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# Statistical release

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## KEY FINDINGS

### 1. Number of travellers

The September 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 2 087 677 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through the ports of entry. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 686 070 South African residents and 1 401 607 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures indicates that 335 978 and 350 092 South African resident arrivals and departures respectively were recorded. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals and departures are 757 772 and 643 835 respectively. A comparison between the movements in August 2008 and September 2008 indicates that there was an increase in all movements except foreign departures. The September 2008 figure (335 978) for South African resident arrivals shows a decline of 12,2% compared to the September 2007 figure of 382 857. Similarly, there was an increase of 0,5% for foreign arrivals from 754 272 in September 2007 to 757 772 in September 2008.

### 2. Mode of travel

It is observed from Table 2 that road transport was the most common (70,0%) mode of travel used by 1 462 290 out of the 2 087 667 travellers. The arrival data on South African residents show that 39,4% came by air and 60,0% by road. For their departure, 41,1% and 58,9% 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 (86,8%) compared to road transport (12,8%) whereas travellers from Africa used road (91,1%) more than air transport (6,7%). 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 more than three quarters (78,7%) of foreign arrivals were from Africa whilst less than a quarter (20,5%) 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 September 2007 and September 2008 indicates that the number of overseas arrivals declined by 12,9% from 178 380 in 2007 to 155 394 in 2008. Arrivals from Africa increased by 4,5% from 570 268 in September 2007 to 596 158 in September 2008.

#### 3.1 Gender and age distribution

The travellers from Africa comprised of 326 455 males, 268 644 females and 1 059 with unspecified gender. The data on overseas travellers had 90 471 males, 64 786 females and gender was not specified in 137 cases. Overall, more males than females from African (males: 54,8%; females: 45,1%) and overseas countries (males: 58,1%; females:41,7%) 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 (84,4%) 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 84,2% 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 (10,2%) compared to that among persons from Africa (2,5%).

#### 3.2 Regional and national distribution

Overseas travellers came mainly from Europe (61,2%), followed by North America (16,4%), Asia (10,5%), Australasia (7,3%), Central and South America (3,3%) and Middle East (1,5%). Virtually all arrivals (98,0%) from Africa came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining arrivals from Africa is as follows: West Africa (1,0%), East and Central Africa (0,9%) and North Africa (0,1%). September 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, USA, Germany, Netherlands, Australia, France, Italy and India. Travellers from these eight countries constitute 67,0% of all travellers from overseas. A comparison of figures from overseas for September 2007 and September 2008 shows that there were decreases in the number of travellers arriving from UK (16,5% down from 35 915 to 29 976); USA (7,8% down from 23 405 to

21 590); Germany (20,3% down from 21 796 to 17 377) ; Netherlands (13,1% down from 11 728 to 10 193); Australia (3,1% down from 9 897 to 9 593); France (0,5% down from 7 454 to 7 414); Italy (0,6% down from 4 171 to 4 148) and India (33,0% down from 5 805 to 3 888).

The eight leading source countries from SADC were Lesotho, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Botswana, Namibia, Malawi and Zambia. Figure 4 shows that travellers from these eight SADC countries made up 96,8% of all arrivals from Africa. When comparing arrival figures from the SADC countries for September 2007 and September 2008, there was an increase in the number of travellers arriving from Lesotho (1,9% up from 170 111 to 173 283); Mozambique (16,0% up from 87 097 to 100 990); Zimbabwe (23,9% up from 81 468 to 100 922) and Malawi (10,4% up from 13 179 to 14 549). However, there was a decrease in the number of arrivals from Swaziland (1,8% down from 91 535 to 89 879); Botswana (8,2% down from 72 904 to 66 899); Namibia (6,5% down from 17 299 to 16 183) and Zambia (6,6% down from 15 536 to 14 507).

The eight leading source countries from 'other' African countries, shown in Figure 5, are Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Uganda, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Congo and Gabon. A comparison of arrivals for 'other' African countries for September 2007 and that of September 2008, shows decreases in the number of travellers arriving from Nigeria (0,7% down from 3 767 to 3 742), Kenya (14,1% down from 2 362 to 2 029); Ghana (22,9% down from 1 234 to 952); Uganda (21,4% down from 1 176 to 924); Cameroon (13,3% down from 435 to 377) and Congo (20,5% down from 435 to 346). However, there was an increase in the number of arrivals from Ethiopia (7,1% up from 732 to 784) and Gabon ( 29,1% up from 251 to 324).

