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**Government of Tonga**

# **STATISTICAL BULLETIN ON MONTHLY MIGRATION STATISTICS APRIL 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 April 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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**Sione F Lolohea**

*Government Statistician*

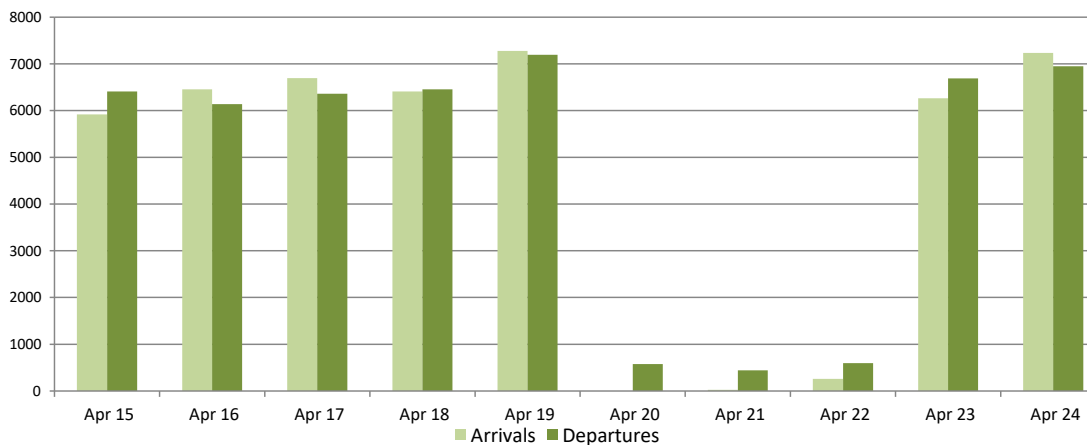
## Summary of Arrivals

**Table 1:** Total Arrivals by month and changes from previous month and year

Month of	Number			Change from previous month (%)	Change from previous year (%)
	April 2024	March 2024	April 2023		
All Arrivals	7,877	7,911	9,142	-0.4	-13.8
Air Visitors	3,882	3,520	3,540	10.3	9.7
Air Returning Residents	3,355	3,013	2,724	11.4	23.2
Cruise Ships	611	1,378	2,872	-55.7	-78.7
Yachts	29	-	6	0.0	383.3

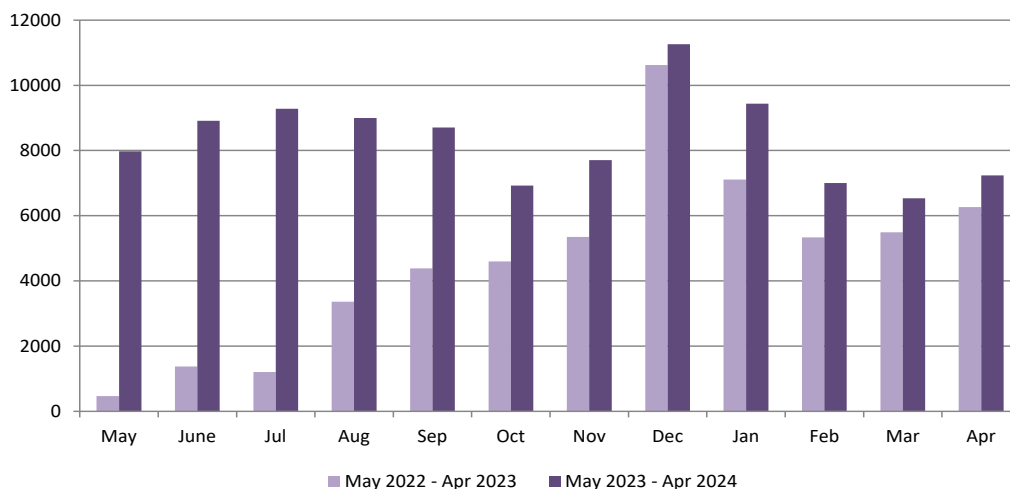
- The total number of arrivals in April 2024 was 7,877 people, representing a decline of 0.4% compared to the total arrivals in March 2024, (7,911).
- An increase of 10.3% in the number of air visitors (3,882) compared to the previous month (3,520).
- Additionally, there was an increase of 11.4% in the number of air returning residents (3,355), compared to the previous month (3,013).
- There were 611 passengers who arrived by Cruise Ships, representing a decline of 55.7% compared to the arrivals by Cruise Ships in the previous month of March (1,378).
- Additionally, there were only 29 arrivals by yachts in the month of April.

