

From Connectivity to Resilience: Transport Insights from Kiribati

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Moving Towards Efficient, Resilient, Low Carbon and Accessible Port Cities in
Asia-Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to Achieve Better Transport
Connectivity and Accessibility for All
February 24, 2026



Asian Transport Observatory (ATO): A Catalyst for Sustainable Transport in Asia

asiantransportobservatory.org



52 Economies (ADB Members + Iran and Russia)

460 Urban Centers (412 Asia-Pacific, 48 Others)

50 Urban Centers with a detailed review



AVOID



A1 - Avoid biased and unbalanced data representation



A2 - Avoid unverifiable transport data



A3 - Avoid “blame and shame” approach to monitoring

SHIFT



S1 - Shift focus to all dimensions of the transport sector



S2 - Shift towards Structured Frameworks



S3 - Shift the focus to transport policies and measures



S4 - Shift focus towards regional, sub-regional, national and urban benchmarking for contextualization

IMPROVE



I1 - Improve storytelling in making data meaningful



I2 - Improve the capacity of data generators



I3 - Improve and expand the data framework over time



I4 - Improve partnerships

FINANCE



F1 - Allocate adequate, flexible funding for transport monitoring

ATO Insights: Interactive visualisations



Climate Financing: Transport Sector in Asia - Visualization

2024-11-26

The dashboard presents a detailed overview of climate finance flows specific to regional trends, funding distribution, and sources of investment.

Interactive Visualization

Tags: Climate, Climate finance



Liner Connectivity Index - Visualization

2024-11-08

The Liner Shipping Bilateral Connectivity Index (LSBCI) provides a comprehensive measure between pairs of countries, capturing their level of integration into global liner shipping.

Interactive Visualization

Tags: connectivity, Sustainable Transport, Maritime Transport, Global Trade, Supply chain



Transport CO2 Emissions Visualization Tool

2024-11-18

ATO has created a visualization / animation tool using the data from IEA-EDG. Data from 1990 onwards is represented in the visualization tool which aims at magnitude, direction, and speed of change in transport-sector emissions, ...

Interactive Visualization

Tags: emissions



Renewable Energy Share in Electricity Generation - Visualization

2024-10-30

The renewable energy (RE) share in electricity generation (%) refers to the proportion of renewable sources such as wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal.

Interactive Visualization

Tags: energy, e-mobility, electrification



Urban Access to Public Transport - Visualization

2024-10-24

Access to public transport plays a critical role in creating inclusive cities. Access to Public Transport—focuses on how well urban residents have access to public transport, social equity, environmental sustainability, and economic opportunities.

Interactive Visualization

Tags: urban access, cities, public transport, urban centers



Transport CO2 Intensity of the Economy

2024-10-15

Interactive Visualization

Tags:

<https://asiantransportobservatory.org/pacific/>



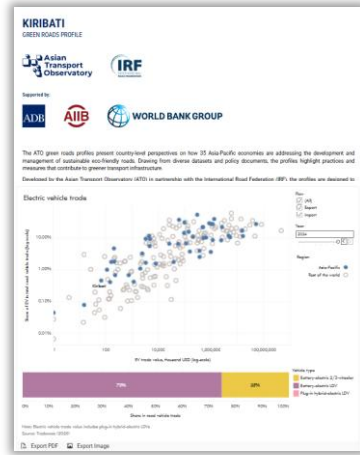
Knowledge base on transport in the Pacific

A Pacific-focused platform of the Asian Transport Observatory that gathers and shares comprehensive datasets, generate unique policy insights, and delivers novel knowledge products rooted in groundbreaking analysis.

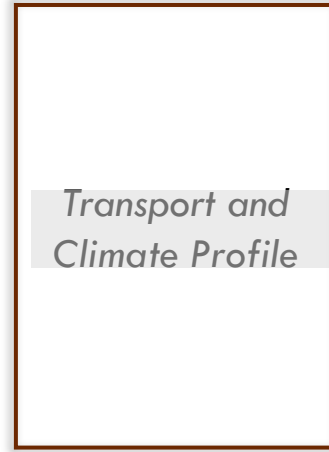


Kiribati knowledge products

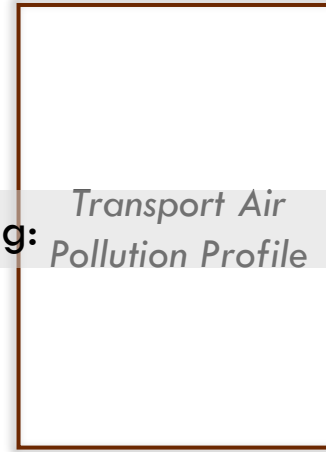
Green Roads Profile (Interactive)



Transport and Climate Profile



Transport Air Pollution Profile



Upcoming:

Download Country Profiles here:



