

Tourism Quarterly

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January 2021

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Introduction

In this edition of *Tourism Quarterly*, which covers Q4 2020, we have updated all the forecasts to 2025 as well as included the findings from the Air Visitor and Domestic Visitor Surveys for 2020.

It is obviously very difficult forecasting in the current climate, however we've run our forecasting model with those parameters that we think correspond to the most likely scenarios over 2021 and 2022, where the greatest uncertainties lie. We will update these for each *Tourism Quarterly* publication throughout the year should the situation change from the expected path. The broad assumptions made are stated below the relevant forecasts.

Leisure tourism suffered considerably in 2020, although we did have a very strong first quarter of the year until the closure of the borders in March. However, arrivals totalled only 813, spending £2.3 million, all during the period January-March. From a broader visitor economic perspective, business and transit visitors performed surprisingly well, staying for longer than usual and spending more. So overall we estimate total visitor expenditure in 2020 of around £7.0 million, compared to over £10.8 million in 2019.

As we are not awaiting any cruise ship data to complete the 2020-2021 season, and no leisure visitors are anticipated by air until well after March, we have been able to compile the Annual Statistics Report earlier than usual, and this will be published before the end of February.

As always, please drop me a line with any comments or thoughts you have about *Tourism Quarterly*. The aim of the publication is to provide useful and easily accessible information for everyone involved in tourism.

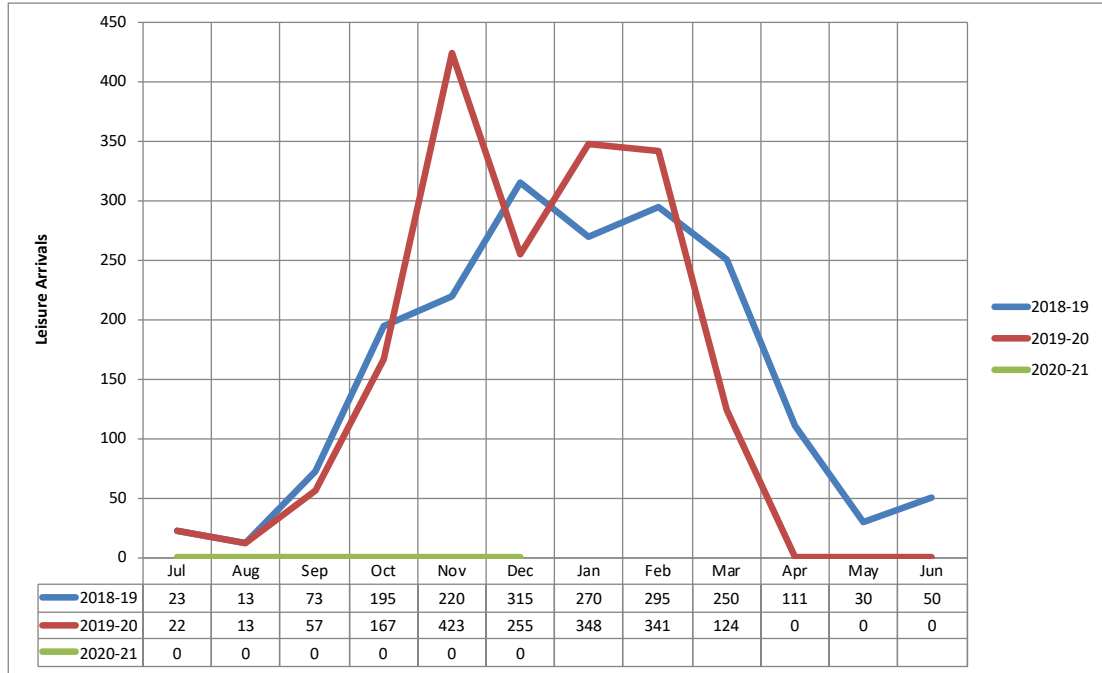


Stephanie Middleton
Executive Director

This Quarter

Leisure Tourist Arrivals

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on leisure visitor access to the Falkland Islands there were no leisure tourist arrivals in the fourth quarter of 2020.



Month	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Change (%)
Jul	23	22	0	-
Aug	13	13	0	-
Sep	73	57	0	-
Oct	195	167	0	-
Nov	220	421	0	-
Dec	315	253	0	-
Jan	270	347		
Feb	295	339		
Mar	250	121		
Apr	111	0		
May	30	0		
Jun	50	0		

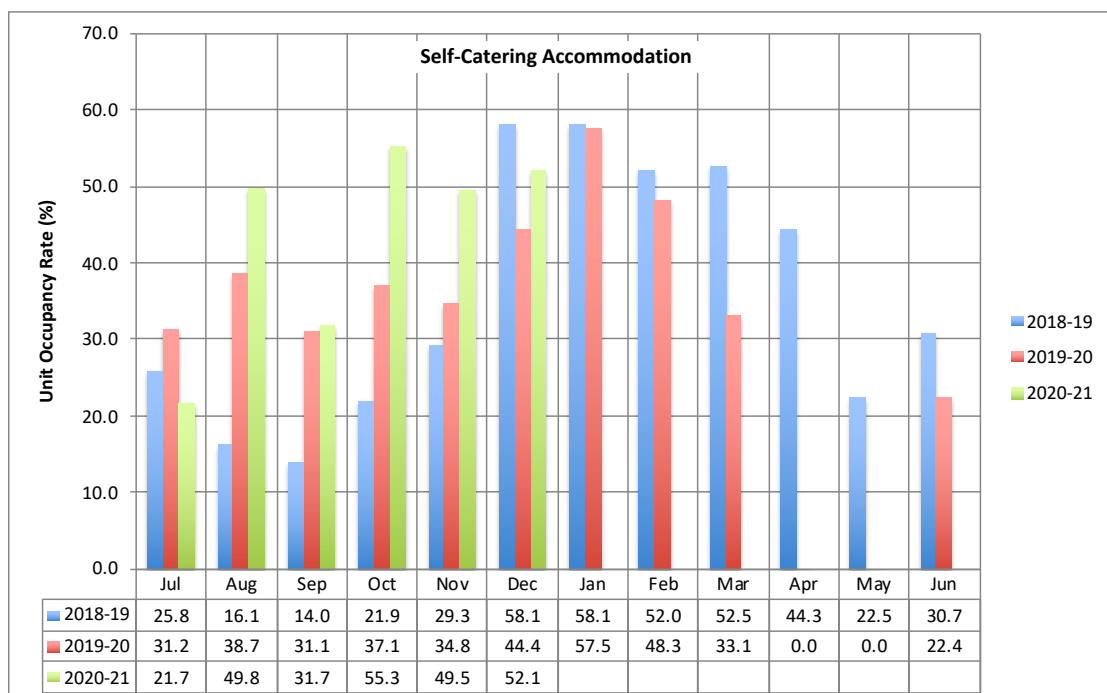
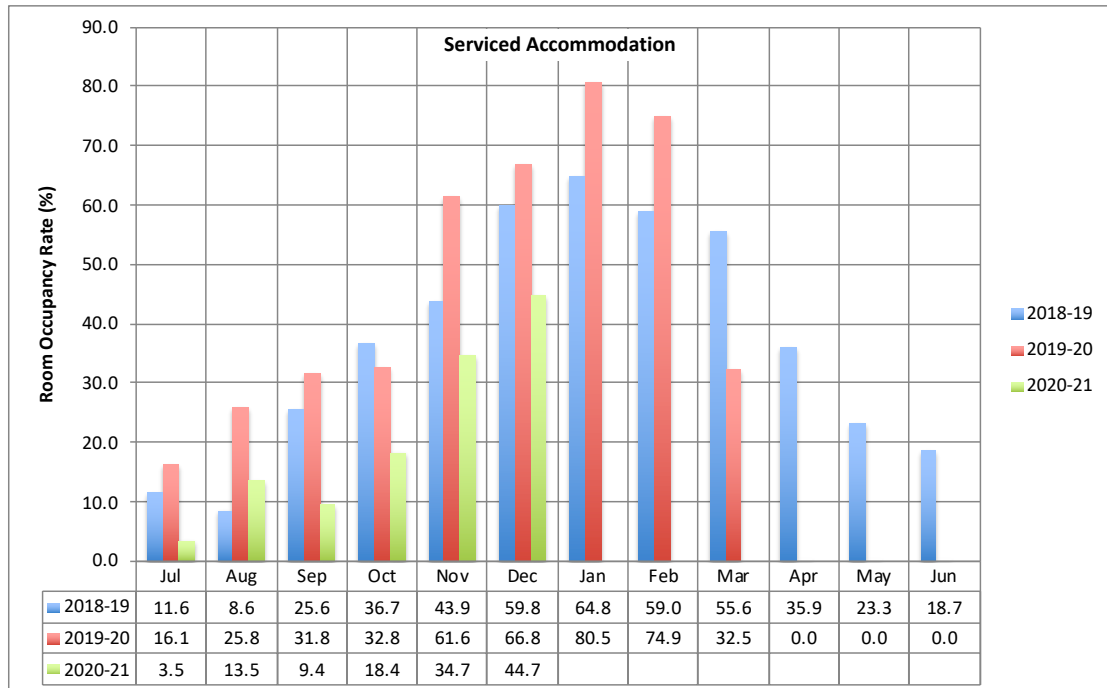
This Quarter

