

## 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 December 2019, 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, Tonga Airport Limited 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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*Government Statistician*



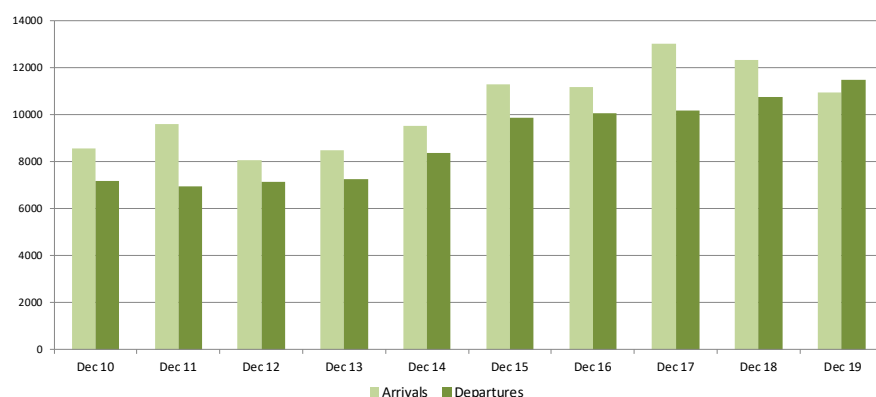
## Summary of Arrivals

**Table 1.:** Total Arrivals by month and annual percentage change

Type and mode of Arrivals	Number			Percent	
	November 2019	December 2019	December 2018	Change from previous month	Change from previous year
All Arrivals	11,317	13,957	12,309	23.3	13.4
Air Visitors	4,938	7,689	6,282	55.7	22.4
Air Returning Residents	3,595	3,253	6,021	-9.5	-46.0
Cruise Ships	2712	2,998	0	10.5	0.0
Yachts	72	17	6	-76.4	183.3

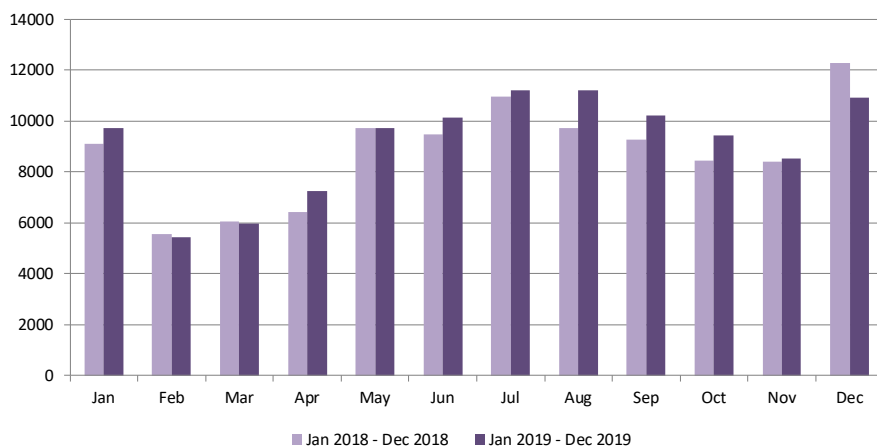
- The total of all arrivals in December 2019 was 13,957 peoples, this is an increase of 23.3 percent compared to the total arrivals in November, 11,317.
- An increase of 55.7% of all air visitors (7,689) compared to November 2019 (4,938).
- A decline of 9.5% (3,253) of returning residents compared to the previous month (3,595)
- An increase of 10.5% (2,998) of those who arrived by Cruise ship in the month of December 2019 compared to previous month (2,712)
- There were only 17 yachts arrivals in December 2019 compared to the previous month with only 17 arrivals..

**Fig. 1. December Air Arrivals and Departures 2010 - 2019**



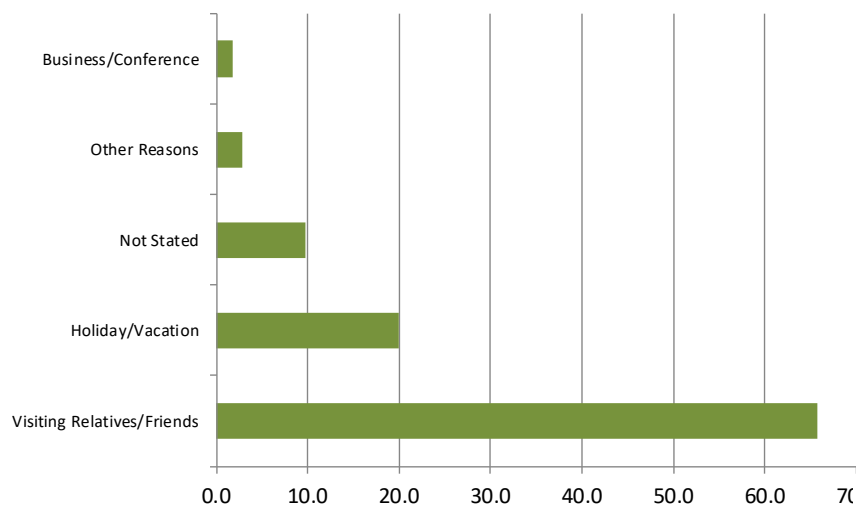
- Total air arrivals in December 2019 were 10,942 an decline of 11.0% compared to December 2018 (12,303).
- Total air departures of 11,453 in December 2019, an increase of 7.0% compared to December 2018 (10,741)

