

OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2011

Short-term visitor arrivals

In November 2011, there were 520,100 short-term international arrivals to Australia, an increase of 0.6 per cent. Arrivals from three of Australia's top ten inbound markets were higher in November 2011, with China once again leading the way (up 18.2 per cent). Arrivals from New Zealand and the United States increased 5.8 per cent and 4.5 per cent, respectively. The largest decline in arrivals was from the United Kingdom and Japan (both down 11.7 per cent), followed by South Korea (down 10.3 per cent).

Although not a top ten market, the month of November saw a 26 per cent increase in visitors from Ireland. A high unemployment rate in Ireland (14.3 per cent at the end of last year) is likely driving an increase both in skilled workers and working holiday makers.

The Qantas dispute at the end of October 2011 saw international services return to normal by 1 November 2011. And with a 0.6 per cent increase in arrivals for the month, the dispute does not seem to have impacted visitor arrivals.

Arrivals by most main reason for travel increased in November 2011, the exceptions being holiday travel and education (down 3.8 per cent and 3.0 per cent, respectively). The largest increase was for travel for the purpose of employment (up 12.0 per cent).

So far in 2011, international visitor arrivals to Australia are 0.1 per cent lower compared to the same period in 2010. This result is tracking lower than the Tourism Forecasting Committee forecast of 0.4 per cent growth in 2011 (*Forecast 2011, Issue 2*).

Short-term resident departures

In November 2011, there were 596,400 short-term resident departures from Australia, an increase of 8.0 per cent. Departures to all of Australia's top ten outbound markets increased in November 2011 – Thailand up 19.8 per cent, Singapore up 19.4 per cent, and China up 19.2 per cent.

Departures to Thailand showed the largest increase in November 2011 (up 19.8 per cent) despite floods spreading across the country. The flood waters did not directly affect popular holiday destinations such as the beach resorts of Phuket and Koh Samui.

It was predicted that this year's "schoolies" would take advantage of travel to short-haul overseas destinations, and with a 17.7 per cent increase in travel to Indonesia and 13.7 per cent increase to Fiji this prediction appears to ring true.

Departures by most main reasons for travel increased in November 2011, the largest increase was education travel, up 13.7 per cent followed by holiday travel at 10.1 per cent.

The 9.9 per cent calendar year to date increase is tracking slightly higher against the Tourism Forecasting Committee forecast of 9.2 per cent in 2011. This is despite the occurrence of several natural disasters overseas (Japan and New Zealand earthquakes, Chilean ash cloud) and at home (Queensland floods and cyclone) throughout the year. Australians continue to travel overseas in record numbers.

Table 1: Short-term visitor arrivals

Country of residence	November 2011		2011 to date	
	Arrivals	Change ^a (%)	Arrivals	Change ^b (%)
New Zealand	100,900	+5.8	1,060,000	+0.9
United Kingdom	56,700	-11.7	515,300	-4.7
United States	41,700	+4.5	403,600	-3.8
China	50,100	+18.2	494,200	+19.9
Japan	30,900	-11.7	301,800	-17.3
Singapore	31,800	-5.4	276,900	+3.4
Malaysia	20,900	-6.3	214,600	+1.9
South Korea	17,400	-10.3	177,300	-8.7
Hong Kong	12,000	0.0	147,600	+1.4
Germany	13,800	-6.8	135,500	-3.8
Holiday	235,900	-3.8	2,258,100	-4.5
Visiting friends or relatives	124,200	+1.2	1,198,500	+0.6
Business	71,700	+9.1	660,200	+6.7
Convention/conference	20,300	+9.1	164,200	-0.8
Employment	17,700	+12.0	184,800	+11.0
Education	15,900	-3.0	354,300	-0.6
TOTAL	520,100	+0.6	5,201,700	-0.1

Notes: (a) Change Nov. 2011 on Nov. 2010
(b) Change Jan. to Nov. 2011 on Jan. to Nov. 2010

Table 2: Short-term resident departures

Main destination	November 2011		2011 to date	
	Departures	Change ^a (%)	Departures	Change ^b (%)
New Zealand	85,100	+4.9	944,100	+2.7
Indonesia	72,600	+17.7	796,900	+19.5
United States	55,500	+2.8	717,000	+17.2
United Kingdom	23,600	+3.5	442,400	+6.6
Thailand	41,700	+19.8	495,600	+24.2
China	29,200	+19.2	330,500	+8.3
Fiji	28,200	+13.7	305,900	+8.8
Singapore	25,800	+19.4	260,200	+13.2
Malaysia	19,100	+7.9	229,600	+5.0
Hong Kong	23,300	+5.9	199,300	+5.4
Holiday	307,000	+10.1	3,971,800	+13.1
Visiting friends or relatives	146,600	+5.4	1,478,100	+6.0
Business	72,400	-0.7	750,400	+3.2
Convention/conference	22,000	+5.8	217,700	+5.5
Employment	10,200	-3.8	117,100	+2.7
Education	5,800	+13.7	62,300	+1.8
TOTAL	596,400	+8.0	6,930,900	+9.9