Accommodation Occupancy

Serviced accommodation occupancy in Q4 2020 was down considerably on the same period in 2019, mainly due to the borders being closed to international visitors. However, self-catering accommodation did well, with rates exceeding those recorded in the same period in 2019.

Overall, in 2020 the serviced accommodation room occupancy rate in the Falklands was 43.4%, down 5.7 percentage points compared to 2019. This is better than might be expected, mainly due to Q1 2020 being considerably better than Q1 2019.

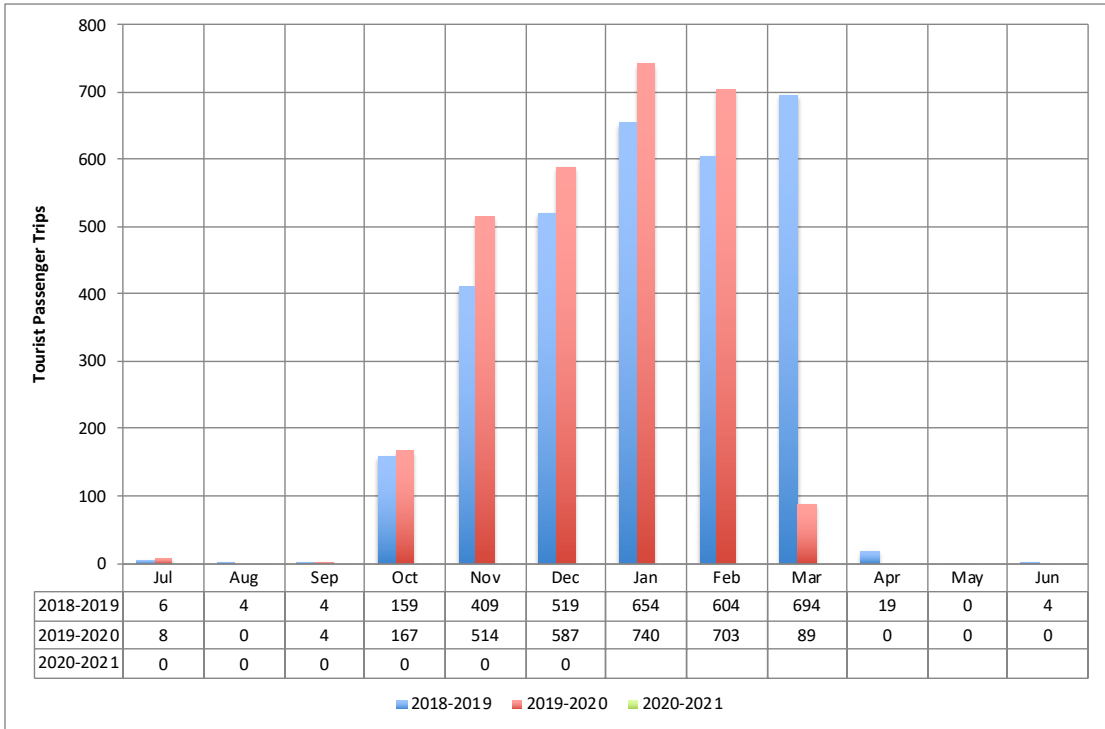
Self-catering accommodation occupancy for 2020 was 41.9%, almost identical to the 41.8% achieved in 2019.



This Quarter

Tourist Passengers Carried on FIGAS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic there were no visitor passenger movements on FIGAS in the third quarter of 2020.



Month	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	% Growth
Jul	6	8	0	-
Aug	4	0	0	-
Sep	4	4	0	-
Oct	159	167	0	-
Nov	403	514	0	-
Dec	519	587	0	-
Jan	654	740		
Feb	604	703		
Mar	694	89		
Apr	19	0		
May	0	0		
Jun	4	0		

Courtesy of FIGAS

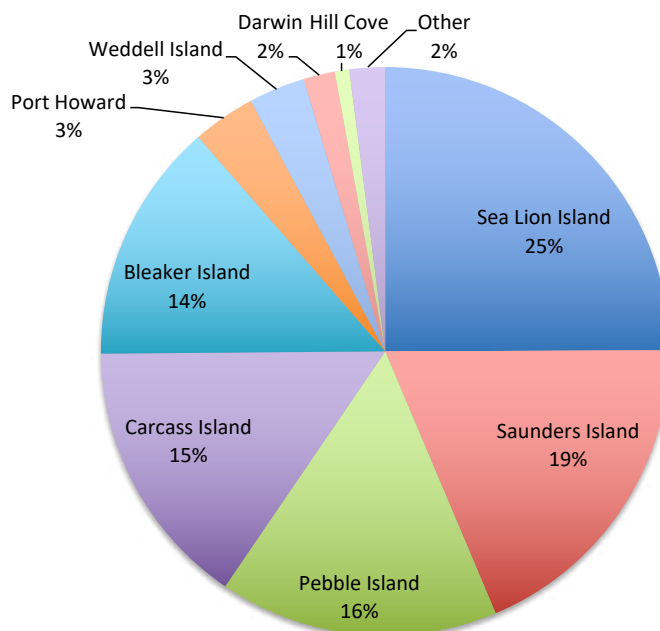
This Quarter

Tourist Passengers Carried on FIGAS by Destination in 2019

As there were no leisure passenger movements in Q3 2020, we have included here analysis of leisure passenger movements in 2019 to provide information on the distribution of leisure passenger arrivals by destination in camp.

