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# Statistical release

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**Contents**

**Page**

**KEY FINDINGS**

1. Number of travellers .....	2
2. Mode of travel .....	2
3. Foreign arrivals .....	2
3.1 <i>Gender and age distribution</i> .....	2
3.2 <i>Regional and national distribution</i> .....	2
3.3 <i>Purpose of travel</i> .....	3

**Figures**

1. Percentage distribution of African and overseas arrivals by age group in November 2008.....	4
2. Number of November arrivals by region (2004 - 2008).....	4
3. Number of overseas travellers arriving from leading source countries in November 2008 compared to November 2007.....	5
4. Number of travellers from SADC countries arriving from leading source countries in November 2008 compared to November 2007.....	5
5. Number of travellers from 'other' African countries arriving from leading source countries in November 2008 compared to November 2007.....	6

**Tables**

1. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction .....	7
2. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel .....	7
3. Number of foreign arrivals by country and mode of travel .....	8
4. Number of foreign arrivals by purpose of travel .....	12
5. Number of foreign arrivals by country and purpose of travel .....	13

**EXPLANATORY NOTES**

1. Introduction .....	17
2. Purpose of the statistical release .....	17
3. Scope and coverage.....	17
4. Data .....	18
5. Limitations .....	18
6. Glossary of terms .....	19
7. Symbols and abbreviations used .....	19

<b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b> .....	20
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## KEY FINDINGS

### 1. Number of travellers

The November 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 2 207 158 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through the ports of entry. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 631 066 South African residents and 1 576 092 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures indicates that 315 629 and 315 437 South African resident arrivals and departures respectively were recorded. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals and departures were 827 605 and 748 487 respectively. A comparison between the movements in October 2008 and November 2008 indicates that there was a decline in all movements except foreign departures. The November 2008 figure (315 629) for South African resident arrivals shows a decline of 1,9% compared to the November 2007 figure of 321 643. Similarly, there was an increase of 2,8% for foreign arrivals from 805 400 in November 2007 to 827 605 in November 2008.

### 2. Mode of travel

It is observed from Table 2 that road transport was the most common (66,9%) mode of travel used by 1 475 693 out of the 2 207 158 travellers. The arrival data on South African residents show that 39,5% came by air and 60,0% by road. For their departure, 40,9% and 59,1% 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 (87,0%) compared to road transport (12,8%) whereas travellers from Africa used road (89,7%) more than air transport (8,2%). 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 (74,6%) of foreign arrivals were from Africa whilst almost a quarter (24,6%) 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 November 2007 and November 2008 indicates that the number of overseas arrivals declined by 12,0% from 231 585 in 2007 to 203 702 in 2008. Arrivals from Africa increased by 8,7% from 568 308 in November 2007 to 617 695 in November 2008.

#### 3.1 Gender and age distribution

The travellers from Africa comprised of 331 012 males, 285 543 females and 1 140 with unspecified gender. The data on overseas travellers had 117 122 males, 86 403 females and gender was not specified in 177 cases. Overall, more males than females from African (males: 53,6%; females: 46,2%) and overseas countries (males: 57,5%; females: 42,4%) 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 (83,9%) 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 84,1% 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 (11,8%) compared to that among persons from Africa (2,5%).

#### 3.2 Regional and national distribution

Overseas travellers came mainly from Europe (70,3%), followed by North America (12,4%), Asia (9,0%), Australasia (4,4%), Central and South America (2,5%) and Middle East (1,3%). Virtually all arrivals (97,5%) from Africa came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining arrivals from Africa is as follows: East and Central Africa (1,2%), West Africa (1,1%) and North Africa (0,2%). November 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 shows the eight leading overseas source countries. These are UK, Germany, USA, France, The Netherlands, Australia, Sweden and Ireland. Travellers from these eight countries constitute 66,8% of all travellers from overseas. A comparison of figures from overseas for November 2007 and November 2008 shows that there

were decreases in the number of travellers arriving from UK (15,5% down from 49 934 to 42 196); Germany (22,2% down from 34 794 to 27 057); USA (6,7% down from 21 775 to 20 313); The Netherlands (12,3% down from 15 132 to 13 266); Australia (6,5% down from 8 007 to 7 486); Sweden (13,9% down from 6 788 to 5 842) and Ireland (13,5% down from 5 752 to 4 975). However, there was an increase in the number of arrivals from France (9,7% up from 13 600 to 14 914).

The eight leading source countries from SADC were Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Mozambique, Botswana, Namibia, Malawi and Zambia. Figure 4 shows that travellers from these eight SADC countries made up 95,9% of all arrivals from Africa. When comparing arrival figures from the SADC countries for November 2007 and November 2008, there was an increase in the number of travellers arriving from Lesotho (1,0% up from 175 370 to 177 045); Zimbabwe (39,3% up from 86 977 to 121 152); Swaziland (7,6% up from 83 846 to 90 197); Mozambique (0,4% up from 84 344 to 84 691); Botswana (4,1% up from 66 667 to 69 417) and Malawi (17,6% up from 13 733 to 16 156). However, there was a decrease in the number of arrivals from Namibia (1,3% down from 17 862 to 17 626) and Zambia (1,5% down from 16 225 to 15 986).

