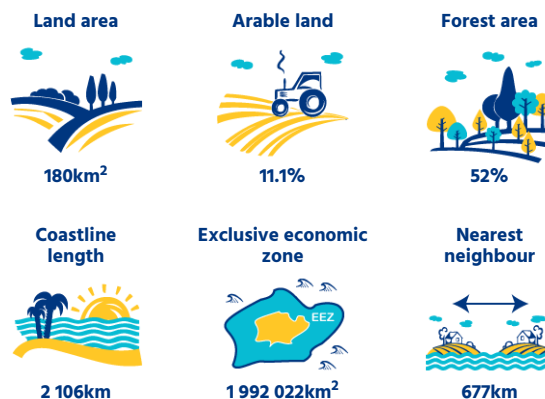




Marshall Islands

- > **Capital:** Majuro (7°7' N 171°4' E)
- > **International airport(s):** Marshall Islands International Airport, Majuro; the Bucholz Army Airfield, Kwajalein
- > **Official language(s):** Marshallese, English
- > **Currency:** United States dollar (USD)
- > **Time:** UTC +12
- > **Region:** Pacific



GEOGRAPHY

The Marshall Islands are situated approximately between the Philippines and Hawaii. More than 1 200 islands and islets in two parallel chains of coral atolls constitute the country: the Ralik, to the west and the Ratak to the east. The chains lie about 200 km apart and extend some 1 287 km northwest to southeast. Most of the atolls consists of irregular, oval-shaped coral reefs surrounding a lagoon; the islets lie along the coral reef. The islands and islets of the Ratak chain tend to be more heavily wooded than those of the Ralik. The main vegetation consists of coconut and pandanus palms and breadfruit trees. Soils are generally sandy and of poor quality. Several of the northern atolls are uninhabited owing to insufficient rainfall.

CLIMATE

The climate is tropical. The average temperature is very stable, with a monthly average of 28 °C through the year. Average annual rainfall in the Marshall Islands is below 2 800 mm and varies from 500 to 800 mm in the north, to 4 000 mm in the southern atolls. September, October and November tend to be the most humid months with a rainfall of more than 280 mm per month, while a drier season occurs between December and April. (World Bank, 2020) Many Pacific typhoons begin as tropical storms in the Marshall Islands region and grow stronger as they move west toward the Mariana Islands and the Philippines.

ECONOMY

Main activities in the islands include agriculture, fishing, shipping, tourism and farming. The Marshall Islands is among the three leading countries in foreign ship registrations after Panama and Liberia, making ship registration, along with fishing license fees, an important source of revenues. Pig and poultry farming are important agricultural activities, as are the major food crops: coconut, pandanus, breadfruit and taro. Copra is the chief source of income for the outer islands. Key export destinations include Poland, Denmark, Republic of Korea, Indonesia and Cyprus. The country is dependent on imported food, machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods and fuels; primarily from the United States of America, Japan and Australia. Remittances are important, accounting for almost 15 per cent of GDP (UNCTAD, 2021). In 2018, inbound tourism expenditure reached almost 10 per cent over GDP. EVI of the Marshall Islands is the second highest among the SIDS and in the world (UN DESA, 2020).

CULTURE

Extended families and clan systems are common on the islands. Marshallese society is matrilineal where land is passed down from generation to generation through the mother.

Local food specialties include breadfruit, coconut, bananas, papaya, seafood, pandanus and bwiro. Food preservation has been a historic part of Marshallese culture and continues to be practiced today.

