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**Government of Tonga**

# **STATISTICAL BULLETIN**

## **ON**

# **MONTHLY MIGRATION**

# **STATISTICS NOVEMBER 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 November 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, Customs Departments of the Ministry of Revenue and Customs, Airport terminal Services and Ports 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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Felix Fe'iloaki  
*Acting Government Statistician*



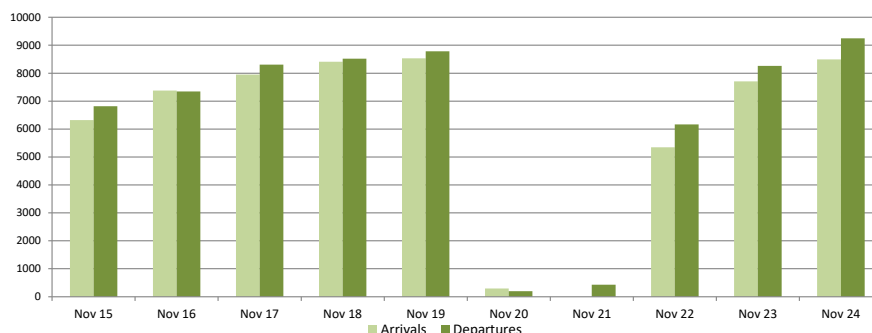
## Summary of Arrivals

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

Month of		Number		Change from	Change from
November 2024	November 2024	October 2024	November 2023	previous month (%)	previous year (%)
All Arrivals	9,383	12,459	12,834	(24.7)	(26.9)
Air Visitors	4,255	4,460	4,196	(4.6)	1.4
Air Returning Residents	4,239	2,857	3,511	48.4	20.7
Cruise Ships	750	4,908	4,702	(84.7)	(84.0)
Yachts	139	234	425	(40.6)	(67.3)

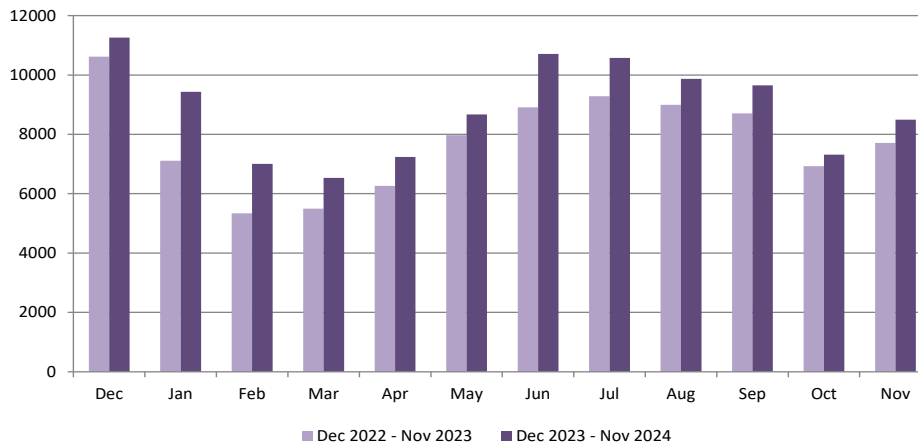
- The total of all arrivals in November 2024 were 9,383 people, this is a decline of 24.7 % compared to the total arrivals in October 2024, 12,459.
- A decline of 4.6% of all air visitors (4,255) compared to previous month (4,460).
- An increase of 48.4% of air returning residents (4,239) compared to the previous month (2,857)
- There were 750 arrivals by Cruise Ships a decline of 84.7% compared to the previous month (4,908) and 139 people arrived by yachts for the month of November 2024, again a decline of 40.6% compared to the previous month October 2024 with 234 arrivals.

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



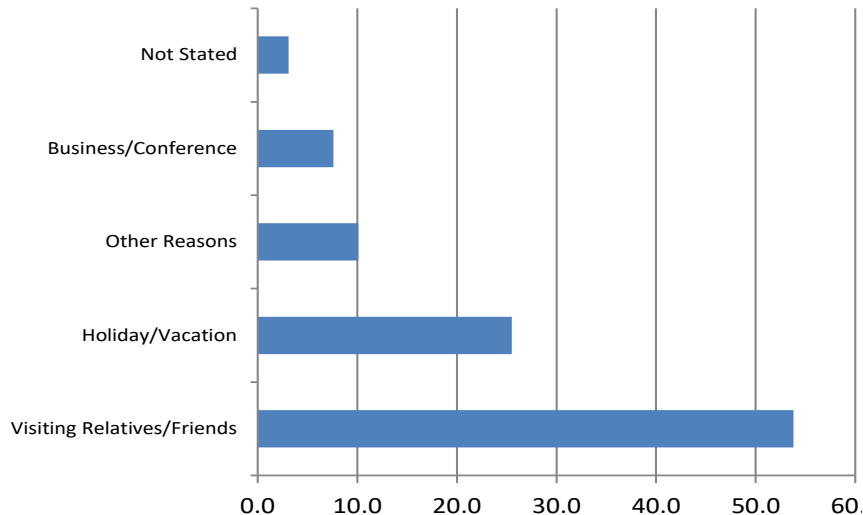
- Total air arrivals in November 2024 were 8,494 comparing to previous year November 2023 7,707 an increase of 10.2%.
- Total air departures of 9,250 in November 2024, an increase of 12.0% compared to November 2023 (8,260)

