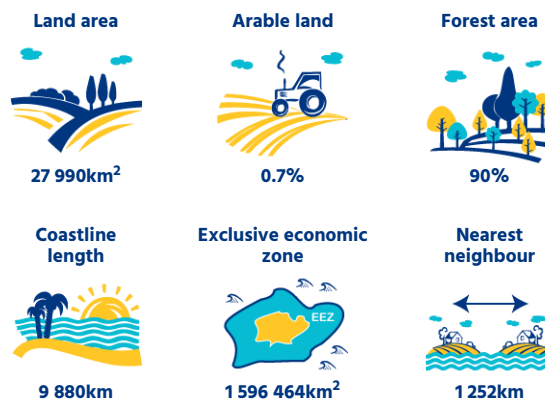




## Solomon Islands

- > **Capital:** Honiara (9°28' S 159°49' E)
- > **International airport(s):** Honiara International Airport, Lungga
- > **Official language(s):** English
- > **Currency:** Solomon Islands dollar (SBD)
- > **Time:** UTC +11
- > **Region:** Pacific



### GEOGRAPHY

Solomon Islands consists of six major islands and over 900 smaller islands to the east of Papua New Guinea and northwest of Vanuatu. Many of the islands are notable for their steep mountains. The highest mountain, Makarakomburu (2 293 m), is located on Guadalcanal Island, which also hosts the capital city, Honiara. In addition to rocky islands, there are also several atolls and reef islands. Several dormant and two active volcanoes can also be found on its territory. Dense tropical rainforest covers 90 per cent of land area, making the Solomon Islands the sixth most forest covered land in the world (FAO, 2020).

### CLIMATE

Solomon Islands have an equatorial hot and humid climate with a rainy season lasting from December to April. Tropical storms and occasional cyclones can occur during this period. In 2002, Cyclone Zoë hit the isolated islands of Tikopia and Anuta. The monthly average temperature is about 25-26 °C with only minor variations between highs of 30 °C and lows of 23 °C. Average annual rainfall is 3 000 mm but can vary across the archipelago. (World Bank, 2020)

The Solomon Islands can have 60 to 70 earthquakes a year. Most of them are small, but there are also some severe quakes followed by tsunamis and aftershocks. In recent years, the most severe have hit the Western Solomons (8.1 magnitude) in 2007 and the Santa Cruz Islands (8.0 magnitude) in 2013. The country is fifth on the list of most at-risk countries according to the United Nations University (2020) World Risk Index.

### ECONOMY

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries provide jobs for almost 40 per cent of employment (ILO, 2020a), while accounting for about 25 per cent of GDP (UNCTAD, 2021). The islands are rich in mineral resources such as lead, zinc, nickel and gold, but the deposits remain largely undeveloped. Export products also include wood (Ramin or Teak), tuna and palm oil. The main export partners include China, Italy and India, followed by Thailand and the Philippines. With investment in infrastructure and transport, tourism could be further developed beyond its current volume of inbound tourism expenditure of only 6 per cent over GDP (UNWTO, 2021). In 2019, services already provided more than half of jobs in the Solomon Islands (ILO, 2020a). The Tina River Hydropower Project aims at eliminating energy dependency on imported fossil fuels to locally produced renewable energy.

### CULTURE

Solomon Islands' arts and crafts reflect styles specific to different islands and cover woven objects, carved wood, stone and shell items. Traditional music in Solomon Islands is often performed by slit drum and panpipe ensembles.

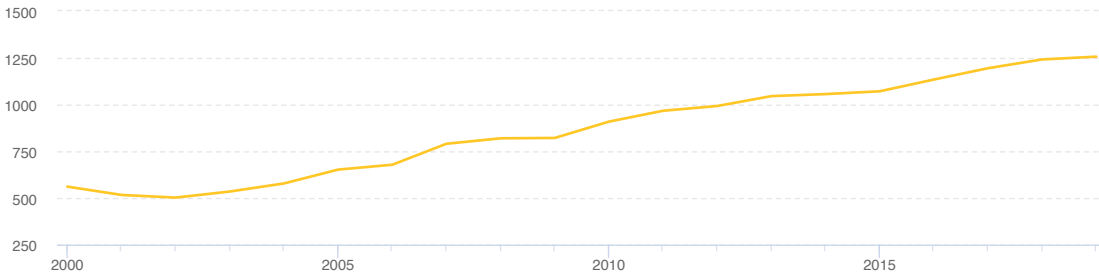
The local cuisine has developed over the history of the islands with many external influences. 'Ulu' is breadfruit that may be served with any dish. As a result of agriculture and fishing, residents eat a lot of fish, coconut, sweet potato and a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, such as bananas wrapped in pearl cassavas. A local specialty called 'Poi' is made with fermented taro roots and served during festivities.

