Dominican Republic
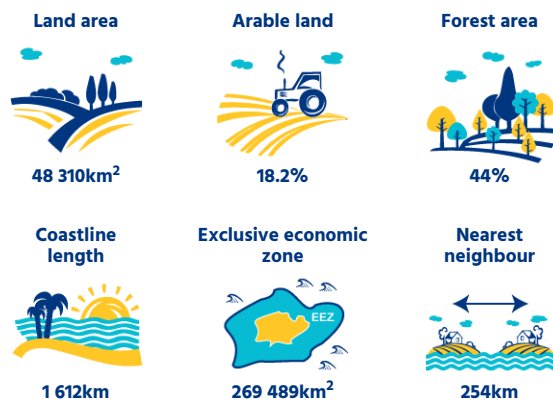
> **Capital:** Santo Domingo (18°28′N, 69°57′W)

> **International airport(s):** Punta Cana International Airport, Las Américas International Airport, Cibao International Airport, Gregorio Luperòn International Airport

> **Official language(s):** Spanish

> **Currency:** Dominican Peso

> **Time:** UTC -4

> **Region:** Caribbean

Land area	Arable land	Forest area
48 310km^2	18.2%	44%

Coastline length	Exclusive economic zone	Nearest neighbour
1 612km	269 489km^2	254km

GEOGRAPHY

The Dominican republic is the second largest country in the Caribbean in terms of land area, after Cuba. It encompasses the eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola, between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean. It shares Hispaniola with Haiti. Coastal areas of the Dominican Republic are generally more developed, especially in the southern coastal plains and the Cibao Valley, where population density is highest.

A geographically diverse state, the Dominican Republic is home to both the Caribbean's tallest mountain peak, Pico Duarte (3 098 m), and the Caribbean's largest lake and point of lowest elevation, Lake Enriquillo. Besides 1 288 km of coastline, the country's landscape consists of rugged highlands and mountains interspersed with fertile valleys. This island state is the site of the first cathedral, castle and monastery built in the Americas, located in Santo Domingo's Colonial Zone, a World Heritage Site.

CLIMATE

There is more climate variation over short distances in the Dominican Republic than in any other Caribbean state. The coastal and lowland areas are characterized by a tropical rainforest climate, the Cibao region dwells in the tropical savanna, while snowfall can sometimes cover the summit of Pico Duarte. The annual average temperature at higher elevations is 18 °C, while near sea level it is 28 °C.

Tropical cyclones strike the Dominican Republic every couple of years, mainly impacting the southern coast. Hurricanes occur most often between June and October. The country can suffer from heavy flooding. Some areas - mainly in the west - also witness periodic droughts and consequent water shortages. Soil erosion is frequent on the island, damaging coral reefs. Deforestation is a serious concern, as well. The Dominican Republic is highly vulnerable to climate change since climate variations tend to accelerate natural disaster incidences.

ECONOMY

Historically, the Dominican Republic's economy was dominated by agriculture, and the country was known for its exports of sugar, cocoa, coffee and tobacco. Over the last three decades, the economy has made an effective move to a diversified mix of services, manufacturing, agriculture, mining and trade. The Dominican Republic is the site of one of the largest gold mines in the world, the Pueblo Viejo mine.

In 2019, the service sector accounted for 63 per cent of GDP, while manufacturing accounted for a further 31 per cent. From 2010 to 2019, real GDP increased on average by 5.3 per cent annually, indicating steady, robust growth. Its most important trade partner is the United States of America, the destination of about half of the Dominican Republic's exports in 2019. (UNCTAD, 2021). The country is classified as upper middle income economy (World Bank, 2021a)

In 2019, 71 per cent of employed people worked in the services sector, 20 per cent in industry and 9 per cent in agriculture (ILO, 2020a). The shift towards services is mainly due to the growth in tourism and free trade zones. Although the Dominican Republic has in recent years been the most popular inbound tourism destination in the Caribbean – hosting more foreign visitors than any other state in the region – the contribution of inbound tourism expenditure to GDP has remained between 8 and 9 per cent since 2013 (UNWTO, 2021). This reveals that the country is less dependent on tourism than many Caribbean states. Income inequalities persist and remittances remain an important source of subsistence (UNCTAD, 2021).