Transport in Review: Kiribati

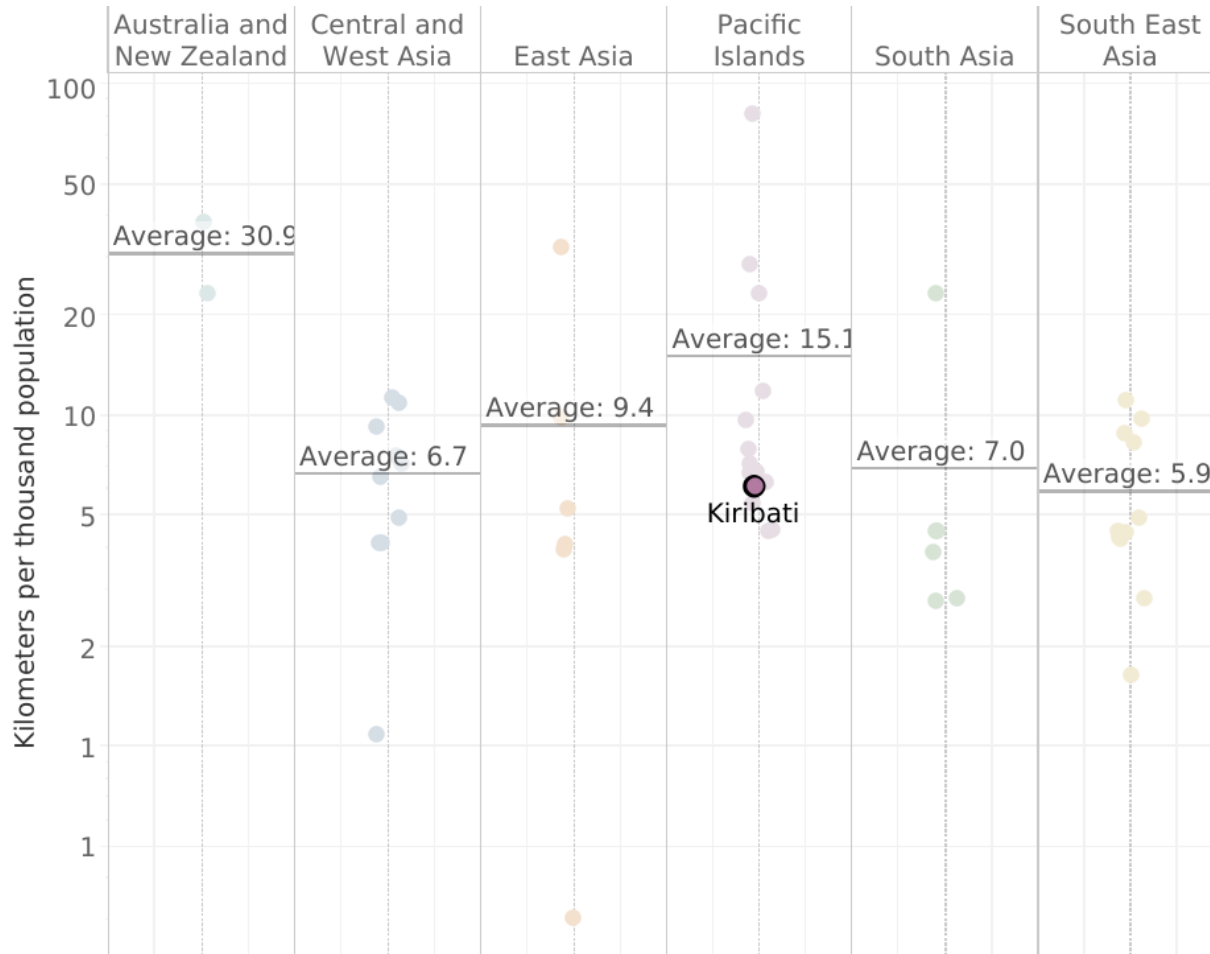


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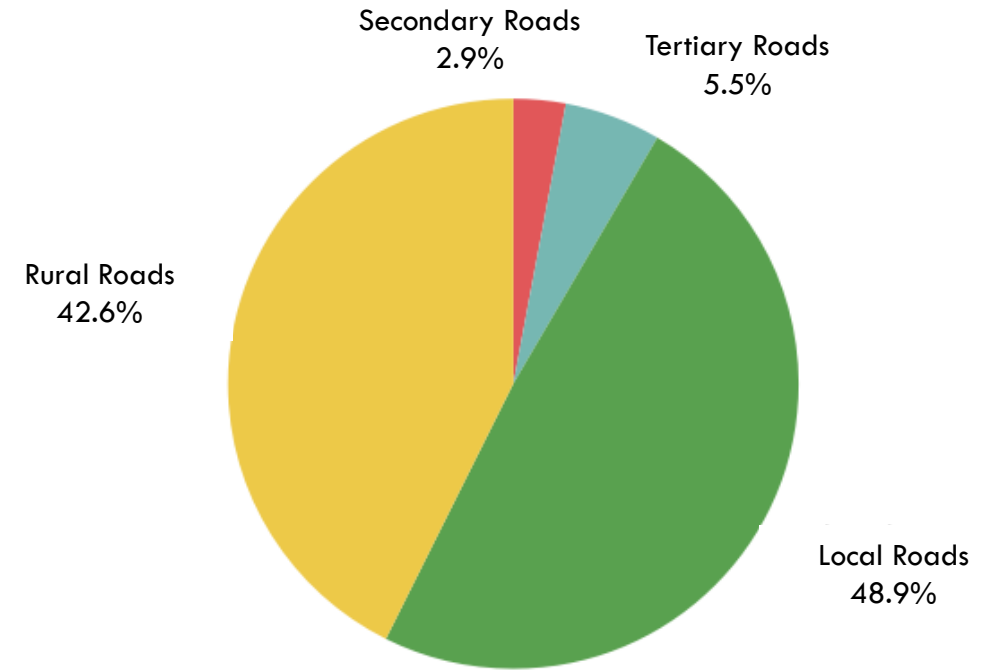
Road infrastructure availability and quality

Road Infrastructure - Kilometers per Thousand Population), 2024



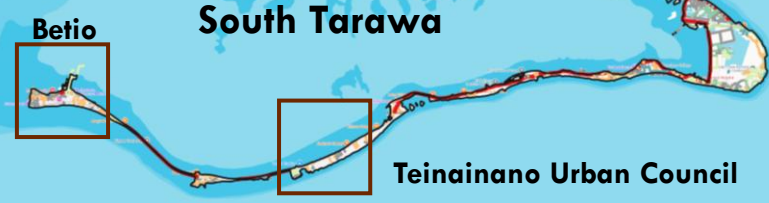
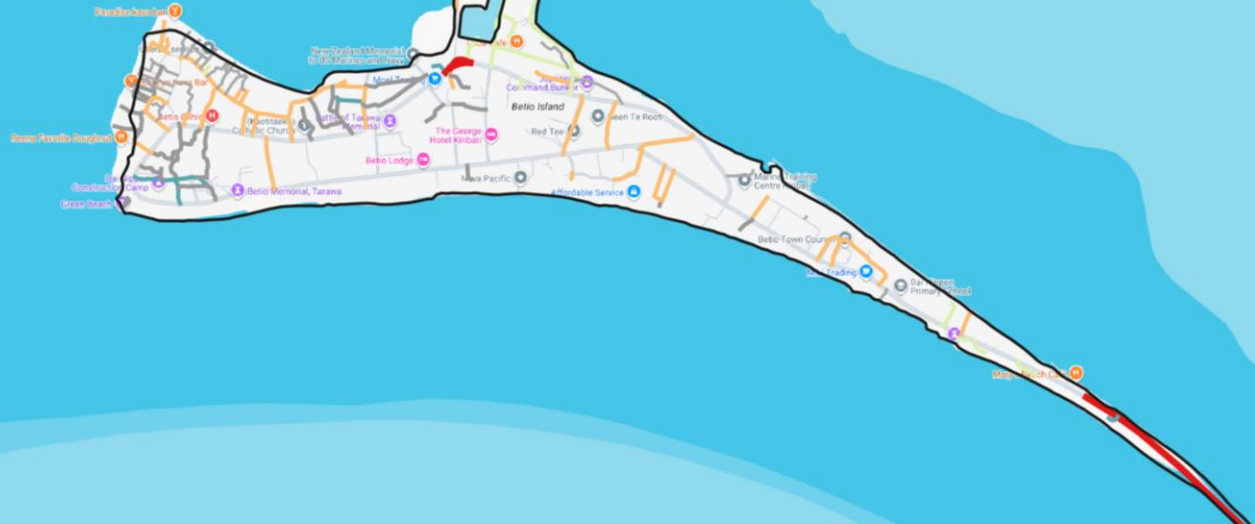
Source: ATO analysis based on UN DESA (2025), World Bank (2022b)

Road share, by type



Source: Weidenhofer et al. (2024)

Betio

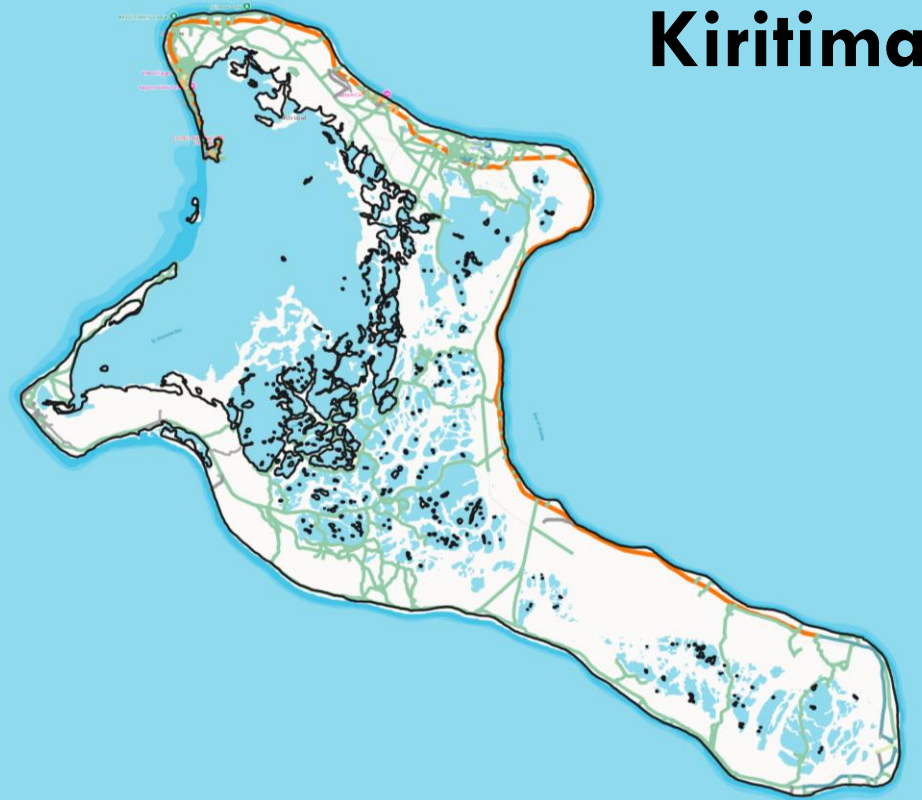


- footway
- path
- primary
- residential
- secondary
- secondary_link
- service
- tertiary
- track

