

FBoS Release No: 1, 2018

5th January, 2018

2017 Population and Housing Census

Release 1

Age, Sex, Geography and Economic Activity

A total of 884,887 persons were enumerated in the 2017 Population and Housing Census, These Fiji residents were living in 191,910 Private Households and 1,224 Institutions on Census night, the 17th of September, 2017. The count was 5.7% (47,616) higher than the 837,271 persons enumerated in 2007. Other data sources indicate coverage of around 99.5%, hence the findings will more or less provide a complete picture of Fiji's population and housing situation at the time of the Census. Information on economic activity reflects the situation in the week before September 17.

The average annual rate of population growth over the decade up to September 2017 was 0.6%. The annual rate of population growth has been decreasing that is from 2% in 1986, 0.8% in 1996 and 0.6% in 2017. The decline is mainly due to lower birth rates and out migration.

The Median Age of the Population is 27.5 years, which means that half of Fiji's population is below that age. The Median Age was 17.8 in 1976, 20.6 in 1986, 21.2 in 1996 and 25.1 in 2007.

The proportion of Fiji's urban population continued to increase. The proportion of Fiji's population living in urban areas was 37.2% in 1976, 38.7% in 1986, 46.4% in 1996, 50.7% in 2007 and 55.9% in 2017. The significant growth between 1986 and 1996 was partly due to the extension of Urban Boundaries which is the case for 2017 as well.

When compared to 2007, the Urban Population increased by 69,406 (16.3%) while the Rural Population decreased by 21,790 (5.3%). Further details are presented in Table 1 that follows;

Table 1. Total Population by Urban and Rural, 1976-2017

Census Year	Population	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Median Age (years)	Urban	%	Rural	%
1976	588,068	2.1	17.8	218,495	37.2	369,573	62.8
1986	715,375	2.0	20.6	277,025	38.7	438,350	61.3
1996	775,077	0.8	21.2	359,495	46.4	415,582	53.6
2007	837,271	0.7	25.1	424,846	50.7	412,425	49.3
2017	884,887	0.6	27.5	494,252	55.9	390,635	44.1

Age and Sex Distribution by Urban and Rural Residence

The Median Age for Males is 27.2 compared to 27.8 for Females. Males accounted for slightly over a half (50.7%) of the population with the sex ratio of 102, that is 102 Males for every 100 Females. The proportion of Males is higher in the age groups 0-4 up to 55-59. Females accounted for 51.4% of the population in the age group 60-64 and close to 60% in the age group 75+ indicating greater Female longevity.

The delineation of Urban Boundaries uses the following set of criteria;

- 1) Urban Attributes
- 2) Economic Activity
- 3) Population Size
- 4) Association and Contiguity with a Town or City
- 5) Population Density

In the Urban Areas;

- The Median Age was 27.9 with the Male and Female Ages being 27.5 and 28.3 respectively.
- The proportion of Males is higher in the age-groups; 0-4, 5-9, 10-14, 25-29 and up to 45-49.
- The proportion of Females is higher in the age groups 15-19, 20-24, 50-54 and higher.
- The proportion of Females in the age-group 75+ was 62.5%

In the Rural Areas;

- The Median Age was 27.0 with the Male and Female Ages being 26.9 and 27.1 respectively.
- The proportion of Males is higher in the age groups 0-4 up to 65-69.
- The proportion of Females in the age group 75+ was 57.0%.

Further details are presented in Table 2 that follows;

Age and Sex Structure

Figure 1. that follows is a Population Pyramid showing Fiji's age-sex structure as at Census Night 2017. The broad base of the structure indicates a population that is young with 10.4 percent of the population under five years of age while 16.7% are in the youth age group of 15-24.

