

Under embargo until 12:00 noon. Bangkok Time, Monday, 1 May 2017

FIJI

GDP (current US\$, billions):	\$4.39	Population (thousands):	897
Share of GDP in developing Asia-Pacific:	0.02%	GDP per capita (current US\$):	\$4,921.90
Share of GDP in Pacific island developing economies:	19.5%	Average inflation (2016)	3.9%

- Output growth in Fiji trended down to 2 per cent in 2016 from 3.6-3.8 per cent in 2014 and 2015.
- Tropical Cyclone Winston in February 2016 and a tropical depression in December of the same year impeded activity in the agricultural, timber production and manufacturing sectors.
- Despite the setbacks from the natural disasters and higher inflation due to supply disruptions, private consumption appeared buoyant as a result of higher revenues from increased tourist arrivals and elevated workers' remittances.
- Investment conditions and reconstruction works benefited from eased fiscal and monetary policy stances.
- Growth is forecast to rebound to 3.6 per cent in 2017 before softening to 3 per cent in 2018.
- Tourism-linked sectors and post-cyclone reconstruction work are expected to drive the economy.
- Aided by government financial assistance and subsiding inflation, private consumption should increase as households restock consumer goods and rebuild houses.
- In contrast, the preferential access of sugar from Fiji to markets in the European Union is scheduled to end in 2017. Similarly on the downside, despite higher capital spending budgeted for reconstruction activity, shortages of essential building materials and skilled labour may continue to delay some major construction work.
- Sustaining the country's medium-term growth will depend on effective implementation of structural reforms that are aimed at enhancing the business climate, strengthening the civil service and State-owned enterprises and removing impediments to land use.