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VISITOR STATISTICS

(Fourth Quarter 2016)

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Ministry of Finance

Honiara

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Introduction

This quarterly bulletin is produced by the National Statistics Office NSO in the Ministry of Finance and Treasury. It provides information on international arrivals comprised of the returning resident, intending resident, and visitor. The explanation of these categories is provided in Appendix 1 of the bulletin.

Visitor category comprised the bigger share of the bulletin, (portrayed in tables 1 to 8); compared to the returning and intending resident category portrayed in Tables 1, and 9 to 12. The bulletin includes twelve tables and eight charts stretched over cross-field tabulation, preferably to meet information need of local, regional, and international researchers.

The information captured through a self fill Disembarkation form that was completed by all disembarking passengers. The forms were collected by Immigration officials at international check-in counters on arrival. The coverage of the bulletin is complete.

Sheer acknowledgement is owed to the Immigration Department for their continuous support of this bulletin, by providing an office space and permitting the statistics office to input completed forms. With the official arrangement in-placed between the Statistics and Immigration departments this bulletin is possible.

The inclusion of four new tables 9 to 12 in Appendix 2 of the bulletin anticipates to complete the distribution portrait of Intending and Returning resident. The distribution is by age groups, occupation and by country of usual residence.

Data limitations, highlighted in the previous bulletin still remain, though some have substantially improved but noted again for ease of reference as follows:-

- Data entry duplication by the Immigration and Statistics departments was a long standing issue. Discussion of the issues had been made by the two departments, though resolution has been recognized, this was yet to be put in place.
- Timeliness of visitor statistics has improved but the bulletin may be delayed by the production process.
- The information contained in the bulletin is based on information captured from the data source by the SINSO.
- The monetary value of the industry is not available and thus not possible in this bulletin. The concepts and definitions of the arrival categories were included in Appendix 1. The symbols that are likely to be used are:
 - zero if representing a value
 - negative change if representing a percentage change
 - + positive change if representing a percentage change
 - p preliminary figure, subject to revision
 - r revised
 - e estimate
 - n/a not available

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COMMENTARY OF RESULTS

International Arrivals

Total Arrivals for the fourth quarter of 2016 was 14,638. This is an increase of 35.4% compared to the previous quarter (4th Quarter 2016). Compared to the same quarter a year ago, an increase of 17.0% was recorded.

Arrivals classified by the category for the fourth quarter of 2016 showed that returning resident comprise of 52%. Visitors recorded 47% and the remaining 1% was recorded for intending resident.

Visitors' arrival for the fourth quarter showed an increase of 20.3% to 6,813 compared to the third quarter figure of 5,665. Compared to the same quarter in 2015, an increase of 14.5% was recorded. Table 1, showed visitor and returning resident categories comprised the larger proportion of all arrivals while the intending resident represents the lesser share during the quarter. Chart 1 gives a clear picture of all the categories.

Visitor by Country of Residence

Arrivals by country of residence for fourth quarter of the year showed that Australians (40.0%) continues and remain the frequent travellers to Solomon Islands, followed by Other Asia (11.5%), PNG (6.9%), Fiji (6.5%), Vanuatu (6.1%), NZ (6.0%) and US (4.9%). Table 2 showed further detailed information.

Visitor by Month

Visitors by monthly arrivals for the quarter showed that December has the highest number of arrivals with 2,357 persons. This was followed by the month of October with a recorded total of 2,257 persons and November the least with 2,199 persons.

Tourists

Tourist¹ arrivals for fourth quarter of the year recorded a total of 2,447 persons and they spent an average of 14 days in the country. The highest number of tourists recorded for the quarter comes from Australia (43%) and staying in the country for an average of 13 days. This was followed by Other Asia (7.7%), US (7.6%), PNG (7.4%), Vanuatu and Japan (4.6%), and Other Europe (4.4%).

Visitor by Purpose of Visit

Distribution of visitors by purpose of visit revealed that Holiday & Vocation (32.9%) as most popular during the quarter. This was followed by Business & Conference (25.8%), other (20.6%), Visit friends & relatives (17.7%) and Transit & stopover the least with (3.0%).