### 3.3 Purpose of travel

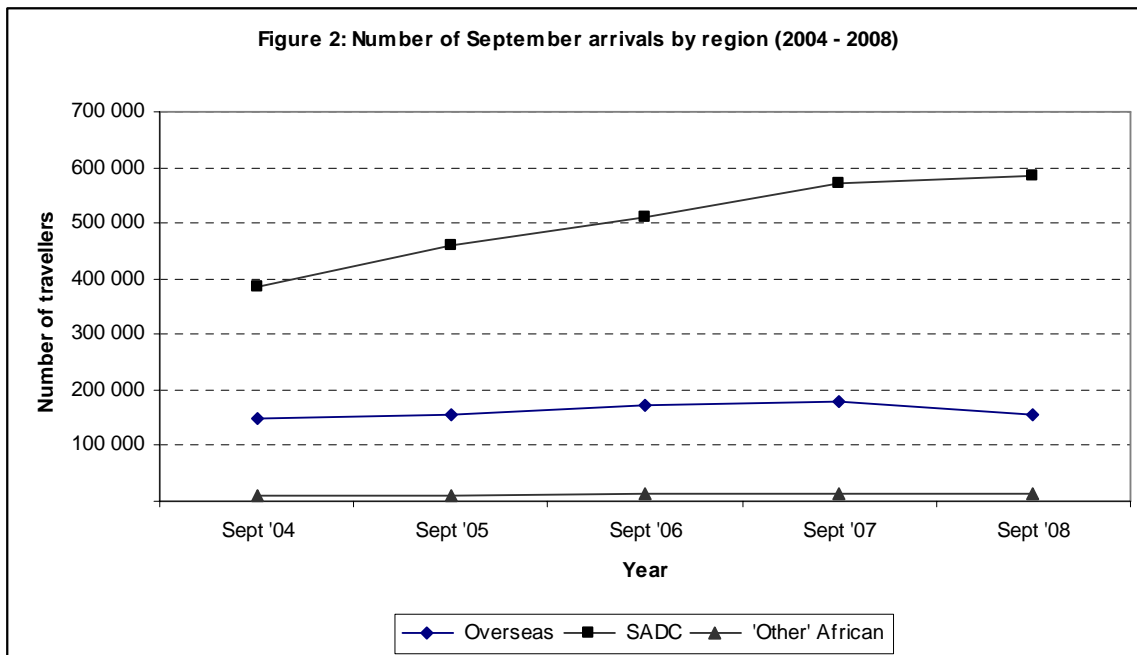
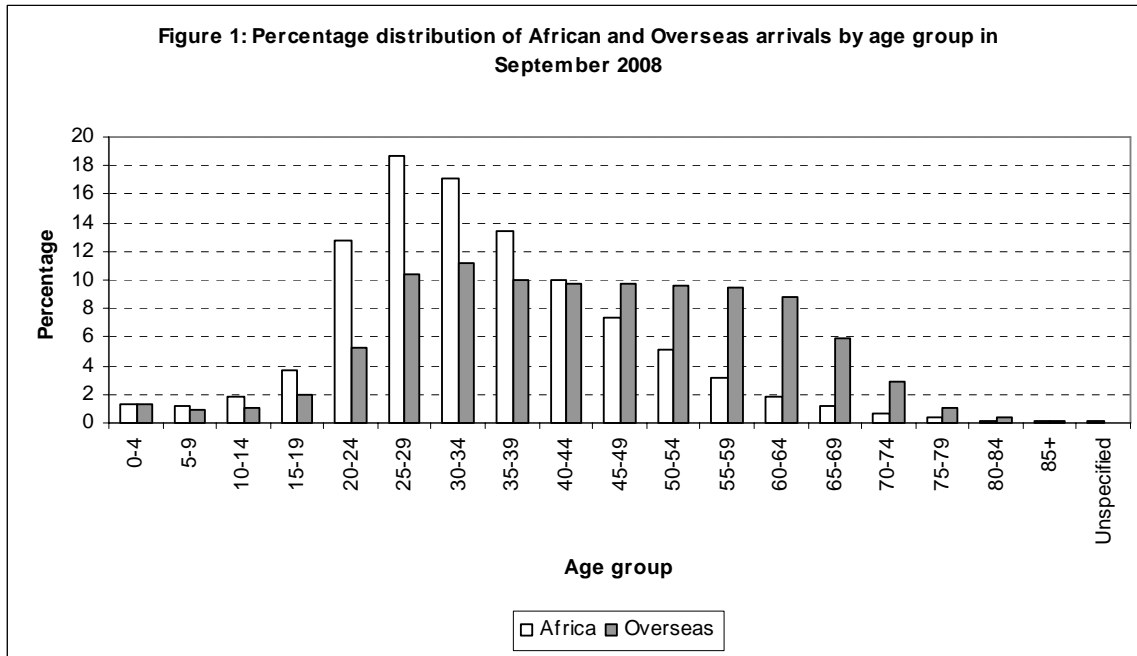
As observed from data given in Table 4, an overwhelming majority (93,6%) of foreign arrivals was admitted into South Africa on visitors' temporary residence permit. These visitors are mainly made up of same-day travellers as well as tourists. This is in vast contrast to those on business (1,8%), those who have come for work (1,5%) and those who have come to study (0,8%).

