



Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics  
Bureau des Statistiques du Vanuatu

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Date: June 30, 2023

# PRESS RELEASE

To Whom It May Concern

## Re: Notice of Delay in Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics (VBoS) International Visitors Arrivals.

The Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics (VBoS) regrets to inform users of a delay in the release of the International Visitors Arrivals (IVA) Report. The delay is due to unforeseen circumstances related to the cyber-attack that occurred in October 2022, resulting in the loss of data for the months of October to December 2022. The VBoS is working diligently to rectify the situation and provide the necessary information to produce the IVA Report.


The VBoS assures its users that every effort is being made to expedite the completion of the data entry process and restore the publication of the Tourism Report. The Bureau is implementing measures to enhance data security and reinforce its systems to prevent future incidents.

For further updates and information, please visit the Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics website or contact (which is provided on the header) our office directly.

We appreciate your understanding and patience during this period. The VBoS remains committed to delivering accurate and comprehensive statistical information to support the tourism sector in Vanuatu.

Sincerely,

Mr. KAP Calo Andy  
Chief Statistician



## STATISTICS UPDATE: INTERNATIONAL VISITORS ARRIVALS

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### The opening of border to international travels

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2022, the Government of Vanuatu has reopened its border to the international travel after two years of travel restriction that begins from mid-March of 2020 due to the outbreak of Covid-19 global pandemic.

#### 1. January 2023 highlights

- Total arrivals by air in January are **8,301**.
- Residents' arrival makes up **21%** and visitor arrivals make up **79%** of the total arrivals.
- Holiday visitors represent **90%** of all air arrivals.
- Visitors residing in Australia recorded the highest percent at **58%** of all air arrivals.
- The average length of stay for visitors is **9 days**
- The average age of visitors is **36 years**
- Out of all air arrivals, **18%** were able to visit outer islands with Santo being the highest destination visited at **45%** share.
- Day visitors stood at 25,851.
- Total departures are **11,354** in January 2023.

#### 2. Overview

- The total international arrival stood at 32,455, in which the total visitor's arrivals by air stood at 6,598 and the total residents stood at 1,703. The increase was attributed to the rise in the number of air arrivals for holiday purposes with a total number of 5,919.
- There were 8 cruise ships in Port Vila with 25,851-day visitors which makes up 80% of visitors arriving by sea and 20% of visitors by air in January 2023.

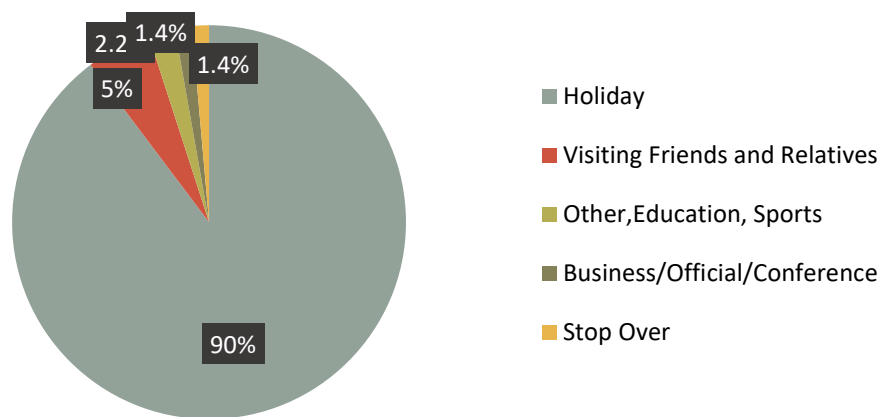
Figure 1: Visitor Arrivals by Air and Sea: January 2022 to January 2023



### 3. Purpose of visit

- Holiday visitors made up 90% of all international visitor arrivals to Vanuatu; followed by Visiting Friends and relatives at 5%, Other, education and sports at 2% and business meetings or conferences and stop-over visitors at 1% each.

