

# **Fiji: Waking the Pacific's sleeping giant**

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# Outline

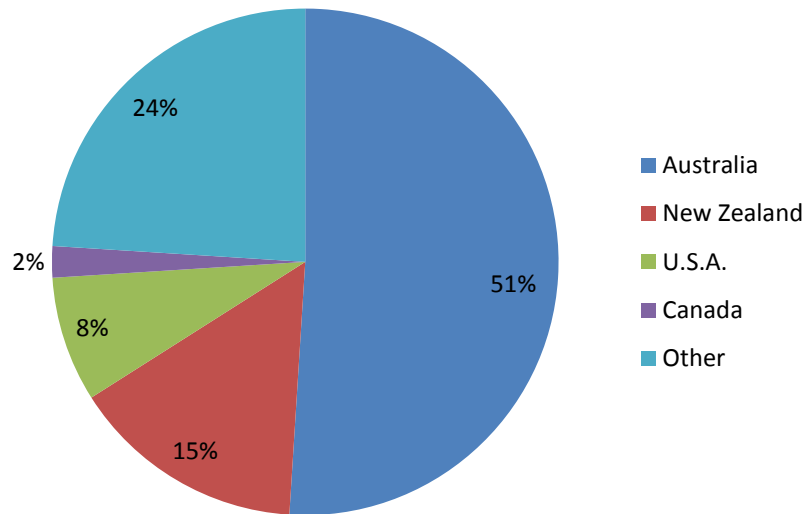
1. Fiji: Pacific's giant – not really!
2. Fiji: Asleep? No!
3. Fiji: Unimportant? No!
4. Lessons for Australia (and the region)
5. Conclusions

Bilateral trade between PICs, Australia, and New Zealand (% of respective totals; 2009)

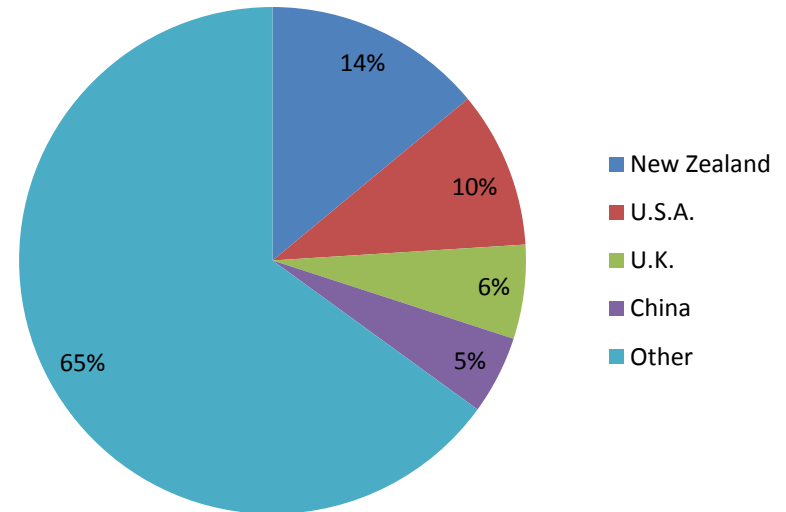
Country (year)	Exports to PICs	Imports from PICs	Exports to Australia	Exports to NZL	Imports from Australia	Imports from NZL
Australia	1.37	1.47	--	5.64	--	3.33
Cook Island	n.a	n.a	2.39	12.50	n.a	n.a
Fiji	11.42	0.40	14.8	6.93	22.85	17.69
Kiribati	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	29.40	6.63
RMI	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
FS Micronesia	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Nauru	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Niue	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
New Caledonia	0.18	0.34	5.15	0.06	10.75	3.98
New Zealand	2.16	0.41	21.95	--	20.59	--
Northern Mariana Island	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Palau	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
PNG (04)	0.46	0.34	10.51	0.20	58.67	3.08
Samoa	0.35	9.46	81.36	8.95	15.66	30.70
Solomon Islands	1.78	7.44	2.90	0.62	31.18	5.62
Tonga	4.65	9.18	7.10	33.32	11.62	33.77
Tuvalu	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Vanuatu	8.86	11.30	3.12	2.84	31.06	16.75

# Source of tourists 2012

## In-bound to Fiji



## Outbound from Australia



Data source: Fiji Bureau of Statistics; Australia Bureau of Statistics

# Fiji as a strategic hub of the SW Pacific

## Regional organisations

1. SPC (1947)
2. USP (1968)
3. PIF (1971)
4. SOPAC (1972)
5. PIFL (1977)
6. FFA (1979)
7. PNA (1983)
8. CFA (1986)
9. PICL (1991)
10. MSG (1993)
11. SPBEA (1980)
12. SPREP (1983)
13. PFTAC (1993)
14. WCPFC (2004)

...



