

STATISTICAL NEWS

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PROVISIONAL VISITOR ARRIVALS – FEBRUARY 2019

Provisional numbers show that visitor arrivals for February 2019 totaled 48,748, a slight decrease of 0.1% compared to a year earlier.

There were decreases in the number of visitors from the following countries; Australia [down 1,525 or 9.0% to 15,489]; China [down 454 or 6.9% to 6,113]; Continental Europe [down 327 or 12.2% to 2,355] and the United States of America [down 96 or 1.6% to 5,855].

Increases were recorded in the number of visitors from Japan [693 or 135.9% to 1,203]; Pacific Islands [595 or 13.5% to 5,011]; New Zealand [504 or 7.6% to 7,145]; Rest of Asia [414 or 24.7% to 2,092]; South Korea [124 or 22.4% to 677]; United Kingdom [123 or 9.8 to 1,375] and Canada [30 or 3.0% to 1,023].

Visitors arriving for holiday purposes accounted for 69.6% of total arrivals, 9.5% came to visit their friends or relatives 4.8% came for business purposes, while 16.1% visited Fiji for other reasons.

Table 1 below presents actual numbers and the 2019 and 2018 comparisons of visitor arrivals for the month of February, six months to February and twelve months to February 2019.

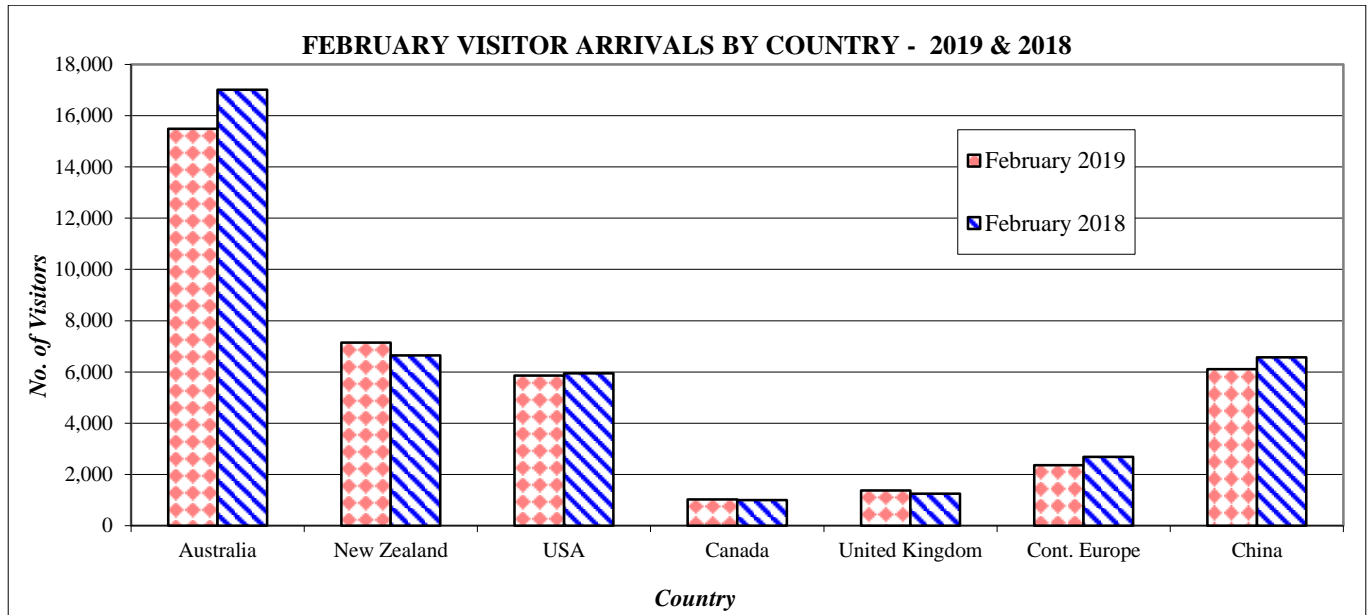
Table 1

	FEBRUARY			6 MONTH TO FEBRUARY					12 MONTHS TO FEBRUARY		
	2019	2018	% CHANGE	2019	% TO TOTAL	2018	% TO TOTAL	% CHANGE	2019	2018	% CHANGE
ARRIVALS											
Australia	15,489	17,014	-9.0	178,913	43.1	182,481	44.6	-2.0	363,682	365,285	-0.4
New Zealand	7,145	6,641	7.6	87,160	21.0	81,703	20.0	6.7	200,183	186,369	7.4
USA	5,855	5,951	-1.6	38,785	9.3	37,846	9.2	2.5	86,071	81,695	5.4