CULTURE

The Dominican Republic is a culturally diverse society, blending influences from European (mainly Spanish), native Taino and African heritage. This rich culture is present in visual arts, literature and architecture. The share of urban population stood at 83 per cent in 2020 (UNCTAD, 2021). Baseball is the most popular sport in the Dominican Republic, which features a league of six teams.

Local cuisine is rather characteristic of the Caribbean islands. Meals tend to favour meats and starches over dairy products and vegetables. Many dishes are made with *sofrito*, which is a mix of local herbs used as a wet rub for meats. In the south-central region, bulgur is a main ingredient in *quipes* or *tipili* (bulgur salad). Other favorite foods include *chicharrón, yuca, pastelitos (empanadas)*, *batata,* and *yam.*

Music is an inseparable part of the lifestyle in the Dominican Republic, and the country is known for the creation of many musical styles. Popular *merengue* and *bachata* music and dances originated from the Dominican Republic. *Palo* is an Afro-Dominican sacred music that can be found throughout the island. Carnivals, Latino and traditional music festivals are very popular, organized throughout the year, featuring vibrant music and dances, colorful costumes, and traditional food stands, hosting presentations, tastings and more.

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Gross domestic product
US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions
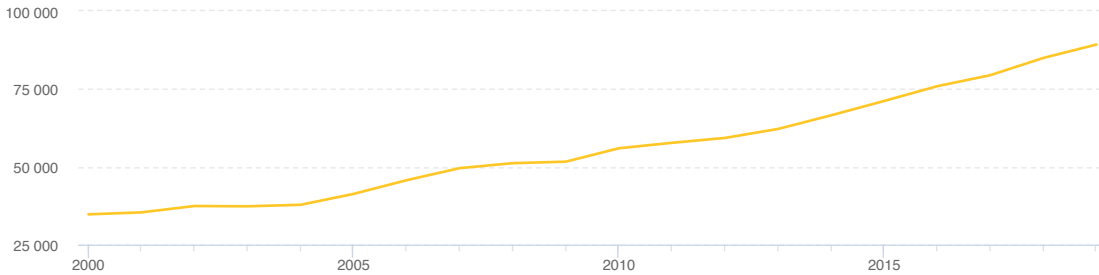
GDP per capita
2019

US$8 282

Productive Capacity Index
2018

32.4

Economic and environmental vulnerability index
2019

22

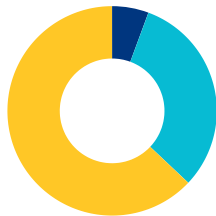### Consumer Price Index growth
2019

2.2%

Unemployment rate
2019

Total 6.4%
Female 9.5%, Male 4.1%

Main economic sectors, 2019
Percentage of GDP

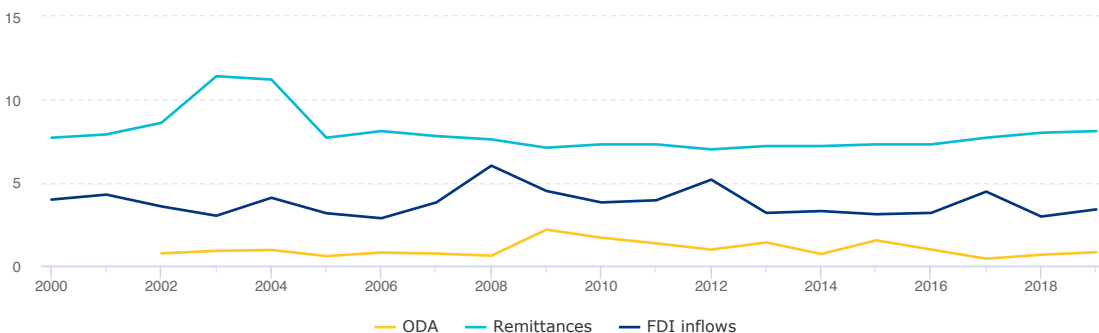- Services
- Industry
- Agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing

Tourist arrivals
Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP

- Number of tourists — Percent of GDP
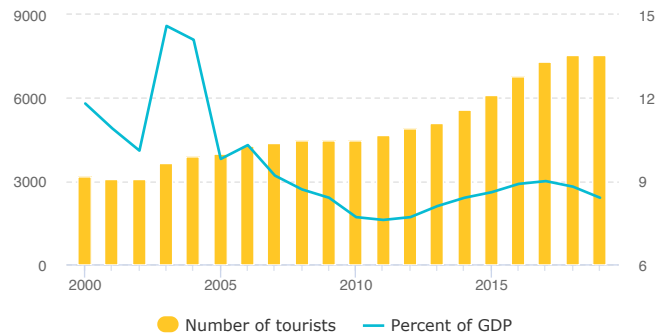
External financial resources
Percentage of GDP

