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Government of Tonga

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ON



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STATISTICS FEBRUARY 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 February 2024, include 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

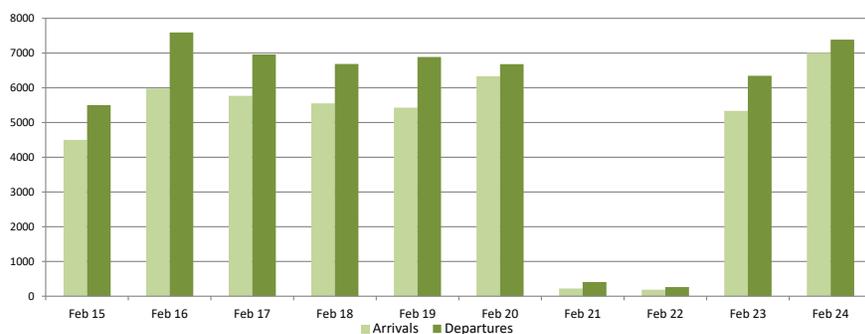
Summary of Arrivals

Table 1.: Total Arrivals by month and annual percentage change

Month of February 2024	Number			Changes from previous month	Changes from previous year
	February 2024	January 2024	February 2023		
All Arrivals	7,382	10,119	5,656	-27.0%	30.5%
Air Visitors	3,240	3,762	2,671	-13.9%	21.3%
Air Returning Residents	3,766	5,672	2,666	-33.6%	41.3%
Cruise Ships	2,340	674	319	247.2%	633.5%
Yachts	0	11	0	-100.0%	0.0%

- The total of all arrivals in February 2024 were 7,382 people, that was a decline of 27.0% from the previous month, January 2024.
- A decline of 13.9% of all air visitors (3,240) compared to January 2024 (3,762).
- Again a decline of 33.6% (3,766) of returning residents compared to the previous month (5,672)
- A decline of 44.2 % of arrivals by Cruise Ships in February 2024 (376) compared to the previous month of January 2024 (674).
- There were no arrival by yacht for the month of February 2024 compared to the previous month there were only 11 arrivals

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



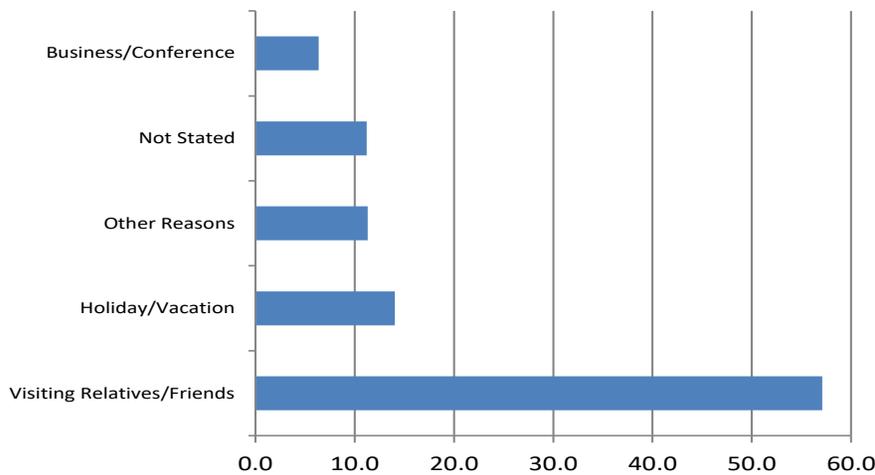
- Total air arrivals in February 2024 were 7,006 an increase of 31.3% compared to February 2023 (5,337).
- Total air departures of 7,385 in February 2024, an increase of 16.4% compared to February 2023 (6,346)

