



# Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures 2021



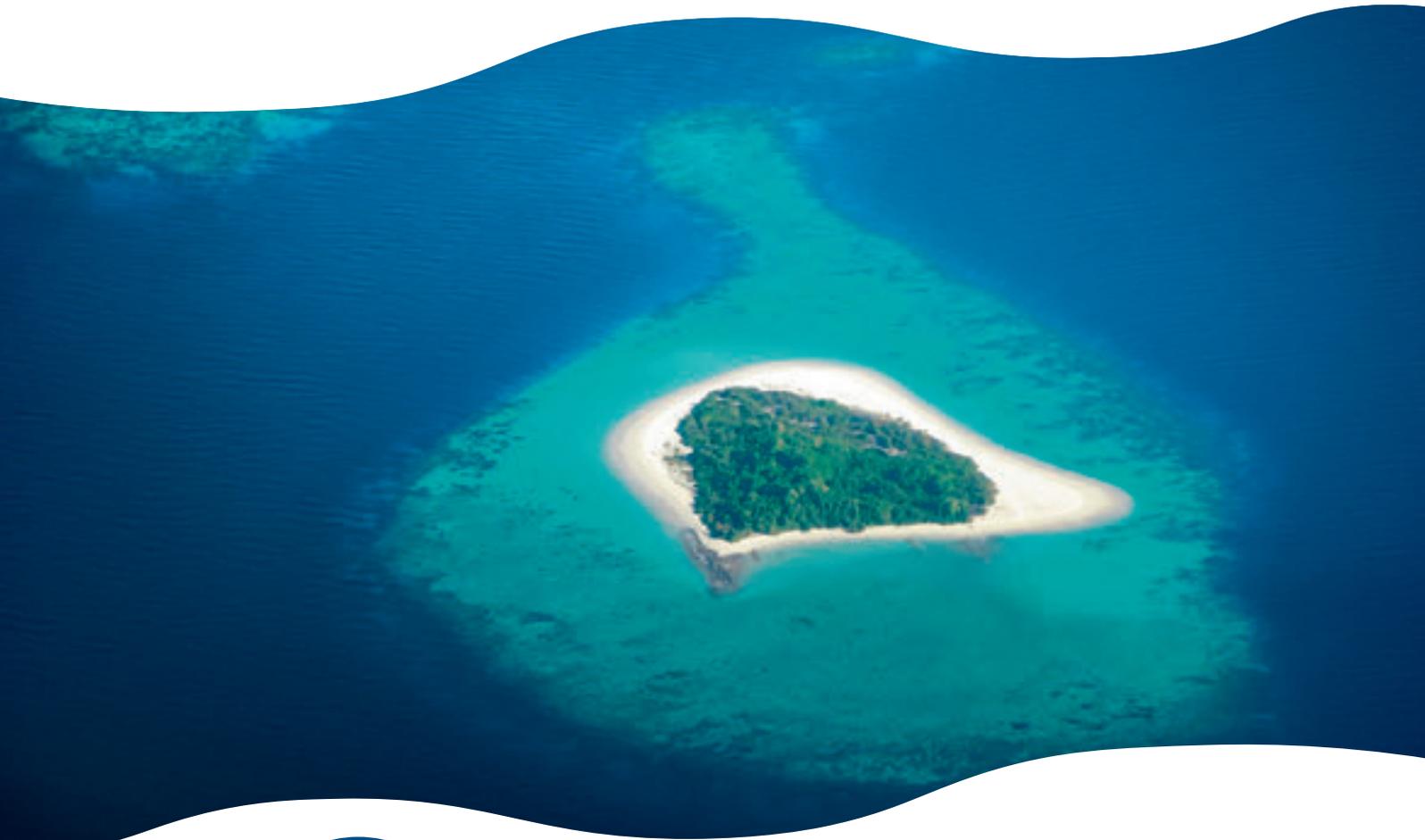
*Small Island Developing States*  
DGFF2021







# Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures 2021



*Small Island Developing States*  
DGFF2021



© 2022, United Nations  
All rights reserved worldwide

Requests to reproduce excerpts or to photocopy should be addressed to the Copyright Clearance Center at [copyright.com](http://copyright.com). All other queries on rights and licences, including subsidiary rights, should be addressed to:

United Nations Publications  
405 East 42nd Street  
New York, New York 10017  
United States of America

Email: [publications@un.org](mailto:publications@un.org)  
Website: <https://shop.un.org/>

The designations employed and the presentation of material on any map in this work do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). The final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. The final status of the following territories has not yet been agreed or determined: Abyei area, Aksai Chin, Arunachal Pradesh, Bi'r Tawil, Hala'ib Triangle, Ilemi Triangle, Jammu and Kashmir, Kuril Islands, Paracel Islands, Scarborough Shoal, Senkaku Islands and Spratly Islands.

This publication has not been formally edited.

---

United Nations publication issued by the  
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

UNCTAD/GDS/2021/2  
ISBN: 978-92-1-113028-7  
eISBN: 978-92-1-001037-5  
Sales No. E.21.II.D.22

## Foreword

The 2021 edition of the *UNCTAD Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures* is dedicated to Island Developing States (IDS) as their contributions and vulnerabilities will be key aspects of the discussions during our upcoming UNCTAD 15 Conference hosted by Barbados.

This focus is further warranted as 2020 was a particularly challenging year for IDS. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, many IDS experienced a larger decline in GDP than other developing countries. In addition of being a public health threat, the crisis and its related international travel restrictions and social distancing measures affected the lifeblood for many small island economies: tourism.

While IDS are a diverse group of countries, they share many socioeconomic and environmental challenges. IDS are highly vulnerable to external economic and financial shocks, at least 35 per cent more than other developing countries. The small size of their economies leaves little room for diversification and the creation of economies of scale. Many IDS are also heavily dependent on international trade, especially the import of manufactured goods. Their commodity dependence and overreliance on a few export destinations render them vulnerable to global price fluctuations and changes in aggregate demand.

In 2014, the international community agreed on a clear vision for the sustainable development of small islands, embodied in the IDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. However, much action is needed to implement the SAMOA Pathway's priorities on debt sustainability, concessional financing, investment, trade, and climate change adaptation. Thus far, much of the disaster response has been on a short-term emergency basis, rather than long-run development planning. This challenges the development prospects of IDS.

This report offers a unique statistical approach to IDS by combining a wide variety of statistical information to examine IDS from the perspectives of trade, the economy, the environment and society. The report also illustrates UNCTAD's long history and expertise in supporting IDS in their development aspirations.

I hope that the report will serve as a useful statistical and analytical tool for the IDS themselves and for all those interested in understanding these islands.

Isabelle Durant  
Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD

## Table of content

Foreword .....	3
SIDS in context .....	5
What makes a SIDS a SIDS .....	9
If SIDS were a country .....	36
<b>Trade</b> .....	43
Trade in goods .....	45
Fleet, connectivity and port.....	53
Trade in services .....	60
Tourism .....	65
Trade vulnerability .....	64
<b>Economy</b> .....	92
Economic trends .....	94
Industrial development for sustained economic growth .....	102
Productive capacity .....	107
Debt and financial risks .....	117
<b>Environment</b> .....	126
Environment and climate crisis .....	128
Plastics economy and SIDS .....	142
<b>Social development</b> .....	146
Population and migration .....	148
Health and education .....	156
Income, poverty and employment .....	167
Gender, inclusion and equality .....	175
<b>Country profiles</b> .....	184
Atlantic and Indian ocean SIDS .....	185
Caribbean SIDS .....	250
Pacific SIDS .....	365
<b>Glossary</b> .....	457

# SIDS in context



## Introduction

Welcome to the 2021 edition of the UNCTAD Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures. This edition is dedicated to small island developing States or SIDS. The report is part of UNCTAD's analytical work to measure the challenges of SIDS related to economic smallness, their productive capacities, geographical remoteness and transport costs, environmental and climate vulnerabilities as well as the role of social and human development in SIDS.

In this report we begin with the official list of SIDS designated by the UN-OHRLLS (2021) for the LDCs, LLDCs and the SIDS. From a statistical perspective, presenting and analyzing SIDS is not a straightforward task – there is no universally agreed definition of what constitutes a SIDS and as a consequence there are a number of SIDS classifications (see [What makes a SIDS a SIDS](#)).

### UN Members (38)

1. Antigua and Barbuda
2. Bahamas
3. Bahrain
4. Barbados
5. Belize
6. Cabo Verde
7. Comoros
8. Cuba
9. Dominica
10. Dominican Republic
11. Fiji
12. Grenada
13. Guinea-Bissau
14. Guyana
15. Haiti
16. Jamaica
17. Kiribati
18. Maldives
19. Marshall Islands
20. Federated States of Micronesia
21. Mauritius
22. Nauru
23. Palau
24. Papua New Guinea
25. Samoa
26. São Tomé and Príncipe
27. Singapore
28. St. Kitts and Nevis
29. St. Lucia
30. St. Vincent and the Grenadines
31. Seychelles
32. Solomon Islands
33. Suriname
34. Timor-Leste
35. Tonga
36. Trinidad and Tobago
37. Tuvalu
38. Vanuatu

### Non-UN Members/Associate Members of the Regional Commissions (20)

1. American Samoa
2. Anguilla
3. Aruba
4. Bermuda
5. British Virgin Islands
6. Cayman Islands
7. Commonwealth of Northern Marianas
8. Cook Islands
9. Curacao
10. French Polynesia
11. Guadeloupe
12. Guam
13. Martinique
14. Montserrat
15. New Caledonia
16. Niue
17. Puerto Rico
18. Sint Maarten
19. Turks and Caicos Islands
20. U.S. Virgin Islands



Including both sovereign states and territories in the classification presents pragmatic problems, such as, data availability, but also difficulties for comparative analyses. For this reason, the twenty non-UN Member States are not included in the analyses. Even the UN member SIDS (38) list contains challenges from a comparative perspective also as some SIDS are not islands or not small.

Any analysis of a group of economies will inevitably fail to do complete justice to the differences between its members. This is especially true of the economies, spread around the globe, that in one way or another fit the description of SIDS. They share many strengths and challenges, but they all face their unique circumstances and deserve their own analysis. This report attempts to highlight the economic, environmental and social situation of SIDS by focusing on a subset of SIDS that share all four descriptions of being small, island, developing and state. The take home messages of this analysis carry over to those SIDS that are relatively big, have land borders with other economies, are more developed or are not considered states. A comprehensive discussion of this choice is presented in [What makes a SIDS a SIDS](#), where an analytical list of SIDS is presented for statistical purposes. This analytical list is also used throughout the report to reflect more closely the challenges typically faced by SIDS. All 38 UN Member States are presented in the [Country profiles](#).

The report begins with an analytical overview in [If SIDS were a country](#) which illustrates the aggregate contribution of the SIDS to the world. Thereafter the report is organized in four thematic sections:

- [Trade](#)
- [Economy](#)
- [Environment](#)
- [Social](#)

The [Country profiles](#) present a wide variety of economic, maritime transport, population, international trade, environmental ICT and indicators and a number of interactive graphs and infographics for each country.

## Acknowledgements

This report is a collaborative effort of UNCTAD statisticians and economists with substantive inputs from the UNWTO Department of Statistics led by Hernán Epstein and inputs from Clara Van der pol and Leandry Moreno (see [Tourism](#)) and the UNIDO Statistics Division led by Fernando Cantu-Bazaldua (see [Sustainable industrialisation](#)).

The report was developed by the UNCTAD Development Statistics and Information Branch, led by Steve MacFeely. The following staff of the Branch prepared the statistics, analysis and design: Sana Al-Jadir, Nour Barnat, Sonia Blachier, Sanja Blazevic, Ekaterina Chernova, Yoann Chaine, Richard Chalverat, Flavine Creppy, David Cristallo, Denis Gervalle, Victoria Goudeva, Onno Hoffmeister, Daniel Hopp, Ildephonse Mbabazimana, Bojan Nastav, Anu Peltola, Valentina Rivas Godoy, Amandine Rushenguziminega, Benny Salo and Anton Sudzik.

The following UNCTAD experts contributed to the drafting of the report with statistics and analysis across divisions: Regina Asariotis, Diana Barrowclough, Rachid Bouhia, Claudia Contreras, Mussie Delelegn, David Vivas Eugui, Yihong Gong, Jan Hoffmann, Moritz Meire-Ewert, Alberto Munisso and Luisa Rodriguez. The report also benefited from the review by several national and international experts.



## References

- UN DESA (2021). Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category.html> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- UN-OHRLLS (2021). UN-OHRLLS list of Small Islands Developing States (SIDS). Available at <https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/list-sids> (accessed 19 March 2021).

# What makes a SIDS a SIDS



*'Everyone knew that all islands were worlds unto themselves, that to come to an island was to come to another world'*

— Guy Gavriel Kay, *Tigana*

## Introduction

There are countless islands dotted all around the world's oceans, lakes, and rivers. They vary enormously in size, climate, and in flora and fauna. Some islands, such as the beautifully wooded Bled Island in Slovenia, or the remote and barren Skellig Michael off the coast of Ireland, now famous as a Star Wars location, are small. Others, such as Greenland or New Guinea, are massive. Some islands, such as Manhattan in New York or the tiny Santa Cruz del Islote off the coast of Colombia are crowded and densely populated. In contrast, the northern islands of Greenland, Baffin or Victoria barely support human life and are very sparsely populated. Yet others, such as the Pitcairns, best known as the haven to the mutineers of the HMS Bounty, or Easter island, home to the enigmatic moai are some of the most remote islands in the world. Singapore, on the other hand, lies less than 2 km south of Malaysia and is well connected by bridges and causeways. Manhattan and Long Island too are close to the mainland and very well connected. Some islands, like the Aleutian Islands in Alaska, are frozen all year round, whereas the Seychelles or Fiji are tropical. Spanning the oceans of the world, islands hold a rich variety of linguistic and cultural history. For example, across the Caribbean islands, cultural influences from indigenous groups, Africa, Asia, North America and Europe can all be found.

But what makes an island a SIDS? What are the unique features or characteristics that single out these islands from the thousands of others? Broadly speaking SIDS are typically characterized as remote, with high vulnerability to economic and environmental shocks, and with an inability to capitalize on economies of scale. Yet there is no universally agreed upon definition for SIDS (Herbert, 2019). One might assume the answer lies in their description – they must be small, they must be islands, they must be developing and they must be states. But depending on the criteria used to define SIDS by different United Nations and international and regional organisations, the number of qualifying states or economies ranges from 58 countries (using UN-OHRLLS criteria) to only 18 (using as reference the number of World Bank IDA countries that can borrow on small economy terms). (See table 1.)



**Table 1. Seven alternative SIDS classifications: number of economies by region**

Region	UN-OHRLLS	M49	UNESCO	AOSIS	OECD (DAC recipients)	SSF (Islands)	World Bank (IDA)
Africa	6	6	6	6	6	5	3
Asia and Oceania	23	22	19	19	16	14	10
Europe	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Latin America and the Caribbean	28	25	23	19	13	10	5
North America	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	58	53	48	44	35	32	18

Source: UNCTAD calculations derived from multiple sources – see [appendix 1](#).

The range in membership can largely be accounted for by the inclusion or exclusion of large islands, developed islands, coastal rather than islands countries and non-independent territories. Thus, even within the United Nations itself, there is considerable variety as to what constitutes a SIDS, depending on whether they give priority to the political or analytical dimensions. An analysis of the concordance of the composition between the seven SIDS groups is presented in table 2. Using Kendall's tau, a rank correlation coefficient, the weak correlation between the different classifications being employed currently is clearly illustrated<sup>1</sup>.

**Table 2. Concordance in the composition of current SIDS groups (Kendall's tau)**

	M49	UNESCO	AOSIS	OECD (DAC recipients)	SSF (Islands)	World Bank (IDA)
UN-OHRLLS	0.42	0.43	0.48	0.35	0	0.2
M49		0.6	0.68	0.5	0.12	0.28
UNESCO			0.62	0.63	0.29	0.36
AOSIS				0.67	0.4	0.42
OECD (DAC recipients)					0.41	0.57
SSF (Islands)						0.56

Note: Kendall's tau is the ratio of the difference between the number of concordant and discordant pairs of observations to the number of all possible pairs of observations.

In spite of some common characteristics, there is a large degree of differentiation amongst the SIDS (House, 2013). The challenges facing remote islands in the Pacific Ocean are not necessarily the same as those facing islands in the Indian Ocean or in the Caribbean Sea. Some extremes, and some surprising inclusions, illustrate the point. For example, some SIDS, such as Guinea-Bissau, Guyana or Suriname are not even islands (see section - [Islands and islandness](#)); some, such as Papua New Guinea, Cuba, Dominican Republic or Singapore, are not small (see section - [Smallness](#)). SIDS' economic and environmental vulnerability indices range between highly vulnerable (Kiribati: 66.1 index score) to not very vulnerable (Bahrain: 16.5 score) – see section: [Development and vulnerability](#); their Human Development ranges between very high (Seychelles or Singapore) to low (Comoros or Tonga); and their income, as measured by GNI per capita, ranges from high (Bahamas or Bermuda) to low (Haiti or Guinea-Bissau) (see [SIDS country profiles](#)). The lack of a clear SIDS definition or qualification criteria facilitates, and arguably exacerbates, the heterogeneity of the group (Herbert, 2019). As yet, there has been insufficient “political support across the UN member States for the creation of a criteria-defined category” (Alonso et al., 2014: 18).

In this chapter, SIDS are examined from a statistical perspective. The decision or the justification for a SIDS group is not examined but taken as read. Instead, the focus is on what the abbreviation SIDS means and what might be appropriate statistical criteria for SIDS qualification.

## SIDS – A brief history

The SIDS, that set of countries recognized as being particularly vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks, was first formally recognized at the UNCED, also known as the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. But the international community had recognized that developing island countries were a special category from a developmental perspective long before that. The plight of island nations has been an issue of analyses and concern going back to the 1960's. From a UN perspective, this recognition was first formalized during the 3rd UNCTAD quadrennial conference in Santiago, Chile in May, 1972, where the particular geographic and socioeconomic problems facing IDCs, such as insularity and remoteness, were discussed (UNCTAD, 1972). Resolution 65 (III) of that conference asked that a panel be established to study the particular problems of developing island countries (UNCTAD, 2017a).

### Plight of developing island countries was first formally recognized in 1972 at UNCTAD III



Among other things, the resulting report highlighted the challenges of classification, noting the ‘classification of these countries is not without its problems in view of their heterogeneity’ (UNCTAD, 1974: 3). The challenging issue of size was especially highlighted. The authors concluded that size matters, as small countries tend to be more dependent on foreign trade and are typically price takers, they tend to have a limited range of resources available, they are often reliant on one external company that may monopolize trade and resources, they normally have a narrower range of institutions and may be dependent for certain services on other countries to provide services, they are likely to have a narrow range of skilled manpower, often suffer from

diseconomies of small scale in the provision of infrastructure or administrative services, and will typically have a narrow local market, and will struggle to replace imports. In turn, ‘smallness’ would impact on countries in relation to problems of specialization and dependence, manpower and migration and could impact on their overall viability.

Between 1972 and 1992, work and discussions on ‘island developing countries’ has been characterized as largely diagnostic (UNCTAD, 2017a). In 1976, UNCTAD IV recommended special assistance for all island developing countries and in 1977, the United Nations General Assembly requested that United Nations agencies incorporate these recommendations into their programs (Fry, 2019). The World Bank adopted the ‘small island exception’ in 1985 for differentiating development finance where middle-income countries would continue to enjoy low-income country treatment as SIDS, an unofficial status that was synonymous with fragility and justified special treatment irrespective of other criteria.

The United Nations formally replaced the notion of ‘island developing countries’ with the more focused denomination ‘SIDS’ in 1994 (Hein, 2004), at the first *Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States* held in Barbados, in 1994. This was a landmark conference, as it was the first time a United Nations conference was entirely devoted to SIDS. The conference declaration (United Nations, 1994a), set out what has become known as the *Barbados Programme of Action*, covering 14 themes targeted on sustainable development, half of them ecological<sup>2</sup>.

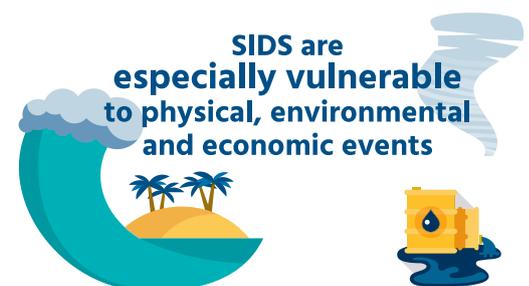
This programme has been reviewed and renewed on a number of occasions since then. In 1999, at a special session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNDESA, 1999), and in 2005 by the *Mauritius Strategy for Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS* (United Nations, 2010b). In 2010, an important event was the request from the United Nations General Assembly to ‘put forward concrete recommendations’ and ‘consider what improved and additional measures might be needed to more effectively address the unique and particular vulnerabilities and development needs of small island developing States’ (United Nations, 2010b, Para 33). The third international conference on SIDS in 2014, the outcome of which was the *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway*, commonly known as the *SAMOA Pathway* (United Nations, 2014b), reaffirmed the international commitments made in the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy and pledged to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of SIDS and help them achieve sustainable development. In recognition, 2014 was also designated ‘The International Year of Small Island Developing States’ with the then United Nations (2014a) Secretary General Ban Ki-moon saying this was an opportunity ‘to appreciate the extraordinary resiliency and rich cultural heritage of the people of small island developing States’. In 2015, 10 of the SDG targets of the 2030 Agenda mentioned SIDS explicitly (United Nations, 2015).<sup>3</sup>

## Typical characteristics of a SIDS

A common feature of SIDS is their vulnerability or exposure to physical, environmental and economic events, including natural disasters, and their relatively poor ability to respond to those catastrophic events owing to their physical, demographic, social, economic and environmental characteristics.

As outlined earlier, the special case of SIDS was first formally recognized by the international community at UNCED or the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, where their environmental and ecological vulnerabilities were recognized. The Agenda 21 or the Rio Declaration stated that ‘Small island developing States, and islands supporting small communities are a special case both for environment and development. They are ecologically fragile and vulnerable. Their small size, limited resources, geographic dispersion and isolation from markets, place them at a disadvantage economically and prevent economies of scale.’ (United Nations, 1992, Para 17.124).

Two years later, the Barbados Programme of Action (United Nations, 1994a) broadened their recognition of the issues facing SIDS, identifying several disadvantages that derive from small size, including a narrow range of resources, which forces undue specialization; excessive dependence on international trade and hence vulnerability to global developments; high population density, which increases the pressure on already limited resources; overuse of resources and premature depletion thereof; relatively small watersheds and threatened supplies of fresh water; costly public administration and infrastructure, including transportation and communication; and limited institutional capacities and domestic markets, which are too small to provide significant scale economies, while their limited export volumes, sometimes from remote locations, lead to high freight costs and reduced competitiveness. Small islands also tend to have high degrees of biodiversity, but the relatively small numbers of the various species impose high risks of extinction and create a need for protection.



The characterizing disadvantages of SIDS articulated in the Barbados Programme of Action were generally representative of the reflections and analyses offered by the academic literature. A selection is presented here: Briguglio (1995) argues that most SIDS face special disadvantages owing to their small size, insularity, remoteness and their proneness to natural disasters. These factors make the economies of SIDS vulnerable to forces outside their control, threatening their economic viability – a reality often concealed by their GDP or GNP per capita. He identifies five key disadvantages of SIDS: (1) small size – which results in limitations in natural resource endowments and high import content, import-substitution possibilities, small domestic market and dependence on export markets, dependence on a narrow range of products, a limited ability to influence domestic prices, to exploit economies of scale, to create domestic competition and problems of public administration; (2) insularity and remoteness – which causes high per-unit transport costs, uncertainties of supply and a need to keep large stocks; (3) proneness to natural disasters – cyclones, earthquakes, landslides and volcanic eruptions tend to have a relatively larger impact on SIDS in terms of damage and costs, sometimes threatening the very survival of some small islands; (4) environmental factors – pressures arising from economic development and the environmental characteristics of SIDS which often comprise fragile ecosystems; and (5) other characteristics – dependence on foreign sources of finance and demographic factors.

Kakazu (2007), looking at the characteristics of small Pacific islands, identified their small size as a defining feature. All other issues, such as what he termed the ‘tyranny of distance’, high transport and communication costs, barriers to market access, fragile environments, diseconomies of scale and scope, limited division of labor (monoculture), segmented market, remoteness or insularity, high-cost economy, over-blown public sector and a high dependency on tourism, stem from this.

House (2013) identified the following critical challenges confronting SIDS: small population and geographic size; isolation; climate change and rising sea-levels; natural and environmental disasters; outward migration or the ‘brain drain’ of scarce human resources; and dependence on public sector employment, agriculture, fishing and tourism. These challenges are accentuated by a high dependence on aid and donor funding; limited freshwater resources; often rapid population growth which, combined with limited natural resources, often results in environmental degradation and poor waste management; and vulnerable biodiversity resources. He further notes that these constraints limit SIDS’ ability to capitalize on trade liberalisation and globalisation. The same year, Bruckner (2013) identified five main vulnerabilities: smallness; isolation and fragmentation; a narrow resource and export base; exposure to environmental and natural shocks, including climate change and natural disasters; and exposure to external economic shocks.

Herbert (2019) has summarized the key characteristics of SIDS as: heterogeneity; small country size and remotely located from markets; lower economies of scale and higher costs for provision of state services; economic vulnerabilities; economic openness; lack of economic diversification; slow and volatile economic growth; climate vulnerabilities; and perhaps lags in human development.

Thus, in large measure there is a high degree on unanimity across the white and grey literature regarding the main characteristics of SIDS. A notable feature is that their characteristics are largely synonymous with the disadvantages or challenges confronting those island states. This is reflected in the most recent intergovernmental plan, *The Samoa Pathway*, which notes ‘the ability of the small island developing States to sustain high levels of economic growth and job creation has been affected by the ongoing adverse impacts of the global economic crisis, declining foreign direct investment, trade imbalances, increased indebtedness, the lack of adequate transportation, energy and information and communications technology infrastructure networks, limited human and institutional capacity and the inability to integrate effectively into the global economy. The growth prospects of the small island developing States have also been hindered by other factors, including climate change, the impact of natural disasters, the high cost of imported energy and the degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems and sea-level rise’ (United Nations, 2014b, Para 17.124). The pathway identifies the key issues to be addressed: mitigating climate change; shifting to more sustainable energy; build resilience to reduce vulnerability to disaster risk; improve the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas; improve food security and nutrition; reduce the overexploitation of surface, ground and coastal waters, reduce saline intrusion; improve infrastructure for safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management systems; develop viable sustainable transportation, consumption and production; better the management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste; improve health, and reduce the high prevalence of debilitating communicable and non-communicable diseases; promote gender equality and women’s empowerment; foster social development, including culture, sport, education, peaceful societies and safe communities; protect biodiversity against desertification, land degradation, drought and reverse deforestation and forest degradation; and control against invasive alien species. The plan also highlights the importance of sustainable tourism. It is also reflected in the 2015 *Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Framework* which highlights the disproportionate effects of disasters to SIDS (United Nations, 2015).

## The importance of coherent classification

There is no universally agreed upon definition of SIDS. This has arguably exacerbated the heterogeneity of the larger SIDS groups (Turvey, 2007; Alonso et al., 2014; Herbert, 2019) and has been the source of considerable confusion (Fialho and van Bergeijk, 2016). This problem can be traced to the beginning of the concept of IDCs when a list of disadvantaged island nations was never clearly defined (Hein, 2004; Stoutenburg, 2015; Turvey, 2007). As a result, today SIDS is both a technical and political term where membership is largely by self appointment (Herbert, 2019). This has created 'an inconsistency between the definition of the SIDS and its acronym' where 'non-islands economies as Belize, Suriname and Guyana, are awkwardly classified under the SIDS' (Fialho and van Bergeijk, 2016).

**A good classification should simplify, highlight distinctiveness and facilitate comparison**



The heterogeneity in the definition of SIDS can to a large extent be explained by the different contexts and the different purposes for which they were set up. The classification into SIDS and non-SIDS may be the basis for differential treatment, e.g. which islands get MFN and which do not (OECD, 2020), or for the targeting of development aid.

For statistical analysis, however, it is important that classification schemes are unambiguous and allow a clear assignment of objects into distinguishable categories. Exhaustively defined and mutually exclusive and well described categories that reflect the realities of the field are key properties of good classification systems in statistics (OECD, 2020). Shorrock (2018) argues that a classification should pass the plausibility test of 'face validity', meaning it should seem valid or sensible to people who use it. Concepts, the simplifying ideas formed in people's mind to bundle information and to facilitate that way the understanding of the world, play an important role for face validity. The higher the congruence between the categories defined in the classification system with people's ideas of those categories, the more will the classification make sense to users and the more easily it will be understood by them (Hoffmeister, 2020).

But classification schemes also shape people's understanding of categories. This is the reason why high incongruence between SIDS hampers productive discourse and scientific progress (Nielsen, 2011). The 'match between classifications applied in statistics and concepts formed in people's minds constitutes an important determinant of the clarity, interpretability and relevance of aggregated or grouped data' (Hoffmeister, 2020: 1098).

**Many of the SIDS classifications fail to meet criteria for a good classification**



Many of the SIDS classifications listed earlier fail the guidelines for what constitutes a good classification based on the criteria set out above. Furthermore, their proliferation also represents a failure of international coordination and governance. 'Instead of creating predictability, order, rationality and transparency in terms of rules, principles and approaches, this multiple classification results in the uneven treatment of individual countries' (Alonso et al., 2014: 26). Not surprisingly, this has led to some skepticism and a lack of concrete action regarding SIDS – 'no programme can be meaningful, operational and monitorable if it is not clear what specific countries are

being considered' (Hein, 2004: 16).

So, how might this situation be improved? While every classification comprises technical, political and ideological considerations (Fialho and van Bergeijk, 2016) it should not be impossible to develop either an improved broad all-purpose SIDS classification or a more targeted issues-based categorisation. Either way, the objective should be to increase homogeneity. Classification system should be based on a transparent, data-driven methodology rather than on subjective judgment or ad hoc rules (Nielsen, 2011). 'No category of countries will enjoy credibility, as a platform for advocacy, unless it is systematically defined' (Hein, 2004: 97).

For the purposes of this exercise, sets of criteria are examined, with the aim of reducing or eliminating the inconsistency between the definition and the description of SIDS. In other words, taking a literal interpretation of SIDS, the meanings of Small, Island, Developing, States are investigated to assess whether useful criteria can be determined to provide a functional definition for SIDS.

## Smallness

The name suggests that 'smallness' is a core characteristic of SIDS, but what does small mean? The issue of size, and how to define 'small' was identified in the UNCTAD (1974) report as a central question and remains an unresolved conceptual challenge. A challenge complicated by the fact that smallness is a relative and not an absolute concept (Kakazu, 2007). Although the subject has been analysed for several years

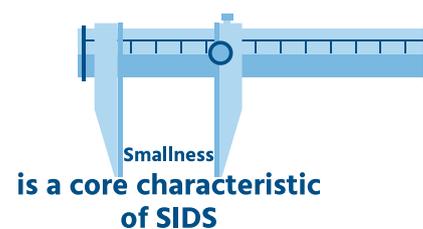
(de Vries, 1973; Kuznets, 1960; Scitovsky, 1960) no consensus has emerged. The end result, as Hein (2004: 16) notes, is a 'debate bogged down due to persistent differences on how small should be defined'.

Various variables and thresholds for defining size have been proposed. Should size be thought of in geographic terms, demographic terms or economic terms? The most frequently suggested candidates for representative characteristics of 'smallness' are physical size (land area), population and GDP, or a combination of all three (Kakazu, 2007; Stoutenburg, 2015). UNCTAD (1974) identifies six 'basic indicators of developing island countries': Total population; land territory (in square meters); inhabitants per square meter; GNP; GNP per capita; and GNP growth over a ten year period. While 13 islands were singled out as having a population in excess of 1 million persons, no thresholds were suggested or used for land area or GNP. Davenport (2002) argues in favour of also including share of world merchandise trade <sup>4</sup>. Srinivasan (1986) proposes that any definition of smallness should take into account a variety of factors including population, per capita income and income distribution. However, both Shand (1980) and Stoutenburg (2015) note that any of these indicators are arbitrary and there is no clear variable or cut-off point to designate size. Shand, also argues that GNP was probably the best indicator of smallness in terms of productive capacity, a view roundly rejected by UNCTAD (2016) <sup>5</sup>.

Despite all the choices available, the criterion that has been most widely used in the literature and in practice as a measure of country size is population WTO (2002). In fact, Guillaumont (2009) claims this is the most meaningful way to determine the size of a country <sup>6</sup>. The Commonwealth Secretariat proposed a threshold of 1.5 million persons (Commonwealth Secretariat and World Bank, 2000). Others argue in favour of a five million threshold (Hein, 2004; Streeten, 1993; Collier and Dollar, 1999; Brautigam and Woolcock, 2001). In 2004, in the lead up to the 2005 United Nations Mauritius Conference on SIDS, UNCTAD formally defined 'smallness' as having a population less than five million persons <sup>7</sup>.

As population has been adopted by both UNCTAD and the Commonwealth Secretariat as the relevant criterion, albeit with different thresholds, it is interesting to test how representative that choice is. Using a single variable (population) simplifies matters, and as the data are easily available and updated regularly, the choice certainly qualifies as 'pragmatic'. But it is clear from the literature that other variables have also been proposed, often in combination. For the purposes of analysis, a simple composite 'smallness' index has been constructed (see table 3) to assess whether population is a robust basis for assessing whether a state qualifies as small or not. For the purposes of this analysis, only the 38 United Nations member states found on UN-OHRLS SIDS list have been included (see [appendix 1](#)) as data availability is problematic for the non-member territories.

As noted above, land area, population and GDP are the variables most frequently cited as suitable criteria for defining smallness. Consequently, these are the three variables (area measured in km<sup>2</sup>; GDP in constant prices of 2015; and population) used to construct the smallness index presented in table 3. Other suggested criteria, such as GDP per capita and share of global trade were not included, as they are not independent of the three core criteria already selected. The methodology used to compile the aggregate smallness index and to select a reasonable threshold is described in MacFeely et al. (2021).



**Table 3. Composite SIDS 'Smallness Index', 2018**

UN SIDS	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	GDP (Million US\$)	Population (Thousands)	Smallness Index
Papua New Guinea	462 840	22 475	8 606	61
Singapore	719	337 919	5 758	50
Cuba	109 880	91 246	11 338	50
Dominican Republic	48 670	82 021	10 627	43
Haiti	27 750	8 703	11 123	36
Guyana	214 970	3 472	779	18
Suriname	163 820	4 722	576	14
Jamaica	10 990	14 818	2 935	11
Guinea-Bissau	36 130	1 224	1 874	8
Bahrain	778	34 277	1 569	8
Trinidad and Tobago	5 130	22 885	1 390	7
Mauritius	2 040	13 080	1 267	5
Timor-Leste	14 870	2 909	1 268	5
Fiji	18 270	5 239	883	4
Solomon Islands	28 900	1 177	653	4
Bahamas	13 880	11 998	386	3
Belize	22 970	1 794	383	3
Comoros	1 861	1 097	832	3
Cabo Verde	4 030	1 821	544	2
Maldives	300	4 989	516	2
Vanuatu	12 190	847	293	2
Barbados	430	4850	287	1
Samoa	2 840	816	196	1
Saint Lucia	620	1 770	182	1
Sao Tome and Principe	960	345	211	1
Seychelles	460	1 620	97	0
Antigua and Barbuda	440	1 562	96	0
Grenada	340	1 125	111	0
Saint Vicent and the Grenadines	390	794	110	0
Kiribati	810	183	116	0
Micronesia (Federated States of)	700	329	113	0
Tonga	750	487	103	0
Dominica	750	526	72	0
Saint Kitts and Nevis	260	958	52	0
Marshall Islands	180	198	58	0

UN SIDS	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	GDP (Million US\$)	Population (Thousands)	Smallness Index
Palau	460	277	18	0
Nauru	20	115	11	0
Tuvalu	30	42	12	0

Source: UNCTAD calculations.

Based on the composite smallness index and applying a threshold of 35.6 as the cut-off line between small and big (see MacFeely et al., 2021), then five of the 38 UN-OHRLS SIDS are excluded for analytical purposes – Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti. This gives a similar result to applying a population threshold of five million persons.

## Islands and islandness

What makes an island an island? The Cambridge Dictionary defines an island as ‘a piece of land completely surrounded by water’ [8](#). Application of this definition would seem straightforward and uncontroversial and easy to apply. So much so, that UNCTAD (2017a) argued that ‘islandness’ or ‘insularity’ was sufficiently straightforward a criterion, but in the case of SIDS, even the definition of an island is contested. As Kakazu (2007: 1) reminds us, ‘one is always troubled as to the definition and measurement of “island” when discussing the development of small island economies.

In fact, many argue that a key characteristic of islands is rather their vulnerability; environmentally, socially and economically (Jackson, 2008; Adrianto and Matsuda, 2004; Briguglio, 1995). While it is undeniable that islands are vulnerable and typically have less resources available

than mainland countries, and are more prone to shortages, these features are not unique to islands and do not really help with their identification. Thus, from a statistical perspective, the simple dictionary definition, that an island is a piece of land completely surrounded by water, seems to be the most clear and useful for the purposes of definition and classification.

### For SIDS, even the definition of an island is contested

In classifying islands, the question is then whether a geographic definition of an island is sufficient or whether the more ambiguous concept of islandness should also be taken into consideration. This question becomes important, as do their inherent ambiguities, when several curiosities in the SIDS classification of islands are examined. Three special cases require some discussion: (1) mainland islands; (2) shared islands; and (3) connected islands.

### 1. Mainland islands

The first and most obviously controversial issue is the classification of Guinea-Bissau in West Africa and Guyana and Suriname in South America as islands. From a geographical perspective, these states are quite obviously not islands. They are part of their respective continental landmasses and not surrounded by water.

It is not clear why these three states are classified as island States, nor is it clear how that categorization is seen as useful as it seems to undermine the logic and integrity of any SIDS classification. The argument is made that Guinea-Bissau, Guyana and Suriname are considered SIDS as they have low lying coastlines and are highly dependent on a few sources of income (UNDP, 2014). From a vulnerability and developmental perspective, these are serious and important issues. Nevertheless, this does not make them islands, and it is hard to justify, however ambiguous the concept, that islandness is a feature of these countries.

## 2. Shared islands

Timor-Leste, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Papua New Guinea all share an island. Timor-Leste shares the island of Timor with Indonesia; Haiti and the Dominican Republic share the island of Hispaniola; Papua New Guinea shares the island of New Guinea with Indonesia. Thus, the states in question are not completely surrounded by water. In the case of Timor-Leste, 26 per cent of its land boundary is a shared border with Indonesia; Haiti and Dominican Republic share a 376 km border, accounting for 18 and 23 per cent of their respective land boundaries. Fourteen per cent of Papua New Guinea's frontier is shared land. Does sharing an island eliminate or even diminish the sensation or characteristics of islandness? The states in question remain dependent on shipping, and the vagaries of weather to trade, so perhaps not.

## 3. Connected islands

Singapore and Bahrain straddle another fault line of the islandness concept (Barter, 2006). Both states are geographically islands and are classified as such by the Dahl Island Directory (UN Environment, 2021), but both are connected to their continental mainlands, to Malaysia and Saudi Arabia, via causeways. Arguably these physical connections to their respective continental mainland must at least diminish, if not eliminate, their islandness. From a pragmatic point of view, the physical connections mean these islands are no longer reliant on maritime transport – this fact alone should surely reduce their islandness. From an economic perspective, it allows both territories to integrate their markets with their continental neighbours in a way that unconnected islands cannot. The causeways reduce the sense of remoteness and isolation. Thus, contrary to the assessment made for shared islands, in the case of connected islands, it is hard to conclude that islandness has not been diminished, if not eliminated altogether.

Using the dictionary definition of an island – that it should be surrounded by water – a literal geographic assessment can be made (see table 4). In this approach 'mainland islands', the first special case, are automatically disqualified as SIDS as they are not surrounded by water and are connected via land with several countries. The second special case, the case of 'shared islands', is less clear cut, even from a simple geographic perspective. The countries are located on territories surrounded by water, but they are not themselves entirely surrounded by water. However, from a practical point of view they could be considered islands. To base the decision on an objective criterion, below a crude threshold is arbitrarily selected, where a minimum of 70 per cent of their frontier must be shoreline <sup>9</sup>. 'Connected islands', the third special case, while located offshore, have connected to their respective continental mainland and are therefore disqualified. On this basis, Guinea-Bissau in West Africa, Guyana and Suriname in South America, and Belize in Central America are disqualified as SIDS. They could actually be considered as 'mainland islands'. While Bahrain and Singapore in Asia are surrounded by water, they are disqualified as SIDS on the grounds that they are 'connected islands' and therefore do not experience islandness.

The geographic approach does not, however, take into account the more nuanced perspective that islandness is a function of remoteness or isolation arising from being on an island. Remoteness or isolation is also an important dimension of vulnerability but is not always necessarily negative (see isolation index by UN Environment, 2021). A standard dictionary definition of remoteness is typically comprised of two parts. The first focuses on physical distance (the geographic dimension). The second focuses on a lack of connection.

Consequently, there appear to be three important dimensions required for islandness: (1) the country must be an island - islandness can only be experienced on an island; (2) the island must be physically remote or isolated ; and (3) the country must be poorly connected. Thus, it seems reasonable that some measure of remoteness could be used as a proxy for islandness. Given the wide interpretation that could be given to remoteness, the '*remoteness and landlockedness*' sub-index used by the CDP secretariat as part of the EVI to assess LDC graduation, seems too narrow in scope <sup>12</sup> when applied in the context of SIDS. Therefore, a broader measure of remoteness has been constructed for the purposes of this analyses. The remoteness index presented in table 4 is comprised of five sub-indices: distance to markets; distance to trading partners; maritime connectivity; air connectivity; and digital connectivity. The methodology used to compile the remoteness index and select a statistically appropriate threshold are detailed in MacFeely et al. (2021). The higher the index value, the lower the remoteness of the island.

Unlike for smallness, however, the statistical tests cannot provide a clear break in the distribution that would indicate a definitive threshold. There is a weak break at 62.8, which if used as a threshold, would mean that three islands are not considered remote: Bahrain, Bahamas and Singapore. However, as this threshold is not robust, only the physical-geographic criterion of islandness is used. Consequently, only the two connected islands are removed from the analytical list on the basis of islandness.



Table 4. Criteria of islands and islandness

UN SIDS	Islands				Islandness			Island and Islandness
	Special Case 1 - Mainland islands	Special Case 2 - Shared islands	Special Case 3 - Connected islands	Island?	Islands	Remoteness	Islandness?	
Antigua and Barbuda	0	0	0	Y	1	55	Y	Y
Bahamas	0	0	0	Y	1	67.4	Y	Y
Barbados	0	0	0	Y	1	48.2	Y	Y
Cabo Verde	0	0	1	Y	1	43.5	Y	Y
Comoros	0	0	0	Y	1	18.7	Y	Y
Cuba	0	0	0	Y	1	34.6	Y	Y
Dominica	0	0	0	Y	1	51	Y	Y
Dominican Republic	0	1	0	Y	1	47.6	Y	Y
Fiji	0	0	0	Y	1	21.6	Y	Y
Grenada	0	0	0	Y	1	41.6	Y	Y
Haiti	0	1	0	Y	1	37	Y	Y
Jamaica	0	0	0	Y	1	43	Y	Y
Kiribati	0	0	0	Y	1	14.7	Y	Y
Maldives	0	0	0	Y	1	42.7	Y	Y
Marshall Islands	0	0	0	Y	1	23.4	Y	Y
Mauritius	0	0	0	Y	1	28.7	Y	Y
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0	0	0	Y	1	35.2	Y	Y
Nauru	0	0	0	Y	1	42	Y	Y
Palau	0	0	0	Y	1	45.4	Y	Y
Papua New Guinea	0	1	0	Y	1	29.7	Y	Y
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0	0	0	Y	1	57.6	Y	Y
Saint Lucia	0	0	0	Y	1	42.8	Y	Y
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0	0	0	Y	1	28.9	Y	Y
Samoa	0	0	0	Y	1	17.5	Y	Y
Sao Tome and Principe	0	0	0	Y	1	30.6	Y	Y
Seychelles	0	0	0	Y	1	38.3	Y	Y
Solomon Islands	0	0	0	Y	1	21.2	Y	Y
Timor-Leste	0	1	0	Y	1	31	Y	Y
Tonga	0	0	0	Y	1	20	Y	Y
Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	0	Y	1	40.3	Y	Y
Tuvalu	0	0	0	Y	1	22.9	Y	Y

UN SIDS	Islands				Islandness			Island and Islandness
Vanuatu	0	0	0	Y	1	22.8	Y	Y
Bahrain	0	0	1	Y	0	62.8	N	N
Singapore	0	0	0	Y	0	68.4	N	N
Belize	1	1	0	N				N
Guinea-Bissau	1	1	0	N				N
Guyana	1	1	0	N				N
Suriname	1	1	0	N				N

Source: UNCTAD calculations.

Based on this analysis, combining measures of island and islandness, Bahrain, Belize, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Suriname and Singapore are removed from the analytical list of SIDS. No doubt more refined indices of remoteness could be developed, but it is unlikely they would materially alter the conclusion.

## Development and vulnerability

Many of the disagreements on which countries are SIDS centre on whether they are small, whether they are islands and whether they are states. The one area that is little discussed or contested in the literature is whether they are developing – here, there seems to be a high degree of consensus. This is perhaps not surprising however, as the United Nations M49 Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use (UNSD, 2020) categorizes 183 countries or territories of the total 249 as developing. All prospective SIDS are classified as developing according to M49, with the exceptions of Cyprus, Iceland and Malta.

As a criterion for identifying characteristics that are unique to SIDS this makes the M49 classification somewhat ineffective. A further weakness is that the M49 classification itself is not criterion based – there are no universally agreed concepts or definitions to determine if a state is developing or not. Rather, each international organisation classifies countries by development status on a different basis – but often simply by country self-selection. So, although widely in use, the myriad classifications of development status suffer from a lack clarity with regard to their underlying rationale (Nielsen, 2011), as well as ambiguities and uncertainties regarding their actual significance and meaning (Hoffmeister, 2020). This calls into question the meaning of development and the purpose of development classifications. Some have argued that the developing/developed country taxonomy is just a mechanism to easily categorize countries to assist with relocation of resources from richer to poorer countries (Pearson, 1969).

But there are other perspectives. For example, the World Bank uses a criteria-based classification based on income - GNI per capita (Serajuddin and Hamadeh, 2020) <sup>13 14</sup>, where the low and middle income countries can be interpreted as developing and the high income countries as developed (World Bank, 1990). On those grounds, the World Bank provides a classification for 55 of the 63 possible SIDS. <sup>15</sup> However, the World Bank themselves stopped using the ‘development’ classification in 2016 to avoid having to make such a distinction (Hoffmeister, 2020). The IMF employs a broader measure of economic development that also includes export diversification and the degree of integration into the global financial system (IMF, 2020) <sup>16</sup> (see [appendix 2](#)).

Others argue that development means something more than having high income, such as freedom, as reflected in the capabilities that people achieve, as proposed by Sen (1999). The HDI (UNDP, 2020), that is based on Sen's ‘capabilities approach’ (Ul Haq, 1995), enables classifying countries by development status taking into account three dimensions of human development: health, education and income (see [Social development challenges](#)). However, only 39 SIDS have a HDI <sup>17</sup>. Others have argued that development is a function of history, diversity, culture and politics (David, 2018; Piketty, 2014). In 1987, the WCED report ‘Our common future’, which became known as the Brundtland Report, first introduced the concept of sustainable development (Mazower, 2012).

This eventually led to the introduction of the 2030 Agenda, which arguably refers to a much broader concept of development that encompasses not just ending extreme poverty and eradicating hunger, but also fostering global prosperity in an economically and environmentally sustainable and equitable way (MacFeely, 2020). The SDSN (2020) could be used as it captures all dimensions of this broad concept of development. Unfortunately, only 21 of the prospective SIDS have sufficient data to allow an index value to be calculated <sup>18</sup>. Thus,

for pragmatic reasons, the HDI or SDSN approaches cannot, for the time being, be used (see [appendix 2](#)). UNCTAD (2017a) to date, has defined 'development' from a SIDS perspective by combining GNI per capita (as it is the most widely accepted indicator of living standards, as well as the first criterion for identifying LDCs) with the degree of economic vulnerability as measured by the EVI (see below). This allows for the 'island paradox', where an island may be both simultaneously prosperous and highly vulnerable.

An examination of the literature suggests that development is not the key issue for SIDS, but rather vulnerability - both economic and environmental. As earlier noted, the Barbados Programme of Action identified SIDS as being particularly vulnerable to the climate crisis, noting they will be among the first and most impacted countries (Small Island Developing States in Numbers. Climate Change Edition., 2015; OECD, 2018). Thus, from an analytical, and perhaps also a political perspective, the focus could perhaps be on small island vulnerable states (SIVS) or small island developing and vulnerable states (SIDVS).

**From an analytical perspective,  
perhaps the focus should be on  
small island developing  
and vulnerable states  
(SIDVS)**



Some of the most commonly identified characteristics of SIDS are their high vulnerabilities to external environmental and economic shocks (Herbert, 2019; OECD, 2018). But vulnerability is a complex, amorphous and multidimensional concept with different scientific communities and stakeholder groups defining it differently. In fact, Birkmann (2006) identified twenty-five commonly accepted definitions. But in broad terms, vulnerability refers to any condition or situation where people or communities, or their assets and livelihoods are susceptible to injury, loss, or disruption (Wisner, 2009). This loss or disruption could be the result of biophysical, socio-economic, political and environmental risks and hazards (Cutter, 1996).

