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ON



MONTHLY MIGRATION STATISTICS JANUARY 2024



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Preface

This is a monthly bulletin of 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 2024, 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.

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Mr. Sione Lolohea
Government Statistician

The seal of the Department of Statistics, Tonga Government, is circular. It features a central crown emblem surrounded by a wreath. The text "DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS" is written in a circle around the top, and "TONGA GOVERNMENT" is written around the bottom. Two small stars are positioned on the left and right sides of the inner circle.

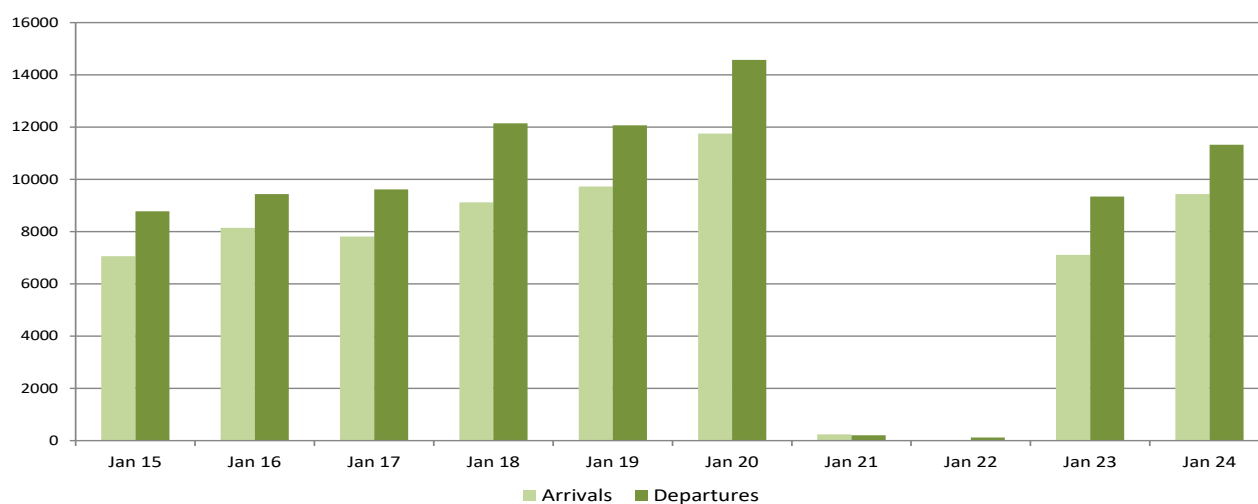
Summary of Arrivals

Table 1: Total Arrivals by month and annual percentage change

Month of January 2024	January 2024	December 2023	January 2023	Change from previous month	Change from previous year
All Arrivals	10,119	13,034	9,966	-22.4	1.5
Air Visitors	3,762	7,323	3,330	-48.6	13.0
Air Returning Residents	5,672	3,940	3,780	44.0	50.1
Cruise Ships	674	1759	2856	-61.7	-76.4
Yachts	11	12	0	-8.3	0.0

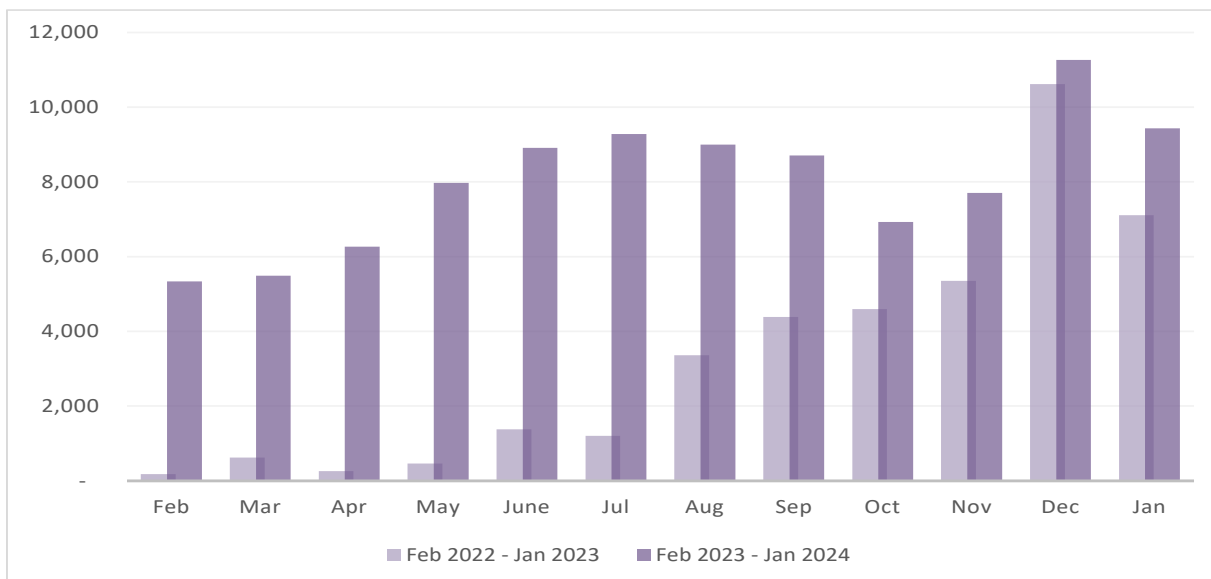
- The total of all arrivals in January 2024 were 10,119 people, this is a decline of 22.4 percentage compared to previous month, December 2023 (13,034).
- A decline of 48.6% of all air visitors (3,762) compared to December 2023 (7,323).
- An increase of 44.0% (5,672) of returning residents compared to the previous month (3,940)
- A decline of 61.7 % of arrivals by Cruise Ships (674) compared to December 2023 (1,759) and again a decline of 8.3% of arrivals by yachts for the month of January 2024 compared to December, 2023.

