



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

PERRY JOHN P. TENORIO
MVA MANAGING DIRECTOR

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For further information, contact:
Perry John P. Tenorio, Managing Director
Marianas Visitors Authority
Telephone: (670) 664-3200/3201 Facsimile: (670) 664-3237
mva@my Marianas.com
www.mymarianas.com

NMI MAY 2014 VISITOR ARRIVALS SAME AS MAY 2013

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – May 2014 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) were nearly the same as May 2013. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA), arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota registered 32,797 visitors in May 2014, compared to 32,913 visitors received in May 2013.

Arrivals from China soared 46 percent to 13,362 visitors, making China the largest source market for the NMI in May. Century Tours launched two additional charter flights from Beijing to Saipan starting May 1, generating four flights a week from Beijing operated by China Eastern Airlines. In addition, Century Tours and Dynamic Airways launched charter flights from Hong Kong to Saipan on May 18, with a charter flight every five days, which has significantly increased seat capacity from the southern China market.

Arrivals from Russia grew slightly by 3 percent to 968 visitors in April, making Russia the top-performing market so far this fiscal year, with 36 percent growth compared to the same period in FY 2013. Growth recently, however, has slowed as Russia's economy suffers from the impact of the Ukraine crisis, and outbound travel to all destinations worldwide has slowed dramatically.

Arrivals from Japan fell 21 percent to 7,136 visitors in May. This was driven primarily by a 16 percent decline in air seat supply from Narita which impacted the Japanese market heavily. Delta Air Lines temporarily suspended two night-flights per week from Narita beginning in April.

Japan continues to suffer from an airlift crisis and urgently needs the entry of a low-cost carrier into the market as seen in the past 12 months in both the Korea and China markets.

Arrivals from Korea were lower for the second consecutive month this fiscal year, registering 21 percent lower in May at 9,075 visitors. Following the Sewol ferry tragedy in April, the number of Korean outbound travelers has fallen significantly as it was not considered appropriate for Koreans to travel outbound on vacation in May in the context of this national tragedy. Meanwhile, Jeju Air, South Korea's largest low cost carrier, announced it will launch daily flights to Saipan from Seoul starting Oct. 1, 2014. Jeju Air will use its Boeing 737-800 jets which can carry up to 189 passengers, adding over 68,000 seats from Korea to the NMI during the coming year, generating an economic impact for the NMI of over \$122 million.

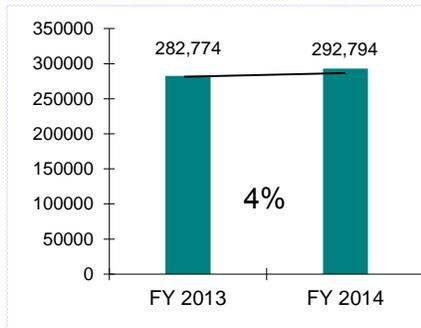
Japan, Korea and China Economic Highlights

The Japan government's economic assessment for May remains unchanged from the previous month, stating that the Japanese economy is on a "moderate" recovery trend, while some weak movements have been seen lately from the last-minute rise in demand before consumption tax increased in April. The yen hovered around 102 to the U.S. dollar; as of May 29, exchange rates stood at 101.68 yen to the U.S. dollar.

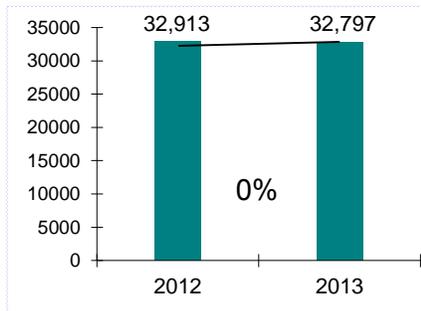
The Korean economy continued to improve as employment and inflation remained stable in April and industrial indicators, which were poor in February, showed some recovery in March. The won/dollar exchange rate fell 10.71 over the past month to be closed at 1,019.47 won per dollar.

The preliminary Purchasing Managers Index for Chinese manufacturing in May beat expectations by posting a five-month high based on a rebound in output and orders. The Chinese currency renminbi, or the yuan, strengthened 23 basis points to 6.1542 against the U.S. dollar on May 21, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trading System.

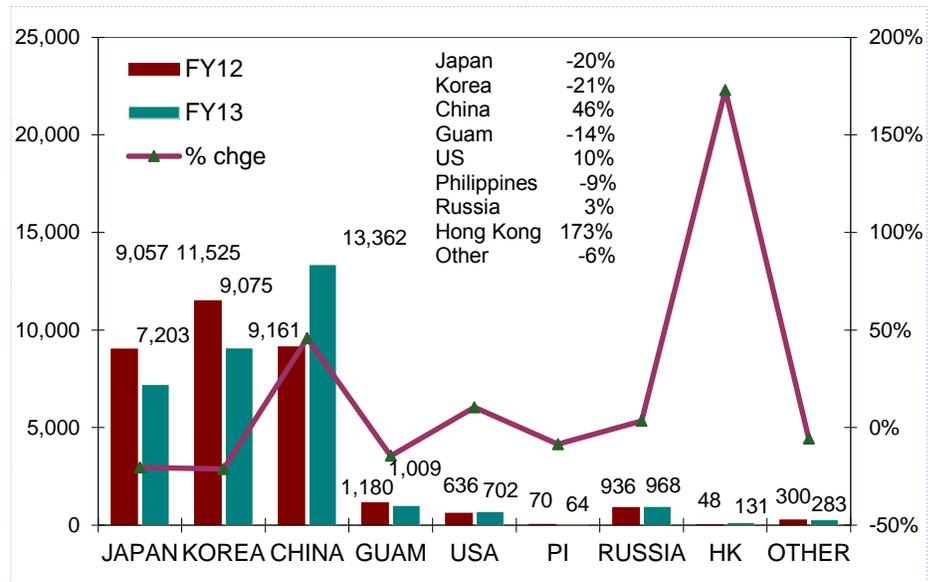
Visitor Arrivals Year to Date FY 2013 vs. FY 2014



Visitor Arrivals May 2013 vs. May 2014



CNMI Source Market Arrivals May 2013 vs. May 2014



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. From China, direct flight service from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Tianjin, Hangzhou and Wuhan to Saipan is available. United Airlines has daily flight connections from nine cities in Japan to Saipan with one stop. United States mainland connections can be made by Delta Air Lines to Saipan via Tokyo Narita, and United Airlines via Guam. For more information, visit www.mymarianas.com.

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