Figure 1. Age-Sex Structure of Population, Fiji 2017

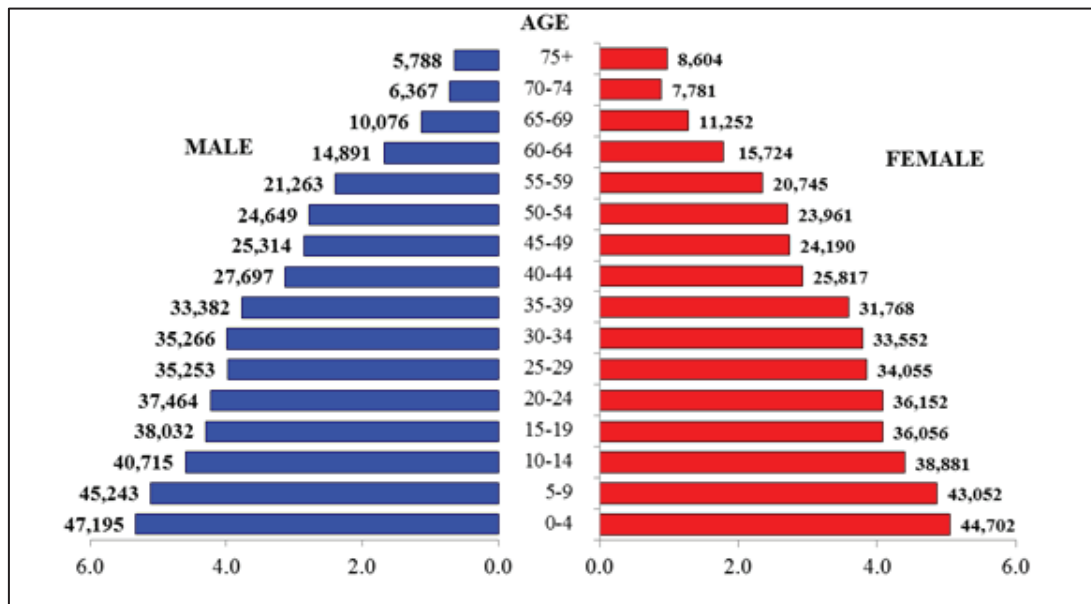
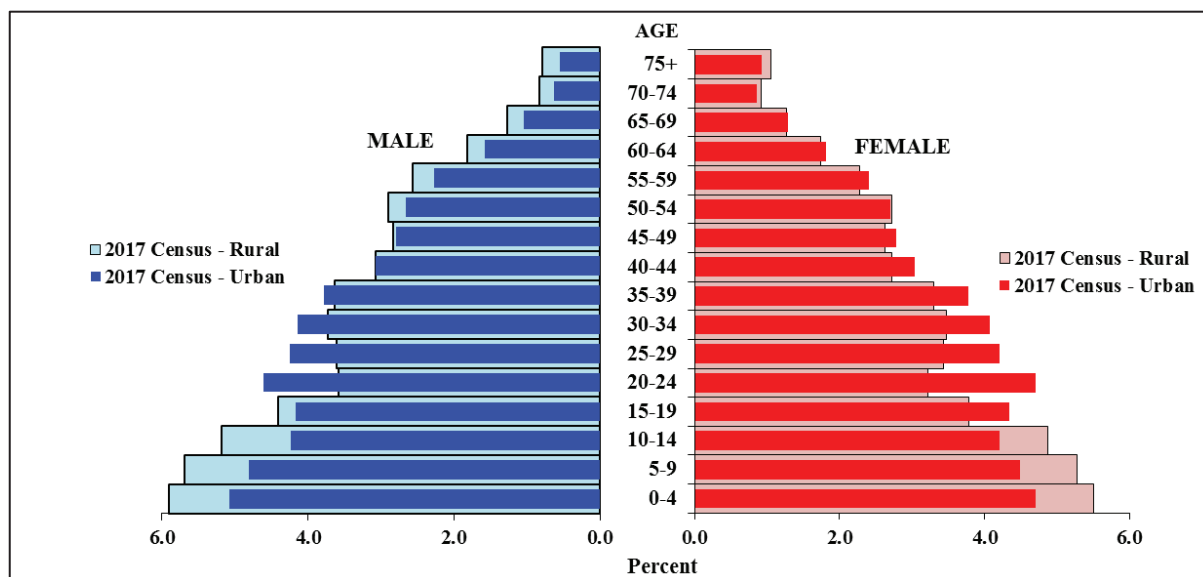


Figure 2. that follows shows the age-sex composition of rural and urban dwellers in 2017. There are marked differences with the Rural population having a higher proportion in the young age groups 0-4, 5-9 and 10-14. On the other hand, a higher proportion of Urban dwellers are in the age groups 20-24, 25-29, 30-34 and 35-39.