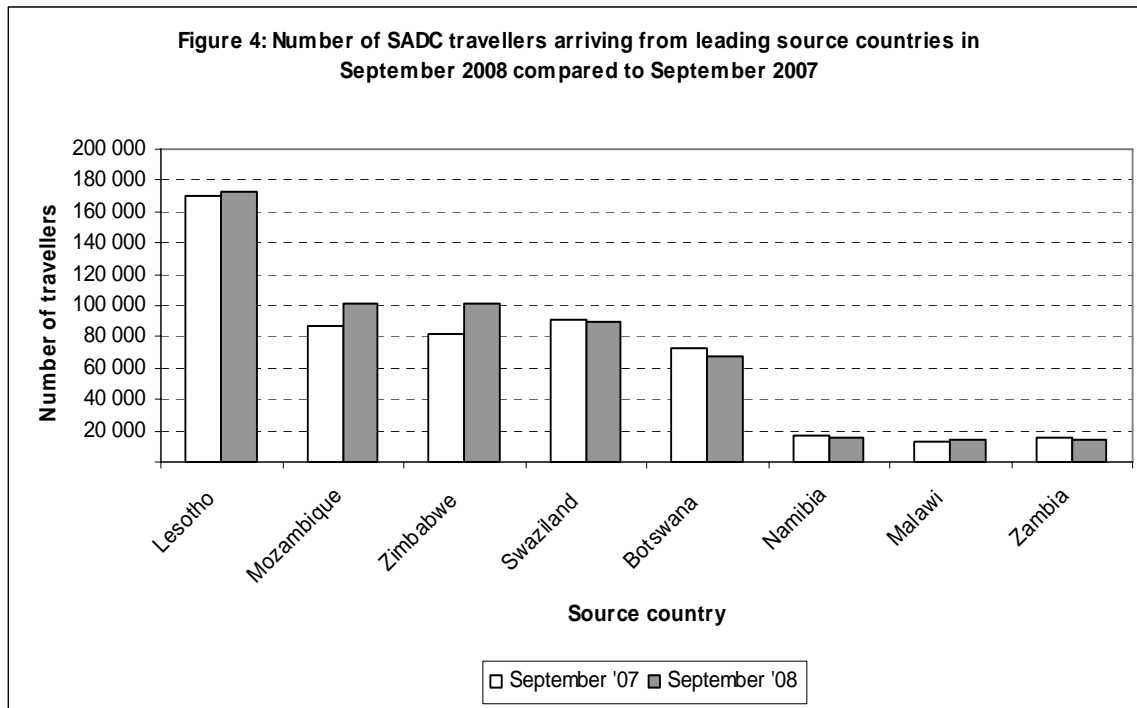
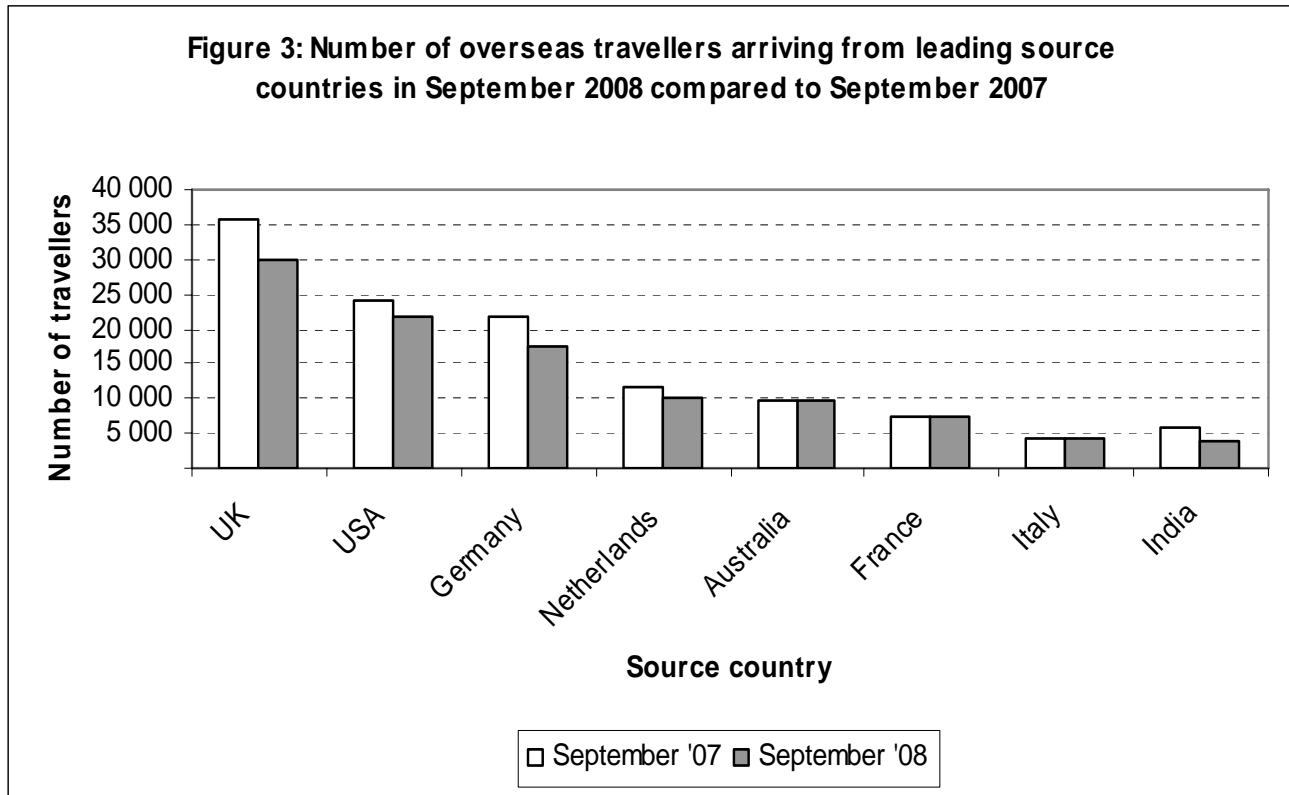
Overall, 91,8% of overseas travellers came to South Africa to visit. A detailed analysis reveals that all the overseas regions had more than 77,0% travellers coming to South Africa for holidays. Travellers from Australasia (96,6%), North America (94,5%), Central and South America (93,2%), Europe (92,9%) and the Middle East (87,5%) were admitted into South Africa as visitors. Travellers from Asia were more diverse in their purpose, for instance, 77,5% came into the country for holidays, 13,5% for work whereas 6,1% came for business and 0,7% to study.