Teinainano Urban Council

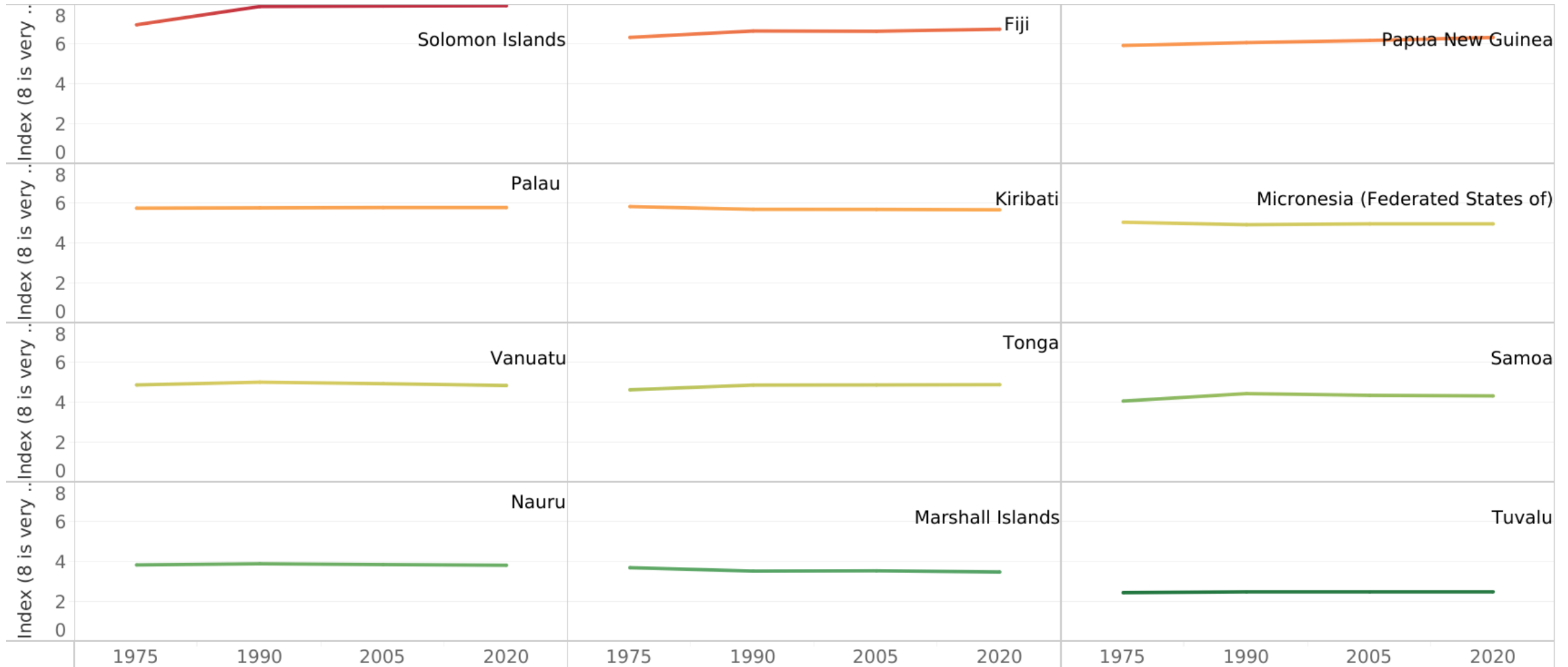


Kiritimati



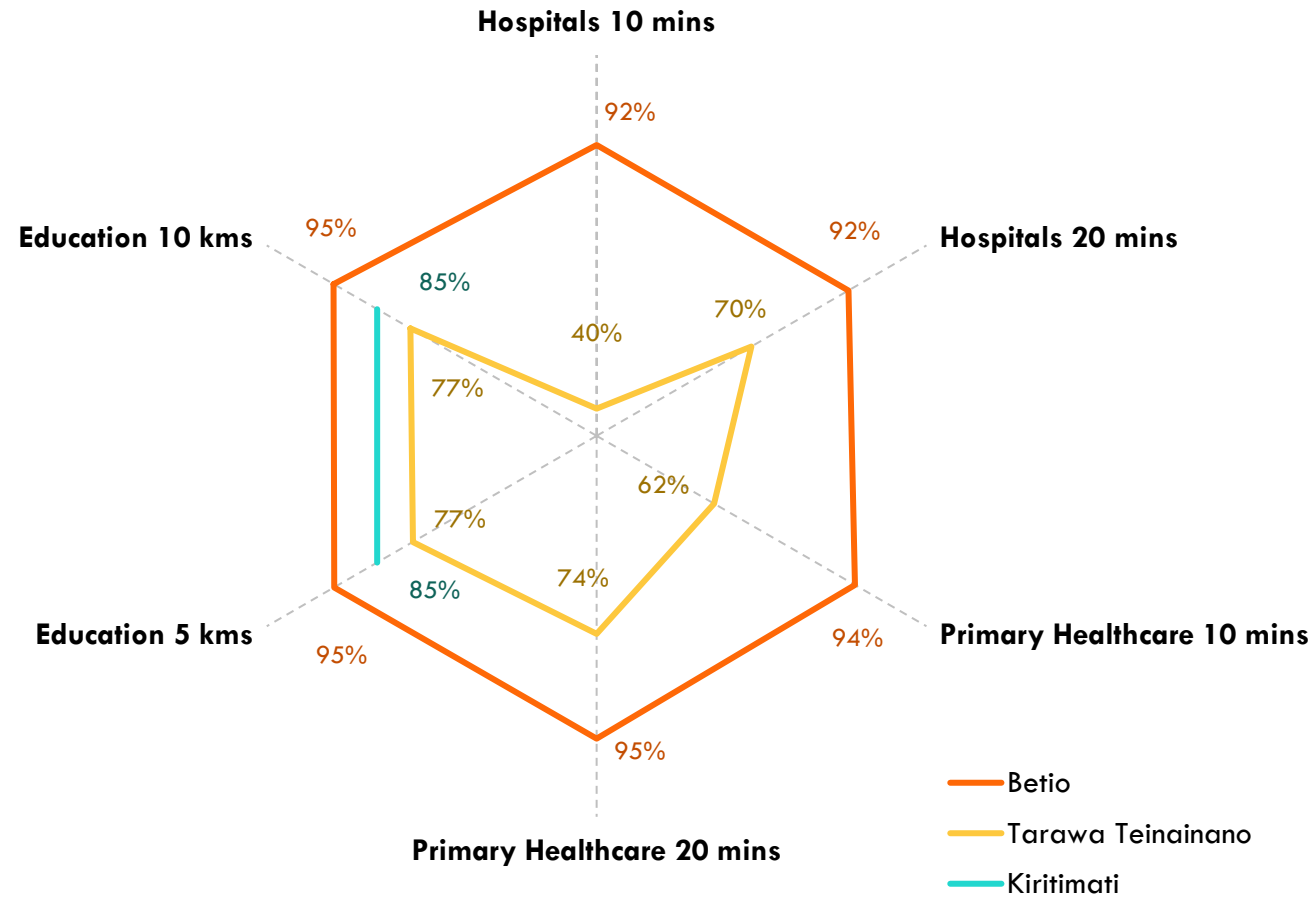
Street network disconnectedness index (SNDi)

