

STATISTICAL NEWS

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PROVISIONAL VISITOR ARRIVALS – AUGUST 2018

Provisional numbers show that visitor arrivals for August 2018 totaled 88,693, a record for the month of August and represented an increase of 7.7% compared to a year earlier.

Increases were recorded in the number of visitors from Australia [1,733 or 5.3% to 34,641]; Japan [1,618 or 193.5% to 2,454]; New Zealand [959 or 4.2% to 24,065]; Continental Europe [880 or 25.7% to 4,301]; the United States of America [562 or 7.8% to 7,727]; Rest of Asia [215 or 10.2% to 2,327]; the United Kingdom [190 or 14.7% to 1,486]; China [154 or 3.2% to 4,970]; Canada [147 or 11.4% to 1,437] and South Korea [13 or 1.9% to 685].

The only decrease was recorded for visitors from Pacific Islands [down 111 or 2.6% to 4,219].

Visitors arriving for holiday purposes accounted for 75.9% of total arrivals, 11.0% came to visit their friends or relatives, 3.3% came for business purposes, while 9.8% visited Fiji for other reasons.

Table 1 below presents actual numbers and the 2018 and 2017 comparisons of visitor arrivals for the month of August, January to August and twelve months to August 2018.

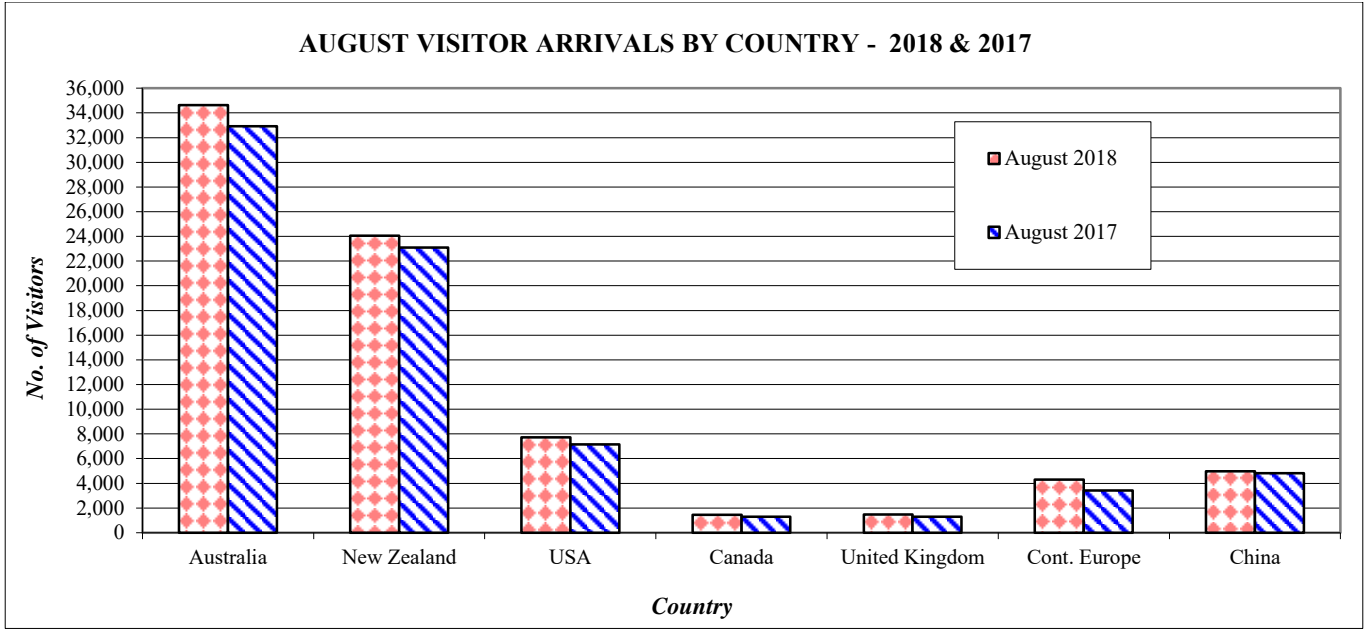
Table 1

	AUGUST			JANUARY TO AUGUST					12 MONTHS TO AUGUST		
	2018	2017	% CHANGE	% TO		% TO			2018	2017	% CHANGE
				2018	TOTAL	2017	TOTAL	CHANGE			
ARRIVALS											
Australia	34,641	32,908	5.3	230,096	40.5	228,535	41.9	0.7	367,250	364,181	0.8
New Zealand	24,065	23,106	4.2	130,276	22.9	120,145	22.0	8.4	194,726	177,383	9.8
