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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 March 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

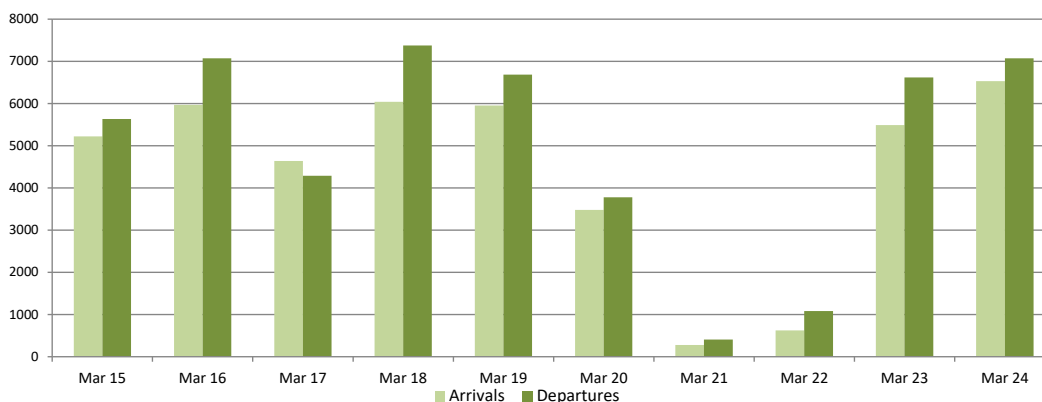
Summary of Arrivals

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

Month of March 2024	March 2024	Number	March 2023	Change from previous month	Change from previous year
		February 2024			
All Arrivals	7,911	7,382	5,699	7.2	38.8
Air Visitors	3,520	3,240	3,085	8.6	14.1
Air Returning Residents	3,013	3,766	2,407	-20.0	25.2
Cruise Ships	1,378	2,340	207	-41.1	565.7
Yachts	0	0	0	0.0	0.0

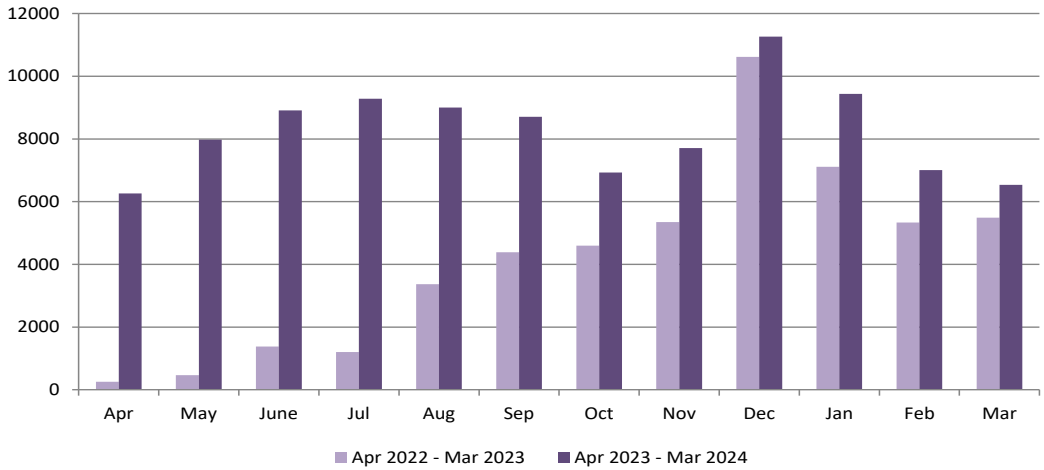
- The total of all arrivals in March 2024 were 7,911 people, that was an increase of 7.2% from the previous month of February 2024 (7,382).
- An increase of 8.6% on all air visitors (3,520) compared to previous month (3,240).
- A decline of 20.0% (3,013) on returning residents compared to the previous month (3,766)
- An increase of 565.7% in the number of passengers arrived by Cruise Ships for the month of March 2024 (1,378) compared to the previous year (207). There were no yachts in March 2024.