Visitor by Age Group

Visitor Arrivals by broad age groups showed that 72.6% of arrivals were in the 25years to 64years age range. The younger and the older age brackets represent 20% while the remaining 7.4% represents visitors who did not state their age. Male represents 65.3% of the arrival and female 34.7%. (Refer to Chart 6).

Visitor by Occupation

Visitor by occupational category revealed that Professional and Technical (33.7%) recorded the highest during the quarter. This was followed by those who stated other (33.3%), Administration and managerial (10.5%), No Work (9.2%), Service Worker (4.7%) and Production and Related Work (3.9%). Table 7 further revealed that Australia dominated most of the categories of occupations during the quarter. Refer to Table 7 for further analysis.

Visitor by Carrier

The most popular carriers during the quarter were Solomon Airlines (51.4%) followed by Fiji Airways (19.4%), Virgin Australia (16.9%) and unscheduled (1.2%).

¹ Refer to Appendix 1 for the definition

Table 3: Visitor Arrivals by Month: 2007 – 4th Quarter 2016

Month	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
January	546	889	1,602	1,235	1,600	1,383	1,590	1,415	1,259	1,655
February	1,020	1,282	1,422	1,209	1,658	1,591	1,544	1,523	1,465	1,707
March	1,251	802	1,249	1,766	1,861	1,677	2,184	1,816	1,675	1,675
April	1,452	1,388	1,499	1,820	1,736	1,839	2,021	1,514	1,750	1,799
May	1,137	1,261	1,393	1,137	1,760	1,968	1,857	1,462	1,681	1,896
June	1,265	1,552	1,724	1,797	2,009	3,122	2,317	1,949	2,131	1,984
July	822	1,692	1,603	2,264	2,185	2,865	2,574	2,114	2,077	2,319
August	1,299	1,469	1,520	1,845	1,900	2,133	2,022	1,639	1,426	1,918
September	1,299	1,457	1,659	2,153	2,159	2,309	2,291	1,730	2,211	1,428
October	1,260	1,399	1,709	1,813	1,931	1,929	2,057	1,798	1,748	2,257
November	1,246	1,545	1,475	1,624	2,195	1,545	1,981	1,515	2,101	2,199
December	1,151	1,528	1,405	1,858	1,947	1,564	1,993	1,595	2,099	2,357
Total	13,748	16,264	18,260	20,521	22,941	23,925	24,431	20,070	19,524	23,194
Percentage										
January	4.0	5.5	8.8	5.5	7.0	5.8	6.5	7.1	6.4	7.1
February	7.4	7.9	7.8	5.4	7.2	6.6	6.3	7.6	7.5	7.4
March	9.1	4.9	6.8	7.8	8.1	7.0	8.9	9.0	8.6	7.2
April	10.6	8.5	8.2	8.1	7.6	7.7	8.3	7.5	9.0	7.8
May	8.3	7.8	7.6	5.0	7.7	8.2	7.6	7.3	8.6	8.2
June	9.2	9.5	9.4	8.0	8.8	13.0	9.5	9.7	10.9	8.6
July	6.0	10.4	8.8	10.0	9.5	12.0	10.5	10.5	10.6	10.0
August	9.4	9.0	8.3	8.2	8.3	8.9	8.3	8.2	7.3	8.3
September	9.4	9.0	9.1	9.6	9.4	9.7	9.4	8.6	11.3	6.2
October	9.2	8.6	9.4	8.0	8.4	8.1	8.4	9.0	9.0	9.7
November	9.1	9.5	8.1	7.2	9.6	6.5	8.1	7.5	10.8	9.5
December	8.4	9.4	7.7	8.2	8.5	6.5	8.2	7.9	10.8	10.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Chart 3: Visitors Arrival by month, 2013 – 4th quarter 2016

