

# STATISTICAL NEWS

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## PROVISIONAL VISITOR ARRIVALS – MARCH 2019

Provisional numbers show that visitor arrivals for March 2019 totaled 59,306, a decrease of 1.3% compared to a year earlier.

There were decreases in the number of visitors from the following countries; Australia [down 2,224 or 8.8% to 22,972]; New Zealand [down 411 or 4.2% to 9,457]; China [down 403 or 10.3% to 3,494]; South Korea [down 134 or 18.6% to 586] and United Kingdom [down 3 or 0.2% to 1,471].

Increases were recorded in the number of visitors from the United States of America [1,059 or 14.6% to 8,323]; Japan [1,041 or 243.8% to 1,468]; Pacific Islands [128 or 3.1% to 4,240]; Continental Europe [52 or 1.9% to 2,758]; Canada [51 or 4.3% to 1,247] and Rest of Asia [38 or 1.4% to 2,808].

Visitors arriving for holiday purposes accounted for 71.2% of total arrivals, 9.8% came to visit their friends or relatives 4.8% came for business purposes, while 14.2% visited Fiji for other reasons.

Table 1 below presents actual numbers and the 2019 and 2018 comparisons of visitor arrivals for the month of March, January to March and twelve months to March 2019.

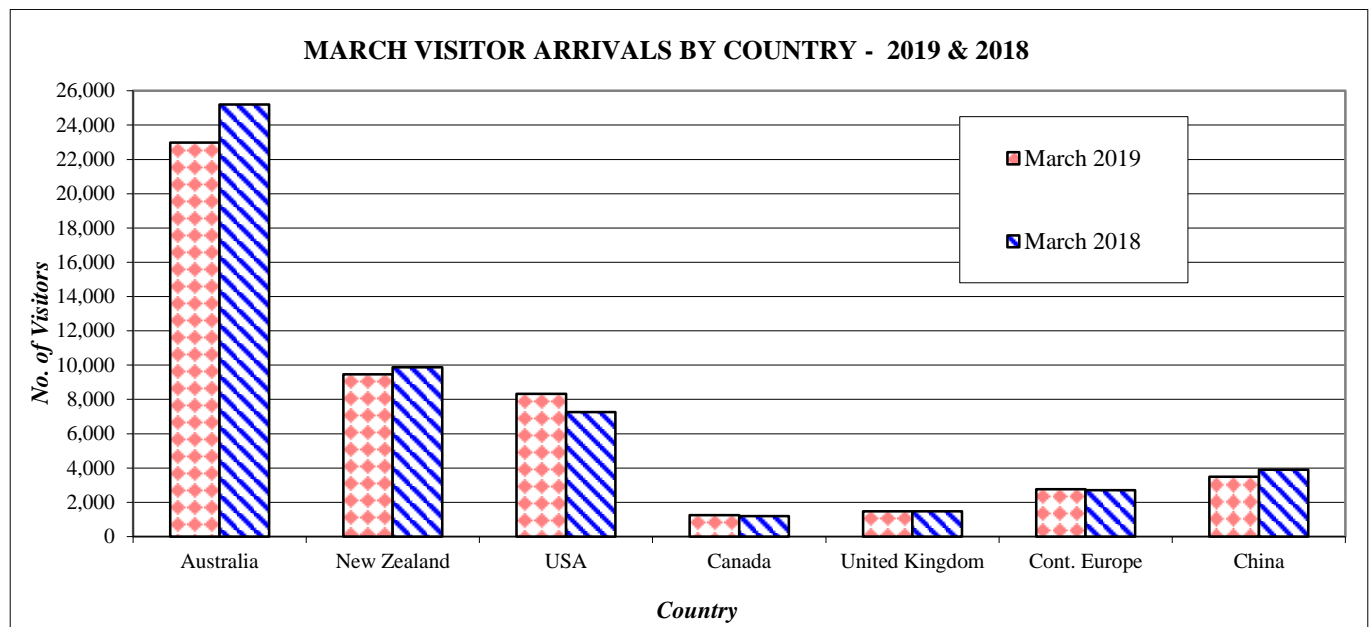
**Table 1**

	MARCH			JANUARY TO MARCH						12 MONTHS TO MARCH		
	2019	2018	% CHANGE	2019	% TO TOTAL	2018	% TO TOTAL	% CHANGE		2019	2018	% CHANGE
<b>ARRIVALS</b>												
Australia	22,972	25,196	-8.8	66,321	38.6	70,523	41.1	-6.0		361,458	366,992	-1.5
New Zealand	9,457	9,868	-4.2	28,175	16.4	27,121	15.8	3.9		199,772	187,984	6.3
USA	8,323	7,264	14.6	19,887	11.6	18,832	11.0	5.6		87,130	82,891	5.1
Canada	1,247	1,196	4.3	3,391	2.0	3,189	1.9	6.3		13,422	12,642	6.2
United Kingdom	1,471	1,474	-0.2	4,111	2.4	4,047	2.4	1.6		16,361	16,745	-2.3
