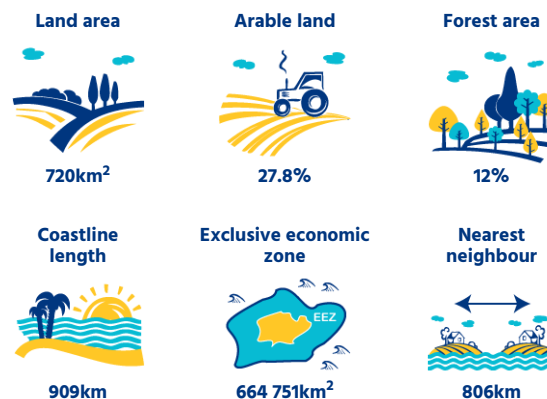




Tonga

- > **Capital:** Nuku'alofa (21°8´S 175°12´W)
- > **International airport(s):** Fua'amotu International Airport, Fua'amotu
- > **Official language(s):** Tongan, English
- > **Currency:** Pa'anga (TOP)
- > **Time:** UTC +13
- > **Region:** Pacific



GEOGRAPHY

Tonga is an archipelago in the South Pacific Ocean. It is located south of Samoa and about two-thirds of the way from Hawaii to New Zealand. Only about 40 of Tonga's some 170 islands are inhabited. Geologically, the Tongan islands are of two types: most have a limestone base formed from uplifted coral formations, whereas others consist of limestone overlaying a volcanic base. Tonga's high volcanic and low coral forms give the islands a unique character. Some volcanoes are still active, for instance, Falcon Island is a submerged volcano that erupts periodically, its lava and ash rising above sea level forming a visible island which disappears when the eruption is over.

CLIMATE

Tonga's climate is tropical, but slightly cooler than in most tropical areas. Average monthly temperatures range from 23 to 27 °C. The warm season lasts from December to April with highs above 32 °C. During the cooler months, temperatures rarely rise above 27 °C. The tropical cyclone season mostly coincides with the warm and rainy season from November to April. Average annual rainfall is below 1 700 mm, with February and March the wettest months. (World Bank, 2020) Tonga is second on the list of countries most at risk according to the United Nations University (2020) World Risk Index.

ECONOMY

All land is owned by the Tongan monarchy, but some plots have been divided among the country's nobles. Tonga has a large non-monetary sector and is heavily dependent on remittances sent by the country's population living and working abroad. Remittances accounted for almost 35 per cent of GDP in 2019 (UNCTAD, 2021). The country attracted 94 thousand tourist arrivals in 2019 with an inbound tourism expenditure of 10 per cent over GDP (UNWTO, 2021). Manufacturing consists of handicrafts and a few other very small-scale industries. Agriculture, forestry and fishery provides 24 per cent of employment (ILO, 2020a) and almost the same share of GDP (UNCTAD, 2021). Agricultural products include bananas, coconuts, coffee beans, vanilla beans and root crops such as cassava, sweet potato and taro. The main export destinations include New Zealand, the United States of America and China.

CULTURE

Religion is an important aspect of Tongan society, and most Tongan families are members of a Christian church. Tongan ritual surrounding the drinking of kava, a mildly narcotic drink, has survived despite western influence. Traditional dancing is an important part of ceremonies and parties. In the popular paddle dance, called me'etu'upaki, dancers carry paddle-shaped boards painted or carved with likenesses of the human body.

Tongans quite literally live from the land. They are highly self-reliant and eat many locally grown and hand-picked fruits, such as breadfruits, coconuts, bananas, mandarins, papayas, lemons, passion fruits and guavas. Lemon leaves are also used for tea. Vegetables such as taro, cassava, kumara and yam are diet staples. Tongans also depend on the ocean, which provides fish, octopus, clams, shellfish and sea cucumbers. Fresh coconut milk is often used in cooking.

Rugby is the national sport in Tonga. Sumo wrestling is also very popular. Tongan athletes have competed at both Summer and Winter Olympics.

