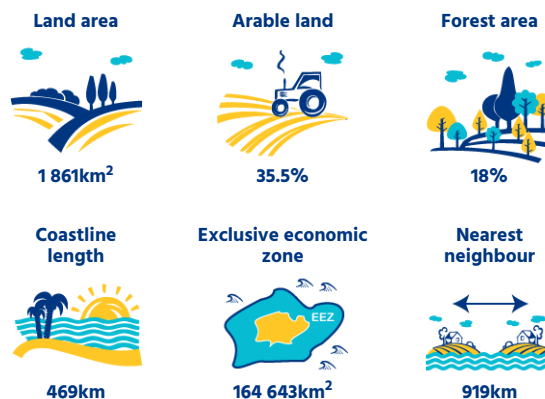




Comoros

- > **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 flash floods. 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 (N'gazidja), 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

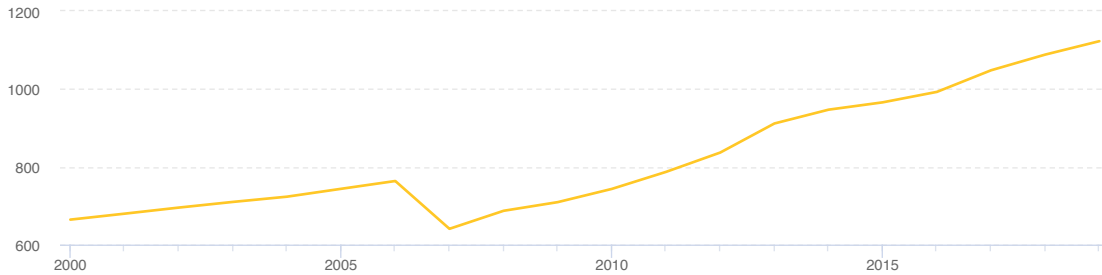
Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions

**GDP per capita
2019**



US\$1 370



**Productive Capacity Index
2018**



24.6

**Economic and environmental vulnerability index
2019**



40

**Consumer Price Index growth
2019**



1.4%

Unemployment rate



**Total 8.1%
Female 10.4%, Male 6.7%**

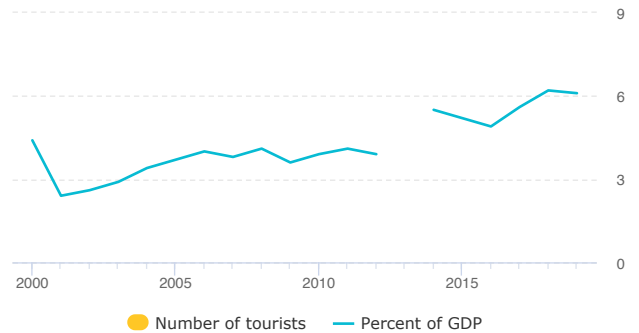
Main economic sectors, 2019
Percentage of GDP



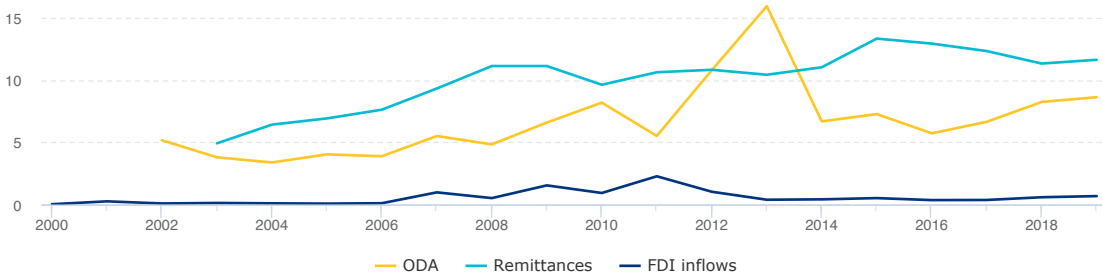
- Services
- Industry
- Agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing

Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



External financial resources
Percentage of GDP



Public debt as % of GDP

2018



..%

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	197	27
Median time in port (days)	1	8
Average age of vessels	15	21
Average size (GT) of vessels	6 352	30

Container port throuput

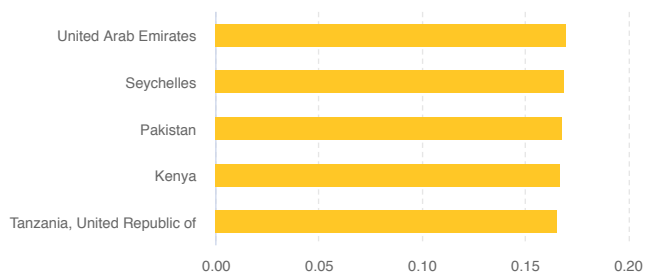
2019



54 359 TEU

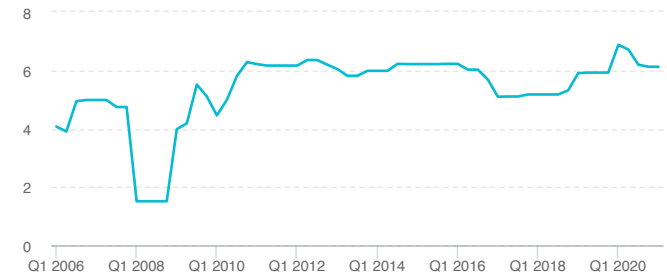
Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