**Fig. 1. April Air Arrivals and Departures 2015 – 2024**



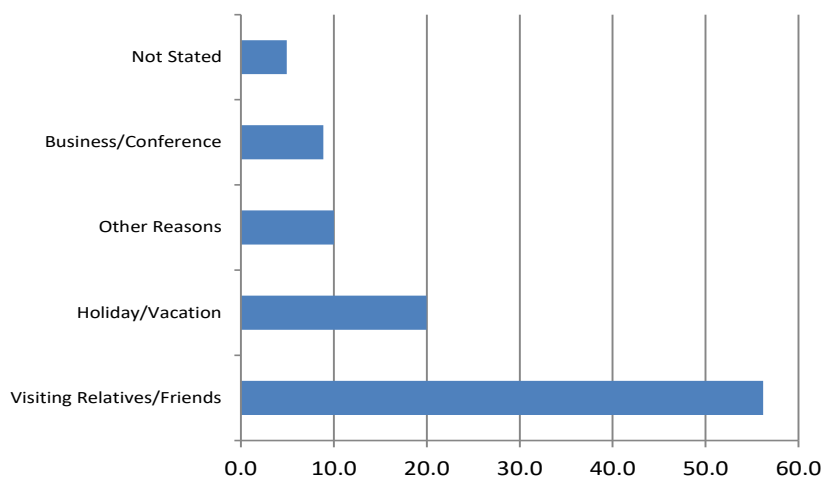
- Total air arrivals in April 2024 were 7,237 an increase of 15.5% compared to April 2023 (6,264).
- Total air departures of 6,947 in April 2024, an increase of 3.9% compared to April 2023 (6,689)

**Fig. 2. Monthly Air Arrivals vs the corresponding month of the previous year  
May 2022 to April 2023 and May 2023 to April 2024**



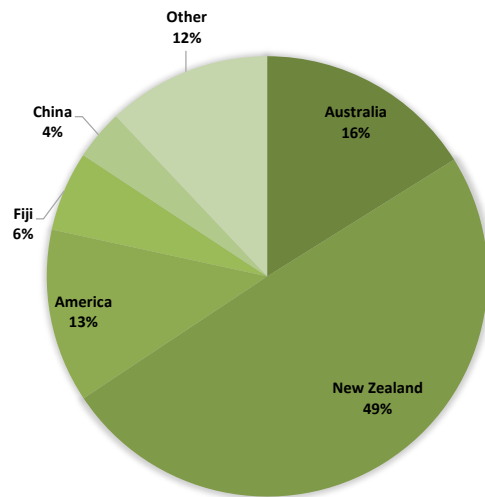
- The graph above shows that from May 2022 to November on the same year, air arrivals were significantly lower compared to May 2023 to April 2024, primary due to the Covid 19 restrictions. Towards the end of the year, as borders reopened and airports returned to normal operations, the number of air arrivals increased.

**Fig. 3. Air Visitors by Purpose of Visit for April 2024**



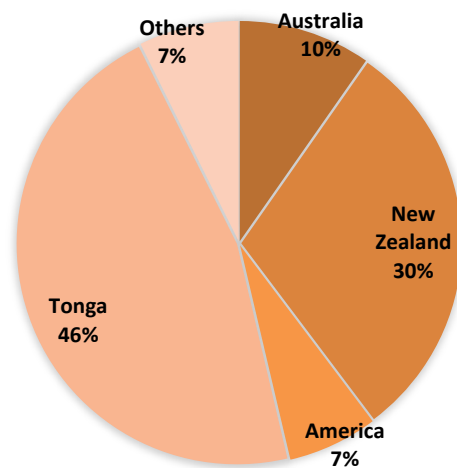
- 56.2% (2,182) of the total air visitors were here to visit Relatives/Friends
- 20.0% (776) were here on a Holiday/Vacation
- 10.0% (388) stated other reasons, while 8.9% (344) visited Tonga for Business/Conference, and the remaining 4.9% (192) did not state the reason of their visit.

**Fig. 4. Air Visitors by Country of Usual Residence April 2024**



- New Zealand was the leading country in visitors arrivals by country of usual residence, accounting for 49.6% (1,924) of total air visitors
- This was followed by Australia with 16.1 % (625), and America with 12.8% (495)

**Fig. 5. Air Departures by Country of Usual Residence for April 2024**



- Most of the persons departing in the month of April were Tongan residents (3,310), followed by New Zealand (1,801) and Australia (561).