In the context of small islands, Turvey (2007) argues there is no universally agreed definition, nor a clear conception of what vulnerability means. Wisner (2009) notes however, that from a SIDS perspective, vulnerability is often associated with climate, where vulnerability is viewed as the threats to 'human ecological systems and large-scale spatial collectivities'. Guillaumont (2009: 3) proposes that economic vulnerability is defined by 'the risk of a (poor) country seeing its development hampered by the natural or external shocks it faces'. He goes on to argue that two types of exogenous shock are relevant to vulnerability: (1) environmental or 'natural' shocks; and (2) external or economic shocks. He also proposes that vulnerability is measured by three components: (1) the size and frequency of the exogenous shock; (2) exposure to the shock; and (3) capacity or resilience to deal with the shock. Despite the lack of a robust theoretical grounding, Turvey (2007) proposes 12 economic, geographic and socio-political casual factors of vulnerability<sup>19</sup> assembled from her trawl of the literature.

From a UN perspective, in the context of LDCs, vulnerability is defined as the risk of being harmed by exogenous shocks. Furthermore, vulnerabilities will depend on the magnitude and frequency of shocks, on the structural characteristics of a country and a country's resilience, i.e. its capacity to deal with shocks (UNDESA, 2018). Today, the CDP compiles an EVI measuring both economic and environmental vulnerabilities<sup>20</sup> as part of the assessment for LDC qualification and graduation, as high vulnerability is seen a major impediment to sustainable development. A version of the EVI (weighted to focus slightly more on the instability of exports) is discussed in [Trade vulnerabilities](#) with additional country coverage.

According to Briguglio and Galea (2003) the idea for this EVI dates back to 1985, originally to help explain the 'Singapore Paradox', where islands enjoying relatively high GDP per capita can be simultaneously economically vulnerable. The index was first constructed in the run-up to the 1994 Barbados Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS to highlight the repeated concerns expressed by SIDS about their high levels of vulnerability<sup>21</sup>. The subsequent *Barbados Programme of Action* for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (United Nations, 1994b, Para 113), which was subsequently endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly (United Nations, 1995, 1996), called for the development of a vulnerability index for SIDS that 'integrate[s] ecological fragility and economic vulnerability'. On foot of this call, the United Nations began preliminary studies on the development of a vulnerability index (UNCTAD, 1997; UNDESA, 1997, 2021) with the Secretary-General reporting back in 1998 (United Nations, 1998). Of the conclusions and recommendations made, two were especially important. The report concluded that: the vulnerability referred to is structural vulnerability i.e., where factors are not under the control of national authorities when shocks occur; and the CDP could build specific composite vulnerability indices.

The subsequent ECOSOC resolution 1998/38 stressed the need for the CDP to undertake an assessment of the usefulness of a vulnerability index for SIDS as a 'criterion for the designation of LDCs'. The following year, the CDP reported that they would take a development-based approach to vulnerability that aimed to reduce the impacts of poverty, population pressure and the economic forces of globalisation and environmental degradation. Vulnerability would be defined as 'the risk of being negatively affected by unforeseen events' (CDP, 1999: 13). They also noted some 'ambiguity' was attached to this concept.

In line with previous recommendations, the CDP felt that ‘structural’ rather than ‘conjunctural’ vulnerability should be emphasized. In conclusion, the committee recommended that an equal weighted composite EVI be constructed, comprised of five indicators: export concentration; instability of export earnings; instability of agricultural production; share of manufacturing and modern services in GDP; and population size. Thus, we see that although the origins of the EVI were associated with SIDS, its actual construction was designed (i.e., the selected indicators chosen) with the broader specificities of LDCs in mind <sup>22</sup>.

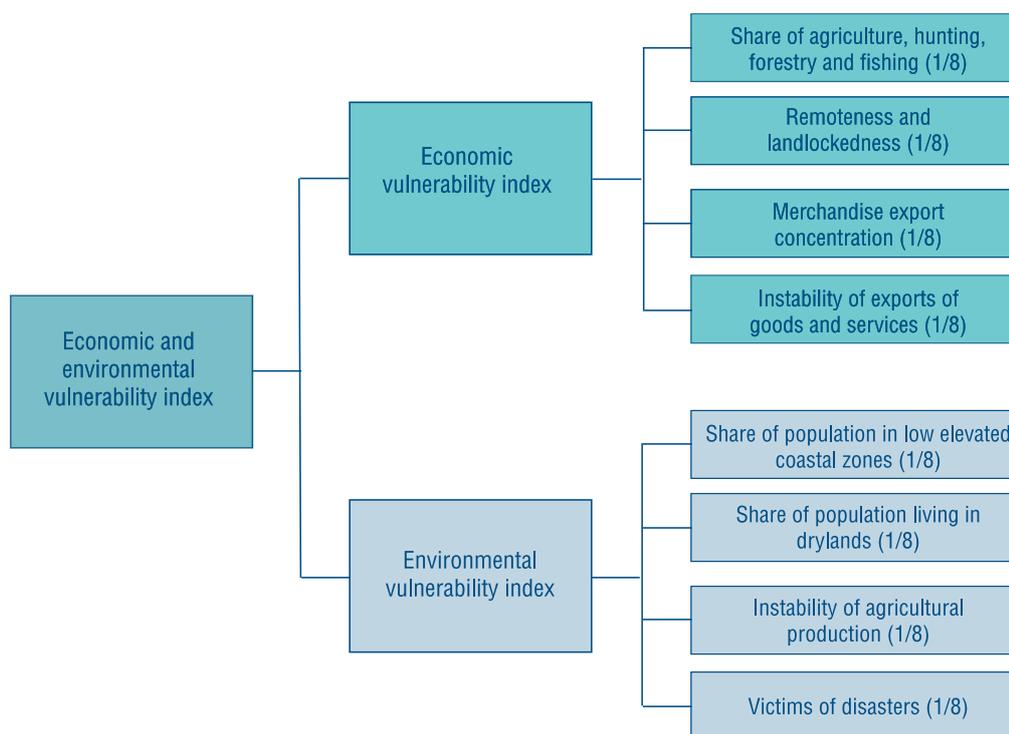
Over the years, the EVI has incorporated a number of refinements and minor amendments. The EVI was originally conceived as measuring the structural vulnerability of countries to economic and environmental shocks. In 2020, the economic vulnerability index was renamed economic and environmental vulnerability index but retained the abbreviation EVI. It is now conceptualized as the composite of economic and environmental vulnerability. In this conceptualisation, the EVI also comprises two sub-indices (see figure 1). The economic vulnerability sub-index is made up of four indicators:

1. Share of agriculture, forestry and fishing in GDP;
2. Remoteness and landlockedness;
3. Merchandise export concentration; and
4. Instability of exports of goods and services.

The environmental vulnerability sub-index is also made up of four indicators:

1. Share of population in low elevated coastal zones;
2. Share of population living in drylands;
3. Instability of agricultural production; and
4. Victims of disasters.

 **Figure 1. Updated composition of the EVI**



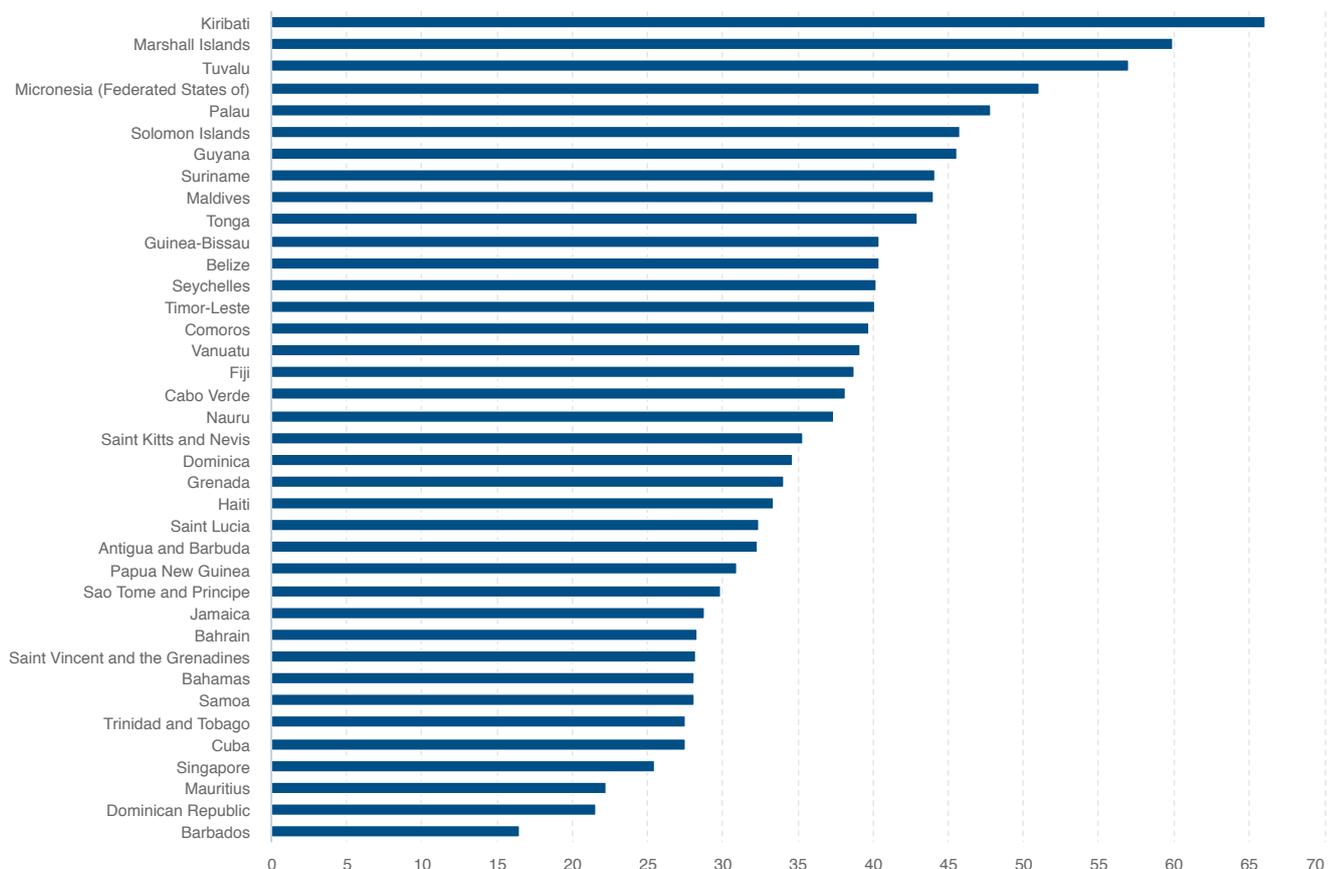
Source: CDP (2020).

A number of other changes were also made to the latest edition of the EVI. The indicator on population size was removed from the EVI, as small size does not directly measure an economic or environmental vulnerability. Specific economic and environmental vulnerabilities associated or compounded by population size are captured in some of the remaining EVI indicators. The economic vulnerability indicator ‘remoteness’ has been reconfigured ‘remoteness and landlockedness’ to better reflect the fact that the indicator accounts for specific challenges of LLDCs. The environmental vulnerability indicator ‘victims of natural disasters’ has been renamed ‘victims of disasters’ to better

align it with common United Nations terminology and to highlight that disasters are not natural. To broaden the coverage of environmental vulnerabilities, the indicator ‘share of population living in drylands’ has been added to the EVI (CDP, 2020). In this updated of the EVI, all sub-indices are equally weighted.

Across SIDS, vulnerability as measured by the EVI varied quite considerably, ranging from Kiribati, the most vulnerable (66.1) to the least, Barbados (16.5), see figure 2. For LDC graduation in the 2021 triennial review, a threshold of 36 or greater qualifies a country as a LDC whereas a threshold of 32 or less is used as the graduation threshold. But it is not clear that these thresholds are appropriate for SIDS; nor is it clear that the existing EVI is sufficiently tailored to SIDS vulnerabilities, where size and isolation should be included or given more prominence. The risks or vulnerabilities associated with environmental and natural shocks (in particular rising sea levels and climate change) may also deserve more importance. A persistent problem across most of the different measures is poor coverage, which by necessity limits the sophistication and range of indicators included. See [appendix 2](#).

 **Figure 2. EVI in the SIDS, 2020**



To sum up, the United Nations M49 classification provides comprehensive coverage but provides limited useful guidance on what islands should be considered SIDS from a development perspective. The World Bank classification also gives comprehensive coverage, but only a narrow view of development. Richer perspectives of development, such as the HDI or the SDSN development index do not yet provide sufficient coverage to be used from a SIDS perspective. Another approach is to focus on island vulnerabilities. As with development, there are several alternatives, but the EVI seems to be a promising place to start. It addresses, to some extent, many vulnerabilities relevant to SIDS. With improved coverage and perhaps some modifications to more explicitly include some vulnerabilities relevant to SIDS, the EVI or an EVI+ could be used as the basis of a criterion-based approach to ‘development as vulnerability’. Another approach might be to combine aspects of development and vulnerability, by using all CDP indices: EVI, HAI and GNI. The new UNCTAD PCI could also be factored in for a richer perspective still (UNCTAD, 2020).

## States or Economies?

At the inception of the SIDS debate, the focus was on countries rather than on States, as independence or self-governance were not seen as important qualifying criteria, with the result that 64 islands were included for analytical considerations (UNCTAD, 1974). However, the report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS (United Nations, 1994a) makes it clear that thinking had evolved and that the importance of independence and sovereignty is now recognized as being centrally important. That realization has not been universally incorporated into all SIDS classifications, analyses and reports, with the result that the conceptualization of SIDS has been hampered by the interchangeable and loose use of terms such as “small island developing States” (United Nations, 1994b), “small and vulnerable economies” (WTO, 2001), ‘structurally weak, vulnerable, and small economies’ (São Paulo 2004) and back to ‘Small Island Developing States’ (United Nations, 2010b). Not only does this give rise to a great deal of confusion, but this lack of consistency and clarity undermines the argument for a SIDS group (Hein, 2004).



**Independence and sovereignty are recognized as key criteria for SIDS**

The *Barbados Programme of Action* (1994b) stressed the importance of statehood, emphasizing the importance of *sovereign* rights for SIDS. UNCTAD (2017a) argues that ‘statehood’ is a straightforward notion designating self-governing entities as opposed to dependent or associated territories, i.e. states should be autonomous or self-governing <sup>23</sup>. If statehood is important, then presumably it should form part of the qualification criteria to become a SIDS. Using M49 as the reference frame, this would mean that all non-autonomous islands, such as, American Samoa, French Polynesia, the British and United States Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Sint Maarten would all be removed from the analytical SIDS list (see [appendix 3](#)). In most cases, this is indeed a simple and straight forward delineation. However, for the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau the situation is less clear-cut. These islands are formally defined as ‘States in free association with the Realm of New Zealand’ meaning they enjoy near-total autonomy: total autonomy in their domestic affairs but delegation of defense matters and foreign affairs to New Zealand. Consequently, although described as States, they are not fully independent (entirely self-governing). For consistency therefore, these islands were not included in the analytical SIDS list.

## Conclusion

In 1975, the ECOSOC (1975: 1) noted that ‘any attempt to draw up a list of geographically disadvantaged island countries would meet with major difficulties’, and so no attempt was made to do so. The result is that today there are multiple SIDS classifications in use. This abundance has been facilitated by ambiguous terminology and an unwillingness to define clearly what it means to be a SIDS.

Today, there is still no universally agreed definition for SIDS, and as a result there are multiple SIDS classifications in use. This is problematic as it tolerates uncertainty and confusion and undermines coherent policy programming. It also represents a failure of international coordination and governance. The loose or heterogeneous nature of some SIDS classifications, some of which include territories that do not appear to belong in a group described as SIDS, has greatly reduced their usefulness. Worse, it has undermined the legitimacy and justification for such a SIDS group.

A good classification should be stable so that it can provide a platform to facilitate use. But any criteria should be periodically reviewed to consider changing priorities. The issues facing SIDS in today’s hyper-globalized, climate threatened world are not the same as the issues they faced back in 1972, when the justification for a SIDS group was first raised at the UNCTAD III conference. For example, vulnerability seems to be a more pressing issue now, as the risks are now understood to be more than just economic but include also environmental and climate related risks. So much so that perhaps the group should be reformulated as SIDVS or SIVS.

**A key challenge in providing a meaningful, universally accepted classification is that SIDS is both a technical and political term**



presented in table 5. The benefit of this approach is improved coherence, clarity and transparency.

One of the challenges in defining SIDS and providing a meaningful, universally accepted classification is that SIDS is both a technical and political term. In this chapter, the concept of SIDS was explored from a statistical or analytical perspective. Taking a literal interpretation of SIDS, meaning that the countries included in the classification must be small – island – developing – States, this chapter examined whether a criteria-based approach to conceptualizing SIDS is feasible. The analyses suggests that despite the ambiguities of smallness, islandness, development and vulnerability, and states, such a systematic approach is possible. Tentative results are

 **Table 5. Analytical list of SIDS for statistical purposes**

Islands eligible for the analytical list					Islands ineligible for the analytical list				
States/countries/economies	Small	Island	Developing	State	States/countries/economies	Small	Island	Developing	State
Antigua and Barbuda	Y	Y	Y	Y	American Samoa	Y	Y	Y	N
Bahamas	Y	Y	Y	Y	Anguilla	Y	Y	Y	N
Barbados	Y	Y	Y	Y	Aruba	Y	Y	Y	N
Cabo Verde	Y	Y	Y	Y	Bahrain	Y	N	Y	Y
Comoros	Y	Y	Y	Y	Belize	Y	N	Y	Y
Dominica	Y	Y	Y	Y	Bermuda	Y	Y	Y	N
Fiji	Y	Y	Y	Y	Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba	Y	Y	Y	N
Grenada	Y	Y	Y	Y	British Virgin Islands	Y	Y	Y	N
Jamaica	Y	Y	Y	Y	Cayman Islands	Y	Y	Y	N
Kiribati	Y	Y	Y	Y	Northern Mariana Islands (the)	Y	Y	Y	N
Maldives	Y	Y	Y	Y	Cook Islands	Y	Y	Y	N
Marshall Islands	Y	Y	Y	Y	Cyprus	Y	Y	N	Y
Mauritius	Y	Y	Y	Y	Cuba	N	Y	Y	Y
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Curacao	Y	Y	Y	N
Nauru	Y	Y	Y	Y	Dominican Republic	N	Y	Y	Y
Palau	Y	Y	Y	Y	French Polynesia	Y	Y	Y	N
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Guadeloupe	Y	Y	Y	N
Saint Lucia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Guam	Y	Y	Y	N
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Y	Y	Y	Y	Guinea-Bissau	Y	N	Y	Y
Samoa	Y	Y	Y	Y	Guyana	Y	N	Y	Y
Sao Tome and Principe	Y	Y	Y	Y	Haiti	N	Y	Y	Y
Seychelles	Y	Y	Y	Y	Iceland	Y	Y	N	Y
Solomon Islands	Y	Y	Y	Y	Malta	Y	Y	N	Y
Timor-Leste	Y	Y	Y	Y	Martinique	Y	Y	Y	N
Tonga	Y	Y	Y	Y	Montserrat	Y	Y	Y	N
Trinidad and Tobago	Y	Y	Y	Y	New Caledonia	Y	Y	Y	N
Tuvalu	Y	Y	Y	Y	Niue	Y	Y	Y	N
Vanuatu	Y	Y	Y	Y	Papua New Guinea	N	Y	Y	Y
					Puerto Rico	Y	Y	Y	N
					Singapore	N	N	Y	Y
					Sint Maarten	Y	Y	Y	N
					Suriname	Y	N	Y	Y
					Tokelau	Y	Y	Y	N

## Islands ineligible for the analytical list

Turks and Caicos Islands	Y	Y	Y	N
United States Virgin Islands	Y	Y	Y	N

As noted above, changes in criteria or in some cases, subtle changes in interpretation of criteria could yield different results. For example, one could argue that the Bahamas fails the remoteness criteria. Equally, a fractionally looser interpretation of 'State' would see the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau being included as SIDS. Therefore, as with any statistic, clear metadata should accompany all of the criteria and rules to ensure consistent and transparent application.

**Notes**

1. There are in fact only 17 economies common to all seven classifications. Even when the most restrictive classification (the World Bank IDA) is excluded, there are still only 24 economies common to the remaining six classifications.
2. (1) Climate change and sea level rise; (2) natural and environmental disasters; (3) management of waste; (4) coastal and marine resources; (5) freshwater resources; (6) land resources; (7) energy resources; (8) tourism resources; (9) biodiversity resources; (10) national institutions and administrative capacity; (11) regional institutions and technical cooperation; (12) transport and communication; (13) science and technology; and (14) human resource development.
3. Targets 3.c, 4.b, 4.c, 7.b, 9.a, 10.b, 13.b, 14.7, 14.a, 17.18
4. Given the importance of tourism and financial services to many SIDS, it is not clear why trade, if it were to be included as a defining variable, would only include merchandise trade.
5. UNCTAD have developed a PCI to ensure that countries do not have to rely on GDP as a proxy for productive capacity.
6. Although he does concede that smallness of physical area could be relevant to natural shocks, and that income per capita is most relevant for assessing economic consequences. And thus, we see that the concept of smallness is inseparable from vulnerability.
7. "Smallness" is defined by UNCTAD in terms of population. A population ceiling of 5 million chosen to distinguish SIDS was justified as the median situation between two States with a sizeable population difference, one of which is well below five million people (Jamaica, with a population of 2.7 million people in 2015), while the other exceeds five million people by nearly two thirds (Papua New Guinea, with a population of 8.2 million people in 2015) (UNCTAD, 2017a).
8. Cambridge Dictionary: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/island>
9. The 70 per cent is an arbitrary threshold. As there seems to be a general consensus across all classifications that Timor Leste, Haiti and the Dominican Republic are SIDS, a threshold of 70 per cent was set to ensure none of these states are disqualified, as they all have a shoreline minimum of between 74 and 82 per cent.
10. This prompts a range of questions, not least - isolated from what? Nearest neighbour, nearest continent, nearest markets, main or potential trading partners. How far apart must you be to be considered physically remote – must an island be an offshore island before it can be considered remote?
11. This too prompts questions. Physically connected by air or sea or virtually connected – or all three? Or could it mean connected politically – being a member of political alliances or trading blocks?
12. The CDP Secretariat Remoteness and landlockedness (REM) sub-index is based on data for exports and imports and goods and services from UNSD and distance data from Centre d'Etudes Prospectives et d'Informations Internationales.
13. The World Bank country classification divides the world into four categories: low income; lower-middle income; upper-middle income; and high income.
14. Although the World Bank only classify 18 countries as SIDS from an IDA lending perspective.
15. No income classification is calculated for Anguilla, Bonaire, sint Eustatius and Saba, the Cook Islands, Martinique, Montserrat, Niue or Tokelau.
16. The IMF also employs a binary country classification: Advanced economies; and emerging and developing economies.
17. Non-availability of data is compounded by the fact that many of territories included in several of the SIDS lists are not sovereign states. The HDI provided an index in 2020 for all SIDS that are states, with two exceptions, of Nauru and Tuvalu.
18. Of course the non availability of data is compounded by the fact that many of territories included in several of the SIDS lists are not sovereign states, and so their statistics may be incorporated into the estimates of their parent states.
19. These included, among others, 'locational' disadvantages and endangered zones. She also noted the importance of interpersonal forces on populations, the economy, on culture and the environment.
20. Not to be confused with the environmental vulnerability index, compiled by the SOPAC (2004).
21. By 1988 their vulnerabilities were recognized and presented by UNCTAD to the expert meeting on Island Developing Countries, held in Malta in May 1988, the deliberations of which led to a UN resolution recognizing that in addition to the general problems faced by developing countries, island developing countries suffer additional handicaps arising smallness, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters and a highly limited internal market. However, prior to 1990, there was no attempt to compile a composite index of overall vulnerability. In 1992, UNCTAD organized the first-ever expert group meeting on the feasibility of measuring the vulnerabilities of SIDS. A study on this subject was commissioned by UNCTAD to examine the use which the United Nations could make of vulnerability indicators, either to highlight the fragility of SIDS as a category, or to guide national policymakers in their resilience-building action. This work was discussed at the 1994 Barbados Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.
22. Around the same time, Lino Briguglio (2000) had proposed an EVI, also based on five indicators: Trade openness (export, imports or both as a ratio of GDP); Export concentration; Peripherality (transport and freight costs in relation to foreign trade); Energy dependence (imported energy as a ratio of energy consumed); and Financial dependence (aid or international debt as a ratio of GDP) to the International Conference on Sustainable Development for Island Societies, April 20-22, 2000 in Taiwan.
23. Some would argue that the concepts of statehood and sovereignty are anything but straightforward (Taylor, 2014).



## References

- Adrianto L and Matsuda Y (2004). Study on Assessing Economic Vulnerability of Small Island Regions. *Environment Development and Sustainability*. 6317–336.
- Alonso JA, Cortez AL and Klasen S (2014). LDC and other country groupings: How useful are current approaches to classify countries in a more heterogeneous developing world? Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/cdp-background-paper-no-22/> (accessed 25 March 2021).
- Barter PA (2006). 'Central' Singapore Island, 'Peripheral' Mainland Johor: Making the Link in Baldacchino, G. (Ed.) *Bridging Islands: The Impact of Fixed Links*. Acorn Press.
- Birkmann J (2006). Measuring vulnerability to natural hazards: towards disaster resilient societies. *Choice Reviews Online*. 45(01):45-0295-45-0295.
- Brautigam D and Woolcock M (2001). Small States in a Global Economy: The Role of Institutions in Managing Vulnerability and Opportunity in Small Developing Countries.
- Briguglio L (1995). Small island developing states and their economic vulnerabilities. *World Development*. 23(9):1615–1632.
- Briguglio L (2000). The Economic Vulnerability of Small Island Developing States. *International Conference on Sustainable Development for Island Societies*.
- Briguglio L and Galea W (2003). Updating the economic vulnerability index.
- Bruckner M (2013). Effectively addressing the vulnerabilities and development needs of small island developing States. CDP Background Papers No. 017. United Nations, Department of Economics and Social Affairs. (accessed 25 March 2021).
- CDP (1999). Available at <https://www.un.org/esa/documents/ecosoc/docs/1999/e1999-33.htm> (accessed 25 March 2021).
- CDP (2014). The Committee for Development Policy. Available at <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/backgroundnote.pdf> (accessed 25 March 2021).
- CDP (2020). Outcome of the comprehensive review of the LDC criteria. Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/CDP-2020-Criteria-review-outcome.pdf> (accessed 25 March 2021).
- Collier P and Dollar D (1999). studylib.net. Available at <https://studylib.net/doc/10589604/aid--risk--and-the-special-concerns--of-small-states> (accessed 25 March 2021).
- Commonwealth Secretariat and World Bank (2000). Small States: Meeting Challenges in the Global Economy. Available at <http://www.cpahq.org/cpahq/cpadocs/meetingchallengeinglobaleconomy1.pdf> (accessed 25 March 2021).
- Cutter S (1996). Societal Vulnerability to Environmental Hazards. *Progress in Human Geography - PROG HUM GEOGR*. 20529–539.
- Davenport M (2002). *Alternative Special and Differential Arrangements for Small Economies*. Commonwealth Secretariat. London.
- David D (2018). *The Almighty Dollar: Follow the Incredible Journey of a Single Dollar to See How the Global Economy Really Works: Follow the Incredible Journey of ... to See How the Global Economy Really Works*. Elliott & Thompson Limited. London, England.
- ECOSOC (1975). Special Economic Problems and Development. Needs of Geographically More Disadvantaged Developing Island Countries. No. E/5647. (accessed 18 December 2020).
- FERDI (2021). Your EVI. Available at <http://byind.ferdi.fr/en/indicator/evi/map/1585c3cf08139bbbc34290423cb82c1ff850de11> (accessed 22 March 2021).
- Fialho D and van Bergeijk P (2016). The Proliferation of Developing Country Classifications. *The Journal of Development Studies*. 1–17.
- Fry G (2019). *Framing the Islands: Power and Diplomatic Agency in Pacific Regionalism*. ANU Press.
- Guillaumont P (2009). An Economic Vulnerability Index: Its Design and Use for International Development Policy. *Oxford Development Studies*. 37(3):193–228.
- Hein P (2004). Small island developing States: origin of the category and definition issues. *Is a Special Treatment of Small Island Developing States Possible?*. UNCTAD. New York and Geneva.
- Herbert S (2019). GSDRC. Available at <https://gsdrc.org/publications/development-characteristics-of-small-island-developing-states/> (accessed 25 March 2021).
- Hoffmeister O (2020). Development Status as a Measure of Development. *Statistical Journal of the IAOS*. 36(4):.
- House WJ (2013). Population and Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: Challenges, Progress made and Outstanding Issues. Technical Paper No. 2013/4. UNDESA. Population Division. New York, 65. (accessed 25 March 2021).
- IMF (2020). IMF. Available at <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2020/09/30/world-economic-outlook-october-2020> (accessed 25 March 2021).
- ISO (2015). ISO. Available at <https://www.iso.org/cms/render/live/en/sites/isoorg/contents/data/standard/06/19/61932.html> (accessed 25 March 2021).
- Jackson RE (2008). Islands on the Edge: Exploring Islandness and Development in Four Australian Case Studies. University of Tasmania. Available at <https://eprints.utas.edu.au/7566/> (accessed 25 March 2021).
- Kakazu H (2007). Islands' Characteristics and Sustainability. SPF Seminar on Self-supporting Economy in Micronesia. Micronesia.
- Kuznets S (1960). Economic Growth of Small Nations in Economic Consequences of the Size of Nations: Proceedings of a Conference. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 333(1):167–168.
- MacFeely S (2020). Measuring the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators: An Unprecedented Statistical Challenge. *Journal of Official Statistics*. 361–378.
- MacFeely S, Hoffmeister O, Barnat N, Hopp D and Peltola A (2021). Constructing a criteria-based classification for Small Island Developing States: an investigation. Available at <https://unctad.org/webflyer/constructing-criteria-based-classification-small-island-developing-states-investigation> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- Mazower M (2012). *Governing the World: The History of an Idea*. Allen Lane. London.

- Nielsen L (2011). Classifications of Countries Based on their Level of Development: How it is Done and How it Could Be Done. Available at <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2016/12/31/Classifications-of-Countries-Based-on-their-Level-of-Development-How-it-is-Done-and-How-it-24628> (accessed 25 March 2021).
- OECD (2018). *Making Development Co-Operation Work for Small Island Developing States*. OECD Publishing. Paris.
- OECD (2020). Glossary of statistical terms. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/index.htm> (accessed 11 May 2020).
- Pearson C (1969). *Partners in Development: Report of the Commission on International Development*. By Lester B. Pearson, Chairman. (New York: Praeger, 1969. Pp. 400. \$7.95.). *American Political Science Review*. 67(2):726–727.
- Piketty T (2014). *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*. Belknap Press. Cambridge, Mass.
- Scitovsky T (1960). International Trade and Economic Integration as a Means of Overcoming the Disadvantage of a Small Nation in Economic Consequences of the Size of Nations: Proceedings of a Conference. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 333(1):167–168.
- SDSN (2020). Sustainable Development Report 2020. Available at <https://www.sdgindex.org/reports/sustainable-development-report-2020/> (accessed 25 March 2021).
- Sen A (1999). *Development as Freedom*. Anchor Books. New York.
- Serajuddin U and Hamadeh N (2020). Available at <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/new-world-bank-country-classifications-income-level-2020-2021> (accessed 25 March 2021).
- Shand RT (1980). Island Smallness: Some Definitions and Implications. *The Island States of the Pacific and Indian Oceans: Anatomy of Development*. Monograph The Australian National University. Development Studies Centre. Canberra.
- Shorrock S (2018). Humanistic Systems. Available at <https://humanisticsystems.com/2018/08/31/twelve-properties-of-effective-classification-schemes/> (accessed 25 March 2021).
- Small Island Developing States in Numbers. Climate Change Edition. (2015). Available at [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2189SIDS-IN-NUMBERS-CLIMATE-CHANGE-EDITION\\_2015.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2189SIDS-IN-NUMBERS-CLIMATE-CHANGE-EDITION_2015.pdf) (accessed 22 December 2020).
- SOPAC (2004). The Environmental Vulnerability Index (EVI) 2004. SOPAC Technical Report No. 384. South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission. (accessed 17 December 2020).
- Srinivasan TN (1986). The Costs and Benefits of Being a Small, Remote, Island, Landlocked, or Ministate Economy. *The World Bank Research Observer*. 1(2):205–218.
- Stoutenburg JG (2015). *Disappearing Island States in International Law*. Brill Nijhoff.
- Streeten P (1993). The special problems of small countries. *World Development*. 21(2):197–202.
- Taylor CR (2014). A Modest Proposal: Statehood and Sovereignty in a Global Age. Penn law: Legal Scholarship Repository.
- Turvey R (2007). Vulnerability Assessment of Developing Countries: The Case of Small-island Developing States. *Development Policy Review*. 25(2):243–264.
- Ul Haq M, ed. (1995). *Reflections on Human Development*. Oxford University Press. Oxford, New York.
- UN DESA (2021). Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category.html> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- UN DESA and the United Nations Committee for Development Policy Secretariat (2020). Human Assets Index (HAI). Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category/hai-indicators.html> (accessed 30 October 2020).
- UN Environment (2021). Available at <http://islands.unep.ch/isldir.htm>.
- UN Women (2021). Gender Equality Glossary. Available at <https://trainingcentre.unwomen.org/mod/glossary/view.php?id=36> (accessed 1 March 2021).
- UNCTAD (1972). Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. No. TD/180, Vol. 1. Santiago de Chile.
- UNCTAD (1974). Developing island countries. *Report of the Panel of Experts on Developing Island Countries*.
- UNCTAD (1997). The Vulnerability of Small Island Developing States in the context of Globalisation: Common Issues and Remedies. Report prepared for the Expert Group on Vulnerability Index. UNDESA.
- UNCTAD, ed. (2006). *The Least Developed Countries Report 2006: Developing Productive Capacities*. United Nations. New York and Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2016). Available at [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/webaldc2015d9\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/webaldc2015d9_en.pdf) (accessed 1 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2017a). UNCTAD activities in support of small island developing States. Available at [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/tdb64d9\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/tdb64d9_en.pdf) (accessed 22 March 2021).
- UNCTAD (2017b). *World Investment Report 2017: Investment and the Digital Economy*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.17.II.D.3. Geneva.
- UNCTAD, ed. (2020). *Productive Capacities Index: Methodological Approach and Results*. United Nations. New York and Geneva.
- UNDESA (1997). Vulnerability Index: Revised Background Paper.
- UNDESA (1999). Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Small Island Developing States on 27-28 September 1999. New York. (accessed 13 January 2021).
- UNDESA (2018). *Handbook on the Least Developed Country Category: Inclusion, Graduation and Special Support Measures – Third Edition | Department of Economic and Social Affairs*.
- UNDESA (2021). Developing a Vulnerability Index for SIDS. Available at <https://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sids/sidsvind.htm> (accessed 25 March 2021).
- UNDP (2014). Report on SIDS discussion from Civil Society Organizations – Input for the third UN SIDS Conference in Samoa.
- UNDP (2020). Human Development Report 2020. The next frontier. Human development and the Anthropocene. Human Development Reports. New York. (accessed 9 February 2021).

- United Nations (1990). *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 3*. Statistical papers, Vol. M, No. 4. United Nations. New York, NY.
- United Nations (1992). Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Volume I No. A/CONF.151/26/Rev.I (Vol. I). United Nations publication. Sales No. ISBN92-I-100498-5, Rio de Janeiro.
- United Nations (1994a). Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Volume I No. A/CONF.167/9. Bridgetown. (accessed 12 January 2021).
- United Nations (1994b). Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/conferences/bpoa1994> (accessed 22 March 2021).
- United Nations (1995). General Assembly resolution on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. A/RES/49/122 No. Resolution 49/122. New York. (accessed 18 December 2020).
- United Nations (1996). General Assembly resolution on the Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. A/RES/50/116 No. Resolution 50/116. 1. (accessed 18 December 2020).
- United Nations (1998). Development of a vulnerability index for small island developing States. Report of the Secretary-General to the 53rd session of the General Assembly Economic and Social Council. A/53/65.
- United Nations (2008). *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 4*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.08.XVII.25. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2010a). *International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics: 2008*. United Nations. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2010b). Outcome Document of the High-Level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States:
- United Nations (2014a). International Year of Small Island Developing States. Available at <https://www.un.org/en/events/islands2014/#&panel1-1> (accessed 6 April 2021).
- United Nations (2014b). Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 15 December 2014 on SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway: 69/15A/RES/69/15.
- United Nations (2015). Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A/RES/70/1. New York. 21 October.
- United Nations, European Commission, IMF, OECD and World Bank (2009). *System of National Accounts 2008*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.08.XVII.29. New York.
- UN-OHRLLS (2014). SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A.) Pathway. (accessed 25 November 2020).
- UNSD (2020). Standard country or area codes for statistical use (M49). Available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/> (accessed 28 May 2020).
- de Vries BA (1973). The Plight of Small Countries: Small countries receive more aid than big ones, on both a per capita basis and as a percentage of their GNP. But this may not be as unfair as it seems. *The Plight of Small Countries: Small countries receive more aid than big ones, on both a per capita basis and as a percentage of their GNP. But this may not be as unfair as it seems*. 10(3):8–10.
- WHO (2021). Noncommunicable diseases. Available at [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/noncommunicable-diseases#:~:text=Noncommunicable%20diseases%20\(NCDs\)%2C%20also,physiological%2C%20environmental%20and%20behaviours%20factors](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/noncommunicable-diseases#:~:text=Noncommunicable%20diseases%20(NCDs)%2C%20also,physiological%2C%20environmental%20and%20behaviours%20factors). (accessed 4 June 2020).
- Wisner B (2009). Vulnerability. In Kitchen, B. and Thrift, N. (Eds.). *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*. 176–182. (accessed 25 March 2021).
- World Bank (1990). World development report 1990: poverty. Available at <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/424631468163162670/World-development-report-1990-poverty> (accessed 6 April 2021).
- WTO (2001). Available at [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/minist\\_e/min01\\_e/mindecl\\_trips\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min01_e/mindecl_trips_e.htm) (accessed 12 August 2021).
- WTO (2002). Available at [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=33315,110166,28740&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=1&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=33315,110166,28740&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=1&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True) (accessed 27 November 2020).



## Appendix 1. Seven different SIDS classifications

States / Countries / Economies	UN OHRLLS	M49	UNESCO	AOSIS	OECD (DAC recipients)	SSF (Islands)	World Bank (IDA)
American Samoa	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Anguilla	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Antigua and Barbuda	1	1	1	1	1	1	-
Aruba	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Bahamas	1	1	1	1	-	1	-
Bahrain	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Barbados	1	1	1	1	-	1	-
Belize	1	1	1	1	1	-	-
Bermuda	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaire, sint Eustatius and Saba	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
British Virgin Islands	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
Cabo Verde	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cayman Islands	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Commonwealth of Northern Marianas	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Comoros	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cook Islands	1	1	1	1	1	-	-
Cuba	1	1	1	1	1	-	-
Curacao	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
Cyprus	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Dominica	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dominican Republic	1	1	1	1	1	-	-
Fiji	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
French Polynesia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Grenada	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Guadeloupe	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guam	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	1	1	1	1	1	-	-
Guyana	1	1	1	1	1	-	1
Haiti	1	1	1	1	1	-	-
Iceland	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Jamaica	1	1	1	1	1	1	-
Kiribati	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Maldives	1	1	1	1	1	1	-
Malta	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Marshall Islands	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

States / Countries / Economies	UN OHRLLS	M49	UNESCO	AOSIS	OECD (DAC recipients)	SSF (Islands)	World Bank (IDA)
Martinique	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mauritius	1	1	1	1	1	1	-
Micronesia (Federated States of)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Montserrat	1	1	1	-	1	-	-
Nauru	1	1	1	1	1	1	-
New Caledonia	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Niue	1	1	1	1	1	-	-
Palau	1	1	1	1	1	1	-
Papua New Guinea	1	1	1	1	1	-	-
Puerto Rico	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1	1	1	1	-	1	-
Saint Lucia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Samoa	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sao Tome and Principe	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Seychelles	1	1	1	1	1	1	-
Singapore	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
Sint Maarten	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Solomon Islands	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Suriname	1	1	1	1	1	-	-
Timor-Leste	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tokelau	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Tonga	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Trinidad and Tobago	1	1	1	1	-	1	-
Turks and Caicos Islands	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuvalu	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
United States Virgin Islands	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Vanuatu	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>18</b>



## Appendix 2. Alternate measures of development and vulnerability

States / Countries / Economies	M49	GNI per capita June 2020	HDI verbal 2020	HDI 2020	SDSN 2020	EVI 2020	HAI 2020	PCI 2018
American Samoa	Developing	Upper middle income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anguilla	Developing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Antigua and Barbuda	Developing	High income	High	0.778	-	32.3	96.5	-
Aruba	Developing	High income	-	-	-	-	-	35.4
Bahamas	Developing	High income	Very high	0.814	-	28.1	91.7	36.3
Bahrain	Developing	High Income	Very high	0.852	68.8	28.4	95.4	39
Barbados	Developing	High income	Very high	0.814	68.3	16.5	97.6	38.4
Belize	Developing	Upper middle income	High	0.716	65.1	40.4	85.8	34.3
Bermuda	Developing	High income	-	-	-	-	-	43.7
Bonaire, sint Eustatius and Saba	Developing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
British Virgin Islands	Developing	High income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cabo Verde	Developing	Lower middle income	Medium	0.665	67.2	38.2	67.5	31.1
Cayman Islands	Developing	High income	-	-	-	-	-	33.4
Commonwealth of Northern Marianas	Developing	High income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Comoros	Developing	Lower middle income	Low	0.554	53.1	39.7	63.5	24.6
Cook Islands	Developing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cuba	Developing	Upper middle income	High	0.783	72.6	27.5	98	30.6
Curacao	Developing	High income	-	-	-	-	-	32.1
Cyprus	Developed	High income	Very high	0.887	75.2	-	-	39.8
Dominica	Developing	Upper middle income	High	0.742	-	34.7	90.7	34.2
Dominican Republic	Developing	Upper middle income	High	0.756	70.2	21.5	90.2	32.4
Fiji	Developing	Upper middle income	High	0.743	70	38.8	94.3	31.7
French Polynesia	Developing	High income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grenada	Developing	Upper middle income	High	0.779	-	34.1	96.6	34.6
Guadeloupe	Developing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guam	Developing	High income	-	-	-	-	-	38.3
Guinea-Bissau	Developing	Low income	Low	0.48	-	40.5	38.1	18.4
Guyana	Developing	Upper middle income	Medium	0.682	59.7	45.6	89.1	30.9
Haiti	Developing	Low income	Low	0.51	51.7	33.4	57.6	22.5
Iceland	Developed	High income	Very high	0.949	77.5	-	-	48
Jamaica	Developing	Upper middle income	High	0.734	68.7	28.8	91.4	32.6
Kiribati	Developing	Lower middle income	Medium	0.63	-	66.1	83.3	27.9
Maldives	Developing	Upper middle income	High	0.74	67.6	44.1	87.4	34.1
Malta	Developed	High income	Very high	0.895	76	-	-	41.6

States / Countries / Economies	M49	GNI per capita June 2020	HDI verbal 2020	HDI 2020	SDSN 2020	EVI 2020	HAI 2020	PCI 2018
Marshall Islands	Developing	Upper middle income	Medium	0.704	-	59.9	78.9	30.7
Martinique	Developing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mauritius	Developing	High income	High	0.804	63.8	22.3	92.1	37.4
Micronesia (Federate States of)	Developing	Lower middle income	Medium	0.62	-	51	87.7	-
Montserrat	Developing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nauru	Developing	High income	-	-	-	37.4	86.5	-
New Caledonia	Developing	High income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Niue	Developing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palau	Developing	High income	Very high	0.826	-	47.9	91.3	33.4
Papua New Guinea	Developing	Lower middle income	Low	0.555	51.7	30.9	52.8	25
Puerto Rico	Developing	High income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Developing	High income	High	0.779	-	35.3	96.7	-
Saint Lucia	Developing	Upper middle income	High	0.759	-	32.4	94.6	33.8
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Developing	Upper middle income	High	0.738	-	28.2	95	34.1
Samoa	Developing	Upper middle income	High	0.715	-	28.1	96.6	31.5
Sao Tome and Principe	Developing	Lower middle income	Medium	0.625	62.6	29.9	87.6	26.7
Seychelles	Developing	High income	Very high	0.796	-	40.2	92.7	35.7
Singapore	Developing	High income	Very high	0.938	67	25.5	98.4	44.5
Sint Maarten	Developing	High income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Solomon Islands	Developing	Lower middle income	Medium	0.567	-	45.8	71.7	26.2
Suriname	Developing	Upper middle income	High	0.738	68.4	44.2	90.9	31.5
Timor-Leste	Developing	Lower middle income	Medium	0.606	-	40.1	68	29.3
Tokelau	Developing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tonga	Developing	Upper middle income	Low	0.725	-	43	96.8	33
Trinidad and Tobago	Developing	High income	High	0.796	65.8	27.6	93.1	36.7
Turks and Caicos Islands	Developing	High income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuvalu	Developing	Upper middle income	-	-	-	57	87.4	33.5
United States Virgin Islands	Developing	High income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vanuatu	Developing	Lower middle income	Medium	0.609	60.9	39.1	77.3	29.4



### Appendix 3. Island states

States / Countries / Economies	Formal Name	Independent Sovereign State	Overseas Territory of:	Member of the United Nations
American Samoa	American Samoa	N	United States of America	N
Anguilla	Anguilla	N	United Kingdom	N
Antigua and Barbuda	Antigua and Barbuda	Y		Y
Aruba	Aruba	N	Netherlands	N
Bahamas	the Commonwealth of the Bahamas	Y		Y
Bahrain	the Kingdom of Bahrain	Y		Y
Barbados	Barbados	Y		Y
Belize	Belize	Y		Y
Bermuda	Bermuda	N	United Kingdom	N
Bonaire, sint Eustatius and Saba	Bonaire, sint Eustatius and Saba	N	Netherlands	N
British Virgin Islands	British Virgin Islands	N	United Kingdom	N
Cabo Verde	the Republic of Cabo Verde	Y		Y
Cayman Islands	Cayman Islands	N	United Kingdom	N
Commonwealth of Northern Marianas	Commonwealth of Northern Marianas	N	United States of America	N
Comoros	the Union of the Comoros	Y		Y
Cook Islands	Cook Islands	N	New Zealand	N
Cuba	the Republic of Cuba	Y		Y
Curacao	Curacao	N	Netherlands	N
Cyprus	the Republic of Cyprus	Y		Y
Dominica	the Commonwealth of Dominica	Y		Y
Dominican Republic	the Dominican Republic	Y		Y
Fiji	the Republic of Fiji	Y		Y
French Polynesia	French Polynesia	N	France	N
Grenada	Grenada	Y		Y
Guadeloupe	Guadeloupe	N	France	N
Guam	Guam	N	United States of America	N
Guinea-Bissau	the Republic of Guinea-Bissau	Y		Y
Guyana	the Co-operative Republic of Guyana	Y		Y
Haiti	the Republic of Haiti	Y		Y
Iceland	the Republic of Iceland	Y		Y
Jamaica	Jamaica	Y		Y
Kiribati	the Republic of Kiribati	Y		Y

States / Countries / Economies	Formal Name	Independent Sovereign State	Overseas Territory of:	Member of the United Nations
Maldives	the Republic of Maldives	Y		Y
Malta	the Republic of Malta	Y		Y
Marshall Islands	the Republic of the Marshall Islands	Y		Y
Martinique	Martinique	Y	France	N
Mauritius	the Republic of Mauritius	Y		Y
Micronesia (Federate States of)	the Federated States of Micronesia	Y		Y
Montserrat	Montserrat	N	United Kingdom	N
Nauru	the Republic of Nauru	Y		Y
New Caledonia	New Caledonia	N	France	N
Niue	Niue	N	New Zealand	N
Palau	the Republic of Palau	Y		Y
Papua New Guinea	the Independent State of Papua New Guinea	Y		Y
Puerto Rico	Puerto Rico	N	United States of America	N
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Y		Y
Saint Lucia	St Lucia	Y		Y
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Y		Y
Samoa	the Independent State of Samoa	Y		Y
Sao Tome and Principe	the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe	Y		Y
Seychelles	the Republic of Seychelles	Y		Y
Singapore	the Republic of Singapore	Y		Y
Sint Maarten	Sint Maarten	N	Netherlands	N
Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands	Y		Y
Suriname	the Republic of Suriname	Y		Y
Timor-Leste	the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste	Y		Y
Tokelau	Tokelau	N	New Zealand	N
Tonga	the Kingdom of Tonga	Y		Y
Trinidad and Tobago	the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago	Y		Y
Turks and Caicos Islands	Turks and Caicos Islands	N	United Kingdom	N
Tuvalu	Tuvalu	Y		Y
United States Virgin Islands	United States Virgin Islands	N	United States of America	N
Vanuatu	the Republic of Vanuatu	Y		Y

# If SIDS were a country

Small Island Developing States, as the name suggests, are [small](#). Indeed, taken individually, SIDS barely register on most common metrics, whether geographic, economic, or social. For the purposes of this analysis however, rather than thinking of SIDS as many disparate states, they are presented as an amalgamation - as 'one country'. In other words, what if, for the sake of comparison, the SIDS were a single country rather than a set of states? From this perspective, SIDS very often cease to be small or peripheral players from a global perspective. Depending on the metric selected, the country 'SIDS' frequently ranks above average compared with other countries. In fact, in some spheres, the country 'SIDS' becomes a world leader.

The purpose of this comparison is to help showcase the contribution of the SIDS to our economic, social and environmental worlds, and in doing so put these small but fascinating nations into context. Presenting the SIDS, based on the list of SIDS for analytical purposes (see [What makes a SIDS a SIDS](#)), as 'one country' is for illustrative purposes only – it should be stressed that individual SIDS do not enjoy the advantages or economies of scale that the synthetic or fabricated 'SIDS country' presented in this chapter would enjoy. The following chapters will analyse the SIDS subregions and individual SIDS to review their capacities and challenges as some of the most vulnerable economies in the world.



