Palau

- **Capital:** Ngerulmud (7°30’N 134°37’E)
- **International airport(s):** Roman Tmetuchl International Airport, Airai
- **Official language(s):** English, Palauan, Japanese, Sonsorolese, Tobian
- **Currency:** United States dollar (US$)
- **Time:** UTC +9
- **Region:** Pacific

### GEOGRAPHY

Palau is situated in the western Pacific Ocean, southeast of the Philippines, and consists of some 340 coral and volcanic islands. All but six of Palau's islands sit inside an expansive lagoon enclosed by a huge barrier reef. Palau stretches across 700 km of ocean and its forest coverage is one of the highest in the world. The topography of the islands varies from the mountainous main island, Babelthuap, to many low-lying coral islands.

### CLIMATE

Palau has a tropical climate. Annual average temperature is around 28 °C and remains the same throughout the year, with daily highs around 31 °C and lows around 24 °C. The difference between the hottest and coldest months is about 0.8 °C. Heavy rains occur all year, with the least rainfall occurring between February and April. Annual average rainfall is about 3 100 mm. (World Bank, 2020) Palau does not lie directly in the path of tropical cyclones but is nevertheless sometimes affected. One of the most powerful tropical cyclones ever recorded, Haiyan, hit Palau in January 2014.

### ECONOMY

Tourism, fishing and agriculture are the main economic activities of Palau. Tourism infrastructure is well developed - tourist activities focus on water sports like scuba diving and snorkeling. Helicopter rides are also popular. The service sector accounts for most of the country's GDP with 88 per cent, including retail trade, restaurants and hotels contributing about 30 per cent to GDP. Palau exports fish, especially yellowfin tuna. The main export partners are Japan, Greece and the United States of America. Among the Pacific SIDS, Palau had the highest GDP per capita in 2019 at US$16 000, current prices. (UNCTAD, 2021)

### CULTURE

Women play an important role in Palauan society as it is organized around matrilineal clans. Senior women have strong decision making powers with regard to property.

Poetry and dancing are important arts in Palau. Traditional line dances are performed by both men and women. Men's dances often include war-related elements.

The Palauan cuisine is centered around root vegetables, seafood dishes and the versatile use of coconut. It takes influences from the cuisines of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan and the United States, but adds a unique Palauan twist.

Baseball is the most popular sport played in Palau. Palau first joined the Olympic Games in the 2000 Sydney Summer Games but has not yet participated in the Winter Games.
ECONOMIC TRENDS

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


225 250 275

GDP per capita
2019

US$15,579

Productive Capacity Index
2018 2019

33.4

48

Economic and environmental vulnerability index
2019

Consumer Price Index growth
2019

0.7%

Unemployment rate
2014

Total 1.4%
Female 1.8%, Male 1.1%

Main economic sectors, 2019
Percentage of GDP

Tourist arrivals
Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP

Number of tourists
Percent of GDP

External financial resources
Percentage of GDP

Public debt as % of GDP
2018

ODA Remittances FDI inflows

Palau
### MARITIME TRANSPORT

#### Fleet size

<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>0</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median time in port (days)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age of vessels</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average size (GT) of vessels</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Container port throughput

- **2019**: 16,399 TEU

#### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

**Top 5 partners**

- No data available

#### Liner shipping connectivity index

Maximum China Q1 2006=100

![Graph of liner shipping connectivity index](image_url)
**POPULATION**

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

![Population Development Chart]

**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>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human development index</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human assets index</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender inequality index</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Life expectancy at birth**
2005
69 years

**Population density**
2019
39 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

<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>13</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise imports</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>60.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services exports</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services imports</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Trade openness**

Goods and services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 (% of GDP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>..</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Export concentration index**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Food import dependency**

Average 2015-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015-2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

- Japan: 4500
- Greece: 1000
- Micronesia (Federated States of): 500
- United States of America: 100
- Guam: 200

### 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

- Renewable energy
- Non-renewable energy

Material footprint per capita
Terrestrial protected area
Marine protected area

- 2016
- 2018
- 2018

- ...kg
- 28%
- 82.99%

Disasters indicators
Data not available

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trade in ICT goods</th>
<th>2018</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>Exports: 0.0% Imports: 3.1%</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>Exports: ..% Imports: ..%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Number of subscriptions per 100 people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graphs and data visualizations are included to illustrate trends and comparisons over time. The data is presented in a clear and organized manner, ensuring that the information is easily understandable.
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
- 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.pro/datasets/lbeb260e9ca14674b391b81e4874990_0

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).