



**PACIFIC
DATAVIZ
CHALLENGE**



PACIFIC DATAVIZ CHALLENGE 2026

1 JUNE–31 AUGUST

Transform numbers into impactful insights through the power of open data and data visualisation—with more than \$15,000 USD in total prizes to win.

MELANESIAN POPULATION GROWTH RATES (2015 – 2025)

A compilation of data visualization tools representing the Population Growth of four (4) main island countries in the Melanesian group of the Pacific. Data supplied by The Pacific DataViz Challenge 2026. Other files and tools used were downloaded from the internet and supplied.



Software used:



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1. Pivot Table: Annual Growth Rates (%) in Melanesia (2015 – 2025)

	Fiji	Papua New Guinea	Solomon Islands	Vanuatu
2015	0.11	2.58	3.65	2.25
2016	0.06	2.5	3.59	2.25
2017	-0.04	2.42	3.52	2.36
2018	-0.17	2.35	3.42	2.43
2019	-0.25	2.28	2.69	2.35
2020	0.01	2.15	2.24	2.35
2021	0.19	2.01	2.43	2.35
2022	0.3	1.9	2.42	2.35
2023	0.51	1.83	2.42	2.35
2024	0.26	0.9	1.19	1.14
2025	0.48	1.78	2.39	2.28

Growth Rate (%)

3.50%

2.50%

1.50%

0.50%

-0.50%

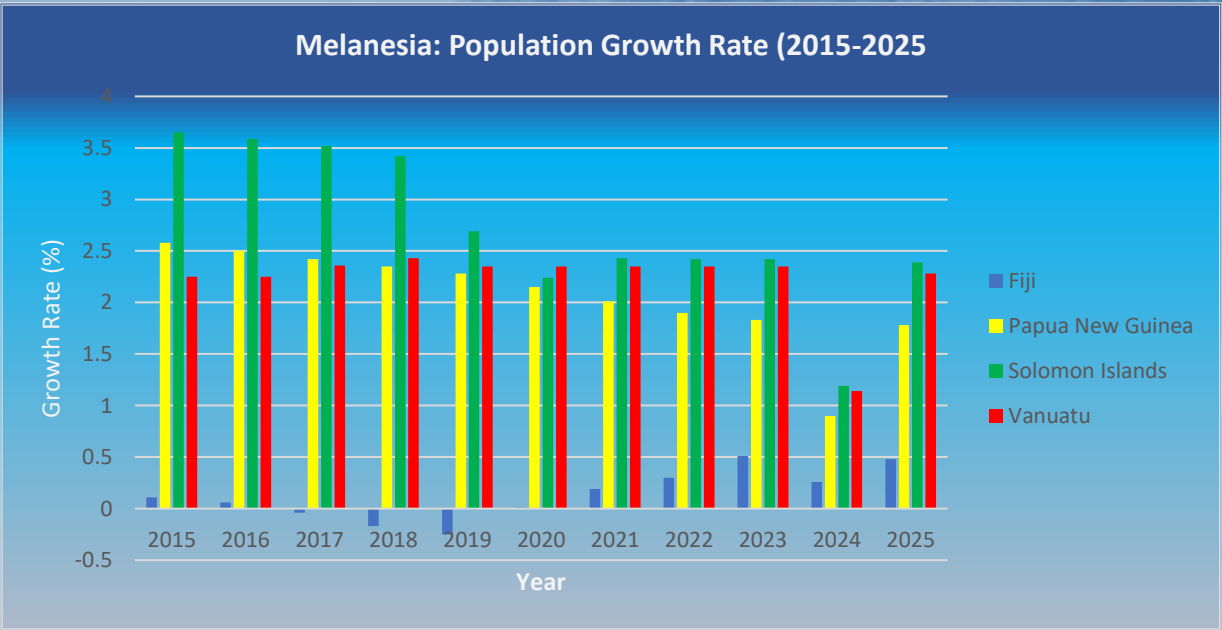
High Growth Rate

Low Growth Rate

Description: A structured data matrix presented in the pivot table above showing the exact yearly population growth percentages across the four main Melanesian island countries, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu from 2015 through 2025. It shows the countries with high growth rates in darker shades and lighter shades for countries with low growth rates.

