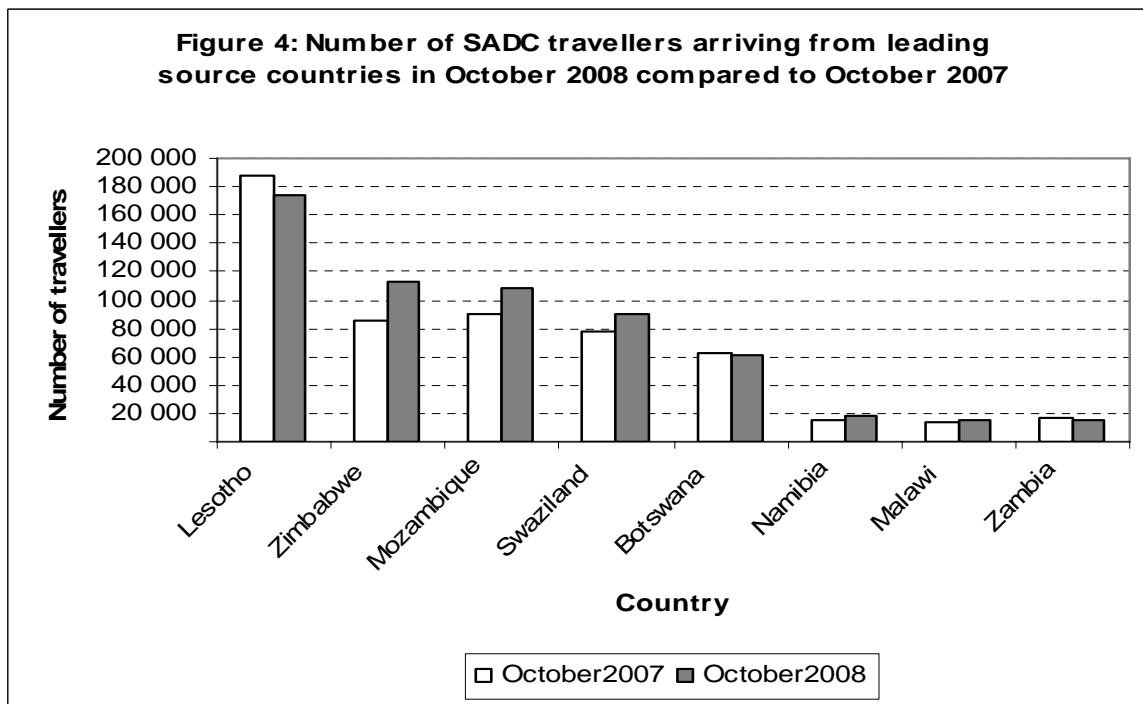
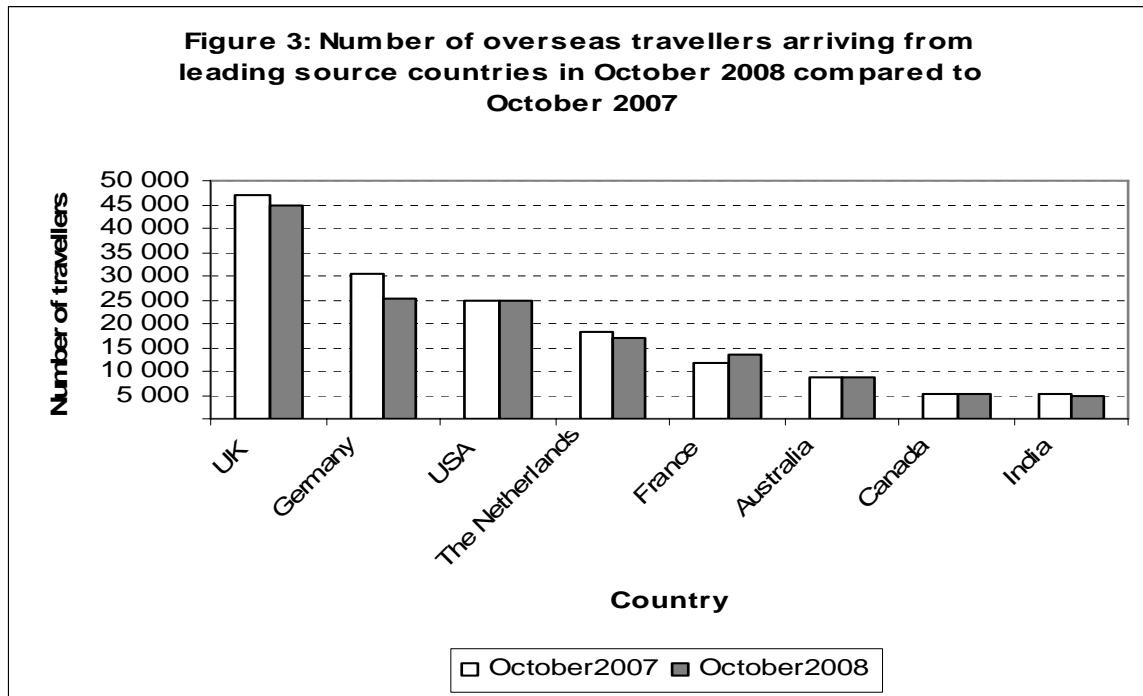
Overall, 93,3% of overseas travellers came to South Africa to visit. A detailed analysis reveals that all the overseas regions had more than 78,0% travellers coming to South Africa for holidays. Travellers from Australasia (95,7%), Europe (95,1%); North America (94,4%), Central and South America (92,8%) and the Middle East (88,2%) were admitted into South Africa as visitors. Travellers from Asia were more diverse in their purpose, for instance, 78,8% came into the country for holidays, 12,0% for work whereas 6,2% came for business and 1,4% to study.

