



Government of Tonga

SERIES NO.
SDT: 39-M 117

STATISTICAL BULLETIN

ON



MONTHLY MIGRATION

STATISTICS

FEBRUARY 2026

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

Mar 2026

Preface

This monthly migration statistics bulletin is produced by the Tonga Statistics Department (TSD) as a key reference on the volume of overseas arrivals and departures by air, cruise ships, and yachts, as well as residents' movements to and from the Kingdom of Tonga. This edition covers February 2026, providing a detailed monthly breakdown of the data alongside comparative figures from previous years. The information presented in this bulletin is sourced from the Customs Department and the Immigration Department's Border Management Information System (BMIS), the Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS).

The primary purpose of collecting and compiling Migration Statistics is to provide valuable data for planners and decision-makers. With Tonga experiencing a high rate of net migration loss, where more people are leaving than entering the country, the production of accurate and timely migration statistics is essential. These data also contribute to the development of the Population Estimation and Projection reports by the TSD.

This bulletin presents information on arrivals and departures, disaggregated by purpose of travel, reasons for absence, country of usual residence, and country visited.

We welcome any suggestions from recipients of this bulletin that may help us improve future editions.

.....




Mr. Sione F. Lolohea

Government Statistician

Summary of International Arrivals and Departures

Table 1: Total arrivals and departures for February 2026 with monthly and annual percentage change.

Month of February 2026	Number of Person(s)			Changes from previous month (%)	Changes from previous year (%)
	Feb 2026	Jan 2026	Feb 2025		
All Arrivals	8,820	10,431	10,768	-15.4%	-18.1%
Air Visitors	3,101	4,342	3,106	-28.6%	-0.2%
Air Returning Residents	4,281	6,089	3,559	-29.7%	20.3%
Cruise Ships	1,438	4,851	4,103	-70.4%	-65.0%
Yachts	-	-	-	-	-
All Departures	8,709	12,607	11,171	-30.9%	-22.0%
Air Departures Non-Resident	3,715	8,658	3,466	-57.1%	7.2%
Air Departures Resident	3,724	3,949	3,606	-5.7%	3.3%
Cruise Ships	1,270	4,861	4,099	-73.9%	-69.0%
Yachts	-	-	-	-	-

International Arrivals:

- The **total number of arrivals in February 2026** was **8,820**, representing a 15.4% decrease compared to January 2026 and a 18.1% decrease compared to February 2025.
- Air visitor arrivals decreased by 28.6% compared to January 2026 and by 0.2% compared to February 2025.
- Air returning residents decreased by 29.7% compared to January 2026 and increased by 20.3% compared to February 2025.
- It should be noted that 185 air arrival passengers were not included in this report due to the unavailability of data at the time of compilation.
- No yacht arrivals or departures were recorded in February 2026, consistent with January, likely due to the cyclone season, which generally limits yacht movements during this period.

International Departures:

