



**In this bulletin: estimates of arrivals, departures, and the total population**

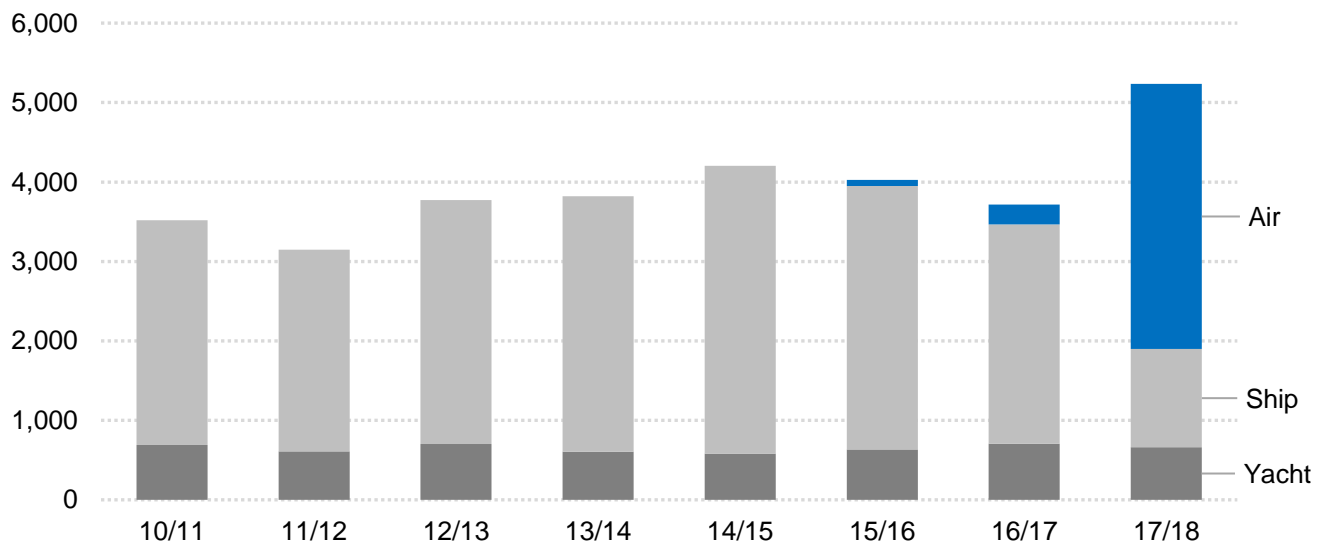
The focus of this Statistical Bulletin is arrivals and departures to and from St Helena, especially by air; St Helena’s first regular scheduled air service began more than a year ago on October 14, 2017.

The primary source for the statistics in this release are records collected by the Immigration Office of the Police Directorate for arrivals and departures, and the Customer Service Centre at the Post Office for births and deaths. A full set of statistics and indicators can be downloaded in Excel format from the ‘Population’ file on the St Helena Statistics website at: [www.sainthelena.gov.sh/statistics-data](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/statistics-data).

