



## Doing Business in FIJI: 2014 Country

### Commercial Guide for U.S. Companies

INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT, U.S. & FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICE AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, 2010. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES.

- [Chapter 1: Doing Business In ...](#)
- [Chapter 2: Political and Economic Environment](#)
- [Chapter 3: Selling U.S. Products and Services](#)
- [Chapter 4: Leading Sectors for U.S. Export and Investment](#)
- [Chapter 5: Trade Regulations, Customs and Standards](#)
- [Chapter 6: Investment Climate](#)
- [Chapter 7: Trade and Project Financing](#)
- [Chapter 8: Business Travel](#)
- [Chapter 9: Contacts, Market Research and Trade Events](#)
- [Chapter 10: Guide to Our Services](#)

[Return to table of contents](#)

## Chapter 1: Doing Business In Fiji

- [Market Overview](#)
- [Market Challenges](#)
- [Market Opportunities](#)
- [Market Entry Strategy](#)

### Market Overview

[Return to top](#)

#### Major Trends and Outlook

- The Fiji government forecasts a 3 percent growth in 2014, following a strong performance of 3.6 percent in 2013. According to the latest figures available, estimated earnings from tourism, Fiji's largest foreign exchange earner, in 2013 is expected to have reached US\$718 million (F\$1.322 billion) with visitor arrivals reaching about 673,802. Sugar remains of national importance with government reforms improving quality, farm productivity, and mill efficiency. Sugar production reportedly increased in 2013 by about 16.2 percent. The government's GDP forecast in 2014 is US\$2.63 billion (F\$4.84 billion). Inflation was at 2.3 percent in January 2014.
- Fiji's trade imbalance continues to deteriorate. Mineral fuels continue to be the country's largest import. Other major imports include machinery, transport equipment, food and manufactured goods. Major exports include sugar, fish, gold, mineral water, and garments. Foreign reserves were around US\$922 million (F\$1.69 billion) by February 2014, sufficient to cover 4.5 months of goods imports.
- U.S. exports to Fiji continue to increase, growing by 20.5 percent in 2013. According to U.S. Department of Commerce statistics, U.S. exports to Fiji amounted to US\$66.929 million in 2013, compared to US\$55.560 million in 2012. U.S. imports from Fiji declined to US\$174.036 million, compared to US\$188.67 million in 2012. The main products imported to the U.S. from Fiji include mineral water and tuna. U.S. exports to Fiji were mainly transport equipment and parts, food manufactures, computer and electronic products, and machinery.

#### Principal Growth Sectors

- The tourism sector remains Fiji's principal economic driver and major source of foreign exchange. The industry contributes an estimated 30 percent of GDP. Visitor arrivals totaled 657,706, a small decline compared to 2012 due to extreme weather.
- Growth in 2014 is expected to be driven largely by a number of large construction projects, boosting employment and economic activity, and rising private sector investments are expected to support growth in 2014.

#### Government Role in the Economy

- In 2014, the government's projected net deficit is US\$87.71 million (F\$161.5 million), equivalent to 1.9 percent of GDP. The revenue forecast for 2014 is US\$1.48 billion (F\$2.7218 billion), with expenditure estimated at US\$1.57 billion (F\$2.883 billion).
- Fiji's government controls essential public utilities (water and sewerage), power generation and supply, and port management. In 2014, to meet its budget and fund public expenditures, the government intends to raise about US\$271 million (F\$500 million) from the sale of a number of public entities. Since 2013, the government has invested heavily in upgrading road infrastructure and bridges.
- Infrastructure support is fairly reliable in Fiji. There are numerous air and sea connections to the United States, Asia, and the Pacific Region, as well as local air and sea transport to all major centers on the larger islands in the country. Given Fiji's heavy reliance on diesel fuel, the Fiji authorities continue to explore renewable energy alternatives, such as hydro, solar and wind power.

Domestic and international telecommunication links are relatively reliable. Other service infrastructure, such as insurance, banking, accounting, local transport, investment finance and real estate, are available in urban centers.

### **Market Challenges**

[Return to top](#)

Some of the common market challenges experienced in doing business in Fiji include:

- Government limitations in capital borrowing by non-residents;
- Time differences between the United States and Fiji;
- Slow, lengthy, and often inefficient processing of government approvals;
- Poor infrastructure in rural areas;
- Relatively high costs of utilities, especially power and communication; and
- Small population base.

### **Market Opportunities**

[Return to top](#)

Hospitality industry supplies and services; consumer goods; agricultural and food processing machinery; data processing and telecommunication equipment; power generation, transmission and distribution equipment; offshore and "back office" data processing; medical services.

### **Market Entry Strategy**

[Return to top](#)

To successfully enter the Fiji market, it is essential that American firms have local market expertise. American firms often work with an appropriate business partner in the local market to provide on-going support to ensure an amicable long-term relationship.

- The majority of Fiji's business community is of Indo-Fijian ethnicity; however, the number of indigenous Fijian businesspersons is growing. While English is widely spoken in Fiji, the cultural and ethnic differences between the United States and Fiji should not be overlooked.

- As Australia and New Zealand companies dominate the local business scene and have a long standing relationship with local companies, American companies need to be prepared to be able to match strong competition from Australia and New Zealand.
- It is highly recommended that due diligence be undertaken prior to entering any contract or making any long-term commitment.

[Return to table of contents](#)

[Return to table of contents](#)

## **Chapter 2: Political and Economic Environment**

For background information on the political and economic environment of the country, please click on the link below to the U.S. Department of State Background Notes.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/1834.htm>

[Return to table of contents](#)

[Return to table of contents](#)

## Chapter 3: Selling U.S. Products and Services

- [Using an Agent or Distributor](#)
- [Establishing an Office](#)
- [Franchising](#)
- [Direct Marketing](#)
- [Joint Ventures/Licensing](#)
- [Selling to the Government](#)
- [Distribution and Sales Channels](#)
- [Selling Factors/Techniques](#)
- [Electronic Commerce](#)
- [Trade Promotion and Advertising](#)
- [Pricing](#)
- [Sales Service/Customer Support](#)
- [Protecting Your Intellectual Property](#)
- [Due Diligence](#)
- [Local Professional Services](#)
- [Web Resources](#)

### **Using an Agent or Distributor**

[Return to top](#)

Some local companies are interested in establishing agent or distributor arrangements with foreign companies.

The General Contract Law governs agreements between foreign suppliers and local agents and distributors. It establishes a buyer-seller relationship under a sale of goods contract between the two parties. It is the responsibility of the local agent or distributor to apply for necessary licenses and import permits.

New market entrants should seek an established agent/distributor with good local contacts, market expertise, and technical know-how. U.S. exporters must often provide training, marketing, and technical support. Frequent contact with local representatives is critical, especially at the outset, in order to build a good working relationship based on shared values and objectives, and to ensure there are no misunderstandings or communication problems.

The Commercial Section at the U.S. Embassy in Suva can provide valuable assistance in locating potential representatives and acquiring preliminary market data. The staff can also help companies identify agents and distributors.

### **Establishing an Office**

[Return to top](#)

The primary forms of business organizations in Fiji are: companies, including branch offices; joint ventures; partnerships; and trading trusts.

U.S. firms may elect either to incorporate a subsidiary or establish a branch office by registering itself as a foreign company. Both approaches are regulated under Fiji's Company Law. U.S. firms may wish to enter into joint-venture arrangements with one or more parties on an unincorporated or incorporated basis.

Contact: Investment Fiji, Chief Executive, P.O. Box 2303, Government Buildings Suva, Telephone: (679) 3315-988, Fax: (679) 3301-783, Email [info@investmentfiji.org.fj](mailto:info@investmentfiji.org.fj), Website <http://www.investmentfiji.org.fj>

## **Franchising**

[Return to top](#)

There are no restrictions placed by the Fiji government on franchising arrangements. U.S. firms operating in Fiji under franchise agreements include McDonalds, Coca-Cola, and Johnson & Johnson. The small market size imposes some limitations in Fiji, but many companies use Fiji as an export base to other Pacific Island countries.

## **Direct Marketing**

[Return to top](#)

Direct marketing is used widely in the sale of cosmetics, health products, cleaning and household consumer goods, electrical appliances, and in service businesses. Major U.S. brands in Fiji include General Mills, Colgate-Palmolive, Johnson and Johnson, and Procter and Gamble.

## **Joint Ventures/Licensing**

[Return to top](#)

The Fiji Government through Investment Fiji encourages joint ventures in Fiji to stimulate local entrepreneurship and the transfer of technical know-how and skills.

Joint ventures and licensing agreements are important market entry strategies for American exporters. Joint-venture partnerships offering technology transfer, specialized expertise, and training opportunities are effective mechanisms to reduce costs.

Some Fiji firms are actively seeking American joint-venture partners who can provide much needed capital, as well as technical, marketing, and management skills, to a business relationship. Fiji firms generally offer assets, local vendor and government contacts, and established business relationships throughout the Pacific region.

The Commercial Section at the U.S. Embassy in Suva can provide assistance in locating potential joint-venture partners for American companies.

## **Selling to the Government**

[Return to top](#)

All requests for proposals and tenders are offered in newspapers and in government publications. Multilateral lending institutions, such as the ADB and World Bank, also sometimes sponsor projects, all open to U.S. bidders. Fiji is not a party to the WTO Government Procurement Agreement.

## **Distribution and Sales Channels**

[Return to top](#)

Two major channels of distribution are available to U.S. exporters. The first is via large, well-established trading companies with strong financial resources and sales volumes, as well as an extensive presence in many industrial sectors. In many cases, these large traders form marketing or production joint ventures with foreign firms when demand volumes are sufficient to justify local investment. In highly specialized markets, these companies rely on agents who have appropriate contacts or expertise.

The second available channel is through small importers. These importers generally specialize in one line of business where they have proven networks and market knowhow.

It is advisable for U.S. companies to perform careful due diligence to assure that a potential agent or distributor is financially healthy and able to fulfill obligations.

## **Selling Factors/Techniques**

[Return to top](#)

To differentiate themselves from local and third-country competitors, U.S. firms should emphasize their strengths in quality, innovation, technology, and customer service.

Fijians have come to expect more and better styles and designs, regular product upgrades, and updated technology from U.S. companies and will often choose U.S. products and services on the basis of "value for money," not just on the basis of cost. Training is an effective means to make potential customers aware of the quality of products and services.

## **Electronic Commerce**

[Return to top](#)

Despite the development of the country's ITC infrastructure, increased access to the Internet and lowered costs, electronic commerce still has a limited market reach. However, recent notable developments in the consumer to business market segment include the growing popularity of electronic commerce for bill payments through the commercial banks, mobile phone money transfers, and the ticketing systems on public bus services in urban areas.

## **Trade Promotion and Advertising**

[Return to top](#)

The majority of Fijians receive information from radio and television. Advertising and trade promotions are important marketing tools in Fiji. In particular, foodstuffs and consumer products should be promoted heavily via a full range of mass media.

There are three commercial free to air stations which companies can promote and advertise their products and services on: Fiji TV, Mai TV, and FBC TV.



There are two major English-language newspapers, "The Fiji Times," and "The Fiji Sun," which largely cater to an urban readership. The Fijian language newspaper "Nai Lalakai" and "Volasiga" can be used for marketing to the Fijian sector of the population, and the Indian-language newspaper "Shanti Dut" for Indo-Fijians.

Companies in Fiji also use two business monthly magazines, "Pacific Business" and "Islands Business" for advertising. There are a few lifestyle magazines including Marama, Turaga, and Mai Life, which also accept paid advertisements.

Special promotional campaigns are frequently conducted at local shopping centers, hotels, and convention halls. Movie theaters and television are also means of reaching the public. It is advisable to translate all product literature and technical specifications into Fijian and/or Hindustani, Fiji's other two main vernacular languages.

There are two major trade shows held annually where products can be promoted – "Showcase", a consumer fair held in Suva that is organized by Communication Fiji's Total Event Company. The hospitality show "HOTEC", targeting hotels and resorts is organized by the Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association.

**Contact:**

The Fiji Times, Fred Wesley, Editor-In-Chief/ Publisher, P.O. Box 1167, Suva,  
Telephone: (679) 3304-111 Fax: (679) 3301-521 Email: timesnews@fijitimes.com.fj,  
Website: [www.fijitimes.com.fj](http://www.fijitimes.com.fj)

Fiji Sun, Peter Lomas, Publisher, Telephone: (679)3307-555, Fax: (679) 3311-455,  
Email: fijijsun@fijisun.com.fj, Website: [www.fijisun.com.fj](http://www.fijisun.com.fj)

Fiji TV, Mr. Tevita Gonelevu, Chief Executive Officer, 20 Gorrie St, Suva, Telephone:  
(679) 3305-100 Fax: (679) 3304-630 Email: info@fijitv.com.fj, Website: [www.fijitv.info](http://www.fijitv.info)

Communications Fiji Ltd, William Parkinson, Managing Director, Telephone: (679) 3314-766 Fax: (679) 3303-748, Email: news@fm96.com.fj, Website: [www.cfl.com](http://www.cfl.com)

Fiji Broadcasting Corporation Ltd, Mr. Riyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Chief Executive, P.O.Box 334, Suva, Telephone: (679) 3314-333 Fax: (679) 3220-990, Website: [www.fbc.com.fj](http://www.fbc.com.fj)

Mai TV Fiji Ltd, Mr. Richard Broadbridge, Chief Executive, P.O.Box 1365, Suva,  
Telephone: (679) 3275-051 Fax: (679)3275-052, Website: [www.tv.com.fj](http://www.tv.com.fj)

**Pricing**

[Return to top](#)

The Fiji Commerce Commission monitors competition in the market and controls the prices of basic goods, which include food items, fuel and hardware products. Prices of products not monitored by the Commerce Commission are determined by the market.

