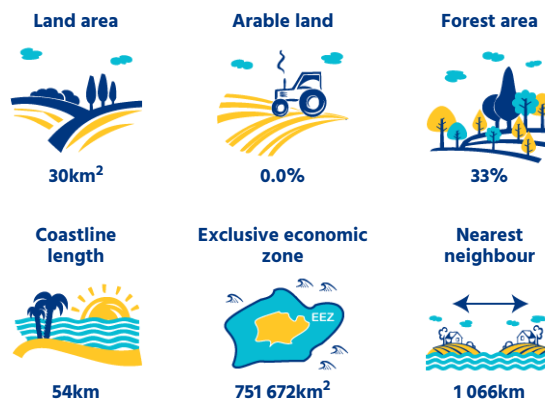




Tuvalu

- > **Capital:** Funafuti (8°31' S, 179°12' E)
- > **International airport(s):** Funafuti International Airport, Funafuti
- > **Official language(s):** Tuvaluan, English
- > **Currency:** Tuvaluan Dollar (TVD), Australian Dollar (AUD)
- > **Time:** UTC +12
- > **Region:** Pacific



GEOGRAPHY

The small island country of Tuvalu, formerly known as the Ellice Islands, consists of three reef islands and six atolls with a total land area of only 30 km². This makes Tuvalu as the fourth smallest country in the world in terms of land area. Tuvalu is situated approximately halfway between Hawaii and Australia. The islands lie only 4 to 5 m above sea level. Because the soils are porous, 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 are from the southeast, while westerly storms occur from November to February. Temperatures are very stable throughout the year at 28-29 °C each month, around 25 °C at night and 31 °C during the day. Water temperature is always 29-30 °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, for instance of 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

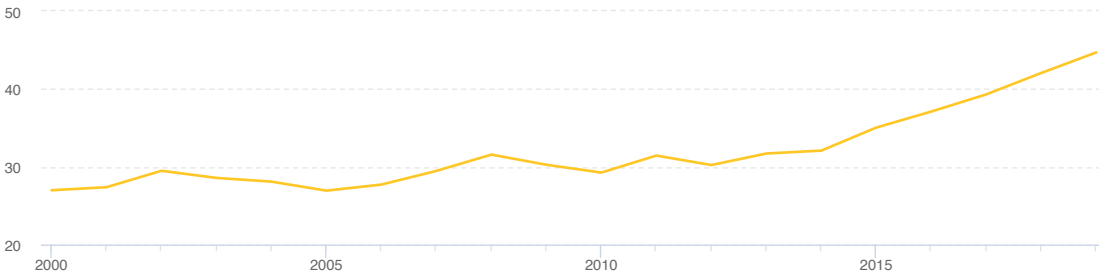
Culture in Tuvalu underpins the ability of the people of Tuvalu to live and thrive in an island environment. The communities in Tuvalu have actively engaged in the cultural production of a variety of handicrafts, such as mats, baskets, fans, shell necklaces and costumes for traditional performances. 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 *killikiti*, 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



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

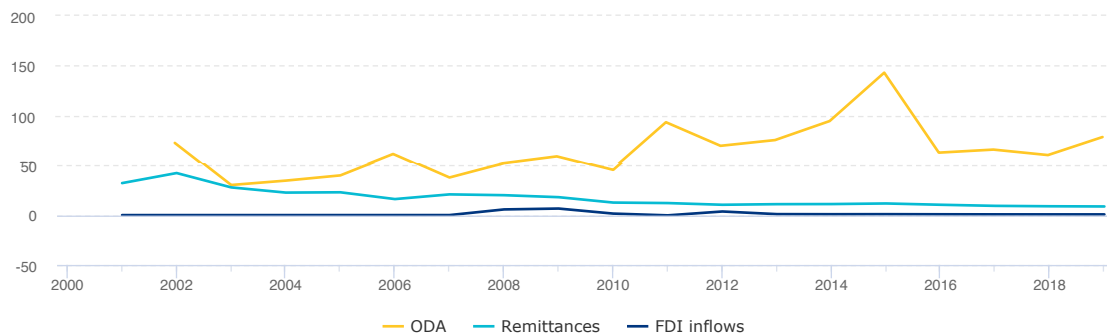


- Services
- Industry
- Agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing

