

# SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

## INTERNATIONAL ARRIVAL STATISTICS MAY 2026

**MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:**  
In May 2026 compared with May 2025:

- ❖ Total arrivals of 21,419 increased by 4.3% (881)
- ❖ Total visitors of 15,772 increased by 12.8% (1,795)
- ❖ Total Visitors:
  - ✓ USA: 45.8.0% (up by 556 visitors)
  - ✓ AUST: 2.5% (up by 83 visitors)
  - ✓ NZ: 20.2% (up by 1,353 visitors)
  - ✓ AM. SAM: -67.0% (down by 480 visitors)

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May 2026	All Arrivals	All Visitors
Number	21,419	15,772
% change from previous month	12.2	11.1
% change with same month in 2025	4.3	12.8

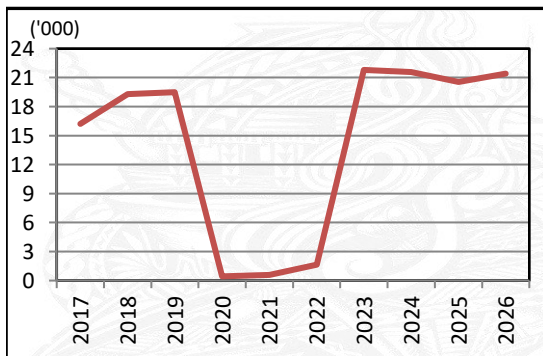
### 1. TOTAL ARRIVALS

The total International Arrival Statistics recorded for the month of **May 2026** totaling 21,419 arrivals, revealed an increase of 12.2 percent over the previous month of April 2026 and an increase of 4.3 percent over the corresponding month of May 2025.

Those who travelled to Samoa by Air represented 93.7% while 6.3% was represented by those who travelled by Sea.

Fig. 1 below graphically depicts the arrival numbers from May 2017 to May 2026, clearly showing the impact of Covid 19 on arrival numbers for May in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

**Fig. 1: May Total Arrivals, 2017 – 2026**

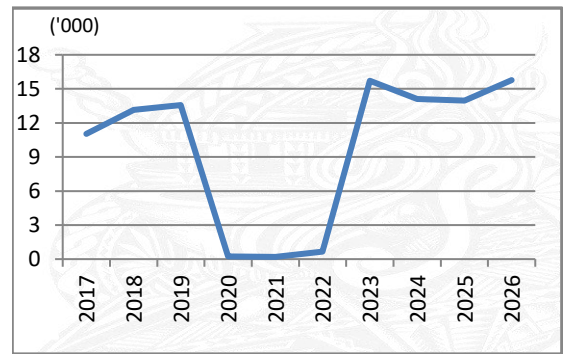


### 2. TOTAL VISITORS

Overall visitor numbers for the month under review stood at 15,772 revealing an increase of 11.1 percent over the previous month of April 2026 and an increase of 12.8 percent over the corresponding month of May 2025.

Fig. 2 illustrates the total number of visitors for May between 2017 and 2026, also indicating the impact of Covid 19 on visitor's numbers for May in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

**Fig. 2: May Total Visitors, 2017 – 2026**



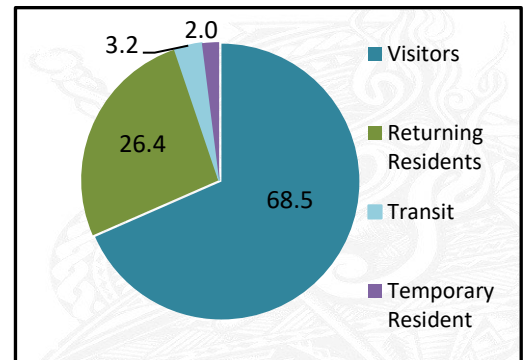
### 3. TOTAL ARRIVALS BY PURPOSE OF ENTRY

Visitors (Table 2), made up the largest component of all arrivals with 68.5 percent (14,665), represented by 34.6 percent females (7,419) and 33.8 percent males (7,246).

Male returning residents made up 17.1 percent (3,662) of total arrivals while their female counterpart made up 9.3 percent (1,985). (Refer Fig. 3)

The Appendix provide readers with a more detailed trend presentation of total arrivals and visitors over the years.

