

International Arrivals & Departures October 2017

Release date: 11 January 2018

	Oct 17	Sep 17	Aug 17	Jul 17
Total Arrivals	10,556	13,624	11,523	9,711
Total Departures	10,974	13,277	11,677	10,692

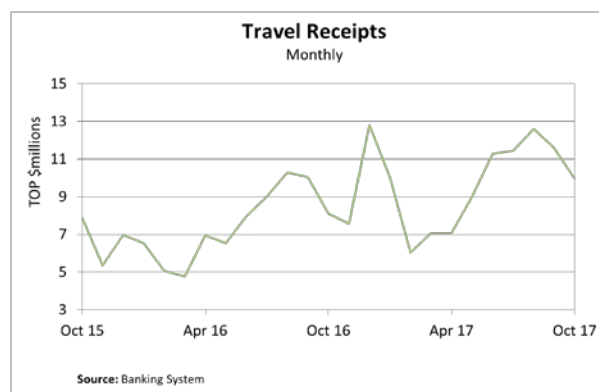
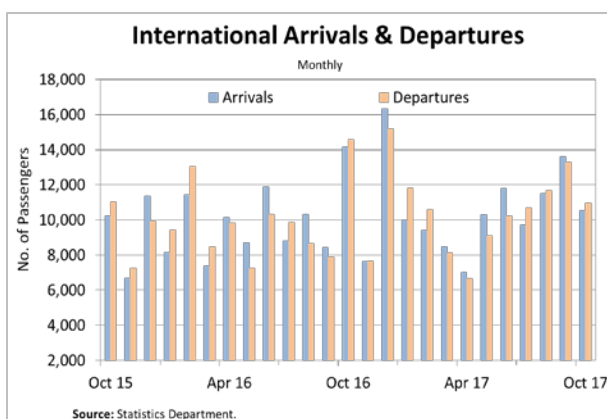
Note: Total Arrivals & Departures including air, cruise ship and yacht arrivals & departures

Source: Statistics Department

Lower international arrival and departure

The total international arrivals declined over the month by 3,068 (22.5%) passengers, of which 70.5% were visitors and the remainder were returning residents. All categories of international arrival declined except for returning residents which slightly rose over the month by 209 passengers (7.2%). Sea arrival¹ passengers decreased by 1,526 to a total of 2,808 passengers. Lower cruise ship passenger arrivals was due to one cruise ship that arrived during the month compared to two ships last month. The on-going whale watching season brought in yacht arrival passengers although less than the previous months but remains high with a total of 383 passengers. Majority of air arrival visitors were from New Zealand followed by Australia and the United States of America. Most of the visitors who arrived during the month were here for vacation, followed by visiting families, business trip and for various other reasons. Some of the events which occurred during the month included Liahona High School's 70th anniversary and women's annual 'Faka-Sepitema' roll call.

Total international departures also declined by 17.3% to a total of 10,974 passengers, however



¹ Includes arrival by cruise ship and yacht

slightly higher than the total international arrivals.

Additionally, travel receipts declined by \$1.6 million (14.0%) to a total of \$10.0 million over the month which coincided with the decrease in total arrival.

In year ended terms, the total number of international arrivals grew by 8,837 passengers (7.5%). Sea arrivals (assuming they are all visitors) increased by 5,620 passengers (24.9%) as a result of more cruise ship arrivals and a favourable whale season during the year. Additionally, returning residents arriving by air rose by 1,760 passengers (4.9%), followed by a 1,457 (2.5%) 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 \$28.9 million (33.0%) increase in travel receipts to \$116.5 million over the year to October 2017.

The total international departures also rose by 9,441 passengers (8.1%) over the year mainly due to a rise of 9,791 passengers (12.1%) in international visitors' 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	
	Oct 17	Sep-17	Aug-17	Oct-16	Oct 17	Oct-16	Oct-17	Sep-17	Aug-17	Oct-16	Oct-17	Oct-16
Total	10,556	13,624	11,523	14,156	126,413	117,576	10,974	13,277	11,677	14,583	126,040	116,599
Air	7,748	9,290	9,881	7,184	98,205	94,988	8,255	9,188	10,047	7,699	98,201	94,314
Visitors	4,639	6,390	6,810	4,298	60,592	59,135	5,449	6,616	6,933	4,937	62,140	57,903
Tongan residents	3,109	2,900	3,071	2,886	37,613	35,853	2,806	2,572	3,114	2,762	36,061	36,411
Cruise Ship*	2,425	3,719	1,354	6,630	25,873	20,774	2,417	3,719	1,354	6,626	25,867	20,757
Yacht*	383	615	288	342	2,335	1,814	302	370	276	258	1,972	1,528
Total	10,556	13,624	11,523	14,156	126,413	117,576	10,974	13,277	11,677	14,583	126,040	116,599
Visitors	7,447	10,724	8,452	11,270	88,800	81,723	8,168	10,705	8,563	11,821	89,979	80,188
Tongan residents	3,109	2,900	3,071	2,886	37,613	35,853	2,806	2,572	3,114	2,762	36,061	36,411

* All sea arrivals are assumed to be visitors

Source: Statistics Department