## *SIDS' physical and ocean territory; bigger than you think*

Geographically speaking, SIDS are usually considered to be very small countries. Taken individually, this is indeed the case; even the largest SIDS, the Solomon Islands, measures only 27 990 km<sup>2</sup>. For comparison, this is roughly equivalent to the land area of Albania or Armenia. However, as a group, it quickly becomes apparent that SIDS are not small. In terms of land area, SIDS together measure 117 901 km<sup>2</sup>, which would rank in the 53rd percentile of countries, similar in size to North Korea or Nicaragua.

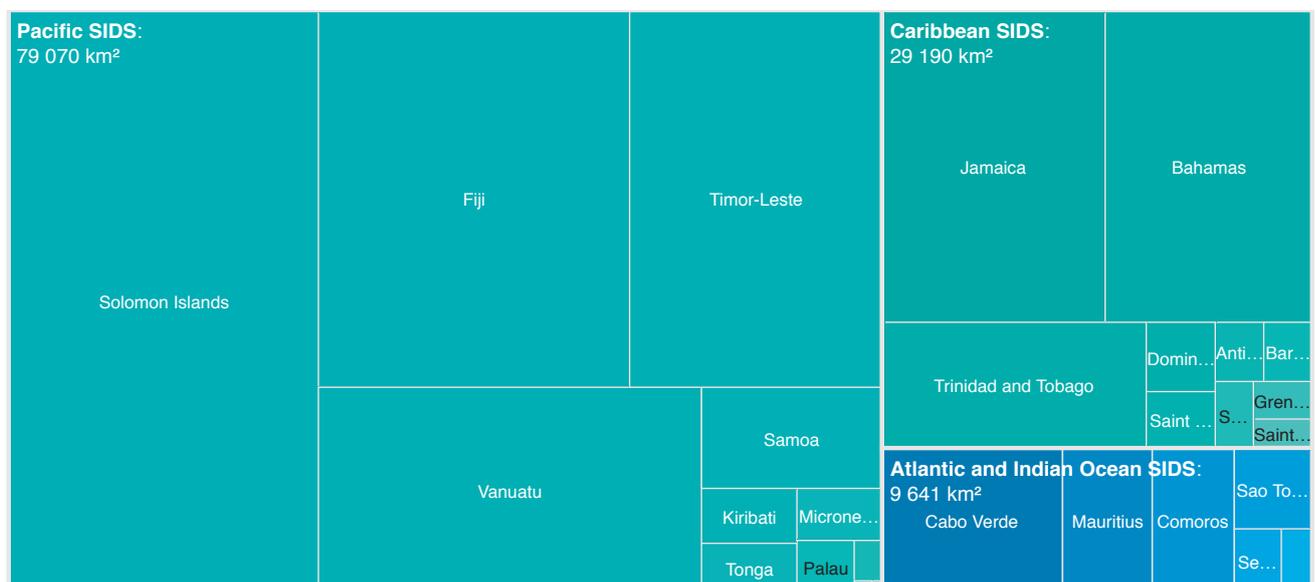
### SIDS together would rank second in land area plus EEZ,



### behind only the Russian Federation

This area is not evenly distributed across the SIDS. Figure 1 shows the distribution of land area by nation and region. The majority of land area is held by the Pacific SIDS (67 per cent), followed by the Caribbean (25 per cent) and finally the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS (8 per cent).

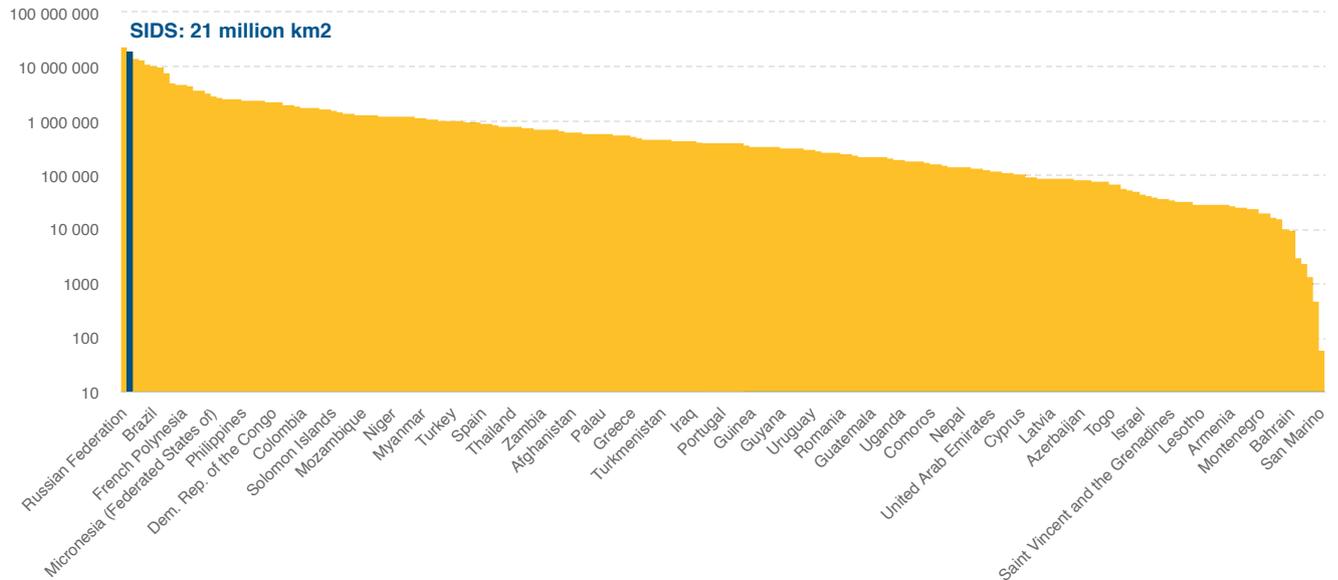
**Figure 1. Distribution of land area in the SIDS**



Source: World Bank (2021).

Quite a different perspective emerges when EEZs are compared, rather than just landmass. When land area plus EEZ is taken into consideration, the country 'SIDS' is the second largest country in the world (21 million km<sup>2</sup>), just behind the Russian Federation. From this perspective, the SIDS account for 8.7 per cent of global combined EEZ and land area. Distribution within the SIDS regions also changes, with the Pacific SIDS accounting for 71 per cent of SIDS' total land plus EEZ, Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS now accounting for 22 per cent, and Caribbean SIDS just 7 per cent. This is due to the denser nature of Caribbean SIDS' geography, constraining their EEZs.

**Figure 2. Land area plus exclusive economic zone, 2018**  
(km<sup>2</sup>, logarithmic scale)



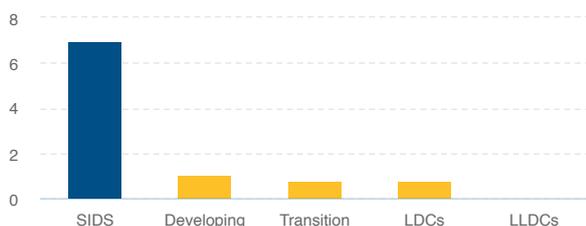
Source: UNCTAD calculations based on World Bank (2021) and Sea Around Us (2016).

This massive oceanic endowment means that, as is examined throughout this report, the seas and oceans play a central and defining role in SIDS' economies, cultures and geographies. This role is not always benign, however, as low-lying land and coastal-concentrated populations make SIDS especially vulnerable to natural disasters, including hurricanes, typhoons and flooding, as well as to rising sea-levels associated with climate change. Some nations, such as Kiribati, have gone as far as to purchase land in other countries for food security and potential population transfer (The Guardian, 2014).

Figure 3 shows the share of SIDS' land lying below 5 meters' elevation from the sea level relative to other development groupings, illustrating their unique vulnerability to rising sea levels. Unfortunately, this is not a problem for the future, as islands have already begun to disappear under rising seas and others face imminent inundation, for example parts of the Abaiang atoll in Kiribati (Chow, 2019).

Furthermore, of the land that SIDS do possess, a smaller share of it is arable compared with other LDCs, LLDCs, or developing nations, as figure 4 illustrates.

**Figure 3. Share of land below 5 meters' elevation, 2010**  
(Percentage of total land area)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on World Bank (2021).  
Notes: Developing and LDC groups exclude any SIDS.

**Figure 4. Arable land as a share of total land area, 2016**  
(Percentage of total land area)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on World Bank (2021).  
Notes: Developing and LDC groups exclude any SIDS.

This limited arable land is further threatened by encroaching salt water in otherwise productive coastal soil (Payet and Moustache, 2009), all but guaranteeing a decline in this metric in the years to come. The situation has implications for SIDS' food security, particularly in the low-lying atoll nations of the Pacific SIDS (FAO, 2004). In these nations, deteriorating agricultural conditions has rendered domestic production of traditional food stuffs, valuable sources of foreign exchange as well as calories for the local population, more difficult. High transportation costs make it more expensive for them to replace domestic production with imports, further highlighting the importance of preserving and developing their current agricultural assets.

## Economic importance and population

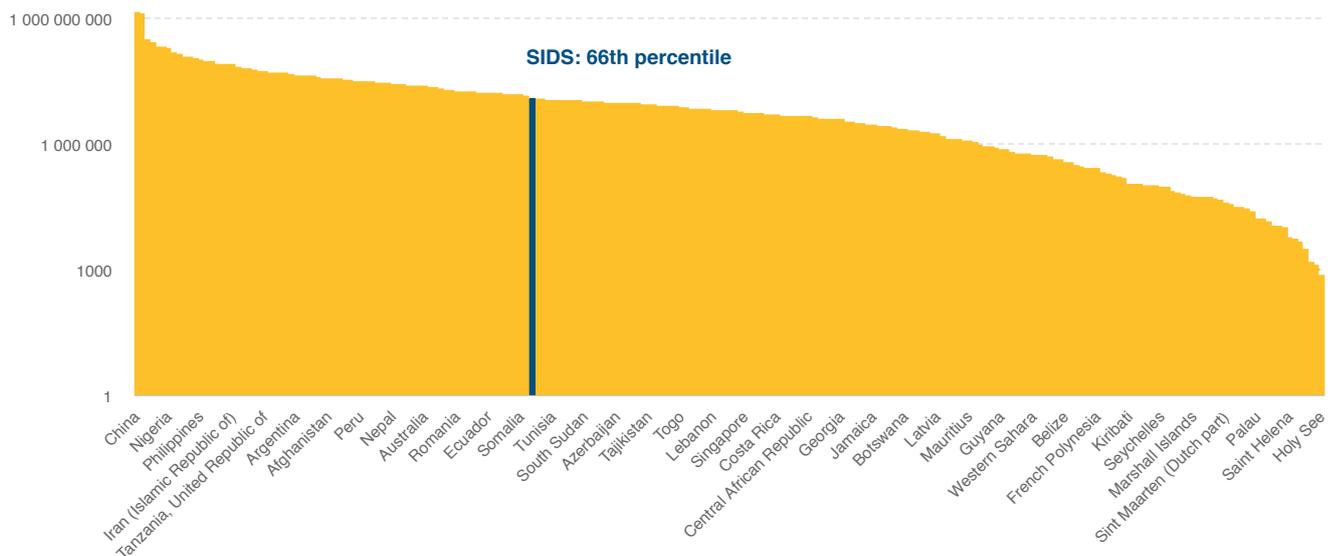


**SIDS' combined population of 13 million larger than Belgium's**



Given the constrained land area of SIDS, it is no surprise that their populations are commensurately small. The largest SIDS in terms of population, Jamaica, counted a population of only 2.9 million in 2020 (UNCTAD, 2020). Of the remaining 28 SIDS, only three (Trinidad and Tobago, Timor-Leste and Mauritius) have a population above one million. However, taken together, the combined SIDS population of 13 million accounts for 0.2 per cent of the global total and places them in the 66th percentile of nations in terms of population in 2019, larger than Rwanda or Belgium, but smaller than Zimbabwe or Somalia.

**Figure 5. Total population, 2019**  
(Persons, logarithmic scale)



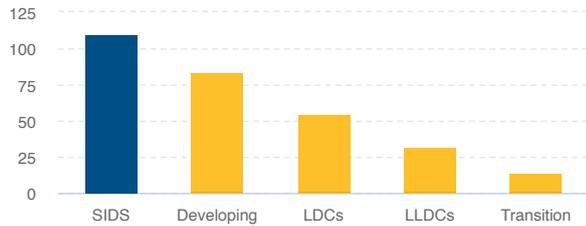
Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNCTAD (2020).

The SIDS' population density of 110 people per km<sup>2</sup> puts them well above LDC and LLDC averages, as shown in figure 6.

Effective density may be even higher, as their populations tend to be clustered in coastal zones with sparsely populated interiors (UN DESA, 2013), a fact that further increases their vulnerability to climate-related stresses.

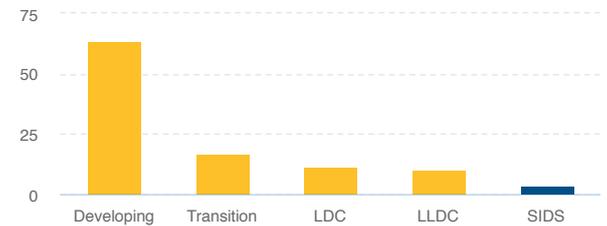
While they account for 0.17 per cent of global population, they account for only 0.1 per cent of global GDP (UNCTAD, 2020). As figure 7 illustrates, this makes SIDS by far the smallest group of economies as categorized by UN-OHRLLS.

**Figure 6. Population density, 2019**  
(Number of persons per km<sup>2</sup>)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNCTAD (2020) and World Bank (2021).  
Notes: Developing and LDC groups exclude any SIDS.

**Figure 7. Comparison of GDP across groups of economies, 2019**  
(Percentage of world GDP)



Source: UNCTAD (2020).  
Notes: Developing and LDC groups exclude any SIDS.

However, if SIDS are reconfigured as a single country, rather than as a development group, their combined GDP of US\$103.4 billion in 2019 would make it one of the largest LDCs or LLDCs, ranking second on both lists, behind Bangladesh and Kazakhstan, respectively. SIDS' combined GDP would be greater than either Kenya's or Ethiopia's, and only slightly behind Slovakia's.

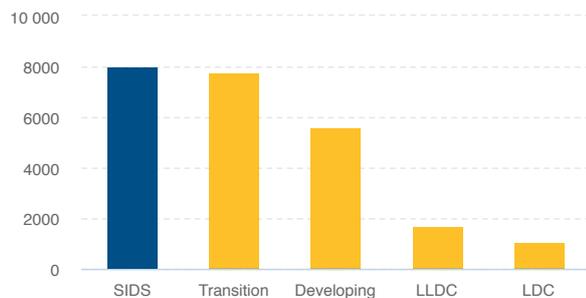
SIDS as a country's GDP per capita of US\$7 985 in 2019 was higher than any of the LDCs' and all but two of the LLDCs (Botswana and Kazakhstan). The composite figure would rank in the 54th percentile globally, higher than Thailand's GDP per capita, but lower than Brazil's.

**The SIDS together boasted a GDP**



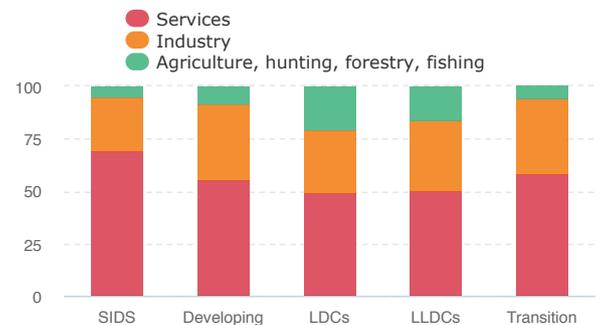
Though there are many differences between SIDS when it comes to the composition of their economies, in general they tend to be heavily dependent on services when compared with other development groups, as shown in figure 9.

**Figure 8 GDP per capita, 2019**  
(Current US\$)



Source: UNCTAD (2020).  
Notes: Developing and LDC groups exclude any SIDS.

**Figure 9 GDP composition by sector, 2018**  
(Percentage)



Source: UNCTAD (2020).  
Notes: Developing and LDC groups exclude any SIDS.

SIDS produce the smallest share of their GDP from agriculture and industry and commensurately the largest share via services. This is not surprising, as scarce land endowments coupled with often greater distances to markets constrain both agricultural potential and industrial capacity. Given SIDS' physical circumstances, it should come as no surprise that they tend to concentrate economically in areas where they are least disadvantaged, such as services related to tourism and hospitality or finance. For comparison, Bulgaria and Estonia have very similar economic profiles to SIDS as a whole.

SIDS' island nature has a large impact on the structure of their economies, virtually guaranteeing that they will be larger players in global trade than their size may suggest. SIDS accounted for 0.1 per cent of global merchandise exports and 0.2 per cent of global merchandise imports in 2019. For services the figures were 0.3 per cent for imports and 0.4 per cent for exports. The particularly high merchandise import share should come as no surprise, considering SIDS' constrained terrestrial endowments, which necessitate the import of many food stuffs, manufactured goods and energy, among other goods. Similarly, their large services exports share highlights the reliance on services,

particularly travel related services, in their economies. Figure 10 illustrates the SIDS' trade openness, or the sum of imports and exports as a percentage of GDP, compared with other developing economies, transition economies, LDCs, and LLDCs, further underscoring the importance of trade to them relative to other developing economies, as well as their vulnerability to external shocks and international events.

**Figure 10. Trade openness, 2019**  
(Percentage)



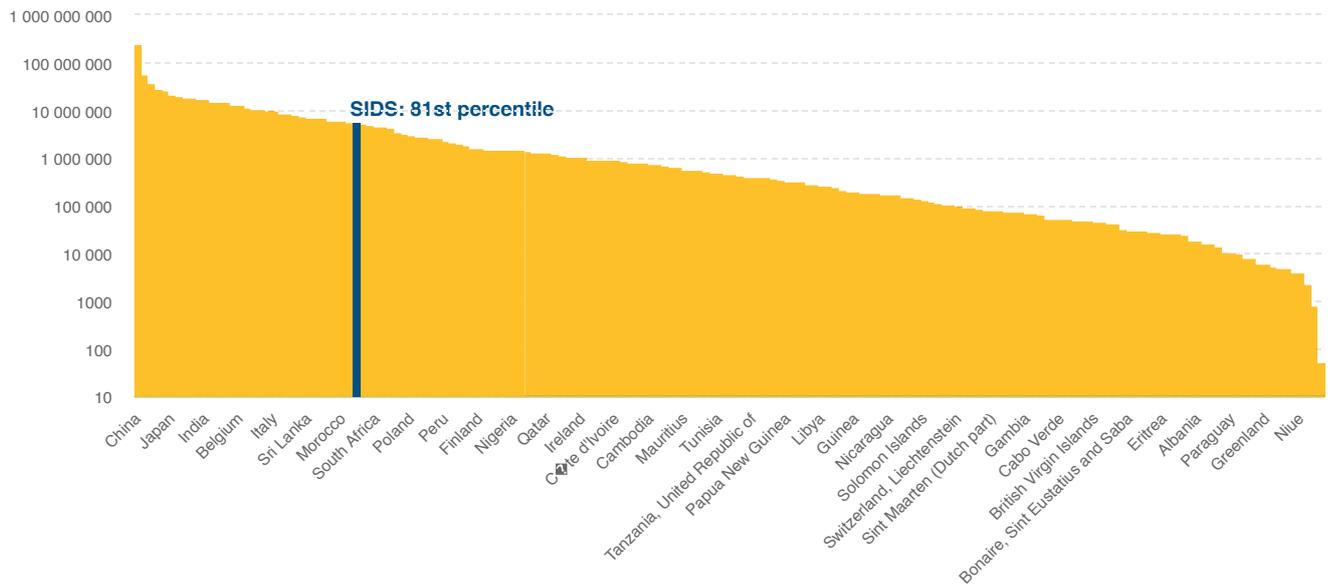
Source: UNCTAD (2020).

Notes: Trade openness is calculated as exports plus imports of goods and services as a percentage of GDP. Developing and LDC groups exclude any SIDS.

In conjunction with trade, it is interesting to examine SIDS' connectivity through the lens of its merchant fleet and container port throughput. In 2020, SIDS accounted for an astounding 17.5 per cent of the global merchant fleet capacity by flag of registration. However, comparing this figure to their capacity by beneficial ownership, which sits at 0.1 per cent, the reality of many nations flying SIDS' flags on their vessels as 'flags of convenience' becomes apparent. The 0.1 per cent figure is more in line with the SIDS' population and GDP.

Figure 11, however, illustrates a metric where the SIDS do indeed excel - container port throughput.

**Figure 11. Container port throughput, 2019**  
(TEUs, logarithmic scale)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNCTAD (2020).

Sitting at the 81st percentile in container port throughput, SIDS exhibit a high degree of maritime connectivity. This is largely due their dependence on maritime transport for travel, trade and the import of consumption goods (UNCTAD, 2014). The relatively well-connected Caribbean ports account for a disproportionate share of this throughput, 70 per cent, compared with 18 per cent for Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS, and 12 per cent for Pacific SIDS.

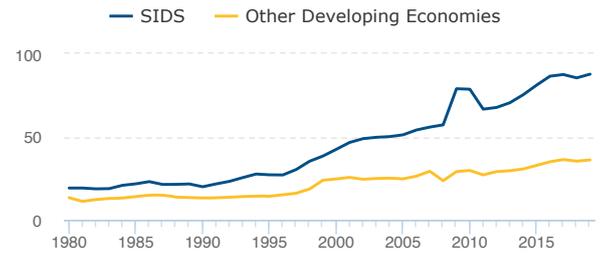
The SIDS also have a relatively high stock and flow of FDI relative to the size of their economies, further increasing their vulnerability to international events.

**Figure 12. FDI inflows as a percentage of GDP, 2019**  
(Percentage)



Source: UNCTAD (2020).  
Notes: Developing and LDC groups exclude any SIDS.

**Figure 13. FDI stock as a percentage of GDP**  
(Percentage)

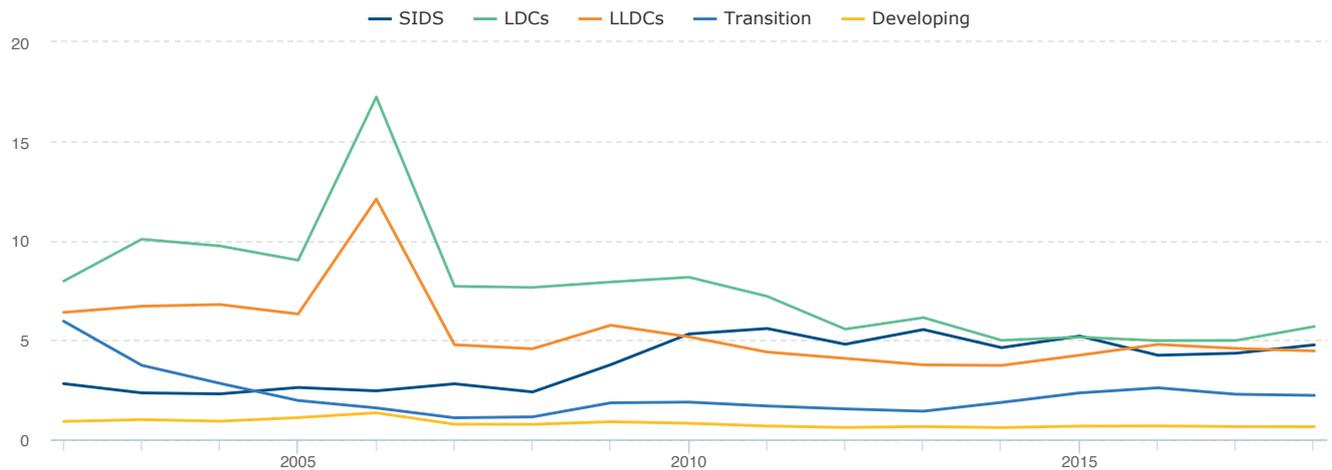


Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNCTAD (2020).

The Caribbean SIDS tend to attract the bulk of FDI in the SIDS. This is due in part to their geographic and linguistic proximity to the North American market, as well as interest in Trinidad and Tobago’s energy sector. Other than energy, tourism is another sector that attracts a large share of FDI in the Caribbean SIDS. In the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS, offshore financing and real estate tend to dominate FDI, while FDI in the Pacific SIDS tends to focus on natural resource extraction (UNCTAD, 2013).

ODA makes up a smaller percentage of the SIDS’ economies than FDI, accounting for just 4.75 per cent of GDP in 2018.

**Figure 14. ODA as a proportion of GDP**  
(Percentage)

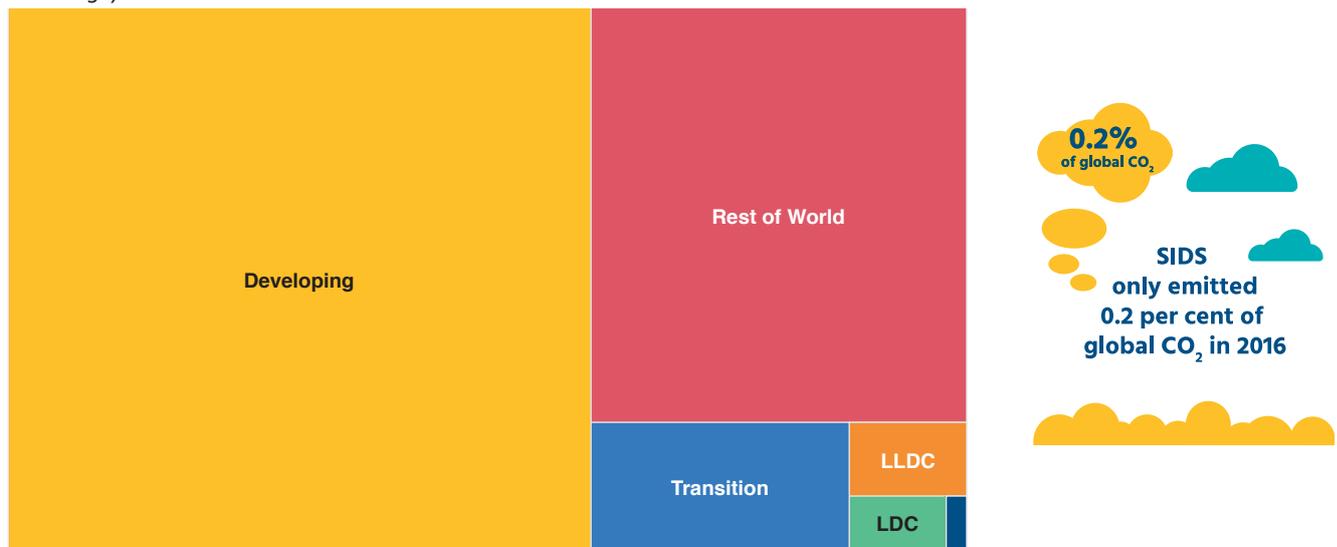


Source: UNCTAD calculations based on OECD (2020b) and UNCTAD (2020).  
Notes: Developing and LDC groups exclude any SIDS.

As some of the countries harbouring the most vulnerable populations to climate change, it is worth noting the SIDS’ contribution to that phenomenon. While the SIDS’ per capita emissions as a group would place it in the upper half of emitters (72nd percentile of nations in 2016), this still only amounted to a paltry 0.2 per cent of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2016. Despite the disproportionate impact climate change will have on these nations, they themselves contribute little to the problem and thus are largely powerless to introduce measures to mitigate it.


**Figure 15. Economic groups' share of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, 2016**

(Percentage)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on World Bank (2021).

Notes: Developing and LDC groups exclude any SIDS.

The purpose of this chapter was to provide context to the SIDS' weight as a group across different indicators. This statistical exercise is very different from the reality on the ground, however, where individual SIDS do not enjoy the economies of scale the aggregate numbers may suggest. Each one faces their own unique circumstances and challenges and SIDS as a group should not be overlooked by the international community.



## References

- Chow D (2019). Three islands disappeared in the past year. Is climate change to blame? Available at <https://www.nbcnews.com/mach/science/three-islands-disappeared-past-year-climate-change-blame-ncna1015316> (accessed 26 January 2021).
- FAO (2004). FAO and SIDS: challenges and emerging issues in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. FAO. Rome.
- OECD (2003). EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ). Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=884> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- OECD (2020a). DAC glossary of key terms and concepts. Available at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/dac-glossary.htm> (accessed 20 April 2020).
- OECD (2020b). Creditor reporting system (CRS). Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1> (accessed 20 April 2020).
- Payet R and Moustache A (2009). Sea Level Rise, Climate Change and Its Impacts on Food Security in SIDS: Challenges and Opportunities. Sea Level Rise Foundation. (accessed 8 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- The Guardian (2014). Besieged by the rising tides of climate change, Kiribati buys land in Fiji. Available at <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/jul/01/kiribati-climate-change-fiji-vanua-levu> (accessed 11 April 2021).
- UN DESA (2013). Population and Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: Challenges, Progress made and Outstanding Issues. Technical Paper No. 2013/4. UN DESA. (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UN DESA (2021). Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category.html> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- UNCTAD (2013). *World Investment Report 2013: Global Value Chains: Investment and Trade for Development*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.13.II.D.5. Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2014). *Closing the Distance: Partnerships for Sustainable and Resilient Transport Systems in SIDS*. UNCTAD/DTL/TLB/2014/2. New York and Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2017). *World Investment Report 2017: Investment and the Digital Economy*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.17.II.D.3. Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2020). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- United Nations (2010). *International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics: 2008*. United Nations. New York, NY.
- World Bank (2021). World Development Indicators. Available at <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators> (accessed 8 November 2020).

# Trade



# Trade



*‘2020 was a particularly important year for trade and sustainability, not least because of the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic on people and planet.’*

– Mr. Chad Blackman, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Barbados, 3 July 2020



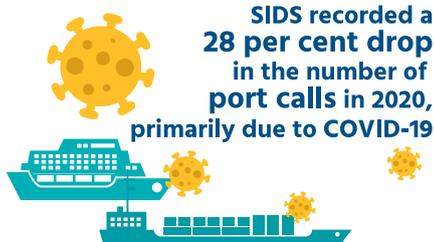
**Services exports represented 25% of SIDS’ GDP**

SIDS<sup>1</sup> are highly vulnerable to economic shocks and are dependent on trade. They are also challenged by remoteness from trading partners and dependence on a few markets for imports and exports. Therefore, SIDS have also been identified as one of the groups that will be disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impacts.

SIDS import more goods than they export, and are often highly reliant on services exports, e.g., related to transport, tourism and business services. They also have some comparative advantages in maritime activities and the trade of oceans products, fish and sea food.

This chapter will discuss SIDS’ trade, including:

1. [Trade in goods](#) and the evolution of trade, types of products traded and vulnerability to price changes, and SIDS’ revealed comparative advantage.
2. [Shipping universe](#) on SIDS in the global maritime value chain, their high share of global ship registrations, low shipping connectivity and high transport costs.
3. [Trade in services](#) makes a notable contribution to SIDS’ GDP relying largely on travel services, but with severe impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. [Tourism](#) as a source of livelihoods, employment and income with over 60 per cent fall in international arrivals to SIDS and 50 per cent drop in flight departures in 2020 after a long period of growth.
5. [Trade vulnerabilities](#) discussing challenges, such as remoteness, high transport costs, trade deficits, ICT goods and services, as well as the need for digital transformation.



## Notes

1. Aggregates for SIDS and SIDS regions in this chapter refer to the analytical SIDS grouping, as detailed in [What makes a SIDS a SIDS](#), unless otherwise specified.

# Trade in goods

SIDS have some common characteristics regarding trade in goods. Most SIDS are net importers of goods and many have proportionally high exports in primary commodities, but country variation is high. SIDS share common challenges, but also differ significantly regarding the factors in their favor, such as, the commodities they can export. Categorizing SIDS according to geographical location does not reveal clear patterns.

## Varying importance of trade for the island economies

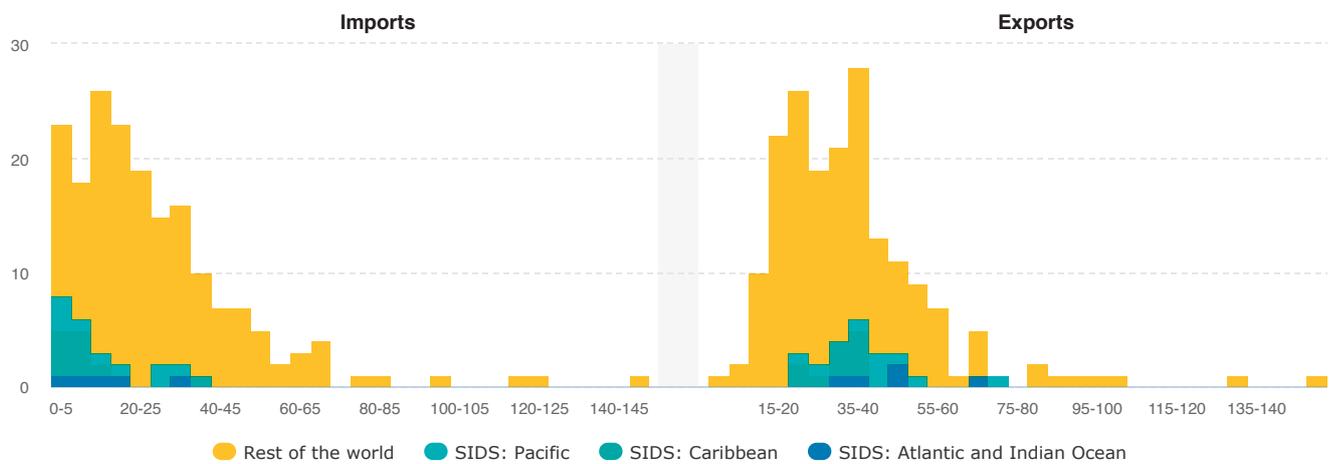
The trade-to-GDP ratio measures the importance of trade for the economy and is often used to assess the economy's openness for international trade. The ratio varies widely in the economies of the world, and across SIDS (see figure 1).

SIDS' merchandise imports over GDP ranged around a global median of 33 per cent, except for Nauru (74 per cent) and Seychelles (67 per cent) that had relatively high imports of goods in comparison with GDP.

On the contrary, the exports of goods as a share of GDP are low for many SIDS, sometimes considerably below the global median of 21 per cent. Exceptions were Trinidad and Tobago, Solomon Islands, Seychelles, Nauru and Marshall Islands who all exported goods valuing more than 25 per cent of GDP. It should be noted that SIDS export, on average, more services than goods (see [Trade in services](#)).



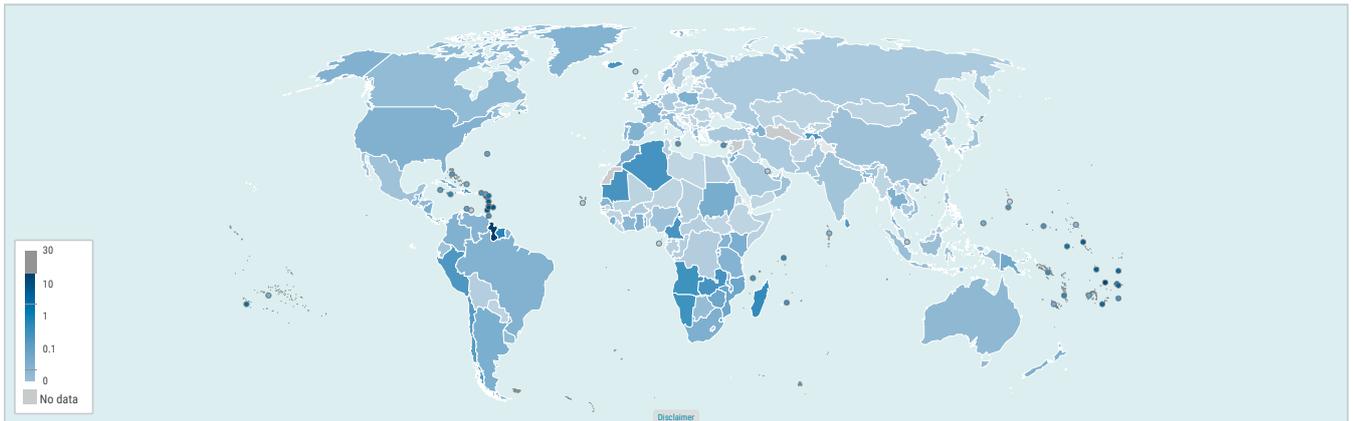
**Figure 1. Distribution of economies by imports and exports ratio to GDP, 2019**  
(Percentage)



Source: UNCTAD (2021a).

Merchandise trade involving SIDS is, on a global scale, small. On average, between 2017 and 2019, only about 0.3 per cent of globally traded goods were exported to SIDS and only 0.1 per cent were imported from them. Geographical proximity facilitates trade in goods, as evidenced by the fact that 18 out of the top 20 economies that import the most from SIDS relative to their total imports are SIDS or other neighboring islands states (see map 1).

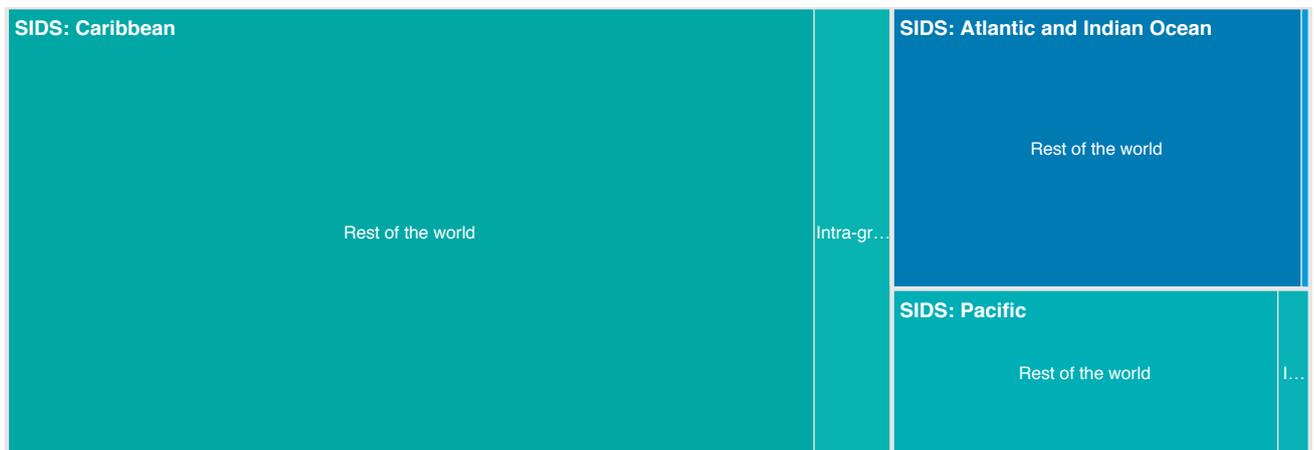
**Map 1. Imports of goods from SIDS as percentage of total imports of the economy, 2017 – 2019**



Source: UNCTAD (2021a).

Intra-trade among SIDS is relatively large. Even if SIDS are not big importers, 7 per cent of SIDS’ goods exports had another SIDS as destination and almost 4 per cent of SIDS’ imports came from another SIDS. Again, geography matters. Of the total SIDS merchandise exports of US\$ 16 billion in 2019, only 7 US\$ million (or 0.04 per cent) travelled across geographical SIDS regions (e.g. from Caribbean SIDS to Pacific SIDS). The SIDS in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean are spread out geographically and formed the group with the least intra-group trade (see figure 3). The strength of bilateral goods trade relations is also associated with the level of liner shipping connectivity (see [Fleet, connectivity and port calls](#)). Currently trade logistics are experiencing challenges due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic (UNCTAD, 2021a, 2021b).

**Figure 2. SIDS merchandise exports, 2019, by origin and destination**  
(Percentage)



Source: UNCTAD (2021a).

Notes: Rest of the world includes other SIDS.

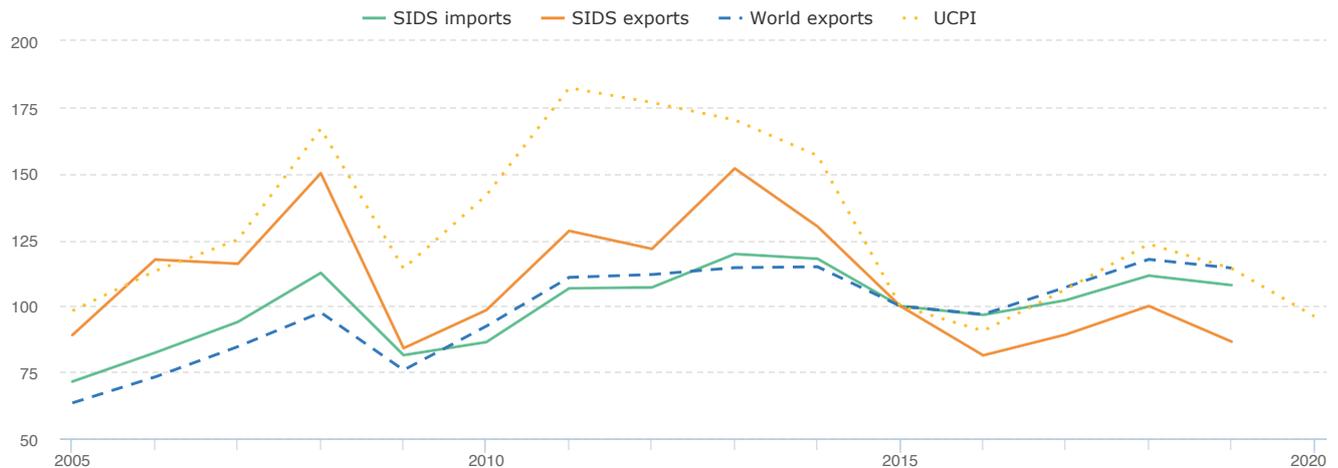
## Several SIDS are increasing their exports of goods, but some are falling behind the rest of the world.

The exports and imports of SIDS, as for global merchandise trade more generally, develop in cycles. Amidst the global financial crisis, global trade troughed in 2009. Another notable decline was experienced in 2016 that coincided with a low point in commodity prices. This was followed by a subsequent recovery in 2018. For SIDS however, the recovery was weaker, and exports did not return to the levels experienced prior 2016 slump.

While the longer-term trend of global trade has been slightly positive, SIDS’ exports have experienced an overall decline since the beginning of 2010. SIDS imports of goods have developed in tandem with global trade, but exports have been more volatile and more closely resembled the development of commodity prices (see figure 3).


**Figure 3. Value of trade in goods in SIDS and the world, and commodity prices**

(Index, 2015=100)

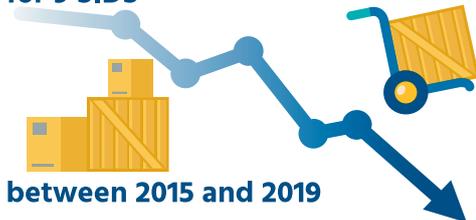


Source: UNCTAD (2021a).

Notes: Rest of the world includes other SIDS.

The recent trends in international merchandise trade are more encouraging for some SIDS than others. As a group, the volume of imported goods increased by around 1 per cent from 2015 to 2019, whereas the volume of exports decreased by around 17 per cent. The SIDS for which data are available can be said to form three broad groups regarding the development of goods exports from 2015 to 2019 (see figure 4).

### Exports of goods decreased for 9 SIDS



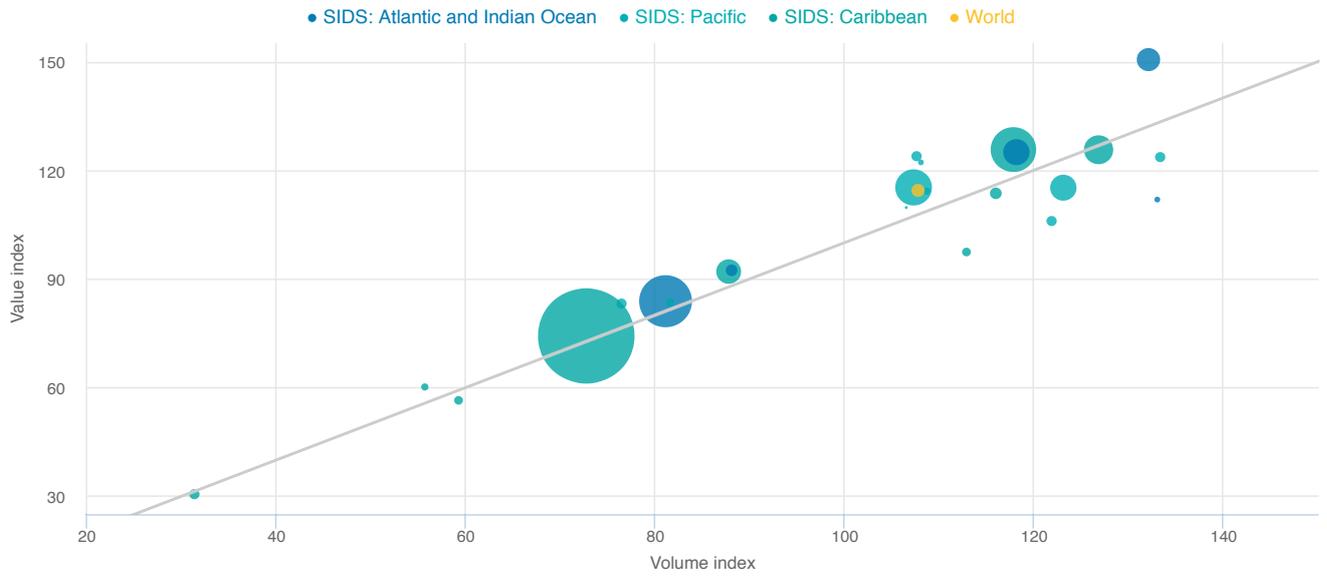
between 2015 and 2019

The SIDS in one group have not kept pace with the world and their exports of goods have in fact decreased both in value and volume terms from their 2015 levels. In volume terms, by 2019 exports had decreased to 88 per cent for Cabo Verde and to only 31 per cent for Saint Lucia compared to 2015. Out of the nine SIDS in this group, seven are Caribbean. A decrease to 73 per cent of 2015 levels for the relatively big exporter Trinidad and Tobago explain a large share of the decrease for SIDS as a group.

The second group has in broad terms increased their goods exports at the same pace as the world median in value terms and outpaced it in volume terms. The volume in 2019, in percent of 2015 levels, ranged from 106 for Palau to 133 for Vanuatu. Maldives breaks out from the rest of this group in value terms. Out of these fifteen SIDS, eight are Pacific SIDS.

The third group is made up of two extreme values: Nauru in the Pacific and the Comoros in the Indian Ocean. Both economies had uncharacteristically low levels of goods exports in 2015 but by 2019, Nauru had increased the volume of goods exports to 3.5 times 2015 levels and the Comoros to more than 5.5 times. In both cases the volume increase was bigger than the increase in value.

**Figure 4. Volume and value of exports, 2019**  
(Index, 2015=100)



Source: UNCTAD (2021a).

Note: The cross represents the median among economies for which data are available in UNCTAD (2021a). Countries below 100 have decreased from 2015 levels, and above 100 increased. Indices for two SIDS are outside the scale of the figure: Nauru (Volume index 363, Value index 317) and the Comoros (Volume index 574, Value index 290).

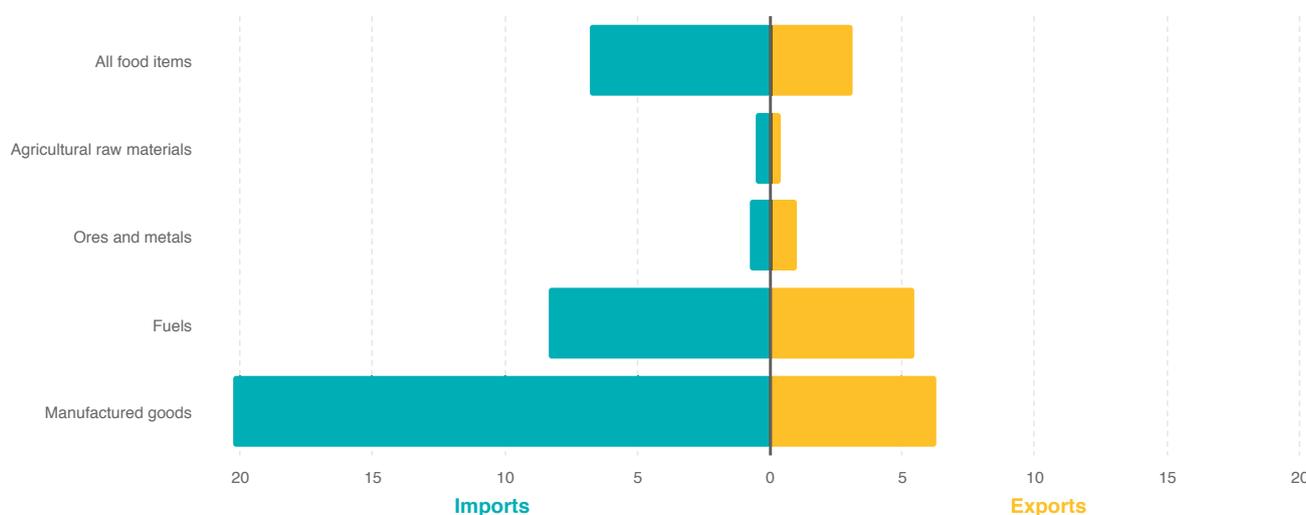
## Fish and ships: SIDS export primary commodities, but also some manufactured goods

As noted above, SIDS run a trade deficit, i.e., they import more goods than they export. Trinidad and Tobago was the only SIDS with a positive merchandise trade balance between 2017 and 2019. In 2019, that trade surplus amounted to 49 per cent of the value of imports. SIDS with modestly negative balances were the Solomon Islands (-12 per cent) and the Marshall Islands (-15 per cent). For 24 other SIDS, the deficit ranged from 55 to almost 100 per cent of imports. SIDS, as a group, depended on imports especially of manufactured goods and food; their exports showed a large proportion of primary commodities (see figure 5).




