

STATISTICAL NEWS

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PROVISIONAL VISITOR ARRIVALS – JANUARY 2019

Provisional numbers show that visitor arrivals for January 2019 totaled 63,807, an increase of 1.9% compared to a year earlier.

Increases were recorded in the number of visitors from New Zealand [961 or 9.1% to 11,573]; Japan [622 or 123.2% to 1,127]; China [207 or 5.5% to 3,964]; Canada [121 or 12.1% to 1,121]; the United States of America [92 or 1.6% to 5,709] and Rest of Asia [30 or 1.7% to 1,842].

There were decreases in the number of visitors from the following countries; Australia [down 453 or 1.6% to 27,860]; Pacific Islands [down 326 or 5.9% to 5,203]; the United Kingdom [down 56 or 4.2% to 1,265]; Continental Europe [down 46 or 1.6% to 2,906] and South Korea [down 26 or 3.3% to 766].

Visitors arriving for holiday purposes accounted for 73.8% of total arrivals, 8.7% came to visit their friends or relatives 3.0% came for business purposes, while 14.5% visited Fiji for other reasons.

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

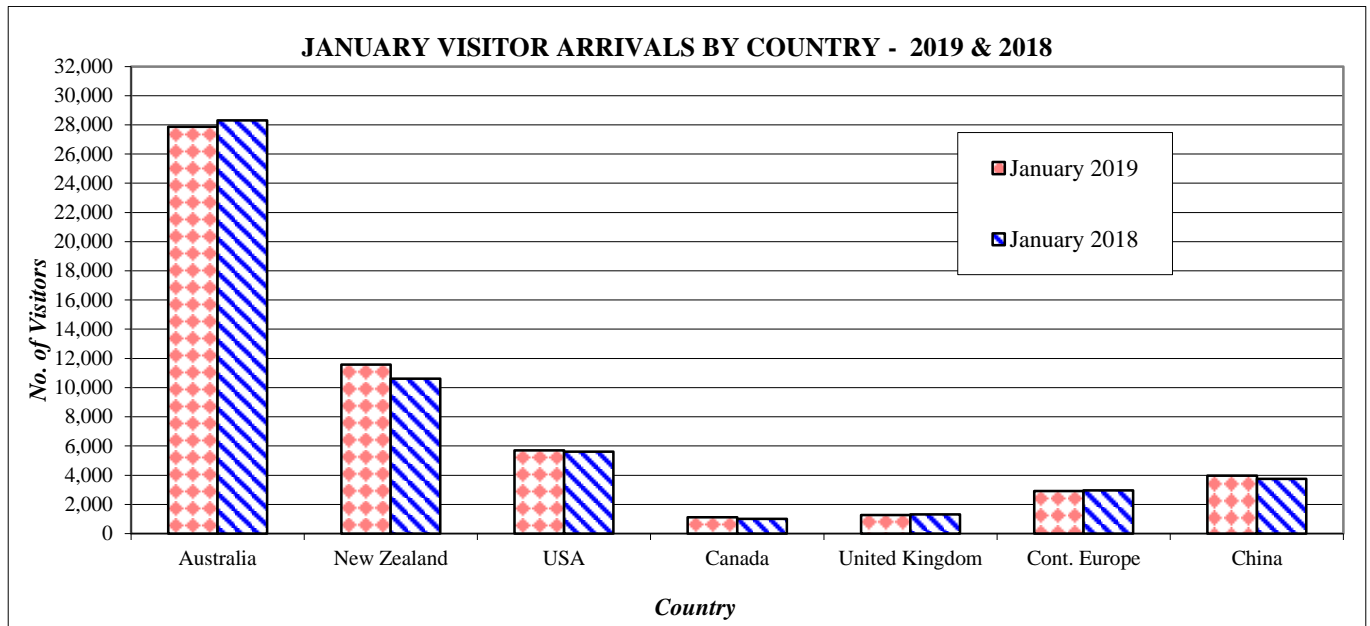
Table 1

	JANUARY			6 MONTH TO JANUARY					12 MONTHS TO JANUARY		
	2019	2018	% CHANGE	2019	% TO TOTAL	2018	% TO TOTAL	% CHANGE	2019	2018	% CHANGE
ARRIVALS											
Australia	27,860	28,313	-1.6	198,065	43.5	198,375	44.8	-0.2	365,207	363,874	0.4
New Zealand	11,573	10,612	9.1	104,080	22.9	98,168	22.2	6.0	199,679	185,956	7.4
USA	5,709	5,617	1.6	40,657	8.9	39,060	8.8	4.1	86,167	81,282	6.0
