

## STATISTICS UPDATE: INTERNATIONAL VISITORS ARRIVALS

### 1. Contents

Page
1. Overview.....1
2. Purpose of visit(For visitors arriving by air).....2
3. Country of usual residence (for visitors arriving by air).....2
4. Average intended length of stay (for visitors arriving by air).....3
5. Average intended length of stay (for visitors by sea).....3
6. Average age of visitors (arriving by air) .....3
7. Share of visitors to outer islands.....3
8. Summary visitors to outer islands by Province.....4
Province.....4
Tables.....

### The opening of border to international travels

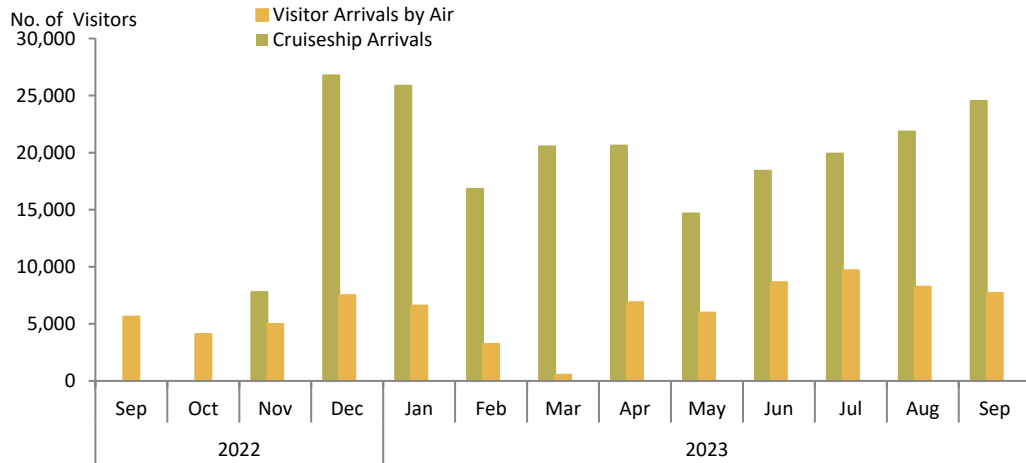
#### 1. September 2023 highlights

- Total arrivals by air in September 2023 stood at **8,385**.
- Residents arrival makes up **8%** and visitor arrivals make up **92%** of the total arrivals by air.
- Holiday visitors represent **88%** of all air arrivals.
- Visitors residing in Australia recorded the highest percent at **67%** of all air arrivals.
- The average length of stay for visitors is **10 days**.
- The average age of visitors is **46** Years.
- Out of all visitors arrivals by air, **8%** were able to visit outer islands with Santo being the highest destination visited at **45%** share.
- Day visitors at **24,521** in September 2023.
- Total departures are **9,231** in September 2023. Residents represents **5%** of all departure and visitor's departure with **95%**.

#### 2. Overview

- The total international arrival stood at 32,336 in which the total visitor's arrivals by air is 7,694 which is a decrease of 7% over the previous month. The decrease was attributed to a slight drop in the number of air arrivals for holiday purposes by 5% when compare to the previous month.
- There were 8 cruise ships in Vanuatu in September 2023 carrying a total of 24,521 day visitors and 121 are visitor arrivals by yacht which makes up a total of 76% of visitors arriving by sea in September 2023.

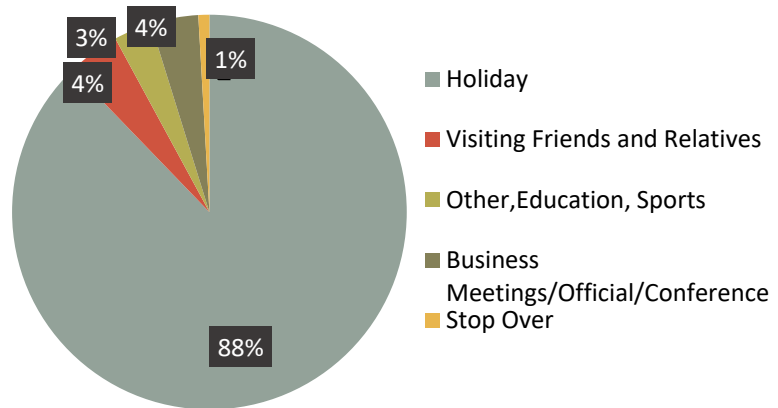
Figure 1: Visitor Arrivals by Air and Sea: September 2022 to September 2023