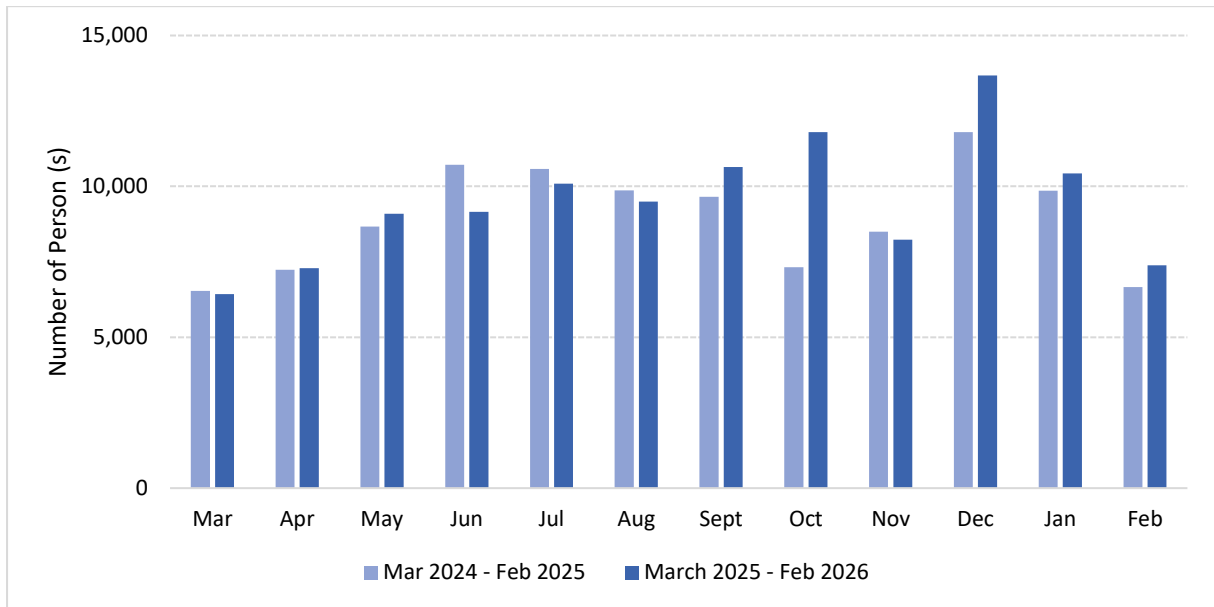
- The **total number of departures in February 2026** was **8,709**, representing a 30.9% decrease compared to January 2026 and a 22% decrease compared to February 2025.
- Air departures of non-residents decreased by 57.1% from January 2026 and increased with a 7.2% compared to February 2025.
- Air departures of residents decreased by 5.7% compared to January 2026, while recording a 3.3% increase compared to February 2025.

Figure 1: February Air Arrivals and Departures from 2017 to 2026.



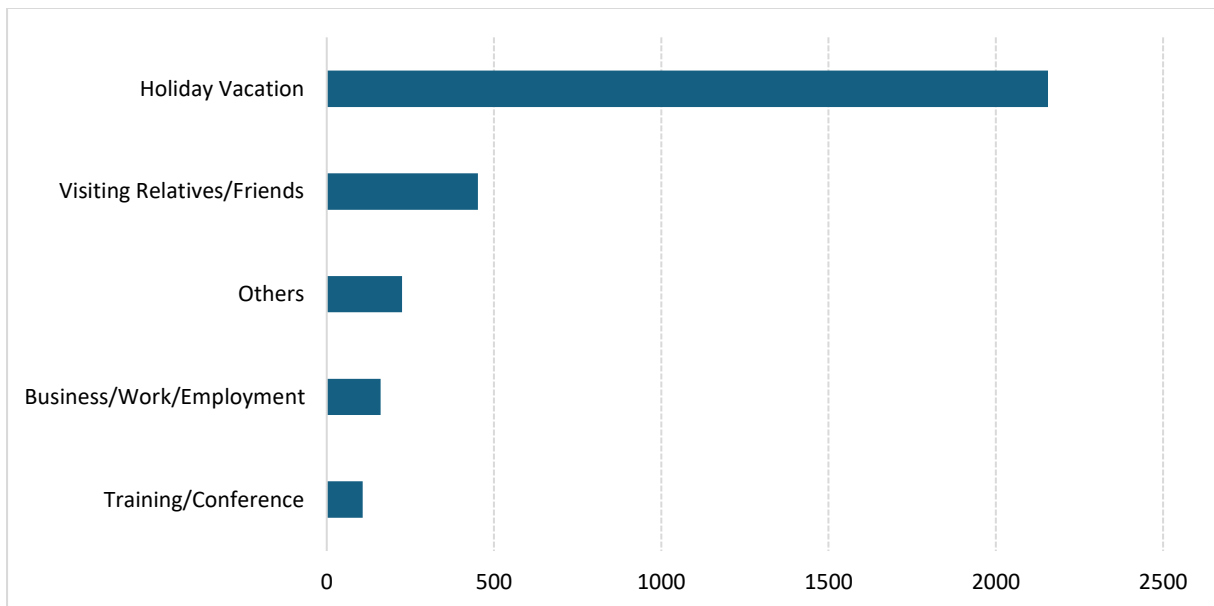
- In February 2026, Tonga recorded slightly higher air departures (7,439) than air arrivals (7,382), continuing the same trend observed in the previous month and year.