Cont. Europe	2,758	2,706	1.9	8,019	4.7	8,340	4.9	-3.8		37,112	35,080	5.8
Japan	1,468	427	243.8	3,798	2.2	1,442	0.8	163.4		14,259	6,025	136.7
China	3,494	3,897	-10.3	13,571	7.9	14,221	8.3	-4.6		48,621	49,557	-1.9
South Korea	586	720	-18.6	2,029	1.2	2,065	1.2	-1.7		8,140	8,822	-7.7
Rest of Asia	2,808	2,770	1.4	6,742	3.9	6,260	3.7	7.7		27,410	25,739	6.5
Pacific Islands	4,240	4,112	3.1	14,454	8.4	14,057	8.2	2.8		52,051	53,749	-3.2
Others	482	428	12.6	1,363	0.8	1,407	0.8	-3.1		4,930	4,936	-0.1
<b>TOTAL VISITORS</b>	<b>59,306</b>	<b>60,058</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>171,861</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>171,504</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>		<b>870,666</b>	<b>851,162</b>	<b>2.3</b>

*Note: Visitor statistics are released monthly using data sourced from the Immigration System. The limited number of tables released is due to the new system which came on line in April 2013.*

Figure 1 below is a graphical comparison of Visitor Arrivals by Country for March 2019 and 2018.

**Figure 1**



In the moving twelve monthly numbers ending March 2019, the total number of visitors to Fiji increased by 2.3% compared with the same period in 2018. Visitors from Japan increased by [136.7%]; Rest of Asia [6.5%]; New Zealand [6.3%]; Canada [6.2%]; Continental Europe [5.8%] and the United States of America [5.1%].

Decreases were recorded for visitors from South Korea [7.7%]; Pacific Islands [3.2%]; the United Kingdom [2.3%]; China [1.9%]; Australia [1.5%] and Other Countries [0.1%].

January to March 2019, showed that visitor arrivals increased by 0.2% over the corresponding period in 2018, up from 171,504 to 171,861.

Figure 2 below shows a graphical comparison of visitor arrivals by country during the period January to March 2019.