Canada	1,121	1,000	12.1	6,636	1.5	6,116	1.4	8.5	13,341	12,503	6.7
United Kingdom	1,265	1,321	-4.2	7,905	1.7	7,955	1.8	-0.6	16,241	16,897	-3.9
Cont. Europe	2,906	2,952	-1.6	20,400	4.5	18,300	4.1	11.5	37,387	34,741	7.6
Japan	1,127	505	123.2	8,687	1.9	3,209	0.7	170.7	12,525	6,268	99.8
China	3,964	3,757	5.5	23,293	5.1	23,173	5.2	0.5	49,478	46,645	6.1
South Korea	766	792	-3.3	4,124	0.9	4,839	1.1	-14.8	8,150	8,914	-8.6
Rest of Asia	1,842	1,812	1.7	12,542	2.8	12,291	2.8	2.0	26,958	24,995	7.9
Pacific Islands	5,203	5,529	-5.9	26,296	5.8	28,615	6.5	-8.1	51,328	53,814	-4.6
Others	471	438	7.5	2,388	0.5	2,637	0.6	-9.4	5,007	4,700	6.5
TOTAL VISITORS	63,807	62,648	1.9	455,073	100.0	442,738	100.0	2.8	871,468	840,589	3.7

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 January 2019 and 2018.

Figure 1



In the moving twelve monthly numbers ending January 2019, the total number of visitors to Fiji increased by 3.7% compared with the same period in 2018. Visitors from Japan increased by [99.8%]; Rest of Asia [7.9%]; Continental Europe [7.6%]; New Zealand [7.4%]; Canada [6.7%]; Other Countries [6.5%]; China [6.1%]; the United States of America [6.0%]; and Australia [0.4%].

Decreases were recorded for visitors from South Korea [8.6%]; Pacific Islands [4.6%] and the United Kingdom [3.9%].

The moving six months to January 2019, showed that visitor arrivals increased by 2.8% over the corresponding period in 2018, up from 442,738 to 455,073.

