**Vanuatu**

- **Capital:** Port Vila (17°44′ S, 168°19′ E)
- **International airport(s):** Bauerfield International Airport, Port Vila
- **Official language(s):** Bislama, English, French
- **Currency:** Vanuatu Vatu (VUV)
- **Time:** UTC+11
- **Region:** Pacific

### GEOGRAPHY

Vanuatu forms an archipelago of about 83 small islands of volcanic origin. Located in the South Pacific about 2,000 km East of Queensland in Australia. The distance between its most northern and southern islands is about 1,300 km. Only 14 of the 83 islands have a land area larger than 100 km². The largest islands are Espiritu Santo and Malakula. Only 67 of the 83 islands are inhabited. Most islands are steep on the edges with a rocky shoreline, fringing reefs, unstable soil and little permanent freshwater. Volcanic activity is common, Mount Yasur on the island of Tanna remains active. Earthquakes are a common feature of island life in Vanuatu.

### CLIMATE

The climate in Vanuatu is tropical. The rainy season is long, with significant rainfall and hot weather especially from December to April. Cyclones are possible during this time of year. The remainder of the year is cooler and drier. Average monthly temperatures range from 23 to 25 °C. Water temperatures range from 22 °C in the winter to 28 °C in the summer. Annual average rainfall is 2,500 mm with large variations: the northern islands receive over 4,000 mm of rainfall, while the southern extremes of the archipelago receive about 1,500 mm. Cyclones are common during the warm and wet months, although recently cyclones hit outside of the usual season. (World Bank, 2020) Vanuatu is the world’s most at-risk country for natural hazards, according to the United Nations University (2020) World Risk Index.

### ECONOMY

Vanuatu’s economy is centered on agriculture, raising of cattle, tourism and offshore financial services. Agriculture provides employment for more than half of the population. Fishing is also important for domestic consumption. The tropical climate supports a wide range of fruits, vegetables and spices, such as kava, coconut and cocoa. Important export markets include Malaysia, Australia and Japan. Together, agriculture and fishing account for about one quarter of GDP (UNCTAD, 2021). In 2016, Vanuatu launched a citizenship programme, offering the possibility to buy a Vanuatu passport for US$150,000, which enjoys visa-free travel throughout Europe. With demand from the Chinese market booming, by 2018 passport sales generated about a third of government revenues. Vanuatu's economic growth has recently been driven by tourism and construction. Tourist arrivals in Vanuatu vary from 250 to 350 thousand annually. In 2018, inbound tourism expenditure equalled 37 per cent over GDP. Incorrect syntax for items Still, economic development is constrained by the concentration of exports in relatively few commodities, vulnerability to natural disasters and connectivity issues between islands and main markets.

### CULTURE

The density of languages per capita is the highest in the world in Vanuatu, with an average of 2,000 speakers per language. More than 95 per cent of Bislama words are of English origin, whilst the remainder comprises a few dozen words from French, as well as some specific vocabulary inherited from various languages of Vanuatu; though these are essentially limited to flora and fauna. Vanuatu’s national anthem, ‘Yumi, Yumi, Yumi’, is composed in Bislama. ‘Yumi’ means ‘we’, derived from the words you and me.

Traditional music in Bislama is popular in rural areas. Musical instruments consist mostly of various types of drums, slit gongs and rattles. Vanuatu was home to an internationally known women’s rights activist, Grace Mera Molisa, who became famous for her poetry.

Vanuatu cuisine incorporates fish, root vegetables, vegetables and many fruits, such as papayas, pineapples, mangoes, plantains and sweet potatoes. Coconut milk flavors many dishes. Most island families grow food in their gardens throughout the year.

Cricket is very popular in Vanuatu with about 8,000 registered cricketers. In 1988, Vanuatu became a member of FIFA and the Oceania Football Confederation. Vanuatu also has a successful Women’s Beach-Volleyball team. Vanuatu first participated in the Olympic Games in 1988 in Seoul, South Korea, in track and field and boxing.
**ECONOMIC TRENDS**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GDP per capita**
2019
US$3,023

**Productive Capacity Index**
2018
29.4
2019

**Economic and environmental vulnerability index**
2019
39

**Consumer Price Index growth**
2019
2.3%

**Unemployment rate**
2010
Total 1.8%
Female 1.6%, Male 2.1%

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

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

**Tourist arrivals**
Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of tourists</th>
<th>Percent of GDP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**External financial resources**
Percentage of GDP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>ODA</th>
<th>Remittances</th>
<th>FDI inflows</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Public debt as % of GDP**
2018
20.3%
### 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>251</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median time in port (days)</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age of vessels</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average size (GT) of vessels</td>
<td>51,822</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Container throughput

- **2019**
  - 77,436 TEU

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

- New Caledonia
- Japan
- Solomon Islands
- Korea, Republic of
- Fiji

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

- Q1 2006
- Q1 2008
- Q1 2010
- Q1 2012
- Q1 2014
- Q1 2016
- Q1 2018
- Q1 2020

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**Vanuatu**

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POPULATION

Total population
Thousands of people, share of urban population

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>2010</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human development index</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human assets index</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>77</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>

Life expectancy at birth 2019: 70 years
Population density 2019: 25 persons per km²
Dependency ratio 2019:
- Child: 67.1
- Old-age: 6.3

Age structure by gender, 2019
Percentage of total population
INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Merchandise and services trade
US dollars in millions

<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>38</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise imports</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>36.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services exports</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services imports</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trade openness
Goods and services
2018

Export concentration
index
2019

Food import
dependency
Average
2015-2019

55% of GDP
0.24
9.34

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

- Malaysia
- Australia
- United States of America
- Japan
- New Caledonia

Merchandise exports by product group, 2019

Services exports by category, 2019

Vanuatu
ENVIRONMENT

**CO₂ emissions per capita**
Kg per capita

- 2000: 0.1
- 2005: 0.2
- 2010: 0.3
- 2015: 0.4

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

- 2000: 0.1
- 2005: 0.2
- 2010: 0.3
- 2015: 0.4

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

- Renewable energy
- Non-renewable energy

**Material footprint per capita**
15.7 kg

**Terrestrial protected area**
4.2%

**Marine protected area**
0.01%

**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>2011</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Number of subscriptions per 100 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exports: 0.0%</td>
<td>Exports: 0.5%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>Fixed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imports: 3.1%</td>
<td>Imports: 7.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mobile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990_0
- Material footprint: UNEP (2021) https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1

References

- UNEP (2011). 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).