— ODA — Remittances — FDI inflows

Public debt as % of GDP
2018

46.2%

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

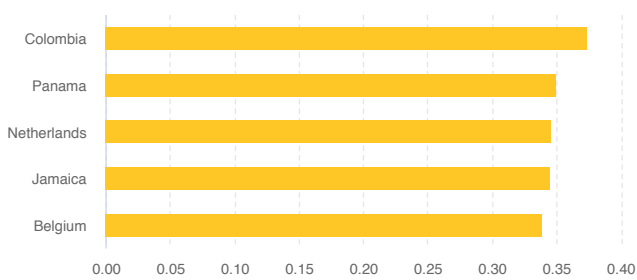| Indicators	2019	SIDS Ranking
Number of port calls	4 223	4
Median time in port (days)	1	8
Average age of vessels	14	25
Average size (GT) of vessels	31 673	11

Container port throuput
2019
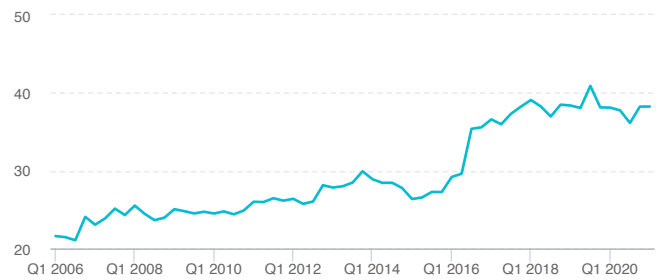
1 338 403 TEU

Bilateral connectivity index, 2019
Top 5 partners

Liner shipping connectivity index
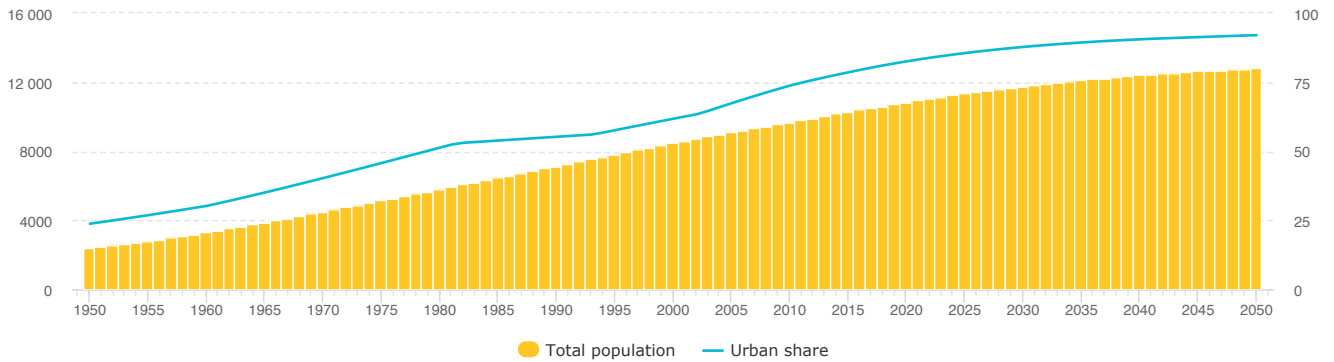Maximum China Q1 2006=100

POPULATION

Total population
Thousands of people, share of urban population

Legend: Total population — Urban share

Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2019	0.6
Human development index	2018	0.8
Human assets index	2020	90
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	2016	92.7
Gender inequality index	2019	0.5

