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KEY FINDINGS

1. Number of travellers

The December 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 2 941 454 travellers (arrivals and departures) passed through the ports of entry. As presented in Table 1, these travellers are made up of 1 054 315 South African residents and 1 887 139 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures indicates that 460 659 arrivals and 593 656 departures were recorded for South African residents. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals and departures were 974 975 and 912 164 respectively. A comparison of movements between November and December 2008, and those between December 2007 and 2008 shows an increase. The December 2008 figure (460 659) for South African resident arrivals shows an increase of 0,3% compared to the December 2007 figure of 459 365. Similarly, there was an increase of 9,5% for foreign arrivals from 890 391 in December 2007 to 974 975 in December 2008.

2. Mode of travel

It is observed from Table 2 that road transport was the most common (73,0%) mode of travel and was used by 2 147 223 of the 2 941 454 travellers. The arrival data on South African residents show that 34,1% came by air and 65,4% by road. For their departure, 31,0% and 69,0% 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 (89,0%) compared to road transport (10,9%) whereas travellers from Africa used road (91,9%) more than air transport (6,3%). 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 (78,1%) of foreign arrivals were from Africa whilst less than a quarter (21,3%) were from overseas countries. Information on the country of residence was not available on 0,7% of the travellers. A comparison of the changes between December 2007 and December 2008 indicates that the number of overseas arrivals declined by 5,8% from 220 330 in 2007 to 207 562 in 2008. Arrivals from Africa increased by 14,5% from 664 581 in December 2007 to 761 064 in December 2008.

3.1 Sex and age distribution

The travellers from Africa comprised of 393 752 males, 366 034 females and 1 278 with unspecified sex. The data on overseas travellers had 112 581 males, 94 731 females and sex was not specified in 250 cases. Overall, more males than females from African (males: 51,7% females: 48,1%) and overseas countries (males: 54,2%; females:45,6%) 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 (79,7%) 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 76,8% 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 (7,1%) compared to that among persons from Africa (2,2%).

3.2 Regional and national distribution

Table 3 shows that overseas travellers came mainly from Europe (69,0%), followed by North America (12,8%), Asia (8,0%), Australasia (5,9%), Central and South America (2,7%) and Middle East (1,5%). Virtually all arrivals (98,1%) from Africa came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining arrivals from Africa is as follows: East and Central Africa (0,9%), West Africa (0,9%) and North Africa (0,1%). December 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, The Netherlands, Australia, France, Sweden and Canada. Travellers from these eight countries constitute 68,0% of all travellers from overseas. A comparison of figures from overseas for December 2007 and December 2008 shows that there were decreases in the number of travellers arriving from UK (8,9% down from 57 563 to 52 441); Germany (9,0% down from 25 660 to 23 349); USA (2,0% down from 21 450 to 21 026); The Netherlands (0,9% down from 12 825 to

12 707); Australia (5,3% down from 10 427 to 9 871) and Sweden (4,3 down from 6 949 to 6 654). However, there was an increase in the number of arrivals from France (3,6% up from 9 171 to 9 499) and Canada (1,7% up from 5 500 to 5 596).

The eight leading source countries from SADC were Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Malawi. Table 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 December 2007 and December 2008, there was an increase in the number of travellers arriving from Lesotho (4,1% up from 201 183 to 209 461); Zimbabwe (43,1% up from 95 033 to 136 023); Mozambique (39,4% up from 89 702 to 125 079); Swaziland (4,8% up from 104 744 to 109 751); Botswana (5,5% up from 91 999 to 97 095) and Malawi (15,1% up from 12 788 to 14 721). However, there was a decrease in the number of arrivals from Namibia (2,2% down from 27 445 to 26 852) and Zambia (2,8% down from 18 361 to 17 838).

The eight leading source countries from 'other' African countries, shown in Figure 5, are Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Ethiopia, Congo, Gabon and Egypt. A comparison of arrivals for 'other' African countries for December 2007 and that of December 2008, shows increases in the number of travellers arriving from Nigeria (24,9% up from 3 695 to 4 616); Kenya (10,1% up from 2 607 to 2 870); Uganda (13,4% up from 1 095 to 1 242); Congo (1,8% up from 487 to 496), Gabon (53,2% up from 293 to 449) and Egypt (14,5% up from 324 to 371). However, there was a decrease in the number of arrivals from Ghana (23,1% down from 1 377 to 1 059) and Ethiopia (4,9% down from 654 to 622).

Figure 6 shows that the volume of foreign arrivals by month of travel in 2007 and 2008 reached their maximum level during December (890 391 in 2007 and 974 975 in 2008) and their lowest levels during June (638 349 in 2007 and 699 695 in 2008). The volume of departures shows a similar trend reaching their maximum level during December (832 481 in 2007 and 912 164 in 2008) and attain their lowest levels during June (572 923 in 2007 and 611 123 in 2008).

3.3 Purpose of travel

As observed from data given in Table 4, an overwhelming majority (95,4%) 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 (1,0%), those who have come for work (1,1%) and those who have come to study (0,6%).

