Pacific Trade Invest AUSTRALIA

PACIFIC KAVA EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA

A KAVA PILOT PROGRAM - Q3 UPDATE

Australia's Kava Pilot Program, launched in 2019, paved the way for increased commercial importation of kava. The pilot progressed in two phases: first, increasing the amount travellers could bring in, and later, permitting commercial imports from 1 December 2021. Pacific Trade Invest (PTI) Australia played an active role throughout, educating exporters and helping businesses navigate the requirements for entry into Australia. Today, these arrangements remain in place, providing a valuable pathway for Pacific exporters.

To export kava to Australia, businesses must comply with import regulations. All imports must meet food safety standards, with proper packaging and labelling. Additionally, importers will need an import permit from the Department of Health and Aged Care, depending on quantity and intended use.

The data below provides a snapshot of Pacific kava exports to Australia, by country of origin, quantity, and number of suppliers.

Source: DFAT 2026

	2026 KAVA IMPORTS (KG)					CUMULATIVE FIGURES SINCE COMMENCEMENT (DEC 2021)	
Country	**Q1 (kg)**	**Q2 (kg)**	**Q3 (kg)**	**Q4 (kg)**	**YTD (kg)**	**Cumulative (kg)**	**Suppliers**
Fiji	22,577.1	34,248.9	28,288.7 ▼17.4%	-	**85,114.7**	359,485.9	223
Tonga	3,388.0	4,956.0	6,383.0 ▲28.8%	-	**14,727.0**	215,285.3	74
Vanuatu	15,921.3	11,279.9	13,225.0 ▲17.2%	-	**40,426.2**	171,924.8	30
New Zealand	0.0	100.0	1,940.8 ▲1,841%	-	**2,040.8**	23,916.4	43
Papua New Guinea	1,020.0	320.0	792.0 ▲147.5%	-	**2,132.0**	8,276.1	5
Samoa	0.0	0.0	0.0 ■NA	-	**0.0**	282.0	3
Solomon Islands	0.0	110.0	0.0 ▼100%	-	**110.0**	436.2	4
Total	**42,906.4**	**51,014.8**	**50,629.5** ▼0.8%	**-**	**144,550.7**	**779,606.7**	**382**

▲▼■ % change from last quarter (Q2 2026)

INSIGHTS

Australia imported 50,630kg of Pacific kava in Q3 2026, broadly steady on Q2 (down 0.8%) but up 15.0% on the same quarter in 2025. It's the second consecutive quarter above 50,000kg. Fiji remained Australia's largest supplier, accounting for more than half of Q3 imports. Its volumes eased after a record Q2 but were still up 21.9% year-on-year.

Vanuatu rebounded, up 17.2% on Q2, and Tonga continued its growth with a 28.8% increase. Year-to-date imports of 144,551kg are up 20.3% on the same period in 2025, and on track to surpass 2025's full-year total of 170,309kg in Q4. With supplier numbers growing to 382, the market continues to broaden its base of Pacific exporters.

Since the commencement of the Kava Pilot Program, PTI Australia has worked closely with Pacific exporters to support market access opportunities through exporter education, regulatory guidance, market intelligence, commercial import facilitation and buyer engagement activities.

PTI Australia's quarterly kava reports have become a valuable source of trade intelligence for exporters, importers and industry stakeholders monitoring the market's development.

CONTACT

For more information on exporting kava to Australia, please reach out to the PTI Australia team here:

https://pacifictradeinvest.com/contact-us/



Seini Bolaira – Fiji Kava Sales Manager

Building on its ongoing market development efforts, PTI Australia supported four Pacific kava exporters to participate in Fine Food Australia 2026. The event gave them direct opportunities to connect with buyers, distributors and industry stakeholders across the Australian market.