Sao Tome and Principe

GEOGRAPHY

São Tomé and Príncipe lies in the Gulf of Guinea, west from the coast of Central Africa with the Equator immediately south of São Tomé. The country consists of two archipelagos surrounding the two main islands, São Tomé and Príncipe, that lie about 140 km apart. It is the smallest Portuguese-speaking country and the second-smallest African sovereign state. Pico de São Tomé is the highest point of mountainous São Tomé, which peaks at 2024 m. São Tomé is also the larger of the two main islands: about 50 km long and 30 km wide, while Príncipe is less than half this size. The Pico Cão Grande (Great Dog Peak) is a famous volcanic landmark in southern São Tomé.

CLIMATE

The climate of São Tomé and Príncipe is tropical at sea level with hot and humid weather and average temperatures of 22 to 25 °C. The temperature rarely rises beyond 32 °C. The rainy season lasts from October to May. The rainy season is interrupted by a short drier period called ‘Gravanito’ from December to January. In higher inland the average temperature is 20 °C and nights are generally cool. Average annual rainfall in São Tomé and Príncipe is typically 2100 mm but varies from 5000 mm on the southwestern slopes to 1000 mm in the northern lowlands. (World Bank, 2020)

ECONOMY

São Tomé and Príncipe is a lower middle income, developing, small island state with some economic vulnerabilities. Its economy is largely based on plantations. The main crop is cocoa, representing about 95 per cent of agricultural exports. According to items attribute is mandatory, other export crops include coffee, copra and palm kernels. Domestic food production is inadequate to meet local consumption, so most of the food consumed in the country is imported. Agriculture, fishing and processing of local agricultural products and production of some basic goods are the main economic activities. As a response to major difficulties in the economy in the 1980s and 1990s, many economic reforms have been carried out. The potential for tourism is high on the scenic islands, and many projects aim at improving the infrastructure to support growth in this sector. In 2019, inbound tourism expenditure reached 10 per cent over GDP. São Tomé and Príncipe exports mostly to the Netherlands, Belgium and Singapore (UNCTAD, 2021).

CULTURE

Music is an important part of the local culture. São Toméans play ússua and socopé music, while Príncipe is home to music called dëxa beat. Tchiloli is a popular musical dance performance to tell a story. The danço-Congo is another musical performance that combines music, dance and theatre.

Tropical fruits, for instance, avocado, bananas and pineapple, play a large role in the local diet. People also eat fish and other seafood, beans, maize and cooked banana, often with hot spices. Coffee is also used as a spice or seasoning.

Football is the most popular sport in São Tomé and Príncipe. The first local football association was established in 1931, with a national federation following only two years after independence.
### 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>100</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### GDP per capita
2019

US$1,961

#### Productive Capacity Index
2018 26.7

2019

#### Economic and environmental vulnerability index
2018 30

2019

#### Consumer Price Index growth
2019 6.5%

2012

#### Unemployment rate
2012 Total 13.6%

Female 24.5%, Male 11.1%

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Percentage of GDP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 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>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18%</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>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Public debt as % of GDP
2018 114.3%
**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>1407</td>
<td>1407</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</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 throughput

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49 553 TEU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019
Top 5 partners

- Angola
- Portugal
- Gabon
- Congo, Dem. Rep. of the
- Belgium

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

![Graph showing liner shipping connectivity index from Q1 2006 to Q1 2020]
**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>2017</td>
<td>35.6</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>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender inequality index</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Life expectancy at birth**
2019
70 years

**Population density**
2019
224 persons per km²

**Dependency ratio**
2019
Child: 76.8
Old-age: 5.4

**Age structure by gender, 2019**
Percentage of total population

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### INTERNATIONAL TRADE

#### Merchandise and services trade

<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>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise imports</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>35.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services exports</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services imports</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Trade openness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goods and services</td>
<td>31% of GDP</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export concentration index</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food import dependency</td>
<td>23.14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average 2015-2019</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Exports in millions US dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>1250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 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

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### Environment

#### CO₂ emissions per capita
**Kg per capita**
- 2000: 0
- 2005: 0.25
- 2010: 0.5
- 2015: 0.75

#### CO₂ emissions per GDP
**Kg per 2010 US$ of GDP**
- 2005: 0
- 2010: 0.25
- 2015: 0.5

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

#### Material footprint per capita
- 2016: 12.5 kg

#### Terrestrial protected area
- 2018: 29.3%

#### Marine protected area
- 2018: 0.03%

#### Disasters indicators
Data not available

### Information and Communications Technology

#### Trade in ICT goods
- **2019**
  - Exports: 0.4%
  - Imports: 3.8%

#### Trade in ICT services
- **2019**
  - Exports: 0.9%
  - Imports: 2.2%

#### Share of internet users
- **2017**
  - 30%

#### Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions
**Number of subscriptions per 100 people**
- Fixed
- Mobile

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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](https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/index.html)
- Economic losses due to disasters: United Nations (2021) [https://www.sdg.org/datasets/e3adb2406c2e452b81c3654e276fe5ca_0](https://www.sdg.org/datasets/e3adb2406c2e452b81c3654e276fe5ca_0)
- Life expectancy at birth: World Bank (2021) [https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN](https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN)
- Material footprint: UNEP (2021) [https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1](https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1)
- Number of people affected by disasters: United Nations (2021) [https://www.sdg.pro/datasets/1be260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990_0](https://www.sdg.pro/datasets/1be260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990_0)
- ODA: OECD (2021) [https://stats.oecd.org](https://stats.oecd.org)

References

- UNCTAD (2021). Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP. Available at [https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1](https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1) (accessed 13 January 2021).