SERIES NO.
SDT: 39-M 120

Government of Tonga

STATISTICAL BULLETIN ON

MONTHLY MIGRATION STATISTICS

MAY 2026

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

June 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 May 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 May 2026 with monthly and annual percentage change.

Month of May 2026	Number of Person(s)			Changes from previous month (%)	Changes from previous year (%)
	May 2026	Apr 2026	May 2025		
All Arrivals	**8,849**	**8,971**	**10,350**	**-1.4%**	**-14.5%**
Air Visitors	4,317	3,751	5,091	15.1%	-15.2%
Air Returning Residents	4,258	3,862	4,005	10.3%	6.3%
Cruise Ships	-	1,313	950	-	-
Yachts	274	45	304	508.9%	-9.9%
All Departures	**7,779**	**9,484**	**9,285**	**-18.0%**	**-16.2%**
Air Departures Non-Resident	4,263	4,307	4,595	-1.0%	-7.2%
Air Departures Resident	3,407	3,847	3,619	-11.4%	-5.9%
Cruise Ships	-	1,319	950	-	-
Yachts	109	11	121	890.9%	-9.9%

Note: April yacht arrival and departure figures have been revised due to updates in the underlying administrative data as additional information became available.

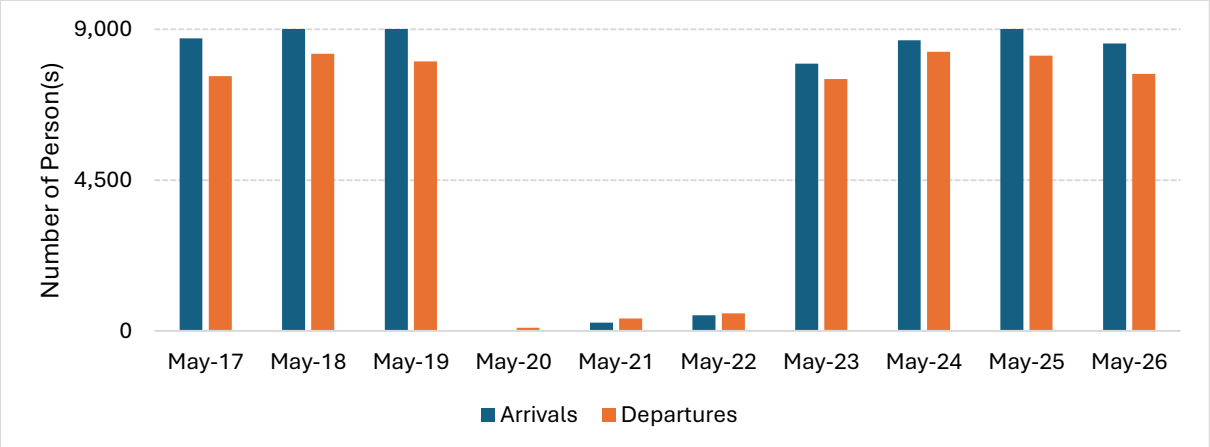
International Arrivals:

- The **total number of arrivals in May 2026 was 8,849**, representing a 1.4% decrease compared to April 2026 and a 14.5% decrease compared to May 2025.
- Air visitor arrivals increased by 15.1% compared to April 2026 and decreased by 15.2% compared to May 2025.
- Air returning residents increased by 10.3% compared to April 2026 and by 6.3% compared to May 2025.
- Yacht arrivals in May 2026 increased significantly by 508.9% from April 2026 and decreased by 9.9% compared to May 2025.
- The significant decline in total arrivals compared to May 2025 was driven by decreases in air visitor arrivals and yacht arrivals, along with the absence of cruise ship arrival during the month.