USA	7,727	7,165	7.8	58,854	10.4	54,920	10.1	7.2	85,132	77,470	9.9
Canada	1,437	1,290	11.4	9,142	1.6	8,595	1.6	6.4	12,968	12,597	2.9
United Kingdom	1,486	1,296	14.7	11,143	2.0	11,587	2.1	-3.8	16,481	16,757	-1.6
Cont. Europe	4,301	3,421	25.7	24,240	4.3	22,711	4.2	6.7	36,167	33,407	8.3
Japan	2,454	836	193.5	6,797	1.2	4,482	0.8	51.7	8,665	6,440	34.5
China	4,970	4,816	3.2	34,912	6.1	34,196	6.3	2.1	49,512	49,479	0.1
South Korea	685	672	1.9	5,503	1.0	5,496	1.0	0.1	8,878	8,460	4.9
Rest of Asia	2,327	2,112	10.2	18,555	3.3	16,584	3.0	11.9	26,922	23,604	14.1
Pacific Islands	4,219	4,330	-2.6	34,780	6.1	34,964	6.4	-0.5	53,536	51,574	3.8
Others	381	364	4.7	3,438	0.6	2,895	0.5	18.8	5,273	4,318	22.1
TOTAL VISITORS	88,693	82,316	7.7	567,736	100.0	545,110	100.0	4.2	865,510	825,670	4.8

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 August 2018 and 2017.

Figure 1



In the moving twelve monthly numbers ending August 2018, the total number of visitors to Fiji increased by 4.8% compared with the same period in 2017. Visitors from Japan increased by [34.5%]; Other Countries [22.1%]; Rest of Asia [14.1%]; the United States of America [9.9%]; New Zealand [9.8%]; Continental Europe [8.3%]; South Korea [4.9%]; Pacific Islands [3.8%]; Canada [2.9%]; Australia [0.8%] and China [0.1%].

Decreases were recorded for visitors from the United Kingdom [1.6%].

January to August 2018, showed that visitor arrivals increased by 4.2% over the corresponding period in 2017, up from 545,110 to 567,736.

Figure 2 below shows a graphical comparison of visitor arrivals by country during the period January to August 2018.

