The total number of arrivals for the month of May 2019 was 15,719. About 14,430 of these were visitors and 1,289 were returning Cook Islands residents. There were 14,848 departures with 948 of these being Cook Islands residents leaving for either educational studies, short term visits or permanently.

The month of May 2019 saw a 4.9 percent decrease in visitor arrivals when compared to May 2018. New Zealand dominated the visitor numbers with 68.9 percent, followed by Australia with 17.5 percent and USA with 5.8 percent.

Visitors arriving for vacation made up 75.4 percent (10,881) of the total visitor arrivals. 13.3 percent (1,915) chose the Cook Islands for weddings and/or honeymoons, while 5.0 percent (723) came to visit friends and/or relatives. The majority of visitors 40.5 percent stayed in hotels while 28.1 percent stayed in private residence and/or accommodation.

The total Resident departures for May 2019 (948) dropped by 1.4 percent when compared to May 2018 (961).

The total Arrivals by nationality for May 2019 shows that New Zealanders were the highest with 68.2 percent (10,717), followed by the Australians with 13.5 percent (2,124) and Europeans with 7.5 percent (1,177).

Figure 1: Monthly Visitor Arrivals 2017-2019

Further information about this release can be obtained from the Statistics Office.

Taggy Tangimetua
Government Statistician
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