

STATISTICAL NEWS

FBoS Release No.93, 2018

20th November, 2018

PROVISIONAL VISITOR ARRIVALS – OCTOBER 2018

Provisional numbers show that visitor arrivals for October 2018 totaled 79,077, a record for the month of October and represented an increase of 1.2% compared to a year earlier.

Increases were recorded in the number of visitors from Japan [925 or 225.6% to 1,335]; Australia [540 or 1.6% to 34,899]; the United States of America [248 or 3.7% to 7,004]; Continental Europe [166 or 4.8% to 3,621]; the United Kingdom [83 or 6.4% to 1,379] and Rest of Asia [17 or 0.8% to 2,228].

There were decreases in the number of visitors from the following countries; Pacific Islands [down 421 or 9.7% to 3,923]; China [down 224 or 5.3% to 4,013]; South Korea [down 196 or 20.2% to 772]; Canada [down 96 or 9.1% to 957] and New Zealand [down 2 or 0.0% to 18,562].

Visitors arriving for holiday purposes accounted for 78.4% of total arrivals, 7.2% came to visit their friends or relatives 3.7% came for business purposes, while 10.7% visited Fiji for other reasons.

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

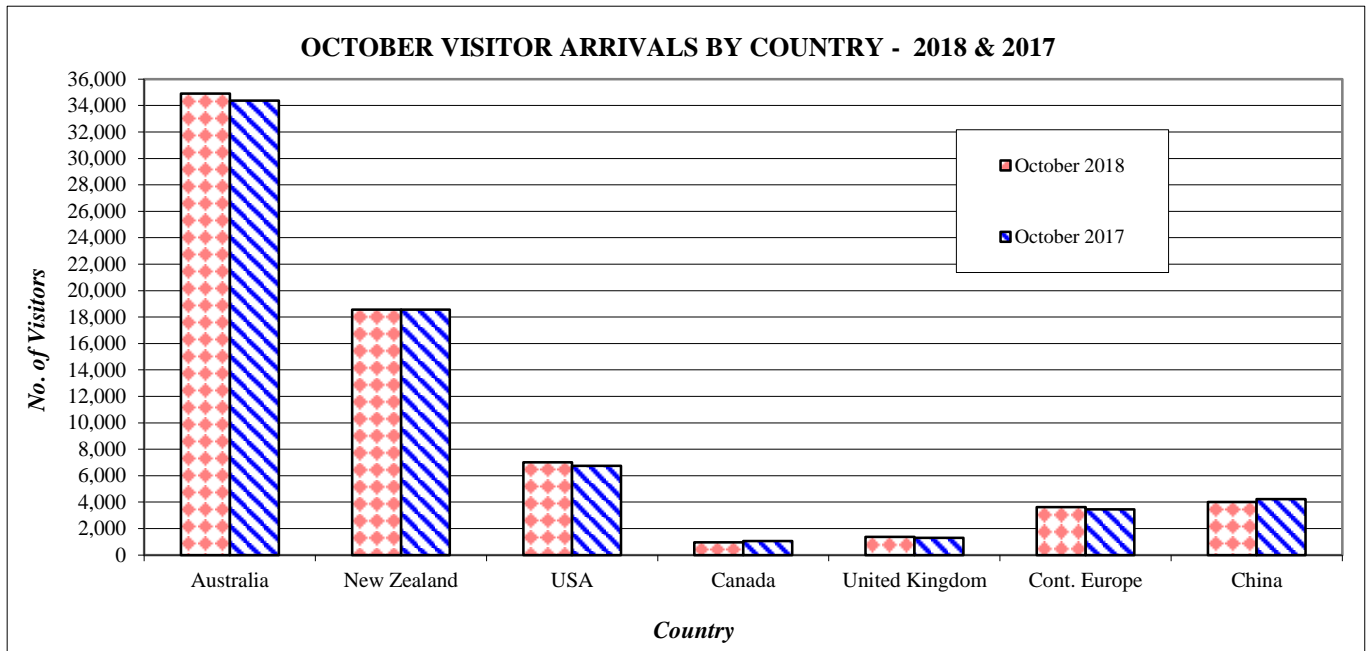
Table 1

	OCTOBER			JANUARY TO OCTOBER					12 MONTHS TO OCTOBER		
	2018	2017	% CHANGE	2018	% TO TOTAL	2017	% TO TOTAL	% CHANGE	2018	2017	% CHANGE
ARRIVALS											
Australia	34,899	34,359	1.6	300,580	41.3	299,217	42.7	0.5	367,052	363,581	1.0
New Zealand	18,562	18,564	0.0	170,513	23.4	157,808	22.5	8.1	197,300	182,613	8.0
