

**Increase In Volume Of Foreign Tourists To Bali Despite Economic Crisis**  
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JAKARTA, July 31 (Bernama) -- The economic crisis afflicting the world does not overly influence the keenness of tourists to holiday in Bali as the volume of tourists to the 'Island of God' continues to rise.

Bank Indonesia Denpasar Region III representative office assistant director Sunarto said, the number of foreign visitors to Bali continued to see an increase, due to the many promotions.

Bank Indonesia (BI) is the republic's central bank.

Generally, 1.3 million foreign tourists made use of the flights available to Bali during January-June 2012 or an increase of 7.73 per cent as compared to the same period last year (1.2 million tourists).

Most of those holidaying in Bali early this year or 814,804 people (59.49 per cent) flew directly from countries in the Asia Pacific Region, followed by Europeans (297,413 or 21.71 per cent).

The balance came from countries in Africa, totalling 8,246 people (0.60 per cent), Middle East, 4,019 people and United States 73,525 people (5.37 per cent).

The increase in foreign tourists to Bali contributed greatly to its economic growth, which is expected to grow 6.3 per cent in the second quarter of this year, better than the same period last year which recorded a growth of 6.09 per cent.

In the first quarter of 2012, Bank Indonesia recorded a receipt of revenue through Visa on Arrival from foreign tourists at US\$14.4 million, an increase of 19.89 per cent, as compared to the same period last year, at US\$14.3 million.

The Bali regional economic study for the first quarter of 2012, stated that the tourism sector was the biggest contributor to Bali's economic growth, with a contribution of 32.38 per cent and the figure continued to rise.

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