Although the majority (94,2%) of African travellers came into the country on visitors' permits, there is a significant difference between travellers from SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Whereas 94,5% of travellers from the SADC countries were recorded as on holiday, 82,6% of travellers from 'other' African countries were admitted on visitor's permit. Proportionally, the lowest percentage (74,2%) of visitors on holiday came from North Africa, a region where, a large percentage of travellers was in South Africa for business (14,2%).
- A relatively higher percentage of 'other' African than SADC travellers were here to study, work or for business.
- Overall, North Africa, West Africa and East and Central Africa had 7,6%; 6,1% and 7,0% respectively of travellers who were in South Africa for work as compared to only 0,5% among the SADC travellers.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General





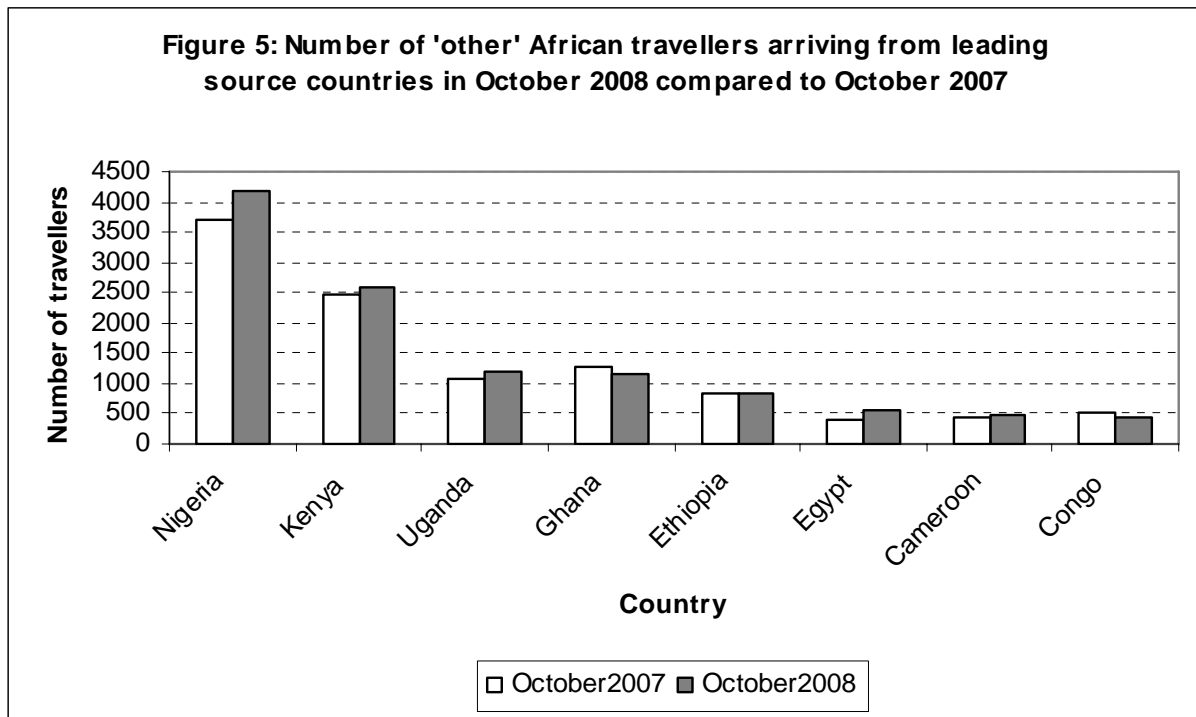


Table 1. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction

Travel direction	October	September	October	% change	% change
	2007	2008	2008	Oct 07–Oct 08	Sep 08 – Oct 08
Grand Total	2 147 899	2 087 677	2 270 350	5,7	8,8
South African residents	664 316	686 070	711 943	7,3	3,8
Arrivals	346 791	335 978	370 702	6,9	10,3
Departures	317 525	350 092	341 241	7,5	-2,5
Foreign travellers	1 483 583	1 401 607	1 558 407	5,0	11,2
Arrivals	802 652	757 772	839 260	4,6	10,8
Departures	680 931	643 835	719 147	5,6	11,7

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

Travel direction	Total	Mode of travel (October 2008)								
		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
		(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Grand Total	2 270 350	124 596	3 261	597 223	11 463	736 543	261	1 514 547	495	18 504
Arrivals:	1 209 962	68 243	1 745	314 897	5 882	390 767	33	800 339	324	18 499
South African residents	370 702	19 635	1 227	128 456	4 300	153 618	8	214 789	150	2 137
Foreign travellers	839 260	48 608	518	186 441	1 582	237 149	25	585 550	174	16 362