Overall, 95,6% of overseas travellers came to South Africa to visit. A detailed analysis reveals that all the overseas regions had more than 81,9% travellers coming to South Africa for holidays. Travellers from Australasia (98,4%), Europe (96,7%); North America (96,9%), Central and South America (96,7%) and the Middle East (94,4%) were admitted into South Africa as visitors. Travellers from Asia were more diverse in their purpose; for instance, 81,9% came into the country for holidays, 11,6% for work whereas 4,0% came for business and 1,0% to study.

Although the majority (95,9%) 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 96,0% of travellers from the SADC countries were recorded as on holiday, 88,5% of travellers from 'other' African countries were admitted on visitor's permit. Proportionally, the lowest percentage (82,7%) of visitors on holiday came from North Africa, a region where, a large percentage of travellers was in South Africa for business (6,7%).
- 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 5,9%; 5,2% and 5,2% respectively of travellers who were in South Africa for work as compared to only 0,5% among the SADC travellers.

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

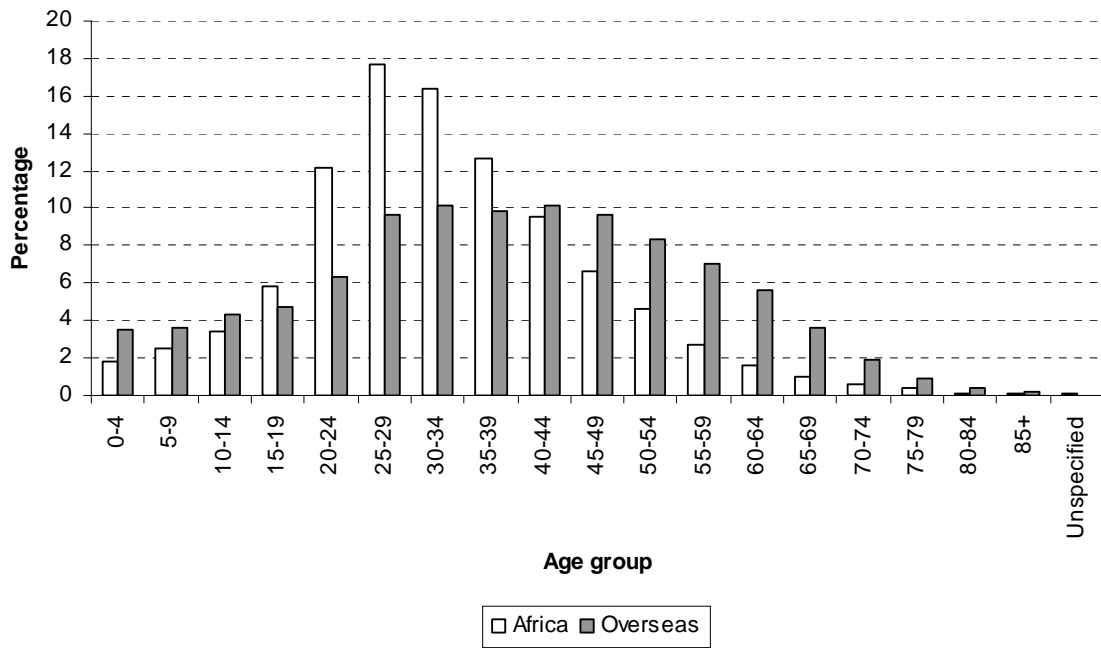


Figure 2: Number of December arrivals by region (2004-2008)

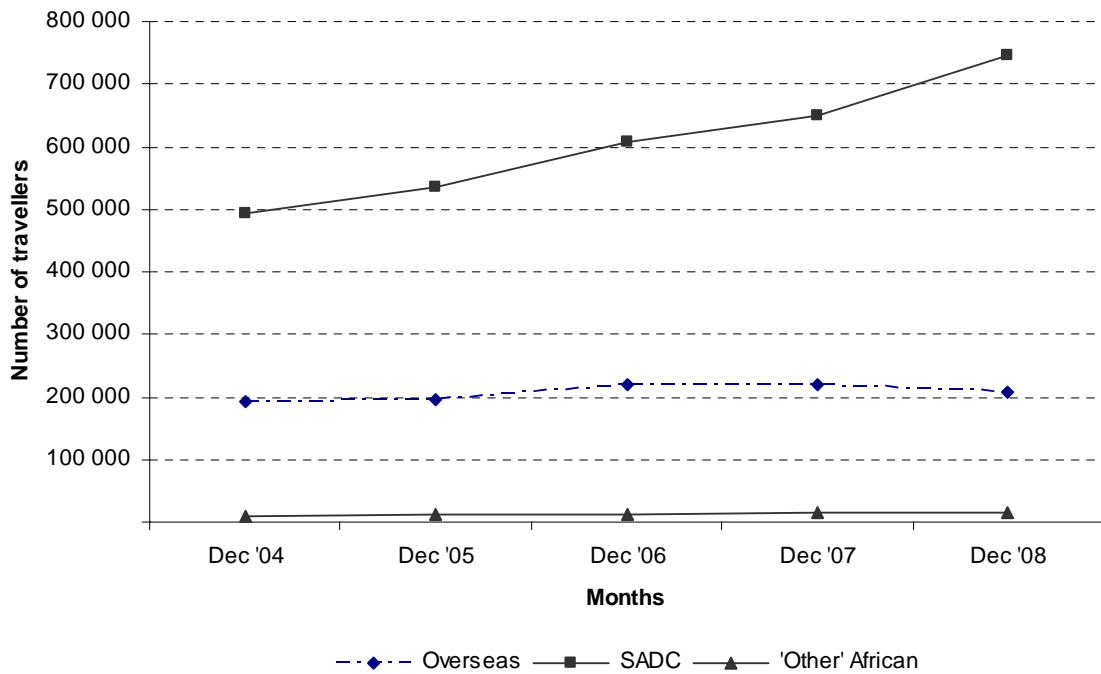


Figure 3: Number of overseas travellers arriving from leading source countries in December 2008 compared to December 2007