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



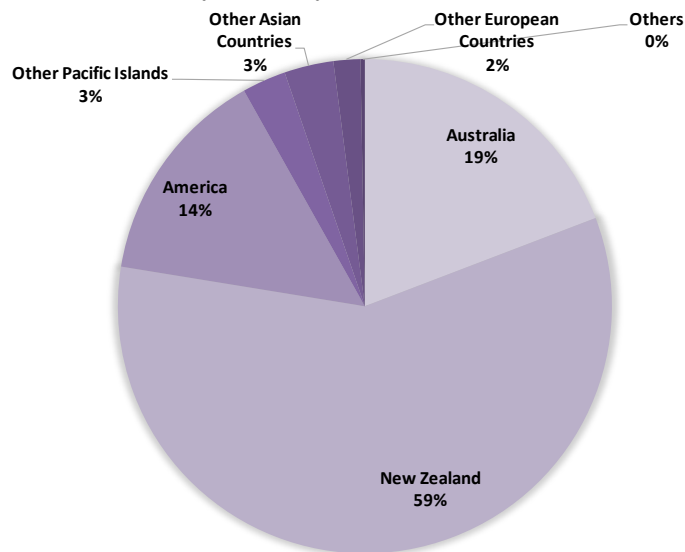
- Total air visitor arrivals in December 2019 were 7,689 an increase of 22.0% compared to December 2018 (6,282)

**Fig. 3. Air Visitors by Purpose of Visit December, 2019**



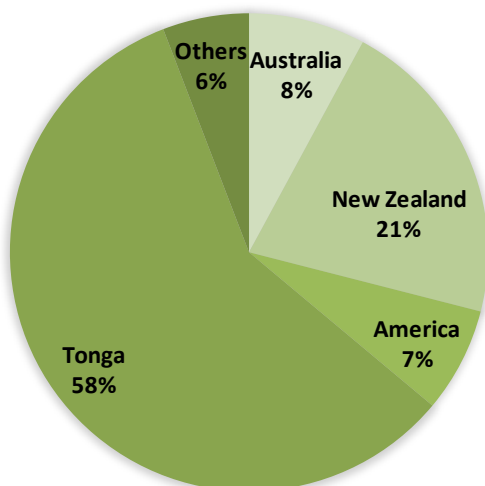
- 65.7% (5,051) of the total air visitors were here to Visit friends and relatives.
- Holiday/Vacation made up 19.9% (1,529) of all air visitors to the Kingdom in the month of December
- Visitors who were here on Business or Conference made up 1.8% (139) and those with other reasons were 2.9% (220)

**Fig. 4. Air Visitors by Country of Usual Residence December 2019**



- New Zealand remains as the leading country in visitors arrivals by country of usual residence, accounting for 58.4% (4,488) of total air visitors
- This was followed by Australia with 19.2 % (1,475), and America 14.3% (1,100)

**Fig. 5. Air Departures by Country of Usual Residence December, 2019**



- Most of the persons departing in the month of December were Togan residents (6,654) followed by New Zealand (2,414) and Australia (900)