**Total arrivals**

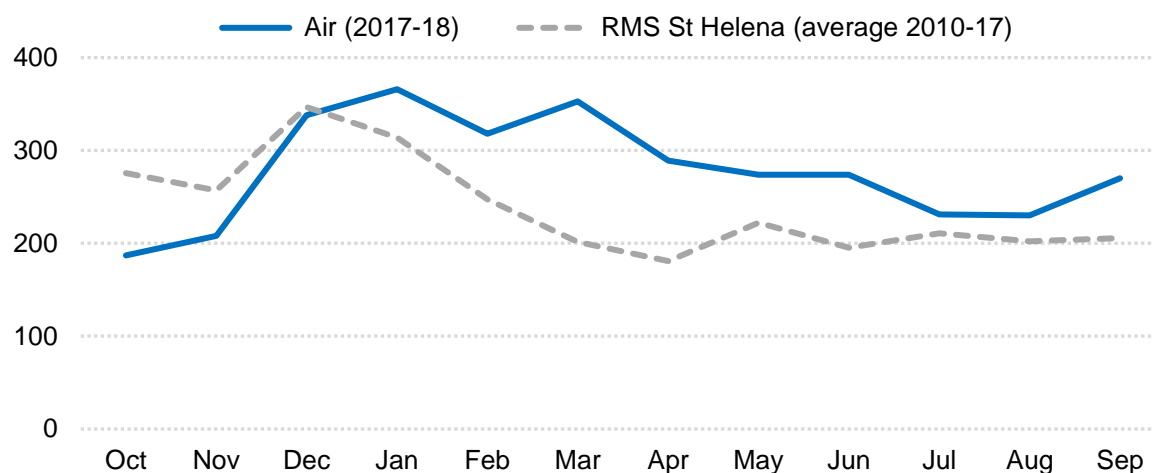
People arrive on St Helena either by ship, by yacht, and – since the construction of St Helena’s airport in 2016 – by air (note that day visitors from cruise ships are not included in statistics on passenger arrivals, although they are included in Table 1 for completeness). For the one year period October 2017 to September 2018, excluding cruise ship passengers, 5,235 people arrived at St Helena altogether. This is a record number of arrivals in recent times; the next highest number since 2010 was 4,205 in 2014/15, for the same October to September period.

Chart 1. Arrivals to St Helena, October 2010 to September 2018



Until 2018, most arrivals by sea have been by ship, on the RMS St Helena (following withdrawal of the RMS St Helena from service in February 2018, most arrivals by sea are by yacht). Chart 2 compares the average monthly arrivals on the RMS St Helena between 2010 and 2017 with monthly arrivals by air over the past year. Apart from the first three months of the new commercial air service, when the RMS St Helena was also still in service, arrivals by air have been higher. There is a clear seasonal pattern of arrivals around the Christmas months of December and January, but it is less pronounced for air arrivals compared to arrivals by the RMS St Helena.

Chart 2. Arrivals to St Helena by month, 2010-17



**Purpose of visit of arrivals by air**

The purpose of visit of all persons arriving on St Helena has been classified as either returning resident, business, tourism/holiday, or in transit. Within tourism/holiday, there are two groups: St Helenians who usually live abroad but who return for short periods typically to visit family and friends, and other nationalities (i.e. non-St Helenians).

Around half of all arrivals by air were for tourism or holiday (1,650 people or 49%) and just under half were arrivals of returning residents or those coming for business or employment (1,538, or 46%). It should be noted that these figures do not include a full year of commercial air operations because the service started in the middle of October; for a full year (365 days) of commercial flights, the first two flights of October 2018 would need to be added.

Chart 3. Arrivals to St Helena by air by purpose, October 2017 to September 2018.

