

STATISTICAL NEWS

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PROVISIONAL VISITOR ARRIVALS - 2018

2018 Highlights:

- Fiji's annual Visitor Arrival number reached a new high of 870,309 in 2018. This was 3.3% more visitors than the previous record of 842,884 which arrived in 2017.
- Contributing to the record level of visitor arrivals in 2018 were increases from the following countries; New Zealand (14,123 to 198,718), Japan (5,553 to 11,903), the United States of America (4,877 to 86,075), Continental Europe (2,795 to 37,433), Rest of Asia (1,977 to 26,928), Canada (799 to 13,220), China (475 to 49,271) and Other Countries (244 to 4,974).
- Japan recorded the highest percentage increase (87.4%) due to the resumption of direct flights between Nadi and Narita three times a week.
- Monthly visitor numbers topped the 95,000 mark for the first time ever in July with 95,061 arrivals.
- The 2018 visitor numbers from New Zealand (198,718) and USA (86,075) were the highest ever in a given year.
- Visitor numbers from Fiji's top two source markets, Australia (365,660) and New Zealand (198,718) equate to average daily arrivals of 1,002 and 544 respectively.
- Visitors arriving for holiday purposes totaled 658,585 (75.7%), 80,441 (9.2%) came to visit friends or relatives, 29,755 (3.4%) came for business purposes while 101,528 (11.7%) visited Fiji for other reasons.
- There were significant increases in the number of visitors arriving for the following purposes;
 - 1) Visiting Friends and Relatives (by 5,949 to 80,441)
 - 2) Holiday (by 27,885 to 658,585)

Table 1 below presents arrival numbers by country for the years 2016 - 2018.

