

# STATISTICAL NEWS

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## PROVISIONAL VISITOR ARRIVALS – MAY 2019

Provisional numbers show that 73,169 visitors arrived into the country in May 2019. The number was a record for the month of May and represents an increase of 8.7% compared to a year earlier.

Increases were recorded in the number of visitors from New Zealand [1,989 or 13.8% to 16,372]; the United States of America [1,526 or 21.6% to 8,585]; China [581 or 16.9% to 4,028]; Japan [553 or 141.4% to 944]; Pacific Islands [454 or 12.2% to 4,179]; Rest of Asia [388 or 15.8% to 2,848]; Australia [305 or 1.0% to 30,035]; South Korea [215 or 36.0% to 813]; Canada [150 or 18.0% to 984] and the United Kingdom [135 or 10.9% to 1,374].

There was decreases in the number of visitors only from the Continental Europe [477 or 15.8% to 2,536].

Visitors arriving for holiday purposes accounted for 73.3% of total arrivals, 9.3% came to visit their friends or relatives 4.0% came for business purposes, while 13.4% visited Fiji for other reasons.

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

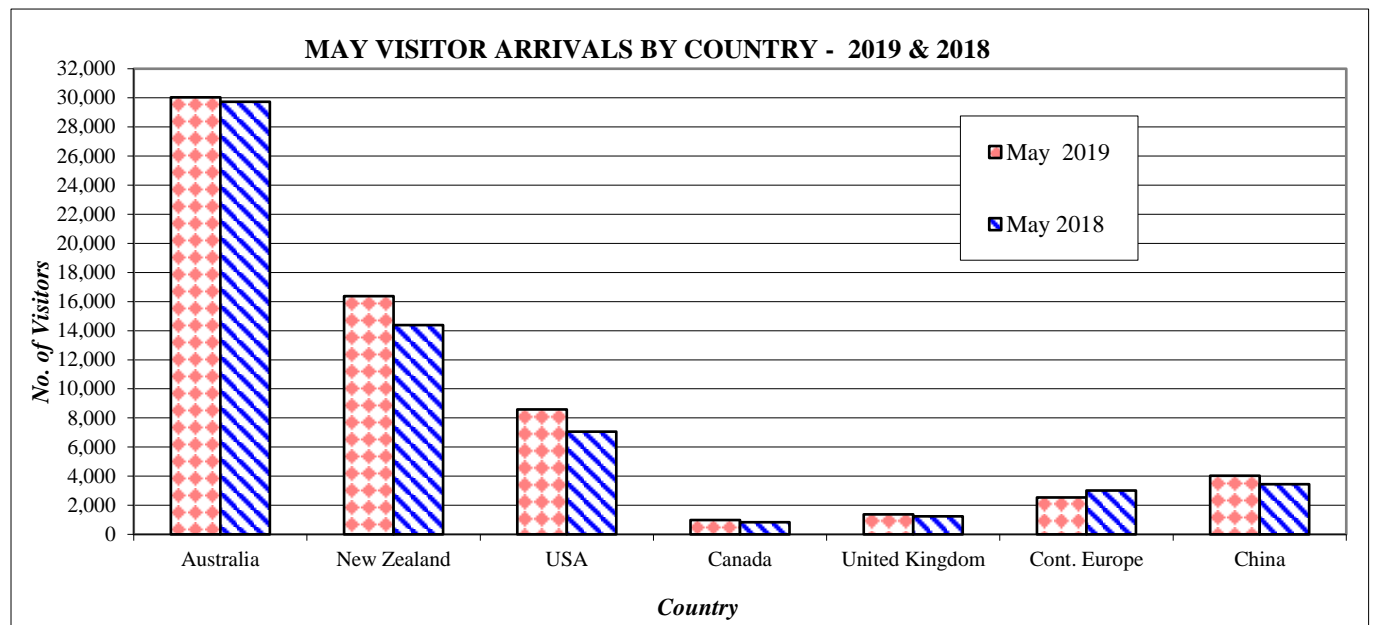
**Table 1**

	MAY			JANUARY TO MAY						12 MONTHS TO MAY		
	2019	2018	% CHANGE	% TO 2019 TOTAL		% TO 2018 TOTAL		% CHANGE		2019	2018	% CHANGE
<b>ARRIVALS</b>												
Australia	30,035	29,730	1.0	129,206	40.1	127,062	42.0	1.7		367,804	364,541	0.9
New Zealand	16,372	14,383	13.8	60,673	18.9	55,235	18.3	9.8		204,156	187,829	8.7
USA	8,585	7,059	21.6	36,410	11.3	32,061	10.6	13.6		90,424	84,196	7.4
Canada	984	834	18.0	5,465	1.7	4,931	1.6	10.8		13,754	12,231	12.5
