

Fiji	
Policy responses	
Containment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 16th: Declaration of state of emergency¹ • Partial lockdown (in Suva and Lautoka) • March 30th: Declaration of Curfew • Border closure • Port screening • Travel bans • Social distancing rules • Closure of public spaces • School closure • Punishment on violation of isolation orders • April 26th: Easing of lockdown • June 21st: Phase 2 of Fiji's COVID-safe Economic Recovery Plan leads to the gradual easing of some restrictions (e.g. national curfew, limitations on public gatherings) and the reopening of schools and certain recreational facilities under strict conditions. • August 26th: Government loosens restrictions on gathering. All venues will be able to operate up to 50% capacity • October 15th: Start of CareFIJI program to foster tourism and related pandemic measures for visitors. 14-day quarantine waived for COVID contained countries² • November 2nd: Government attempts to attract tourism by recommending Europeans not to undergo quarantine upon return • November 4, 2020: Fiji marked 200 days without any transmission of the COVID-19 in the community.³ • March 23, 2021: ⁴ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Travellers Partially Allowed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks are not required Self-quarantine for 14 days required for all countries. No lockdown in effect - Events Partially Allowed (no more than 100 people) - Transport Operational with restrictions - All shops open - Tourist attractions are Open - Restaurants and bars are Open with restrictions
Fiscal	<p>27th March: Total stimulus package announced of FJ1 Billion (equivalent to 8.7% of GDP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education: Suspension of repayments on tertiary education loans, all

¹<https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/414433/fiji-declares-second-state-of-natural-disaster-as-covid-19-cases-increase>

²<https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

³<https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

⁴<https://covidcontrols.co/restrictions/fiji>

	<p>repayments have been suspended until 31 December 2020⁵</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Households: Energy Fiji Limited (electricity) to fully match the state's existing 50 percent subsidy on the first 100 units of electricity for households earning less than \$US13,000 annually⁶ • Employment: \$US4.5m relief to working Fijians,⁷ affected workers from the tourism sector can withdraw up to FJ\$1000 from the Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF)⁸ • Businesses: FJ 5 million to SMEs,⁹ concessional loans initiative for MSMEs, debt guarantee for Fiji Airways • Health: FJ 40 million¹⁰ • Social protection: Agricultural Response Package, expansion of unemployment assistance. <p>July 17th: Announced as part of the FY2020-21 budget for the fiscal year beginning in August.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiscal and import excise duties on over 1,600 items are reduced or eliminated. Similarly, the budget includes cuts to the service turnover tax, environmental tax and departure tax. • The budget also entails a total of F\$100 million for unemployment assistance and a subsidy to Fiji Airways of F\$60 million to incentivize first 150,000 tourists in new fiscal year. <p>As of October 1, The Government has allocated amounting FJD50.9 million for the development of the sugar sector.</p> <p>As of October 8, Authorities announced a new hiring subsidy program under which the government would pay the minimum wage of FJD2.68 per hour and the remainder would be paid by the employers.¹¹</p> <p>October 12th:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of unemployment assistance and launch of new hiring subsidy program of F\$2.68 per hour with remainder paid by employers • Guaranteed the debt of Fiji Airways and concessional loans initiative for MSMEs struck by COVID-19 (F\$23.5 million). Aim to boost investment
--	---

⁵ <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/fiji-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html><https://www.google.com/search?q=For+students+with+tertiary+education+loans%2C+all+repayments+have+been+suspended+until+31+December%2C+2020.+Working+Fijians+will+have+about+%24US4.5m+in+relief.&oq=For+students+with+tertiary+education+loans%2C+all+repayments+have+been+suspended+until+31+December%2C+2020.+Working+Fijians+will+have+about+%24US4.5m+in+relief.&aqs=chrome..69i57.167j0j1&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ <https://www.newsroom.co.nz/2020/03/29/1105380/fiji-piece>

⁹ <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/fiji-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/FIJ>