Overseas	212 908	46 093	241	137 785	996	185 115	2	27 300	132	359
Africa	619 300	2 232	275	46 445	517	49 469	23	555 741	19	14 048
Unspecified	7 052	283	2	2 211	69	2 565		2 509	23	1 955
Departures:	1 060 388	56 353	1 516	282 326	5 581	345 776	228	714 208	171	5
South African residents	341 241	16 235	1 062	114 471	4 125	135 893	86	205 203	54	5
Foreign travellers	719 147	40 118	454	167 855	1 456	209 883	142	509 005	117	-

Table 3. Number of foreign arrivals by country and mode of travel

Country	Mode of travel (October 2008)										
	October		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Grand Total	802 652	839 260	48 608	518	186 441	1 582	237 149	25	585 550	174	16 362
Overseas Total	227 357	212 908	46 093	241	137 785	996	185 115	2	27 300	132	359
Europe	152 226	143 015	37 519	160	84 423	465	122 567	1	20 303	63	81
Austria	2 794	1 845	406	-	1 183	3	1 592	-	253	-	-
Belgium	6 137	4 770	665	-	2 892	22	3 579	-	1 186	3	2
Denmark	3 280	3 590	605	2	2 446	13	3 066	-	518	-	6
France	11 819	13 388	2 231	72	9 326	47	11 676	-	1 703	3	6
Germany	30 251	25 113	7 804	4	13 212	50	21 070	1	4 006	20	16
Ireland	3 834	3 656	1 310	8	1 857	21	3 196	-	457	1	2
Italy	4 725	4 696	1 022	5	3 259	5	4 291	-	403	1	1
Norway	2 257	1 712	508	-	1 029	3	1 540	-	169	-	3
Portugal	2 510	2 776	122	11	1 479	13	1 625	-	1 145	-	6
Spain	2 718	3 080	287	2	2 432	10	2 731	-	349	-	-
Sweden	4 791	4 841	1 625	3	2 691	8	4 327	-	508	-	6
Switzerland	4 725	4 285	852	-	2 706	51	3 609	-	674	1	1
The Netherlands	18 427	16 817	3 877	5	8 261	30	12 173	-	4 634	5	5
UK	46 934	44 706	14 232	44	26 830	150	41 256	-	3 419	5	26
Other	7 024	7 740	1 973	4	4 820	39	6 836	-	879	24	1
North America	30 189	30 262	4 342	20	22 597	321	27 280	-	2 930	23	29
Canada	5 292	5 364	901	3	3 791	33	4 728	-	627	8	1
USA	24 893	24 886	3 441	17	18 802	288	22 548	-	2 295	15	28
Other	4	12	-	-	4	-	4	-	8	-	-
Central and South America	6 026	5 799	481	6	4 666	19	5 172	-	624	1	2
Argentina	622	653	203	2	388	-	593	-	60	-	-
Brazil	3 691	3 470	41	2	3 081	7	3 131	-	338	-	1
Mexico	303	300	45	2	228	1	276	-	24	-	-
Other	1 410	1 376	192	-	969	11	1 172	-	202	1	1

