Seychelles

Seychelles is an archipelago of with 115 islands in the Indian Ocean, about 1 600 km east of Kenya. It has the smallest population of any sovereign African country. The highest point is Morne Seychellois (905 m) on the largest island, Mahé. The Seychelles are composed of two island groups, the central Mahé group of over 40 mountainous granite islands, and a second group of more than 70 outer, flat, coralline islands. These outer islands rise only a few feet above sea level and are very sparsely populated.

CLIMATE

The climate is quite humid in the small islands that are classified as tropical rain forest. The temperature varies little throughout the year. Average annual rainfall in the Seychelles is 1 600 mm, varying by location with around 2 900 mm at Victoria to 3 600 mm in the mountains. Monthly average temperatures vary very little within 27–28 °C. The coolest months are July and August. (World Bank, 2020) The most pleasant time of the year is from May to November, when the southeast trade winds blow regularly. The hot season lasts from December to April, with a high humidity of about 80 per cent. While March and April are the hottest months, the temperature seldom exceeds 31 °C. Most of the islands lie outside the cyclone belt. However, in January 2013, Seychelles declared a state of emergency when tropical cyclone, Felleng, caused torrential rain, flooding and landslides that destroyed hundreds of houses.

ECONOMY

While Seychelles does produce agricultural goods for export, such as sweet potatoes, vanilla, coconuts and cinnamon, agriculture makes a modest contribution to GDP. The main exports products include tuna, skipjack and bonito, motorboats and petroleum oil. The main export partners include the United Arab Emirates, France, the British Virgin Islands and the United Kingdom. Since the 1970s, services, including tourism, have become a significant industry for the country, accounting for over 80 per cent of GDP (UNCTAD, 2021). Recently, Seychelles have attracted foreign investment in hotels and other services. In 2019, Seychelles attracted 428 thousand tourist arrivals with an inbound tourism expenditure of 36 per cent over GDP (UNWTO, 2021). Government incentives have also given rise to increasing investment in real estate and new resort properties. The government has also promoted the development of farming, fishing, small-scale manufacturing and offshore finance to reduce dependence on tourism. At over US$17 thousands, Seychelles had the highest GDP per capita in Africa in 2019 (UNCTAD, 2021), but income inequality remains significant.

CULTURE

Seychelles is a small country, but has a vibrant art scene with artisans, dancers, musicians, painters, poets, sculptors and writers. Painters take inspiration from the rich nature of Seychelles and sculptors produce works in wood, stone, bronze and cartonnage.

The lively Sega dance, with hip-swaying and shuffling of the feet, is still popular, as is the traditional Moutya, a mysterious, traditional dance. Music played in the country is varied, reflecting the fusion of cultures through the history of Seychelles.

Fish dishes are typical in the country and are cooked in several ways - baked, grilled, steamed, wrapped in banana leaves, salted and smoked. Curry with rice is also a significant part of the country's cuisine. People also consume a lot of breadfruit, coconut, mangoes and kordonnyen fish and garnish their food with fresh flowers.
**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>500</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GDP per capita**  
2019  
US$17,381

**Productive Capacity Index**  
2018  
35.7

**Economic and environmental vulnerability index**  
2019  
40

**Consumer Price Index growth**  
2019  
2.3%

**Unemployment rate**  
2019  
Total 3%  
Female 2.7%, Male 3.2%

**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  
9.4%
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 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>335</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median time in port (days)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age of vessels</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average size (GT) of vessels</td>
<td>21026</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Container port throughput

2019

154 423 TEU

Bilateral connectivity index, 2019
Top 5 partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania, United Republic of</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Liner shipping connectivity index
Maximum China Q1 2006=100

Seychelles 3 of 7
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>2018</td>
<td>0.5</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>93</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: 74 years

Population density
2019: 212 persons per km²

Dependency ratio
Child: 34.7
Old-age: 11.4

Age structure by gender, 2019
Percentage of total population

Seychelles
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>340</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>30.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise imports</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>984</td>
<td>991</td>
<td>1167</td>
<td>68.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services exports</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>848</td>
<td>1123</td>
<td>66.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services imports</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>40.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trade openness
Goods and services
Export concentration index
Food import dependency
Average 2015-2019

- 103% of GDP
- 0.44
- -10.00

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

- United Arab Emirates
- France
- British Virgin Islands
- United Kingdom
- Zambia

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

**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

Terrestrial protected area

Marine protected area

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>2019</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exports: 0.0%</td>
<td>Exports: 1.2%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imports: 2.3%</td>
<td>Imports: 0.2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></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](https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/index.html)
- Economic losses due to disasters: United Nations (2021) [https://www.sdg.org/datasets/e3adb2406e9ca14674b391b815e4874900_0](https://www.sdg.org/datasets/e3adb2406e9ca14674b391b815e4874900_0)
- Life expectancy at birth: World Bank [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.org/datasets/1be260e9ca14674b391b815e4874900_0](https://www.sdg.org/datasets/1be260e9ca14674b391b815e4874900_0)
- ODA: OECD (2021) [https://stats.oecd.org](https://stats.oecd.org)

References

- UNEP (2012). 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](https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1) (accessed 13 January 2021).

Seychelles