

STATISTICAL NEWS

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PROVISIONAL VISITOR ARRIVALS – SEPTEMBER 2019

Provisional numbers show that visitor arrivals for September 2019 totaled 81,354, a slight decrease of 0.1% compared to a year earlier.

There were decreases in the number of visitors from the following countries; Australia [down 2,256 or 6.3% to 33,329]; Japan [down 232 or 13.5% to 1,491]; Continental Europe [down 145 or 4.6% to 3,031]; Rest of Asia [down 98 or 4.3% to 2,172]; China [down 73 or 1.8% to 3,997] and New Zealand [down 43 or 0.2% to 21,632].

Increases were recorded in the number of visitors from the United States of America [1,967 or 32.5% to 8,027]; Pacific Islands [284 or 7.1% to 4,298]; United Kingdom [246 or 24.6 to 1,246]; South Korea [156 or 26.7% to 741] and Canada [14 or 1.6% to 897].

Visitors arriving for holiday purposes accounted for 75.6% of total arrivals, 8.0% came to visit their friends or relatives 3.5% came for business purposes, while 12.9% visited Fiji for other reasons.

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

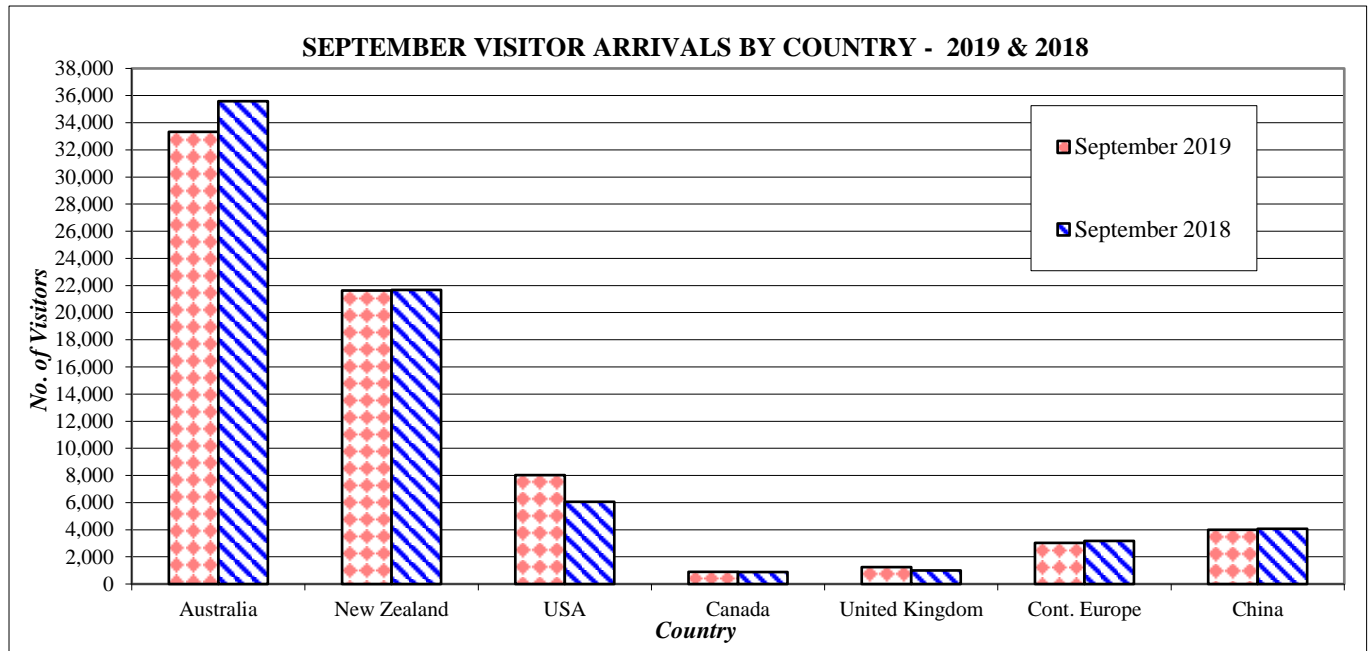
Table 1

	SEPTEMBER			JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER						12 MONTHS TO SEPTEMBER		
	2019	2018	% CHANGE	% TO 2019 TOTAL		% TO 2018 TOTAL		% CHANGE		2019	2018	% CHANGE
ARRIVALS												
Australia	33,329	35,585	-6.3	266,679	39.6	265,681	40.9	0.4		366,658	366,512	0.0
New Zealand	21,632	21,675	-0.2	158,134	23.5	151,951	23.4	4.1		204,901	197,302	3.9
