

Key Performance Indicators

INDICATOR	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Tourism earnings as % of Nominal GDP (SDG 8.9)	16.3					20
Tourism foreign earnings (\$)	\$1.6b					\$2.2b
Fiji Airways passenger capacity (000s)	1,972	2,157	2,337	2,578	2,843	3,105
Number of hotel rooms available	10,894					13,576
Hotel receipts	\$893m					\$1.2b
Room occupancy rate (%)	51.9					70
Average length of stay per year (Days)	9.5					10
Direct tourism employment (SDG 8.9)	12,538					16,882
Total tourism employment (SDG 8.9)	108,000 ³⁸					127,479
Number of outlets providing tourism management and hospitality training	7 ³⁹					15
Number of international cruise ships to Fiji (No. of port calls made around Fiji)	115 ⁴⁰					150
Number of Tourism Expos held	1	1	1	1	1	1

38. World Travel and Tourism Council, 2016, Travel and Tourism Economic Impact Analysis - Fiji, London, United Kingdom.

39. Fiji Higher Education Commission

40. South Pacific Tourism Organisation, Pacific Cruise Market Research and Intelligence Project

3.2.17 ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

“Expanding trade base and economic engagement in the global community”

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Fiji is an open economy, where international trade plays an important role. In this regard, Fiji is a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and party to a number of trade agreements such as Pacific Islands Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA), Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Trade Agreement, South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (SPARTECA) and Interim Economic Partnership Agreement (IEPA). Upon the expiration of the South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement-Textiles, Clothing and Footwear Scheme (SPARTECA-TCF) in 2014, Fiji qualified for trade benefits under Australia’s Developing Country (DC) Preferences Scheme.

Under the WTO, Fiji has recently ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, which is expected to increase efficiency and effectiveness of trade facilitation agencies in Fiji.

Fiji will continue to engage with Pacific Agreement

on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus parties and push for commencement of negotiation on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the European Union, which has been suspended for 3 years. Fiji continues its policy to seek beneficial trade and political relationships with new and non-traditional partners and is engaged in discussions with China on a bilateral trade arrangement.

The Interim Economic Partnership Agreement between Fiji/Papua New Guinea and the European Union (EU) will be mirrored with the United Kingdom, in light of Britain’s exit from the EU. Furthermore, discussions will commence on improving the provisions of IEPA for better market access and conditions.

The Fijian Trade Policy Framework guides Fiji’s engagement in future trade agreements to capitalise on Fiji’s position as the hub of the Pacific. The Trade Policy Framework determines how to connect all the dots and addresses our production capacity, and supply-side constraints. It is about all stakeholders working together towards the ultimate goal of increasing exports for Fijian made products and services.

Export development will be supported through raising competitiveness, diversification and value addition under the National Export Strategy (NES) in priority sectors. With the increase in flight connectivity and cargo traffic,

new opportunities for trade between Fiji and Europe, the USA, Singapore, and other Asian countries will be developed.

Trade promotion and facilitation will be pursued through our trade commissions based in key markets, in collaboration with relevant domestic stakeholders. Customs procedures, biosecurity inspections and port services will be further streamlined and improved to reduce red tape.

Tariff policy reviews will be consistent with our economic development aspirations and priorities, taking into account the potential risks to revenue, industrial growth, employment and social conditions and the facilitation of private sector adjustment.

Government will seek to improve Fiji’s trading position and competitiveness through training, research and institution-building and continue to seek access to Aid for Trade from development partners to assist in building trade capacity and infrastructure.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Fiji’s foreign policy is guided by our Constitution to best serve the interests of the people of Fiji, recognising universally accepted principles and rules of international law and treaties to which Fiji is a party.

Pacific regionalism will be promoted and strengthened based on equality and genuine partnership. A level

platform for dialogue and consensus building will be promoted on critical development issues for all Pacific Island countries.

Fiji acknowledges and aims to strengthen regional dialogue and consensus-building through the Pacific Island Development Forum (PIDF). The Forum promotes regional cooperation in pursuit of home-grown solutions to address sustainable development challenges faced by Pacific Small Island States, including the adoption and mainstreaming of the Green Growth Framework for Fiji. Similarly, this commitment will also be pursued through the MSG.

Within the global community, Fiji is a member of the United Nations and its specialised agencies, the International Monetary Fund, World Bank group, the Asian Development Bank, the European Investment Bank and the World Trade Organization. Fiji supports an inclusive and participatory approach to sustainable development and recognises that development partnership and cooperation should be guided by the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Fiji will strengthen its regional standing through South-South Cooperation, as a development partner in the region promoting cooperation to enhance regional integration and active cooperation in addressing common regional issues at both regional and international fora.

Goal, Policies and Strategies

Goal: Expanding trade base and economic engagement in the global community	
POLICIES	STRATEGIES
<p>Improve Fiji’s overall trade performance through a more competitive economy and thereby help establish Fiji as the modern hub of the Pacific.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the engagement of Fiji in multilateral, regional and bilateral trade agreements/arrangements. • Secure and maintain improved market access into the regional and international markets. • Promote and enhance the competitiveness of Fijian products and services in the international market. • Facilitate the efficient flow of trade through compliance with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and successful implementation of single window clearance. • Support the improvement of trade related infrastructure. • Provide trade or market information to traders and the business community. • Create conditions for sustained increase in investment and the increase in total factor productivity. • Assist domestic firms to increase their levels of efficiency and competitiveness. • Stimulate and encourage value-addition activities through research and development. • Strengthen capacities of trade support institutions particularly those directly engaged with trade policy, customs, standards, trade facilitation, competition, consumer protection and provisions of trade –related information.

Programmes and Projects

PROGRAMME	ANNUAL TARGET					TOTAL OUTPUT EXPECTED	LEAD AGENCIES
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022		
Market Access: Alternative markets for sugar	At least 1 new or alternative market for sugar					1 new market for sugar	MoS, MITT
Trade negotiations: Comprehensive EPA, PACER Plus, Melanesian Free Trade Agreement, revision of PICTA trade in goods rules of origin, enhancement of the United States GSP scheme and preferential trade arrangement with China						Finalisation of IEPA with the UK ⁴¹	MITT
Trade Facilitation	Compliance with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.	Coordinated Border Management		Successful implementation of the “single window” clearance system		Successful implementation of the “single window” clearance system and Compliance with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.	MITT, FRCS, BAF
Trade Promotion (trade and investment mission to potential markets each year)	1	1	1	1	1	5	MITT
Establishment of trade commissions	3 (PNG, Australia and New Zealand)					3	MITT
Export Promotion							
National Export Strategy (NES)	10 new companies assisted	10	10	10	10	50 new companies assisted	MITT
Trade Information Portal		Creation of Trade Information Portal				Trade Information Portal by 2019	MITT and FRCS

EPA: Economic Partnership Agreement; MoS: Ministry of Sugar; FRCS: Fiji Revenue & Customs Services; GSP: Generalized System of Preferences; MITT: Ministry of Industry, Trade & Tourism; PACER: Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations; PICTA: Pacific Islands Countries Trade Agreement; WTO: World Trade Organisation; BAF: Biosecurity Authority of Fiji.

Key Performance Indicators

INDICATOR	2015	2021
Reduce cargo and container clearance time	3-5 days	2-3 days
Increase container clearance per hour	10 containers	15-18 containers

41. Negotiations have been suspended by the EU for 3 years.