Sport is an important part of Solomon Island culture. Football is the most popular sport in the country, but cricket, Australian football, rugby and horse racing are also popular. In the international sphere, the most successful national teams are its beach soccer team - 'the Bilikiki Boys' - and the futsal team - 'the Kurukuru'. Both of these teams have managed to win the Oceanian Championship and qualified for their respective FIFA World Cups. The Solomon Islands has participated in the Summer Olympic Games since 1984.

**ECONOMIC TRENDS**

**Gross domestic product**

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



**GDP per capita**  
**2019**



**US\$1 945**

**Productive Capacity Index**  
**2018**



**26.2**

**Economic and environmental vulnerability index**  
**2019**



**46**

**Consumer Price Index growth**  
**2019**



**1.1%**

**Unemployment rate**  
**2013**



**Total 0.7%**  
**Female 0.7%, Male 0.7%**

**Main economic sectors, 2019**  
Percentage of GDP



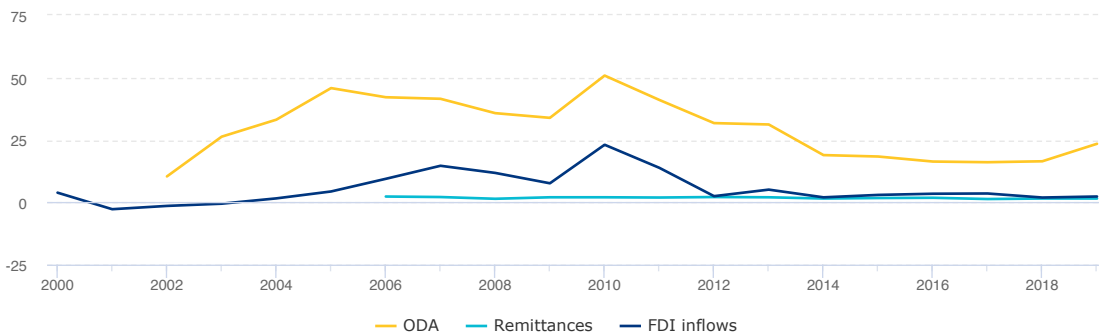
- Services
- Industry
- Agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing

**Tourist arrivals**

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



**External financial resources**  
Percentage of GDP



**Public debt as % of GDP**

**2018**



**124.5%**

**MARITIME TRANSPORT**

**Fleet size**

Number of ships

Ship type	2011	2019
Total fleet	1 407	1 407
Oil tankers	264	266
Bulk carriers	311	333
General cargo	161	77
Container ships	52	49
Other types of ships	619	682

**Port performance**

Ranked by 2019 data within SIDS group

Indicators	2019	SIDS Ranking
Number of port calls	187	28
Median time in port (days)	1	8
Average age of vessels	11	33
Average size (GT) of vessels	17 189	18