The Urban and Rural age structures show some differences for Males and Females. For instance a higher proportion of Urban Females compared to Rural Females are in the age groups 15-19, 55-59 and 60-64, unlike their Male counterparts who make up a lower proportion of these age groups in comparison to Rural dwellers.

Figure 2. Age-Sex Structure of Urban and Rural Population, Fiji, 2017



Population by Province

Table 3 below presents the 2007 and 2017 population numbers by province. Ba was the most populous province with its 247,708 residents accounting for 28.0% of Fiji’s population. The second largest province, Naitasiri recorded the highest inter-censal population increase of 16,918 (10.5%) with 177,678 persons counted.

The provinces of Tailevu and Rewa also recorded significant population increases of 8,860 (15.9%) and 7,021 (7.0%) respectively.

The Northern Division provinces of Bua and Cakaudrove recorded population increases of 9.1% and 2.3% respectively while the population of Macuata continued to decrease. Macuata’s census count of 65,983 was 6,458 (8.9%) lower than a decade ago continuing the trend that was first observed during the inter-censal period of 1996 and 2007.

The population of Lau and Lomaiviti also recorded declines of 10.1% and 3.7% respectively.

Further details are presented in Table 3 that follows;

Table 3. Population by Province 2007 and 2017

Province	Census Year		Absolute Change	Percentage Change
	2007	2017		
Ba	231,760	247,708	15,948	6.9%
Bua	14,176	15,466	1,290	9.1%
Cakaudrove	49,344	50,469	1,125	2.3%
Kadavu	10,167	10,897	730	7.1%
Lau	10,683	9,602	-1,081	-10.1%
Lomaiviti	16,253	15,657	-596	-3.7%
Macuata	72,441	65,983	-6,458	-8.9%
Nadroga/Navosa	58,387	58,931	544	0.9%
Naitasiri	160,760	177,678	16,918	10.5%
Namosi	6,898	7,871	973	14.1%
Ra	29,464	30,432	968	3.3%
Rewa	100,995	108,016	7,021	7.0%
Serua	18,249	20,031	1,782	9.8%
Tailevu	55,692	64,552	8,860	15.9%
Rotuma	2,002	1,594	-408	-20.4%
Total	837,271	884,887	43,279	5.7%

Urban Population

Fiji's urban population reached 494,252 in 2017, an increase of 69,406 (16.3%) compared to 2007. The count shows that 55.9% of Fiji's population live in the Urban Areas, an increase of 5.1 percentage points compared to 2007. Much of the growth was due to the extension of the urban boundaries to cover growth in Nadi, Lautoka and parts of Taveuni in Cakaudrove.

There were significant increases in the urban population of the following provinces;

- 1) Ba by 44,413 or 36.7% with the Urban proportion of Ba's population increasing from 52.2% in 2007 to 66.8% in 2017.
- 2) Naitasiri by 13,664 or 10.1% with the Urban proportion of Naitasiri's population sitting at a very high 83.7%.
- 3) Cakaudrove by 3,965 or 56.4% with the Urban proportion of Cakaudrove's population increasing from 14.3% in 2007 to 21.8% in 2017.
- 4) Rewa by 4,720 or 5.3% with the Urban proportion of Rewa's population now at 86.5%.
- 5) Tailevu by 2,497 or 14.0% with the Urban proportion of Tailevu's population now at 31.5%.

Further details are provided in Table 4 that follows;

Table 4. Urban Population by Province 2007 and 2017

Province	Urban				Absolute Change	% Change
	Census Year					
	2007	% Urban	2017	% Urban		
Ba	120,998	52.2	165,411	66.8	44,413	36.7%
Bua	592	4.2	625	4.0	33	5.6%
Cakaudrove	7,034	14.3	10,999	21.8	3,965	56.4%
Kadavu	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lau	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lomaiviti	4,397	26.7	4,250	27.1	-147	-3.3%
Macuata	28,765	39.7	27,182	41.2	-1,583	-5.5%
Nadroga/Navosa	9,622	16.5	10,293	17.5	671	7.0%
Naitasiri	135,033	84.0	148,697	83.7	13,664	10.1%
Namosi	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ra	4,952	16.8	5,987	19.7	1,035	20.9%
Rewa	88,763	88.1	93,483	86.5	4,720	5.3%
Serua	6,867	37.6	7,005	35.0	138	2.0%
Tailevu	17,823	32.0	20,320	31.5	2,497	14.0%
Rotuma	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	424,846		494,252		69,406	16.3%