International Departures:

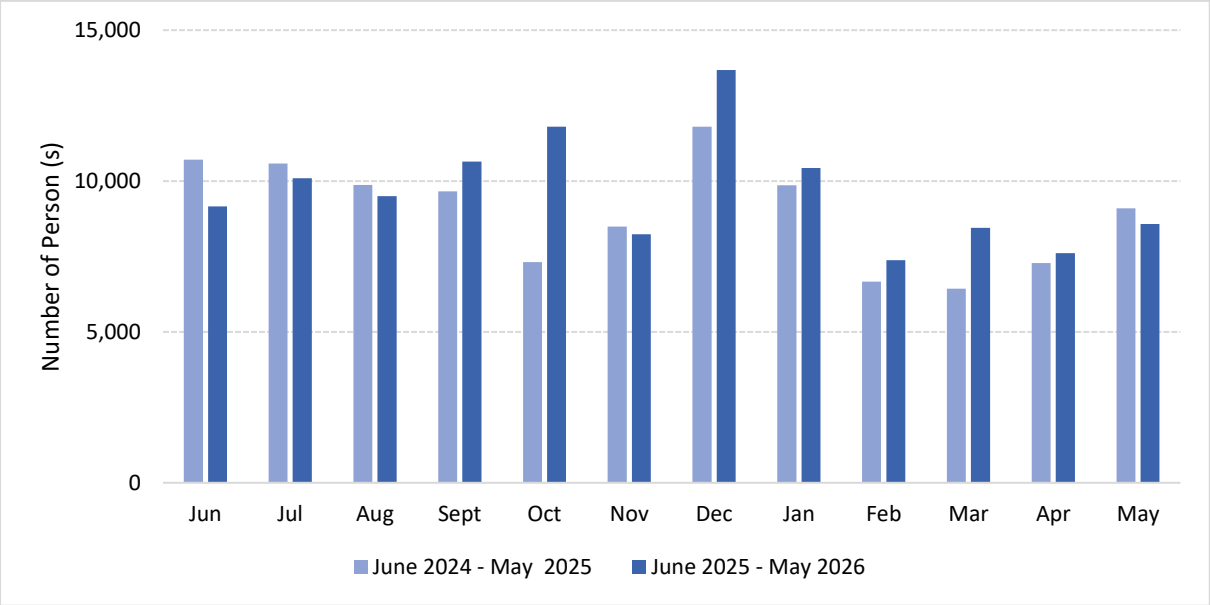
- The **total number of departures in May 2026 was 7,779**, representing a 18.0% decrease compared to April 2026 and a 16.2% decrease compared to May 2025.
- Air departures of non-residents slightly decreased by 1.0% compared to April 2026 and by 7.2% compared to May 2025.
- Air departures of residents decreased by 11.4% compared to April 2026 and by 5.9% compared to May 2025.
- Yachts departure in May 2026 increased significantly by 890.9% compared to April 2026 and decreased by a 9.9% compared to May 2025.

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



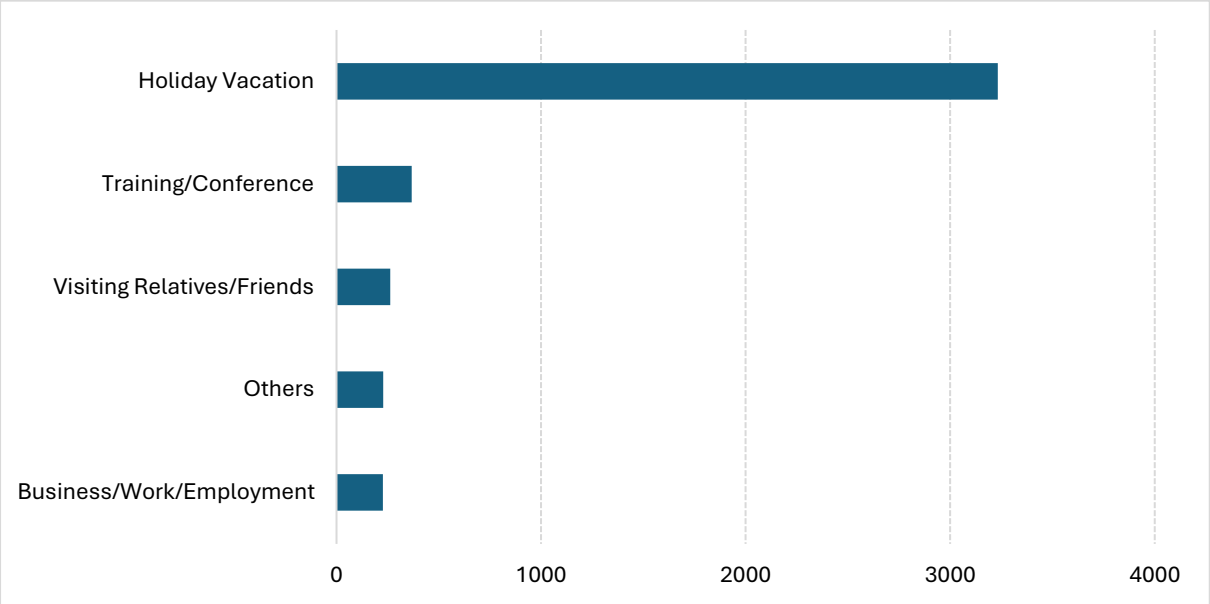
- In May 2026, Tonga recorded higher air arrivals (8,575) than air departures (7,670), showing the same pattern observed in both the previous month and year.