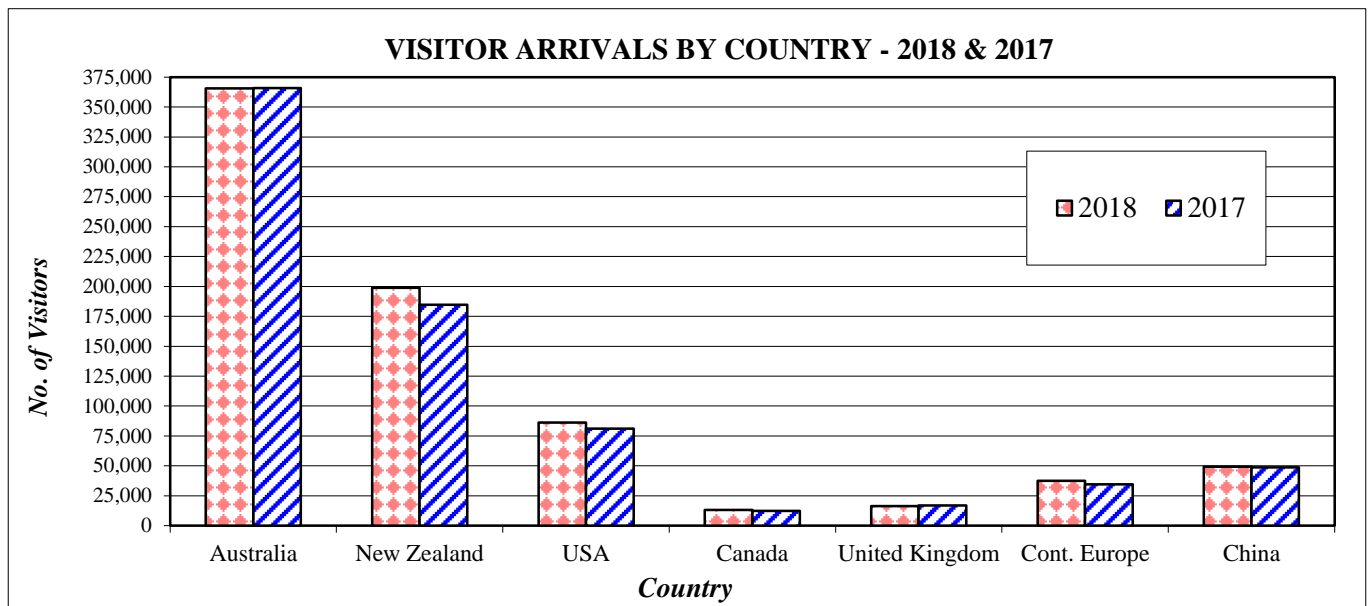
Table 1

ARRIVALS	% TO		% TO		% TO		2018/2017 % CHANGE	2017/2016 % CHANGE
	2018	TOTAL	2017	TOTAL	2016	TOTAL		
Australia	365,660	42.0	365,689	43.4	360,370	45.5	0.0	1.5
New Zealand	198,718	22.8	184,595	21.9	163,836	20.7	7.7	12.7
USA	86,075	9.9	81,198	9.6	69,628	8.8	6.0	16.6
Canada	13,220	1.5	12,421	1.5	11,780	1.5	6.4	5.4
United Kingdom	16,297	1.9	16,925	2.0	16,712	2.1	-3.7	1.3
Cont. Europe	37,433	4.3	34,638	4.1	31,916	4.0	8.1	8.5
Japan	11,903	1.4	6,350	0.8	6,274	0.8	87.4	1.2
China	49,271	5.7	48,796	5.8	49,083	6.2	1.0	-0.6
South Korea	8,176	0.9	8,871	1.1	8,071	1.0	-7.8	9.9
Rest of Asia	26,928	3.1	24,951	3.0	20,558	2.6	7.9	21.4
Pacific Islands	51,654	5.9	53,720	6.4	49,741	6.3	-3.8	8.0
Others	4,974	0.6	4,730	0.6	4,351	0.5	5.2	8.7
TOTAL VISITORS	870,309	100.0	842,884	100.0	792,320	100.0	3.3	6.4

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 representation of Visitor Arrivals by Country for the year 2018 and 2017.

Figure 1



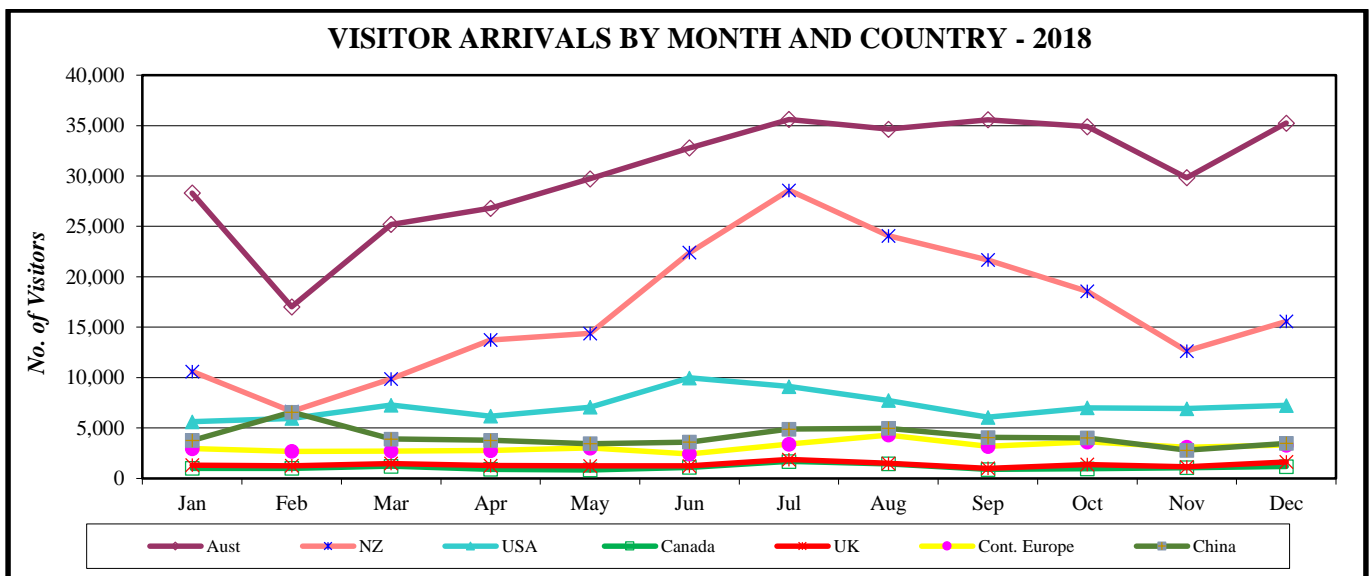
The July visitor arrival number of 95,061 was the highest in 2018, followed by the months of August and June with arrival figures of 88,693 and 81,653 respectively.

The peak arrival months by country and number were as follows;

- 1) Australia – July with 35,608 visitors
- 2) New Zealand – July with 28,572 visitors
- 3) United States of America – June with 9,962 visitors
- 4) China – February with 6,567 visitors
- 5) United Kingdom – July with 1,871 visitors
- 6) Canada – July with 1,675 visitors

Figure 2 below is a graphical representation of Monthly Visitor Arrivals by Country for the year 2018.