Fig. 1. January Air Arrivals and Departures 2015 – 2024



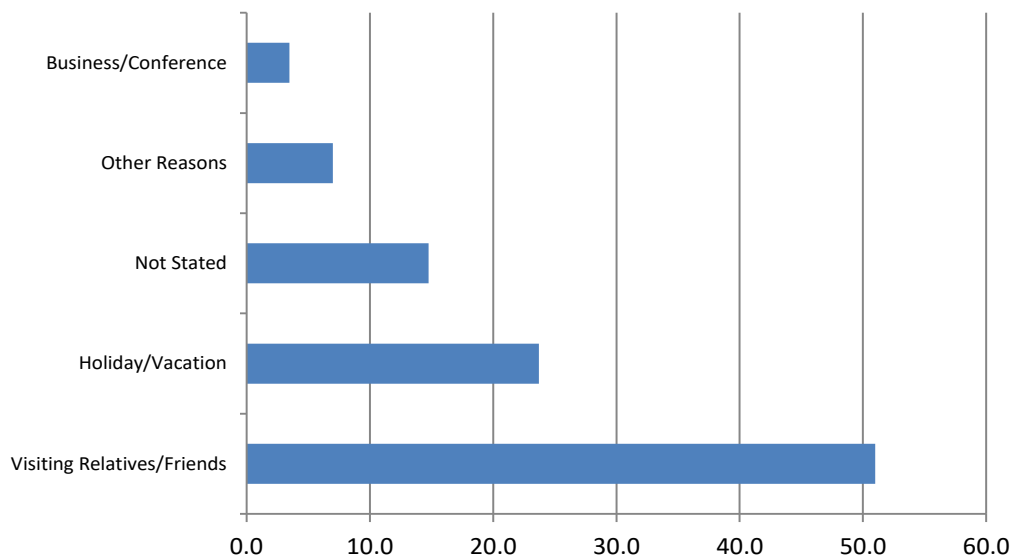
- Total air arrivals in January 2024 were 9,434 an increase of 32.7 % compared to previous year, January 2023 (7,116). Very low in arrivals and departures in January 2021 and January 2022 were mainly due to the covid – 19 pandemic restrictions.
- Total air departures of 11,330 in January 2024, an increase of 21.2% compared to the previous year January 2023 (9,346).

Fig. 2. Monthly Air Arrivals vs the corresponding month of the previous year



- The graph above shows the monthly air arrivals that is from Feb 2023 – Jan 2024 vs the corresponding Month of the previous year (Feb 2022 – Jan 2023). As we can see the air arrivals from Feb 2023 – Jan 2024 are very high compared to the previous year and these were mainly because of the restrictions on Covid 19