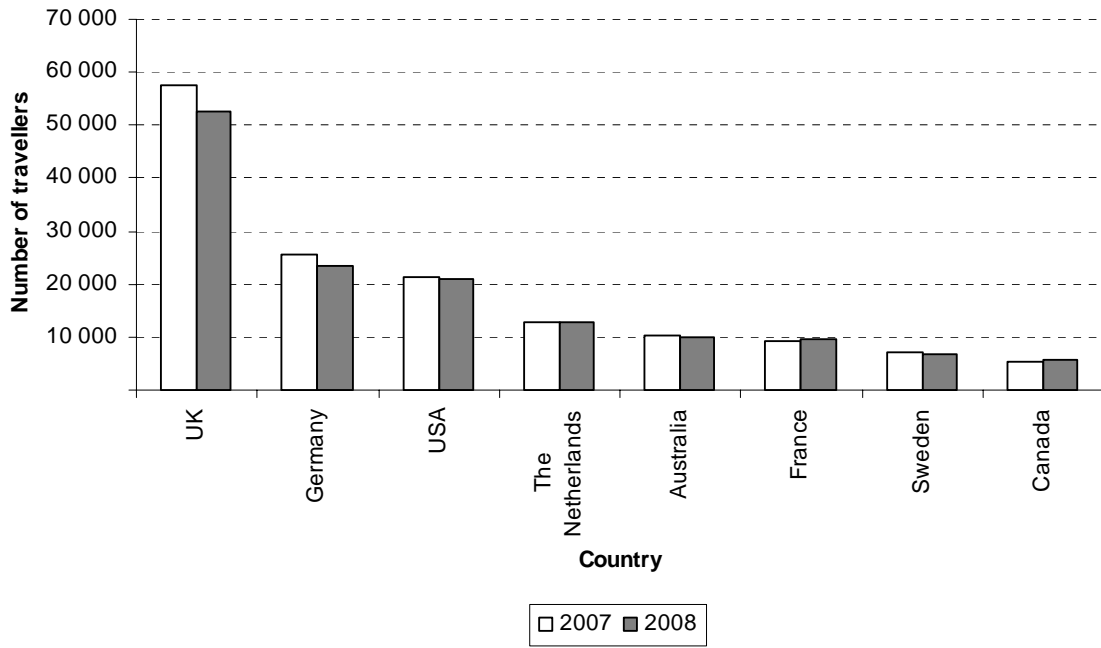


Figure 4: Number of SADC travellers arriving from leading source countries in December 2008 compared to December 2007

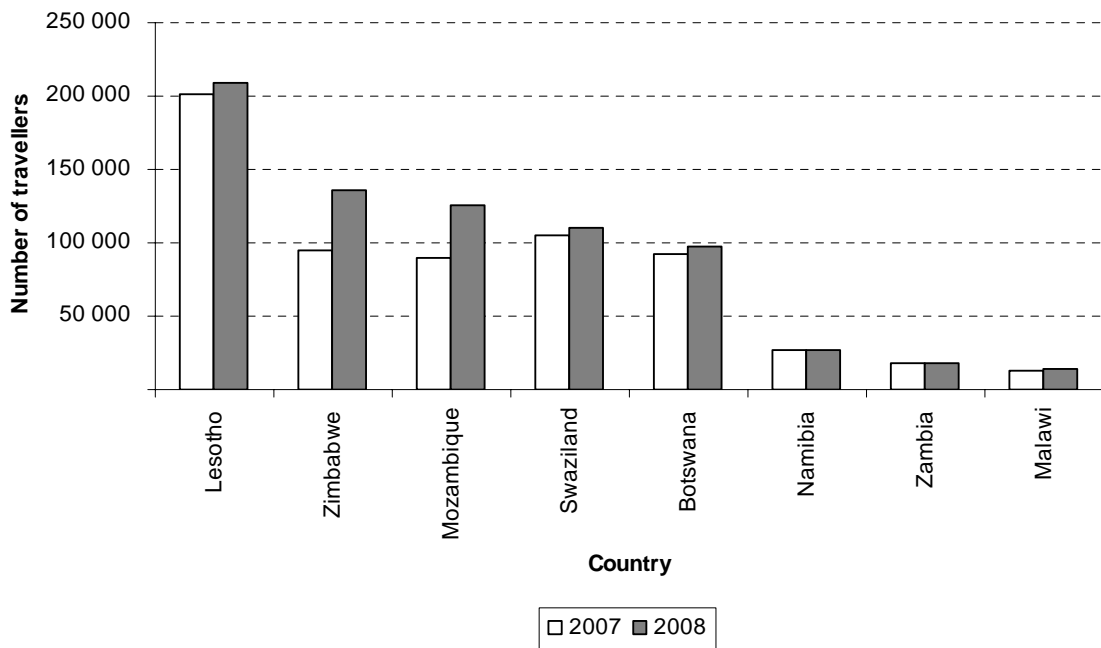


Fig 5: Number of 'other' African travellers arriving from leading source countries in December 2008 compared to December 2007