**Figure 2**

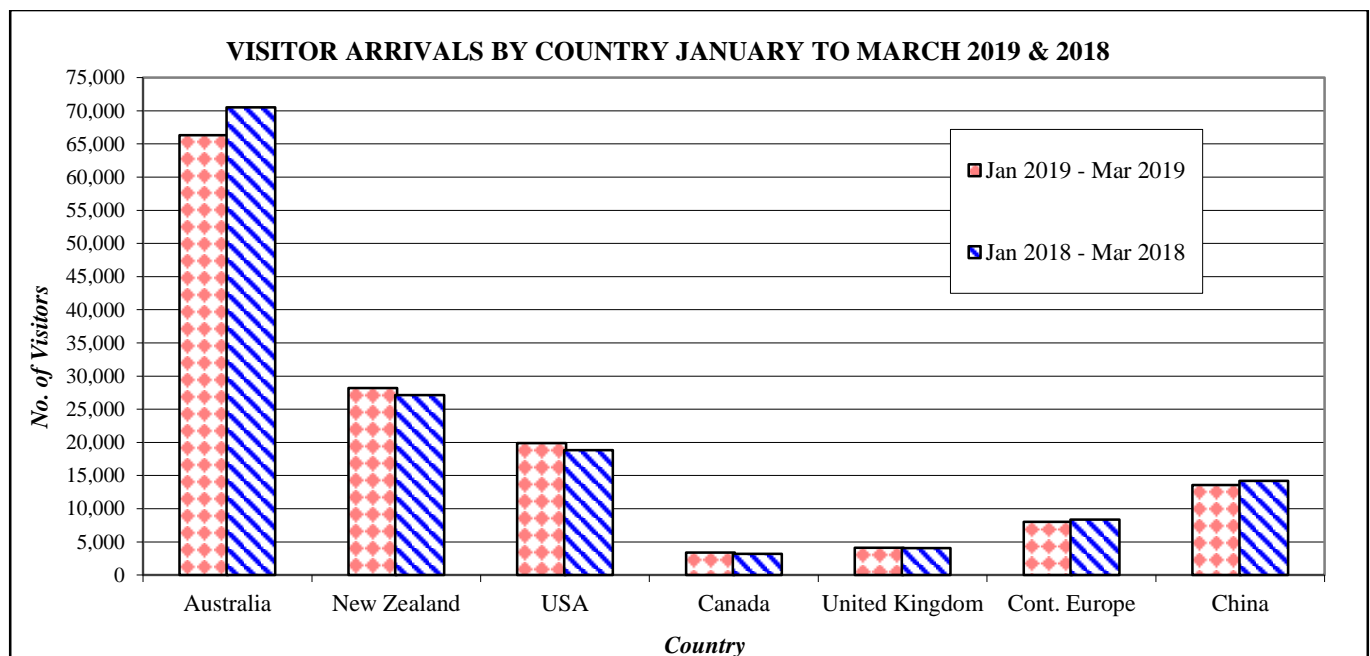