Street network disconnectedness index (SNDi)



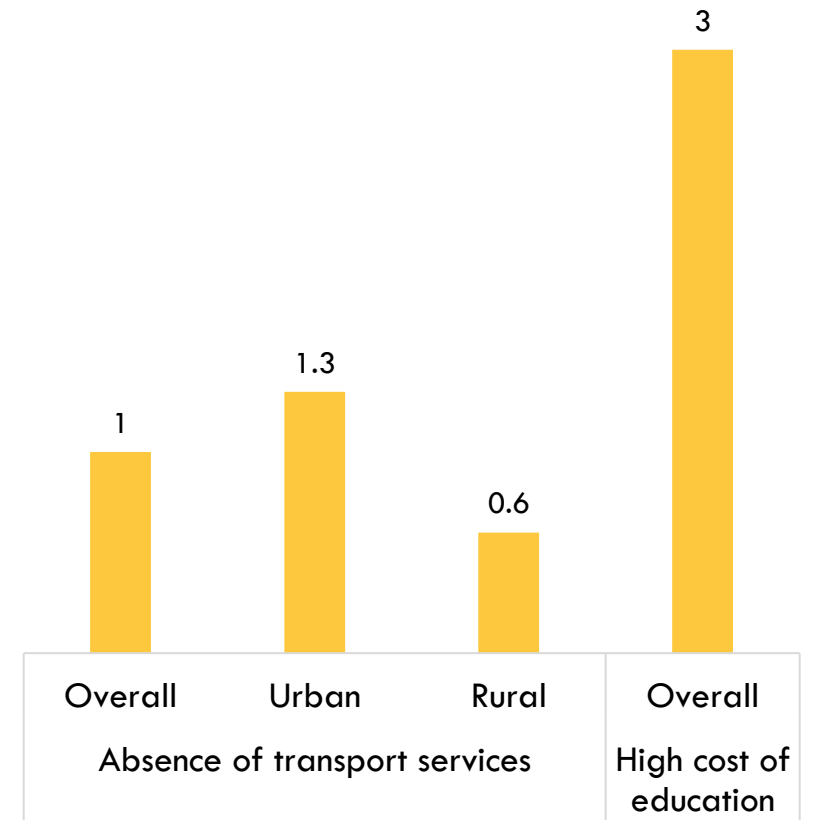
Access to social infrastructure

Share of population with access to Social infrastructure



Source: HeiGIT (2025), <https://data.humdata.org/dataset/kiribati-accessibility-indicators>

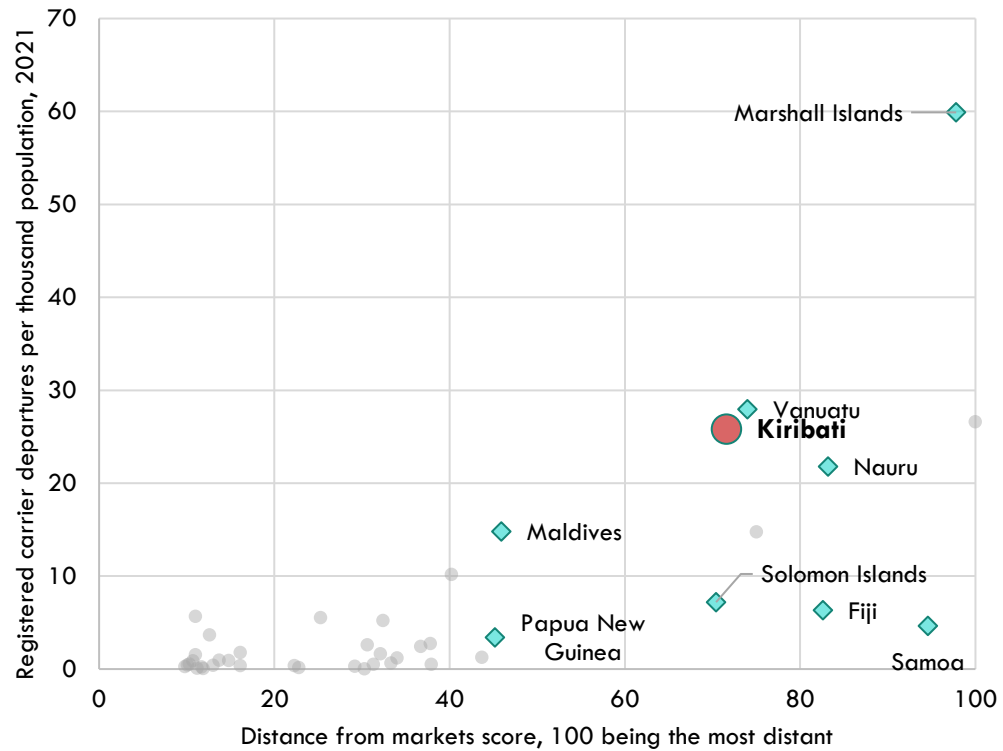
Population aged 3+ never attended a school (out of 200)



Source: [Kiribati 2019-2020 Household Income and Expenditure Survey Report](#)

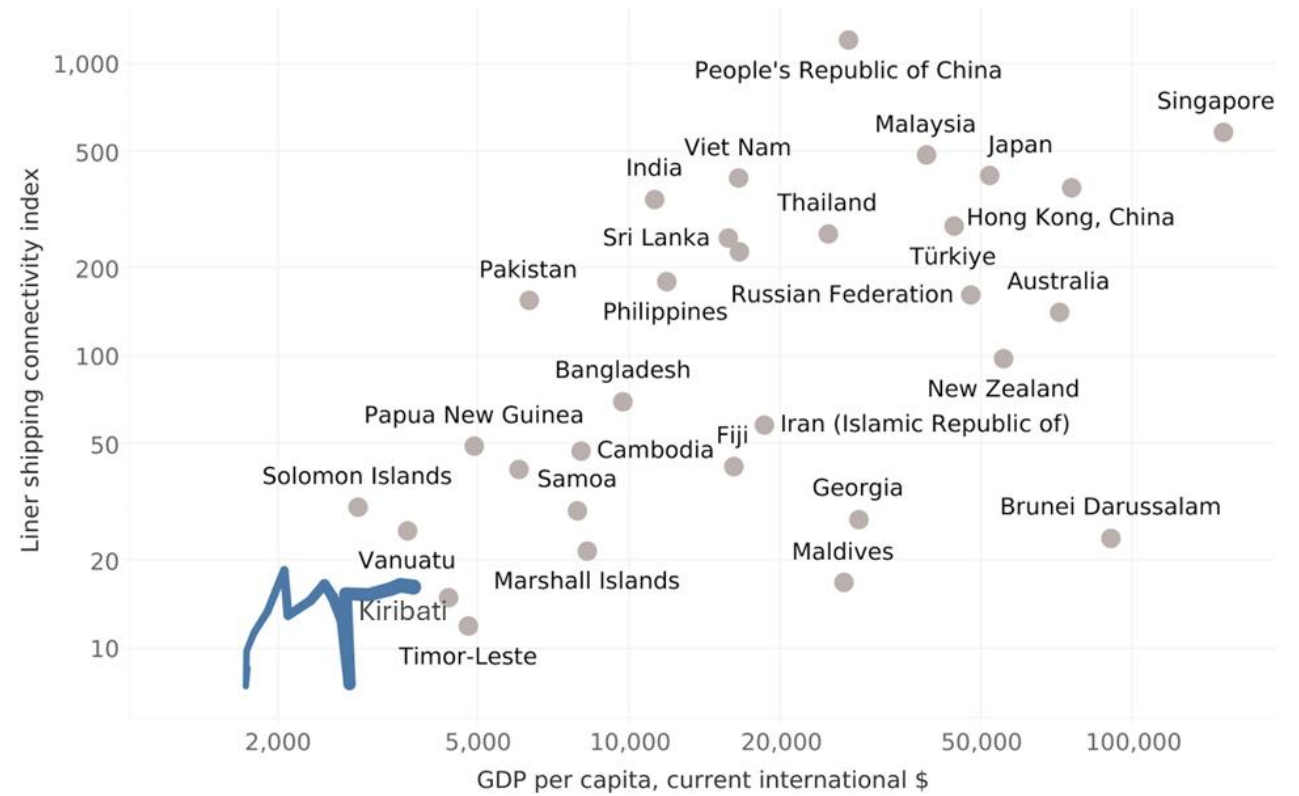
Aviation and Maritime services

Registered carrier departures per thousand population, 2021



Source: ATO analysis and visualization based on: (UNCTAD 2021; World Bank 2021a)