United Kingdom	1,374	1,239	10.9	6,929	2.2	6,547	2.2	5.8		16,679	16,607	0.4
Cont. Europe	2,536	3,013	-15.8	13,778	4.3	14,116	4.7	-2.4		37,095	34,784	6.6
Japan	944	391	141.4	5,867	1.8	2,271	0.8	158.3		15,499	5,946	160.7
China	4,028	3,447	16.9	20,984	6.5	21,451	7.1	-2.2		48,804	49,413	-1.2
South Korea	813	598	36.0	3,490	1.1	3,423	1.1	2.0		8,243	8,906	-7.4
Rest of Asia	2,848	2,460	15.8	13,496	4.2	11,283	3.7	19.6		29,141	26,128	11.5
Pacific Islands	4,179	3,725	12.2	23,279	7.2	21,708	7.2	7.2		53,225	53,493	-0.5
Others	471	411	14.6	2,266	0.7	2,241	0.7	1.1		4,999	5,051	-1.0
<b>TOTAL VISITORS</b>	<b>73,169</b>	<b>67,290</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>321,843</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>302,329</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6.5</b>		<b>889,823</b>	<b>849,125</b>	<b>4.8</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 May 2019 and 2018.

**Figure 1**



In the moving twelve-monthly numbers ending May 2019, the total number of visitors to Fiji increased by 4.8% compared with the same period in 2018. Visitors from Japan increased by [160.7%]; Canada [12.5%]; Rest of Asia [11.5%]; New Zealand [8.7%]; the United States of America [7.4%]; Continental Europe [6.6%]; Australia [0.9%] and the United Kingdom [0.4%].

Decreases were recorded for visitors from South Korea [7.4%]; China [1.2%]; Other Countries [1.0%] and Pacific Islands [0.5%].

January to May 2019, showed that visitor arrivals increased by 6.5% over the corresponding period in 2018, up from 302,329 to 321,843.

