



SERIES NO.
SDT: 39-M 93

Government of Tonga

STATISTICAL BULLETIN

ON

MONTHLY MIGRATION

STATISTICS MAY 2024

Statistics Department
P.O. Box 149,
Nuku'alofa,
Kingdom of Tonga
Website: www.tongastats.gov.to
E-mail: dept@stats.gov.to

July 2024
Price:

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 May 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

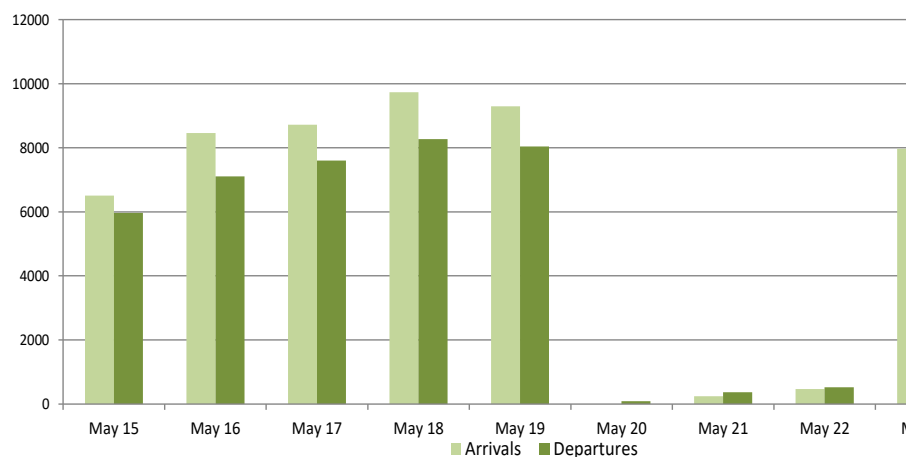
Summary of Arrivals

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

Month of		Number		Change from	Change from
May 2024	May 2024	April 2024	May 2023	previous month (%)	previous year (%)
All Arrivals	9,034	7,877	8,188	14.7	10.3
Air Visitors	5,039	3,882	4,349	29.8	15.9
Air Returning Residents	3,632	3,355	3,626	8.3	0.2
Cruise Ships	-	611	-	-100.0	0.0
Yachts	363	29	213	334 (No.)	70.4

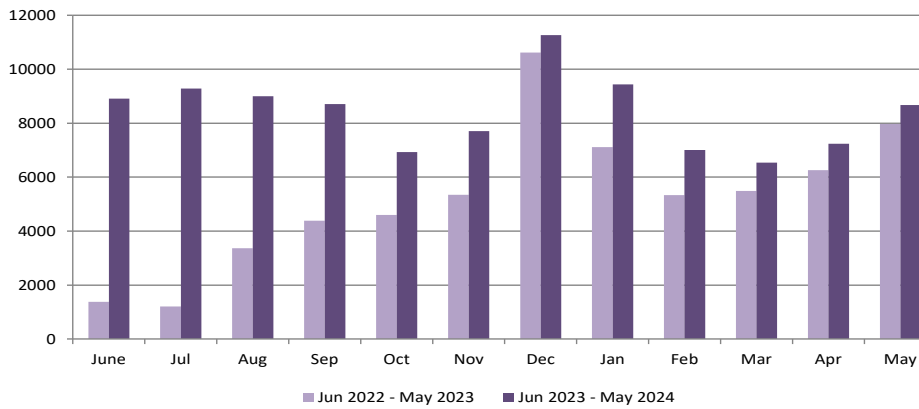
- The total of all arrivals in May 2024 were 9,034 people, this is an increase of 14.7% compared to the total arrivals in April 2024, 7,877.
- An increase of 29.8% of all air visitors (5,039) compared to previous month (3,882).
- An increase of 8.3% of returning residents (3,632) compared to the previous month (3,355)
- There were no Cruise Ships for the month of May 2024 and an increase of 334 people arrived by yachts compared to the month of April, 2024 (29).