Liner shipping connectivity index

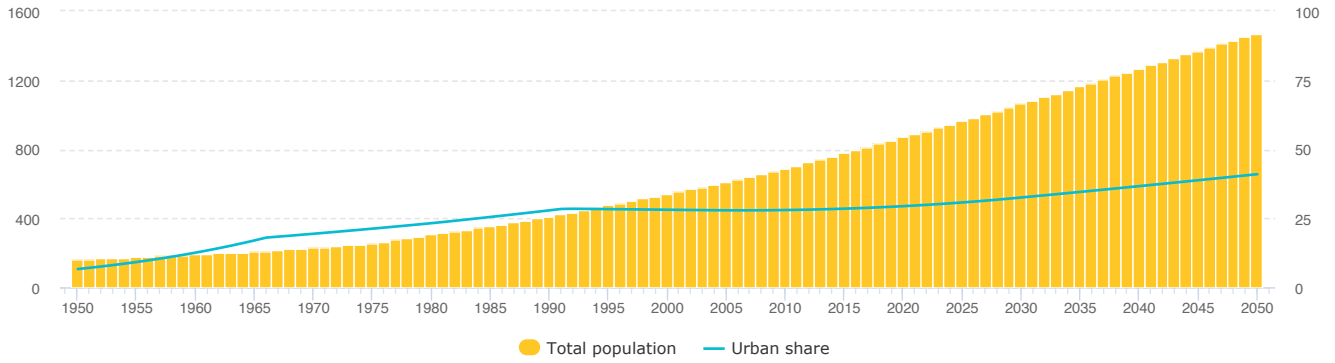
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



POPULATION

Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2014	19.1
Human development index	2018	0.5
Human assets index	2020	64
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)
Gender inequality index

Life expectancy at birth

2019



64 years

Population density

2019



457 persons per km²

Dependency ratio

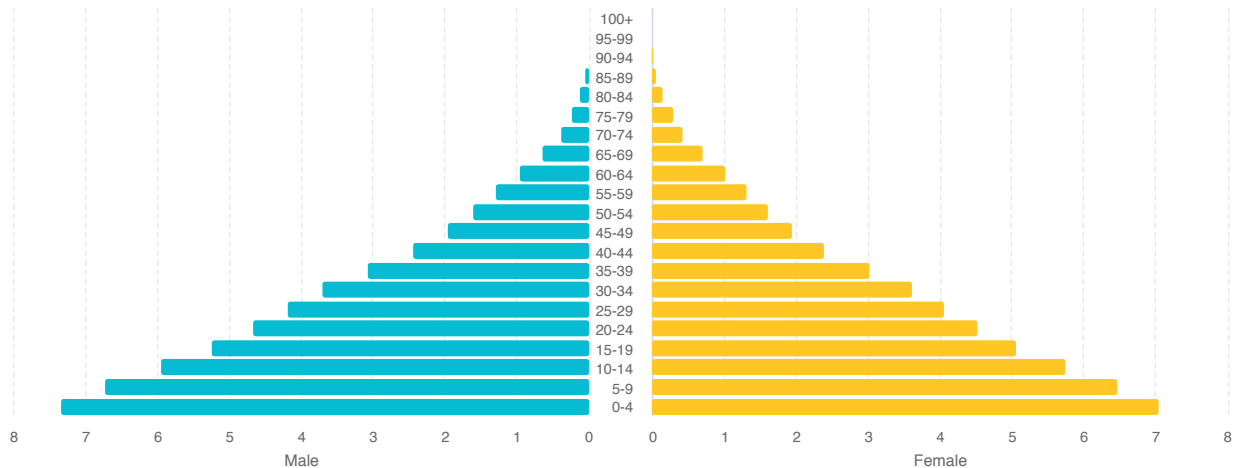
2019



Child: 68.1
Old-age: 5.3

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	12	21	17	39	3.3
Merchandise imports	99	233	214	230	19.7
Services exports	43	65	80	0	0
Services imports	46	94	82	0	0