Figure 2

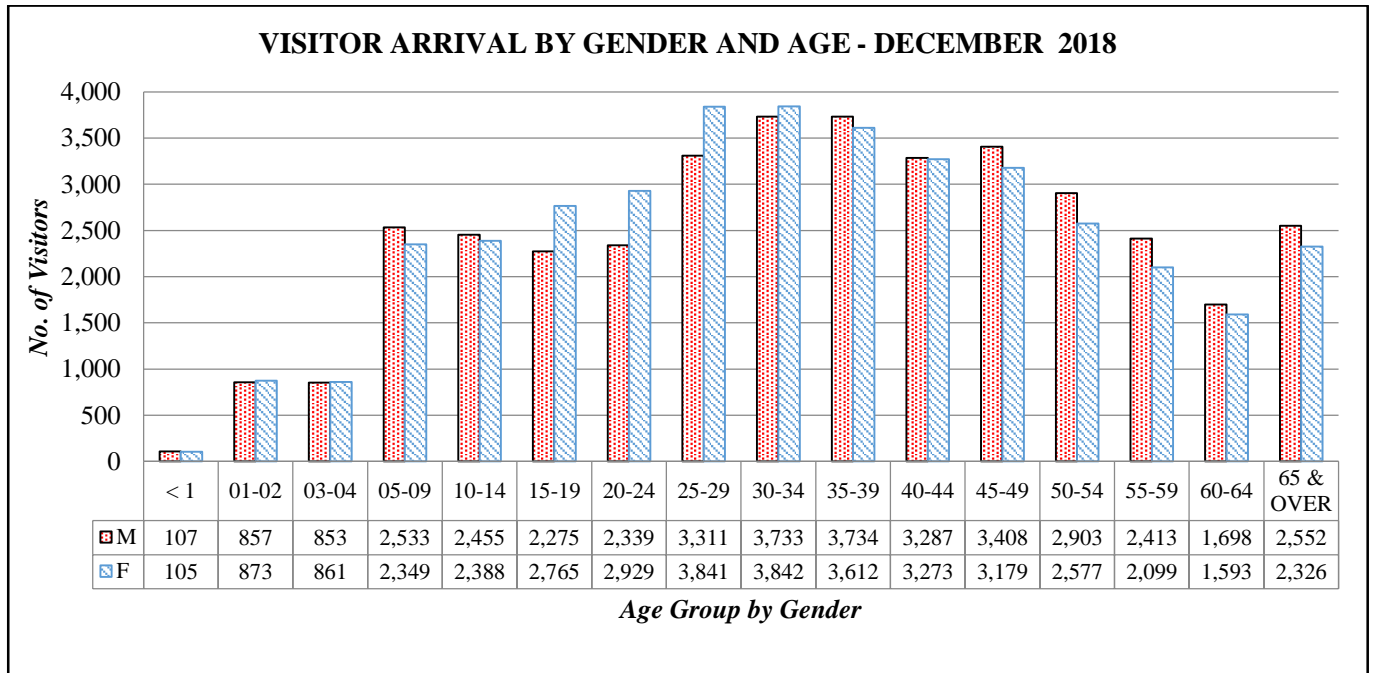


December Visitors by Gender and Age

The majority of visitors to Fiji in December 2018 were in the age range 25-64 (62.9%), which accounts for the vast majority of the working age population. Children aged 14 and below accounted for 17.4% of the December visitor arrivals; 13.4% were youths aged 15-24 with the remaining 6.3% comprising those in the predominantly retirement age group of 65 and over.

Figure 3 below shows a significant gender differential in the age groups 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 45-49, 50-54 and 65+;

Figure 3



December Visitors by Occupation

For the month of December 2018 the top 5 Occupational Groups for visitors engaged in gainful employment in their home countries are as follows;

- 1) Professional Workers – increased by [521 or 3.4% to 15,954].
- 2) Craft Workers – increased by [397 or 10.8% to 4,061].
- 3) Technician and Related Workers – increased by [280 or 3.7% to 7,750].
- 4) Service Workers – decreased by [1,049 or 18.9% to 4,493].
- 5) Legislators – decreased by [122 or 1.2% to 9,829].

December 2018 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 [350 or 2.8% to 12,806].
- 2) Students – decreased by [1,186 or 6.5% to 17,077].