**Fig. 3: Total Arrivals, by Purpose of Entry, May 2026**

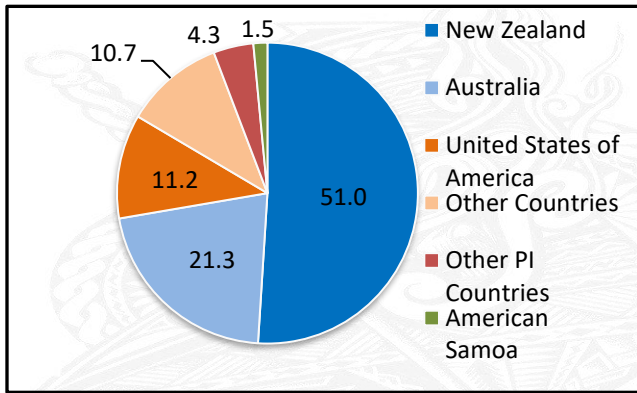


**4. TOTAL VISITORS BY COUNTRY OF USUAL RESIDENCE**

New Zealand remains as the leading country in visitors' arrival by country of usual residence (Table 3) accounting for 51.0 percent of total visitors or 8,041 visitors. Australia followed next with a distant 21.3 percent share (3,358).

United States of America reported 11.2 percent (1,770 visitors) while American Samoa reported 1.5 percent (236) of total visitors. (Refer Fig. 4)

**Fig. 4: Total Visitors, by Country of Usual Residence, May 2026**

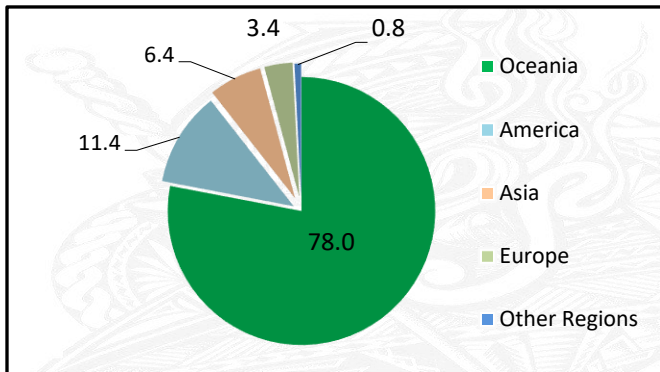


**5. TOTAL VISITORS BY REGION**

As usual, the Oceanic Region had the highest share of total visitors with 78.0 percent, followed by America with 11.4 percent.

Asia reported a share of 6.4 percent while Europe reported the least share of 3.4 percent. (Refer Fig. 5).

**Fig. 5: Total Visitors by Region, May 2026**



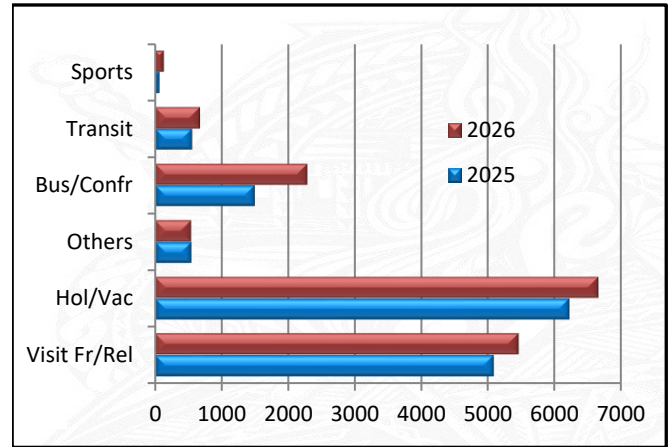
**6. TOTAL VISITORS BY PURPOSE OF VISIT**

The principal source markets (Table 4) namely New Zealand, Australia, American Samoa and the United States of America constitute 85.0 percent of all visitors visiting Samoa in May 2026.

The majority of visitors (6,662) entered our shores for holiday and vacation while 5,465 entered our shores to visit friends and relatives.

Those who were here on Business/Conference recorded 2,290 visitors, while those for Sports purposes reported only 133 visitors. Fig.6 depicts total visitors by purpose of visit for May 2025 and May 2026.

