Comoros

Capital: Moroni (11°41´S, 43°16´E)
International airport(s): Prince Said Ibrahim International Airport, Moroni
Official language(s): French, Arabic, Comorian
Currency: Comorian Franc
Time: UTC +3
Region: Atlantic and Indian Ocean

GEography

Named after the Arabic word for ‘moon’, Qamar, the Comoros islands are an archipelago of volcanic islands in the Indian Ocean located off Africa’s east coast and south of the Equator. Comoros is located on the Somali plate. They are also known as the ‘perfumed islands’, owing to fragrant plants, such as, frangipani, jasmine and lemongrass. The country consists of three main islands surrounded by coral reefs. The islands are Grande Comore, Mohéli and Anjouan, and the largest island (Grande Comore), is dominated by Karthala, a towering 2 360 m high volcano whose summit is almost constantly smothered in equatorial cloud. In April 2005, the volcano began spewing ash and gas, forcing as many as 10 000 people to flee.

CLIMATE

The Comoro Islands have a humid, tropical climate. Monthly average temperatures range from 24 to 27 °C and the annual rainfall is around 1 600 mm, with the wettest time of the year lasting from January to March. The rainfall varies between the three islands due to differences in altitude and winds. During the humid rainy season, especially between January to April, tropical cyclones are a risk. (World Bank, 2020) The islands are also prone to heavy rains and ash oods. The islands are cooled by south-easterly trade winds during the dry season.

ECONOMY

Subsistence farming and fishing are the main source of employment, partly due to low educational levels. Agriculture also accounts for almost one third of GDP in Comoros. Comoros is the world's principal producer of ylang-ylang essence, extracted from flowers of a tree. Export income is heavily reliant on ylang-ylang and two other main crops: vanilla and cloves, and remains vulnerable to extreme weather. Important export partners include India, France and Germany (UNCTAD, 2021). Deforestation has also negatively affected ground water supply on the islands. Several rivers have disappeared and many remaining rivers run dry during the dry season. In Grande Comore, 60 per cent of the population relies on uncovered water containers and 40 per cent on coastal aquifers. The Comoros imports roughly 70 per cent of the food it consumes.

The Comoros is experiencing some exodus of educated and skilled workers. GDP per capita has been growing only moderately in recent years, after many years of decline in the early 2000s. The capital, Moroni, located on the island of Grande Comore (Ngazidja), has most of the modern commercial and manufacturing facilities located in the country. With miles of beautiful beaches, tourists are drawn to Comoros. Inbound tourism expenditure over GDP has been growing in recent years and was at 6 per cent in 2019. Incorrect syntax for items

CULTURE

The Comoros' culture has been influenced by Islamic tradition, mixed with French and African elements. Traditionally, people believed in spirits and the power of djinn, which is derived from African, Arab and Madagascan traditions.

Local artisans are skilled in sculpture, pottery, embroidery and basketry. Diversity is also evident in the many prevalent languages used on the islands, including French, Comorian, Arabic and Swahili.

Customary celebrations in the Comoros often feature dancing, music and the re-creation of popular and important literary texts, including war epics and tales about the foundations of different villages. Embroidered ceremonial coats and Islamic bonnets are frequently donned. Jewelry is also widely produced and sold.
ECONOMIC TRENDS

Gross domestic product
US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions


GDP per capita
2019

US$1,370

Productive Capacity Index 2018 2019
Economic and environmental vulnerability index 2018 2019
Consumer Price Index growth 2019 2014
Unemployment rate

Total 8.1%
Female 10.4%, Male 6.7%

Main economic sectors, 2019
Percentage of GDP

Tourist arrivals
Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP

External financial resources
Percentage of GDP

Public debt as % of GDP 2018
### MARITIME TRANSPORT

#### Fleet size
Number of ships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ship type</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total fleet</td>
<td>1,407</td>
<td>1,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil tankers</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk carriers</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General cargo</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container ships</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other types of ships</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>682</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Port performance
 Ranked by 2019 data within SIDS group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>SIDS Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of port calls</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median time in port (days)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age of vessels</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average size (GT) of vessels</td>
<td>6352</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Container port throughput

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>54,359 TEU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019
Top 5 partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seychelles</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania, United Republic of</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Liner shipping connectivity index
Maximum China Q1 2006=100

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Q1 2006</th>
<th>Q1 2008</th>
<th>Q1 2010</th>
<th>Q1 2012</th>
<th>Q1 2014</th>
<th>Q1 2016</th>
<th>Q1 2018</th>
<th>Q1 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**POPULATION**

**Total population**
Thousands of people, share of urban population

![Graph showing population development indicators](image)

**Population development indicators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty headcount (% of population)</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>19.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human development index</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human assets index</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender inequality index</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Age structure by gender, 2019**
Percentage of total population

![Age structure chart](image)

**Life expectancy at birth**
2019
64 years

**Population density**
2019
457 persons per km²

**Dependency ratio**
2019
Child: 68.1
Old-age: 5.3
# INTERNATIONAL TRADE

## Merchandise and services trade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2019 (% of GDP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise exports</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise imports</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>19.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services exports</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services imports</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Trade openness

### Goods and services
- **2018**: 22% of GDP
- **2019**: 0.67

## Food import dependency
- **Average 2015-2019**: 29.24

## Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Exports in millions US dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>10000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>8000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Merchandise exports by product group, 2019

- Agricultural raw materials
- All food items
- Fuels
- Manufactured goods
- Ores, metals, precious stones and non-monetary gold

## Services exports by category, 2019

- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other
ENVIRONMENT

**CO₂ emissions per capita**
Kg per capita

**CO₂ emissions per GDP**
Kg per 2010 US$ of GDP

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

Disasters indicators
Data not available

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trade in ICT goods</th>
<th>Trade in ICT services</th>
<th>Share of internet users</th>
<th>Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Number of subscriptions per 100 people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exports: 0.5% Imports: 1.2%
Exports: 18.6% Imports: 6.5%
8%
Sources

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

- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- 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]
- Exclusive economic zone: Sea Around Us (2016) [http://www.seaaroundus.org/]
- Life expectancy at birth: World Bank (2021) [https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN]
- Material footprint: UNEP (2021) [https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1]
- Number of people affected by disasters: United Nations (2021) [https://www.sdg.org/datasets/1be260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990_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/SP.DYN.POV.DDAY]
- Renewable energy share in total energy consumption: World Bank (2021) [https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.KD.GD]
- Unemployment rate, total/female/male: ILO (2020) [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/3386/]

References

- UNEP (2021). 12.2.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP. Available at [https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1] (accessed 13 January 2021).