

# Fiji: An Overview

Jin Wen Lin

## Introduction

Fiji is a tropical island country located in Oceania, the South Pacific Ocean. It is located about two-thirds of the way between Hawaii and New Zealand. In addition, it is made up of over 332 islands, with 110 permanently inhabited. The three islands that are close to Fiji are Vanuatu, Samoa, and Tonga.

## Key Facts

### Government

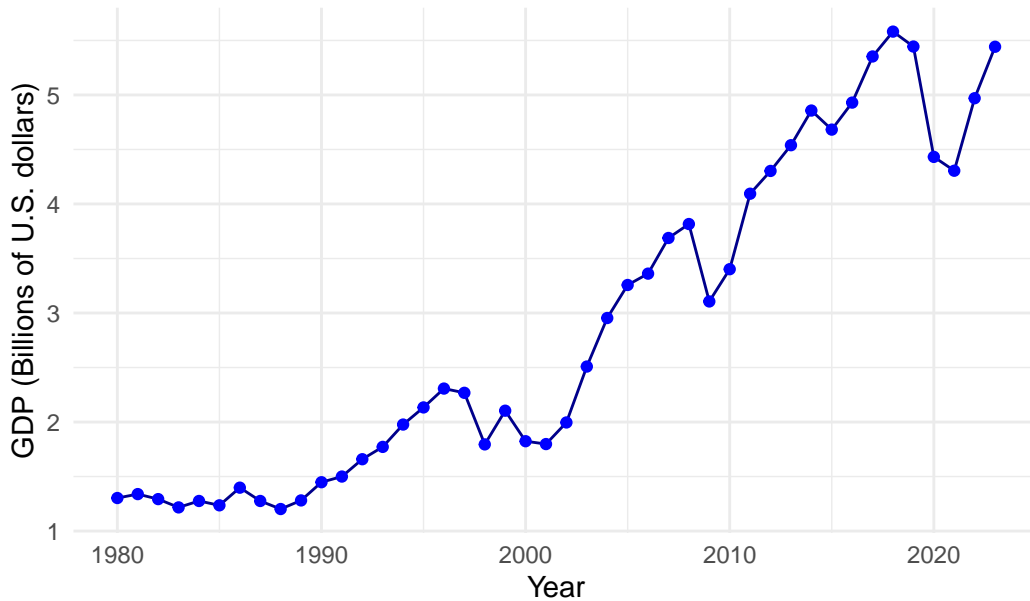
The government of Fiji is a republic with a president as the Chief of State and a prime minister as the Head of the Government. The current president of Fiji is Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, and the prime minister is Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka. Its political system is based on a parliamentary democracy, where members of parliament are elected in order to make decisions on behalf of the people. President is elected by the parliament indirectly and the prime minister is elected by the parliament. The election cycle is 3 years. The highest level of judicial authority in Fiji is the federal supreme court where judges work independently and follow the law in order to make decisions.

### Economy

Fiji is described as one of the most developed countries in the Pacific region. The top industries of Fiji are tourism, sugar, clothing, and copra (where coconut oil is extracted). Fiji's largest trading partners are Australia, United States, and New Zealand, and the exports include beverages, oil and mineral fuels, and seafood. The largest composition of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) is in services, followed by industry, manufacturing and agriculture.

The following graph illustrates Fiji's GDP over the years. This shows how the economic output has changed over time.