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



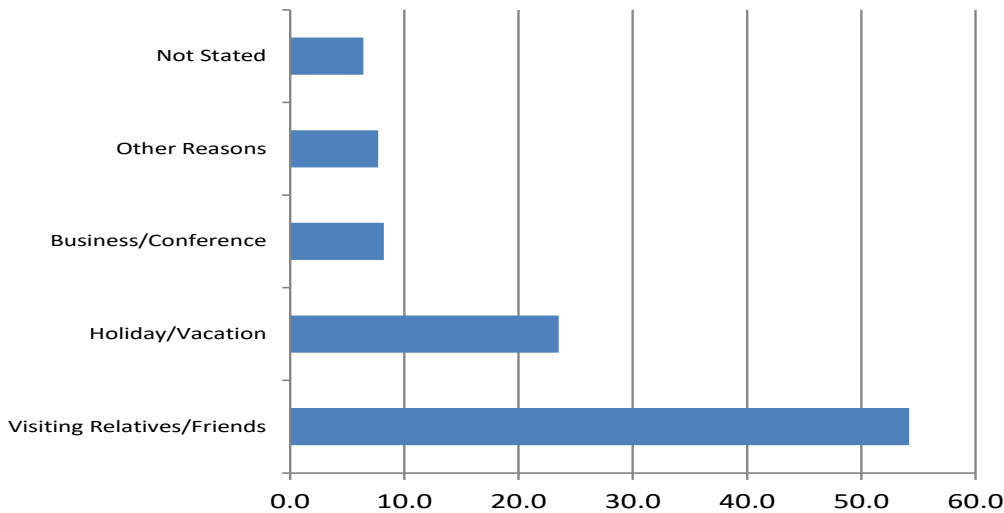
- Total air arrivals in March 2024 were 6,533 an increase of 19.0% percentage compared to March 2023 (5,492).
- Total air departures of 7,075 in March 2024, an increase of 6.9% compared to March 2023 (6,621).

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



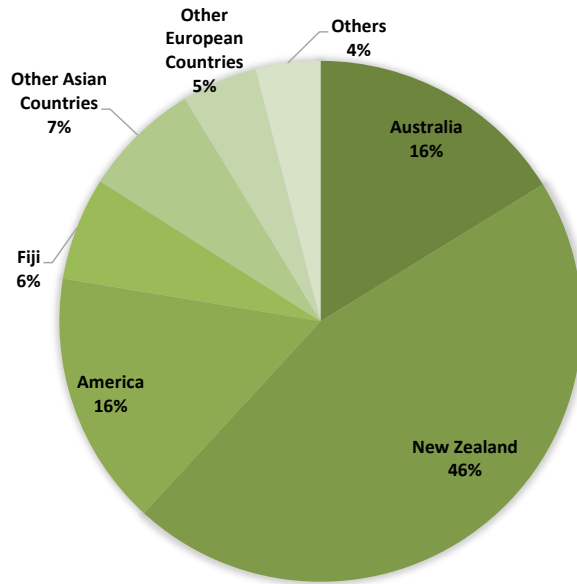
- The graph above shows that from April 2022 to March 2023 the total air arrivals to Tonga is very low compared to the corresponding year April 2023 to March 2024. These were mainly because of the restrictions on Covid 19 and the Hunga-Tonga Hunga-Ha’apai volcanic eruptions in January 2022

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



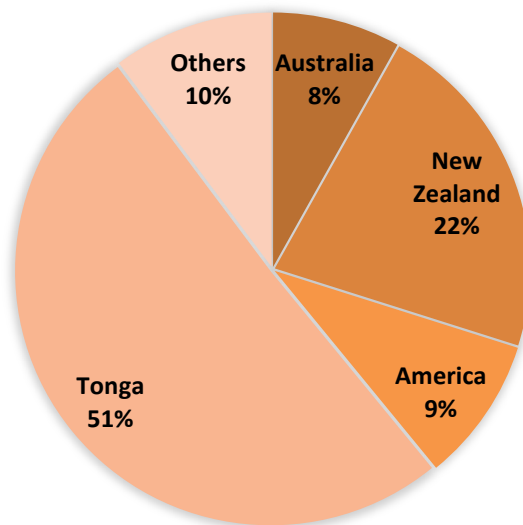
- 54.2% (1,907) of the total air visitors were here to visit relatives and friends.
- Those who were here on Holiday/Vacation made up 23.5 % (827)
- Visitors who were here on business made up 8.2% (290) and those who stated other reasons such as education, employment, funeral etc. made up 7.7% (270)
- The remain of the visitors who didn’t state the reason of their visit made up 6.4% (226)

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



- New Zealand was the leading country in visitors arrivals by country of usual residence, accounting for 45.6% (1,605) of total air visitors.
- This was followed by Australia with 16.2 % (569), and America with 15.8% (557).

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



- Most of the persons departing in the month of March were Tongan residents (3,584) followed by New Zealand (1,545) and America (648)

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. Visitors who are staying in Tonga longer than 6 months are no longer visitors they are classified as Tongan Residents.
- ▶ **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	2,340	-	5,580	3,766			3,766	7,006	2,340	-	9,346	7,385	2,339	-	9,724	(378)
Mar	3,520	1,378	-	4,898	3,013			3,013	6,533	1,378	-	7,911	7,075	1,377	-	8,452	(541)