Contact: Commerce Commission, P.O. Box 5031, Raiwaqa, Telephone: (679) 3372-178

Fax: (679) 3372-389, Email: [helpdesk@commcomm.gov.fj](mailto:helpdesk@commcomm.gov.fj)

## **Sales Service/Customer Support**

[Return to top](#)

All businesses operating in Fiji need to provide warranty service, maintenance contracts for parts and supplies, and return policies.

## **Protecting Your Intellectual Property**

[Return to top](#)

The Copyright Act of 1999 protects products from intellectual property infringement, but enforcement is very weak. Trademark and patent laws are outdated. Illegal materials, illegal reproductions of films, sound recordings and computer programs are widely available throughout urban centers in Fiji.

### **Protecting Your Intellectual Property in Fiji:**

Several general principles are important for effective management of intellectual property (“IP”) rights in Fiji. First, it is important to have an overall strategy to protect your IP. Second, IP is protected differently in Fiji than in the U.S. Third, rights must be registered and enforced in Fiji, under local laws. Your U.S. trademark and patent registrations will not protect you in Fiji. There is no such thing as an “international copyright” that will automatically protect an author’s writings throughout the entire world. Protection against unauthorized use in a particular country depends, basically, on the national laws of that country. However, most countries do offer copyright protection to foreign works under certain conditions, and these conditions have been greatly simplified by international copyright treaties and conventions.

Registration of patents and trademarks is on a first-in-time, first-in-right basis, so you should consider applying for trademark and patent protection even before selling your products or services in the Fiji market. It is vital that companies understand that intellectual property is primarily a private right and that the US government generally cannot enforce rights for private individuals in Fiji. It is the responsibility of the rights' holders to register, protect, and enforce their rights where relevant, retaining their own counsel and advisors. Companies may wish to seek advice from local attorneys or IP consultants who are experts in Fiji law. The U.S. Commercial Service can provide a list of local lawyers upon request <http://suva.usembassy.gov/attorneys.html>.

While the U.S. Government stands ready to assist, there is little we can do if the rights holders have not taken these fundamental steps necessary to securing and enforcing their IP in a timely fashion. Moreover, in many countries, rights holders who delay enforcing their rights on a mistaken belief that the USG can provide a political resolution to a legal problem may find that their rights have been eroded or abrogated due to legal doctrines such as statutes of limitations, laches, estoppel, or unreasonable delay in prosecuting a law suit. In no instance should U.S. Government advice be seen as a substitute for the obligation of a rights holder to promptly pursue its case.

It is always advisable to conduct due diligence on potential partners. Negotiate from the position of your partner and give your partner clear incentives to honor the contract. A good partner is an important ally in protecting IP rights. Consider carefully, however, whether to permit your partner to register your IP rights on your behalf. Doing so may create a risk that your partner will list itself as the IP owner and fail to transfer the rights should the partnership end. Keep an eye on your cost structure and reduce the margins (and the incentive) of would-be bad actors. Projects and sales in Fiji require constant attention. Work with legal counsel familiar with Fiji laws to create a solid contract that includes non-compete clauses, and confidentiality/non-disclosure provisions.

It is also recommended that small and medium-size companies understand the importance of working together with trade associations and organizations to support efforts to protect IP and stop counterfeiting. There are a number of these organizations, both Fiji or U.S.-based. These include:

- The U.S. Chamber and local American Chambers of Commerce
- National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
- International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA)
- International Trademark Association (INTA)
- The Coalition Against Counterfeiting and Piracy
- International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition (IACC)
- Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)
- Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)

## IP Resources

A wealth of information on protecting IP is freely available to U.S. rights holders. Some excellent resources for companies regarding intellectual property include the following:

- For information about patent, trademark, or copyright issues -- including enforcement issues in the US and other countries -- call the STOP! Hotline: **1-866-999-HALT** or visit [www.STOPfakes.gov](http://www.STOPfakes.gov).
- For more information about registering trademarks and patents (both in the U.S. as well as in foreign countries), contact the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) at: **1-800-786-9199**, or visit <http://www.uspto.gov/>.
- For more information about registering for copyright protection in the US, contact the US Copyright Office at: **1-202-707-5959**, or visit <http://www.copyright.gov/>.
- For more information about how to evaluate, protect, and enforce intellectual property rights and how these rights may be important for businesses, please visit the "Resources" section of the STOPfakes website at <http://www.stopfakes.gov/resources>.
- For information on obtaining and enforcing intellectual property rights and market-specific IP Toolkits visit: [www.stopfakes.gov/businesss-tools/country-ipr-toolkits](http://www.stopfakes.gov/businesss-tools/country-ipr-toolkits). The toolkits contain detailed information on protecting and enforcing

IP in specific markets and also contains contact information for local IPR offices abroad and U.S. government officials available to assist SMEs.

## **Due Diligence**

[Return to top](#)

Businesses and investors can hire professional accountancy companies to do due diligence and check bona fides of any company with which they plan to work. There are a number of reputable accountancy firms to provide this service.

The services of a credit bureau can also be obtained through the Data Bureau Ltd, which is affiliated with Baycorp Advantage Ltd. Other resources include business organizations such as the Fiji Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Fiji American Chamber of Commerce, and Investment Fiji.

Contact:

Data Bureau Ltd, G.P.O Box 17910, Suva, Telephone: (679) 330-2400 Fax: 330-4430 (679) 3303227, Email: [info@databureau.com.fj](mailto:info@databureau.com.fj),

Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation, Contact: Mr. Nesbitt Hazelman, Chief Executive Officer, Gorrie St., Suva; Telephone: (679) 331-3188; Fax: (679) 3302183; Email: [ceo@fcef.com.fj](mailto:ceo@fcef.com.fj)

Fiji-US Business Council/ American Chamber of Commerce (Amcham), Maxumise Fiji Ltd, Level 4, FNPF Place, 343 Victoria Parade, P. O. Box 12499, Suva, Telephone: (679) 3305510, Email: [secretariat@fijiamcham.com](mailto:secretariat@fijiamcham.com);

Fiji Retailers Association, P.O. Box 598, Suva, Telephone: (679) 330-3366, Fax: (679) 330-2434, Email: [fijilords@gmail.com](mailto:fijilords@gmail.com).

## **Local Professional Services**

[Return to top](#)

The services of a local attorney are required for executing agreements and setting up offices in Fiji. Normally paperwork can be completed quickly and easily. Law firms also advise on the various types of business organizations that can be established, assist in registering firms, and in obtaining permits. Lawyers are needed for registering patents and trademarks and for taking other legal measures to protect products from intellectual property right infringements. Most commercial and civil law is based on the British system. A list of practicing Fijian accountants can be found on the Fiji Institute of Accountants website.

## **Web Resources**

[Return to top](#)

Fiji/US Business Council (Amcham affiliate), <http://www.fijiamcham.com/>

Fiji Institute of Accountants, [http:// www.fia.org.fj](http://www.fia.org.fj)

Fiji Times, <http://www.fijitimes.com.fj>

Fiji Sun, Website: <http://www.fijisun.com.fj>

Fiji Broadcasting Corporation Ltd, <http://www.fbcl.com.fj>

[Return to table of contents](#)

[Return to table of contents](#)

## Chapter 4: Leading Sectors for U.S. Export and Investment

### Commercial Sectors

- [Agro-processing](#)
- [Tourism & Hospitality](#)
- [Power Generation \(Energy\)](#)

## Agro-processing

### Overview

[Return to top](#)

Unit: Tonnes

Domestic Production	2009	2010	2011	2012
Papaya	2,446	2190	3,065	3,371
Ginger	2,787	2,338	2,575	2,833
Cassava	42,332	51,690	69,910	76,901
Dalo	69,863	60,283	67,179	73,897
Rice	1,637	7,684	7,914	8,706
Beef	1,719	1,761	2,197	2,306.9
Dairy	11,070	10,200	9,600	10,100
Exchange Rate: 1 USD=1.8FJD				

(source: Fiji Budget 2014)

The agriculture sector contributes around 10 percent of GDP. Sugar remains a significant industry employing an estimated 200,000. Agro-based exports account for approximately 18 percent of Fiji's total exports, including sugar, lumber, molasses, and coconut oil. Other agricultural exports include ginger, kava, papayas, and fresh vegetables. While most fruit and vegetables are sold fresh, there are a few establishments engaged in processing of local fruits and vegetables, mainly for the domestic market, and in producing fruit juice concentrates (pineapple, orange, guava, mango, passion fruit, and other citrus fruit juices).

To encourage investment in agriculture and agro-processing, the government's tax incentives include a 10-year tax exemption for any new businesses established before 31 December 2014 and with a capital investment of F\$2 million or more. Small and micro-enterprises with maximum turnover threshold of F\$500,000 in selected sectors are also tax exempted. The importation of all agricultural items for commercial agriculture and agro-processing establishments is subject to zero duty. In its 2014 Budget, the government introduced a fertilizer subsidy for non-sugar farmers.

### Sub-Sector Best Prospects

[Return to top](#)

Despite the slow development of the agro-processing sector, potential commodities for value-added and niche-market processing include papaya, tomatoes, pineapple, coconut, duruka (*Saccharum edule*), mixed vegetables, guava, mango, and herbal kava products. Potential also exists for snack-food processing of readily available taro, tapioca, breadfruit, and banana. As fruits and vegetables are seasonal crops, processing facilities will need to have flexibility so as to allow processing of all these items, utilizing the same plant throughout the year.

Investment, equipment, and supplies needed to expand and support these industries are

in demand. The sector also faces a number of challenges including natural disasters, inadequate infrastructure and high transportation and input costs.

#### **Web Resources**

[Return to top](#)

Investment Fiji: <http://www.investmentfiji.org.fj>

Ministry of Primary Industries: <http://www.agriculture.org.fj>



## Tourism & Hospitality

### Overview

[Return to top](#)

Unit: FJD

	2012	2013	2014 (estimated)	2015 (estimated)
Total Visitor Arrivals	660,590	657,706	694,016	714,837
Average Length of Stay (days)	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6
Earnings from Tourism (\$ million)	1,300.00	1,322.2	1,349.3	1,376.9
Exchange Rate: 1 USD=1.8FJD				

Tourism remains Fiji's fastest growing industry and is the largest foreign exchange earner. Industry earnings in 2013 are expected to exceed the combined revenues of the country's top five merchandise exports (water, gold, sugar, fish, and garments). The industry employs an estimated 40,000 people, directly and indirectly. Gross earnings from tourism in 2013 is expected to total US\$718.1 million (F\$1.32 billion). Visitor arrivals in 2013 totaled 657,706, with increases noted from Fiji's largest source market Australia and in the business/conference segment of travelers.

Major tourism projects in various stages of construction include the Grand Pacific Hotel, Peppers Naisoso Apartments, and Shangri La.

### Sub-Sector Best Prospects

[Return to top](#)

The hotel and hospitality industry requires a large variety of products, such as the following:

- Food – dairy products, fruit, vegetables, beverages, condiments
- Building materials
- Furnishings (drapes, carpet, linens)
- Kitchen equipment
- Furniture and appliances
- Sporting equipment
- Toiletries
- Wireless technology & IT related to hotel and guest services

While government is encouraging dependable local production for tourist and up-market consumption to reduce reliance on imports, developing local capacities will take time.

### Web Resources

[Return to top](#)

Tourism Fiji: <http://www.fijime.com/>

Fiji Islands Hotel & Tourism Association: <http://www.fihta.com.fj>

Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Trade & Communications:  
<http://www.tourism.gov.fj/general/default.htm>

south-pacific.travel: <http://www.spto.org>

## Power Generation (Energy)

### Overview

[Return to top](#)

Unit: USD thousands

	2012	2013 (forecast)	2014 (forecast)	2015 (forecast)
Import – Mineral Fuels	1,213.8	1,171.8	1,207.0	1,243.2
Percentage of Total Imports (%)	30.09%	21.26%	26.36%	26.3%
Exchange Rate: 1 USD = 1.8FJD				

(source: Fiji Budget 2014)

The country's energy needs are met from a variety of sources, including hydro and diesel generation, wood, coal, and petroleum products. According to the Fiji Electricity Authority's (FEA) 2012 annual report, the average power generation mix for 2012 was 63.6% hydro, 33% diesel and heavy fuel oil, 1% wind with the remaining 2.4% provided by the Independent Power Producers (IPPs), namely Tropik Wood Industries Limited (TWIL) and Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC). FEA replaced the short fall in the annual deemed supply from TWIL by burning expensive thermal fuel. In comparison, 55% was generated from hydro in 2011, 40% from diesel and heavy fuel oil, 1% from wind with the remaining 4% from TWIL and FSC. In 2012, the FEA completed and commissioned the Nadarivatu hydro power station on the main island of Viti Levu.

Mineral oil imports in 2012 is estimated to total US\$ 694.1 million (F\$1.1 billion), accounting for 30.6 percent of Fiji's total national import bill. The transport sector is the main consumer of commercial fuel, mostly gas, oil (diesel), and aviation turbine fuel.