GDP of Fiji Over Years

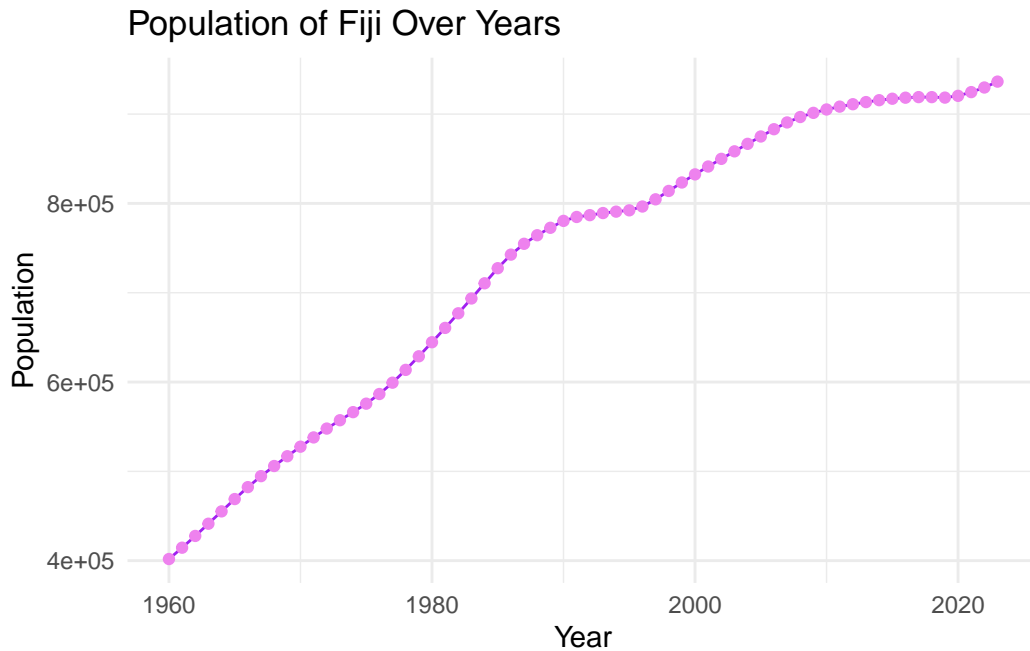


The graph above shows an increasing trend in Fiji's GDP over time. Before the year of 2000, the GDP increases gradually but the GDP starts to rise more sharp after 2000, which indicates a steady economic growth. Additionally, this graph also shows some fluctuations, which may suggests some economic events or challenges that impacted the economic growth. For example, there is a sharp decrease in GDP around the years of 2019 to 2020, which might be impacted by the issue of Covid-19.

## Population

The population in 2024 is approximately 928,784, with the median age of 27.9, which is quite young. Of the population, about 60% of the people live in the urban area of Fiji.

The following graph shows the total population of Fiji over years.

