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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 September 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

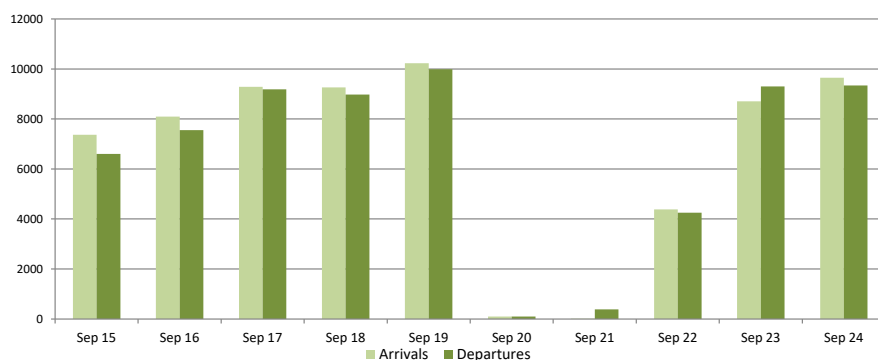
Summary of Arrivals

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

Month of	Sep 2024	Number	Sep 2023	Change from	Change from
September 2024	Sep 2024	Aug 2024	Sep 2023	previous month (%)	previous year (%)
All Arrivals	10,066	12,454	9,062	(19)	11
Air Visitors	5,930	6,679	5,141	(11)	15
Air Returning Residents	3,724	3,192	3,564	17	4
Cruise Ships	-	2,287	-	0.0	0.0
Yachts	412	296	357	39	15

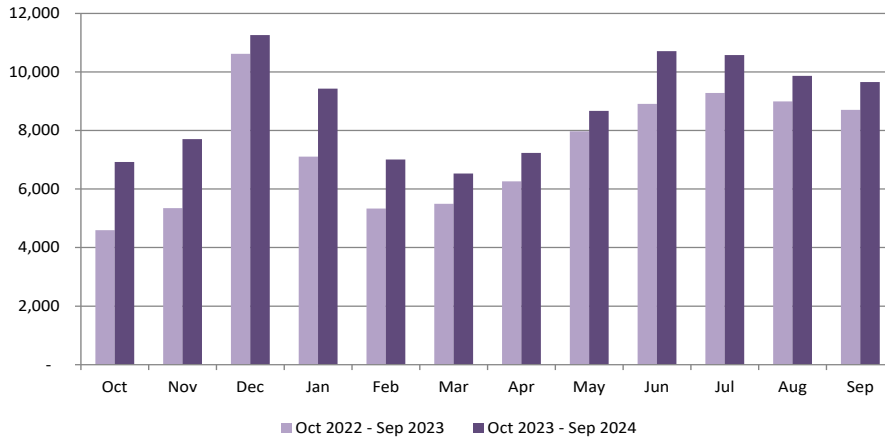
- The total of all arrivals in September 2024 were 10,066 people, this is a decline of 19 % compared to the total arrivals in August 2024, 12,454.
- A decline of 11% of all air visitors (5,930) compared to previous month (6,679).
- An increase of 17% of returning residents (3,724) compared to the previous month (3,192)
- There were no Cruise Ships for the month of September 2024 and for the yachts there was an increase of 39% (412) compared to the previous month (296).

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



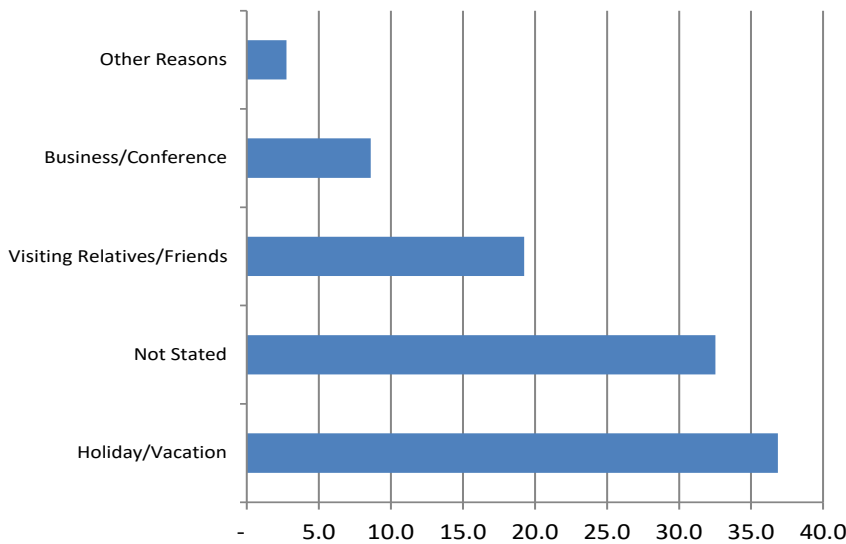
- Total air arrivals in September 2024 were 9,654 an increase of 10.9% compared to September 2023 (8,705).
- Total air departures of 9,341 in September 2024, an increase of 0.5% compared to September 2023 (9,299)