With rising fuel costs, Fiji continues to seek alternative energy sources to supplement its heavy dependence on imported fuel with a targeted goal by 2015 to be 90 percent reliant on renewable energy. The average electricity mix generated by the FEA in 2011 was 57% hydro, 42% diesel and heavy fuel oil, 1% wind, with the other 4% provided by independent power producers. Fiji Energy authority is projecting an average electricity mix in 2015 of 59% hydro, 10% diesel, 1% wind, and 10% biomass, and 20% by the independent power producers. The government is offering 10-year tax holidays to promote the use and production of bio-fuel and more energy efficient technology.

### Sub-Sector Best Prospects

[Return to top](#)

Given Fiji's heavy reliance on diesel fuel, Fiji is exploring viable alternative energy sources available locally such as hydro, solar, wind and wave energy generation, and hybrids. The use of renewable energy sources is strongly encouraged by government. Government is actively seeking partners in the energy sector, as Fiji explores ways to increase its generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure, both to its urban centers and to rural users. The FEA supplies power to 72 percent of Fiji's population. To electrify isolated villages in rural areas, independent stations are planned. Potential suppliers must work with Fiji government authorities on these projects. The presence of

small, isolated population centers on Fiji's smaller islands presents a potentially good market for tailored diesel-powered generation solutions. For rural communities, the government will facilitate the sustainable production and management of solar power and non-grid electrification systems, such as the further development of solar home systems (SHS), solar power water supply systems, solar systems for schools and clinics, and solar water heating systems for homes and institutions.

## Web Resources

[Return to top](#)

Fiji Department of Energy: <http://www.fdoe.gov.fj/>

Fiji Electricity Authority: <http://www.fea.com.fj/>

Pacific Power Association: [http://www.ppa.org.fj](http://www.ppa.org.fj/)

Secretariat of the Pacific Community: <http://www.spc.int>

[Return to table of contents](#)

## Chapter 5: Trade Regulations, Customs and Standards

- [Import Tariffs](#)
- [Trade Barriers](#)
- [Import Requirements and Documentation](#)
- [U.S. Export Controls](#)
- [Temporary Entry](#)
- [Labeling and Marking Requirements](#)
- [Prohibited and Restricted Imports](#)
- [Customs Regulations and Contact Information](#)
- [Standards](#)
- [Trade Agreements](#)
- [Web Resources](#)

### Import Tariffs

[Return to top](#)

Import duties for goods range from 0 to 32 percent. Tariffs rates are, broadly, as follows:

0 percent	Raw materials, pharmaceutical products;
5 percent	Production items and capital goods;
15 percent	Intermediate goods (including most luxury items); and
32 percent	Specific finished goods and protected items.

A 15 percent Value Added Tax (VAT) is applicable on all imports. Businesses registered under the VAT legislation can claim an input tax credit in relation to VAT paid on their imports.

While Fiji's VAT is generally similar to that found in the EU and New Zealand, there are some differences. It is a single-rate tax. The VAT is imposed on imports of all categories of professional services. The importer of such services is required to pay the required VAT to the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority.

### Trade Barriers

[Return to top](#)

Exporters to Fiji do not require import licenses for most goods. Most imports are subject to duty. Drawback of duty can be claimed for re-exported goods. Quarantine policies for agricultural products sometimes present a trade barrier.

Contact: Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Trade, P.O. Box 2118, Government Buildings, Suva, Telephone:(679) 3305-411, Fax: (679) 3302-617

Director General, Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority, GPO Box 175, Suva, Telephone: (679) 3302-322, Fax: (679) 3305-138, Website: [www.frca.org.fj/customs/](http://www.frca.org.fj/customs/)

## **Import Requirements and Documentation**

[Return to top](#)

The Biosecurity Authority of Fiji must license certain types of agricultural imports, such as rice, dairy, poultry, and meat. The Ministry of Finance issues import licenses for gold and other precious metals. Import licenses for products such as lubricants, transformer and circuit breaker oils, cleansing oils, and hydraulic brake oils are issued by the Ministry of Industry.

## **U.S. Export Controls**

[Return to top](#)

<http://www.bis.doc.gov/>

## **Temporary Entry**

[Return to top](#)

There are arrangements for the temporary import of goods for alteration or repair; of goods for public exhibition, trial or entertainment; of specialized goods and equipment not normally available in Fiji to be used solely in connection with some particular project; and of goods for use by temporary residents. The Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority or a local customs agent needs to be contacted prior to the arrival of such goods.

## **Labeling and Marking Requirements**

[Return to top](#)

For packaged goods, quality certification and weight must be on the label. Labels must also specify the company that produced the goods.

Food items also need to adhere to the Ministry of Health's food safety regulations.

For more information contact: Department of National Trade Measurement and Standards, Ministry of Industry and Trade, P.O. Box 2118, Government Buildings, Suva, Tel: (679) 3305-411, Fax: (679) 3302-617

Ministry of Health – Food Unit, P.O. Box 2223, Government Buildings, Suva, Tel: (679) 3306-177, Fax: (679) 3221-434

## **Prohibited and Restricted Imports**

[Return to top](#)

Prohibited imports include weapons, illegal drugs, and pornography.

Contact: General Manager, Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority, GPO Box 175, Suva, Telephone: (679) 3302-322, Fax: (679) 3305-138, Website: [www.frca.org.fj/customs/](http://www.frca.org.fj/customs/)

## **Customs Regulations and Contact Information**

[Return to top](#)

All imports into Fiji are subject to classification by the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority, and rates of duty vary with the type of goods. Imports are subject to import

duty (Fiscal Duty and VAT), which is levied in accordance with rates outlined in the schedule of customs tariffs. VAT is fixed at 15 percent. Duty at a higher rate is generally levied on automobiles, ready-made garments, tobacco, liquor, beer, and wines.

For customs requirements: General Manager Customs, Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority, P.O. Box 175, Suva, Telephone: (679) 3301-551, fax: (679) 3315-537, Website: [www.frca.org.fj/customs/](http://www.frca.org.fj/customs/)

For standards and quality control: Department of National Trade Measurement and Standards, Ministry of Industry and Trade, P.O. Box 2118, Government Buildings, Suva, Telephone:(679) 3305-411, Fax: (679) 3302-617

For quarantine requirements: Chief Executive - Biosecurity Authority of Fiji, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Telephone: (679) 3384-233, Fax: (679) 3385-048

For general questions on trade regulations, customs and standards: Chief Executive, Investment Fiji, P.O. Box 2303, Government Buildings, Suva, Telephone: (679) 3315-988, Fax: (679) 3301-783, Email: [info@investmentfiji.org.fj](mailto:info@investmentfiji.org.fj). Website: [www.investmentfiji.org.fj](http://www.investmentfiji.org.fj)

## Standards

[Return to top](#)

- [Overview](#)
- [Standards Organizations](#)
- [Conformity Assessment](#)
- [Product Certification](#)
- [Accreditation](#)
- [Publication of Technical Regulations](#)
- [Labeling and Marking](#)
- [Contacts](#)

## Overview

[Return to top](#)

In 1992, the Fiji Trade Standards and Quality Control Office (FTSQCO) was established by the Trade Standards and Quality Control Decree 1992, to ensure that Fiji's products and services standards are aligned to international standards. The FTSQCO is commonly known as the Department of National Trade Measurement and Standards.

The Trade Standards Advisory Council (TSAC) was formed in conjunction with FTSQCO. The role of the TSAC is to consider and recommend to the Minister for Industry and Trade the declaration of Fiji standards specifications, including for processes, practices, quality, composition, labeling, and codes of practices.

## Standards Organizations

[Return to top](#)

The FTSQCO is the only standards-setting organization in Fiji and is a full member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) since January 1, 2006.

### **NIST Notify U.S. Service**

Member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are required under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) to report to the WTO all proposed technical regulations that could affect trade with other Member countries. **Notify U.S.** is a free, web-based e-mail subscription service that offers an opportunity to review and comment on proposed foreign technical regulations that can affect your access to international markets. Register online at Internet URL: <http://www.nist.gov/notifyus/>

### **Conformity Assessment**

[Return to top](#)

At present there are no conformity assessment bodies.

The National Trade Measurement Laboratory is the only national metrology laboratory. However, manufacturers needing products tested send them to accredited laboratories in Australia or New Zealand, or to the University of the South Pacific's Institute of Applied Science (USP/IAS) laboratory, which is ISO 17025 certified.

### **Product Certification**

[Return to top](#)

Products carrying the "Fijian Made" brand are required to obtain a license from the Ministry of Industry and Trade and comply with local product content as in the Industry Emblem Decree and Regulations 2011. The brand categories, aimed at promoting and raising the profile of Fijian made products locally and internationally, include 'Fijian Made', 'Fijian Product', 'Fijian Packed', 'Fijian Crafted', 'Fijian Grown', 'Fijian Assembled', 'Fijian Designed', and 'Fijian Sewn'. According to the Budget 2014 documents, a total of 94 companies and 668 products were certified to carry the Fijian Made logo.

### **Accreditation**

[Return to top](#)

Water bottled in Fiji must be accredited. The Bottled Water Standard requires that facilities bottling water in Fiji provide test results from approved laboratories for accreditation.

### **Publication of Technical Regulations**

[Return to top](#)

There are approximately 60 standards in place, though not all are technical, covering areas such as building and building material, telecommunication cabling, safety footwear, electrical installation, quality management systems, food, fuel, corporate governance, bottled water, and fireworks. However, the



majority of the standards have been adopted from Standards Australia as best practice standards and are voluntary. Two mandatory standards are the Bottled Water Standard Order 2004 and the Fireworks Labeling Standard 2005.

All technical regulations are published in the Fiji Islands Gazette. The Ministry of Industry and Trade have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Standards Australia International. Information on Fiji standards can be found at <http://www.pasc.standards.org.au>.

## **Labeling and Marking**

[Return to top](#)

For packaged goods, quality certification and weight must be on the label. Labels must also specify the company that produced the goods.

## **Contacts**

[Return to top](#)

For more information contact: Department of National Trade Measurement and Standards, Ministry of Industry and Trade, P.O. Box 2118, Government Buildings, Suva, Tel: (679) 3305-411, Fax: (679) 3302-617

## **Trade Agreements**

[Return to top](#)

Fiji manufacturers enjoy preferential access under a number of multilateral and regional trade agreements. The country is also pursuing further bilateral trade agreements where new diplomatic missions have opened in Brazil, Korea, United Arab Emirates, Indonesia and South Africa.

The South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Agreement (SPARTECA) grants preferential access for Pacific island exports into Australia and New Zealand. The SPARTECA TCF scheme in particular, which was extended to the end of 2014, is of great benefit to the garment industry. The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) grants market access to MSG member countries including Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Fiji is a party to the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA). It is presently excluded from participation on the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus negotiations. Fiji signed an interim Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the E.U. on trade in goods in 2007, which secures preferential access to the E.U. market for some Fiji exports (notable exception being sugar). However, the EPA agreement is yet to be ratified.

## **Web Resources**

[Return to top](#)

Investment Fiji, <http://www.investmentfiji.org.fj>

Fiji Government, <http://www.fiji.gov.fj>

Fiji Government, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Co-operation & Civil Aviation,  
<http://www.foreignaffairs.gov.fj>

Fiji Revenue & Customs Authority, <http://www.frca.org.fj>

Ministry of Industry and Trade, <http://www.mit.gov.fj/>

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), <http://www.spc.org.nc>

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, <http://www.forumsec.org.fj>

[Return to table of contents](#)

[Return to table of contents](#)

## Chapter 6: Investment Climate

- [Openness to Foreign Investment](#)
- [Conversion and Transfer Policies](#)
- [Expropriation and Compensation](#)
- [Dispute Settlement](#)
- [Performance Requirements and Incentives](#)
- [Right to Private Ownership and Establishment](#)
- [Protection of Property Rights](#)
- [Transparency of Regulatory System](#)
- [Efficient Capital Markets and Portfolio Investment](#)
- [Competition from State Owned Enterprises](#)
- [Corporate Social Responsibility](#)
- [Political Violence](#)
- [Corruption](#)
- [Bilateral Investment Agreements](#)
- [OPIC and Other Investment Insurance Programs](#)
- [Labor](#)
- [Foreign-Trade Zones/Free Ports](#)
- [Foreign Direct Investment Statistics](#)
- [Web Resources](#)

### Openness to Foreign Investment

[Return to top](#)

The Fiji government welcomes foreign investments, assuring investors that Fiji is a safe place to do business. The country has been under a military-led government since then armed forces commander Commodore Josaia Voreqe (Frank) Bainimarama overthrew the elected government in a bloodless coup in 2006. In 2009 the interim government headed by Prime Minister Bainimarama abrogated the existing constitution, imposed a state of emergency, and continued its rule by decree. On September 6, 2013 the government promulgated a new constitution. National elections, as announced by the Prime Minister during his budget address in November 2013, are expected to take place in September 2014. In light of political events in Fiji and concerns about the treatment of some established foreign investors by Fiji authorities, potential investors should exercise considerable caution.

Although Fiji has a tradition of a strong judiciary where contractual rights are generally upheld, the independence of the judiciary has come into question under the post-coup government, raising concerns about due process of law. Furthermore, all cases challenging the actions of the interim government since December 2006, its decrees, and the coup itself were dissolved by decree. This prohibits the judiciary from hearing challenges to the actions of the government since April 2009, such as the 2006 coup and the abrogation of the constitution in April 2009.