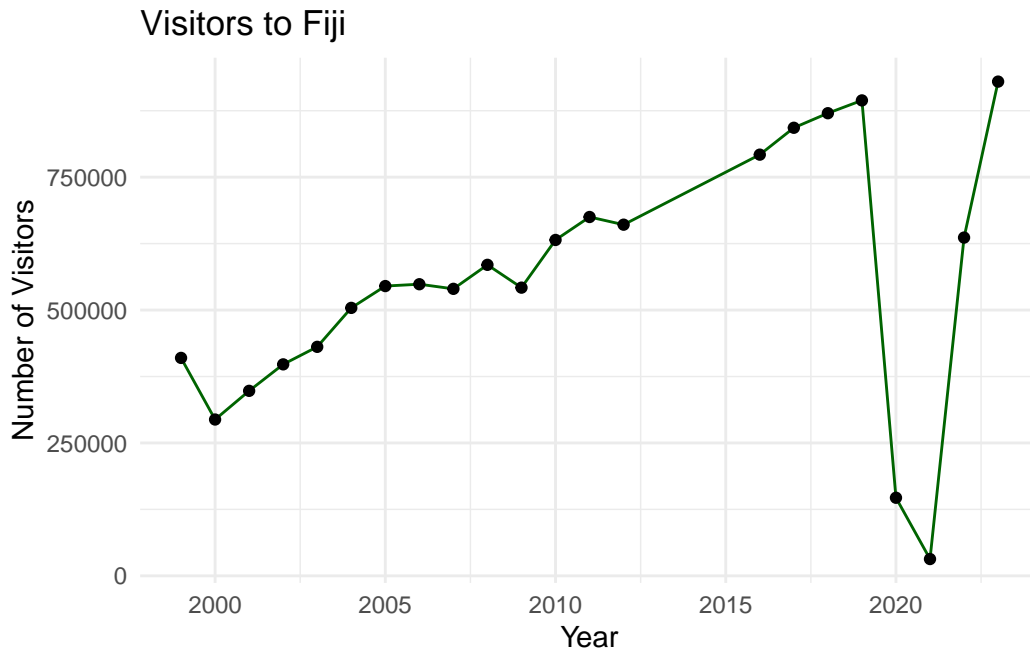


Overall, the above graph shows an steady increasing trend of the total population in Fiji. This trend may suggest that the living standards and healthcare etc. are improved over the years. It is easy to see that the population in 2020 is over 800,000, where the population in 1960 is only around 400,000. The population is approximately doubled over the years, hence the development of Fiji is getting better.

### Tourism

Fiji is a popular tourist destination known for its beautiful beaches, tropical climate, and clean waters. People are enjoying doing activities like exploring the natural environment and diving etc. at Fiji.

The following graph shows the total number of visitors to Fiji over years.



There is an increasing pattern in the number of visitors to Fiji start from 2000 to 2019. However, there is a sharp decrease between the years of 2019 to 2021. This is most likely due to the reason of Covid-19. After 2021, the number of visitors increases very quickly hence suggesting that the tourism is recovering.

## Projection

### Population

A simple linear model with response variable population and time as the predictor is fitted for the 10 years projection. Here is the linear model.

Call:

```
lm(formula = Population ~ Year, data = population_data)
```

Residuals:

Min	1Q	Median	3Q	Max
-73493	-23912	3423	23560	60357

Coefficients:

Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t )

```
(Intercept) -1.667e+07  4.985e+05  -33.44  <2e-16 ***
Year          8.739e+03  2.503e+02   34.92  <2e-16 ***
```

---

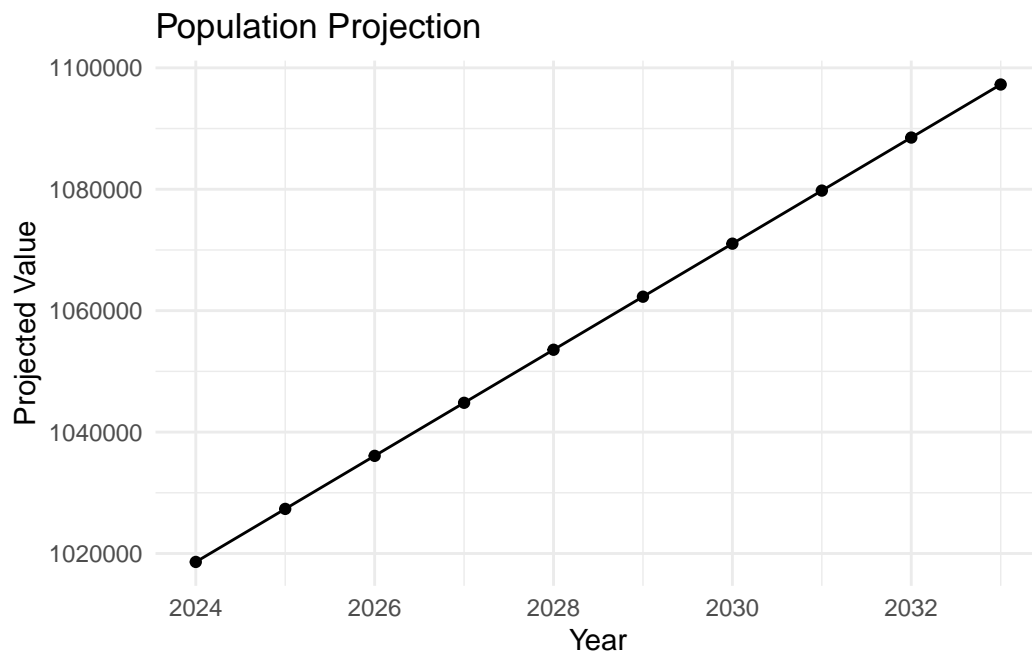
Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Residual standard error: 36990 on 62 degrees of freedom