Table 3. Number of foreign arrivals by country and mode of travel (continued)

Country	Mode of travel (October 2008)										
	October		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Australasia	10 126	10 737	849	27	8 767	80	9 723	-	980	12	22
Australia	8 636	8 860	655	23	7 305	69	8 052	-	779	10	19
New Zealand	1 403	1 799	188	4	1 411	11	1 614	-	180	2	3
Other	87	78	6	-	51	-	57	-	21	-	-
Middle East	3 708	3 294	399	5	2 610	15	3 029	-	256	1	8
Israel	1 729	1 774	68	2	1 525	6	1 601	-	173	-	-
Lebanon	220	230	27	2	164	1	194	-	34	1	1
Saudi Arabia	237	354	83	-	253	2	338	-	16	-	-
Other	1 522	936	221	1	668	6	896	-	33	-	7
Asia	25 082	19 801	2 503	23	14 722	96	17 344	1	2 207	32	217
China	4 639	2 958	208	-	2 309	33	2 550	-	320	-	88
India	5 293	4 873	613	12	3 357	8	3 990	-	808	17	58
Japan	5 799	4 018	356	3	3 575	4	3 938	-	77	3	-
Korea	1 713	1 423	145	1	1 208	1	1 355	-	68	-	-
Malaysia	920	680	192	1	446	-	639	-	41	-	-
Pakistan	758	733	49	1	447	11	508	1	210	-	14
Philippines	728	769	137	-	542	1	680	-	66	9	14
Taiwan	1 332	933	131	2	515	-	648	-	260	2	23
Thailand	1 055	921	163	-	735	-	898	-	23	-	-
Other	2 845	2 493	509	3	1 588	38	2 138	-	334	1	20
Africa Total	569 720	619 300	2 232	275	46 445	517	49 469	23	555 741	19	14 048
SADC	555 644	604 338	1 961	251	34 224	395	36 831	15	553 489	16	13 987
Angola	2 860	3 274	133	1	2 989	26	3 149	-	125	-	-
Botswana	61 973	60 780	38	7	2 925	94	3 064	-	57 640	-	76
DRC	2 558	2 550	2	-	1 908	36	1 946	-	604	-	-
Lesotho	187 741	173 458	4	-	709	-	713	-	159 852	-	12 893
Madagascar	237	401	4	-	387	2	393	-	7	-	1
Malawi	13 436	15 766	2	-	2 218	6	2 226	-	13 535	1	4

Table 3. Number of foreign arrivals by country and mode of travel (continued)

Country	Mode of travel (October 2008)										
	October		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Mauritius	1 301	1 460	229	152	979	-	1 360	-	95	-	5
Mozambique	89 526	108 951	75	83	2 667	45	2 870	-	105 828	1	252
Namibia	15 722	17 953	1 406	-	2 953	88	4 447	2	13 497	1	6
Swaziland	77 133	90 434	8	3	827	14	852	3	89 479	-	100
Tanzania	1 474	1 443	11	1	1 109	4	1 125	-	316	-	2
Zambia	16 316	15 535	13	-	5 330	19	5 362	-	10 166	-	7
Zimbabwe	85 367	112 333	36	4	9 223	61	9 324	10	102 345	13	641
East & Central Africa	6 858	6 862	61	24	5 403	63	5 551	3	1 278	-	30
Burundi	107	116	-	-	82	1	83	-	33	-	-
Cameroon	440	465	6	-	391	3	400	-	64	-	1
Central African Republic	18	14	-	-	14	-	14	-	-	-	-
Chad	30	46	-	1	45	-	46	-	-	-	-
Comoros	17	20	-	-	20	-	20	-	-	-	-
Congo	498	422	7	-	295	2	304	1	115	-	2
Djibouti	7	16	1	-	13	-	14	-	2	-	-
Equat Guinea	17	27	2	-	10	-	12	-	15	-	-
Eritrea	54	54	2	-	43	1	46	-	7	-	1
Ethiopia	842	832	1	-	652	2	655	-	176	-	1
Gabon	288	347	2	-	318	15	335	-	12	-	-
Kenya	2 454	2 583	11	6	2 168	26	2 211	2	361	-	9
Reunion	168	66	17	17	32	-	66	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	287	243	2	-	199	7	208	-	33	-	2
Sao Tome and Principe	12	19	1	-	17	1	19	-	-	-	-
Seychelles	215	195	3	-	189	-	192	-	3	-	-
Somalia	343	190	-	-	24	1	25	-	165	-	-
Tristan Da Cunha	1	3	1	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	-
Uganda	1 060	1 204	5	-	889	4	898	-	292	-	14