The Fiji government expects a three percent growth in the economy in 2014, following a strong performance of 3.6 percent in 2013. A number of large construction projects, boosting employment and economic activity, and rising private sector investments are expected to support growth in 2014. According to the latest figures available, estimated earnings from tourism, Fiji's largest foreign exchange earner, in 2013 is expected to reach US\$718 million (F\$1.322 billion) and visitor arrivals reaching about 673, 802. Sugar remains of national importance although production is below its peak performance. The government reforms to improve quality, farm productivity, and mill efficiency helped increase production in 2013 by about 16.2 percent. U.S. exports increased by 20.5 percent in 2013 and two-way trade with Fiji totaled about US\$241 million (F\$443.8 million).

All businesses with a foreign-investment component in their ownership are required to register and obtain a Foreign Investment Registration Certificate (FIRC) from Investment Fiji. Investment Fiji is responsible for the promotion, regulation, and control of foreign investment in the interest of national development. The government is developing an Investment Approval Tracking System (IATS) to enable online applications of an FIRC and payment of the requisite application fee of US\$1,571 (F\$2,875). Investors are also required to obtain the necessary permits and licenses from other relevant authorities and should be prepared for delays.

A number of investment activities are reserved for Fiji nationals or subject to restrictions. Full listings of reserved and restricted areas can be found at: <http://www.investmentfiji.org.fj/pages.cfm/for-investors/doing-business-in-fiji/foreign-investment-act-foreign-investment-regulations.html>. In 2013, the government removed the minimum investment threshold of about US\$135,000 (F\$250,000) for foreign investments. It also amended the foreign investment law allowing the government to forfeit assets, interests, shares or properties of foreign investors who do not comply with FIRC conditions thus leading to a cancellation of its FIRC.

Industry-specific tax incentives are available to both local and foreign investors to stimulate growth in agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, information communication technology, and audio-visual activities. The government has also declared a number of areas around the country as tax-free regions for approved businesses.

Private sector investment rose to 13.2 percent of GDP in 2013 from 10.3 percent in 2012. Interest in foreign investment also picked up with Investment Fiji registering a total of 192 new investment applications, valued at US\$544 million (F\$1 billion), in the first nine months of 2013. This represents a 96 percent increase in the number of applications compared to the same period in 2012. According to the latest figures available, total investment in 2013 is expected to be at 28.2 percent of GDP.

TABLE 1: The following chart summarizes several well-regarded indices and rankings.

<b>Measure</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Rank or value</b>	<b>Website Address</b>
Heritage Foundation's Economic Freedom index	2014	58.9 (99 of 178)	<a href="http://www.heritage.org/index/ranking">http://www.heritage.org/index/ranking</a>

World Bank's Doing Business Report "Ease of Doing Business"	2013	62 of 189	<a href="http://doingbusiness.org/rankings">http://doingbusiness.org/rankings</a>
Global Innovation Index	2013	30.46 (97 of 142)	<a href="http://www.globalinnovationindex.org/content.aspx?page=gii-full-report-2013#pdfopener">http://www.globalinnovationindex.org/content.aspx?page=gii-full-report-2013#pdfopener</a>
World Bank GNI per capita	2012	US\$4,110.00	<a href="http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GNP.PCAP.CD">http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GNP.PCAP.CD</a>

### Conversion and Transfer Policies

[Return to top](#)

The Reserve Bank of Fiji (RBF) relaxed a number of foreign exchange controls, increasing delegated limits for commercial banks and authorized foreign exchange dealers to process some payments in 2014. Profit and dividend remittances above US\$500 thousand (F\$1 million) per company per annum and large payments still require RBF approval. Tax compliance may restrict foreign investors' repatriation of investment profits and capital. Provided all required documentation was submitted, the processing time for remittance applications is approximately three working days. Remittance through parallel markets requires prior approval by the Reserve Bank.

The Fiji dollar remains fully convertible. The Reserve Bank of Fiji has not removed its suspension of offshore investments by non-bank financial institutions and companies. Although no limits were placed on non-residents borrowing locally for some specified investment activities, the RBF placed a credit ceiling on lending by commercial banks to non-resident controlled business entities.

### Expropriation and Compensation

[Return to top](#)

Expropriation has not historically been a common phenomenon in Fiji. The foreign investor theoretically has the same right of recourse to the courts and other tribunals of Fiji in respect of the settlement of disputes as a Fijian enterprise. In practice the government has acted to assert its interests by decrees affecting foreign investors.

In 2013, the government amended the Foreign Investment Decree with provisions that permit the forfeiture of foreign investments and significant fines for breaches in compliance of foreign investment registration conditions.

In 2010, through the Natadola Development Decree, the foreign investment certificate of the project developers was cancelled, and its shares in the project forfeited. The government's 2010 Media decree, which limits foreign ownership of media organizations to 10 percent, forced the sale of Australia-based News Limited's controlling stake in the country's oldest and main daily newspaper, the Fiji Times in 2010. Also, in the same year, a director of a major US investor, FIJI Water, was deported, and the same company singularly targeted with an increased export tax, from 0.33 of a cent per liter of water to 15 cents (US 8 cents) per liter of water.

The 2010 Natadola and Momi Bay Decrees effectively forced the takeover of private assets, extinguished creditors' claims, and excluded the jurisdiction of the courts from the transfer of properties in dispute to the Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF). This action left no recourse for foreign investors who had filed legal challenges, as those challenges were terminated from the court process by the Natadola and Momi decrees. Further taxes imposed on Fiji Water and other water companies cannot be challenged in the courts, and the decisions of Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA) in this respect are also outside the purview of the courts, by government decree.

## **Dispute Settlement**

[Return to top](#)

The legal system in Fiji developed from British law. Fiji maintains a judiciary consisting of a Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, a High Court, and magistrate courts. The Supreme Court is the final court of appeal.

In April 2009, upon the abrogation of the constitution, the entire judiciary and the Director of Public Prosecutions were dismissed and had to reapply for their jobs, with legal officials considered friendly to the coup regime being re-appointed. To fill vacancies in the judicial system, Fiji has recruited prosecutors and judges on contract mainly from Sri Lanka.

Both companies and individuals have recourse to legal treatment through the system of local and superior courts. Laws govern all aspects of commercial transactions, including bankruptcy law, and the courts have generally enforced these laws in a transparent and consistent manner. A foreign investor theoretically has the right of recourse to the courts and other tribunals of Fiji with respect to the settlement of disputes, but government decrees have been used to block foreign investors from legal recourse in investment takeovers, tax increases, or write-offs of interest to the government.

Past investment disputes have often focused on land issues, particularly in the mining and tourism sectors. Such disputes have been resolved through labor-management dialogue, government intervention, referral to compulsory arbitration, or through the courts. Fiji is a party to the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes Between States and Nationals of Other States.

The World Bank Doing Business 2014 survey, ranked Fiji 63 out of 189 on the efficiency of the judicial system to resolve a commercial dispute. According to the survey, Fiji required 34 procedures to enforce a contract, took 397 calendar days to complete procedures at a cost of 38.9 percent of the value of the claim. In terms of resolving insolvency, Fiji was ranked at 50 in the survey, which estimated 1.8 years at a cost of 10 percent of the estate to complete the process, with an estimated recovery rate of 45.6 cents on the dollar.

## **Performance Requirements and Incentives**

[Return to top](#)

To support the implementation of newly approved investments, Investment Fiji established a monitoring system to assist companies in obtaining necessary approvals

to commence operations. The investing firm must ensure that commercial production begins within 12 months for investments below US\$1.25 million (F\$2.5 million) or within 18 months of the date of approval of the project for investments above US\$1.25 million (F\$2.5 million).

Foreign investors can apply for incentives following registration with Investment Fiji. Information on incentive packages for investors can be obtained from the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (<http://www.frca.org.fj/>). Incentives offered include preferential tax treatment and duty free or low duty treatment of imported materials and equipment. The incentives reflect the Fiji government's long-term concerted efforts to encourage exports and develop priority sectors, including tourism, commercial agriculture, fisheries, forestry, the filmmaking and audio visual industry, and the information technology industry. Fiji also established a tax free region in the northern and maritime island regions of the country to encourage rural development and introduced incentives to encourage investment in bio-fuel and renewable energy.

Tourism incentives include tax-related investment allowances on approved expenditures on tourist boats/ships and approved building and expansion projects. The tourism incentive package for approved large tourism development projects with capital investments of more than US\$3.8 million (F\$7 million) and completed before December 31, 2018, may qualify for a 10-year tax holiday. Filmmaking and audio-visual incentives include a 47 percent tax rebate on production costs spent in Fiji. Incentives to encourage investment in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry industry include zero-rated fiscal duty on imported agricultural machineries, equipment and inputs and specialized equipment and machinery for forestry and fisheries, and a 10-year tax holiday for commercial agricultural enterprises. The tax-holiday incentives have a minimum investment threshold requirement, although the threshold differs for various industries.

The Ministry for Industry, Tourism, Trade and Communication and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Civil Aviation control import and export policy. Commercial import policy includes consideration of tariff measures, import restrictions, quota arrangements, and other policies designed to assist development of local industries.

Most imports are subject to import duty, which is levied at various rates and duties may be waived or reduced upon eligibility for investment incentives. Approved ICT businesses for example, are eligible for free fiscal duty and import excise on imports of computers, computer parts and accessories, specialized plant equipment, fittings, and furniture. Most goods may be imported without an import license. However, there are restrictions on the import of a number of products to protect local industries or biosecurity concerns. The restrictions are absolute for some products, while others may be imported subject to conditions imposed by statute or under license from the Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Primary Industries, or other relevant ministries or departments. Quotas may be placed on imports of particular products, such as motor vehicles.

## **Right to Private Ownership and Establishment**

[Return to top](#)

Foreign and domestic entities are able to establish and fully own their business in Fiji. However, foreign investment may be restricted in industries such as fisheries that

require local partnership (see restricted investment activities <http://www.investmentfiji.org.fj/pages.cfm/for-investors/doing-business-in-fiji/foreign-investment-act-foreign-investment-regulations.html>). Foreign investors typically operate through a branch or a local subsidiary in Fiji. Formation of both public and private companies is possible, the process takes about a month to complete. The South Pacific Stock Exchange and authorized banks in Fiji are allowed to approve investments by non-resident individuals and businesses in publicly listed companies and in fixed deposit accounts. A public company must have a minimum of seven shareholders, with no maximum; a private company must have a minimum of two shareholders and a maximum of 50. There are no nationality or residence restrictions on shareholders, but applications for the issue of new or additional shares for increased capitalization should be submitted to the Reserve Bank of Fiji for processing before share certificates may be issued to non-residents.

## **Protection of Property Rights**

[Return to top](#)

Land tenure and usage is a highly complex and sensitive issue. Foreign investors can acquire real estate but the purchase of properties larger than one acre requires approval by the Minister of Lands. Only a small percentage of land is available for purchase. According to the World Bank's Doing Business Report, Fiji fell in rankings relating to 'Registering Property' from 57 in 2013 to 63 in 2014. It took a total of 75 days to register property and four main processes, including conducting title searches at the Titles Office, presenting transfer documents for stamping at the Stamp Duty office, obtaining tax clearance on capital gains tax, and settlement at the Registrar of Titles Office.

Ethnic Fijians communally held approximately 87 percent of all land. Crown land owned by the government account for four percent, while the remainder was freehold land, which private individuals or companies held. All indigenous land, commonly referred to as iTaukei land, is held in a statutory trust by the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) for the benefit of indigenous landholding units.

To improve access to land, the government established a "land bank" in the Ministry of Lands under the land use decree for the purpose of leasing land from indigenous landowning units through the TLTB and subleasing the land to individual tenants for lease periods of up to 99 years. As of October 2013, 6,312 hectares of land had registered with the Land Bank. The Land Bank, however, began leasing land directly to tenants, without TLTB involvement and sometimes with undue pressure on landowners to "deposit" their land in the land bank. In 2011 revisions to the formula for distributing lease proceeds to indigenous landowners abolished the system of chiefly privilege in land lease income distribution and provided for a "one person, one share" system. This change contributed to an increase in lease renewals, as individual members of landowning units received a greater share of lease monies than under the previous system.

The new constitution includes other new provisions protecting land leases and land tenancies, but observers noted that the provisions seemed to have unintended consequences, including weakening the overall legal structure governing leases and other such contracts.



The availability of Crown land for leasing is usually advertised. This does not, however, preclude consideration being given to individual applications in cases where land is required for special purposes. Government leases for industrial purposes can be up to 99 years with rents reassessed every 10 years. TLTB leases for land nearer to urban locations are normally for 50-75 years. Annual rent is reassessed every five years. The maximum rent that can be levied in both cases is six percent of unimproved capital value. Leases also usually carry development conditions that require lessees to effect improvements within a specified time.

Apart from the requirements of the TLTB and Lands Department, town planning, conservation, and other requirements specified by central and local government authorities affect the use of land. Investors are urged to seek local legal advice in all transactions involving land.

Fiji's Copyright Laws are in conformity with World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) provisions. Copyright laws adhere to international laws, and while there are provisions for companies to register a trademark or petition for a patent in Fiji through the Office of the Attorney General, trademark and patent laws are outdated. Furthermore, the enforcement of these laws remains inadequate. There is no protection for designs or trade secrets.