## 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, 2018 - 2019**

Period	Visitors Arrivals				Returning Residents				Total Arrivals				Total Departures				Net
	Air	Ship	Yacht	Total	Air	Ship	Yacht	Total	Air	Ship	Yacht	Total	Air	Ship	Yacht	Total	Migration
2010	47,081	16,265	1,659	65,005	24,501			24,501	71,582	16,265	1,659	89,506	72,533	16,244	1,830	90,607	(1,101)
2011	46,005	20,519	1,849	68,373	26,587			26,587	72,592	20,519	1,849	94,960	73,589	20,550	1,468	95,607	(647)
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	48,854	13,733	1,632	64,219	26,128			26,128	74,982	13,733	1,632	90,347	78,604	13,724	1,762	94,090	(3,743)
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	1,816	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	2,344	124,693	99,280	21,698	1,992	122,970	(3,857)
2018	54,046	21,708	1,559	77,306	51,428			51,428	105,474	21,708	1,559	128,741	108,770	21,714	1,602	132,086	(3,352)
2019	65,857	23,152	1,739	90,748	43,926			43,926	109,783	23,152	1,739	134,674	113,180	23,232	1,912	138,324	(3,650)
<b>2018</b>																	
Jan	4,294	3,346	7	7,640	4,828			4,828	9,122	3,346	7	12,475	12,147	3,349	6	15,502	(3,034)
Feb	2,336	1,520	-	3,856	3,217			3,217	5,553	1,520	-	7,073	6,686	1,526	-	8,212	(1,139)
Mar	2,835	3,062	14	5,911	3,205			3,205	6,040	3,062	14	9,116	7,376	3,062	1	10,439	(1,323)
Apr	3,099	2,344	34	5,477	3,309			3,309	6,408	2,344	34	8,786	6,454	2,343	39	8,836	(50)
May	4,348	627	166	5,141	5,385			5,385	9,733	627	166	10,526	8,275	631	56	8,962	1,564
Jun	4,785	3,318	305	8,408	4,711			4,711	9,496	3,318	305	13,119	7,962	3,316	275	11,553	1,566
Jul	7,011	1,861	174	9,046	3,960			3,960	10,971	1,861	174	13,006	11,444	1,863	272	13,579	(573)
Aug	5,855	-	252	6,107	3,868			3,868	9,723	-	252	9,975	10,408	-	319	10,727	(752)
Sep	5,061	-	256	5,317	4,200			4,200	9,261	-	256	9,517	8,976	-	316	9,292	225
Oct	4,504	4,746	295	9,545	3,948			3,948	8,452	4,746	295	13,493	9,781	4,744	218	14,743	(1,250)
Nov	3,636	884	50	4,570	4,776			4,776	8,412	884	50	9,346	8,520	880	88	9,488	(142)
Dec	6,282	-	6	6,288	6,021			6,021	12,303	-	6	12,309	10,741	-	12	10,753	1,556
<b>2019</b>																	
Jan	4,372	313	3	4,688	5,352			5,352	9,724	313	3	10,040	12,073	313	3	12,389	(2,349)
Feb	2,709	3,448	-	6,157	2,719			2,719	5,428	3,448	-	8,876	6,889	3,497	-	10,386	(1,510)
Mar	3,109	5,570	7	8,686	2,846			2,846	5,955	5,570	7	11,532	6,686	5,569	3	12,258	(726)
Apr	3,574	3,508	13	7,095	3,677			3,677	7,251	3,508	13	10,772	7,427	3,509	9	10,945	(173)
May	4,348	627	166	5,141	5,385			5,385	9,733	627	166	10,526	8,275	631	56	8,962	1,564
Jun	6,647	1,798	489	8,934	3,505			3,505	10,152	1,798	489	12,439	7,722	1,798	602	10,122	2,317
Jul	8,121	-	194	8,315	3,092			3,092	11,213	-	194	11,407	11,754	-	346	12,100	(693)
Aug	7,890	-	288	8,178	3,302			3,302	11,192	-	288	11,480	11,517	-	218	11,735	(255)
Sep	6,811	-	62	6,873	3,418			3,418	10,229	-	62	10,291	9,987	-	84	10,071	220
Oct	5,649	2,178	428	8,255	3,782			3,782	9,431	2,178	428	12,037	10,611	2,181	394	13,186	(1,149)
Nov	4,938	2,712	72	7,722	3,595			3,595	8,533	2,712	72	11,317	8,786	2,743	171	11,700	(383)
Dec	7,689	2,998	17	10,704	3,253			3,253	10,942	2,998	17	13,957	11,453	2,991	26	14,470	(513)

**Table 2. Total Arrivals by Age, Type of Passangers and Gender December, 2019**

Age Group				Type of Passangers					
	Total			Visitors			Returning Residents		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
0-4	566	290	276	476	243	233	90	47	43
5-9	661	320	341	575	274	301	86	46	40
10-14	675	366	309	562	301	261	113	65	48
15-19	856	428	428	676	325	351	180	103	77
20-24	908	437	471	515	208	307	393	229	164
25-29	883	450	433	515	217	298	368	233	135
30-34	844	475	369	528	265	263	316	210	106
35-39	809	442	367	517	257	260	292	185	107
40-44	755	437	318	506	273	233	249	164	85
45-49	871	460	411	598	306	292	273	154	119
50-54	1,013	494	519	706	330	376	307	164	143
55-59	712	355	357	520	249	271	192	106	86
60-64	545	270	275	398	193	205	147	77	70
65-69	392	189	203	284	134	150	108	55	53
70-74	228	111	117	158	73	85	70	38	32
75+	224	100	124	155	65	90	69	35	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,942</b>	<b>5,624</b>	<b>5,318</b>	<b>7,689</b>	<b>3,713</b>	<b>3,976</b>	<b>3,253</b>	<b>1,911</b>	<b>1,342</b>
<b>% Distribution</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>51.4</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>70.3</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>12.3</b>