**Fig. 6: Total Visitors, by Purpose of Visit, May 2025 & May 2026.**

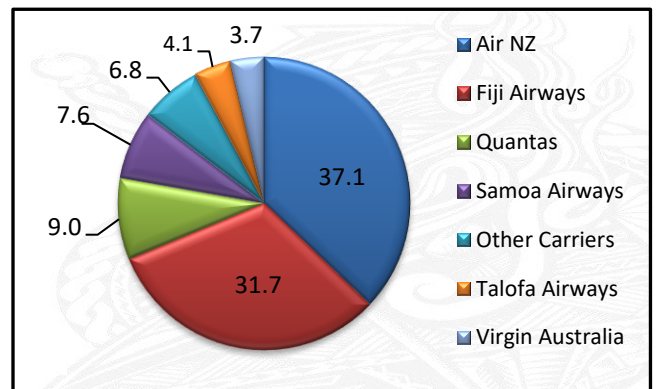


**7. TOTAL ARRIVALS BY CARRIER**

As depicted in table 5, Air New Zealand carried the highest share of passengers to Samoa with 37.1 percent (7,939 passengers) followed by Fiji Airways with 31.7 percent (6,795 passengers).

Quantas brought in 9.0 percent (1,930 passengers) of total arrivals while Samoa Airways and Talofa Airways recorded shares of 7.6 percent (1,636) and 4.1 percent (873) respectively. Fig. 7 illustrates total arrivals by carrier during the reference period.

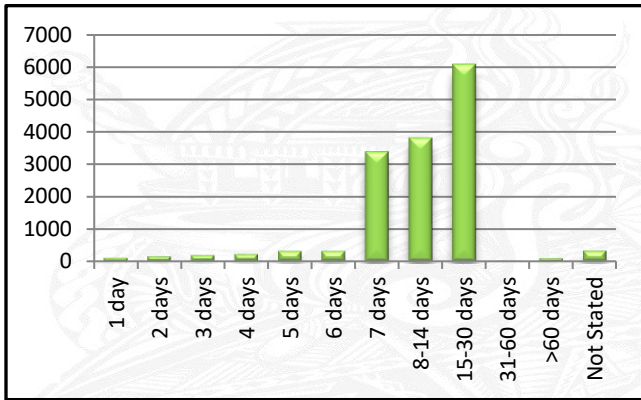
**Fig. 7: Total Arrivals by Carrier, May 2026**



**8. TOTAL VISITORS BY DURATION OF STAY AND PLACE OF STAY**

As shown in Fig. 8 below, visitor's duration of stay in Samoa (Table 6) is between seven and thirty days.

**Fig. 8: Total Visitors by Duration of Stay, May 2026**



On the other hand, the majority of visitors (46.6 percent or 7,041 visitors) reported staying in private accommodations or with families/ relatives while 41.8 percent (6,311) stayed in hotel/ motel. (Refer Fig. 9).

**Fig. 9: Total Visitors by Place of Stay, May 2026**

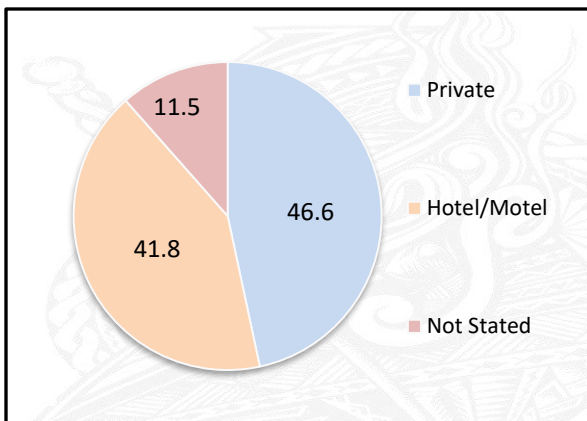
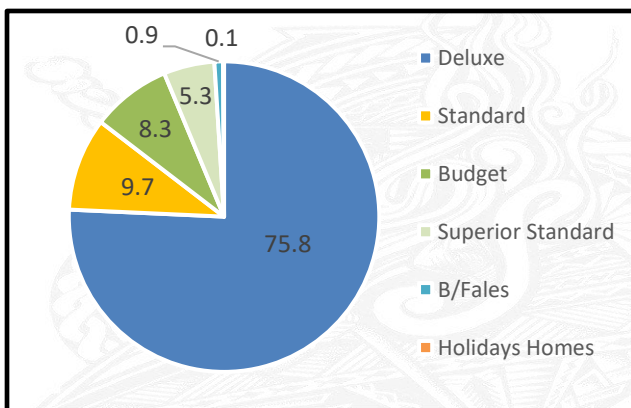


Fig. 10 portrays the number of visitors who stayed in hotel/ motel (6,311) by type of accommodation (hotel/ motel), within the reference month.