Although the majority (94,7%) 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:

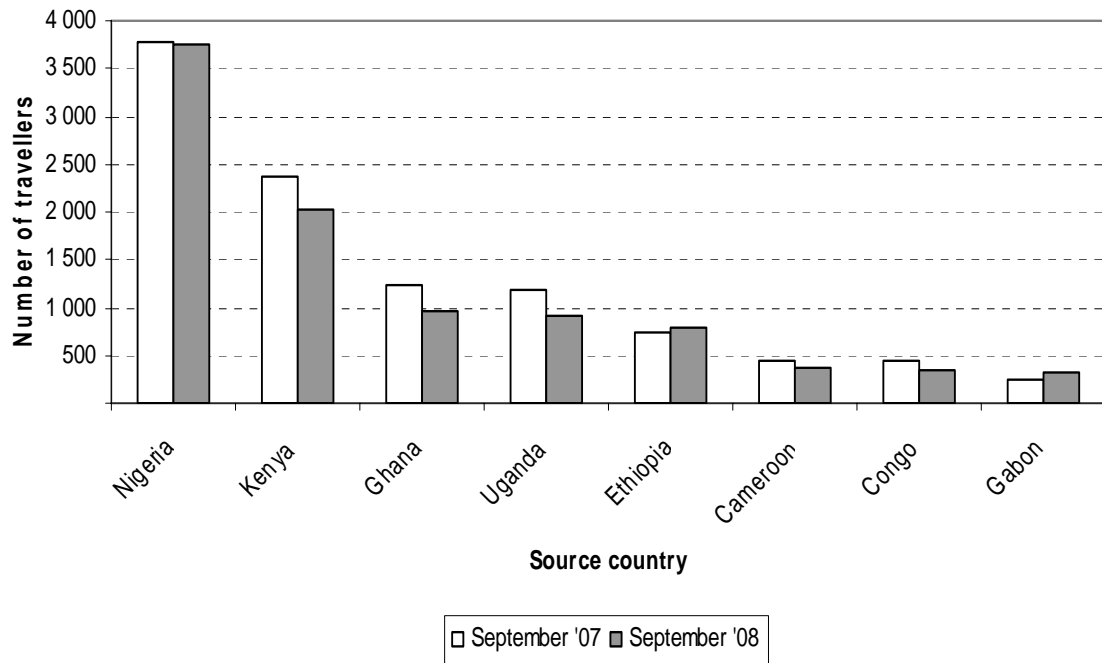
- Whereas 94,9% of travellers from the SADC countries were recorded as on holiday, 82,4% of travellers from 'other' African countries were admitted on visitor's permit. Proportionally, the lowest percentage (68,5%) of visitors came from North Africa, a region where, a large percentage of travellers was in South Africa for business (14,4%).
- 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 11,5%; 6,5% and 5,7% respectively of travellers who were in South Africa for work as compared to only 0,5% among the SADC travellers.

**PJ Lehohla**  
**Statistician-General**





**Figure 5: Number of 'other' African travellers arriving from leading source countries in September 2008 compared to September 2007**



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

Travel direction	September	August	September	% change	% change
	2007	2008	2008	Sep 07–Sep 08	Aug 08 – Sep 08
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2 182 919</b>	<b>2 083 981</b>	<b>2 087 677</b>	<b>-4,4</b>	<b>0,2</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>767 556</b>	<b>666 132</b>	<b>686 070</b>	<b>-10,6</b>	<b>3,0</b>
Arrivals	382 857	326 075	335 978	-12,2	3,0
Departures	384 699	340 057	350 092	-9,0	3,0
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>1 415 363</b>	<b>1 417 849</b>	<b>1 401 607</b>	<b>-1,0</b>	<b>-1,1</b>
Arrivals	754 272	752 942	757 772	0,5	0,6
Departures	661 091	664 907	643 835	-2,6	-3,2