Illegal materials, and illegal reproductions of films, sound recordings, and computer programs are widely available throughout Fiji. In 2013, a local company was reportedly fined for about \$6,500 (F\$12,000) for the illegal sale and reproduction of movies. The government is reviewing trademark and patent laws but capacity is a challenge.

Country Resources for Rights Holders:  
Fiji Intellectual Property Office  
Office of the Attorney General  
Level 7 Suvavou House, Victoria Parade  
P.O. Box 2213 Government Buildings, Suva, FIJI  
Telephone Number: (679) 3309866

American Fiji Chamber of Commerce (AmCham)  
Level 4 FNPF Place  
343 Victoria Parade  
PO Box 12499  
Telephone Number: (+679) 3305510

For additional information about treaty obligations and points of contact at local IP offices, please see WIPO's country profiles at <http://www.wipo.int/directory/en/>.

US Embassy Point of contact: U.S. Embassy Suva Commercial Office  
[commercialsuva@state.gov](mailto:commercialsuva@state.gov)

Link to public list of local attorneys: <http://suva.usembassy.gov/attorneys.html>

Although the government has made some positive efforts, there is a perception among foreign investors of a lack of transparency in government procurement and approval processes. Some foreign investors considering investment in Fiji have encountered lengthy and costly bureaucratic delays, shuffling of permits among government ministries, inconsistent and changing procedures, lack of technical capacity, and slow decision-making. The Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) regulates all food and animal products entering Fiji and has stringent and costly point-of-origin inspection and quarantine requirements upon foreign goods. United States dairy, fresh food, and frozen food exports face severe bureaucratic hurdles entering the Fiji market. The Fijian franchise of Kentucky Fried Chicken closed its Fiji operations in 2011 after costly ingredient point of origin inspection requirements were imposed by BAF. Government claimed the business closed due to poor performance. Investment disputes involving the government have raised serious transparency concerns.

Since the coup, all legislation has been by presidential decree. Fiji's new constitution provides for public access to government information and for the correction or deletion of false or misleading information that affects each person. The constitution requires that a freedom of information law be enacted but does not specify a deadline for parliament to pass such a law.

## **Efficient Capital Markets and Portfolio Investment**

[Return to top](#)

Fiji has a well-developed banking system supervised by the RBF. The RBF regulates the Fiji monetary and banking systems, manages the issuance of currency notes, administers exchange controls, and provides banking and other services to government. In addition, it provides lender-of-last-resort facilities and regulates trading bank liquidity.

There are six trading banks with established operations in Fiji: ANZ Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of South Pacific, Bred Bank, Westpac Banking Corporation and Fiji's newest addition, Home Finance Corporation. Non-banking financial institutions also provide financial assistance and borrowing facilities to the commercial community and to consumers. These institutions include the Fiji Development Bank, Credit Corporation, Merchant Finance, and insurance companies. The banking sector is well capitalized and as of September 2013, total assets of commercial banks amounted to US\$2.87 billion (F\$5.250 billion).

Seventeen companies were listed on the Suva-based South Pacific Stock Exchange (SPSE) in 2013. The capital market is regulated and supervised by the RBF. At the end of 2013, there were no new listings and market capitalization at US\$419 million (F\$768 million) had declined by 5.9 percent. To promote greater activity in the capital market, the government lowered corporate tax rates for listed companies from 18.5 percent to 10 percent and has exempted income earned from trading of shares in the SPSE from income tax and capital gains tax.

The Fiji dollar is pegged to a basket of currencies of Fiji's principal trading partners, chiefly Australia, New Zealand, the United States, the European Union, and Japan.

## **Competition from State Owned Enterprises**

[Return to top](#)

State-owned enterprises (SOEs) in Fiji are concentrated in utilities and key services and industries including Aerospace (Fiji Airways, Airports Fiji Limited); Agribusiness (Fiji Pine Ltd); Energy (Fiji Electricity Authority); Food processing (Fiji Sugar Corporation, Pacific Fishing Company); Information & Communication (Amalgamated Telecom Holdings); and Media (Fiji Broadcasting Corporation Ltd). There are 11 Government Commercial Companies (GCC) which operate commercially and are fully owned by government, six Commercial Statutory Authorities (CSA) which have regulatory functions and charge nominal fees for their services, six Majority Owned Companies (MAC), and one Minority Owned Company (MIC) with some government equity in the company. The SOEs that provide essential utilities, such as energy and water, also have social responsibility and non-commercial obligations.

Aside from the CSA's, SOEs do not exercise delegated governmental powers. In the energy sector, the Fiji Electricity Authority is the generator and distributor of energy as well as the industry regulator. SOEs benefit from economies of scale, and may be favored in certain sectors. The Fiji Broadcasting Company Ltd (FBCL) is exempt from the Media Decree which governs private media organizations and exposes private media to lawsuits and has been designated an essential industry under the Essential National Industries Decree (ENID). In some sectors, the government has pursued a policy of opening up or deregulating various sectors of the economy, even those where an SOE had a monopoly status such as international airline routes. The government will also continue to divest its equity in public assets and is expected to raise an estimated US\$271 million (F\$500 million) in 2014 for its Budget from the sale of its shares in Airports Fiji Ltd, Fiji Ports Authority, and the Government Printers.

SOEs follow a normal corporate structure with board of directors and executive management. All SOEs have boards of directors who are appointed by a cabinet minister. Some SOEs have board seats allocated specifically to the heads of certain government departments. Usually the Permanent Secretary for Finance is a board member. There is no explicit requirement for SOEs to consult government before making policy decisions but officials probably do so under current government scrutiny.

All SOEs are required to publish annual reports, although not all SOEs comply. Fiji hosts domestic and international auditing firms, and Fijian standards are comparable to international financial reporting standards. Although the government requires a rate of return of 10 percent by the SOEs, this is not strictly enforced and generally the performance of most SOEs is poor.

Some SOEs have had difficulty meeting their obligations due to insolvency or inefficiency. In 2011, the South Pacific Stock Exchange delisted the Fiji Sugar Corporation as it no longer met solvency requirements.

There is no Sovereign wealth fund or asset management bureau in Fiji.

## **Corporate Social Responsibility**

[Return to top](#)

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is still a relatively young concept in Fiji, although it is increasingly being promoted, with both multi-national companies and established large local companies practicing CSR through charitable foundations. Major companies' advertising often promotes the company's social benefits or charity sponsorships. There

is no official favoring of CSR-friendly businesses, and consumers tend to seek value for price. The government has included a social responsibility component for SOEs that provide essential utilities.

Public Disclosure: Companies are not required to publicly disclose information on its CSR.

## Political Violence

[Return to top](#)

Fiji has suffered four coups d'état in its history: two in 1987, one in 2000 and one in December 2006. The country has been under a military-led government since armed forces commander Commodore Josaia Voreqe (Frank) Bainimarama overthrew the elected government in a bloodless coup in 2006. In 2009 the interim government headed by Prime Minister Bainimarama abrogated the existing constitution, imposed a state of emergency, and continued its rule by decree. On September 6, 2013 the government promulgated a new constitution. National elections as announced by the Prime Minister during his budget address in November 2013 are expected to take place on September 17, 2014.

The Public Order Act Amendment Decree (POAD) restricts freedoms of speech, assembly, and movement. The POAD, media decree, and other decrees promulgated since the 2006 coup remained in force under the new constitution. Although there were human rights problems in the past year, the possibility of civil disturbances is fairly low.

## Corruption

[Return to top](#)

Corruption, including bribery, raises the costs and risks of doing business. Corruption has a corrosive impact on both market opportunities overseas for U.S. companies and the broader business climate. It also deters international investment, stifles economic growth and development, distorts prices, and undermines the rule of law.

It is important for U.S. companies, irrespective of their size, to assess the business climate in the relevant market in which they will be operating or investing, and to have an effective compliance program or measures to prevent and detect corruption, including foreign bribery. U.S. individuals and firms operating or investing in foreign markets should take the time to become familiar with the relevant anticorruption laws of both the foreign country and the United States in order to properly comply with them, and where appropriate, they should seek the advice of legal counsel.

The U.S. Government seeks to level the global playing field for U.S. businesses by encouraging other countries to take steps to criminalize their own companies' acts of corruption, including bribery of foreign public officials, by requiring them to uphold their obligations under relevant international conventions. A U. S. firm that believes a competitor is seeking to use bribery of a foreign public official to secure a contract should bring this to the attention of appropriate U.S. agencies, as noted below.

**U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act:** In 1977, the United States enacted the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), which makes it unlawful for a U.S. person, and certain

foreign issuers of securities, to make a corrupt payment to foreign public officials for the purpose of obtaining or retaining business for or with, or directing business to, any person. The FCPA also applies to foreign firms and persons who take any act in furtherance of such a corrupt payment while in the United States. For more detailed information on the FCPA, see the FCPA Lay-Person's Guide at:  
<http://www.justice.gov/criminal/fraud/>

**Other Instruments:** It is U.S. Government policy to promote good governance, including host country implementation and enforcement of anti-corruption laws and policies pursuant to their obligations under international agreements. Since enactment of the FCPA, the United States has been instrumental to the expansion of the international framework to fight corruption. Several significant components of this framework are the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions (OECD Antibribery Convention), the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UN Convention), the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (OAS Convention), the Council of Europe Criminal and Civil Law Conventions, and a growing list of U.S. free trade agreements. Fiji acceded to the UN Convention Against Corruption in 2008, but generally all countries prohibit the bribery and solicitation of their public officials.

**OECD Antibribery Convention:** The OECD Antibribery Convention entered into force in February 1999. As of March 2009, there are 38 parties to the Convention including the United States (see <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/59/13/40272933.pdf>). Major exporters China, India, and Russia are not parties, although the U.S. Government strongly endorses their eventual accession to the Convention. The Convention obligates the Parties to criminalize bribery of foreign public officials in the conduct of international business. The United States meets its international obligations under the OECD Antibribery Convention through the U.S. FCPA. Fiji is not a party to the OECD Convention.

**UN Convention:** The UN Anticorruption Convention entered into force on December 14, 2005, and there are 158 parties to it as of November 2011 (see <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/signatories.html>). The UN Convention is the first global comprehensive international anticorruption agreement. The UN Convention requires countries to establish criminal and other offences to cover a wide range of acts of corruption. The UN Convention goes beyond previous anticorruption instruments, covering a broad range of issues ranging from basic forms of corruption such as bribery and solicitation, embezzlement, trading in influence to the concealment and laundering of the proceeds of corruption. The Convention contains transnational business bribery provisions that are functionally similar to those in the OECD Antibribery Convention and contains provisions on private sector auditing and books and records requirements. Other provisions address matters such as prevention, international cooperation, and asset recovery. Fiji acceded to the UN Convention Against Corruption in 2008.

**OAS Convention:** In 1996, the Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) adopted the first international anticorruption legal instrument, the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (OAS Convention), which entered into force in March 1997. The OAS Convention, among other things, establishes a set of preventive measures against corruption, provides for the criminalization of certain acts of corruption, including transnational bribery and illicit enrichment, and contains a series of

provisions to strengthen the cooperation between its States Parties in areas such as mutual legal assistance and technical cooperation. As of December 2009, the OAS Convention has 34 parties (see <http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/Sigs/b-58.html>). Fiji is not a party to the OAS Convention.

**Council of Europe Criminal Law and Civil Law Conventions:** Many European countries are parties to either the Council of Europe (CoE) Criminal Law Convention on Corruption, the Civil Law Convention, or both. The Criminal Law Convention requires criminalization of a wide range of national and transnational conduct, including bribery, money-laundering, and account offenses. It also incorporates provisions on liability of legal persons and witness protection. The Civil Law Convention includes provisions on compensation for damage relating to corrupt acts, whistleblower protection, and validity of contracts, inter alia. The Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) was established in 1999 by the CoE to monitor compliance with these and related anti-corruption standards. Currently, GRECO comprises 49 member States (48 European countries and the United States). As of December 2011, the Criminal Law Convention has 43 parties and the Civil Law Convention has 34 (see [www.coe.int/greco](http://www.coe.int/greco).) Fiji is not a party to the Council of Europe Conventions.

**Free Trade Agreements:** While it is U.S. Government policy to include anticorruption provisions in free trade agreements (FTAs) that it negotiates with its trading partners, the anticorruption provisions have evolved over time. The most recent FTAs negotiated now require trading partners to criminalize “active bribery” of public officials (offering bribes to any public official must be made a criminal offense, both domestically and transnationally) as well as domestic “passive bribery” (solicitation of a bribe by a domestic official). All U.S. FTAs may be found at the U.S. Trade Representative Website: <http://www.ustr.gov/trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements>. Fiji does not have a free trade agreement (FTA) in place with the United States.

**Local Laws:** U.S. firms should familiarize themselves with local anticorruption laws, and, where appropriate, seek legal counsel. While the U.S. Department of Commerce cannot provide legal advice on local laws, the Department’s U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service can provide assistance with navigating the host country’s legal system and obtaining a list of local legal counsel.

**Assistance for U.S. Businesses:** The U.S. Department of Commerce offers several services to aid U.S. businesses seeking to address business-related corruption issues. For example, the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service can provide services that may assist U.S. companies in conducting their due diligence as part of the company’s overarching compliance program when choosing business partners or agents overseas. The U.S. Foreign and Commercial Service can be reached directly through its offices in every major U.S. and foreign city, or through its Website at [www.trade.gov/cs](http://www.trade.gov/cs).