Destination	%
Sea Lion Island	544
Saunders Island	408
Pebble Island	346
Carcass Island	335
Bleaker Island	299
Port Howard	78
Weddell Island	70
Darwin	39
Hill Cove	18
Other	44

Courtesy of FIGAS

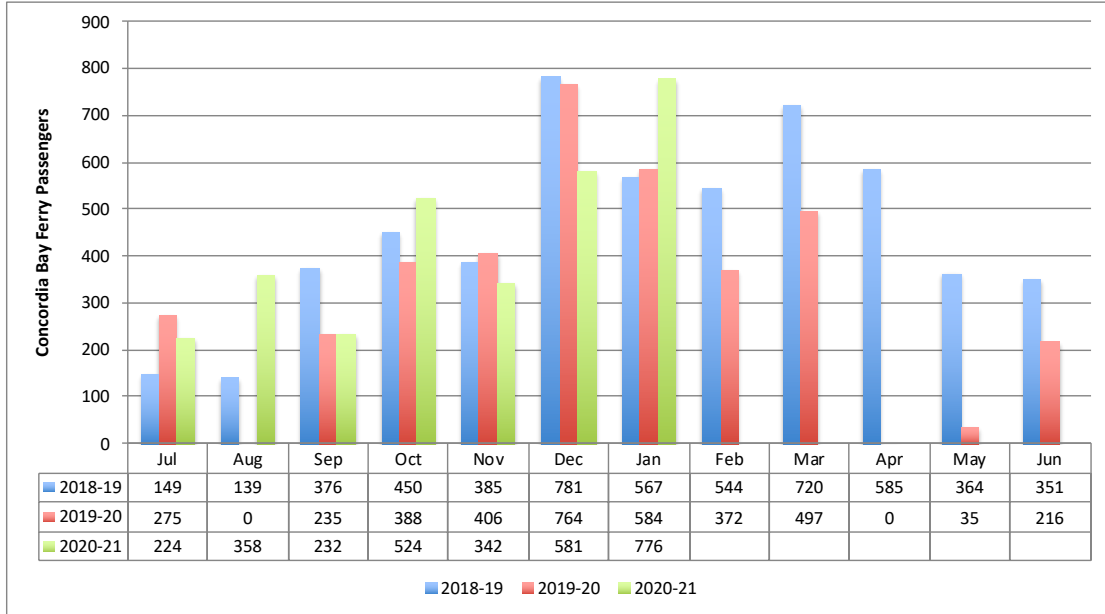


More information on leisure passenger movements by FIGAS can be found in our *2020 Annual Statistics Report*, available at www.falklandislands.com/trade.

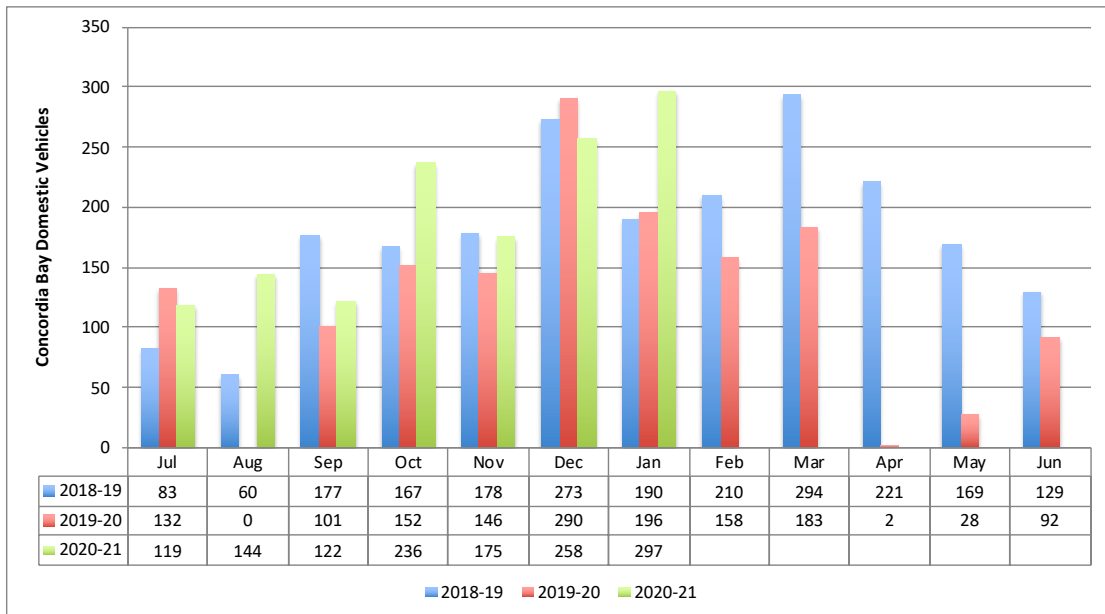
This Quarter

Passengers and Domestic Vehicles on Concordia Bay Ferry

Passenger movements on Concordia Bay in Q4 2020 were down 7.1% on the same quarter in 2019. There were a total of 3,965 passengers carried over the whole of 2020, down 23.7% on the 5,199 carried in 2019.



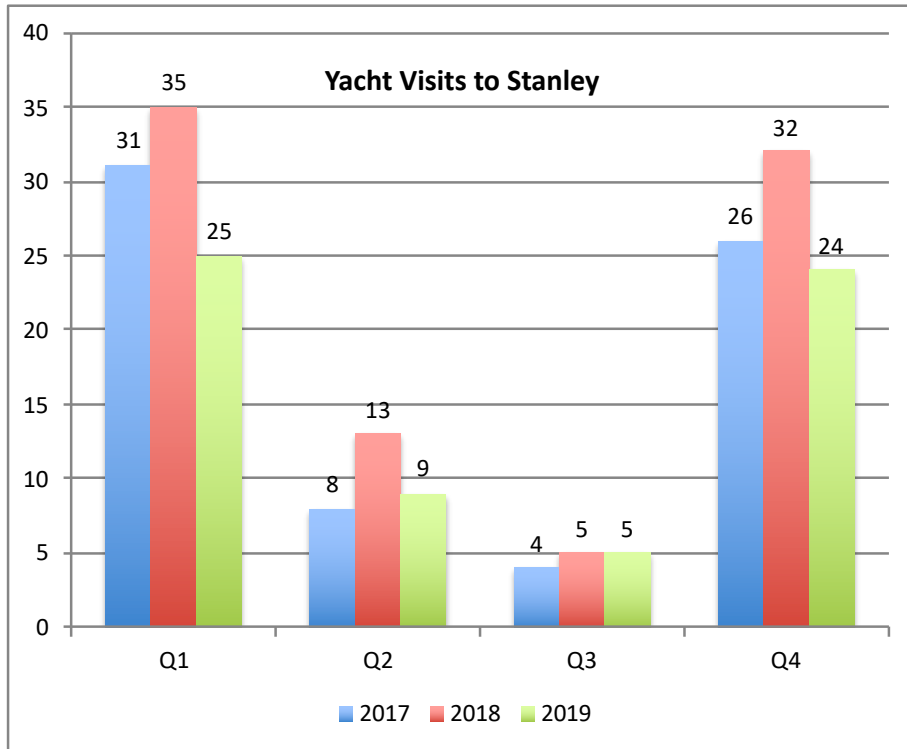
Domestic vehicles carried were up 13.8% in Q4 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. There were a total of 1,713 vehicles carried in 2020, down 15.8% on the 2,034 carried in 2019.



This Quarter

Yacht Visits to Stanley

There has been no update regarding yacht arrivals in Stanley during 2020 to report in this edition of Tourism Quarterly. We hope to have full data in the next edition.



Courtesy of Falkland Islands Yacht Club

Jetty Visitor Centre Footfall

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic (and therefore no cruise ships visiting Stanley) the number of visitors to the JVC was down considerably in Q4 2020 compared to usual.