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

**Figure 2**

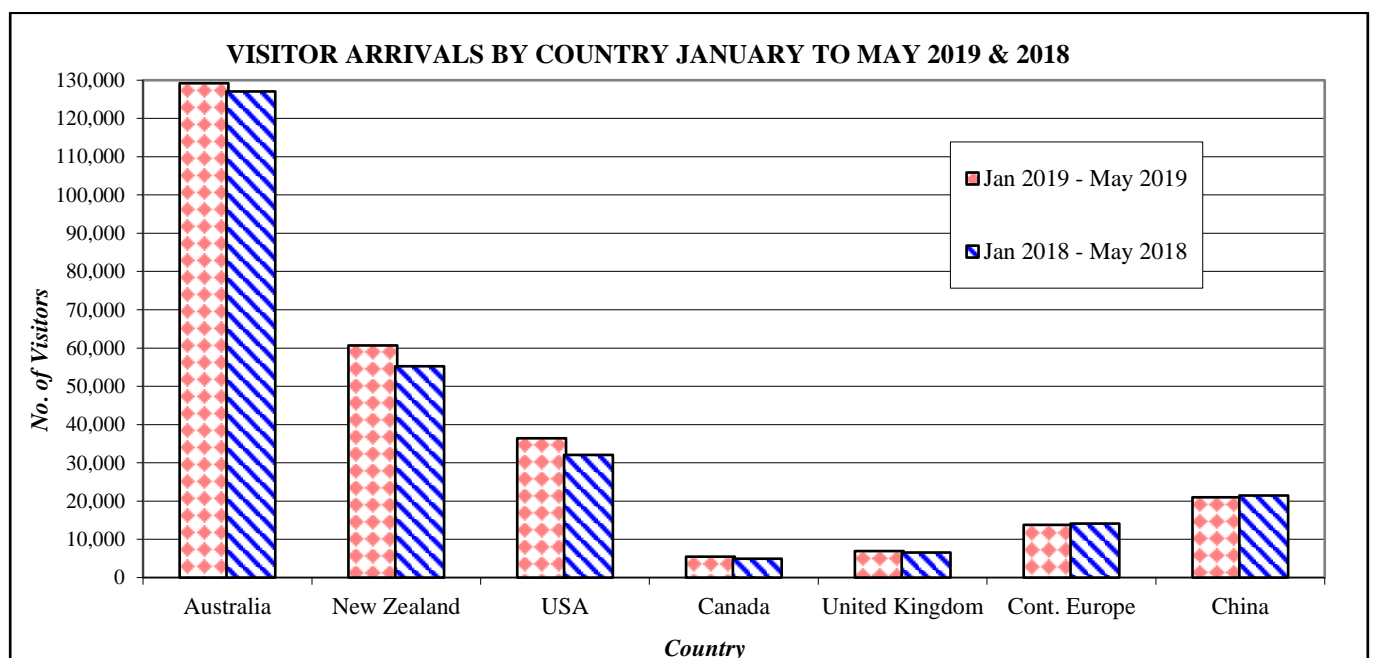
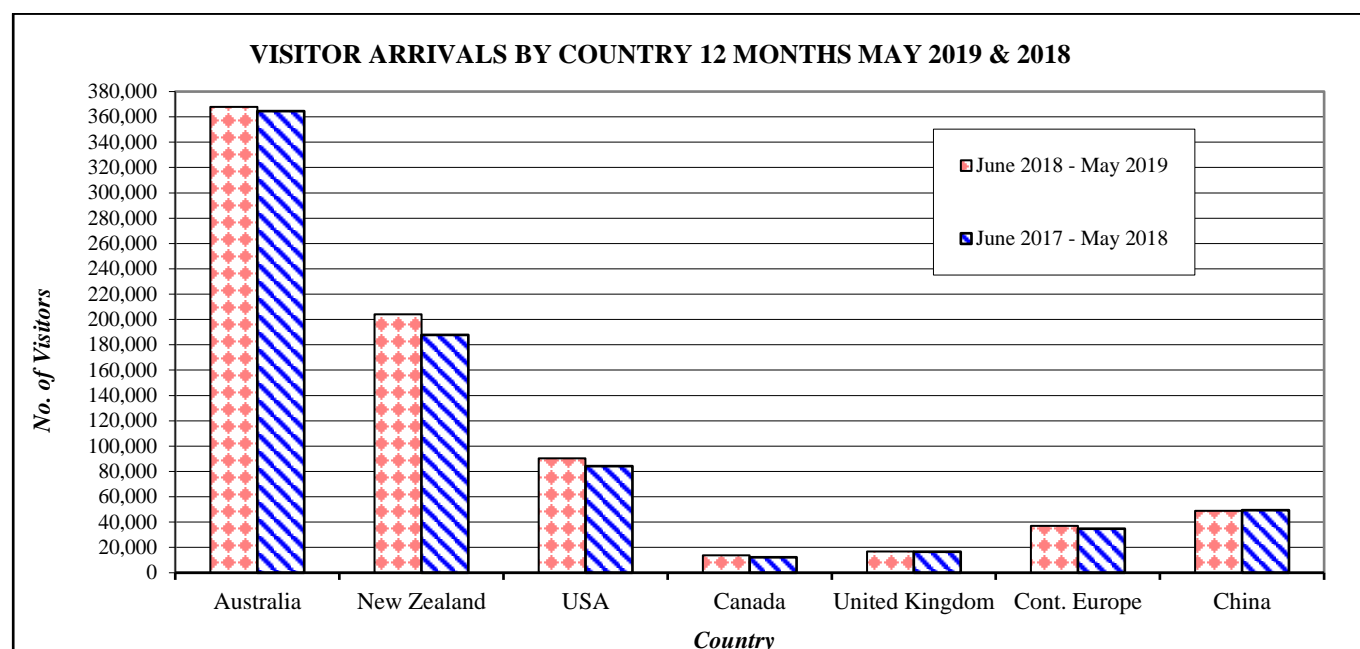


Figure 3 below shows the twelve-monthly comparisons.