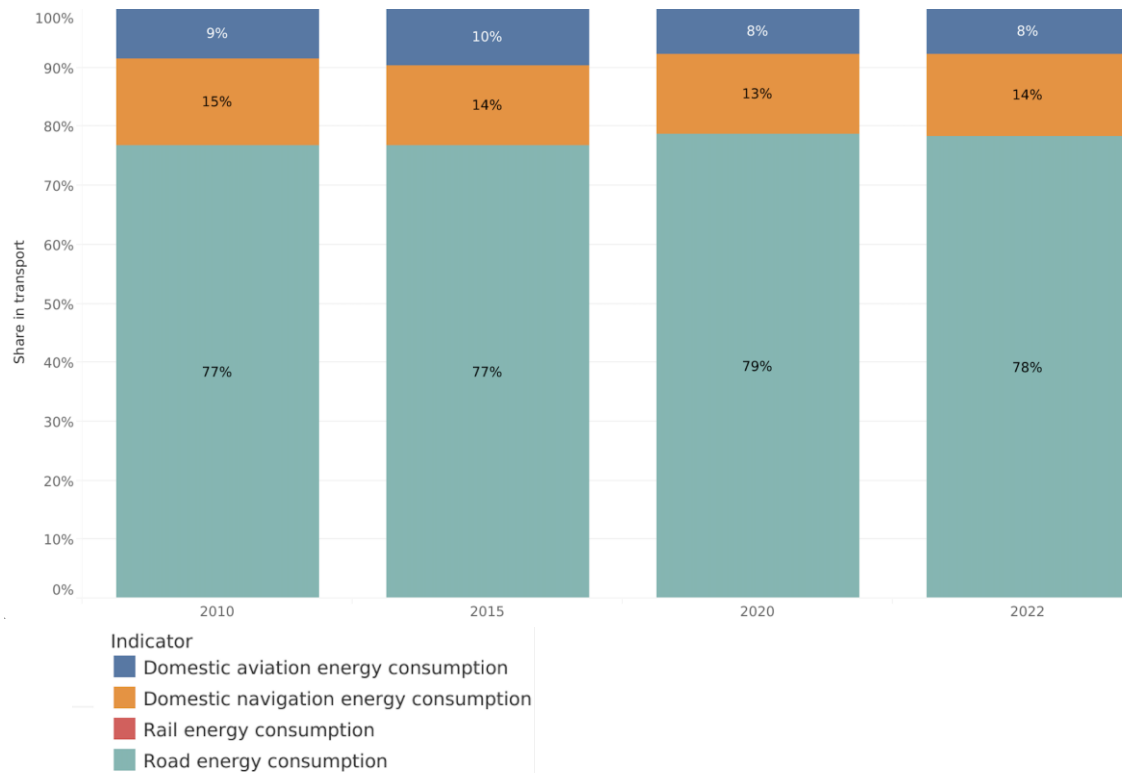
Liner Shipping Connectivity Index, 2006-2024



Source: ATO analysis and visualization based on: (UNCTAD 2024)

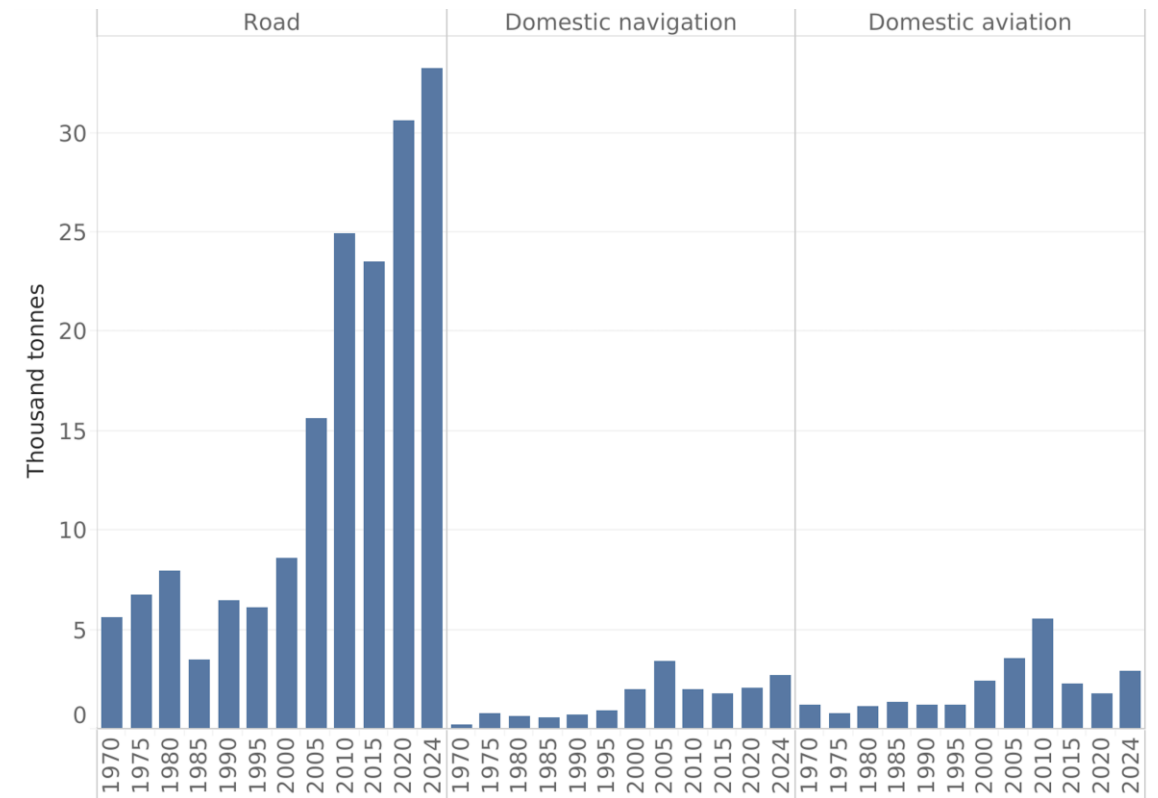
Transport energy consumption and GHG emissions

Kiribati - Share of Modes in Transport Energy Consumption



Source: ATO analysis and visualization based on: (United Nations Statistics Division 2024)

