

Archetype **Stalled middle**GDP / person **\$7k**Population **0.93M**10-yr trend **2.5%**Gradual **5.8%** · **#114**Fast **4.7%** · **#130**

WHERE FIJI STARTS

Fiji is a stalled middle — neither frontier nor fragile. Middling income, middling scores, slow growth. The archetype's mark is drift: the gap to faster economies widens each year. The scores show why. Compute and energy access is 1 out of 5, the floor, because Fiji has almost no data-center capacity. Physical build speed is 1.1. AI diffusion capacity is 2.3. What Fiji holds instead is catch-up headroom at 3.8, a workable demographic profile at 3.6, and environmental resilience scored at 4.4. Its economy runs on tourism, sugar and fish, with the Southern Cross NEXT cable now landing in the country. Fiji is the Pacific's hub, home to the University of the South Pacific and the region's busiest gateway at Nadi. At about \$6,600 per person it is lower-middle-income. Ten-year trend growth is 2.5% a year.

THE THREE PATHS

These are simulations, not forecasts. The Modest path is the baseline; the two AGI scenarios fork from it. Under the **Modest** scenario, AI stays a normal technology. Fiji would gain a slight lift on trend: 2.6% growth a year, 88th of 157. At that pace the economy doubles only every 27 years. Under **Gradual** takeoff, growth would build for two decades and reach 5.8% a year once AGI matures around 2045, doubling the economy in about 12 years. That would rank Fiji 114th. Imported tools and slow diffusion would drive the gain. Under **Fast** takeoff, growth would reach 4.7% a year from the early 2030s, and Fiji would slip to 130th, down 16 places. The reason is telling: a fast world rewards compute and frontier access, and Fiji has neither. It would grow more slowly under fast than under gradual. Regulation and politics could slow or redirect any path. How Fijians and their leaders respond to transformative AI is a variable the model holds constant.

HOW YOU WOULD KNOW WHICH WORLD YOU ARE IN

The scenarios look almost the same until about 2030. In all three, the late 2020s add only fractions of a point to growth. So watch leading indicators, not GDP, and watch them live. Three global signals matter most. First, whether the METR task-horizon curve keeps doubling every four to five months through 2027–28; METR publishes it at metr.org. Second, whether frontier-lab revenue and capital spending keep compounding; Epoch AI tracks both at epoch.ai. Third, whether growth in the ten to twenty most-ready economies — the United States and China above all — breaks above trend in the early 2030s. Double-digit growth there within a couple of

years of 2030 would signal a fast world. A point or two above trend by the mid-2030s would signal a gradual one. A fade back to trend would signal a modest one. Fiji's own signals would arrive earlier than the growth data: cloud-region or hosting commitments tied to the Southern Cross cable, government services moving online, and the tourism sector's take-up of AI tools.

IF GROWTH GOES EXPLOSIVE

Explosive is the wrong word for Fiji. At 5.8% growth a year under gradual takeoff, and 4.7% under fast, Fiji would trail a frontier compounding at 19.5% and 39.2%. It would sit at the Pacific median, not above it. This is catch-up at best, and slow relative decline against the leaders. Still, 5.8% growth doubles the economy in about 12 years. A child starting school now would finish it in a country twice as rich. Tourism, services and fisheries would carry most of the gain, since Fiji builds little for export. Faster growth would raise wages at home, easing the pressure on Fijian nurses and tradespeople to emigrate to Australia and New Zealand. There is a way this leaves Fiji worse off. If the computing Fiji uses is rented from abroad, its price and availability are set by others, and a small customer has little bargaining power. The hedge is to pool demand regionally and negotiate as part of a bloc. Even a modest lift would test the state: land tenure rules, utility capacity at Energy Fiji, port throughput and disaster recovery would all have to move faster than they do now.

WHAT FIJI CAN DO NOW

Three levers follow from Fiji's weakest high-weight scores, and two pay off whether or not AGI arrives. The first is AI diffusion capacity, at 2.3. Digital skills, permissive deployment rules and digitized government services raise productivity even in a skeptic's world, so this is a no-regret move. The second is physical build speed, at 1.1. Statutory approval deadlines, one-stop permitting and pre-zoned land speed every kind of investment, not just AI. That too is no-regret; a cautious government can act on both today and lose nothing if the skeptics are right. The third lever is the bet. Compute and energy access, at 1, carries little weight if AI stays ordinary, but under a fast takeoff it becomes Fiji's single largest lever. Closing it means packaging power, land and fast permits, and joining regional cable and cloud arrangements, since a \$6,600-per-person economy cannot fund the build alone. Fiji can adapt a peer's model: Cabo Verde, another small island state, built a technology park in Praia to anchor digital investment. To see how moving these scores shifts Fiji's path under each scenario, open the atlas's [policy editor](#).

The three levers — and which pay off regardless

AI diffusion capacity

score 2.3 / 5 · weight 24 under skeptic → 13 under fast takeoff

Counts under the Modest scenario too (24→13). Closing this gap pays off whether or not AGI arrives.