Rural Population

Fiji's rural population was 390,635 at the time of the 2017 Population Census, a decrease of 21,790 (5.3%) compared to 2007. The count shows that 44.1% of Fiji's population live in the Rural Areas which is a decrease of 5.1 percentage points compared to 2007.

A combination of Out-Migration and the extension of the Urban Boundaries were the main causes of decline in the number of rural dwellers in the following provinces;

- Ba by 28,465 with the Rural proportion of Ba's population decreasing from 47.8% in 2007 to 31.2% in 2017.
- Cakaudrove by 2,840 with the Rural proportion of Cakaudrove's population decreasing from 85.7% in 2007 to 78.2% in 2017

The population of Rural Macuata decreased by 4,875 and this was due mainly to the movement of people out of the rural areas. The Rural proportion of Macuata's population decreased from 60.3% in 2007 to 58.8% in 2017.

Further details are provided in Table 5 that follows;

Table 5. Rural Population by Province 2007 and 2017

Province	Rural				Absolute Change	% Change
	Census Year					
	2007	% Rural	2017	% Rural		
Ba	110,762	47.8	82,297	31.2	-28,465	-25.7%
Bua	13,584	95.8	14,841	96.0	1,257	9.3%
Cakaudrove	42,310	85.7	39,470	78.2	-2,840	-6.7%
Kadavu	10,167	100.0	10,897	100.0	730	7.2%
Lau	10,683	100.0	9,602	100.0	-1,081	-10.1%
Lomaiviti	12,064	73.3	11,407	72.9	-657	-5.4%
Macuata	43,676	60.3	38,801	58.8	-4,875	-11.2%
Nadroga/Navosa	48,765	83.5	48,638	82.5	-127	-0.3%
Naitasiri	25,727	16.0	28,981	16.3	3,254	12.6%
Namosi	6,898	100.0	7,871	100.0	973	14.1%
Ra	24,512	83.2	24,445	80.3	-67	-0.3%
Rewa	12,024	11.9	14,533	13.5	2,509	20.9%
Serua	11,382	62.4	13,026	65.0	1,644	14.4%
Tailevu	37,869	68.0	44,232	68.5	6,363	16.8%
Rotuma	2,002	100.0	1,594	100.0	-408	-20.4%
Total	412,425		390,635		-21,790	-5.3%

Gender Perspective of Urban Population

Female numbers showed a higher level of increase in the urban areas of the following provinces over the decade up to September 2017;

- 1) Naitasiri with 7,750 (11.47%) compared to 5,914 (8.77%) for Males.
- 2) Tailevu with 1,425 (16.32%) compared to 1,072 (11.79%) for Males.
- 3) Rewa with 2,522 (5.67%) compared to 2,198 (4.96%) for Males.

Comparisons for other provinces for the urban population by gender is illustrated in Table 6.

Table 6. Urban Population by Province and Sex 2007 and 2017

Province	Urban				Absolute Change		% Change	
	2007		2017		Males	Females	Males	Females
	Males	Females	Males	Females				
Ba	60,744	60,256	82,841	82,570	22,097	22,314	36.38%	37.03%
Bua	311	281	305	320	-6	39	-1.93%	13.88%
Cakaudrove	3,585	3,449	5,612	5,387	2,027	1,938	56.54%	56.19%
Kadavu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lau	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lomaiviti	2,217	2,180	2,119	2,131	-98	-49	-4.42%	-2.25%
Macuata	14,086	14,679	13,376	13,806	-710	-873	-5.04%	-5.95%
Nadroga/Navosa	4,730	4,892	5,097	5,196	367	304	7.76%	6.21%
Naitasiri	67,463	67,570	73,377	75,320	5,914	7,750	8.77%	11.47%
Namosi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ra	2,510	2,455	3,030	2,957	520	502	20.72%	20.45%
Rewa	44,301	44,462	46,499	46,984	2,198	2,522	4.96%	5.67%
Serua	3,417	3,450	3,509	3,496	92	46	2.69%	1.33%
Tailevu	9,091	8,732	10,163	10,157	1,072	1,425	11.79%	16.32%
Rotuma	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	212,455	212,406	245,928	248,324	33,473	35,918	15.76%	16.91%