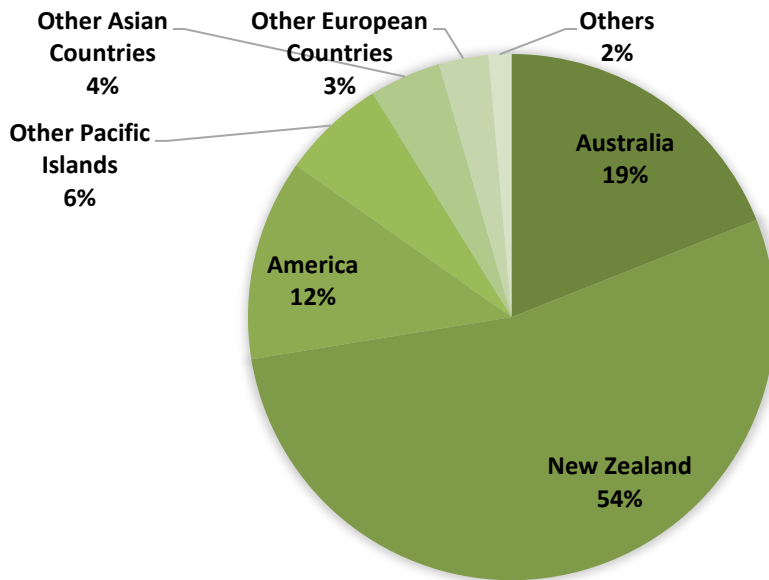
Fig. 3. Air Visitors by Purpose of Visit January, 2024



- 51.0% (1,920) of the total air visitors were here to Visit Relatives/Friends.
- Those who were here on Holiday/Vacation made up 23.7% (893)
- Visitors who didn't state the purpose of their visit made up 14.8% (555). Those who stated other reasons for

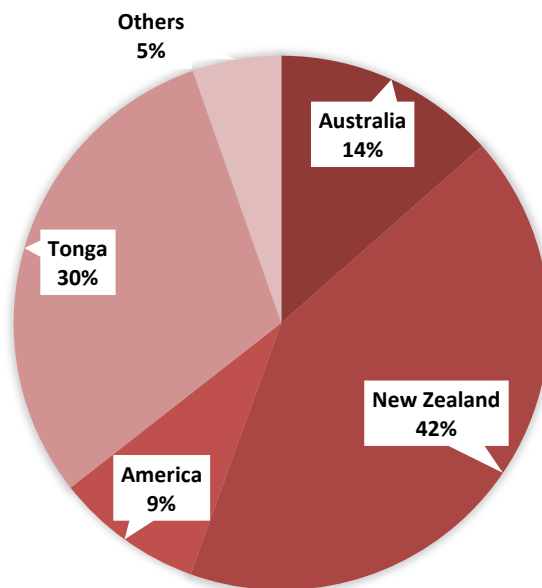
their visits made up 7.0% (263). The remain 3.5% (131) were here on Business/Conference.

Fig. 4. Air Visitors by Country of Usual Residence January 2024



- New Zealand was the leading country in visitors arrivals by country of usual residence, accounting for 53.5 % (2,011)
- This was followed by Australia 19.0 % (714) and America 12.4% (465)

Fig. 5. Air Departures by Country of Usual Residence January, 2024



- Most of the persons departing in the month of January were New Zealand residents (4,762)

followed by Tongans (3,424) and Australians (1,524)

Definitions

▶ **A Visitor** is a person other than a Tongan citizen, permit holder and exempted person, who usually stay 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 on 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.