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



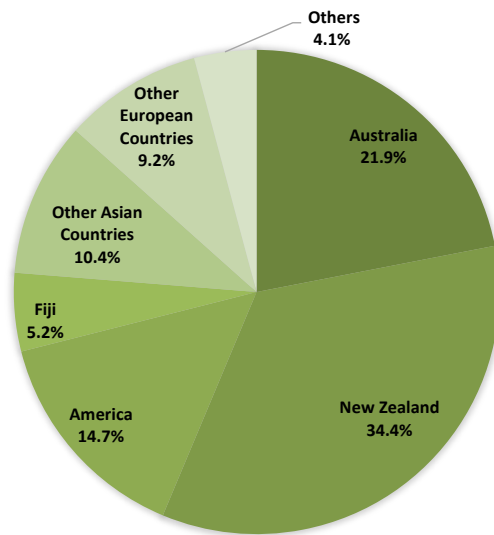
- Total air arrivals from October 2022 to September 2023 were lower compared to the corresponding months and that is from October 2023 to September 2024. Also both years show almost the same trend. Highest arrivals were in December, the Christmas holidays and June and July, that is when we have the church conferences and the King’s birthday celebrations.

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



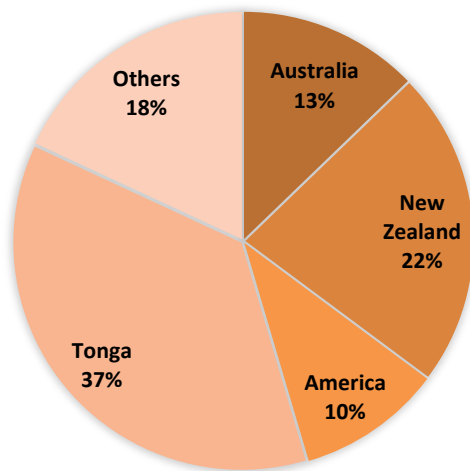
- 36.9% (2,186) of the total air visitors were here on Holiday/Vacation
- Those who were here to visit relative/friends made up 19.3 (1,142)
- 8.6% (510) were here on Business/Conference
- Visitors who didn’t state the purpose of their visit made up 32.5% (1,929)

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



- New Zealand was the leading country in visitors arrivals by country of usual residence, accounting for 34.4% (2,038) of total air visitors
- This was followed by Australia with 21.9 % (1,301), and America with 14.7% (874)

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



- Most of the persons departing in the month of September were Tongan residents (3,409) followed by New Zealand (2,096) and Australia (1,192)

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)
Sep	5,930	-	412	6,342	3,724			3,724	9,654	-	412	10,066	9,341	-	289	9,630	436

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

Age Group	Type of Passengers								
	Total			Visitors			Returning Residents		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
0-4	239	110	129	163	74	89	76	36	40
5-9	227	115	112	144	74	70	83	41	42
10-14	258	128	130	162	82	80	96	46	50
15-19	457	291	166	175	82	93	282	209	73
20-24	759	482	277	253	113	140	506	369	137
25-29	935	503	432	496	238	258	439	265	174
30-34	1,020	536	484	622	277	345	398	259	139
35-39	947	525	422	623	320	303	324	205	119
40-44	927	488	439	580	272	308	347	216	131
45-49	791	408	383	527	274	253	264	134	130
50-54	799	424	375	538	281	257	261	143	118
55-59	800	402	398	541	271	270	259	131	128
60-64	622	337	285	467	254	213	155	83	72
65-69	443	217	226	333	169	164	110	48	62
70-74	248	139	109	171	102	69	77	37	40
75+	182	79	103	135	62	73	47	17	30
Total	9,654	5,184	4,470	5,930	2,945	2,985	3,724	2,239	1,485
% Distribution	100.0	53.7	46.3	61.4	30.5	30.9	38.6	23.2	15.4