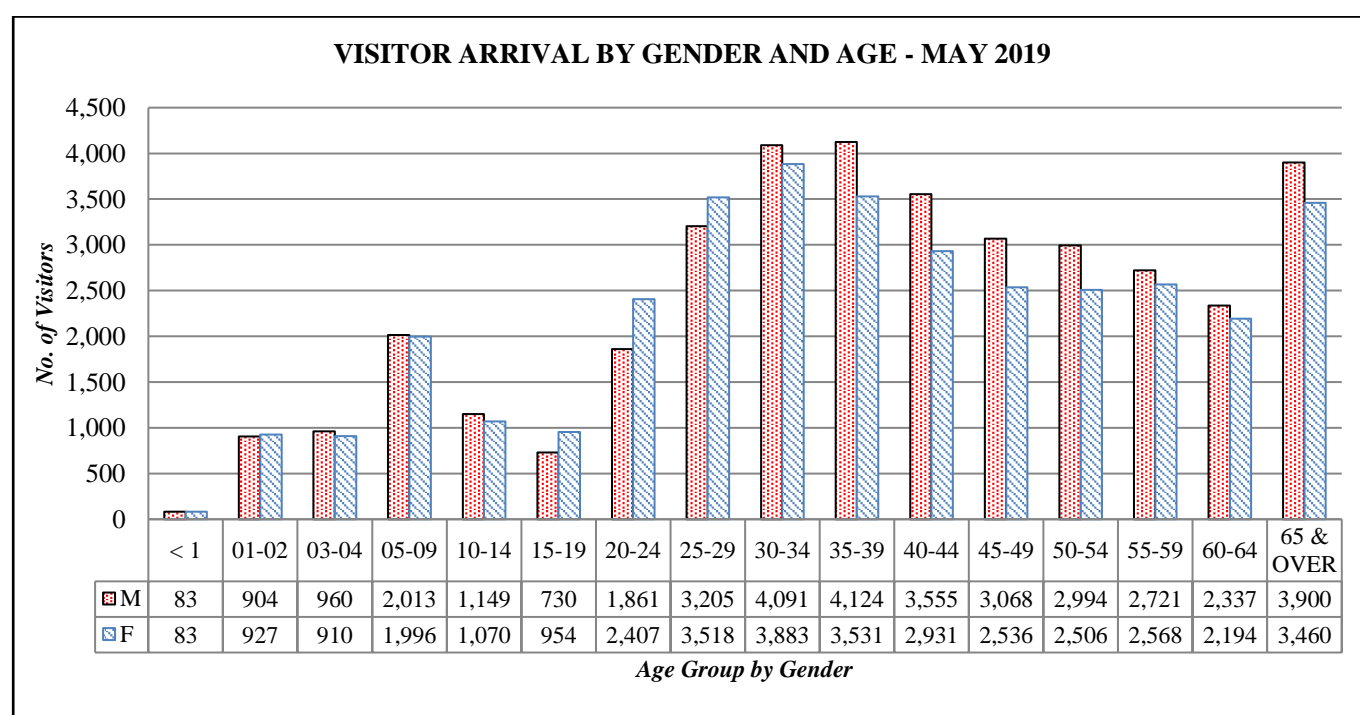
**Figure 3**



The majority of visitors to Fiji in May 2019 were in the age range 25-64 (68.0%), which accounts for the vast majority of the working age population. Children aged 14 and below accounted for 13.8% of the May visitor arrivals; 10.1% comprising those in the predominantly retirement age group of 65 and over with the remaining 8.1% were Youths aged 15-24.

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

**Figure 4**



## Visitors by Occupation

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

- 1) Professional Workers – increased by [1,180 or 9.0% to 14,275].
- 2) Technician and Related Workers – increased by [793 or 9.8% to 8,915].
- 3) Legislators – increased by [631 or 6.3% to 10,630].
- 4) Service Workers – increased by [465 or 10.3% to 4,972].
- 5) Clerical Workers – increased by [413 or 16.6% to 2,903].

May 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 [1,854 or 13.5% to 15,559].
- 2) Students – decreased by [47 or 0.5% to 9,177].

Additional details are provided in Figure 5 below;