USA	7,004	6,756	3.7	71,918	9.9	67,471	9.6	6.6	85,645	79,876	7.2
Canada	957	1,053	-9.1	10,982	1.5	10,440	1.5	5.2	12,963	12,649	2.5
United Kingdom	1,379	1,296	6.4	13,522	1.9	14,066	2.0	-3.9	16,381	16,967	-3.5
Cont. Europe	3,621	3,455	4.8	31,037	4.3	28,461	4.1	9.1	37,214	33,990	9.5
Japan	1,335	410	225.6	9,855	1.4	5,547	0.8	77.7	10,658	6,546	62.8
China	4,013	4,237	-5.3	42,995	5.9	42,083	6.0	2.2	49,708	49,161	1.1
South Korea	772	968	-20.2	6,860	0.9	7,267	1.0	-5.6	8,464	8,861	-4.5
Rest of Asia	2,228	2,211	0.8	23,053	3.2	20,550	2.9	12.2	27,454	24,022	14.3
Pacific Islands	3,923	4,344	-9.7	42,717	5.9	43,620	6.2	-2.1	52,817	52,721	0.2
Others	384	511	-24.9	4,218	0.6	3,773	0.5	11.8	5,175	4,523	14.4
TOTAL VISITORS	79,077	78,164	1.2	728,250	100.0	700,303	100.0	4.0	870,831	835,510	4.2

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 October 2018 and 2017.

Figure 1



In the moving twelve monthly numbers ending October 2018, the total number of visitors to Fiji increased by 4.2% compared with the same period in 2017. Visitors from Japan increased by [62.8%]; Other Countries [14.4%]; Rest of Asia [14.3%]; Continental Europe [9.5%]; New Zealand [8.0%]; the United States of America [7.2%]; Canada [2.5%]; China [1.1%]; Australia [1.0%] and Pacific Islands [0.2%].

Decreases were recorded for visitors from South Korea [4.5%] and the United Kingdom [3.5%].

January to October 2018, showed that visitor arrivals increased by 4.0% over the corresponding period in 2017, up from 700,303 to 728,250.