**Container port throughput**

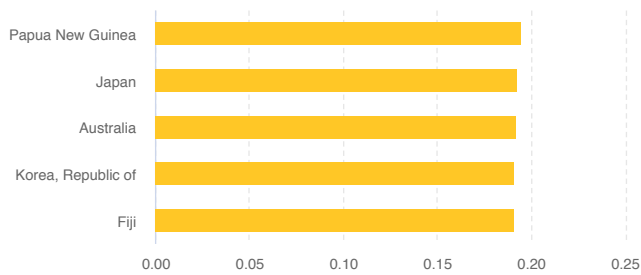
2019



**128 036 TEU**

**Bilateral connectivity index, 2019**

Top 5 partners



**Liner shipping connectivity index**

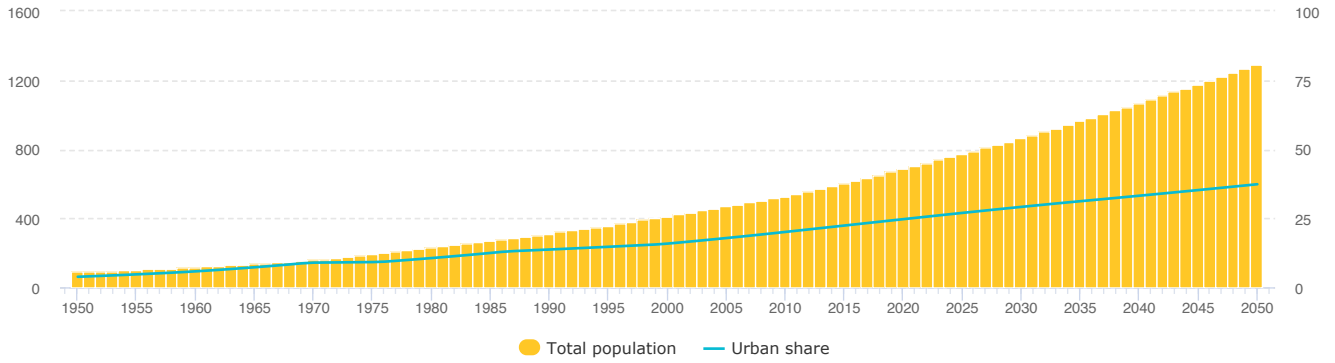
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



**POPULATION**

**Total population**

Thousands of people, share of urban population



**Population development indicators**

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2012	24.7
Human development index	2018	0.6
Human assets index	2020	72
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	..	..
Gender inequality index	2010	0.8

**Life expectancy at birth**

2019



73 years

**Population density**

2019



24 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

**Dependency ratio**

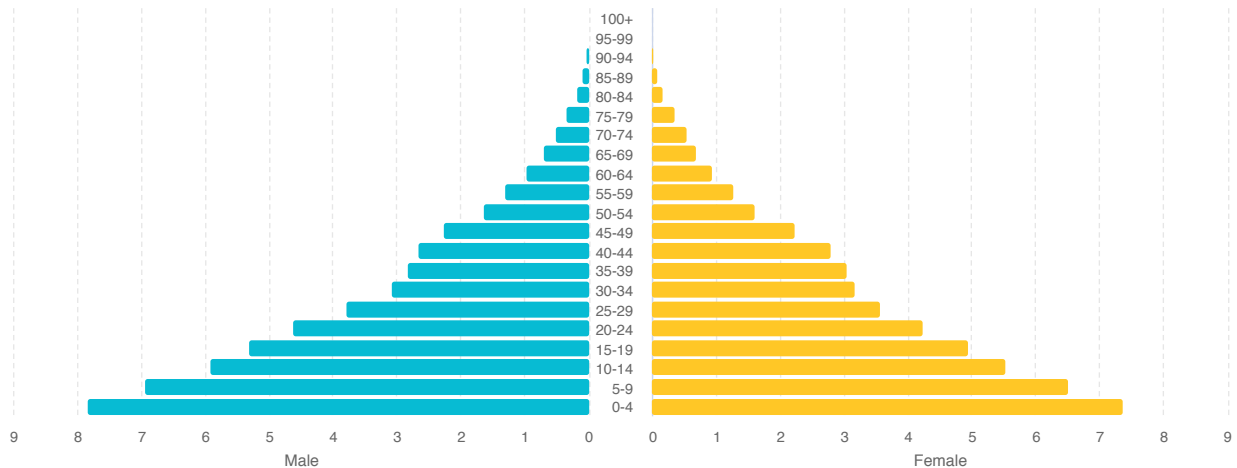
2019



Child: 71.4  
Old-age: 6.5

**Age structure by gender, 2019**

Percentage of total population



**INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

**Merchandise and services trade**

US dollars in millions

Indicators	2005	2010	2015	2019	2019 (% of GDP)
Merchandise exports	103	224	400	461	35.4
Merchandise imports	185	404	466	590	45.3
Services exports	41	92	105	128	9.8
Services imports	58	188	183	241	18.5