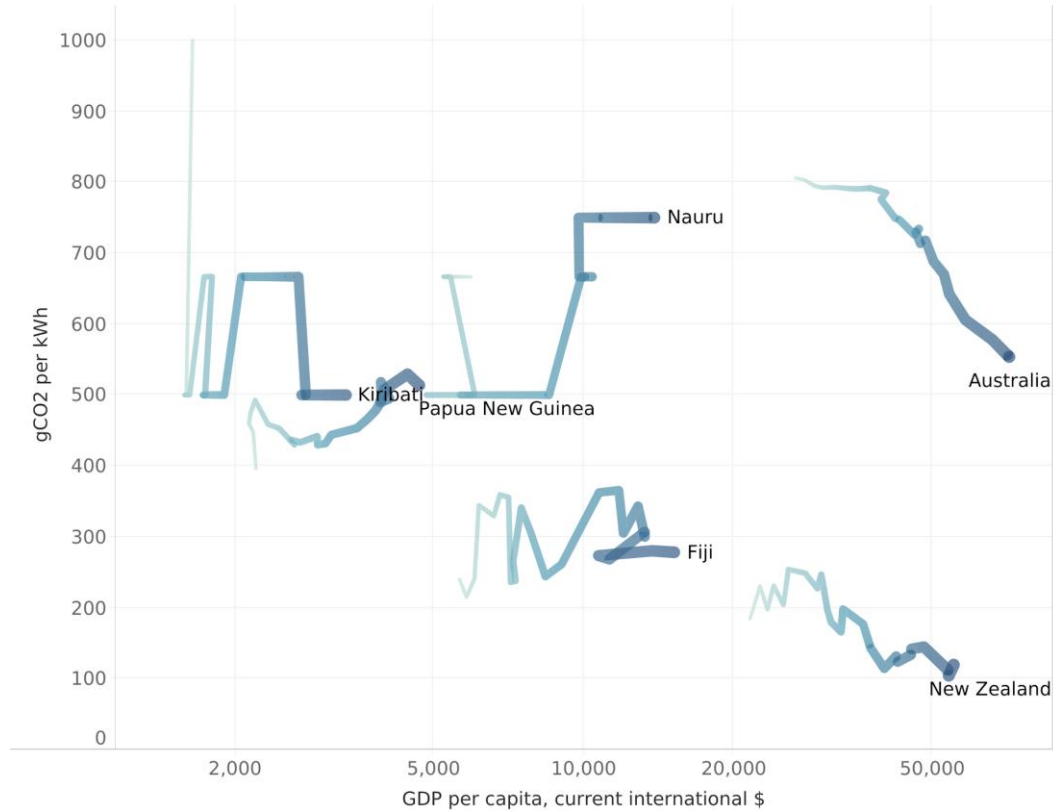
Kiribati - Domestic Transport GHG emissions (Thousand Tons)



Source: ATO visualization based on EDGAR (2025)

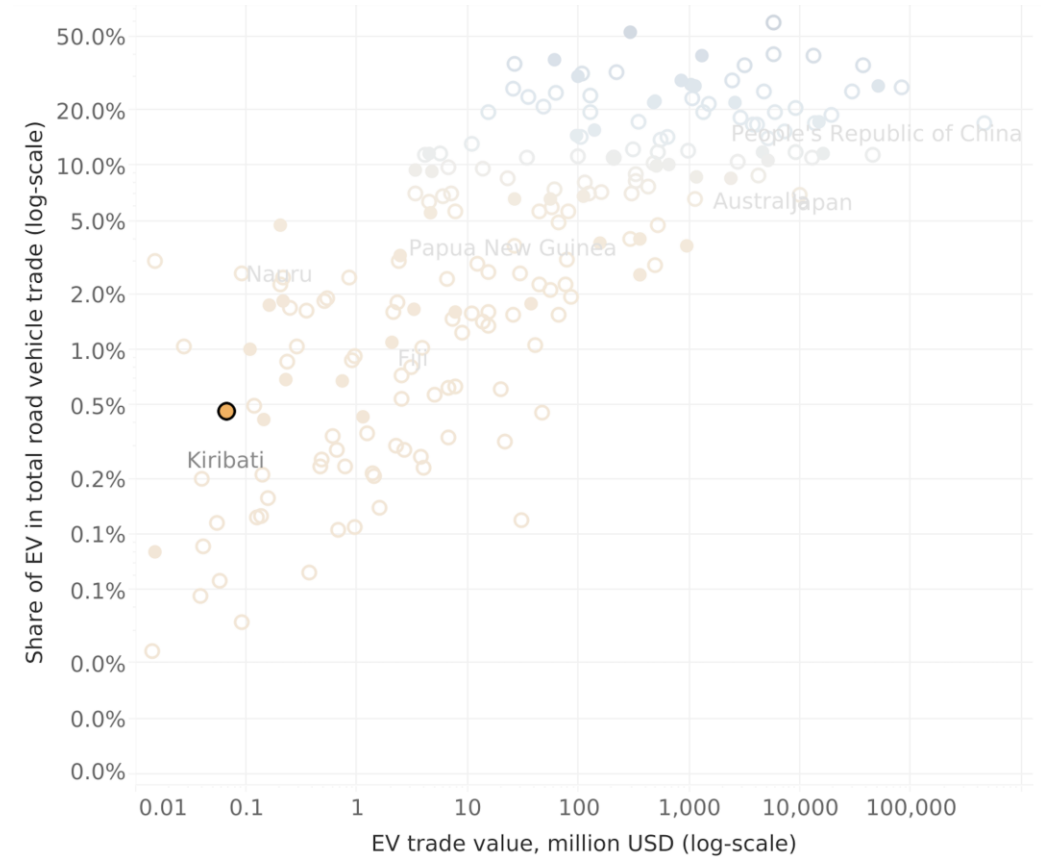
Electrification of the transport sector

Grid emission factor in the Pacific 2000-2024



Source: ATO analysis and visualization based on: (EMBER n.d.)

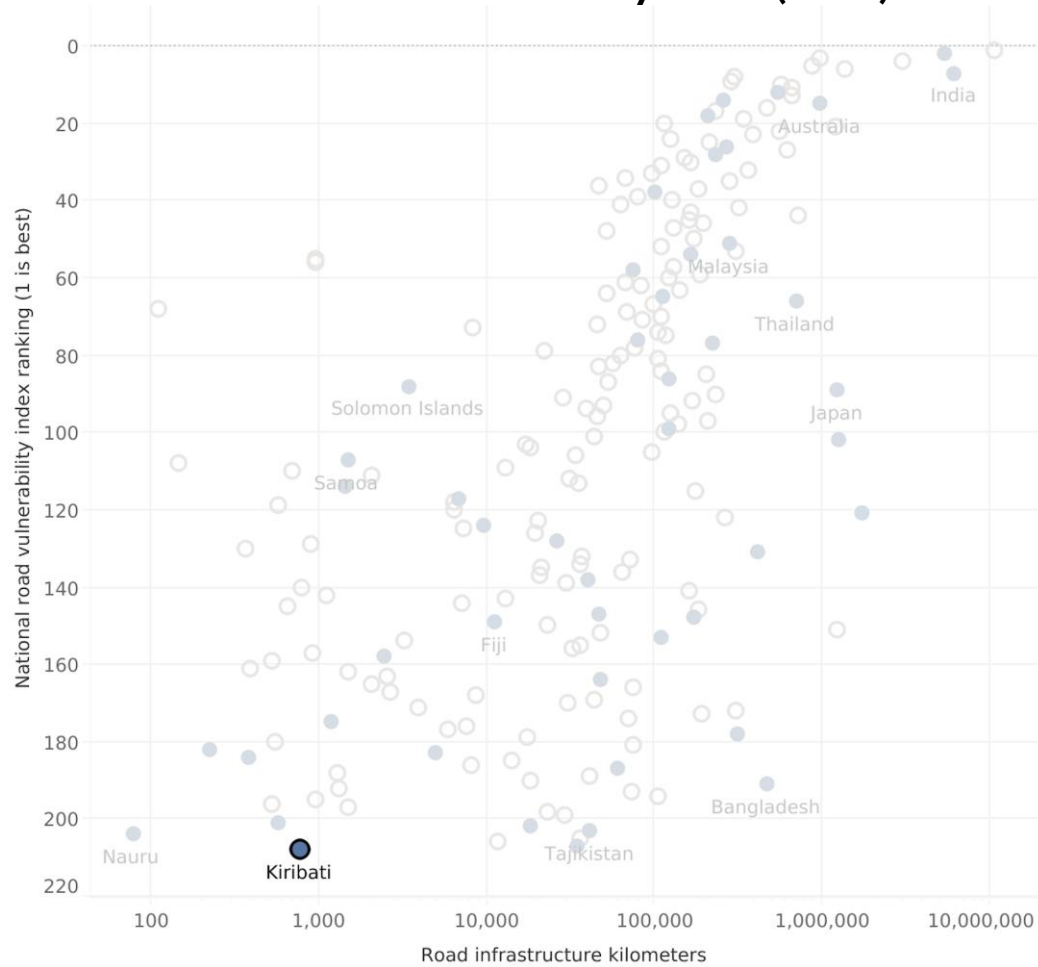
Share of EV in total road vehicle trade across Asia-Pacific and the world (2024)