### 3. Purpose of visit

- Holiday visitors made up 88% of all international visitor arrivals to Vanuatu; followed by Visiting Friends and relatives and business meetings or conferences at 4% each, Other, education and sports at 3% and stop-over visitors at 1%.

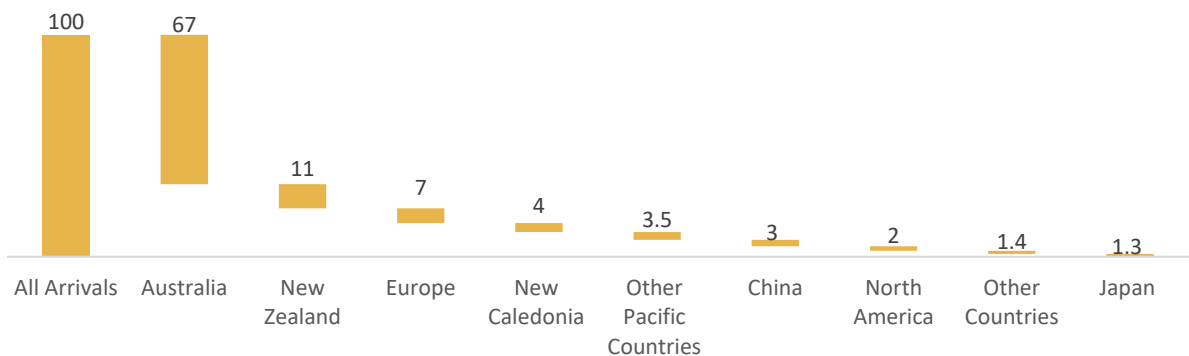
Figure 2: Percentage share of visitors by purpose of visit



### 4. Country of usual residence (for visitors arriving by air)

- Australian visitors accounted for 67% of all international visitors by air followed by New Zealand at 11%, Europe at 7%, New Caledonia and Other Pacific Countries at 4% each, China at 3%, North America at 2%, Other Countries and Japan with 1% each.

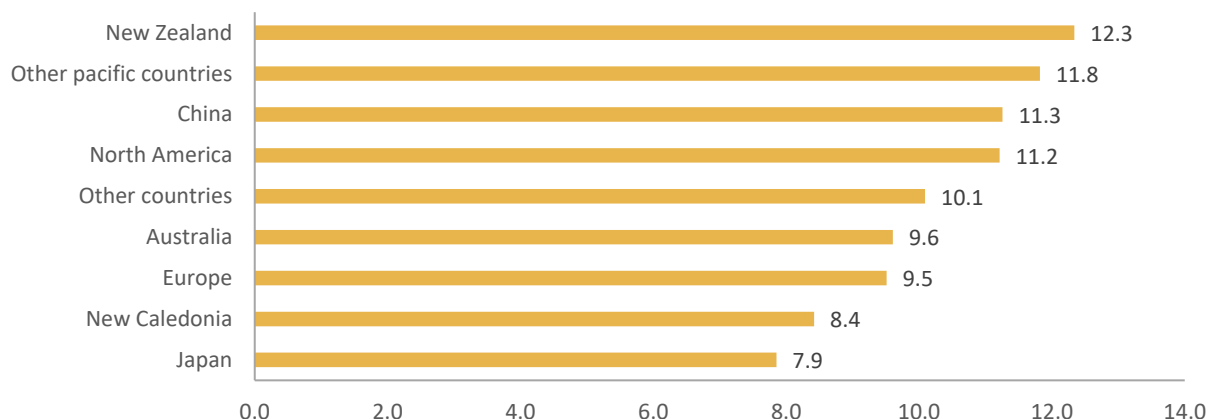
Figure 3: Percentage share of visitors by Country of Usual Residence



## 5. Average intended length of stay (for visitors arriving by air)

- International visitors by air spent an average of 10 days in Vanuatu. Port Vila represent an average of 8 days and Luganville with 12 days.