Tourist arrivals
Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP

No data available

External financial resources
Percentage of GDP



Public debt as % of GDP
2018



28.1%

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	69	34
Median time in port (days)	11.2	1
Average age of vessels	28	3
Average size (GT) of vessels	4 047	35

Container port throughput

2019



5 150 TEU

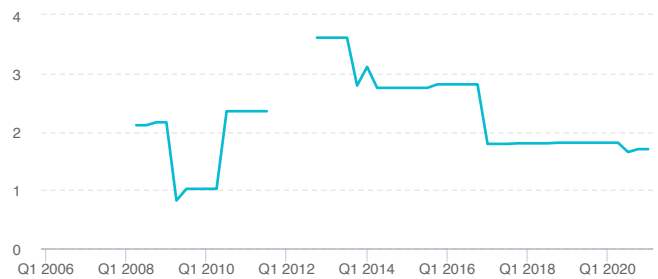
Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners

No data available

Liner shipping connectivity index

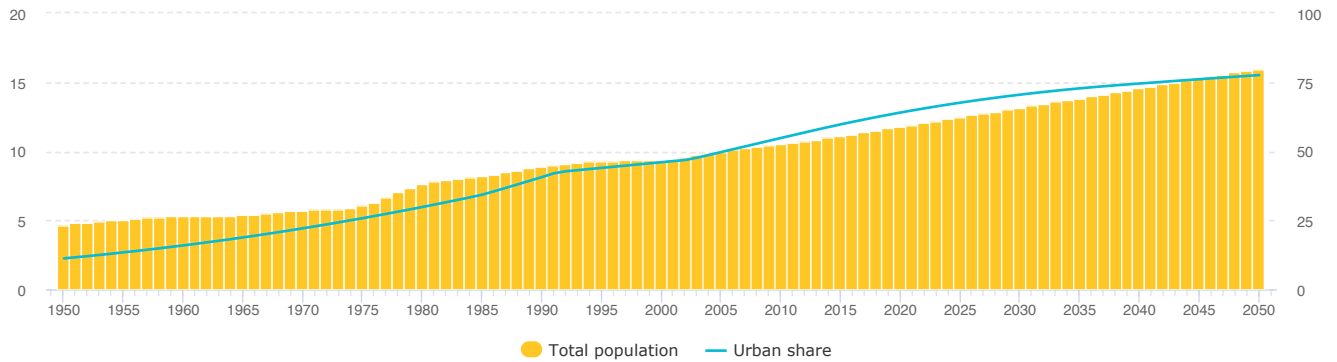
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



POPULATION

Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2010	3.3
Human development index	2018	..
Human assets index	2020	87
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)
Gender inequality index	2010	0.7

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

Indicators	2005	2010	2015	2019	2019 (% of GDP)
Merchandise exports	0	0	0	0	0
Merchandise imports	13	16	37	33	70.2
Services exports	2	4	4	0	0
Services imports	10	34	16	0	0