Month	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	% Growth
Jul	0	327	0	-
Aug	284	399	0	-
Sep	480	620	0	-
Oct	3,604	1,103	200	(81.9)
Nov	6,616	9,644	395	(95.9)
Dec	11,841	17,054	288	(98.3)
Jan	17,877	18,881		
Feb	22,749	23,804		
Mar	11,646	11,381		
Apr	1,505	0		
May	421	0		
Jun	314	0		
Total	77,337	83,213		10.1

This Quarter

Website: www.falklandislands.com

The number of unique visitors to the FITB website increased by 7.5% over Q4 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. However, there was a decrease in pages viewed of 11.0% compared to the same period in 2019.

Website	Unique Visitors			Pages Viewed		
	2019	2020	(%)	2019	2020	(%)
Jan	24,680	37,528	52.1	74,700	96,847	29.6
Feb	22,909	32,534	42.0	54,147	79,004	45.9
Mar	24,787	55,183	122.6	57,291	97,089	69.5
Apr	27,207	62,980	131.5	60,538	111,644	84.4
May	24,813	47,140	90.0	55,261	89,330	61.7
Jun	22,171	29,618	33.6	48,188	70,047	45.4
Jul	26,053	38,989	49.7	55,830	76,314	36.7
Aug	25,351	41,403	63.3	58,708	81,455	38.7
Sep	35,889	37,234	3.7	78,812	73,092	(7.3)
Oct	36,852	41,624	12.9	81,799	82,191	0.5
Nov	36,563	42,472	16.2	87,044	80,481	(7.5)
Dec	37,383	34,972	(6.4)	86,953	65,009	(25.2)

Social Media: Facebook and Twitter

Facebook Reach fell over Q4, down by just over 4% on Q4 2019, and Twitter Impressions were down by over 25%. This reflects increasing competition on the social media platforms. However, Instagram Likes (not shown below) were up by 55%

Social Media	Facebook Reach			Twitter Impressions		
	2019	2020	(%)	2019	2020	(%)
Jan	1,354,670	413,157	(69.5)	40,100	58,200	45.1
Feb	2,610,402	367,639	(85.9)	76,500	43,300	(43.4)
Mar	622,928	962,729	54.5	57,300	47,500	(17.1)
Apr	631,993	820,452	29.8	49,300	42,600	(13.6)
May	532,994	676,246	26.9	46,000	37,800	(17.8)
Jun	443,445	865,356	95.1	30,200	62,200	106.0
Jul	801,624	751,511	(6.3)	55,600	37,300	(32.9)
Aug	654,400	451,754	(31.0)	64,700	20,000	(69.1)
Sep	603,570	404,119	(33.0)	39,500	35,000	(11.4)
Oct	396,304	629,948	59.0	53,500	35,700	(33.3)
Nov	364,800	291,629	(20.1)	58,200	67,400	15.8
Dec	419,434	208,648	(50.3)	57,500	23,500	(59.1)

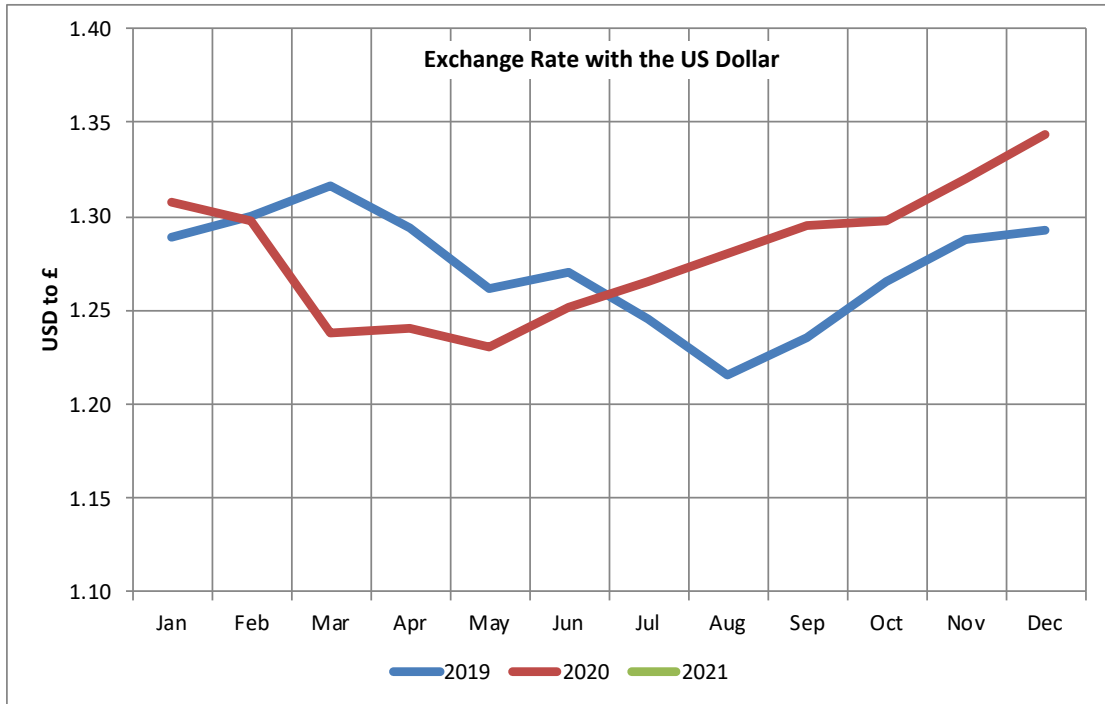
Facebook Reach: Total number times a post is displayed (seen) in the month

Twitter Impressions: Total number of times a tweet is displayed (seen) in the month

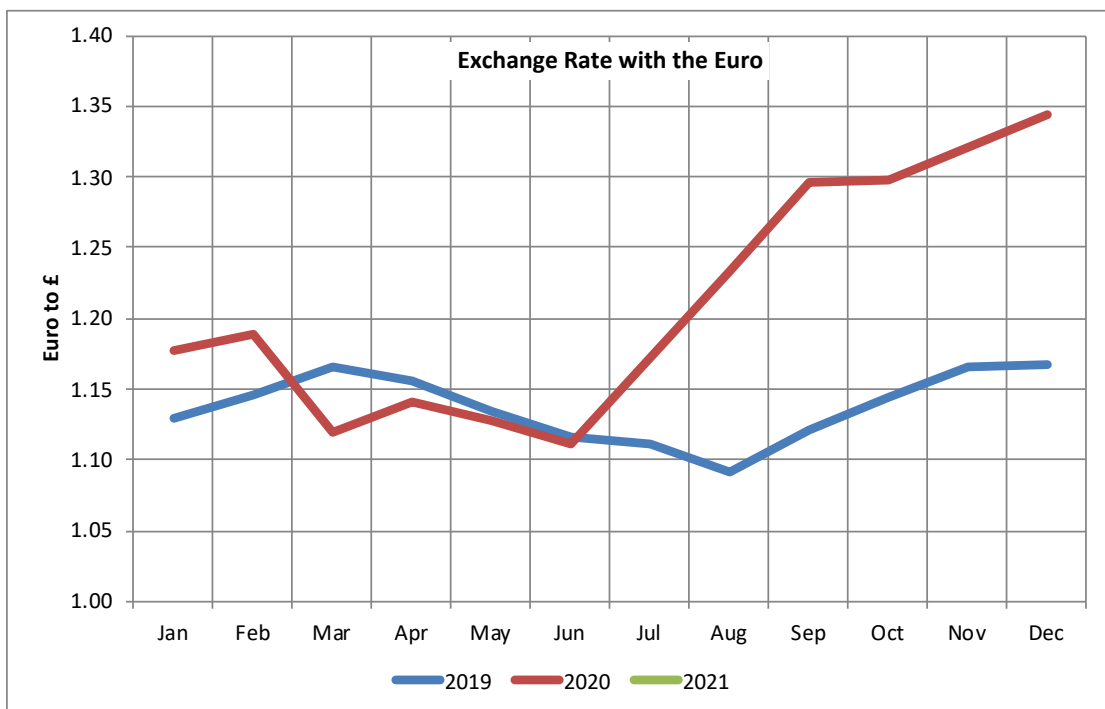
This Quarter

Currency Exchange Rates

US Dollar: During Q4 the pound strengthened further against the dollar, and by December it was at its strongest for over two years. This has made the Falklands more expensive for US visitors – the impact of this will not be apparent until borders open (hopefully in 2021).



