



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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NMI May 2013 Visitor Arrivals Up 16%

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – May 2013 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) were up 16 percent compared to May 2012. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA), arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota registered 32,671 visitors in May compared to 28,1931 in May 2012.

Arrivals from Japan in May were down 8 percent to 8,946 visitors as the Japan market continues to struggle through a soft shoulder season and a weaker-than-usual Golden Week, with Golden Week travel from Japan to all destinations down by an average of 5 percent. The key travel agencies in Japan attribute the soft market from Japan to the NMI to the rapid devaluation of the Japanese yen, and particularly the difficulty agents have had securing rooms for last-minute Japanese visitors to the NMI as competition for rooms from the Korea and China markets heats up.

Arrivals from Korea rose 27 percent in May to 11,518 visitors, the highest number from any source market in the month. Asiana Airlines will rotate out seven Busan to Saipan flights in June and July for regular aircraft inspection, reducing lift by 1,022 seats but will boost its Busan-Saipan flights from four times a week to daily service during the month of August targeting the summer peak season, using an Airbus 320 with 141 seats and bringing in an additional 1,833 seats to the Northern Marianas this summer ensuring continued growth out of the Korea market

this summer.

Meanwhile, arrivals from China jumped 37 percent in May to 9,158 visitors, in part due to an additional flight from Beijing compared to May 2012. Continued rapid growth is projected out of the China market for the remainder of this summer.

Arrivals from Russia registered a 17 percent increase in arrivals to 936. The Northern Marianas now receives bi-weekly direct charter flights from Vladivostok since October and weekly charter flights from Khabarovsk since March.

Japan, Korea and China Economic Highlights

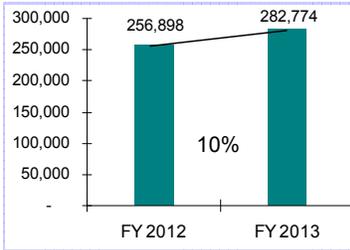
The Japanese Cabinet office upgraded its economic assessment in May, adding the words, “picking up slowly.” The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development projected that the Japanese economy will grow 1.6 percent in 2013 and 1.4 percent in 2014, more optimistic than its previous estimates of 0.7 percent and 0.8 percent, respectively. In line with the government and Bank of Japan’s aggressive policies to combat deflation, the yen continued to tumble in May against major currencies. As of May 31, exchange rates stood at 100.52 yen to the U.S. dollar and 130.51 yen to the euro.

The Korean economy’s overall pace of recovery is more moderate than expected. The won/dollar exchange rate jumped 21.59 over the past month to be closed at 1,127.78 as favorable economic data including a continued surplus in Korea’s current account and a rise in industrial output after months of contraction. According to the Korea Tourism Organization, the number of Korean outbound travelers in April was 1,097,420, up 7.7 percent over the same month of 2012.

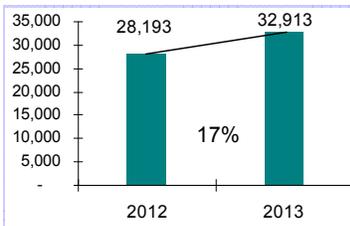
China's National Bureau of Statistics reported that GDP growth slowed to 7.7 percent year-on-year in the first quarter, down from 7.9 percent in the last quarter of 2012 and lower than many forecasts, raising concerns the slight economic recovery is losing steam. The Chinese currency Renminbi, or the yuan, advanced 99 basis points to 6.1997 against the U.S. dollar on May 17, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trading System. A survey by international online booking service Travelzoo found young and well-educated Chinese consumers with a rising passion for leisure trips will dominate the demographic of mainland white-collar tourists traveling the most in the Asia-Pacific region this year. They are abandoning traditional group

tours for more leisurely travel, taking in cultural experiences, beach holidays, self-drive exploration and diving as well as gourmet dining trips.

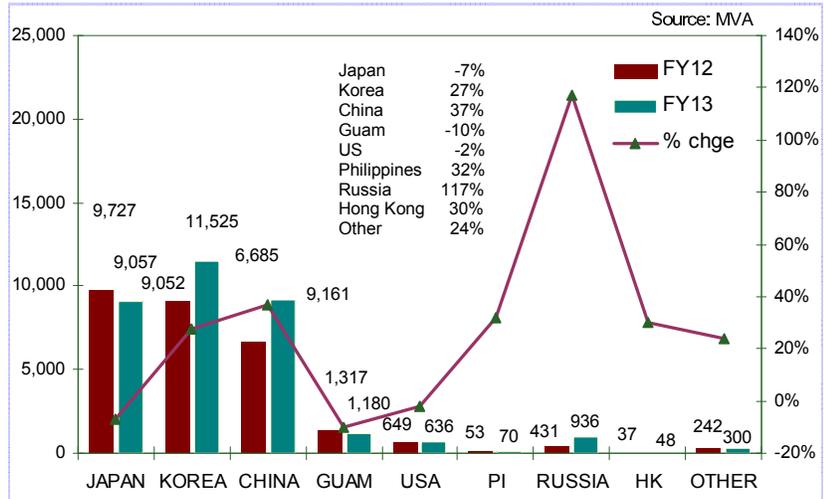
Visitor Arrivals Year to Date
FY 2012 vs. FY 2013



Visitor Arrivals
May 2012 vs. May 2013



CNMI Source Market Arrivals
May 2012 vs. May 2013



*Note: Effective July 2011, Taiwan section has been replaced with Hong Kong.

The Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are a chain of idyllic islands in the West Pacific, offering a friendly, fun and exciting vacation in paradise. They are an excellent destination for families, adventure and sports-minded travelers, as well as business people looking for a tropical haven. Adventurous travelers from Asia, Australia, Europe and elsewhere looking for new travel discoveries will find them in the Mariana Islands, just three hours travel from most cities in Japan, and four from Asia and Australia. The Northern Marianas are served from Tokyo and Osaka in Japan by Delta and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. United Airlines has daily flight connections from nine cities in Japan to Saipan via Guam. United States mainland connections can be made by United Airlines to Saipan via Guam, and Delta Airlines from the west coast to Saipan via Narita. For more information visit www.mymarianas.com.

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