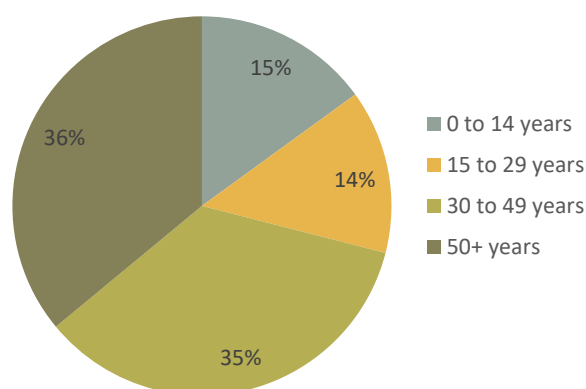
Figure 4: Average length of stay by country of usual residence



## 6. Average age of visitors (for visitors arriving by air)

- The average age for visitors travelling by air is 46 years old.
- This represents 35% of all visitors arriving to Vanuatu within the age group of 30 - 49 years old and 36% within the age group of 50+ years old.

Figure 5: Proportion of visitors by age group



## 7. Share of visitors to outer islands

- Santo received the highest number of visitors at 45%; followed by visitors to Tanna Island at 33%. (see table 7)

## 8. Summary visitors to outer islands<sup>1</sup>, by province

- Sanma received the highest number of visitors at 48%, followed by Tafea province at 36%.
- Visitors who travelled to outer islands spent an average of 7 days.

<sup>1</sup> Data on visitors travelling to outer islands is only available from July 2014

Figure 6: Proportion of visitors to provinces

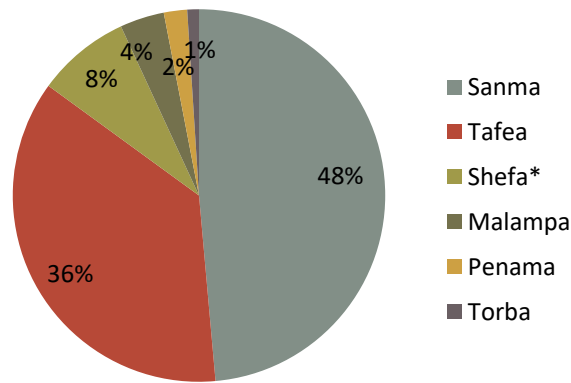


Figure 7: Summary of visitors to other provinces by country of usual residence

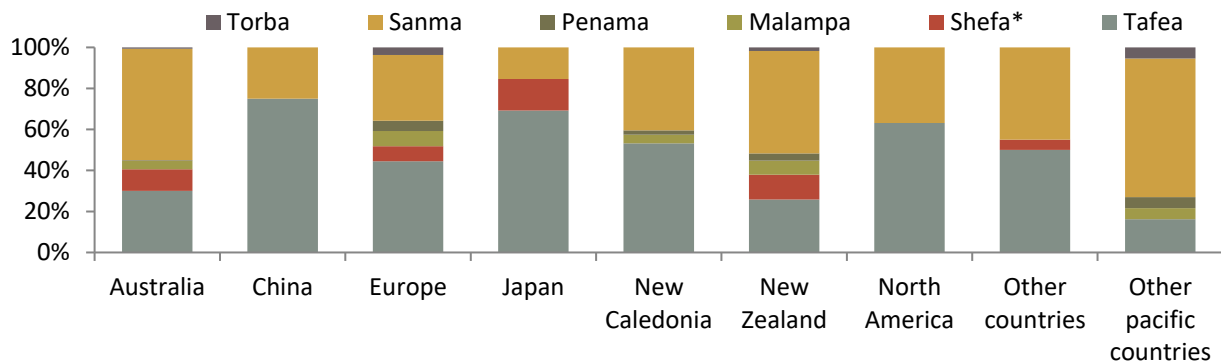


Table 1: Visitors to outer islands, by province

Year	Month	Province						TOTAL
		Torba	Sanma	Penama	Malampa	Shefa*	Tafea	
2023	July	47	1250	42	105	453	842	2,739
2023	Aug	34	736	49	81	204	705	1,809
2023	Sep	8	280	10	26	47	213	584