Multiple R-squared: 0.9516, Adjusted R-squared: 0.9508

F-statistic: 1219 on 1 and 62 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16

Now, here is the projection based on this model.



## GDP

Here is the simple linear model for GDP and projection is made using this fitted model.

Call:

```
lm(formula = GDP ~ Year, data = gdp_clean)
```

Residuals:

Min	1Q	Median	3Q	Max
-1.02078	-0.22737	-0.00907	0.31844	0.90652

Coefficients:

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t )
(Intercept)	-2.156e+02	1.157e+01	-18.64	<2e-16 ***
Year	1.092e-01	5.778e-03	18.89	<2e-16 ***

---

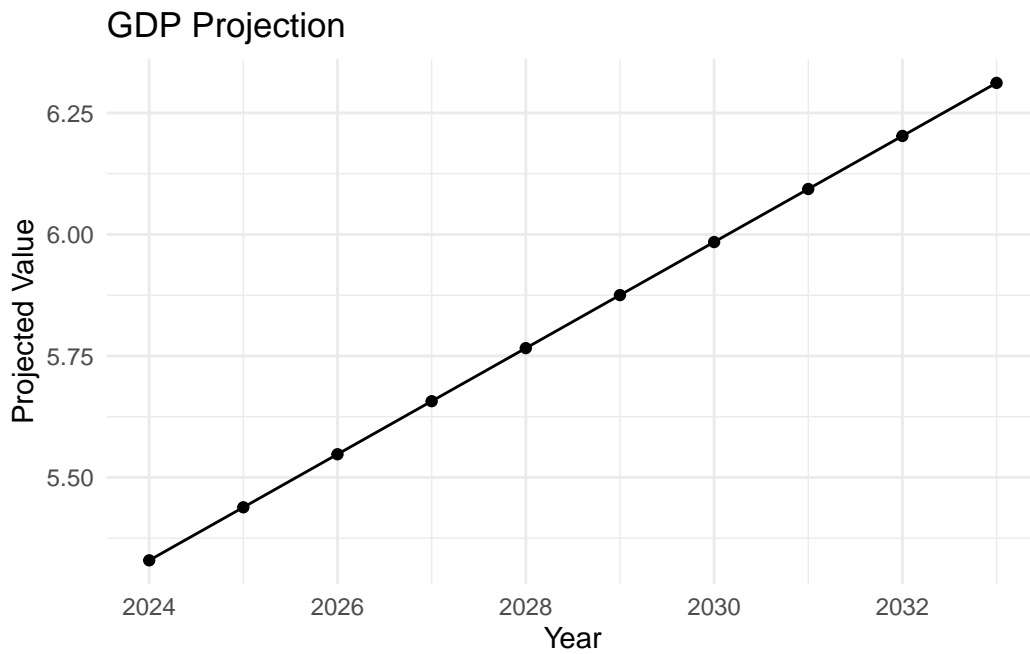
Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Residual standard error: 0.4867 on 42 degrees of freedom

Multiple R-squared: 0.8947, Adjusted R-squared: 0.8922

F-statistic: 356.9 on 1 and 42 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16

Here is the GDP projection for the next 10 years.



## Visitors

The following is the fitted model for the projection of visitors.