Canada	1,023	993	3.0	6,222	1.5	5,819	1.4	6.9	13,371	12,600	6.1
United Kingdom	1,375	1,252	9.8	7,794	1.9	7,911	1.9	-1.5	16,364	16,824	-2.7
Cont. Europe	2,355	2,682	-12.2	18,454	4.4	17,561	4.3	5.1	37,060	35,128	5.5
Japan	1,203	510	135.9	7,436	1.8	2,883	0.7	157.9	13,218	6,058	118.2
China	6,113	6,567	-6.9	24,436	5.9	24,924	6.1	-2.0	49,024	49,141	-0.2
South Korea	677	553	22.4	4,116	1.0	4,720	1.2	-12.8	8,274	8,834	-6.3
Rest of Asia	2,092	1,678	24.7	12,307	3.0	11,857	2.9	3.8	27,372	25,168	8.8
Pacific Islands	5,011	4,416	13.5	27,088	6.5	28,701	7.0	-5.6	51,923	53,518	-3.0
Others	410	541	-24.2	2,417	0.6	2,814	0.7	-14.1	4,876	4,891	-0.3
TOTAL VISITORS	48,748	48,798	-0.1	415,128	100.0	409,220	100.0	1.4	871,418	845,511	3.1

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 February 2019 and 2018.

Figure 1



In the moving twelve monthly numbers ending February 2019, the total number of visitors to Fiji increased by 3.1% compared with the same period in 2018. Visitors from Japan increased by [118.2%]; Rest of Asia [8.8%]; New Zealand [7.4%]; Canada [6.1%]; Continental Europe [5.5%] and the United States of America [5.4%].

Decreases were recorded for visitors from South Korea [6.3%]; Pacific Islands [3.0%]; the United Kingdom [2.7%]; Australia [0.4%]; Other Countries [0.3%] and China [0.2%].

The moving six months to February 2019, showed that visitor arrivals increased by 1.4% over the corresponding period in 2018, up from 409,220 to 415,128.

Figure 2 below shows a graphical comparison of visitor arrivals by country during a six-month period to February 2019.