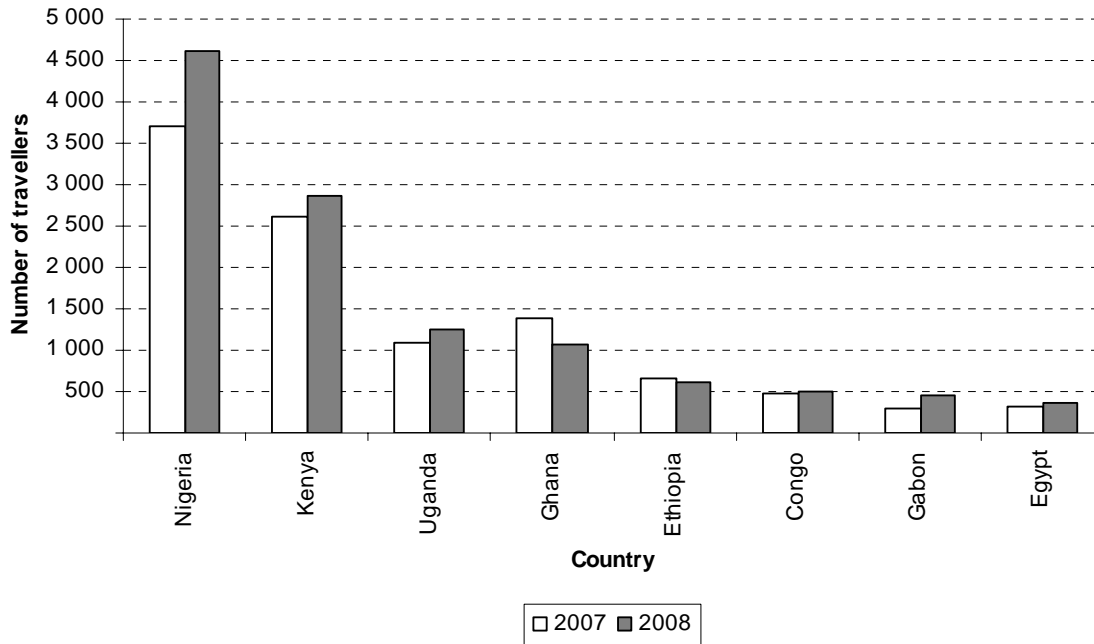


Figure 6: Foreign arrivals and departures by month of travel in 2007 and 2008

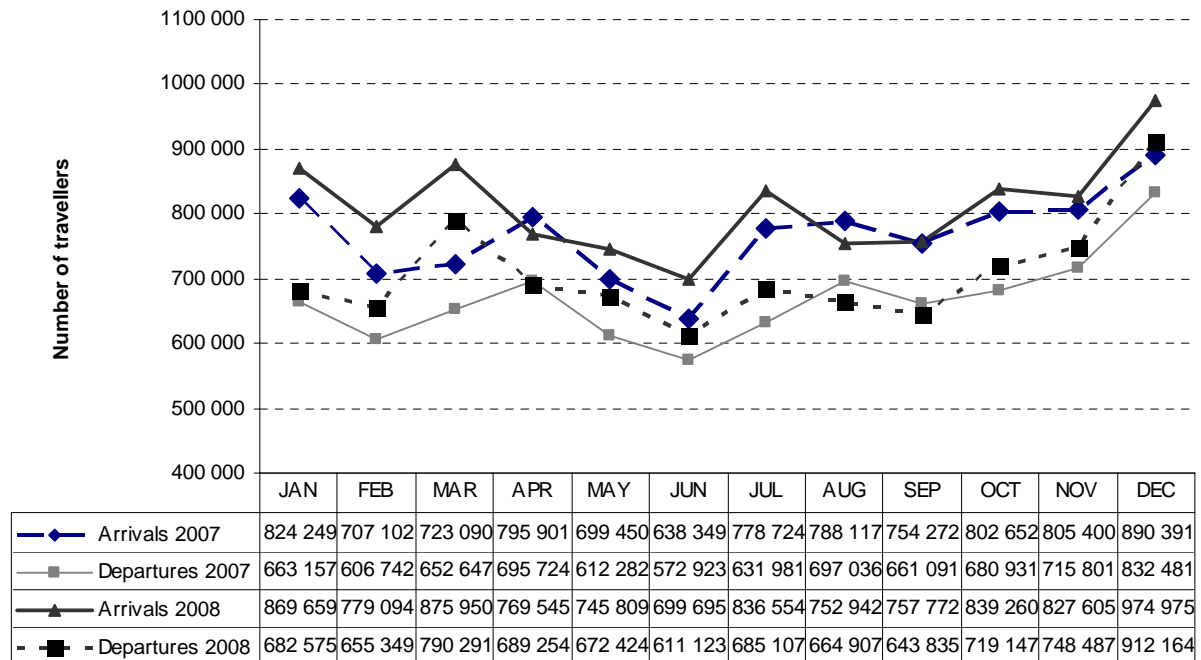


Table 1. Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction

Travel direction	December	November	December	% change	% change
	2007	2008	2008	Dec 07–Dec 08	Nov 08 – Dec 08
Grand Total	2 756 679	2 207 158	2 941 454	6,7	33,3
South African residents	1 033 807	631 066	1 054 315	2,0	67,1
Arrivals	459 365	315 629	460 659	0,3	45,9
Departures	574 442	315 437	593 656	3,3	88,2
Foreign travellers	1 722 872	1 576 092	1 887 139	9,5	19,7
Arrivals	890 391	827 605	974 975	9,5	17,8
Departures	832 481	748 487	912 164	9,6	21,9

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

Travel direction	Total	Mode of travel (December 2008)								
		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
		(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Grand Total	2 941 454	160 326	4 685	602 859	7 806	775 676	266	2 147 223	267	18 022
Arrivals:	1 435 634	86 104	2 437	299 495	4 010	392 046	84	1 025 668	170	17 666
South African residents	460 659	23 942	1 794	128 388	3 129	157 253	-	301 348	36	2 022
Foreign travellers	974 975	62 162	643	171 107	881	234 793	84	724 320	134	15 644
Overseas	207 562	59 547	352	124 208	547	184 654	29	22 547	84	248
Africa	761 064	2 412	290	45 181	311	48 194	55	699 663	49	13 103
Unspecified	6 349	203	1	1 718	23	1 945	-	2 110	1	2 293
Departures:	1 505 820	74 222	2 248	303 364	3 796	383 630	182	1 121 555	97	356
South African residents	593 656	26 084	1 842	152 939	2 850	183 715	82	409 717	36	106
Foreign travellers	912 164	48 138	406	150 425	946	199 915	100	711 838	61	250