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



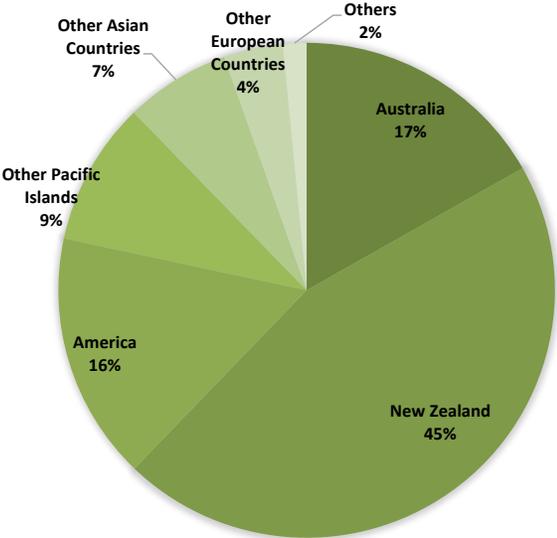
- The graph above shows that from March 2022 to February 2023 the total air arrivals to Tonga is very low compared to March 2023 to February 2024. These were mainly because of the restrictions on Covid 19 and the Hunga-Tonga Hunga-Ha’apai volcanic eruptions in January 2022

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



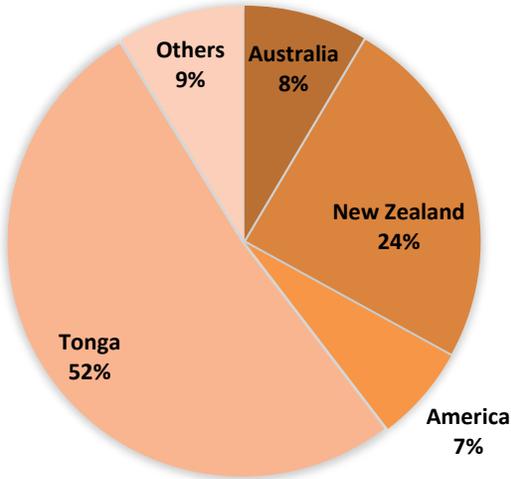
- 57.1% (1,850) of the total air visitors were here to visit relative/friends
- Those who came on a Holiday/Vacation made up 14.0% (455) of all air visitors to the Kingdom in the month of February
- Visitors who were here on other reasons such as Education, Employment, funeral etc made up 11.3% (366)

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



- New Zealand was the leading country in visitors arrivals by country of usual residence, accounting for 45.4% (1,471) of total air visitors
- This was followed by Australia with 16.8 % (544), and the United States with 16.2% (524)

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



- Most of the persons departing in the month of February were Tongan residents (3,810) followed by New Zealand (1,813) and Australia (627)

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 for years 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		11	3,773	5,672			5,672	9,434	674	11	10,119	11,330	674	-	12,004	(1,885)
Feb	3,240	376	-	3,616	3,766			3,766	7,006	376	-	7,382	7,385	374	-	7,759	(377)

Table 2: Total Air Arrivals by Age, Type of Passengers and Sex for February 2024.

Age Group	Type of Passengers								
	Total			Visitors			Returning Residents		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
0-4	233	116	117	126	61	65	107	55	52
5-9	339	175	164	100	50	50	239	125	114
10-14	379	168	211	92	43	49	287	125	162
15-19	557	259	298	142	73	69	415	186	229
20-24	556	259	297	203	101	102	353	158	195
25-29	503	246	257	215	105	110	288	141	147
30-34	590	277	313	262	128	134	328	149	179
35-39	577	299	278	289	163	126	288	136	152
40-44	544	266	278	299	156	143	245	110	135
45-49	536	270	266	300	155	145	236	115	121
50-54	589	317	272	334	193	141	255	124	131
55-59	541	282	259	307	165	142	234	117	117
60-64	394	201	193	223	128	95	171	73	98
65-69	310	162	148	163	99	64	147	63	84
70-74	188	90	98	103	55	48	85	35	50
75+	170	81	89	82	44	38	88	37	51
Total	7,006	3,468	3,538	3,240	1,719	1,521	3,766	1,749	2,017
% Distribution	100.0	49.5	50.5	46.2	24.5	21.7	53.8	25.0	28.8

Table 3: Total Visitors by Usual Residence and Purpose of Visit for February 2024.

