Fiji

GEOGRAPHY

Volcanic in origin, the Fiji archipelago is situated in the South Pacific Ocean, about 1800 km north of New Zealand. Of Fiji's more than 800 islands and islets, a little more than 100 are permanently inhabited. The biggest island is Viti Levu, followed by Vanua Levu. Both islands are mountainous, the highest peak (Mount Tomanivi, in Viti Levu) rising to 1324 m above the sea level.

CLIMATE

Fiji has a tropical climate. Average monthly temperatures vary between 22 and 26 °C (World Bank, 2020). A hot, rainy season lasts from December to April. The dryer and cooler season lasts from June to October, although the southeastern slopes of the main islands remain relatively humid year-round. The southeastern parts of Viti Levu get up to 2900 mm of rain per year, while in the northwestern corner of the same island the figure is around 2000 mm. The average temperatures are also a bit higher in the northwest. Fiji can be affected by tropical cyclones, usually between November and mid-May.

ECONOMY

The economy of Fiji is based primarily on tourism and agriculture, and it is one of the most developed among the Pacific island economies. Sugar production has traditionally been an important economic activity, while the garment industry has also grown in importance over the years. The main trading partners are the United States of America, Australia and Japan. Around two thirds of Fiji's GDP is generated by services, while industry accounts for almost one fifth. (UNCTAD, 2021) According to the items attribute is mandatory, service sector jobs account for half of total employment in Fiji, while one third is employed in agriculture. The majority of Fiji's international trade in services consists of tourism-related transport and travel services. From 2016 to 2019, tourist arrivals to Fiji have been close to one million per year, and their expenditure equalled to 24 per cent over GDP in 2019 (UNWTO, 2021). Fiji is quite rich in natural resources, with exports consisting of minerals such as copper and gold, oil, fish and wood.

CULTURE

Features of traditional Fijian culture are still part of important ceremonies and festivities in the country today. Traditional handicrafts, music and dancing also contribute to tourism.

Root vegetables and coconut are important ingredients in Fijian cuisine and daily nutrition. Fiji is also famous for its seafood. However, Indian curries and Chinese dishes are also very popular in Fiji. The national beverage is yaqona, more widely known as kava or grog - described as a mildly narcotic drink.

Fijian sport activities include canoeing, wrestling and a local form of shuffleboard. Nowadays, rugby is also very popular, and many Fijian players play in the top leagues around the world. Fiji won the men’s rugby sevens Olympic gold medal at the 2016 Summer Games. It was the first ever Olympic medal for Fiji, who has participated in the Olympic Summer Games since 1956. This special occasion was celebrated by announcing a public holiday. Fiji has participated in several Olympic Winter Games as well.
**ECONOMIC TRENDS**

**Gross domestic product**
US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions

- 2000: 3000
- 2005: 4000
- 2010: 5000
- 2015: 6000

**GDP per capita**
2019: US$6,185

**Productive Capacity Index**
- 2018: 31.7
- 2019: 39

**Economic and environmental vulnerability index**
2019: 39

**Consumer Price Index growth**
2019: 2.9%

**Unemployment rate**
2016: Total 4.3%
  - Female 5.5%, Male 3.7%

**Main economic sectors, 2019**
Percentage of GDP

- Services
- Industry
- Agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing

**Tourist arrivals**
Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP

- 2000: 8
- 2005: 16
- 2010: 24
- 2015: 32
- 2018: 32

**External financial resources**
Percentage of GDP

- ODA
- Remittances
- FDI inflows

**Public debt as % of GDP**
2018: 63.5%

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Fiji

Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures 2021
MARITIME TRANSPORT

Fleet size
Number of ships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ship type</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total fleet</td>
<td>1,407</td>
<td>1,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil tankers</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk carriers</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General cargo</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container ships</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other types of ships</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>682</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Port performance
Ranked by 2019 data within SIDS group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>SIDS Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of port calls</td>
<td>2,342</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median time in port (days)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age of vessels</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average size (GT) of vessels</td>
<td>10,285</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Container port throughput

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>145,782 TEU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bilateral connectivity index, 2019
Top 5 partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>0.00</th>
<th>0.05</th>
<th>0.10</th>
<th>0.15</th>
<th>0.20</th>
<th>0.25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Caledonia</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Liner shipping connectivity index
Maximum China Q1 2006=100

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q1 2006</th>
<th>Q1 2008</th>
<th>Q1 2010</th>
<th>Q1 2012</th>
<th>Q1 2014</th>
<th>Q1 2016</th>
<th>Q1 2018</th>
<th>Q1 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Population development indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty headcount (% of population)</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human development index</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human assets index</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult literacy rate (% 15+ years, both sexes %)</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>99.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender inequality index</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Life expectancy at birth
- 2019: 67 years

Population density
- 2019: 49 persons per km²

Dependency ratio
- Child: 45
- Old-age: 8.6
INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Merchandise and services trade
US dollars in millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2019 (% of GDP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise exports</td>
<td>701</td>
<td>841</td>
<td>895</td>
<td>1033</td>
<td>18.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise imports</td>
<td>1 607</td>
<td>1 808</td>
<td>2 081</td>
<td>2 734</td>
<td>49.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services exports</td>
<td>930</td>
<td>987</td>
<td>1 312</td>
<td>1 613</td>
<td>29.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services imports</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>568</td>
<td>793</td>
<td>14.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trade openness
Goods and services 52% of GDP
Export concentration index 0.19
Food import dependency Average 2015-2019 2.57

Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019
Exports in millions US dollars

United States of America
Australia
New Zealand
Japan
China

Merchandise exports by product group, 2019

Services exports by category, 2019
ENVIROMENT

**CO₂ emissions per capita**
Kg per capita

**CO₂ emissions per GDP**
Kg per 2010 US$ of GDP

Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017
Percentage of total energy consumption

- 2016: 14.1 kg
- 2018: 5.4%
- 2018: 0.92%

Disasters indicators
Data not available

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

**Trade in ICT goods**

- 2019: Exports: 5.9%
- 2019: Imports: 4.9%

**Trade in ICT services**

- 2019: Exports: 1.4%
- 2019: Imports: 4.5%

**Share of internet users**

- 2017: 50%

**Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions**
Number of subscriptions per 100 people
Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Distance to nearest neighbour: [NO_PRINTED_FORM] (Package “cshapes,” 2016) [https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/index.html](https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/index.html)
- Economic losses due to disasters: United Nations (2021) [https://www.sdg.org/datasets/e3adb2406c2e452b81c3654e2766c5ca_0](https://www.sdg.org/datasets/e3adb2406c2e452b81c3654e2766c5ca_0)
- Exclusive economic zone: Sea Around Us (2016) [https://www.seaaroundus.org/](https://www.seaaroundus.org/)
- Life expectancy at birth: World Bank (2021) [https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN](https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN)
- Material footprint: UNEP (2021) [https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1](https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1)
- Number of people affected by disasters: United Nations (2021) [https://www.sdg.org/datasets/2be26be9ac14674b391b81e4874990_0](https://www.sdg.org/datasets/2be26be9ac14674b391b81e4874990_0)
- ODA: OECD (2021) [https://stats.oecd.org](https://stats.oecd.org)

References

- UNEP (2021). 12.2.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP. Available at [https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1](https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1) (accessed 13 January 2021).