**Figure 5. Value of merchandise trade for SIDS by product type, 2017 - 2019**

(Annual average in US\$ billions)



Source: UNCTAD (2021a).

Note: Product groups are defined according to SITC. All food items includes SITC groups 0, 1, 22 and 4; Agricultural raw materials include SITC 2 excluding 22, 27 and 28; Fuels includes SITC 3; Ores and metals includes SITC 27, 28 and 68; and Manufactured goods includes all SITC 5 to 8 excluding 667 and 68.

### 70% or more of exports from Micronesia, Kiribati, Maldives, Tuvalu and Cabo Verde is seafood

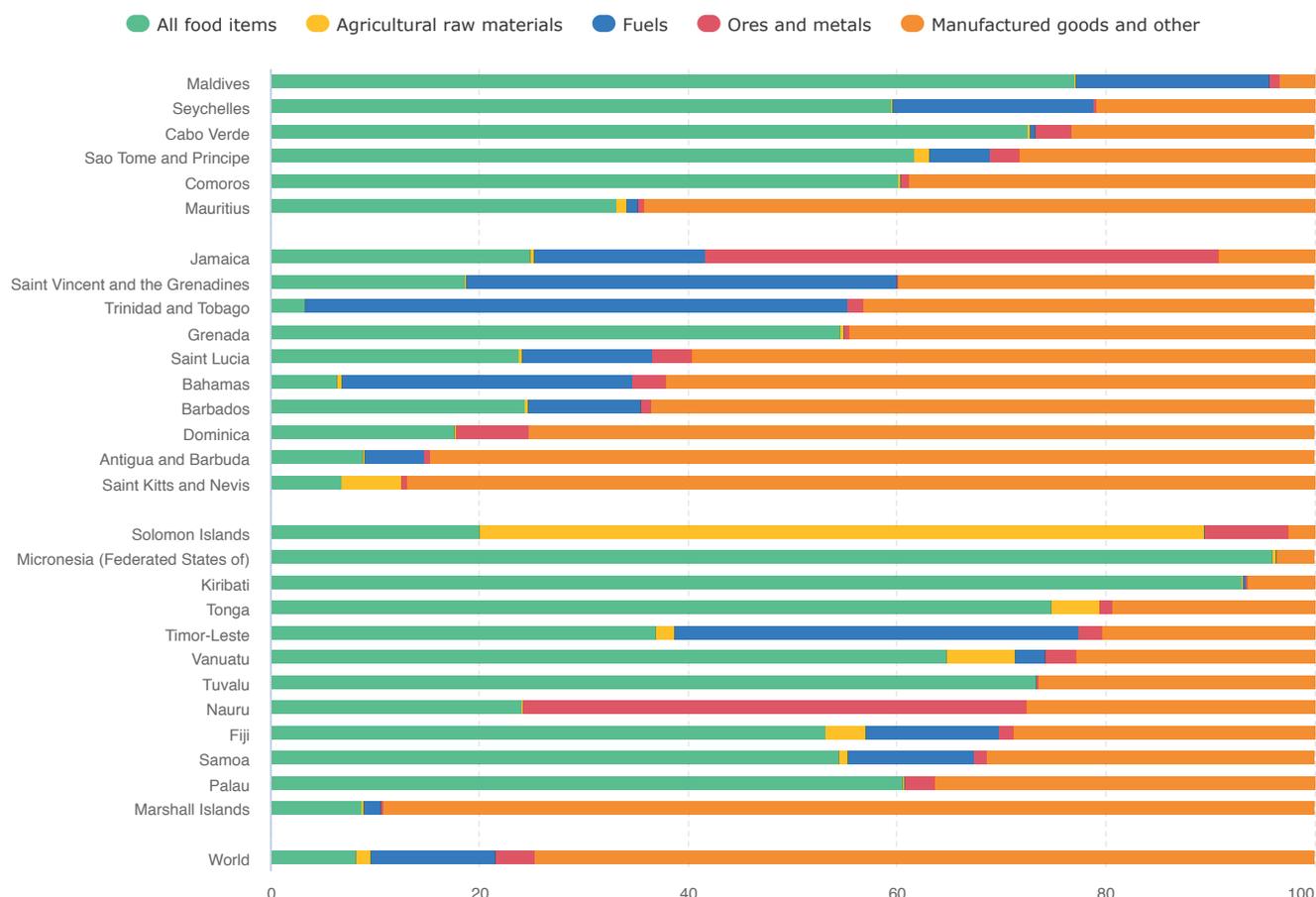


As figure 6 shows, eighteen out of the 28 SIDS are primarily raw material exporters. The majority of SIDS, especially those in the Pacific and Indian Ocean, exported food in much greater proportions than the world average during the period from 2017 to 2019. In the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Maldives, Tonga, Tuvalu and Cabo Verde the proportion of food in merchandise exports is above 70 per cent. Not surprisingly, a large share of food exports is accounted for fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof. For all mentioned SIDS, except Tonga, this category alone stood for 70 per cent or more of exports. That SIDS have a comparative advantage in exporting seafood, confirmed by RCA scores above one among 17 SIDS for fish and among 12 SIDS for crustaceans (UNCTAD, 2021a).

A few SIDS have highly specialized their exports towards primary commodities rather than food: the Solomon Islands on agricultural raw materials; Jamaica and Nauru on ores and metals; and Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Timor-Leste on fuels. More specifically, two out of three dollars generated by export bills from the Solomon Islands comes from rough wood. Jamaica's and Nauru's ore exports consist almost exclusively of crude fertilizers. In Timor-Leste, 35 per cent of merchandise exports and in Saint Vincent and Grenadines 41 per cent are represented by petroleum and in Trinidad and Tobago 50 per cent of exports are made up of natural gas and petroleum, in equal parts (UNCTAD, 2021a).


**Figure 6. Export structure by product type, 2017 – 2019**

(Proportion)



Source: UNCTAD (2021a).

Notes: Economies are ordered according to geographical region and the share of primary commodities in total merchandise exports.

Product groups are defined according to SITC. All food items includes SITC groups 0, 1, 22 and 4; Agricultural raw materials include SITC 2 excluding 22, 27 and 28; Fuels includes SITC 3; and Ores and metals includes SITC 27, 28 and 68. Other codes are included in the group Manufactured good and other.

Caribbean SIDS export more manufactured goods than Pacific and Indian Ocean SIDS– some at a proportion similar to or higher than the global average. These comprise Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia, and Dominica. Their manufacturing exports, like those of the Marshall Islands in the Pacific, consist largely of ships, boats and floating structures. These products are especially important for the Marshall Islands, where in 2019 they made up 88 per cent of all goods exports, but also for Antigua and Barbuda (47 per cent), and Saint Kitts and Nevis (17 per cent). Ten other SIDS also have a comparative advantage for exports of ships and boats. In Dominica, 42 per cent of merchandise exports consist of soaps, cleansing and polishing preparations. (UNCTAD, 2021a)

## Commodity prices driving the trade bill

Dependence on commodities for exports is a source of trade vulnerability and is associated with slower economic growth over time. According to a definition previously used by UNCTAD an economy is considered commodity dependent when 60 per cent of its exports in goods are primary commodities. This puts the majority of SIDS in this category. One of the vulnerabilities is exposure to commodity price volatility (UNCTAD, 2019).

As can be seen from figure 3, the evolution of international merchandise trade in value and that of commodity prices are related. Movements in one variable can be predicted from changes in the other and both are related to global economic activity (Cantu, 2018). Global economic activity is thought to be a driving factor for commodity prices (Delle Chiaie et al., 2017). Demand for commodities is more elastic than their supply which means that a decrease in commodity prices not only reduces the unit value of commodity exports but often

reflects a reduced volume demand for the commodity (Mont'Alverne Duarte et al., 2021). Given that SIDS' exports are heavily geared toward primary commodities, these relationships help explain the pattern in figure 3 where SIDS exports over the last 15 years more closely follow the movements of commodity prices than either the SIDS imports or the World exports do.

The correlation coefficients in table 1 confirm that commodity prices are an important determinant of the development of SIDS' earnings from exports, especially for those SIDS highly specialized on a particular commodity. The value of SIDS' imports, although seldomly dominated by a single commodity group, are in many cases even more strongly affected by commodity price fluctuations than exports.

 **Table 1. Correlation between changes in commodity prices and changes in SIDS' external trade, 2009-2019**

Commodity group	Share in merchandise imports/ exports (2018-2019)	Imports		Exports	
		Number of SIDS	Correlation coefficient <sup>1</sup>	Number of SIDS	Correlation coefficient <sup>2</sup>
Food	Less than 50%	28	0.61	14	0.68
	50% or higher	-	/	14	0.50
Agricultural raw materials	Less than 50%	28	0.41	27	0.24
	50% or higher	-	/	1	0.76
Fuels	Less than 50%	28	0.66	27	0.50
	50% or higher	-	/	1	0.88
Minerals, ores, metals	Less than 50%	28	0.44	27	0.32
	50% or higher	-	/	1	0.91

Source: UNCTAD (2021a).

Notes:

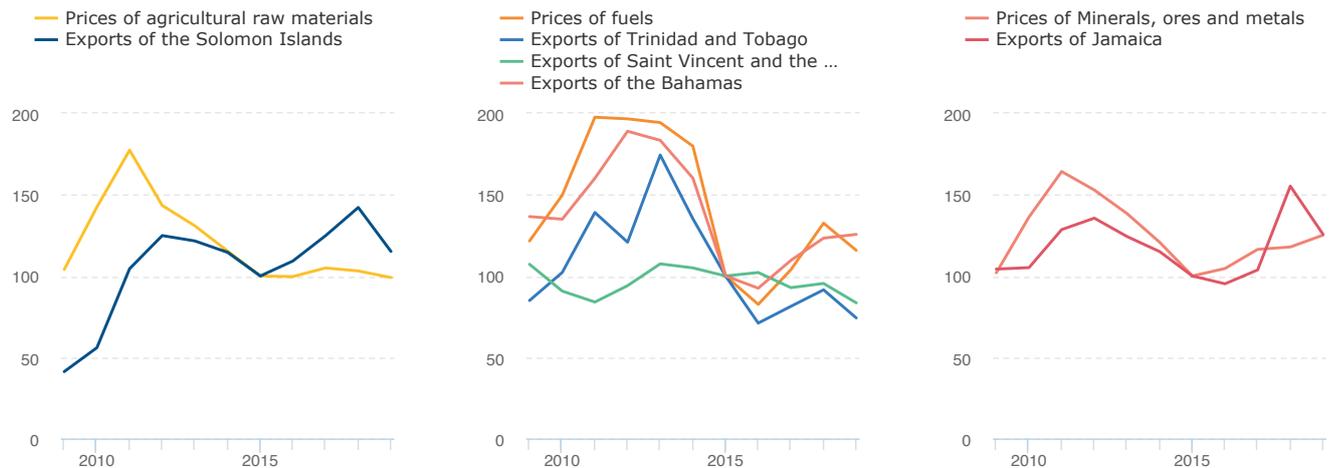
1. Median correlation coefficient between the annual percentage change of commodity prices and the annual percentage change of merchandise imports (based on 3-year averages).
2. Median correlation coefficient between the annual percentage change of commodity prices and the annual percentage change of merchandise exports (based on 3-year averages).

The SIDS with 50 % or more of their merchandise exports in a given commodity group are for food: Cabo Verde, Comoros, Fiji, Grenada, Kiribati, Maldives, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Samoa, Sao tome and Principe, Seychelles, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu; for agricultural raw materials: Solomon Islands; for fuels: Trinidad and Tobago; and for minerals ores and metals: Jamaica.

Figure 7 depicts the impact of changes in prices of specific commodity groups on total merchandise exports of the SIDS that are highly specialized on those commodities, over the last 15 years.


**Figure 7. Commodity prices and merchandise exports of highly specialized SIDS**

(2015=100)



Source: UNCTAD (2021a).

In the Solomon Islands, a country with high exports of wood (see above), an initial surge of merchandise exports came to a halt in 2011 when the prices of agricultural raw materials started declining. The exports of the Bahamas and, to a lesser extent, of Trinidad and Tobago, both primarily export oil or gas, corresponded closely with the upswings of fuel prices from 2009 to 2011 and from 2016 to 2018 as well as their downswing from 2014 to 2016, whereas the exports of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remained almost unaffected by those fluctuations, according to the reported data. The exports of Timor-Leste, another mainly oil exporting SIDS, showed an atypical development, not shown in the figure, due to rocketing oil exports to Singapore and China in recent years. The cyclical movements of the prices of minerals, ores and metals – which strongly resembled the movements of prices of fuels and of the UCPI as a whole – were led to almost simultaneous ups and downs of the Jamaican merchandise exports.



## References

- Cantu F (2018). Estimation of a coincident indicator for international trade and global economic activity. UNCTAD Research Paper No. 27.
- Delle Chiaie S, Ferrara L and Giannone D (2017). Common factors of commodity prices. European Central Bank Working Paper Series No. 2112.
- Mont'Alverne Duarte A, Gaglianone WP, de Carvalho Guillén OT and Issler JV (2021). Commodity prices and global economic activity: A derived-demand approach. *Energy Economics*. 96105120.
- UNCTAD (2018). UNCTAD Commodity Price Index Methodological Note. UNCTAD/STAT/CPB/MN/1. Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2019). *Commodity Dependence: A Twenty-Year Perspective*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.19.II.D.16. Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2021a). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNCTAD (2021b). COVID-19 implications for commercial contracts. UNCTAD/DTL/TLB/INF/2021/2. Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2021c). UNCTADStat. Revealed comparative advantage. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/RcaRadar.html> (accessed 22 March 2021).
- United Nations (1990). *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 3*. Statistical papers, Vol. M, No. 4. United Nations. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2008). *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 4*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.08.XVII.25. New York, NY.

# SIDS in the shipping universe: trade-related challenges

## How do SIDS participate in the maritime global supply chain?

Maritime transport is a globalized industry, but countries specialize in different parts of the maritime supply chain. Policy makers have an interest in identifying maritime businesses where their countries participate or might participate in the future to design policies that can contribute to developing their service capabilities.

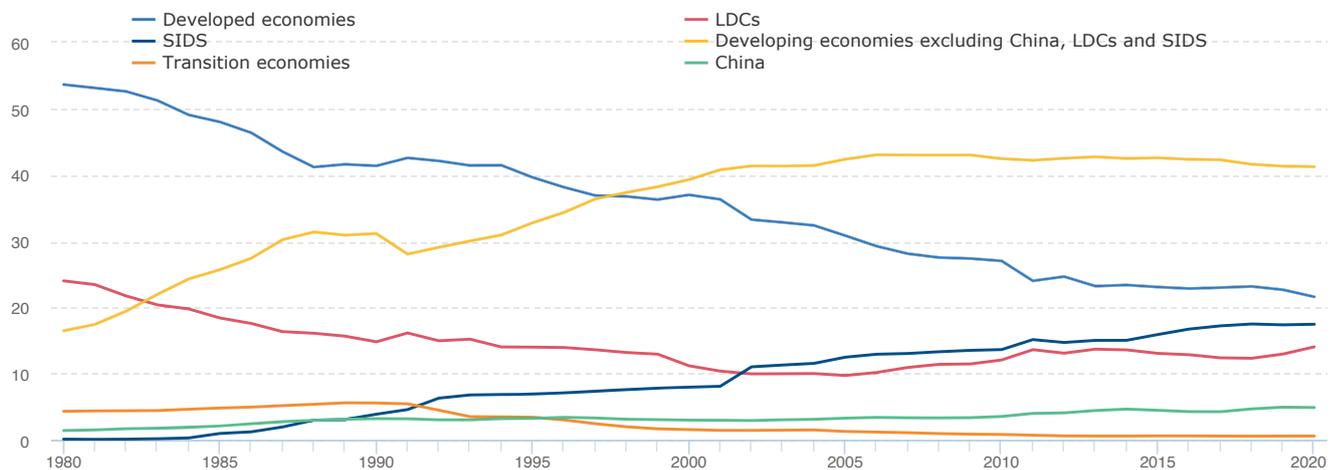
SIDS represented 17.5 per cent of global ship registrations as of 1 January 2020, only slightly behind the combined share of developed economies (21.6 per cent). SIDS have been gaining prominence in this maritime business since 1980, surpassing transition economies and LDCs (see figure 1). Given that the fixed costs of running a vessel registry are mostly independent of the size of an economy, small states can be competitive in this specific business.

**SIDS account for 17.5% of global ship registrations,**

**compared with 21.6% for developed economies and 41% for the rest of developing economies**



**Figure 1. Merchant fleet by flag of registration, selected groupings**  
(Percentage of world total)



Source: UNCTAD calculation, based on data from Clarksons (2021) and UNCTAD (2021).

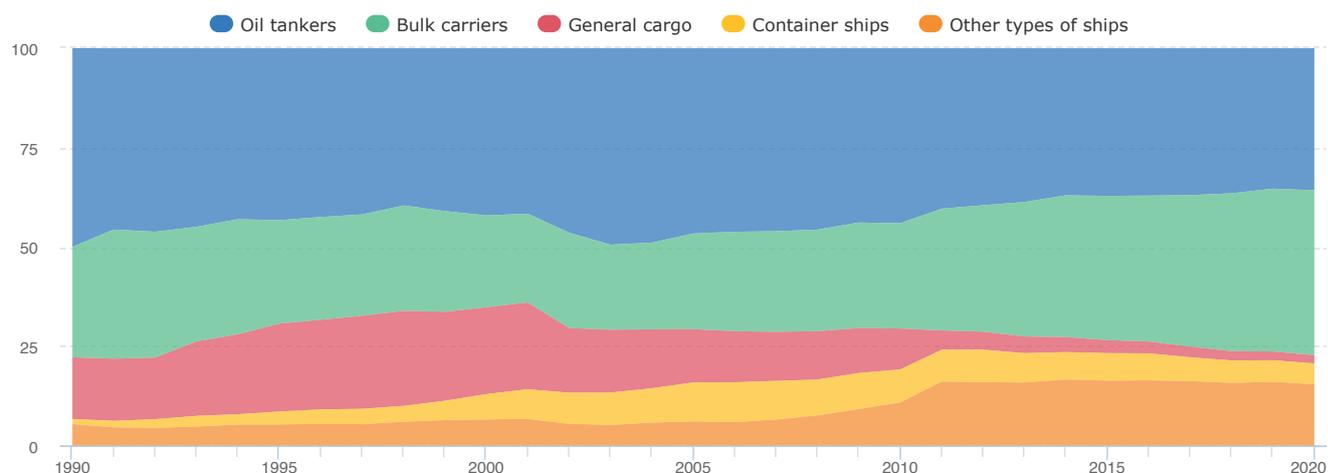
The Marshall Islands and the Bahamas are global leaders in maritime registrations, representing 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> place among economies ranked by dead-weight tonnage (UNCTAD, 2020a, 2021), accounting for 12.7 and 3.8 per cent of the registered tonnage globally. Bermuda ranked 28th, representing 0.35 per cent.



**The Marshall Islands and the Bahamas, 3rd and 8th in the global ranking of most ships' registrations**

Over time, and in line with trends observed in the composition of the world fleet since 1980, more bulk carriers, container ships and other types of ships are registered in SIDS in contrast with oil tankers and general cargo ships (see figure 2). This trend is linked to a decline in oil consumption in many consumer countries, rapid developments in manufacturing trade, development of global supply chains and the shift from general cargo to container shipping (UNCTAD, 2018).

**Figure 2. Merchant fleet registered in SIDS, by type of ship**  
(Percentage of total)

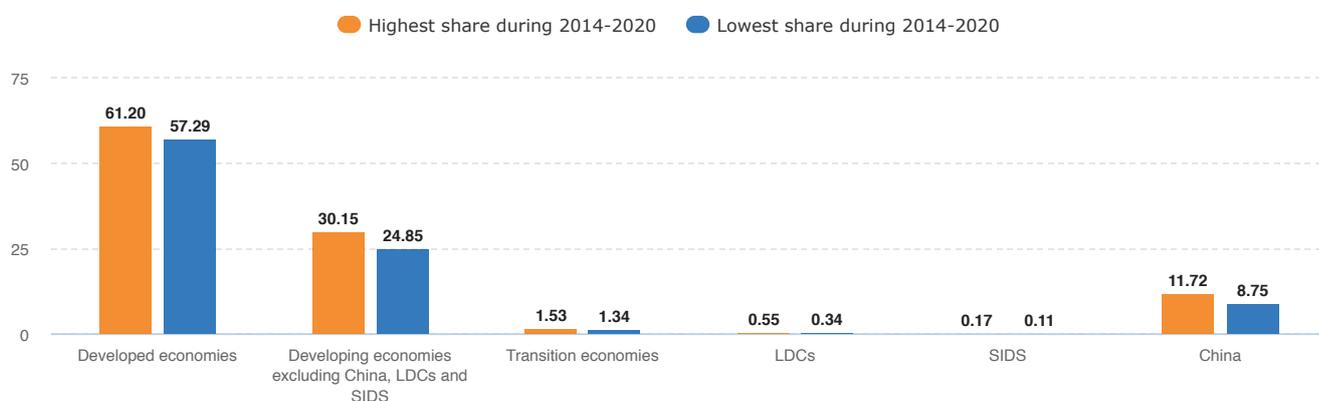


Source: UNCTAD calculation, based on data from Clarksons (2021) and UNCTAD (2021).

SIDS accounted for 21.3 per cent of the US\$ value of registered global tonnage in 2019 and 21.0 per cent in 2020. In 2020, the Marshall Islands occupied 2nd place in the ranking of leading flags of registration by value and the Bahamas fourth place, with shares of 11 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively. Oil tankers and bulk carriers represented the highest proportion of the value of the fleet registered in the Marshall Islands, whereas for the Bahamas, it was ferries and passenger ships and offshore vessels (UNCTAD, 2020a, 2021).

SIDS' participation in global shipbuilding, ship ownership and ship recycling industries, on the other hand, is negligible compared to other country groupings. Figure 3 illustrates the case of ship ownership.

**Figure 3. Participation of selected country groupings in the ship ownership business**  
(Percentage of global ship ownership)



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

Originally, the decision of ship owners to register their ships in a different country was motivated by lower operational costs through the recruitment of foreign labour, reduction of registration and tax-related costs, at times lower compliance with environmental standards and avoiding political restrictions. Today, other factors are becoming increasingly important for the competitiveness of open registries. These include efficiency, certifications, supportive financial and logistic services and the presence of a cybersecurity framework (UNCTAD, 2019).

Most registries outsource important areas of these services, which allows them to remain competitive, even if those services are not necessarily available at home. At the same time, outsourcing some of these services to foreign companies located abroad also limits the financial and employment benefits that can be retained by the host countries. If key services provided by the registry are outsourced, this also introduces challenges for government policies regarding – for example – decarbonization measures in shipping and the representation of the country's interests at intergovernmental organizations, such as, the IMO. In other words, governments need to ensure that ships flying their country's flag follow government decisions, and not the other way round.

## SIDS' low shipping connectivity and high transport costs

A country's position in liner shipping networks has far-reaching implications for trade. For instance, lacking a direct maritime connection is statistically associated with 40 per cent lower bilateral exports (Fugazza and Hoffman, 2017). Out of the world's 50 least connected economies, 29 are SIDS (see UN-OHRLLS, 2021). Some SIDS are among those with the longest ship turnaround times and lowest service frequencies (UNCTAD, 2019). SIDS' marginalization from global transport networks is also associated with higher transport costs compared to other economic groupings (UNCTAD, 2015, 2017), making their trade uncompetitive and costly.

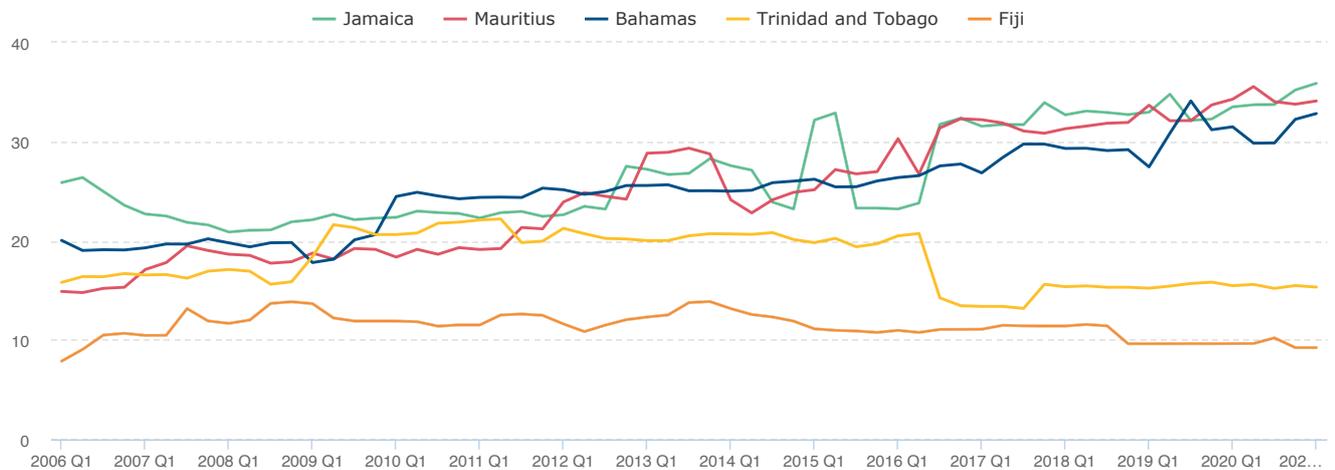
This situation stems mainly from diseconomies of scale and low levels of competition. Corporate strategies of concentrating cargo in bigger ships and using fewer ports makes it challenging for SIDS' ports to attract services due to their low cargo volumes, which is linked to low trade volumes, narrow export base and lack of a wider hinterland, their geographic position, as well as port equipment and infrastructure gaps. As a result, few service providers operate in SIDS and traders face limited shipping choices and higher freight costs.

## Liner shipping connectivity - The place of SIDS in the shipping universe

Although a few SIDS, such as Jamaica, Mauritius and Bahamas have successfully increased their levels of connectivity over the past 14 years, most SIDS have maintained low shipping connectivity, with declining or stagnating connectivity performance over this period (see Figure 4 and 5).

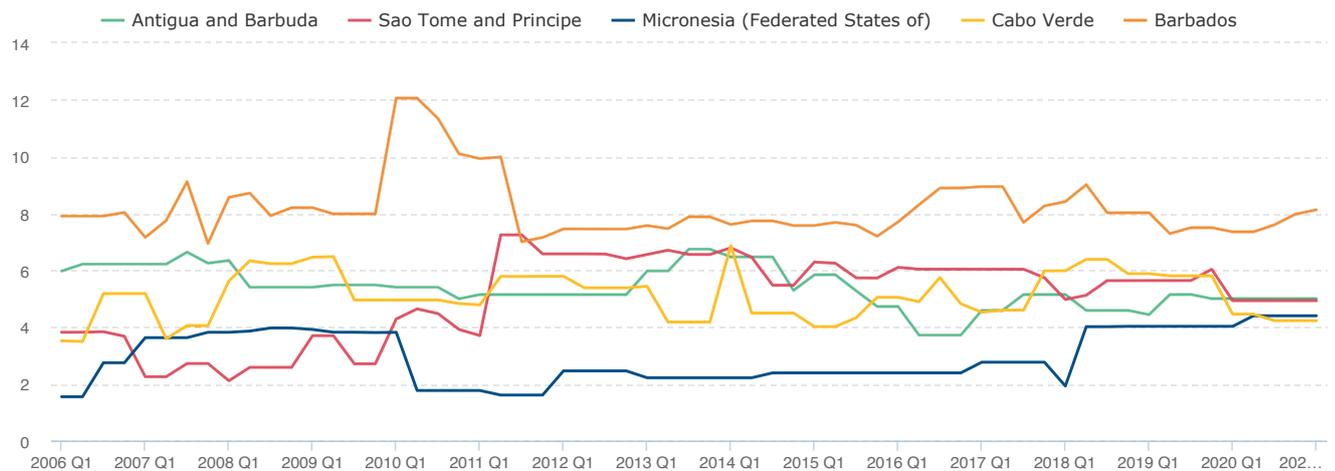


**Figure 4. Liner shipping connectivity, top-5 SIDS**  
(Index China 2006 Q1=100)



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

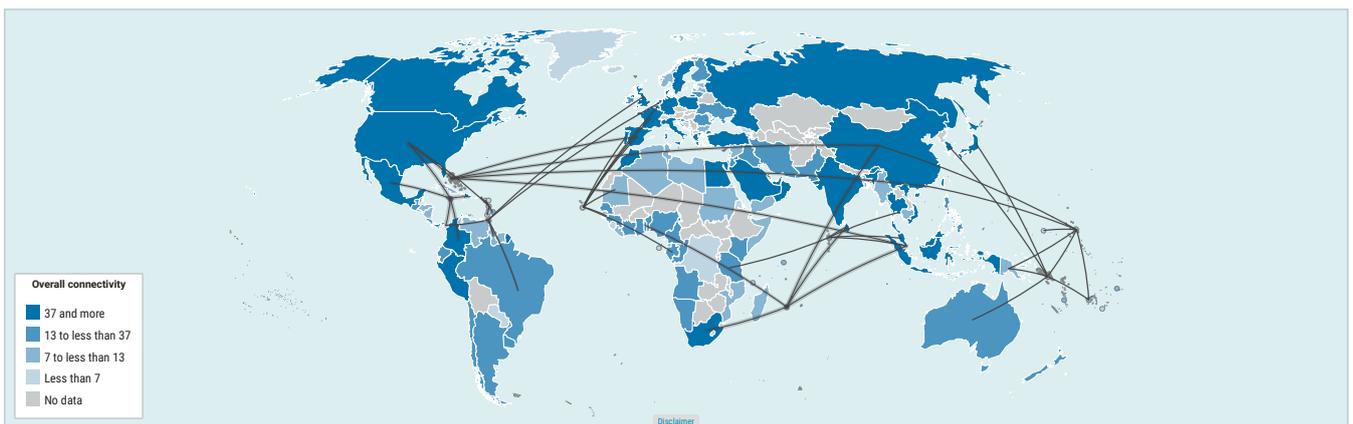
**Figure 5. Liner shipping connectivity index, selected SIDS**



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

A review of the LSBCI for selected SIDS shows that they are most connected with regional feeder hubs, transshipment hubs and, in some cases, top trading partners (see map 1).

**Map 1. LSBCI for selected SIDS, top-5 partners, 2019**



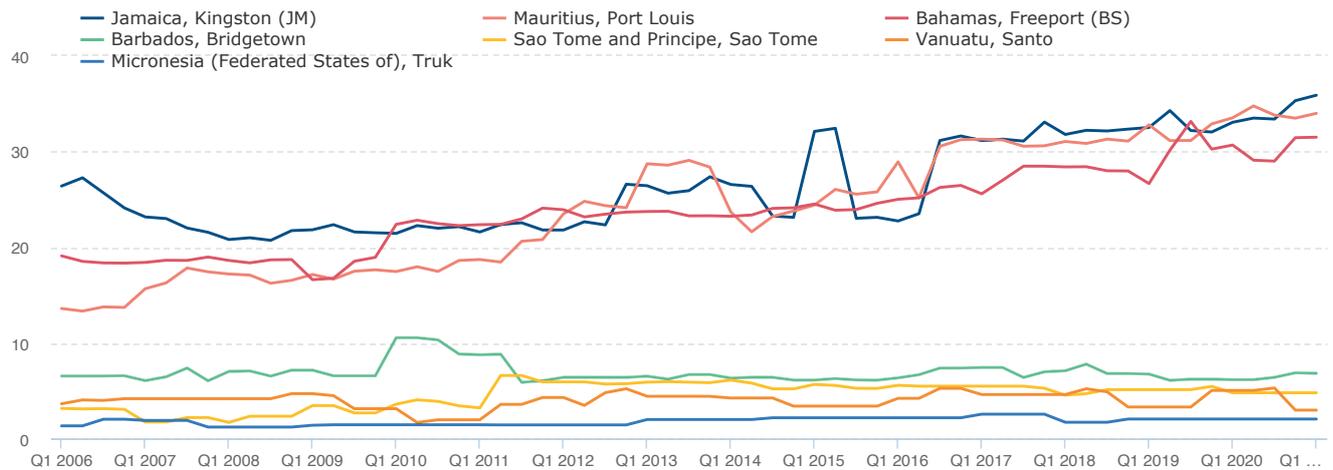
Source: UNCTAD (2021) and UNCTAD Maritime Profiles.

Note: The overall connectivity has China in Q1 2006 = 100. The bilateral connectivity index ranges between 0 and 1.

## SIDS have fewer operators and port calls

In the first quarter of 2021, the top-3 best connected SIDS ports were Kingston (Jamaica), Caucedo (Dominican Republic) and Port Louis (Mauritius), and the least connected ports were Port Mathurin (Mauritius), Palmeira (Cabo Verde) and Luganville (Vanuatu). Caribbean ports feature prominently among the best connected SIDS ports, as per the port LSCI (first quarter 2021) whereas most of SIDS less connected ports are in the Pacific. Connectivity can vary significantly among ports within a single country, as in the case of Mauritius, which has one of both the best and one of the least connected SIDS ports (Port Louis and Port Mathurin). (See figure 6.)

**Figure 6. Port liner shipping connectivity, selected SIDS ports**  
(Index China 2006 Q1=100)



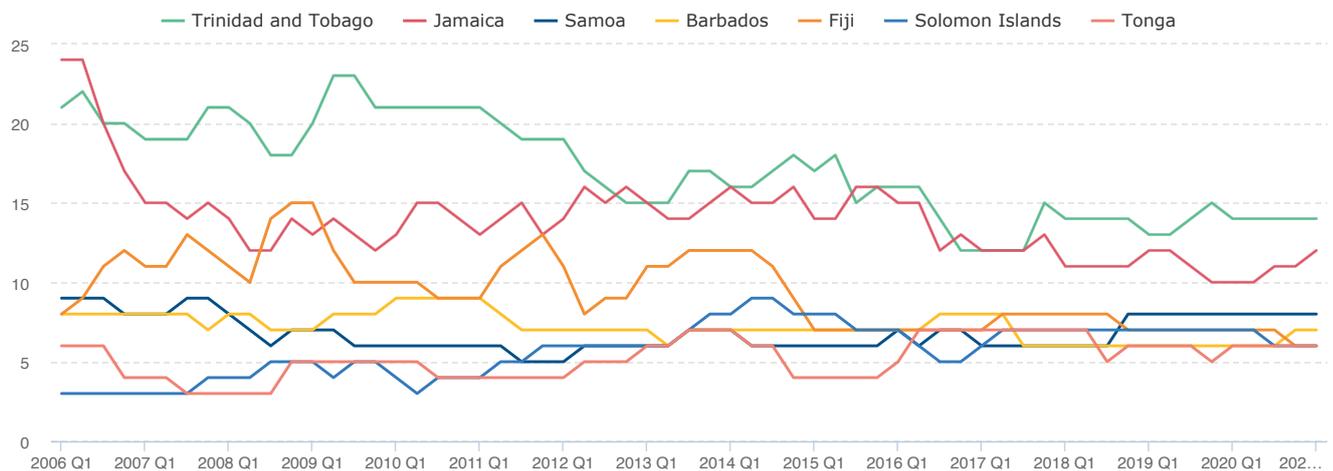
Source: UNCTAD (2021).

**Few services providers operate in SIDS and their number is decreasing in many SIDS**



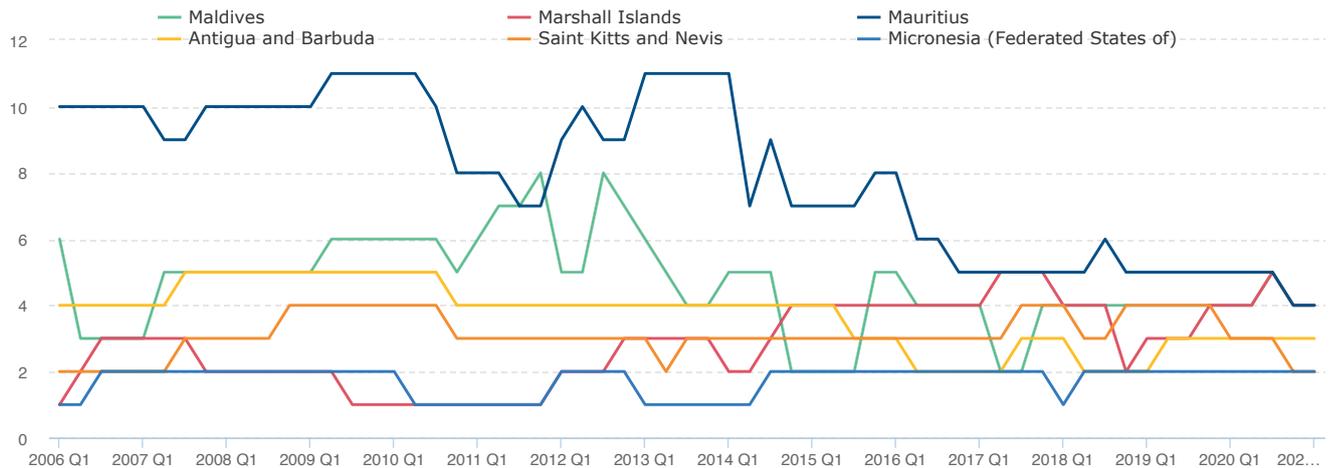
A more in-depth look at one of the components of the LSCI, the number of companies providing shipping services, which is an indicator of the level competition, reveals that several SIDS had more companies providing shipping services in the first quarter of 2016 than they do in 2021, as illustrated with the case of Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda and Mauritius in figures 7 and 8. Some, like in the cases of the Federated States of Micronesia and Saint Kitts and Nevis, have maintained the same, albeit very low, number of operators throughout the period. In rare cases, like the Marshall Islands, the number has increased. (See figures 7 and 8.)

**Figure 7. Number of operators providing container shipping services, SIDS with more operators**



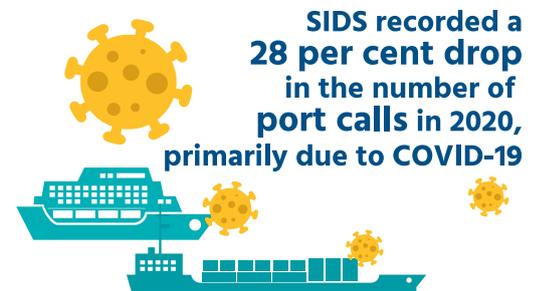
Source: UNCTAD secretariat calculations, based on data from MDS Transmodal.

**Figure 8. Number of operators providing container shipping services, selected SIDS**

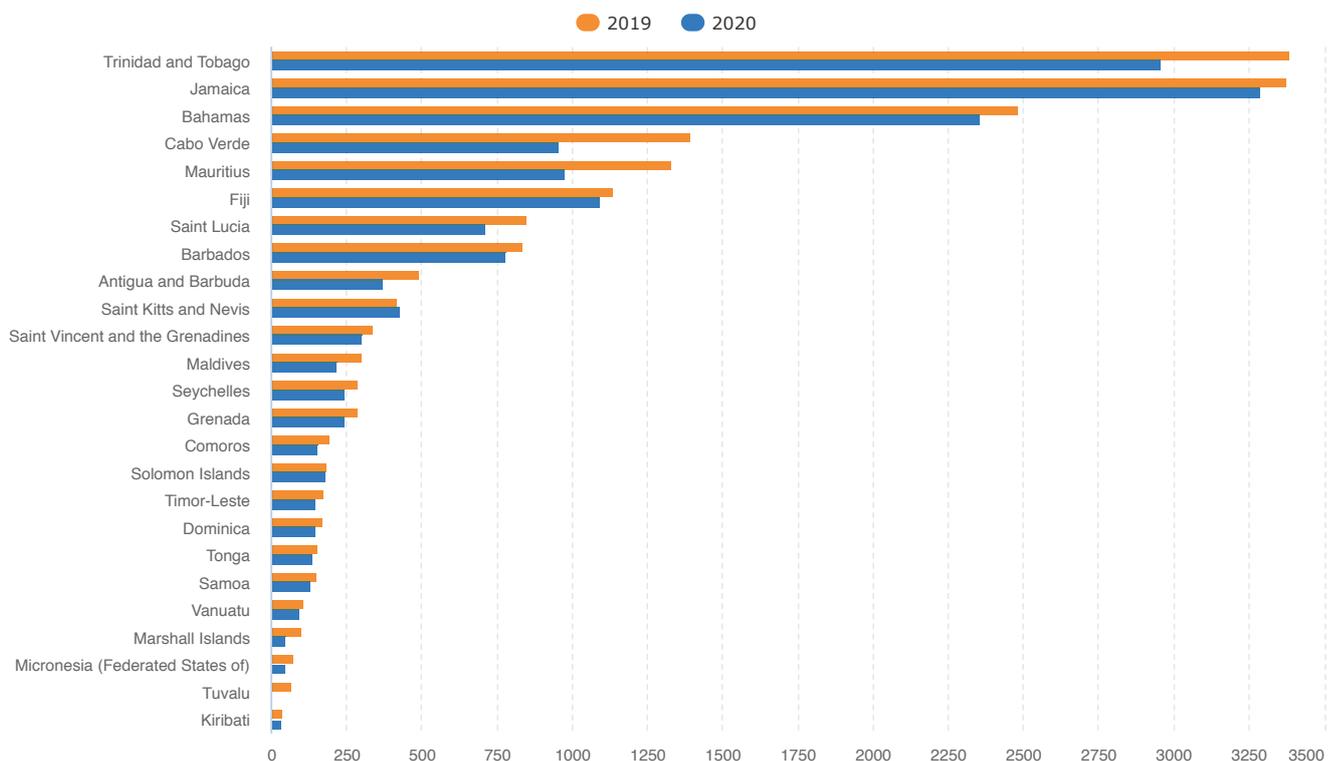


Source: UNCTAD secretariat calculations, based on data from MDS Transmodal.

COVID-19 has had a severe impact on port calls. The number of ships calling at SIDS ports in 2020 compared to 2019 declined by 28.3 percent. If passenger ships are excluded, the number of port calls declined by 12.5 per cent (see figure 9). During the pandemic, many SIDS introduced measures affecting ship arrivals, such as, bans of certain ships, varying periods of quarantine, only allowing access to ships depending on where they came from and on their period at sea and interisland transport restrictions. The strategies adopted by shipping lines to adjust their shipping supply capacity in reaction to the lower demand during the pandemic resulted in temporarily suspending or blank sailing one third of ship calls in SIDS during the first half of 2020. The result was reductions in cargo throughput, ship diversions, and cuts in the number of port calls. SIDS recorded a 20 per cent drop in port calls in the second quarter of 2020 compared with the same quarter in 2019, and thus were among the countries that were most affected. (UNCTAD, 2020b)



**Figure 9. Number of SIDS' port calls, excluding passenger ships**



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

The decline in SIDS's port calls varied by ship types. The highest declines in 2020, compared to 2019, included passenger ships (-49.1 per cent), dry bulk carriers (-30.0 per cent), LNG carriers (-21.9 per cent), breakbulk carriers (-20.1 per cent) and LPG carriers (-16.4 per cent). Semi-annual data show variations in patterns among ship types: dry bulk carriers and breakbulk carriers port calls declined most comparing the first semester of 2020 with 2019, whereas passenger ships and LNG carriers were most affected comparing the second semester of 2020 with 2019.

On average, SIDS pay twice as much for the international transport of their imports as developed countries. As shown above, they are also confronted with far lower shipping connectivity than other countries. This situation leads to a vicious cycle, where low trade volumes lead to high trade costs, and high trade costs makes trading uncompetitive. This in turn leads to diseconomies of scale and infrequent transport services, further increasing trade costs.

### The pandemic exposed SIDS' heavy reliance on shipping



The disruption caused by the pandemic created an additional challenge, exposing the heavy dependence of most SIDS on maritime transport for their livelihood and access to the global market. During the first half of 2020, COVID-19 affected SIDS essentially in terms of deployed capacity and direct calls (UNCTAD, 2020b). It will be important to ascertain whether the observed negative trend is long-lasting or temporary. As shipping is the main lifeline for these island countries, it is crucial that developments

shaping the port calls and connectivity patterns of these islands are closely monitored and that the liner shipping connectivity of SIDS, which is already relatively low, not be further reduced.

### References

- Clarksons (2021). Clarksons Research. Available at <https://www.clarksons.com/services/research/>.
- Fugazza M and Hoffman J (2017). Liner shipping connectivity as determinant of trade. *Journal of Shipping and Trade*. 2(1):.
- Marine Insight (2021). What is blank sailing. Available at <https://www.marineinsight.com/maritime-law/what-is-blank-sailing/> (accessed 19 March 2021).
- OECD (2020). Glossary of statistical terms. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/index.htm> (accessed 11 May 2020).
- UN DESA (2021). Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category.html> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- UNCTAD (2015). *Review of Maritime Transport 2015*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.15.II.D.6. New York and Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2017). *Review of Maritime Transport 2017*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.17.II.D.10. New York and Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2018). *50 Years of the Review of Maritime Transport, 1968-2018: Reflecting on the Past, Exploring the Future*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.18.II.D.6. New York and Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2019). *Review of Maritime Transport 2019*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.19.II.D.20. New York and Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2020a). *Review of Maritime Transport 2020*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.20.II.D.31. New York and Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2020b). COVID-19 and maritime transport: impact and responses. UNCTAD/DTL/TLB/INF/2020/1. Geneva. Available at <https://unctad.org/webflyer/covid-19-and-maritime-transport-impact-and-responses> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- United Nations (1990). *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 3*. Statistical papers, Vol. M, No. 4. United Nations. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2008). *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 4*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.08.XVII.25. New York, NY.
- Universal Cargo (2021). Blank sailing. Available at <https://www.universalcargo.com/what-is-blank-sailing/> (accessed 19 March 2021).
- UN-OHRLLS (2021). UN-OHRLLS list of Small Islands Developing States (SIDS). Available at <https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/list-sids> (accessed 19 March 2021).

# Trade in services

SIDS are highly dependent on travel exports for their international trade and employment. Consequently, they are very exposed to the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is estimated that it could take up to four years for international tourism to recover to levels observed in 2019 (see [Tourism](#)).

**47%**  
of overall SIDS' exports consist of travel services



## Services are crucial for SIDS

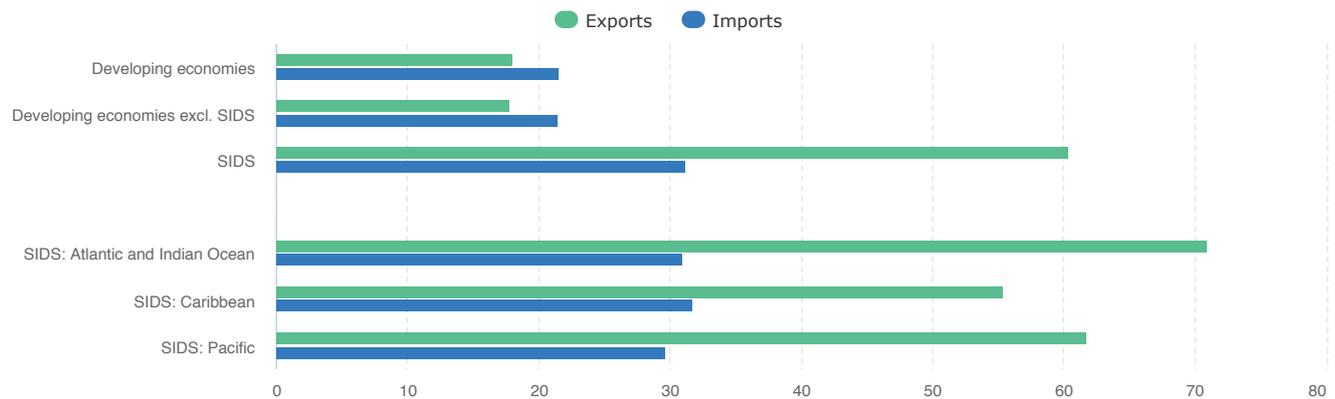


Services exports represented **25%** of SIDS' GDP

In 2019, SIDS exported US\$26 billion worth of services, of which US\$20 billion were travel services. Services exports accounted for 25 per cent of GDP of the group. Additionally, they represented 60 per cent of SIDS' total exports of both goods and services. For comparison, in other developing economies, services cover some 18 per cent of all exports.

SIDS' imports of services, relative to their total imports, were also higher than in other developing economies. For imports, however, the difference was less striking: in 2019, services represented 31 per cent of the SIDS' total imports of goods and services, compared with 21 per cent for the rest of the developing world. Services trade is critical for SIDS, not only because of services' high share in GDP, but also because the services sector holds many beneficial linkages to other productive activities within countries. Moreover, services trade facilitates connections with the globalized world.

**Figure 1. Share of services trade in total trade in goods and services, 2019**  
(Percentage)



Source: UNCTAD (2020).

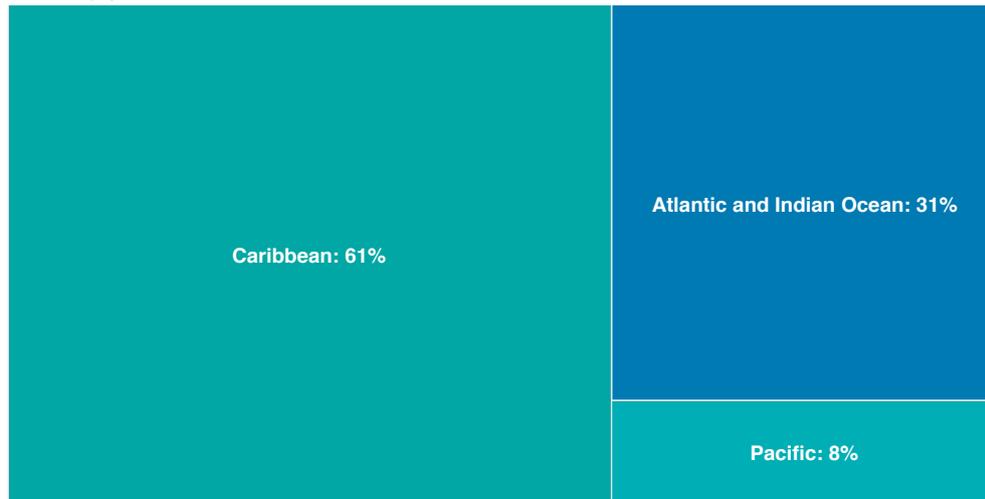
Note: The Marshall Islands and Palau are not included.