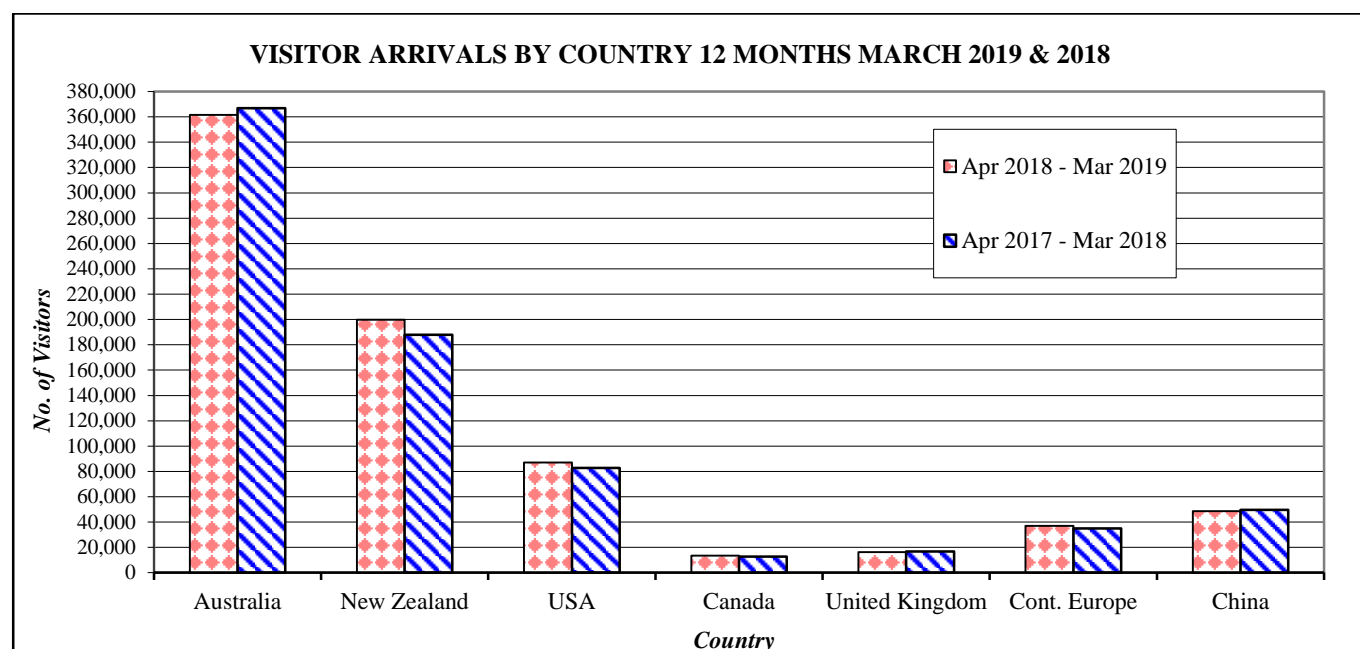