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

Figure 2

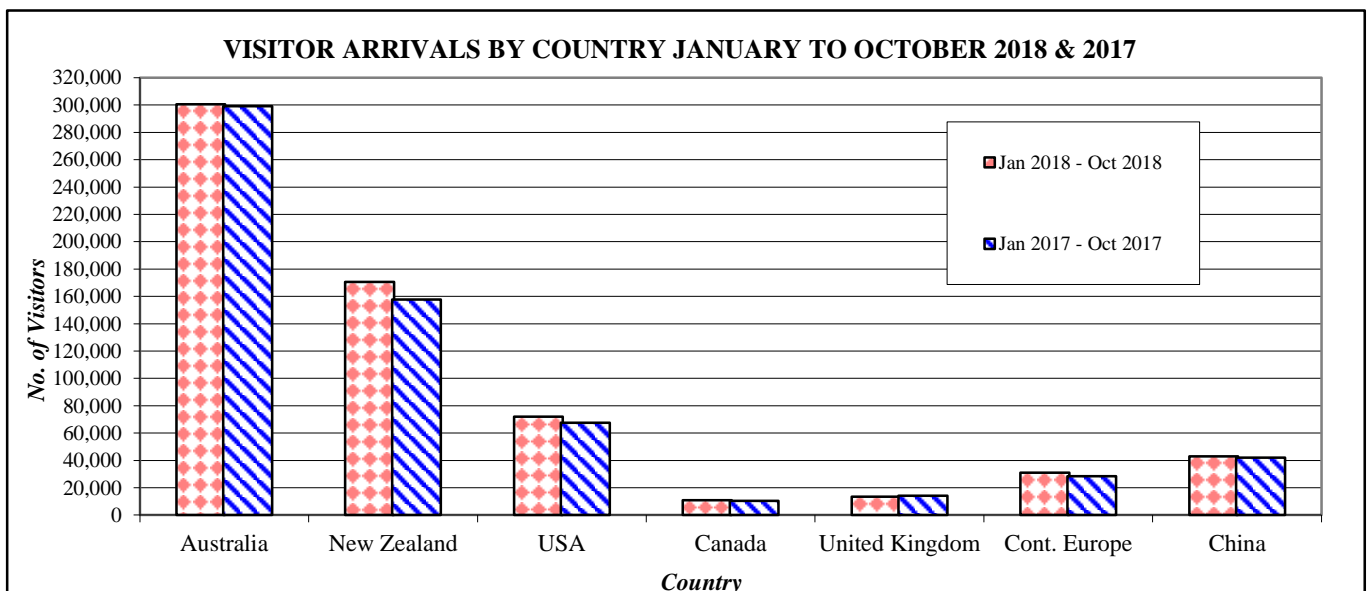
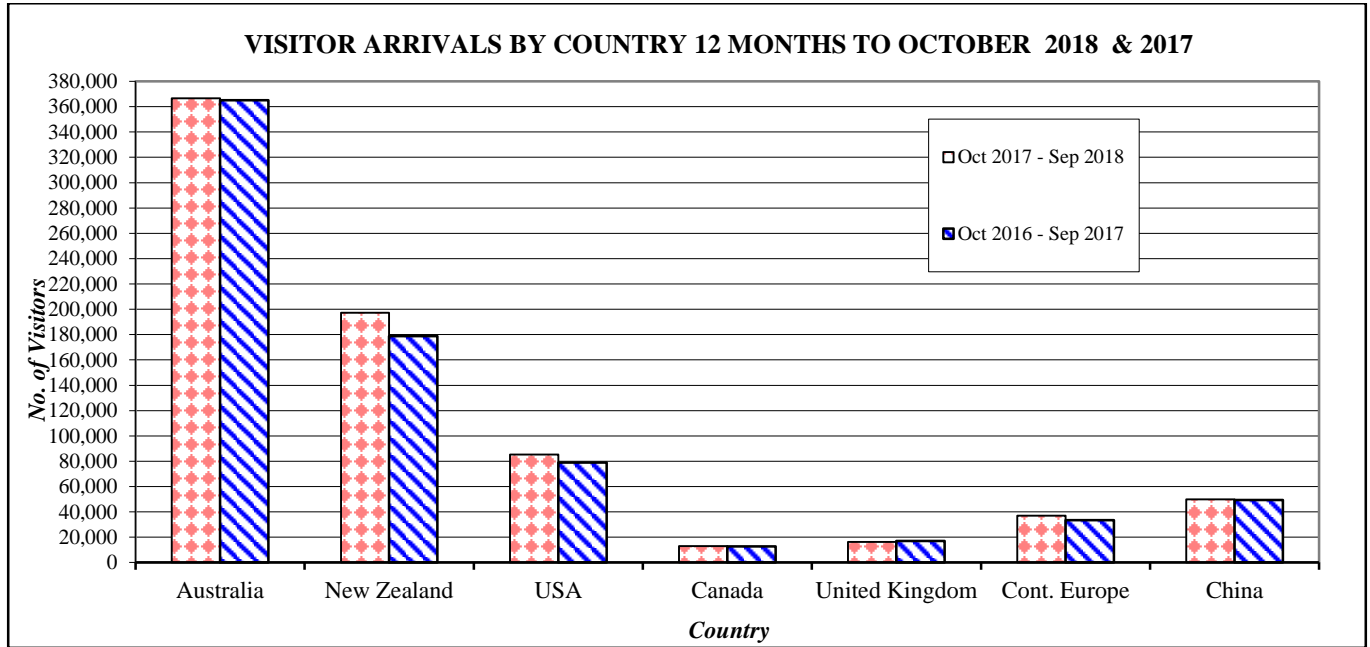


Figure 3 below shows the twelve monthly comparisons.