ECONOMIC TRENDS

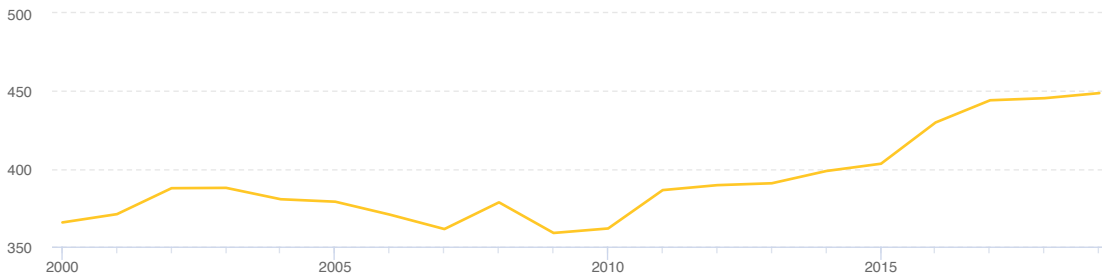
Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions

**GDP per capita
2019**



US\$4 865



**Productive Capacity Index
2018**

**Economic and environmental vulnerability index
2019**

**Consumer Price Index growth
2019**

**Unemployment rate
2018**



33.0



43



3.3%



**Total 3.1%
Female 3.6%, Male 2.6%**

Main economic sectors, 2019

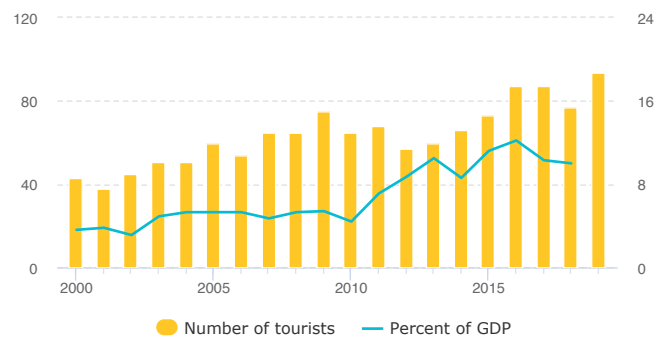
Percentage of GDP



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

Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



External financial resources

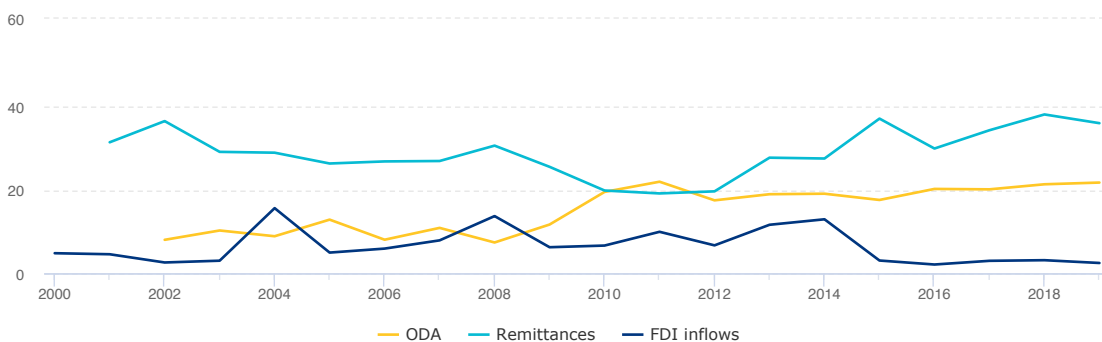
Percentage of GDP

**Public debt as %
of GDP**

2018



42.9%



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	444	22
Median time in port (days)	0	31
Average age of vessels	12	32
Average size (GT) of vessels	7 227	29

Container port throughput

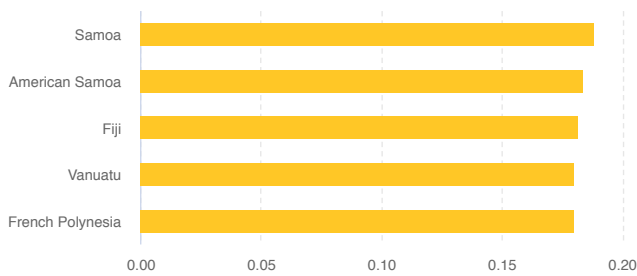
2019



76 854 TEU

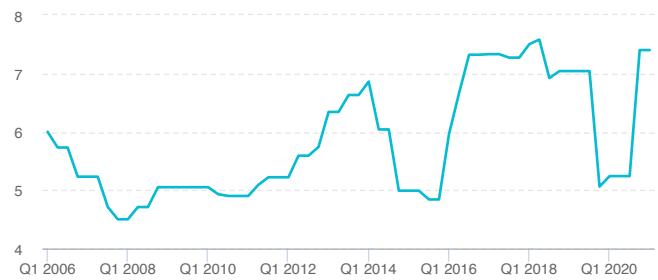
Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



