GEOGRAPHY

Tuvalu is a small island country consisting of three reef islands and six atolls with a total land area of only 30 km². This makes Tuvalu the fourth smallest country in the world in terms of land area. The islands lie approximately halfway between Hawaii and Australia, with only 4 to 5 m above sea level. Due to the porous soils, agriculture is limited, and fresh water is provided by rain and wells only.

CLIMATE

Tuvalu has a hot, humid, and rainy equatorial climate with two seasons. The wet season lasts from November to April and the dry season from May to October, with average rainfall below 250 mm per month during the dry season. Precipitation is plentiful, exceeding 3,000 mm per year. The prevailing winds come from the southeast, while westerly storms occur from November to February. Temperatures are very stable throughout the year, with an average of 28°C to 29°C each month, around 25°C at night and 31°C during the day. Water temperature is always 29°C to 30°C. (World Bank, 2020) Tuvalu is occasionally affected by the tropical cyclones of the South Pacific.

ECONOMY

The economy of Tuvalu suffers from its remoteness and lack of economies of scale. Farming, such as coconut palms and fishing, remain prominent economic activities, accounting for about one-fifth of GDP. Important export partners include Japan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the United States of America. Remittances from male Tuvaluans working overseas in maritime industries contributed 9 per cent to GDP in 2019 (UNCTAD, 2021). The government produces revenue mostly from selling fishing licenses and from grants from international donors. The sale of stamps has been an important, but declining, source of revenue for the country and the government. Tuvalu has hardly any tourism. Its economic and environmental vulnerability is the third highest among the SIDS and in the world (UN DESA, 2020).

CULTURE

Culture in Tuvalu underpins the ability of the people of Tuvalu to live and thrive in an island environment. The communities in Tuvalu have actively engaged in the cultural production of a variety of handicrafts, such as mats, baskets, fans, shell necklaces, and costumes for traditional performances. These handicrafts are designed for daily use by the community but are increasingly sought after as gifts by tourists.

Falekaupule, the traditional island meeting hall, is an important place for cultural events. They are used for wedding celebrations and community activities such as a fatele, a traditional dance song of Tuvalu, involving music, singing, and dancing. A traditional sport played in Tuvalu is kilikiti, which is similar to cricket. Another popular sport specific to Tuvalu is Ano, which is a localised version of volleyball. Tuvalu entered the Olympic Games for the first time at the 2008 Summer Games in weightlifting and track and field by taking part in the 100 m sprint.
# ECONOMIC TRENDS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## GDP per capita
2019

US$4,033

## Productive Capacity Index
2018

33.5

## Economic and environmental vulnerability index
2019

57

## Consumer Price Index growth
2019

3%

## Unemployment rate
2016

Total 8.5%
Female 16.2%, Male 4.6%

## Main economic sectors, 2019
Percentage of GDP

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

## Tourist arrivals
Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP

No data available

## External financial resources
Percentage of GDP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>-50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- ODA
- Remittances
- FDI inflows

## Public debt as % of GDP
2018

28.1%
**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>69</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median time in port (days)</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age of vessels</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average size (GT) of vessels</td>
<td>4047</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bilateral connectivity index, 2019**
Top 5 partners

No data available

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

![Liner shipping connectivity index graph](image)

**Container port throughput**
2019

5 150 TEU
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>2010</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human development index</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>·</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human assets index</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>87</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

Population density

Dependency ratio

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>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise imports</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>70.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services exports</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services imports</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trade openness Goods and services
2016: 49% of GDP
2019: 0.56

Export concentration index
2019: 0.56

Food import dependency
Average 2015-2019: 10.41

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

- Japan
- Philippines
- Ecuador
- United States of America
- Bosnia and Herzegovina

Merchandise exports by product group, 2019

Services exports by category, 2019

No data available

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

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>2008</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Number of subscriptions per 100 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exports: 0.0%</td>
<td>Exports: 3.1%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>Fixed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imports: 2.1%</td>
<td>Imports: 3.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mobile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COUNTRY PROFILES

Tuvalu

References

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/e3adb2406c2e452b8f1c3654ae276f65ca_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.org/datasets/iebe26be9ca14674b391b81e4874990_0


