



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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For Immediate Release- May 15, 2016

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NMI VISITOR ARRIVALS DOWN 12.5% IN APRIL 2016

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – Visitors arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) dropped 12.5% in April 2016 compared to April 2015. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA), arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota registered 35,394 visitors in April 2016, compared to 40,473 visitors received in April 2015. Overall this fiscal year, visitor arrivals are 2.3 percent lower compared to the same period last fiscal year.

Arrivals from China increased 7.1 percent compared to April 2015 to 15,108 visitors, even as China's outbound tourism market enters the low season. The MVA's China office succeeded in hosting a major celebrity shoot which generated \$1.8 million in unpaid media exposure, as well as promoting the Saipan Marathon tour packages to boost the visibility of the NMI as a world-class sports destination. The MVA also collaborated with Dynasty Holiday to host several travel trade FAMs in April to allow key Chinese travel agents to experience the wide range of tourism resources on Saipan, Tinian and Rota and develop new tour packages to all three islands.

Arrivals from Korea dropped 21.9 percent in April to 13,564 visitors. Asiana Airlines decreased its double daily service to one daily in late March but is expected to return to double daily service for Incheon-Saipan in the summer high season. Furthermore, arrivals from Korea are expected to increase with the commencement of direct flights from Seoul on June 9, 2016, by

Korean Air's low-cost carrier Jin Air.

Arrivals from Japan fell 29.3 percent to 4,269 visitors as the NMI continued to feel the effect of Delta Air Lines cutting its Narita to Saipan night flight in October, a move that dropped airlift from the Japan market to just one daily flight. Delta operated DL298 for 27 days, generating 4,563 seats. In addition to the Delta regular flight, Asiana Airlines operated three charter flights from Narita during April, generating 513 seats. In total, 5,076 seats were available, dramatically limiting arrivals from Japan. The MVA continues its negotiations with airlines in Japan to increase flight services from this major market and expects to be able to make a major announcement this summer regarding new service.

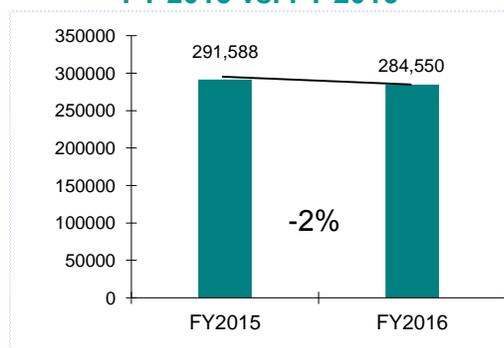
Source Markets Economic Highlights

Japan's government kept its assessment of the economy unchanged for April 2016, but said it was still analyzing the impact of earthquakes last month that have damaged homes and halted production in the southern manufacturing hub of Kumamoto. Some economists say Japan is likely to quickly shake off the impact of the earthquakes, but there is lingering speculation that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe could call off a sales tax hike scheduled next year to focus on bolstering domestic demand. In April 2016, the yen continued to grow in value against the U.S. dollar for the sixth month in a row, to an average of 109.80 yen for the month.

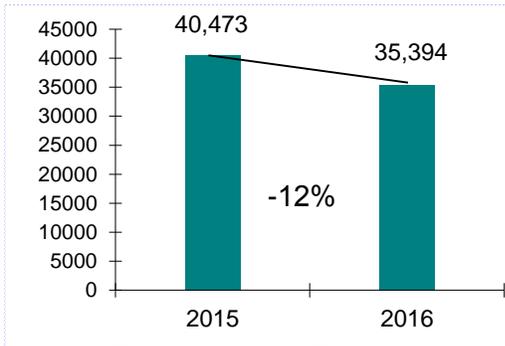
The International Monetary Fund (IMF) joined a growing chorus predicting lower growth for Korea this year. The IMF predicted on April 12 that Korea's economy will expand 2.7 percent in 2016, a substantial drop from the 3.2 percent cited in its last outlook in October. The average USD/WON exchange rate in April was 1148.36 won, slightly down from the March rate of 1,164.37 won.

China contributes more than 13 percent of worldwide tourism annual income on average, the United Nations World Tourism Organization reported. The central parity rate of the Chinese currency renminbi, or the yuan, weakened 222 basis points to 6.5120 against the U.S. dollar, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trading System.

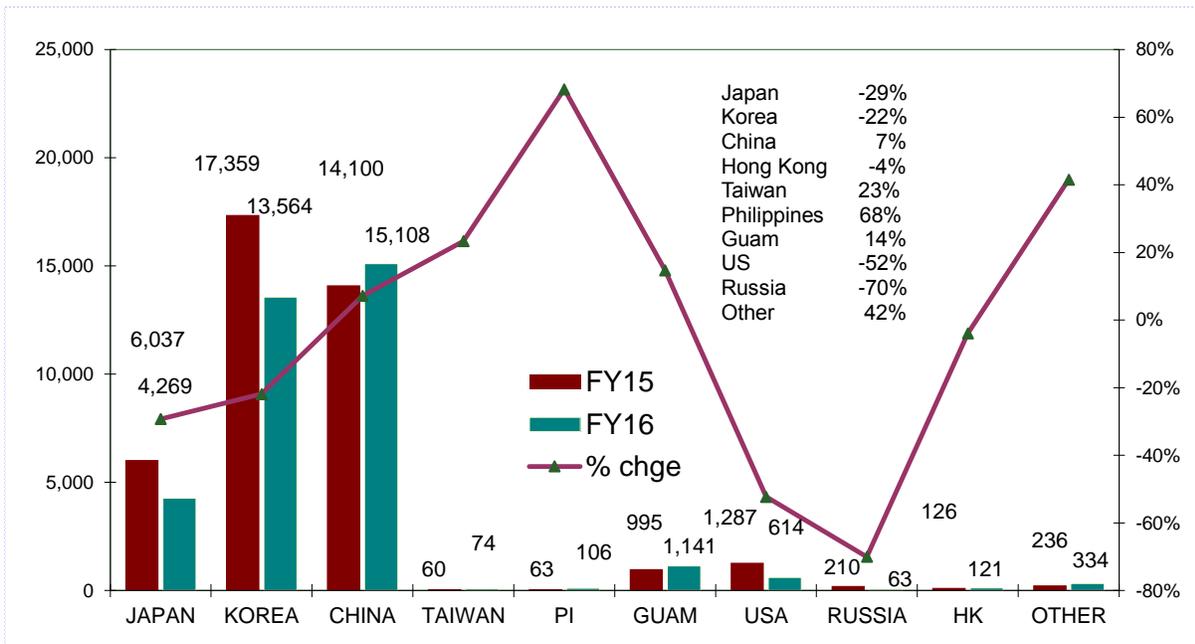
**Visitor Arrivals Year to Date
FY 2015 vs. FY 2016**



Visitor Arrivals April 2015 vs. April 2016



CNMI Source Market Arrivals April 2015 vs. April 2016



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.