

Appendix 1

TECHNICAL NOTES

1. According to the Fiji Standard Industrial Classification the scope of the survey extended to all general building and special trade contractors like electricians, plumbers, painters, civil engineers and earthmoving contractors.
2. The survey had a response rate of 71 per cent, with all sizeable enterprises responding. Data obtained was rated up for non-response using “number of persons engaged” size groups of 1-4; 5-9; 10-19; 20- 49; 50-99 and 100+.
3. The building and construction sector is notoriously volatile and it is also a sector for which it is difficult to get accurate and timely information because of the following:
 - Construction activity is extremely mobile, the main activity being at a construction site;
 - It is highly sensitive to weather;
 - A large part of its production is “made to measure” which makes the product differ in type and size with different costs and prices because of differing circumstances at different locations;
 - The period of construction is relatively long;
 - The activity is carried out by a wide variety of units – small and large private enterprises, public sector, own account individuals and other units whose main activities are in other industries;
 - Subcontracting is prevalent – there is a probability that some work may be double counted or sometimes not counted at all (if the sub-contracted work is correctly deducted from the main contractor, but not picked up by the sub-contractor);
 - Many small enterprises go in and out of business with changing economic and seasonal factors and;
 - The activity involves the creation of fixed assets or the repair and maintenance of fixed assets.

Keeping in mind the above peculiar features of the Construction industry, every care was taken to obtain reliable information.

4. General Government includes the Central Government, Local Governments and Statutory Authorities.