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WRITTEN BY		August 10, 2024	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

79

1.1 79.guide

Texified version of data for Fiji.

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Fiji

1.2 79.guide/Fiji

Fiji

Geography (Fiji)
 People (Fiji)
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 Economy (Fiji)
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1.3 79.guide/Geography (Fiji)

Geography (Fiji)

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Location:

Oceania, 2,500 km north of New Zealand in the South Pacific Ocean

Map references:

Oceania, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

18,270 km²

land area:

18,270 km²

comparative area:

slightly smaller than New Jersey

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

1,129 km

Maritime claims:

(measured from claimed archipelagic baselines)

continental shelf:

200 m depth or to depth of exploitation; rectilinear shelf claim added

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

none

Climate:

tropical marine; only slight seasonal temperature variation

Terrain:

mostly mountains of volcanic origin

Natural resources:

timber, fish, gold, copper, offshore oil potential

Land use: arable land:

8%

permanent crops:

5%

meadows and pastures:

3%

forest and woodland:
 65%
 other:
 19%
 Irrigated land:
 10 km2 (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 subject to hurricanes from November to January; includes 332 islands of
 which approximately 110 are inhabited

1.4 79.guide/People (Fiji)

People (Fiji)

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Population:
 756,762 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 0.95% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 24.74 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 6.59 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -8.65 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 18.4 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 64.86 years
 male:
 62.62 years
 female:
 67.21 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 2.98 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Fijian(s)
 adjective:
 Fijian
 Ethnic divisions:
 Fijian 49%, Indian 46%, European, other Pacific Islanders, overseas Chinese ←
 ,
 and other 5%
 Religions:
 Christian 52% (Methodist 37%, Roman Catholic 9%), Hindu 38%, Muslim 8%,
 other 2%
 note:
 Fijians are mainly Christian, Indians are Hindu, and there is a Muslim
 minority (1986)
 Languages: English (official), Fijian, Hindustani
 Literacy:

age 15 and over can read and write (1985)
 total population:
 86%
 male:
 90%
 female:
 81%
 Labor force:
 235,000
 by occupation:
 subsistence agriculture 67%, wage earners 18%, salary earners 15% (1987)

1.5 79.guide/Government (Fiji)

Government (Fiji)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Republic of Fiji
 conventional short form:
 Fiji
 Digraph:
 FJ
 Type:
 republic
 note:
 military coup leader Maj. Gen. Sitiveni RABUKA formally declared Fiji a
 republic on 6 October 1987
 Capital:
 Suva
 Administrative divisions:
 4 divisions and 1 dependency*; Central, Eastern, Northern, Rotuma*, Western ↔
 , Independence:
 10 October 1970 (from UK)
 Constitution:
 10 October 1970 (suspended 1 October 1987); a new Constitution was proposed
 on 23 September 1988 and promulgated on 25 July 1990; the 1990 Constitution
 is currently still under review (February 1993)
 Legal system:
 based on British system
 National holiday:
 Independence Day, 10 October (1970)
 Political parties and leaders:
 Fijian Political Party (SVT - primarily Fijian), leader Maj. Gen. Sitivini
 RABUKA; National Federation Party (NFP; primarily Indian), Siddiq KOYA;
 Christian Fijian Nationalist Party (CFNP), Sakeasi BUTADROKA; Fiji Labor
 Party (FLP), Jokapeci KOROI; All National Congress (ANC), Apisai TORA;
 General Voters Party (GVP), Max OLSSON; Fiji Conservative Party (FCP),
 Isireli VUIBAU; Conservative Party of Fiji (CPF), Jolale ULUDOLE and ↔
 Viliame
 SAVU; Fiji Indian Liberal Party, Swami MAHARAJ; Fiji Indian Congress Party,
 Ishwari BAJPAI; Fiji Independent Labor (Muslim), leader NA; Four Corners

Party, David TULVANUAVOU
 Suffrage:
 none
 Elections:
 House of Representatives:
 last held 23-29 May 1992 (next to be held NA 1997); results - percent of
 vote by party NA; seats - (70 total, with ethnic Fijians allocated 37 seats ←
 ,
 ethnic Indians 27 seats, and independents and other 6 seats) number of ←
 seats
 by party NA
 Executive branch:
 president, prime minister, Cabinet, Great Councils of Chiefs (highest
 ranking members of the traditional chiefly system)
 Legislative branch:
 the bicameral Parliament, consisting of an upper house or Senate and a ←
 lower
 house or House of Representatives, was dissolved following the coup of 14
 May 1987; the Constitution of 23 September 1988 provides for a bicameral
 Parliament
 Judicial branch:
 Supreme Court
 Leaders:
 Chief of State:
 President Ratu Sir Penaia Kanatabatu GANILAU (since 5 December 1987); Vice
 President Ratu Sir Kamisese MARA (since 14 April 1992); Vice President Ratu
 Sir Josaia TAIVAIQIA (since 14 April 1992)

1.6 79.guide/Government (Fiji 2. usage)

Government (Fiji 2. usage)