No-regret

Compute & energy access

score 1 / 5 · weight 8 under skeptic → 24 under fast takeoff

Weight climbs from 8 to 24 as takeoff nears. It barely moves growth if AI stays ordinary — the lever that needs a view on the takeoff.

AGI bet

Physical build speed

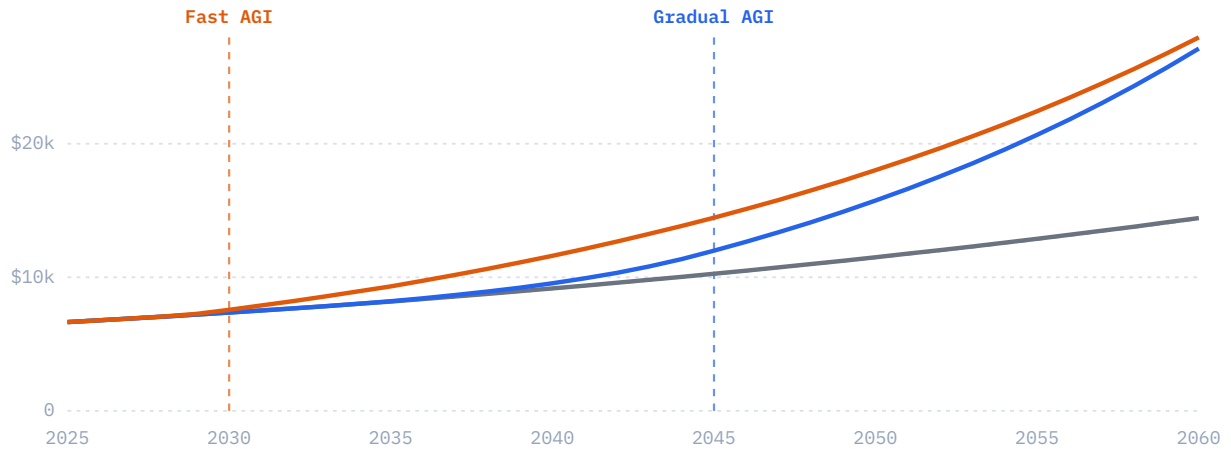
score 1.1 / 5 · weight 8 under skeptic → 17 under fast takeoff

Weight climbs from 8 to 17 as takeoff nears. It barely moves growth if AI stays ordinary — the lever that needs a view on the takeoff.

AGI bet

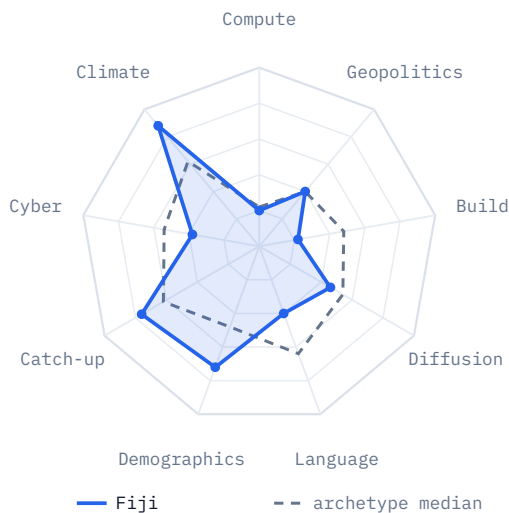
The no-regret levers pay off in every scenario, so a cautious government can act on them today. The AGI bets become decisive only if takeoff is real.

GDP per person to 2060, by scenario



Linear scale; solid lines are the three scenarios, dashed grey the no-AI baseline. Growth ramps from 2027 to each scenario's rate at its AGI year (Fast ~2030, Gradual ~2045), then holds. Timing and divergence are the point, not end levels; steep paths exit the top of the capped axis.

The nine factors



Solid: Fiji. Dashed: the median of its archetype. Scores are relative to the other 156 countries (3 ≈ global median, 5 = leading today).

Outcomes under each scenario

SCENARIO	GROWTH / YR	WORLD RANK	INDEX	DOUBLING
Modest	2.6%	88 / 157	51.7	27 yrs
Gradual	5.8%	114 / 157	48.6	12.3 yrs
Fast	4.7%	130 / 157	40.2	15.1 yrs

Post-AGI growth rate, rank among 157 countries, AGI Growth Index (0–100, scenario-weighted), and the implied economy doubling time. The Modest path is the baseline the AGI scenarios fork from.

THE THREE SCENARIOS

Modest the Acemoglu view

AI as a normal productivity tool

Intelligence was never the binding constraint on growth, so AI delivers real but ordinary gains. Each country gets a one-time boost of a couple of percent of GDP, phased in through 2035; growth then returns to trend. The mainstream-economics view.