**Fig. 10: Visitors Staying in Hotels/ Motels by Type of Accommodation, May 2026**



**BACKGROUND**

The sourced documents for the compilation of International Arrival Statistics are the immigration arrival and departure card forms.

These forms are completed by all incoming and outgoing travelers at the three local points of entry namely:

- (1) Faleolo International Airport
- (2) Apia Wharf (Matautu Port)
- (3) Fagalii International Airport

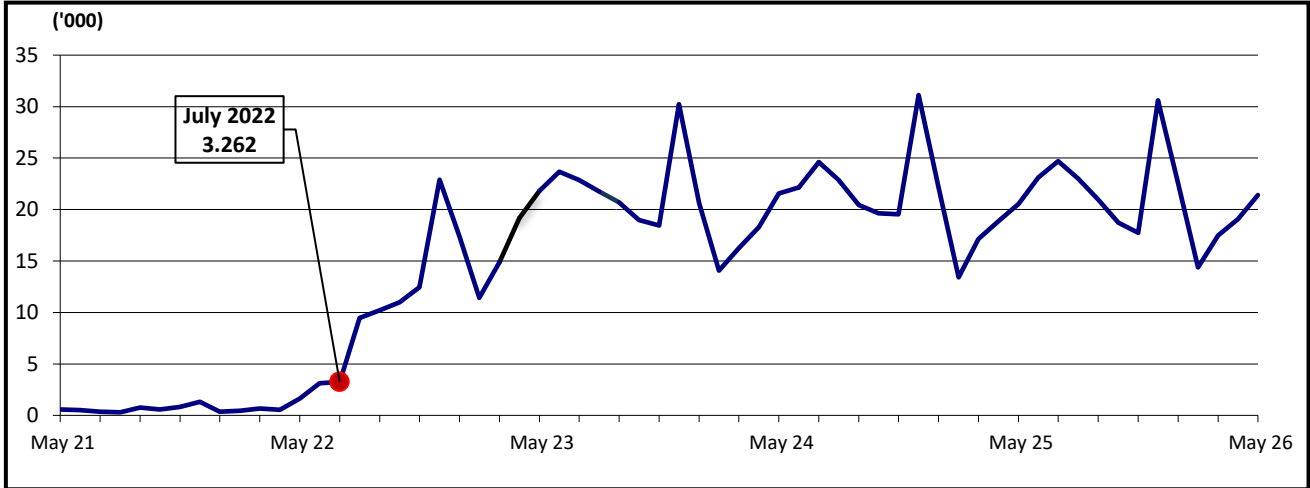
Futhermore, the BMS (Border Management Sytem) was also used for the compilation of such statistics.

International Arrival Statistics are compiled on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. These reports can also be downloaded from our website:

[www.sbs.gov.ws](http://www.sbs.gov.ws)