Table 3. Number of foreign arrivals by country and mode of travel (concluded)

Country	Mode of travel (October 2008)										
	October		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
West Africa	6 194	6 836	93	-	5 803	45	5 941	4	869	-	22
Ascension	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Benin	121	140	2	-	129	-	131	-	9	-	-
Burkina Faso	54	78	2	-	73	-	75	-	3	-	-
Cape Verde Island	71	67	-	-	53	-	53	-	14	-	-
Cote D'Ivoire	190	216	4	-	203	1	208	-	8	-	-
Gambia	66	71	6	-	60	-	66	-	4	-	1
Ghana	1 282	1 168	5	-	1 025	6	1 036	1	127	-	4
Guinea	134	172	2	-	99	-	101	-	71	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	19	27	1	-	10	-	11	-	16	-	-
Liberia	52	83	-	-	76	-	76	-	6	-	1
Madeira Island	16	17	5	-	6	-	11	-	6	-	-
Mali	80	112	9	-	93	1	103	-	9	-	-
Mauritania	27	29	1	-	28	-	29	-	-	-	-
Niger	33	25	-	-	21	-	21	-	4	-	-
Nigeria	3 685	4 189	36	-	3 557	36	3 629	3	541	-	16
Saint Helena	8	21	2	-	4	-	6	-	15	-	-
Senegal	253	275	15	-	248	1	264	-	11	-	-
Sierra Leone	64	82	1	-	65	-	66	-	16	-	-
Togo	37	62	2	-	53	-	55	-	7	-	-
North Africa	1 024	1 264	117	-	1 015	14	1 146	1	105	3	9
Algeria	175	148	12	-	116	1	129	-	19	-	-
Egypt	411	554	35	-	491	-	526	1	22	3	2
Libya	103	138	8	-	66	12	86	-	46	-	6
Morocco	88	103	23	-	76	1	100	-	2	-	1
The Sudan	119	212	29	-	169	-	198	-	14	-	-
Tunisia	125	105	10	-	93	-	103	-	2	-	-
Western Sahara	3	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	5 575	7 052	283	2	2 211	69	2 565	-	2 509	23	1 955

Table 4. Number of foreign arrivals by purpose of travel

Region	Total	Purpose of travel (October 2008)							Border Traffic Concession
		Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
Grand Total	839 260	16 506	784 274	7 546	12 074	2 543	26	822 969	16 291
Overseas Total	212 908	6 374	198 716	944	6 080	496	1	212 611	297
Europe	143 015	3 622	135 998	403	2 722	207	-	142 952	63
North America	30 262	868	28 559	154	598	61	-	30 240	22
Central and South America	5 799	160	5 380	27	169	62	-	5 798	1
Australasia	10 737	274	10 271	26	118	42	-	10 731	6
Middle East	3 294	231	2 905	50	94	6	-	3 286	8
Asia	19 801	1 219	15 603	284	2 379	118	1	19 604	197
Africa Total	619 300	10 057	583 375	5 515	4 268	2 029	17	605 261	14 039
SADC	604 338	8 983	571 014	5 123	3 274	1 955	11	590 360	13 978
East and Central Africa	6 862	478	5 598	233	481	36	6	6 832	30
West Africa	6 836	416	5 825	129	417	27	-	6 814	22
North Africa	1 264	180	938	30	96	11	-	1 255	9
Unspecified	7 052	75	2 183	1 087	1 726	18	8	5 097	1 955