The eight leading source countries from 'other' African countries, shown in Figure 5, are Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Congo and Egypt. A comparison of arrivals for 'other' African countries for November 2007 and that of November 2008, shows increases in the number of travellers arriving from Nigeria (17,5% up from 3 644 to 4 282); Kenya (4,1% up from 2 661 to 2 771); Uganda (7,4% up from 1 250 to 1 342); Ethiopia (15,7% up from 764 to 884) and Cameroon (14,6% up from 439 to 503). However, there was a decrease in the number of arrivals from Ghana (1,7% down from 1 327 to 1 304); Congo (1,3% down from 445 to 439) and Egypt (11,5% down from 452 to 400).

### 3.3 Purpose of travel

As observed from data given in Table 4, an overwhelming majority (94,1%) 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 (1,9%), those who have come for work (1,4%) and those who have come to study (0,6%).

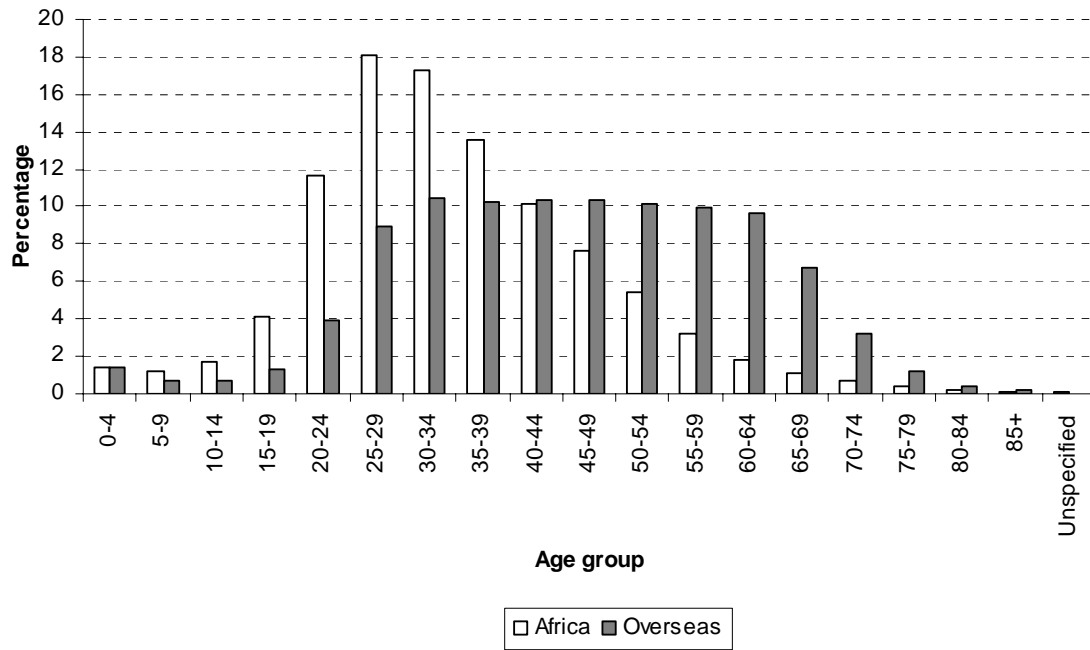
Overall, 93,5% of overseas travellers came to South Africa to visit. A detailed analysis reveals that all the overseas regions had more than 77,2% travellers coming to South Africa for holidays. Travellers from Australasia (95,4%), Europe (95,4%); North America (94,3%), Central and South America (93,6%) and the Middle East (86,9%) were admitted into South Africa as visitors. Travellers from Asia were more diverse in their purpose; for instance, 77,2% came into the country for holidays, 13,4% for work whereas 6,8% came for business and 0,7% to study.

Although the majority (94,9%) 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:

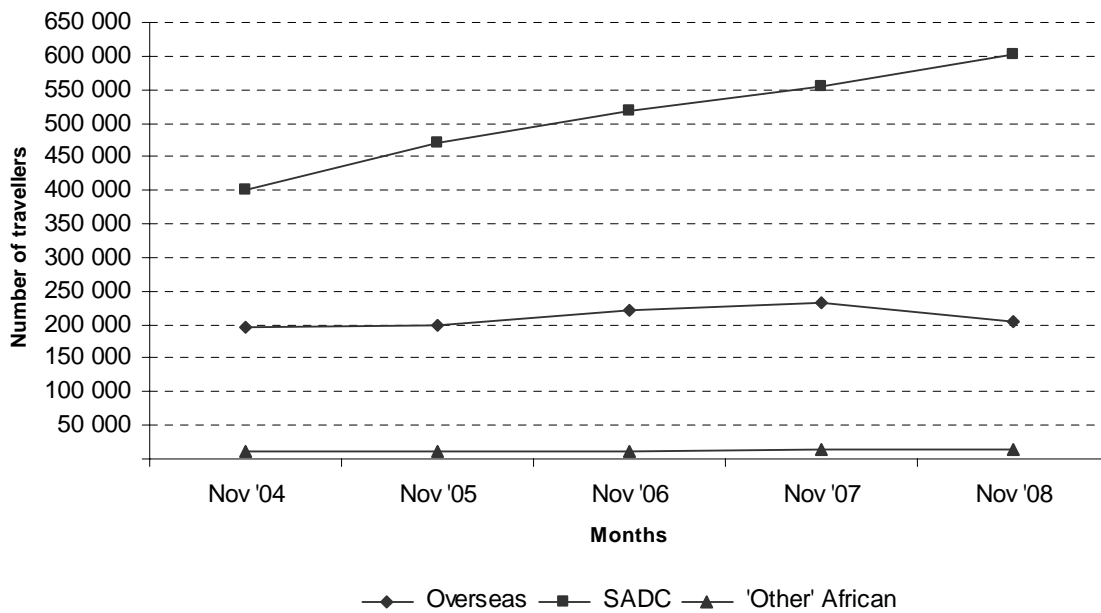
- Whereas 95,2% of travellers from the SADC countries were recorded as on holiday, 84,4% of travellers from 'other' African countries were admitted on visitor's permit. Proportionally, the lowest percentage (73,3%) of visitors on holiday came from North Africa, a region where, a large percentage of travellers was in South Africa for business (15,2%).
- 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%; 5,5% and 5,6% respectively of travellers who were in South Africa for work as compared to only 0,5% among the SADC travellers.