**Trade openness**  
Goods and services  
**2019**



**50% of GDP**

**Export concentration index**  
**2019**



**0.67**

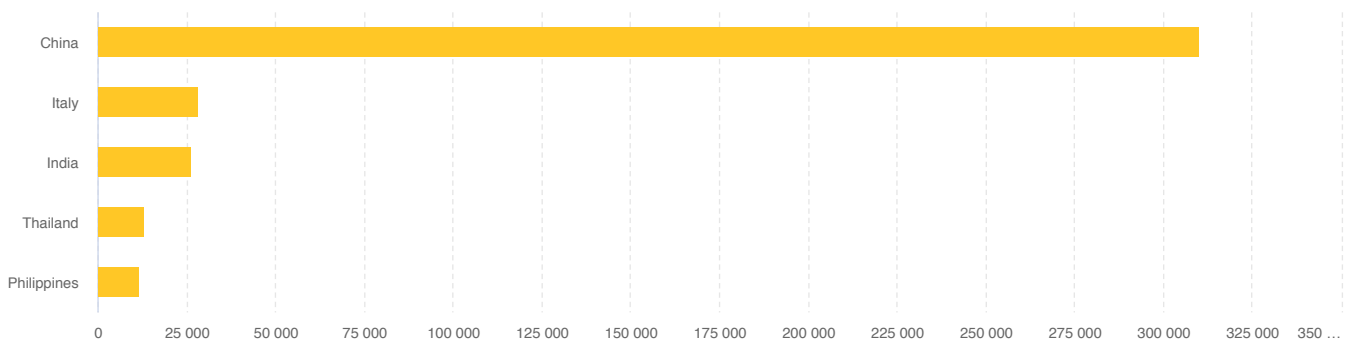
**Food import dependency**  
**Average**  
**2015-2019**