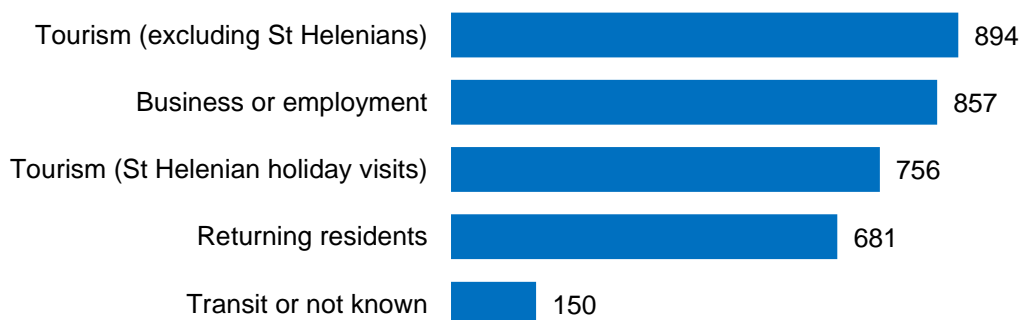
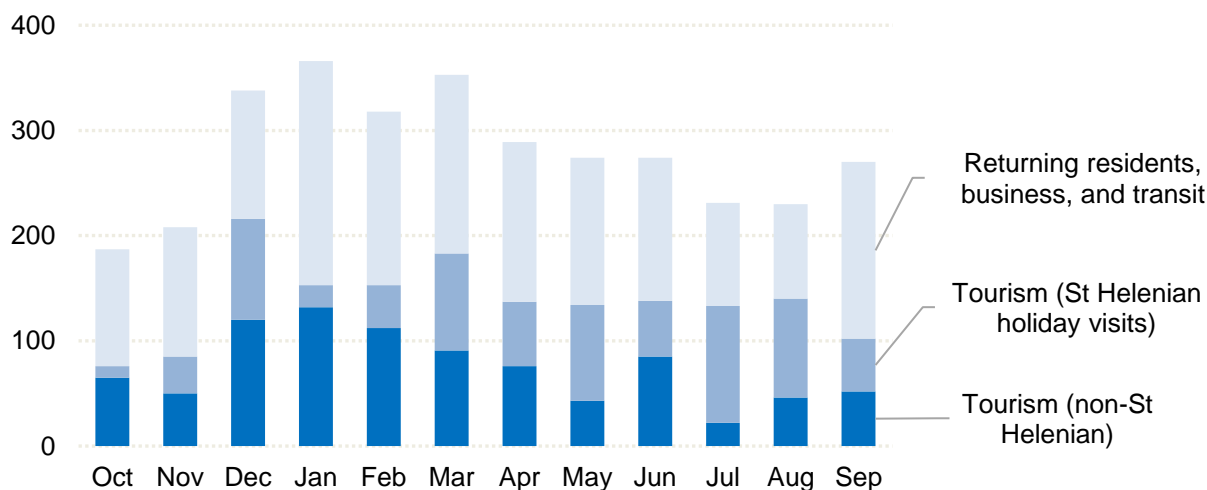


Chart 4 illustrates arrivals by air by month; the typical seasonal pattern of non-St Helenian tourists is quite pronounced, but the pattern of St Helenians arriving for holiday visits over the past year by air has been quite different, with the most popular month being July. This coincides with the UK summer holiday season, but it is also likely that many St Helenians abroad chose to use the RMS St Helena

over the 17/18 Christmas period, while the service was still operating.

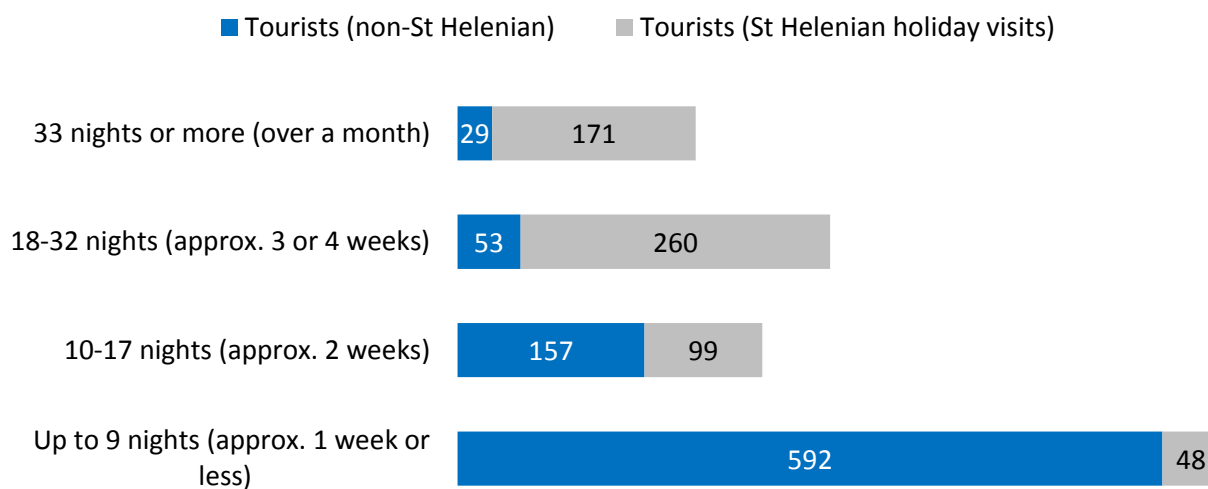
Chart 4. Arrivals to St Helena by air, by purpose and month, 2017-18