Figure 2

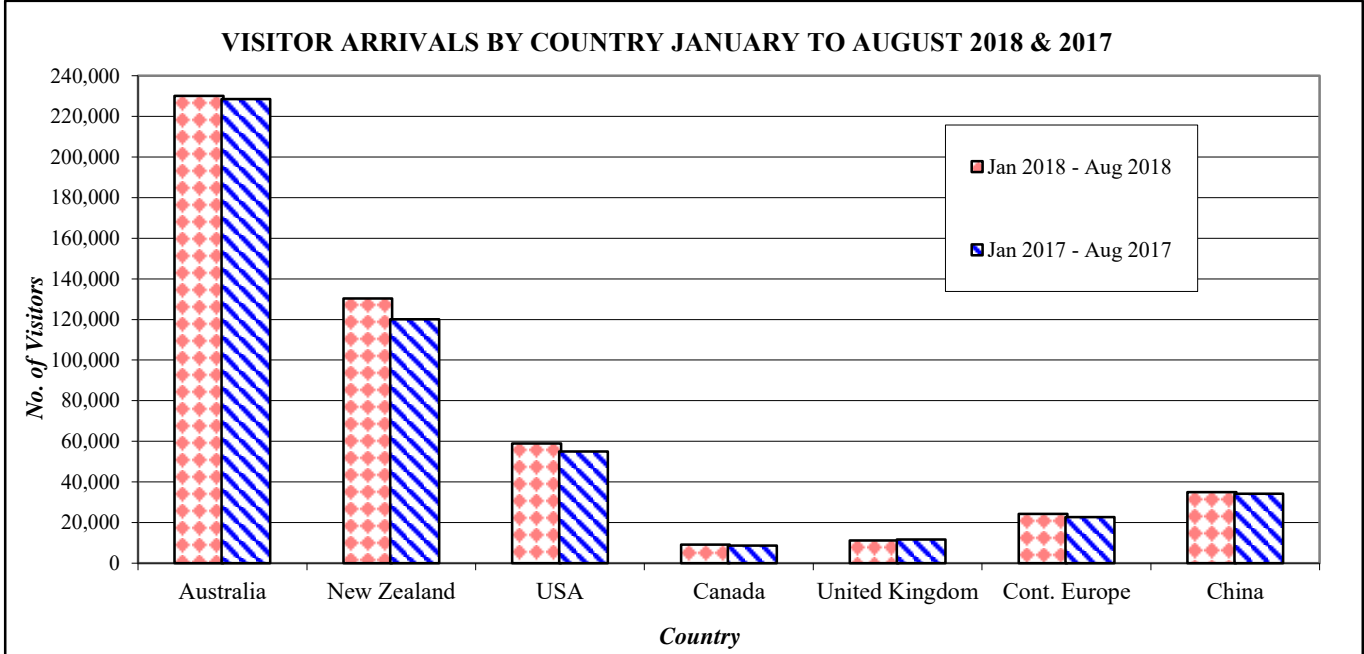
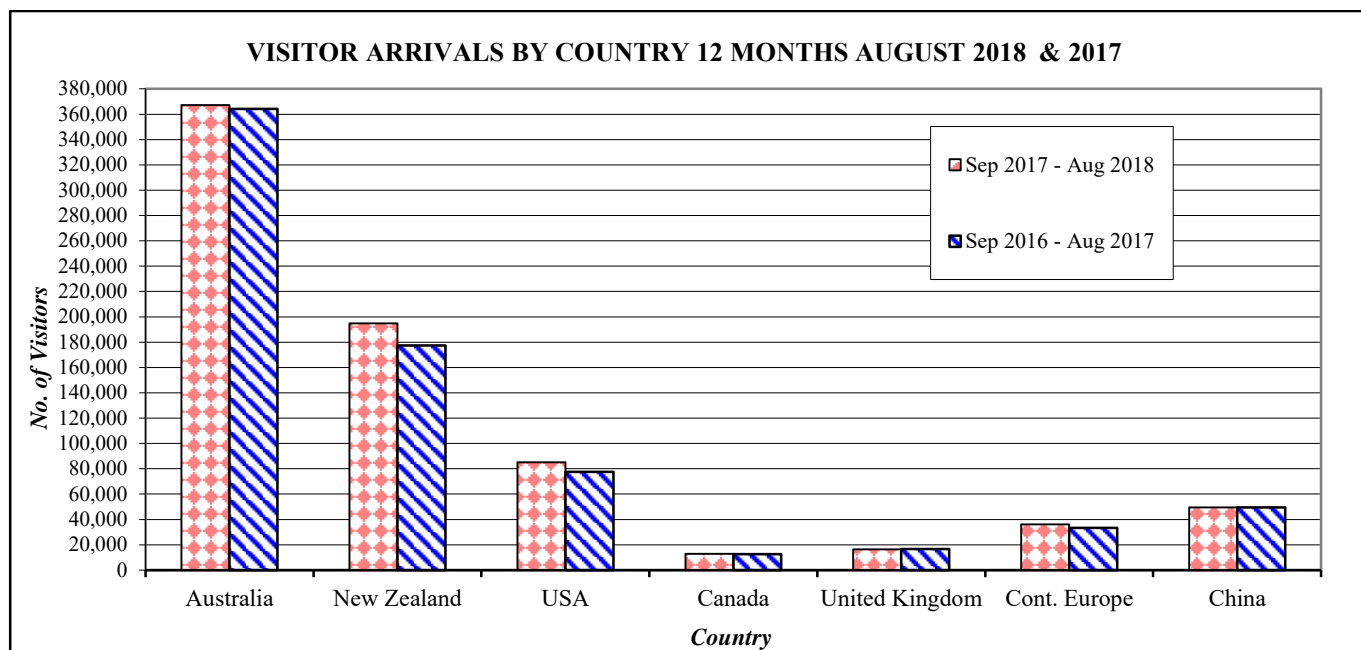


Figure 3 below shows the twelve monthly comparisons.