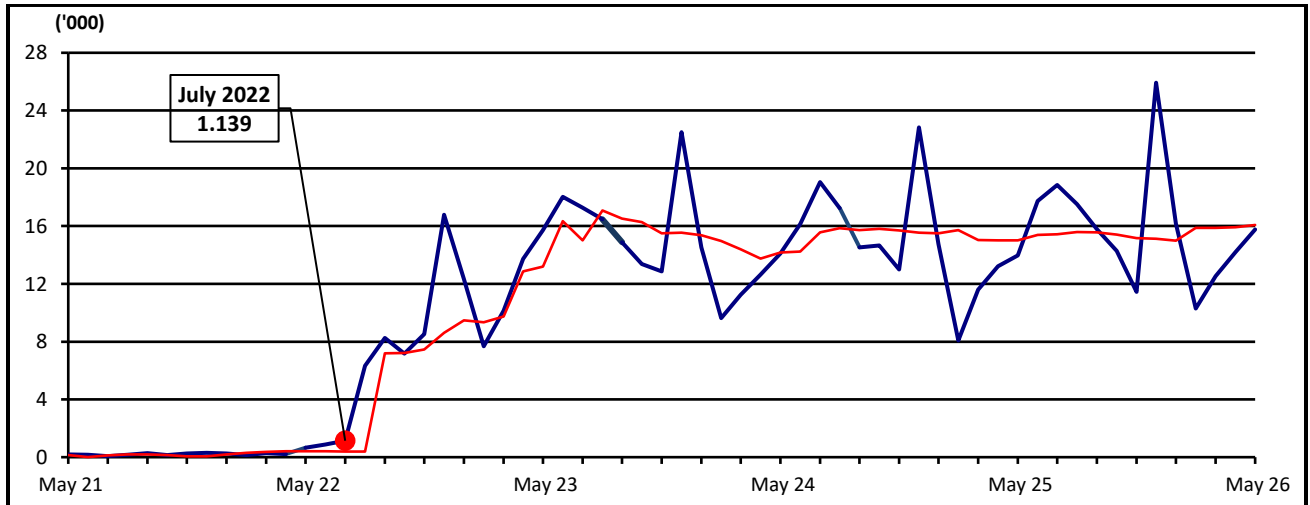
**APPENDIX**

Graph 1: Monthly Total Arrivals, May 2021 – May 2026



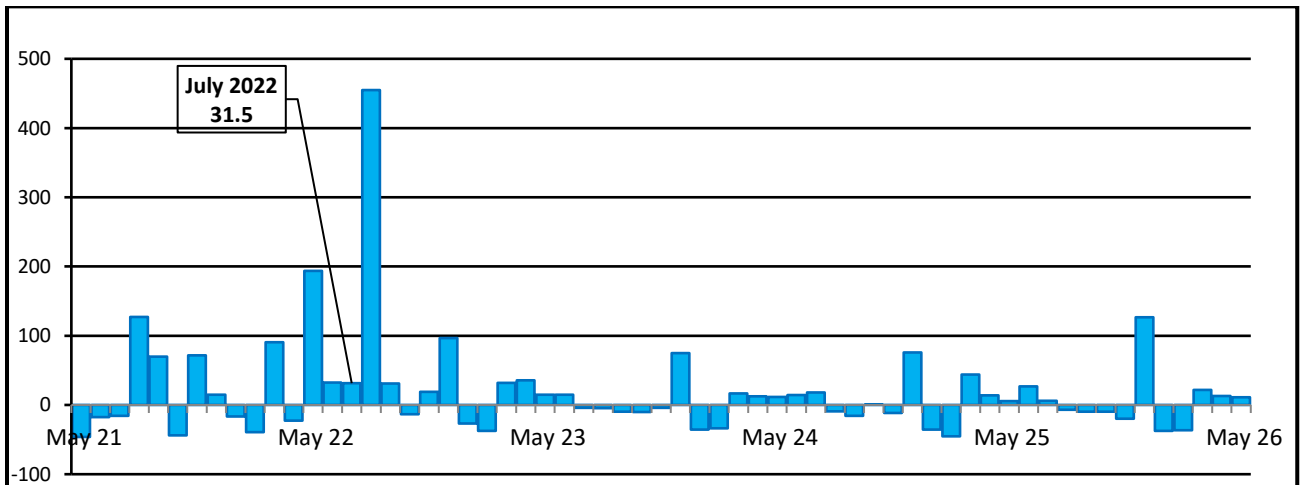
Note: Covid-19 travel restriction period from 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022

Graph 2: Monthly Total Visitors, May 2021 – May 2026



Note: Covid-19 travel restriction period from 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022

Graph 3: Visitors Percentage Change over Previous month, May 2021 – May 2026



Note: Covid-19 travel restriction period from 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022

Table 1: Monthly Arrival and Departure by Mode of Travel and Net Migration, 2006 - 2026<sup>1</sup>