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



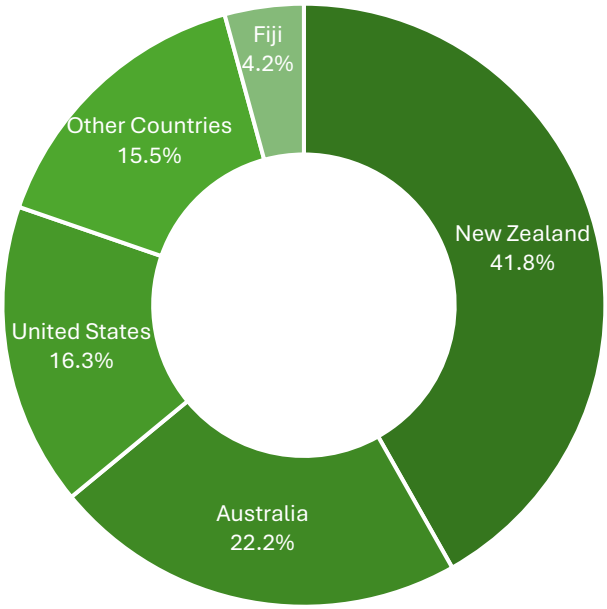
- Total air arrivals in May 2026 were 8,575, reflecting a 12.6% increase from 7,613 in April 2026 and a 5.7% decrease compared to May 2025. These figures include both visitors and returning residents.

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



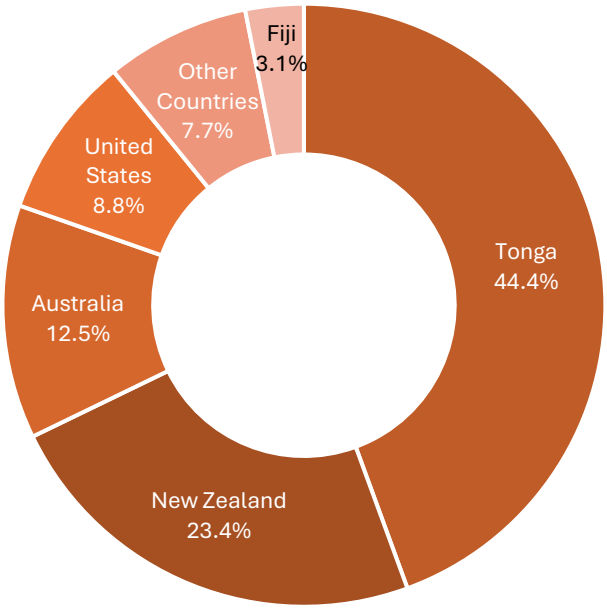
- In May 2026, majority of visitors by air, travelled to Tonga for holiday vacation purposes, making up 74.9% of the total air visitors (3,233).
- 8.5% of visitors by air travelled to Tonga for training and conference purposes (368).
- 6.1% travelled to visit relatives and friends (262), 5.3% travelled for other reasons such as funerals, weddings and other events (228), 5.2% travelled for business/work/employment (226).