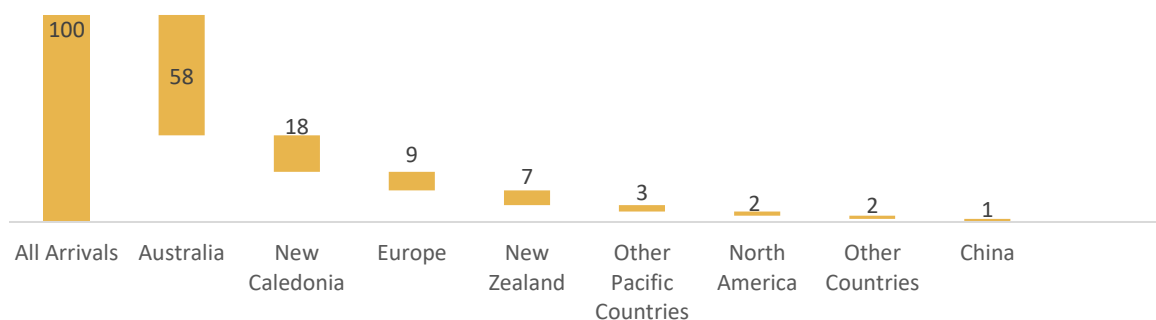
Figure 2: Percentage share of visitors by purpose of visit



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

- Australian visitors accounted for 58% of all international visitors by air followed by New Caledonia at 18%, Europe at 9%, New Zealand at 7%, Other Pacific Countries at 3%, North America and Other Countries at 2% each, China at 1% and Japan with less than 1%.

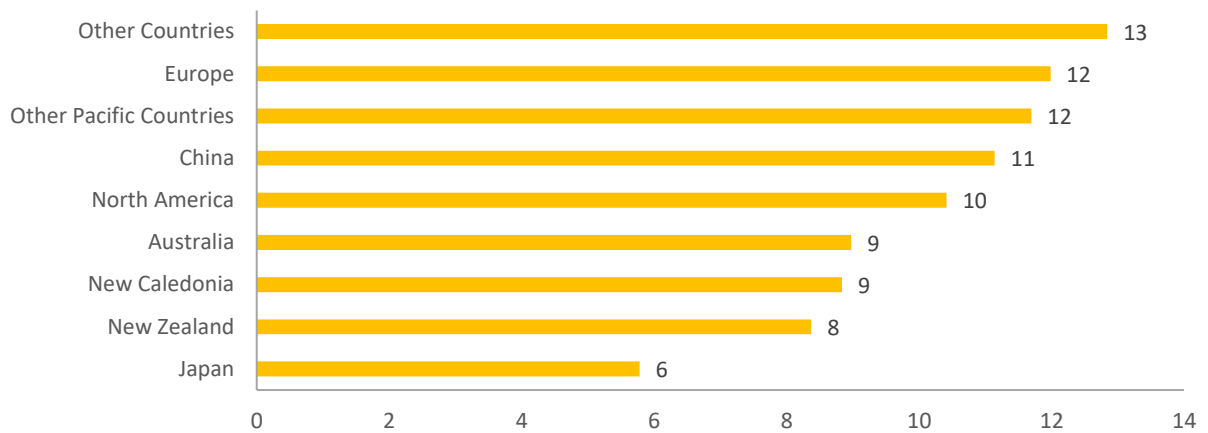
Figure 3: Percentage share of visitors by Country of Usual Residence



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

- International visitors by air spent an average of 9 days in Vanuatu.