The Departments of Commerce and State provide worldwide support for qualified U.S. companies bidding on foreign government contracts through the Commerce Department’s Advocacy Center and State’s Office of Commercial and Business Affairs. Problems, including alleged corruption by foreign governments or competitors, encountered by U.S. companies in seeking such foreign business opportunities can be brought to the attention of appropriate U.S. government officials, including local embassy personnel and through the Department of Commerce Trade Compliance Center “Report A Trade Barrier” Website at [tcc.export.gov/Report\\_a\\_Barrier/index.asp](http://tcc.export.gov/Report_a_Barrier/index.asp).

**Guidance on the U.S. FCPA:** The Department of Justice's (DOJ) FCPA Opinion Procedure enables U.S. firms and individuals to request a statement of the Justice Department's present enforcement intentions under the anti-bribery provisions of the FCPA regarding any proposed business conduct. The details of the opinion procedure are available on DOJ's Fraud Section Website at [www.justice.gov/criminal/fraud/fcpa](http://www.justice.gov/criminal/fraud/fcpa). Although the Department of Commerce has no enforcement role with respect to the FCPA, it supplies general guidance to U.S. exporters who have questions about the FCPA and about international developments concerning the FCPA. For further information, see the Office of the Chief Counsel for International Counsel, U.S. Department of Commerce, Website, at [http://www.ogc.doc.gov/trans\\_anti\\_bribery.html](http://www.ogc.doc.gov/trans_anti_bribery.html). More general information on the FCPA is available at the Websites listed below.

Exporters and investors should be aware that generally all countries prohibit the bribery of their public officials, and prohibit their officials from soliciting bribes under domestic laws. Most countries are required to criminalize such bribery and other acts of corruption by virtue of being parties to various international conventions discussed above.

*The law provides criminal penalties for corruption by officials, but the government did not implement the law effectively. The government established an independent commission against corruption, the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC), with broad powers of investigation. FICAC's public service announcements encouraging citizens to report corrupt government activities had some effect on systemic corruption.*

*Much government decision making was not transparent due to a self-censoring media and the absence of parliamentary oversight and other checks and balances. Civil servants were under threat of criminal prosecution for disclosing government information without permission. The media published articles on FICAC investigations on abuse of office and anonymous blogs reported on some government corruption. Fiji's relatively small population and limited circles of power often lead to personal relationships playing a major role in business and government decisions.*

*Fiji's new constitution provides for public access to government information and for the correction or deletion of false or misleading information that affects each person. The constitution requires that a freedom of information law be enacted but does not specify a deadline for parliament to pass such a law and there is no sitting parliament at this time. Fiji acceded to the UN Convention Against Corruption in 2008 but is not a party of the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery.*

### **Anti-Corruption Resources**

Some useful resources for individuals and companies regarding combating corruption in global markets include the following:

- Information about the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), including a "Lay-Person's Guide to the FCPA" is available at the U.S. Department of Justice's Website at: <http://www.justice.gov/criminal/fraud/fcpa>.
- Information about the OECD Antibribery Convention including links to national implementing legislation and country monitoring reports is available at:

[http://www.oecd.org/department/0,3355,en\\_2649\\_34859\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/department/0,3355,en_2649_34859_1_1_1_1_1,00.html). See also new Antibribery Recommendation and Good Practice Guidance Annex for companies: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/11/40/44176910.pdf>.

- General information about anticorruption initiatives, such as the OECD Convention and the FCPA, including translations of the statute into several languages, is available at the Department of Commerce Office of the Chief Counsel for International Commerce Website: [http://www.ogc.doc.gov/trans\\_anti\\_bribery.html](http://www.ogc.doc.gov/trans_anti_bribery.html).
- Transparency International (TI) publishes an annual Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). The CPI measures the perceived level of public-sector corruption in 180 countries and territories around the world. The CPI is available at: [http://www.transparency.org/policy\\_research/surveys\\_indices/cpi/2009](http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/cpi/2009). TI also publishes an annual *Global Corruption Report* which provides a systematic evaluation of the state of corruption around the world. It includes an in-depth analysis of a focal theme, a series of country reports that document major corruption related events and developments from all continents and an overview of the latest research findings on anti-corruption diagnostics and tools. See <http://www.transparency.org/publications/gcr>.
- The World Bank Institute publishes Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI). These indicators assess six dimensions of governance in 213 countries, including Voice and Accountability, Political Stability and Absence of Violence, Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality, Rule of Law and Control of Corruption. See <http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.asp>. The World Bank Business Environment and Enterprise Performance Surveys may also be of interest and are available at: <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/BEEPS>.
- The World Economic Forum publishes the *Global Enabling Trade Report*, which presents the rankings of the Enabling Trade Index, and includes an assessment of the transparency of border administration (focused on bribe payments and corruption) and a separate segment on corruption and the regulatory environment. See <http://www.weforum.org/s?s=global+enabling+trade+report>.
- Additional country information related to corruption can be found in the U.S. State Department's annual *Human Rights Report* available at <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/>.
- Global Integrity, a nonprofit organization, publishes its annual *Global Integrity Report*, which provides indicators for 106 countries with respect to governance and anti-corruption. The report highlights the strengths and weaknesses of national level anti-corruption systems. The report is available at: <http://report.globalintegrity.org/>.

## Bilateral Investment Agreements

[Return to top](#)

Fiji has double taxation agreements with Australia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and United Kingdom. The country is also negotiating investment promotion and protection treaties with the United



Kingdom and Malaysia. Fiji has not entered into a bilateral investment treaty or a double taxation agreement with the United States.

## **OPIC and Other Investment Insurance Programs**

[Return to top](#)

The U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) provides investment insurance in Fiji for qualified applicants, including political risk insurance and loans. The risks of currency convertibility are safeguarded under Fiji's foreign-exchange regulations. Fiji is not a member of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency.

## **Labor**

[Return to top](#)

The labor force in 2012 was estimated at 342,173. Education is compulsory until age 17, with male and female students in Fiji achieving largely the same level of education. The labor force participation rate (for population ages 15-64) for men and women were 74 percent and 34 percent respectively. National unemployment stood at around nine percent, although the rates for youth and women were higher at 19.9 percent and 11.8 percent respectively.

Fiji continues to face acute shortages found in a broad range of fields, including the medical, management, engineering, and financial sectors, and to a lesser extent, for competent trade-skilled people in the construction and tourism industries.

The Ministry of Labor, Industrial Relations and Employment has responsibility for the administration of labor laws and the encouragement of good labor relations. The Employment Relations Promulgation (ERP) provides for the rights of workers to join trade unions. Trade unions were independent of the government. The ERP prohibits forced labor, discrimination in employment based on ethnicity, gender, and other prohibited grounds and stipulates equal remuneration for work of equal value. There are workplace safety laws and regulations, and safety standards apply equally to both citizens and foreign workers. However, many work areas did not meet standards and not all were monitored for compliance by the Ministry of Labor. The national minimum wage rate is US\$1 dollar (F\$2 dollars).

In 2011, under the Essential National Industries Decree (ENID), the government restricted trade union and collective bargaining rights for workers in designated industries and corporations deemed "essential" to the national economy. These include 12 corporations in five sectors: finance, telecommunications, forestry, the public sector, and the airline industry.

Fiji has been a member of the International Labor Organization (ILO) since 1974 and has ratified 37 ILO conventions of which 32 are in force and five conventions were denounced.

## **Foreign-Trade Zones/Free Ports**

[Return to top](#)

The northern and selected maritime regions of Fiji have been declared Tax Free Regions (TFR) to encourage development in these isolated outposts. The specific areas include Vanua Levu, Rotuma, Kadavu, Levuka, Lomaiviti, and east of Viti Levu, the Korovou-Tailevu area. Businesses that are established in such a region and meet the prescribed requirements will enjoy a corporate tax holiday up to 13 years and import duty exemption on raw materials, machinery, and equipment.

The Kalabu tax-free zone near the capital, Suva, hosts garment factories with designated tax-free factory status and eligible companies in the information communication technology (ICT) sector.

## Foreign Direct Investment Statistics

[Return to top](#)

TABLE 2: Key Macroeconomic data, FDI in Fiji

Economic Data	Year	Amount	Source of Data
Fiji Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Millions U.S. Dollars)	2012	\$3,907	<a href="http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/pacificislands">http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/pacificislands</a>
Foreign Direct Investment			
FDI, net inflows (BOP, current US\$)	2012	\$267,146,323	<a href="http://data.worldbank.org/country/fiji">http://data.worldbank.org/country/fiji</a>
Total inbound stock of FDI as % host GDP	2012	6.83%	<a href="http://data.worldbank.org/country/fiji">http://data.worldbank.org/country/fiji</a>

According to data provided by Investment Fiji, a total of 192 new investment applications from foreign investors were registered in the first nine months of 2013, a 96 percent increase in the number of applications compared to the same period in 2012. The estimated value of the projected totaled US\$544 million (F\$1 billion). Although registration is a precondition, it does not necessarily mean that actual investment will be made.

## Contact Point at Post

[Return to top](#)

TITLE: U.S. Embassy Suva Commercial Office  
 ADDRESS: 158 Princes Road, Tamavua, P.O. Box 218, Suva, FIJI  
 TELEPHONE: (679) 331 4466  
 EMAIL ADDRESS: [suvacommercial@state.gov](mailto:suvacommercial@state.gov)

[Return to table of contents](#)

[Return to table of contents](#)

## Chapter 7: Trade and Project Financing

- [How Do I Get Paid \(Methods of Payment\)](#)
- [How Does the Banking System Operate](#)
- [Foreign-Exchange Controls](#)
- [U.S. Banks and Local Correspondent Banks](#)
- [Project Financing](#)
- [Web Resources](#)

### How Do I Get Paid (Methods of Payment)

[Return to top](#)

Fiji has a stable financial and banking system, but the international services division of a U.S. or Fiji bank should be consulted for recommendations regarding the best method for a given transaction.

Options for payment include:

- Telegraphic Transfers
- Cash in Advance
- Commercial Bills of Exchange
- An Open Account
- Letters of Credit

A letter of credit is a very secure form of payment and is used frequently for new or unknown clients perceived to offer relatively more risk of nonpayment.

### How Does the Banking System Operate

[Return to top](#)

Fiji has a developed banking system controlled by the Fiji Government through the Reserve Bank of Fiji. The Reserve Bank regulates the Fijian monetary and banking system, manages note issues, administers exchange controls, and provides banking and other services to government. It provides and regulates trading-bank liquidity via the government's monetary policy. In addition to managing the credit environment, the RBF has responsibility for foreign exchange controls and management of Fiji's international reserves position.

There are six commercial banks licensed by the Reserve Bank of Fiji and with established operations in Fiji. The newest entry into the market is the locally-owned Home Finance Corporation Bank, HFC Bank. There are also non-bank financial institutions (NBFI) providing financial assistance and borrowing facilities to the commercial community and to consumers. The non-bank institutions are: the Fiji Development Bank, the Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF), the Housing Authority, the Credit Corporation, the Merchant Finance & Investment Company Ltd., and a number of insurance companies.

The commercial banks are:

- ANZ Banking Group Limited, P.O. Box 179, Suva, Telephone: (679) 3213-000, Fax: (679) 3213-756
- Bank of Baroda, P.O. Box 47, Suva, Telephone: (679) 3311-402, Fax: (679) 3302-510
- Bank of South Pacific (BSP), Private Mail Bag, Suva, Telephone: (679) 3314-400, Fax: (679) 3303-448
- Bred Bank, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Telephone: (679) 3100-222, Fax: (679) 3100-555
- HFC Bank, P.O. Box 161, Suva, Telephone: (679) 331655
- Westpac Banking Corporation, P.O. Box 238, Suva, Telephone: (679) 3300-666 Fax: (679) 3301-838

Principal credit financial institutions are:

- Credit Corporation, Credit House, 10 Gorrie Street, Suva, Telephone: (679) 3305-744, Fax: (679) 3305-747
- Merchant Finance and Investment Co. Ltd, 91 Gordon Street, Suva, Telephone: (679) 3314-955, Fax: (679) 3300-026
- Fiji Development Bank, 369 Victoria Parade, Suva, Telephone: (679) 3314-866, Fax: (679) 3314-886

Services provided by the banks include: lending, overdraft facilities, full-drawn advances, housing loans, leasing finance, personal loans, bankers opinion, credit card facilities, money transfers/remittances, trade finance, trade enquiries, letters of credit, documentary collections, travelers checks, foreign-currency accounts, forward exchange (restricted to trade) and foreign currency loans (residential and trade).

The assets of all commercial banks in Fiji at the end of September 2013 totaled \$2.87 billion (F\$5.250 billion). Fiji's foreign currency exposure policy places limits on banks' net, foreign and open positions, and gross forward, foreign-exchange and sales contracts, in relation to an individual bank's level of capital in Fiji.

## **Foreign-Exchange Controls**

[Return to top](#)

Exchange control is administered by the Reserve Bank of Fiji through the Exchange Control Act and subsidiary legislation.

The following areas are affected by exchange control:

- transactions in foreign currency;
- transfer of currency into and out of Fiji;
- transfer of property and securities out of Fiji;
- export and import transactions; and
- issue of shares/capital in locally registered companies to foreign investors.

Investments from outside Fiji, overseas equity, loan investment into Fiji, and the flow of funds arising from commercial and private transactions into and out of Fiji are subject to exchange controls.