Table 2: The average length of stay (nights spend) for visitors travelling to outer islands, by province

Year	Month	Province						TOTAL
		Torba	Sanma	Penama	Malampa	Shefa*	Tafea	
2023	July	9.6	6.7	6.5	6.7	2.8	3.5	6
2023	Aug	3.5	6.3	38.7	6.1	3.4	3.5	10
2023	Sep	3.1	6.3	15.5	7.5	3.5	3.6	7

Table 3: The proportion of visitors to other provinces by Country of usual residence

Country of Usual Residence	Province						Total
	Torba	Sanma	Penama	Malampa	Shefa*	Tafea	
Australia	1%	54%	0%	4%	11%	30%	293
China	0%	25%	0%	0%	0%	75%	16
Europe	4%	32%	5%	7%	7%	44%	81
Japan	0%	15%	0%	0%	15%	69%	13
New Caledonia	0%	40%	2%	4%	0%	53%	47
New Zealand	2%	50%	3%	7%	12%	26%	58
North America	0%	37%	0%	0%	0%	63%	19
Other countries	0%	45%	0%	0%	5%	50%	20
Other pacific countries	5%	68%	5%	5%	0%	16%	37

\*Exclude Efate Island

## DATA SOURCE AND REVISIONS

All International arrival and departure statistics by air provided in this report is sourced from the passenger processing module within ASYCUDA World system and also completed Arrival and Departure cards from the Department of Customs. Cruise ship figures are also supplied by the Department of Customs through the Passenger processing module.

The Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics is releasing monthly provisional international visitor arrivals highlighted in the tables from January 2019 onwards. This will allow for anomalies and consistency checks with the Department of Customs and Inland Revenue (DCIR) before release of actual figures in Quarterly or Annual Statistical Indicator report.

## NEXT UPDATE (MONTHLY)RELEASE DATE

October 2023

26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024

## PROVINCIAL STATISTICS OFFICES

Sanma Office  
PO Box 273  
Luganville, SANTO  
Tel/Fax: (678) 33755  
Voip: 6330