Life expectancy at birth
2019

74 years

Population density
2019

222 persons per km^2

Dependency ratio
2019

Child: 42.6
Old-age: 11.2

Age structure by gender, 2019
Percentage of total population

Male — Female
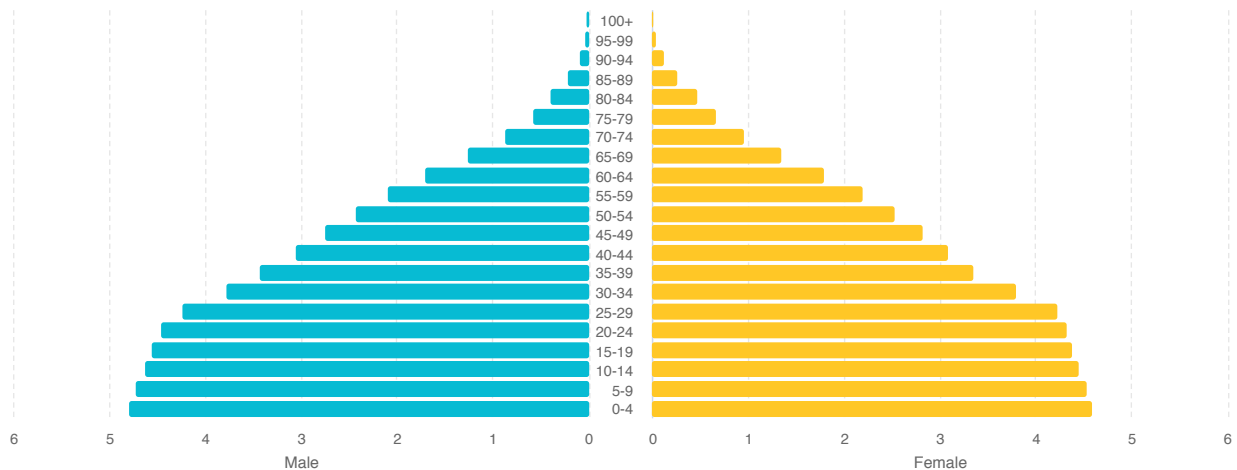
INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Merchandise and services trade
US dollars in millions

Indicators	2005	2010	2015	2019	2019 (% of GDP)
Merchandise exports	6 145	6 754	9 442	11 219	12.6
Merchandise imports	9 869	15 489	16 907	20 288	22.8
Services exports	6 182	5 455	7 542	9 346	10.5
Services imports	1 478	2 588	3 174	3 893	4.4

Trade openness
Goods and services
2019

26% of GDP

Export concentration index
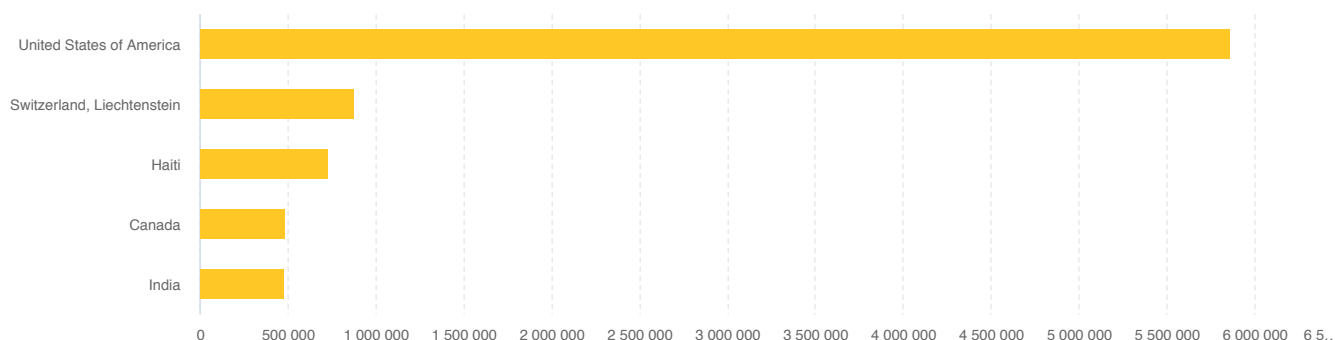**2019**

0.20

Food import dependency
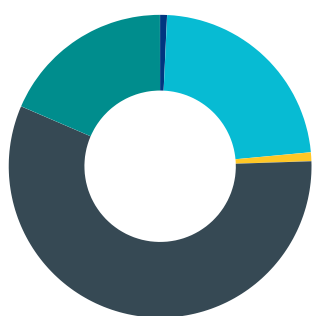**Average 2015-2019**

