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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 August 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.

for Tatavao



Sione F Lolohea
Government Statistician

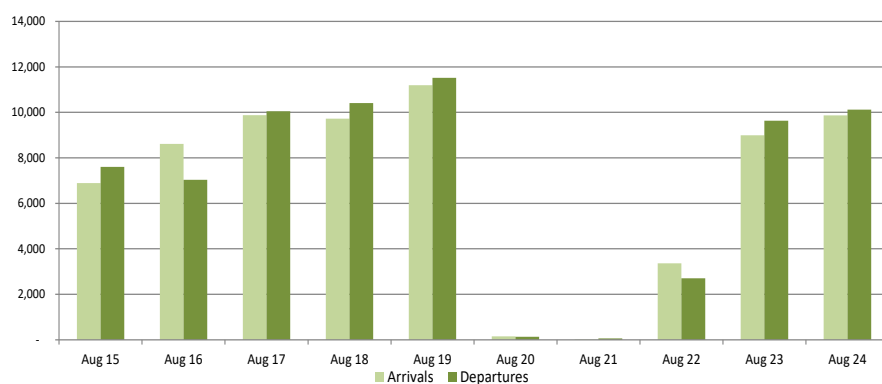
Summary of Arrivals

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

Month of August 2024	Number			Change from previous month (%)	Change from previous year (%)
	Aug 2024	Jul 2024	Aug 2023		
All Arrivals	12,454	13,703	11,640	(9)	7
Air Visitors	6,679	7,453	6,058	(10)	10
Air Returning Residents	3,192	3,123	2,940	2	9
Cruise Ships	2,287	2,768	2,369	(17)	(3)
Yachts	296	359	273	(18)	8

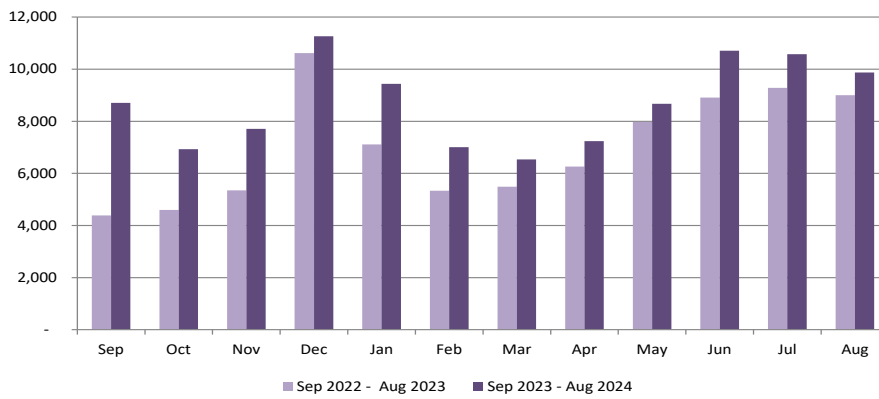
- The total of all arrivals in August 2024 were 12,454 people, this is a decline of 9 percentage compared to the total arrivals in July 2024, 13,703.
- A decline of 10 percentage of all air visitors (6,679) compared to previous month (7,453).
- An increase of 2 percentage of returning residents (3,192) compared to the previous month (3,123)
- A decline of 17 percentage of arrivals by cruise ship (2,287) compared to previous month (2,768)
- Again a decline of 18 percentage of yachts arrivals (296) compared to previous month (359)

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



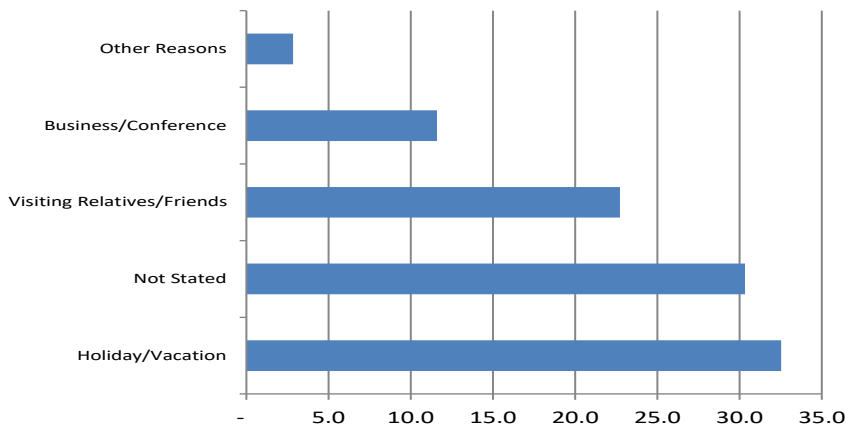
- Total air arrivals in August 2024 were 9,871 an increase of 9.7 percentage compared to August 2023 (8,998).
- Total air departures of 10,125 in August 2024, an increase of 5.1 percentage compared to August 2023 (9,638)