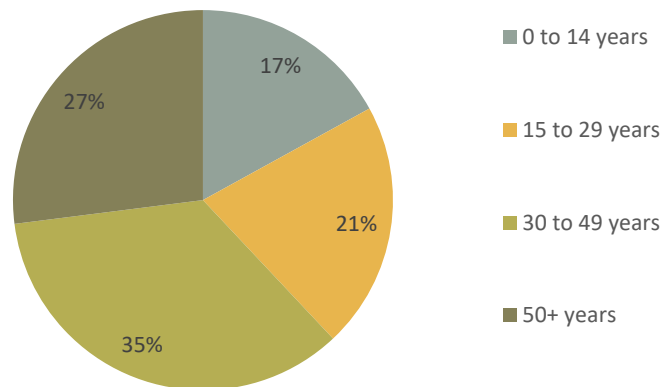
Figure 4: Average length of stay by country of usual residence



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

- The average age for visitors travelling by air stood at 36 years.
- This represents 35% of all visitors arriving to Vanuatu within the age group of 30 - 49 years old and 27% 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 32%. (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 35%.
- Visitors who travelled to outer islands spent an average of 9 days.

Figure 6: Proportion of visitors to outer islands

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

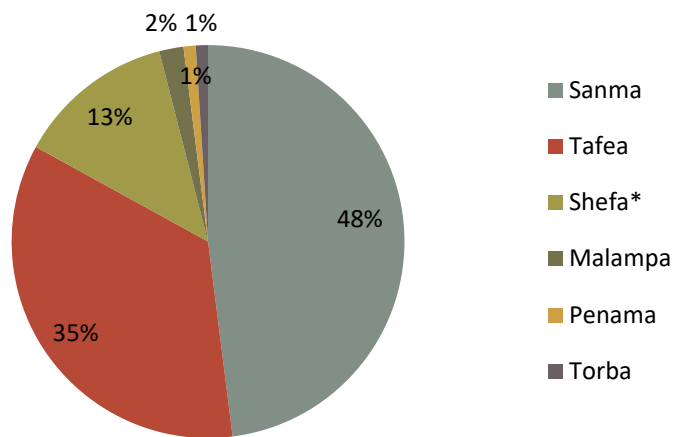


Figure 7: Summary of visitors to other provinces by country of usual residence

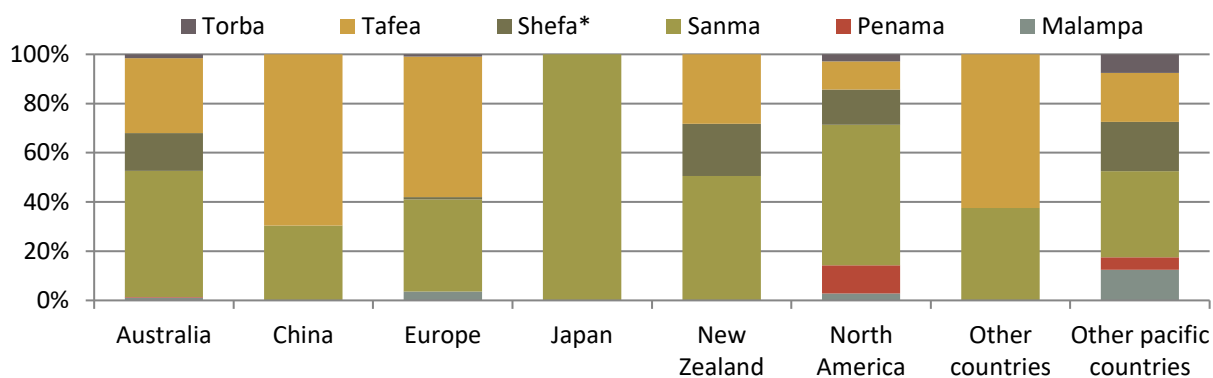


Table 1: Visitors to outer islands, by province

Year	Month	Province						TOTAL
		Torba	Sanma	Penama	Malampa	Shefa*	Tafea	
2023	Jan	16	577	13	28	158	418	1,210

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	Jan	11.1	9.7	7.6	11.8	5.9	6.1	9

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

Country of Usual Residence	Province						Total
	Malampa	Penama	Sanma	Shefa*	Tafea	Torba	
Australia	1%	0%	51%	15%	31%	2%	730
China	0%	0%	30%	0%	70%	0%	23
Europe	4%	0%	38%	1%	57%	1%	112
Japan	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	1
New Caledonia	6%	3%	41%	7%	42%	0%	154
New Zealand	0%	0%	51%	21%	28%	0%	99
North America	3%	11%	57%	14%	11%	3%	35
Other countries	0%	0%	38%	0%	63%	0%	16
Other pacific countries	13%	5%	35%	20%	20%	8%	40