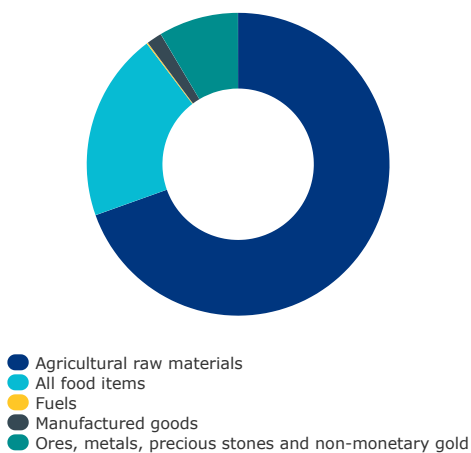
**3.43**

**Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019**

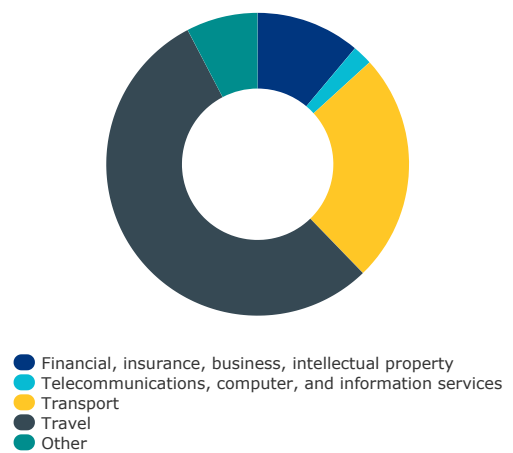
Exports in millions US dollars



**Merchandise exports by product group, 2019**

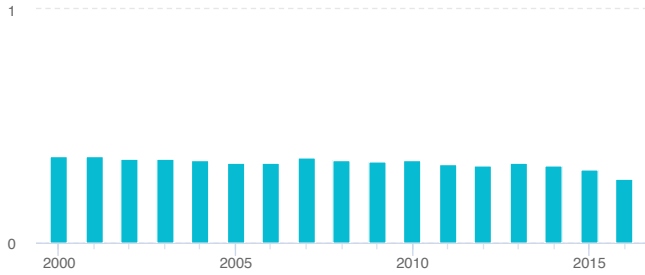


**Services exports by category, 2019**

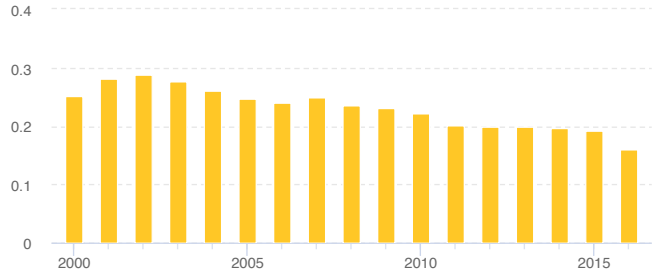


**ENVIRONMENT**

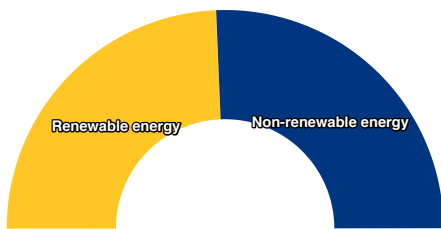
**CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita**  
Kg per capita



**CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP**  
Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



**Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017**  
Percentage of total energy consumption



**Material footprint per capita**  
2016



**Terrestrial protected area**  
2018



**Marine protected area**  
2018



**Disasters indicators**

Data not available

**INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**

**Trade in ICT goods**  
2018



Exports: 0.0%  
Imports: 2.6%

**Trade in ICT services**  
2019



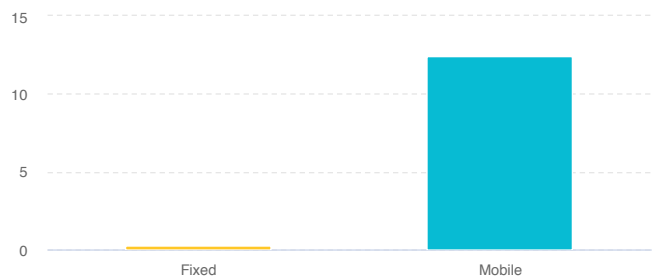
Exports: 2.2%  
Imports: 0%

**Share of internet users**  
2017



12%

**Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions**  
Number of subscriptions per 100 people



## Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.KD.GD>
- Distance to nearest neighbour: [NO\_PRINTED\_FORM] (Package “cshapes,” 2016) <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/index.html>
- Economic losses due to disasters: United Nations (2021) [https://www.sdg.org/datasets/e3adb2406c2e452b81c3654e276fc5ca\\_0](https://www.sdg.org/datasets/e3adb2406c2e452b81c3654e276fc5ca_0)
- Exclusive economic zone: Sea Around Us (2016) <http://www.seararoundus.org/>
- Fixed broadband/mobile subscriptions: ITU (2019). World telecommunication/ICT indicators database. Available at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/wtid.aspx> (accessed 28 May 2020).
- Forest area: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.FRST.ZS>
- Gender inequality index: UNDP (2020). Gender inequality index (GII), <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii>
- Human assets index: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021) <http://data.uis.unesco.org/>
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- Life expectancy at birth: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN>
- Marine protected area: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/ER.MRN.PTMR.ZS>
- Material footprint: UNEP (2021) [https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12\\_2\\_1](https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1)
- Number of people affected by disasters: United Nations (2021) [https://www.sdg.org/datasets/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](https://www.sdg.org/datasets/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990_0)
- ODA: OECD (2021) <https://stats.oecd.org>
- Percentage of population in low elevated coastal zones: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.POP.EL5M.ZS>
- Poverty headcount ratio: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.DDAY>
- Renewable energy share in total energy consumption: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.KD.GD>
- Share of internet users: ITU (2019). World telecommunication/ICT indicators database. Available at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/wtid.aspx> (accessed 28 May 2020).
- Terrestrial protected area: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/ER.LND.PTLD.ZS>
- Tourism: UNWTO (2020) Compendium of Tourism Statistics dataset [Electronic], UNWTO, Madrid, data updated on 21/09/2020.
- Unemployment rate, total/female/male: ILO (2020b) [https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer2/?lang=en&segment=indicator&id=SDG\\_0852\\_SEX\\_AGE\\_RT\\_A](https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer2/?lang=en&segment=indicator&id=SDG_0852_SEX_AGE_RT_A)
- World risk index: Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020): <https://weltrisikobericht.de/download/1386/>

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- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seararoundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
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