

# STATISTICAL NEWS

FBoS Release No.41, 2019

22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2019

## PROVISIONAL VISITOR ARRIVALS – APRIL 2019

Provisional numbers show that 76,813 visitors arrived into the country in April 2019. The number was a record for the month of April and represents an increase of 20.9% compared to a year earlier

Increases were recorded in the number of visitors from Australia [6,041 or 22.5% to 32,850]; New Zealand [2,395 or 17.4% to 16,126]; the United States of America [1,768 or 28.7% to 7,938]; Rest of Asia [1,343 or 52.4% to 3,906]; Pacific Islands [720 or 18.3% to 4,646]; Japan [687 or 156.8% to 1,125]; Continental Europe [460 or 16.6% to 3,223]; the United Kingdom [183 or 14.5% to 1,444] and Canada [182 or 20.0% to 1,090].

There were decreases in the number of visitors from the following countries; China [down 398 or 10.5% to 3,385] and South Korea [down 112 or 14.7% to 648].

Visitors arriving for holiday purposes accounted for 73.3% of total arrivals, 10.5% came to visit their friends or relatives 2.9% came for business purposes, while 13.3% visited Fiji for other reasons.

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

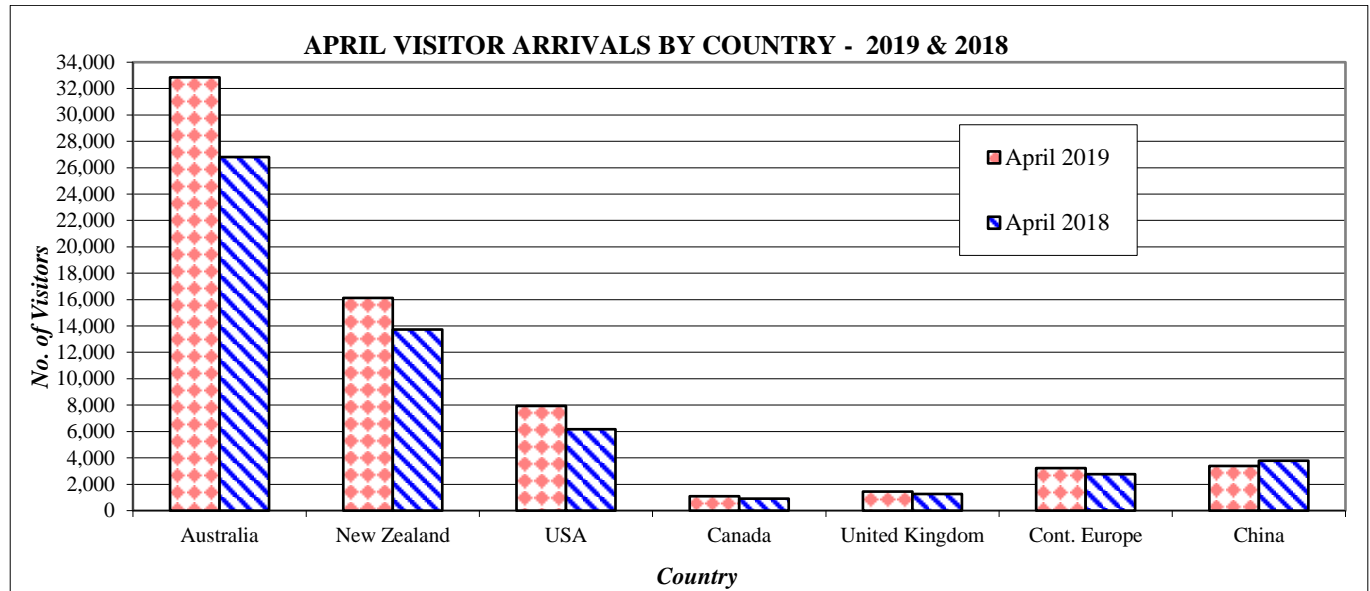
**Table 1**

	APRIL			JANUARY TO APRIL						12 MONTHS TO APRIL		
	2019	2018	% CHANGE	% TO 2019 TOTAL		% TO 2018 TOTAL		% CHANGE		2019	2018	% CHANGE
<b>ARRIVALS</b>												
Australia	32,850	26,809	22.5	99,171	39.9	97,332	41.4	1.9		367,499	362,850	1.3
New Zealand	16,126	13,731	17.4	44,301	17.8	40,852	17.4	8.4		202,167	187,911	7.6
USA	7,938	6,170	28.7	27,825	11.2	25,002	10.6	11.3		88,898	83,139	6.9