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

Travel direction	Total	Mode of travel (September 2008)								
		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
		(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2 087 677</b>	<b>109 590</b>	<b>3 079</b>	<b>483 593</b>	<b>11 147</b>	<b>607 409</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>1 462 290</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>17 414</b>
<b>Arrivals:</b>	<b>1 093 750</b>	<b>57 907</b>	<b>1 452</b>	<b>244 471</b>	<b>5 072</b>	<b>308 902</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>767 190</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>17 377</b>
South African residents	335 978	21 763	1 024	105 670	3 856	132 313	3	201 636	81	1 945
Foreign travellers	757 772	36 144	428	138 801	1 216	176 589	32	565 554	165	15 432
Overseas	155 394	33 905	217	100 028	783	134 933	9	19 917	120	415
Africa	596 158	1 953	210	37 232	373	39 768	23	543 212	18	13 137
Unspecified	6 220	286	1	1 541	60	1 888		2 425	27	1 880
<b>Departures:</b>	<b>993 927</b>	<b>51 683</b>	<b>1 627</b>	<b>239 122</b>	<b>6 075</b>	<b>298 507</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>695 100</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>37</b>
South African residents	350 092	22 976	1 289	115 260	4 394	143 919	22	206 072	56	23
Foreign travellers	643 835	28 707	338	123 862	1 681	154 588	33	489 028	172	14



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

Country	Mode of travel (September 2008)										
	September		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>754 272</b>	<b>757 772</b>	<b>36 144</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>138 801</b>	<b>1 216</b>	<b>176 589</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>565 554</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>15 432</b>
<b>Overseas Total</b>	<b>178 380</b>	<b>155 394</b>	<b>33 905</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>100 028</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>134 933</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19 917</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>415</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>107 906</b>	<b>95 064</b>	<b>25 444</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>55 245</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>81 166</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13 699</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>149</b>
Austria	1 413	1 212	311	-	732	5	1 048	-	162	2	-
Belgium	3 587	3 212	562	1	1 979	16	2 558	-	654	-	-
Denmark	1 822	1 623	315	17	1 121	1	1 454	-	169	-	-
France	7 454	7 414	1 038	16	5 253	43	6 350	-	1 021	6	37
Germany	21 796	17 377	5 801	7	8 527	41	14 376	-	2 986	6	9
Ireland	2 833	2 809	1 010	4	1 400	17	2 431	-	371	-	7
Italy	4 171	4 148	991	2	2 687	11	3 691	-	450	-	7
The Netherlands	11 728	10 193	2 648	3	5 329	30	8 010	-	2 175	5	3
Norway	1 387	1 211	503	-	607	5	1 115	-	90	1	5
Portugal	2 121	2 307	120	14	1 068	22	1 224	-	1 077	-	6
Spain	2 965	3 078	255	4	2 446	13	2 718	-	360	-	-
Sweden	2 140	2 073	580	1	1 251	5	1 837	-	235	1	-
Switzerland	3 042	2 808	676	4	1 755	7	2 442	-	364	2	-
UK	35 915	29 976	9 117	37	17 632	135	26 921	2	3 002	8	43
Other	5 532	5 623	1 517	1	3 458	15	4 991	-	583	17	32
<b>North America</b>	<b>27 612</b>	<b>25 436</b>	<b>3 869</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18 829</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>22 909</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 477</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>18</b>
Canada	4 194	3 842	828	-	2 556	30	3 414	-	414	13	1
USA	23 405	21 590	3 041	12	16 271	169	19 493	2	2 061	17	17
Other	13	4	-	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	-
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>5 143</b>	<b>5 060</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3 833</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4 545</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Argentina	523	699	280	2	374	2	658	-	41	-	-
Brazil	2 924	2 687	237	6	2 134	6	2 383	-	304	-	-
Chile	332	326	62	-	238	-	300	-	26	-	-
Other	1 364	1 348	114	-	1 087	3	1 204	1	143	-	-

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

Country	Mode of travel (September 2008)										
	September		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>11 838</b>	<b>11 267</b>	<b>1 193</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>9 060</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>10 376</b>	-	<b>869</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>
Australia	9 897	9 593	971	45	7 769	62	8 847	-	726	14	6
New Zealand	1 878	1 627	221	1	1 261	15	1 498	-	128	-	1
Other	63	47	1	-	30	-	31	-	15	1	-
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>3 469</b>	<b>2 277</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1 734</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2 109</b>	-	<b>165</b>	-	<b>3</b>
Iran	271	225	128	-	89	1	218	-	7	-	-
Israel	1 739	1 372	76	3	1 200	6	1 285	-	85	-	2
Lebanon	232	142	16	1	97	4	118	-	24	-	-
Other	1 227	538	135	-	348	5	488	-	49	-	1
<b>Asia</b>	<b>22 412</b>	<b>16 290</b>	<b>2 351</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>11 327</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>13 828</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2 193</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>238</b>
China	4 472	2 882	213	8	2 294	20	2 535	-	303	-	44
India	5 805	3 888	439	14	2 689	13	3 155	1	660	3	69
Indonesia	257	789	398	-	365	1	764	-	24	-	1
Japan	2 937	2 154	199	-	1 790	48	2 037	-	106	10	1
Korea	1 493	1 277	104	-	1 026	5	1 135	-	112	-	30
Malaysia	1 170	707	287	4	363	4	658	-	42	-	7
Pakistan	763	648	54	1	345	5	405	2	229	2	10
Philippines	818	710	83	-	495	1	579	-	90	10	31
Taiwan	1 340	976	204	9	462	9	684	-	260	-	32
Other	3 357	2 259	370	-	1 498	8	1 876	1	367	2	13
<b>Africa Total</b>	<b>570 268</b>	<b>596 158</b>	<b>1 953</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>37 232</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>39 768</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>543 212</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13 137</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>556 593</b>	<b>584 214</b>	<b>1 800</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>27 490</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>29 804</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>541 283</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13 093</b>
Angola	2 349	2 127	100	-	1 891	19	2 010	-	117	-	-
Botswana	72 904	66 899	19	-	2 420	109	2 548	-	64 293	18	40
DRC	2 563	2 302	-	-	1 608	22	1 630	-	672	-	-
Lesotho	170 111	173 283	11	-	552	1	564	-	160 534	-	12 185
Madagascar	240	267	19	-	238	-	257	-	9	-	1
Malawi	13 179	14 549	7	1	1 725	3	1 736	-	12 809	-	4