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

Country	Mode of travel (December 2008)										
	December		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Grand Total	890 391	974 975	62 162	643	171 107	881	234 793	84	724 320	134	15 644
Overseas Total	220 330	207 562	59 547	352	124 208	547	184 654	29	22 547	84	248
Europe	150 225	143 228	49 792	177	77 630	289	127 888	7	15 215	68	50
Austria	2 205	2 044	747	4	1 162	-	1 913	-	130	1	-
Belgium	3 787	3 888	1 102	2	2 182	23	3 309	-	569	9	1
Denmark	2 201	2 225	532	10	1 485	5	2 032	-	190	3	-
France	9 171	9 499	1 797	61	6 632	31	8 521	-	962	2	14
Germany	25 660	23 349	8 651	4	11 813	20	20 488	3	2 849	3	6
Ireland	5 443	4 399	1 988	-	1 966	8	3 962	-	437	-	-
Italy	4 842	5 471	1 360	2	3 593	8	4 963	-	507	1	-
Norway	2 234	2 062	886	10	976	1	1 873	-	185	4	-
Portugal	3 079	3 501	203	11	1 775	26	2 015	-	1 481	-	5
Spain	2 340	1 892	259	6	1 453	4	1 722	-	168	2	-
Sweden	6 949	6 654	2 770	2	3 206	2	5 980	-	651	17	6
Switzerland	3 973	3 664	1 107	6	2 104	14	3 231	-	433	-	-
The Netherlands	12 825	12 707	4 567	9	6 121	20	10 717	1	1 989	-	-
UK	57 563	52 441	20 950	43	27 516	101	48 610	2	3 795	18	16
Other	7 953	9 432	2 873	7	5 646	26	8 552	1	869	8	2
North America	26 967	26 631	4 877	35	18 729	97	23 738	6	2 862	2	23
Canada	5 500	5 596	1 173	4	3 855	22	5 054	-	539	2	1
USA	21 450	21 026	3 703	31	14 871	75	18 680	6	2 318	-	22
Other	17	9	1	-	3	-	4	-	5	-	-
Central and South America	5 425	5 675	427	5	4 575	14	5 021	-	649	-	5
Argentina	646	619	172	-	410	2	584	-	35	-	-
Brazil	3 242	3 554	65	4	3 091	4	3 164	-	388	-	2
Mexico	301	289	54	-	216	1	271	-	18	-	-
Other	1 236	1 213	136	1	858	7	1 002	-	208	-	3