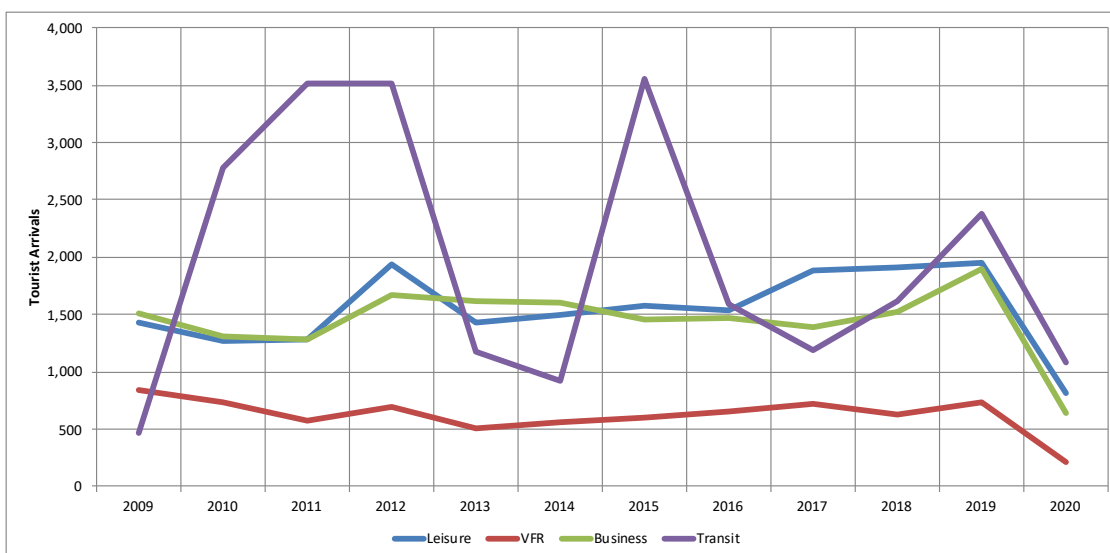
Euro: During Q4 the pound strengthened significantly against the euro, and by December it was at its strongest for some time. This has made the Falklands more expensive for eurozone visitors.



Long Term Trends

Tourist Arrivals by Purpose of Visit (2009-2020)

Leisure tourism contracted by 58.2% in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and borders being closed in March. All 813 leisure visitors arrived in the first quarter of 2020. Visits to friends and relatives (VFR) fell by 70.5%, business visitors fell by 66.3%, and transit visitors were down by 54.5%. Overall, tourist arrivals for all purposes fell by 60.4%.

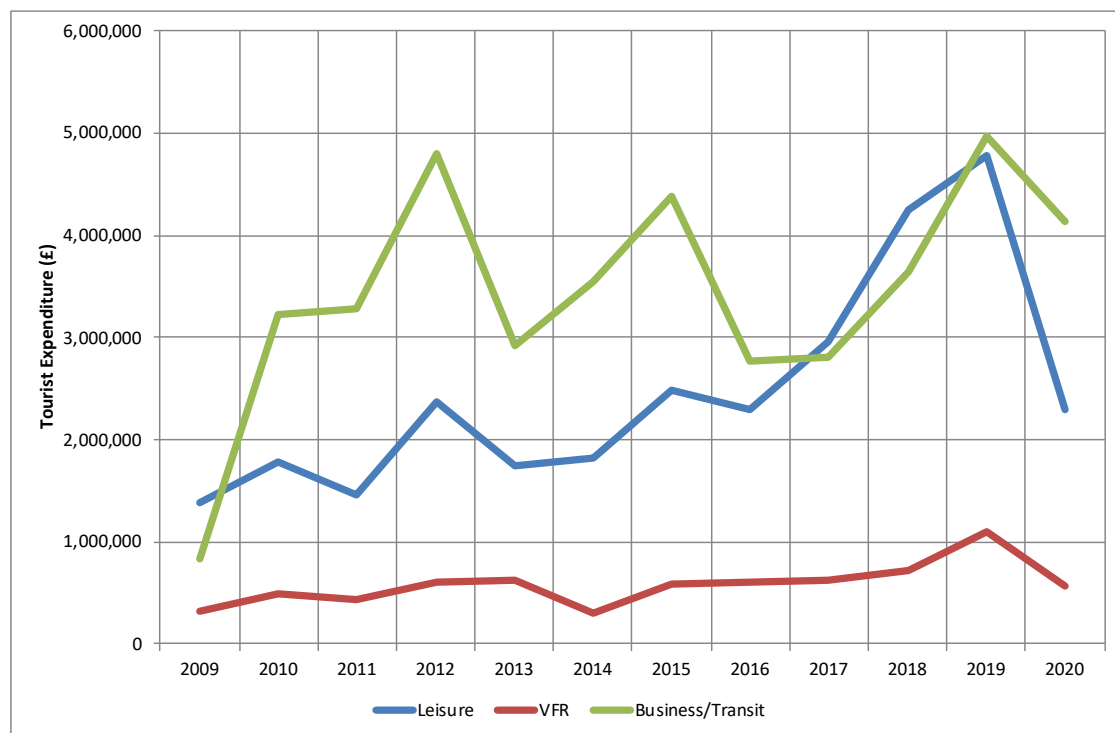


Year	Leisure	VFR	Business	Transit	Total	Leisure Growth (%)	Total Growth (%)
2009	1,429	839	1,510	468	4,246	(16.9)	(17.0)
2010	1,271	735	1,314	2,778	6,098	(11.1)	43.6
2011	1,276	578	1,277	3,518	6,649	0.4	9.0
2012	1,940	693	1,672	3,507	7,812	52.0	17.5
2013	1,426	501	1,621	1,179	4,727	(26.5)	(39.5)
2014	1,494	559	1,599	922	4,574	4.8	(3.2)
2015	1,576	605	1,455	3,553	7,189	5.5	57.2
2016	1,540	657	1,468	1,584	5,249	(2.3)	(27.0)
2017	1,884	718	1,392	1,184	5,178	22.3	(1.4)
2018	1,908	628	1,522	1,615	5,673	1.3	9.6
2019	1,943	738	1,897	2,379	6,957	1.6	22.5
2020	813	218	639	1,083	2,753	(58.2)	(60.4)

Long Term Trends

Tourist Expenditure by Purpose of Visit (2009-2020)

Tourist (all purposes) expenditure is calculated from the Air Visitor Survey undertaken by FITB at MPA. In 2020, leisure tourism generated almost £2.3 million in visitor expenditure, with all types of tourist generating almost £7.0 million. This decline of 35.6% is less severe than might have been expected due to a strong Q1 in 2020 for leisure visitors, and (in particular) increased length of stay and expenditure from business/transit visitors.