Canada	1,090	908	20.0	4,481	1.8	4,097	1.7	9.4		13,604	12,451	9.3
United Kingdom	1,444	1,261	14.5	5,555	2.2	5,308	2.3	4.7		16,544	16,557	-0.1
Cont. Europe	3,223	2,763	16.6	11,242	4.5	11,103	4.7	1.3		37,572	34,393	9.2
Japan	1,125	438	156.8	4,923	2.0	1,880	0.8	161.9		14,946	5,996	149.3
China	3,385	3,783	-10.5	16,956	6.8	18,004	7.7	-5.8		48,223	49,465	-2.5
South Korea	648	760	-14.7	2,677	1.1	2,825	1.2	-5.2		8,028	8,948	-10.3
Rest of Asia	3,906	2,563	52.4	10,648	4.3	8,823	3.8	20.7		28,753	25,795	11.5
Pacific Islands	4,646	3,926	18.3	19,100	7.7	17,983	7.7	6.2		52,771	53,747	-1.8
Others	432	423	2.1	1,795	0.7	1,830	0.8	-1.9		4,939	4,950	-0.2
<b>TOTAL VISITORS</b>	<b>76,813</b>	<b>63,535</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>248,674</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>235,039</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.8</b>		<b>883,944</b>	<b>846,202</b>	<b>4.5</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 April 2019 and 2018.

**Figure 1**



In the moving twelve monthly numbers ending April 2019, the total number of visitors to Fiji increased by 4.5% compared with the same period in 2018. Visitors from Japan increased by [149.3%]; Rest of Asia [11.5%]; Canada [9.3%]; Continental Europe [9.2%]; New Zealand [7.6%]; the United States of America [6.9%] and Australia [1.3%].

Decreases were recorded for visitors from South Korea [10.3%]; China [2.5%]; Pacific Islands [1.8%]; Other Countries [0.2%] and the United Kingdom [0.1%].

January to April 2019, showed that visitor arrivals increased by 5.8% over the corresponding period in 2018, up from 235,039 to 248,674.