**Trade openness
Goods and
services**

2016



49% of GDP

**Export
concentration
index**

2019



0.56

**Food import
dependency**

Average

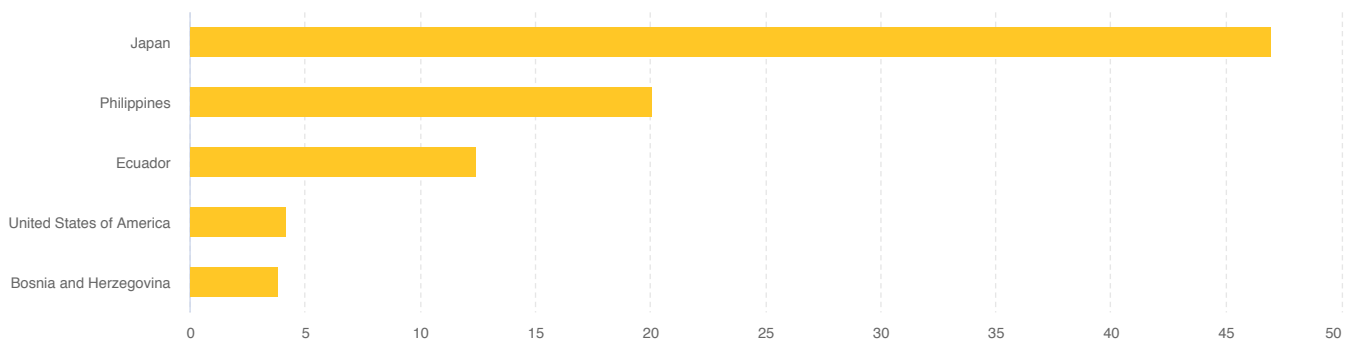
2015-2019



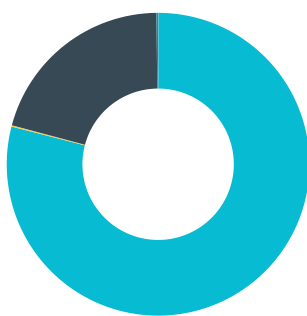
10.41

Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars



Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



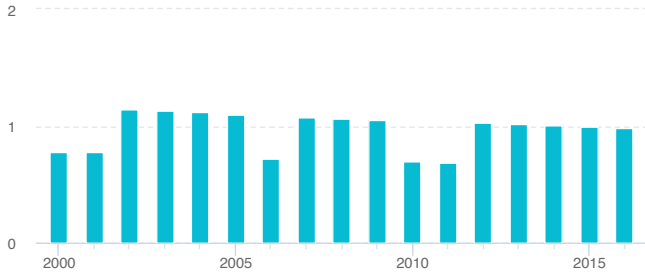
- Agricultural raw materials
- All food items
- Fuels
- Manufactured goods
- Ores, metals, precious stones and non-monetary gold

Services exports by category, 2019

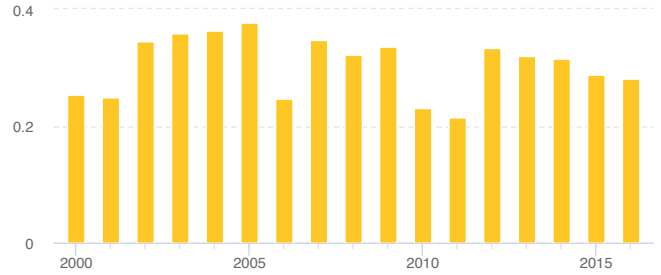
No data available

ENVIRONMENT

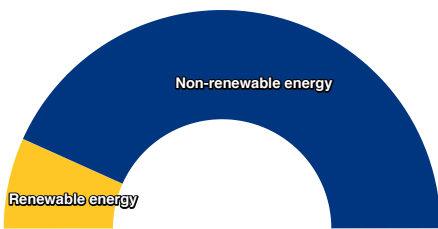
CO₂ emissions per capita
Kg per capita



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
2008



Exports: 0.0%
Imports: 2.1%

Trade in ICT services
2014



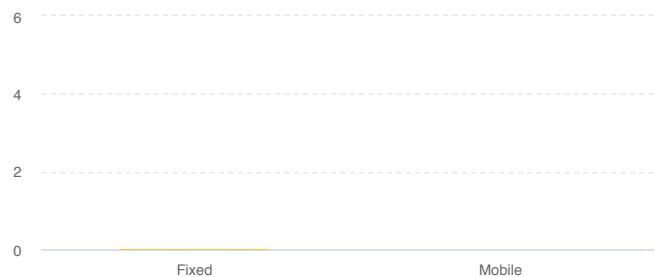
Exports: 3.1%
Imports: 3.1%

Share of internet users
2017



49%

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.seararoundus.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://environmentlive.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 (2020) 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://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1 (accessed 13 January 2021).
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- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
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- World Bank (2020). Climate Change Knowledge Portal. Data based on observations for 1991-2016. Available at <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org> (accessed 13 November 2020).
- World Bank (2021). World Development Indicators. Available at <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators> (accessed 8 November 2020).