Gender Perspective of Rural Population

Male numbers showed a higher level of increase in the Rural areas of the following provinces over the decade up to September 2017;

- 1) Kadavu with 606 (11.28%) compared to 124 (2.59%) for Females.
- 2) Rewa with 1,342 (21.09%) compared to 959 (16.34%) for Females.
- 3) Tailevu with 3,275 (16.30%) compared to 3,088 (17.38%) for Females.

Comparisons for other provinces for the rural population by gender is illustrated in Table 7.

Table 7. Rural Population by Province and Sex 2007 and 2017

Province	Rural				Absolute Change		% Change	
	2007		2017		Males	Females	Males	Females
	Males	Females	Males	Females				
Ba	57,332	53,428	42,413	39,884	-14,919	-13,544	-26.02%	-25.35%
Bua	7,098	6,486	7,710	7,131	612	645	8.62%	9.94%
Cakaudrove	22,286	20,024	20,702	18,768	-1,584	-1,256	-7.11%	-6.27%
Kadavu	5,374	4,793	5,980	4,917	606	124	11.28%	2.59%
Lau	5,763	4,920	5,173	4,429	-590	-491	-10.24%	-9.98%
Lomaiviti	6,328	5,528	5,983	5,424	-345	-104	-5.45%	-1.88%
Macuata	22,472	21,204	19,808	18,993	-2,664	-2,211	-11.85%	-10.43%
Nadroga/Navosa	25,464	23,301	25,191	23,447	-273	146	-1.07%	0.63%
Naitasiri	13,100	12,627	14,681	14,300	1,581	1,673	12.07%	13.25%
Namosi	3,557	3,341	4,063	3,808	506	467	14.23%	13.98%
Ra	12,566	11,933	12,494	11,951	-72	18	-0.57%	0.15%
Rewa	6,363	5,869	7,705	6,828	1342	959	21.09%	16.34%
Serua	5,858	5,524	6,574	6,452	716	928	12.22%	16.80%
Tailevu	20,098	17,771	23,373	20,859	3,275	3,088	16.30%	17.38%
Rotuma	1,046	956	817	777	-229	-179	-21.89%	-18.72%
Total	214,705	197,705	202,667	187,968	-12,038	-9,737	-5.61%	-4.93%

Working Age Population and Economic Activity

All persons aged 15 and over who furnish or are available to furnish the supply of labour for the production of economic goods and services are Economically Active or are in the Labour Force. So basically the Labour Force is made up of those engaged in Paid or Unpaid Work or are Unemployed. The Unemployed are those who are available or looking for work.

Some features of Fiji's Population Aged 15 and above;

- There are more Females in the Central Division.
- There are more Females in the Urban Areas and this is consistent throughout the four administrative divisions.
- The Labour Force Participation rate is highest in the Eastern Division.
- There is a significant Gender differential in the Labour Force Participation Rates i.e. 76.4% for Males and 37.4% for Females.
- There is a significant Gender differential in the Unemployment Rates i.e. 2.9% for Males and 7.8% for Females.
- There is a significant Gender Differential in the number of persons engaged in Paid and Unpaid Work i.e. 234,059 for Males and 106,680 for Females.

Further details are presented in Table 8 that follows;

Table 8. Population Aged 15 and Over by Labour Force Status by Division and Sex.