All commercial banks operating in Fiji, along with non-bank financial institutions, act as agents of the Reserve Bank in matters affected by the Exchange Control Act. Limited authority has been delegated to the commercial banks. The Reserve Bank maintains tight exchange controls on non-resident borrowing. The exchange control policy guidelines and delegated limits for authorized dealers can be found on the Reserve Bank of Fiji's website - <http://www.rbf.gov.fj>

## **U.S. Banks and Local Correspondent Banks**

[Return to top](#)

Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ANZ) - with Citibank, New York, for drafts; ANZ Bank, New York, for outward telegraph transfers; and Bank of America, San Francisco, for negotiation of checks.

Bank of Baroda – Bank of Baroda, New York branch: <http://www.bankofbaroda-usa.com/>

BSP Fiji – with Bank of America, San Francisco, CA

Westpac Banking Corporation – with Bank of America, San Francisco, CA

## **Project Financing**

[Return to top](#)

The Reserve Bank of Fiji's exchange control policy guidelines may impact project financing and limit the amount foreign owned companies may borrow from local banks. Local borrowing to non-resident individuals and non-resident controlled companies by commercial banks are subject to a ceiling and debt/equity guidelines by the Reserve Bank.

Multilateral banks such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank, and some bilateral institutions, offer loans for specific government projects.

## **Web Resources**

[Return to top](#)

Export-Import Bank of the United States: <http://www.exim.gov>

Country Limitation Schedule: [http://www.exim.gov/tools/country/country\\_limits.html](http://www.exim.gov/tools/country/country_limits.html)

OPIC: <http://www.opic.gov>

Trade and Development Agency: <http://www.tda.gov/>

SBA's Office of International Trade: <http://www.sba.gov/oit/>

USDA Commodity Credit Corporation: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/cc/default.htm>

U.S. Agency for International Development: <http://www.usaid.gov>

The Australian and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ANZ): <http://www.anz.com/fiji/>

Bank of Baroda: <http://www.bankofbaroda-fiji.com>

Bank of the South Pacific: <http://www.bsp.com.fj/>

Bred Bank (Fiji): <http://www.bred.com.fj/>

HFC Bank: <http://www.hfc.com.fj>

Westpac Banking Corporation: [http:// www.westpac.com.fj](http://www.westpac.com.fj)

Credit Corporation, <http://www.creditcorporation.com.pg/fiji.htm>

Fiji Development Bank, <http://www.fdb.com.fj>

Reserve Bank of Fiji: <http://www.rbf.gov.fj>

[Return to table of contents](#)

[Return to table of contents](#)

## Chapter 8: Business Travel

- [Business Customs](#)
- [Travel Advisory](#)
- [Visa Requirements](#)
- [Telecommunications](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Language](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Local Time, Business Hours and Holidays](#)
- [Temporary Entry of Materials and Personal Belongings](#)
- [Web Resources](#)

### Business Customs

[Return to top](#)

Although Fiji has a unique local culture, there are no local business customs, beyond the bounds of normal courtesy, which visitors should feel compelled to observe in normal business transactions. Business in Fiji tends to be conducted in a less formal manner than in many other countries. The use of first names is common. Business meetings often begin with small talk and sometimes proceed more slowly than an equivalent meeting in the United States.

It is advisable to reconfirm business appointments and meeting arrangements. However, U.S. business people should not be unduly surprised when kept waiting beyond scheduled times. Business meetings are generally informal. Ties are suitable. In the government and financial sector, men usually wear collared shirts and ties during work hours. However, very casual attire, including shorts, should be avoided. Evening functions are normally informal (colorful Bula/Aloha shirts, or shirt and tie and slacks or dress, or skirt and blouse), unless otherwise specified. Many offices wear Bula/Aloha shirts on Fridays.

Fiji adopts a relatively conservative approach toward Sunday religious observance. Most retail business is closed on Sunday, but basic services are available. There are sizeable minorities of Hindus and Muslims in the population who have special religious observances regarding food and drink.

Fiji uses the metric system of weights and measures. Dates are written in the order: day, month, year: 1 January 2014 or 01/01/14. In writing numbers, commas denote thousands and periods denote fractions as follows: \$1,000.50, as in the United States. Household electrical current is 220 volt, 50 cycle. Special adapter plugs (Australian standard) are required when connecting U.S. appliances to electrical outlets.

### Travel Advisory

[Return to top](#)

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/travel\\_1744.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/travel_1744.html)

## Visa Requirements

[Return to top](#)

A passport valid for at least three months beyond the intended period of stay and a ticket for return or onward travel is required. Entry visas are granted on arrival for a stay of up to four months for U.S. nationals. U.S. business people do not require special visas to visit Fiji. Visas may be extended for up to six months on application to the Department of Immigration in Suva, Lautoka or Nadi. It is necessary to have an onward or return ticket and sufficient funds to cover costs. Those wishing to reside and work in Fiji, even on a temporary basis, require proper authority to do so before arrival. In most cases, prospective employers will make necessary arrangements to sponsor such people. Visitors who intend to reside or work must make certain they have satisfied immigration requirements.

U.S. Companies that require travel of foreign businesspersons to the United States should be advised that security evaluations are handled via an interagency process. Visa applicants should go to the following links.

State Department Visa Website: <http://travel.state.gov/visa/>

Fiji Embassy in Washington, D.C.: <http://www.fijiembassydc.com/>

State Department Visa Website: <http://travel.state.gov>

U.S. Embassy Suva: [http://suva.usembassy.gov/information\\_for\\_travelers.html](http://suva.usembassy.gov/information_for_travelers.html)

## Telecommunications

[Return to top](#)

Fiji's telecommunication systems are fairly well developed, though costly. Fiji has connectivity via the Southern Cross Cable fiber optic network. The high speed network can deliver a 240Gbps (capacity of submarine cable system) and a direct and secure bandwidth from Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii.

Mobile phones are the most common means of communication. There are three mobile service providers including Vodafone Fiji, Digicel & Inkk Mobile. Vodafone Fiji, the country's first mobile service provider boasts more than 750,000 active subscribers. Mobile phones operate on a 900 MHz frequency and any GSM dual band or tri-band mobile phone will work with Vodafone Fiji.

Internet access is available in most urban centers and can also be accessed casually from internet cafes and business bureaus. There are several Internet service providers (ISP), including Connect, FINTEL's KIDANET, Unwired Fiji Ltd., and mobile service providers Vodafone Fiji and Digicel. While dial-up connections are available in Fiji, there is a greater demand and use of high-speed Broadband, pre-paid Internet access and wireless Internet access.



Telecom Fiji Limited (TFL) is the sole provider of local and national (trunk) telephony services. Its network throughout Fiji and Rotuma consists of 55 telephone exchanges and connects over 101,000 customers in all major towns. The range of products and services offered by TFL include local and national (trunk) telephony services, data services, private leased lines, switched digital data circuits, information processing, maritime telecommunications, and emergency services.

## Transportation

[Return to top](#)

American business travelers to Fiji should not encounter unexpected difficulties and can use normal reservation services for travel and accommodation. Visitors are advised to take into account the requirement to have a valid Fiji visa (obtainable upon arrival), a passport valid for at least three months beyond the intended period of stay, and a ticket for return or onward travel to another country.

Fiji is at the crossroads of the South Pacific, central among the southern Pacific island nations, and a mid-way stop for some flights from Australia and New Zealand to America. On average, there are 27 international flights landing or departing Fiji daily .

Fiji's national carrier, Fiji Airways, flies to six Pacific island nations as well as New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong and the United States. The airline offers code share flights with American Airlines between Fiji and the United States. Other airlines servicing Fiji are Aircalin, Air New Zealand, Air Niugini, Jetstar, Korean Airlines, Our Airline, Pacific Blue, Qantas and Solomon Airlines.

Fiji has two international airports, both on Viti Levu, the largest island. Most overseas flights arrive and depart from Nadi (pronounced Nandi) on Viti Levu's west coast. The other international airport is on the eastern side at Nausori, outside the capital of Suva. A third port on the outer most Northern island of Rotuma was declared an international port of call in 2008.

Fiji Link (previously known as Pacific Sun), a Fiji Airways subsidiary, is Fiji's main domestic airline. Northern Air provide special chartered flights for specific inter-island routes. Rising fuel costs are resulting in increased inter-island fares.

Visitors to Fiji may drive on a valid driver's license from their home country for the same class of vehicle, or a valid international driver's license. Driving is on the left side of the road. The maximum speed limit on the open road is 80 kilometers per hour (50 mph), and 50 kilometers per hour (30 mph) in urban areas. Rental cars are available from internationally known companies at Fiji's gateway airports and in major urban areas.

## Language

[Return to top](#)

Fiji is an English-speaking country, although Fijian and Hindustani are also widely spoken.

## Health

[Return to top](#)

Fiji is free from malaria, yellow fever, and many tropical diseases endemic to tropical countries. Typhoid, dengue fever and leptospirosis have periodically been reported. Fiji has a fairly effective medical system, but emergency care is largely restricted to urban centers. Tap water in Suva, Lautoka and the other major towns has been treated but may not always be safe to drink. Bottled water is readily available. Outside of these urban centers and large resorts, tap water should not be considered potable.

### **Local Time, Business Hours, and Holidays**

[Return to top](#)

Listed below are national holidays and their dates for 2014.

New Year's Day	January 1
Prophet Mohammed's Birthday	January 13
Good Friday	April 18
Easter Monday	April 21
Fiji Day	October 10
Diwali	October 23
Christmas Day	December 25
Boxing Day	December 26

### **Temporary Entry of Materials and Personal Belongings**

[Return to top](#)

Machinery and equipment imported for temporary use and for a specific project in Fiji and then re-exported, may be allowed as "Privileged Goods" on a check-in/check-out basis, without payment of normal duties. Security in the form of a cash or bond must be deposited with the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority at the time of importation. Upon re-exportation of such goods, the cash deposit will be refunded or bond cancelled.

Personal and household effects may be imported free of fiscal/ excise duty, though this is subject to conditions set out by the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority. For the importation of personal motor vehicles, normal duties must be paid.

### **Web Resources**

[Return to top](#)

State Department Visa Website: <http://travel.state.gov>

Centers for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>

Fiji Embassy, Washington DC: <http://www.fijiembassydc.com/>

Fiji Immigration Department, <http://www.immigration.gov.fj>

Tourism Fiji, <http://www.fijime.com/>

Investment Fiji, <http://www.investmentfiji.org.fj>

Fiji Government, <http://www.fiji.gov.fj>

Fiji Government – Immigration Department: <http://www.immigration.gov.fj>

Fiji Revenue & Customs Authority: <http://www.frca.org.fj>

FINTEL/KIDANET: <http://www.kidanet.com.fj/>

Telecom Fiji, <http://www.telecomfiji.com.fj>

Vodafone: <http://www.vodafone.com.fj>

Connect Fiji: <http://www.connect.com.fj>

Digicel Fiji: <http://www.digicelfiji.com>

Unwired Fiji: <http://www.unwired.com.fj>

[Return to table of contents](#)

[Return to table of contents](#)

## Chapter 9: Contacts, Market Research and Trade Events

- [Contacts](#)
- [Market Research](#)
- [Trade Events](#)

### Contacts

[Return to top](#)

The Embassy of the United States of America:

Cyndee Crook, Commercial Officer  
Repeka Ufiamorat, Economic Assistant

158 Princes Road or P.O. Box 218  
Suva, Fiji  
Telephone: (679) 331-4466  
Fax: (679) 330-8685  
Email: [suvacommercial@state.gov](mailto:suvacommercial@state.gov)

Website: <http://suva.usembassy.gov/business.html>

Fiji:

Investment Fiji - <http://www.investmentfiji.org.fj/>

Fijian Government – [www.fiji.gov.fj](http://www.fiji.gov.fj)

Fiji-American Business Council (AmCham) - <http://fijiamcham.com/>

Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) - <http://www.biosecurityfiji.com/>

Ministry of Lands, Mineral Resources & Environment - <http://www.lands.gov.fj>

Reserve Bank of Fiji - <http://www.rbf.gov.fj>

iTaukei Land Trust Board - <http://www.tltb.com.fj/>

Fiji Revenue & Customs Authority - <http://www.frca.org.fj>

Fiji Bureau of Statistics - <http://www.statsfiji.gov.fj>

U.S. Government:

U.S. Embassy Suva, Commercial Services: <http://suva.usembassy.gov/business.html>

U.S. Foreign Commercial Service, Sydney, Australia: <http://export.gov/australia/U.S.>

Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration: <http://trade.gov/>

OPIC [www.opic.gov](http://www.opic.gov)

U.S. Trade & Development Agency: <http://ustda.gov/>

U.S. Food & Drug Administration: <http://www.fda.gov/>

U.S. Foreign Agricultural Service: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/>

USAID Pacific Islands Office, Papua New Guinea: <http://pacificislands.usaid.gov/>

Regional Organizations:

Pacific Islands Trade & Invest -  
<http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/economicgovernance/forum-trade-offices>

Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization (PIPSO) - <http://www.pipso.org/>

UN International Labor Organization - <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/suva/>

Asian Development Bank – South Pacific Subregional Office - <http://www.adb.org/SPSO/>

U.S. Department of State Office of Business Affairs Telephone: (202) 746-1625, Fax: (202) 647-3953

U.S. Department Of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Trade Assistance and Promotion Office, Telephone: (202) 720-7420

Individual U.S. State Trade Offices: check in U.S. local listings or the Internet.