Table 5. Number of foreign arrivals by country and purpose of travel

Country	October		Purpose of travel (October 2008)							Border Traffic Concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
Grand Total	802 652	839 260	16 506	784 274	7 546	12 074	2 543	26	822 969	16 291
Overseas Total	227 357	212 908	6 374	198 716	944	6 080	496	1	212 611	297
Europe	152 226	143 015	3 622	135 998	403	2 722	207	-	142 952	63
Austria	2 794	1 845	73	1 745	2	21	4	-	1 845	-
Belgium	6 137	4 770	84	4 600	14	66	4	-	4 768	2
Denmark	3 280	3 590	69	3 460	1	53	2	-	3 585	5
France	11 819	13 388	310	12 705	48	301	22	-	13 386	2
Germany	30 251	25 113	469	24 080	102	432	19	-	25 102	11
Ireland	3 834	3 656	71	3 526	7	44	6	-	3 654	2
Italy	4 725	4 696	114	4 492	12	71	6	-	4 695	1
The Netherlands	2 257	1 712	52	1 615	13	28	4	-	1 712	-
Norway	2 510	2 776	38	2 697	7	22	6	-	2 770	6
Portugal	2 718	3 080	57	2 952	3	54	14	-	3 080	-
Spain	4 791	4 841	121	4 608	11	90	5	-	4 835	6
Sweden	4 725	4 285	96	4 137	8	39	4	-	4 284	1
Switzerland	18 427	16 817	213	16 404	28	162	6	-	16 813	4
UK	46 934	44 706	1 478	42 409	116	625	55	-	44 683	23
Other	7 024	7 740	377	6 568	31	714	50	-	7 740	-
North America	30 189	30 262	868	28 559	154	598	61	-	30 240	22
Canada	5 292	5 364	105	5 112	28	97	21	-	5 363	1
USA	24 893	24 886	763	23 435	126	501	40	-	24 865	21
Other	4	12	-	12	-	-	-	-	12	-
Central and South America	6 026	5 799	160	5 380	27	169	62	-	5 798	1
Argentina	622	653	21	607	1	23	1	-	653	-
Brazil	3 691	3 470	47	3 328	14	60	21	-	3 470	-
Mexico	303	300	19	263	4	10	4	-	300	-
Other	1 410	1 376	73	1 182	8	76	36	-	1 375	1

Table 5. Number of foreign arrivals by country and purpose of travel (continued)

Country	October		Purpose of travel (October 2008)							Border Traffic Concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
Australasia	10 126	10 737	274	10 271	26	118	42	-	10 731	6
Australia	8 636	8 860	224	8 472	22	107	30	-	8 855	5
New Zealand	1 403	1 799	35	1 738	3	10	12	-	1 798	1
Other	87	78	15	61	1	1	-	-	78	-
Middle East	3 708	3 294	231	2 905	50	94	6	-	3 286	8
Israel	1 729	1 774	47	1 674	7	43	3	-	1 774	-
Lebanon	220	230	31	180	1	16	1	-	229	1
Saudi Arabia	237	354	35	303	8	7	1	-	354	-
Other	1 522	936	118	748	34	28	1	-	929	7
Asia	25 082	19 801	1 219	15 603	284	2 379	118	1	19 604	197
China	4 639	2 958	230	2 058	40	538	4	-	2 870	88
India	5 293	4 873	532	3 613	71	568	43	-	4 827	46
Japan	5 799	4 018	105	3 784	11	114	4	-	4 018	-
Korea	1 713	1 423	63	1 267	30	58	5	-	1 423	-
Malaysia	920	680	27	591	30	30	2	-	680	-
Pakistan	758	733	49	523	13	132	4	1	722	11
Philippines	728	769	26	247	12	438	35	-	758	11
Taiwan	1 332	933	21	724	6	154	7	-	912	21
Thailand	1 055	921	16	809	42	54	-	-	921	-
Other	2 845	2 493	150	1 987	29	293	14	-	2 473	20
Africa Total	569 720	619 300	10 057	583 375	5 515	4 268	2 029	17	605 261	14 039
SADC	555 644	604 338	8 983	571 014	5 123	3 274	1 955	11	590 360	13 978
Angola	2 860	3 274	81	2 921	152	75	45	-	3 274	-
Botswana	61 973	60 780	135	58 760	1 485	194	133	-	60 707	73
DRC	2 558	2 550	123	2 252	61	95	19	-	2 550	-
Lesotho	187 741	173 458	302	158 604	475	143	1 038	3	160 565	12 893
Madagascar	237	401	24	341	4	15	16	-	400	1
Malawi	13 436	15 766	742	14 852	65	87	18	-	15 764	2