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

Figure 2

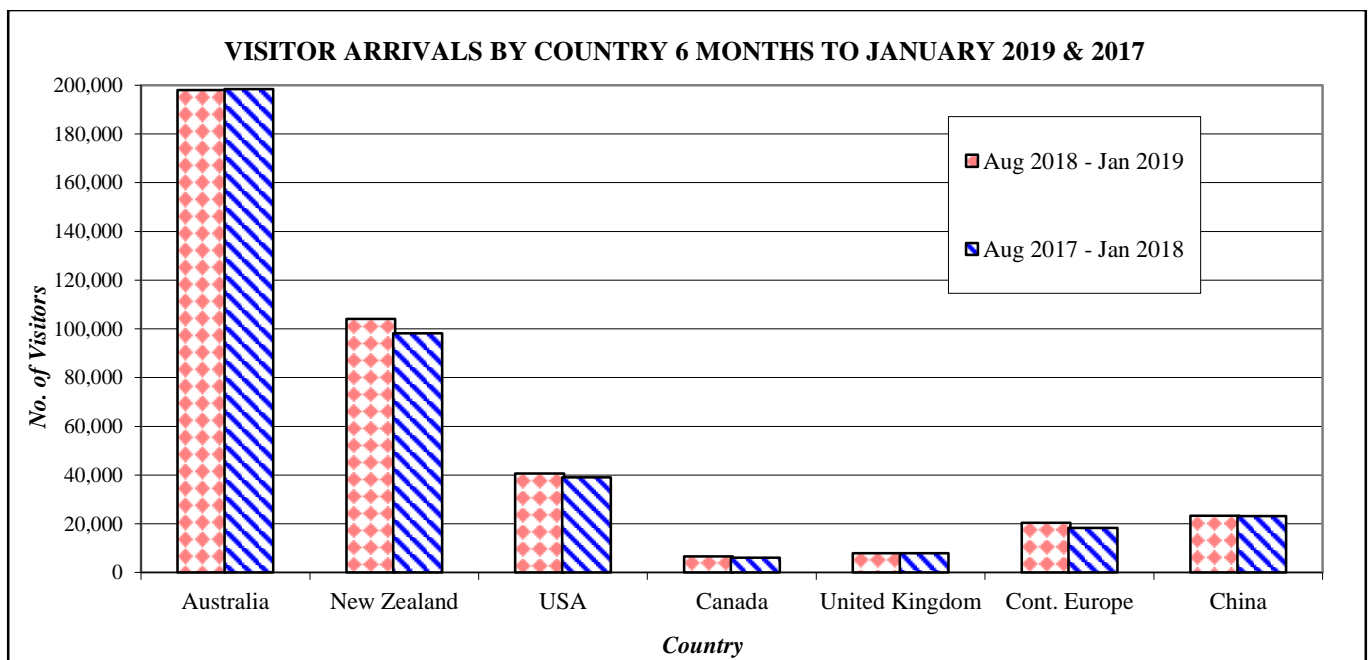
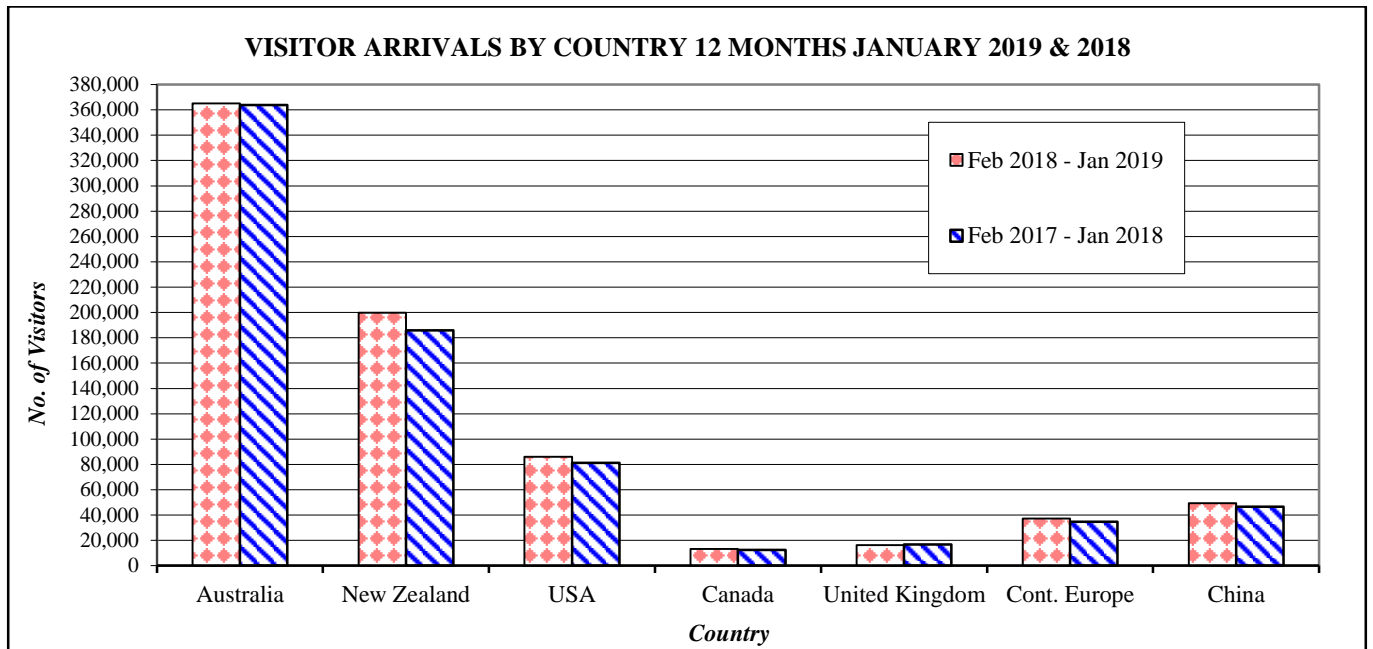


Figure 3 below shows the twelve monthly comparisons.