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

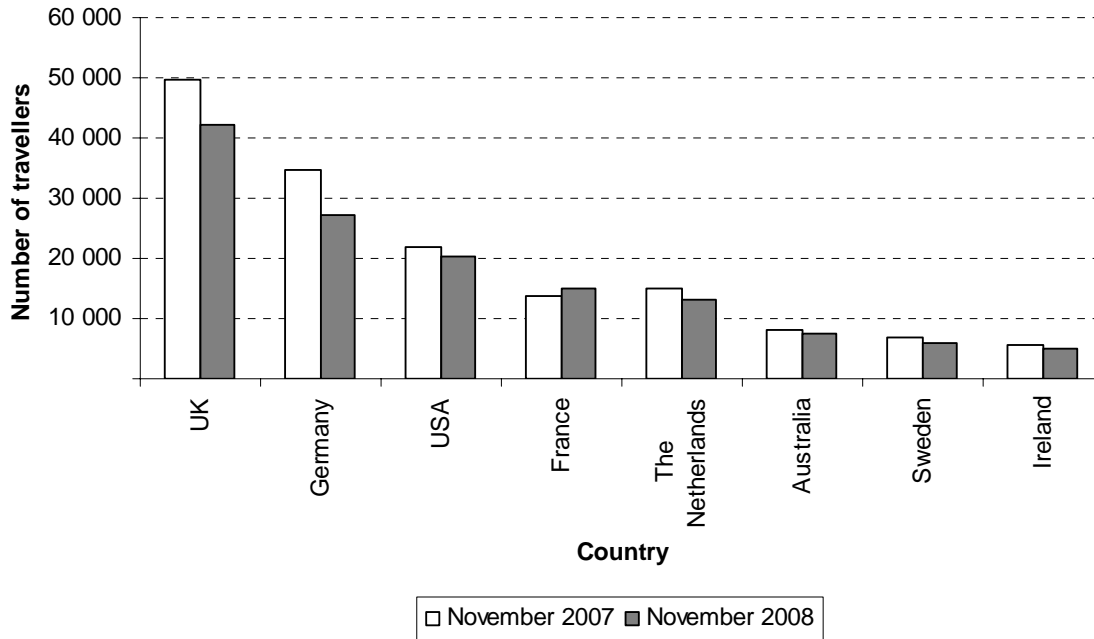
**Figure 1: Percentage distribution of African and Overseas arrivals by age group in November 2008**



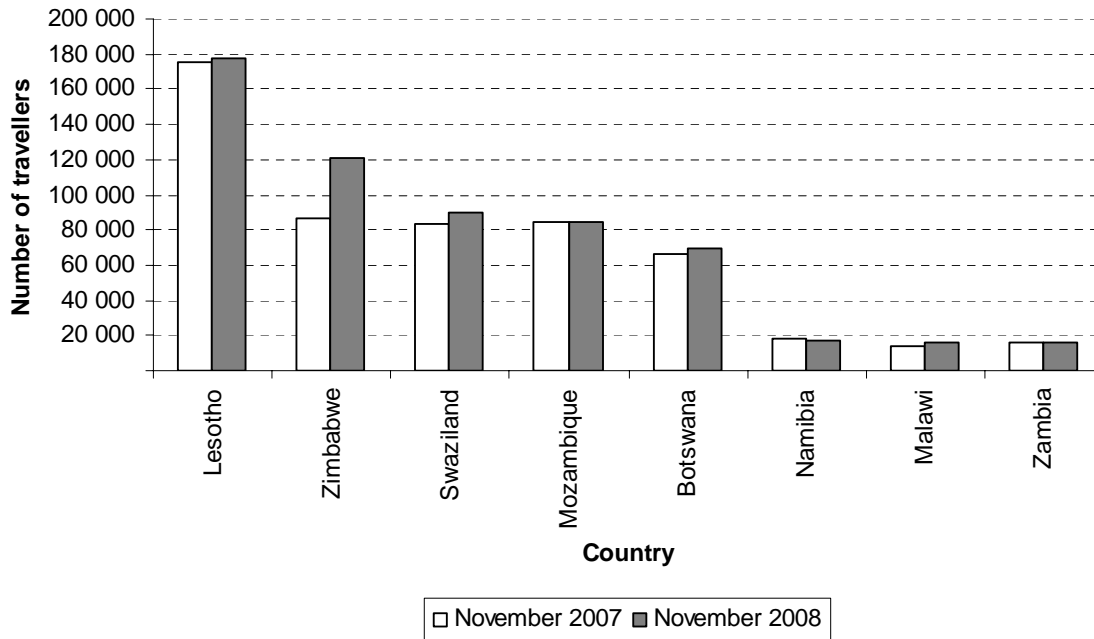
**Figure 2: Number of November arrivals by region (2004 - 2008)**