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

**Figure 2**

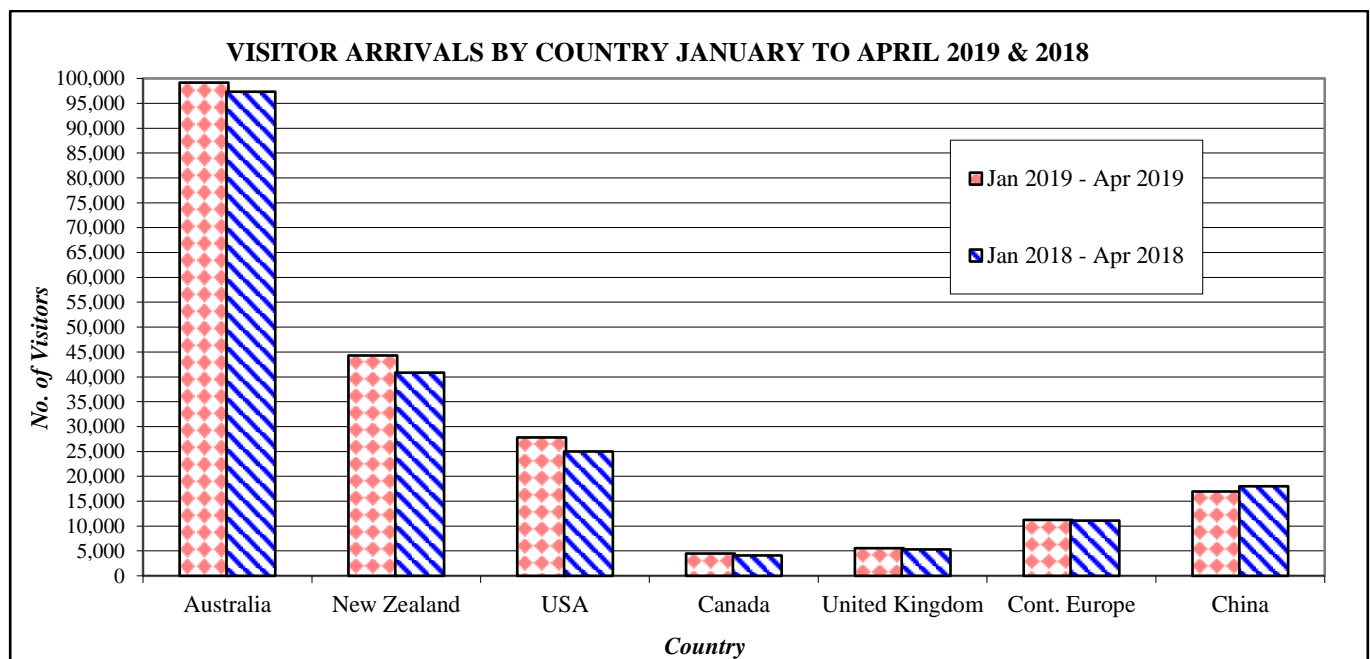
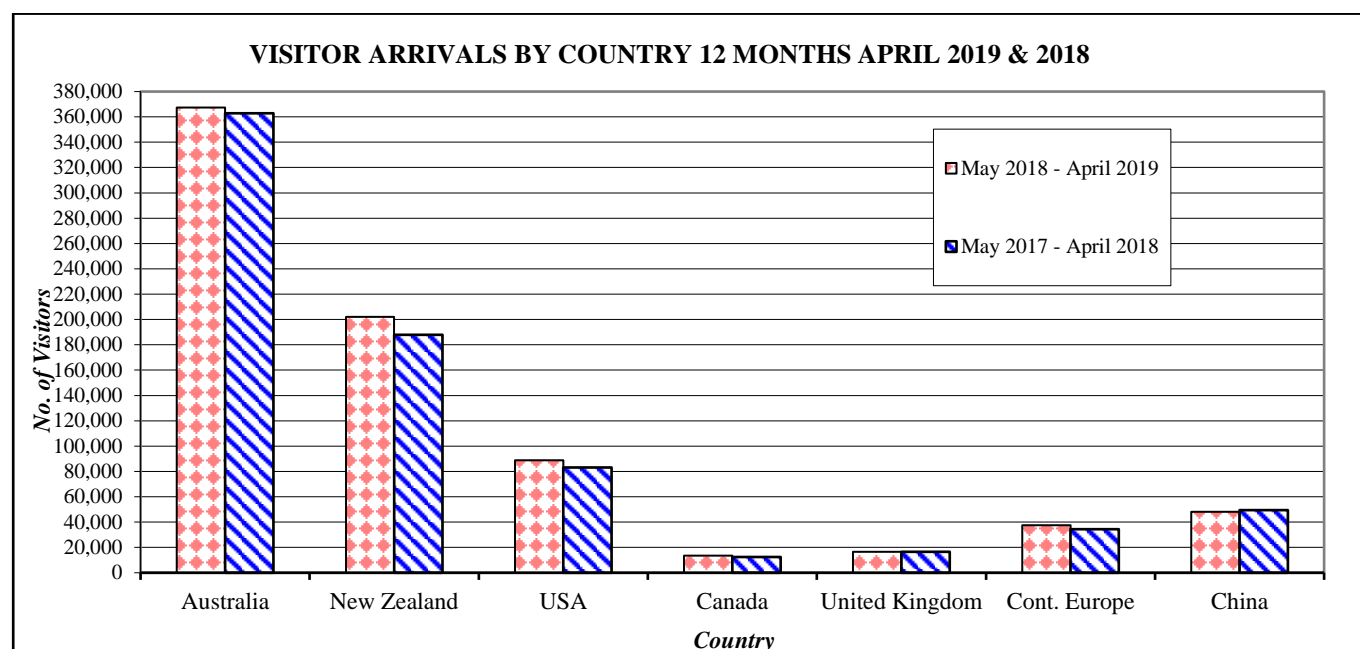


Figure 3 below shows the twelve monthly comparisons.