Figure 2: Monthly Air Arrivals compared to the corresponding month of the previous year.



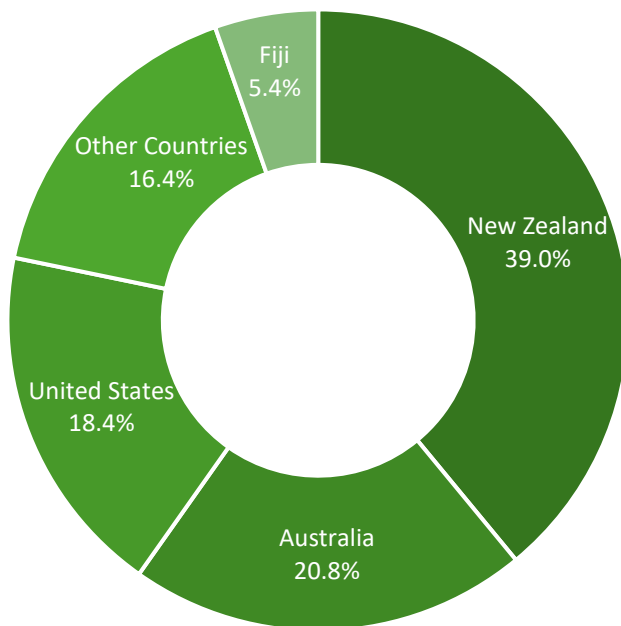
- Total air arrivals in February 2026 were 7,382, reflecting a 29.2% decrease from 10,431 in January 2026 and a 10.8% increase compared to February 2025. These figures include both visitors and returning residents.

Figure 3: Air Visitors by Purpose of Visit in February 2026.



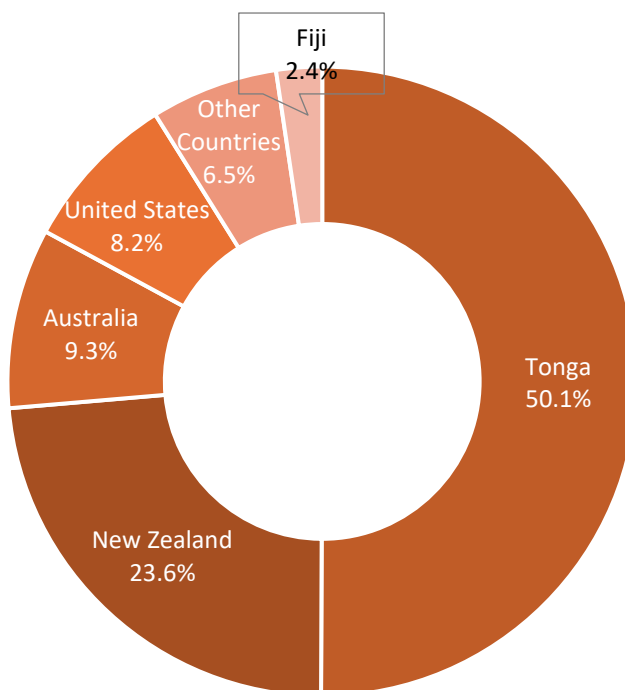
- In February 2026, majority of visitors by air, travelled to Tonga for holiday vacation purposes, making up 69.5% of the total air visitors (2,156).
- 14.6% of visitors by air travelled to Tonga to visit their relatives or friends (452).
- 7.3% travelled for other reasons such as funerals, weddings and other events (225), 5.2% travelled for business/work/employment (161), and 3.5% travelled for training and conference purposes (107).

Figure 4: Air visitors by Country of Usual Residence in February 2026.