Additional details are provided in Figure 4 below;

Figure 4

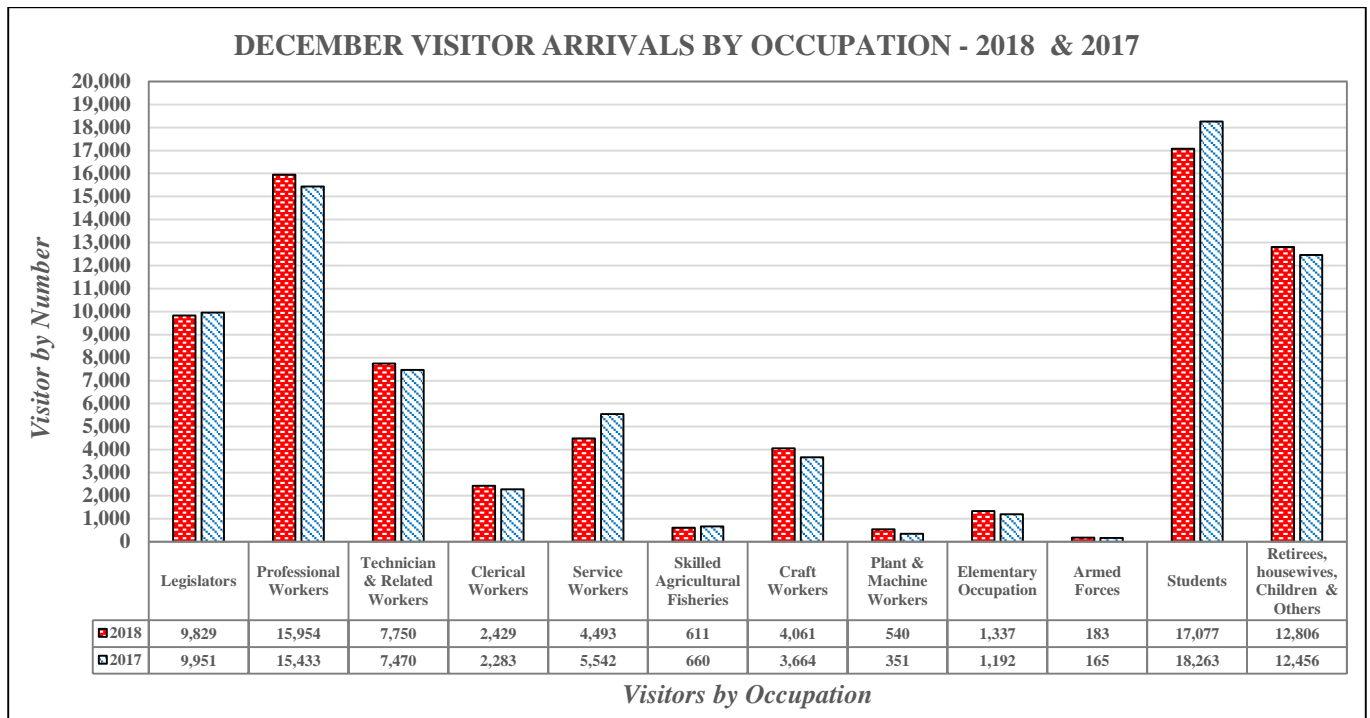


Table 2

Resident Departures for November 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	7,441 (48.6%)	758			8,199	21.8%
Visiting Friends or Relatives	5,226 (34.1%)	462			5,688	44.5%
Business	1,378 (9.0%)	50	38	38	1,504	14.0%
Employment	599 (3.9%)	160	276	57	1,092	7.4%
Eduation/Training	543 (3.5%)	65	91	134	833	7.7%
Emigration				412	412	2.7%
Others	199 (0.8%)	2	71	184	376	1.9%
Grand Total	15,306 (100%)	1,497	476	825	18,104	
% To Total	84.5%	8.3%	2.6%	4.6%		100.0%

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

A total of 18,104 Fiji Residents departed our shores during the month of November of which 15,306 or 84.5% were for a short-term absence of under three months. A total of 1,301 or 7.2% 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;

- Holiday – 48.6%
- Visiting Friends or Relatives – 34.1%
- Business – 9.0%
- Employment – 3.9%
- Education/Training – 3.5%

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 – DECEMBER 2018.
TABLE 6:	VISITOR ARRIVALS BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE AND OCCUPATION – DECEMBER 2018.
TABLE 7:	RESIDENT DEPARTURE BY FINAL DESTINATION AND BY PURPOSE OF ABSENCE – NOVEMBER 2018.

For further enquiries please contact Ms. Kiran Naidu on 3315822 ext. 386223.



Kemueli Naiqama
Deputy Government Statistician

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