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



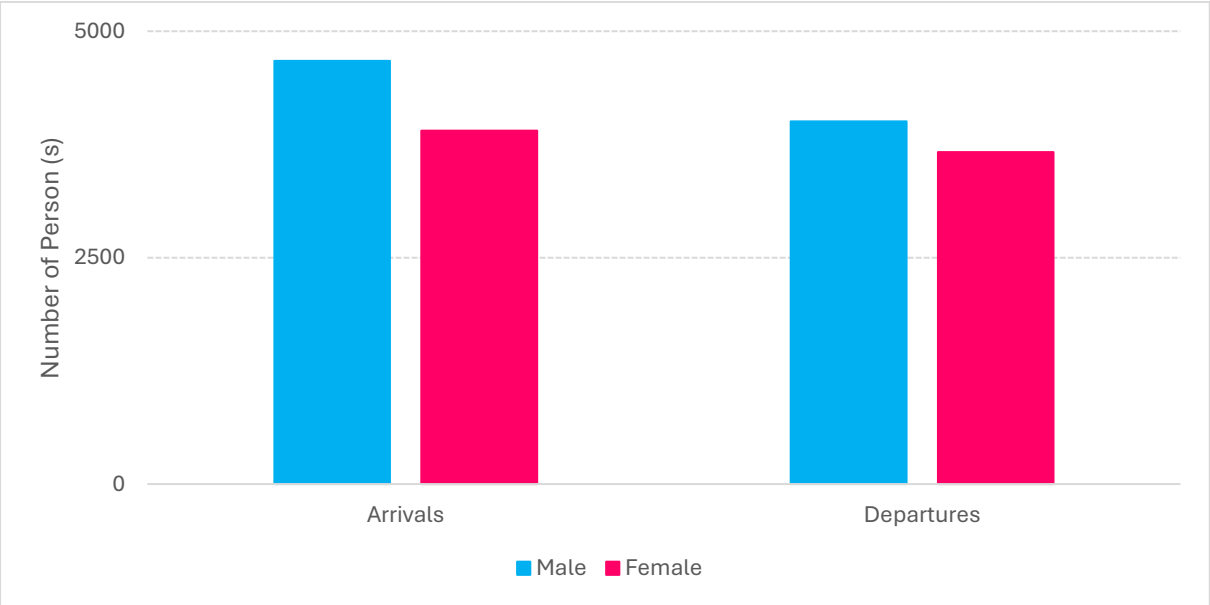
- New Zealand remains the leading country of residence for visitors, accounting for 41.8% of the total air visitors (1,805).
- Australia follows with 22.2% (959) of visitors, United States with 16.3% (702), Other Countries with 15.5% and Fiji with 4.2%.

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



- The majority of air departures in May 2026 were Tongan residents (3,407) followed by travellers from New Zealand (1,795), Australia (962), United States (672), Other Countries (594) and Fiji (240). *The total percentage may not sum to 100% due to rounding.*

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



- In May 2026, males outnumbered females in both air arrivals and air departures accounting for 54.5% of total air arrivals and 52.2% of total air departures, respectively.

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 May 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	11561	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	1099	-	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
Mar	4,905	3,030	6	7,941	3,549	-	-	3,549	8,454	3,030	6	11,490	8,291	3,030	-	11,321	169
Apr	3,751	1,313	45	5,109	3,862	-	-	3,862	7,613	1,313	45	8,971	8,154	1,319	11	9,484	-513
May	4,317	-	274	4,591	4,258	-	-	4,258	8,575	-	274	8,849	7,670	-	109	7,779	1,070

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

	Total			Type of Passengers					
				Visitors			Returning Residents		
Age Group	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
0-4	280	154	126	200	109	91	80	45	35
5-9	202	92	110	141	67	74	61	25	36
10-14	199	87	112	123	54	69	76	33	43
15-19	368	226	142	149	64	85	219	162	57
20-24	833	515	318	248	108	140	585	407	178
25-29	811	428	383	334	151	183	477	277	200
30-34	803	444	359	358	185	173	445	259	186
35-39	735	423	312	372	207	165	363	216	147
40-44	758	410	348	405	210	195	353	200	153
45-49	722	364	358	385	188	197	337	176	161
50-54	701	384	317	392	210	182	309	174	135
55-59	756	404	352	410	222	188	346	182	164
60-64	567	305	262	332	183	149	235	122	113
65-69	397	193	204	229	112	117	168	81	87
70-74	226	128	98	133	79	54	93	49	44
75+	217	115	102	106	57	49	111	58	53
Total	**8,575**	**4,672**	**3,903**	**4,317**	**2,206**	**2,111**	**4,258**	**2,466**	**1,792**
%Distribution	100.0%	54.5%	45.5%	50.3%	25.7%	24.6%	49.7%	28.8%	20.9%

