





Government_of Tonga



STATISTICAL BULLETIN ON



INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES 2021



Statistics Department P.O. Box 149, Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga

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Preface

This is the twenty second bulletin of an annual migration reports produced by the Statistics Department as the main reference on a volume of overseas visitors, cruise ship passengers, yacht passengers and resident's movement to and from the Kingdom of Tonga. This bulletin covers the period of January to December 2021, includes tables providing a monthly breakdown of the data. Comparative data for previous years are also included in this bulletin. Most of the information contained in this bulletin was obtained from the Immigration Department database on international arrivals and departures.

The main purpose of collecting and compiling statistics on International Arrivals and Departures, or Migration Statistics, is to make migration data available for planners and decision-makers. Tonga has a high rate of Net Migration, with more people moving out of Tonga than arriving. Production of Migration Statistics and their components enables the Statistics Department to estimate the resident population and to produce Population Projections for the whole Kingdom.

This bulletin presents information relating to the number of arrivals and departures by sex, purpose of travel, reasons for absence, country of usual residence and country visited.

A special thanks are extended to the Immigration Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Customs Departments of the Ministry of Revenue Services, Airport terminal Services and Port Authority for their assistance in providing their administrative information relating to these statistics. I am also grateful particularly to my staff in the Population and Social Statistics Division who contributed to the compilation of this report.

Any suggestions that recipients of this bulletin wish to make for its future improvement will be welcomed by the Statistics Department.



Government Statistician
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1. MAIN FEATURES

1.1 General

- Net overseas migration is the net gain or loss of population through immigration to Tonga and emigration from Tonga.
- b. Individuals are considered to be residents when they reside in Tonga for 12 months or more.
- c. For 2021, total international arrivals were 1,903 and total departures were 4,132, a net outflow of 2,229. This means that there are more persons departing the Kingdom than persons arriving for the year 2021.

1.2 Total International Arrivals and Departures

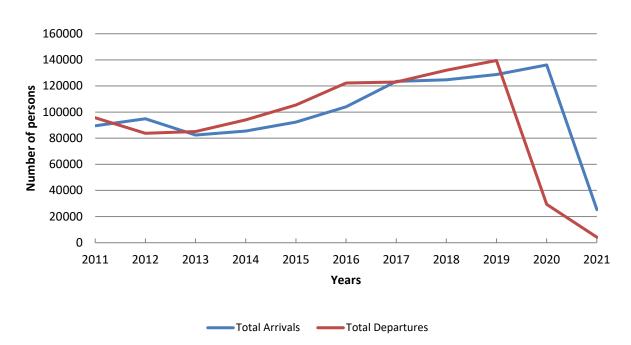


Fig. 1. Total International Arrivals & Departures 2011 - 2021

Fig 1. illustrates the total arrivals and departures to and from the Kingdom of Tonga for the years 2011 to 2021. The above graph shows a fluctuated trend from 2010 to 2013. However, negative net migration continues until 2017, arrivals slightly higher than departures. Year 2018 and 2019 shows that there were more people departed the Kingdom than arrivals. There was a very sharp decline from 2019 to 2020 and to 2021 and this was mainly due to the COVID - 19 Pandemic. There were travel restrictions and some countries continue to close their borders entirely.

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1.3 Total International Arrivals and Departures by Annual Percentage Change

Table 1.1 Total International Arrivals and Departures 2004 - 2021

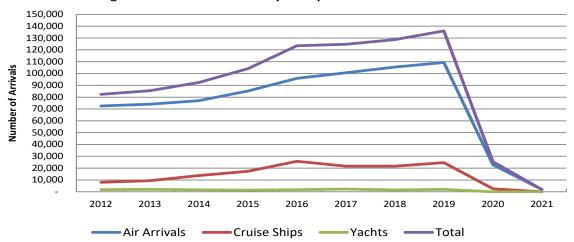
Year	Total Arrivals	% Change	Total Departures	% Change
2004	66,639	-	70,206	-
2005	76,286	14.5	73,540	4.7
2006	78,652	3.1	82,268	11.9
2007	75,587	-3.9	83,416	1.4
2008	91,128	20.6	92,890	11.4
2009	99,803	9.5	99,360	7.0
2010	89,506	-10.3	90,607	-8.8
2011	94,960	6.1	95,607	5.5
2012	82,400	-13.2	83,805	-12.3
2013	85,473	3.7	85,134	1.6
2014	92,374	8.1	94,090	10.5
2015	104,070	12.7	105,379	12.0
2016	123,462	18.6	122,266	16.0
2017	124,703	1.0	122,970	0.6
2018	128,734	3.2	132,086	7.4
2019	136,059	5.7	139,527	5.6
2020	25,382	-81.3	29,306	-79.0
2021	1,903	-92.5	4,132	-85.9