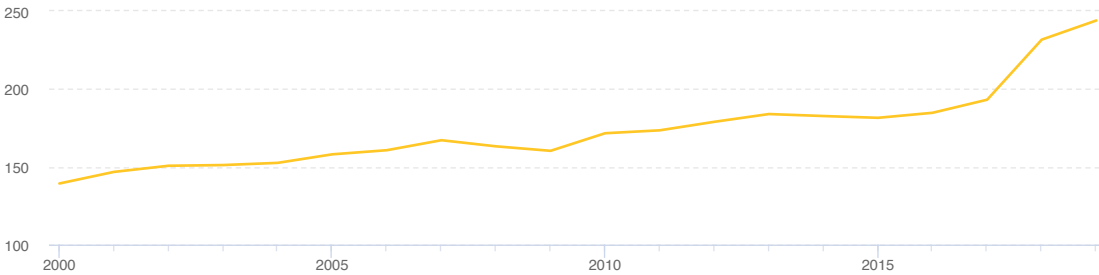
Throughout the years of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, United Nations Day was an important holiday, but that has now been replaced by Marshall Islands Independence Day. Other important celebrations commemorate the end of suffering during World War II and Kurijmoj (Christmas), a ritual event of up to four months in duration, celebrated by all (not only church members).

The most popular sports in the Marshall Islands are softball and baseball. Both sports are growing at a fast pace. The Marshall Islands achieved a silver medal in men's 200 m and two bronze medals in women's 100 m and 200 m in the Micronesian Games in 2014.

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita
2019



US\$4 038

Productive Capacity Index
2018



30.7

Economic and environmental vulnerability index
2019



60

Consumer Price Index growth
2019



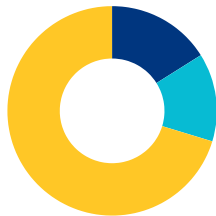
-0.5%

Unemployment rate
2005



Total 25.4%
Female ..%, Male ..%

Main economic sectors, 2019
Percentage of GDP



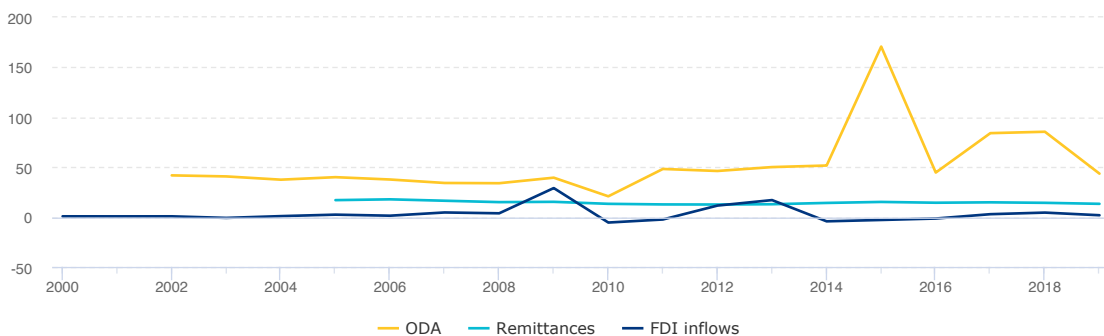
- Services
- Industry
- Agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing

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	101	32
Median time in port (days)	1	8
Average age of vessels	15	21
Average size (GT) of vessels	11 556	22

Container port throuput

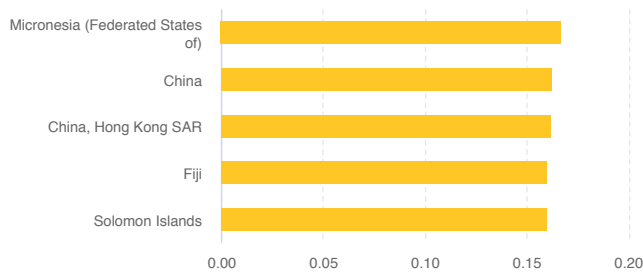
2019



30 711 TEU

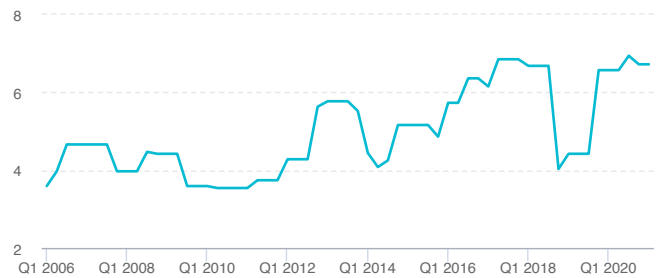
Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