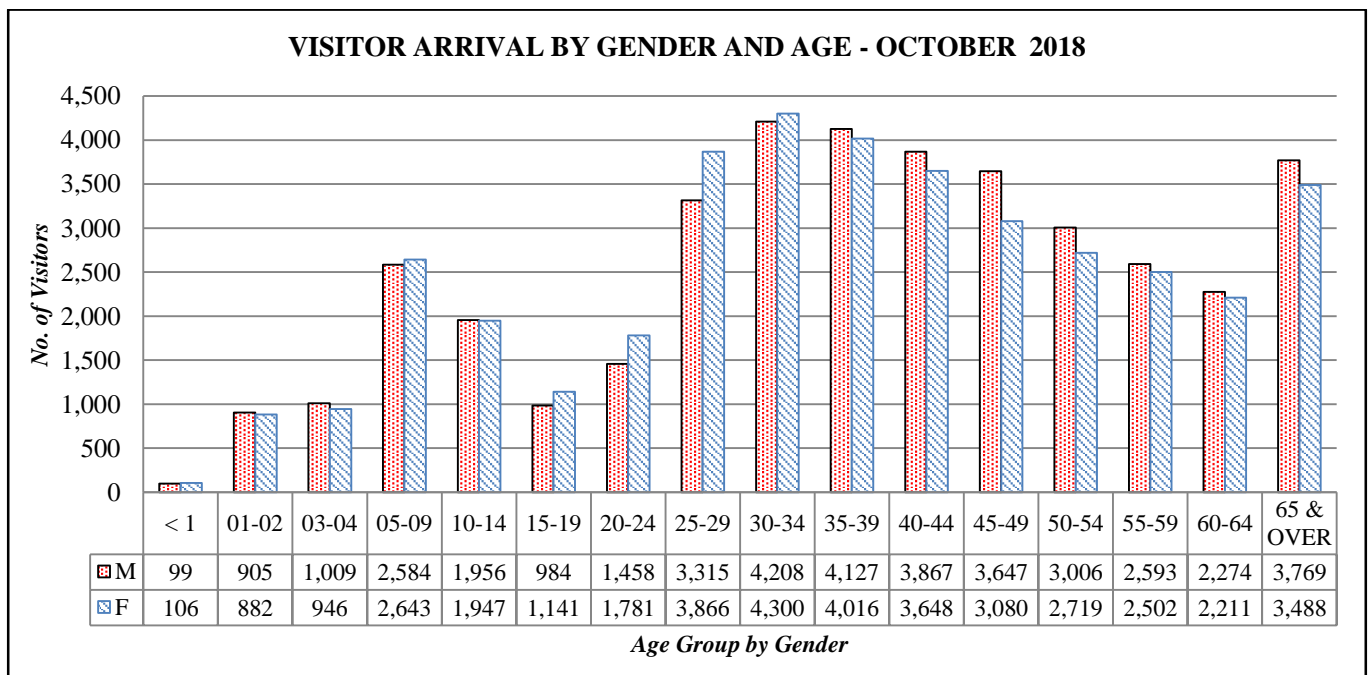
Figure 3



The majority of visitors to Fiji in October 2018 were in the age range 25-64 (67.4%), which accounts for the vast majority of the working age population. Children aged 14 and below accounted for 16.6% of the October visitor arrivals; 9.2% comprising those in the predominantly retirement age group of 65 and over with the remaining 6.8% were youths aged 15-24.

Figure 4 below shows a significant gender differential in the age groups 20-24, 25-29, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54 and 65+;

Figure 4



Visitors by Occupation

For the month of October 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 [1,195 or 14.9% to 9,205].
- 2) Professional Workers – increased by [689 or 4.3% to 16,584].
- 3) Legislators – increased by [261 or 2.3% to 11,568].
- 4) Clerical Workers – increased by [18 or 0.6% to 3,195].
- 5) Service Workers – decreased by [1,844 or 27.4% to 4,874].

October 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 [1,265 or 11.4% to 12,336].
- 2) Retirees, Housewives, Children & Others – decreased by [760 or 4.9% to 14,732].