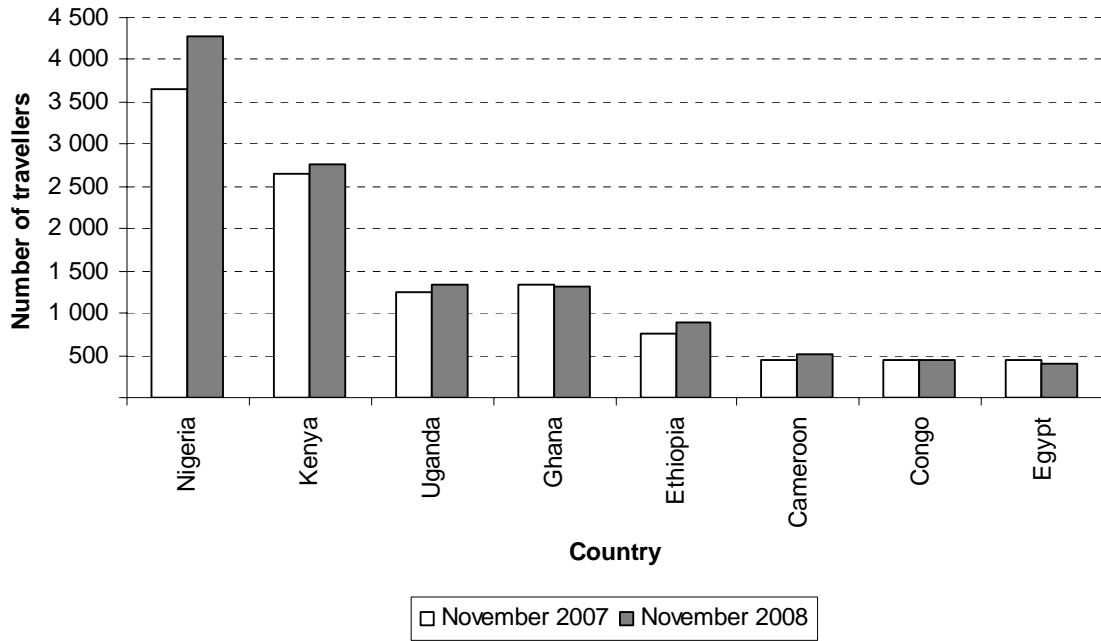
**Figure 3: Number of overseas travellers arriving from leading source countries in November 2008 compared to November 2007**



**Figure 4: Number of SADC travellers arriving from leading source country in November 2008 compared to November 2007**



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



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

Travel direction	November	October	November	% change	% change
	2007	2008	2008	Nov 07–Nov 08	Oct 08 – Nov 08
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2 182 317</b>	<b>2 270 350</b>	<b>2 207 158</b>	<b>1,1</b>	<b>-2,8</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>661 116</b>	<b>711 943</b>	<b>631 066</b>	<b>-4,5</b>	<b>-11,4</b>
Arrivals	321 643	370 702	315 629	-1,9	-14,9
Departures	339 473	341 241	315 437	-7,1	-7,6
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>1 521 201</b>	<b>1 558 407</b>	<b>1 576 092</b>	<b>3,6</b>	<b>1,1</b>
Arrivals	805 400	839 260	827 605	2,8	-1,4
Departures	715 801	719 147	748 487	4,6	4,1

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

Travel direction	Total	Mode of travel (November 2008)								
		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
		(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2 207 158</b>	<b>148 984</b>	<b>3 239</b>	<b>554 064</b>	<b>7 773</b>	<b>714 060</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1 475 693</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>16 867</b>
<b>Arrivals:</b>	<b>1 143 234</b>	<b>75 737</b>	<b>1 399</b>	<b>273 373</b>	<b>3 765</b>	<b>354 274</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>771 971</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>16 864</b>
South African residents	315 629	16 731	970	104 027	2 902	124 630	-	189 463	23	1 513
Foreign travellers	827 605	59 006	429	169 346	863	229 644	27	582 508	75	15 351
Overseas	203 702	56 459	154	120 051	478	177 142	10	26 158	74	318
Africa	617 695	2 350	274	47 439	355	50 418	17	554 345	1	12 914
Unspecified	6 208	197	1	1 856	30	2 084	-	2 005	-	2 119
<b>Departures:</b>	<b>1 063 924</b>	<b>73 247</b>	<b>1 840</b>	<b>280 691</b>	<b>4 008</b>	<b>359 786</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>703 722</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>3</b>
South African residents	315 437	16 374	1 209	108 421	3 003	129 007	4	186 326	100	-
Foreign travellers	748 487	56 873	631	172 270	1 005	230 779	16	517 396	293	3

