## International Arrivals & Departures November 2016

Release date: 9th June 2017

	<b>Nov 16</b>	<b>Oct 16</b>	Sep 16	<b>Aug 16</b>
Total Arrivals	7,642	14,156	8,451	10,324
Total Departures	7,657	14,583	7,896	8,649

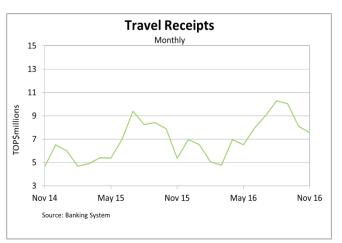
Note: Total Arrivals & Departures including air, cruise ship and yacht arrivals & departures Source: Statistics Department

## Fall in arrivals and departures driven by less cruise ship arrival

The economic activities in the tourism sector slowed over the month, returning the total arrivals and departures to the monthly average. Total international arrivals<sup>1</sup> fell to 7,642 passengers in November, 46.0% lower than the previous month largely due to 4,145 passengers (63.2%) decline in total visitors. The only cruise ship that arrived in November 2016 brought in 176 passengers compared to 6,630 passengers in the previous month. As the whale watching season ended in October 2016, yacht passengers arrival declined by 74.3% to 88 passengers in November. Majority of the visitors were from New Zealand for holiday and visiting family and friends. However, air returning residents increased bv 611 passengers (21.2%).

Accordingly, the fall in total arrivals was consistent with the 47.5% decrease in total international departures to 7,657

**International Arrivals & Departures** Monthly 14,000 Arrivals Departures 12,000 of Passengers 10,000 8,000 No. 6,000 4,000 2.000 Nov 14 May 15 Nov 15 May 16 Nov 16 Source: Statistics Department.



<sup>1</sup> Includes Tongan residents and visitors

passengers, over the month. Furthermore, the fall in international arrivals coincided with a \$0.5 million (6.6%) decline in travel receipts over the month.

Over the year to November 2016, the total number of international arrivals grew by 15,998 passengers (15.6%). Air arrival visitors rose by 6,857 passengers (13.0%), followed by 5,688 (18.4%) air returning residents. Sea arrivals<sup>2</sup> (assuming they are all visitors) increased by 3,453 passengers (18.2%) as a result of larger number of cruise ships arriving during the year. The number of celebrations and events that occurred during the year to November 2016 supported this growth. This may have supported the transportation, trade and other sectors of the economy. The higher number of arrivals was also consistent with the \$10.6 million (13.4%) increase in travel receipts recorded in the year ended to November 2016.

The total international departures also rose by 12,905 passengers (12.4%) over the year due mainly to a rise of 9,760 passengers (11.5%) in departures by air.

## Outlook

The upcoming Christmas festive period is expected to result in an increase in the international arrivals and consequently the annual total of arrivals. There are 4 cruise ships expected to arrive in December 2016 and 21 ships are scheduled to arrive during 2017. Additionally, the scheduled school anniversaries for December such as the Channel College - Kelana 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Tailulu College (Tongatapu) 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Mailefihi Siu'ilikutapu 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary are expected to bring in more visitors, and subsequently departures. The signing of the mutual visa exemption agreement between Tonga and China, and the setting up of the Chinese group tours are expected to attract more tourists from China. The Reserve Bank will continue to closely monitor the country's economic developments to support economic growth.