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

Country of Usual Residence	Country of						
	Total	% Distribution	Holiday/ Vacation	Business/ Conference	Visiting Relative/ Friends	Other Reasons	Not Stated
Australia	1,301	21.9	553	108	235	28	377
New Zealand	2,038	34.4	647	80	645	26	640
Fiji	310	5.2	43	90	39	42	96
American Samoa	7	0.1	1	4	2	0	0
Western Samoa	23	0.4	3	10	3	0	7
Other Pacific Islands	102	1.7	7	55	6	4	30
Japan	93	1.6	37	16	2	2	36
China	289	4.9	151	12	12	13	101
India	19	0.3	5	4	2	0	8
Korea	23	0.4	13	2	4	0	4
Other Asian Countries	190	3.2	68	27	4	7	84
UK	128	2.2	42	14	8	8	56
Germany	70	1.2	40	1	3	0	26
France	33	0.6	10	5	1	0	17
Italy	23	0.4	6	2	0	2	13
Other European Countries	293	4.9	164	12	2	7	108
All African Countries	36	0.6	10	5	0	1	20
United States of America	874	14.7	348	52	170	19	285
Canada	52	0.9	23	5	4	4	16
Other American Countries	26	0.4	15	6	0	0	5
Total	5,930	100.0	2,186	510	1,142	163	1,929
% Distribution	100.0		36.9	8.6	19.3	2.7	32.5

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

Age Group	Returning Residence	Percentage Distribution	Visitors	Percentage Distribution	Total	Percentage Distribution
0 - 4	116	3.4	150	2.5	266	2.8
5 - 9	109	3.2	139	2.3	248	2.7
10 - 14	102	3.0	122	2.1	224	2.4
15 - 19	221	6.5	135	2.3	356	3.8
20 - 24	321	9.4	279	4.7	600	6.4
25 - 29	343	10.1	503	8.5	846	9.1
30 - 34	348	10.2	632	10.7	980	10.5
35 - 39	271	7.9	577	9.7	848	9.1
40 - 44	305	8.9	568	9.6	873	9.3
45 - 49	266	7.8	543	9.2	809	8.7
50 - 54	276	8.1	547	9.2	823	8.8
55 - 59	274	8.0	552	9.3	826	8.8
60 - 64	191	5.6	488	8.2	679	7.3
65 - 69	109	3.2	356	6.0	465	5.0
70 - 74	85	2.5	197	3.3	282	3.0
75+	72	2.1	144	2.4	216	2.3
All Ages	3,409	100.0	5,932	100.0	9,341	100.0
YACHT	-	-	289		289	0
CRUISE SHIP	-	-	-		-	0
Total	2,962	100.0	6,221	100.0	9,630	100.0

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

Country of Usual Residence	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total	Percent
	No.	Distribution	No.	Distribution	No.	Distribution
Australia	538	11.7	654	13.8	1,192	12.8
New Zealand	1,022	22.1	1,074	22.7	2,096	22.4
Fiji	194	4.2	121	2.6	315	3.4
American Samoa	4	0.1	7	0.1	11	0.1
Western Samoa	18	0.4	9	0.2	27	0.3
Tonga	1,726	37.4	1,683	35.6	3,409	36.5
Other Pacific Islands	57	1.2	62	1.3	119	1.3
Japan	55	1.2	52	1.1	107	1.1
China	128	2.8	128	2.7	256	2.7
India	12	0.3	2	0.0	14	0.1
Korea	6	0.1	12	0.3	18	0.2
Other Asian Countries	71	1.5	91	1.9	162	1.7
UK	66	1.4	56	1.2	122	1.3
Germany	30	0.6	35	0.7	65	0.7
France	24	0.5	16	0.3	40	0.4
Italy	12	0.3	14	0.3	26	0.3
Other European Countries	156	3.4	149	3.2	305	3.3
All African Countries	14	0.3	5	0.1	19	0.2
United States of America	446	9.7	511	10.8	957	10.2
Canada	23	0.5	28	0.6	51	0.5
Other American Countries	15	0.3	15	0.3	30	0.3
Total	4,617	100.0	4,724	100.0	9,341	100.0

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