

# Appendix 1. Recorded Population of Suva

The following table condenses census data from 1901 to 2017. In 1879 HS Cooper estimated Suva's population to be 200, and in 1888 the Colonial Report estimated the European population of Suva to be 700.<sup>1</sup> Since 1901, the census has changed the categories used to record ethnic data. It has also taken different approaches to distinguish between the town itself and the surrounding rural area.

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1 HS Cooper, *The islands of the Pacific* (London: R. Bentley and Son, 1888) 206; Great Britain Colonial Office, *Fiji: Annual general report for the year 1888* (London: H.M.S.O., 1888).

Table A1.1: Recorded population of Suva over census years 1901 to 2017.

Census year	Fiji total population	Suva population	Ethnicity							
			Fijians	Indians	Whites	Half-castes	Polynesians	Others		
1901	120,124	4,695	Fijians 701	Indians 1,728	Whites 1,073	Half-castes 176	Polynesians 826	Others 191		
1911	139,541	7,788*	Fijian 1,246	Indian 3,320	European 1,376	Part-European 401	Polynesian 977	Chinese 73	Others 395	
1921	157,266	12,982*	Fijian 1,981	Indian 7,246	European 1,753	Part-European 584	Polynesian 452	Chinese 343	Others 506	
1936	198,379	15,522*	Fijian 3,471	Indian 7,821	European 1,863	Part-European 933	Polynesian 930	Chinese 494	Others 10	
1946	259,638	25,409*	Fijian 6,406	Indian 12,729	European 2,299	Part-European 1,744	Polynesian 730	Chinese 871	Others 630	
1956	345,737	37,371*	Fijian 9,758	Indian 19,321	European 3,394	Part-European 2,094	Other Pacific Islanders 731	Chinese 1,647	Rotuman 372	Others 54
1966	476,727	54,157	Fijian 16,305	Indian 27,710	European 3,020	Part-European 2,850	Other Pacific Islanders 878	Chinese 2,340	Rotuman 986	Others 68
1976	588,068	63,628	Fijian 23,031	Indian 29,758	European 2,416	Part-European 2,678	Other Pacific Islanders 1,209	Chinese 2,083	Rotuman 1,929	Others 524
1986	715,375	69,665 (71,608)**	Fijian 27,020 (31,115)	Indian 32,420 (35,467)	European 1,771 (367)	Part-European 2,455 (1,261)	Other Pacific Islanders 1,631 (1,171)	Chinese and part-Chinese 1,966 (622)	Rotuman 2,094 (1,529)	Others 308 (76)

Census year	Fiji total population	Suva population	Ethnicity		
			Fijian	Indian	Others##
1996	775,077	77,366 (90,609)**	38,656 (46,398)	26,587 (38,813)	12,123 (5,398)
2007	837,271	74,481 (11,210)#	iTaukei 39,714 (7,625)	Indian 22,478 (2,686)	Others## 12,289 (899)
2017	884,887	93,874	Ethnic data gathered in the 2017 census was not released.		

\* Two populations were recorded in 1911, 1921 and 1936 – one for the Suva municipality and one for Suva suburbs. In 1946 an additional category of ‘rural’ was added. The figures listed here are a combined total. JS Whitelaw notes that there was no definition of what area the suburbs encompassed. In 1952 the boundaries of Suva were extended to include the area that had been called suburbs and rural in former censuses. This expanded the old town council area of one square mile to over eight square miles.<sup>2</sup>

\*\* From 1986 the population of the peri-urban Suva area was counted separately (listed in this table in parentheses).

# The Greater Suva Urban Area was reclassified and Nasinu was incorporated as a separate subdivision in the 2007 census. This explains the significant population decrease of the peri-urban population.

## In the 1996 and 2007 censuses, ethnic data was collected but the general tables did not specify the ethnic data for Suva.

Source: Census data published by the British Colonial Government from 1901 to 1966 can be found in the National Archives of Fiji. Census data from 1970 onward was sourced from a number of archives, including the National Library of Australia, the University of the South Pacific Library’s Pacific Collection and the Fiji Bureau of Statistics’ website ([www.statsfiji.gov.fj/](http://www.statsfiji.gov.fj/)).

2 JS Whitelaw, ‘People, land and government in Suva, Fiji’ (PhD thesis, The Australian National University, 1966), 63.

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