**Length of stay of tourist/holiday visitors arriving by air**

The average length of stay has been calculated for those arriving by air for tourism or holiday purposes, and with a stay of less than six months. Only those visitors that have left are included; this helps exclude those that might arrive initially for a short period for a holiday, but who stay for much longer.

Chart 5. Length of stay of tourist/holiday visitors arriving by air and departing between October 2017 and September 2018.



Overall, during the first year of commercial air operations, most tourist/holiday visitors stayed for about a week (Chart 5). But there are differences between St Helenians and non-St Helenians: St Helenians stay much longer than other nationalities. Over 70% of non-St Helenian tourists stayed for a week or less, with less than 10% staying for a month or more. But 75% of St Helenians visiting on

holiday stayed longer, with less than 10% staying for a week or less.

Another measure is the total number of nights spent by the different groups of visitors, calculated by adding together the length of stay of each visitor that left. St Helenians visiting on holiday and arriving by air spent just under 17,000 nights in total on St Helena between October 2017 and September 2018, compared to just over 9,000 nights in total by non-St Helenian tourists – even though there were more arrivals of non-St Helenian tourists. This is because St Helenian visitors stayed longer, on average. From the total nights spent, it is possible to derive an average for the number of people on St Helena each night, by dividing by the number of days in the year (365). The average persons per night for those arriving by air for tourism/holiday was around 72, with 25 tourists and 47 visiting St Helenians. Like all averages, this does not measure the actual number of people on St Helena on every night of the year – on some nights, there would have been more, and some nights less.

**Characteristics of arrivals for tourism/holiday**

Charts 6a to 6c show various characteristics of tourism/holiday visitors that arrived by air in the last 12 months. There were slightly more men than women, and almost 70% were 40 or older. Apart from St Helenian, the most common nationalities were British, South African, and French (20%, 17% and 3% respectively).