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

Country	Mode of travel (September 2008)										
	September		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Mauritius	1 088	1 086	92	117	749	1	959	-	127	-	-
Mozambique	87 097	100 990	70	69	1 986	28	2 153	1	98 642	-	194
Namibia	17 299	16 183	1 406	-	2 331	15	3 752	-	12 431	-	-
Swaziland	91 535	89 879	7	6	636	13	662	6	89 109	-	102
Tanzania	1 224	1 220	5	1	876	3	885	-	324	-	11
Zambia	15 536	14 507	10	-	4 378	25	4 413	-	10 090	-	4
Zimbabwe	81 468	100 922	54	12	8 100	69	8 235	9	92 126	-	552
<b>East &amp; Central Africa</b>	<b>6 389</b>	<b>5 535</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4 336</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4 408</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1 111</b>	-	<b>12</b>
Burundi	100	109	1	-	89	-	90	-	19	-	-
Cameroon	435	377	9	-	324	-	333	-	44	-	-
Central Africa	23	10	-	-	10	-	10	-	-	-	-
Chad	17	21	-	-	20	-	20	-	1	-	-
Comoros	23	6	-	-	6	-	6	-	-	-	-
Congo	435	346	5	-	219	1	225	-	120	-	1
Djibouti	5	5	-	-	3	-	3	-	2	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	17	42	-	-	24	2	26	-	16	-	-
Eritrea	78	48	1	-	37	-	38	-	10	-	-
Ethiopia	732	784	7	-	500	3	510	-	272	-	2
Gabon	251	324	-	-	317	4	321	-	3	-	-
Kenya	2 362	2 029	14	1	1 661	11	1 687	-	334	-	8
Reunion	29	35	-	-	35	-	35	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	291	250	-	-	198	6	204	-	46	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	13	14	-	-	12	-	12	-	2	-	-
Seychelles	179	169	3	-	160	-	163	-	6	-	-
Somalia	223	41	-	-	1	-	1	-	40	-	-
Tristan Da Cunha	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Uganda	1 176	924	1	-	720	2	723	4	196	-	1

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

Country	Mode of travel (September 2008)										
	September		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>6 303</b>	<b>5 764</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 913</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>4 991</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>744</b>	-	<b>26</b>
Ascension	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Benin	155	110	2	-	89	-	91	-	19	-	-
Burkina Faso	74	35	6	-	28	-	34	-	1	-	-
Cape Verde Island	54	56	-	-	40	-	40	-	16	-	-
Cote D'Ivoire	263	181	1	-	171	6	178	-	3	-	-
Gambia	46	43	1	-	27	-	28	-	13	-	2
Ghana	1 234	952	5	1	791	6	803	-	144	-	5
Guinea	130	156	-	-	113	-	113	-	43	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	30	17	-	-	5	-	5	-	12	-	-
Liberia	40	56	-	-	55	-	55	-	1	-	-
Madeira Island	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Mali	108	79	1	-	66	1	68	-	11	-	-
Mauritania	14	10	-	-	10	-	10	-	-	-	-
Niger	17	12	-	-	10	-	10	-	2	-	-
Nigeria	3 767	3 742	16	2	3 249	17	3 284	3	437	-	18
Saint Helena	11	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-
Senegal	254	202	6	-	182	5	193	-	9	-	-
Sierra Leone	63	65	2	-	49	-	51	-	13	-	1
Togo	36	30	-	-	28	-	28	-	2	-	-
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>71</b>		<b>493</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>565</b>		<b>74</b>		<b>6</b>
Algeria	211	81	7	-	56	-	63	-	18	-	-
Egypt	334	236	20	-	187	-	207	-	28	-	1
Libya	68	37	7	-	19	-	26	-	8	-	3
Morocco	100	57	4	-	44	1	49	-	8	-	-
The Sudan	158	156	12	-	132	-	144	-	11	-	1
Tunisia	112	77	21	-	54	-	75	-	1	-	1
Western Sahara	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>5 624</b>	<b>6 220</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1 541</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1 888</b>		<b>2 425</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1 880</b>