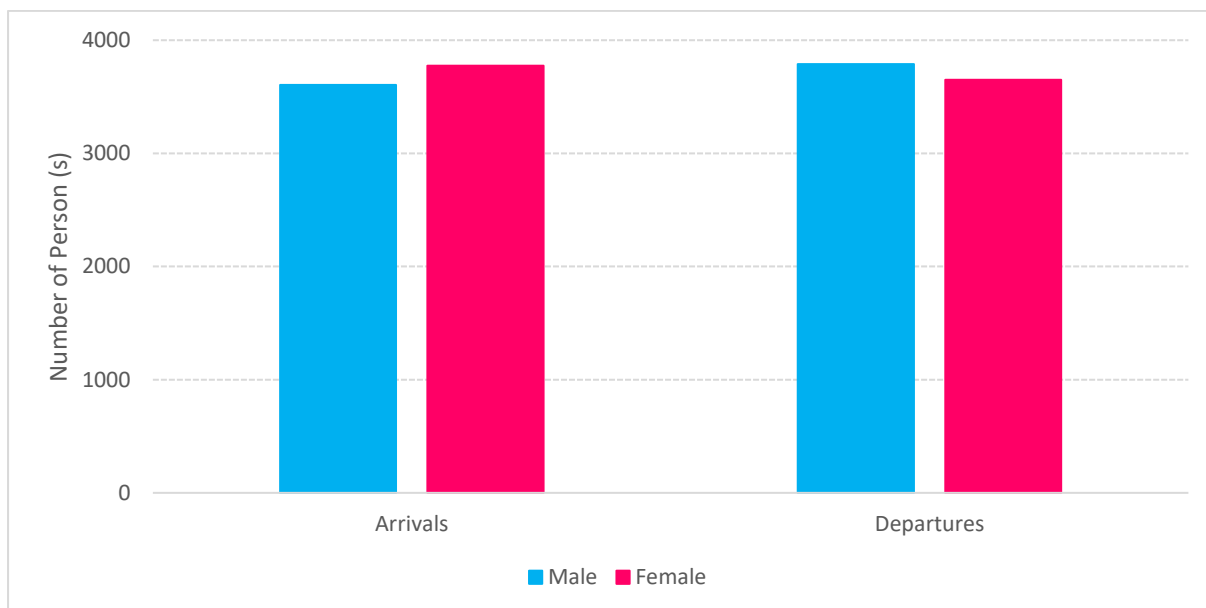
- New Zealand remains the leading country of residence for visitors, accounting for 39.0% of the total air visitors (1,210).
- Australia follows with 20.8% (644) of visitors, United States with 18.4% (572), Other Countries with 16.4% and Fiji with 5.4%.

Figure 5: Air departures by Country of Usual Residence in February 2026.



- The majority of air departures in February 2026 were Tongan residents (3,724) followed by travellers from New Zealand (1,754), Australia (689), United States (610), Other Countries (487) and Fiji (175).

Figure 6: Total air arrivals and departures by sex, February 2026.



- In February 2026, females outnumbered males among air arrivals, accounting for 51.2% of total air arrivals. In contrast, males outnumbered females in air departures, accounting for 50.9% of total air departures.

Definitions

- ▶ **A Visitor:** 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:** 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:** 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 travellers 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.
- ▶ **Main reason for journey.** On arrival in Tonga, all overseas visitors and Tongan residents are asked to state their purpose of journey. Statistics are published using the following categories:
 - Holiday/Vacation
 - Business/Work/Employment
 - Training/Conference
 - Visiting Friends and/or Relatives/Returning Residents
 - Others

Table 1: Annual Arrival and Departure by Mode of Travel and Net Migration for Years 2016 - 2025

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	
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
2024	62,868	16,124	2,154	81,146	44,438	-	-	44,438	107,306	16,124	2,154	125,584	108,036	16,122	1,626	125,784	-200
2025	64,183	8,358	2,105	74,646	48,257	-	-	48,257	112,440	8,358	2,105	122,903	112,573	8,358	1,457	122,388	515