Table 1.1 shows the total arrivals or person arrived in the kingdom with the highest point in 2019 with 136,059. The largest increase in arrivals occurred from 2007 to 2008 with 21% followed 2015 to 2016 with 19%. Similarly, the total departures or persons leaving Tonga in 2019 (139,527). The year 2020 to 2021 shows the highest decline with 92.5 percent and as well as departures with a decline of 85.9 percent and this was the covid – 19 pandemic impacting on migration.

2. INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS

2.1 International Arrivals by Transport Mode 2012 - 2021

Fig 2: International Arrivals by Transport Mode 2012 - 2021



The above graph shows the total international arrivals to the Kingdom by transport mode for the year 2012 - 2021. It clearly shows that international air arrivals dominated the total international arrivals to the Kingdom followed by arrivals on cruise ships and yachts the least. The steep rise from 2015 to 2019 is mainly due to the dramatic increase in air arrivals as shown in the above graphs which were 85,269 in 2015, 95,930 in 2016, 100,630 in 2017, 105,474 in 2018 and 109,371 in 2019. Arrivals by Cruise ships was 17,375 in 2015, increased to 25,714 in 2016, 21,719 in 2017, 21,708 in 2018 and increase again to 24,667 in 2019. Yachts arrivals increased from 1,426 in 2015 to 1,818 in 2016, 2,354 to 2017 decline to 1,552 in 2018 and increase again to 2,021 in 2019. Again we can see that there was a steep declined from 2019 to 2020 and to 2021 and this was the same to both air and sea arrivals. This was mainly due to the covid 19 restrictions

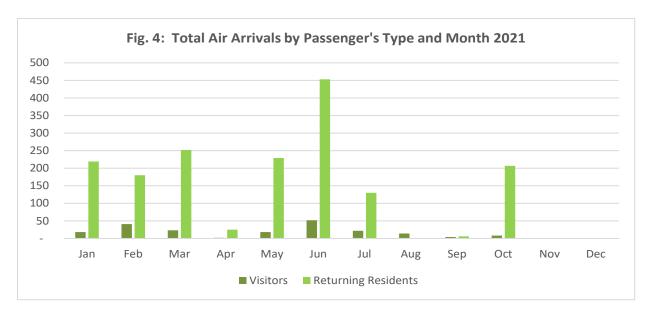
Total Arrivals by Transport Mode and Month 2021



The above graph illustrates the total arrivals by transport mode and month for the year 2021. shows in the graph above there were no passenger's arrivals in both Cruise Ships and Yachts for the whole year 2021 and this was because no cruise ships and yachts were allowed to come to the country because of the Covid 19. In November and December 2021 there were no arrivals by air to Tonga.

2.3 Total Air Arrivals by Passenger Type and Month 2021

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The highest number of returning residents arrived in Tonga was in June 2021. There were no Passenger's arrivals in the month of November and December 2021. Because of the COVID - 19 restrictions no visitors were allowed to enter the country, only people who are residents of Tonga were allowed to come back to the island.