\*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

## NEXT UPDATE (MONTHLY)RELEASE DATE

February 2023

27<sup>th</sup> June 2023

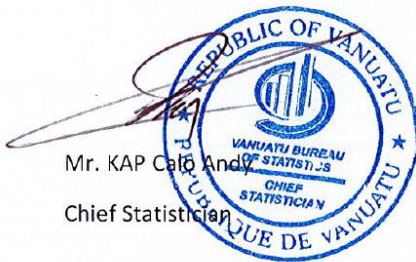
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Statistical Indicator  
report.



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

Year	Month	ARRIVALS / ARRIVEES						DEPARTURES / DEPARTURES						Yacht Voilier	Cruiseship Arrivals/ Croisiéristes	Total Visitors	Année	Mois
		PORT VILA		LUGANVILLE		TOTAL		PORT VILA		LUGANVILLE		TOTAL						
		Residents Résidents	Visitors Visiteurs	Residents Résidents	Visitors Visiteurs	Residents Résidents	Visitors Visiteurs	Resident Résidents	Visitor Visiteurs	Resident Résidents	Visitors Visiteurs	Resident Résidents	Visitors Visiteurs					
2017		27,418	103,463	830	5,707	28,248	109,170	25,845	108,427	441	3,831	26,286	112,258	-	223,551	332,721	2017	
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	
2017	Jan	2,418	8,503	19	454	2,437	8,957	2,229	10,645	22	433	2,251	11,078	-	31,548	40,505	2017	Jan
2018	Jan	2,300	9,716	102	414	2,402	10,130	2,326	13,291	23	217	2,349	13,508	-	34,656	44,786	2018	Jan
2019	Jan	2,561	9,244	25	304	2,586	9,548	2,288	13,563	9	423	2,297	13,986	-	14,440	23,988	2019	Jan
2020	Jan	2,610	11,732	17	201	2,627	11,933	2,754	15,805	253	37	3,007	15,842	-	36,023	47,956	2020	Jan
2021	Jan	325	-	-	-	325	-	660	-	-	-	660	-	-	-	-	2021	Jan
2022	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	955	-	-	-	955	-	-	-	-	2022	Jan
	Feb	374	-	-	-	374	-	1,179	-	-	-	1,179	-	-	-	-		Feb
	Mar	16	-	-	-	16	-	865	-	-	-	865	-	-	-	-		Mar
	Apr	65	-	-	-	65	-	1,213	-	-	-	1,213	-	-	-	-		Avr
	May	1,056	-	-	-	1,056	-	1,040	-	-	-	1,040	-	-	-	-		Mai
	Jun	950	-	-	-	950	-	827	-	-	-	827	-	-	-	-		Juin
	Jul	3,342	3,538	-	2	3,342	3,540	1,150	3,623	-	12	1,150	3,623	-	-	3,540		Juil
	Aug	2,390	4,575	-	-	2,390	4,575	1,343	4,579	-	-	1,343	4,579	156	-	4,575		Aoû
	Sep	2,546	5,636	-	-	2,546	5,636	1,031	3,028	-	-	1,031	3,028	-	-	5,636		Sep
	Oct	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na		Oct
	Nov	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na		Nov
	Dec	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na		Déc
2023	Jan[p]	1,703	6,598	-	-	1,703	6,598	2,047	9,307	-	-	2,047	9,307	6	25,851	32,455	2023	Jan[p]