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



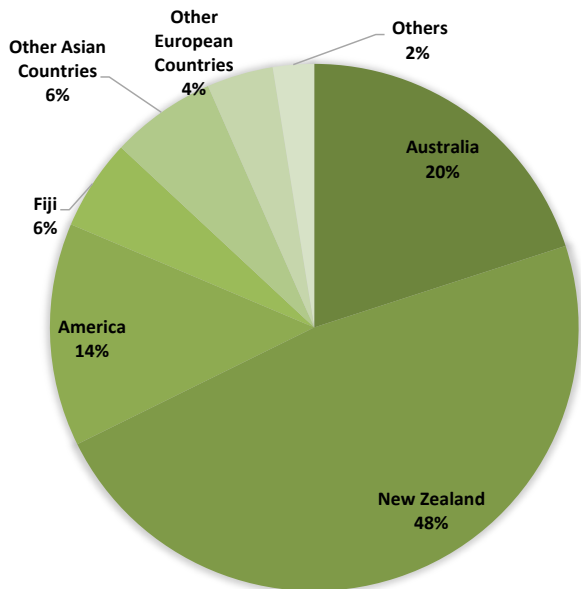
- Total air visitor arrivals in November 2024 were 4,255 an increase of 1.4% compared to November 2023 with 4,196.

**Fig. 3. Air Visitors by Purpose of Visit November, 2024**



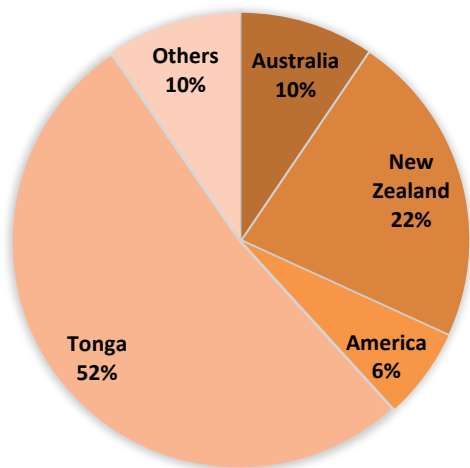
- 53.8% (2,290) of the total air visitors were here to visit relatives/friends.
- Those who were here on Holiday/Vacation made up 25.5 (1,083)
- Visitors who were here on other reasons like funerals, employment, education etc made up 10.1% (429)
- Visitors who didn't state the reason of their visit made up 3.1% (131)

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



- New Zealand was the leading country in visitors arrivals by country of usual residence, accounting for 47.7% (2,030) of total air visitors
- This was followed by Australia with 20.0 % (850), and America with 13.7% (583)

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



- Most of the persons departing in the month of November were Tongan residents (4,827) followed by New Zealand (2,070) and Australia (875)

## 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, 2012 - 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	
2012	47,457	7,957	1,816	57,230	25,170			25,107	72,627	7,957	1,816	82,400	74,098	7,987	1,720	83,805	(1,405)
2013	48,188	9,432	2,045	59,665	25,808			25,808	73,996	9,432	2,045	85,473	73,938	9,427	1,769	85,134	339
2014	50,436	13,733	1,632	65,801	26,573			26,573	77,009	13,733	1,632	92,374	78,604	13,724	1,762	94,090	(1,716)
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>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	0	213	4,562	3,626			3,626	7,975	0	213	8,188	7,515	0	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
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
Oct	4,460	4,908	234	9,602	2,857			2,857	7,317	4,908	234	12,459	7,084	4,907	181	12,172	287
Nov	4,255	750	139	5,144	4,239			4,239	8,494	750	139	9,383	9,250	748	47	10,045	(662)