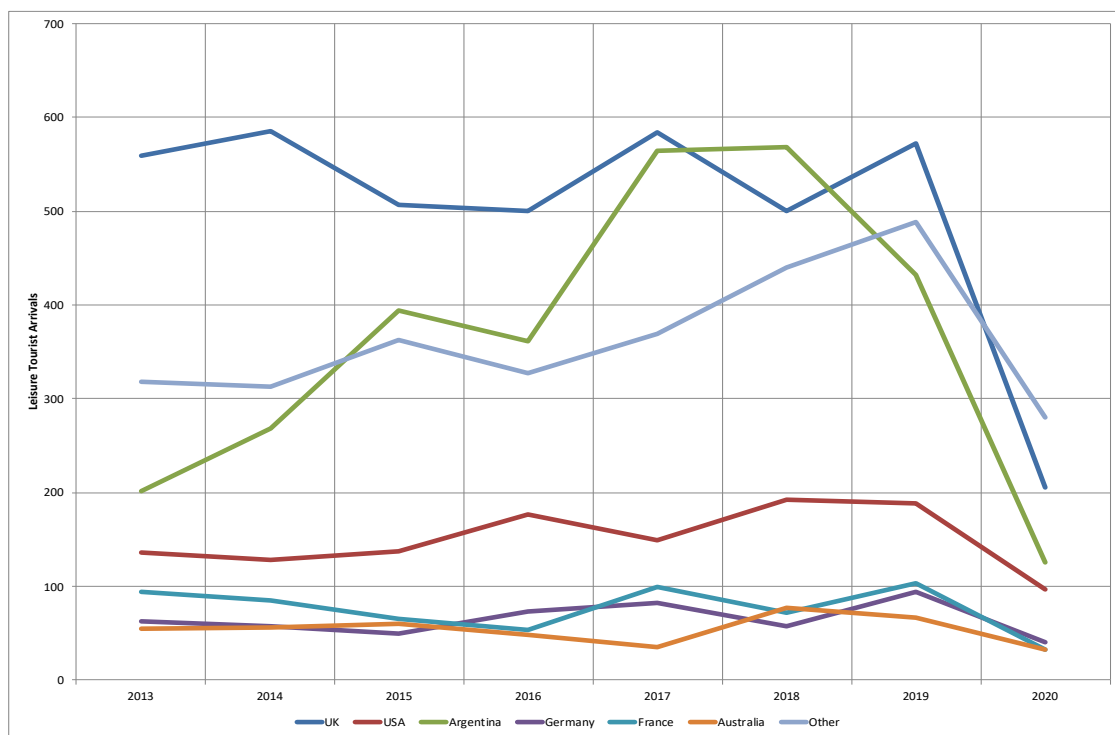









Year	Leisure (£)	VFR (£)	Business and Transit (£)	Total (£)	Change (%)
2009	1,377,367	316,014	827,058	2,520,439	
2010	1,784,484	491,199	3,217,856	5,493,539	118.0
2011	1,466,762	433,566	3,277,600	5,177,928	(5.7)
2012	2,367,014	605,500	4,802,000	7,774,514	50.1
2013	1,738,650	615,209	2,918,767	5,272,625	(32.2)
2014	1,820,273	297,587	3,541,343	5,659,203	7.3
2015	2,485,046	587,700	4,375,710	7,448,457	31.6
2016	2,301,832	600,524	2,759,802	5,662,158	(24.0)
2017	2,952,562	622,746	2,798,967	6,374,276	12.6
2018	4,248,173	727,273	3,638,361	8,613,807	35.1
2019	4,786,713	1,097,537	4,959,398	10,843,648	25.9
2020	2,297,212	558,045	4,126,381	6,981,638	(35.6)

Long Term Trends

Leisure Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence (2013-2020)

All the main leisure markets to the Falklands fell in 2020 due to the closure of borders in March. Australia and USA fared the best (falling around 50%) with Argentina and France the hardest hit (down around 70%). There were 206 arrivals from the UK, 125 from Argentina and 97 from the USA.



Year								Total
	UK	USA	Argentina	Germany	France	Australia	Other	
2013	559	136	201	63	94	55	318	1,426
2014	586	128	268	58	85	56	313	1,494
2015	507	138	394	49	65	60	363	1,576
2016	500	177	361	73	53	48	328	1,540
2017	584	149	565	83	99	35	369	1,884
2018	500	193	568	58	72	77	440	1,908
2019	572	188	432	94	103	66	488	1,943
2020	206	97	125	40	32	33	280	813

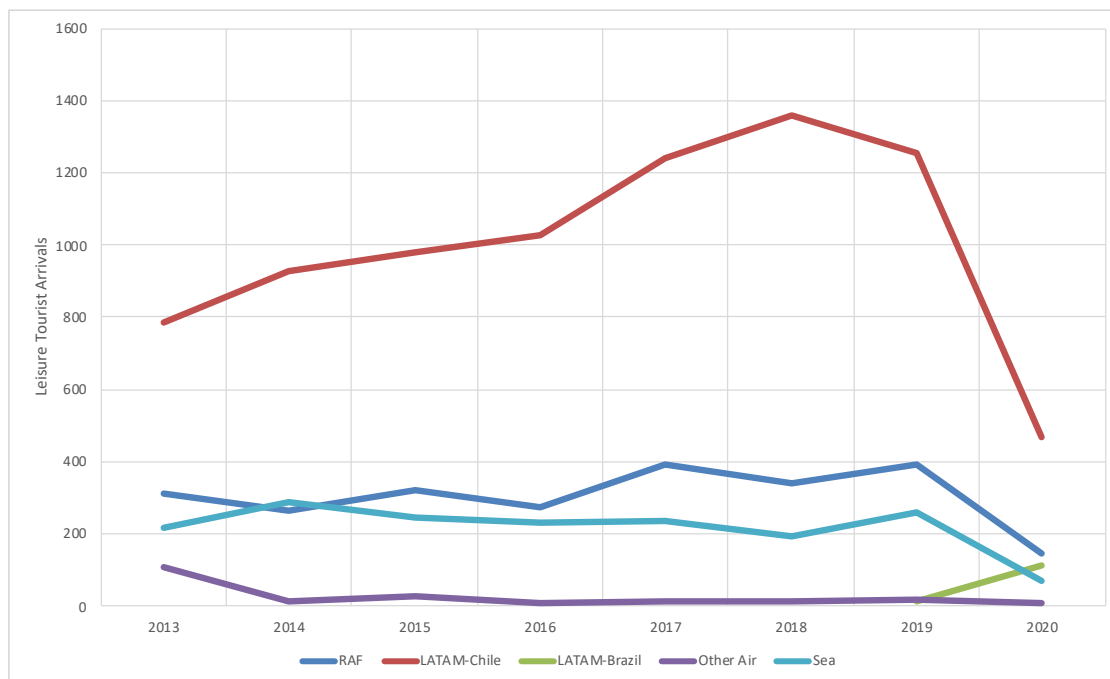
Year-on-year Growth Rates

2013	(34.7)	(2.9)	(30.4)	65.8	(37.3)	(25.7)	(19.1)	(26.5)
2014	4.8	(5.9)	33.3	(7.9)	(9.6)	1.8	(1.6)	4.8
2015	(13.5)	7.8	47.0	(15.5)	(23.5)	7.1	16.0	5.5
2016	(1.4)	28.3	(8.4)	49.0	(18.5)	(20.0)	(9.6)	(2.3)
2017	16.8	(15.8)	56.5	13.7	86.8	(27.1)	12.5	22.3
2018	(14.4)	29.5	0.5	(30.1)	(27.3)	120.0	19.2	1.3
2019	14.4	(2.6)	(23.9)	62.1	43.1	(14.3)	10.9	1.8
2020	(64.0)	(48.4)	(71.1)	(57.4)	(68.9)	(50.0)	(42.6)	(58.2)

Long Term Trends

Leisure Tourist Arrivals by Mode of Transport (2013-2020)

LATAM via Punta Arenas remains the most popular route for leisure tourists visiting the Falklands, accounting for 468 arrivals in 2020, which represented 63% of all leisure air arrivals. Just under 20% of air leisure arrivals arrived on the RAF Airbridge. The LATAM Brazil route accounted for 20% of all LATAM arrivals (the remaining 80% travelling via Chile).