Chart 6a. Tourism/holiday visits by air, by age: October 2017 to September 2018

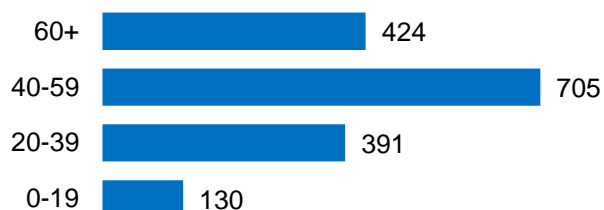


Chart 6b. Tourism/holiday visits by air, by sex: October 2017 to September 2018



Chart 6c. Tourism/holiday by air, by nationality: October 2017 to September 2018

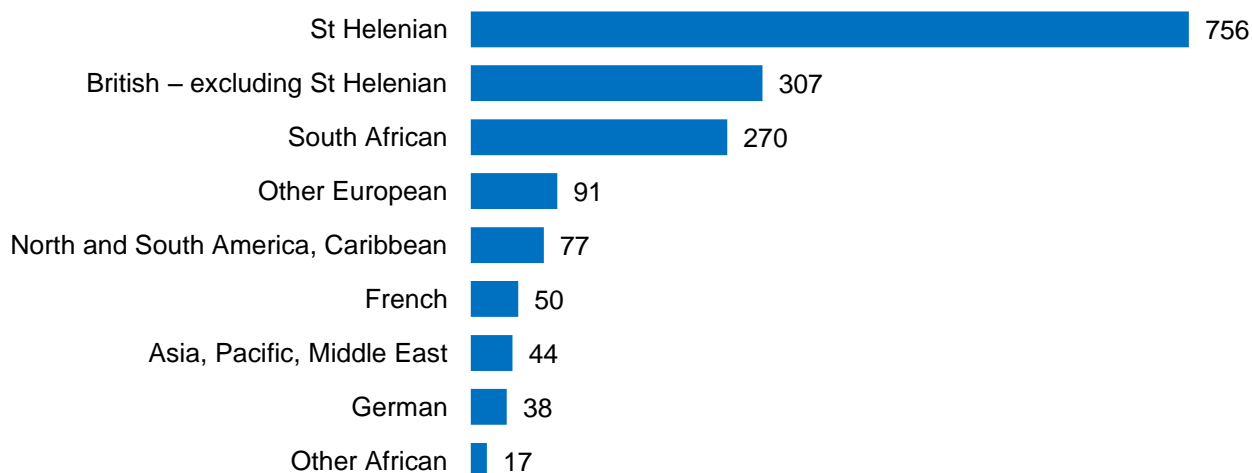


Table 1. International passenger indicators, October 2017 to September 2018

	Q4 17	Q1 18	Q2 18	Q3 18	Total	%
<b>Total arrivals, excluding cruise ships</b>	<b>1,533</b>	<b>1,849</b>	<b>1,089</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>5,235</b>	<b>100%</b>
Air	733	1,037	837	731	<b>3,338</b>	64%
Sea – RMS	700	374	0	0	<b>1,074</b>	21%
Sea – yachts	63	395	181	23	<b>662</b>	13%
Sea – other	37	43	71	10	<b>161</b>	3%
<b>Day visitors from cruise ships</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,058</b>	
<b>Arrivals by air</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>1,037</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>3,338</b>	<b>100%</b>
Tourism (excluding St Helenians)	235	335	204	120	<b>894</b>	27%
Holiday visits by St Helenians	142	154	205	255	<b>756</b>	23%
Business and employment	167	268	224	198	<b>857</b>	26%
Returning residents	137	217	169	158	<b>681</b>	20%
Transit and not known	52	63	35	0	<b>150</b>	4%
<b>Arrivals by air for tourism or holiday</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>1,650</b>	<b>100%</b>
British – excluding St Helenian	68	127	62	50	<b>307</b>	19%
St Helenian	142	154	205	255	<b>756</b>	46%
South African	93	73	87	17	<b>270</b>	16%
Other African	4	3	3	7	<b>17</b>	1%
French	16	23	6	5	<b>50</b>	3%
German	9	15	6	8	<b>38</b>	2%
Other European	20	38	18	15	<b>91</b>	6%
Asia, Pacific, Middle East	11	18	5	10	<b>44</b>	3%
North and South America, Caribbean	14	38	17	8	<b>77</b>	5%
0-19	22	27	36	45	<b>130</b>	8%
20-39	95	100	101	95	<b>391</b>	24%
40-59	169	188	189	159	<b>705</b>	43%
60+	91	174	83	76	<b>424</b>	26%
Males	222	290	228	190	<b>930</b>	56%
Females	154	199	181	185	<b>719</b>	44%

Table 1 (continued). International passenger indicators, October 2017 to September 2018