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

Country	Mode of travel (November 2008)										
	November		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>805 400</b>	<b>827 605</b>	<b>59 006</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>169 346</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>229 644</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>582 508</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>15 351</b>
<b>Overseas Total</b>	<b>231 585</b>	<b>203 702</b>	<b>56 459</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>120 051</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>177 142</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>26 158</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>318</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>163 850</b>	<b>143 266</b>	<b>47 893</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>75 207</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>123 462</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19 658</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>83</b>
Austria	3 131	2 800	840	-	1 662	3	2 505	-	294	-	1
Belgium	5 548	4 828	1 030	-	2 561	21	3 612	-	1 214	-	2
Denmark	2 924	2 324	537	-	1 511	2	2 050	3	266	-	5
France	13 600	14 914	3 997	12	9 096	32	13 137	1	1 772	-	4
Germany	34 794	27 057	8 993	14	13 634	15	22 656	-	4 389	2	10
Ireland	5 752	4 975	3 176	4	1 390	13	4 583	-	386	-	6
Italy	4 371	3 913	986	-	2 563	13	3 562	-	350	-	1
Norway	2 693	2 509	969	1	1 267	-	2 237	-	270	-	2
Portugal	2 963	2 998	226	12	1 606	5	1 849	-	1 120	27	2
Spain	2 584	2 295	324	1	1 733	5	2 063	-	232	-	-
Sweden	6 788	5 842	2 093	1	2 882	1	4 977	-	862	2	1
Switzerland	5 000	4 109	1 043	4	2 472	16	3 535	-	569	3	2
The Netherlands	15 132	13 266	3 978	1	5 787	27	9 793	1	3 469	-	3
UK	49 934	42 196	17 051	42	21 437	86	38 616	-	3 548	10	22
Other	8 636	9 240	2 650	9	5 606	22	8 287	1	917	13	22
<b>North America</b>	<b>27 152</b>	<b>25 161</b>	<b>3 885</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18 443</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>22 450</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2 677</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>32</b>
Canada	5 371	4 839	838	5	3 360	21	4 224	-	609	2	4
USA	21 775	20 313	3 047	13	15 078	83	18 221	-	2 064	-	28
Other	6	9	-	-	5	-	5	-	4	-	-
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>5 007</b>	<b>5 151</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4 047</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4 655</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>
Argentina	583	636	199	-	390	-	589	-	47	-	-
Brazil	2 843	2 712	62	-	2 381	4	2 447	-	265	-	-
Mexico	234	421	154	2	249	-	405	-	16	-	-
Other	1 347	1 382	180	5	1 027	2	1 214	-	166	-	2

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

Country	Mode of travel (November 2008)										
	November		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>9 631</b>	<b>9 007</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7 239</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>8 147</b>	-	<b>852</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
Australia	8 007	7 486	660	12	6 150	45	6 867	-	614	-	5
New Zealand	1 540	1 395	154	1	1 027	2	1 184	-	208	1	2
Other	84	126	34	-	62	-	96	-	30	-	-
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>3 773</b>	<b>2 749</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2 089</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2 541</b>	-	<b>206</b>	-	<b>2</b>
Iran	149	251	88	-	156	-	244	-	7	-	-
Israel	1 862	1 337	112	-	1 104	-	1 216	-	120	-	1
Saudi Arabia	216	259	46	2	202	-	250	-	9	-	-
Other	1 546	902	196	1	627	7	831	-	70	-	1
<b>Asia</b>	<b>22 172</b>	<b>18 368</b>	<b>2 796</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13 026</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>15 887</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2 271</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>192</b>
China	4 984	4 131	350	3	3 277	31	3 661	-	398	-	72
India	4 687	4 597	566	5	3 279	5	3 855	1	685	4	52
Japan	2 871	1 852	151	1	1 645	7	1 804	-	47	-	1
Korea	1 314	1 051	113	1	846	-	960	-	91	-	-
Malaysia	774	692	285	-	365	1	651	-	41	-	-
Pakistan	902	748	71	1	437	6	515	1	218	1	13
Philippines	801	790	151	-	552	-	703	-	65	7	15
Singapore	860	663	282	-	369	-	651	-	12	-	-
Taiwan	1 527	1 088	236	-	498	-	734	-	325	1	28
Other	3 452	2 756	388	1	1 758	3	2 353	2	389	1	11
<b>Africa Total</b>	<b>568 308</b>	<b>617 695</b>	<b>2 350</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>47 439</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>50 418</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>554 345</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12 914</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>554 027</b>	<b>602 333</b>	<b>2 023</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>34 530</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>37 116</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>552 347</b>	-	<b>12 857</b>
Angola	3 143	3 772	108	1	3 487	37	3 633	-	139	-	-
Botswana	66 667	69 417	26	-	2 898	111	3 035	-	66 326	-	56
DRC	2 728	2 635	5	-	2 023	17	2 045	-	590	-	-
Lesotho	175 370	177 045	4	1	756	2	763	-	164 289	-	11 993
Madagascar	284	321	-	-	314	-	314	-	7	-	-
Malawi	13 733	16 156	6	-	2 312	9	2 327	-	13 825	-	4