Figure 2

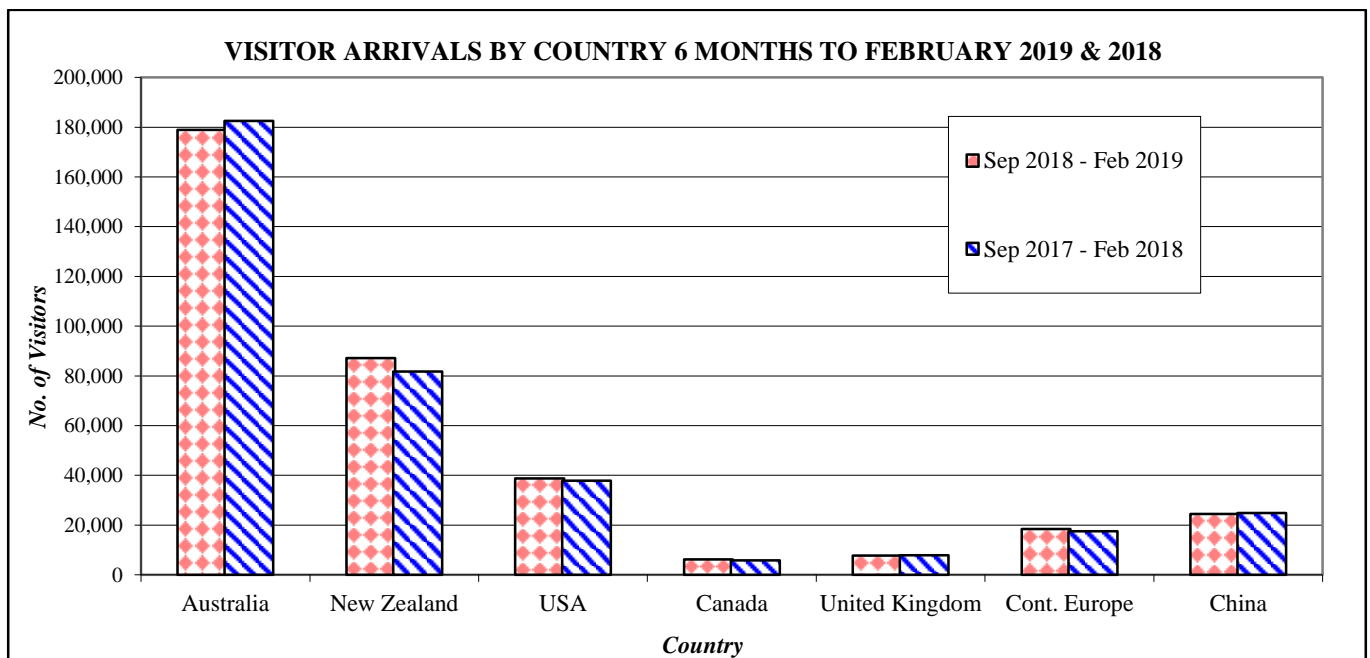
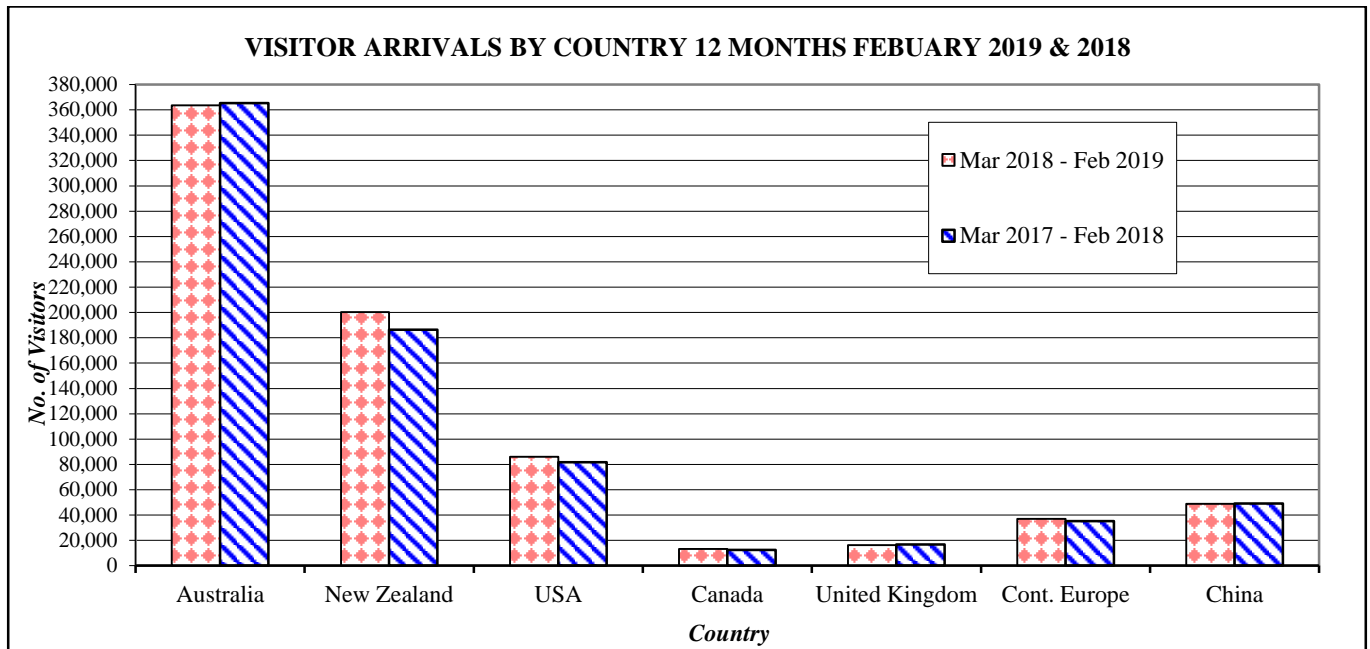


Figure 3 below shows the twelve monthly comparisons.