Tafea Office  
MFEM Building, Isangel  
Ph (678) 88014  
Ext/voip 8361

Malampa Office  
MFEM Building  
Lakatoro, Malekula  
Ph (678) 48400



Mr. KAP Calo and  
Chief Statistician

**Table 1 : Summary of Overseas Migration**  
**Tableau 1 : Résumé des échanges migratoires avec l'extérieur**

Year	Month	ARRIVALS / ARRIVEES						DEPARTURES / DEPARTURES						Arrivals		Cruiseship Arrivals/ Croisiéristes	Total Visitors	Année	Mois
		PORT VILA		LUGANVILLE		TOTAL		PORT VILA		LUGANVILLE		TOTAL		Yacht	Voilier				
		Residents Résidents	Visitors Visiteurs	Residents Résidents	Visitors Visiteurs	Residents Résidents	Visitors Visiteurs	Resident Résidents	Visitor Visiteurs	Resident Résidents	Visitors Visiteurs	Resident Résidents	Visitors Visiteurs						
2018		28,426	111,296	510	4,338	28,936	115,634	28,160	120,736	231	3,840	28,391	124,576	-	-	234,567	350,201	2018	
2019		34,575	117,154	326	3,474	34,901	120,628	35,876	142,012	529	3,303	36,405	145,315	-	-	135,357	255,985	2019	
2020		10,392	21,764	17	201	10,409	21,965	9,122	28,095	253	39	9,375	28,134	-	-	60,401	82,366	2020	
2021		3,495	-	-	-	3,495	-	8,964	-	-	-	8,964	-	-	-	-	-	2021	
2022		18,547	30,374	-	-	18,547	30,374	18,172	27,637	-	12	18,172	27,637	158	-	34,554	65,086	2022	
2018	Sep	3,314	11,070	35	356	3,349	11,426	2,436	10,745	16	452	2,452	11,197	-	-	19,632	31,058	2018	Sep
2019	Sep	3,689	11,442	39	258	3,728	11,700	6,094	22,738	36	420	6,130	23,158	-	-	7,690	19,390	2019	Sep
2020	Sep	1,156	-	-	-	1,156	-	237	49	-	-	237	49	-	-	-	-	2020	Sep
2021	Sep	44	-	-	-	44	-	502	-	-	-	502	-	-	-	-	-	2021	Sep
2022	Sep	2,546	5,636	-	-	2,546	5,636	1,031	3,028	-	-	1,031	3,028	-	-	-	5,636	2022	Sep
	Oct	1,955	4,104	-	-	1,955	4,104	1,498	5,098	-	-	1,498	5,098	-	-	-	4,104		Oct
	Nov	2,444	4,999	-	-	2,444	4,999	4,283	5,233	-	-	4,283	5,233	-	-	7,782	12,781		Nov
	Dec	3,409	7,522	-	-	3,409	7,522	2,788	6,076	-	-	2,788	6,076	-	-	26,772	34,294		Déc
2023	Jan	1,703	6,598	-	-	1,703	6,598	2,047	9,307	-	-	2,047	9,307	6	-	25,851	32,455	2023	Jan
	Feb	1,635	3,239	-	-	1,635	3,239	3,121	4,357	-	-	3,121	4,357	39	-	16,827	20,105		Fév
	Mar[p]	239	551	-	-	239	551	1,219	1,505	-	-	1,219	1,505	-	-	20,541	21,092		Mar[p]
	Apr	2,619	6,898	-	-	2,619	6,898	2,338	7,045	-	-	2,338	7,045	43	-	20,610	27,551		Avr
	May	4,168	5,992	-	-	4,168	5,992	2,502	7,395	-	-	2,502	7,395	72	-	14,666	20,730		Mai
	June	3,247	8,429	91	223	3,338	8,652	2,164	7,883	23	153	2,187	8,036	121	-	18,408	27,181		Juin
	Jul[p]	2,596	9,443	39	255	2,635	9,698	2,340	11,106	13	292	2,353	11,398	118	-	19,906	29,722		Juil[p]
	Aug[p]	2,570	8,158	28	108	2,598	8,266	2,119	9,469	18	137	2,137	9,606	191	-	21,849	30,306		Aoû[p]
	Sep[p]	652	7,398	39	296	691	7,694	392	8,649	26	164	418	8,813	121	-	24,521	32,336		Sep[p]

Source: Department of Customs/Département des douanes

- No visitors/residents were recorded for the reference month

p: provisiona figures

**Table 2 : Visitor Arrivals by Purpose of Visit**  
**Tableau 2 : Arrivées de visiteurs selon le motif du voyage**

Year	Month	VISITORS/VISITEURS						Total Visitors	Année	Mois
		Holidays Vacances	Visiting Friends and relatives Visite à des amis et à la famille	Business, Meetings/ Conferences Affaires, réunions ou conférence	Stop Over Escale	Others, Education, sports Autres, education, sport	Visiteurs global			
2018		91,726	8,616	7,552	645	7,095	115,634	2018		
2019		95,849	8,764	8,059	524	7,432	120,628	2019		
2020		17,166	1,445	1,085	448	1,821	21,965	2020		
2021		-	-	-	-	-	-	2021		
2022		23,859	3,202	1,757	204	1,352	30,374	2022		
2018	Sep	9,209	739	752	54	672	11,426	2018	Sep	
2019	Sep	9,756	744	536	5	659	11,700	2019	Sep	
2020	Sep	-	-	-	-	-	-	2020	Sep	
2021	Sep	-	-	-	-	-	-	2021	Sep	
2022	Sep	4,315	548	352	11	410	5,636	2022	Sep	
	Oct	3,391	394	189	9	121	4,104		Oct	
	Nov	3,501	494	656	39	309	4,999		Nov	
	Dec	6,035	1,030	233	45	179	7,522		Déc	
2023	Jan	5,919	349	95	91	144	6,598	2023	Jan	
	Feb	2,576	214	163	64	222	3,239		Fév	
	Mar[p]	352	51	79	-	69	551		Mar[p]	
	Apr	6,128	310	89	29	342	6,898		Avr	
	May	5,178	207	355	17	235	5,992		Mai	
	Jun	7,720	357	265	68	242	8,652		Juin	
	Jul[p]	8,534	375	247	74	468	9,698		Juil[p]	
	Aug[p]	7,085	308	390	93	390	8,266		Août[p]	
	Sep[p]	6,750	332	303	73	236	7,694		Sep[p]	