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



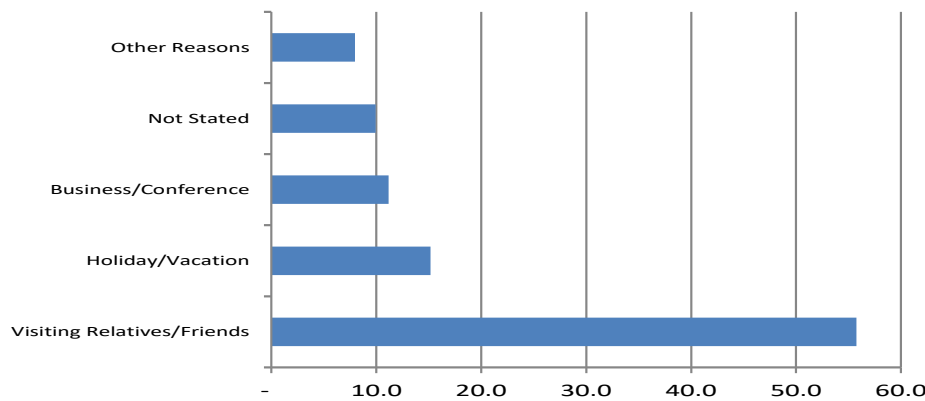
- Total air arrivals in May 2024 were 8,671 an increase of 8.7 percentage compared to May 2023 (7,975).
- Total air departures of 8,330 in May 2024 an increase of 10.8 percentage compared to May 2023 (7,515)

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



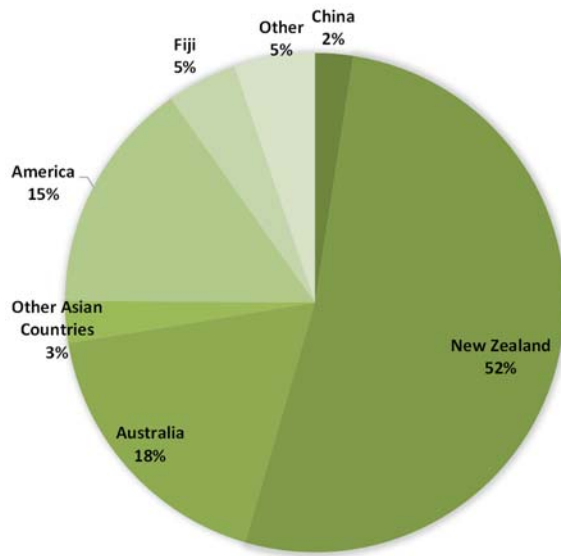
- 2023-24 proves to be a stronger year for air arrivals compared to 2022-23, indicating Tonga's gradual recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hunga Tonga and the Hunga Ha'apai eruption, and the tsunami in January 2022.

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



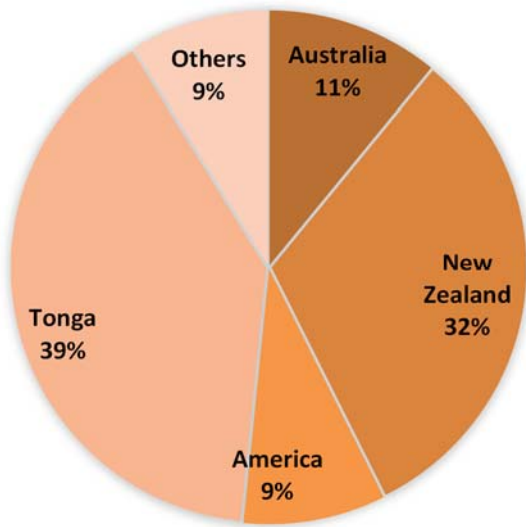
- 55.8% (2,810) of the total air visitors were here to Visit Relative/Friends
- Those who were here on Holiday/Vacation made up 15.2 % (764)
- Visitors who were here on Business made up 11.2 % (562) Those who did not state the reasons for their visit made up 9.9 % (501) other reasons like funerals, education, employment etc made up only 8.0% (402)

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



- New Zealand was the leading country in visitors arrivals by country of usual residence, accounting for 52.0% (2,622) of total air visitors
- This was followed by Australia with 17.9 % (902), and America with 15.1% (761)

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



- Most of the persons departing in the month of May were Tongan residents (3,300) followed by New Zealand (2,638) and Australia (910)

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

Age Group	Type of Passangers								
	Total			Visitors			Returning Residents		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
0-4	285	141	144	184	87	97	101	54	47
5-9	244	121	123	170	86	84	74	35	39
10-14	237	107	130	170	79	91	67	28	39
15-19	361	171	190	233	101	132	128	70	58
20-24	787	428	359	321	129	192	466	299	167
25-29	781	428	353	352	162	190	429	266	163
30-34	769	395	374	379	191	188	390	204	186
35-39	721	419	302	387	222	165	334	197	137
40-44	743	399	344	438	239	199	305	160	145
45-49	720	383	337	450	239	211	270	144	126
50-54	702	382	320	431	243	188	271	139	132
55-59	798	405	393	505	259	246	293	146	147
60-64	603	312	291	408	217	191	195	95	100
65-69	406	222	184	269	155	114	137	67	70
70-74	277	147	130	191	107	84	86	40	46
75+	237	108	129	151	67	84	86	41	45
Total	8,671	4,568	4,103	5,039	2,583	2,456	3,632	1,985	1,647
% Distribution	100.0	52.7	47.3	58.1	29.8	28.3	41.9	22.9	19.0