	Q4 17	Q1 18	Q2 18	Q3 18	Total	%
<b>Average number of nights, arrivals by air for tourism or holiday and departing in quarter</b>						
St Helenian	25	28	31	30	<b>30</b>	
Non-St Helenian	9	10	11	14	<b>11</b>	
<b>Total number of nights spent, arrivals by air for tourism or holiday and departing in quarter</b>						
St Helenian	755	3,194	5,969	7,210	<b>17,128</b>	
Non-St Helenian	1,645	3,529	2,251	1,767	<b>9,192</b>	
<b>Number of arrivals by air for tourism or holiday and departing in quarter, staying for:</b>						
<b>St Helenian</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>100%</b>
4 nights or less	0	0	0	2	<b>2</b>	0%
5 to 9 nights (approx. 1 week)	9	10	15	12	<b>46</b>	8%
10-17 nights (approx. 2 weeks)	6	23	32	38	<b>99</b>	17%
18-32 nights (approx. 3 or 4 weeks)	9	52	82	117	<b>260</b>	45%
33 nights or more (over a month)	6	28	65	72	<b>171</b>	30%
<b>Non-St Helenian</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>100%</b>
4 nights or less	32	26	6	7	<b>71</b>	8%
5 to 9 nights (approx. 1 week)	115	222	133	56	<b>526</b>	63%
10-17 nights (approx. 2 weeks)	19	59	41	40	<b>159</b>	19%
18-32 nights (approx. 3 or 4 weeks)	10	23	10	12	<b>55</b>	7%
33 nights or more (over a month)	4	11	7	7	<b>29</b>	3%
<b>Total Departures</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>1,957</b>	<b>1,141</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>5,105</b>	<b>100%</b>
Air	627	1,115	910	841	<b>3,493</b>	68%
Sea - RMS	418	433	0	0	<b>851</b>	17%
Yachts	53	366	195	22	<b>636</b>	12%
Other vessels	36	43	36	10	<b>125</b>	2%
For tourism or holiday	184	151	102	132	<b>569</b>	11%
Medical treatment, including carers	30	61	32	28	<b>151</b>	3%
Overseas employment or emigration	148	294	156	189	<b>787</b>	15%
Return to place of residence	743	1,414	833	500	<b>3,490</b>	68%
Business	29	37	18	24	<b>108</b>	2%
British (excluding St Helenian)	223	462	324	259	<b>1,268</b>	25%
St Helenian	360	621	342	391	<b>1,714</b>	34%
South African	268	269	190	84	<b>811</b>	16%
All other nationalities, and not known	283	605	285	139	<b>1,312</b>	26%

**Births and deaths**

There were two births between July and September, the lowest quarterly number recorded since at least 2010. It brings the total number of births so far in 2018 to 15. There were seven deaths in the third quarter of 2018, which was also very low compared with recent trends. 33 deaths have been recorded to date in 2018 – more than double the number of births. Statistics on births and deaths are derived from records maintained by the Customer Service Centre, St Helena Post Office.

Table 2: Number of registered births and deaths on St Helena, 2013 to Quarter 3, 2018

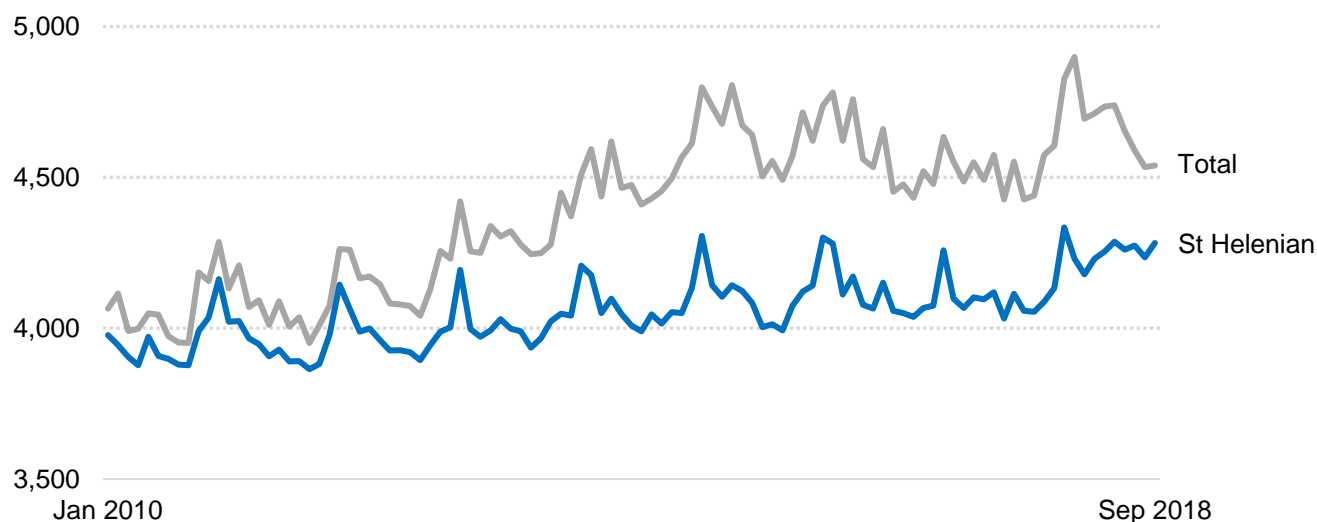
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018
<b>Births</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>
Male	13	25	24	16	18	3	3	3	1
Female	22	23	16	19	18	1	3	4	1
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>
Male	34	36	32	26	34	7	5	7	4
Female	21	25	23	19	24	11	8	6	3