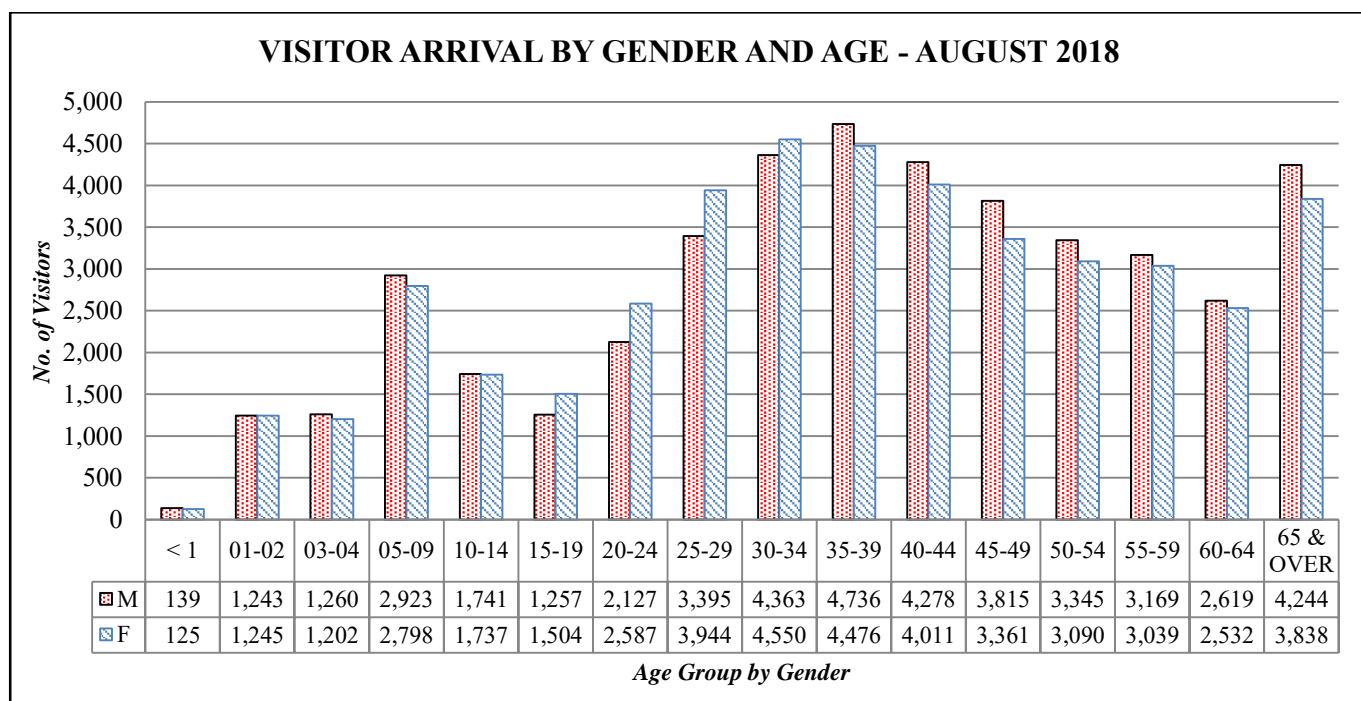
Figure 3



The majority of visitors to Fiji in August 2018 were in the age range 25-64 (66.2%), which accounts for the vast majority of the working age population. Children aged 14 and below accounted for 16.3% of the August visitor arrivals; 9.1% comprising those in the predominantly retirement age group of 65 and over with the remaining 8.4% were youths aged 15-24.

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

Figure 4



Visitors by Occupation

For the month of August 2018 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 [2,900 or 38.8% to 10,378].
- 2) Professional Workers – increased by [1,324 or 8.1% to 17,601].
- 3) Legislators – increased by [463 or 3.8% to 12,757].
- 4) Craft Workers – increased by [369 or 9.2% to 4,367].
- 5) Service Workers – decreased by [1,541 or 22.5% to 5,316].

August 2018 visitors who are not in the labour force were categorised into two major groups. The categories and numbers are as follows;

- 1) Students – increased by [2,580 or 21.2% to 14,737].
- 2) Retirees, Housewives, Children & Others – decreased by [395 or 2.2% to 17,487].