**Table 4. Number of foreign arrivals by purpose of travel**

Region	Total	Purpose of travel (September 2008)							Border Traffic Concession
		Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>757 772</b>	<b>13 682</b>	<b>708 993</b>	<b>6 340</b>	<b>11 004</b>	<b>2 489</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>742 513</b>	<b>15 259</b>
<b>Overseas Total</b>	<b>155 394</b>	<b>5 168</b>	<b>142 576</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>5 989</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>155 141</b>	<b>253</b>
Europe	95 064	3 029	88 312	492	2 917	243	-	94 993	71
North America	25 436	631	24 046	185	491	65	-	25 418	18
Central and South America	5 060	119	4 718	19	182	22	-	5 060	-
Australasia	11 267	218	10 888	11	114	30	-	11 261	6
Middle East	2 277	170	1 993	15	88	10	-	2 276	1
Asia	16 290	1 001	12 619	114	2 197	198	4	16 133	157
<b>Africa Total</b>	<b>596 158</b>	<b>8 446</b>	<b>564 293</b>	<b>4 749</b>	<b>3 629</b>	<b>1 914</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>583 032</b>	<b>13 126</b>
SADC	584 214	7 679	554 448	4 293	2 869	1 834	-	571 123	13 091
East and Central Africa	5 535	371	4 470	290	359	33	-	5 523	12
West Africa	5 764	303	4 933	137	327	44	1	5 745	19
North Africa	645	93	442	29	74	3	-	641	4
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>6 220</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>2 124</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>1 386</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4 340</b>	<b>1 880</b>

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

Country	September		Purpose of travel (September 2008)							Border Traffic Concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>754 272</b>	<b>757 772</b>	<b>13 682</b>	<b>708 993</b>	<b>6 340</b>	<b>11 004</b>	<b>2 489</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>742 513</b>	<b>15 259</b>
<b>Overseas Total</b>	<b>178 380</b>	<b>155 394</b>	<b>5 168</b>	<b>142 576</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>5 989</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>155 141</b>	<b>253</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>107 906</b>	<b>95 064</b>	<b>3 029</b>	<b>88 312</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>2 917</b>	<b>243</b>	-	<b>94 993</b>	<b>71</b>
Austria	1 413	1 212	59	1 116	4	32	1	-	1 212	-
Belgium	3 587	3 212	86	3 033	12	78	3	-	3 212	-
Denmark	1 822	1 623	46	1 510	8	58	1	-	1 623	-
France	7 454	7 414	242	6 801	37	290	37	-	7 407	7
Germany	21 796	17 377	515	16 266	96	464	27	-	17 368	9
Ireland	2 833	2 809	48	2 689	13	46	6	-	2 802	7
Italy	4 171	4 148	117	3 941	8	66	9	-	4 141	7
The Netherlands	11 728	10 193	214	9 696	59	204	18	-	10 191	2
Norway	1 387	1 211	59	1 089	16	41	5	-	1 210	1
Portugal	2 121	2 307	22	2 246	8	22	4	-	2 302	5
Spain	2 965	3 078	39	2 973	12	51	3	-	3 078	-
Sweden	2 140	2 073	124	1 835	12	99	3	-	2 073	-
Switzerland	3 042	2 808	62	2 683	17	44	2	-	2 808	-
UK	35 915	29 976	1 127	27 893	161	700	65	-	29 946	30
Other	5 532	5 623	269	4 541	29	722	59	-	5 620	3
<b>North America</b>	<b>27 612</b>	<b>25 436</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>24 046</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>65</b>	-	<b>25 418</b>	<b>18</b>
Canada	4 194	3 842	95	3 632	17	84	13	-	3 841	1
USA	23 405	21 590	536	20 410	168	407	52	-	21 573	17
Other	13	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	-
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>5 143</b>	<b>5 060</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>4 718</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>22</b>	-	<b>5 060</b>	-
Argentina	523	699	17	659	2	21	-	-	699	-
Brazil	2 924	2 687	36	2 564	7	66	14	-	2 687	-
Chile	332	326	15	304	-	6	1	-	326	-
Other	1 364	1 348	51	1 191	10	89	7	-	1 348	-

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

Country	September		Purpose of travel (September 2008)							Border Traffic Concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>11 838</b>	<b>11 267</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>10 888</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>30</b>	-	<b>11 261</b>	<b>6</b>
Australia	9 897	9 593	191	9 267	10	95	25	-	9 588	5
New Zealand	1 878	1 627	26	1 579	-	16	5	-	1 626	1
Other	63	47	1	42	1	3	-	-	47	-
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>3 469</b>	<b>2 277</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>1 993</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>10</b>	-	<b>2 276</b>	<b>1</b>
Iran	271	225	13	203	1	8	-	-	225	-
Israel	1 739	1 372	46	1 267	2	49	8	-	1 372	-
Lebanon	232	142	23	103	4	12	-	-	142	-
Other	1 227	538	88	420	8	19	2	-	537	1
<b>Asia</b>	<b>22 412</b>	<b>16 290</b>	<b>1 001</b>	<b>12 619</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>2 197</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16 133</b>	<b>157</b>
China	4 472	2 882	205	2 083	28	462	60	-	2 838	44
India	5 805	3 888	437	2 797	21	546	31	-	3 832	56
Indonesia	257	789	23	579	1	184	2	-	789	-
Japan	2 937	2 154	88	1 949	4	107	6	-	2 154	-
Korea	1 493	1 277	34	1 131	32	48	32	-	1 277	-
Malaysia	1 170	707	25	640	2	27	13	-	707	-
Pakistan	763	648	25	500	5	103	1	4	638	10
Philippines	818	710	28	235	2	399	38	-	702	8
Taiwan	1 340	976	41	779	8	115	2	-	945	31
Other	3 357	2 259	95	1 926	11	206	13	-	2 251	8
<b>Africa Total</b>	<b>570 268</b>	<b>596 158</b>	<b>8 446</b>	<b>564 293</b>	<b>4 749</b>	<b>3 629</b>	<b>1 914</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>583 032</b>	<b>13 126</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>556 593</b>	<b>584 214</b>	<b>7 679</b>	<b>554 448</b>	<b>4 293</b>	<b>2 869</b>	<b>1 834</b>	-	<b>571 123</b>	<b>13 091</b>
Angola	2 349	2 127	67	1 848	116	78	18	-	2 127	-
Botswana	72 904	66 899	102	65 317	1 054	212	174	-	66 859	40
DRC	2 563	2 302	85	2 064	55	74	24	-	2 302	-
Lesotho	170 111	173 283	294	159 266	507	145	886	-	161 098	12 185
Madagascar	240	267	10	227	-	25	4	-	266	1
Malawi	13 179	14 549	676	13 727	42	86	14	-	14 545	4