Table 2: Monthly Arrival and Departure by Mode of Travel and Net Migration for Years 2023 to February 2026

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	
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	674	11	4,447	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
Dec	7,371	408	2	7,781	4,431	-	-	4,431	11,802	408	2	12,212	12,030	408	-	12,438	-226
2025																	
Jan	3,700	468	3	4,171	6,158	-	-	6,158	9,858	468	3	10,329	11,066	468	3	11,069	-1,208
Feb	3,106	4,099	-	7,209	3,559	-	-	3,559	6,665	4,099	-	10,764	7,072	4,099	-	11,171	-407
Mar	3,099	-	-	3,099	3,330	-	-	3,330	6,429	-	-	6,429	6,876	-	-	6,876	-447
Apr	3,838	473	40	4,330	3,448	-	-	3,448	7,286	473	40	7,778	7,244	473	33	7,731	49
May	5,091	950	304	6,345	4,005	-	-	4,005	9,096	950	304	10,350	8,214	950	121	9,285	1,065
June	5,604	-	381	5,985	3,552	-	-	3,552	9,156	-	381	9,537	7,799	-	258	8,057	1,480
July	6,399	-	301	6,700	3,696	-	-	3,696	10,095	-	301	10,396	10,835	-	200	11,035	-639
Aug	6,188	-	344	6,532	3,310	-	-	3,310	9,498	-	344	9,842	9,937	-	304	10,241	-399
Sept	6,550	-	464	7,014	4,094	-	-	4,094	10,644	-	464	11,108	10,290	-	174	10,464	644
Oct	6,896	1,269	253	8,418	4,903	-	-	4,903	11,799	1,269	253	13,321	11,691	1,269	360	13,320	1
Nov	4,399	-	15	4,414	3,837	-	-	3,837	8,236	-	15	8,251	9,347	-	4	9,351	-1,100
Dec	9,313	1,099	-	10,412	4,365	-	-	4,365	13,678	1,099	-	14,777	12,202	1,099	-	13,301	1,476
2026																	
Jan	4,342	-	-	4,342	6,089	-	-	6,089	10,431	-	-	10,431	12,607	-	-	12,607	-2,176
Feb	3,101	1,438	-	4,539	4,281	-	-	4,281	7,382	1,438	-	8,820	7,439	1,270	-	8,709	111

Table 3: Total Air Arrivals by Age Group, Type of Passengers and Sex for February 2026

Age Group	Total			Type of Passengers					
				Visitors			Returning Residents		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
0-4	283	132	151	128	58	70	155	74	81
5-9	331	152	179	103	60	43	228	92	136
10-14	421	210	211	116	64	52	305	146	159
15-19	579	273	306	161	71	90	418	202	216
20-24	652	288	364	206	98	108	446	190	256
25-29	558	256	302	216	105	111	342	151	191
30-34	566	269	297	225	113	112	341	156	185
35-39	546	277	269	274	157	117	272	120	152
40-44	572	276	296	274	143	131	298	133	165
45-49	528	268	260	276	147	129	252	121	131
50-54	557	281	276	255	130	125	302	151	151
55-59	534	276	258	256	136	120	278	140	138
60-64	459	235	224	240	133	107	219	102	117
65-69	365	195	170	181	113	68	184	82	102
70-74	252	131	121	123	72	51	129	59	70
75+	179	87	92	67	36	31	112	51	61
Total	7,382	3,606	3,776	3,101	1,636	1,465	4,281	1,970	2,311
%Distribution	100.0%	48.8%	51.2%	42.0%	22.2%	19.8%	58.0%	26.7%	31.3%

Table 4: Total Air Visitors by Usual Residence and Purpose of Visit, February 2026

