



**MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY**  
**News Release**

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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MVA MANAGING DIRECTOR

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**NMI VISITOR ARRIVALS GROW 10% IN JULY 2015**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** –Visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) in July 2015 were up 10 percent compared to July 2014. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA), arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota registered 40,882 visitors in July 2015, compared to 37,253 visitors received in July 2014.

“Through July this fiscal year, total visitors arrivals are up 12 percent compared to the same period last year,” said MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio. “As for August, we are seeing a significant reduction in numbers due to temporary cancellations of nighttime operations at the Saipan International Airport in the wake of Typhoon Soudelor. The good news is, visitors are still coming and 24 hour operation has now been restored at the airport.”

Arrivals from Korea jumped 52 percent in July to 15,321 visitors. Asiana Airlines operated summer charter flights four times weekly throughout the month using an A321 with 171 seats, and the MVA has been working with the airline and major travel agencies to promote and boost sales through various channels to convert this seasonal charter service to new regular flight service. Following significant cancellations as a result of Typhoon Soudelor, major travel agencies are now rapidly picking up travel bookings again for September. The MVA is now launching special joint promotions with Asiana Airlines and Jeju Air to attract more Korean travelers to the NMI as part of the recovery plan.

Arrivals from China edged 2 percent higher compared to July 2014 at 17,964 visitors. Century Tours operated four charter flights a week from Beijing to Saipan from July 12 instead of the current three flights a week. Dynamic Airways also launched new charter flights from Hong Kong to Saipan on July 19, operating three times a week and targeting the South China market. Because of Typhoon Soudelor, 20 charter flights from Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong were cancelled from Aug. 2 to Aug. 15 and around 5,310 tour cancellations in total were seen during these period.

Arrivals from Japan fell 11 percent to 5,624 visitors without any charter flights from Japan to the NMI during the month of July. Due to the fiber cable damage in July, several Delta Air Lines flights were diverted to Guam or cancelled. With the closing of Saipan International Airport to nighttime flights as a result of Typhoon Soudelor, airlift from Japan has been reduced by 60 percent from Aug. 2 to Aug. 17, with 6,579 seats cut to 2,607 seats. Delta and major Japanese travel agents launched a major summer campaign designed to boost arrivals from the Japan market in July, August, and September but this and other promotional campaigns were temporarily suspended following Typhoon Soudelor. The MVA is preparing to return to promotions full-force in August with key agents, given the quick pace of cleanup and recovery.

### **Source Markets Economic Highlights**

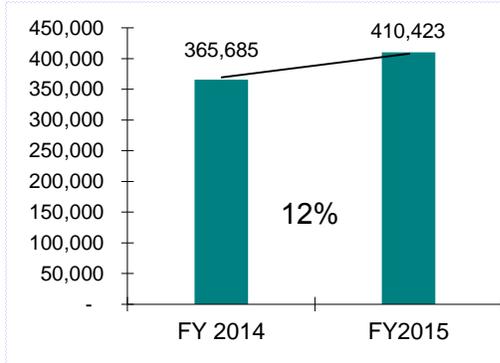
The Japanese government maintained its position on the domestic economy in July. A government official was quoted as saying “the Japanese economy is on a moderate recovery. There are signs of picking up in domestic demand, such as personal consumption, corporate capital expenditures and housing investment.” During the month of July, the yen remained virtually unchanged against the U.S. dollar at 123.21 yen to the dollar.

South Korea's Central Bank reported a slowing of economic growth in the second quarter as private spending was effected by the outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). The South Korean won/dollar exchange rate rose 41.47 won over the past month to close at 1,168.36 against the U.S. dollar.