Liner shipping connectivity index

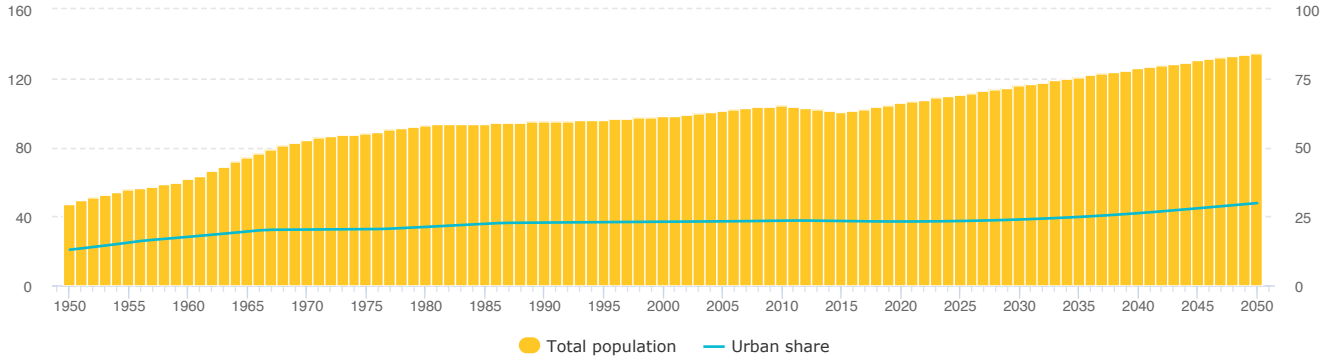
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



POPULATION

Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2015	1
Human development index	2018	0.7
Human assets index	2020	97
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)
Gender inequality index	2019	0.4

Life expectancy at birth
2019



71 years

Population density
2019



145 persons per km²

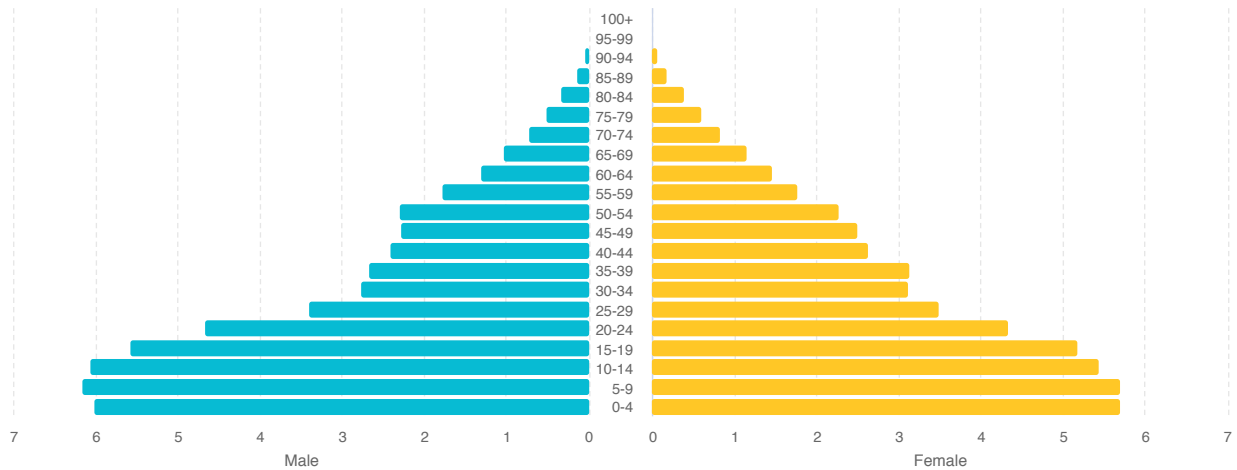
Dependency ratio
2019



**Child: 59.5
Old-age: 10.1**

Age structure by gender, 2019

Percentage of total population



INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Merchandise and services trade

US dollars in millions

Indicators	2005	2010	2015	2019	2019 (% of GDP)
Merchandise exports	10	8	18	20	3.9
Merchandise imports	121	159	209	238	46.8
Services exports	25	35	72	88	17.3
Services imports	41	48	81	99	19.5