2.4 Total Air Visitors by Country of Usual Residence 2021

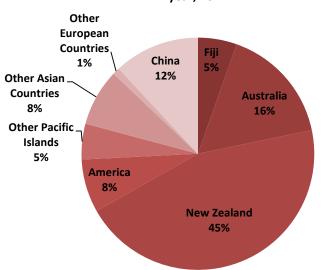
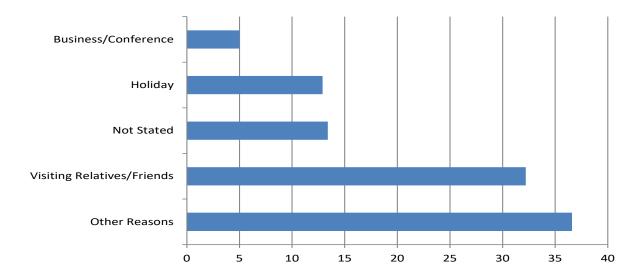


Fig. 5: Air visitors by Country of Usual Residence for the year, 2021

New Zealand remains as the leading country in visitors arrivals by country of usual residence accounting for 45.0% (91). This was followed by Australia with 16.3% (33) and China with 11.9% (24)

2.5 Visitors Arrivals by Purpose of Visit 2021



The most visitors visited to the Kingdom were here on various reasons such as employment, education etc. 36.6% (74). This was followed by 32.2% (65) who came to visit relatives/friends and those who didn't state the purpose of their visit 13.4% (27)

2.6 International Air Arrivals by Age Group 2021

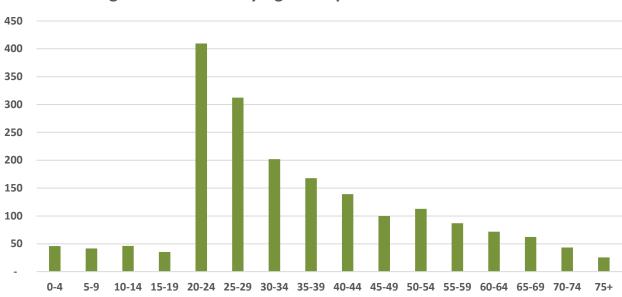


Fig. 7: Air Arrivals by Age Group - 2021

The majority of the air arrivals were in the age group of 20 - 24 (409) followed by 25 - 29 (312)

3. International Departures

350 300 250 200 150 100 50 0 Feb Oct Dec Jul Aug Sep Jan Mar Apr May Jun Nov ■ Male ■ Female

Fig. 8: Total Departures by Gender and Month 2021

The above figure shows that the lowest departures for male was in the month of August (31) followed by January (104). The highest number of departures was in the month of April with 329 for males and 197 for females in the month of October.

3.2 Air Departures by Country of Usual Residence, 2021

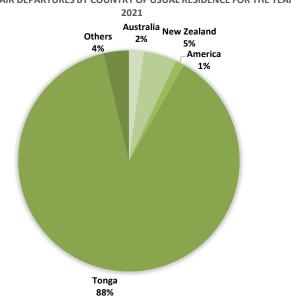


FIG. 9: AIR DEPARTURES BY COUNTRY OF USUAL RESIDENCE FOR THE YEAR

Figure 9 shows that most of the persons departing in the year 2021 were Tongan residence 3,637 (88.0)% followed by New Zealand 199 (4.8)% and Australia 91 (2.2)%.

4 EXPLANATORY NOTES

4.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is to give an overview of total international arrivals and departures and their main social and economic characteristics.

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Statistics on Overseas Arrivals and Departures related to the number of movements of travelers rather than the number of travelers (i.e. the multiple movements of individual persons during a given reference period are all counted).

4.2 COVERAGE

This bulletin covers all international arrivals and departures from the Kingdom of Tonga, including yachts and those through Lupepau'u Airport and all outer islands, during 2014. Final totals of arrivals and departures are based on the reconciliation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration Electronic data, Customs Wharf Register and Air Terminal Services Manifest.

4.3 SOURCE OF DATA

Data is extracted from the arrival and departure cards of the Immigration Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Customs vessel and yacht log book. The Statistics Department reconciles the figures from the Air Terminal Services Manifest and Ports Authority Manifest to produce final published data.

4.4 DATA LIMITATIONS

Passengers on yachts and ships do not complete arrival and departure cards therefore we are unable to provide details on Age, Sex and Purpose of visit.

Due to the limitation and incomplete data, we are unable at this stage to determine whether arrivals and departures are of a long term or short term duration.

(Note: This problem caused by incomplete arrival and departure card)

5 GLOSSARY

 A Visitor is a person other than a Tongan citizen, permit holder and exempted person, who usually stays at least 24 hours in the kingdom, or who stays overnight in accommodation within Tonga. This refers to passengers arriving by air and yacht only.

