

## NOTES ON THE LATEST FIGURES

The total number of arrivals in December quarter of 2003 was 27,904 persons, an increase of 25.5 percent compared to December quarter of 2002.

The number of visitor arrivals in December quarter of 2003 was 16,152, which was 27.7 percent higher than in December quarter of 2002. Of these, 4,766 came for business, 4,158 came for holiday, 3,436 came for employment and 3,792 came for other specific reasons.

As usual, the largest group of visitors in December quarter of 2003 was from Australia (8,989) who indicated Australia as their overseas address, accounting for 55.6 percent of all visitor arrivals. Substantial number of visitors also came from Japan (1,341), United States of America (843), Other Oceania (813), Philippines (711), and New Zealand (546).

In 2003 the total arrivals was 95,722 and departures 86,058 resulting in a net gain of 9,644. When compared to 2002, the arrivals increased by 3.7 percent while departures decreased by 9.1 percent

Furthermore, the number of arrivals of persons classified as visitors increased from 53,762 in 2002 to 56,282 in 2003. Compared to 2002, visitor arrivals increased by 4.7 percent while visitor departures fell by 11.0 percent.

A breakdown of visitor arrivals during 2003 by purpose of journey revealed 16,427 came for business, 15,112 came for holiday, 13,480 came for employment, 5,625 came to visit relatives, while the rest came to PNG for other specific reasons.