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

Country	Mode of travel (November 2008)										
	November		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Mauritius	1 391	1 789	377	178	1 108	2	1 665	-	118	-	6
Mozambique	84 344	84 691	94	74	2 983	13	3 164	2	81 433	-	92
Namibia	17 862	17 626	1 316	2	2 975	18	4 311	-	13 313	-	2
Swaziland	83 846	90 197	3	3	837	-	843	4	89 266	-	84
Tanzania	1 457	1 546	7	-	1 106	5	1 118	-	426	-	2
Zambia	16 225	15 986	9	5	5 192	11	5 217	1	10 761	-	7
Zimbabwe	86 977	121 152	68	7	8 539	67	8 681	6	111 854	-	611
<b>East &amp; Central Africa</b>	<b>6 741</b>	<b>7 366</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6 063</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>6 179</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1 156</b>	-	<b>29</b>
Burundi	89	110	-	-	101	-	101	-	9	-	-
Cameroon	439	503	10	-	449	4	463	-	40	-	-
Central African Republic	12	16	1	-	15	-	16	-	-	-	-
Chad	21	27	-	-	26	-	26	-	1	-	-
Comoros	50	40	1	-	37	-	38	-	2	-	-
Congo	445	439	7	-	298	4	309	1	123	-	6
Djibouti	5	7	-	-	6	-	6	-	1	-	-
Equat Guinea	40	41	-	-	21	-	21	-	20	-	-
Eritrea	47	36	4	-	26	-	30	-	6	-	-
Ethiopia	764	884	4	-	703	1	708	-	172	-	4
Gabon	225	345	4	-	321	11	336	-	9	-	-
Kenya	2 661	2 771	38	-	2 303	6	2 347	1	414	-	9
Reunion	25	31	-	-	31	-	31	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	253	294	2	-	268	2	272	-	21	-	1
Sao Tome and Principe	14	16	1	-	14	-	15	-	1	-	-
Seychelles	224	376	2	2	357	-	361	-	15	-	-
Somalia	175	87	2	-	15	2	19	-	68	-	-
Tristan Da Cunha	2	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Uganda	1 250	1 342	6	-	1 071	2	1 079	-	254	-	9

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

Country	Mode of travel (November 2008)										
	November		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>6 310</b>	<b>7 002</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6 106</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6 244</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>
Ascension	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Benin	131	119	4	-	99	1	104	-	15	-	-
Burkina Faso	62	68	6	-	59	-	65	-	3	-	-
Cape Verde Island	65	84	1	-	73	-	74	-	10	-	-
Cote D'Ivoire	237	242	2	-	237	-	239	-	3	-	-
Gambia	68	80	3	-	62	-	65	-	15	-	-
Ghana	1 327	1 304	6	1	1 147	1	1 155	-	146	-	3
Guinea	142	125	4	-	74	1	79	-	46	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	20	23	1	-	9	-	10	-	13	-	-
Liberia	46	54	-	-	43	-	43	-	11	-	-
Madeira Island	11	13	4	-	3	-	7	-	6	-	-
Mali	87	101	8	-	84	-	92	-	9	-	-
Mauritania	15	17	2	-	15	-	17	-	-	-	-
Niger	27	37	4	-	31	-	35	-	2	-	-
Nigeria	3 644	4 282	44	-	3 788	6	3 838	1	433	1	9
Saint Helena	11	6	2	-	-	-	2	-	4	-	-
Senegal	283	313	33	-	264	2	299	-	14	-	-
Sierra Leone	76	67	1	-	59	-	60	-	6	-	1
Togo	57	64	1	-	59	-	60	-	4	-	-
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>1 230</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15</b>
Algeria	188	118	12	-	74	14	100	-	18	-	-
Egypt	452	400	16	-	356	1	373	-	27	-	-
Libya	95	93	7	-	38	3	48	-	33	-	12
Morocco	105	114	22	-	86	1	109	1	2	-	2
The Sudan	292	148	29	-	104	-	133	-	14	-	1
Tunisia	97	121	33	-	82	1	116	-	5	-	-
Western Sahara	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>5 507</b>	<b>6 208</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1 856</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2 084</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2 005</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2 119</b>