Figure 3 below shows the twelve monthly comparisons.

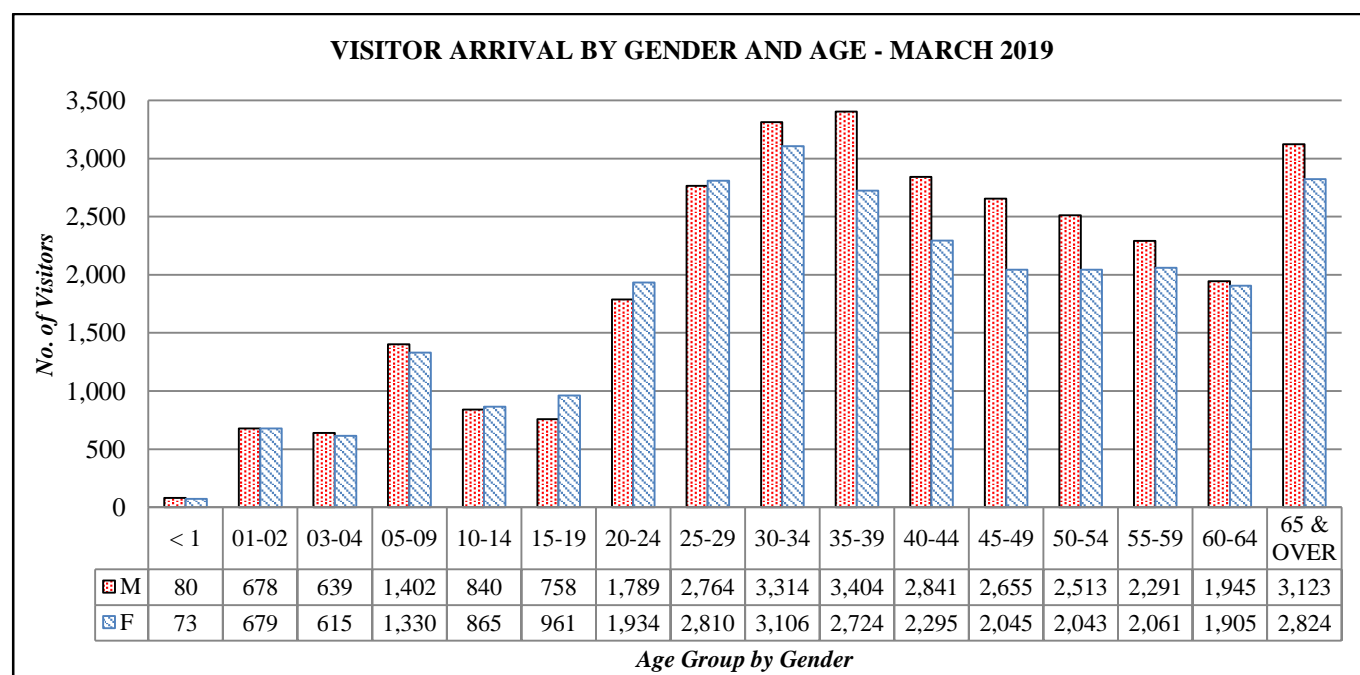
**Figure 3**



The majority of visitors to Fiji in March 2019 were in the age range 25-64 (68.7%), which accounts for the vast majority of the working age population. Children aged 14 and below accounted for 12.1% of the March visitor arrivals; 10.0% comprising those in the predominantly retirement age group of 65 and over with the remaining 9.2% were Youths aged 15-24.

Figure 4 below shows a significant gender differential in the age groups 15-19, 20-24, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59 and 65+;

**Figure 4**



## Visitors by Occupation

For the month of March 2019 the top 5 Occupational Groups for visitors engaged in gainful employment in their home countries are as follows;

- 1) Technician and Related Workers – increased by [671 or 10.8% to 6,907].
- 2) Professional Workers – increased by [118 or 1.0% to 11,599].
- 3) Clerical Workers – decreased by [749 or 26.5% to 2,077].
- 4) Service Workers – decreased by [598 or 10.7% to 4,982].
- 5) Legislators – decreased by [167 or 1.9% to 8,402].

March 2019 visitors who are not in the labour force were categorised into two major groups. The categories and numbers are as follows;

- 1) Retirees, Housewives, Children & Others – increased by [922 or 8.1% to 12,244].
- 2) Students – decreased by [776 or 8.9% to 7,903].

Additional details are provided in Figure 5 below;