Notes: (a) Change Nov. 2011 on Nov. 2010
(b) Change Jan. to Nov. 2011 on Jan. to Nov. 2010

Future statistical releases

Australian Bureau of Statistics	<i>Overseas Arrivals and Departures</i> , December 2011	7 February 2012
Australian Bureau of Statistics	<i>Overseas Arrivals and Departures</i> , January 2012	6 March 2012
Tourism Research Australia	<i>International Visitors in Australia</i> , December quarter 2011	7 March 2012
Tourism Research Australia	<i>Travel by Australians</i> , December quarter 2011	14 March 2012

Short-term visitor arrivals, November 2011

Figure 1: Arrivals (total)

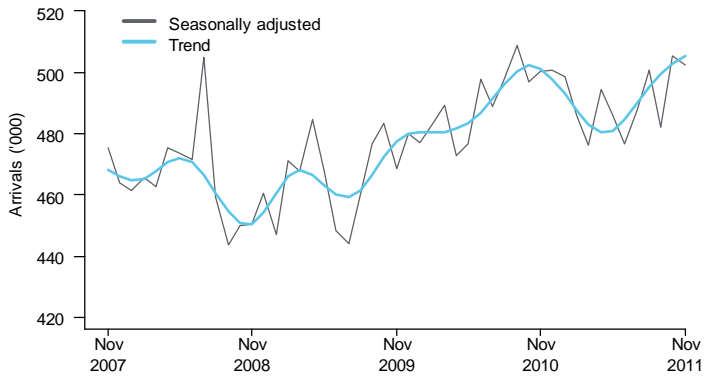


Figure 2: Arrivals by country of residence, November 2011 on November 2010

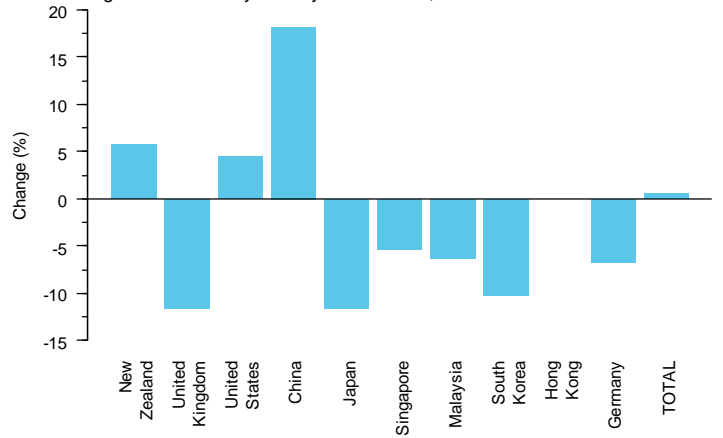
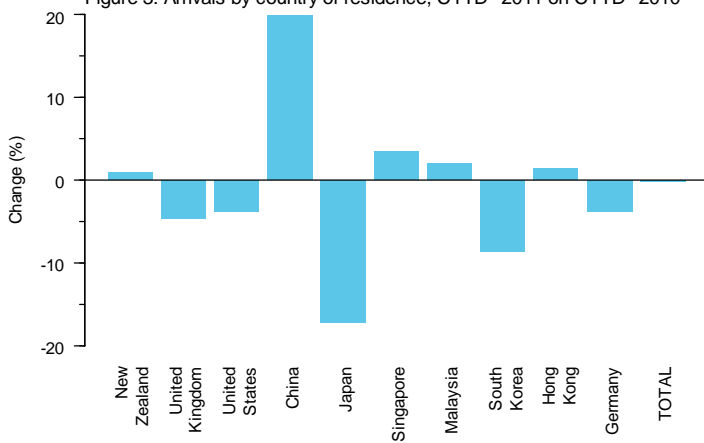
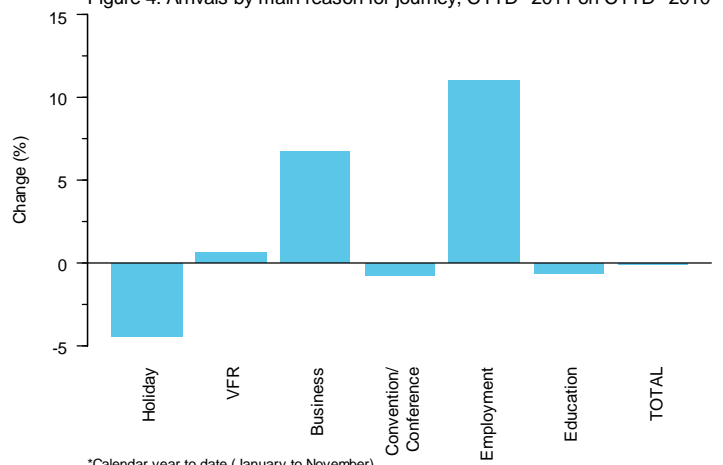