- Cruise Ship Passengers are defined as those who arrive and depart in the same vessel which is a cruise trip, and use that vessel's accommodation during their stay in Tonga. They are also known as "Excursionist"
- A Returning Resident is a person who has the Kingdom of Tonga as their permanent address for more than six months of the year and returns to Tonga after a trip overseas. Tongan residence is self-defined as reported by travelers when completing the Passenger Arrival Card.
- Main reason for journey On arrival in Tonga, all overseas visitors and Tongan residents are asked to state their purpose of journey. Statistics are published using the following categories: Holiday, Business, Visiting friends and /or relatives, Conference and Others.
- Mode of Transport Only air, yacht and cruise ships passengers are included. Passenger/crew on cargo, navy or special vessels are excluded.

Table 1. Monthly Arrival and Departure by Mode of Travel and Net Migration, 2013 $\,$ - 2021

		Visitors Ar	rrivals			Returning	Residents	Total Arriva	als			Total Depa	artures			Net
2023 4 5148 9,482 2015 98,680 25,2808 73,996 9,482 2046 88,473 73,938 9,472 1798 8,134 39 9,000 1,000	Period			Yacht	Total					Yacht	Total			Yacht	Total	+ 1
2015 5 51.75 2 17.375 1.426 72.551 3.1517 1.5107 5 5.206 1.329 1.3	2013	48,188	9,432	2,045	59,665	25,808	25,808	73,996	9,432	2,045	85,473	73,938	9,427	1,769	85,134	
0319 6 50,130 25,714 1818 8 8682 88600 88600 98300 25,714 1818 1824-62 86,049 25,718 1800 122228 1,108 03101 67,646 21,708 1815 77,308 51,428 1816 1824 1824 11,08 18,55 182,714 1,002 132,058 13,350 03101 67,646 21,708 18,55 77,308 51,428 18,142 18,05,474 1,05 18,55 18,734 10,877 24,174 1,002 132,058 13,350 03101 2530 6 11,546 13,3886 13,3886 13,388 22,848 2,830 6 23,82 28,678 12,124 12,474 2,474 1,002 132,058 13,320 0310 12,530 6 11,546 13,3886 13,3886 13,388 12,388 12,389	2014	50,436	13,733	1,632	65,801	26,573	26,573	77,009	13,733	1,632	92,374	78,604	13,724	1,762	94,090	(1,716)
2017 6.2566 21.719 23.84 88.879 83.294 83.249 83.249 83.249 83.249 83.249 83.249 83.249 83.249 83.249 83.249 83.249 83.249 83.249 83.249 83.249 83.24988 83.24988 83.2498 83.2498 83.2498 83.2498 83.2498	2015	53,752	17,375	1,426	72,553	31,517	31,517	85,269	17,375	1,426	104,070	86,574	17,383	1,422	105,379	(1,309)
2018 34,046 21,708 1.552 77,306 51,428 51,428 00,574 21,708 1.552 128,734 109,770 21,714 1.602 13,0568 03,3592 03,000 02,000 02,000 02,000 02,000 03,000 02,000 03	2016	59,130	25,714	1,818	86,662	36,800	36,800	95,930	25,714	1,818	123,462	95,043	25,703	1,520	122,266	1,196
2019 2019	2017	62,506	21,719	2,354	86,579	38,124	38,124	100,630	21,719	2,354	124,703	99,280	21,698	1,992	122,970	1,733
	2018	54,046	21,708	1,552	77,306	51,428	51,428	105,474	21,708	1,552	128,734	108,770	21,714	1,602	132,086	(3,352)
2021 202	2019	67,284	24,667	2,021	93,972	42,087	42,087	109,371	24,667	2,021	136,059	112,714	24,749	2,064	139,527	(3,468)
	2020	9,010	2,530	6	11,546	13,836		22,846	2,530	6	25,382	26,769	2,529	8	29,306	(3,924)
Marcol	2021	202	-	-	202	1,701		1,903	-	-	1,903	4,132	-	-	4,132	(2,229)
Feb 2.338 1.520 3.856 3.217 3.217 5.553 1.520 7.073 6.688 1.528 2.22 1.014 3.113 3.093 4.34 3.075 3.205 3.205 6.040 3.092 2.344 34 5.477 3.309 3.309 6.040 3.052 34 8.078 6.644 2.343 3.08 6.040 3.244 34 8.785 6.644 2.243 3.318 3.05 8.083 150 Month 4.486 6.271 1.68 1.74 9.064 3.898 9.733 0.052 1.050 1.144 1.851 1.74 1.006 1.144 1.853 1.74 1.055 1.555 1.555 1.555 1.550 1.556 1.550 1.556 1.550 1.556 1.556 1.556 1.550 1.556 1.550 1.556 1.550 1.550 1.550 1.550 1.550 1.550 1.550 1.550 1.550 1.550 1.550 1.550 1		1									10.100					(2.22.4)
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Apr	Feb	3,008	1,678	6	4,692	3,328	3,328	6,336	1,678	6	8,020	6,680	1,678	8	8,366	(346)
May	Mar	1,259	-	-	1,259	2,219	2,219	3,478	-	-	3,478	3,778	-	-	3,778	(300)
Jun - - - - - - - 62 - 62 62 (62) (62) Jul 1 - - 1 56 56 57 - 57 96 - 96 (39) Aug 5 - 5 145 145 150 - 150 130 - 130 20 Sep 16 - 16 84 84 100 - 100 100 - 100 Oct 13 - 13 379 379 392 - 392 218 - 218 174 Nov 20 - 20 275 275 295 - 295 196 - 196 99 Dec 23 - 23 263 263 286 - 286 261 - 261 25 Jan 18 219	Apr	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	579	-	-	579	(579)
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Table 2. Total Air Arrivals by Age Group and Month 2021