Period	Visitors Arrivals			Total Arrivals			Total Departures			Net Migration
	Air	Sea	Total	Air	Sea	Total	Air	Sea	Total	
2006	112,411	3,471	115,882	147,807	9,349	157,156	147,991	9,489	157,480	-324
2007	118,653	3,703	122,356	150,584	7,635	158,219	158,099	8,578	166,677	-8,458
2008	118,459	3,743	122,202	151,883	8,628	160,511	161,482	9,908	171,390	-10,879
2009	127,327	1,978	129,305	161,858	5,261	167,119	156,768	6,267	163,035	4,084
2010	126,970	2,530	129,500	162,052	5,539	167,591	164,426	6,326	170,752	-3,161
2011	124,706	2,898	127,604	159,660	5,738	165,398	163,605	6,216	169,821	-4,423
2012	131,945	2,749	134,694	167,211	5,509	172,720	167,842	6,297	174,139	-1,419
2013	122,171	2,502	124,673	157,542	5,335	162,877	162,333	5,885	168,218	-5,341
2014	128,623	3,172	131,795	166,075	7,638	173,713	170,742	8,275	179,017	-5,304
2015	135,012	4,031	139,043	176,782	8,248	185,030	181,343	8,867	190,210	-5,180
2016	140,288	5,801	146,089	186,810	10,586	197,396	193,759	9,955	203,714	-6,318
2017	153,468	4,047	157,515	204,105	8,135	212,240	210,827	9,228	220,055	-7,815
2018	167,651	4,845	172,496	227,487	9,019	236,506	231,724	8,825	240,549	-4,043
2019	173,920	6,938	180,858	239,437	10,534	249,971	248,499	9,835	258,334	-8,363
2020	20,520	3,395	23,915	38,086	4,287	42,373	36,471	3,937	50,582	-8,209
2021	1,096	1,495	2,591	5,011	2,452	7,463	10,879	2,115	12,994	-5,531
2022	47,204	3,425	50,629	69,766	6,287	76,053	65,066	5,419	70,485	5,568
2023	167,661	7,306	174,967	223,547	17,729	241,276	224,712	17,586	242,298	-1,022
2024	172,397	7,193	179,590	234,902	16,245	251,147	237,942	16,379	254,321	-3,174
2025	177,276	5,871	183,147	236,837	14,147	250,984	243,191	14,202	257,393	-6,409
<b>2024</b>										
May	13,634	472	14,106	20,060	1,505	21,565	17,673	1441	19,114	2,451
June	15,596	547	16,143	20,755	1,391	22,146	19,047	1108	20,155	1,991
July	18,276	763	19,039	22,955	1,641	24,596	22,823	1501	24,324	272
August	16,441	807	17,248	21,314	1,547	22,861	22,295	1949	24,244	-1,383
September	14,041	495	14,536	19,308	1,137	20,445	19,316	1084	20,400	45
October	13,516	1,142	14,658	18,099	1,540	19,639	20,138	1848	21,986	-2,347
November	12,460	536	12,996	18,265	1,259	19,524	17,816	1078	18,894	630
December	22,356	472	22,828	29,552	1,567	31,119	20,759	972	21,731	9,388
<b>2025</b>										
January	14,311	435	14,746	21,255	928	22,183	30,438	1305	31,743	-9,560
February	7,778	292	8,070	12,625	774	13,399	16,045	1008	17,053	-3,654
March	11,250	355	11,605	16,087	1,066	17,153	16,969	862	17,831	-678
April	12,825	385	13,210	17,764	1,105	18,869	17,310	1,166	18,476	393
May	13,631	346	13,977	19,391	1,147	20,538	18,488	1,156	19,644	894
June	17,156	585	17,741	21,794	1,318	23,112	19,424	1,300	20,724	2,388
July	18,218	625	18,843	22,969	1,741	24,710	23,640	1,652	25,292	-582
August	16,790	720	17,510	21,488	1,489	22,977	20,927	1,298	22,225	752
September	15,246	545	15,791	19,857	1,117	20,974	20,649	1,413	22,062	-1,088
October	13,930	348	14,278	17,848	880	18,728	19,813	1,074	20,887	-2,159
November	11,101	347	11,448	16,715	1,024	17,739	17,568	967	18,535	-796
December	25,040	888	25,928	29,044	1,558	30,602	21,920	1,001	22,921	7,681
<b>2026</b>										
January	15,947	220	16,167	21,746	776	22,522	28,762	1,320	30,082	-7,560
February	9,882	413	10,295	13,407	965	14,372	16,123	944	17,067	-2,695
March	12,185	354	12,539	16,479	1,012	17,491	16,120	1,041	17,161	330
April	13,624	564	14,188	17,669	1,417	19,086	18,268	1,664	19,932	-846
May	15,275	497	15,772	20,079	1,340	21,419	17,385	1,200	18,585	2,834

Source : Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet- Immigration Division and Samoa Bureau of Statistics.