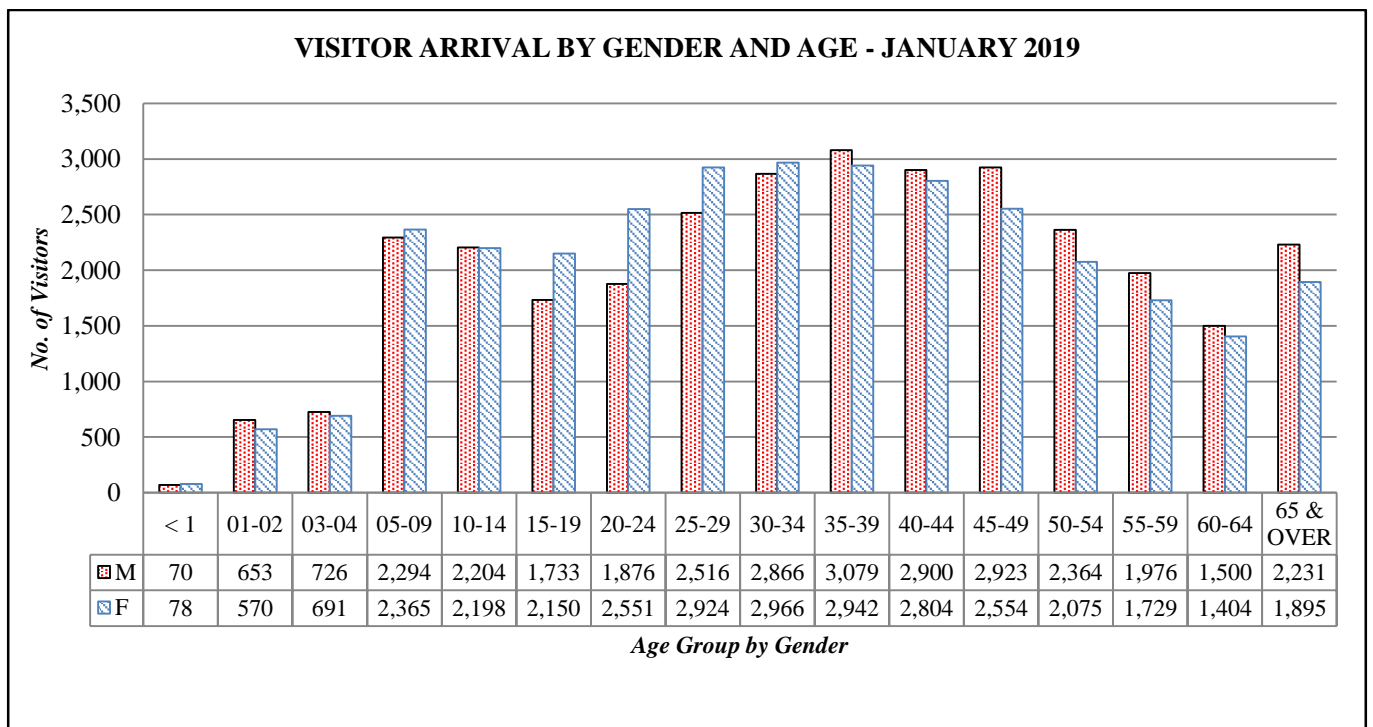
Figure 3



The majority of visitors to Fiji in January 2019 were in the age range 25-64 (61.9%), which accounts for the vast majority of the working age population. Children aged 14 and below accounted for 18.6% of the January visitor arrivals; 13.0% were youths aged 15-24 with the remaining 6.5% comprising those in the predominantly retirement age group of 65 and over.

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 January 2019 the top 5 Occupational Groups for visitors engaged in gainful employment in their home countries are as follows;

- 1) Clerical Workers – increased by [432 or 26.3% to 2,076].
- 2) Professional Workers – increased by [403 or 3.3% to 12,632].
- 3) Service Workers – increased by [208 or 4.1% to 5,270].
- 4) Technician and Related Workers – decreased by [303 or 5.5% to 5,251].
- 5) Legislators – decreased by [117 or 1.4% to 8,231].

January 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 [1,140 or 11.9% to 10,684].
- 2) Students – decreased by [360 or 2.3% to 15,261].