USA	8,027	6,060	32.5	73,588	10.9	64,914	10.0	13.4		94,749	85,397	11.0
Canada	897	883	1.6	10,156	1.5	10,025	1.5	1.3		13,351	13,059	2.2
United Kingdom	1,246	1,000	24.6	13,246	2.0	12,143	1.9	9.1		17,400	16,298	6.8
Cont. Europe	3,031	3,176	-4.6	27,526	4.1	27,416	4.2	0.4		37,543	37,048	1.3
Japan	1,491	1,723	-13.5	12,095	1.8	8,520	1.3	42.0		15,478	9,733	59.0
China	3,997	4,070	-1.8	38,215	5.7	38,982	6.0	-2.0		48,504	49,932	-2.9
South Korea	741	585	26.7	6,007	0.9	6,088	0.9	-1.3		8,095	8,660	-6.5
Rest of Asia	2,172	2,270	-4.3	23,344	3.5	20,825	3.2	12.1		29,447	27,437	7.3
Pacific Islands	4,298	4,014	7.1	40,988	6.1	38,794	6.0	5.7		53,848	53,238	1.1
Others	493	396	24.5	4,081	0.6	3,834	0.6	6.4		5,221	5,302	-1.5
TOTAL VISITORS	81,354	81,437	-0.1	674,059	100.0	649,173	100.0	3.8		895,195	869,918	2.9

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 September 2019 and 2018.

Figure 1



In the moving twelve-monthly numbers ending September 2019, the total number of visitors to Fiji increased by 2.9% compared with the same period in 2018. Visitors from Japan increased by [59.0%]; the United States of America [11.0%]; Rest of Asia [7.3%]; the United Kingdom [6.8%]; New Zealand [3.9%]; Canada [2.2%]; Continental Europe [1.3%] and Pacific Islands [1.1%].

Decreases were recorded for visitors from South Korea [6.5%]; China [2.9] and Other Countries [1.5%].

January to September 2019, showed that visitor arrivals increased by 3.8% over the corresponding period in 2018, up from 649,173 to 674,059.