Call:

```
lm(formula = Arrivals ~ Year, data = visitor_data)
```

Residuals:

Min	1Q	Median	3Q	Max
-639722	-45273	31945	107042	244987

Coefficients:

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t )
(Intercept)	-21496951	12605684	-1.705	0.1036
Year	10969	6270	1.750	0.0955

---

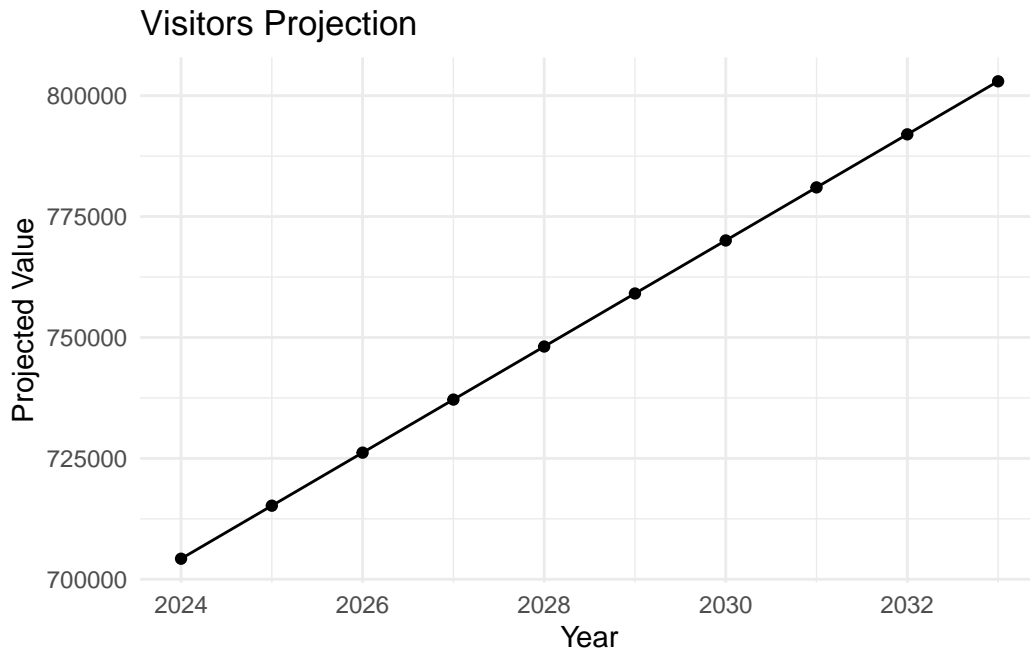
Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Residual standard error: 223200 on 20 degrees of freedom

Multiple R-squared: 0.1327, Adjusted R-squared: 0.08937

F-statistic: 3.061 on 1 and 20 DF, p-value: 0.09553

Here is the projection of visitors in the next 10 years.