Age Group													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
0-4	1	11	2		11	12	8		-	1			46
5-9	9	7	5	-	8	7	5	-	-	-			42
10-14	11	13	2	-	12	5	4	-	-	-			46
15-19	7	6	5	-	7	7	2	-	-	2			36
20-24	47	22	66	24	28	101	34	-	3	84			409
25-29	35	34	51	-	39	95	20	-	3	35			312
30-34	22	22	23	-	26	66	14	1	3	25			202
35-39	19	20	26	-	24	39	12	4	1	23			168
40-44	20	13	22	-	15	39	9	4	-	17			139
45-49	7	12	19	-	11	30	8	4	-	9			100
50-54	18	17	17	1	18	28	4	-	-	10			113
55-59	9	14	14	-	14	18	11	1	-	5			87
60-64	12	12	7	1	14	18	6	-	-	2			72
65-69	5	9	6	-	9	25	8	-	-	-			62
70-74	11	6	4	1	8	7	6	-	-	1			43
75+	3	3	6	-	4	8	1	-	-	1			26
Total	237	221	275	27	247	505	152	14	10	215	-	-	1,903
% Distributi	12.5	11.6	14.5	1.4	13.0	26.5	8.0	0.7	0.5	11.3	-	-	100.0
GENDER													
Male	153	94	196	4	105	330	98	14	7	199	-	-	1,200
Female	84	127	79	23	142	175	54	-	3	16	-	-	703
Total	237	221	275	27	247	505	152	14	10	215	-	-	1,903
PASSENGER	S TYPE												
Returning Res	219	180	252	25	229	453	130	-	6	207	-	-	1,701
Visitors	18	41	23	2	18	52	22	14	4	8	-	-	202
Total	237	221	275	27	247	505	152	14	10	215	-	-	1,903

Table 3: Air Visitors by Country of Residence and Purpose of Visit, 2021

Country of	Visit	it					
Usual Residence	Total	%	Holiday/	Business/	Visiting Relative/	Other	Not
		Distribution	Vacation	Conference	Friends	Reasons	Stated
Australia	33	16.3	3	2	5	20	3
New Zealand	91	45.0	14	3	51	9	14
Fiji	11	5.4	-	-	2	8	1
American Samoa	3	1.5	-	-	-	-	3
Western Samoa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Pacific Islands	7	3.5	2	-	3	2	-
Japan	13	6.4	1	4	-	6	2
China	24	11.9	-	-	-	24	-
India	1	0.5	-	-	-	1	-
Korea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Asian Countries	2	1.0	2	-	-	-	-
UK	2	1.0	-	-	-	2	-
Germany	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
France	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Italy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other European Countries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All African Countries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States of America	15	7.4	4	1	4	2	4
Canada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other American Countries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	202	100.0	26	10	65	74	27
Percent Distribution	100.0		12.9	5.0	32.2	36.6	13.4