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

Figure 2

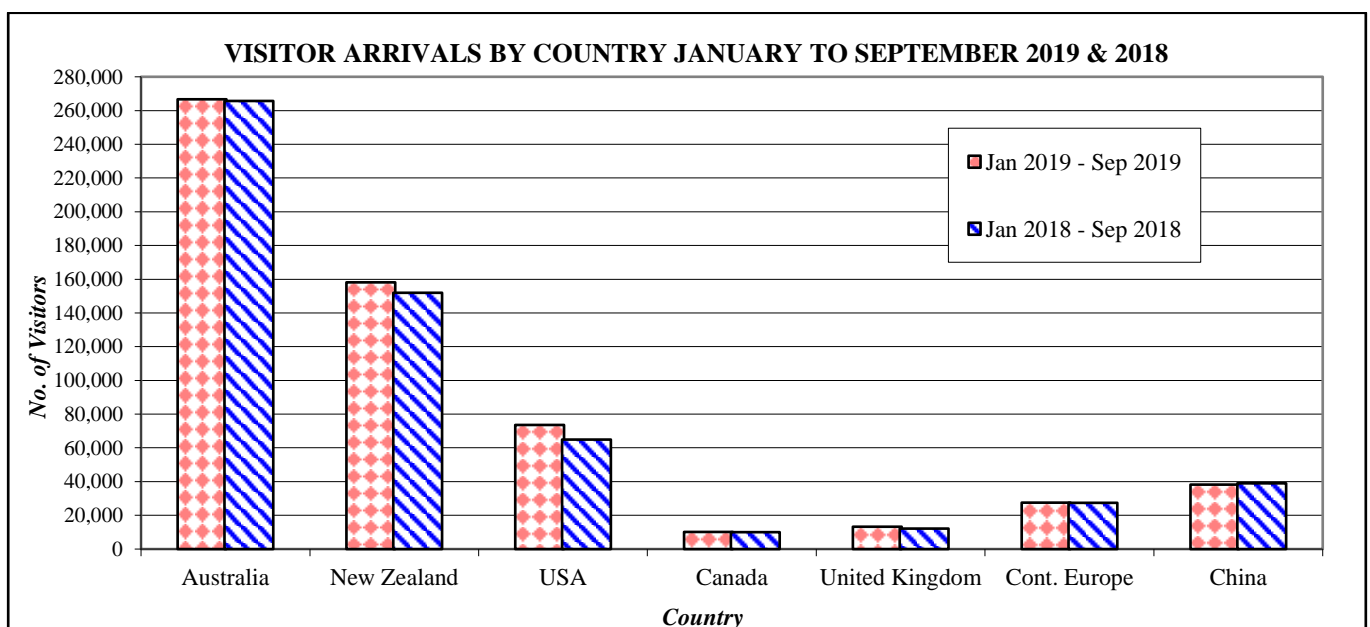
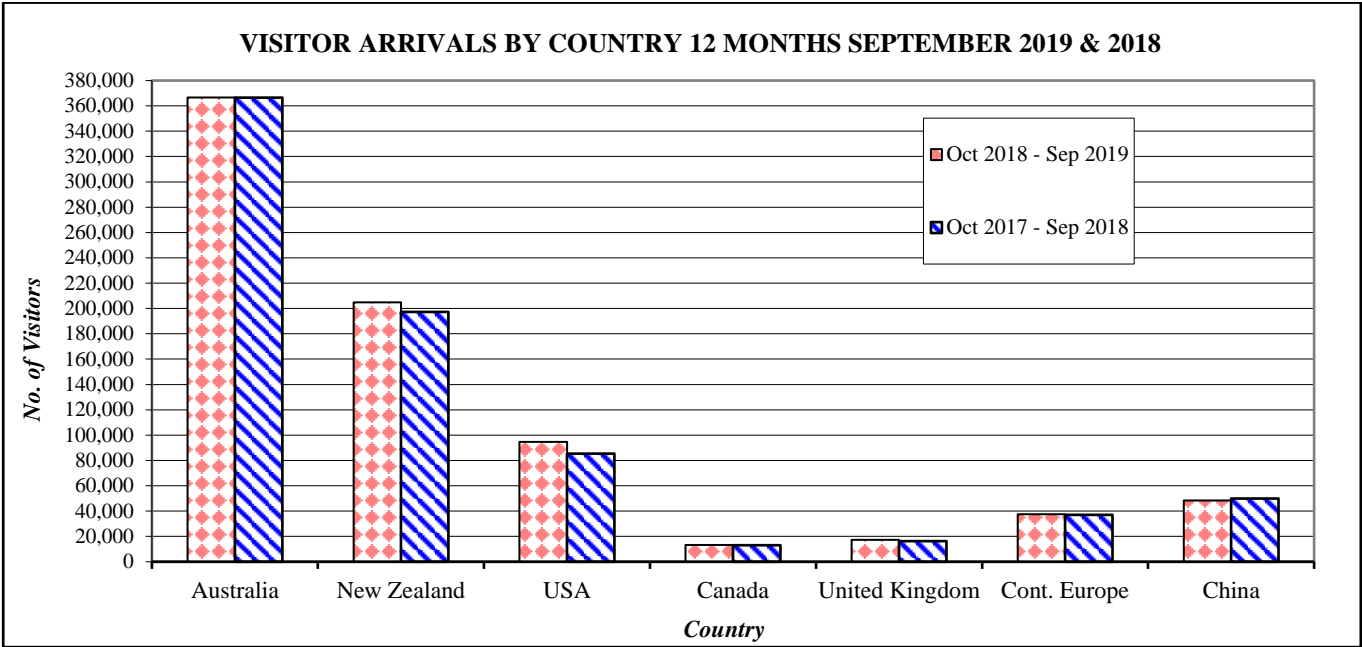


Figure 3 below shows the twelve-monthly comparisons.