## 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)
<b>2021</b>																	
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)
<b>2022</b>																	
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
<b>2023</b>																	
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)
<b>2024</b>																	
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)
Apr	3,882	611	29	4,522	3,355			3,355	7,237	611	29	7,877	6,947	611	2	7,560	317

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

Age Group	Type of Passengers								
	Total			Visitors			Returning Residents		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
0-4	254	128	126	154	84	70	100	44	56
5-9	267	135	132	154	72	82	113	63	50
10-14	281	134	147	173	77	96	108	57	51
15-19	328	196	132	190	117	73	138	79	59
20-24	526	265	261	206	97	109	320	168	152
25-29	644	298	346	283	129	154	361	169	192
30-34	607	323	284	283	154	129	324	169	155
35-39	608	290	318	324	158	166	284	132	152
40-44	639	324	315	344	171	173	295	153	142
45-49	607	310	297	335	177	158	272	133	139
50-54	594	308	286	320	176	144	274	132	142
55-59	616	286	330	335	153	182	281	133	148
60-64	490	257	233	291	152	139	199	105	94
65-69	357	177	180	224	106	118	133	71	62
70-74	223	114	109	139	76	63	84	38	46
75+	196	91	105	127	65	62	69	26	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,237</b>	<b>3,636</b>	<b>3,601</b>	<b>3,882</b>	<b>1,964</b>	<b>1,918</b>	<b>3,355</b>	<b>1,672</b>	<b>1,683</b>
<b>% Distribution</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>46.4</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>23.3</b>

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

Country of Usual Residence	Country of						
	Total	% Distribution	Holiday/Vacation	Business/Conference	Visiting Relative/Friends	Other Reasons	Not Stated
Australia	625	16.1	126	43	344	57	55
New Zealand	1,924	49.6	254	107	1363	139	61
Fiji	228	5.9	26	67	59	56	20
American Samoa	20	0.5	1	2	6	11	0
Western Samoa	55	1.4	5	8	24	15	3
Other Pacific Islands	95	2.4	29	22	8	33	3
Japan	55	1.4	41	7	0	1	6
China	143	3.7	48	11	47	29	8
India	6	0.2	1	2	3	0	0
Korea	16	0.4	10	1	3	1	1
Other Asian Countries	60	1.5	29	10	6	13	2
UK	38	1.0	18	4	4	10	2
Germany	26	0.7	12	6	4	0	4
France	11	0.3	7	1	0	2	1
Italy	1	0.0	1	0	-	-	-
Other European Countries	43	1.1	28	10	2	3	-
All African Countries	1	0.0	-	1	-	-	-
United States of America	495	12.8	115	30	309	15	26
Canada	11	0.3	6	3	-	2	-
Other American Countries	29	0.7	19	9	0	1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,882</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>2,182</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>192</b>
<b>% Distribution</b>	<b>100.0</b>		<b>20.0</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>56.2</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>4.9</b>



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

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Returning Residence</b>	<b>Percentage Distribution</b>	<b>Visitors</b>	<b>Percentage Distribution</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage Distribution</b>
0 - 4	82	2.5	137	3.8	219	3.2
5 - 9	118	3.6	133	3.7	251	3.6
10 - 14	109	3.3	166	4.6	275	4.0
15 - 19	151	4.6	189	5.2	340	4.9
20 - 24	337	10.2	198	5.4	535	7.7
25 - 29	337	10.2	244	6.7	581	8.4
30 - 34	344	10.4	254	7.0	598	8.6
35 - 39	297	9.0	307	8.4	604	8.7
40 - 44	276	8.3	316	8.7	592	8.5
45 - 49	266	8.0	320	8.8	586	8.4
50 - 54	266	8.0	306	8.4	572	8.2
55 - 59	273	8.2	338	9.3	611	8.8
60 - 64	186	5.6	262	7.2	448	6.4
65 - 69	126	3.8	225	6.2	351	5.1
70 - 74	60	1.8	140	3.8	200	2.9
75+	82	2.5	102	2.8	184	2.6
<b>All Ages</b>	<b>3,310</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,637</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,947</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>YACHT</b>	-	-	2		2	0
<b>CRUISE SHIP</b>	-	-	611		611	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,310</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,637</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,947</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

<b>Country of Usual Residence</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>Distribution</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Distribution</b>		
Australia	272	9.2	289	10.3	561	9.7
New Zealand	894	27.0	907	33.5	1,801	30.0
Fiji	113	3.8	72	2.2	185	3.1
American Samoa	-17	0.0	6	0.1	23	0.1
Western Samoa	20	0.3	19	0.3	39	0.3
Tonga	1,725	48.1	1,585	44.3	3,310	46.3
Other Pacific Islands	-73	0.9	15	0.8	88	0.9
Japan	18	0.3	15	0.1	33	0.2
China	67	0.9	33	0.4	100	0.6
India	4	0.1	2	-	6	0.0
Korea	9	0.1	5	-	14	0.0
Other Asian Countries	35	0.6	27	0.3	62	0.5
UK	33	0.5	27	0.2	60	0.4
Germany	14	0.2	7	0.1	21	0.2
France	6	0.1	4	0.0	10	0.1
Italy	1	0.1	1	0.1	2	0.1
Other European Countries	22	0.8	17	0.5	39	0.7
All African Countries	5	-	1	-	6	-
United States of America	272	6.7	281	6.6	553	6.6
Canada	3	0.2	6	0.1	9	0.1
Other American Countries	14	0.2	11	0.2	25	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,617</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,330</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6,947</b>	<b>100</b>



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