



Rear-Admiral (Ret'd) Hon. Josaia V. Bainimarama, CF (Mil), OSt.J, MSD, jssc, psc  
Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Foreign  
Affairs

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**PARLIAMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION NO. 80/2021**  
**- Thurs. 25 March, 2021**

**QUESTION:**

Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau to ask the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Foreign Affairs – Can the Prime Minister update Parliament on the following

- (a) the current number of individuals on work permits;
  - (b) the industries in which these permits are being issued; and
  - (c) the countries from which these work permit holders are citizens.
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**RESPONSE:**

1. The Fijian Immigration Department provides Immigration services through the administration and enforcement of the Immigration Act 2003 and Regulations; Passport Act 2002 and Regulations; Citizenship Act 2009 and Regulations.

2. The Department issues 8 different types of permits. Entry of skilled foreign workers are facilitated through “Work Permits” which are issued in accordance with conditions and criteria under the Immigration Act 2003 and Regulation 2007.
3. From 2013 to 2019, an average of 4,230 work permits were issued annually for skilled workers in key sectors.
4. The total number of foreign skilled workers currently in the country is **6,887**.
5. These work permit holders are engaged in the following sectors:
  - Building and Civil Industries, Electrical Engineering Trades Sectors
  - Wholesale and Retailers
  - Fishing
  - Religious
  - Civil Societies
  - Education
  - Manufacturer
  - Hotel and Catering
  - Communication
  - ICT
  - Tourism
6. The table below provides the region and countries of the current 6,887 foreign skilled workers.

	Region	Country
1.	Africa	Cameroon
2.		Congo
3.		Congo, Rep. (Brazzaville)
4.		Djibouti
5.		Egypt

	Region	Country	
6.		Ethiopia	
7.		Gabon	
8.		Ghana	
9.		Kenya	
10.		Liberia	
11.		Malawi	
12.		Mauritius	
13.		Nigeria	
14.		Sierra Leone	
15.		South Africa	
16.		Zambia	
17.		Zimbabwe	
18.		Americas (North America)	Bahamas
19.			Barbados
20.			Canada
21.			Costa Rica
22.			Cuba
23.	Dominican Republic		
24.	Guatemala El Salvador		
25.	Jamaica		
26.	Mexico		
27.	Panama		
28.	Saint Lucia		
29.	United States		
30.	Americas (South America)		Argentina
31.		Brazil	
32.		Chile	
33.		Colombia	
34.		Ecuador	
35.		Nicaragua	
36.		Peru	
37.		Suriname	
38.		Venezuela	
39.	Asia & Middle East	Bangladesh	
40.		Cambodia	
41.		China	
42.		India	
43.		Indonesia	
44.		Iran	
45.		Israel	
46.		Japan	
47.		Jordan	

	Region	Country
48.		Lebanon
49.		Malaysia
50.		Maldives
51.		Myanmar
52.		Nepal
53.		Pakistan
54.		Philippines
55.		Saudi Arabia
56.		Singapore
57.		South Korea
58.		Sri Lanka
59.		Syria
60.		Taiwan
61.		Thailand
62.		Turkey
63.		Vietnam
64.		Albania
65.		Austria
66.		Belarus
67.		Belgium
68.		Croatia
69.		Czech Republic
70.		Denmark
71.		Finland
72.		France
73.		Germany
74.		Greece
75.		Hungary
76.	Europe	Ireland
77.		Italy
78.		Montenegro
79.		Netherlands
80.		Poland
81.		Portugal
82.		Romania
83.		Russian Federation
84.		Serbia
85.		Slovakia
86.		Spain
87.		Sweden
88.		Switzerland
89.		Ukraine

	Region	Country
90.		United Kingdom
91.	Pacific	Australia
92.		Federated States of Micronesia
93.		Kiribati
94.		New Zealand
95.		Palau
96.		Papua New Guinea
97.		Samoa
98.		Solomon Islands
99.		Tonga
100.		Tuvalu
101.		Vanuatu

7. It should be noted that skilled workers contribute significantly to Fiji's economy. The filling of temporary skill gaps is essential for Fiji's short to medium-term economic recovery and long-term economic growth. Skilled workers are recruited to fill technical, managerial, entrepreneurial, professional positions to address skill gaps and workforce shortages similar to many other developed and developing countries.
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