▶ **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, 2015 - 2023

Period	Visitors Arrivals				Returning Residents				Total Arrivals				Total Departures				Net Migration
	Air	Ship	Yacht	Total	Air	Ship	Yacht	Total	Air	Ship	Yacht	Total	Air	Ship	Yacht	Total	
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)
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
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)
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			13,836	22,846	2,530	6	25,382	26,769	2,529	8	29,306	(3,924)
2021	202	-	-	202	1,701			1,701	1,903	-	-	1,903	4,132	-	-	4,132	(2,229)
2022	18,427	3,799	92	22,318	13,996			13,996	32,423	3,799	92	36,314	33,018	3,797	65	36,880	(566)
2023	55,749	23,943	2,002	81,694	38,222			38,222	93,971	23,943	2,002	119,916	100,980	23,937	1,949	126,866	(6,950)
2021																	
Jan	18	-	-	18	219			219	237	-	-	237	207			207	30
Feb	41	-	-	41	180			180	221	-	-	221	407	-	-	407	(186)
Mar	23	-	-	23	252			252	275	-	-	275	406	-	-	406	(131)
Apr	2	-	-	2	25			25	27	-	-	27	441	-	-	441	(414)
May	18	-	-	18	229			229	247	-	-	247	368	-	-	368	(121)
Jun	52	-	-	52	453			453	505	-	-	505	339	-	-	339	166
Jul	22	-	-	22	130			130	152	-	-	152	220	-	-	220	(68)
Aug	14	-	-	14	-			-	14	-	-	14	63	-	-	63	(49)
Sep	4	-	-	4	6			6	10	-	-	10	380	-	-	380	(370)
Oct	8	-	-	8	207			207	215	-	-	215	479	-	-	479	(264)
Nov	-	-	-	-	-			-	-	-	-	-	429	-	-	429	(429)
Dec	-	-	-	-	-			-	-	-	-	-	393	-	-	393	(393)
2022																	
Jan	-	-	-	-	-			-	-	-	-	-	123	-	-	123	(123)
Feb	34	-	-	34	149			149	183	-	-	183	259	-	-	259	(76)
Mar	112	-	-	112	508			508	620	-	-	620	1,079	-	-	1,079	(459)
Apr	40	-	-	40	218			218	258	-	-	258	598	-	-	598	(340)
May	130	-	-	130	335			335	465	-	-	465	525	-	-	525	(60)
Jun	282	-	-	282	1,095			1,095	1,377	-	-	1,377	1,131	-	-	1,131	246
Jul	415	-	-	415	792			792	1,207	-	-	1,207	1,385	-	-	1,385	(178)
Aug	1,809	-	-	1,809	1,556			1,556	3,365	-	-	3,365	2,706	-	-	2,706	659
Sep	2,474	-	-	2,474	1,909			1,909	4,383	-	-	4,383	4,252	-	-	4,252	131
Oct	2,491	2,204	76	4,771	2,104			2,104	4,595	2,204	76	6,875	4,846	2,202	43	7,091	(216)
Nov	3,289	1,595	16	4,900	2,061			2,061	5,350	1,595	16	6,961	6,163	1,595	22	7,780	(819)
Dec	7,351	-	-	7,351	3,269			3,269	10,620	-	-	10,620	9,951	-	-	9,951	669
2023																	
Jan	3,330	2,856	-	6,186	3,780			3,780	7,110	2,856	-	9,966	9,346	2,856	-	12,202	(2,236)
Feb	2,671	319	-	2,990	2,666			2,666	5,337	319	-	5,656	6,346	319	-	6,665	(1,009)
Mar	3,085	207	-	3,292	2,407			2,407	5,492	207	-	5,699	6,621	207	-	6,828	(1,129)
Apr	3,540	2,872	6	6,418	2,724			2,724	6,264	2,872	6	9,142	6,689	2,872	20	9,581	(439)
May	4,349	-	213	4,562	3,626			3,626	7,975	-	213	8,188	7,515	-	36	7,551	637
Jun	5,861	-	137	5,998	3,050			3,050	8,911	-	137	9,048	7,122	-	192	7,314	1,734
Jul	6,435	4,832	294	11,561	2,847			2,847	9,282	4,832	294	14,408	10,411	4,832	397	15,640	(1,232)
Aug	6,058	2,369	273	8,700	2,940			2,940	8,998	2,369	273	11,640	9,638	2,369	257	12,264	(624)
Sep	5,141	-	357	5,498	3,564			3,564	8,705	-	357	9,062	9,299	-	399	9,698	(636)
Oct	3,760	4,027	285	8,072	3,167			3,167	6,927	4,027	285	11,239	7,562	4,025	342	11,929	(690)
Nov	4,196	4,702	425	9,323	3,511			3,511	7,707	4,702	425	12,834	8,260	4,700	282	13,242	(408)
Dec	7,323	1,759	12	9,094	3,940			3,940	11,263	1,759	12	13,034	12,171	1,757	24	13,952	(918)
2024																	
Jan	3,762	674	11	4,447	5,672			5,672	9,434	674	11	10,119	11,330	674	-	12,004	(1,885)

Table 2. Total Arrivals by Age, Type of Passengers and Sex January, 2024

Age Group	Type of Passengers								
	Total			Visitors			Returning Residents		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
0-4	416	205	211	170	91	79	246	114	132
5-9	642	296	346	201	96	105	441	200	241
10-14	799	408	391	229	112	117	570	296	274
15-19	855	443	412	257	129	128	598	314	284
20-24	736	314	422	248	101	147	488	213	275
25-29	720	283	437	243	104	139	477	179	298
30-34	760	353	407	270	130	140	490	223	267
35-39	727	364	363	319	176	143	408	188	220
40-44	713	346	367	319	163	156	394	183	211
45-49	629	305	324	305	157	148	324	148	176
50-54	627	298	329	314	153	161	313	145	168
55-59	612	282	330	290	141	149	322	141	181
60-64	491	244	247	239	113	126	252	131	121
65-69	326	160	166	181	93	88	145	67	78
70-74	212	111	101	107	61	46	105	50	55
75+	169	72	97	70	31	39	99	41	58
Total	9,434	4,484	4,950	3,762	1,851	1,911	5,672	2,633	3,039
% Distribution	100.0	47.5	52.5	39.9	19.6	20.3	60.1	27.9	32.2