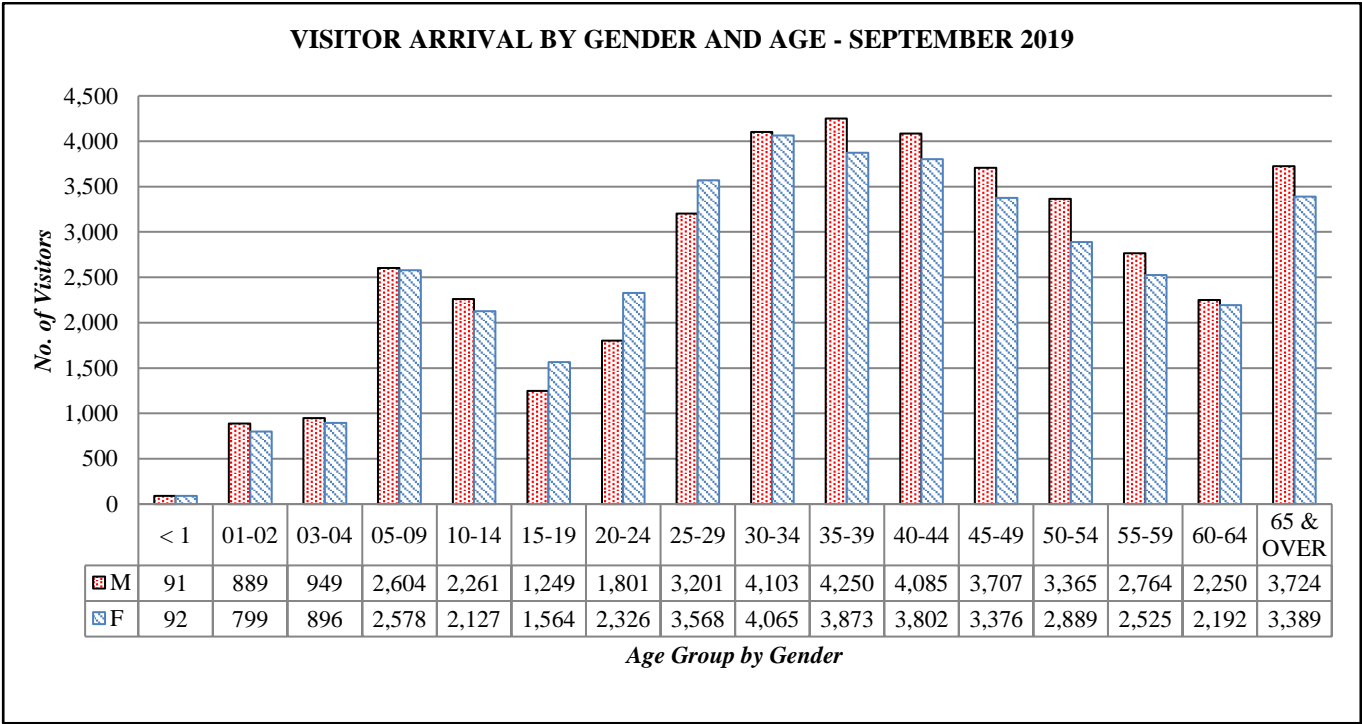
Figure 3



The majority of visitors to Fiji in September 2019 were in the age range 25-64 (66.4%), which accounts for the vast majority of the working age population. Children aged 14 and below accounted for 16.3% of the September visitor arrivals; 8.8% comprising those in the predominantly retirement age group of 65 and over with the remaining 8.5% were youths aged 15-24.

Figure 4 below shows a significant gender differential in the age groups 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54 and 65+;

Figure 4



Visitors by Occupation

For the month of September 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 [1,572 or 22.0% to 8,722].
- 2) Legislators – increased by [628 or 5.2% to 12,785].
- 3) Service Workers – decreased by [1,339 or 20.2% to 5,303].
- 4) Clerical Workers – decreased by [409 or 13.7% to 2,582].
- 5) Craft Workers – decreased by [120 or 3.2% to 3,617].

September 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 [288 or 2.0% to 14,816].
- 2) Students – decreased by [722 or 4.9% to 14,062].