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

Age Group	Type of Passangers								
	Total			Visitors			Returning Residents		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
0-4	185	89	96	125	59	66	60	30	30
5-9	178	93	85	104	55	49	74	38	36
10-14	169	88	81	111	60	51	58	28	30
15-19	260	140	120	115	57	58	145	83	62
20-24	539	275	264	192	93	99	347	182	165
25-29	601	301	300	284	129	155	317	172	145
30-34	529	271	258	253	132	121	276	139	137
35-39	606	327	279	321	172	149	285	155	130
40-44	560	306	254	330	196	134	230	110	120
45-49	547	277	270	317	162	155	230	115	115
50-54	637	339	298	368	203	165	269	136	133
55-59	617	328	289	352	190	162	265	138	127
60-64	408	218	190	242	126	116	166	92	74
65-69	334	175	159	194	101	93	140	74	66
70-74	194	101	93	120	63	57	74	38	36
75+	169	76	93	92	43	49	77	33	44
Total	6,533	3,404	3,129	3,520	1,841	1,679	3,013	1,563	1,450
% Distribution	100.0	52.1	47.9	53.9	28.2	25.7	46.1	23.9	22.2

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

Country of Usual Residence	Country of						
	Total	% Distribution	Holiday/ Vacation	Business/ Conference	Visiting Relative/ Friends	Other Reasons	Not Stated
Australia	569	16.2	194	54	216	27	78
New Zealand	1,605	45.6	232	57	1,202	76	38
Fiji	227	6.4	32	73	58	50	14
American Samoa	5	0.1	1	1	3		
Western Samoa	44	1.3	10	8	16	8	2
Other Pacific Islands	59	1.7	7	19	7	24	2
Japan	40	1.1	11	8	9	6	6
China	144	4.1	38	10	61	30	5
India	5	0.1		1	1	3	
Korea	2	0.1	1		1		
Other Asian Countries	65	1.8	22	17	8	12	6
UK	46	1.3	29	5	6	1	5
Germany	21	0.6	16	2	1		2
France	13	0.4	4	2	6		1
Italy	5	0.1	2			2	1
Other European Countries	80	2.3	46	4	2	4	24
All African Countries	10	0.3	2	6	1	0	1
United States of America	557	15.8	174	16	305	25	37
Canada	13	0.4	3	2	3	1	4
Other American Countries	10	0.3	3	5	1	1	
Total	3,520	100.0	827	290	1,907	270	226
% Distribution	100.0		23.5	8.2	54.2	7.7	6.4

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

Age Group	Returning Residence	Percentage Distribution	Visitors	Percentage Distribution	Total	Percentage Distribution
0 - 4	99	2.8	121	3.5	220	3.1
5 - 9	107	3.0	102	2.9	209	3.0
10 - 14	72	2.0	89	2.5	161	2.3
15 - 19	152	4.2	110	3.2	262	3.7
20 - 24	443	12.4	187	5.4	630	8.9
25 - 29	385	10.7	273	7.8	658	9.3
30 - 34	351	9.8	277	7.9	628	8.9
35 - 39	314	8.8	317	9.1	631	8.9
40 - 44	334	9.3	323	9.3	657	9.3
45 - 49	261	7.3	304	8.7	565	8.0
50 - 54	297	8.3	361	10.3	658	9.3
55 - 59	284	7.9	353	10.1	637	9.0
60 - 64	211	5.9	255	7.3	466	6.6
65 - 69	123	3.4	203	5.8	326	4.6
70 - 74	86	2.4	115	3.3	201	2.8
75+	65	1.8	101	2.9	166	2.3
All Ages	3,584	100.0	3,491	100.0	7,075	100.0
YACHT	-	-	-	-	-	0
CRUISE SHIP	-	-	1,377	-	1,377	0
Total	3,584	100.0	4,868	100.0	8,452	100.0

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

Country of Usual Residence	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total	Percent
	No.	Distribution	No.	Distribution		
Australia	296	7.7	280	8.7	576	8.1
New Zealand	745	19.3	800	24.8	1,545	21.8
Fiji	139	3.6	84	2.6	223	3.2
American Samoa	6	0.2	11	0.3	17	0.2
Western Samoa	30	0.8	18	0.6	48	0.7
Tonga	2,027	52.6	1,557	48.3	3,584	50.7
Other Pacific Islands	40	1.0	25	0.8	65	0.9
Japan	32	0.8	12	0.4	44	0.6
China	40	1.0	27	0.8	67	0.9
India	5	0.1	2	0.1	7	0.1
Korea	2	0.1	2	0.1	4	0.1
Other Asian Countries	35	0.9	17	0.5	52	0.7
UK	23	0.6	14	0.4	37	0.5
Germany	15	0.4	9	0.3	24	0.3
France	8	0.2	2	0.1	10	0.1
Italy	5	0.1	-	-	5	0.1
Other European Countries	42	1.1	30	0.9	72	1.0
All African Countries	7	0.2	4	0.1	11	0.2
United States of America	336	8.7	312	9.7	648	9.2
Canada	9	0.2	11	0.3	20	0.3
Other American Countries	10	0.3	6	0.2	16	0.2
Total	3,852	100.0	3,223	100.0	7,075	100.0



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