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

Region	Total	Purpose of travel (November 2008)							Border Traffic Concession
		Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>827 605</b>	<b>15 413</b>	<b>778 364</b>	<b>4 708</b>	<b>11 566</b>	<b>2 253</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>812 308</b>	<b>15 297</b>
<b>Overseas Total</b>	<b>203 702</b>	<b>6 178</b>	<b>190 398</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>5 829</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>203 436</b>	<b>266</b>
Europe	143 266	3 526	136 677	212	2 536	267	-	143 218	48
North America	25 161	739	23 735	100	508	53	-	25 135	26
Central and South America	5 151	151	4 821	26	122	29	-	5 149	2
Australasia	9 007	269	8 590	5	114	24	-	9 002	5
Middle East	2 749	236	2 390	16	93	12	-	2 747	2
Asia	18 368	1 257	14 185	134	2 456	150	3	18 185	183
<b>Africa Total</b>	<b>617 695</b>	<b>9 160</b>	<b>586 270</b>	<b>3 540</b>	<b>4 105</b>	<b>1 708</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>604 783</b>	<b>12 912</b>
SADC	602 333	8 099	573 297	3 229	3 235	1 618	-	589 478	12 855
East and Central Africa	7 366	508	6 195	172	409	53	-	7 337	29
West Africa	7 002	402	6 049	125	385	28	-	6 989	13
North Africa	994	151	729	14	76	9	-	979	15
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>6 208</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>1 696</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>1 632</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4 089</b>	<b>2 119</b>

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

Country	November		Purpose of travel (November 2008)							Border Traffic Concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>805 400</b>	<b>827 605</b>	<b>15 413</b>	<b>778 364</b>	<b>4 708</b>	<b>11 566</b>	<b>2 253</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>812 308</b>	<b>15 297</b>
<b>Overseas Total</b>	<b>231 585</b>	<b>203 702</b>	<b>6 178</b>	<b>190 398</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>5 829</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>203 436</b>	<b>266</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>163 850</b>	<b>143 266</b>	<b>3 526</b>	<b>136 677</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>2 536</b>	<b>267</b>	-	<b>143 218</b>	<b>48</b>
Austria	3 131	2 800	65	2 702	2	27	3	-	2 799	1
Belgium	5 548	4 828	100	4 640	2	63	21	-	4 826	2
Denmark	2 924	2 324	61	2 210	6	42	4	-	2 323	1
France	13 600	14 914	262	14 277	28	300	47	-	14 914	-
Germany	34 794	27 057	533	26 043	55	391	27	-	27 049	8
Ireland	5 752	4 975	170	4 754	4	39	2	-	4 969	6
Italy	4 371	3 913	151	3 676	4	71	10	-	3 912	1
The Netherlands	2 693	13 266	204	12 888	22	143	6	-	13 263	3
Norway	2 963	2 509	85	2 380	5	32	5	-	2 507	2
Portugal	2 584	2 998	22	2 933	3	30	8	-	2 996	2
Spain	6 788	2 295	56	2 190	2	41	6	-	2 295	-
Sweden	5 000	5 842	146	5 621	5	65	4	-	5 841	1
Switzerland	15 132	4 109	111	3 949	4	38	7	-	4 109	-
UK	49 934	42 196	1 174	40 330	51	564	62	-	42 181	15
Other	8 636	9 240	386	8 084	19	690	55	-	9 234	6
<b>North America</b>	<b>27 152</b>	<b>25 161</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>23 735</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>53</b>	-	<b>25 135</b>	<b>26</b>
Canada	5 371	4 839	128	4 588	11	105	7	-	4 839	-
USA	21 775	20 313	610	19 140	89	403	45	-	20 287	26
Other	6	9	1	7	-	-	1	-	9	-
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>5 007</b>	<b>5 151</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>4 821</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>29</b>	-	<b>5 149</b>	<b>2</b>
Argentina	583	636	13	612	2	8	1	-	636	-
Brazil	2 843	2 712	33	2 587	11	61	20	-	2 712	-
Mexico	234	421	19	393	3	6	-	-	421	-
Other	1 347	1 382	86	1 229	10	47	8	-	1 380	2

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

Country	November		Purpose of travel (November 2008)							Border Traffic Concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
	<b>Australasia</b>	<b>9 631</b>	<b>9 007</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>8 590</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>24</b>	-	
Australia	8 007	7 486	225	7 142	3	90	21	-	7 481	5
New Zealand	1 540	1 395	33	1 344	2	14	2	-	1 395	-
Other	84	126	11	104	-	10	1	-	126	-
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>3 773</b>	<b>2 749</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>2 390</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>12</b>	-	<b>2 747</b>	<b>2</b>
Iran	149	251	41	189	6	15	-	-	251	-
Israel	1 862	1 337	57	1 237	1	33	8	-	1 336	1
Saudi Arabia	216	259	18	228	4	9	-	-	259	-
Other	1 546	902	120	736	5	36	4	-	901	1
<b>Asia</b>	<b>22 172</b>	<b>18 368</b>	<b>1 257</b>	<b>14 185</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>2 456</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18 185</b>	<b>183</b>
China	4 984	4 131	224	3 179	23	592	40	1	4 059	72
India	4 687	4 597	537	3 320	24	623	45	2	4 551	46
Japan	2 871	1 852	82	1 654	5	101	10	-	1 852	-
Korea	1 314	1 051	22	932	39	53	5	-	1 051	-
Malaysia	774	692	20	647	3	22	-	-	692	-
Pakistan	902	748	69	576	2	81	7	-	735	13
Philippines	801	790	28	259	2	468	20	-	777	13
Taiwan	860	1 088	67	773	13	205	2	-	1 060	28
Thailand	1 527	719	10	662	4	38	4	-	718	1
Other	3 452	2 700	198	2 183	19	273	17	-	2 690	10
<b>Africa Total</b>	<b>568 308</b>	<b>617 695</b>	<b>9 160</b>	<b>586 270</b>	<b>3 540</b>	<b>4 105</b>	<b>1 708</b>	-	<b>604 783</b>	<b>12 912</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>554 027</b>	<b>602 333</b>	<b>8 099</b>	<b>573 297</b>	<b>3 229</b>	<b>3 235</b>	<b>1 618</b>	-	<b>589 478</b>	<b>12 855</b>
Angola	3 143	3 772	94	3 435	112	88	43	-	3 772	-
Botswana	66 667	69 417	123	67 631	1 162	216	229	-	69 361	56
DRC	2 728	2 635	114	2 365	43	83	30	-	2 635	-
Lesotho	175 370	177 045	245	163 554	359	224	670	-	165 052	11 993
Madagascar	284	321	11	279	3	23	5	-	321	-
Malawi	13 733	16 156	590	15 451	33	62	16	-	16 152	4