Table 5. Number of foreign arrivals by country and purpose of travel (continued)

Country	October		Purpose of travel (October 2008)							Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
	2007	2008								
Mauritius	1 301	1 460	46	1 332	47	22	8	-	1 455	5
Mozambique	89 526	108 951	558	107 693	213	177	53	5	108 699	252
Namibia	15 722	17 953	2 043	14 644	843	71	350	-	17 951	2
Swaziland	77 133	90 434	447	88 671	939	171	106	-	90 334	100
Tanzania	1 474	1 443	165	1 167	54	44	11	-	1 441	2
Zambia	16 316	15 535	2 183	13 071	131	120	23	-	15 528	7
Zimbabwe	85 367	112 333	2 134	106 706	654	2 060	135	3	111 692	641
East & Central Africa	6 858	6 862	478	5 598	233	481	36	6	6 832	30
Burundi	107	116	4	99	6	6	1	-	116	-
Cameroon	440	465	30	345	31	54	4	-	464	1
Central African	18	14	4	9	-	1	-	-	14	-
Chad	30	46	4	36	1	4	1	-	46	-
Comoros	17	20	2	17	1	-	-	-	20	-
Congo	498	422	20	359	6	30	5	-	420	2
Djibouti	7	16	1	14	-	1	-	-	16	-
Equatorial Guinea	17	27	1	24	1	1	-	-	27	-
Eritrea	54	54	8	38	2	5	-	-	53	1
Ethiopia	842	832	33	732	5	51	9	1	831	1
Gabon	288	347	8	291	38	9	1	-	347	-
Kenya	2 454	2 583	217	2 063	81	205	8	-	2 574	9
Reunion	168	66	-	60	5	1	-	-	66	-
Rwanda	287	243	15	186	14	23	3	-	241	2
Sao Tome and Principe	12	19	1	16	-	2	-	-	19	-
Seychelles	215	195	3	188	2	2	-	-	195	-
Somalia	343	190	4	183	2	1	-	-	190	-
Tristan Da Cunha	1	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	3	-
Uganda	1 060	1 204	123	937	36	85	4	5	1 190	14

Table 5. Number of foreign arrivals by country and purpose of travel (concluded)

Country	October		Purpose of travel (October 2008)							Border traffic concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
West Africa	6 194	6 836	416	5 825	129	417	27	-	6 814	22
Ascension	2	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
Benin	121	140	2	128	1	9	-	-	140	-
Burkina Faso	54	78	16	51	1	9	1	-	78	-
Cape Verde Island	71	67	-	65	-	2	-	-	67	-
Cote D'Ivoire	190	216	23	159	9	23	2	-	216	-
Gambia	66	71	12	46	2	9	1	-	70	1
Ghana	1 282	1 168	36	1 054	10	61	3	-	1 164	4
Guinea	134	172	16	137	9	7	3	-	172	-
Guinea-Bissau	19	27	3	22	-	-	2	-	27	-
Liberia	52	83	14	66	-	1	1	-	82	1
Madeira Island	16	17	-	17	-	-	-	-	17	-
Mali	80	112	23	82	-	4	3	-	112	-
Mauritania	27	29	6	23	-	-	-	-	29	-
Niger	33	25	7	18	-	-	-	-	25	-
Nigeria	3 685	4 189	215	3 601	95	259	3	-	4 173	16
Saint Helena	8	21	-	21	-	-	-	-	21	-
Senegal	253	275	33	209	1	24	8	-	275	-
Sierra Leone	64	82	5	70	1	6	-	-	82	-
Togo	37	62	5	54	-	3	-	-	62	-
North Africa	1 024	1 264	180	938	30	96	11	-	1 255	9
Algeria	175	148	21	114	2	9	2	-	148	-
Egypt	411	554	54	433	6	56	3	-	552	2
Libya	103	138	8	103	12	7	2	-	132	6
Morocco	88	103	23	70	-	8	1	-	102	1
The Sudan	119	212	37	157	10	8	-	-	212	-
Tunisia	125	105	37	58	-	7	3	-	105	-
Western Sahara	3	4	-	3	-	1	-	-	4	-
Unspecified	5 575	7 052	75	2 183	1 087	1 726	18	8	5 097	1 955

EXPLANATORY NOTES

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 then processes 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 to estimate, monitor and understand salient characteristics of foreign travellers and volumes of South African residents travelling outside South Africa;
- can, in the absence of information on foreign tourists, be further analysed to provide some indication of international tourism; and
- 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.