COUNTRY TRADE OR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS IN KEY SECTORS:

Fiji Trade Commission, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 205, Los Angeles, CA 90045, Telephone: (310) 645-2136, Fax: (310) 645-0851, Email: [jsingh@fijitradela.com](mailto:jsingh@fijitradela.com)

Fiji-US Business Council, President, C/- Maxumise Fiji Ltd, Level 4, FNPF Place, 343 Victoria Parade, P. O. Box 12499, Suva; Telephone: (679) 3305510; Email: [secretariat@fijiamcham.com](mailto:secretariat@fijiamcham.com)

Fiji Export Council, Contact: Mr. Jone Cavubati, General Manager, Secretariat, 32 High St., Suva; Telephone: (679) 331-8032; Fax: (679) 331-5575; Email: [info@fijiexportcouncil.com](mailto:info@fijiexportcouncil.com)

Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation, Contact: Mr. Nesbitt Hazelman, Chief Executive Officer, Gorrie St., Suva; Telephone: (679) 331-3188; Fax: (679) 3302183; Email: [ceo@fcef.com.fj](mailto:ceo@fcef.com.fj)

Fiji Grocers Association, Contact: Mr. Sarvendra Dayal, President, P.O. Box 10139, Laucala Beach Estate; Telephone: (679) 3391-155; Fax: (679) 334-0059; Email: [sdayal@connect.com.fj](mailto:sdayal@connect.com.fj)

Fiji Retailers Association, Contact: Mr. Himmat Lodhia, President, P.O. Box 598, Suva; Telephone: (679) 330-2466; Fax: (679) 330-2434; Email: [fijilords@gmail.com](mailto:fijilords@gmail.com)

Suva Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Contact Mr. Peter Mazy, President, P.O. Box 337, Government Building, Suva; Telephone: (679) 331-4044; Fax: (679) 330-2188; Email: [dr\\_nurali@alizpacific.com.fj](mailto:dr_nurali@alizpacific.com.fj), [secretariat@suvachamber.org](mailto:secretariat@suvachamber.org)

#### COUNTRY MARKET RESEARCH FIRMS:

Tebbutt Research Pty. Ltd., P.O. Box 16851, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 331-5555, Fax: (679) 331-4444; Email: [tr@tebbuttresearch.com](mailto:tr@tebbuttresearch.com)

#### COUNTRY COMMERCIAL BANKS:

Australian and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ANZ), ANZ House, 25 Victoria Parade, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 321-3000, Fax: (679) 330-5080, Email: [ebusfj@anz.com](mailto:ebusfj@anz.com)

Bank of Baroda, P.O. Box 47, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 331-1402, Fax: (679) 330-2510, Email: [fiji@bankofbaroda.com](mailto:fiji@bankofbaroda.com)

Bank of the South Pacific (BSP), 98 Renwick Rd, Suva, Private Mail Bag, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 331-4400, Fax: (679) 330-3448

Bred Bank (Fiji), Private Mail Bag, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 310-0222, Fax: (679) 310-0055, Email: [customer.care@bred.com.fj](mailto:customer.care@bred.com.fj)

Home Finance Corporation (HFC), 371 Victoria Parade, P.O.Box 161, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 331-6555, Email: [info@hfc.com.fj](mailto:info@hfc.com.fj)

Westpac Banking Corporation, 1 Thomson St, P.O. Box 238, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 330-0666, Fax: (679) 330-1838, Email: [westpacfiji@westpac.com.au](mailto:westpacfiji@westpac.com.au)

#### MEDIA:

Fiji Television Ltd, 20 Gorrie St., P.O. Box 2442, Govt. Bldgs., Suva  
Telephone: (679) 330-5100, Fax: (679) 330-4630, Email: [info@fijitv.com.fj](mailto:info@fijitv.com.fj)

Mai TV Fiji Ltd, Carpenter Street, Raiwai, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 3275-051, Fax: (679)3275-052, Email: [info@tv.com.fj](mailto:info@tv.com.fj)

Mai Life features magazine, Thurston Street, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 327-5051, <http://mailife.com.fj>

Fiji Times Ltd, 177 Victoria Parade, P.O. Box 1167, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 330-4111, Fax: (679) 330-1521, Email: [timesnews@fijitimes.com.fj](mailto:timesnews@fijitimes.com.fj)

Sun (Fiji) News Ltd, 12 Amra St., Walu Bay, Private Mail Bag, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 330-7555, Fax: (679) 331-1455, Email: [fijisun@fijisun.com.fj](mailto:fijisun@fijisun.com.fj)

Islands Business International Ltd., 46 Gordon St., P.O. Box 12718, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 330-3108, Fax: (679) 330-1423, Email: [editor@ibi.com.fj](mailto:editor@ibi.com.fj)

The Review Ltd, Ellery St., P.O. Box 12095, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 330-0591, Fax: (679) 330-2852, Email: [info@fijilive.com](mailto:info@fijilive.com)

Fiji Broadcasting Corporation Ltd, 69 Gladstone Rd., P.O. Box 334, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 331-4333, Fax: (679) 331-3606, Email: [newsroom@fbcl.com.fj](mailto:newsroom@fbcl.com.fj)

Communications Fiji Ltd, 231 Waimanu Rd., Private Mail Bag, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 331-4766, Fax: (679) 330-3748, Email: [news@fm96.com.fj](mailto:news@fm96.com.fj)

Fiji Media Council, KPMG ANZ House, Victoria Parade, P.O. Box 11852, Suva  
Telephone/Fax: (679) 331-7055, Email: [rjfratt@connect.com.fj](mailto:rjfratt@connect.com.fj)

Pacific Islands News Association (PINA), Level 2, 46 Gordon Street, Damodar Center,  
Private Mail Bag, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 330-3623, Fax: (679) 331-7055, Email [pina@connect.com.fj](mailto:pina@connect.com.fj)

#### STOCK EXCHANGE:

South Pacific Stock Exchange Ltd, 33 Ellery St., P.O. Box 11689, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 330-4130, Fax: (679) 330-4145, Email: [info@spse.com.fj](mailto:info@spse.com.fj)

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS:

Telecom Fiji Ltd, Ganilau House, Edwards St., Private Mail Bag, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 330-4019, Fax: (679) 330-1765, Email: [contact@tfl.com.fj](mailto:contact@tfl.com.fj)

Fiji International Telecommunications Ltd. (FINTEL), 158 Victoria Parade, P.O. Box 51,  
Suva  
Telephone: (679) 331-2933, Fax: (679) 330-0750, Email: [fintel@connect.com.fj](mailto:fintel@connect.com.fj)

Vodafone Fiji Ltd, 168 Princes Rd., Private Mail Bag, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 331-2000, Fax: (679) 331-2007, Email: [info@vodafone.com.fj](mailto:info@vodafone.com.fj)

Digicel Fiji, P.O. Box 13811, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 331-0200, Fax: (679) 331-0201, Email:  
[customercarefiji@digicelgroup.com](mailto:customercarefiji@digicelgroup.com)

Connect, 1 Carpenter St., P.O. Box 13779, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 330-0100, Fax: (679) 330-7237, Email: [info@connect.com.fj](mailto:info@connect.com.fj)

Unwired Fiji Ltd, Kadavu House, Victoria Parade, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 327-5040, Fax: (679) 327-5045, Email: [info@getunwired.com.fj](mailto:info@getunwired.com.fj)

#### CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS:

Fiji Institute of Accountants, 3 Berry Rd., P.O. Box 681, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 330-5807, Fax: (679) 330-5588, Email: [fia@connect.com.fj](mailto:fia@connect.com.fj)

Ernst & Young, 1 Butt St., P.O. Box 1359, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 331-4166, Fax: (679) 330-0612, Email: [ernstyoung@connect.com.fj](mailto:ernstyoung@connect.com.fj)

KPMG, Floor 10, Suva Central Building, Renwick Road, P.O. Box 32, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 330-1155, Fax: (679) 330-1312, Email: [suvaoffice@kpmg.com.fj](mailto:suvaoffice@kpmg.com.fj)

PricewaterhouseCoopers, 8th Floor, Civic Tower, P.O. Box 200, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 331-3955, Fax: (679) 330-0981, Email: [jenny.seeto@fj.pwc.com](mailto:jenny.seeto@fj.pwc.com)

AliZ Pacific, 8th Floor Dominion House, Suva  
Telephone: (679)331-4044, Fax: (679)330-2188, Email: [aliz@alizpacific.com.fj](mailto:aliz@alizpacific.com.fj)

Anthony Ho & Associates, 347 Waimanu Rd., P.O. Box 13725, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 330-1472, Fax: (679) 330-3567, Email: [anthonyho@connect.com.fj](mailto:anthonyho@connect.com.fj)

A. Mishra & Co., 2 Lekutu St, Samabula, P.O. Box 206, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 338-5655, Fax: (679) 338-7344, Email: [amishra@connect.com.fj](mailto:amishra@connect.com.fj)

A. M. Narsey & Co., 63 Marks St., P.O. Box 476, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 331-2695, Fax: (679) 331-2501

Fay Yee & Co, Caines Jannif Building, 1 Victoria Parade, Suva  
Telephone: (679)3317896

G.Lal & Co, Level 10 FNPF Place, 343 Victoria Parade, P.O. Box 855, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 331-4300, Fax: (679) 330-1841, Email: [nalinpatel@glal.com.fj](mailto:nalinpatel@glal.com.fj)  
[glalandco@connect.com.fj](mailto:glalandco@connect.com.fj)

G. H. Whiteside & Co., 211 Ratu Sukuna Rd., P.O. Box 13510, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 330-7220, Fax: (679) 330-0631, Email: [ghwhitesideco@connect.com.fj](mailto:ghwhitesideco@connect.com.fj)

H. N. Pande & Co., 3 Berry Rd.P.O. Box 1283, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 331-1512, Fax: (679) 330-5978, Email: [mohn@connect.com.fj](mailto:mohn@connect.com.fj)

I. Naiveli & Co., Lynica House, 3 Goodenough St., P.O. Box 14014, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 330-5395, Fax: (679) 330-5395, Email: [inaiveli@connect.com.fj](mailto:inaiveli@connect.com.fj)

Nandha & Co., Main St., P.O. Box 249, Nadi  
Telephone: (679) 670-0137, Fax: (679) 670-2055, Email: [ck@nandha.com](mailto:ck@nandha.com)

Neil Underhill & Associates, Lot 25 Wailada Lami, P.O. Box 1327, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 336-3968, Fax: (679) 336-3948, Email: [mail@nua.com.fj](mailto:mail@nua.com.fj)

Shyam Narain & Co., 98 Renwick Rd., Suva, P.O. Box 12676, Suva  
Telephone: (679) 330-3188, Fax: (679) 330-3824, Email: [shyamnarain@connect.com.fj](mailto:shyamnarain@connect.com.fj)

HLB Crosbie & Associates, Top Floor, HLB House, 3 Cruikshank Road, Nadi Airport,  
P.O. Box 1474, Nadi



Telephone: (679) 670-2430, Fax: (679) 670-2102, Email: [william.crosbie@hlbnadi.com.fj](mailto:william.crosbie@hlbnadi.com.fj)

Ramani & Co., 95 Sagayam Rd., P.O. Box 270, Nadi

Telephone: (679) 670-1704, Fax: (679) 670-2051, Email: [ramani@connect.com.fj](mailto:ramani@connect.com.fj)

## **Market Research**

[Return to top](#)

To view market research reports produced by the U.S. Commercial Service please go to the following website: <http://www.export.gov/mrktresearch/index.asp> and click on Country and Industry Market Reports.

Please note that these reports are only available to U.S. citizens and U.S. companies. Registration to the site is required, and is free.

## **Trade Events**

[Return to top](#)

Please click on the link below for information on upcoming trade events.

<http://www.export.gov/tradeevents/index.asp>

[Return to table of contents](#)

[Return to table of contents](#)

## Chapter 10: Guide to Our Services

The President's National Export Initiative marshals Federal agencies to **prepare U.S. companies to export successfully, connect them with trade opportunities** and **support them once they do have exporting opportunities**.

The U.S. Commercial Service offers customized solutions to help U.S. exporters, particularly small and medium sized businesses, successfully expand exports to new markets. Our global network of trade specialists will work one-on-one with you through every step of the exporting process, helping you to:

- Target the best markets with our world-class research
- Promote your products and services to qualified buyers
- Meet the best distributors and agents for your products and services
- Overcome potential challenges or trade barriers
- Gain access to the full range of U.S. government trade promotion agencies and their services, including export training and potential trade financing sources

To learn more about the Federal Government's trade promotion resources for new and experienced exporters, please click on the following link: [www.export.gov](http://www.export.gov)

For more information on the services the U.S. Commercial Service offers to U.S. exporters, please click on the following link: [www.export.gov](http://www.export.gov)

U.S. exporters seeking general export information/assistance or country-specific commercial information can also contact the **U.S. Department of Commerce's Trade Information Center** at **(800) USA-TRAD(E)**.

To the best of our knowledge, the information contained in this report is accurate as of the date published. However, **The Department of Commerce** does not take responsibility for actions readers may take based on the information contained herein. Readers should always conduct their own due diligence before entering into business ventures or other commercial arrangements. **The Department of Commerce** can assist companies in these endeavors.

[Return to table of contents](#)