1: Provisional figures

Table 2: Total Arrivals by Age, Purpose of Entry and Sex, May 2026 <sup>1</sup>

Age	Purpose of Entry														
	Total			Visitors			Returning Residence			Transit			Temporary Resident		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,419</b>	<b>11,571</b>	<b>9,848</b>	<b>14,665</b>	<b>7,246</b>	<b>7,419</b>	<b>5,647</b>	<b>3,662</b>	<b>1,985</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>201</b>
0 - 4	670	351	319	554	294	260	80	38	42	21	10	11	15	9	6
5 - 9	701	353	348	581	281	300	86	50	36	19	13	6	15	9	6
10 - 14	671	308	363	555	261	294	88	35	53	16	7	9	12	5	7
15 - 19	749	397	352	547	281	266	167	100	67	20	9	11	15	7	8
20 - 24	1,455	840	615	822	362	460	566	442	124	42	24	18	25	12	13
25 - 29	1,907	1,159	748	1,080	507	573	728	589	139	71	46	25	28	17	11
30 - 34	1,865	1,096	769	1,089	521	568	653	493	160	86	58	28	37	24	13
35 - 39	1,853	1,077	776	1,227	617	610	538	397	141	62	48	14	26	15	11
40 - 44	1,773	963	810	1,157	578	579	508	322	186	69	44	25	39	19	20
45 - 49	1,760	950	810	1,130	563	567	527	321	206	66	44	22	37	22	15
50 - 54	1,696	862	834	1,188	577	611	413	224	189	55	39	16	40	22	18
55 - 59	1,765	906	859	1,280	629	651	402	227	175	48	31	17	35	19	16
60 - 64	1,645	842	803	1,219	614	605	335	179	156	51	32	19	40	17	23
65 - 69	1,347	682	665	1,013	534	479	273	114	159	24	17	7	37	17	20
70 - 74	804	417	387	615	324	291	165	83	82	11	6	5	13	4	9
75 +	758	368	390	608	303	305	118	48	70	17	7	10	15	10	5
<b>% DISTRIBUTION <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>100</b>	<b>54.0</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>68.5</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>

**Source** : Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet- Immigration Division and Samoa Bureau of Statistics.

1: Provisional figures

2: Figures are subject to rounding errors

Table 3: Total Visitors Arrivals by Country of Usual Residence and Mode of Travel, May 2026 <sup>1</sup>

Country of Usual Residence	Mode of Travel			Percentage %
	Air	Sea	Total	
<b>OCEANIA</b>	<b>12,052</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>12,308</b>	<b>78.0</b>
American Samoa	192	44	236	1.5
Fiji	309	34	343	2.2
Cook Island	1	0	1	0.0
Other Pacific Is	303	26	329	2.1
New Zealand	7,914	127	8,041	51.0
Australia	3,333	25	3,358	21.3
<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>3.4</b>
United Kingdom	157	5	162	1.0
Scandinavia	31	1	32	0.2
Benelux	22	0	22	0.1
Germany	92	0	92	0.6
Other Europe	230	3	233	1.5
<b>AMERICA</b>	<b>1,748</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1,802</b>	<b>11.4</b>
U.S.A	1,716	54	1,770	11.2
Canada	32	0	32	0.2
<b>ASIA</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>6.4</b>
Japan	74	1	75	0.5
China	340	26	366	2.3
Korea	22	0	22	0.1
Other Asia	400	139	539	3.4
<b>OTHER COUNTRIES</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>0.8</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,275</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>15,772</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION</b>	<b>96.8</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>100%</b>	

**Source :** Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet- Immigration Division and Samoa Bureau of Statistics.

1: Provisional figures.

2: Figures are subject to rounding errors

- Note:** (i) Visitors refer to all person visiting Samoa other than returning residents and also expatriates who are employed and living in Samoa (**include transit**).
- (ii) Visitors also include Samoan citizens whose country of usual residence are country abroad.
- (iii) **Scandinavia:** refers to countries of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark.
- (iv) **Benelux:** refers to countries of Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg.
- (v) Exclude Cruise Liner Passengers.