The information on documented migrants provides crucial information on receiving countries of South African emigrants which could be targeted in initiatives geared towards attracting back migrants into the country. In addition, the data on permanent residents are valuable in assessing not only the demographic and economic profiles of immigrants but also their contribution to national social and economic programmes.

2. Purpose of the statistical release

This release reports on arrivals and departures of foreign and South African travellers. Travellers include (a) same-day visitors and tourists and (b) other travellers such as migrant workers from other countries paid in South Africa.

3. Scope and coverage

This release covers all the data as received from the DHA. The arrivals of foreign travellers are more detailed than departures as they are reported by mode of travel, gender, age and purpose of visit whereas statistics on South African residents are reported by mode of travel. Statistics on documented migration, i.e. self-declared emigrants and documented immigrants, are currently not reported due to the unavailability of data from the DHA.

4. Data

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

- Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) database on population Movement Control System (MCS): Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all land, 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 system. Generally the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the port's electronic database. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) downloads the data covering a particular calendar month from the mainframe of the State Information Technology Agency (SITA), where the DHA stores its data.
- As part of data interrogation, data from the OR 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 higher than that of the DHA because of, among other reasons, travellers who are in transit and those who boarded airplanes but refused entry into the country. In October 2008, the DHA data was 17,8% lower than that of ACSA.

- DHA departure forms: the DHA departure forms are specifically designed for the collection of data from South African residents departing South Africa. The completed forms from OR Tambo, Cape Town and Durban international airports covering a particular calendar month are processed and analysed accordingly by Stats SA.
- The database for applicants for South African permanent residence: a printout of data on the successful applicants covering a particular calendar month is issued to Stats SA.

5. Limitations

The main limitation of the published information is its inability to directly measure the volume of tourists. The main aspects of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation's (UNWTO) definition of a tourist are duration of stay and whether individuals are remunerated in the place being visited. Although the intended duration of stay can be inferred from the expiry date of the temporary residence permit, this does not necessarily translate into actual duration of stay. In addition, the data do not provide information on the remuneration status of travellers in South Africa.

The information on the total number of arrivals and departures of South African residents is collected from the scanning of passports. However, data on country of final destination and purpose of visit will be available when the re-introduction of the departure forms is in full operational at the three international airports (OR Tambo, Cape Town and Durban). Processing of available departure forms from the three international airports is currently underway.

Due to unavailability of data from the DHA, information on documented immigrants is not included in this current publication. The documented immigration information will be provided as soon as it is made available to Stats SA.

6. Glossary of terms

Key terms used in this release are defined as follows:

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

Border traffic concession is granted to a person who crosses the border on a frequent basis. The concession is granted for a maximum period of six months after which it can be renewed if necessary.

Country refers to individual countries within a region. Note that not all the lists of countries available in the data are reported in the release owing to the few monthly arrivals from those countries. Data on these countries will be made available to individuals on request.

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

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

Overseas refers to all other countries outside Africa.

Region refers to the following country classification: Europe, North America, Central and South America, Australasia, the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

SADC refers to the thirteen countries, excluding South Africa, that belong to the Southern African Development Community.

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

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

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 not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited. 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. *Even though the data from the DHA used in this release do not provide information on duration of stay and remuneration status of the travellers, activities of most of these travellers will comprise tourism.*

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

Traveller is any person on a trip between two or more localities (e.g. countries). Travellers can include Visitors (same-day and overnight) and other travellers such as workers paid in the country visited, migrants, refugees, diplomats and others within the usual environment.

Visitor is 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. However, in this release, the concept visitor is used to indicate an individual that entered the country on visitor's temporary permit.

7. Symbols and abbreviations used

- = nil
Unspec. = unspecified

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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