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

Country	Mode of travel (December 2008)										
	December		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Australasia	13 232	12 327	1 573	97	9 705	71	11 446	-	877	2	2
Australia	10 427	9 871	1 240	77	7 836	63	9 216	-	652	1	2
New Zealand	2 718	2 381	330	20	1 845	7	2 202	-	178	1	-
Other	87	75	3	-	24	1	28	-	47	-	-
Middle East	4 242	3 182	493	5	2 450	9	2 957	1	222	-	2
Iran	167	296	116	-	172	2	290	-	6	-	-
Israel	1 570	1 421	111	-	1 233	2	1 346	-	74	-	1
Saudi Arabia	405	438	45	2	369	-	416	-	22	-	-
Other	2 100	1 027	221	3	676	5	905	1	120	-	1
Asia	20 239	16 519	2 385	33	11 119	67	13 604	15	2 722	12	166
China	4 401	2 833	255	-	2 193	27	2 475	-	320	-	38
India	4 559	3 865	330	18	2 477	24	2 849	3	943	7	63
Japan	1 831	1 632	153	8	1 372	-	1 533	-	99	-	-
Korea	1 728	1 274	164	-	947	1	1 112	-	162	-	-
Malaysia	825	861	357	-	478	-	835	-	26	-	-
Pakistan	723	650	41	2	366	1	410	10	227	-	3
Philippines	771	750	132	-	440	1	573	2	149	-	26
Singapore	1 221	1 035	329	-	684	-	1 013	-	22	-	-
Taiwan	1 227	764	168	-	313	-	481	-	266	-	17
Other	2 953	2 855	456	5	1 849	13	2 323	-	508	5	19
Africa Total	664 581	761 064	2 412	290	45 181	311	48 194	55	699 663	49	13 103
SADC	650 714	746 629	2 189	288	33 670	239	36 386	38	697 121	48	13 036
Angola	2 608	3 321	202	2	2 918	15	3 137	-	184	-	-
Botswana	91 999	97 095	26	-	2 741	85	2 852	-	94 174	2	67
DRC	3 903	3 286	1	1	2 455	18	2 475	-	808	2	1
Lesotho	201 183	209 461	6	-	551	3	560	-	196 653	-	12 248
Madagascar	228	337	-	-	304	-	304	-	32	-	1
Malawi	12 788	14 721	4	1	2 171	12	2 188	1	12 520	7	5

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

Country	Mode of travel (December 2008)										
	December		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
Mauritius	1 451	1 482	304	206	731	1	1 242	-	234	1	5
Mozambique	89 702	125 079	117	65	2 352	16	2 550	7	122 407	-	115
Namibia	27 445	26 852	1 433	1	2 003	14	3 451	1	23 396	1	3
Swaziland	104 744	109 751	4	2	660	1	667	12	108 983	1	88
Tanzania	1 269	1 383	9	-	832	-	841	-	537	-	5
Zambia	18 361	17 838	11	-	5 500	8	5 519	-	12 308	4	7
Zimbabwe	95 033	136 023	72	10	10 452	66	10 600	17	124 885	30	491
East & Central Africa	6 941	6 954	55	2	5 325	35	5 417	7	1 499	1	30
Burundi	91	85	-	-	62	6	68	-	17	-	-
Cameroon	379	327	12	-	269	7	288	-	36	-	3
Central African Republic	6	8	1	-	7	-	8	-	-	-	-
Chad	20	24	-	-	23	-	23	-	1	-	-
Comoros	21	11	1	-	10	-	11	-	-	-	-
Congo	487	496	5	-	291	1	297	-	199	-	-
Djibouti	3	9	-	-	6	-	6	-	3	-	-
Equat Guinea	29	36	-	-	12	-	12	-	24	-	-
Eritrea	73	46	2	-	32	1	35	1	10	-	-
Ethiopia	654	622	3	-	430	3	436	5	179	-	2
Gabon	293	449	1	-	434	3	438	-	11	-	-
Kenya	2 607	2 870	5	1	2 313	9	2 328	1	529	1	11
Reunion	87	86	14	-	72	-	86	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	253	271	2	-	234	1	237	-	34	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	12	14	1	-	12	-	13	-	1	-	-
Seychelles	275	209	4	-	197	-	201	-	8	-	-
Somalia	556	148	-	-	4	2	6	-	142	-	-
Tristan Da Cunha	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Uganda	1 095	1 242	3	1	917	2	923	-	305	-	14

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

Country	Mode of travel (December 2008)										
	December		Air					Rail	Road	Sea	Unspec.
	2007	2008	(C/Town)	(Durban)	(OR Tambo)	(Other)	Total				
West Africa	5 969	6 673	89	-	5 588	31	5 708	8	924	-	33
Ascension	2	6	-	-	1	-	1	-	5	-	-
Benin	96	104	-	-	81	-	81	-	22	-	1
Burkina Faso	33	34	-	-	32	-	32	-	2	-	-
Canary Isles	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Cape Verde Island	53	65	5	-	46	-	51	-	14	-	-
Cote D'Ivoire	174	166	7	-	147	-	154	-	12	-	-
Gambia	38	64	10	-	41	2	53	-	10	-	1
Ghana	1 377	1 059	5	-	856	3	864	-	192	-	3
Guinea	121	134	2	-	62	-	64	-	70	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	19	16	-	-	6	-	6	-	10	-	-
Liberia	27	54	-	-	44	-	44	-	10	-	-
Madeira Islands	7	10	1	-	5	-	6	-	4	-	-
Mali	60	74	8	-	42	-	50	-	22	-	2
Mauritania	4	7	-	-	6	-	6	-	1	-	-
Niger	11	10	-	-	7	-	7	-	3	-	-
Nigeria	3 695	4 616	36	-	4 015	20	4 071	8	511	-	26
Saint Helena	13	14	6	-	3	-	9	-	5	-	-
Senegal	172	145	6	-	126	5	137	-	8	-	-
Sierra Leone	43	52	1	-	32	1	34	-	18	-	-
Togo	24	42	2	-	35	-	37	-	5	-	-
North Africa	957	808	79	-	598	6	683	2	119	-	4
Algeria	304	136	20	-	67	2	89	-	47	-	-
Egypt	324	371	21	-	312	1	334	2	35	-	-
Libya	55	56	4	-	32	3	39	-	13	-	4
Morocco	84	49	8	-	38	-	46	-	3	-	-
The Sudan	109	129	14	-	96	-	110	-	19	-	-
Tunisia	81	63	12	-	49	-	61	-	2	-	-
Western Sahara	-	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	5 480	6 349	203	1	1 718	23	1 945	-	2 110	1	2 293