It portrays the exact quantitative values for each year (*data's taken from Population Growth Data on the official website of Pacific DataViz Challenge 2026*). For example, it shows that Fiji experienced negative growth rates between 2017 and 2019, while the Solomon Islands started 2015 with a high growth rate of 3.65%. It also shows a noticeable drop in growth rates for Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu in the year 2024.

2. Clustered Bar Chart: Melanesia Population Growth Rate (2015 – 2025)



Description: A clustered bar chart that groups the four countries together for each year along the x-axis, using four color-coded bars to represent the growth rate on the y-axis.

This visualization is designed in a way that provides direct, side-by-side comparison. It allows the viewer to quickly see which country had the highest or lowest growth rate in any given year. Visually, it emphasizes the consistently higher historical growth of the Solomon Islands compared to Fiji's low or negative growth.

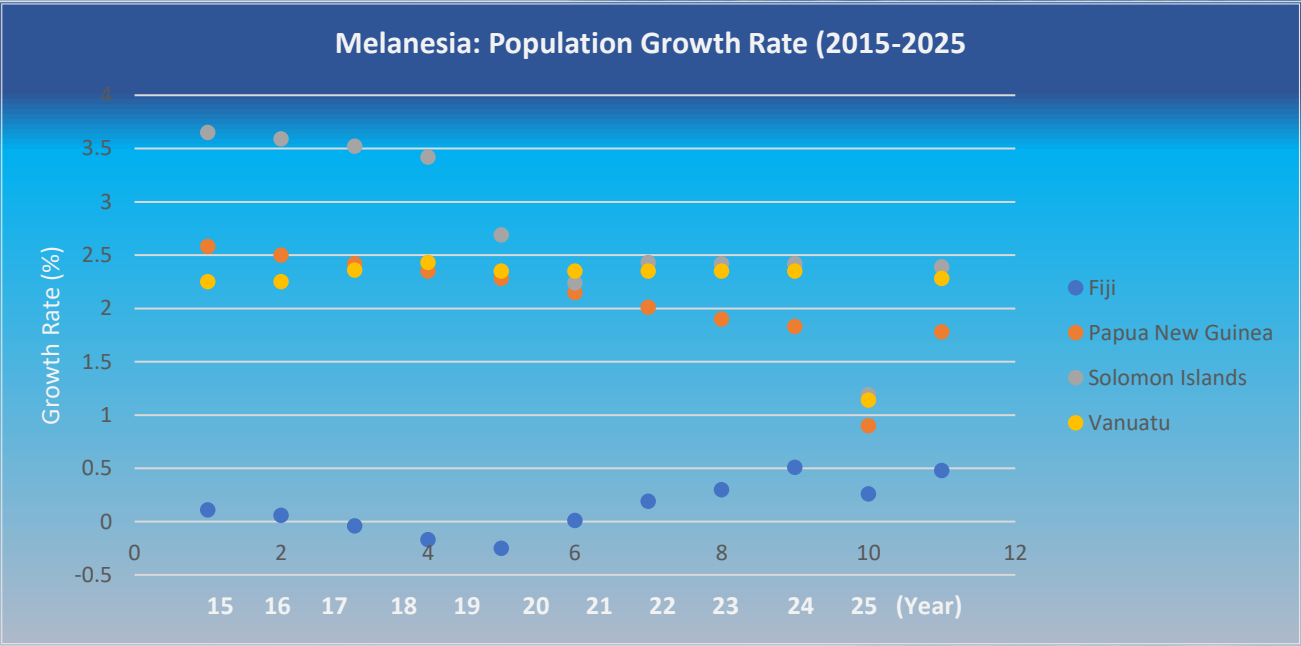
3. Line Graph: Melanesia Population Growth Rate (2015 – 2025)



Description: I decided to also include this line graph plotting the growth rate of each country over the 11-year period, with discrete data points connected by lines running across the chart.