The contribution of SIDS to global services trade is predictably low, accounting for only 0.4 per cent in 2019, slightly below the 0.6 per cent recorded in 1980 - one of the first years with comparable services trade statistics. In 2019, SIDS captured 1.4 per cent of the international travel market, with their share of travel exports worth US\$20 billion. Caribbean SIDS attracted most receipts from foreign travellers: 61 per cent of SIDS' total. Another 31 per cent were exported by Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS and the remaining 8 per cent by the Pacific SIDS. (UNCTAD, 2020)

**Only 8%** of SIDS' travel exports originate in the Pacific



 **Figure 2. Share of SIDS' travel services exports by region, 2019**  
(Percentage)



Source: UNCTAD (2020).

Note: The Marshall Islands and Palau are not included.

**Top 3 SIDS' services exporters account for almost half of the total for SIDS**



The leading SIDS services exporters in 2019 were Jamaica (US\$4.3 billion), Bahamas (US\$4.1 billion), and Maldives (US\$3.2 billion). Together, these three states supplied 46 per cent of total services and over 50 per cent of travel services sold by SIDS to foreign residents (UNCTAD, 2020).

## Increasing dependence on travel services for exports

In 1980, travel had accounted for 63 per cent of SIDS' services exports. By 2010, the share had increased to 70 and in 2019 to 78 per cent. In contrast, in developing economies as a group, the share of travel in services exports decreased from 34 per cent in 1980 to 31 per cent in 1995 and has since remained constant.

*Have travel services exports grown faster in SIDS than in other developing economies since 1980?* UNCTAD statistics indicate that they have not. Travel receipts in SIDS increased at an average annual rate of 6.3 per cent, compared with 9.4 per cent in the rest of the developing world. The figures reveal that, since 1980, SIDS' travel exports have been less dynamic than in the developing countries overall and that economic growth in SIDS has nevertheless become more dependent on travel services, as their share in total services exports has increased. Such a development exposes SIDS to more economic risk. Travel contributes significantly to GDP in many SIDS, and particularly so in Maldives, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia and Grenada, countries in which international travel receipts accounted for about half of GDP in 2019.

**70% drop in travel exports estimated for SIDS in 2020**



**35% is the median percentage of tourism related employment in SIDS**



**Tourism industries supply almost 2/3 of all jobs in the Maldives and Saint Lucia**



Given the severe decline in international travel exports in 2020 - estimated at 70 per cent for remote island states<sup>1</sup> - SIDS' services exports and related economic activity could suffer severely from the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. For illustration, the median share of tourism related employment in SIDS stood at 35 per cent in 2019, according to WTTC (2020). In some countries, such as Maldives and Saint Lucia, tourism supplied jobs for almost two thirds of the employed. The loss of international travel receipts in 2020 may shake many SIDS' economies (UNCTAD, 2020).

 **Table 1. Total services and travel exports of SIDS, 2019**

(Ranked by percentage of travel exports in GDP)

SIDS	Total services exports (US\$ millions)	Travel exports (US\$ millions)	Travel exports in GDP (Percentage)
Maldives	3 421	3 152	55.5
Antigua and Barbuda	1 157	919	53.0
Saint Lucia	1 103	1 012	51.3
Grenada	650	587	48.2
Saint Kitts and Nevis	587	378	36.4
Vanuatu (e)	489	318	35.1
Seychelles	1 123	590	35.1
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	291	249	29.7
Bahamas	4 094	3 747	29.5
Cabo Verde	742	507	25.4
Samoa	294	210	24.8
Barbados	1 498	1 269	24.0
Jamaica (e)	4 336	3 511	21.9
Dominica	148	118	19.3
Fiji	1 613	962	17.4
Mauritius	2 949	1 779	12.6
Sao Tome and Principe	56	40	9.3
Tonga (e)	88	47	8.8
Comoros (e)	104	73	6.2
Solomon Islands	128	70	5.4
Micronesia (Federated States of) (e)	71	18	4.8
Timor-Leste	92	70	2.7

Source: UNCTAD (2020).

Note: Data not available for Kiribati, the Marshal Islands, Nauru, Palau, Trinidad and Tobago, and Tuvalu.

(e) Estimates

## Trade structure specificities not just in travel

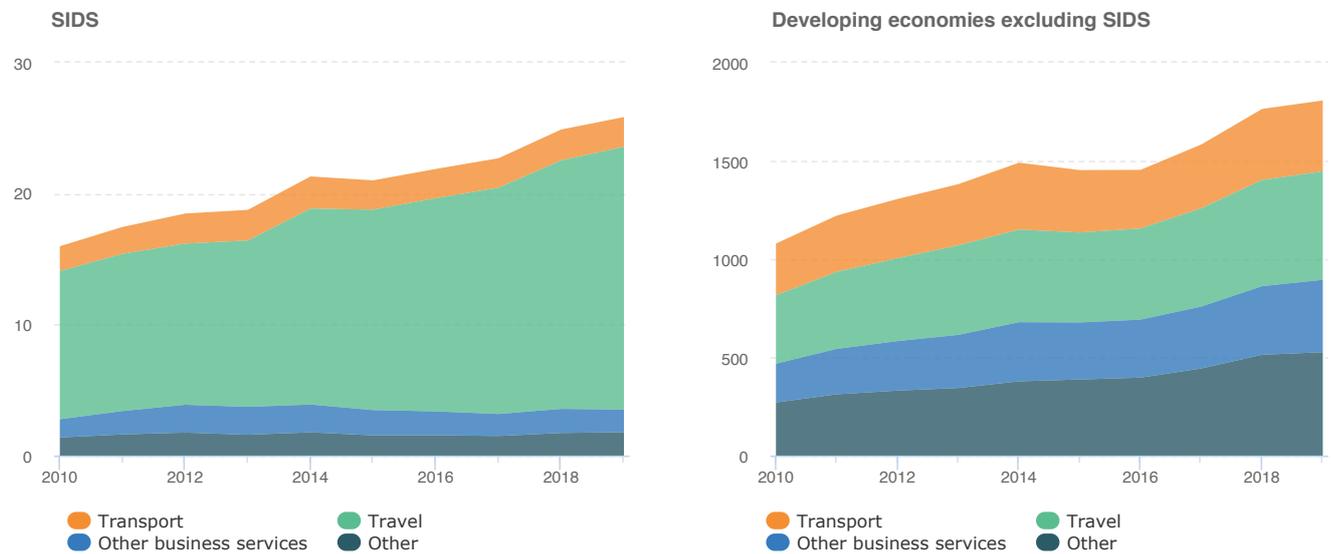
The SIDS' services trade structure, in both imports and exports, reveals the distinctive economic environment of these countries. As mentioned above, the share of travel in SIDS' exports is substantial. On the imports side, in 2019, the share of travel in total services purchased internationally by SIDS was almost two times lower than in the developing world, indicating that SIDS' residents travel abroad less. Besides travel, a few additional services categories stand out in SIDS' imports compared with other developing economies.

The share of transport imports was some 3 per cent higher in 2019 in SIDS compared with the rest of developing economies. This is in alignment with the finding that transport is relatively more expensive for island states, especially for those distant from continental coasts (UNCTAD, 2014). The purchases of other business services – among them mainly professional and management consulting, technical and trade-related services – represented a significantly higher share in SIDS' imports than in those of other developing economies: 30 per cent versus 18 per cent, respectively. In 2019, other business services sold from SIDS abroad accounted for only 7 per cent of total services exported, one third of the share in the developing world. Insurance services' imports also figure among trade structure specificities of SIDS,

although with a lesser disparity. They represented a higher proportion of total SIDS' services imports, compared with other developing economies, notably in Caribbean SIDS: 8 per cent versus 5 per cent for developing countries. The figures for telecommunications, computer, information, and financial services indicate that these categories represent lower shares in the international services transactions of SIDS compared with other developing economies as a group (UNCTAD, 2020).

**Figure 3. Services exports structure in SIDS and developing economies excl. SIDS**

(US\$ billions)



Source: UNCTAD (2020).

Note: The Marshall Islands and Palau are not included.

## Notes

1. Based on statistics available for: Bahamas, Cabo Verde, Fiji, Jamaica, Kiribati, Mauritius, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, and Vanuatu.

## References

- IMF (2009). *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual Sixth Edition (BPM6)*. IMF. Washington, D.C.
- UNCTAD (2014). *Closing the Distance: Partnerships for Sustainable and Resilient Transport Systems in SIDS*. UNCTAD/DTL/TLB/2014/2. New York and Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2020). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- United Nations (2010). *International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics: 2008*. United Nations. New York, NY.
- WTTC (2020). Economic Impact Reports. Available at <https://wtcc.org/Research/Economic-Impact> (accessed 5 November 2020).

# Tourism

## Increasing importance of tourism for SIDS' economies

Over the last 20 years, international tourism has increased notably, both globally and in most regions of the world. Global international tourist arrivals have more than doubled between 2000 and 2019, and almost doubled for SIDS. During the same period, global international tourism expenditure has tripled. For SIDS, the increase was almost the same. These trends represent an average annual growth of 4.2 per cent in international tourist arrivals, and almost 6 per cent in international tourism expenditure. The figures for SIDS are 3.4 per cent and 6 per cent annual growth, respectively.

### International tourism to SIDS



**almost doubled from 2000**

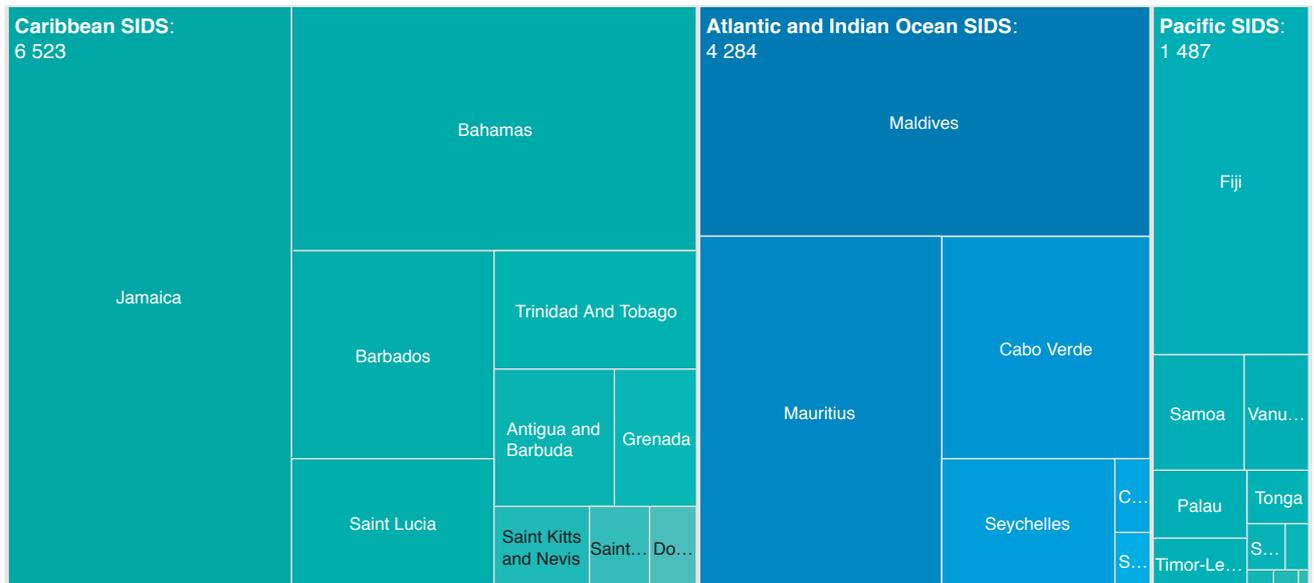
### The Caribbean accounts for half of SIDS' international tourism arrivals



In 2019, the Caribbean SIDS accounted for over half of international tourism arrivals in SIDS, the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS for one third, and the Pacific SIDS the rest (12 per cent). Jamaica was the top SIDS destination for international tourist arrivals in 2019 with 2.7 million arrivals, followed by Maldives (1.7 million) and the Bahamas (1.6 million, data for 2018). Each of these three economies alone received more international tourists than Pacific SIDS altogether. The number of arrivals also exceeded one million in Mauritius (1.4 million).

**Figure 1. International tourist arrivals in SIDS, distribution by region and economy, 2019**

(Thousands of US\$)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNWTO (2021a).

Note: Data refer to 2018 for Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Sao Tome and Principe, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles and Tonga; 2017 for Tuvalu. No data for Nauru.

Tourism has large multiplier effects on countries' economies, as it promotes growth and employment across several related sectors, such as transportation, hotels and restaurants, retail trade, financial services, and cultural services. It can also attract domestic and foreign investment and promote the development of the private sector in general.

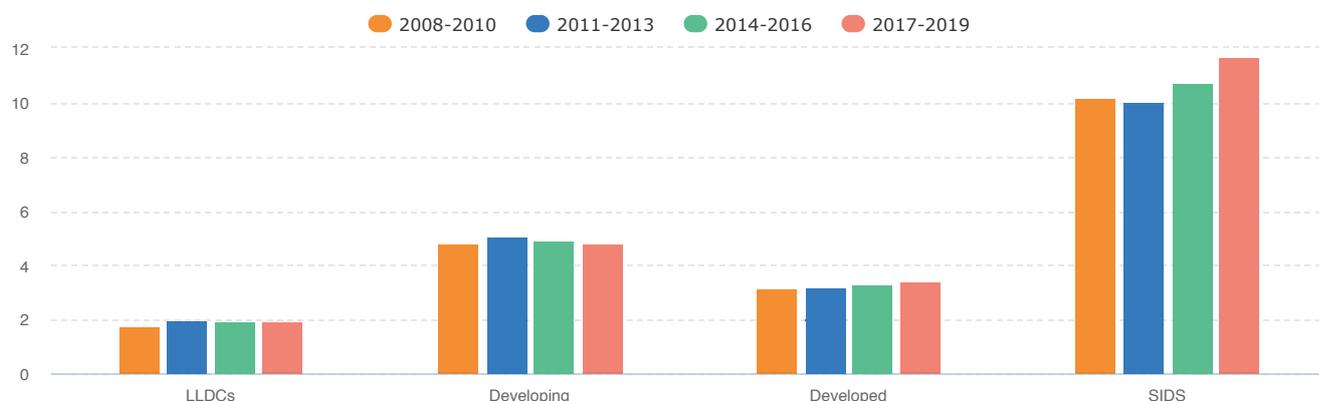
Figure 2 shows that, on average, tourism contributes to the economy at comparable rates in developing and developed economies. However, for SIDS, tourism is a particularly important sector. Between 2017 and 2019, it accounted for, on average,

### Notable share of SIDS' GDP comes from tourism



11.7 per cent of SIDS' GDP, compared to 1.9 per cent in LLDCs. The contribution of tourism to the island economies has increased over time.

**Figure 2. Direct contribution of tourism to GDP by economy group, average (SDG 8.9.1)**  
(Percentage of total GDP, three-year average)



Source: UNWTO (2021a).

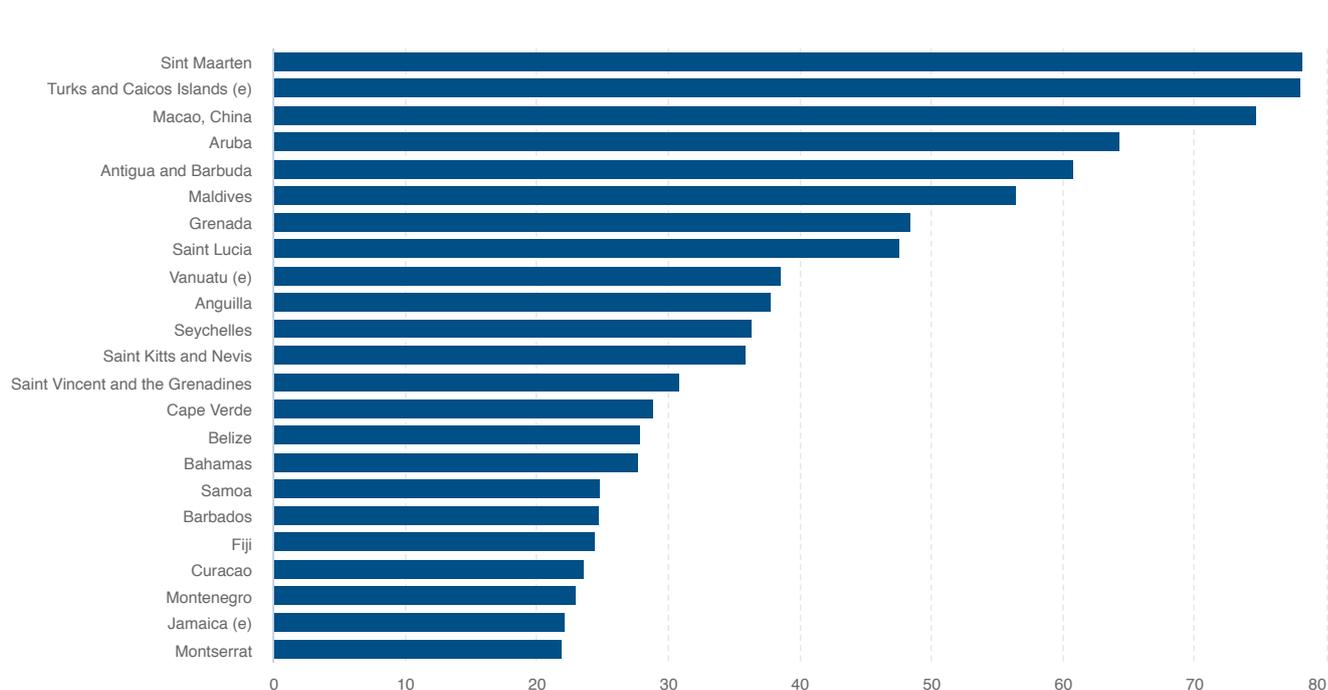
Note: Averages include only economies with available data. Data cover approximately 40 per cent of SIDS' total GDP, and about 50 per cent of LLDCs' total GDP. The coverage is over 90 per cent for developing economies and 100 per cent for developed economies.

The direct contribution of tourism to GDP varies greatly from one island economy to another, ranging from 0.2 per cent in Timor-Leste in 2018 to 13 per cent in Fiji in 2014. Jamaica and Mauritius reached 9 per cent in 2018.

## Tourism is a crucial source of income for SIDS

Tourism has enormous potential for promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth and is a crucial source of employment and livelihood, especially for SIDS. Figure 3 shows economies in which inbound tourism expenditure represents more than a fifth of GDP. Many of those economies are SIDS.

**Figure 3. Inbound tourism expenditure to GDP in economies where it exceeds 20 per cent, 2019**  
(Percentage)



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

Note: Data correspond to balance of payments statistics' "travel" and "passenger transport" items, which are used as a proxy for international tourism expenditure. Figures not available for the Marshall Islands and Palau.

**Inbound tourism expenditure corresponds to over one quarter of SIDS' GDP** (61 per cent).



Almost all economies for which inbound tourism expenditure represents more than a fifth of GDP are SIDS (see UN-OHRLLS, 2021). The share of inbound tourism expenditure exceeds 60 per cent in the following SIDS: Sint Maarten (78 per cent), Turks and Caicos Islands (78 per cent), Aruba (64 per cent), and Antigua and Barbuda (61 per cent).

 **Map 1. Tourism inbound expenditure per capita**



Source: Calculations based on UNWTO database (inbound tourism expenditure data) and UNPD World Population Prospects (population data). Note: Data corresponds mostly to balance of payments statistics (the "Travel" and "Passenger Transport" credit items), which are used as a proxy for inbound tourism expenditure. SIDS as in UN-OHRLLS (2021)

In absolute terms, tourism inbound expenditure represents a crucial source of income for many SIDS in all regions. Tourism generates over US\$5 000 of income per capita a year in economies like Palau, Maldives and Seychelles in the Indian Ocean, as well as in most Caribbean SIDS. In Curacao and Turks and Caicos, for instance, this value exceeds US\$20 000 per capita, according to latest available data.

For a more comprehensive understanding of the economic effects of tourism, it is worthwhile to complement monetary indicators with other measures, such as employment.

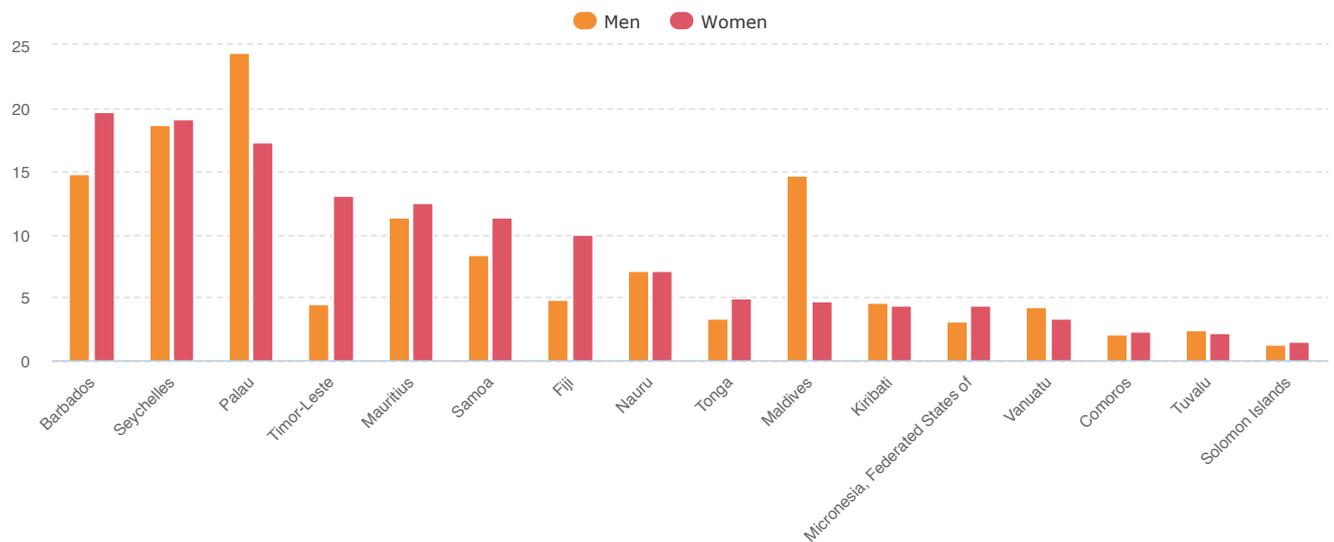
## Tourism is an essential source of jobs and livelihoods for SIDS

Tourism employment has increased substantially over the last twenty years, growing at a much higher rate than the global economy. Data from UNWTO – covering 97 economies – indicate that the number of employees in tourism has shown an average annual increase of more than 2 per cent across roughly 70 per cent of economies. In more than a quarter of economies, tourism employment has grown on average more than 5 per cent each year since 2000.

In SIDS, tourism industries are an important employer (see figure 4). Among SIDS with data, tourism industries' share of total employment was highest in Barbados and Seychelles in 2019. In these two economies every fifth woman worked in tourism directly. The indirect impact of tourism on employment is also large. For instance, shopping is a usual tourist activity, but is not considered in figure 4 due to lack of reliable information on the share of tourism in retail trade.

The pandemic is likely to have had a disproportionate impact on women, since the bulk of the, mostly low-skilled, workers in the SIDS' tourism industry are female. For instance, women account for almost 70 per cent of employment in food and beverage sectors in Kiribati and Tonga, while they are more rarely employed in travel agencies, tour operators and reservation services, representing higher-skilled segments of the tourism sector (Zarrilli and Aydiner-Avsar, 2020). In only a few SIDS, namely in Palau, Maldives and Vanuatu, men were more often employed in tourism industries than women. Men were more often employed in transport, accommodation, travel agencies, sports and recreative activities, while women were more often employed in food and beverage service activities.

**Figure 4. Share of employment in tourism industries by sex, 2019**  
(Percentage of total employment)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on ILO (2020).

Note: These estimates include only part of tourism industries' employment due to data gaps. Tourism industries are defined based on a list of detailed ISIC 4-digit activities (ISIC Revision 4, see United Nations (2008)), presented in Annex 3 of United Nations (2010), while only 2-digit level data on employment are available. Therefore, the figures include some activities not directly linked to tourism and omit some tourism activities. 100 per cent correspondence is achieved for ISIC 55, 68, 79, 90 and 92, while water and air transport (ISIC 50-51), for instance, also include freight. In addition, ISIC 56, 77, 91 and 93 are included. Land transport is not included since international transport to island economies is not possible by road, while this excludes some in-economy tourism transport. Retail trade serving tourism is not included as it cannot be identified separately.

International tourism can be seen as a lifeline for a considerable number of people living in SIDS. While it has positive effects on economic welfare, the high dependence on tourism also makes SIDS vulnerable to crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.



**Tourism industries  
are an important source  
of employment  
for SIDS**

## SIDS struggled as borders closed and main origin markets were affected by the pandemic

Tourism has turned out to be one of the sectors hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, with unprecedented impact from an economic and social point of view. All economies experienced travel restrictions of some sort during the second quarter of 2020, including total closures of borders. Based on available data as of January 2021, UNWTO (2021b) estimates that international tourist arrivals fell by 74 per cent in 2020 with respect to 2019, from almost 1.5 billion to around 381 million, falling back to levels not experienced in over 30 years.

### Over 60% fall in international tourist arrivals in SIDS in 2020



Singapore, showing declines of over 80 per cent (UNWTO, 2020a, 2021c).

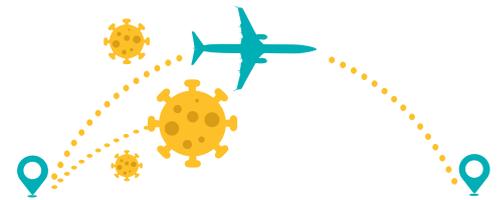
The fall in international arrivals in 2020 has translated into an estimated loss of US\$1.3 trillion in global inbound tourism expenditure with respect to 2019, a loss more than 11 times greater than that experienced during the 2009 global financial crisis. This has not only severe impacts on many economies; in economies that are heavily dependent on international tourism, as many of the SIDS are, it also puts the livelihood of their populations at risk. Preliminary data available show that the vast majority of SIDS experienced a fall of over 60 per cent in international tourist arrivals in 2020 compared with 2019, with some other island States, such as Guam, Samoa and

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 the number of international flights from SIDS dropped by half. Several SIDS consist of remote islands, and air cargo service routes are regarded as regional lifelines also domestically (ICAO, 2019). According to ICAO (2021), from 2019 to 2020, domestic departures dropped in Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS by 45 per cent, while the drop was 35 per cent in Pacific SIDS and 23

per cent in Caribbean SIDS.

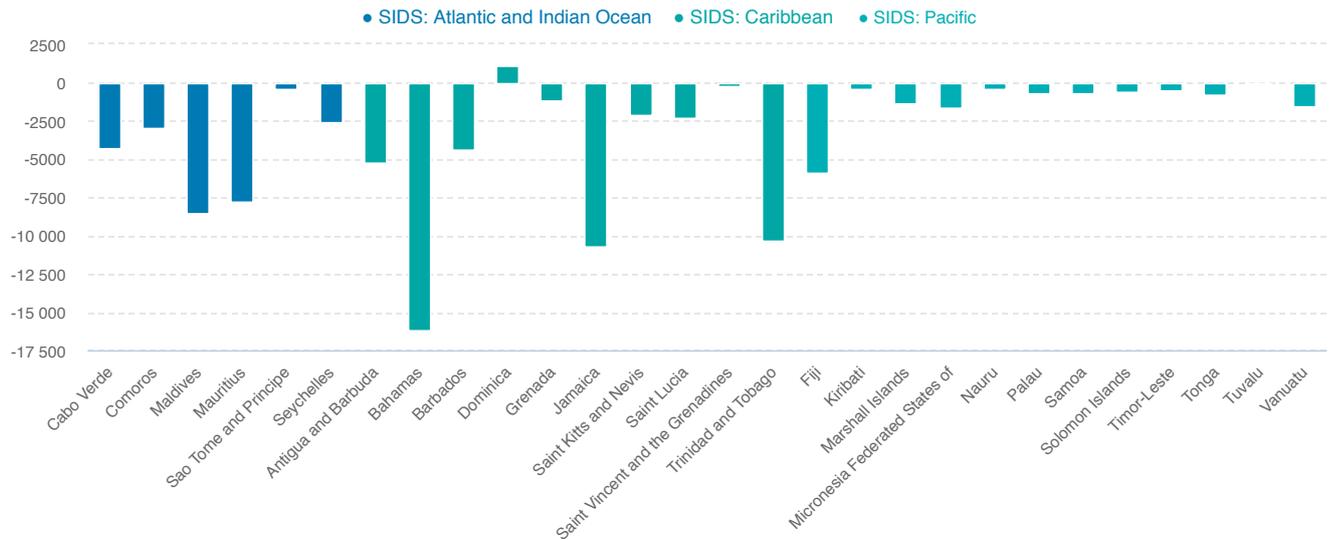
International departures dropped by almost 70 per cent in Pacific SIDS, and by 63 per cent in Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS. International flight departures from Caribbean SIDS also reduced notably, by 44 per cent. This had a devastating effect on tourism and SIDS' overall connectivity in 2020. The number of international departures plummeted in most SIDS (see figure 5).

### SIDS' international flight departures down by 50% in 2020



**Figure 5. Evolution of international flight departures in SIDS between 2019 and 2020**

(Number of flights)



Source: ICAO (2021).



It is expected that it will take between 2.5 to 4 years for international tourism to return to 2019 levels. Economies with developed domestic tourism markets have been able to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic thanks to partial compensation through domestic tourism, a type of tourism that seems to be recovering faster than international tourism (see Eurostat, 2020; UNWTO, 2020b). As economies closed their borders and established international travel restrictions, tourists have focused more on domestic travel, especially in large global outbound markets such as Europe, the United States of America and China.

One of the main characteristics of SIDS is the fact that the vast majority of their tourism expenditure comes from international tourism, while their domestic tourism markets are smaller and less developed. Table 1 below compares inbound and domestic overnight stays in the five SIDS for which data are available. In 2019, for all five economies, domestic overnight stays represented less than 20 per cent of all overnight stays. In economies like Cabo Verde and the Seychelles, this rate was below 5 per cent.

**Table 1. Total inbound and domestic overnight stays in hotels and similar establishments in selected SIDS, 2019**

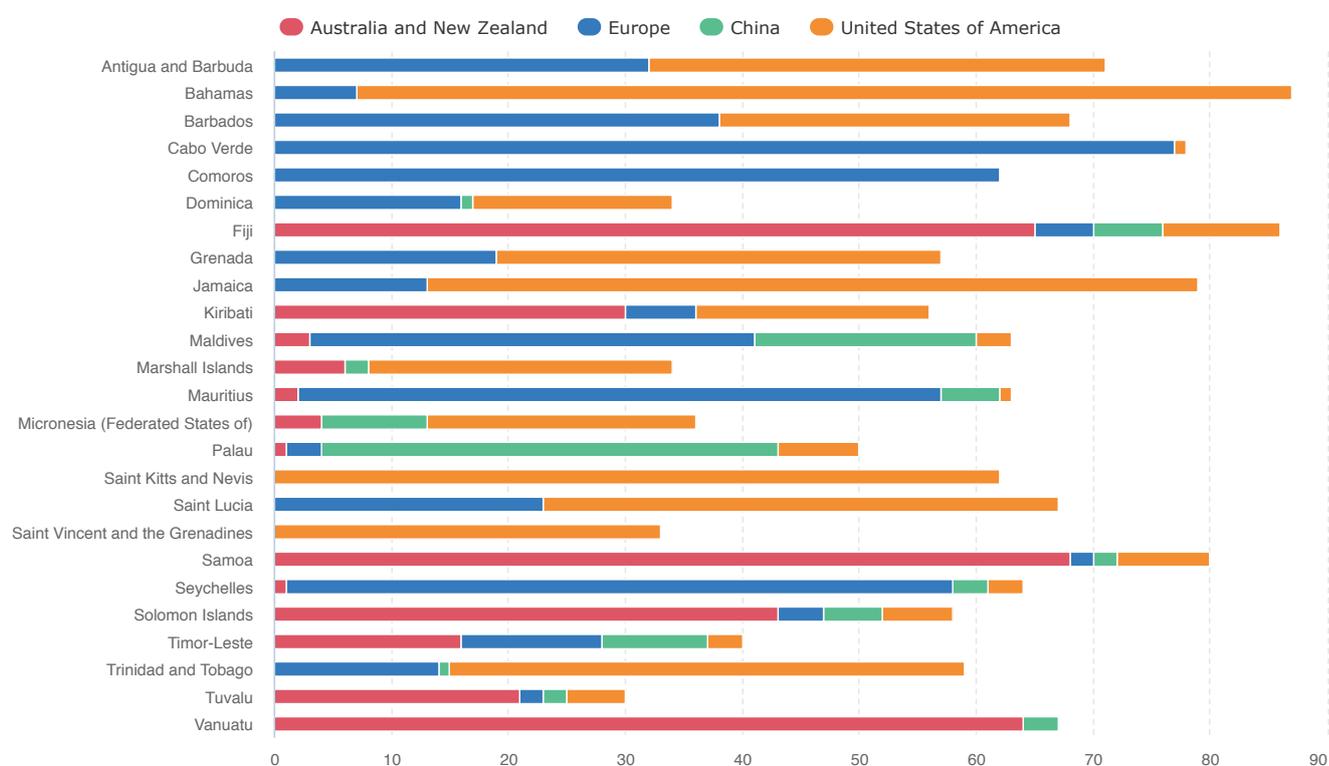
Economy	Inbound (thousands)	Domestic (thousands)	Domestic (per cent)
Cabo Verde	4 922	196	4
Cuba	19 486	4 614	19
Fiji	3 773	889	19
Seychelles	2 880	40	1
Timor-Leste	27	4	13

Source: Calculations based on data from UNWTO (2021a).

Note: Data for Timor-Leste refer to 2018.

While a significant proportion of international tourism occurs within the travellers' region, SIDS rely to a great extent on long-haul travel for their inbound tourism as most of their visitors come from other regions. In particular, African and Indian Ocean SIDS tend to rely on European tourists. The United States of America is the main market for the Caribbean SIDS whereas Pacific SIDS host primarily tourists from Australia and New Zealand, and partly also from China, the United States of America and Europe (see figure 6).

### African and Indian Ocean SIDS rely largely on tourism from Europe


**Figure 6. Origins of tourist arrivals in SIDS**  
(Percentage)


Source: UNWTO (2021a).

Note: Data refer to 2018. 2017 data for American Samoa, Niue, Suriname, Tonga and Tuvalu; 2016 for the Federated States of Micronesia; 2013 for British Virgin Islands; 2010 for Bonaire; and 2007 for Guinea-Bissau. Origin represents the economy of residence of tourists and, if not available, economy of citizenship.

Figure 6 also shows that SIDS often have poorly diversified source markets. This is particularly the case for Caribbean and Pacific Islands SIDS <sup>1</sup>. SIDS in Africa and the Indian Ocean, such as Cabo Verde, Maldives, Mauritius or Seychelles, have more diversified source markets, although they nevertheless remain heavily dependent on Europe and, to a lesser extent, China.

The conjunction of all these factors, (a) the high dependence on tourism, (b) underdeveloped domestic tourism markets, (c) the high concentration on source markets, (d) the requirement of long-haul air travel, and (e) the deep impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the main source markets (UNWTO, 2020a), places the inhabitants of SIDS, many of them relying on tourism as the main source of their income, into an extremely vulnerable situation and exerts pressure on governments to react.

Ensuring the sustainability of tourism means safeguarding the sustainable consumption and production patterns in SIDS. Yet, data on the measurement of the sustainability of tourism are scarce and require standardization. The development and implementation of a statistical framework for measuring the sustainability of tourism can help fill the gap in the future (UNWTO, 2017). In this respect, the UNWTO, jointly with the UN Statistical Division, is leading an international effort that involves a number of economies, international organizations and academia, in the development of a Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism.

## Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on tourism statistics

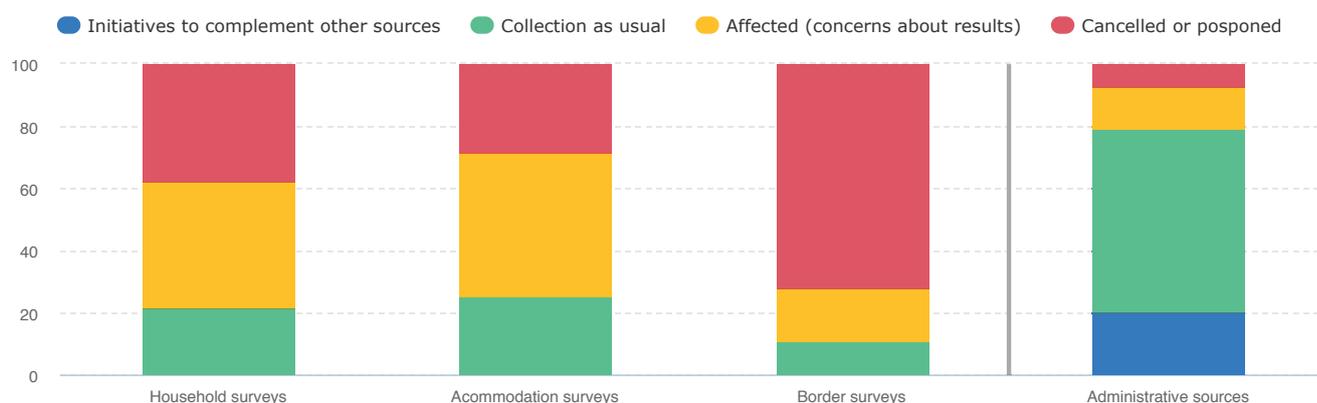
Much of the efforts to measure the impact of the pandemic at the national and global levels has focused on the economic dimension, relying on the common UN measurement standard - tourism satellite accounts (United Nations et al., 2010). A total of 28 SIDS <sup>2</sup> have reported data on SDG indicator 12.b.1., the “number of sustainable tourism strategies or policies and implemented action plans with agreed monitoring and evaluation tools”. Among these, seven compiled at least one tourism satellite account table, and one compiled at least one of the related SEEA accounts for 2009. These numbers increased to eight and three respectively for 2016, showing progress in the potential of SIDS to measure sustainable tourism. However, the majority of SIDS have not yet compiled any tourism satellite accounts or SEEA statistics.

The SIDS that compile tourism satellite accounts, produced in 2016 on average 3.7 tables (out of 7), representing a significant increase from 2.7 tables on average in 2009. However, these tables are still not sufficient to produce the key aggregates necessary for efficient monitoring of the impacts of tourism. This represents a major data gap, especially for the SIDS that strongly depend on tourism.

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, being able to properly measure sustainability of tourism has become even more relevant than before. Designing and monitoring relevant policies require proper tools for the measurement of all aspects of tourism, including its environmental and social dimensions. The pandemic has also led to numerous challenges in the collection of data for tourism statistics, given the sudden changes in resource allocation and emerging data needs which it provoked (see figure 7).

 **Figure 7. Early impact of COVID-19 on main sources for tourism data**

(Percentage of economies)



Source: UNWTO Survey conducted between April and May 2020.

Note: Results based on 68 responding economies.

Based on a UNWTO survey, more than 70 per cent of responding economies had to cancel or postpone border surveys to collect tourism data mainly due to the closure of borders, and tourism-related household and accommodation surveys were also significantly affected <sup>3</sup>. By contrast, only about 20 per cent of responding economies reported that the collection of administrative data was significantly affected.

Around 60 per cent reported that data collection continued as usual. A remaining 20 per cent reported that administrative data were being explored as a potential source to fill gaps created by challenges in survey data collection. SIDS reported similar impacts mentioning some cancelled or postponed border, accommodation and household surveys, while administrative sources were less affected by the time.

The pandemic has not only challenged traditional data collection, but also brought up new data needs and forced economies to look for opportunities to improve the production of tourism statistics. In addition to the interruption of face-to-face survey data collection, the global health crisis has highlighted the need for more up to date (even real-time) information, as a result of increasing requests from policy makers. When decisions on measures to contain the virus need to be made quickly and affect livelihoods of people, data on the impacts of those decisions are needed faster. To this end, some economies are exploring the use of administrative data, online data collection and big data.



## Notes

1. While the median percentage of arrivals represented by the top-3 source markets for non-SIDS economies is below the 50 per cent mark, the corresponding value for SIDS outside Africa and the Indian Ocean is between 70 and 75 per cent.
2. These 28 SIDS comprise: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cabo Verde, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Jamaica, Maldives, Martinique, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montserrat, New Caledonia, Palau, Puerto Rico, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Singapore, Sint Maarten and Vanuatu.
3. For the list of UNWTO member States, see: <https://www.unwto.org/member-states>.



## References

- Eurostat (2020). Domestic tourism recovers faster than foreign tourism. Available at <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/DDN-20201023-1>.
- ICAO (2019). Aviation Benefits Report 2019. Uniting Aviation. Available at <https://unitingaviation.com/magazines/aviation-benefits-report/aviation-benefits-report-2019/> (accessed 19 March 2021).
- ICAO (2021). ICAO Aviation Data+. Available at <https://data.icao.int/newdataplus> (accessed 19 March 2021).
- ILO (2020). ILOStat. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- United Nations (2008). *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 4*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.08.XVII.25. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2010). *International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics: 2008*. United Nations. New York, NY.
- United Nations, European Commission, OECD and UNWTO (2010). *Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.08.XVII.27. Luxembourg, Madrid, New York and Paris.
- UN-OHRLS (2021). UN-OHRLS list of Small Islands Developing States (SIDS). Available at <https://www.un.org/ohrls/content/list-sids> (accessed 19 March 2021).
- UNWTO (2017). Statistical framework for measuring the sustainability of tourism. UNWTO.
- UNWTO (2020a). 70% of destinations have lifted travel restrictions, but global gap emerging. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/news/70-of-destinations-have-lifted-travel-restrictions-but-global-gap-emerging> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- UNWTO (2020b). Understanding Domestic Tourism and Seizing its Opportunities. Available at <https://www.e-unwto.org/doi/epdf/10.18111/9789284422111> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- UNWTO (2021a). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- UNWTO (2021b). billion fewer international arrivals. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/news/2020-worst-year-in-tourism-history-with-1-billion-fewer-international-arrivals> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- UNWTO (2021c). UNWTO tourism recovery tracker. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/unwto-tourism-recovery-tracker> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- UNWTO and ILO (2014). *Measuring Employment in the Tourism Industries: Guide with Best Practices*. Madrid and Geneva.
- Zarrilli S and Aydiner-Avsar N (2020). COVID-19 puts women working in SIDS tourism industry at risk. Available at <https://unctad.org/news/covid-19-puts-women-working-sids-tourism-industry-risk> (accessed 20 February 2020).

# Trade vulnerabilities

## Introduction

From a macroeconomic perspective, the concept of vulnerability was first highlighted by the Maltese Ambassador to the United Nations, on 26 June 1990, during a meeting of Government Experts of Island Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Organizations, held under the auspices of UNCTAD. The Maltese Ambassador suggested in his presentation the construction of a vulnerability index, stating, inter alia, that such an index *"is important because it reiterates that the per capita GDP of Island Developing Countries is not by itself an adequate measurement of the level of development of island developing countries as it does not reflect the structural and institutional weaknesses and the several handicaps facing Island Developing Countries"*.<sup>1</sup> (Briguglio, 2000)

Briguglio (1995) pioneered the study of economic vulnerability in SIDS. Briguglio et al. (2009) defined economic vulnerability *"as the exposure of an economy to exogenous shocks, arising out of economic openness."* Guillaumont (2009) describes vulnerability as a dynamic process, considering it to be *"the risk that economic growth [in a given country] is markedly and extensively reduced by shocks."* He further developed the concept of the vulnerability of a country by examining its three components: the size and frequency of exogenous shocks (observed or anticipated), exposure to shocks and the ability to respond to shocks (Guillaumont, 2010).

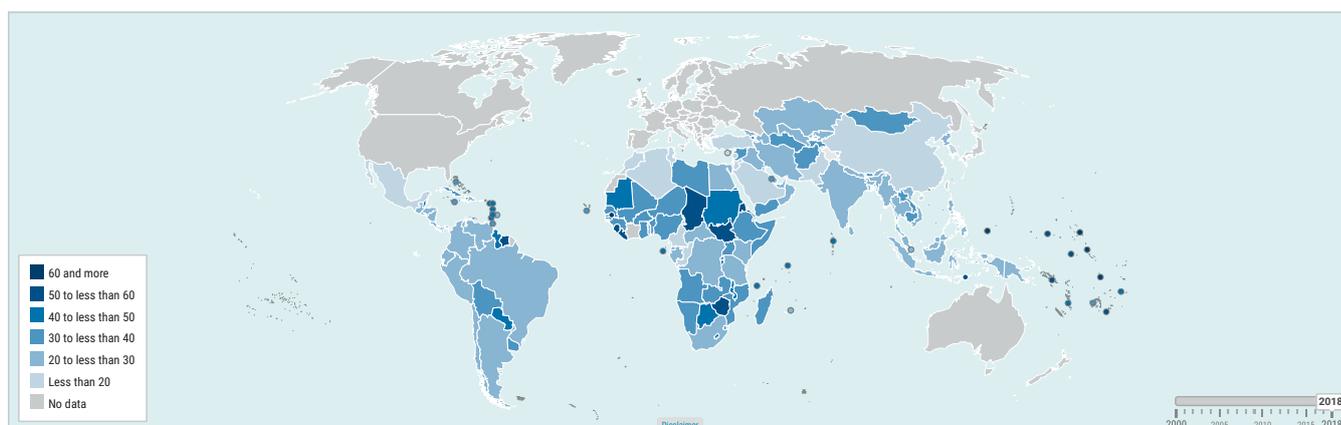
At the Barbados Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States held in 1994, SIDS expressed concern over their levels of vulnerability. The Conference recommended *"the development of vulnerability indices and other indicators that reflect the status of small island developing countries and integrate ecological fragility and economic Vulnerability"*.<sup>2</sup> A measure of structural vulnerability of developing countries (EVI) has been defined by the ECOSOC CDP and was applied for the first time in 2000, as a criterion for identifying LDCs, along with GNI per capita and a HAI. This composite index takes into account economic and natural shocks, as well as the determinants of exposure to shocks. A distinction should be made between structural vulnerability, which results mainly from external or natural shocks and the *"vulnerability deriving from policy, which results from recent choices"* (Guillaumont, 2007). This chapter analyses trade vulnerability and, therefore, refers to a version of EVI that gives more weight to the instability of exports. In other chapters an equal weighted EVI is used as illustrated in Figure 1 of What makes a SIDS a SIDS (see also [Country profiles](#)).

According to the EVI, SIDS are 33 per cent more vulnerable to external shocks with economic consequences than developing countries excluding SIDS, and over 12 times more exposed to oil-price related shocks (UNCTAD, 2017a).

Map 1 shows that, on average, EVI, here jointly calculated and updated regularly by FERDI<sup>3</sup> and UNDESA, is higher for SIDS compared with other developing countries.

### Map 1. Economic vulnerability of SIDS, 2018

(The EVI index)

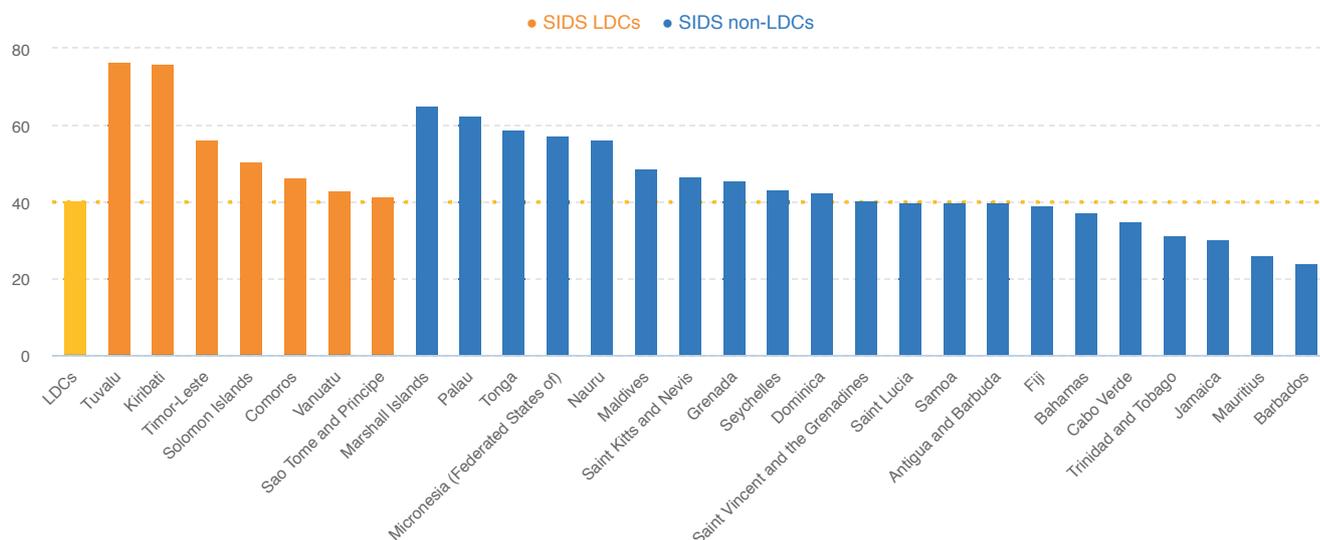


Source: FERDI (2021).