**Figure 5**

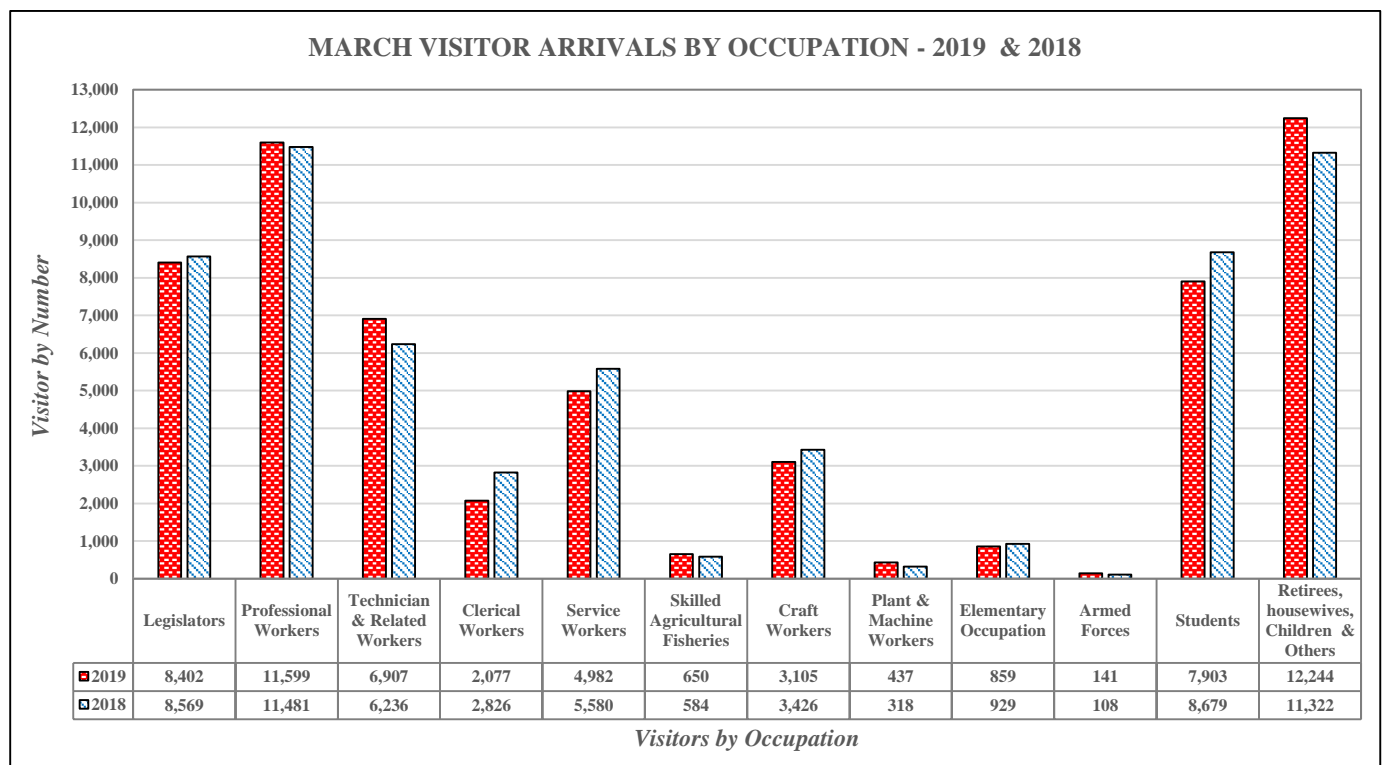


Table 2

**Resident Departures for February 2019**

Purpose of Visit	Length of Absence					% To Total
	Under 3 months	3 months - 12 months	1 year - 5 years	Over 5 years or Permanently	Grand Total	
Holiday	3,623 (38.6%)	381			<b>4,004</b>	32.8%
Visiting Friends or Relatives	3,441 (36.6%)	442			<b>3,883</b>	31.8%
Business	1,472 (15.7%)	56			<b>1,528</b>	12.5%
Employment	391 (4.2%)	242	241	58	<b>932</b>	7.6%
Education/Training	463 (4.9%)	266	615	27	<b>1,371</b>	11.2%
Emigration			37	341	<b>378</b>	3.1%
Others		30	34	53	<b>117</b>	1.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>9,390 (100%)</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>12,213</b>	
<b>% To Total</b>	76.9%	11.6%	7.6%	3.9%		100.0%

Note: Percentage may not sum to 100 due to rounding of figures

A total of 12,213 Fiji Residents departed our shores during the month of February of which 9,390 or 76.9% were for a short-term absence of under three months. A total of 1,406 or 11.5% of resident departures were for a longer term absence of 1 year or more.


The reasons for departure as reported by residents leaving for a short-term absence were as follows;

- Holiday – 38.6%
- Visiting Friends or Relatives – 36.6%
- Business – 15.7%
- Education/Training – 4.9%
- Employment – 4.2%.

More detailed information is provided in the accompanying Tables.

TABLE 1:	ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES: NUMBER OF RESIDENTS, VISITORS AND PERSONS IN TRANSIT.
TABLE 2:	VISITOR ARRIVALS BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE.
TABLE 3:	VISITOR ARRIVALS BY PURPOSE OF VISIT.
TABLE 4:	VISITOR ARRIVALS FROM CONTINENTAL EUROPE.
TABLE 5:	VISITOR ARRIVALS BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE, SEX AND AGE – MARCH 2019.
TABLE 6:	VISITOR ARRIVALS BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE AND OCCUPATION – MARCH 2019.
TABLE 7:	RESIDENT DEPARTURE BY FINAL DESTINATION AND BY PURPOSE OF ABSENCE – FEBRUARY 2019.

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