	Total			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Population Aged 15 and Over									
Total	625,099	315,442	309,657	360,128	177,407	182,721	264,971	138,035	126,936
Central	268,772	133,686	135,086	197,082	96,555	100,527	71,690	37,131	34,559
Eastern	24,237	13,112	11,125	2,883	1,428	1,455	21,354	11,684	9,670
Western	242,146	122,501	119,645	132,477	65,763	66,714	109,669	56,738	52,931
Northern	89,944	46,143	43,801	27,686	13,661	14,025	62,258	32,482	29,776
Labour Force									
Total	356,789	241,091	115,698	198,903	128,326	70,577	157,886	112,765	45,121
<i>LFPR</i>	<i>57.1%</i>	<i>76.4%</i>	<i>37.4%</i>	<i>55.2%</i>	<i>72.3%</i>	<i>38.6%</i>	<i>59.6%</i>	<i>81.7%</i>	<i>35.5%</i>
Central	151,987	97,920	54,067	107,536	67,618	39,918	44,451	30,302	14,149
<i>LFPR</i>	<i>56.5%</i>	<i>73.2%</i>	<i>40.0%</i>	<i>54.6%</i>	<i>70.0%</i>	<i>39.7%</i>	<i>62.0%</i>	<i>81.6%</i>	<i>40.9%</i>
Eastern	15,836	10,923	4,913	1,730	1,075	655	14,106	9,848	4,258
<i>LFPR</i>	<i>65.3%</i>	<i>83.3%</i>	<i>44.2%</i>	<i>60.0%</i>	<i>75.3%</i>	<i>45.0%</i>	<i>66.1%</i>	<i>84.3%</i>	<i>44.0%</i>
Western	136,449	94,892	41,557	73,956	49,213	24,743	62,493	45,679	16,814
<i>LFPR</i>	<i>56.3%</i>	<i>77.5%</i>	<i>34.7%</i>	<i>55.8%</i>	<i>74.8%</i>	<i>37.1%</i>	<i>57.0%</i>	<i>80.5%</i>	<i>31.8%</i>
Northern	52,517	37,356	15,161	15,681	10,420	5,261	36,836	26,936	9,900
<i>LFPR</i>	<i>58.4%</i>	<i>81.0%</i>	<i>34.6%</i>	<i>56.6%</i>	<i>76.3%</i>	<i>37.5%</i>	<i>59.2%</i>	<i>82.9%</i>	<i>33.2%</i>
Paid and Unpaid Work									
Total	340,739	234,059	106,680	187,498	122,780	64,718	153,241	111,279	41,962
Central	144,118	94,289	49,829	100,876	64,329	36,547	43,242	29,960	13,282
Eastern	15,595	10,863	4,732	1,682	1,056	626	13,913	9,807	4,106
Western	129,548	91,919	37,629	69,517	47,081	22,436	60,031	44,838	15,193
Northern	51,478	36,988	14,490	15,423	10,314	5,109	36,055	26,674	9,381
Unemployed									
Total	16,050	7,032	9,018	11,405	5,545	5,859	4,645	1,486	3,159
<i>Unemployment Rate</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>2.9%</i>	<i>7.8%</i>	<i>5.7%</i>	<i>4.3%</i>	<i>8.3%</i>	<i>2.9%</i>	<i>1.3%</i>	<i>7.0%</i>
Central	7,869	3,631	4,238	6,660	3,289	3,371	1,209	342	867
<i>Unemployment Rate</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>3.7%</i>	<i>7.8%</i>	<i>6.2%</i>	<i>4.9%</i>	<i>8.4%</i>	<i>2.7%</i>	<i>1.1%</i>	<i>6.1%</i>
Eastern	241	60	181	48	19	29	193	41	152
<i>Unemployment Rate</i>	<i>1.5%</i>	<i>0.5%</i>	<i>3.7%</i>	<i>2.8%</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>4.4%</i>	<i>1.4%</i>	<i>0.4%</i>	<i>3.5%</i>
Western	6,901	2,973	3,928	4,439	2,132	2,307	2,462	841	1,621
<i>Unemployment Rate</i>	<i>5.1%</i>	<i>3.1%</i>	<i>9.5%</i>	<i>6.0%</i>	<i>4.3%</i>	<i>9.3%</i>	<i>3.9%</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>9.6%</i>
Northern	1,039	368	671	258	106	152	781	262	519
<i>Unemployment Rate</i>	<i>2.0%</i>	<i>1.0%</i>	<i>4.4%</i>	<i>1.6%</i>	<i>1.0%</i>	<i>2.9%</i>	<i>2.1%</i>	<i>1.0%</i>	<i>5.2%</i>
Outside of the Labour Force									
Total	268,310	74,351	193,959	161,225	49,081	112,144	107,085	25,270	81,815
Central	116,785	35,766	81,019	89,546	28,937	60,609	27,239	6,829	20,410
Eastern	8,401	2,189	6,212	1,153	353	800	7,248	1,836	5,412
Western	105,697	27,609	78,088	58,521	16,550	41,971	47,176	11,059	36,117
Northern	37,427	8,787	28,640	12,005	3,241	8,764	25,422	5,546	19,876