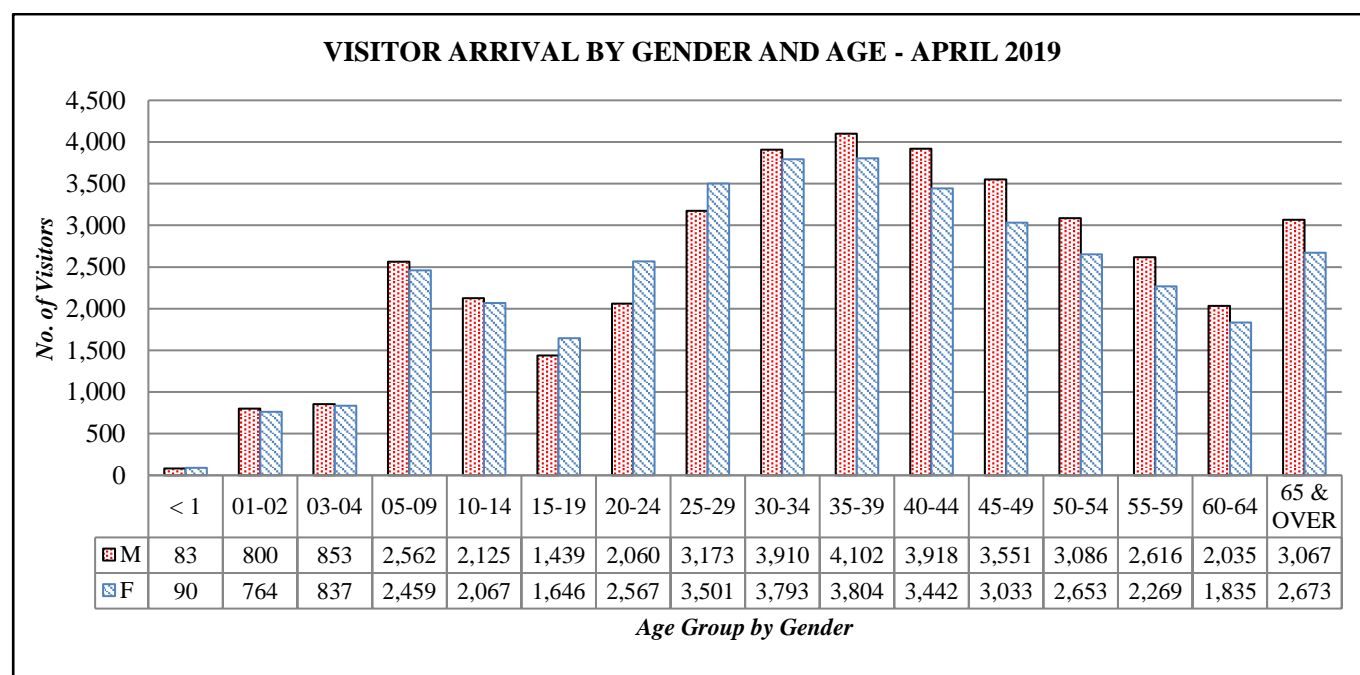
**Figure 3**



The majority of visitors to Fiji in April 2019 were in the age range 25-64 (66.0%), which accounts for the vast majority of the working age population. Children aged 14 and below accounted for 16.5% of the April visitor arrivals; 10.0% were Youths aged 15-24 with the remaining 7.5% comprising those in the predominantly retirement age group of 65 and over.

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

- 1) Professional Workers – increased by [3,148 or 25.1% to 15,674].
- 2) Legislators – increased by [3,085 or 36.3% to 11,582].
- 3) Technician and Related Workers – increased by [1,844 or 30.8% to 7,827].
- 4) Craft Workers – increased by [728 or 23.8% to 3,781].
- 5) Clerical Workers – increased by [211 or 9.5% to 2,422].

April 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 [2,425 or 22.4% to 13,273].
- 2) Students – increased by [2,113 or 16.9% to 14,581].