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



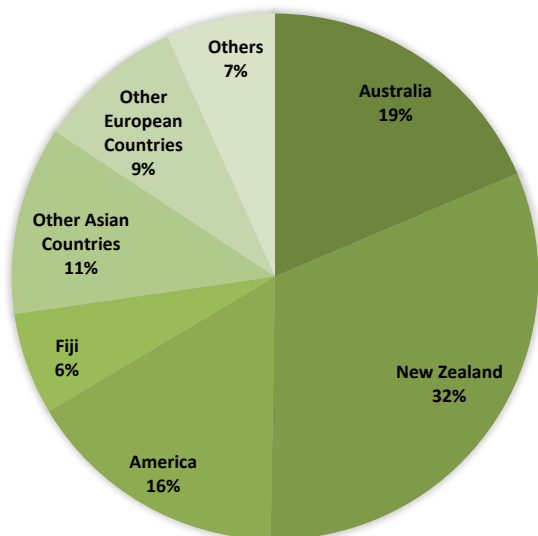
- The above graph shows that previous year September 2022 to August 2023 is still low compared to the corresponding year September 2023 to August 2024 and this is mainly because of the recovering from the Covid 19 pandemic and the Hunga Tonga and Hunga Haapai eruption and tsunami in January 2022.

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



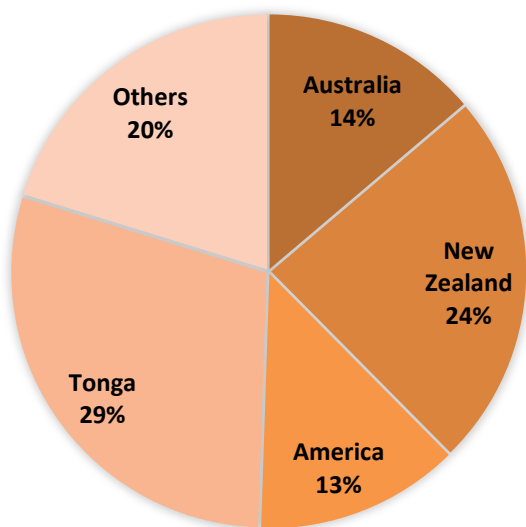
- 32.5% (2,172) of the total air visitors were here on holiday
- Those who were here to visit relatives and friends made up 22.7% (1,518)
- 11.6% (774) were here on Business/Conference
- Visitors who didn't state the reasons of their visit made up 30.3% (2,025)

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



- New Zealand was the leading country in visitors arrivals by country of usual residence, accounting for 31.7% (2,115) of total air visitors
- This was followed by Australia with 18.6 % (1,242), and America with 16.2% (1,081)

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



- Most of the persons departing in the month of August were Tongan residents (2,962) followed by New Zealand (2,410) and Australia (1,396)

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	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
May	5,039	-	363	5,402	3,632			3,632	8,671	-	363	9,034	8,330	-	103	8,433	601
Jun	7,277	-	309	7,586	3,434			3,434	10,711	-	309	11,020	6,982	-	414	7,396	3,624
Jul	7,453	2,768	359	10,580	3,123			3,123	10,576	2,768	359	13,703	12,157	2,768	360	15,285	(1,582)
Aug	6,679	2,287	296	9,262	3,192			3,192	9,871	2,287	296	12,454	10,125	2,290	230	12,645	(191)

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

Age Group	Type of Passengers								
	Total			Visitors			Returning Residents		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
0-4	280	129	151	185	88	97	95	41	54
5-9	226	111	115	164	82	82	62	29	33
10-14	176	81	95	128	62	66	48	19	29
15-19	298	146	152	164	75	89	134	71	63
20-24	704	361	343	302	133	169	402	228	174
25-29	937	468	469	561	265	296	376	203	173
30-34	1,055	520	535	703	335	368	352	185	167
35-39	1,001	500	501	725	345	380	276	155	121
40-44	919	497	422	652	347	305	267	150	117
45-49	846	446	400	604	319	285	242	127	115
50-54	903	476	427	631	345	286	272	131	141
55-59	875	474	401	645	356	289	230	118	112
60-64	693	357	336	512	267	245	181	90	91
65-69	488	248	240	365	196	169	123	52	71
70-74	273	140	133	198	102	96	75	38	37
75+	197	104	93	140	78	62	57	26	31
Total	9,871	5,058	4,813	6,679	3,395	3,284	3,192	1,663	1,529
% Distribution	100.0	51.2	48.8	67.7	34.4	33.3	32.3	16.8	15.5