Source: ATO analysis and visualization based on: (Trademap 2025)

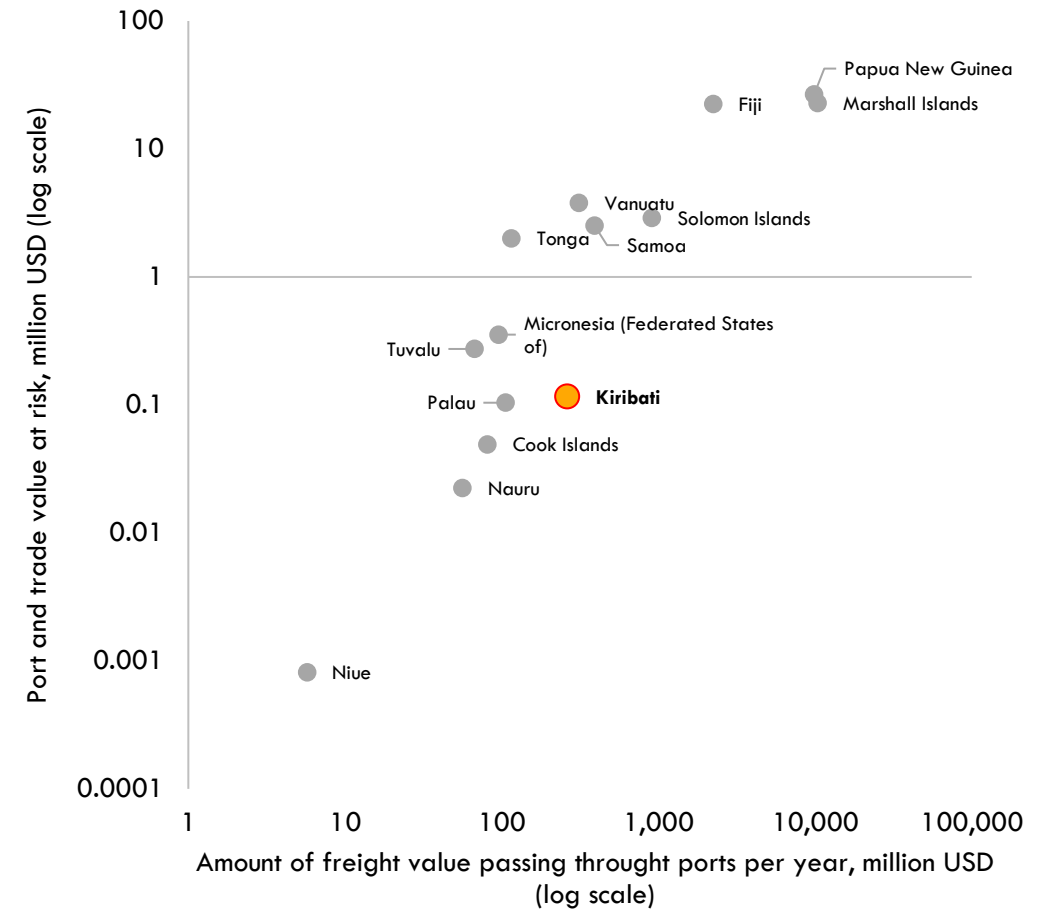
Climate vulnerability and trade value at risk

National Road Vulnerability Index (NRVI)



Source: ATO visualization based on Koks et al. (2023)

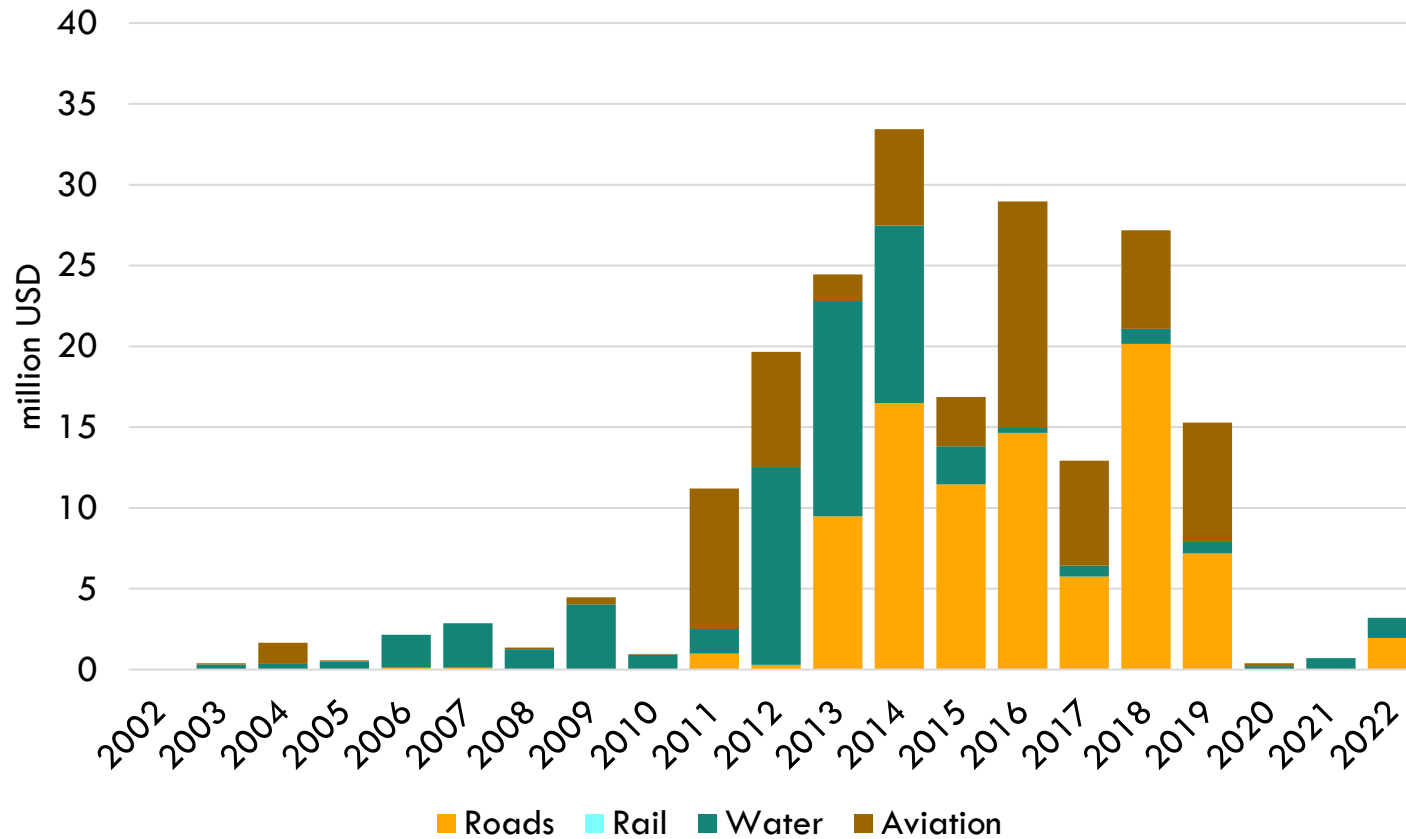
Annual Risk (USD) to Ports and Trade



Source: ATO analysis and visualization based on: (Verschuur, Koks, Sihan, et al. 2023)

