

International Arrivals & Departures

Release date: 5 September 2017

June 2017

| | Jun 17 | May 17 | Apr 17 | Mar 17 |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total Arrivals | 11,787 | 10,307 | 7,031 | 8,490 |
| Total Departures | 10,233 | 9,096 | 6,697 | 8,135 |

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

Source: Statistics Department

More visitors arrived in June

Total international arrivals increased further in June to a total of 11,787 passengers, 72.9% were visitors and the remainder were returning residents. The higher number of visitors arriving during the month was due mainly to events that took place during the month such as the Free Wesleyan Church's annual conference held in Vava'u, King's birthday, the Heilala festival, and other celebrations such as family reunions. Air arrivals rose by 1,008 passengers (11.6%)

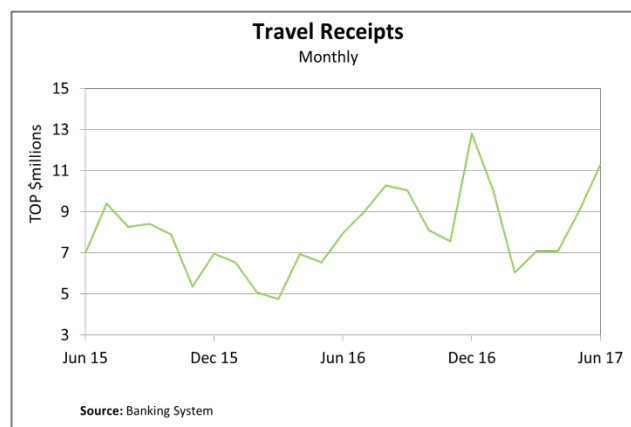
largely attributed to a 24.5% increase in visitors which outweighed an 8.1% decrease in returning residents. Majority of air arrival visitors were from New Zealand followed by Australia and the United States of America. Most of these visitors' travel purpose was to visit families, holiday, followed by business trips.

Additionally, the arrival of a cruise ship and the ongoing whale season brought in more visitors. Total sea arrivals increased by 472 passengers (29.9%) due mainly to a 319 (23.3%) and 153 (72.9%) rise in cruise ship and yacht arrivals respectively.

The total international departures increased by 1,137 passengers (12.5%), in line with the increase in international arrivals. It is estimated that 72.5% of total departures were visitors/non-Tongans.



Moreover, travel receipts rose over the month by \$2.3 million (25.2%) coinciding with the increase in total international air arrivals.



Over the year to June 2017, the total number of international arrivals grew by 11,713 passengers (10.5%). Sea arrivals¹ (assuming they are all visitors) increased by 8,648 passengers (44.0%) as a result of the increase in the number of cruise ships arriving and a favourable whale season during the year. Additionally, returning residents arriving by air rose by 2,521 passengers (7.4%), followed by a 544 (0.9%) rise in air arrival visitors. The number of celebrations and events that took place during the year supported this growth. This may have supported the transportation, trade and other sectors of the economy. The higher number of arrivals was also consistent with the \$24.2 million (28.8%) increase in travel receipts to \$108.3 million over the year.

The total international departures also rose by 6,489 passengers (5.7%) over the year mainly due to a rise of 8,225 passengers (45.3%) in cruise ship departures.

Outlook

The Reserve Bank remains optimistic that the tourism sector will continue to remain vibrant in 2017/2018. 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 | |
| | Jun 17 | May-17 | Apr-17 | Jun-16 | Jun 17 | Jun-16 | Jun-17 | May-17 | Apr-17 | Jun-16 | Jun-17 | Jun-16 |
| Total | 11,787 | 10,307 | 7,031 | 11,896 | 122,753 | 111,040 | 10,233 | 9,096 | 6,679 | 10,328 | 120,407 | 113,918 |
| Air | 9,734 | 8,726 | 6,693 | 9,853 | 94,438 | 91,373 | 8,087 | 7,599 | 6,359 | 8,356 | 92,253 | 94,387 |
| Visitors | 6,545 | 5,256 | 3,840 | 6,763 | 57,943 | 57,399 | 5,268 | 4,764 | 3,625 | 5,753 | 57,752 | 58,691 |
| Tongan residents | 3,189 | 3,470 | 2,853 | 3,090 | 36,495 | 33,974 | 2,819 | 2,835 | 2,734 | 2,603 | 34,501 | 35,696 |
| Cruise Ship* | 1,690 | 1,371 | 315 | 1,784 | 26,399 | 18,163 | 1,690 | 1,366 | 315 | 1,777 | 26,390 | 18,165 |
| Yacht* | 363 | 210 | 23 | 259 | 1,916 | 1,504 | 456 | 131 | 5 | 195 | 1,764 | 1,366 |
| Total | 11,787 | 10,307 | 7,031 | 11,896 | 122,753 | 111,040 | 10,233 | 9,096 | 6,679 | 10,328 | 120,407 | 113,918 |
| Visitors | 8,598 | 6,837 | 4,178 | 8,806 | 86,258 | 77,066 | 7,414 | 6,261 | 3,945 | 7,725 | 85,906 | 78,222 |
| Tongan residents | 3,189 | 3,470 | 2,853 | 3,090 | 36,495 | 33,974 | 2,819 | 2,835 | 2,734 | 2,603 | 34,501 | 35,696 |

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

¹ Includes cruise ship and yacht