Liner shipping connectivity index

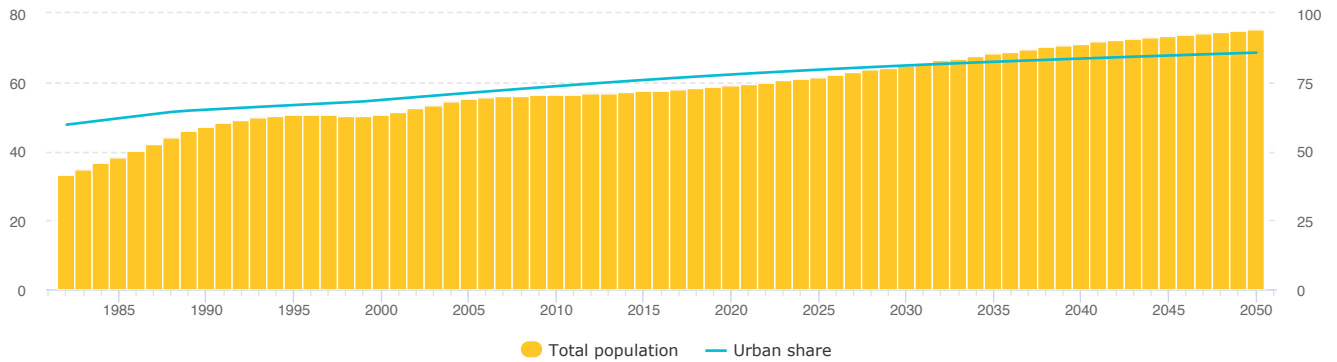
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



POPULATION

Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)
Human development index	2018	0.7
Human assets index	2020	79
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)
Gender inequality index	2010	0.6

Life expectancy at birth

2000



65 years

Population density

2019



327 persons per km²

Dependency ratio

2019



Child: ..
Old-age: ..

Age structure by gender, 2019

Percentage of total population

No data available

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Merchandise and services trade

US dollars in millions

Indicators	2005	2010	2015	2019	2019 (% of GDP)
Merchandise exports	25	32	52	55	23.2
Merchandise imports	94	150	108	68	28.6
Services exports	0	0	0	0	0
Services imports	0	0	0	0	0

Trade openness
Goods and services

..



..% of GDP

Export concentration index
2019



0.70

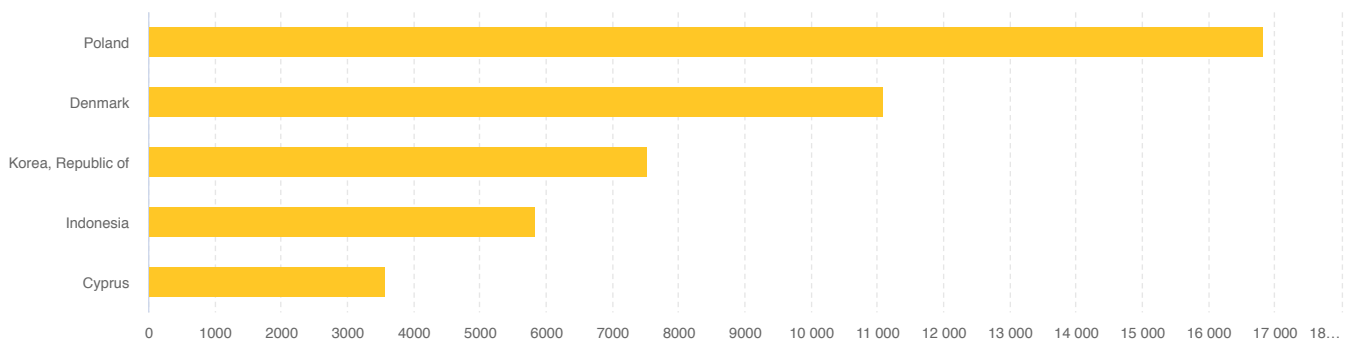
Food import dependency
Average
2015-2019