Source: Department of Customs/Département des douanes

- No visitors/residents were recorded for the reference month

p: provisiona figures

**Table 3 : Visitor Arrivals by Usual Country of Residence**  
**Tableau 3 : Arrivées des visiteurs par pays de résidence habituelle**

Year	Month	Australia	New Zealand	New Caledonia	Other Pacific Countries	Europe	North America	Japan	China	Other Countries	TOTAL	Année	Mois
		Australie	Nouvelle-Zélande	Nouvelle-Calédonie	Autres Pays du Pacifique		Amérique du Nord	Japon	Chine	Autres pays			
2018		60,616	13,432	15,105	6,545	8,023	3,347	963	4,007	3,596	115,634	2018	
2019		63,122	15,085	14,738	6,560	8,992	3,120	1,107	4,671	3,233	120,628	2019	
2020		11,248	1,819	3,778	1,241	1,728	692	171	680	608	21,965	2020	
2021		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2021	
2022		17,460	4,124	3,224	1,613	1,981	761	118	406	686	30,373	2022	
2018	Sep	6,330	1,658	888	491	1,023	221	122	328	365	11,426	2018	Sep
2019	Sep	6,936	1,526	1,042	397	692	251	158	428	270	11,700	2019	Sep
2020	Sep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2020	Sep
2021	Sep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2021	Sep
2022	Sep	3,680	769	305	351	223	141	16	51	99	5,635	2022	Sep
	Oct	2,346	683	566	186	166	66	7	27	57	4,104		Oct
	Nov	2,806	634	501	349	283	174	27	61	164	4,999		Nov
	Dec	4,609	717	1,153	293	321	147	22	107	153	7,522		Déc
2023	Jan	3,835	471	1,163	199	592	142	32	64	100	6,598	2023	Jan
	Feb	1,536	152	518	182	430	139	25	142	115	3,239		Fév
	Mar[p]	357	36	45	15	43	10	4	27	14	551		Mar[p]
	Apr	4,272	669	566	275	604	166	47	162	137	6,898		Avr
	May	3,540	545	361	341	652	202	40	160	151	5,992		Mai
	Jun	5,381	973	624	289	647	280	26	213	219	8,652		Juin
	Jul[p]	5,705	1,516	436	386	975	196	51	226	207	9,698		Juil[p]
	Aug[p]	4,083	1,493	481	360	1,070	179	105	287	208	8,266		Aoû[p]
	Sep[p]	5,178	838	310	271	512	155	98	222	110	7,694		Sep[p]