Additional details are provided in Figure 5 below;

Figure 5

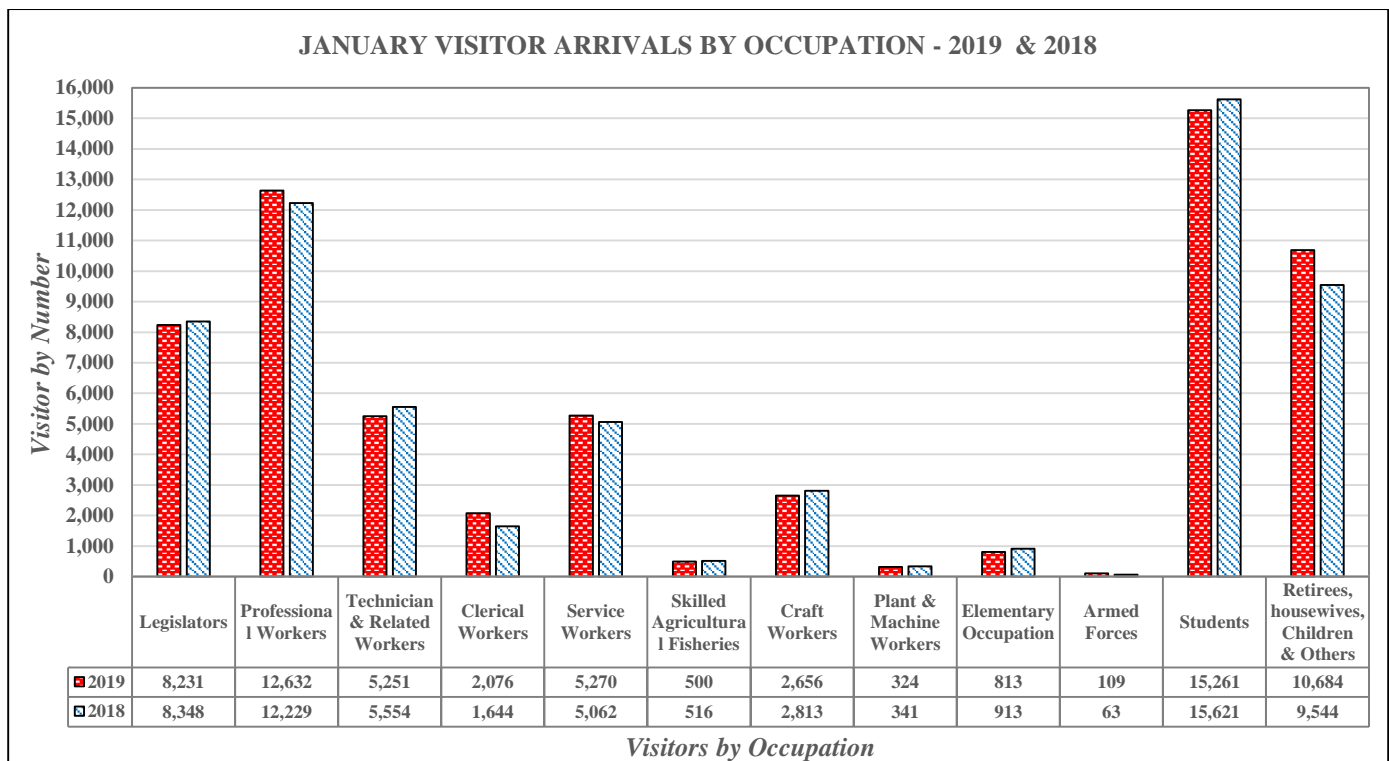


Table 2

Resident Departures for December 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	11,973 (59.9%)	914				12,887	56.4%
Visiting Friends or Relatives	6,074 (30.4%)	494				6,568	28.7%
Business	1,271 (6.4%)	45	18	10		1,344	5.9%
Employment	350 (1.8%)	106	173	20		649	2.8%
Education/Training	300 (1.5%)	159	65	13		537	2.4%
Emigration			55	512		567	2.5%
Others	5 (0.0%)	44	86	163		298	1.3%
Grand Total	19,973 (100%)	1,762	397	718		22,850	
% To Total	87.4%	7.7%	1.7%	3.1%			100.0%

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

A total of 22,850 Fiji Residents departed our shores during the month of December of which 19,973 or 87.4% were for a short-term absence of under three months. A total of 1,115 or 4.9% 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 – 59.9%
- Visiting Friends or Relatives – 30.4%
- Business – 6.4%
- Employment – 1.8%
- Education/Training – 1.5%.

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 – JANUARY 2019.
TABLE 6:	VISITOR ARRIVALS BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE AND OCCUPATION – JANUARY 2019.
TABLE 7:	RESIDENT DEPARTURE BY FINAL DESTINATION AND BY PURPOSE OF ABSENCE – DECEMBER 2018.

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