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

Country of Usual Residence	Total	% Distribution	Holiday Vacation	Business/ Work/ Employment	Training/ Conference	Visiting Relatives/ Friends/Returning Residents	Others	Not Stated
American Samoa	3	0.1%	3	0	0	0	0	0
Australia	959	22.2%	684	55	102	64	54	0
Canada	19	0.4%	16	1	0	1	1	0
China	179	4.1%	144	11	9	10	5	0
Fiji	183	4.2%	73	13	64	11	22	0
France	28	0.6%	20	1	3	1	3	0
Germany	21	0.5%	18	0	1	1	1	0
India	10	0.2%	7	1	1	0	1	0
Italy	6	0.1%	4	1	0	0	1	0
Japan	71	1.6%	52	6	7	0	6	0
New Zealand	1805	41.8%	1464	62	81	127	71	0
Other African Countries	21	0.5%	13	1	2	5	0	0
Other Asian Countries	50	1.2%	23	15	5	3	4	0
Other European Countries	90	2.1%	81	4	3	0	2	0
Other Pacific Countries	77	1.8%	17	7	41	3	9	0
Uk	57	1.3%	43	8	1	1	3	1
United States	702	16.3%	549	38	37	56	22	0
Western Samoa	36	0.8%	22	2	11	1	0	0
Total	**4,317**	**100%**	**3,233**	**226**	**368**	**284**	**205**	**1**
% Distribution	100.0%	0.0%	74.9%	5.2%	8.5%	6.6%	4.7%	0.0%

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

	Total			Type of Passengers					
				Visitors			Returning Residents		
Age Group	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
0-4	262	130	132	175	86	89	87	44	43
5-9	196	89	107	134	69	65	62	20	42
10-14	184	86	98	113	59	54	71	27	44
15-19	286	150	136	126	54	72	160	96	64
20-24	697	411	286	225	100	125	472	311	161
25-29	651	340	311	299	138	161	352	202	150
30-34	735	391	344	369	183	186	366	208	158
35-39	669	357	312	367	187	180	302	170	132
40-44	724	371	353	430	217	213	294	154	140
45-49	638	304	334	391	185	206	247	119	128
50-54	650	357	293	411	222	189	239	135	104
55-59	709	376	333	424	228	196	285	148	137
60-64	528	279	249	341	183	158	187	96	91
65-69	337	167	170	212	108	104	125	59	66
70-74	211	103	108	136	72	64	75	31	44
75+	193	95	98	110	57	53	83	38	45
Total	**7,670**	**4,006**	**3,664**	**4,263**	**2,148**	**2,115**	**3,407**	**1,858**	**1,549**
%Distribution	100.0%	52.2%	47.8%	55.6%	28.0%	27.6%	44.4%	24.2%	20.2%

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

Country of Usual Residence	Total					
	Total	% Distribution	Male	% Distribution	Female	% Distribution
American Samoa	3	0.0%	3	0.1%	0	0.0%
Australia	962	12.5%	484	12.1%	478	13.0%
Canada	9	0.1%	6	0.1%	3	0.1%
China	128	1.7%	87	2.2%	41	1.1%
Fiji	240	3.1%	135	3.4%	105	2.9%
France	23	0.3%	17	0.4%	6	0.2%
Germany	20	0.3%	13	0.3%	7	0.2%
India	10	0.1%	6	0.1%	4	0.1%
Italy	11	0.1%	6	0.1%	5	0.1%
Japan	76	1.0%	44	1.1%	32	0.9%
New Zealand	1,795	23.4%	835	20.8%	960	26.2%
Other African Countries	9	0.1%	4	0.1%	5	0.1%
Other Asian Countries	62	0.8%	36	0.9%	26	0.7%
Other European Countries	84	1.1%	54	1.3%	30	0.8%
Other Pacific Countries	76	1.0%	44	1.1%	32	0.9%
Tonga	3,407	44.4%	1858	46.4%	1549	42.3%
Uk	54	0.7%	39	1.0%	15	0.4%
United States	672	8.8%	325	8.1%	347	9.5%
Western Samoa	29	0.4%	10	0.2%	19	0.5%
Total	**7,670**	**100%**	**4,006**	**52.2%**	**3,664**	**47.8%**

Printed by STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

Nuku'alofa, TONGA—2026