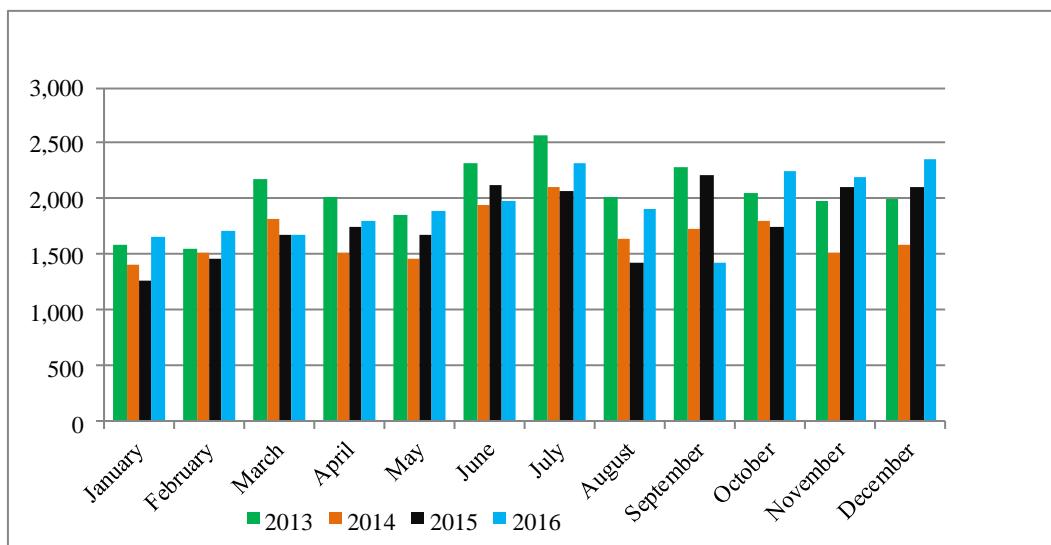
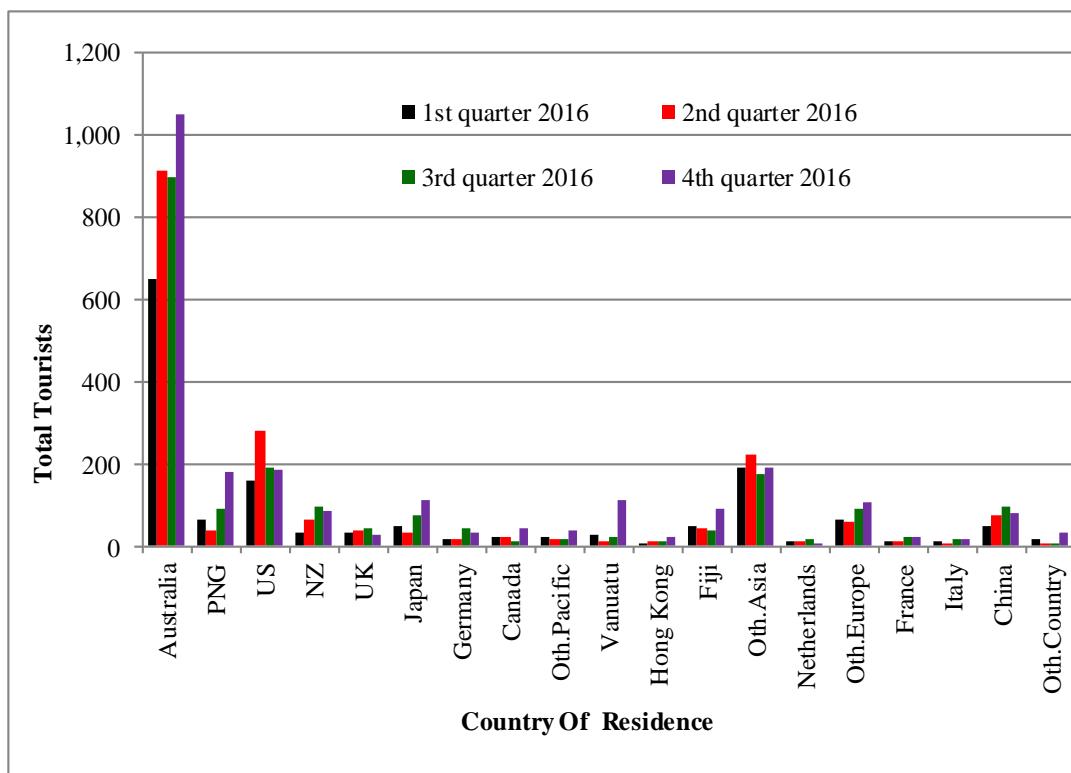