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Head of Government:
 Prime Minister Sitiveni RABUKA (since 2 June 1992); Deputy Prime Minister
 Filipe BOLE (since 11 June 1992); Deputy Prime Minister Ratu Timoci ←
 VESIKULA
 (since 11 June 1993)
 Member of:
 ACP, AsDB, CP, ESCAP, FAO, G-77, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO,
 IMF, IMO, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, LORCS, PCA, SPARTECA, SPC, SPF, UN,
 UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNIFIL, UNIKOM, UNOSOM, UPU, WHO, WIPO, WMO
 Diplomatic representation in US:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador Pita Kewa NACUVA
 chancery:
 Suite 240, 2233 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20007
 telephone:
 (202) 337-8320
 consulate:
 New York
 US diplomatic representation:
 chief of mission:

Ambassador Evelyn I. H. TEEGEN
 embassy:
 31 Loftus Street, Suva
 mailing address:
 P. O. Box 218, Suva
 telephone:
 [679] 314-466
 FAX:
 [679] 300-081

Flag:

light blue with the flag of the UK in the upper hoist-side quadrant and the Fijian shield centered on the outer half of the flag; the shield depicts a yellow lion above a white field quartered by the cross of Saint George featuring stalks of sugarcane, a palm tree, bananas, and a white dove

1.7 79.guide/Economy (Fiji)

Economy (Fiji)

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Overview:

Fiji's economy is primarily agricultural, with a large subsistence sector. Sugar exports are a major source of foreign exchange, and sugar processing accounts for one-third of industrial output. Industry, including sugar milling, contributes 13% to GDP. Fiji traditionally had earned considerable sums of hard currency from the 250,000 tourists who visited each year. In 1987, however, after two military coups, the economy went into decline. GDP dropped by 7.8% in 1987 and by another 2.5% in 1988; political uncertainty created a drop in tourism, and the worst drought of the century caused ← sugar production to fall sharply. In contrast, sugar and tourism turned in strong performances in 1989, and the economy rebounded vigorously. In 1990 the economy received a setback from cyclone Sina, which cut sugar output by an estimated 21%. Sugar exports recovered in 1991-92.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$1.4 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

3% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$1,900 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

5% (1992 est.)

Unemployment rate:

5.9% (1991 est.)

Budget:

revenues \$455 million; expenditures \$546 million, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1993 est.)

Exports:

\$435 million (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:

sugar 40%, gold, clothing, copra, processed fish, lumber

partners:

EC 31%, Australia 21%, Japan 8%, US 6%

Imports:

\$553 million (c.i.f., 1991)

commodities:

machinery and transport equipment 32%, food 15%, petroleum products, consumer goods, chemicals

partners:

Australia 30%, NZ 17%, Japan 13%, EC 6%, US 6%

External debt:

\$428 million (December 1990 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate 8.4% (1991 est.); accounts for 13% of GDP

Electricity:

215,000 kW capacity; 420 million kWh produced, 560 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

sugar, tourism, copra, gold, silver, clothing, lumber, small cottage industries

Agriculture:

accounts for 23% of GDP; principal cash crop is sugarcane; coconuts, cassava, rice, sweet potatoes, bananas; small livestock sector includes cattle, pigs, horses, and goats; fish catch nearly 33,000 tons (1989)

Economic aid:

Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1980-89), \$815 million

Currency:

1 Fijian dollar (F\$) = 100 cents

1.8 79.guide/Economy (Fiji 2. usage)

Economy (Fiji 2. usage)

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Exchange rates:

Fijian dollars (F\$) per US\$1 - 1.5809 (January 1993), 1.5029 (1992), 1.4756 (1991), 1.4809 (1990), 1.4833 (1989), 1.4303 (1988)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

1.9 79.guide/Communications (Fiji)

Communications (Fiji)

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Railroads:

644 km 0.610-meter narrow gauge, belonging to the government-owned Fiji Sugar Corporation

Highways:

3,300 km total; 1,590 km paved; 1,290 km gravel, crushed stone, or stabilized soil surface; 420 unimproved earth (1984)

Inland waterways:

203 km; 122 km navigable by motorized craft and 200-metric-ton barges

Ports:

Lambasa, Lautoka, Savusavu, Suva

Merchant marine:

7 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 40,072 GRT/47,187 DWT; includes 2 roll-on/roll-off, 2 container, 1 oil tanker, 1 chemical tanker, 1 cargo

Airports:

total:

25

usable:

22

with permanent-surface runways:

2

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

1

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

2

Telecommunications:

modern local, interisland, and international (wire/radio integrated) public and special-purpose telephone, telegraph, and teleprinter facilities; regional radio center; important COMPAC cable link between US-Canada and ↔

New

Zealand-Australia; 53,228 telephones (71 telephones per 1,000 persons); broadcast stations - 7 AM, 1 FM, no TV; 1 Pacific Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.10 79.guide/Defense Forces (Fiji)

Defense Forces (Fiji)

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Branches:

Fiji Military Force (FMF; including a naval division, police)

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 194,634; fit for military service 107,304; reach military age (18) annually 7,834 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$22.4 million, about 2% of GDP (FY91/92)