

International Arrivals & Departures

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April 2017

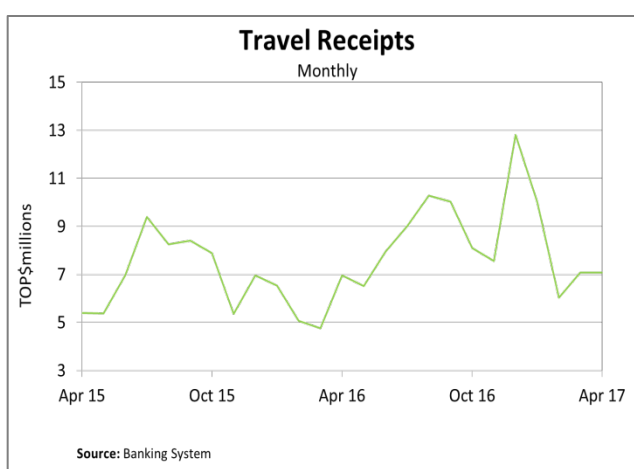
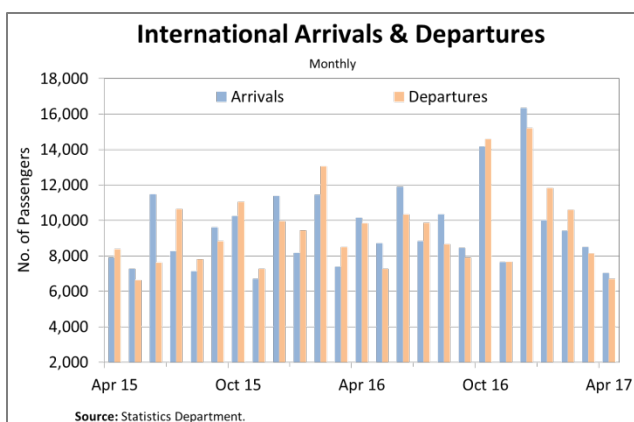
	Apr 17	Mar 17	Feb 17	Jan 17
Total Arrivals	7,031	8,490	9,410	10,008
Total Departures	6,697	8,135	10,601	11,812

Note: Total Arrivals & Departures including air, cruise ship and yacht arrivals & departures

Source: Statistics Department

No cruise ship arrival drive total arrivals lower

Total international arrivals¹ continued to decline over the month by 1,459 passengers (17.2%) due to no cruise ship arriving during the month. Cruise ship arrivals declined by 3,524 passengers (91.8%) which was partially offset by a 2,052 (44.2%) increase in international air arrivals. Total international air arrivals was 6,693 passengers, whereby 3,840 passengers were visitors. Tonga's busy season was expected to start in April due to events scheduled such as national sports competition and regional meetings. These included the Oceania Judo Championship, and meetings such as the International Conference on Whales, and the Third Regional Meeting for Energy Transport Ministers. Most visitors' age fell between the age 25 to 59, followed by the age range of 0 to 19 years which indicated families coming to spend their holiday together. Additionally, most visitors were here to visit families, enjoy holiday, followed by business trips. Majority of the visitors were from New Zealand followed by Australia and the United States of America.



¹ Includes Tongan residents and visitors

The total international departures declined by 1,438 passengers (17.7%), in line with the no cruise ships arrival.

However, travel receipts remained constant over the month at \$7.1 million coinciding with the increase in total international air arrivals.

In year ended terms, the total number of international arrivals grew by 12,095 passengers (11.1%). Sea arrivals² (assuming they are all visitors) increased by 6,920 passengers (34.5%) as a result of larger number of cruise ships arriving and a favourable whale season during the year. Additionally, air arrival visitors rose by 2,991 passengers (5.4%), followed by a 2,184 (6.4%) rise in air returning residents passengers. The number of celebrations and events that took place during the year to April 2017 supported this growth. The rise in returning residents indicate increase wealth of people to afford holidays to overseas countries. This may have supported the transportation, trade and other sectors of the economy. The higher number of arrivals was also consistent with the \$20.5 million (25.1%) increase in travel receipts recorded over the year.

The total international departures also rose by 8,132 passengers (7.4%) over the year mainly due to a 6,408 passengers (34.3%) rise in cruise ship departures.

Outlook

The Reserve Bank's positive outlook for the tourism sector will remain vibrant in the upcoming months as Tonga's busy season has commenced in April 2017. The busy family month of May, scheduled annual church conferences, and Heilala Festival are expected to bring more visitors. The Reserve Bank will continue to closely monitor the country's economic developments to support economic growth.

Total Number of International Arrivals & Departures

	Arrivals						Departures					
	Monthly				Year Ended		Monthly				Year Ended	
	Apr 17	Mar-17	Feb-17	Apr-16	Apr 17	Apr-16	Apr-17	Mar-17	Feb-17	Apr-16	Apr-17	Apr-16
Total	7,031	8,490	9,410	10,153	121,262	109,167	6,697	8,135	10,602	9,839	118,684	110,552
Air	6,693	4,641	5,768	6,455	94,293	89,118	6,359	4,286	6,960	6,135	92,027	90,495
Visitors	3,840	2,560	2,936	3,537	58,125	55,134	3,625	2,310	4,085	3,257	57,740	55,648
Tongan residents	2,853	2,081	2,832	2,918	36,168	33,984	2,734	1,976	2,875	2,878	34,287	34,847
Cruise Ship*	315	3,839	3,642	3,690	25,122	18,691	315	3,839	3,642	3,698	25,108	18,700
Yacht*	23	10	-	8	1,847	1,358	23	10	-	6	1,549	1,357
Total	7,031	8,490	9,410	10,153	121,262	109,167	6,697	8,135	10,602	9,839	118,684	110,552
Visitors	4,178	6,409	6,578	7,235	85,094	75,183	3,963	6,159	7,727	6,961	84,397	75,705
Tongan residents	2,853	2,081	2,832	2,918	36,168	33,984	2,734	1,976	2,875	2,878	34,287	34,847

* All sea arrivals are assumed to be visitors
Source: Statistics Department

² Includes cruise ship and yacht