Table 4: Visitors, classified as tourists by Country of Residence by Year, Quarter and Average length of stay: 1st Quarter 2015 – 4th Quarter 2016

Country of Usual Residence	2015								2016							
	Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
	tourist	day														
Australia	476	14.4	575	11.7	920	10.8	935	12.3	649	11.2	912	11.7	896	10.2	1,050	13.2
PNG	49	6.7	67	4.0	41	10.0	97	20.3	66	8.0	37	11.1	92	6.3	182	13.3
US	126	7.4	103	14.2	141	11.0	227	11.0	162	7.8	283	11.9	190	12.1	185	12.2
NZ	21	7.5	31	21.7	76	12.6	83	19.2	32	18.8	66	15.4	97	12.6	87	14.1
UK	33	19.6	29	14.7	47	15.3	73	15.5	31	13.0	38	16.9	44	13.9	30	15.1
Japan	48	7.0	20	7.1	121	6.0	60	7.0	49	9.0	32	11.3	75	6.4	113	11.3
Germany	14	6.1	12	18.7	16	16.1	23	19.7	17	20.9	19	13.5	42	9.6	36	14.4
Canada	17	13.9	17	12.5	12	14.8	43	8.8	21	13.6	22	8.9	12	15.8	44	12.9
Oth.Pacific	11	11.3	15	16.6	23	8.9	40	15.1	25	8.6	17	7.6	16	7.7	37	8.2
Vanuatu	20	5.1	18	14.4	29	9.6	53	19.8	28	16.2	15	13.9	22	9.9	113	15.6
Hong Kong	7	12.1	12	7.4	4	18.8	6	8.0	8	4.9	10	12.2	12	8.8	22	10.9
Fiji	23	18.2	24	26.6	30	31.2	49	24.7	51	12.9	46	20.8	37	10.7	89	17.0
Oth.Asia	129	20.9	135	18.2	128	24.6	123	18.7	189	14.9	222	14.8	174	18.4	189	18.7
Netherlands	8	11.3	2	11.5	2	6.0	11	10.4	14	16.2	10	12.0	17	14.1	6	11.0
Oth.Europe	64	11.7	47	11.3	68	9.3	70	15.3	63	9.7	59	15.6	91	11.0	107	12.4
France	3	14.7	4	11.0	16	10.5	103	6.8	10	8.7	14	13.4	21	12.7	21	12.6
Italy	6	16.5	6	5.2	3	24.0	3	51.3	13	19.8	5	13.4	16	11.1	19	13.9
China ¹	41	20.9	50	16.1	77	24.5	69	18.9	50	17.0	77	15.1	98	13.8	83	15.7
Oth.Country	9	29.7	3	10.0	6	17.3	19	14.5	19	16.3	3	2.0	6	12.5	34	11.9
Total	1,105	13.7	1,170	13.1	1,760	12.7	2,087	13.8	1,497	11.8	1,887	12.8	1,958	11.3	2,447	13.7

¹Figures for ‘China’ for previous quarters was included in ‘Other Asia’

Chart 4: Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, 4th Quarter 2016



Appendix 1

Concepts and Definitions

Persons entering Solomon Islands classify themselves into three (3) categories; returning resident, intending resident, and visitor. The concepts and definitions of the various categories are as follows:

(i) Returning residents

- Solomon Islanders and non-Solomon Islanders who have left the country and are returning to continue their residence.
- Non Solomon Islanders includes resident permit holders and Diplomatic officials, and their immediate family members. This may also includes legal or official arrangements that fall out side of the above.

(ii) Intending residents

- Non-Solomon Islander who wish to take up residence in Solomon Islands.

(iii) Visitors

- Any traveller who is not a Solomon Islander and who purposely spend less time – at most a period of 120 days², in the country and with the intention and purpose of visiting.
- *Tourist*
 - Visitors who further classify themselves stating their visit are purposely for '*holiday and vacation*'. This exclude, tourist arrivals by cruise ships.
 - Wife accompanying husband on business purpose is a private tourist unless also working.
 - *World Tourism Organization WTO definition of Tourism:*
*It comprises the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited*³.

(iv) Markets

- *Country of Usual Residence*

² Solomon Islands 1993 Statistical Yearbook.

³ Dimensions of Hospitality, Study guide 1. p17