≤0.66% TFP over a decade — a one-time gain

Fiji: 2.6% growth a year · #88 of 157

Gradual Erdil & Besiroglu, base case

Broad automation, on a long timeline

Broad automation of remote work arrives around 2045, with gains building slowly from the late 2020s. Growth then reaches up to ~20% a year for the best-positioned countries — ten times today's frontier trend. A slow arrival gives countries time to adapt, so the gains are wide but uneven.

up to ~20%/yr after 2045 — 10× the frontier trend

Fiji: 5.8% growth a year · #114 of 157

Fast Erdil & Besiroglu, fast takeoff

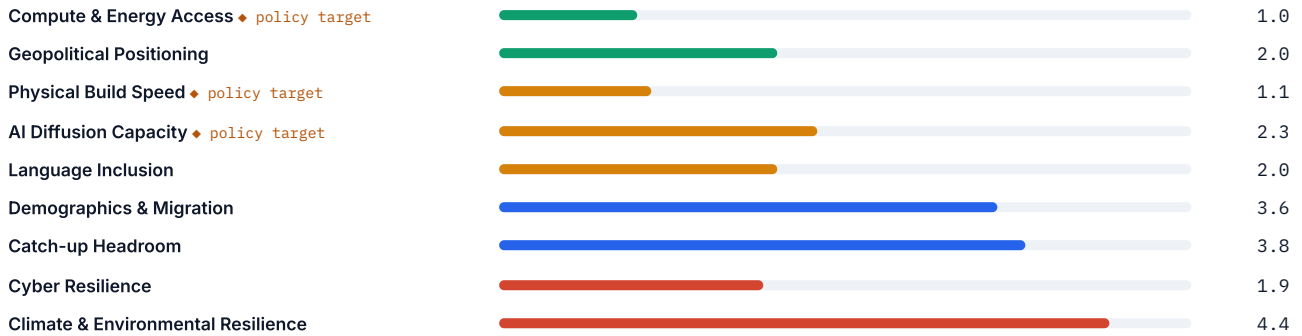
Fast takeoff — today's infrastructure decides

Transformation lands around 2030, before countries can adjust. Whoever already owns compute, capital and the ability to build wins; the gap between countries widens dramatically — and some are left growing slower than they would have without AGI.

up to ~40%/yr from 2030

Fiji: 4.7% growth a year · #130 of 157

Factor scores — and where policy bites



♦ marks this country's highest-leverage policy targets: the weakest factors carrying the most weight under the AGI scenarios. The atlas's interactive policy editor (agigrowth.org/#editor) simulates how raising any score changes growth under each scenario.

Archetype: Stalled middle

Neither frontier nor fragile: middling income, middling scores, slow growth — at every size, from micro-states to Brazil.

Wins: No clean window — gains arrive imported, and late.

Watch: Drift: the gap to every faster group compounds year by year.

Jordan 11.8% · #37

Brazil 11% · #43

Mexico 10.4% · #48

Ecuador 10% · #54

Thailand 10% · #55

Slovakia 9.6% · #59

Argentina 9.5% · #61

Lithuania 9.3% · #63

Cabo Verde 9.3% · #64

Croatia 9.1% · #67

The regional picture — Two absorbers, and a fragile periphery.

Australia and New Zealand absorb AI the way the Nordics do — high trust, high measured adoption — and they sit inside the alliance system that governs frontier access: both were Tier 1 in the 2025 US diffusion framework, and neither has reason to expect exclusion. Australia holds a card few absorbers have: energy, land, a cool southern hosting climate, and the minerals of the AI hardware stack. Whether it becomes a genuine build-out destination or remains a comfortable customer is a choice its permitting system will make during the 2030s. The Pacific periphery faces the opposite problem: Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands combine weak state capacity with thin connectivity — both sit in the high-risk tier — and for them the AGI era arrives, if at all, through mobile networks, remittances and aid rather than data centers. One region, both ends of the readiness spectrum.

Method, in brief

Each country is scored 1–5 on nine factors from public data (World Bank, Epoch AI, ITU, IMF and national sources). A scenario-weighted average forms the AGI Growth Index (0–100), which maps to a post-AGI growth rate inside ceilings derived from Erdil & Besiroglu (2023): ~20% growth a year for the best-positioned country under Gradual takeoff (AGI ~2045), ~40% under Fast (AGI ~2030); growth ramps convexly from 2027. The scenario sets the growth rates on offer; the index only decides where each country sits within them. The Modest scenario is the skeptics' baseline — a small uplift on each country's own ten-year trend. These are simulations for structured thinking, not forecasts; no probabilities are attached to any scenario.

Watch the global signals live: the METR task-horizon curve at metr.org/time-horizons · frontier-lab revenue at epoch.ai/ai-companies · AI-chip spending at epoch.ai/ai-chip-sales.

Explore further: full methodology agigrowth.org/#methodology · map & rankings agigrowth.org/#explore · country profiles agigrowth.org/#countries · policy editor agigrowth.org/#editor