Note: EVI is based on the definition of the index adopted in the 2015 LDC Review of the United Nations CDP, and has been updated using the methodology developed by S. Feindouno and M. Goujon in Working Paper 147. It now covers the period from 1975 to 2018 and is available for 145 developing countries. The composition of the index can be adapted according to the study by choosing different weights and/or different definitions for the components.

Among SIDS, the most vulnerable are those that are least developed, as compared with the higher income SIDS (figure 1). In 2018, Pacific SIDS, including Tuvalu (76.5), Kiribati (76.3), Marshall Islands (65.5), Palau (62.3) and Tonga (58.9), were identified as having the highest vulnerabilities according to the EVI, compared with other developing economies. Barbados and Mauritius exhibited the lowest vulnerability, scoring 24.3 and 26, respectively.

**Figure 1. Economic vulnerability of LDC and non-LDC SIDS, 2018**  
(Economic vulnerability index)



Source: FERDI (2021).

## Openness to trade

SIDS' economies are more open to trade than other developed countries and LDCs, as demonstrated by a relatively high share of trade in goods and services in GDP. Openness to trade is not the cause of their economic vulnerability per se, but rather provides “the means through which the effects of exogenous shocks are amplified and transmitted to the domestic economy” (Robert, 2010). In other words, the degree of trade openness might explain slowdowns in export revenues, but the scale of impact depends largely on the degree of export concentration of products and markets.

The high level of trade openness exposes SIDS to greater market fluctuations than other developing economies. Briguglio et al. (2009) note that this openness makes SIDS particularly vulnerable to external economic conditions, over which, they have no direct control. The smaller the size (population) of the country, the higher the trade to GDP ratio, and the greater the impact of external (trade and exchange-rate related) shocks, such as, fluctuations of commodity prices, slumps in external demand, and international interest rate volatility. Foxley (2009) argues that export-led production structures expose countries to external shocks more than production structures focused on domestic demand.

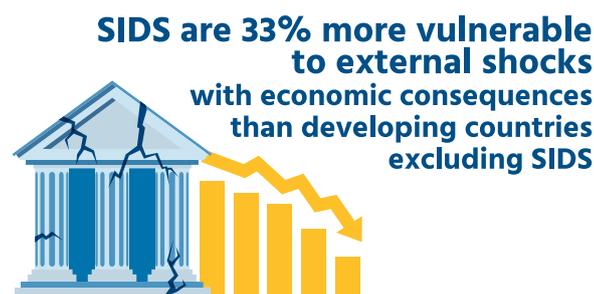
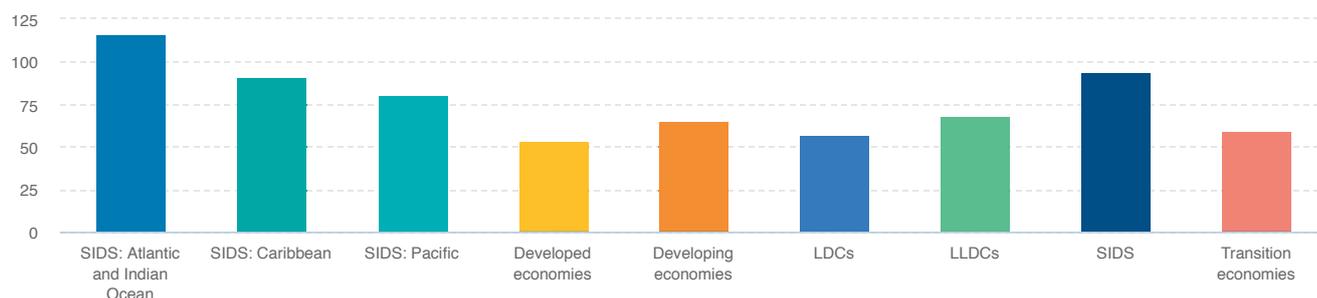


Figure 2 shows that trade flows, expressed as the average of sum of exports and imports of goods and services relative to GDP for the period of 2005-2019, are far higher in SIDS than in all other developing economies, transition economies, LDCs and LLDCs. For the SIDS, this indicator averaged 95 per cent. The equivalent numbers for all developing countries, transitions economies, LDCs and LLDCs were 65 per cent, 59 per cent, 57 per cent and 68 per cent, respectively.


**Figure 2. Trade flows relative to GDP by groups of economies**

(Percentage of GDP, average 2005-2019)



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

Note: This index measures the relative importance of international trade in goods and services (sum of exports and imports) relative to the domestic economic output of an economy.

SIDS' trade in goods is particularly volatile compared with other developing countries, as demonstrated by table 1. The coefficient of variation for SIDS' trade in goods relative to GDP for the period from 2005 to 2019 is 53.9, compared to those for all developing economies and LDCs, of 37.6 and 16.3, respectively.


**Table 1. Trade of goods flows descriptive statistics, 2005-2019**

	Minimum	Maximum	Coefficient of Variation
Developing economies	45.2	62.6	37.6
LDCs (Least developed countries)	37.9	50.9	16.3
LLDCs (Landlocked developing countries)	43.4	65.9	52.7
SIDS	49.2	72	53.9

Source: UNCTAD (2021).

Note: Trade flows expressed as sum of exports and imports of goods as percentage to GDP

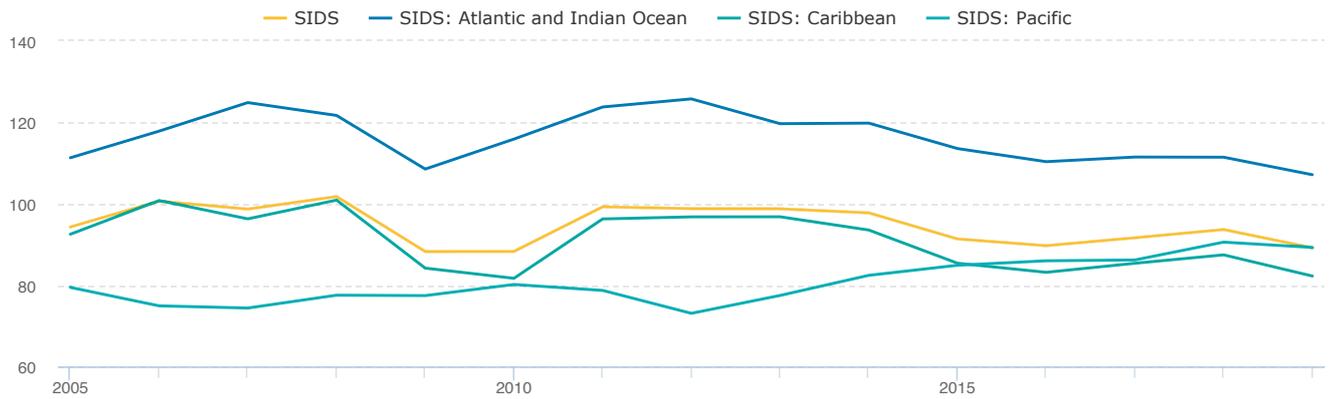
Variations in the levels of trade openness among SIDS are illustrated in figure 3. The decline in trade volumes in 2019 reduced the degree of export dependency in SIDS, with the exception of Pacific SIDS. The fall in the trade-to-GDP ratio was largest in Caribbean SIDS (from 101 per cent in 2008 to 82.2 per cent in 2019), followed by Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS (from 122 per cent in 2008 to 107.1 per cent in 2019).

In 2019, Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS were more open to trade, driven by Seychelles (205.1 per cent), Maldives (136.7 per cent), and other tourism-dependent SIDS. However, for this group of SIDS, trade openness narrowed in the 2012-2019 period, reaching 107.1 per cent in 2019, the lowest level since 2005. Only one country in the region, the Comoros, has constantly exhibited lower openness compared to other SIDS, averaging below 40 per cent.

For Caribbean SIDS, trade openness has generally trended down since 2012, reaching its lowest level among all SIDS regions in 2019 (82.2 per cent). Nonetheless, several countries had trade-to-GDP ratios exceeding 100 per cent, such as Antigua and Barbuda (132.8), Saint Kitts and Nevis (121.2) and Saint Lucia (111.8).

Pacific SIDS were less open than other SIDS owing to their remoteness, poor infrastructure and low competitiveness. However, their trade openness has increased by 22 per cent over the period of 2012-2019 to reach 89.3 per cent in 2019.

**Figure 3. Trade openness of SIDS, 2005-2019**  
(Percentage)



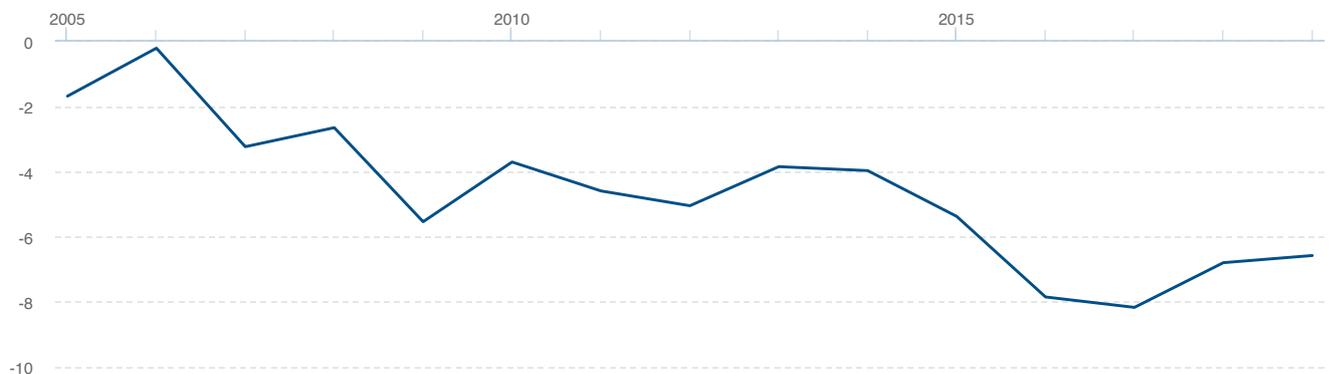
Source: UNCTAD (2021).

Note: This index measures the relative importance of international trade in goods and services (sum of exports and imports) relative to the domestic economic output of an economy.

## Net trade in goods and services – SIDS' trade balance

High trade openness in the SIDS contributes to magnifying the effect of terms of trade shocks. Some SIDS are heavily dependent on strategic imports of goods and services, such as energy, fuels, food, industrial supplies and emergency health care. While revenues from tourism and other sources have tended to decrease since 2013, the fixed costs of import fuels, foods and other necessities have remained constant. As illustrated in figure 4, the overall trade deficit of goods and services has increased in the SIDS since 2005 rising from US\$1.7 billion to US\$6.6 billion by 2019, i.e., an increase of about 3.9 times.

**Figure 4. Net trade balance, SIDS**  
(Goods and services, US\$ billions)



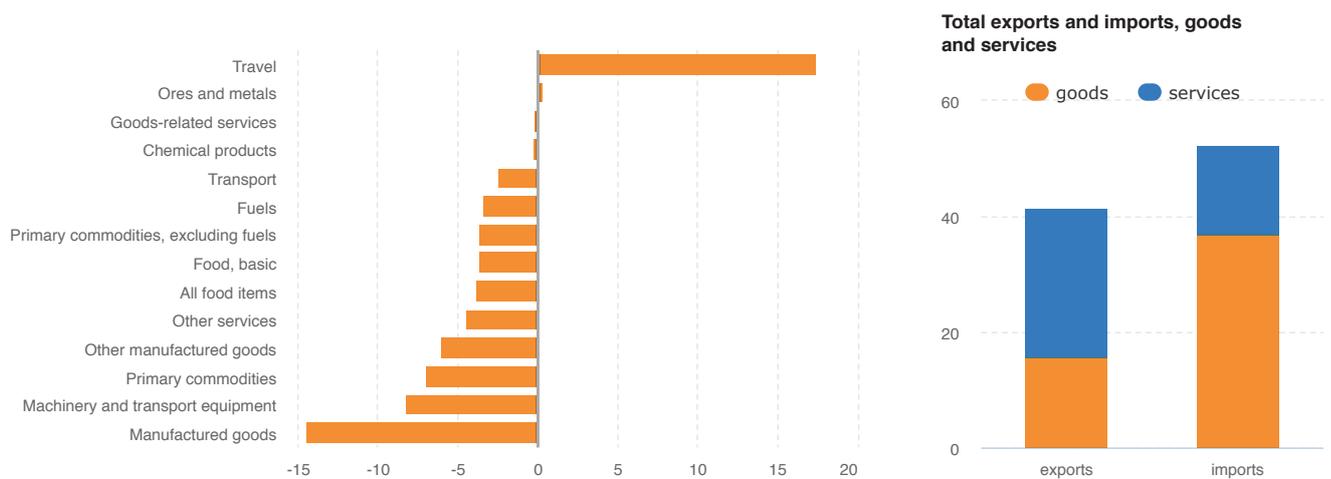
Source: UNCTAD (2021).

**SIDS rely heavily on foreign tourism sector which accounts for almost 30% of GDP**

(UNCTAD, 2020a)

SIDS rely heavily on [tourism](#). In 2019, SIDS exported more than 20 US\$ billions of travel services, which represents 50 per cent of total exports of goods and service together. By contrast, more than 20 US\$ billions of imports of manufactured goods were recorded in 2019, which represent 40 per cent of the total value of imports making SIDS net importers of that product worth -14.5 US\$ billions. SIDS are net importers of many other products, including machinery and transport equipment with a net trade of -8.2 US\$ billions, primary commodities (-6.9 US\$ billions) and basic foods (-3.6 US\$ billions). (See figure 5.)

**Figure 5. SIDS net exports and imports, by product**  
(Millions of US\$)



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

Note: Product groups are defined according to SITC. Ores and metals include SITC 27 + 28 + 68; Chemical products SITC 5; Fuels SITC 3; Primary commodities, excluding fuels from SITC 0 to 2 + 4 + 68; Food, basic SITC 0 + 22 + 4; All food items SITC 0 + 1 + 22 + 4; Other manufactured goods SITC 6 + 8 excluding 667 and 68; Primary commodities SITC from 0 to 4 and 68; Machinery and transport equipment SITC 7; and Manufactured goods includes all SITC 5 to 8 excluding 667 and 68.

According to the available data for individual SIDS, only four ran a trade surplus in 2019: Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago, and only one country, Trinidad and Tobago, had a trade surplus for the whole period from 2005 to 2019 (figure 6).

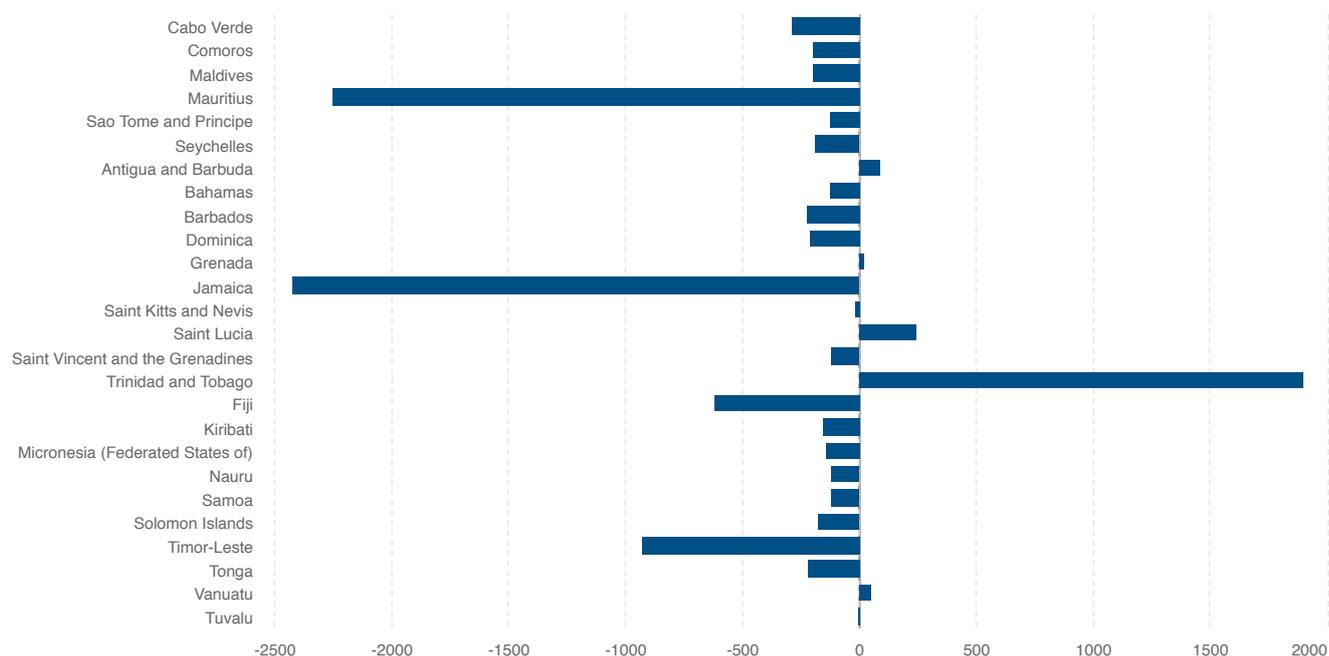
**Only four SIDS had a trade surplus in 2019:**



**Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago**


**Figure 6. Net trade balance selected SIDS, 2019**

(Goods and services, Millions of US\$)



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

Note: Latest available year for Comoros, Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Vanuatu and Tuvalu.

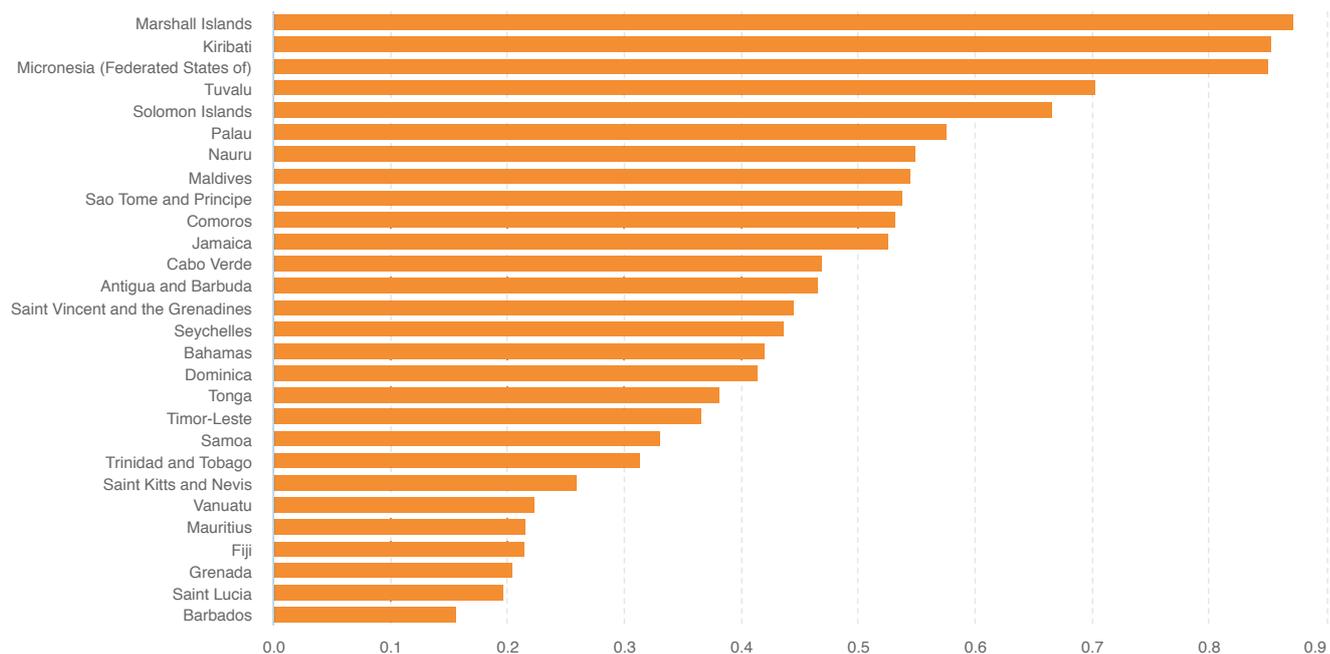
## Product and market concentration in SIDS

SIDS' exports are highly concentrated in terms of products exported and their markets. Exports from SIDS in 2019 were almost twice as concentrated on a few products as exports from developing economies, and 3.5 times more diverged from the developing countries' trade pattern. In 2019, the concentration index was 0.180 for SIDS and 0.095 for developing economies, and the diversification index stood at 0.06 and 0.187, respectively. Moreover, SIDS tend to lack competitive export products that could improve the performance of the entire economy, as their small domestic markets do not offer sufficient economies of scale to support large enterprises (UNCTAD, 2019a). Consequently, average import and export prices may fluctuate to a larger degree than in countries with more diversified trade patterns, leading to increased exposure to external shocks.

Mohan (2016) presents a comprehensive literature review of the various inherent features of small economies responsible for their limited abilities to diversify. For example, she underlines Krugman's (1987) findings which show that the narrow domestic markets of the Caribbean islands and their limited capital and technology are responsible for the lack of the diversification in the region. Krugman (1987) argues that diversification is particularly challenging for small economies, the majority of which are ex-colonies, who were initially specialized in the production of primary commodities, which considerably impacts their degree of dependence on a single commodity. Gamberoni (2007), citing the Lomé agreement <sup>4</sup>, argues that preferential agreements have created disincentives for diversification. The Lomé agreement "has created an 'anti-diversification' effect in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific by encouraging specialization in agriculture exports" (Mohan, 2016, p.1). According to Vettas (2000), Hausmann and Rodrik (2003) and Klinger and Lederman (2005), externalities in the search for new export products might negatively impact developing countries' ability to diversify. Mohan (2016), by examining the Caribbean SIDS, provides empirical evidence that diversification in this region is occurring primarily through a shift from primary commodities to existing low and medium-skill-intensive manufacturing, as opposed to new high-skill-intensive manufacturing.

Product concentration of exports is particularly high for the SIDS: With the exception of Fiji and Vanuatu, product concentration is notably high for Pacific islands, such as Marshall Islands (0.87), the Federated States of Micronesia (0.851), Kiribati (0.85), Tuvalu (0.70) and Solomon Islands (0.67). Caribbean islands, such as, Barbados, Saint Lucia, Grenada have the most diversified tradeable sectors among the SIDS (figure 7).

 **Figure 7. Product concentration of exports, 2019**



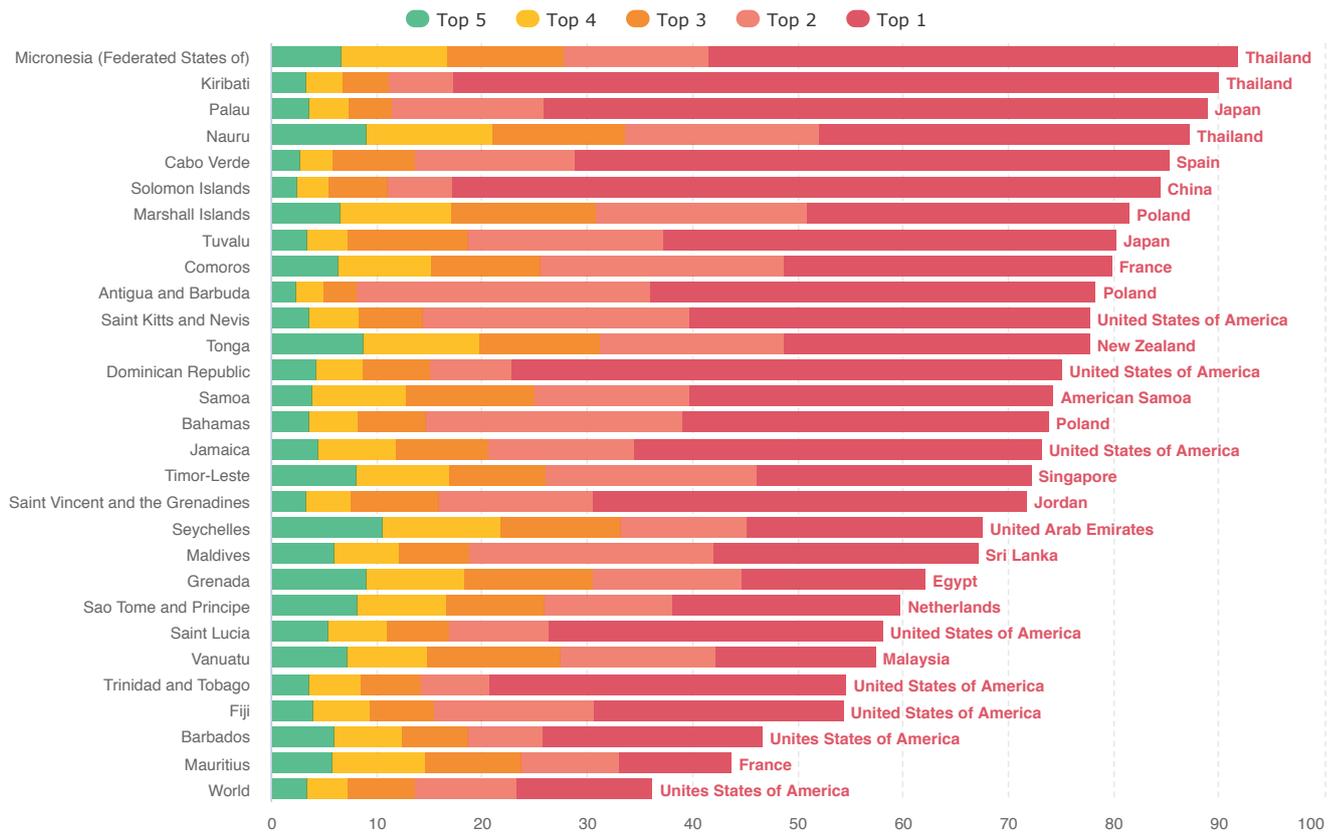
Source: UNCTAD (2021).

Note: Concentration index, also named Herfindahl-Hirschmann Index, is a measure of the degree of product concentration. An index value closer to 1 indicates a country's exports or imports are highly concentrated on a few products. On the contrary, values closer to 0 reflect exports or imports are more homogeneously distributed among a series of products.

Economic dependence can take different forms. For example, alumina and bauxite are Jamaica's key export products, which together represent approximately half of its exports. Samoa's exports of fish account for almost half of its total exports, which makes this tradeable sector particularly vulnerable to natural disasters. In 2013, for instance, Samoa's total merchandise exports contracted by 18 per cent following Cyclone Evan that hit in 2012.

Approximately 30 per cent of Pacific SIDS's exports go to two (non-SIDS) countries: Australia and China. Seychelles is highly dependent on the European market (33 per cent of total trade and trade in services - 67 per cent of GDP). Thailand is a major partner of the Federated States of Micronesia and Kiribati accounting for a high percentage of their respective total trade (50 per cent and 70 per cent) (see figure 8).

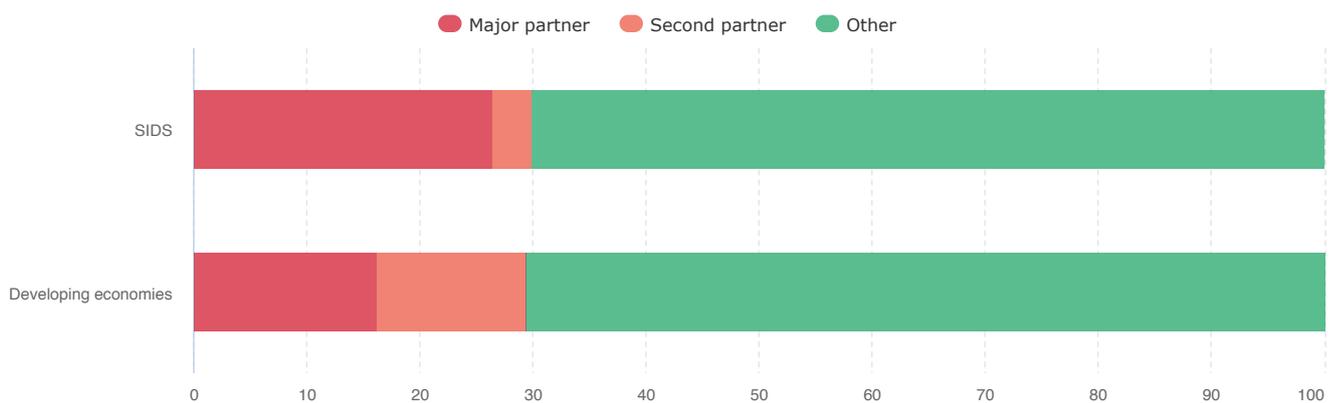
**Figure 8. Market concentration of SIDS, by country**  
(Percentage of total exports)



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

On average, 27 per cent of SIDS' merchandise exports go to one trading partner, compared to 16 per cent in developing countries as a group (figure 9). This exposes SIDS to volatility in commodity prices, changes in exports demand and economic growth of main trading partners, which all adds to their vulnerability (UNCTAD, 2016).

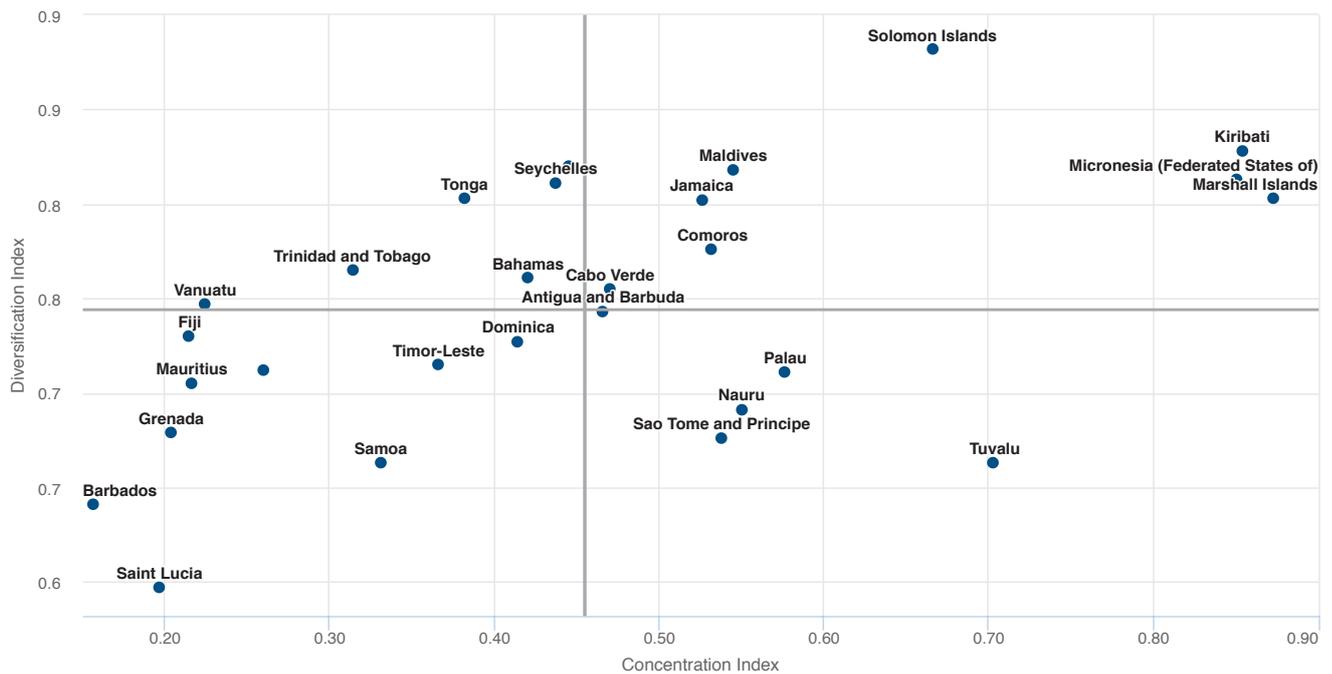
**Figure 9. Market concentration of SIDS and developing countries exports, 2019**



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

Figure 10 illustrates that, in 2019, the Caribbean SIDS' exports were more homogeneously distributed among a series of products due to the lowest value of concentration index. The exports of Pacific SIDS, notably Kiribati, Micronesia and the Marshall Islands remained highly concentrated on a few products with concentration index closer to 1 and showed the greater divergence from word structure, with the diversification index greater than 0.8.

**Figure 10. Export diversification and concentration matrix for SIDS, 2019**



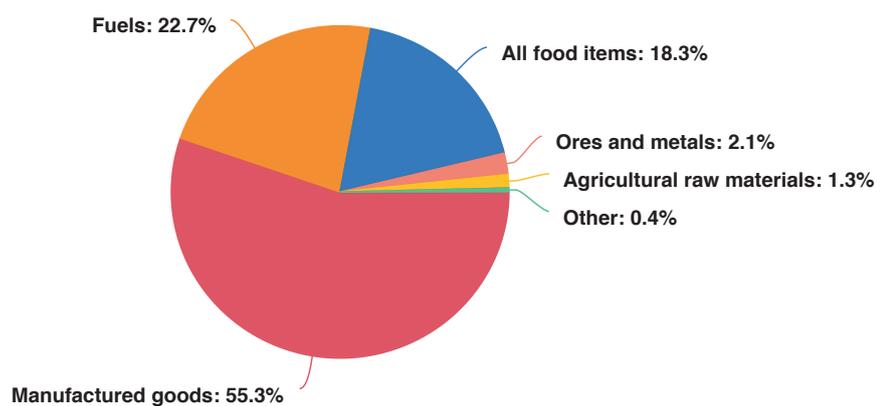
Source: UNCTAD (2021).

While export flows are highly volatile, “the import demand of many small island economies is typically inelastic” (UN DESA, 2020). Briguglio et al. (2009) state that “there is a tendency for small states to be more vulnerable [because of strategic import-dependence] than other groups of countries”.

In 2019, food imports of SIDS accounted for more than 15 per cent of all allocated merchandise imports compared to the 8.4 per cent world average (figure 11). The share of food imports was the largest in Cabo Verde (31.6 per cent), Sao Tome and Principe (29.5 per cent) and Samoa (25.6 per cent).

**Figure 11. SIDS imports, by selected product groups, 2019**

(percentage of total imports)



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

Notes: Product groups are defined according to SITC. All food items includes SITC groups 0, 1, 22 and 4; Agricultural raw materials include SITC 2 excluding 22, 27 and 28; Fuels includes SITC 3; Ores and metals includes SITC 27, 28 and 68; and Manufactured goods includes all SITC 5 to 8 excluding 66 and 68. Non-allocated products are not considered.

Fuel imports are also significant and represented 22.7 per cent of total imports of SIDS in 2019. The majority of SIDS are increasingly dependent on imported fossil fuels, much of which is used for electricity generation and the transportation of commodities. Fossil-fuel-based electricity generation results in very high electricity costs in the SIDS. For example, the Solomon Islands has one of the highest

electricity prices in the world, at US\$0.99 per kilowatt hour (WorldAtlas, 2021). The average retail price of residential electricity in the Federated States of Micronesia is nearly four times higher (US\$0.48 per kilowatt hour) than the average residential rate in the United States (US\$0.13 per kilowatt hour) (OECD, 2018).

SIDS remain particularly vulnerable to global commodity price shocks. The high dependence on food, fuel and other essential goods imports increases SIDS' exposure to volatility in the terms of trade. A shock to global food production and supply chains could translate to food price inflation for many SIDS.

## Terms of trade

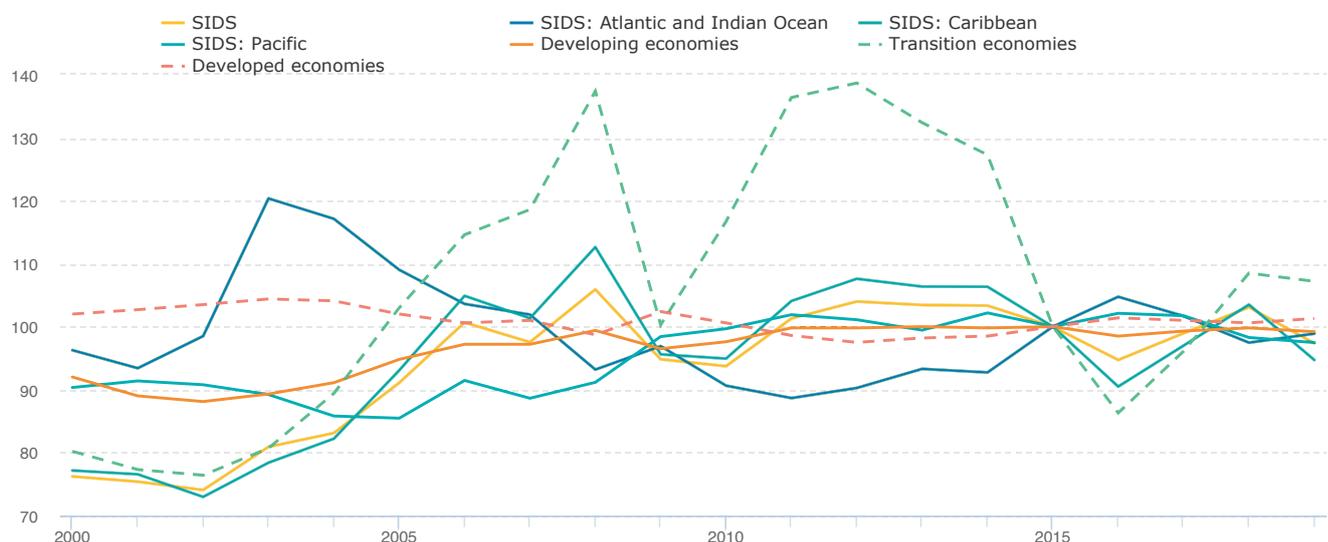
Global terms of trade remained relatively stable during the decade after the 2008-2009 financial crisis. In contrast, developed economies and developing economies had the opposite terms of trade trend during the last two decades. For transition economies, however, index trends were the most volatile, peaking in 2012 at 139 per cent. Among developing economies, the case of SIDS is unique. SIDS have diverse economic structures, and some rely mainly on natural resources. Due to their geographical locations, they all suffer from high transport costs (see section transport cost) which makes them more sensitive to high fuels price volatility, which in turn hampers resource allocation to other development actions.

Over the period from 2000 to 2019, developing economies recorded an increase of 8 per cent in their terms of trade, whereas for SIDS, the increase was 28 per cent. The relative price of exports to imports varied considerably between the SIDS. Caribbean SIDS recorded a 23 per cent increase, Pacific SIDS 8 per cent, and Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS just 3 per cent.

In 2002, developing economies and world terms of trade indices were respectively 88 and 98 per cent, and as low as 74 per cent in the SIDS. After the 2008-2009 financial crisis, terms of trade volatility reduced drastically in Atlantic and Indian ocean SIDS. It remained much lower than in other groups as shown in figure 12.

 **Figure 12. Terms of trade, by development status and in SIDS regions**

(Index 2015=100)



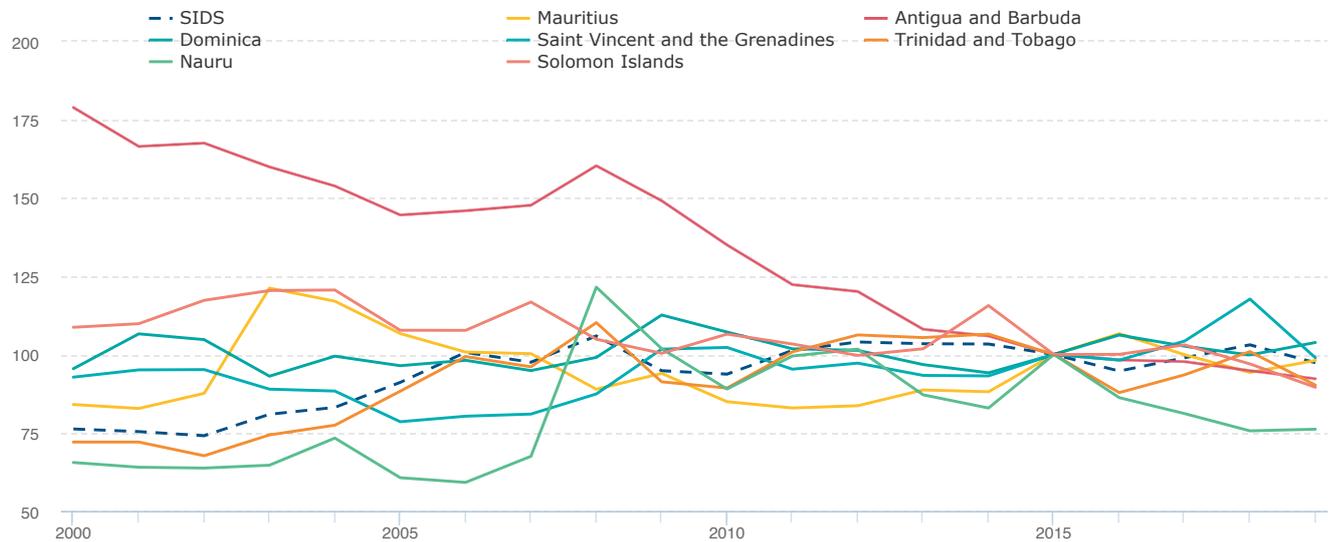
Source: UNCTAD (2021).

SIDS's terms of trade are driven by few countries, Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean and Mauritius in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean. The terms of trade for Antigua and Barbuda decreased more or less throughout the whole period from 2000 to 2019, recording the worst performance of the region, -48 per cent. Among the Pacific SIDS, the highest increase during the last two decades was recorded in Nauru and the lowest in the Solomon Islands. The increase even reached 36 per cent for Nauru during the period from 2000 to 2010, followed by a drastic decrease of 14 per cent from 2010 to 2019 (figure 13).

The Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS had the lowest increase in their terms of trade of any of the SIDS groups during the period from 2000 to 2019. Over the period from 2016 to 2019, their terms of trade decreased by 6 per cent, with the Comoros experiencing the largest decline (-46 per cent).

In 2019, Dominica and Mauritius had the highest annual growth (4 per cent), followed by the Federated States of Micronesia (3 per cent). However, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines saw the deepest decline (-16 per cent) followed by Trinidad and Tobago and the Solomon Islands with -11 and -8 per cent, respectively. Overall, the annual growth rate of the SIDS' terms of trade fell by 6 per cent.

**Figure 13. SIDS terms of trade, by country**  
(Index 2015=100)

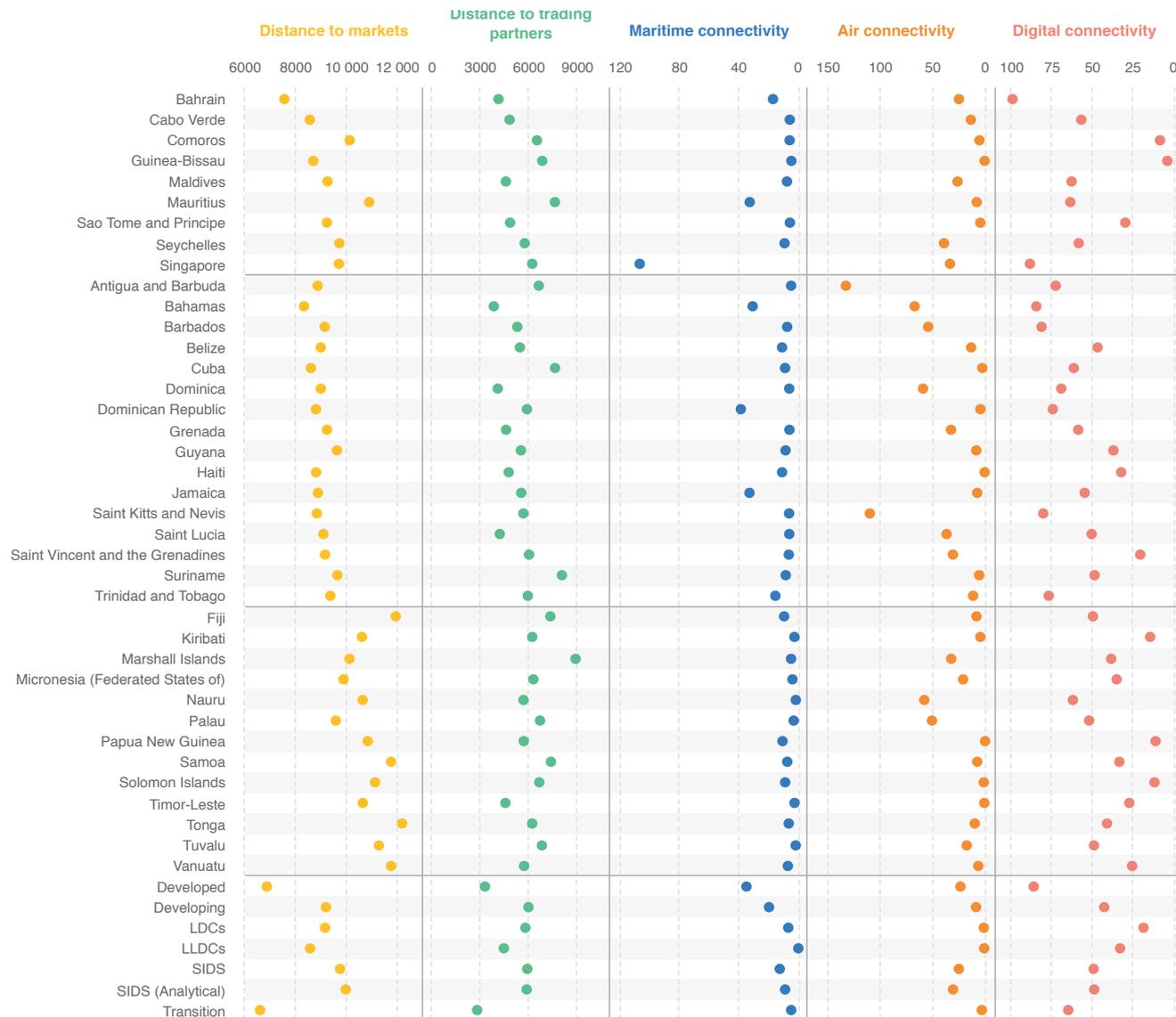


Source: UNCTAD (2021).

## Remoteness adds to SIDS' vulnerability

As islands, SIDS tend to be remote in multiple senses of the word. Figure 14 illustrates remoteness according to five different dimensions: distance to markets, distance to trading partners, maritime connectivity, air connectivity and digital connectivity.

**Figure 14. SIDS remoteness indicators, 2019**



Source: Cantu-Bazaldua (2021) based on data from UNCTAD (2021), ICAO, ITU, and R package cshapes.

Notes: Scale has been inverted if necessary so that values to the right indicate a higher relative remoteness. Lighter colours also indicate a higher relative remoteness. Country groups are calculated as averages using total population as weights. Here SIDS refers to UN members (as part of UN-OHRLS, 2021). All data for 2019, except for digital connectivity, which is calculated from the latest data available for each country (96% of countries corresponding to 2017 or more recent). The variables are defined as follows: (1) distance to markets: average minimum distance to all countries, weighted by GDP (in km), (2) distance to trading partners: average minimum distance to all countries, weighted by trade (in km), (3) maritime connectivity: linear shipping connectivity index (maximum 2006=100, inverted scale), (4) air connectivity: international flight departures (Yearly departures per 1000 population, inverted scale) and (5) digital connectivity: share of individuals with internet access (percentage, inverted scale).

In terms of distance to markets, SIDS are on average the farthest away of the six development groups (developed economies, developing economies, transition economies, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS). Within SIDS, Pacific SIDS tend to be located the farthest from markets, with the six farthest SIDS all hailing from the Pacific region. Caribbean SIDS tend to be located closer to markets, owing to their proximity to large North and South American markets. The same story plays out regarding distance to trading partners, though the gap between SIDS and developing economies is somewhat reduced.

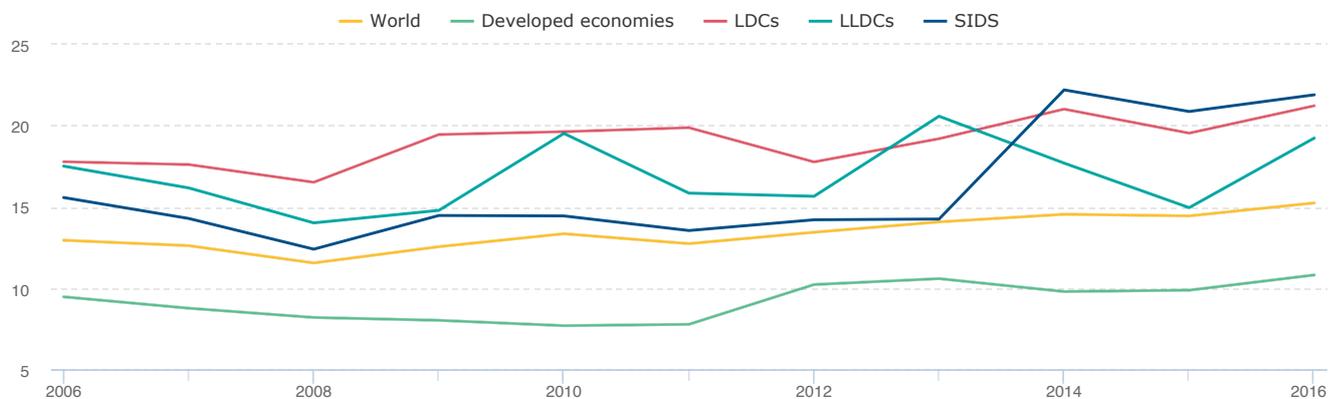
In terms of maritime connectivity, SIDS once again are the least connected among the development groups, excluding LLDCs. However, on this dimension, Caribbean SIDS do not sweep the top of the rankings, as Mauritius and Fiji, from the Indian and Pacific Oceans, respectively, also make it into the most connected SIDS. Air connectivity to SIDS is actually the highest among development groups. This is most likely due to the fact that, lacking an overland route, many trips must be taken by plane to SIDS.