**Table 2. Total Arrivals by Age, Type of Passengers and Sex November, 2024**

Age Group	Type of Passengers								
	Total			Visitors			Returning Residents		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
0-4	225	115	110	151	83	68	74	32	42
5-9	227	106	121	146	71	75	81	35	46
10-14	233	115	118	147	66	81	86	49	37
15-19	369	201	168	189	80	109	180	121	59
20-24	820	403	417	262	114	148	558	289	269
25-29	785	382	403	327	142	185	458	240	218
30-34	704	369	335	290	146	144	414	223	191
35-39	714	389	325	347	200	147	367	189	178
40-44	734	370	364	362	176	186	372	194	178
45-49	650	359	291	349	184	165	301	175	126
50-54	699	362	337	366	196	170	333	166	167
55-59	776	374	402	429	209	220	347	165	182
60-64	559	281	278	304	153	151	255	128	127
65-69	433	222	211	245	129	116	188	93	95
70-74	299	156	143	181	97	84	118	59	59
75+	267	129	138	160	82	78	107	47	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,494</b>	<b>4,333</b>	<b>4,161</b>	<b>4,255</b>	<b>2,128</b>	<b>2,127</b>	<b>4,239</b>	<b>2,205</b>	<b>2,034</b>
<b>% Distribution</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>23.9</b>

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

Country of Usual Residence	Country of							Not Stated
	Total	% Distribution	Holiday/Vacation	Business/Conference	Visiting Relative/Friends	Other Reasons		
Australia	850	20.0	226	73	444	78	29	
New Zealand	2,030	47.7	431	72	1314	177	36	
Fiji	237	5.6	27	71	45	79	15	
American Samoa	1	0.0	0	0	0	0	1	
Western Samoa	28	0.7	4	7	11	6	0	
Other Pacific Islands	39	0.9	0	14	13	9	3	
Japan	42	1.0	17	10	9	6	0	
China	158	3.7	69	12	59	10	8	
India	3	0.1	1	2	0	0	0	
Korea	16	0.4	6	2	6	2	0	
Other Asian Countries	56	1.3	4	16	8	21	7	
UK	41	1.0	23	5	10	3	0	
Germany	41	1.0	36	3	0	1	1	
France	27	0.6	12	2	10	3	0	
Italy	5	0.1	4	1	0	0	0	
Other European Countries	59	1.4	46	4	6	3	0	
All African Countries	7	0.2	0	3	0	0	4	
United States of America	583	13.7	162	18	350	29	24	
Canada	19	0.4	13	0	5	1	0	
Other American Countries	13	0.3	2	7	0	1	3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,255</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>2,290</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>131</b>	
<b>% Distribution</b>	<b>100.0</b>		<b>25.5</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>3.1</b>	



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

Age Group	Returning Residence	Percentage Distribution	Visitors	Percentage Distribution	Total	Percentage Distribution
0 - 4	100	2.1	144	3.3	244	2.6
5 - 9	161	3.3	157	3.5	318	3.4
10 - 14	224	4.6	146	3.3	370	4.0
15 - 19	426	8.8	167	3.8	593	6.4
20 - 24	575	11.9	253	5.7	828	9.0
25 - 29	497	10.3	346	7.8	843	9.1
30 - 34	468	9.7	313	7.1	781	8.4
35 - 39	383	7.9	366	8.3	749	8.1
40 - 44	376	7.8	378	8.5	754	8.2
45 - 49	296	6.1	387	8.7	683	7.4
50 - 54	310	6.4	395	8.9	705	7.6
55 - 59	340	7.0	449	10.2	789	8.5
60 - 64	235	4.9	312	7.1	547	5.9
65 - 69	206	4.3	258	5.8	464	5.0
70 - 74	121	2.5	190	4.3	311	3.4
75+	109	2.3	162	3.7	271	2.9
<b>All Ages</b>	<b>4,827</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,423</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9,250</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>YACHT</b>	-	-	47		47	0
<b>CRUISE SHIP</b>	-	-	748		748	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,827</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,218</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10,045</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

Country of Usual Residence	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total	Percent
	No.	Distribution	No.	Distribution	No.	Distribution
Australia	421	8.8	454	10.1	875	9.5
New Zealand	1,006	21.1	1,064	23.7	2,070	22.4
Fiji	138	2.9	96	2.1	234	2.5
American Samoa	-	-	1	0.0	1	0.0
Western Samoa	10	0.2	22	0.5	32	0.3
Tonga	2,507	52.6	2,320	51.7	4,827	52.2
Other Pacific Islands	22	0.5	23	0.5	45	0.5
Japan	32	0.7	16	0.4	48	0.5
China	124	2.6	55	1.2	179	1.9
India	8	0.2	1	0.0	9	0.1
Korea	9	0.2	11	0.2	20	0.2
Other Asian Countries	29	0.6	18	0.4	47	0.5
UK	39	0.8	22	0.5	61	0.7
Germany	29	0.6	19	0.4	48	0.5
France	10	0.2	9	0.2	19	0.2
Italy	5	0.1	3	0.1	8	0.1
Other European Countries	53	1.1	25	0.6	78	0.8
All African Countries	7	0.1	5	0.1	12	0.1
United States of America	289	6.1	306	6.8	595	6.4
Canada	14	0.3	8	0.2	22	0.2
Other American Countries	13	0.3	7	0.2	20	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,765</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,485</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9,250</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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