Additional details are provided in Figure 5 below;

Figure 5

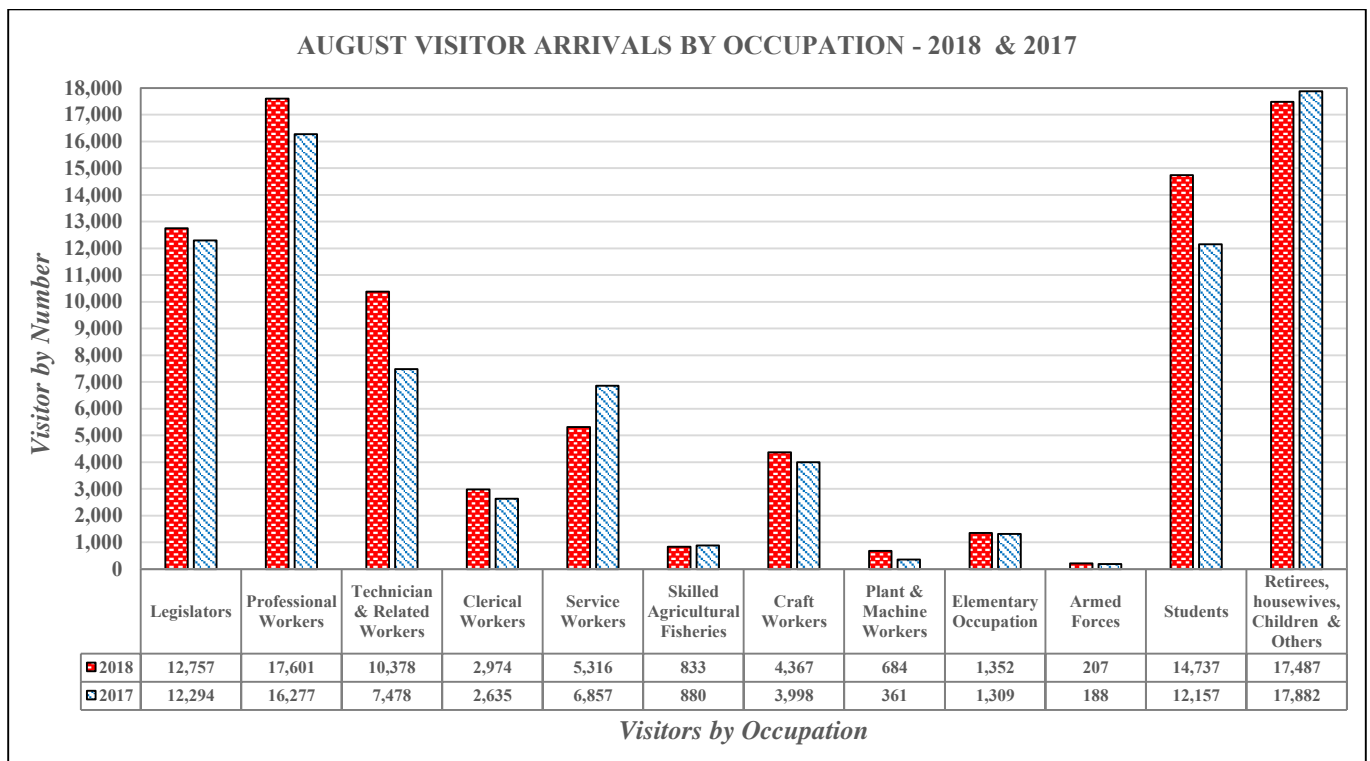


Table 2

Resident Departures for July 2018

Purpose of Visit	Length of Absence					Grand Total	% To Total
	Under 3 months	3 months - 12 months	1 year - 5 years	Over 5 years or Permanently			
Holiday	3,584 (35.0%)	372				3,956	28.2%
Business	1,150 (11.2%)	40	30			1,220	8.7%
Employment	451 (4.4%)	188	374	64		1,077	7.7%
Education/Training	500 (4.9%)	137	203	44		884	6.3%
Visiting Friends or Relatives	4,504 (44.0%)	1,615	97			6,216	44.3%
Emigration				424		424	3.0%
Others	45 (0.4%)	10	81	113		249	1.8%
Grand Total	10,234 (100%)	2,362	785	645		14,026	
% To Total	73.0%	16.8%	5.6%	4.6%			100.0%

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

A total of 14,026 Fiji Residents departed our shores during the month of July of which 10,234 or 73.0% were for a short-term absence of under three months. About one tenth of resident departures (1,430) 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 – 44.0%
- Holiday – 35.0%
- Business – 11.2%
- Education/Training – 4.9%
- Employment – 4.4%.

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 - AUGUST 2018.
- TABLE 6: VISITOR ARRIVALS BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE AND OCCUPATION - AUGUST 2018.
- TABLE 7: RESIDENT DEPARTURE BY FINAL DESTINATION AND BY PURPOSE OF ABSENCE - JULY 2018.

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