Country of Usual Residence	Total	% Distribution	Holiday Vacation	Business/	Training/Conference	Visiting Relatives/Friends/Returning Residents	
				Work/Employment		Residents	Others
American Samoa	2	0.1%	1	0	0	0	1
Australia	644	20.8%	428	35	24	128	29
Canada	21	0.7%	17	1	1	0	2
China	71	2.3%	62	0	1	5	3
Fiji	167	5.4%	90	33	18	14	12
France	11	0.4%	11	0	0	0	0
Germany	67	2.2%	62	2	0	0	3
India	4	0.1%	2	1	0	0	1
Italy	2	0.1%	2	0	0	0	0
Japan	62	2.0%	41	5	8	4	4
New Zealand	1210	39.0%	859	41	13	197	100
Other African Countries	28	0.9%	10	7	8	3	0
Other Asian Countries	55	1.8%	30	14	3	1	7
Other European Countries	69	2.2%	61	2	2	0	4
Other Pacific Countries	51	1.6%	27	0	8	3	13
Uk	46	1.5%	33	3	4	1	5
United States	572	18.4%	411	15	15	91	40
Western Samoa	18	0.6%	9	2	1	5	1
Other American Countries	1	0.0%	0	0	1	0	0
Total	3101	100%	2156	161	107	452	225
% Distribution	100.0%	0.0%	69.5%	5.2%	3.5%	14.6%	7.3%

Table 5: Total Air Departures by Age Group, Type of Passengers and Sex for February 2026

Age Group	Total			Type of Passengers					
				Visitors			Returning Residents		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
0-4	273	125	148	167	69	98	106	56	50
5-9	204	98	106	126	63	63	78	35	43
10-14	217	105	112	123	64	59	94	41	53
15-19	428	199	229	175	75	100	253	124	129
20-24	928	465	463	287	117	170	641	348	293
25-29	702	353	349	279	129	150	423	224	199
30-34	672	340	332	296	138	158	376	202	174
35-39	619	338	281	308	170	138	311	168	143
40-44	637	332	305	341	184	157	296	148	148
45-49	552	283	269	319	161	158	233	122	111
50-54	551	301	250	296	169	127	255	132	123
55-59	548	282	266	303	162	141	245	120	125
60-64	440	220	220	281	142	139	159	78	81
65-69	330	175	155	205	114	91	125	61	64
70-74	200	106	94	130	74	56	70	32	38
75+	138	67	71	79	41	38	59	26	33
Total	7,439	3,789	3,650	3,715	1,872	1,843	3,724	1,917	1,807
%Distribution	100.0%	50.9%	49.1%	49.9%	25.2%	24.8%	50.1%	25.8%	24.3%

Table 6: Total Air Departures by Usual Residence and by Sex, February 2026

Country of Usual Residence	Total					
	Total	% Distribution	Male	% Distribution	Female	% Distribution
American Samoa	2	0.0%	1	0.0%	1	0.0%
Australia	689	9.3%	320	8.4%	369	10.1%
Canada	22	0.3%	8	0.2%	14	0.4%
China	112	1.5%	87	2.3%	25	0.7%
Fiji	175	2.4%	107	2.8%	68	1.9%
France	12	0.2%	10	0.3%	2	0.1%
Germany	63	0.8%	37	1.0%	26	0.7%
India	7	0.1%	5	0.1%	2	0.1%
Italy	7	0.1%	6	0.2%	1	0.0%
Japan	66	0.9%	41	1.1%	25	0.7%
New Zealand	1,754	23.6%	831	21.9%	923	25.3%
Other African Countries	29	0.4%	16	0.4%	13	0.4%
Other Asian Countries	37	0.5%	18	0.5%	19	0.5%
Other European Countries	58	0.8%	41	1.1%	17	0.5%
Other Pacific Countries	20	0.3%	8	0.2%	12	0.3%
Tonga	3,724	50.1%	1,917	50.6%	1,807	49.5%
Uk	37	0.5%	28	0.7%	9	0.2%
United States	610	8.2%	301	7.9%	309	8.5%
Western Samoa	15	0.2%	7	0.2%	8	0.2%
Total	7,439	100%	3,789	50.9%	3,650	49.1%

Printed by STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

Nuku'alofa, TONGA—2026