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

Country of Usual Residence	Country of						
	Total	% Distribution	Holiday/ Vacation	Business/ Conference	Visiting Rela Friends	Other Reasons	Not Stated
Australia	1,242	18.6	469	146	266	16	345
New Zealand	2,115	31.7	486	140	831	38	620
Fiji	419	6.3	40	148	39	52	140
American Samoa	8	0.1	2	1	2	0	3
Western Samoa	33	0.5	4	8	3	2	16
Other Pacific Islands	268	4.0	4	141	13	2	108
Japan	117	1.8	51	10	9	10	37
China	346	5.2	196	31	45	8	66
India	20	0.3	5	8	1	1	5
Korea	23	0.3	13	3	0	0	7
Other Asian Countries	267	4.0	103	40	6	5	113
UK	110	1.6	49	11	6	6	38
Germany	77	1.2	49	2	1	6	19
France	52	0.8	13	7	3	0	29
Italy	40	0.6	27	2	0	0	11
Other European Countries	322	4.8	194	12	9	4	103
All African Countries	30	0.4	2	2	0	1	25
United States of America	1,081	16.2	429	46	279	32	295
Canada	48	0.7	23	2	4	5	14
Other American Countries	61	0.9	13	14	1	2	31
Total	6,679	100	2,172	774	1,518	190	2,025
% Distribution	100.0		32.5	11.6	22.7	2.8	30.3

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

Age Group	Returning Residence	Percentage Distribution	Visitors	Percentage Distribution	Total	Percentage Distribution
0 - 4	85	2.9	203	2.8	288	2.8
5 - 9	85	2.9	211	2.9	296	2.9
10 - 14	72	2.4	217	3.0	289	2.9
15 - 19	194	6.5	275	3.8	469	4.6
20 - 24	286	9.7	352	4.9	638	6.3
25 - 29	292	9.9	539	7.5	831	8.2
30 - 34	272	9.2	701	9.8	973	9.6
35 - 39	256	8.6	742	10.4	998	9.9
40 - 44	270	9.1	676	9.4	946	9.3
45 - 49	224	7.6	607	8.5	831	8.2
50 - 54	238	8.0	611	8.5	849	8.4
55 - 59	243	8.2	675	9.4	918	9.1
60 - 64	201	6.8	521	7.3	722	7.1
65 - 69	110	3.7	416	5.8	526	5.2
70 - 74	83	2.8	244	3.4	327	3.2
75+	51	1.7	173	2.4	224	2.2
All Ages	2,962	100.0	7,163	100.0	10,125	100.0
YACHT	-	-	230		230	0
CRUISE SHIP	-	-	2,290		2,290	0
Total	2,962	100.0	9,683	100.0	12,645	100.0

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

Country of Usual Residence	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total	Percent
	No.	Distribution	No.	Distribution		
Australia	698	13.9	698	13.6	1,396	13.8
New Zealand	1,165	23.3	1,245	24.3	2,410	23.8
Fiji	229	4.6	137	2.7	366	3.6
American Samoa	8	0.2	3	0.1	11	0.1
Western Samoa	16	0.3	21	0.4	37	0.4
Tonga	1,417	28.3	1,545	30.2	2,962	29.3
Other Pacific Islands	120	2.4	70	1.4	190	1.9
Japan	72	1.4	54	1.1	126	1.2
China	136	2.7	188	3.7	324	3.2
India	17	0.3	3	0.1	20	0.2
Korea	10	0.2	3	0.1	13	0.1
Other Asian Countries	132	2.6	101	2.0	233	2.3
UK	80	1.6	49	1.0	129	1.3
Germany	40	0.8	30	0.6	70	0.7
France	28	0.6	18	0.4	46	0.5
Italy	18	0.4	18	0.4	36	0.4
Other European Countries	145	2.9	158	3.1	303	3.0
All African Countries	19	0.4	12	0.2	31	0.3
United States of America	596	11.9	713	13.9	1,309	12.9
Canada	23	0.5	31	0.6	54	0.5
Other American Countries	37	0.7	22	0.4	59	0.6
Total	5,006	100.0	5,119	100.0	10,125	100.0



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