Trade openness
Goods and services
2018



22% of GDP

Export concentration index
2019



0.67

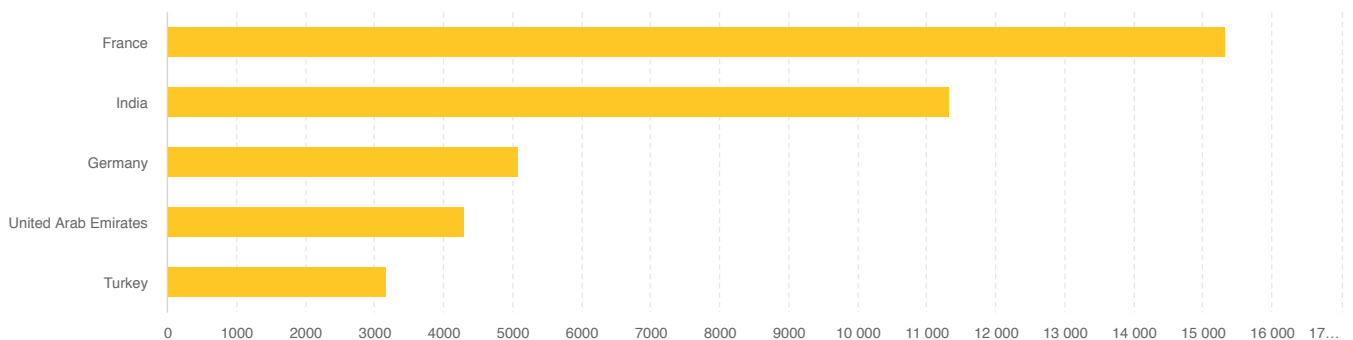
Food import dependency
Average
2015-2019



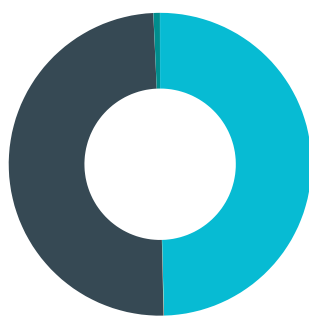
29.24

Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

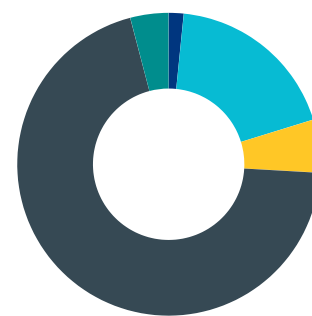


Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

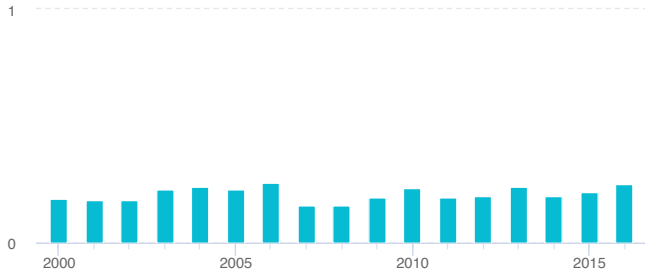
Services exports by category, 2019



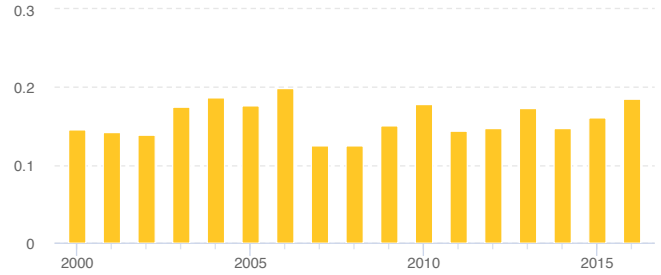
- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

ENVIRONMENT

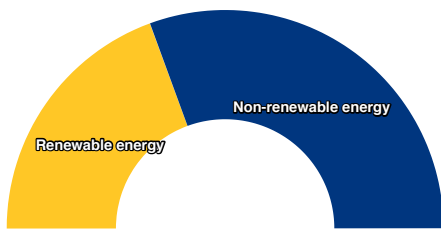
CO₂ emissions per capita
Kg per capita



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



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



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
2019



Exports: 0.5%
Imports: 1.2%

Trade in ICT services
2018



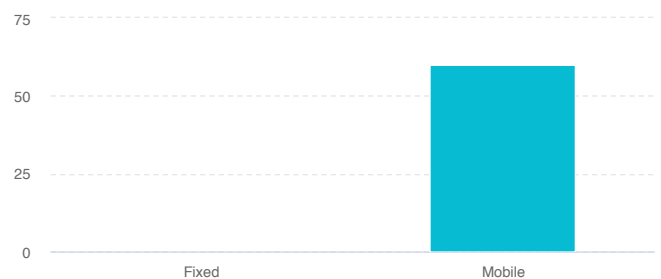
Exports: 18.6%
Imports: 6.5%

Share of internet users
2017



8%

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>
- CO₂ emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO₂ 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
- 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/>
- Human development index: UNDP (2021) <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data#>
- 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
- Number of people affected by disasters: United Nations (2021) 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 (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/1386/>

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- 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).
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