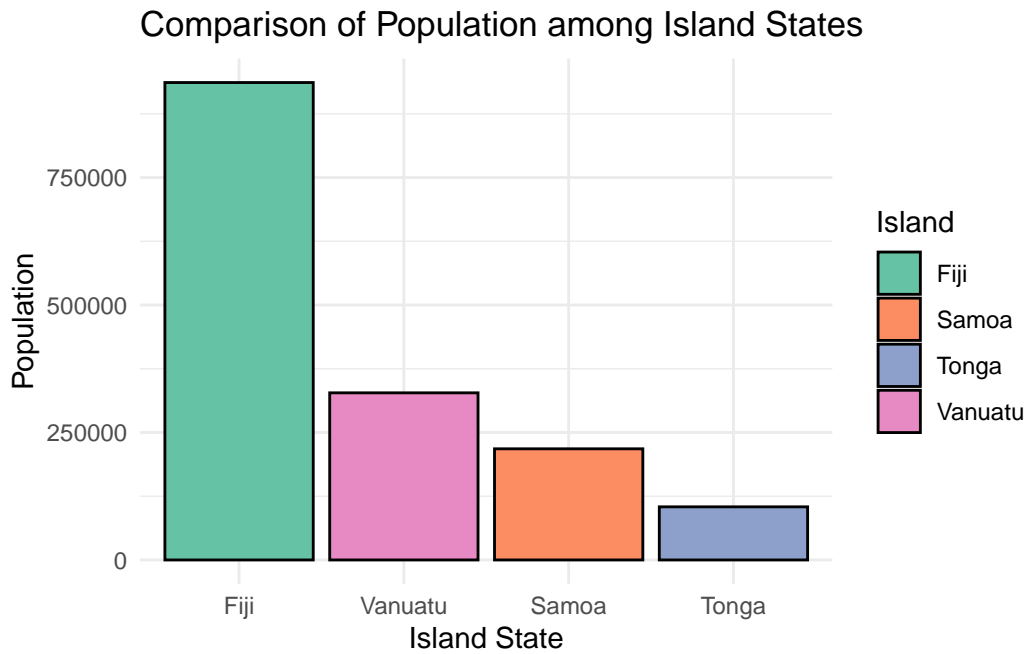


## Comparison

The islands that Fiji are comparing to are Vanautu, Samoa, and Tonga. As mentioned, they are the three neighbors of Fiji.

## Population

Here is the comparison of population in the year of 2024 between the islands.

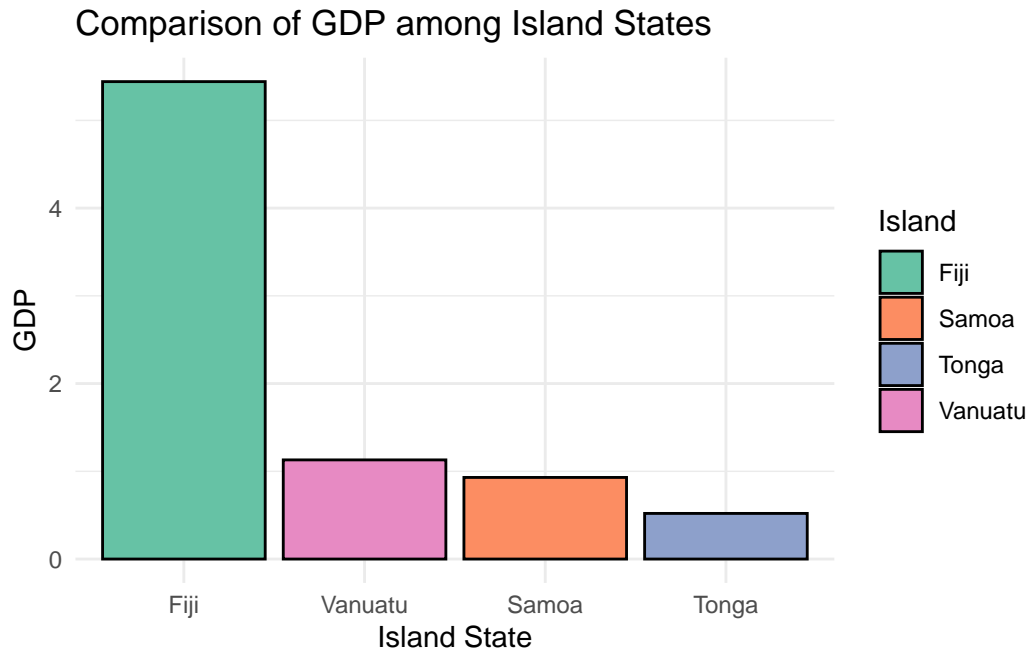


Population: By comparing the population of Fiji with its neighbour islands Vanuatu, Samoa, and Tonga, Fiji has the largest population. Vanuatu ranks the second and followed closely by Samoa. They have much smaller population compared to Fiji. Lastly, Tonga has the smallest population.

## GDP

Here is the comparison for GDP.