Source: Department of Customs/Département des douanes

8,301

- No visitors/residents were recorded for the reference month

**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			
2017		83,465	8,940	8,338	897	7,530	109,170	2017		
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		
2017	Jan	7,203	746	462	71	475	8,957	2017	Jan	
2018	Jan	8,106	873	465	81	605	10,130	2018	Jan	
2019	Jan	7,816	717	426	16	573	9,548	2019	Jan	
2020	Jan	9,837	676	316	270	834	11,933	2020	Jan	
2021	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	2021	Jan	
2022	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	2022	Jan	
	Fev	-	-	-	-	-	-		Fev	
	Mar	-	-	-	-	-	-		Mar	
	Apr	-	-	-	-	-	-		Avr	
	May	-	-	-	-	-	-		Mai	
	Jun	-	-	-	-	-	-		Juin	
	Jul	2,753	367	156	42	121	3,439		Juil	
	Aug	3,765	369	171	58	212	4,575		Aoû	
	Sep	4,315	548	352	11	410	5,636		Sep	
	Oct	na	na	na	na	na	na		Oct	
	Nov	na	na	na	na	na	na		Nov	
	Dec	na	na	na	na	na	na		Déc	
2023	Jan[p]	5,919	349	95	91	144	6,598	2023	Jan[p]	

Source: Department of Customs/Département des douanes

- No visitors/residents were recorded for the reference month



**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			
2017		57,387	11,554	15,880	7,147	6,806	3,016	1,076	3,612	2,692	109,170	2017	
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	
2017	Jan	4,738	549	1,742	439	602	180	75	339	293	8,957	2017	Jan
2018	Jan	5,206	804	2,129	528	570	251	63	317	262	10,130	2018	Jan
2019	Jan	5,251	767	1,786	481	523	229	61	284	166	9,548	2019	Jan
2020	Jan	6,425	943	2,087	402	837	335	89	522	293	11,933	2020	Jan
2021	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2021	Jan
2022	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2022	Jan
	Feb	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		Fév
	Mar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		Mar
	Apr	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		Avr
	May	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		Mai
	Jun	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		Juin
	Jul	1,894	571	183	143	444	85	7	49	63	3,439		Juil
	Aug	2,061	739	513	283	542	140	39	108	150	4,575		Aoû
	Sep	3,680	769	305	351	223	141	16	51	99	5,635		Sep
	Oct	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na		Oct
	Nov	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na		Nov
	Dec	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na		Déc
2023	Jan[p]	3,835	471	1,163	199	592	142	32	64	100	6,598	2023	Jan[p]

Source: Department of Customs/Département des douanes

- No visitors/residents were recorded for the reference month

**Table 4 : Overseas Arrivals of Residents by Nationality****Tableau 4 : Arrivées des résidents par nationalité**

Year	Month	Ni-Vanuatu	Australian Australien	French Français	British Anglais	New Zealander Néo- Zélandais	Asian Asiatiques	Pacific Islanders Autres pays du Pacifique	North Americans Américain du Nord	Other countries Autres pays	TOTAL	Année	Mois
2017		21,967	2,463	1,036	118	797	712	564	358	233	28,248	2017	
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	
2017	Jan	1,714	265	137	17	96	69	82	36	21	2,437	2017	Jan
2018	Jan	1,538	304	107	15	118	138	108	42	32	2,402	2018	Jan
2019	Jan	120	125	14	204	130	1,828	33	89	43	2,586	2019	Jan
2020	Jan	1,852	243	106	17	100	115	112	42	40	2,627	2020	Jan
2021	Jan	276	34	1	0	0	9	5	0	0	325	2021	Jan
2022	Jan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2022	Jan
	Feb	0	321	12	8	3	7	10	4	4	369		Fév
	Mar	0	9	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	16		Mar
	Apr	54	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65		Avr
	May	876	95	4	9	9	32	10	12	9	1,056		Mai
	Jun	756	80	14	3	9	63	15	2	8	950		Juin
	Jul	2,589	343	85	13	91	100	57	30	34	3,342		Juil
	Aug	2,187	56	16	6	9	31	68	9	8	2,390		Aoû
	Sep	2,139	116	50	12	46	92	49	20	22	2,546		Sep
	Oct	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na		Oct
	Nov	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na		Nov
	Dec	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na		Déc
2023	Jan[p]	1,484	87	25	2	24	37	33	7	4	1,703	2023	Jan[p]