Finally, digital connectivity is quite high in SIDS, ranking behind only developed and transition economies. Unlike the other dimensions of remoteness, digital connectivity is not constrained by geography and more a factor of development levels than physical proximity. This is a significant reason why many SIDS focus on services, many of which can be rendered remotely, rather than manufacturing in terms of their economic development. For further analysis of SIDS' remoteness, see Cantu-Bazaldua (2021).

## Transport costs

The main factors of transport costs are economies of scale, trade imbalances, the type and value of goods traded, the level of competition among transport service providers, and the characteristics of the sea- and airports as regards their infrastructure, operation and management. These different determinants are interlinked. For SIDS, one of the major determinants of international transport costs remains remoteness. In fact, market structures, connectivity to transport networks and infrastructure availability and quality all play an important role (UNCTAD, 2017b). Commodity price fluctuations, like fuel for example, will have stronger impact on freight costs for longer distances. Often, SIDS, LLDCs, and LDCs spend more than average for international transport and insurance of their merchandise imports.

 **Figure 15. Transport costs of international trade**  
(Percentage of imports value)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNCTAD (2021) and UNCTAD (2017b).

Note: Country-level estimates combining all modes of transport, all commodities, and all country pairs.

**SIDS pay twice as much as developed countries on average for transport costs and insurance**



As shown in figure 15, SIDS pay approximately 7 per cent more for freight for the transport of their imports than the world average. This no doubt contributes to why SIDS have the highest value share (22 per cent) of imports, compared to the world average of 15 per cent. The relative figures for LDCs, LLDCs and developed economies are about 21 per cent, 19 per cent, and 10 per cent, respectively.

## Importance of e-commerce and the digital economy growing in SIDS

Leveraging trade in ICT goods and services for value creation may lead to significant employment opportunities, add value to GDP and generate foreign exchange earnings. However, few countries have been successful at exporting both ICT goods and services or digitally delivered services (UNCTAD, 2019b). This section examines the performance of SIDS in these areas, as well as the B2C E-commerce Index for available countries. It also highlights the need for better data collection on SIDS' participation in the digital economy.

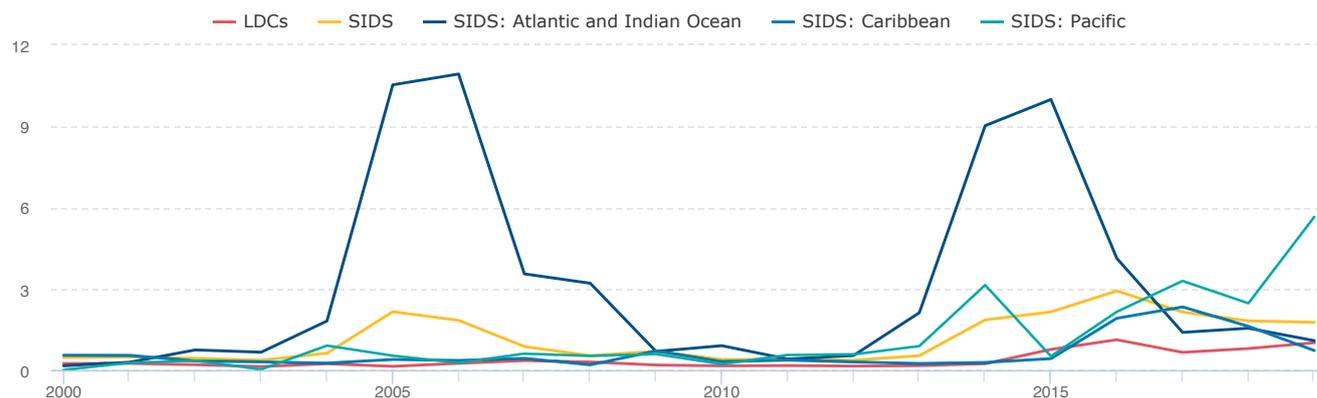
**There is an urgent need for more and better data on the performance of SIDS in the digital economy**



Globally, exports of ICT goods are highly concentrated in a few economies, mainly from East and South-East Asia. The top-10 exporters accounted for almost 90 per cent of the total value of ICT goods exports in 2019 (UNCTAD, 2021).<sup>5</sup> Similar to most countries, exports of ICT goods by SIDS account for a relatively small share of their total merchandise exports. Between 2000 and 2019, this share has hovered between 0.5 and 3 per cent (figure 16). This was slightly higher than the LDC average, but much lower than the developing country average of around 20 per cent. The Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS showed a notable exception to the general trend, mainly driven by the exports by Mauritius. In 2019, exports of ICT goods accounted for 1.8 per cent on average, with only the Pacific SIDS registering a higher share at almost six per cent, mainly driven by exports from Fiji.<sup>6</sup> Of all the SIDS, Saint Kitts registered by far the highest consistent share of ICT goods exports in recent years, averaging about 28 per cent between 2006 and 2017.<sup>7</sup>

 **Figure 16. Exports of ICT goods as a share of total merchandise exports**

(Percentage)

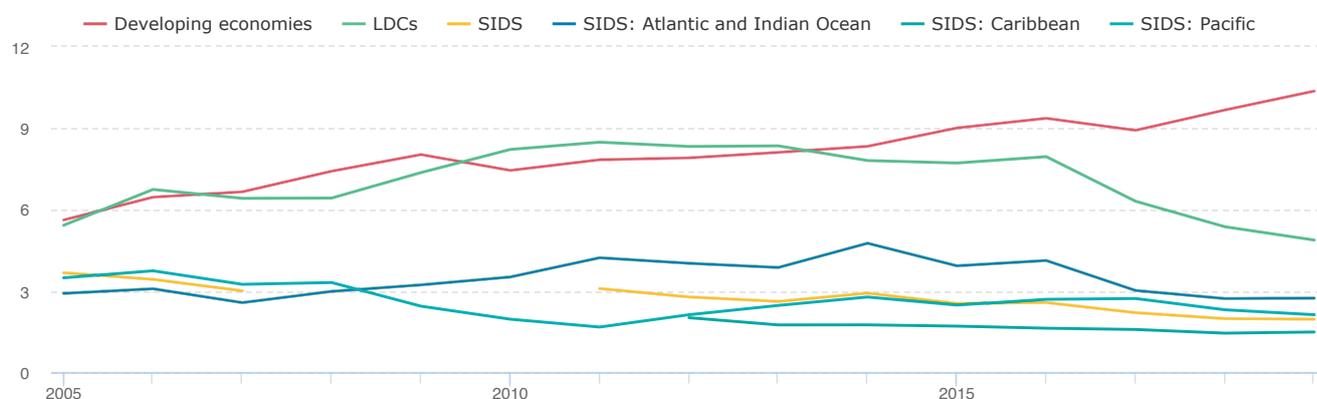


Source: UNCTAD (2021).

In order to strengthen countries' capacity to create and capture value in the digital economy, it is increasingly important to develop competitive domestic production of ICT services (UNCTAD, 2019b). Between 2005 and 2019, ICT services exports as a share of total services exports by SIDS lagged those of developing countries and LDCs (figure 17). Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS registered the strongest performance over the last decade. The Comoros stood out with an average share of more than 22 per cent. Jamaica, Kiribati, Mauritius and Samoa followed with relatively high and consistent export shares of around 4–5 per cent. Performance by some other SIDS showed strong fluctuations over this period. For example, ICT services exports in Sao Tome and Principe accounted for around 9 per cent between 2005 and 2012, only to drop back to around 1–2 per cent since 2013. Similarly, exports by Timor-Leste fluctuated between 8 and 32 per cent until 2014, only to fall to around 1 per cent in recent years.

 **Figure 17. Exports of ICT goods as a share of total merchandise exports**

(Percentage)



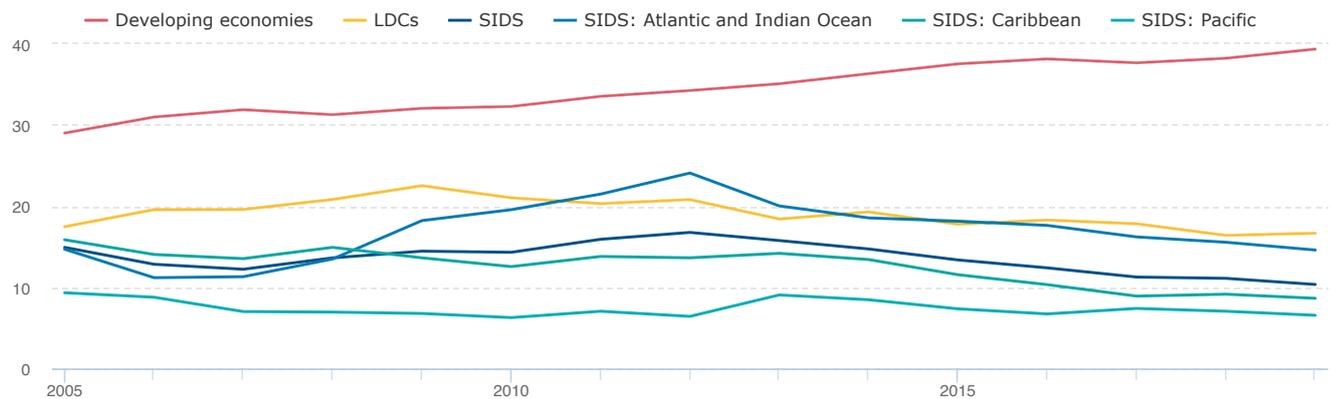
Source: UNCTAD (2021).

Note: No data available for SIDS from 2008–2010 and for Caribbean SIDS from 2005–2011.

## Digitally deliverable services exports as a share of total services exports

With telecommunications and computer services becoming more easily available and affordable, services are increasingly tradable and possible to deliver remotely. This has given rise to an expansion of outsourcing and offshoring of a range of business services, lowering barriers and entry costs for businesses in developing countries to produce and export such services (UNCTAD, 2019b). Similar to ICT services exports, exports of digitally deliverable services by SIDS trail those of developing countries, and to lesser extent LDCs. Still, 8 out of 26 countries registered an average share of more than 20 per cent over the last decade and a half, and only four countries with less than 10 per cent. In the case of Pacific SIDS, the relatively low overall share in exports of digitally deliverable services is to a large extent due to the performance of Fiji, the biggest SIDS in the region for which data are available. In fact, most of Pacific SIDS registered average shares of between 10 and 20 per cent over this period, against 4 per cent by Fiji.

 **Figure 18. Full potential of digitally deliverable services not yet achieved**  
(Percentage)



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

## UNCTAD B2C E-commerce Index highlights the need for support

The UNCTAD B2C E-commerce Index measures an economy's preparedness to support online shopping by looking at Internet use, financial account ownership, availability of secure servers and the reliability of postal services (UNCTAD, 2020b). Unfortunately, data for SIDS in these areas is extremely limited and only 8 countries could be included in the 2020 edition of the index. Of the SIDS for which data are available, the Dominican Republic had the highest Index score (59.3), followed by Mauritius (58.4). Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago also still scored above the average index value of 50. With an Index value of 12, the Comoros was the fourth lowest scoring country out of 152 countries in 2020. Limited data availability for SIDS and a relatively poor overall performance in the area of trade in the digital economy, underscore the urgent need for more technical assistance on e-commerce and financial inclusion, such as through the eTrade Readiness Assessments and other programmes that UNCTAD and its development partners provide (box 1).

### SIDS generally lag in their digital transformation



and performance in trade in ICT goods and services, and digitally deliverable services

**Table 2. UNCTAD B2C E-commerce Index 2020, SIDS**

	Share of individuals using the Internet (2019 or latest)	Share of individuals with an account (15+, 2017)	Secure Internet servers (normalized, 2019)	UPU postal reliability score (2019 or latest)	2020 Index value	2020 Rank
Dominican Republic	75	56	40	67	59.3	67
Mauritius	64	90	51	28	58.4	69
Jamaica	55	78	41	45	55	74
Trinidad and Tobago	77	81	47	14	54.9	75
Sri Lanka	34	74	48	36	47.8	91
Togo	12	45	26	9	23.2	131
Haiti	32	33	16	0	20.2	135
Comoros	8	22	18	0	12	149

Source: UNCTAD, B2C E-commerce Index (UNCTAD, 2020b).

### Box 1. eTrade readiness in the Pacific: beyond the pandemic

The [UNCTAD eTrade Readiness Assessment \(eT Ready\) Programme](#) has been designed to identify and address challenges in the development of e-commerce by developing countries and particularly LDCs. Born as a spin-off of the [eTrade for all](#) partnership, it provides a thorough analysis of a country's e-commerce ecosystem and tailored recommendations in seven key policy areas. In the past three years, 27 eT Readies have been conducted, including for five SIDS in the Pacific region, namely Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Findings from UNCTAD's assessments of the selected SIDS highlight some common challenges, such as access to affordable broadband Internet services, as well as the need for upgrading of logistics infrastructure in line with the requirements of cross-border e-commerce. Establishing an enabling environment through sound policy and regulatory frameworks, digital literacy and specialized skills of young people, women entrepreneurs and SMEs, will provide impetus to accelerate the digital transformation of SIDS' economies. Increasing capacities to develop digital solutions for the promotion of tourism and marketing of local products and services will boost employment opportunities and provide greater value addition.

During the pandemic, e-commerce and the digital economy have helped Pacific SIDS strengthen their resilience, both from the public and private sector sides. This has taken the form of an increased use of electronic payments, improved public service delivery through e-government and trade facilitation solutions, increased recourse to e-marketplaces for essential goods while minimizing physical contacts. For example, Kiribati reduced physical contact among government staff by introducing electronic payments of all salaries. It also started the online processing of documents for incoming vessels and flights bringing essential goods or repatriating foreigners (UNCTAD, 2020c). In Samoa, where local farmers and fishers struggles with restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic, many have turned to the local e-commerce platform Maua App to sell their products (*Samoa Observer*, 2020).

These examples are in line with findings by a recent UNCTAD study on COVID-19 and e-commerce covering 23 developing countries, including Kiribati, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu (UNCTAD, 2020d). The study has highlighted how the pandemic has reinforced pre-existing bottlenecks in e-commerce ecosystems that countries need to address by enhancing their digital readiness for e-commerce.

A recent review of the implementation of recommendations from the eTrade Readiness Assessments has shed light on the progress by beneficiary countries. In particular, it underscored the need to accelerate e-commerce-enabling reforms and investment projects within a clear policy framework. For Pacific SIDS, the eT Readies already constituted an important first step in initiating a coherent and coordinated e-commerce policy. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat is now working with UNCTAD and other development partners on a proposal aimed at laying the foundations for a regional e-commerce strategy and legal framework (UNCTAD, 2020e). UNCTAD is also working with the United Nations Capital Development Fund on a Pacific Digital Economy Programme, which will cover different research and technical assistance activities in the region, including in the area of data collection and statistics.



## Notes

1. Malta Government (1990), "Statement by his excellency ambassador Alexander Borg Olivier, permanent representative of Malta to the United Nations", Meeting of Government Experts of Island Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Organizations, New York, NY.
2. The EVI is the simple arithmetic mean of the two components, with the following weights in the 2012 index and the 2015 reviews:
  - The exposure sub-index, which is a weighted average of 5 component indices: population size, remoteness from world markets, export concentration, share of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in GDP and share of population living in low coastal areas.
  - The shock sub-index, which is a weighted average of 3 component indices: victims of natural disasters, instability in agricultural production and instability in exports of goods and services.
3. The Foundation for Studies and Research on International Development (FERDI), an independent and not-for-profit organization created in 2003. Its main missions are to improve understanding of economic issues related to emerging and developing countries, especially for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and French-speaking countries, and to support the contributions of French, European, and Francophone research to the international debate on sustainable development (FERDI, 2021).
4. The Convention signed at Lomé, Togo, on 28 February 1975, is a development-assistance package and preferential-trade agreement between the members of the European Economic Community and developing countries, known as the ACP States.
5. Includes EU28, instead of individual EU member States.
6. Data for Pacific SIDS is mainly based on data for Fiji and Samoa, given the lack of structural data for other countries in the region.
7. ICT goods as share of total merchandise exports jumped from an average of about two per cent between 2000–2005 to over 28 per cent from 2006–2017. 2017 is the latest year for which data is available.



## References

- Briguglio L (1995). Small island developing states and their economic vulnerabilities. *World Development*. 23(9):1615–1632.
- Briguglio L (2000). The Economic Vulnerability of Small Island Developing States. *International Conference on Sustainable Development for Island Societies*.
- Briguglio L, Cordina G, Farrugia N and Vella S (2009). Economic Vulnerability and Resilience: Concepts and Measurements. *Oxford Development Studies*. 37(3):229–247.
- Cantu-Bazaldua F (2021). Remote but well connected? Neighboring but isolated? The measurement of remoteness in the context of SIDS. Available at <https://unctad.org/publications>.
- CDP (2014). The Committee for Development Policy. Available at <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/backgroundnote.pdf> (accessed 25 March 2021).
- FERDI (2021). Your EVI. Available at <http://byind.ferdi.fr/en/indikator/evi/map/1585c3cf08139bbbc34290423cb82c1ff850de11> (accessed 22 March 2021).
- Foxley A (2009). RECOVERY The Global Financial Crisis and Middle-Income Countries. *Carnegie Endowmen*.
- Gamberoni E (2007). Do unilateral trade preferences help export diversification? *Graduate Institute of Geneva HEI*. (17):.
- Guillaumont P (2007). Assessing the Economic Vulnerability of Small Island Developing States and the Least Developed Countries. *UNU-WIDER*.
- Guillaumont P (2009). An Economic Vulnerability Index: Its Design and Use for International Development Policy. *Oxford Development Studies*. 37(3):193–228.
- Guillaumont P (2010). Assessing the Economic Vulnerability of Small Island Developing States and the Least Developed Countries. *Journal of Development Studies*. 46(5):828–854.
- Hausmann R and Rodrik D (2003). Economic Development as Self-discovery. *Journal of Development*. 72(1):603–33.
- IMF (2009). *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual Sixth Edition (BPM6)*. IMF. Washington, D.C.
- Klinger B and Lederman D (2005). Discovery and Development: An Empirical Exploration of ‘New’ Products. *Washington: DC: World Bank*.
- Krugman P (1987). The Narrow Moving Band, the Dutch Disease, and the Competitive Consequences of Mrs. Thatcher: Notes in the Presence of Dynamic Scale Economies. *Journal of Development Economics*. 27(1–2):41–55.
- OECD (2018). *Making Development Co-Operation Work for Small Island Developing States*. OECD Publishing. Paris.
- Robert R (2010). Trade, Economic Vulnerability, Resilience and the Implications of Climate Change in Small Island and Littoral Developing Economies. *ICTSD*. 23(12):.
- *Samoa Observer* (2020). Maua app hailed for giving farmers online platform. 31 October.
- UN DESA (2020). The COVID-19 pandemic puts small island developing economies in dire straits. Policy Brief No. 64. Available at [https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/PB\\_64.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/PB_64.pdf) (accessed 5 February 2021).
- UN DESA (2021). Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category.html> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- UN DESA and the United Nations Committee for Development Policy Secretariat (2020). Human Assets Index (HAI). Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category/hai-indicators.html> (accessed 30 October 2020).
- UNCTAD (2015). International trade in ICT services and ICT-enabled services: Proposed Indicators from the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development. UNCTAD Technical Notes on ICT for Development No. 3. (accessed 27 January 2021).
- UNCTAD (2016). Development and globalization: Facts and figures 2016: Target 2.b: Trade restrictions in agricultural markets. Available at <https://stats.unctad.org/Dgff2016> (accessed 17 June 2019).
- UNCTAD (2017a). UNCTAD activities in support of small island developing States. Available at [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/tdb64d9\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/tdb64d9_en.pdf) (accessed 22 March 2021).
- UNCTAD (2017b). *Review of Maritime Transport 2017*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.17.II.D.10. New York and Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2018a). UNCTAD Commodity Price Index Methodological Note. UNCTAD/STAT/CPB/MN/1. Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2018b). Updating the partnership definition of ICT goods from hs 2012 to hs 2017. UNCTAD Technical Notes on ICT for Development No. 10. (accessed 27 January 2021).
- UNCTAD (2019a). Trade and vulnerability.
- UNCTAD (2019b). Digital Economy Report 2019: Value Creation and Capture: Implications for Developing Countries. (accessed 25 January 2021).
- UNCTAD (2020a). Impact of COVID-19 on tourism in small island developing states. Available at <https://unctad.org/fr/node/2386> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- UNCTAD (2020b). UNCTAD B2C e-commerce index 2020. UNCTAD Technical Notes on ICT for Development No. 17. TN/UNCTAD/ICT4D/14. Geneva. 2 December. (accessed 22 January 2021).
- UNCTAD (2020c). Available at <https://unctad.org/news/kiribati-sets-sights-overcoming-hurdles-e-commerce> (accessed 25 January 2021).
- UNCTAD (2020d). COVID-19 and e-commerce: impact on businesses and policy responses. (accessed 25 January 2021).
- UNCTAD (2020e). Fast-tracking implementation of eTrade Readiness Assessments. (accessed 25 January 2021).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- United Nations (1990). *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 3*. Statistical papers, Vol. M, No. 4. United Nations. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2008). *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 4*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.08.XVII.25. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2010). *International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics: 2008*. United Nations. New York, NY.

- United Nations, European Commission, IMF, OECD and World Bank (2009). *System of National Accounts 2008*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.08.XVII.29. New York.
- UN-OHRLLS (2021). UN-OHRLLS list of Small Islands Developing States (SIDS). Available at <https://www.un.org/ohrls/content/list-sids> (accessed 19 March 2021).
- Vettas N (2000). Investment Dynamics in Markets with Endogenous Demand. *Wiley*. 48(2):189-203.
- WorldAtlas (2021). billion fewer international arrivals. Available at <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/electricity-rates-around-the-world.html> (accessed 10 February 2021).

# Economy



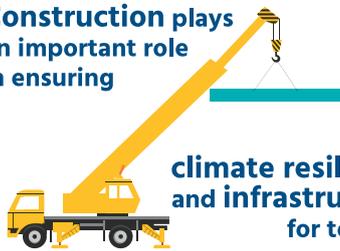
# Economy



*‘A differentiated approach must be given towards SIDS, taking into account their great vulnerabilities to external economic and environmental shocks as well as their great dependence on tourism, a sector devastated by the global pandemic.’*

– Mr. José Ulisses Correia e Silva, Prime Minister of Cabo Verde at the United Nations General Assembly New York, 26 September 2020

**Construction plays an important role in ensuring**



**climate resilience and infrastructure for tourism**

Year 2020 was unusually bleak from the economic point of view. SIDS<sup>1</sup> challenges due to the intensifying impacts of climate change and natural disasters were magnified by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many SIDS have developed a service economy around the ocean resources, tourism and business services. The collapse of tourism combined with high levels of external debt are threatening livelihoods in many SIDS, including their capacity to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This chapter will discuss SIDS’ economy, including:

1. [Economic trends](#) by sector and vulnerabilities reflected by the volatility of GDP and the current account deficit.
2. [Sustainable industrialisation](#) and efforts to diversify economic activities and increase the share of high-tech manufactures.
3. [Productive capacities](#) that build on SIDS’ human capital and enable higher economic growth and an increasing focus on service activities.
4. [Debt and financial risk](#) related to the increasing indebtedness and the role of remittances, official development assistance and foreign direct investment for SIDS’ economies.

**GDP per capita has grown steadily only in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS**



**ODA is crucial for Pacific SIDS: 25% of GDP**



**Caribbean SIDS accounted for over 70 per cent of SIDS’ inward FDI stock in 2019**



## Notes

1. Aggregates for SIDS and SIDS regions in this chapter refer to the analytical SIDS grouping, as detailed in [What makes a SIDS a SIDS](#), unless otherwise specified.

# Economic trends

## SIDS' economies are vulnerable to changes in global markets

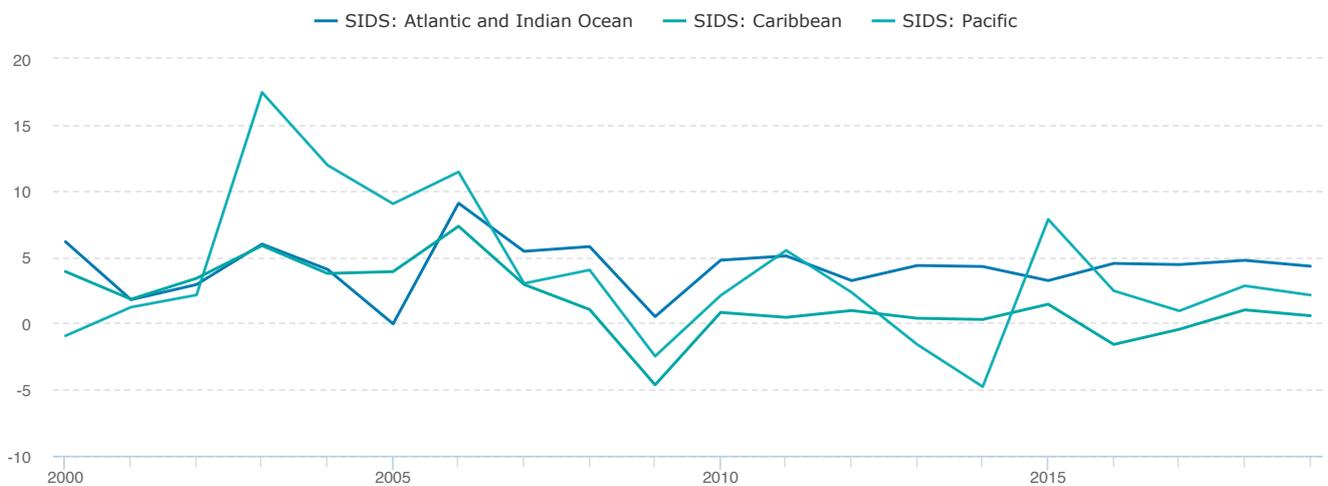
SIDS are highly integrated with the global economy and often depend on a limited set of commodities and economic sectors. Therefore, they are vulnerable to changes in global business cycles, shifts in demand for their products and abrupt price fluctuations. As in many small economies, their annual GDP growth can be rather volatile (see figure 1). The largest collapse was seen during the 2008-2009 global financial and economic crisis. The global crisis was felt most severely in the Caribbean SIDS, which experienced a 5 per cent drop in GDP from 2008 to 2009.

**The volatility of SIDS' GDP growth reflects their economic vulnerability**



**Figure 1. GDP growth in SIDS regions**

(Annual growth rate, based on data in constant 2015 prices)



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

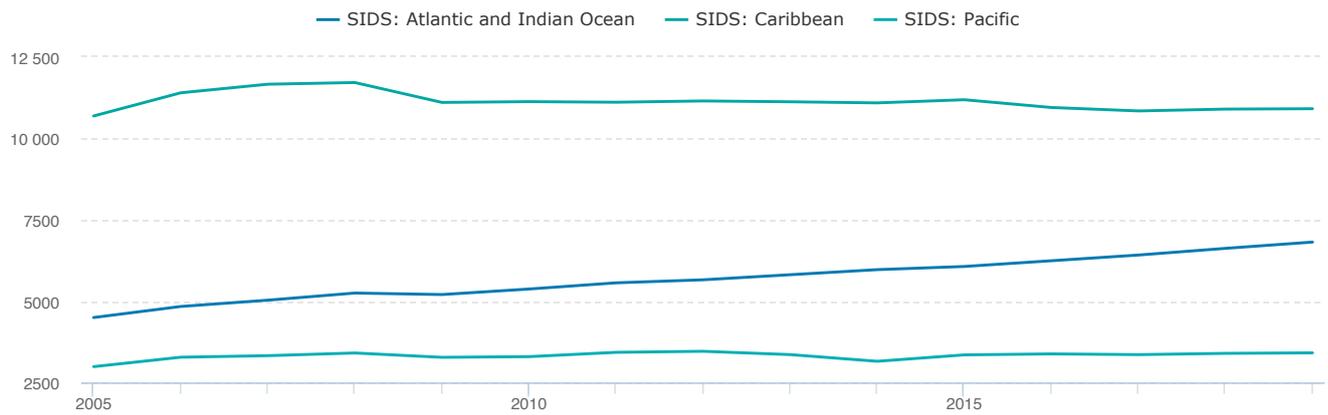
### GDP per capita has grown steadily only in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS



The 2014 slump in the Pacific SIDS (-5 per cent) was mainly due to a 25 per cent drop in Timor-Leste's GDP. According to World Bank (2015), at the time, petroleum was an essential part of their economy, representing 99 per cent of export earnings, 80 per cent of GDP and 93 per cent of total government revenues. In 2014, global oil prices dropped unexpectedly by more than 45 per cent, from US\$108.4 per barrel in June 2014, to US\$60.7 in December 2014. This is a clear-cut illustration of the dependency on a limited number of products in many SIDS and the resulting vulnerability of their economies. Luckily, the shock was followed by a 20 per cent bounce back in Timor-Leste the following year.

GDP per capita has not grown notably in SIDS since 2005 (see figure 2). The 2009 global economic crisis reversed the trend for growth in the Caribbean islands, and GDP per capita has not reached pre-crisis levels since then. Only in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS has GDP per capita grown steadily over time, being 52 per cent higher in 2019 than in 2005.

**Figure 2. GDP per capita in the SIDS regions**  
(US\$, constant 2015 prices)



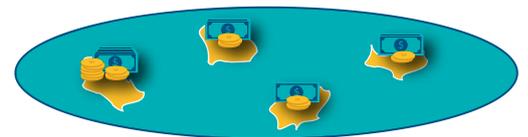
Source: UNCTAD (2021).

In nominal terms, GDP per capita is much higher in the Caribbean SIDS than in the other two regions. In 2019, it was at US\$11 561 (in current prices), three times more than in the Pacific SIDS (US\$3 433) and 1.6 times more than in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS (US\$7 143).

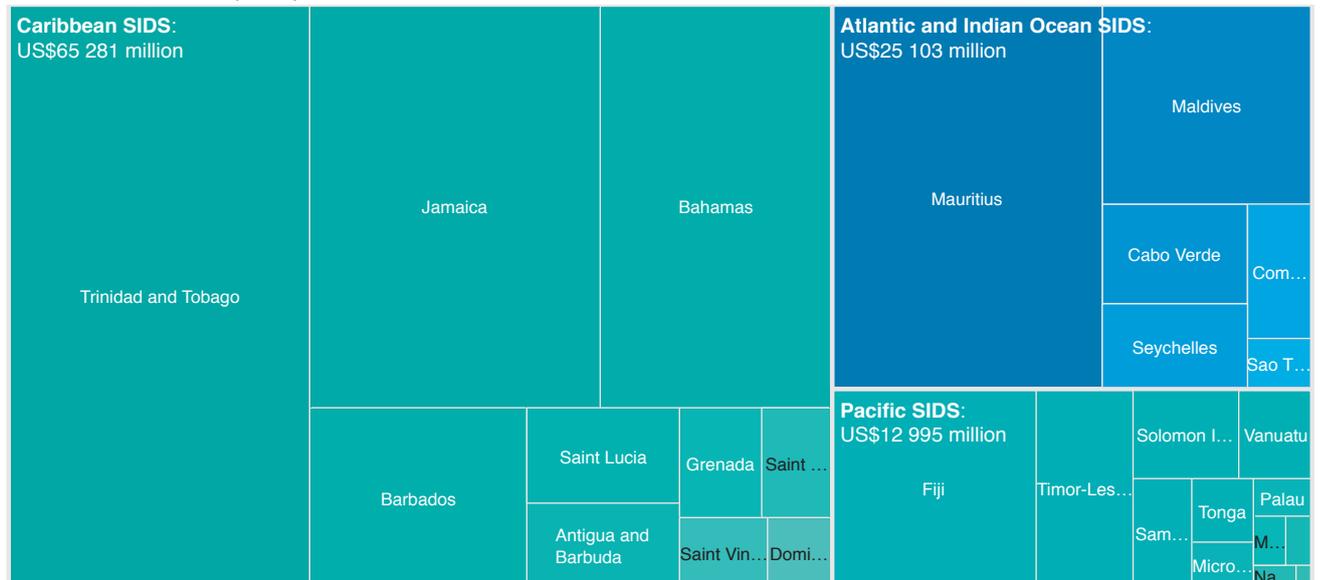
**In 2019, three in four SIDS had a GDP below the SIDS' average of US\$3.7 billion**



There is also a large gap between the highest and the lowest GDP among SIDS. GDP in Trinidad and Tobago in 2019 (US\$23.8 billion, current prices) was over 500 times higher than that of Tuvalu (US\$0.045 billion). In 2019, three in four SIDS had a GDP below the SIDS' average of US\$3.7 billion. In 12 SIDS that are mostly located in the Pacific, GDP was below US\$1 billion. Half of the top-10 SIDS, in terms of GDP, are Caribbean (see figure 3 ). In 2019, the Caribbean accounted for 63 per cent of SIDS' GDP, the Atlantic and Indian Ocean for 24 per cent and the Pacific for 13 per cent.



**Figure 3. Distribution of GDP in SIDS, 2019**  
(Millions of US\$, current prices)



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

## Persistent reliance on agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing

The share of agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing (ISIC Rev. 3 A-B, see United Nations, 2008) as a percentage of GDP differs greatly among SIDS. In the Comoros, these activities generated 34.5 per cent of GDP in 2019, while in the Bahamas the share was only 0.7 per cent.

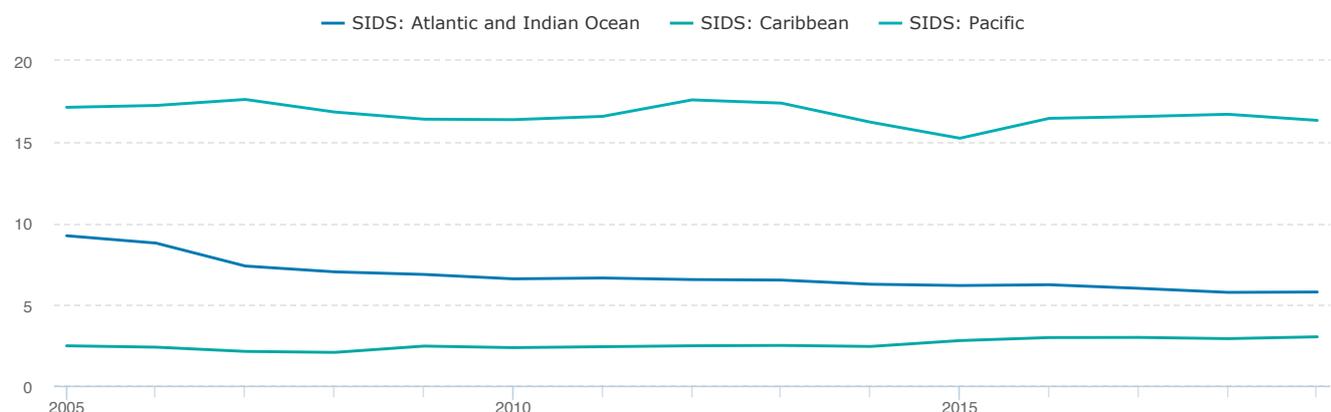
Opportunities afforded by agriculture are constrained by climate and the availability of arable land, especially for the smallest islands. In the Comoros and Mauritius, for instance, the share arable land accounts for 35 and 36 per cent respectively, whereas in the Solomon Islands and Palau it is only one per cent. In the Bahamas arable land accounts for only 0.6 per cent (FAO, 2020).

Regardless of the small share of arable land, the share of agriculture, forestry and fishing in GDP is relatively high in the Solomon Islands (25.4 per cent), explained by the large contribution of fishing and forestry rather than of agriculture. While only 0.7 per cent of their land is arable, 90.2 per cent, the highest proportion among SIDS, is covered by forest. Palau and Seychelles follow with 89.7 and 73.3 per cent share of forest land, respectively (FAO, 2020).

Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing are significant sources of employment for some SIDS. In 2019, their share of total employment was around 50 per cent for Vanuatu and the Comoros, and over 30 per cent for Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands and Fiji. In the Caribbean SIDS, agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing contributed less to employment, only about 2-3 per cent for Bahamas, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago, for instance. (ILO, 2020.)

In the Pacific SIDS, the share of this sector in GDP has declined slightly from 17 per cent in 2005 to 16 per cent in 2019. In the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS, the share dropped from over 9 per cent in 2005 to below 6 per cent in 2019, while it has stayed rather stable in the Caribbean SIDS, at just below three per cent (see figure 4).

 **Figure 4. Share of agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing in GDP**  
(Percentage of GDP)



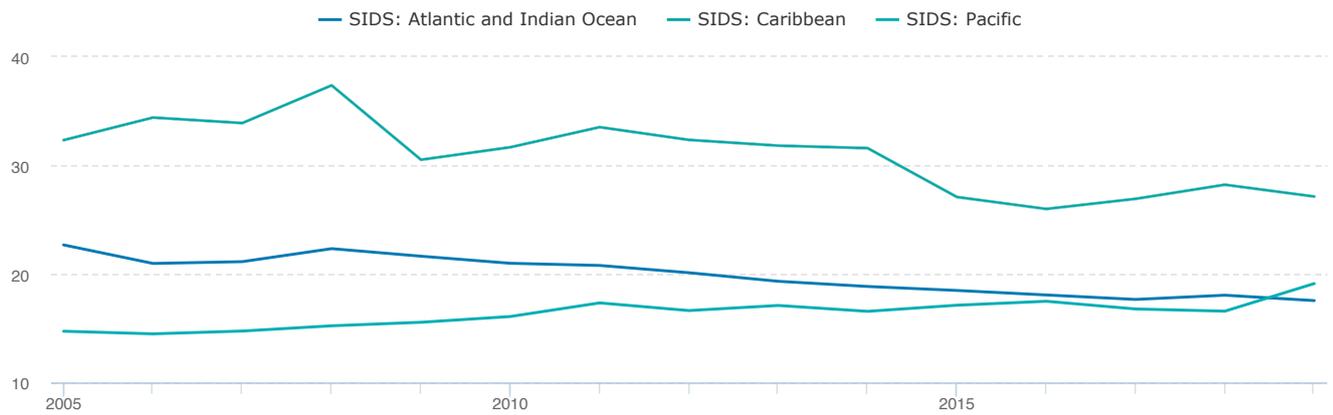
Source: UNCTAD (2021).

## Share of industrial production in GDP declining

In 2019, the value added generated by industrial production (ISIC Rev. 3 C-F) exceeded 35 per cent of GDP in Trinidad and Tobago and Nauru, while it represented less than 10 per cent of the economic output in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Comoros.

Over the last decade, the importance of industrial production has decreased in all SIDS regions (see figure 5) except in Pacific SIDS. However, this decline has flattened during the last couple of years and the share of industry has levelled in island economies. The regional trends mask large country differences, especially in Pacific SIDS. In 2019, industrial GDP (in constant prices) was almost 10 times higher in Timor-Leste than in 2005.

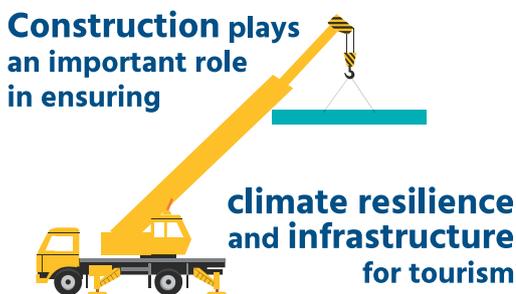
**Figure 5. Share of industrial production in GDP**  
(Percentage of GDP)



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

There are large differences in the share of industrial production in employment across SIDS. In 2019, its share ranged from 6 per cent for Vanuatu to 29 per cent for Tonga. Over 20 per cent employment shares were also recorded in Trinidad and Tobago, Mauritius, Samoa and Cabo Verde. In addition to Vanuatu, industry’s share of employment was very low, below 10 per cent, in Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste. (ILO, 2020.)

In half of SIDS, manufacturing constitutes less than five per cent of GDP. In 2019, Nauru had the largest manufacturing share: 19 per cent of its economic output. According to the most recent census in Nauru (2011), the share of manufacturing in total employment was 13 per cent in 2011. Manufacturing on the island includes coconut products and some handicrafts, in addition to phosphate production. Manufacturing exceeded 10 per cent of GDP in 2019 in three other SIDS: Trinidad and Tobago (19 per cent), Fiji (13 per cent) and Mauritius (13 per cent). In 2019, the value of manufacturing output was highest in Trinidad and Tobago (US\$4.3 billion), Mauritius (US\$1.6 billion) and Jamaica (US\$1.2 billion). The role of manufacturing in structural transformation is discussed in [Sustainable industrialisation](#).

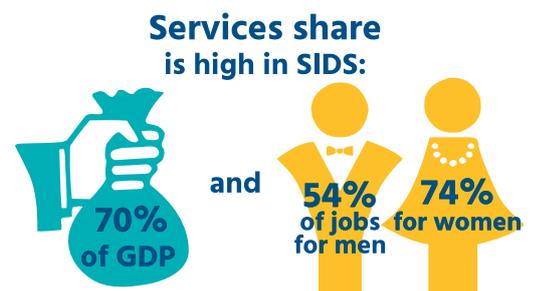


Construction in SIDS has been growing recently. The share of construction in GDP is highest in Caribbean SIDS, at 7 per cent. For instance, in the Saint Kitts and Nevis its share in GDP exceeded 20 per cent between 2016 and 2019. During the same four years, the construction sector in Antigua and Barbuda was also quite dynamic, reaching 16 per cent of GDP in 2019. In 2018-2019, construction activity also jumped up to over 11 per cent in Dominica. In Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS, construction value added exceeded 10 per cent of GDP in Cabo Verde, and among Pacific SIDS, in Tuvalu and Timor-Leste.

Construction plays an important role in SIDS via investment related to tourism, improvements of public infrastructure and road networks, as well as climate resilience building. Grenada, for instance, is undertaking a project to transform its capital, Saint George’s, into the first climate resilient city in the Caribbean. This includes construction projects, among other efforts, to improve infrastructure for water intake, drill new wells and build rainwater harvesting systems, improve water storage and distribution capacity, modernize sewage treatment systems and introduce new technology for remote monitoring and renewable energy use. (NOW Grenada, 2018.)

## The important role of services

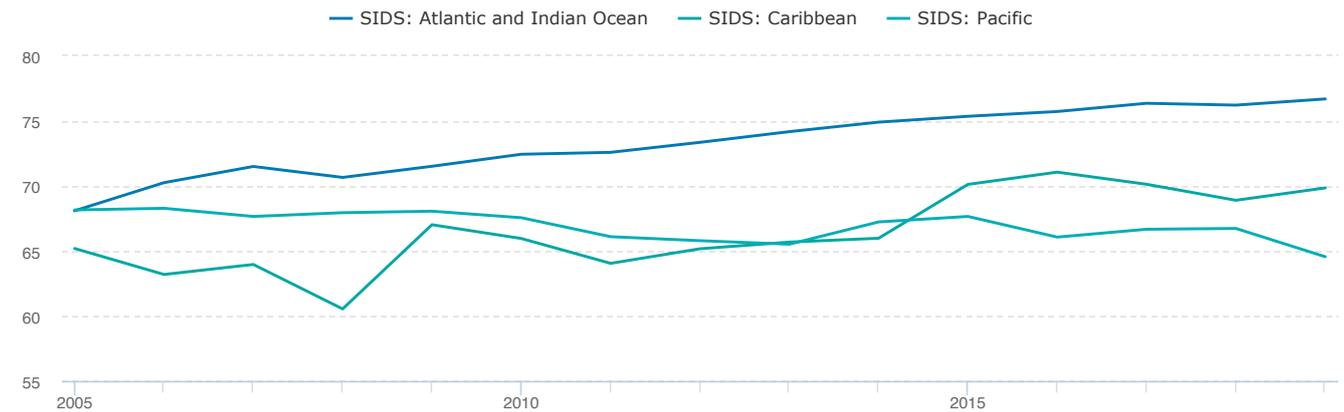
On average, service sector (ISIC Rev. 3 G-P) made up 71 per cent of SIDS’ GDP in 2019, compared to 66 per cent in 2005. The share of services was highest in Palau and Saint Lucia at 86 per cent, with Seychelles, Bahamas, Barbados and Maldives also exceeding 80 per cent. The share of services in GDP exceeded 50 per cent across SIDS. Since 2005, the service sector has grown by more than 10 percentage points in Trinidad and Tobago and in Samoa.



In contrast to the trend of industrial production, the share of services in GDP has increased in SIDS during the last decade (see figure 6). Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS saw a steady increase of the services share in their economies. Some growth was also recorded in Caribbean SIDS, while the share slightly decreased in Pacific SIDS.

Different types of services, including retail trade, hotels and restaurants, have become an important source of employment. On average, two in three persons work in services in the island economies, half of men and three in four women. These jobs are often related to tourism. For comparison, globally, 50 per cent of all employed persons work in services; 45 per cent for men and 58 per cent for women. In 2019, services' share of total employment was highest in Bahamas (84 per cent), Barbados (78 per cent) and Trinidad and Tobago (70 per cent). Only Vanuatu and the Comoros remained below 40 per cent. (ILO, 2020.)

 **Figure 6. Share of services in GDP**  
(Percentage of GDP)



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

**Table 1. Value added by sector, 2019**

(Percentage of GDP)

Country	Region	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Industrial production	Services
Antigua and Barbuda	SIDS: Caribbean	2.0	24.1	74.0
Bahamas	SIDS: Caribbean	0.7	15.2	84.1
Barbados	SIDS: Caribbean	1.5	15.1	83.4
Cabo Verde	SIDS: Atlantic and Indian Ocean	5.4	22.9	71.7
Comoros	SIDS: Atlantic and Indian Ocean	34.5	9.2	56.2
Dominica	SIDS: Caribbean	16.0	18.8	65.2
Fiji	SIDS: Pacific	13.2	19.6	67.2
Grenada	SIDS: Caribbean	5.8	15.9	78.3
Jamaica	SIDS: Caribbean	8.2	22.4	69.5
Kiribati	SIDS: Pacific	27.1	13.9	59.0
Maldives	SIDS: Atlantic and Indian Ocean	6.0	13.5	80.5
Marshall Islands	SIDS: Pacific	16.1	13.6	70.3
Mauritius	SIDS: Atlantic and Indian Ocean	3.3	19.9	76.9
Micronesia (Federated States of)	SIDS: Pacific	27.4	5.8	66.8
Nauru	SIDS: Pacific	2.4	36.4	61.2
Palau	SIDS: Pacific	3.4	10.4	86.2
Saint Kitts and Nevis	SIDS: Caribbean	1.4	27.5	71.2
Saint Lucia	SIDS: Caribbean	2.3	11.4	86.3
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	SIDS: Caribbean	8.6	16.7	75.3
Samoa	SIDS: Pacific	10.1	15.7	74.2
Sao Tome and Principe	SIDS: Atlantic and Indian Ocean	12.4	12.8	74.8
Seychelles	SIDS: Atlantic and Indian Ocean	2.7	13.0	84.3
Solomon Islands	SIDS: Pacific	26.1	15.7	58.2
Timor-Leste	SIDS: Pacific	14.1	29.3	56.6
Tonga	SIDS: Pacific	23.4	18.0	58.6
Trinidad and Tobago	SIDS: Caribbean	1.0	40.8	58.1
Tuvalu	SIDS: Pacific	21.4	13.4	65.2
Vanuatu	SIDS: Pacific	22.9	11.1	66.0

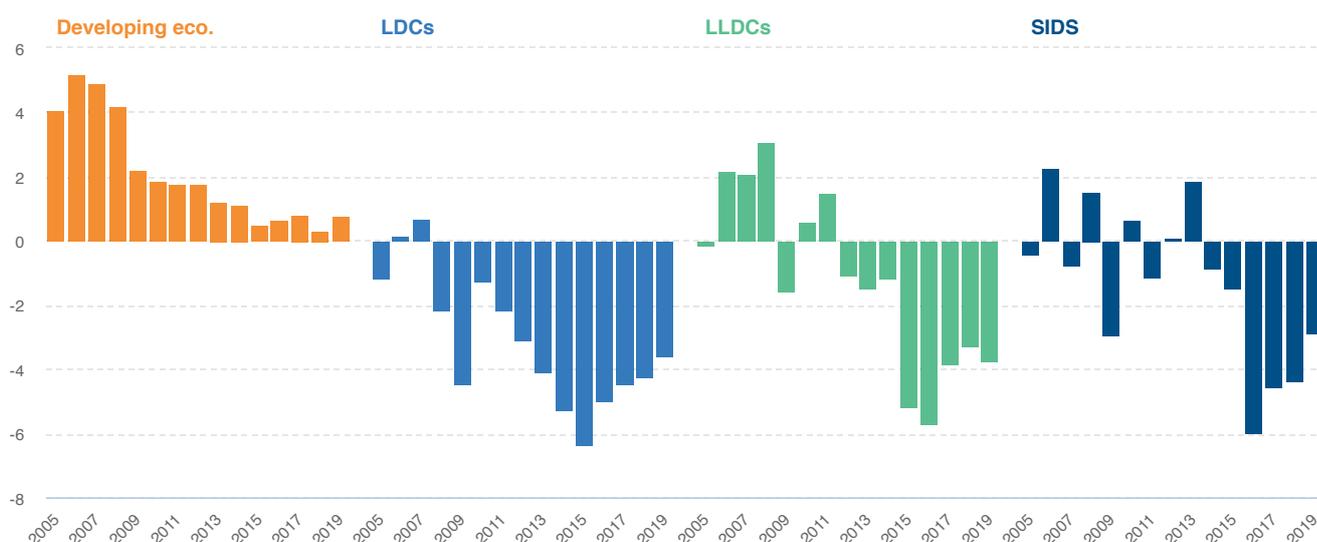
Source: (UNCTAD, 2021).

## Many SIDS run large current account deficits – some the world's highest surpluses

The current account balance relative to GDP is often higher in SIDS than in developing economies. Since 2016, SIDS have run large current account deficits (see figure 7). The collapse of tourism due to the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to widen these deficits in 2020. Tourism typically accounts for most of SIDS' exports (see [Tourism](#)).


