



### About this Bulletin

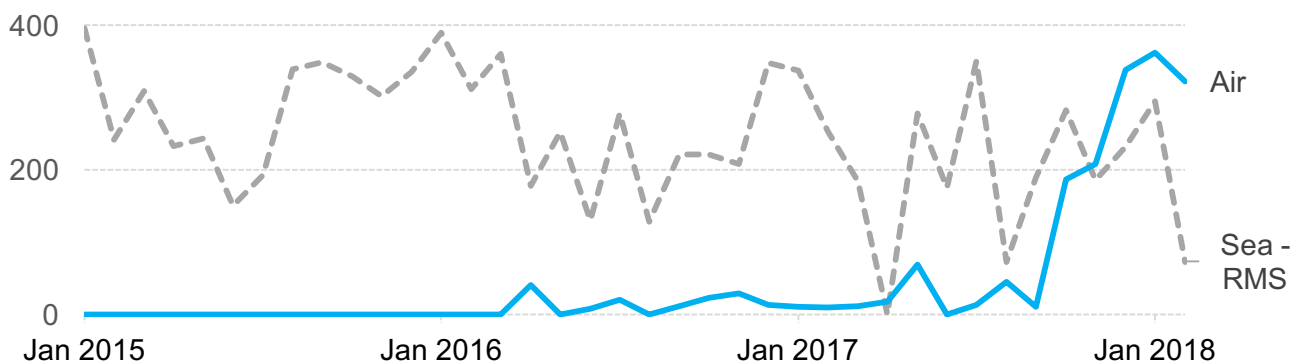
The third Statistical Bulletin of 2018 provides new monthly estimates of the number of arrivals and departures to and from St Helena, with a focus on the period since the start of scheduled air operations in October 2017. All arrivals by air and sea are included, except very short-term day visitors arriving on cruise ships.

Statistics have previously been published on arrivals and departures each quarter, based on an analysis of immigration records, as part of estimating the total population of St Helena. These new estimates use the same source from the Immigration Section of the Police Directorate and provide a more detailed monthly breakdown, including by mode of transport, purpose of entry, age, sex, and nationality. Comments and suggestions are very welcome; the dataset will be updated each month and includes historical estimates from 2010 onwards, available from the Statistics Office website, <http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/statistics>.

### Total Arrivals and Departures

During the five-month period between October 2017 and February 2018, there were very high numbers of total arrivals - 2,908, more than a thousand higher than in the same period in 2016/17. The peak month was January, with 843 arrivals in total. Total departures were also high, but slightly lower than arrivals - 2,627. Most passengers arrived by air, some 1,417 - this is 50 arrivals higher than the number arriving by sea, on the RMS St Helena, during the same period in the previous year (1,367), or an average of 10 arrivals more per month.

Chart 1: Arrivals per month, by air and RMS St Helena, 2015-18



The period covered represents the historical peak season for arrivals to St Helena, when many Saint Helenians visit family and friends for Christmas and when weather conditions are favourable. Trends during these months may not be indicative of trends for the remaining seven months of the year. Additionally, during this five-month period, both the newly scheduled weekly Airlink air service to Johannesburg and the three-weekly RMS St Helena shipping service to Cape Town were operational. This almost doubled the total passenger arrival capacity compared to either the shipping or air service alone.

Table 1. Total arrivals and departures, by mode of transport

	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Total	%
<b>Total arrivals</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>2,908</b>	<b>100%</b>
Air	187	208	338	362	322	<b>1,417</b>	49%
Sea - RMS	282	186	232	295	72	<b>1,067</b>	37%
Sea - yachts and other vessels	46	18	36	182	133	<b>415</b>	14%
Not known	-	-	-	4	5	<b>9</b>	0%
<b>Total departures</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>2,627</b>	<b>100%</b>
Air	166	213	248	396	363	<b>1,386</b>	53%
Sea - RMS	166	139	113	207	221	<b>846</b>	32%
Sea - yachts and other vessels	49	18	22	153	142	<b>384</b>	15%
Not known	-	-	-	7	4	<b>11</b>	0%

### Purpose of visit

Most arrivals - some 40% - came to St Helena for tourism or a holiday; this may include relatively small numbers of Saint Helenians who live abroad but who visit for short periods, for example to visit family and friends, but who were not classed as 'returning residents'. Returning residents were 28% of the total, and those arriving for business, which includes government personnel recruited overseas, and their families, were 15%. Transit passengers were 17% and mostly arrived by yacht.