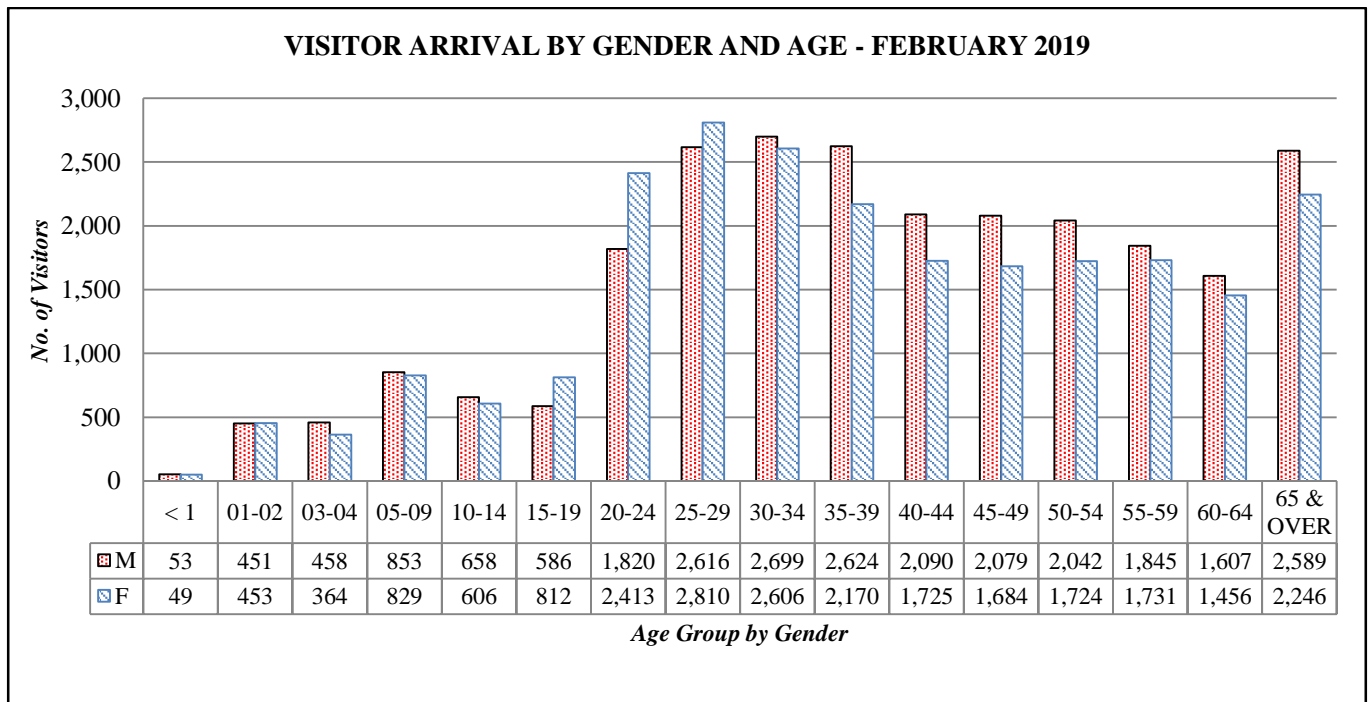
Figure 3



The majority of visitors to Fiji in February 2019 were in the age range 25-64 (68.7%), which accounts for the vast majority of the working age population. Youths aged 15-24 accounted for 11.6% of the February visitor arrivals; 9.9% comprising those in the predominantly retirement age group of 65 and over with the remaining 9.8% were Children aged 14 and below.

Figure 4 below shows a significant gender differential in the age groups 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59 and 65+;

Figure 4



Visitors by Occupation

For the month of February 2019 the top 5 Occupational Groups for visitors engaged in gainful employment in their home countries are as follows;

- 1) Service Workers – increased by [425 or 13.6% to 3,542].
- 2) Legislators – increased by [396 or 5.7% to 7,304].
- 3) Professional Workers – decreased by [609 or 5.8% to 9,938].
- 4) Technician and Related Workers – decreased by [322 or 5.8% to 5,242].
- 5) Clerical Workers – decreased by [107 or 6.0% to 1,671].

February 2019 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 [154 or 1.7% to 9,463].
- 2) Students – decreased by [10 or 0.1% to 7,660].

