

Republic of the Fiji Islands



1. General Information

Population ^{*1}	844,330 (July 2001 est.)
Population density [/km ²] ^{*1}	46.21
Languages ^{*1}	English (official), Fijian, Hindustani
Ethnic Groups ^{*1}	Christian 52%, Hindu 38%, Muslim 8%, other 2%
Climate ^{*1}	Tropical marine; only slight seasonal temperature variation
Land Area [km ²] ^{*1}	18,270

Comments for General Information^{*1}

The Republic of Fiji consists of about 300 islands enclosed in an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 1.26 million sq km of ocean. The two largest islands, Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, account for more than 85 percent of the total land area. While the majority of the islands are high and mountainous with peaks rising up to 1400m and large navigable rivers, there are also a few low lying atolls. The rich soil and ample water for irrigation mean that agricultural products of many kinds grow very successfully with sugar being one of the country's major revenue earners.

2. Economy

GDP [US\$] ^{*1}	5.9 billion (purchasing power parity, 1999)	
GDP-per capita [US\$] ^{*1}	7,300 (purchasing power parity, 1999)	
Imports [US\$] ^{*1}	653 million (1999)	
	Manufactured goods, machinery and transport equipment, petroleum products, food, chemicals	
Exports [US\$] ^{*1}	537 million (1999)	
	Sugar, garments, gold, timber, fish	
Composition of Sector ^{*1}	Agriculture & Fishery [%]	16 (1999)

(Ratio to GDP)	Industry [%]	30 (1999)
	Service [%]	54 (1999)

Comments for Economy ^{*1}

Fiji, endowed with forest, mineral, and fish resources, is one of the most developed of the Pacific island economies, though still with a large subsistence sector. Sugar exports and a growing tourist industry are the major sources of foreign exchange. Sugar processing makes up one-third of industrial activity. Roughly 300,000 tourists visit each year, including thousands of Americans following the start of regularly scheduled non-stop air service from Los Angeles.

3. Energy

Electricity	Electricity production [kWh] ^{*1}		510 million (1999)
	Electricity consumption [kWh] ^{*1}		474.3 million (1999)
	Electricity -production by source ^{*1}		Fossil fuel: 17.65%; hydro: 2.35%; nuclear: 0%; other: 0% (1999)
Energy Resources	Production ^{*2}	Oil	0
		Coal	0
		Gas	0
	Consumption ^{*2}	Oil	6 (thousand barrels per day)
		Coal	0.02 (million tons)
		Gas	0

Comments for Energy ^{*6}

The electric power public corporation is taking charge of power generation and power transmission in Fiji. However, the electric power by this public corporation is only 10% of the energy consumption. Therefore, electricity is supplied by using a private dynamo in the sugarcane mill and the hotel, etc. located in suburbs. In 1984, The Monasav hydroelectric power plant, which has the power generation ability 80,000kW, was constructed to decrease oil amount of the import dependence. The inquiry and the development of domestic oil and the natural gas resource are very important to decrease dependence on the import.

4. Water

Precipitation ^{*3}		2,592.4mm	
Internal Renewable Water Resources ^{*3}		28.6 cubic kilometers	
Population with Access to Improved Water Supply ^{*3}		47%	
Total Water Withdrawal ^{*3}	0.03 km ³	Industry [%]	20
		Domestic [%]	20
		Agriculture [%]	60

Comments for Water^{*4}

Water issues of Fiji are shown as follows:

- Lack of water management experts
- Little opportunity for locals to undergo relevant training
- Little effort made to create awareness about sustainable use of quality water
- Although Fiji blessed with an abundance of both surface and underground fresh water, there are still a lot of problems with access
- Lack of water quality data

5. Environment and Pollution

CO ₂ Emission ^{*5}	Total metric tons	762
	Metric tons per capita	0.98

Sea Level^{*1}

Low level of islands makes them very sensitive to changes in sea level. The comments for Sea Level Rise are the following:

- Coastal erosion.
- Salt water intrusion into freshwater aquifers.
- Degradation of water quality.

Comments for Environment^{*1}

The comments for environment are the following:

- Deforestation is serious issue especially in mountainous area because of over population and over cropping.
- Soil erosion is major issue because of poor management.

References

- *1 <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook>
- *2 <http://www.eia.doe.gov>
- *3 <http://geodata.grid.unep.ch>
- *4 Issue raised by NGO's working in the water sector in the pacific
- *5 <http://cdiac.esd.ornl.gov>
- *6 Encyclopedia of World Geography

Information

www.fiji.gov.fj