Additional details are provided in Figure 5 below;

Figure 5

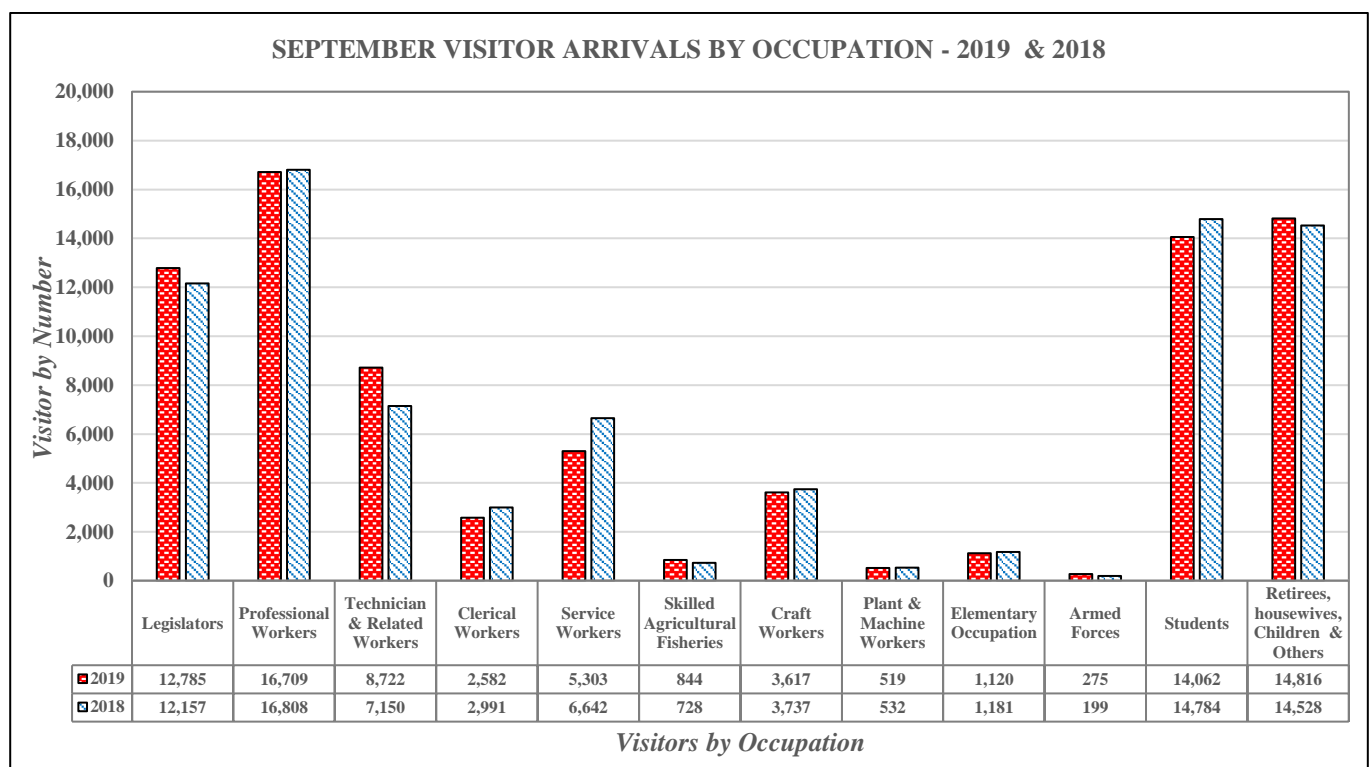


Table 2

Resident Departures for August 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	4,151 (35.8%)	175			4,326	30.3%
Visiting Friends or Relatives	4,848 (41.8%)	710			5,558	39.0%
Business	1,631 (14.1%)	47			1,678	11.8%
Employment	503 (4.3%)	364	320	54	1,241	8.7%
Education/Training	436 (3.8%)	128	162		726	5.1%
Emigration			48	505	553	3.9%
Others	37 (0.3%)	2	36	99	174	1.2%
Grand Total	11,606 (100%)	1,426	566	658	14,256	
% To Total	81.4%	10.0%	4.0%	4.6%		100.0%

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

A total of 14,256 Fiji Residents departed our shores during the month of August of which 11,606 or 81.4% were for a short-term absence of under three months. A total of 1,224 or 8.6% of resident departures were for a longer-term absence of 1 year or more.

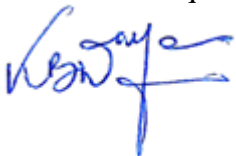
The reasons for departure as reported by residents leaving for a short-term absence were as follows;

- Visiting Friends or Relatives – 41.8%
- Holiday – 35.8%
- Business – 14.1%
- Employment – 4.3%
- Education/Training – 3.8%.

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

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