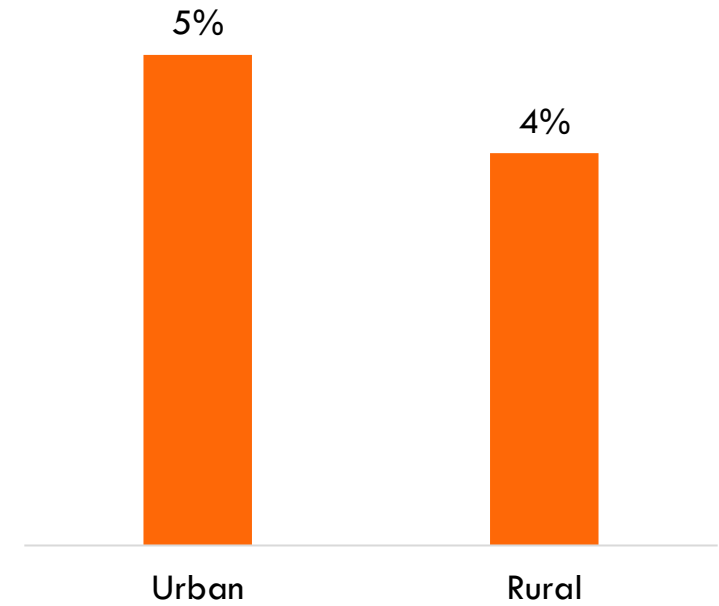
Transport investments and Household consumption

Transport ODA to Kiribati



Source: ATO analysis and visualization based on OECD (2025)

Average annual household Consumption (Transport as a share of total) (2025)



Source: KNSO report (2025)

Adopted policies for enhancing accessibility

Economic Development

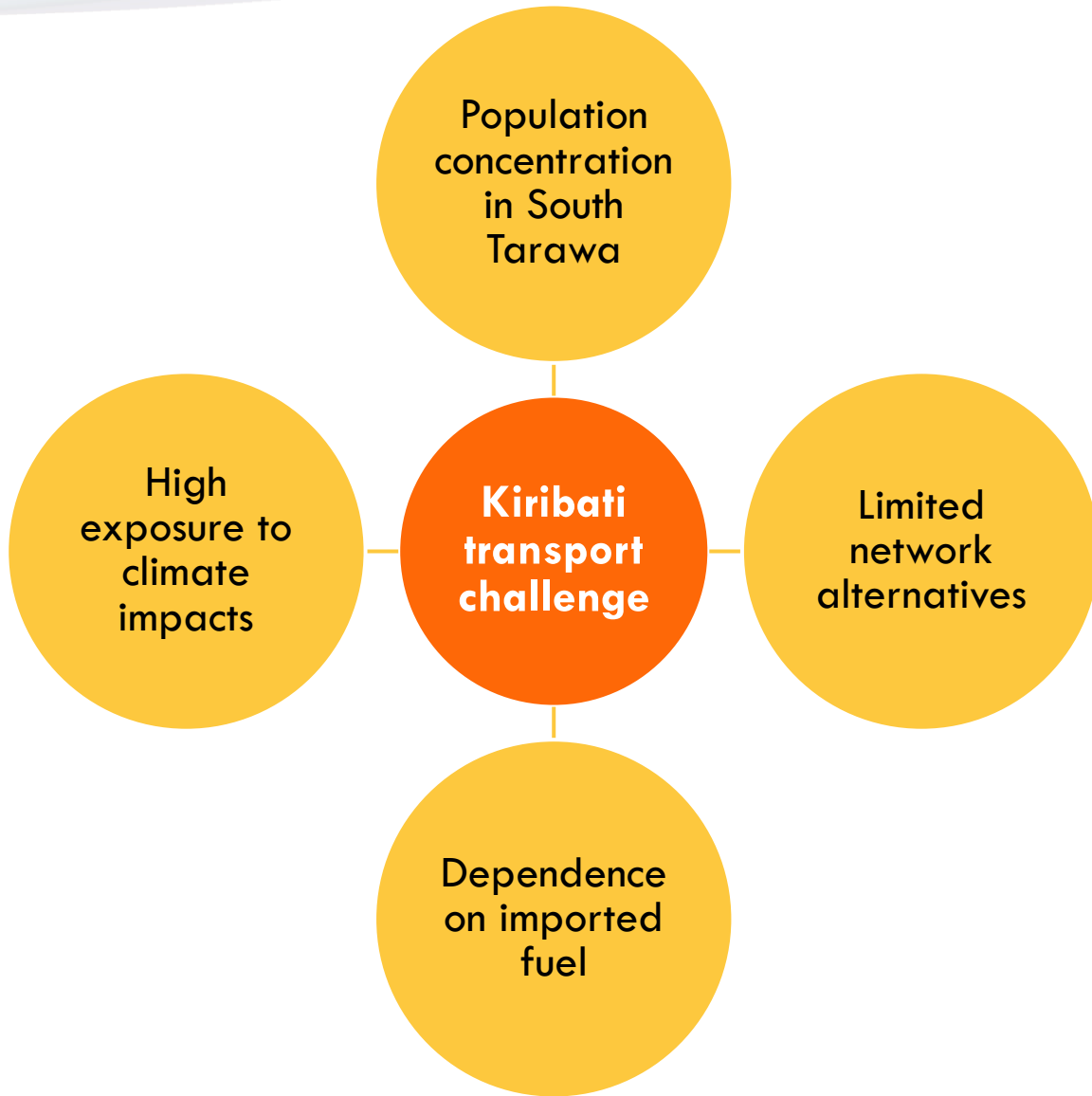
- **Improve and coordinate** public transportation services to enhance mobility and connectivity between communities (*Ministry Strategic Plan (MICTTD), 2021*).
- **Multi-modal Transit Initiative** to expand bus-based transit services through technical assistance, capacity building and investment, increasing passenger capacity between communities (*Kiribati NDC Investment Plan, 2021; 2022*).
- Improve air, land and sea transport infrastructure, including **strengthening access** between Tarawa and the outer islands (*Ministry Strategic Plan (MICTTD), 2021*).
- Enhance transport and logistics infrastructure to promote **outer island tourism** (*Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, 2019*).
- **Road sealing** in South Tarawa reduced travel time, improved air quality and enhanced pedestrian safety (*Voluntary National Review – Kiribati, 2018*).

Social Equity

- Develop **public awareness and education** programmes on good transport management, energy efficiency and active transport (walking and cycling), particularly in villages (*Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, 2019*).
- Promote **access to bicycles and e-bicycles**, including financing initiatives (*Kiribati NDC Investment Plan, 2021; 2022*).
- **Upgrade land transport infrastructure** to prioritise non-motorised transport, including protected cycling and walking infrastructure along 370 km of roads (*Kiribati NDC Investment Plan, 2021*).
- Rehabilitate causeways with climate-resilient features while promoting **women's participation** through piloting all-female maintenance teams (*Transport Investment PID, 2020*).

Climate Resilience

- Develop planning processes and programmes for **climate-proofing** infrastructure across Kiribati (*Kiribati Climate Change Policy, 2018*).
- **Build coastal resilience** through strategic coastal protection initiatives (*Kiribati Enhanced NDC, 2023*).
- Rehabilitate and **upgrade causeways** with durable surfaces, drainage and erosion control to ensure resilient outer island accessibility (*Transport Investment PID, 2020*).
- **Upgrade seawalls and causeways** protecting critical infrastructure, with local government and community involvement (*National Adaptation Programme of Action, 2007*).
- Enhance transport and logistics infrastructure to be safer and climate-resilient, particularly for **outer island connectivity and tourism** (*Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, 2019*).



Download here:
Transport in Review Kiribati 2026



asiantransportobservatory.org

“ATO translates data into insights, policies, and investments”

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