**Trade openness
Goods and services**

2019



40% of GDP

Export concentration index

2019



0.38

Food import dependency

Average

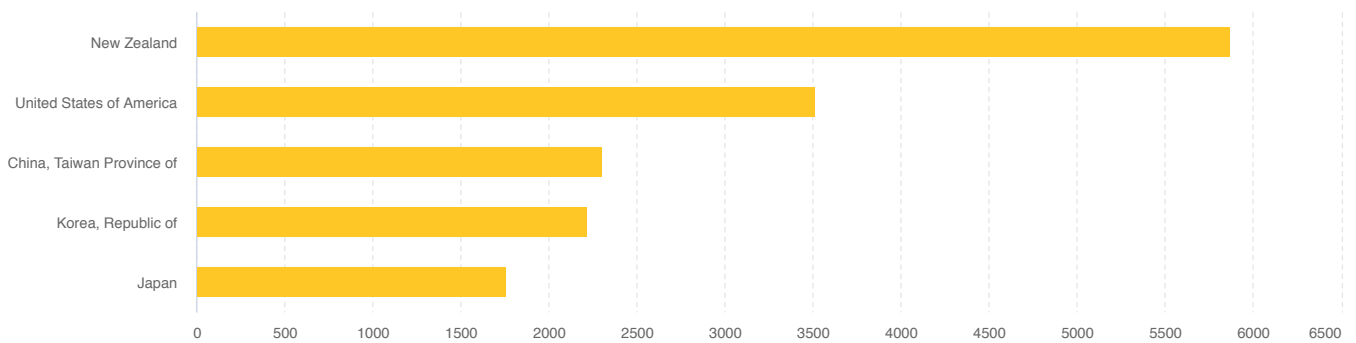
2015-2019



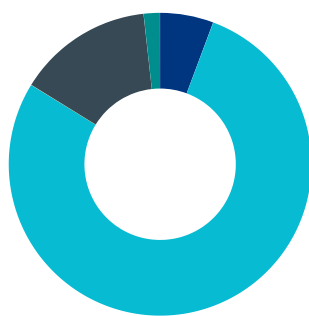
18.91

Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars



Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



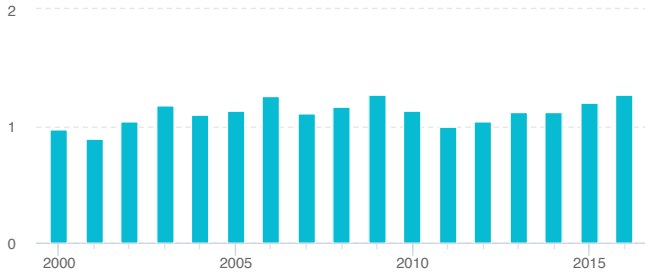
- Agricultural raw materials
- All food items
- Fuels
- Manufactured goods
- Ores, metals, precious stones and non-monetary gold

Services exports by category, 2019

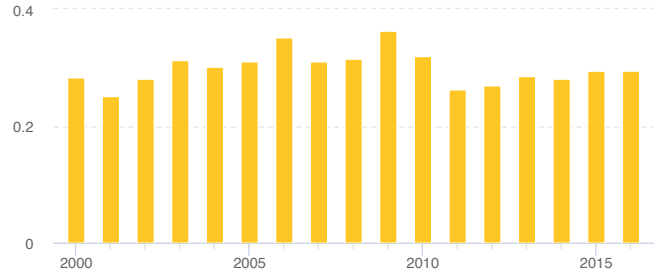
No data available

ENVIRONMENT

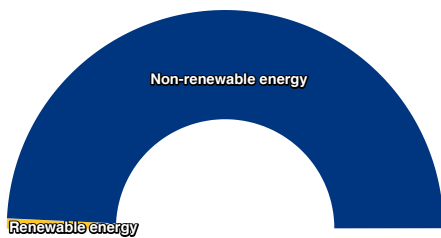
CO₂ emissions per capita
Kg per capita



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
2014



Exports: 0.8%
Imports: 10.2%

Trade in ICT services
2018



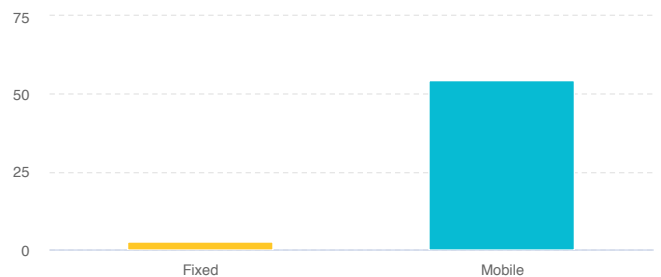
Exports: 16.3%
Imports: 6.8%

Share of internet users
2017



41%

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.seaaroundus.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://environmental.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 (2020b) 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/>

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- UNEP (2021). 12.2.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP. Available at https://environmental.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).
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