Arrivals						Departures					
Monthly			Year Ended		Monthly			Year Ended			
Nov 16	Oct-16	Sep-16	Nov-15	Nov 16	Nov-15	Nov-16	Oct-16	Sep-16	Nov-15	Nov-16	Nov-15
7,642	14,156	8,451	6,706	118,512	102,514	7,657	14,583	7,896	7,250	117,006	104,102
7,378	7,184	8,092	6,319	96,047	83,502	7,349	7,699	7,555	6,817	94,846	85,086
3,881	4,298	5,185	3,550	59,466	52,609	3,698	4,937	4,865	3,332	58,269	53,050
3,497	2,886	2,907	2,769	36,581	30,893	3,651	2,762	2,690	3,485	36,577	32,036
176	6,630	-	291	20,659	17,578	176	6,626	-	291	20,642	17,586
88	342	359	96	1,806	1,434	132	258	341	142	1,518	1,430
7,642	14,156	8,451	6,706	118,512	102,514	7,657	14,583	7,896	7,250	117,006	104,102
4,145	11,270	5,544	3,937	81,931	71,621	4,006	11,821	5,206	3,765	80,429	72,066
3,497	2,886	2,907	2,769	36,581	30,893	3,651	2,762	2,690	3,485	36,577	32,036
	<b>7,642</b> 7,378 3,881 3,497 176 88 <b>7,642</b> 4,145	Nov 16 Oct-16   7,642 14,156   7,378 7,184   3,881 4,298   3,497 2,886   176 6,630   88 342   7,642 14,156   4,145 11,270	Mov 16 Monthly   Nov 16 Oct-16 Sep-16   7,642 14,156 8,451   7,378 7,184 8,092   3,881 4,298 5,185   3,497 2,886 2,907   176 6,630 -   88 342 359   7,642 14,156 8,451   4,145 11,270 5,544	Monthly   Nov 16 Oct-16 Sep-16 Nov-15   7,642 14,156 8,451 6,706   7,378 7,184 8,092 6,319   3,881 4,298 5,185 3,550   3,497 2,886 2,907 2,769   176 6,630 - 291   88 342 359 96   7,642 14,156 8,451 6,706   4,145 11,270 5,544 3,937	Monthly Year E   Nov 16 Oct-16 Sep-16 Nov-15 Nov 16   7,642 14,156 8,451 6,706 118,512   7,378 7,184 8,092 6,319 96,047   3,881 4,298 5,185 3,550 59,466   3,497 2,886 2,907 2,769 36,581   176 6,630 - 291 20,659   88 342 359 96 1,806   7,642 14,156 8,451 6,706 118,512   4,145 11,270 5,544 3,937 81,931	Monthly Year Ended   Nov 16 Oct-16 Sep-16 Nov-15 Nov 16 Nov-15   7,642 14,156 8,451 6,706 118,512 102,514   7,378 7,184 8,092 6,319 96,047 83,502   3,881 4,298 5,185 3,550 59,466 52,609   3,497 2,886 2,907 2,769 36,581 30,893   176 6,630 - 291 20,659 17,578   88 342 359 96 1,806 1,434   7,642 14,156 8,451 6,706 118,512 102,514   4,145 11,270 5,544 3,937 81,931 71,621	Monthly Year Ended   Nov 16 Oct-16 Sep-16 Nov-15 Nov 16 Nov-15 Nov-16   7,642 14,156 8,451 6,706 118,512 102,514 7,657   7,378 7,184 8,092 6,319 96,047 83,502 7,349   3,881 4,298 5,185 3,550 59,466 52,609 3,698   3,497 2,886 2,907 2,769 36,581 30,893 3,651   176 6,630 - 291 20,659 17,578 176   88 342 359 96 1,806 1,434 132   7,642 14,156 8,451 6,706 118,512 102,514 7,657   4,145 11,270 5,544 3,937 81,931 71,621 4,006	Monthly Year Ended Monthly   Nov 16 Oct-16 Sep-16 Nov-15 Nov 16 Nov-15 Nov-16 Oct-16   7,642 14,156 8,451 6,706 118,512 102,514 7,657 14,583   7,378 7,184 8,092 6,319 96,047 83,502 7,349 7,699   3,881 4,298 5,185 3,550 59,466 52,609 3,698 4,937   3,497 2,886 2,907 2,769 36,581 30,893 3,651 2,762   176 6,630 - 291 20,659 17,578 176 6,626   88 342 359 96 1,806 1,434 132 258   7,642 14,156 8,451 6,706 118,512 102,514 7,657 14,583   4,145 11,270 5,544 3,937 81,931 71,621 4,006 11,821	Monthly Year Ended Monthly   Nov 16 Oct-16 Sep-16 Nov-15 Nov 16 Nov-15 Nov-16 Oct-16 Sep-16   7,642 14,156 8,451 6,706 118,512 102,514 7,657 14,583 7,896   7,378 7,184 8,092 6,319 96,047 83,502 7,349 7,699 7,555   3,881 4,298 5,185 3,550 59,466 52,609 3,698 4,937 4,865   3,497 2,886 2,907 2,769 36,581 30,893 3,651 2,762 2,690   176 6,630 - 291 20,659 17,578 176 6,626 -   88 342 359 96 1,806 1,434 132 258 341   7,642 14,156 8,451 6,706 118,512 102,514 7,657 14,583 7,896   4,145 11,270 5,544 3,937 81,931 71	Monthly Year Ended Monthly   Nov 16 Oct-16 Sep-16 Nov-15 Nov 16 Nov-15 Monthly Nov-16 Nov-16 Oct-16 Sep-16 Nov-15   7,642 14,156 8,451 6,706 118,512 102,514 7,657 14,583 7,896 7,250   7,378 7,184 8,092 6,319 96,047 83,502 7,349 7,699 7,555 6,817   3,881 4,298 5,185 3,550 59,466 52,609 3,698 4,937 4,865 3,332   3,497 2,886 2,907 2,769 36,581 30,893 3,651 2,762 2,690 3,485   176 6,630 - 291 20,659 17,578 176 6,626 - 291   88 342 359 96 1,806 1,434 132 258 341 142   7,642 14,156 8,451 6,706 118,512 102,514 7	Monthly Year Ended Monthly Year I   Nov 16 Oct-16 Sep-16 Nov-15 Nov 16 Nov-16 Oct-16 Sep-16 Nov-15 Nov-16 Oct-16 Sep-16 Nov-15 Nov-16 Nov-16 Nov-16 Nov-16 Nov-15 Nov-16

Total Number of International Arrivals & Departures

\* All sea arrivals are assumed to be visitors

Source: Statistics Department

<sup>2</sup> Includes cruise ship and yacht