Country of Usual Residence	Country of						
	Total	% Distribution	Holiday/ Vacation	Business/ Conference	Visiting Relative/ Friends	Other Reasons	Not Stated
Australia	544	16.8	69	45	278	57	95
New Zealand	1,471	45.4	112	43	1021	126	169
Fiji	182	5.6	18	33	78	40	13
American Samoa	9	0.3	0	1	3	4	1
Western Samoa	64	2.0	4	5	19	34	2
Other Pacific Islands	49	1.5	4	13	11	12	9
Japan	44	1.4	13	13	10	4	4
China	110	3.4	35	10	31	28	6
India	11	0.3	1	3	0	6	1
Korea	3	0.1	0	1	2	0	0
Other Asian Countries	54	1.7	12	8	13	18	3
UK	37	1.1	14	3	16	2	2
Germany	22	0.7	17	0	4	0	1
France	15	0.5	9	1	2	2	1
Italy	7	0.2	7		0	0	0
Other European Countries	44	1.4	33	1	6	0	4
All African Countries	3	0.1	3	0	0	0	0
United States of America	524	16.2	85	17	347	31	44
Canada	15	0.5	10	2	1		2
Other American Countries	32	1.0	9	7	8	2	6
Total	3,240	100.0	455	206	1,850	366	363
% Distribution	100.0		14.0	6.4	57.1	11.3	11.2

Table 4: Air Departures by Age Group and Passenger's Type for February 2024.

Age Group	Returning Residence	Percentage Distribution	Visitors	Percentage Distribution	Total	Percentage Distribution
0 - 4	93	2.4	130	3.6	223	3.0
5 - 9	81	2.1	135	3.8	216	2.9
10 - 14	80	2.1	118	3.3	198	2.7
15 - 19	220	5.8	182	5.1	402	5.4
20 - 24	789	20.7	239	6.7	1028	13.9
25 - 29	464	12.2	249	7.0	713	9.7
30 - 34	381	10.0	266	7.4	647	8.8
35 - 39	344	9.0	319	8.9	663	9.0
40 - 44	273	7.2	305	8.5	578	7.8
45 - 49	251	6.6	315	8.8	566	7.7
50 - 54	235	6.2	327	9.1	562	7.6
55 - 59	222	5.8	314	8.8	536	7.3
60 - 64	137	3.6	254	7.1	391	5.3
65 - 69	112	2.9	195	5.5	307	4.2
70 - 74	56	1.5	130	3.6	186	2.5
75+	72	1.9	97	2.7	169	2.3
All Ages	3,810	100.0	3,575	100.0	7,385	100.0
YACHT	-	-	-	-	0	0
CRUISE SHIP	-	-	374	-	374	0
Total	3,810	100.0	3,949	100.0	7,759	100.0

Table 5: Total Departures by Country of Residence and Sex for February 2024.

Country of Usual Residence	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total	Percent
	No.	Distribution	No.	Distribution		
Australia	321	8.0	306	9.1	627	8.5
New Zealand	863	21.5	950	28.1	1,813	24.5
Fiji	109	2.7	67	2.0	176	2.4
American Samoa	3	0.1	3	0.1	6	0.1
Western Samoa	51	1.3	13	0.4	64	0.9
Tonga	2,167	54.1	1,643	48.7	3,810	51.6
Other Pacific Islands	30	0.7	18	0.5	48	0.6
Japan	29	0.7	9	0.3	38	0.5
China	69	1.7	32	0.9	101	1.4
India	8	0.2	2	0.1	10	0.1
Korea	1	0.0	-	-	1	0.0
Other Asian Countries	25	0.6	19	0.6	44	0.6
UK	22	0.5	11	0.3	33	0.4
Germany	19	0.5	11	0.3	30	0.4
France	8	0.2	4	0.1	12	0.2
Italy	6	0.1	2	0.1	8	0.1
Other European Countries	21	0.5	20	0.6	41	0.6
All African Countries	6	0.1	1	0.0	7	0.1
United States of America	233	5.8	256	7.6	489	6.6
Canada	7	0.2	5	0.1	12	0.2
Other American Countries	11	0.3	4	0.1	15	0.2
Total	4,009	100.0	3,376	100.0	7,385	100.0



**Tonga Statistics
Department**

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