Year	RAF Airbridge	LATAM-Chile	LATAM-Brazil	Other Air	Sea	Total
2013	314	786	0	107	219	1,426
2014	266	926	0	13	289	1,494
2015	321	978	0	30	247	1,576
2016	273	1,026	0	10	231	1,540
2017	393	1,239	0	16	236	1,884
2018	342	1,359	0	12	195	1,908
2019	394	1,256	16	18	259	1,943
2020	147	468	115	11	72	813

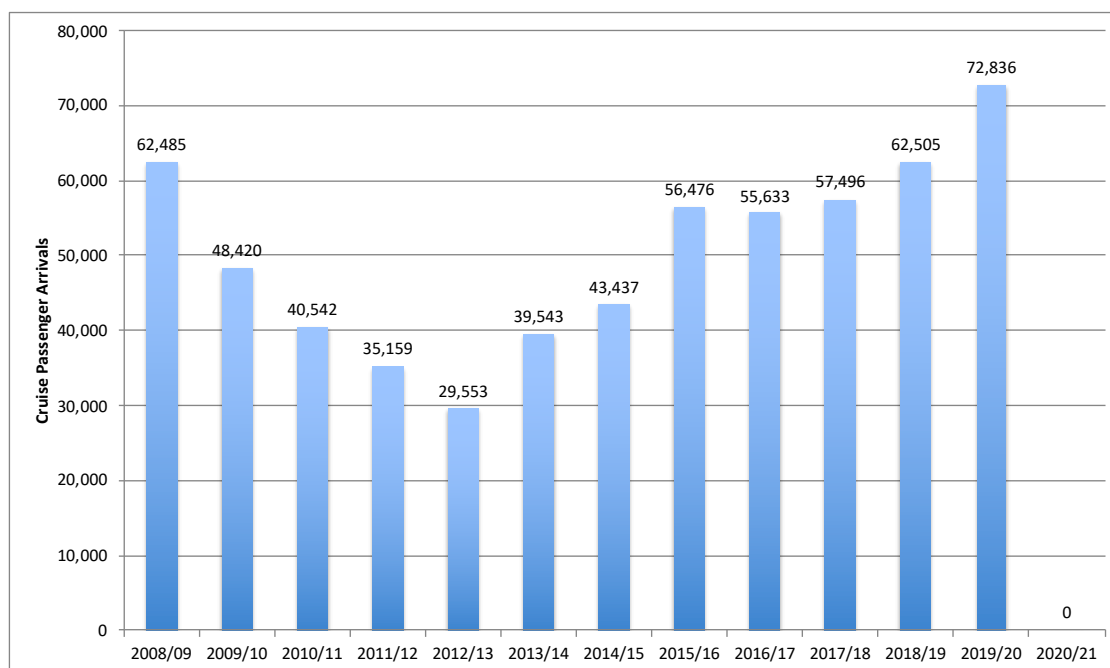
Year-on-year Growth Rates

2013	(45.2)	(14.2)	0.0	(9.3)	(34.2)	(26.5)
2014	(15.3)	17.8	0.0	(87.9)	32.0	4.8
2015	20.7	5.6	0.0	130.8	(14.5)	5.5
2016	(15.0)	4.9	0.0	(66.7)	(6.5)	(2.3)
2017	44.0	20.8	0.0	60.0	2.2	22.3
2018	(13.0)	9.7	0.0	(25.0)	(17.4)	1.3
2019	15.2	(7.6)	0.0	50.0	32.8	1.8
2020	(62.7)	(62.7)	618.8	(38.9)	(72.2)	(58.2)

Long Term Trends

Cruise Passenger Arrivals (2008-2021)

There were no cruise passenger arrivals in the 2020-21 season due to the COVID pandemic.



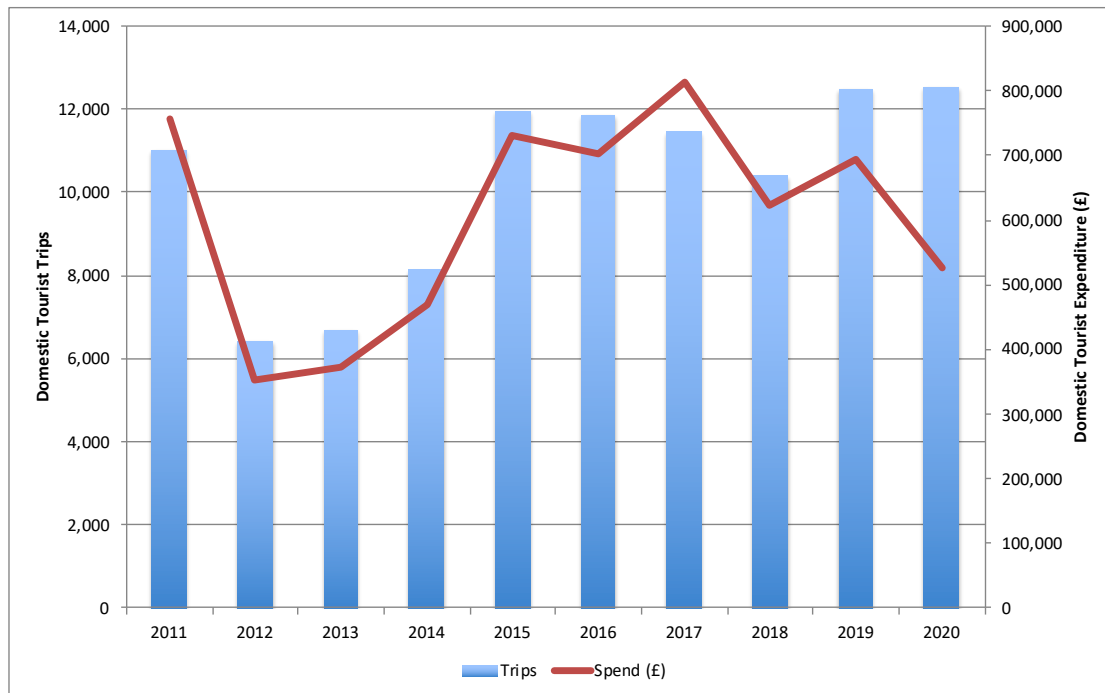
Season	Arrivals	Change (%)	Spend/Pax (£)	Total Spend (£)	Change (%)
2008/09	62,485		45.73	2,857,439	
2009/10	48,420	(22.5)	32.82	1,589,144	(44.4)
2010/11	40,542	(16.3)	34.50	1,398,699	(12.0)
2011/12	35,159	(13.3)	50.75	1,784,319	27.6
2012/13	29,553	(15.9)	57.27	1,692,500	(5.1)
2013/14	39,543	33.8	53.89	2,130,972	25.9
2014/15	43,437	9.8	54.87	2,383,388	11.8
2015/16	56,476	30.0	49.03	2,769,018	16.2
2016/17	55,633	(1.5)	57.77	3,213,918	16.1
2017/18	57,496	3.3	56.41	3,243,349	0.9
2018/19	62,505	8.7	64.89	4,055,949	25.1
2019/20	72,836	16.5	60.03	4,372,345	7.8
2020/21	0	-	-	0	-

Long Term Trends

Domestic Tourism Trips and Expenditure (2011-2020)

Domestic tourism is estimated from the quarterly Domestic Household Survey undertaken by FITB. Domestic tourism trips grew marginally in 2020 to 12,511 trips (up 0.3%). Nights spent away from home fell by 7.5% to 41,160.