**Figure 5**

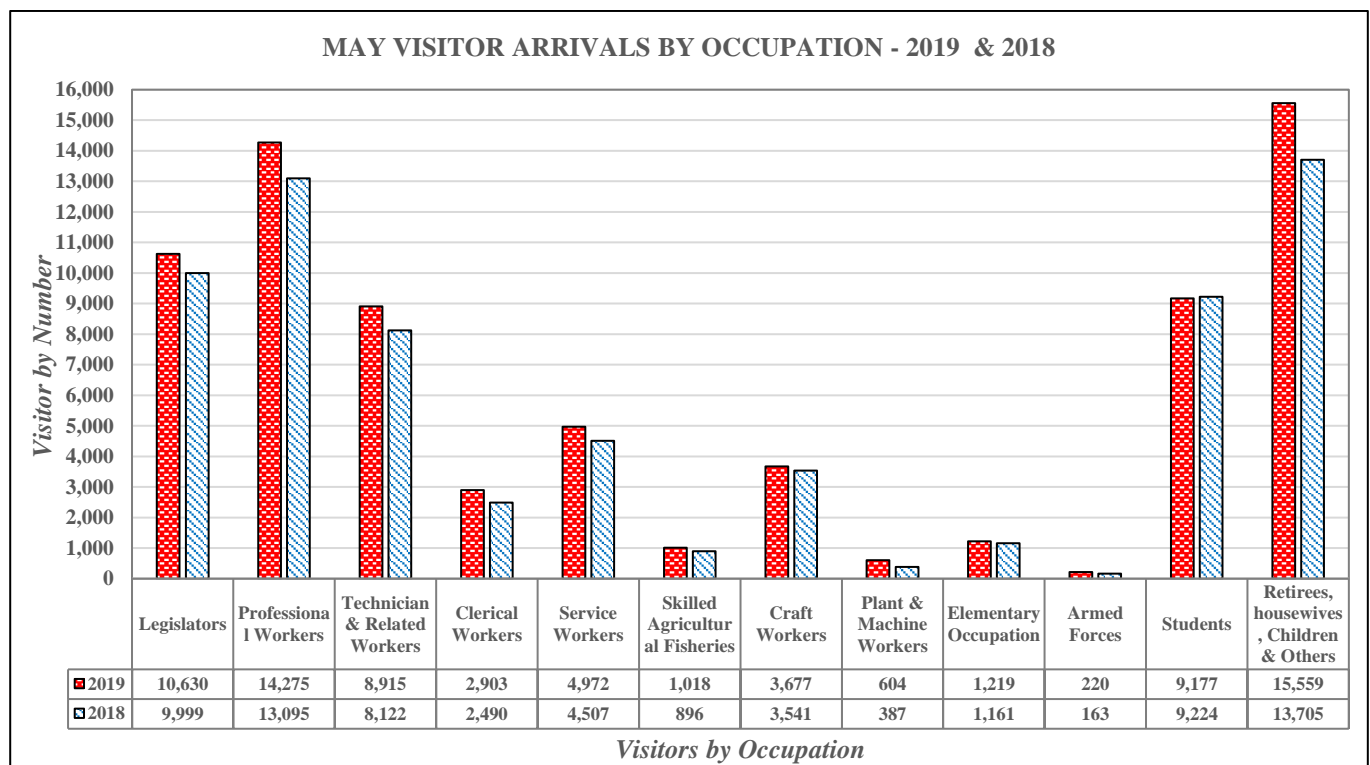


Table 2

**Resident Departures for April 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	5,642 (46.9%)	413			<b>6,055</b>	42.7%
Visiting Friends or Relatives	4,281 (35.6%)	413			<b>4,694</b>	33.1%
Business	1,287 (10.7%)	60	18		<b>1,365</b>	9.6%
Employment	434 (3.6%)	260	285	51	<b>1,030</b>	7.3%
Education/Training	319 (2.6%)	61	107		<b>487</b>	3.4%
Emigration				421	<b>421</b>	3.0%
Others	76 (0.6%)	18	8	31	<b>133</b>	0.9%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>12,039 (100%)</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>14,185</b>	
<b>% To Total</b>	84.9%	8.6%	2.9%	3.5%		100.0%

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

A total of 14,185 Fiji Residents departed our shores during the month of April of which 12,039 or 84.9% were for a short-term absence of under three months. A total of 921 or 6.5% of resident departures were for a longer-term absence of 1 year or more.

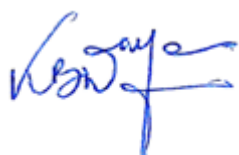
The reasons for departure as reported by residents leaving for a short-term absence were as follows;

- Holiday – 46.9%
- Visiting Friends or Relatives – 35.6%
- Business – 10.7%
- Employment – 3.6%
- Education/Training – 2.6%.

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 – MAY 2019.
TABLE 6:	VISITOR ARRIVALS BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE AND OCCUPATION – MAY 2019.
TABLE 7:	RESIDENT DEPARTURE BY FINAL DESTINATION AND BY PURPOSE OF ABSENCE – APRIL 2019.

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