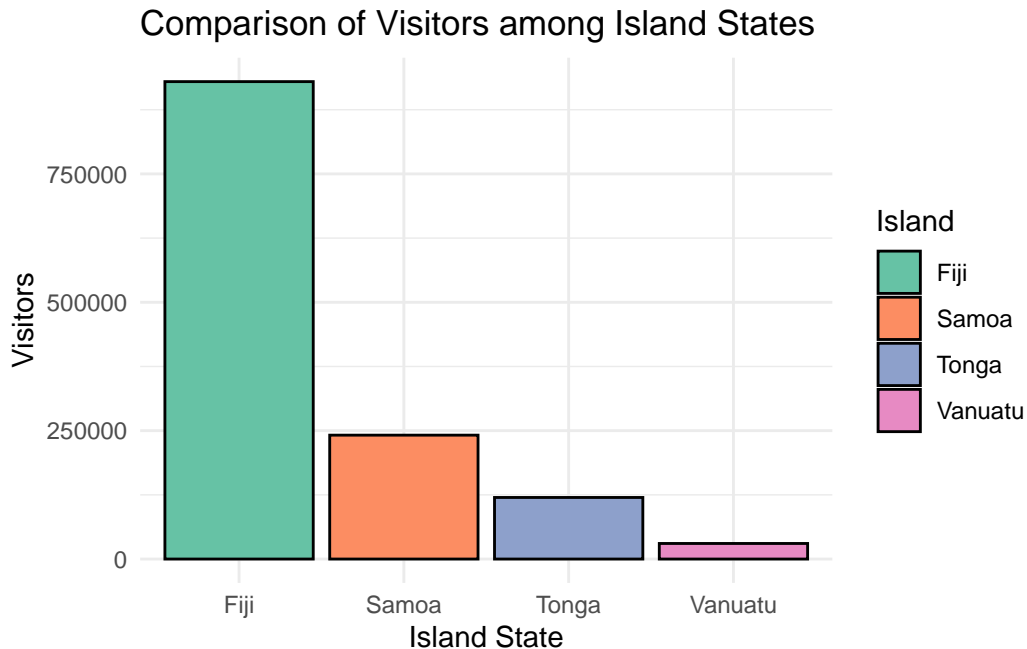




By comparing the 2023 GDP of Fiji with its neighbours, Fiji dominates the Pacific region economically. This may indicate that Fiji has a more developed economy compared to its neighbours. Then, followed by Vanuatu and Samoa, with Vanuatu having slightly higher GDP. Lastly, Tonga has the lowest GDP among the islands shown.

### Visitors

Here is the comparison for the visitors.



By comparing the 2023 visitors of Fiji with its neighbour islands, again Fiji has a significant lead in the number of visitors. Samoa ranked the second, and is far behind Fiji. Then, it is followed by Tonga ranked third place and the last place Vanuatu. This may suggest that the tourism sector for Vanuatu is less popular compared to other islands.

## References

### Data Sources:

<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/POPTOTFJA647NWDB>

<https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/NGDPD@WEO/FJI?zoom=FJI&highlight=FJI>

<https://www.statsfiji.gov.fj/statistics/social-statistics/tourism-and-migration-statistics/>

### Research References:

<https://www.investinfiji.today/news-publication/fiji-breaks-visitor-arrival-records/#:~:text=Fiji%20welcomed%20visitors,recorded%20a%20new%20high%20of%20850,000%20visitors%20in%202023>

<https://www.worldometers.info>

<https://tradingeconomics.com/>

<https://globaleledge.msu.edu/countries/fiji>

[https://www.sbs.gov.ws/documents/social/International\\_Arrival\\_Statistics/2023/Migration\\_Annual\\_23.pdf](https://www.sbs.gov.ws/documents/social/International_Arrival_Statistics/2023/Migration_Annual_23.pdf)

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/729470/gross-domestic-product-gdp-in-tonga/>

<https://tongastats.gov.to/statistics/social-statistics/migration/>