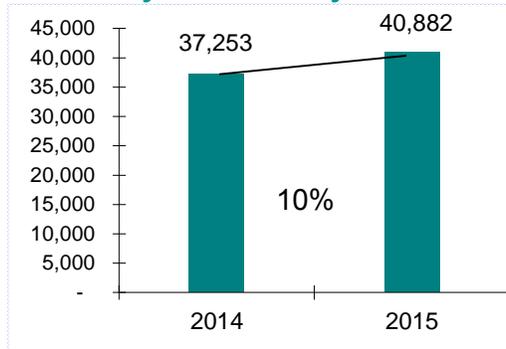
China's National Bureau of Statistics announced second-quarter GDP grew 7 percent year-on-year, remaining unchanged from the first quarter. The central parity rate of the Chinese currency renminbi, or the yuan, weakened by 5 basis points to 6.1197 against the U.S. dollar,

according to the China Foreign Exchange Trading System.

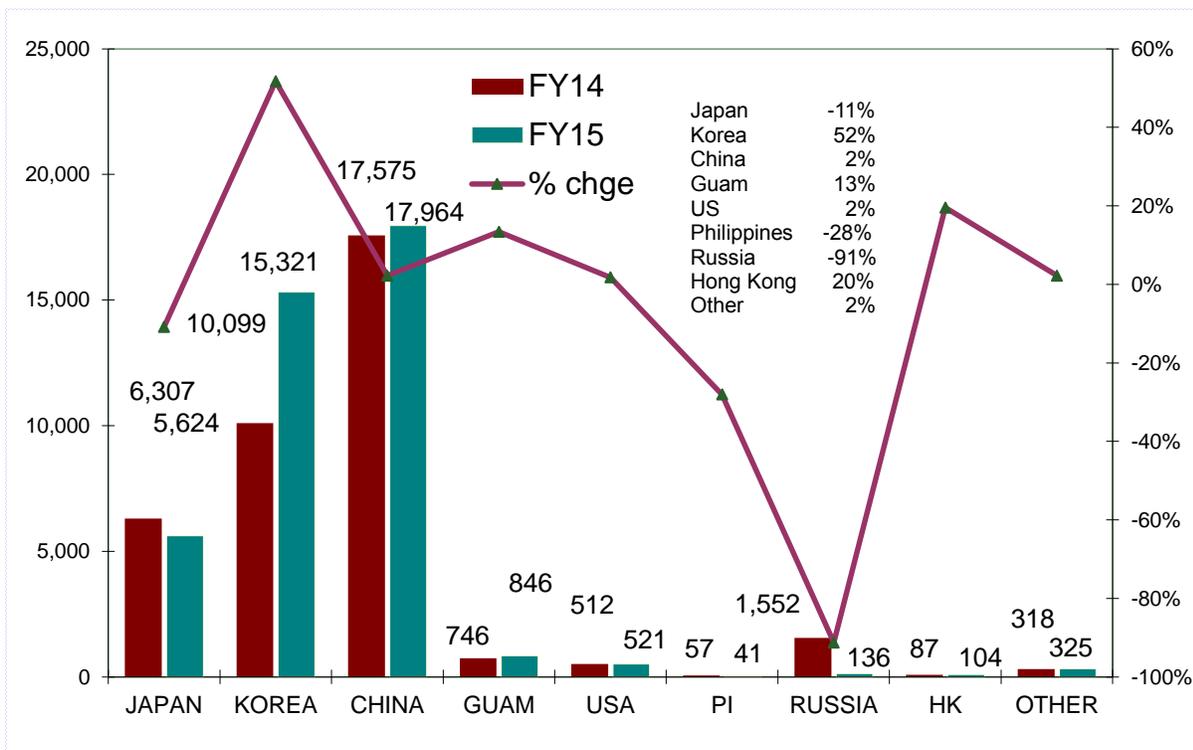
**Visitor Arrivals Year to Date  
FY 2014 vs. FY 2015**



**Visitor Arrivals  
July 2014 vs. July 2015**



**CNMI Source Market Arrivals  
July 2014 vs. July 2015**



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 daily flights from Seoul and Busan and Jeju Air provides daily service from Seoul. From China, direct flight service from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, 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. Russian and Taiwanese visitors usually arrive via Seoul. For more information, visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

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