Table 4: Total Visitors by Usual Residence and Purpose of Visit, May 2026 <sup>1</sup>

Country of Usual Residence	Purpose of Visit							
	Total	Percentage <sup>2</sup>	Holiday/ Vacation	Business/ Conference	Visit Friends/ Relatives	Sports	Transit	Others
<b>OCEANIA</b>	<b>12,308</b>	<b>78.0</b>	<b>4,896</b>	<b>1,651</b>	<b>4,922</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>400</b>
American Samoa	236	1.5	60	13	115	2	39	7
Fiji	343	2.2	173	97	21	1	39	12
Cook Island	1	0.0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Other Pacific Is	329	2.1	167	79	25	5	34	19
New Zealand	8,041	51.0	2,969	963	3,637	59	150	263
Australia	3,358	21.3	1,527	498	1,124	31	79	99
<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>12</b>
United Kingdom	162	1.0	106	36	12	0	6	2
Scandinavia	32	0.2	21	6	2	0	2	1
Benelux	22	0.1	12	5	1	1	1	2
Germany	92	0.6	58	21	7	1	3	2
Other Europe	233	1.5	138	61	13	1	15	5
<b>AMERICA</b>	<b>1,802</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>49</b>
U.S.A.	1,770	11.2	863	268	443	23	126	47
Canada	32	0.2	24	3	2	0	1	2
<b>ASIA</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>77</b>
Japan	75	0.5	45	19	2	1	2	6
China	366	2.3	195	61	32	2	52	24
Korea	22	0.1	15	4	2	0	0	1
Other Asia	539	3.4	221	128	19	6	119	46
<b>OTHER COUNTRIES</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,772</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,662</b>	<b>2,290</b>	<b>5,465</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>544</b>
<b>Percentage Distribution <sup>2</sup></b>		<b>100.0</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>3.4</b>

**Source** : Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet- Immigration Division and Samoa Bureau of Statistics.

**Note** : Overall visitors include transit.

1: Provisional figures

2: Figures are subject to rounding errors

Table 5: Total Arrivals by Carrier and Purpose of Entry, May 2026 <sup>1</sup>

Carrier	Total		Purpose of Entry			
			Returning Residence	Percentage <sup>2</sup>	Total Visitors	Percentage <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,419</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5,647</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>15,772</b>	<b>73.6</b>
<b><u>AIR</u></b>						
Quantas	1,930	9.0	254	1.2	1,676	7.8
Virgin Australia	789	3.7	66	0.3	723	3.4
Talofa Airways	873	4.1	286	1.3	587	2.7
Samoa Airways	1,636	7.6	689	3.2	947	4.4
Air New Zealand	7,939	37.1	2,288	10.7	5,651	26.4
Fiji Airways	6,795	31.7	1,221	5.7	5,574	26.0
Other Air Carrier	117	0.5	0	0.0	117	0.5
<b><u>SEA</u></b>						
Lady Samoa IV	820	3.8	719	3.4	101	0.5
Yacht	10	0.0	0	0.0	10	0.0
Other Sea Carrier	510	2.4	124	0.6	386	1.8

**Source** : Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet- Immigration Division and Samoa Bureau of Statistics.

**Note:** Total visitors include transit.

1: Provisional figures

2: Figures are subject to rounding errors

Table 6: Visitors by Duration of Stay and Place of Stay, May 2026 <sup>1</sup>

Duration of Stay	Place of Stay			
	Total	Hotel/Motel	Private	Not Stated
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,094</b>	<b>6,311</b>	<b>7,041</b>	<b>1,742</b>
1day	101	73	23	5
2days	157	85	64	8
3days	196	92	85	19
4days	220	102	98	20
5days	324	158	136	30
6days	325	171	134	20
7days	3,404	1,479	1,635	290
8-14days	3,823	1,011	2,356	456
15-30days	6,105	3,027	2,229	849
31-60days	15	0	14	1
61-90days	65	0	51	14
91-180days	8	0	7	1
181-365days	10	0	8	2
> Year	12	0	12	0
Not Stated	329	113	189	27
<b>Percentage Distribution <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>100</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>11.5</b>

**Source :** Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet- Immigration Division and Samoa Bureau of Statistics.

**Note:** Visitors here, exclude transit.

1: Provisional figures

2: Figures are subject to rounding errors