Table 2. Purpose of arrivals

	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Total	%
<b>Total Arrivals</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>2,908</b>	<b>100%</b>
Tourism or holiday	181	150	258	366	199	<b>1,154</b>	40%
Returning residents	176	161	260	126	91	<b>814</b>	28%
Transit	56	32	30	226	144	<b>488</b>	17%
Business, including long and short-term	101	67	56	124	97	<b>445</b>	15%
Not known	1	2	2	1	1	<b>7</b>	0%

### Arrivals by air

Of those arriving by air, 42% were tourists, 25% arrived for business, and 24% were returning residents; the remaining number were transit passengers, including crew for merchant shipping. Arrivals of returning residents by air were highest in December (135), in time for Christmas. Since there is keen interest in developing the tourism industry, several additional indicators have been calculated for tourists arriving by air. Some points include:

- In December, January, and February there were around 150 tourists or holiday makers per month, around twice as many as October and November
- Around a quarter were British, with 22% South African, 19% St Helenian, 6% French, and 15% from elsewhere in Europe

- Most were in their forties and fifties (41%), with a further third sixty and over. Very few recorded tourists were under twenty (6%)
- 61% of tourists were male, almost twice as many males as females in some months
- At least half of all tourists stayed in hotels or guest houses in January and February (please note that data on accommodation was not captured prior to 2018)

Table 3. Arrivals by air

	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Total	%
<b>Arrivals by air</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>100%</b>
Tourism or holiday	70	68	151	157	153	<b>599</b>	42%
Business	54	62	51	106	84	<b>357</b>	25%
Returning residents	32	58	135	53	66	<b>344</b>	24%
Transit and other purposes <sup>1</sup>	31	20	1	44	19	<b>115</b>	8%
<b>Arrivals by air for tourism or holiday</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>100%</b>
British (excluding Saint Helenian)	17	17	34	41	54	<b>163</b>	26%
Saint Helenian	5	18	31	22	42	<b>118</b>	19%
South African	34	16	43	26	21	<b>140</b>	22%
French	5	4	7	18	2	<b>36</b>	6%
Other European	5	5	19	40	27	<b>96</b>	15%
Other nationalities <sup>1</sup>	4	8	17	32	16	<b>77</b>	12%
0-19	2	3	16	5	8	<b>34</b>	6%
20-39	14	19	25	28	33	<b>119</b>	20%
40-59	38	27	60	57	63	<b>245</b>	41%
60+	16	19	50	67	49	<b>201</b>	34%
Males	45	46	81	101	94	<b>367</b>	61%
Females	24	22	70	56	59	<b>231</b>	39%
Not known	1	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	0%
Hotel or guest house	..	..	..	94	65	<b>159</b>	51%
Private accommodation or self-catering	..	..	..	44	63	<b>107</b>	35%
Accommodation choice not known	..	..	..	19	25	<b>44</b>	14%

<sup>1</sup> Includes a very small number of unclassified arrivals

### Length of stay

The average length of stay for tourists both arriving and departing by air was around 13 days. A stay of seven or eight days - from one Saturday flight to the next (or the Sunday, if the outbound flight follows the Ascension shuttle) is the most common option, for 49% of tourists. Although 10% of tourists stayed only one day, this is heavily biased by the very first flight in October which included several persons staying only overnight.

Length of stay has been calculated for those persons arriving for tourism and arriving and departing by air by the end of February 2018. These are preliminary estimates; note that any tourists that did not

depart by the end of February have been excluded from the calculations.

Table 4. Length of stay of tourists arriving and departing by air, by month of departure

	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Total	%
Average length of stay (days)	5.0	8.6	12.7	16.5	14.2	<b>13.1</b>	
Number of tourist-days spent on St Helena	261	320	1,195	2,162	1,929	<b>5,887</b>	
Number of persons staying for (top five):							
1 day	28	1	3	9	3	<b>44</b>	10%
7 days	9	16	52	34	52	<b>163</b>	36%
8 days	-	9	13	17	21	<b>60</b>	13%
14 days	-	2	9	19	17	<b>47</b>	10%
28 days	-	-	4	-	14	<b>20</b>	4%
All other durations	15	9	13	52	30	<b>119</b>	26%

## Departures

Most departures - 68% - were tourists and visitors returning to their place of residence, including St Helenians living overseas. 15% were people either leaving for employment opportunities or to settle elsewhere, and 11% were residents who were taking a holiday overseas.

Table 5. Departures from St Helena

	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Total	%
<b>Total Departures</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>2,627</b>	<b>100%</b>
Return to place of residence	236	239	267	554	503	<b>1,799</b>	68%
Overseas employment or emigration	68	48	32	146	98	<b>392</b>	15%
Tourism or holiday	53	57	74	37	76	<b>297</b>	11%
Medical treatment	14	9	7	14	30	<b>74</b>	3%
Other reasons, including business	10	17	3	11	19	<b>60</b>	2%
Not known	-	-	-	1	4	<b>5</b>	0%

## Have questions, or want to know more?

Please get in touch: we are Neil Fantom, Statistical Commissioner; Kelly Clingham, Senior Statistical Assistant; Justine Joshua, Senior Statistical Assistant; and Asita O'Bey, Statistics Assistant. 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. Call by, we would love to see you!

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](mailto:statistics@sainthelena.gov.sh), or you can email team members directly (the format is [firstname.lastname@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:firstname.lastname@sainthelena.gov.sh)). And we publish data, bulletins and reports on our website: <http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/statistics>.