Table 3. Total Visitors by Usual Residence and Purpose of Visit January, 2024

Country of Usual Residence	Purpose of Visit						
	Total	% Distribution	Holiday/Vacation	Business/Conference	Visiting Relative/Friends	Other Reasons	Not Stated
Australia	714	19.0	177	25	371	44	97
New Zealand	2,011	53.5	401	26	1164	48	372
Fiji	192	5.1	26	37	60	53	16
American Samoa	3	0.1	1	-	-	-	2
Western Samoa	19	0.5	-	3	10	4	2
Other Pacific Islands	26	0.7	3	2	18	2	1
Japan	18	0.5	5	3	5	3	2
China	94	2.5	32	5	35	9	13
India	3	0.1	1	1	1	-	-
Korea	6	0.2	5	-	1	-	-
Other Asian Countries	44	1.2	13	9	1	10	11
UK	35	0.9	24	-	9	-	2
Germany	32	0.9	24	3	2	2	1
France	4	0.1	3	-	-	-	1
Italy	5	0.1	3	-	-	2	-
Other European Countries	38	1.0	20	1	2	6	9
All African Countries	15	0.4	3	1	2	6	3
United States of America	465	12.4	132	9	237	73	14
Canada	12	0.3	8	-	2	1	1
Other American Countries	26	0.7	12	6	-	-	8
Total	3,762	100.0	893	131	1,920	263	555
% Distribution	100.0		23.7	3.5	51.0	7.0	14.8

Table 4: AIR DEPARTURES by Age Group, Passenger's Type for January, 2024

Age Group	Returning Residence	Percentage Distribution	Visitors	Percentage Distribution	Total	Percentage Distribution
0 - 4	117	3.4	385	4.9	502	4.4
5 - 9	151	4.4	562	7.1	713	6.3
10 - 14	146	4.3	699	8.8	845	7.5
15 - 19	233	6.8	687	8.7	920	8.1
20 - 24	458	13.4	556	7.0	1014	9.0
25 - 29	396	11.6	536	6.8	932	8.2
30 - 34	383	11.2	553	7.0	936	8.3
35 - 39	322	9.4	542	6.9	864	7.6
40 - 44	269	7.9	573	7.2	842	7.4
45 - 49	225	6.6	564	7.1	789	7.0
50 - 54	228	6.7	586	7.4	814	7.2
55 - 59	181	5.3	577	7.3	758	6.7
60 - 64	126	3.7	437	5.5	563	5.0
65 - 69	82	2.4	294	3.7	376	3.3
70 - 74	48	1.4	193	2.4	241	2.1
75+	60	1.8	161	2.0	221	2.0
All Ages	3,425	100.0	7,905	100.0	11,330	100.0
YACHT	-	-	-	-	0	0
CRUISE SHIP	-	-	674	-	674	0
Total	3,425	100.0	8,579	100.0	12,004	100.0

Table 5. Total Departures by Country of Residence and Sex January, 2024

Country of Usual Residence	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total	Percent
	No.	Distribution	No.	Distribution	No.	Distribution
Australia	760	12.7	764	14.3	1,524	13.5
New Zealand	2,501	41.8	2,261	42.2	4,762	42.0
Fiji	107	1.8	104	1.9	211	1.9
American Samoa	5	0.1	8	0.1	13	0.1
Western Samoa	14	0.2	15	0.3	29	0.3
Tonga	1,919	32.1	1,505	28.1	3,424	30.2
Other Pacific Islands	16	0.3	17	0.3	33	0.3
Japan	14	0.2	8	0.1	22	0.2
China	61	1.0	26	0.5	87	0.8
India	5	0.1	-	-	5	0.0
Korea	3	0.1	3	0.1	6	0.1
Other Asian Countries	31	0.5	16	0.3	47	0.4
UK	20	0.3	15	0.3	35	0.3
Germany	12	0.2	10	0.2	22	0.2
France	11	0.2	3	0.1	14	0.1
Italy	2	0.0	3	0.1	5	0.0
Other European Countries	21	0.4	17	0.3	38	0.3
All African Countries	3	0.1	2	0.0	5	0.0
United States of America	454	7.6	557	10.4	1,011	8.9
Canada	12	0.2	9	0.2	21	0.2
Other American Countries	7	0.1	9	0.2	16	0.1
Total	5,978	100.0	5,352	100.0	11,330	100.0