Figure 3: Arrivals by country of residence, CYTD* 2011 on CYTD* 2010



*Calendar year to date (January to November)

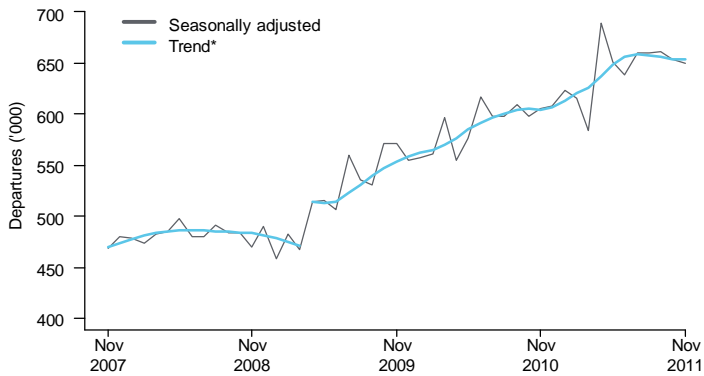
Figure 4: Arrivals by main reason for journey, CYTD* 2011 on CYTD* 2010



*Calendar year to date (January to November)

Short-term resident departures, November 2011

Figure 5: Departures (total)



*Trend break applied by the ABS in April 2009

Figure 6: Departures by main destination, November 2011 on November 2010

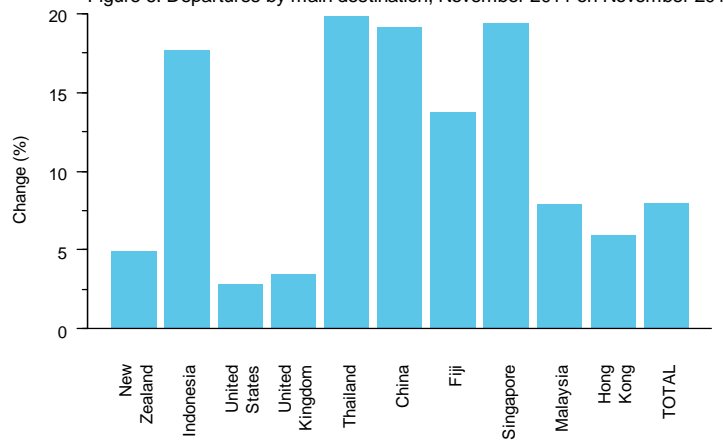
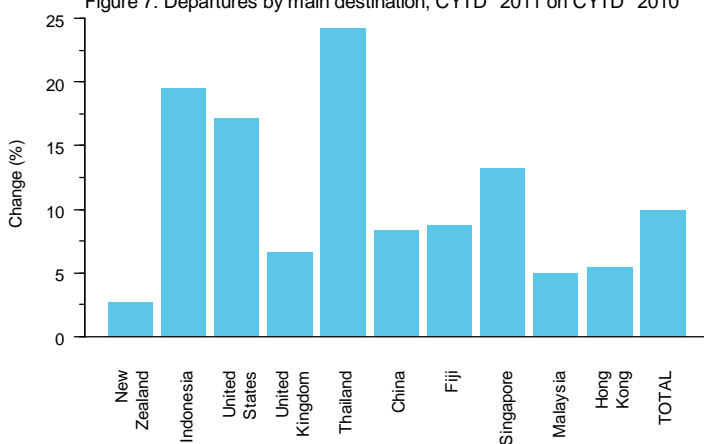
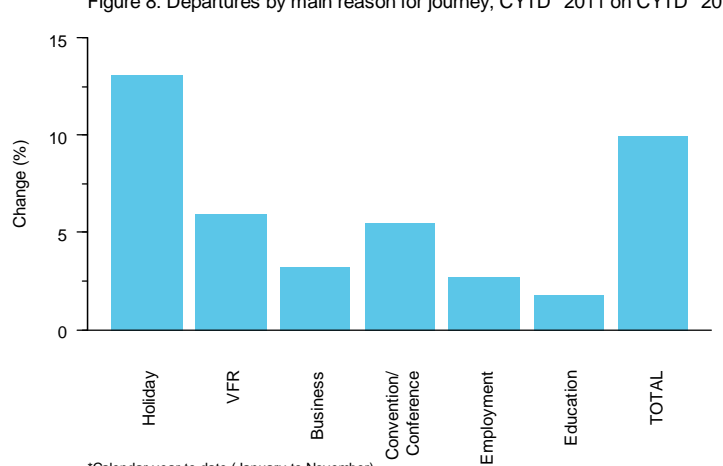


Figure 7: Departures by main destination, CYTD* 2011 on CYTD* 2010



*Calendar year to date (January to November)

Figure 8: Departures by main reason for journey, CYTD* 2011 on CYTD* 2010



*Calendar year to date (January to November)