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

Country	November		Purpose of travel (November 2008)							Border traffic concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
Mauritius	1 391	1 789	52	1 698	3	23	7	-	1 783	6
Mozambique	84 344	84 691	332	83 808	109	288	62	-	84 599	92
Namibia	17 862	17 626	2 073	14 960	228	53	310	-	17 624	2
Swaziland	83 846	90 197	537	88 625	670	196	85	-	90 113	84
Tanzania	1 457	1 546	145	1 318	33	46	2	-	1 544	2
Zambia	16 225	15 986	1 961	13 826	55	113	24	-	15 979	7
Zimbabwe	86 977	121 152	1 822	116 347	419	1 820	135	-	120 543	609
<b>East &amp; Central Africa</b>	<b>6 741</b>	<b>7 366</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>6 195</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>53</b>	-	<b>7 337</b>	<b>29</b>
Burundi	89	110	9	87	-	11	3	-	110	-
Cameroon	439	503	55	378	26	42	2	-	503	-
Central African	12	16	4	10	1	-	1	-	16	-
Chad	21	27	6	21	-	-	-	-	27	-
Comoros	50	40	3	35	2	-	-	-	40	-
Congo	445	439	15	391	10	17	-	-	433	6
Djibouti	5	7	-	7	-	-	-	-	7	-
Equatorial Guinea	40	41	4	32	4	1	-	-	41	-
Eritrea	47	36	1	31	1	3	-	-	36	-
Ethiopia	764	884	40	788	12	40	-	-	880	4
Gabon	225	345	5	303	24	10	3	-	345	-
Kenya	2 661	2 771	256	2 228	57	191	30	-	2 762	9
Reunion	25	31	-	30	-	1	-	-	31	-
Rwanda	253	294	20	248	7	13	5	-	293	1
Sao Tome and Principe	14	16	-	15	-	-	1	-	16	-
Seychelles	224	376	2	370	-	3	1	-	376	-
Somalia	175	87	2	84	1	-	-	-	87	-
Tristan Da Cunha	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Uganda	1 250	1 342	86	1 136	27	77	7	-	1 333	9

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

Country	November		Purpose of travel (November 2008)							Border traffic concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Unspecified	Total	
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>6 310</b>	<b>7 002</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>6 049</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>28</b>	-	<b>6 989</b>	<b>13</b>
Ascension	1	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	-
Benin	131	119	3	115	-	1	-	-	119	-
Burkina Faso	62	68	15	49	-	2	2	-	68	-
Cape Verde Island	65	84	1	82	-	1	-	-	84	-
Cote D'Ivoire	237	242	27	175	9	25	6	-	242	-
Gambia	68	80	14	57	1	3	5	-	80	-
Ghana	1 327	1 304	39	1 176	10	71	5	-	1 301	3
Guinea	142	125	11	104	3	6	1	-	125	-
Guinea-Bissau	20	23	2	20	1	-	-	-	23	-
Liberia	46	54	2	49	1	2	-	-	54	-
Madeira Island	11	13	1	12	-	-	-	-	13	-
Mali	87	101	13	82	3	2	1	-	101	-
Mauritania	15	17	3	14	-	-	-	-	17	-
Niger	27	37	9	28	-	-	-	-	37	-
Nigeria	3 644	4 282	205	3 724	95	245	4	-	4 273	9
Saint Helena	11	6	-	6	-	-	-	-	6	-
Senegal	283	313	51	236	2	21	3	-	313	-
Sierra Leone	76	67	3	59	-	4	-	-	66	1
Togo	57	64	3	58	-	2	1	-	64	-
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>1 230</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>9</b>	-	<b>979</b>	<b>15</b>
Algeria	188	118	7	101	1	8	1	-	118	-
Egypt	452	400	46	311	8	34	1	-	400	-
Libya	95	93	13	50	1	10	7	-	81	12
Morocco	105	114	24	80	-	8	-	-	112	2
The Sudan	292	148	37	96	4	10	-	-	147	1
Tunisia	97	121	24	91	-	6	-	-	121	-
Western Sahara	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>5 507</b>	<b>6 208</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>1 696</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>1 632</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4 089</b>	<b>2 119</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 November 2008, the DHA data was 17,9% 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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