Source: Department of Customs/Département des

*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		
2017		10.4	12.3	11.4	2017	
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	
2017	Jan	11.5	12.1	11.8	2017	Jan
2018	Jan	10.7	12.9	11.8	2018	Jan
2019	Jan	12.4	12.0	12.2	2019	Jan
2020	Jan	11.8	17.5	14.6	2020	Jan
2021	Jan	-	-	-	2021	Jan
2022	Jan	-	-	-	2022	Jan
	Feb	-	-	-		Fév
	Mar	-	-	-		Mar
	Apr	-	-	-		Avr
	May	-	-	-		Mai
	Jun	-	-	-		Juin
	Jul	14	-	14		Juil
	Aug	13.9	-	13.9		Aoû
	Sep	16	-	16		Sept
	Oct	na	na	na		Oct
	Nov	na	na	na		Nov
	Dec	na	na	na		Déc
2023	Jan[p]	9	-	9	2023	Jan[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		
2017		38.95	42.30	40.48	2017	
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	
2017	Jan	34.2	40.3	37.2	2017	Jan
2018	Jan	36.4	39.4	37.9	2018	Jan
2019	Jan	35.1	37.7	36.4	2019	Jan
2020	Jan	35.4	37.1	36.3	2020	Jan
2021	Jan	-	-	-	2021	Jan
2022	Jan	-	-	-	2022	Jan
	Feb	-	-	-		Fév
	Mar	-	-	-		Mar
	Apr	-	-	-		Avr
	May	-	-	-		Mai
	Jun	-	-	-		Juin
	Jul	41.6	70.5	56.1		Juil
	Aug	43.4	-	43.4		Aoû
	Sep	39.5	-	39.5		Sep
	Oct	na	na	na		Oct
	Nov	na	na	na		Nov
	Dec	na	na	na		Déc
2023	Jan[p]	36.3	-	36.3	2023	Jan[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
		2017		10,301	8,840	3,333	550	1,071	837		
2018		11,258	10,349	4,419	527	1,220	874	2,460	31,107	2018	
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	
2017	Jan	737	710	141	20	70	46	65	1,789	2017	Jan
2018	Jan	1,080	1,109	220	7	76	76	148	2,716	2018	Jan
2019	Jan	779	873	192	13	60	4	158	2,079	2019	Jan
2020	Jan	1,338	1,211	350	30	78	26	258	3,291	2020	Jan
2021	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2021	Jan
2022	Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2022	Jan
	Feb	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		Fév
	Mar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		Mar
	Apr	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		Avr
	May	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		Mai
	Jun	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		Juin
	Jul	98	270	27	-	16	-	32	443		Juil
	Aug	211	359	82	2	40	15	58	767		Aoû
	Sep	201	283	215	12	15	2	45	773		Sep
	Oct	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na		Oct
	Nov	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na		Nov
	Dec	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na		Déc
2023	Jan[p]	501	736	214	3	33	5	92	1,584	2023	Jan[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	110	3%	3625	95%	31	1%	69	2%	3,835
China/Chine	9	14%	48	75%	4	6%	3	5%	64
Europe/L'europe	29	5%	535	89%	10	2%	25	4%	599
Japan/Japon	1	3%	21	66%	2	6%	8	25%	32
New Caledonia/Nouvelle Calédonie	85	7%	1039	89%	10	1%	29	2%	1,163
New Zealand/Nouvelle Zélande	37	8%	421	89%	5	1%	8	2%	471
North America/ Amérique du Nord	12	8%	100	70%	5	4%	25	18%	142
Other countries/Autres pays Other pacific countries/ Autres pays du pacifique	10	11%	69	74%	0	0%	14	15%	93
	56	28%	61	31%	28	14%	54	27%	199
<b>Total Visitors</b>	<b>349</b>		<b>5,919</b>		<b>95</b>		<b>235</b>		<b>6,598</b>

Source: Department of Customs/Département des douanes