Additional details are provided in Figure 5 below;

**Figure 5**

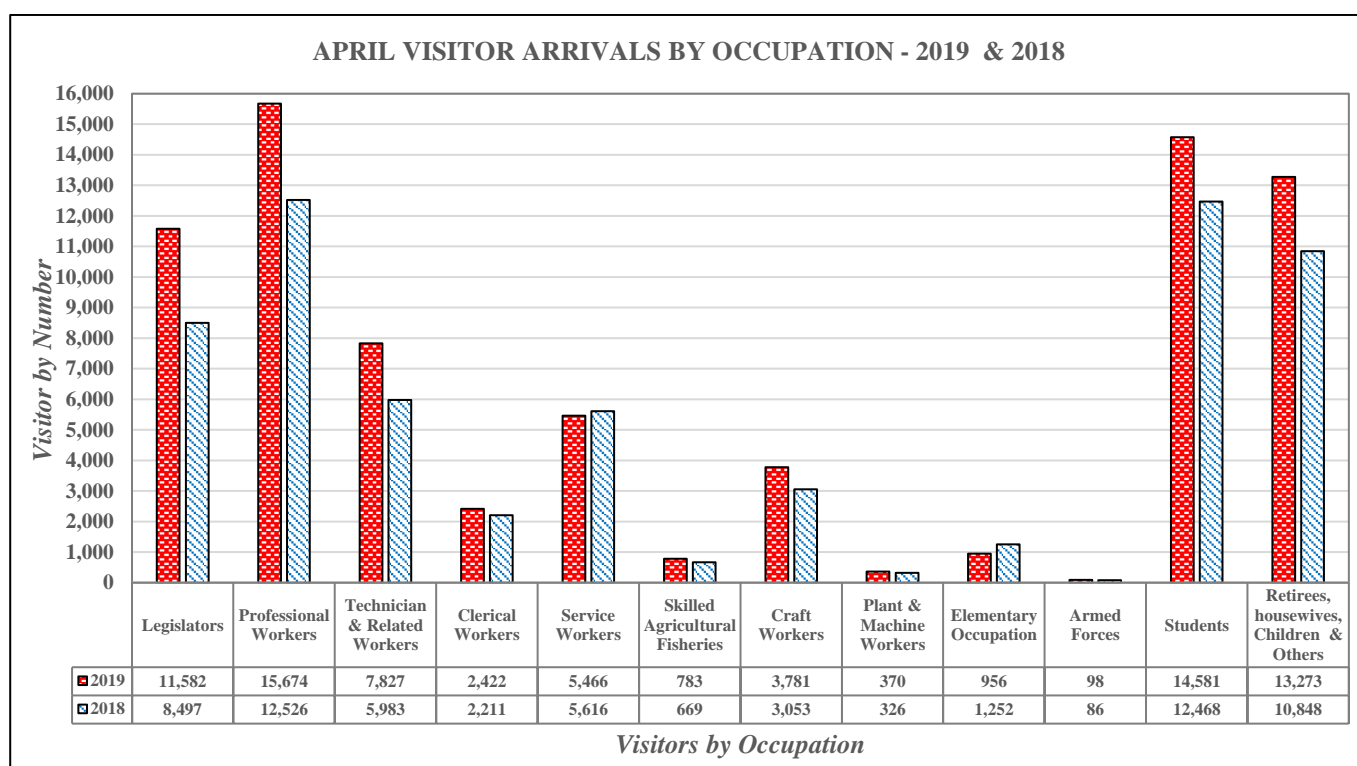


Table 2

**Resident Departures for March 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	3,691 (36.5%)	359			<b>4,050</b>	32.1%
Visiting Friends or Relatives	3,952 (39.1%)	489			<b>4,441</b>	35.2%
Business	1,447 (14.3%)	78	34	27	<b>1,586</b>	12.6%
Employment	598 (5.9%)	392	373	227	<b>1,590</b>	12.6%
Education/Training	398 (3.9%)	61	54	15	<b>528</b>	4.2%
Emigration			103	136	<b>239</b>	1.9%
Others	16 (0.2%)	10	38	108	<b>172</b>	1.4%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>10,102 (100%)</b>	<b>1,389</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>12,606</b>	
<b>% To Total</b>	80.1%	11.0%	4.8%	4.1%		100.0%

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

A total of 12,606 Fiji Residents departed our shores during the month of March of which 10,102 or 80.1% were for a short-term absence of under three months. A total of 1,115 or 8.8% of resident departures were for a longer-term absence of 1 year or more.

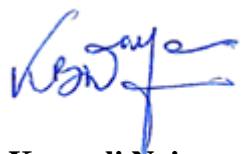
The reasons for departure as reported by residents leaving for a short-term absence were as follows;

- Visiting Friends or Relatives – 39.1%
- Holiday – 36.5%
- Business – 14.3%
- Employment – 5.9%
- Education/Training – 3.9%.

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

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