6.81

Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019
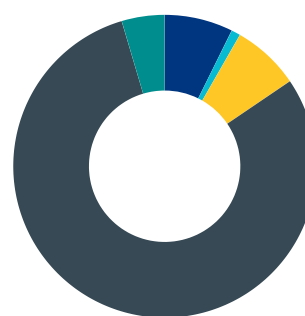Exports in millions US dollars

Merchandise exports by product group, 2019

- Agricultural raw materials
- All food items
- Fuels
- Manufactured goods
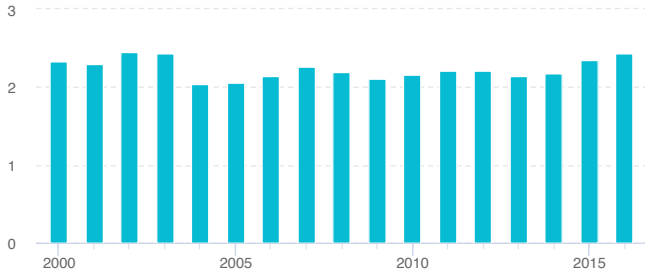- Ores, metals, precious stones and non-monetary gold
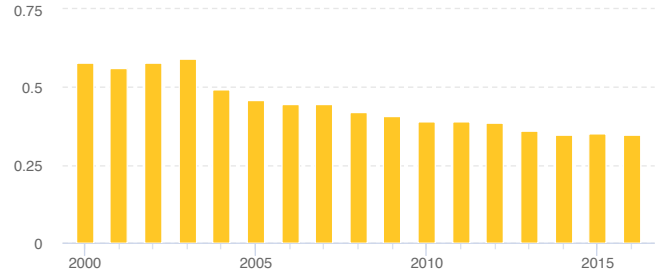
Services exports by category, 2019

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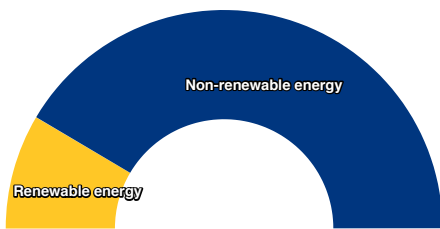- Transport
- Travel
- Other

ENVIRONMENT

CO$_2$ emissions per capita
Kg per capita

CO$_2$ emissions per GDP
Kg per 2010 US$ of GDP

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

Non-renewable energy

Renewable energy

Material footprint per capita 2016	Terrestrial protected area 2018	Marine protected area 2018
12kg	26.2%	17.96%

Disasters indicators

Data not available

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Trade in ICT goods
2018

Exports: 2%
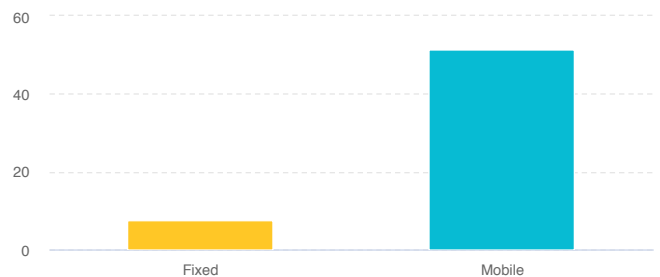Imports: 4.6%

Trade in ICT services
2019

Exports: 1%
Imports: 1.6%

Share of internet users
2018

75%

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

Fixed

Mobile

Sources

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

- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021b) https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS
- CO_2 emissions per capita: World Bank (2021b) https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC
- CO_2 emissions per GDP: World Bank (2021b) 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.seaaroundus.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 (2021b) 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 (2021b) https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN
- Marine protected area: World Bank (2021b) 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 (2021b) https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.POP.EL5M.ZS
- Poverty headcount ratio: World Bank (2021b) https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.DDAY
- Renewable energy share in total energy consumption: World Bank (2021b) 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 (2021b) 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
- World risk index: Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020): https://weltrisikobericht.de/download/1386/

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- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at https://weltrisikobericht.de/ (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020a). ILOStat. Available at https://www.ilo.org/ilostat (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020b). Unemployment rate. Available at https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
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- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/ (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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).
- UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021). Available at http://uis.unesco.org/ (accessed 15 March 2021).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/ (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data (accessed 10 February 2021).
- World Bank (2021a). World Bank Country and Lending Groups. Available at https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519 (accessed 27 February 2021).
- World Bank (2021b). World Development Indicators. Available at http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators (accessed 8 November 2020).