



Minister for Immigration

Hon. Viliame Naupoto

PARLIAMENTARY - WRITTEN QUESTION NO. 08/2025

Friday 14th March, 2025

QUESTION

Hon. Joseph Nand to ask the Minister for Immigration – Can the Minister update Parliament on work permits issued to overseas workers from August 2023 to January 2025, including the following –

(a) The total number of work permits issued;

RESPONSE

The total number of work permits issued during the period from August 2023 to January 2025 includes all categories of permits granted to foreign nationals for employment in Fiji. This figure encompasses both short-term and long-term work permits across various sectors, reflecting the demand for skilled and unskilled labor in the country. The data provides insight into workforce trends, employer needs, and the effectiveness of immigration policies in facilitating employment while maintaining regulatory compliance.

A total of 6,460 work permits were issued between August 2023 to January 2025. The breakdowns of these permits by year are detailed in the table below.

Year	Total Number Issued
2023	1,641
2024	4819
2025	1, 121
Total	6,460

Table 1: Total number of permits issued period, Aug 23_Jan 25.

(b) The breakdown of work permits issued for the public and private sectors; and

RESPONSE

The system is not designed to differentiate between work permits issued for the public and private sectors, as it operates based on predefined settings. However, it does allow us to verify the number of registered employers registered within the system.

i) Employer registration by Organization Type

Organisation Type	Total Registered
Charitable	20
Company limited by guarantee	74
Foreign Company	58
Government Organisation	13
International Organisation	15
Local Private	444
Non-Profit Organisation	14
Partnership	26
Public	20
Regional	02
Religious	31
Sole Trader	56
Statutory Body	01
Total	774

Table 2: Employer registration by Organisation type.

ii) Employer Registration by Industry Type

Industry Type	Total Registered
Agriculture	28
Construction	155
Food & Beverage	52
IT & Technology	16
Manufacturing	80
Mining	10
Others	202
Retail	56
Service	94
Tourism	81
Total	774

Table 3: Employer registration by Industry type.

(c) The average processing time for work permit applications.

RESPONSE

Since the implementation of the Document Management System (DMS) in September 2024, the standard maximum turnaround time is 21 working days, provided all required documents are in order.

However, processing timelines may be extended due to various factors, including case complexity, incomplete applications, non-compliance with immigration procedures, delay in submitting required documents and system downtime.

---The End---