Expenditure appears to be down in 2020, with domestic tourists spending almost £527,000 on overnight trips away from home, down 24% on expenditure in 2019 (£695,000). However this could be due to the TRIP scheme which FIG introduced to support the tourism sector and encourage domestic tourism. TRIP vouchers for residents of the Falklands (and military personnel) mean that less personal money is likely to be spent on trips. FITB will investigate with FIG the amount spent through the voucher scheme and may need to adjust this figure in June 2021 when it has closed.

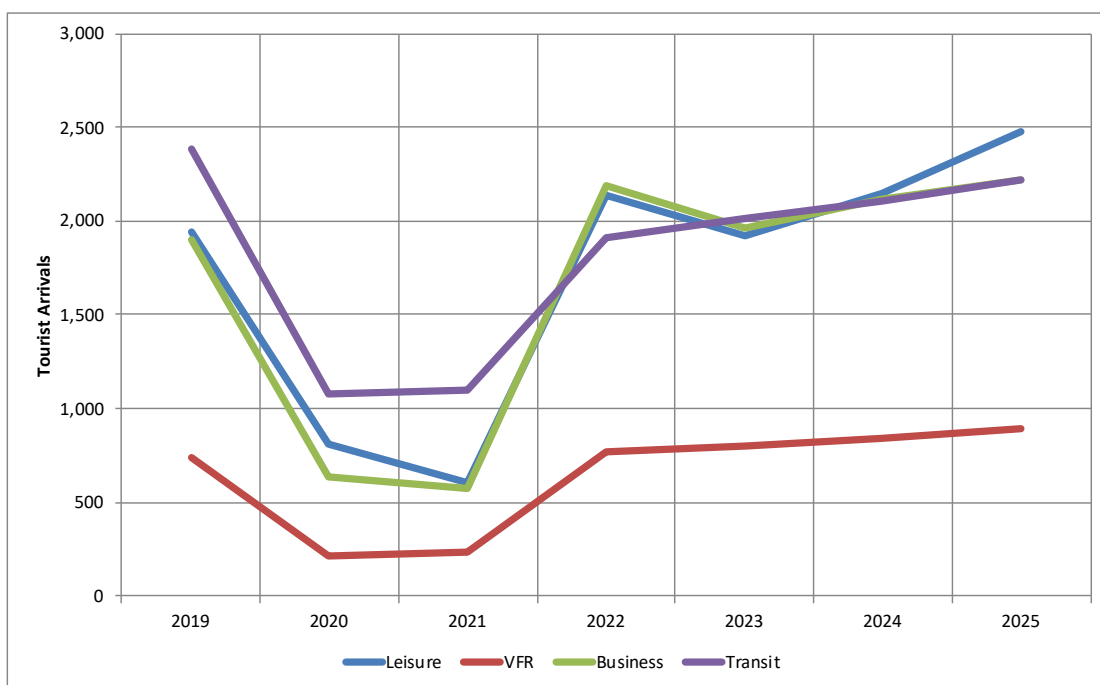


Forecasts

Overnight Tourism Forecasts to 2025

It is very difficult making predictions for international tourist arrivals over the next 12 months due to the uncertain nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, at present FITB is expecting a contraction of the leisure tourist market of 25% in 2021, with a strong 250% growth bounce-back in 2022, partly driven by the 40th Anniversary events. It is likely that there will be a small contraction the following year (of 10%) before growth is resumed again in 2024.

Our assumptions are currently based on FIG opening the borders in 2021, albeit with possible restrictions (such as visitors from some countries being banned, vaccination passports being required). It is anticipated that the Airbridge will be the main mode used by leisure visitors in 2021 with LATAM services commencing in the latter part of 2021 with both the Chile and Brazil routes operating by the end of the year (although potentially not until during the last quarter).



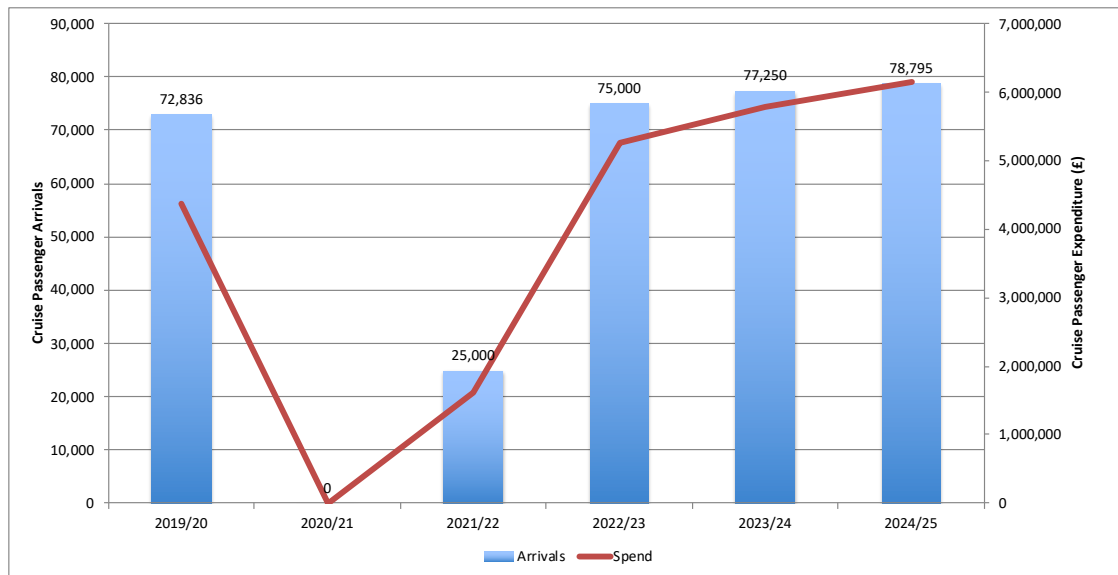
Year	Leisure	VFR	Business	Transit	Total	Leisure Growth (%)	Total Growth (%)
2019	1,943	738	1,897	2,379	6,957	1.8	22.6
2020	813	218	639	1,083	2,753	(58.2)	(60.4)
2021	610	240	575	1,094	2,518	(25.0)	(8.5)
2022	2,134	767	2,185	1,914	7,001	250.0	178.0
2023	1,921	806	1,967	2,010	6,703	(10.0)	(4.3)
2024	2,151	846	2,114	2,110	7,222	12.0	7.7
2025	2,474	888	2,220	2,216	7,798	15.0	8.0

Forecasts

Cruise Passenger Arrivals and Expenditure Forecasts to 2025

A total of 25,000 cruise visitors are forecast to visit the Falklands in the 2021/22 season, with very strong growth in 2022/23 due to the effects of COVID-19 mainly brought under control and pent-up demand for cruising being unleashed

It has been assumed that in 2021/22 the season will mainly consist of visits from expedition vessels, with a very small number of the larger cruise vessels calling.



Season	Arrivals	Arrivals Growth (%)	Total Spend (£)	Spend Growth (%)
2019/20	72,836	16.5	4,372,345	7.8
2020/21	0	(100.0)	0	(100.0)
2021/22	25,000	-	1,625,000	-
2022/23	75,000	200.0	5,250,000	223.1
2023/24	77,250	3.0	5,793,750	10.4
2024/25	78,795	2.0	6,146,010	6.1