Source: Customer Service Centre, St Helena Post Office

**Total population**

Estimates of the total population are calculated by combining the number of arrivals and departures and the number of births and deaths with the estimated population from the 2016 Census. At the end of September 2018 the number of St Helenians on St Helena was estimated to be 4,282, an increase of 47 compared to August 2018 and of 228 compared to September 2017. The estimated number of persons on St Helena, residents plus visitors, was 4,539, about the same as the previous month but an increase of 99 compared to the year before.

Chart 7. On-island population



## Definitions and methodology

The classification of arrivals and departures into purpose of visit or departure is based on the declarations made to Immigration Officers. Tourism/holiday includes short-term visitors or departures (i.e. less than six months) for tourism or holiday purposes, and it includes St Helenians visiting short-term to see family and friends, both those that live permanently abroad and those who are away for a period of overseas employment. Day visitors arriving on cruise ships are not included in either arrivals or departures. Business and employment includes short-term and long-term arrivals who arrive for work purposes, including those employed by the St Helena Government on contract (and their families). Returning residents are people who are returning to their normal place of residence (for arrivals, this excludes those returning for the purpose of business or employment). It also includes people returning permanently from periods of overseas employment. Transit includes those for whom St Helena is not their final destination; it includes most arrivals by yacht and any people transiting to or from a ship via air.

Three categories of the total population are used. The on-island population is an estimate of the total number of people on St Helena at the end of the given period (this is sometimes also referred to as the 'de facto' population). The resident population is an estimate of the total number of people living on St Helena (i.e. excluding any short-term visitors), regardless of their nationality. The on-island St Helenian population is an estimate of the total number of St Helenians on the island, regardless of their residence status.

## Data improvements

The Statistics Office aims to constantly improve the quality and usefulness of the statistics it produces. For this release, new series have been calculated for 2017 and earlier, to distinguish St Helenians visiting on holiday from other tourists.

Two adjustments have also been to improve comparability between the statistics derived from the new data management system introduced by the Immigration Office in January 2018 and the previous system. The first adjustment is that St Helenians returning for a short term holiday visit from overseas employment have been categorised within the tourism/holiday grouping as St Helenians returning for a holiday (they had been previously categorised as returning residents). The second adjustment is that persons arriving on a yacht have been uniformly classified in the transit category, unless their destination was St Helena.

## Questions or comments?

Please get in touch: we are Neil Fantom, Statistical Commissioner, and Kelly Clingham and Justine Joshua, Senior Statistical Assistants. You can find us in person at the Statistics Office on the **first floor of the Castle**, Jamestown, at the back of the main courtyard. You can also contact us by telephone: our direct line is **22138** or via the Castle switchboard on 22470. If calling from overseas, the international dialling code for St Helena is +290. Our general office e-mail address is **statistics@sainthelena.gov.sh**, or you can email team members directly (the format is **firstname.lastname@sainthelena.gov.sh**).