Additional details are provided in Figure 5 below;

Figure 5

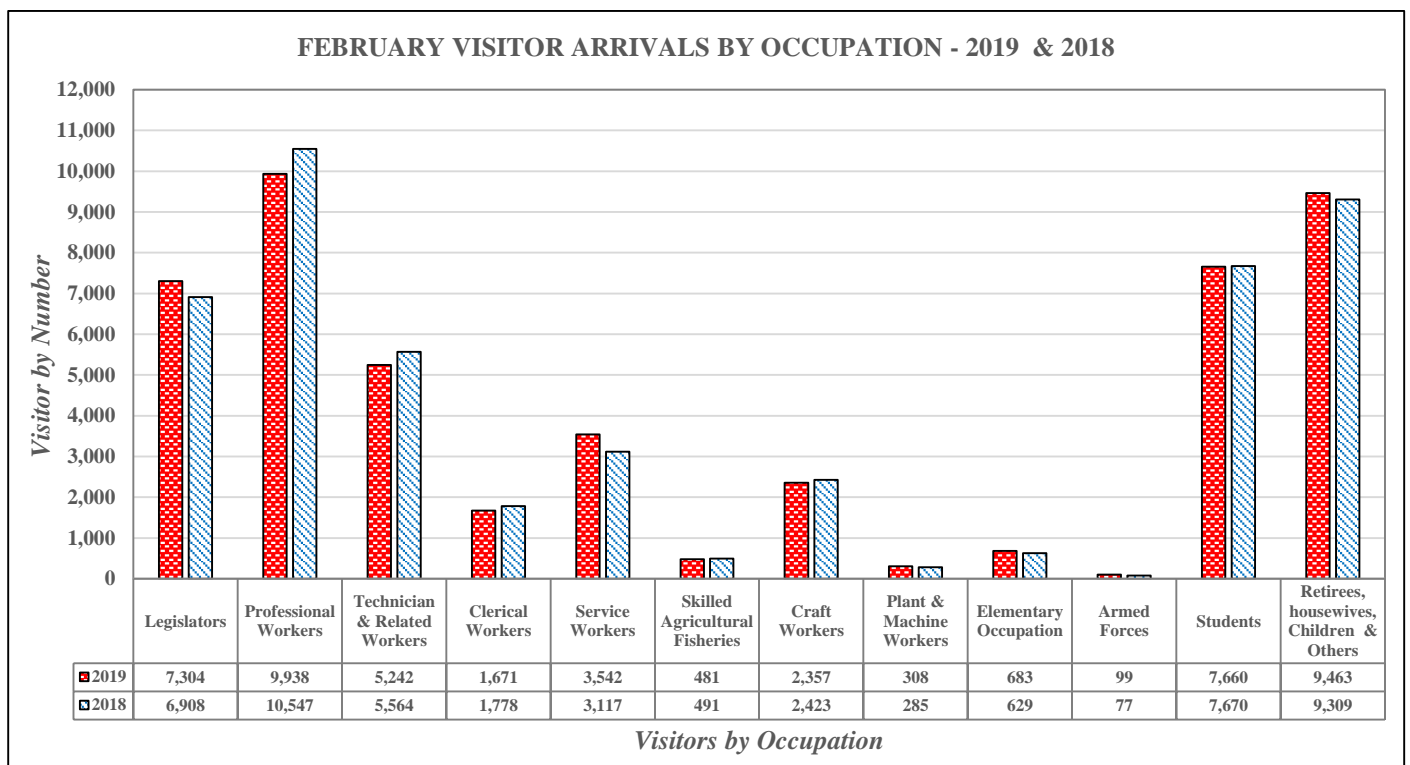


Table 2

Resident Departures for January 2019

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	6,101 (49.7%)	892				6,993	45.5%
Visiting Friends or Relatives	4,063 (33.1%)	452				4,515	29.4%
Business	1,007 (8.2%)	50	19			1,076	7.0%
Employment	686 (5.6%)	342	528	1		1,557	10.1%
Education/Training	362 (3.0%)	186	147			695	4.5%
Emigration			61	279		340	2.2%
Others	49 (0.4%)	11	33	92		185	1.2%
Grand Total	12,268 (100%)	1,933	788	372		15,361	
% To Total	79.9%	12.6%	5.1%	2.4%			100.0%

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

A total of 15,361 Fiji Residents departed our shores during the month of January of which 12,268 or 79.9% were for a short-term absence of under three months. A total of 1,160 or 7.6% 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;

- Holiday – 49.7%
- Visiting Friends or Relatives – 33.1%
- Business – 8.2%
- Employment – 5.6%
- Education/Training – 3.0%.

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 – FEBRUARY 2019.
- TABLE 6: VISITOR ARRIVALS BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE AND OCCUPATION – FEBRUARY 2019.
- TABLE 7: RESIDENT DEPARTURE BY FINAL DESTINATION AND BY PURPOSE OF ABSENCE – JANUARY 2019.

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