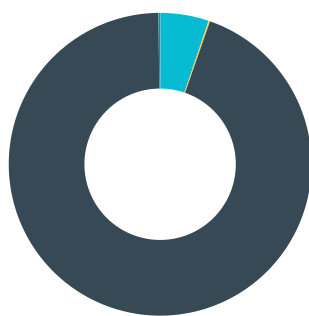
-5.39

Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars



Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



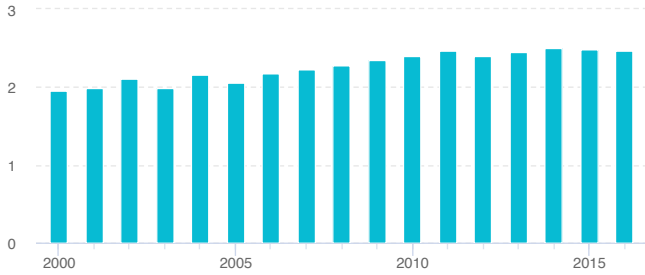
- Agricultural raw materials
- All food items
- Fuels
- Manufactured goods
- Ores, metals, precious stones and non-monetary gold

Services exports by category, 2019

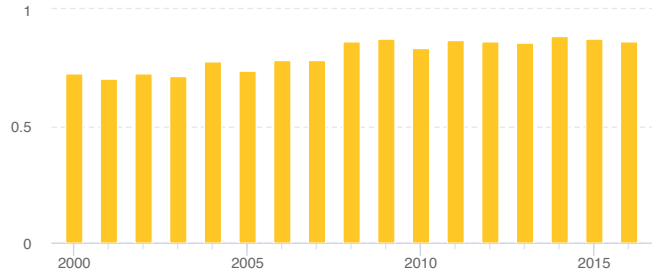
No data available

ENVIRONMENT

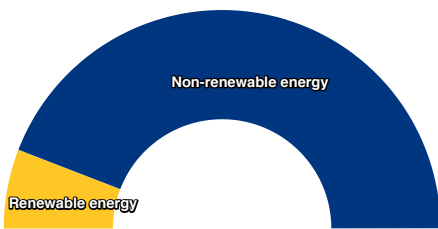
CO₂ emissions per capita
Kg per capita



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

..



Exports: ..%
Imports: ..%

Trade in ICT services

..



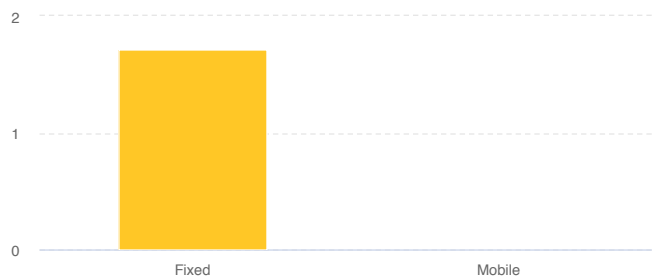
Exports: ..%
Imports: ..%

Share of internet users
2017



39%

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/>

References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- 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.seararoundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UN DESA (2020). Economic and environmental vulnerability indicators. Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category/evi-indicators-ldc.html> (accessed 13 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.
- World Bank (2020). Climate Change Knowledge Portal. Data based on observations for 1991-2016. Available at <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org> (accessed 13 November 2020).
- World Bank (2021). World Development Indicators. Available at <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators> (accessed 8 November 2020).