**Table 3. Total Visitors by Usual Residence and Purpose of Visit December, 2019**

Country of Usual Residence	Purpose of Visit						
	Total	% Distribution	Holiday/ Vacation	Business/ Conference	Visiting Relative/ Friends	Other Reasons	Not Stated
Australia	1,475	19.2	319	17	937	29	173
New Zealand	4,488	58.4	767	49	3156	83	433
Fiji	134	1.7	16	12	69	26	11
American Samoa	5	0.1	0	0	5	0	0
Western Samoa	39	0.5	7	1	28	1	2
Other Pacific Islands	43	0.6	6	4	29	2	2
Japan	59	0.8	8	22	13	10	6
China	141	1.8	90	19	9	9	14
India	8	0.1	0	1	0	7	0
Korea	5	0.1	2	0	1	0	2
Other Asian Countries	35	0.5	7	4	10	9	5
UK	46	0.6	29	0	6	3	8
Germany	19	0.2	12	0	5	0	2
France	14	0.2	5	2	3	3	1
Italy	5	0.1	4	0	1	0	0
Other European Countries	51	0.7	43	3	2	2	1
All African Countries	5	0.1	1	0	3	1	0
United States of America	1,100	14.3	207	5	768	34	86
Canada	11	0.1	4	0	6	0	1
Other American Countries	6	0.1	2	0	0	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,689</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,529</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>5,051</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>750</b>
<b>% Distribution</b>	<b>100.0</b>		<b>19.9</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>9.8</b>

**Table 4: AIR DEPARTURES by Age Group, Passanger's Type for December, 2019**

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Returning Residence</i>	<i>Percentage Distribution</i>	<i>Visitors</i>	<i>Percentage Distribution</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage Distribution</i>
0 - 4	371	5.6	235	4.9	606	5.3
5 - 9	533	8.0	216	4.5	749	6.5
10 - 14	707	10.6	206	4.3	913	8.0
15 - 19	898	13.5	332	6.9	1229	10.7
20 - 24	612	9.2	376	7.8	988	8.6
25 - 29	520	7.8	336	7.0	856	7.5
30 - 34	444	6.7	323	6.7	767	6.7
35 - 39	427	6.4	343	7.2	770	6.7
40 - 44	367	5.5	325	6.8	692	6.0
45 - 49	378	5.7	371	7.7	749	6.5
50 - 54	400	6.0	502	10.5	902	7.9
55 - 59	283	4.3	414	8.6	697	6.1
60 - 64	260	3.9	317	6.6	577	5.0
65 - 69	195	2.9	257	5.4	452	3.9
70 - 74	131	2.0	130	2.7	261	2.3
75+	130	1.9	116	2.4	245	2.1
<b>All Ages</b>	<b>6,654</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,799</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11,453</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>YACHT</b>	-	-	26	-	26	-
<b>CRUISE SHIP</b>	-	-	2,991	0	2,991	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,654</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7,816</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14,470</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 5. Total Departures by Country of Residence and Gender December, 2019**

<i>Country of Usual Residence</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Distribution</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Distribution</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Distribution</i>
Australia	417	7.9	483	7.8	900	7.9
New Zealand	1049	19.9	1365	22.1	2,414	21.1
Fiji	64	1.2	50	0.8	114	1.0
American Samoa	6	0.1	2	0.0	8	0.1
Western Samoa	8	0.2	14	0.2	22	0.2
Tonga	2992	56.8	3662	59.2	6,654	58.1
Other Pacific Islands	24	0.5	16	0.3	40	0.3
Japan	54	1.0	9	0.2	63	0.6
China	108	2.0	48	0.8	156	1.4
India	7	0.1	0	-	7	0.1
Korea	3	0.1	0	-	3	0.0
Other Asian Countries	28	0.5	12	0.2	40	0.3
UK	24	0.5	23	0.4	47	0.4
Germany	11	0.2	7	0.1	18	0.2
France	18	0.3	24	0.4	42	0.4
Italy	4	0.1	1	0.0	5	0.0
Other European Countries	55	1.0	31	0.5	85	0.7
All African Countries	3	0.1	1	0.0	4	0.0
United States of America	390	7.4	426	6.9	816	7.1
Canada	3	0.1	7	0.1	10	0.1
Other American Countries	1	0.0	2	0.0	3	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,270</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,183</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11,453</b>	<b>100.0</b>