Source: Department of Customs/Département des douanes

- No visitors/residents were recorded for the reference month

p: provisiona figures



**Table 4 : Overseas Arrivals of Residents by Nationality**

**Tableau 4 : Arrivées des résidents par nationalité**

Year	Month	Ni-Vanuatu	Australian	French	British	New Zealander	Asian	Pacific Islanders	North Americans	Other countries	TOTAL	Année	Mois
		Australien	Français	Anglais	Néo-Zélandais	Asiatiques	Autres pays du Pacifique	Américain du Nord	Autres pays				
2018		23,610	1,919	750	97	591	875	593	273	228	28,936	2018	
2019		26,317	2,344	884	329	780	2,809	665	409	364	34,901	2019	
2020		8,374	719	285	42	243	283	273	87	103	10,409	2020	
2021		2,659	343	63	10	79	210	67	17	47	3,495	2021	
2022		15,012	1,501	381	89	297	562	392	152	155	18,541	2022	
2018	Sep	2,913	175	58	10	46	57	43	26	21	3,349	2018	Sep
2019	Sep	3,066	244	78	16	61	109	78	34	42	3,728	2019	Sep
2020	Sep	1,107	20	4	0	9	3	7	2	4	1,156	2020	Sep
2021	Sep	6	1	0	0	0	37	0	0	0	44	2021	Sep
2022	Sep	2,139	116	50	12	46	92	49	20	22	2,546	2022	Sep
	Oct	1,557	138	63	4	36	52	58	22	24	1,954		Oct
	Nov	1,958	166	79	14	49	91	50	23	14	2,444		Nov
	Dec	2,896	166	52	20	45	93	75	30	32	3,409		Déc
2023	Jan	1,484	87	25	2	24	37	33	7	4	1,703	2023	Jan
	Feb	1,446	53	30	5	16	31	32	5	17	1,635		Fév
	Mar[p]	172	21	13	1	5	15	4	4	4	239		Mar[p]
	Apr	2,345	102	19	3	25	82	24	10	8	2,618		Avr
	May	3,776	127	46	8	36	115	28	9	23	4,168		Mai
	Jun	3,033	118	29	2	26	82	26	7	15	3,338		Juin
	Jul[p]	2,333	116	20	2	27	56	50	12	17	2,633		Juil[p]
	Aug[p]	2,300	106	44	0	31	60	22	13	20	2,596		Août[p]
	Sep[p]	529	72	14	3	17	30	14	8	4	691		Sept[p]

Source: Department of Customs/Départ

*p: provisiona figures*

*- No visitors/residents were recorded for the reference month*

**Table 5 : Visitors Arriving by Air Intended Length of Stay\*****Tableau 5 : Arrivée des Visiteurs à longue durée de Séjour**

Year	Month	AVERAGE INTENDED LENGTH OF STAY / LA MOYENNE DE LONGUE DUREE DE SEJOUR			Année	Mois
		Port Vila	Luganville	Vanuatu		
2018		9.9	11.9	10.9	2018	
2019		10.4	13.4	11.9	2019	
2020		2.8	1.5	3.1	2020	
2021		-	-	-	2021	
2022		6.9	-	6.9	2022	
2018	Sep	9.5	10.9	10.2	2018	Sep
2019	Sep	10.4	10.2	10.3	2019	Sep
2020	Sep	-	-	-	2020	Sep
2021	Sep	-	-	-	2021	Sep
2022	Sep	13.3	-	13.3	2022	Sept
	Oct	11.5	-	11.5		Oct
	Nov	16.3	-	16.3		Nov
	Dec	13.6	-	13.6		Déc
2023	Jan	9.4	-	9.4	2023	Jan
	Feb	8.6	-	8.6		Fév
	Mar[p]	15.1	-	15.1		Mar[p]
	Apr	12.9	-	12.9		Avr
	May	9.0	-	9.0		Mai
	Jun	12.1	20	16.1		Juin
	Jul[p]	9.7	12	10.8		Juil[p]
	Aug[p]	8.8	12	10.3		Aoû[p]
	Sep[p]	8.3	12	10.3		Sep[p]

Source: Department of Customs/Département des douanes

p: provisional figures

**Table 6 : Visitors Arriving by Air Average Age**  
**Tableau 6 : Arrivée des Visiteurs par Age moyen**

Year	Month	AVERAGE AGE OF VISITORS / L'AGE MOYEN DES VISITEURS			Année	Mois
		Port Vila	Luganville	Vanuatu		
2018		38.89	43.22	41.05	2018	
2019		39.10	42.47	40.79	2019	
2020		9.88	3.09	9.95	2020	
2021		-	-	-	2021	
2022		3.48	-	3.48	2022	
2018	Sep	39.2	42.7	40.9	2018	Sep
2019	Sep	38.6	43.1	40.8	2019	Sep
2020	Sep	-	-	-	2020	Sep
2021	Sep	-	-	-	2021	Sep
2022	Sep	39.5	-	39.5	2022	Sep
	Oct	41.3	-	41.3		Oct
	Nov	42.8	-	42.8		Nov
	Dec	36.6	-	36.6		Déc
2023	Jan	36.3	-	36.3	2023	Jan
	Feb	42.6	-	42.6		Fév
	Mar[p]	38.3	-	38.3		Mar[p]
	Apr	38.7	-	38.7		Avr
	May	43.2	-	43.2		Mai
	Jun	39.2	45.3	42.2		Juin
	Jul[p]	43.3	48.6	46.0		Juil[p]
	Aug[p]	41.8	49.1	45.5		Août[p]
	Sep[p]	39.9	47.1	45.5		Sep[p]