Note: *LFPR* – Labour Force Participation Rate

Population Aged 15 and Above With Bank Account

A total of 392,148 persons aged 15 and above were reported to have a Bank Account. The number equates to a rate of 62.7% with Males at 68.5% while Females had a rate of 56.8%.

The Urban rate was 71.1% with Males at 76.9% and Females at 65.5%. On the other hand the Rural rate was 51.3% with Males at 57.8% and Females at 44.3%.

Further details are presented in Table 9 that follows;

Table 9. Population Aged 15 and above With a Bank Account By Division, Urban and Rural, 2017

	Total			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	625,099	315,442	309,657	360,128	177,407	182,721	264,971	138,035	126,936
Central	268,772	133,686	135,086	197,082	96,555	100,527	71,690	37,131	34,559
Eastern	24,237	13,112	11,125	2,883	1,428	1,455	21,354	11,684	9,670
Western	242,146	122,501	119,645	132,477	65,763	66,714	109,669	56,738	52,931
Northern	89,944	46,143	43,801	27,686	13,661	14,025	62,258	32,482	29,776
With Bank Account									
Total	392,148	216,207	175,941	256,094	136,444	119,650	136,054	79,763	56,291
Central	173,733	93,225	80,508	138,920	73,317	65,603	34,813	19,908	14,905
Eastern	7,914	4,697	3,217	1,508	812	696	6,406	3,885	2,521
Western	161,155	89,769	71,386	96,980	52,147	44,833	64,175	37,622	26,553
Northern	49,346	28,516	20,830	18,686	10,168	8,518	30,660	18,348	12,312
% With Bank Account									
Total	62.7%	68.5%	56.8%	71.1%	76.9%	65.5%	51.3%	57.8%	44.3%
Central	64.6%	69.7%	59.6%	70.5%	75.9%	65.3%	48.6%	53.6%	43.1%
Eastern	32.7%	35.8%	28.9%	52.3%	56.9%	47.8%	30.0%	33.3%	26.1%
Western	66.6%	73.3%	59.7%	73.2%	79.3%	67.2%	58.5%	66.3%	50.2%
Northern	54.9%	61.8%	47.6%	67.5%	74.4%	60.7%	49.2%	56.5%	41.3%

Functioning Challenge (Disability)

A total of 113,595 persons aged 3 and above were reported to have at least one functioning challenge. The number equates to a rate of 13.7% which is close to the International benchmark of 15%. The percentage was highest in Rotuma with 21.7% followed by Lau at 18.2% with the province of Nadroga/Navosa recording the lowest rate of 10.4%. Further details are presented in Table 10 that follows;

Table 10. Population Aged 3 and Above with at Least One Disability

Province	Age 3 and above	At Least One Disability	%
Total	829907	113595	13.7
Ba	233284	30242	13.0
Bua	14301	2411	16.9
Cakaudrove	46633	5099	10.9
Kadavu	10058	1532	15.2
Lau	9002	1635	18.2
Lomaiviti	14670	2352	16.0
Macuata	62289	9187	14.7
Nadroga/Navosa	55267	5771	10.4
Naitasiri	166545	23768	14.3
Namosi	7306	943	12.9
Ra	28393	4360	15.4
Rewa	101773	13925	13.7
Serua	18678	3375	18.1
Tailevu	60190	8665	14.4
Rotuma	1518	330	21.7

Other information from the 2017 Population and Housing Census will be released progressively in the coming months.



Mr. Epeli Waqavonovono
Census Commissioner