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

Country	September		Purpose of travel (September 2008)							Border traffic concession
			Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
	2007	2008								
Mauritius	1 088	1 086	29	1 009	13	23	12	-	1 086	-
Mozambique	87 097	100 990	440	100 005	145	183	23	-	100 796	194
Namibia	17 299	16 183	1 739	13 476	491	87	390	-	16 183	-
Swaziland	91 535	89 879	359	88 066	1 037	148	167	-	89 777	102
Tanzania	1 224	1 220	110	1 008	43	38	10	-	1 209	11
Zambia	15 536	14 507	1 909	12 313	138	119	24	-	14 503	4
Zimbabwe	81 468	100 922	1 859	96 122	652	1 651	88	-	100 372	550
<b>East &amp; Central Africa</b>	<b>6 389</b>	<b>5 535</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>4 470</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>33</b>	-	<b>5 523</b>	<b>12</b>
Burundi	100	109	12	88	4	3	2	-	109	-
Cameroon	435	377	32	261	32	50	2	-	377	-
Central African	23	10	-	8	2	-	-	-	10	-
Chad	17	21	3	13	1	3	1	-	21	-
Comoros	23	6	-	6	-	-	-	-	6	-
Congo	435	346	14	289	23	16	3	-	345	1
Djibouti	5	5	-	5	-	-	-	-	5	-
Equatorial Guinea	17	42	1	35	4	2	-	-	42	-
Eritrea	78	48	4	35	1	8	-	-	48	-
Ethiopia	732	784	23	721	12	24	2	-	782	2
Gabon	251	324	6	288	19	11	-	-	324	-
Kenya	2 362	2 029	173	1 550	120	167	11	-	2 021	8
Reunion	29	35	1	34	-	-	-	-	35	-
Rwanda	291	250	16	197	20	16	1	-	250	-
Sao Tome and Principe	13	14	1	13	-	-	-	-	14	-
Seychelles	179	169	1	163	2	2	1	-	169	-
Somalia	223	41	-	40	-	1	-	-	41	-
Tristan Da Cunha	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Uganda	1 176	924	84	724	49	56	10	-	923	1



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

Country	September		Purpose of travel (September 2008)							Border traffic concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>6 303</b>	<b>5 764</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>4 933</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>44</b>	-	<b>5 745</b>	<b>19</b>
Ascension	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
Benin	155	110	6	95	-	7	2	-	110	-
Burkina Faso	74	35	12	19	1	3	-	-	35	-
Cape Verde Island	54	56	-	54	1	-	1	-	56	-
Cote D'Ivoire	263	181	23	114	13	29	2	-	181	-
Gambia	46	43	4	32	-	3	2	-	41	2
Ghana	1 234	952	29	844	17	55	2	-	947	5
Guinea	130	156	7	133	7	1	8	-	156	-
Guinea-Bissau	30	17	-	16	1	-	-	-	17	-
Liberia	40	56	6	47	2	1	-	-	56	-
Madeira Island	7	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Mali	108	79	7	66	2	2	2	-	79	-
Mauritania	14	10	1	8	-	-	1	-	10	-
Niger	17	12	4	8	-	-	-	-	12	-
Nigeria	3 767	3 742	182	3 249	85	200	14	1	3 731	11
Saint Helena	11	15	-	15	-	-	-	-	15	-
Senegal	254	202	19	154	6	14	9	-	202	-
Sierra Leone	63	65	3	51	2	8	-	-	64	1
Togo	36	30	-	25	-	4	1	-	30	-
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>3</b>	-	<b>641</b>	<b>4</b>
Algeria	211	81	10	59	4	8	-	-	81	-
Egypt	334	236	30	167	2	36	1	-	236	-
Libya	68	37	6	22	5	1	-	-	34	3
Morocco	100	57	9	36	5	7	-	-	57	-
The Sudan	158	156	19	111	12	12	1	-	155	1
Tunisia	112	77	19	46	1	10	1	-	77	-
Western Sahara	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>5 624</b>	<b>6 220</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>2 124</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>1 386</b>	<b>7</b>	-	<b>4 340</b>	<b>1 880</b>

## 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 September 2008, the DHA data was 40% 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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