Table 4. Number of foreign arrivals by purpose of travel

Region	Total	Purpose of travel (December 2008)						Border Traffic Concession
		Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Total	
Grand Total	974 975	9 989	929 826	5 984	10 785	2 791	959 375	15 600
Overseas Total	207 562	2 732	198 492	783	4 857	470	207 334	228
Europe	143 228	1 636	138 547	444	2 315	249	143 191	37
North America	26 631	258	25 793	111	381	66	26 609	22
Central and South America	5 675	32	5 485	27	91	37	5 672	3
Australasia	12 327	72	12 131	17	80	27	12 327	-
Middle East	3 182	73	3 005	16	80	6	3 180	2
Asia	16 519	661	13 531	168	1 910	85	16 355	164
Africa Total	761 064	7 210	729 512	4 497	4 450	2 316	747 985	13 079
SADC	746 629	6 807	716 740	4 179	3 690	2 201	733 617	13 012
East and Central Africa	6 954	196	6 134	182	364	48	6 924	30
West Africa	6 673	153	5 970	119	348	50	6 640	33
North Africa	808	54	668	17	48	17	804	4
Unspecified	6 349	47	1 822	704	1 478	5	4 056	2 293

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

Country	December		Purpose of travel (December 2008)						Border traffic concession
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit	Total	
Grand Total	890 391	974 975	9 989	929 826	5 984	10 785	2 791	959 375	15 600
Overseas	220 330	207 562	2 732	198 492	783	4 857	470	207 334	228
Europe	150 225	143 228	1 636	138 547	444	2 315	249	143 191	37
Austria	2 205	2 044	35	1 979	1	26	3	2 044	-
Belgium	3 787	3 888	41	3 762	11	68	5	3 887	1
Denmark	2 201	2 225	25	2 152	6	35	7	2 225	-
France	9 171	9 499	115	9 109	45	208	21	9 498	1
Germany	25 660	23 349	296	22 535	134	352	26	23 343	6
Ireland	5 443	4 399	22	4 343	6	26	2	4 399	-
Italy	4 842	5 471	97	5 281	3	59	31	5 471	-
Norway	2 234	2 062	23	1 966	11	43	19	2 062	-
Portugal	3 079	3 501	15	3 434	5	29	13	3 496	5
Spain	2 340	1 892	17	1 836	1	30	8	1 892	-
Sweden	6 949	6 654	37	6 546	6	57	2	6 648	6
Switzerland	3 973	3 664	41	3 578	7	37	1	3 664	-
The Netherlands	12 825	12 707	68	12 436	55	132	16	12 707	-
UK	57 563	52 441	644	51 053	125	546	57	52 425	16
Other	7 953	9 432	160	8 537	28	667	38	9 430	2
North America	26 967	26 631	258	25 793	111	381	66	26 609	22
Canada	5 500	5 596	35	5 482	11	59	8	5 595	1
USA	21 450	21 026	223	20 303	99	322	58	21 005	21
Other	17	9	-	8	1	-	-	9	-
Central and South America	5 425	5 675	32	5 485	27	91	37	5 672	3
Argentina	646	619	6	596	3	13	1	619	-
Brazil	3 242	3 554	8	3 479	15	30	20	3 552	2
Mexico	301	289	4	274	1	7	3	289	-
Other	1 236	1 213	14	1 136	8	41	13	1 212	1