Source: Department of Customs/Département des douanes

p: provisional figures

**Table 7: Visitors travelling to Outer Islands, Vanuatu****Tableau 7: Les visiteurs en voyage d'Îles Extérieures, Vanuatu**

Year	Month	Tanna	Santo	Efate offshore Islands Efate et les îles côtières	Pentecost Island îles Pentecôte	Malekula Malicolo	Ambrym	Other Islands D'autres îles	TOTAL	Année	Mois
		2018		11,258	10,349	4,419	527	1,220	874		
2019		10,848	10,255	4,751	660	899	404	2,442	30,259	2019	
2020		2,283	2,489	634	64	205	47	512	6,234	2020	
2021		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2021	
2022		1,656	2,439	1,423	42	150	28	434	6,172	2022	
2018	Sep	1,031	910	611	13	144	98	345	3,152	2018	Sep
2019	Sep	1,020	993	376	25	80	35	238	2,767	2019	Sep
2020	Sep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2020	Sep
2021	Sep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2021	Sep
2022	Sep	201	283	215	12	15	2	45	773	2022	Sep
	Oct	355	481	401	10	27	3	108	1,385		Oct
	Nov	371	491	417	15	30	5	95	1,424		Nov
	Dec	420	555	281	3	22	3	96	1,380		Déc
2023	Jan	501	736	214	3	33	5	92	1,584	2023	Jan
	Feb	191	301	62	2	9	4	35	604		Fév
	Mar[p]	83	153	79	3	7	-	19	344		Mar[p]
	Apr	149	197	109	2	20	8	50	535		Avr
	May	224	351	107	17	23	4	80	806		Mai
	Jun	380	416	167	15	35	18	67	1,098		Juin
	Jul[p]	765	1,077	513	34	70	29	251	2,739		Juil[p]
	Aug[p]	669	646	224	27	60	18	165	1,809		Août[p]
	Sep[p]	195	260	56	8	19	7	39	584		Sep[p]

Source: Department of Customs/Département des douanes

Note: 1. Data on visitors travelling to outer islands is only available from May 2014

p: provisional figures

**Table 8: Visitors usual residence arrivals by purpose of visit**  
**Tableau 8: Visiteurs résidences habituelles arrivées par voie aérienne, par motif de visite**

Country of Usual Residence Pays de résidence habituelle	Visiting Friends and relatives Visite d'amis et de parents		Holiday Vacances		Business Affaires		All Other us les autres		Total Visitors
		% share		% share		% share		% share	
Australia/Australie	126	2%	4878	94%	76	1%	98	2%	5,178
China/Chine	10	5%	192	86%	14	6%	6	3%	222
Europe/L'europe	24	5%	452	87%	23	4%	23	4%	522
Japan/Japon	4	4%	76	78%	11	11%	7	7%	98
New Caledonia/Nouvelle Calédonie	47	15%	237	76%	2	1%	24	8%	310
New Zealand/Nouvelle Zélande	38	5%	698	83%	29	3%	72	9%	837
North America/ Amérique du Nord	25	16%	97	63%	24	16%	8	5%	154
Other countries/Autres pays	11	11%	74	73%	10	10%	6	6%	101
Other pacific countries/ Autres pays du pacifique	47	17%	46	17%	114	42%	65	24%	272
<b>Total Visitors</b>	<b>332</b>		<b>6,750</b>		<b>303</b>		<b>309</b>		<b>7,694</b>

Source: Department of Customs/Département des douanes