Table 4: Total Air Arrivals by Country of Residence and Purpose of Visit, 2021

Country of	Purpose of Visit								
Usual Residence	Total	%	Holiday/	Business/	Visiting Relative/	Other	Not		
		Distribution	Vacation	Conference	Friends	Reasons	Stated		
Australia	33	1.7	3	2	5	20	3		
New Zealand	91	4.8	14	3	51	9	14		
Fiji	11	0.6	-	-	2	8	1		
American Samoa	3	0.2	-	-	-	-	3		
Western Samoa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Tonga	1,701	89.4	28	5	9	2	1,657		
Other Pacific Islands	7	0.4	2	-	3	2	-		
Japan	13	0.7	1	4	-	6	2		
China	24	1.3	-	-	-	24	-		
India	1	0.1	-	-	-	1	-		
Korea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Other Asian Countries	2	0.1	2	-	-	-	-		
UK	2	0.1	-	-	-	2	-		
Germany	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
France	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Italy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Other European Countries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
All African Countries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
United States of America	15	0.8	4	1	4	2	4		
Canada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Other American Countries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Total	1,903	100.0	54	15	74	76	1,684		
Percent Distribution	100.0		2.8	0.8	3.9	4.0	88.5		

Table 5: AIR DEPARTURES by Age Group and Passanger's Type for the year 2021

	Departing	Percent		Percent		Percent
Age Group	Residents	Distribution	Visitors	Distribution	Total	Distribution
0 - 4	31	0.9	26	5.6	57	1.4
5 - 9	49	1.3	25	5.4	74	1.8
10 - 14	47	1.3	33	7.0	79	1.9
15 - 19	125	3.4	40	8.7	166	4.0
20 - 24	1,016	27.7	39	8.4	1,055	25.5
25 - 29	845	23.1	39	8.4	884	21.4
30 - 34	477	13.0	34	7.4	512	12.4
35 - 39	341	9.3	21	4.5	362	8.8
40 - 44	239	6.5	23	4.9	262	6.3
45 - 49	147	4.0	28	6.1	175	4.2
50 - 54	117	3.2	37	8.0	155	3.7
55 - 59	76	2.1	46	10.0	122	3.0
60 - 64	54	1.5	31	6.6	85	2.0
65 - 69	45	1.2	21	4.4	65	1.6
70 - 74	27	0.7	10	2.0	37	0.9
75+	31	0.8	11	2.4	42	1.0
All Ages	3,667	100.0	465	100.0	4,132	100.0
YACHT	-	-	-	0	-	0
CRUISE SHIP	-	-	-	0	-	0
Total	3,667	100.0	465	100.0	4,132	100.0

Table 6. Total Departures by Country of Residence and Gender for the year 2021

Country of Usual	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total	Percent
Residence	No.	Distribution	No.	Distribution	No.	Distribution
Australia	34	1.3	57	3.8	91	2.2
New Zealand	97	3.7	102	6.8	199	4.8
Fiji	12	0.5	12	0.8	24	0.6
American Samoa	0	0.0	1	0.1	1	0.0
Western Samoa	1	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Tonga	2,393	90.7	1,243	83.2	3,637	88.0
Other Pacific Islands	9	0.3	9	0.6	18	0.4
Japan	12	0.5	4	0.3	16	0.4
China	28	1.1	25	1.7	54	1.3
India	2	0.1	5	0.3	7	0.2
Korea	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other Asian Countries	15	0.6	0	0.0	15	0.4
UK	3	0.1	2	0.1	5	0.1
Germany	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
France	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Italy	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other European Countries	4	0.1	3	0.2	7	0.2
All African Countries	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
United States of America	26	1.0	27	1.8	53	1.3
Canada	1	0.0	1	0.1	2	0.0
Other American Countries	0	0.0	2	0.1	2	0.0
Total	2,638	100.0	1,494	100.0	4,132	100.0



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