## RTAs in the Pacific

1. SPARTECA (1981)
2. CER (1983)
3. CFA (1986)
4. MSG (1993)
5. PICTA (2001)
6. PACER (2001)
7. Pacific Plan (2004)

# Fiji – wide awake since 2006 coup!

**‘Look North Policy’**

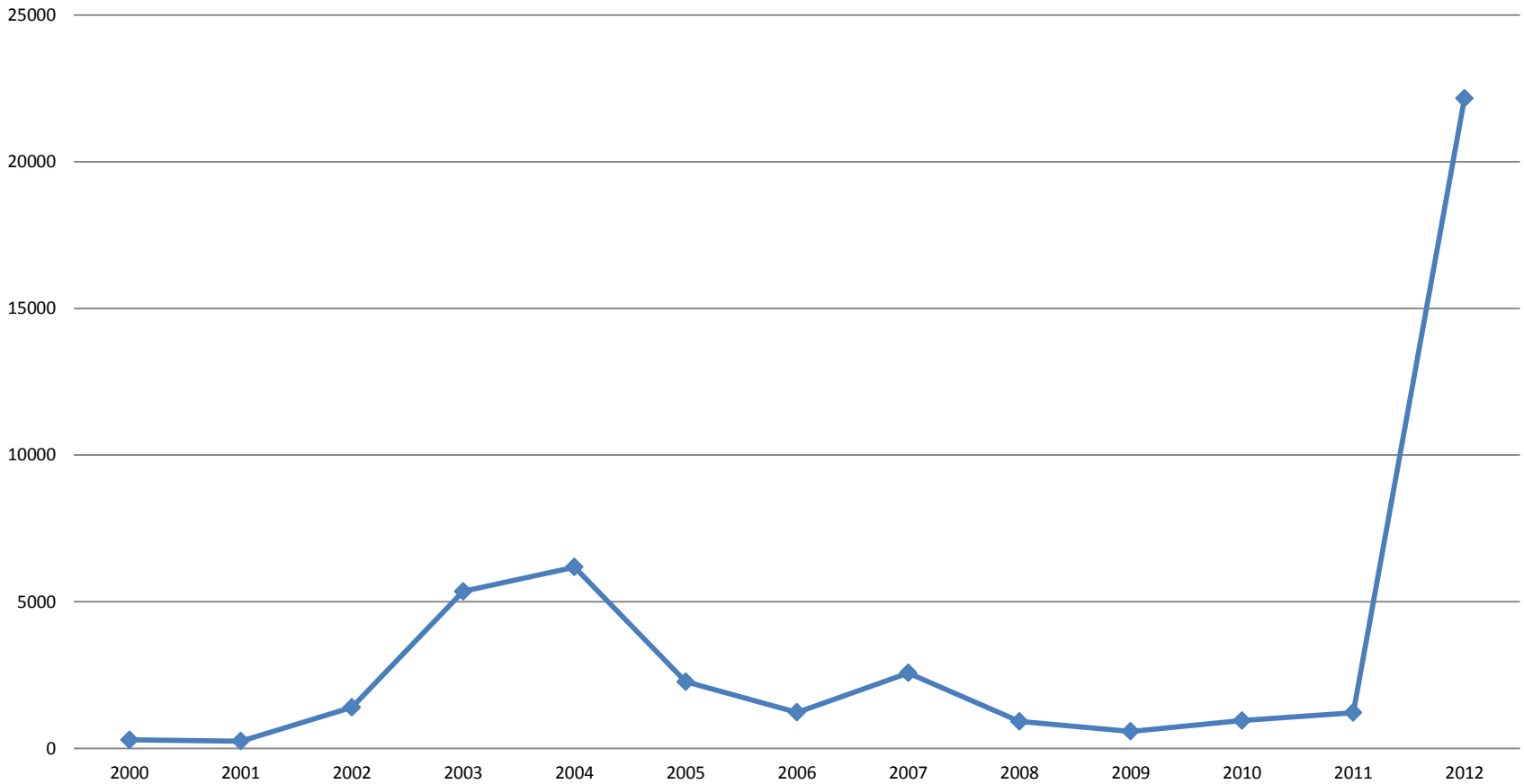


**‘G77+China’; ‘PIDF’; etc.**



# Fiji's exports to China

US \$ Thousand



# Fiji and the future

1. Stable Fiji good for the region – Fiji in PIF, USP, ...
2. Domestic politics key to a stable Fiji – National elections on 17 Sept. will have implications
3. RFMF will remain relevant to Fijian politics for the foreseeable future
4. Power will follow property – land and chiefs!
5. Tension between an espoused vision of a fully democratic Fiji (FijiFirst) with deeply skewed wealth-distribution where chiefs have sway (SOLDEPA).



# Conclusions

1. Fiji is not a giant – re population, economy, and trade
2. Fiji since the coup of 2006 has been wide awake!
3. Fiji is a geographic/strategic hub for SW Pacific.
4. Fiji has a central role to play in regionalism.
5. Domestic politics remain the major challenge to a stable and prosperous Fiji.