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

Country	December		Purpose of travel (December 2008)					Total	Border traffic
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit		
Australasia	13 232	12 327	72	12 131	17	80	27	12 327	-
Australia	10 427	9 871	68	9 700	15	65	23	9 871	-
New Zealand	2 718	2 381	3	2 358	2	14	4	2 381	-
Other	87	75	1	73	-	1	-	75	-
Middle East	4 242	3 182	73	3 005	16	80	6	3 180	2
Iran	167	296	9	269	1	16	1	296	-
Israel	1 570	1 421	35	1 356	6	21	2	1 420	1
Saudi Arabia	405	438	6	425	3	4	-	438	-
Other	2 100	1 027	23	955	6	39	3	1 026	1
Asia	20 239	16 519	661	13 531	168	1 910	85	16 355	164
China	4 401	2 833	197	2 233	33	328	4	2 795	38
India	4 559	3 865	236	3 025	26	488	28	3 803	62
Japan	1 831	1 632	59	1 450	14	105	4	1 632	-
Korea	1 728	1 274	25	1 157	48	42	2	1 274	-
Malaysia	825	861	6	815	7	25	8	861	-
Pakistan	723	650	26	535	6	78	2	647	3
Philippines	771	750	7	343	6	356	13	725	25
Singapore	1 221	1 035	14	989	1	30	1	1 035	-
Taiwan	1 227	764	14	639	12	81	1	747	17
Other	2 953	2 855	77	2 345	15	377	22	2 836	19
Africa	664 581	761 064	7 210	729 512	4 497	4 450	2 316	747 985	13 079
SADC	650 714	746 629	6 807	716 740	4 179	3 690	2 201	733 617	13 012
Angola	2 608	3 321	53	3 070	135	55	8	3 321	-
Botswana	91 999	97 095	61	95 361	1 178	214	215	97 029	66
DRC	3 903	3 286	70	3 042	62	78	33	3 285	1
Lesotho	201 183	209 461	210	195 013	717	382	891	197 213	12 248
Madagascar	228	337	1	255	1	41	38	336	1
Malawi	12 788	14 721	575	14 029	33	61	18	14 716	5

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

Country	December		Purpose of travel (December 2008)					Total	Border traffic
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit		
Mauritius	1 451	1 482	8	1 421	15	25	8	1 477	5
Mozambique	89 702	125 079	413	124 099	134	294	42	124 982	97
Namibia	27 445	26 852	1 569	24 526	208	45	503	26 851	1
Swaziland	104 744	109 751	288	108 466	578	204	130	109 666	85
Tanzania	1 269	1 383	60	1 227	49	31	11	1 378	5
Zambia	18 361	17 838	1 772	15 783	81	132	63	17 831	7
Zimbabwe	95 033	136 023	1 727	130 448	988	2 128	241	135 532	491
East and Central Africa	6 941	6 954	196	6 134	182	364	48	6 924	30
Burundi	91	85	8	72	1	3	1	85	-
Cameroon	379	327	13	236	30	41	4	324	3
Central African Repu	6	8	1	6	-	1	-	8	-
Chad	20	24	4	16	-	2	2	24	-
Comoros	21	11	-	10	-	1	-	11	-
Congo	487	496	6	448	15	23	4	496	-
Djibouti	3	9	2	6	-	-	1	9	-
Equat Guinea	29	36	1	33	1	1	-	36	-
Eritrea	73	46	1	39	2	4	-	46	-
Ethiopia	654	622	14	568	16	20	2	620	2
Gabon	293	449	2	412	26	8	1	449	-
Kenya	2 607	2 870	97	2 514	59	169	20	2 859	11
Reunion	87	86	-	82	-	2	2	86	-
Rwanda	253	271	10	235	7	18	1	271	-
Sao Tome and Princip	12	14	-	12	1	-	1	14	-
Seychelles	275	209	-	207	2	-	-	209	-
Somalia	556	148	-	147	-	1	-	148	-
Tristan Da Cunha	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Uganda	1 095	1 242	37	1 090	22	70	9	1 228	14

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

Country	December		Purpose of travel (December 2008)					Total	Border traffic
	2007	2008	Business	Holiday	Study	Work	Transit		
West Africa	5 969	6 673	153	5 970	119	348	50	6 640	33
Ascension	2	6	-	6	-	-	-	6	-
Benin	96	104	1	99	1	2	-	103	1
Burkina Faso	33	34	4	27	-	3	-	34	-
Canary Isles	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Cape Verde Island	53	65	-	65	-	-	-	65	-
Cote D'Ivoire	174	166	8	134	4	18	2	166	-
Gambia	38	64	3	45	-	5	10	63	1
Ghana	1 377	1 059	16	964	18	54	4	1 056	3
Guinea	121	134	6	114	3	9	2	134	-
Guinea-Bissau	19	16	-	15	-	1	-	16	-
Liberia	27	54	2	49	-	3	-	54	-
Madeira Islands	7	10	-	10	-	-	-	10	-
Mali	60	74	4	61	2	2	3	72	2
Mauritania	4	7	3	2	1	1	-	7	-
Niger	11	10	3	7	-	-	-	10	-
Nigeria	3 695	4 616	95	4 151	82	237	25	4 590	26
Saint Helena	13	14	-	14	-	-	-	14	-
Senegal	172	145	6	118	6	11	4	145	-
Sierra Leone	43	52	2	46	2	2	-	52	-
Togo	24	42	-	42	-	-	-	42	-
North Africa	957	808	54	668	17	48	17	804	4
Algeria	304	136	7	106	2	7	14	136	-
Egypt	324	371	15	331	3	20	2	371	-
Libya	55	56	1	38	8	5	-	52	4
Morocco	84	49	5	39	-	5	-	49	-
Sudan	109	129	9	110	3	6	1	129	-
Tunisia	81	63	17	40	1	5	-	63	-
Western Sahara	-	4	-	4	-	-	-	4	-
Unspecified	5 480	6 349	47	1 822	704	1 478	5	4 056	2 293

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, sex, 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 December 2008, the DHA data was 17,5% 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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