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

Country of Usual Residence	Country of						
	Total	% Distribution	Holiday/Vacation	Business/Conference	Visiting Relative/Friends	Other Reasons	Not Stated
Australia	902	17.9	134	117	477	39	135
New Zealand	2,622	52.0	257	218	1726	171	250
Fiji	230	4.6	31	52	63	65	19
American Samoa	13	0.3		0	12		1
Western Samoa	25	0.5	2	6	11	6	
Other Pacific Islands	47	0.9	1	22	14	9	1
Japan	61	1.2	24	18	11	7	1
China	124	2.5	39	28	31	17	9
India	9	0.2	0	3	0	6	
Korea	21	0.4	16	3	2		
Other Asian Countries	46	0.9	16	9	12	9	0
UK	50	1.0	20	3	11	9	7
Germany	27	0.5	19	0	6	0	2
France	8	0.2	6	1	1	0	0
Italy	8	0.2	5	2		1	
Other European Countries	47	0.9	30	8	5	2	2
All African Countries	8	0.2	2	3		3	
United States of America	761	15.1	149	57	426	56	73
Canada	7	0.1	3	2	2	0	
Other American Countries	23	0.5	10	10	0	2	1
Total	5,039	100	764	562	2,810	402	501
% Distribution	100.0		15.2	11.2	55.8	8.0	9.9

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

Age Group	Returning Residence	Percentage Distribution	Visitors	Percentage Distribution	Total	Percentage Distribution
0 - 4	93	2.8	180	3.6	273	3.3
5 - 9	101	3.1	184	3.7	285	3.4
10 - 14	68	2.1	190	3.8	258	3.1
15 - 19	111	3.4	189	3.8	300	3.6
20 - 24	384	11.6	296	5.9	680	8.2
25 - 29	379	11.5	392	7.8	771	9.3
30 - 34	350	10.6	402	8.0	752	9.0
35 - 39	287	8.7	362	7.2	649	7.8
40 - 44	279	8.5	426	8.5	705	8.5
45 - 49	256	7.8	456	9.1	712	8.5
50 - 54	257	7.8	458	9.1	715	8.6
55 - 59	271	8.2	517	10.3	788	9.5
60 - 64	176	5.3	399	7.9	575	6.9
65 - 69	120	3.6	268	5.3	388	4.7
70 - 74	98	3.0	168	3.3	266	3.2
75+	70	2.1	143	2.8	213	2.6
All Ages	3,300	100.0	5,030	100.0	8,330	100.0
YACHT	-	-	363		363	0
CRUISE SHIP	-	-	-		-	0
Total	3,300	100.0	5,393	100.0	8,693	100.0

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

Country of Usual Residence	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total	Percent
	No.	Distribution	No.	Distribution	No.	Distribution
Australia	451	10.3	459	11.6	910	10.9
New Zealand	1,324	30.4	1,314	33.1	2,638	31.7
Fiji	112	2.6	96	2.4	208	2.5
American Samoa	3	0.1	3	0.1	6	0.1
Western Samoa	17	0.4	12	0.3	29	0.3
Tonga	1,791	41.1	1,509	38.0	3,300	39.6
Other Pacific Islands	23	0.5	20	0.5	43	0.5
Japan	51	1.2	29	0.7	80	1.0
China	73	1.7	44	1.1	117	1.4
India	3	0.1	-	-	3	0.0
Korea	9	0.2	13	0.3	22	0.3
Other Asian Countries	32	0.7	16	0.4	48	0.6
UK	20	0.5	16	0.4	36	0.4
Germany	13	0.3	10	0.3	23	0.3
France	10	0.2	6	0.2	16	0.2
Italy	5	0.1	3	0.1	8	0.1
Other European Countries	39	0.9	18	0.5	57	0.7
All African Countries	1	0.0	6	0.2	7	0.1
United States of America	362	8.3	388	9.8	750	9.0
Canada	2	0.0	1	0.0	3	0.0
Other American Countries	19	0.4	7	0.2	26	0.3
Total	4,360	100.0	3,970	100.0	8,330	100.0



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Nuku'alofa, TONGA—2024**