Additional details are provided in Figure 5 below;

Figure 5

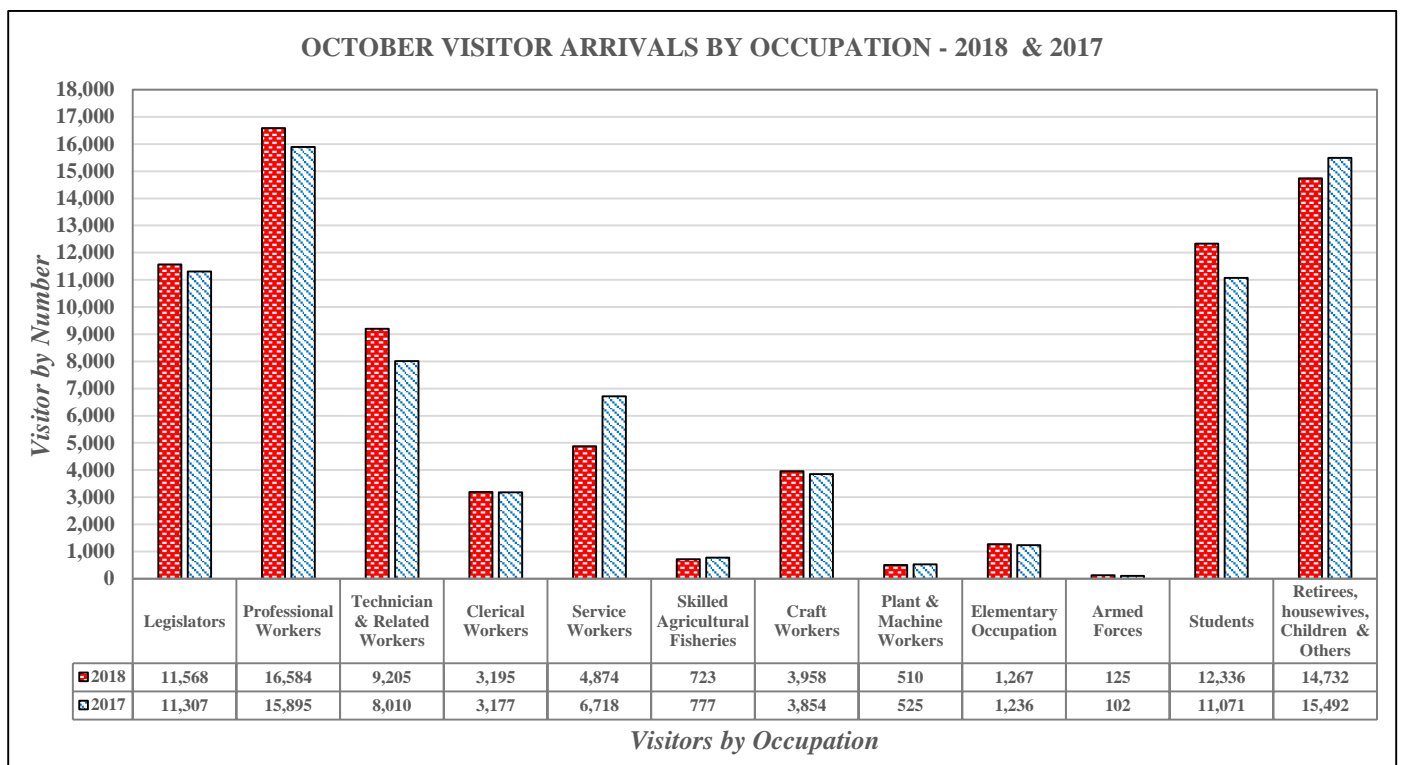


Table 2

Resident Departures for September 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	3,691 (33.6%)	346				4,037	29.4%
Visiting Friends or Relatives	4,781 (43.5%)	763				5,544	40.4%
Business	1,505 (13.7%)	103	48	28		1,684	12.3%
Employment	391 (3.6%)	238	345	68		1,042	7.6%
Education/Training	624 (5.7%)	103	134	45		906	6.6%
Emigration			123	301		424	3.1%
Others			9	83		92	0.7%
Grand Total	10,992 (100%)	1,553	659	525		13,729	
% To Total	80.1%	11.3%	4.8%	3.8%			100.0%

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

A total of 13,729 Fiji Residents departed our shores during the month of September of which 10,992 or 80.1% were for a short-term absence of under three months. A total of 1,184 or 8.6% 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;

- Visiting Friends or Relatives – 43.5%
- Holiday – 33.6%
- Business – 13.7%
- Employment – 3.6%
- Education/Training – 5.7%.

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

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