

Conference or Convention arrivals to Australia April 2009 update

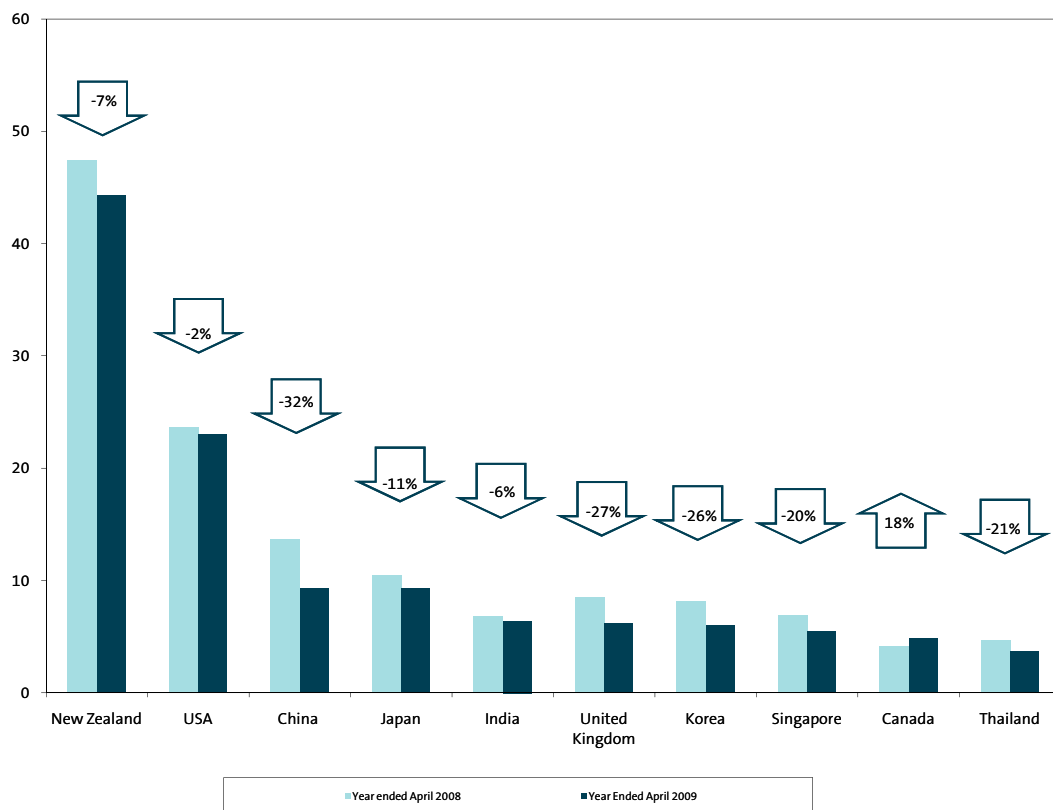
The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publishes short-term international arrivals to Australia on a monthly basis. The data is collected from passenger cards that international visitors complete when they enter Australia. These cards request information including purpose of visit, demographics and trip details. The following analysis focuses on international arrivals whose main purpose of visit was to attend a conference and convention in Australia.

Highlights

- > There were 172,700 convention or conference arrivals during the year ended 30 April 2009, a decrease of 7 per cent year-on-year. Similarly, overall business arrivals decreased 7 per cent year-on-year to 786,900, while total arrivals to Australia decreased 1 per cent to 5.6 million. Refer to Table 1.
- > There were 32,200 convention or conference arrivals during the three months ended 30 April 2009, a decrease of 28 per cent year-on-year. Similarly, overall business arrivals decreased 20 per cent, while total arrivals to Australia decreased 2 per cent. Refer to Table 1.
- > There were 9,000 convention or conference arrivals during April 2009, a decrease of 34 per cent year-on-year. Similarly, overall business arrivals decreased 31 per cent year-on-year, while total arrivals to Australia increased 7 per cent.

**Chart 1: Number of convention or conference visitors to Australia by country of residence.
Year ended 30 April 2009 compared to year ended April 2008**

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Overseas Arrivals and Departures



NB. The arrows in the above chart represent percentage change in convention/conference arrivals in year ending 30 April 2009 compared to 2008.

BUSINESS EVENTS ARRIVALS

April 2009



Table 1: Number of visitor arrivals to Australia by purpose of visit and country of residence.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Overseas Arrivals and Departures

Rank	Country of residence	Convention or conference arrivals				Total business arrivals*				Total arrivals		
		Year ended 30 April 2009		3 mths ended April 2009		Year ended 30 April 2009		3 mths ended April 2009		Year ended 30 April 2009	3 mths ended April 2009	
			% ch		% ch		% ch		% ch		% ch	% ch
1	New Zealand	44,255	-7%	-15%	202,261	-6%	-16%	1,117,594	-2%	-1%		
2	USA	23,034	-2%	-40%	98,054	-13%	-29%	445,349	-3%	-5%		
3	China	9,334	-32%	-36%	48,109	-34%	-45%	365,921	-2%	-8%		
4	Japan	9,276	-11%	-43%	37,835	-10%	-20%	423,335	-21%	-16%		
5	India	6,397	-6%	-17%	26,885	2%	-9%	119,790	16%	9%		
6	United Kingdom	6,149	-27%	-48%	48,665	-7%	-18%	656,259	-4%	-5%		
7	Korea	6,044	-26%	-16%	13,773	-19%	-15%	200,618	-16%	-15%		
8	Singapore	5,462	-20%	-43%	59,497	-1%	-11%	276,530	4%	1%		
9	Canada	4,840	18%	-16%	16,433	-1%	-16%	122,272	3%	-5%		
10	Thailand	3,702	-21%	-20%	13,579	-13%	-19%	78,167	-6%	-7%		
11	Papua New Guinea	3,370	89%	43%	11,219	50%	23%	41,299	26%	28%		
12	Malaysia	3,264	-16%	-29%	18,653	-5%	-2%	185,275	14%	26%		
13	Indonesia	3,215	-8%	1%	12,697	-12%	-17%	93,130	1%	-4%		
14	Philippines	3,110	8%	-5%	8,940	4%	-7%	48,007	11%	5%		
15	Germany	2,972	20%	-27%	16,785	-3%	-22%	159,748	4%	-1%		
	Other	38,268	5%	-34%	153,560	1%	-16%	1,232,332	7%	3%		
	Total	172,692	-7%	-28%	786,945	-7%	-20%	5,565,626	-1%	-2%		

*A business visitor is defined in the above table as an international visitor who came to Australia for business including convention/conference as their main purpose of journey.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Overseas Arrivals and Departures, 3401.0. ABS data used with permission from the Australian Bureau of Statistics www.abs.gov.au

Table 1 reports on the three months to 30 April 2009 to reduce sample errors. Sometimes there is no change between the comparison periods (i.e.0%) but the arrows will be directional to reflect the decimal places associated with the figure. E.g. Increase of 0.04%

This analysis was produced by Tourism Australia for Business Events Australia. For further information, including statistics on a financial or calendar year to date basis, please contact Leah Fletcher lfletcher@tourism.australia.com

NB. Tourism Research Australia (TRA) also collects information on international arrivals to Australia on a quarterly basis through the International Visitor Survey (IVS). It is possible to analyse convention or conference arrivals in terms of expenditure, nights, states or territories visited, accommodation and transport used, country of residence, repeat visitation etc. However, data should only be used for indicative purposes only due to small sample sizes at this level of analysis. For general information on the IVS, visit <http://www.tra.australia.com/> or for more tailored analysis contact research@tourism.australia.com.