	ratio back to 3-year 20% average (12.8% current)
Monetary/financial/ foreign exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18th March: Reduction of overnight policy rate to 0.25 percent from 0.5 percent (25 basis points) • 27th March: Expanded SME Credit Guarantee Scheme to assist small entities. • 28th June: Raised its Import Substitution and Export Finance Facility by FJ\$100 million to provide credit to exporters, large scale commercial agricultural farmers, public transportation and renewable energy businesses at concessional rates • 28th June: Raised its Natural Disaster and Rehabilitation Facility to FJ\$60 million to include businesses affected by epidemics or pandemics, renaming it the Disaster Rehabilitation and Containment Facility. • June 30: Tightened exchange controls ensure adequate foreign reserves (foreign exchange reserves stood at F\$2,181.4 million (6.8 months of retained imports). • August 31st following tightening of exchange rate controls, RBJ reported F\$2371 million foreign exchange reserves (8.7 months of retained imports), partly from new ADB funding • October 4th: concessional loans part of the Import Substitution and Export Finance Facility for MSMEs impacted by the pandemic have totaled FJD22.5 million. • As of late January 2021: Reserves stood at FJD2,178.0 million (7.8 months of retained imports).¹²
Trade measures ¹³	<p>Restrictive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary increase of the import fiscal duties on diesel and petrol. <p>Liberalizing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elimination of import duties and VAT on medical supplies.
SME measures (last update 22 January 2021)	<p>Tax exemption:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 25 September 2020, the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service introduced tax exemptions for commercial agriculture and agro-processing businesses and for new businesses established in specific areas.¹⁴ <p>Tax reduction:¹⁵</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the first fiscal stimulus package announced on March 26, tax reductions were provided to support the economy. • As part of the second fiscal stimulus package announced on July 17, more tax cuts were provided. <p>Loan support:¹⁶</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government announced a Small and Medium Enterprises Credit

¹² <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/FIJ>

¹³ <https://www.macmap.org/covid19>

¹⁴ <https://www.frcs.org.fj/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/FRCS-Incentives-flyers-25-Sep-2020.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://www.fiji.gov.fj/COVID-19/COVID-19-Updates>

¹⁶ Ibid.

	<p>Guarantee Scheme worth FJD 5 million to guarantee SME loans. If borrowing companies fail, the government will assist in repayments at least 50 per cent of the outstanding loans to banks.¹⁷</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Reserve Bank of Fiji expanded the SME Credit Guarantee Scheme to further assist small entities. • The government announced a concessional loans initiative for MSMEs impacted by COVID-19. Application started on 8 June 2020 and closed on 30 June 2020.¹⁸
Other policy measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27th March: 20 percent pay cut for the Prime Minister, his Cabinet and MPs. • June 25th: The World Bank has approved funding of US\$7.4 million (approx. FJ\$16 million) to further support the Government of Fiji to strengthen its health systems in the wake of the COVID-19 emergency. • July 15th: AIIB USD50 million financing under the Sustained Private Sector-Led Growth Reform Program¹⁹ • August 14th: AIIB USD50 million loan to help government efforts in providing relief to formal and informal sectors of the economy (includes SMSE)²⁰ • October 5th: ADB announces \$2 million for Fiji to strengthen support for Covid-19 policies²¹ pulled from ADB Asia Disaster Response fund (APDRF) • October 16th: The Fijian Government and the United States signed Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), first of its kind with the United States to promote trade and investment ties between the two countries.²² • November 25th: Tourism Fiji held the first ever virtual Fijian Tourism Expo (FTE) to promote tourism and business activities in the country. The Expo is aimed at bringing together potential investors from Australia, New Zealand and leading industrialists in Fiji.²³ • December 17th (ADB): USD0.35 million from the regional project, Supporting Recovery by Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in the Pacific from the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic.²⁴ • February 9th, 2021: The World Bank provided a USD50 million boost to support Fiji's recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 and severe tropical cyclones Harold and Yasa.²⁵ • March 1st, 2021: UNICEF and ADB handed over 22,000 Cepheid GeneXpert test kits to the Fijian Ministry of Health and Medical Services to strengthen the country's COVID-19 prevention activities.²⁶ • March 12th, 2021: ADB allocates \$65 Million Loan to support Fiji Airways'

¹⁷ <https://www.fijitimes.com/covid-19-budget-5m-boost-for-smes/>

¹⁸ <https://www.business-fiji.com/support-for-business>

¹⁹ <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/FIJ>

²⁰ <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/FIJ>

²¹ <https://www.adb.org/news/adb-announces-almost-3-2-million-grants-help-fiji-nauru-niue-combat-covid-19>

²² <https://covid19policy.adb.org/index.php/policy-measures/FIJ>

²³ <https://covid19policy.adb.org/index.php/policy-measures/FIJ>

²⁴ <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/FIJ>

²⁵ <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/FIJ>

²⁶ <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/FIJ>

	Services ²⁷
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 9: Tropical cyclone Harold, a category 5 cyclone, has compounded the situation in the Pacific by causing floods • By July 2020, the government's domestic debt is expected to total \$4.992 billion while external debt is expected to total \$1.996 billion. This will take the total debt to \$6.988 billion.²⁸

Source: IMF, Policy Responses to COVID-19, if not specified.

²⁷ <https://www.adb.org/news/adb-signs-65-million-loan-sustain-fiji-airways-services-pacific>

²⁸ <https://www.fijivillage.com/news/COVID-19-Response-Budget--584rxf/>
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/06/25/covid-19-coronavirus-world-bank-boost-for-fijis-health-sector>