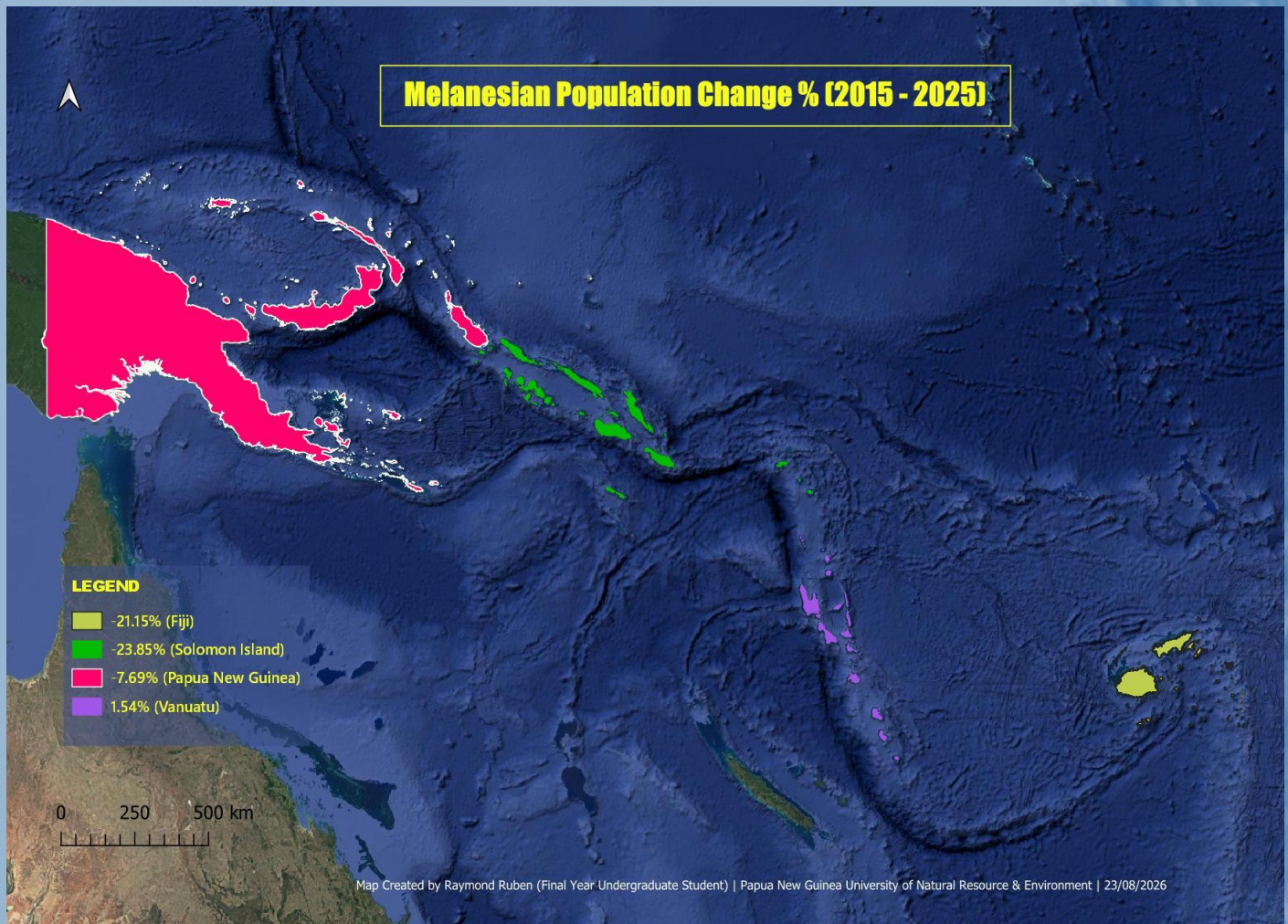
This visualization tool portrays the trends over time. It effectively highlights the downward trajectory of the Solomon Islands' growth rate and makes the sharp, synchronized dip in growth rates in 2024 for Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu as clearly visible in the graph.

4. Scatter Plot: Melanesia Population Growth Rate (2015 – 2025)



Description: This is a scatter plot that displays the growth rates as individual points across a numbered x-axis. This visual strips away the connecting lines to show the pure and raw distribution of data points across the timeline, once again showing the clustering of most rates between 1.5% and 3.5%, with Fiji's points resting near the bottom axis.

5. Map/Legend: Melanesia Overall Population Change (2015 – 2025)



Description: Using my GIS/GPS knowledge learned from the module I studied in first semester (2026), I decided to create a map with legend indicating the total population change percentage for each countries over the last decades, unlike the yearly data visualizations above.

It illustrates that Fiji had a -21.15% change, Papua New Guinea had -7.69%, Vanuatu had 1.54%, and the Solomon Islands experienced a -23.85% change. This sums up that Fiji and Solomon Islands have both experienced severe decrease in their population growth, Papua New Guinea has experienced slight decrease, and Vanuatu's population growth over the last decade has slightly increases.



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