**Figure 7. Current account balance in SIDS, LDCs, LLDCs and all developing economies**

(Percentage of GDP)



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

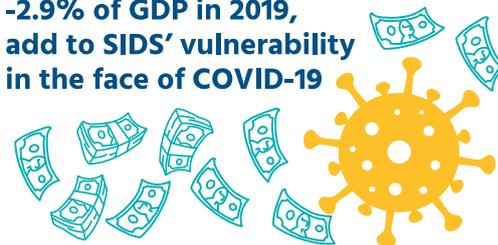
Note: Data not available for Nauru.

In 2019, SIDS' current account deficit was 2.9 per cent of GDP, thus considerably higher than that of the developing economies in total, which ran a surplus of 0.8 per cent of GDP. For wider comparison, it remained smaller than those registered for LDCs (-3.6 per cent) and LLDCs (-3.7 per cent) in proportion to GDP. As discussed in [Trade vulnerabilities](#), many SIDS run a surplus in services and a deficit in goods trade.

The current account deficit has been largest in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS (-10.7 per cent in 2019), more than twice as large as in the Pacific SIDS (-4.6 per cent in 2019). While the Caribbean SIDS have also run deficits, in 2019 they recorded a surplus of 0.5 per cent.

In 2019, Kiribati had the world's highest current account surplus, equal to almost half of its GDP. Tuvalu also had a high surplus of 27 per cent, followed by the Federated States of Micronesia, with an 18.5 per cent surplus in relation to GDP. Conversely, high deficits relative to GDP were observed in Dominica (-28 %) and the Maldives (-26 %), the third and fourth largest deficits in relation to GDP in the World.

**Large current account deficits, -2.9% of GDP in 2019, add to SIDS' vulnerability in the face of COVID-19**


**Table 2. Current account balance in SIDS and all developing economies**

(Percentage of GDP)

	1980	1990	2000	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Developing economies	1.00	0.31	1.37	0.52	0.62	0.80	0.35	0.80
SIDS	-1.16	-1.61	-3.22	-1.48	-5.96	-4.52	-4.34	-2.89
SIDS: Atlantic and Indian Ocean	-8.02	-3.35	-2.79	-5.46	-9.40	-9.56	-11.37	-10.74
SIDS: Caribbean	0.05	-0.76	-3.02	-0.45	-4.51	-2.28	-1.79	0.47
SIDS: Pacific	-2.75	-5.68	-6.09	-0.13	-7.13	-6.31	-3.59	-4.58

Source: UNCTAD (2021).

Note: Data not available for Nauru.

For many SIDS, current account deficits are significantly offset by the inflow of remittances. But SIDS also need to resort to external borrowing and rely on FDI and other financial flows to cope with their deficit. Export revenues, especially from tourism, are important for managing debt. As the COVID-19 pandemic and the related economic downturn significantly reduce earnings from tourism, SIDS' debt service burden is likely to increase (see [Financial risks](#)).



## References

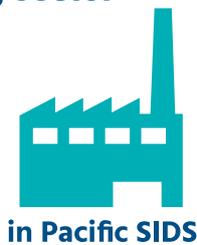
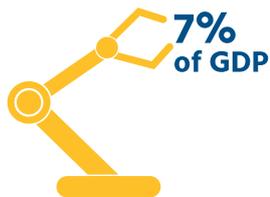
- FAO (2020). FAOStat. Available at <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020). ILOStat. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- IMF (2014). *External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users*. IMF. Washington, D.C.
- Kuznets S (1966). *Modern Economic Growth*. Yale University Press. New Haven.
- NOW Grenada (2018). St George's earmarked to become region's first climate resilient city. Available at <https://www.nowgrenada.com/2018/04/st-georges-earmarked-to-become-regions-first-climate-resilient-city/> (accessed 22 October 2020).
- Republic of Nauru (2011). National report on population and housing census 2011. Count me in! Republic of Nauru. Nauru, 195. (accessed 20 February 2020).
- Rodrik D (2013). Unconditional Convergence in Manufacturing. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 128(1):165–204.
- UN DESA (2021). Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category.html> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- UNCTAD, ed. (2006). *The Least Developed Countries Report 2006: Developing Productive Capacities*. United Nations. New York and Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2017). *World Investment Report 2017: Investment and the Digital Economy*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.17.II.D.3. Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2020). *Handbook of Statistics 2020*. UNCTAD. Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- United Nations (1990). *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 3*. Statistical papers, Vol. M, No. 4. United Nations. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2002). *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 3.1*. Statistical papers, Vol. M, No. 4. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.08.XVII.25. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2008). *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 4*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.08.XVII.25. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2010). *International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics: 2008*. United Nations. New York, NY.
- World Bank (2015). Timor-Leste manages the shock from falling oil prices. Available at <https://blogs.worldbank.org/eastasiapacific/timor-leste-manages-shock-falling-oil-prices#:~:text=In%202014%20global%20oil%20prices,in%20a%20six%2Dmonth%20period>. (accessed 12 February 2021).

# Industrial development for sustained economic growth

## SIDS still at early stages of structural transformation

The COVID-19 crisis exposed the risks of an economic model reliant on cross-border touristic or financial services with limited linkages to the rest of the economy. Progress on structural transformation towards sustainable industrialization would help SIDS achieve a more stable economic trajectory and contribute to a greater integration with the global economy.

### The manufacturing sector produces only



The share of MVA in GDP is a marker of structural transformation – an indication of how much an economy has transitioned from primary activities and resource extraction to higher value added activities. Persistently low shares of MVA are, therefore, a concerning finding in developing economies. Classic economic theory and consistent empirical evidence have established manufacturing as a stepping stone in economic development and higher living standards for the population, given that this sector creates unique opportunities for capital accumulation, economies of scale, rapid technological progress, productivity growth and integration in global

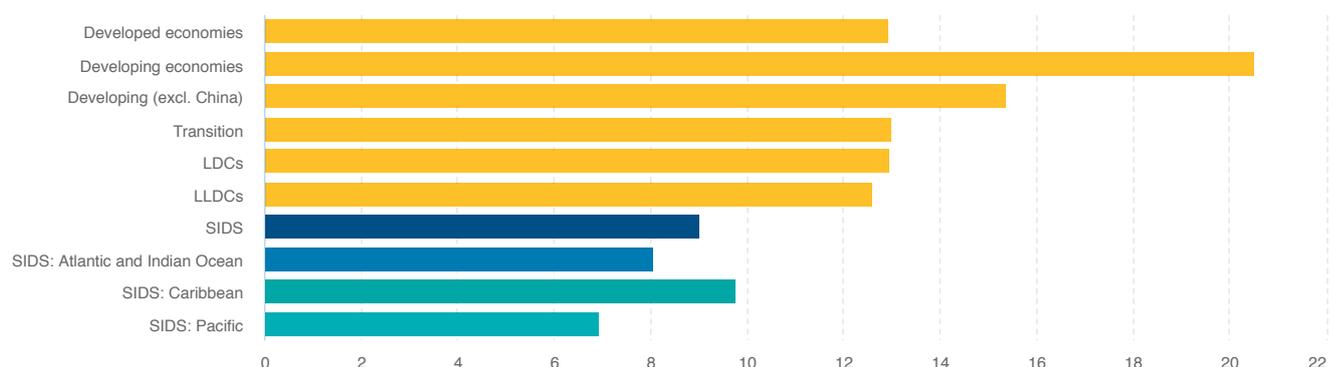
production networks (Kuznets, 1966; Kaldor, 1967; Cornwall, 1977; Fagerberg and Verspagen, 1999; Szarmi, 2012; Haraguchi et al., 2017; UNIDO, 2018). Because of its extensive linkages with other sectors and its large multiplier effect (Tregenna, 2008; WEF, 2016), manufacturing is considered an essential engine for growth. According to classic structural transformation theory, the relationship between the share of manufacturing in the economy and the level of economic development (measured as GDP per capita) follows an inverted-U shape: income per capita and the weight of manufacturing raise in tandem as output shifts from primary activities and resource extraction to manufacturing; at a later stage, however, this relationship inverts as richer economies specialize on higher-value added manufacturing and tertiary activities.

By 2019, as shown in figure 1, the weight of manufacturing in the economy of developing economies far exceeded that registered in developed economies. Even if this development can be explained in large part by the industrial performance of China, other economies of this group have also attained considerable progress in structural transformation. The weight of manufacturing in developed economies has declined relative to emerging and developing economies. On the other hand, the manufacturing sector in SIDS represented only 8.6 per cent of GDP, on average, lower than for LDCs and LLDCs. In the Caribbean SIDS, the share of MVA (8.9 per cent) exceeded the SIDS' average, while in the Pacific SIDS it was far below (7.1 per cent).



**Figure 1. Share of MVA in GDP in SIDS and other groups of economies (SDG 9.2.1), 2019**

(Percentage of MVA)



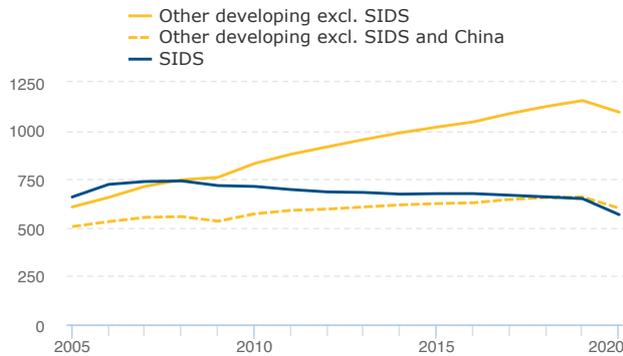
Source: UNIDO calculations based on data from UNSD (2021).

MVA per capita, another structural transformation indicator<sup>1</sup>, shows SIDS in a slightly better light (see figure 2). Given their small population, the levels were higher in SIDS than in other developing economies. However, while other developing countries registered rapid progress in this indicator, MVA per capita has declined in SIDS almost every year since 2008, when it stood at US\$741 (in 2015 prices) compared to an estimated US\$567 in 2020. Manufacturing had a larger presence in the Caribbean SIDS, although the decline was rapid there as well. Pacific and Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS exhibited a more stable MVA per capita than SIDS in the Caribbean, although at significantly lower levels. In 2020, MVA per capita in SIDS ranged from a maximum of US\$2 350 (in constant 2015 prices) in Trinidad and Tobago, to a mere

US\$18 per person in the Federated States of Micronesia.

**Figure 2. MVA per capita in SIDS and other developing economies (SDG 9.2.2)**

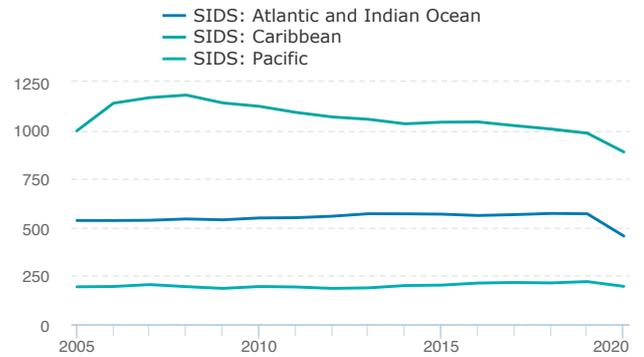
(US\$, constant 2015 prices)



**Manufacturing value added per capita**



**in a downward trajectory in SIDS since 2008**

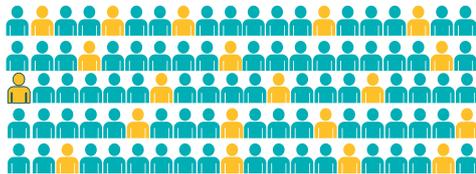


Source: UNIDO calculations based on data from UNSD (2021).

Note: Figures for 2020 are estimates from UNIDO (2021).

## Large variation among SIDS in manufacturing employment

**Manufacturing share of employment varies from 1% to 20% between SIDS**



Manufacturing makes a significant contribution to employment in some SIDS, while in others only a fraction. Most SIDS are well below the world average when looking at SDG indicator 9.2.2, share of manufacturing in total employment. Over 50 per cent of SIDS are also below the LDCs' and LLDCs' average (see figure 3).

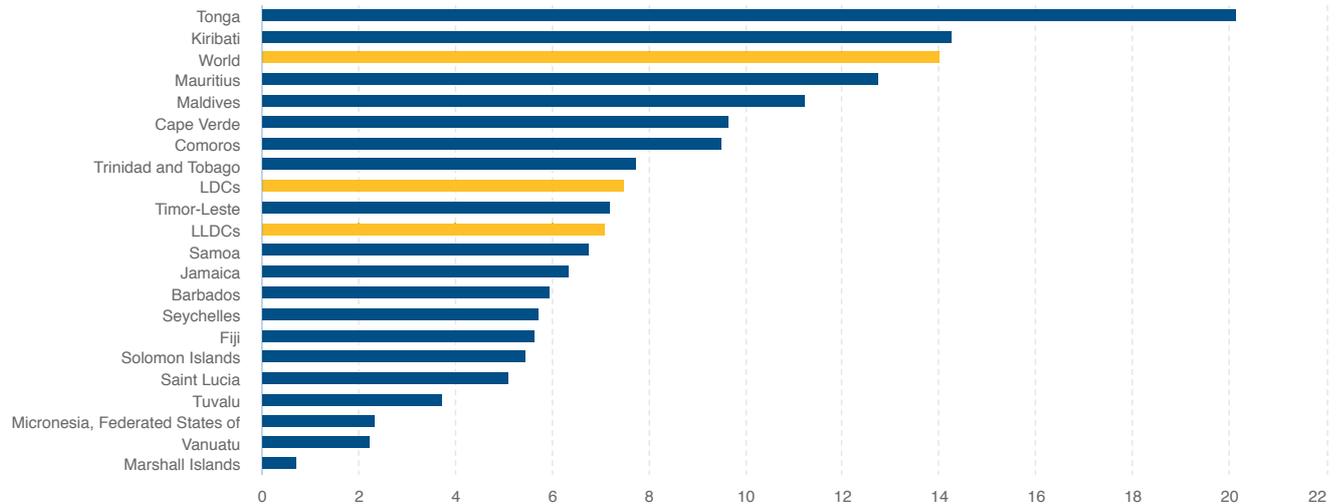
Only Tonga and Kiribati exceed the world average, with 20 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively. In Tonga, for instance, manufacturing is an important employer. In 2017, over 40 per cent of these jobs were in the manufacture of food products and beverages, while non-metallic mineral products and recycling and other

manufacturing both accounted for 20 per cent (Tonga Statistics Department, 2017).

The share of manufacturing in total employment is smallest in the Marshall Islands at below 1 per cent (data for 2010) and at 2 per cent in Vanuatu (data for 2010) and the Federated States of Micronesia (data for 2014). Rather than on manufacturing, the livelihood of population depends on agriculture in Vanuatu and in the Marshall Islands on services. SIDS' increasing reliance on the service sector is discussed as part of [Productive capacity](#).


**Figure 3. Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment (SDG 9.2.2)**

(Percentage)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on data from ILO (2020).

Note: Data represent the latest available year: 2019 data for Saint Lucia, Seychelles, Barbados, Jamaica, Cabo Verde and Mauritius; 2018 data for regional aggregates and Tonga; 2017 data for Samoa; 2016 for Tuvalu, Fiji, Timor-Leste and Trinidad and Tobago; 2015 data for Kiribati; 2014 for Micronesia (Federated States of), Comoros and Maldives; 2013 for Solomon Islands; and 2010 for Vanuatu and Marshall Islands.

## SIDS concentrate on resource-based manufactures

Not all manufacturing activities contribute to structural transformation and economic growth to the same degree. Industries that produce more technologically advanced manufactures contribute with higher value added per worker and lead to better opportunities for accelerating technological progress, creating positive spillovers to other sectors and supporting integration with world markets.

Even though data to study manufacturing by technological level are missing for many SIDS, it is possible to analyze exports by technological content as a proxy for manufacturing output. To this end, exports are classified to primary products and four categories of manufactured goods: resource-based, low technology, medium technology and high technology. The higher the share of exports on the higher categories of technological complexity, the stronger the indication that the economy has progressed in its structural transformation.

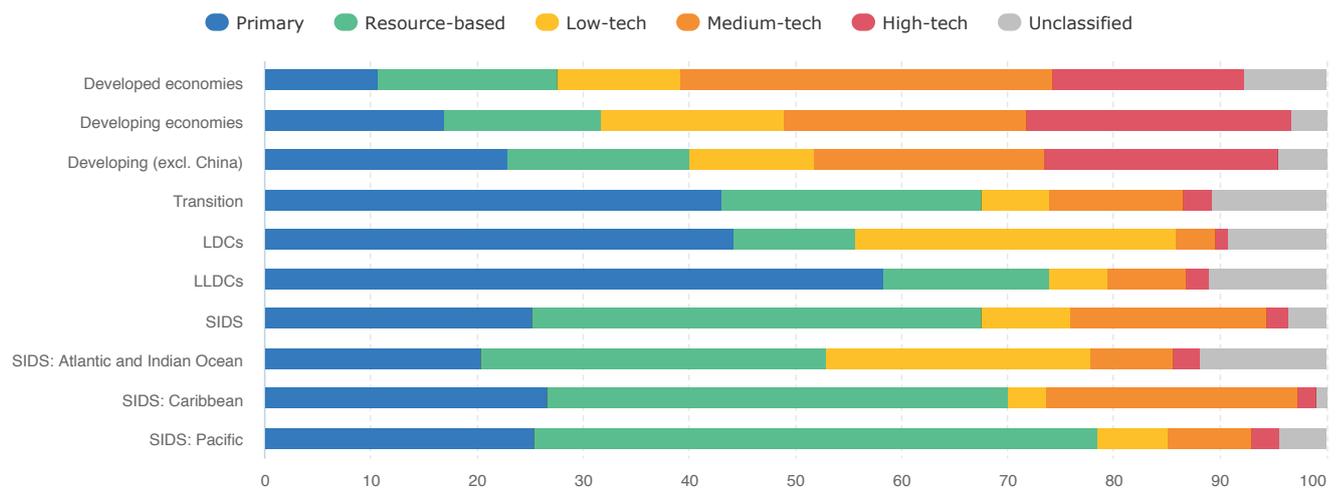
SIDS' exports are concentrated primarily on resource-based manufactures (see figure 4) with the lowest level of technological content. Medium and high-tech manufactures represent 20.6 per cent of exports, compared to 47.8 per cent in all developing economies and 53.1 per cent in developed countries. The Caribbean SIDS have a technologically more advanced export profile, with 25.5 per cent of their exports classified in the medium and high category. The share in the other two SIDS groups is slightly above ten per cent.

**Medium and high technology products account for only one fifth of SIDS' exports**




**Figure 4. Distribution of exports by technological category, 2019**

(Percentage)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on data from UNCTAD (2021).

Note: For a description of the product classification by technological category, see UNCTAD (2020).

The relatively low weight of manufacturing in the SIDS' economic output and their high concentration on relatively low value-added, resource based and technologically less complicated manufactures in their exports, as evidenced by the figures above, indicate that SIDS still have a long way to go in terms of structural transformation.

## Structural transformation through manufacturing still the path to sustained growth

### Concentration of economic output in few sectors or markets threatens stability and long-term growth



Some research findings have questioned the role of manufacturing as a bridge to economic development. In many advanced economies, manufacturing has started to decline relative to other sectors (i.e., deindustrialization). As mentioned above, this finding can be explained as a natural process in structural transformation, but it has also been partially caused by measurement issues, such as changes in business structures, outsourcing and "servitization" (see Rowthorn and Ramaswamy, 1997; Su and Yao, 2017; Hauge and Chang, 2019). This process has also been identified in some developing economies, but mostly triggered by policy failures (Palma, 2005; Haraguchi et al., 2017).

Haraguchi et al., 2017).

Some highly-specialized, small-size economies, including some SIDS, have bypassed the traditional process of structural transformation through manufacturing and have achieved sustained economic development based on resource extraction or services in the financial or tourism sectors (Perkins and Syrquin, 1989; Armstrong and Robert, 1995). However, this has also created reliance on a limited number of sectors or markets and could result in high vulnerability to shocks, caused for example by natural disasters, shifts in global financial flows, changes in international regulations or downturns in international travel, as witnessed during the COVID-19 crisis. A more diversified economic structure usually helps improving stability and sustaining long-term economic growth. Manufacturing has an important role to play in this diversification.



### Notes

1. MVA as a share of GDP and per capita are both included in SDG indicator 9.2.1 as markers for inclusive and sustainable industrial development targets.



## References

- Armstrong H and Robert R (1995). Western European micro-States and EU autonomous regions: The advantages of size and sovereignty. *World Development*. 23(7):1229–1245.
- Baines T et al. (2017). Servitization: Revisiting the state-of-the-art and research priorities. *International Journal of Operations & Production Management*. 37(2):256–278.
- Cornwall J (1977). Modern Capitalism: It's Growth and Transformation.
- Fagerberg J and Verspagen B (1999). Modern capitalism in the 1970s and 1980s. *Growth, Employment and Inflation*. Palgrave MacMillan. London.
- Haraguchi N, Cheng C and Smeets E (2017). The importance of manufacturing in economic development: Has this changed? *World Development*. 93293–315.
- Hauge J and Chang H (2019). The role of manufacturing versus services in economic development. *Transforming Industrial Policy for the Digital Age*. Edward Elgar Publishing. Cheltenham, UK.
- ILO (2020). ILOStat. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- Kaldor N (1967). Strategic Factors in Economic Development.
- Kowalkowski C, Gebauer H, Kamp B and Parry G (2017). Servitization and deservitization: Overview, concepts, and definitions. *Industrial Marketing Management*. 604–10.
- Kuznets S (1966). Modern Economic Growth. *Yale University Press. New Haven*.
- Palma J (2005). Four sources of de-industrialization and a new concept of the Dutch disease. *Beyond Reforms: Structural Dynamic and Macroeconomic Vulnerability*. Stanford University Press and the World Bank. Palo Alto, CA and Washington, DC.
- Perkins D and Syrquin M (1989). Large countries: The influence of size. *Handbook of Development Economics Volume II*. Elsevier Science Publishers.
- Rodrik D (2013). Unconditional Convergence in Manufacturing. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 128(1):165–204.
- Rowthorn R and Ramaswamy R (1997). Deindustrialization: Its causes and implications. Economic Issues No. 10. IMF.
- Su D and Yao Y (2017). Manufacturing as the key engine of economic growth for middle-income economies. *Journal of the Asia Pacific Economy*. 22(1):47–70.
- Szarmi A (2012). Industrialisation as an engine of growth in developing countries, 1950–2015. *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics*. 23(4):406–420.
- Tonga Statistics Department (2017). Available at <https://tongastats.gov.to/statistics/economics/manufacturing/> (accessed 18 February 2021).
- Tregenna F (2008). Sectoral engines of growth in South Africa: An analysis of services and manufacturing. WIDER Working Paper Series No. RP2008-98.
- UN DESA (2021). Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category.html> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- UNCTAD, ed. (2006). *The Least Developed Countries Report 2006: Developing Productive Capacities*. United Nations. New York and Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2020). UNCTADStat: Classifications. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Classifications.html> (accessed 1 February 2021).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNIDO (2018). *Industrial Development Report 2018, Demand for Manufacturing: Driving Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.18.II.B.48. Vienna.
- UNIDO (2021). Available at <http://stat.unido.org> (accessed 2 January 2021).
- United Nations (1990). *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 3*. Statistical papers, Vol. M, No. 4. United Nations. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2002). *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 3.1*. Statistical papers, Vol. M, No. 4. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.08.XVII.25. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2008). *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 4*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.08.XVII.25. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2010). *International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics: 2008*. United Nations. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2020). SDG indicators: Metadata repository. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/> (accessed 20 April 2020).
- UNSD (2021). Available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/snaama> (accessed 2 January 2021).
- WEF (2016). Manufacturing or future: Cases on the future of manufacturing. Available at [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GAC16\\_The\\_Future\\_of\\_Manufacturing\\_report.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GAC16_The_Future_of_Manufacturing_report.pdf) (accessed 2 January 2021).

# Productive capacity

## Many vulnerabilities affect SIDS' productive capacity

Fostering productive capacity and structural transformation for sustainable and inclusive growth and development is particularly important for SIDS<sup>1</sup> as they are among the most vulnerable economies in the world. The new [UNCTAD PCI](#)<sup>2</sup> measures the capacity of a country to produce goods and services, and sheds light on potential blockages and limitations, as well as opportunities for transformational growth. The PCI was developed at the request of UNCTAD (2016) and responds to ECOSOC (2017) request for input for UNDESA's impact assessments and the Committee for Development Policy who assess countries' readiness for graduation from the LDC category.

Despite SIDS' high socioeconomic, climate change and other environmental vulnerabilities, some have achieved comparatively high levels of income per capita (e.g., the Bahamas, Nauru and Saint Kitts and Nevis), mainly thanks to the growth and expansion of services, particularly tourism services. In a few SIDS, agriculture and fisheries play an important role in driving growth and structural transformation (see [Economic trends](#)). We identify four types of vulnerabilities that underlie the analysis of productive capacities.

First, most SIDS have small economies, leaving little room for diversification in to manufacturing or agro-processing and the creation of economies of scale. Small and vulnerable economies face serious constraints in kickstarting secondary activities, such as manufacturing and agro-processing. As discussed in [Sustainable industrialization](#), the average share of MVA in total value added for SIDS is far below the average for lower-middle income economies, and even below the level for LDCs. Most SIDS are dependent on agriculture, fisheries and services (typically tourism). However, a few SIDS are emerging as financial hubs or centers for business and financial services, with activities such as call centers, digital data production, or consumption and transfer centers (e.g., geo-localization technologies). The limited availability of land in SIDS often means that total factor productivity in agriculture is low, and land overuse can lead to environmental degradation and falling agricultural yields. Tourism, in turn, is affected by climate change, and other disasters and shocks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Small populations in most SIDS limit local labour supply and domestic demand. Against this background, structural transformation is likely to occur primarily through shifts to and transformation of the services sector.

Second, as discussed in [Trade vulnerabilities](#), SIDS are highly dependent on international trade, especially importing manufactured goods, fossil fuels and often food. Many SIDS depend on the export of a limited number of agricultural commodities to only a few export destinations which renders them vulnerable to global price shocks and changes in demand for their products. SIDS have also been adversely affected by the gradual erosion of trade preferences for some of their primary export products, such as bananas and sugar. They have had negative merchandise trade balances for the past 15 years, the relative size of which has increased recently (see [Trade vulnerabilities](#)). Moreover, due to their remoteness, SIDS experience high trade costs linked to limited shipping services to their markets, and some depend on air transport. Goods often incur high storage and insurance costs prior to shipping, and the limited number of shipping providers to some SIDS creates risks of oligopolistic pricing behavior (UNCTAD, 2014). The geographic isolation of SIDS also leads to high communications costs, limiting the potential of these countries as ICT hubs.

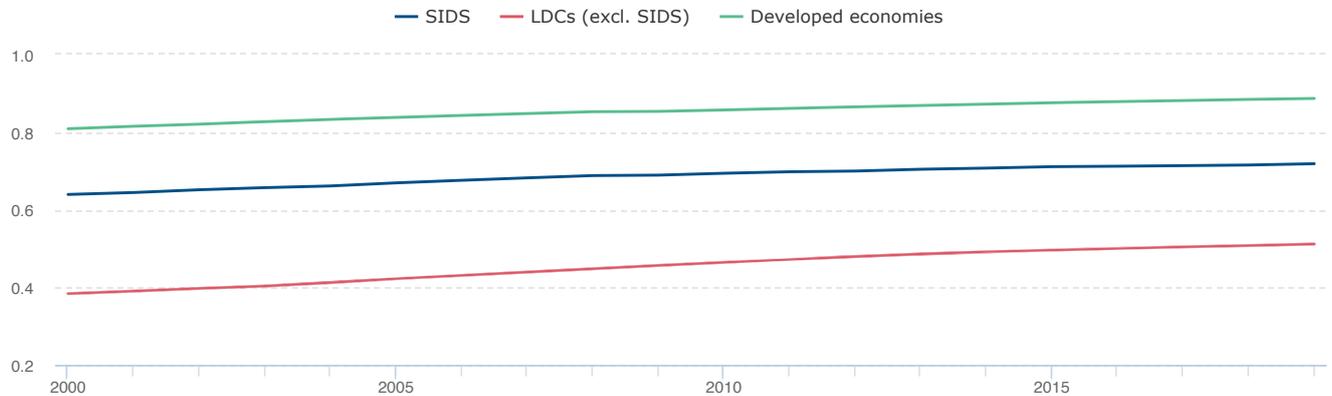
Third, SIDS are some of the most disaster-prone countries in the world (Slany, 2020), and are vulnerable to tropical cyclones, hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, etc. As discussed in [Environment](#), disasters can cause significant losses of human life and damage to the economic infrastructure in SIDS. According to some estimates, the 2004 tsunami caused damage to the Maldives economy the equivalent of 62 per cent of its annual GDP (World Bank et al., 2005). With climate change, the frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones, typhoons and hurricanes has increased. The long-run-effects of natural disasters and climate change could lead to significant loss of coastal land and environmental degradation in many SIDS, and in some cases threaten their very existence. Climate change and the overuse of scarce natural resources, such as land, can adversely impact soil quality, agricultural productivity and the quality of freshwater and marine resources, which are already stretched to their limits in many cases. Furthermore, SIDS are often rich in biodiversity, strengthening the need for cautious environmental management to sustainably harness these valuable resources. Finally, as economies that are often highly dependent on fishery and tourism, the environmental degradation of the oceans, including through over-fishing, pollution and coral bleaching, is an additional source of vulnerability. Some SIDS also suffer from limited private and public institutional capacity and poorly developed infrastructure, which exacerbates the impact of adverse shocks and reduces socioeconomic resilience (see [Environment](#)).

As a result of the above vulnerabilities, SIDS' GDP growth is more volatile than that of other developing countries. The largest downturn before 2020 was seen during the 2008-2009 global financial and economic crisis, when the average annual GDP growth rate declined from above 8 per cent in 2006 to -3.5 per cent in 2009 (see [Economic trends](#)).

Despite the numerous challenges, systemic risks and vulnerabilities outlined above, SIDS are characterized by relatively high average HDI scores (UNDP, 2020) (see [Country profiles](#)) (figure 1). SIDS showed an increase in mean HDI values from 0.65 in 2000 to 0.75 in 2018, thereby reaching higher levels than the LDCs' average of 0.4 and 0.5, over the same period, and converging towards those of developed economies (0.85 and 0.9). Productive capacities played an important role in SIDS achieving this encouraging development, as the analysis of the PCI below will show.

**Figure 1. Human development in SIDS, LDCs and developed economies**

(Regional average HDI score)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNDP (2021).  
 Note: No HDI for Nauru and Tuvalu.

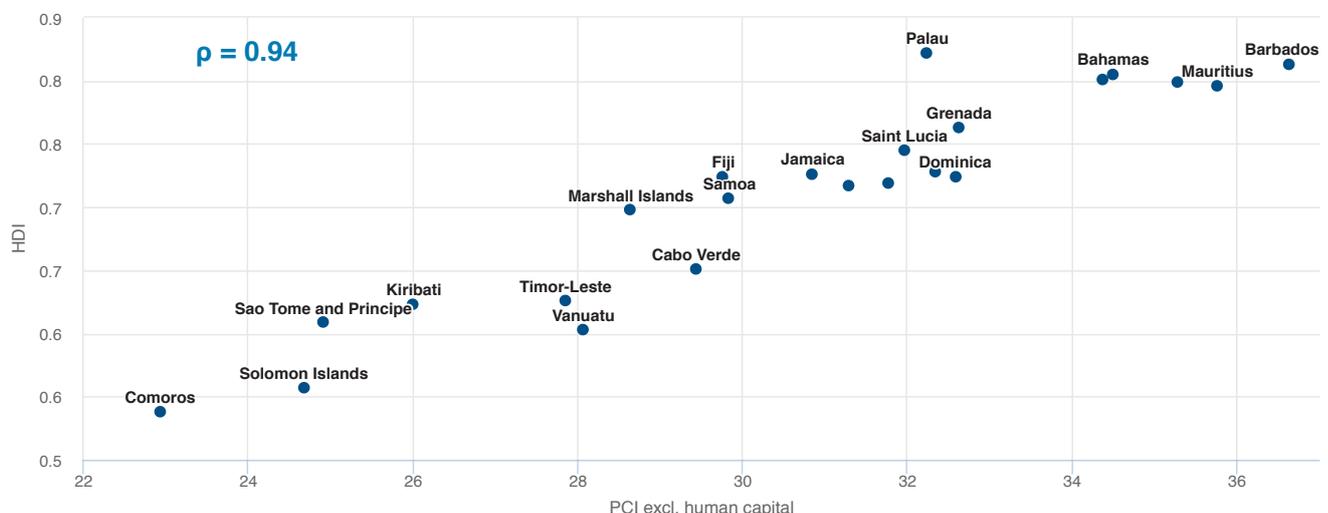
## SIDS' productive capacity is correlated with human development

It is striking, firstly, that productive capacities are highly correlated with the HDI among SIDS. This is the case even when the PCI's human capital component, which has much in common with the knowledge dimension of the HDI, is not included. In 2018, the two indices were highly positively correlated ( $\rho = 0.94$ ). SIDS with lower productive capacities were those with lower human development scores, and those with higher productive capacities featured in the top ranks of human development.



**Figure 2. SIDS' HDI and PCI excluding human capital, 2018**

(HDI and PCI scores and their correlation)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNDP (2021) and UNCTAD (2021a).  
 Note: Geometric mean of PCI scores for all other components than human capital.



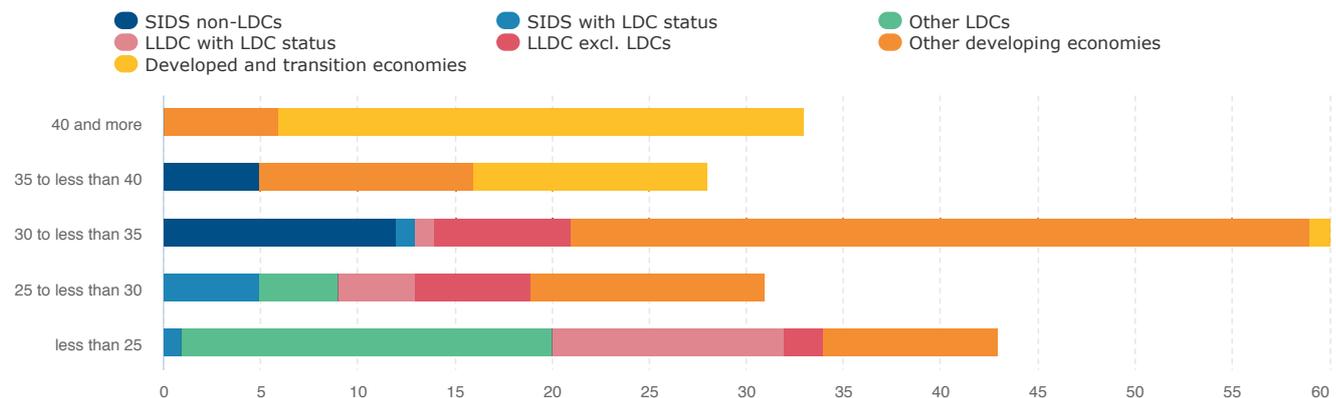
## Despite vulnerabilities, SIDS outperform LDCs and LLDCs

in human development and productive capacity



As with the HDI, SIDS perform better than other structurally vulnerable economies with regard to productive capacities. Figure 3 shows that, among LDCs, SIDS are strongly over-represented in the classes with a PCI of 25 or higher. Only one SIDS, the Comoros, had a PCI score of less than 25 in 2018, while most other LDCs fell short of that level. Furthermore, SIDS not classified as LDCs never had a PCI of less than 30, whereas this was the case for all except two LDCs, namely Tuvalu and Bhutan. In other words, a fairly clear cut-off line between non-LDC SIDS and LDCs can be drawn at a PCI score of 30. SIDS also appear to be more strongly represented in higher PCI classes than LLDCs. However, this difference in performance seems less pronounced than the difference with LDCs.

**Figure 3. Productive capacities, by development status, 2018**  
(PCI score)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNCTAD (2021a).

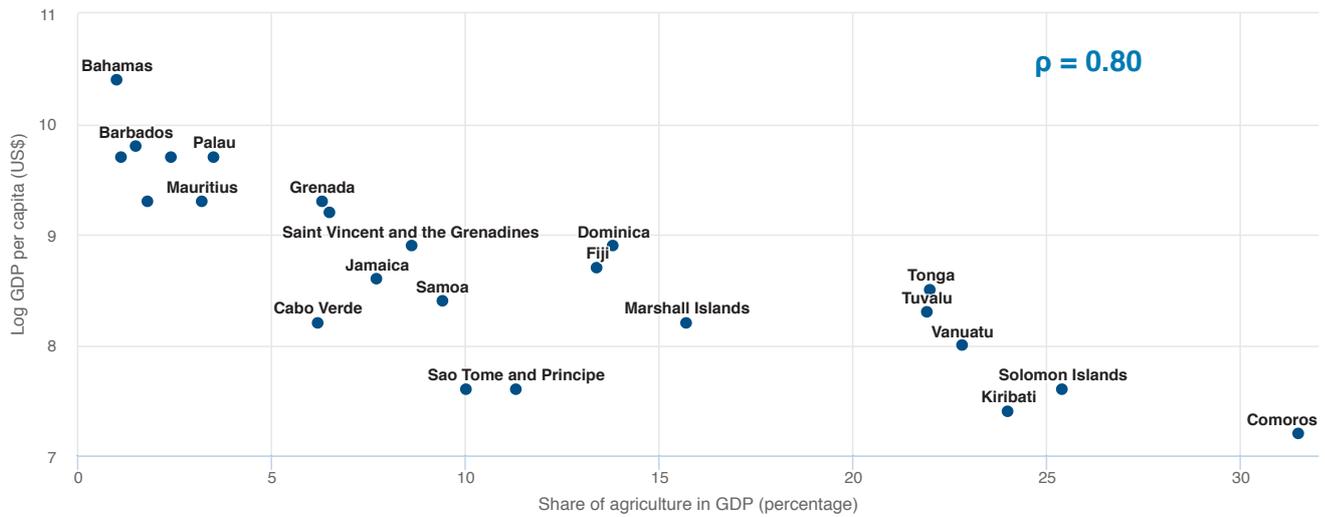
SIDS have achieved higher levels of human development than many LDCs, despite their particular vulnerabilities, outlined above. What role have their productive capacities played? The main indicator of human development in the HDI, other than human capital and health, is GDP per capita. The choice of this aggregate measure of income is grounded on the rationale that income represents an important resource for increasing people's capabilities "to pursue the choices that they value" (UNDP, 2016), thus expanding their freedom. Productive capacities play an important role in promoting the generation of income.

## Structural transformation has moved focus towards services

The distribution of economic activity over sectors is an important dimension of productive capacity, considering productivity differences of sectors. Agriculture, including forestry and fishing, for example, is generally characterized by relatively low value added per worker. Its output is highly dependent on weather conditions and can strongly fluctuate over time, especially in SIDS, which are more exposed to winds and floods than other economies in the tropics. Relying largely on agriculture, therefore, usually renders stable income generation difficult. SIDS' share of agriculture (including hunting, forestry and fishing) in GDP decreased from almost 10 per cent in 1970 to around 5 per cent by 2018. In 1970, it was around one fourth of GDP in Atlantic and Indian Ocean as well as in Pacific SIDS. Transformation over time has been especially pronounced in Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS, where the agriculture share fell to 6 per cent of GDP until 2018, whereas in Pacific SIDS it was still at 15 per cent in 2018 (UNCTAD, 2021a).

Figure 4 confirms that SIDS still relying heavily on agriculture are those where GDP per capita is relatively low. In 2018, the share of agriculture in GDP was negatively correlated ( $\rho = -0.80$ ) with GDP per capita (in logarithms).

 **Figure 4. Share of agriculture in GDP and GDP per capita, 2018**



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on data from UNCTAD (2021a).

Note: Agriculture includes hunting, forestry and fishing (ISIC Rev. 3 sections A and B, see United Nations (2008)).

As the share of agriculture in GDP has dwindled over the last decades, the dependence on exports of food and agricultural raw materials has been replaced by services and other exports, often associated with more skilled and knowledge-intensive activities. The share of services in SIDS' GDP has increased from 62 per cent in 1970 to about 70 per cent in 2018, as described in [Economic trends](#). Studies by Armstrong et al. (1998), Easterly and Kraay (2000) and Hernández-Martín (2008) find that the high employment intensity of the services sector, and of tourism in particular, are important sources of economic growth. It is noteworthy that the share of the 'other service activities' (ISIC \*Rev. 3 sections J to P), i.e., services not primarily related to construction, distribution of goods or tourism, has increased from about 32 per cent in 1970 to 38 per cent in 2018 (UNCTAD, 2021a). This is also reflected in the development of SIDS' services exports, discussed in [Trade in services](#).

Figure 5 confirms that SIDS with a relatively high GDP share of 'other service activities' tend to achieve a higher GDP per capita than others. SIDS with 'other service activities' as a vital sector are mainly Caribbean, for example Bahamas, Grenada, Barbados, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, but also Tuvalu, Mauritius, Palau, Marshall Islands and Kiribati. In contrast, SIDS with the lowest share of 'other service activities' are mostly located in the Pacific, with the exception of Trinidad and Tobago which is a primarily oil producing economy.

**Structural change**



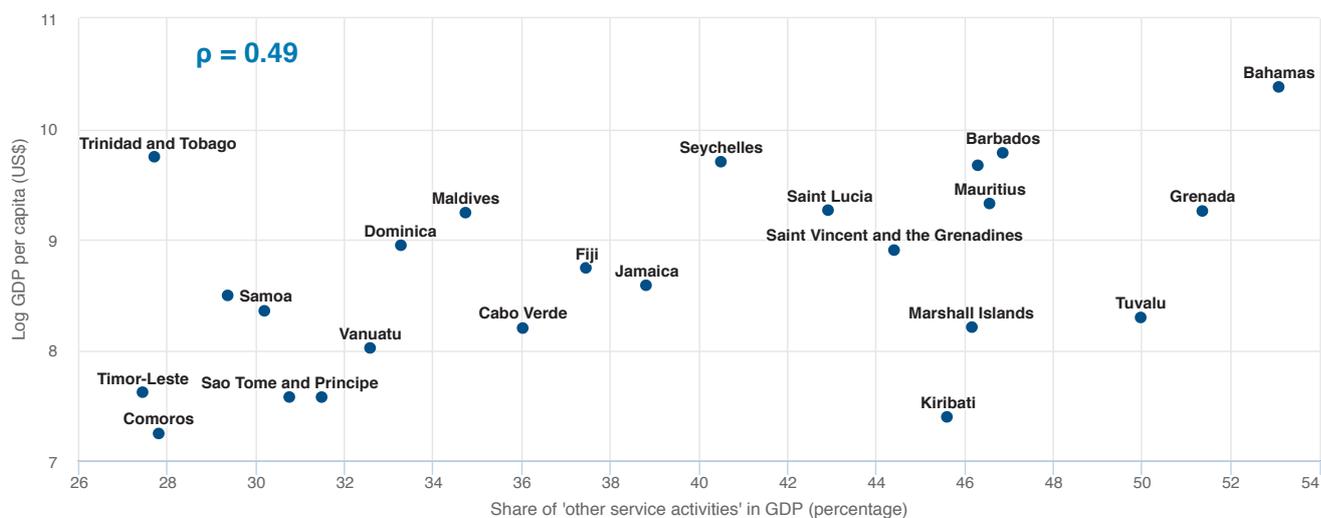
**increases share of services in GDP**



**drives income generation**



**- a key resource for human development**


**Figure 5. Share of 'other service activities' in GDP and GDP per capita, 2018**


Source: UNCTAD calculations based on data from UNCTAD (2021a).

## SIDS' servitization is driven by strong institutions and ICT



Human capital is the PCI component that is most positively correlated with two service sectors: 'trade, hotels and restaurants' and the 'other service activities' (see table 1). High education of the workforce and investment in research and development can be crucial for the development of services. New Growth Theories also note that once a vital sector has been established, this can promote spillover effects, further increasing the stock of human capital (e.g. Barro, 1991; Mankiw et al., 1992; OECD, 2001; Gunnarsson et al., 2004). Bolesta and Tateno (2019) show how SIDS' tourism sector can be transformed into high-value and high-end tourism services through intersectoral knowledge spillovers, technological innovation and improved environmental sustainability.


**Table 1. Correlation of PCI components with shares of selected sectors in GDP**

(Correlation coefficients)

PCI component	Share in GDP		
	Agriculture (ISIC A-B)	Trade, hotels, restaurants (ISIC G-H)	'Other' services (ISIC J-P)
Energy	-0.37	0.03	0.00
Human capital	-0.63	0.24	0.35
ICT	-0.78	0.12	0.50
Institutions	-0.64	-0.04	0.53
Natural capital	0.54	-0.28	-0.24
Private sector	0.02	-0.33	0.44
Structural change	-0.62	0.18	0.16
Transport	-0.34	0.12	0.42
All	-0.76	0.09	0.50

Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNCTAD (2021a).

Note: Antigua and Barbuda, Nauru, Federated States of Micronesia and Saint Kitts and Nevis not included due to missing data.

The table also indicates that the development of 'other service activities', not trade, hotels and restaurants, relies on productive capacities associated with institutions, ICT, the private sector and transport. These capacities turn out to be even more important than human capital for 'other service activities'. It appears that efficient rules and procedures, political stability, a safe and democratic environment, a well-developed infrastructure for communication, information exchange and transport of people and goods, as well as a favourable environment for doing business are important for the emergence of 'other service activities'. The important role of institutions for productive economic activity are well known from Institutional Economics. Properly functioning institutions can help save transaction costs, as they facilitate overall compliance with agreed rules, thereby reducing coordination and monitoring costs, incentives for free-rider behaviour and moral hazard (Williamson, 1979). Once economic actors can rely on efficient institutions, they develop ("social") trust and thereby contribute to further enhancement of the efficiency of the institutional framework (North, 1991).

## The development of 'other service activities' depends on



Not surprisingly, table 1 also shows that productive capacities related to natural capital promote agricultural rather than other activities. This implies a negative impact on the relative importance of other economic sectors, including services.

Finally, the correlation of the structural change component of the PCI and the two service sectors' shares in GDP is strikingly weak. This can be taken as evidence for the SIDS' atypical path of sectoral transformation (see [Sustainable industry](#)). Productive capacity for structural change is evaluated in the PCI based on export concentration, economic complexity, gross fixed capital formation and the share of industry and services in total GDP. In SIDS, however, the transformation of agriculture into higher productivity activities does not seem to be strongly

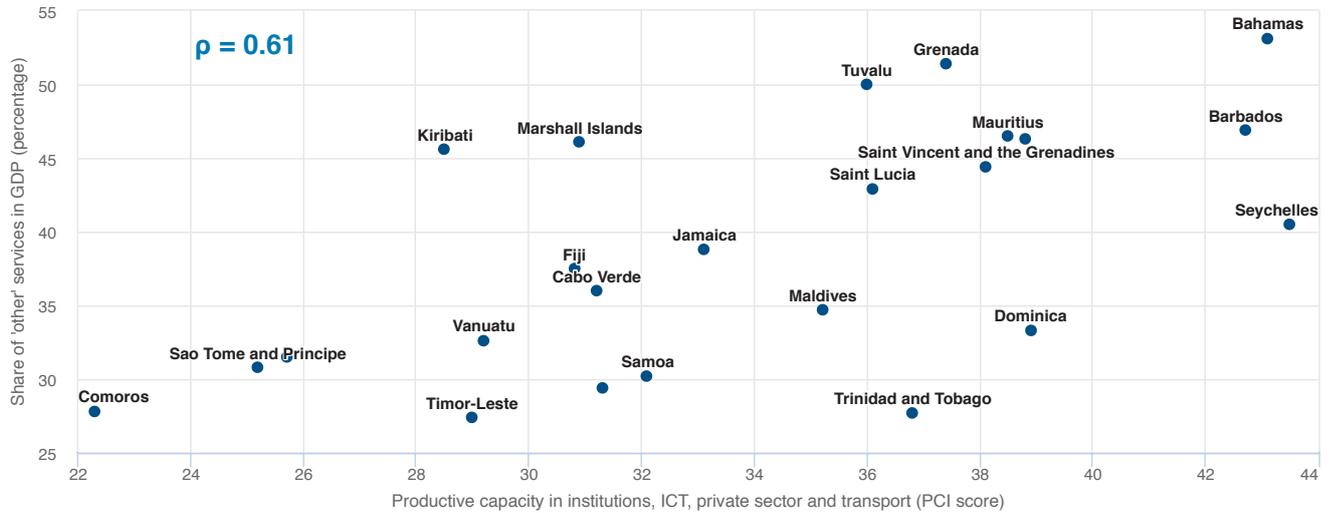
### Servitization in SIDS does not seem to be strongly led by manufacturing



driven by large-scale formation of fixed capital and expansion of manufacturing. This is largely due to constraints arising from paucity of land, limited labour supply, scarcity of physical production factors and distance from markets. Tourism and the vast oceans economy, however, provide SIDS with prospects for a direct structural transformation to higher value-added activities in the service sector, not led by the development of an 'industrial core'. (see [Economic trends](#), [Tourism](#) and [Trade in Services](#)). The observed "servitization" of SIDS' economies, not led by manufacturing, appears thus consistent with their comparative advantage.

As shown by figure 6, Bahamas, Barbados, Palau, Mauritius, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and to some extent Seychelles, have strong productive capacities arising from efficient institutions, private sector development, ICT and/or transport infrastructure which have promoted the emergence of a relatively large 'other service activities' sector. A closer look reveals that the main strengths of Tuvalu and Mauritius are in private sector development, whereas the other aforementioned SIDS rely more on strong institutions, efficient ICT and transport networks (UNCTAD, 2021a). Trinidad and Tobago is a notable exception; despite high scores in those PCI dimensions, 'other service activities' do not account for a large share of economic activity, apparently overshadowed by the extraction of fuels. Kiribati and the Marshall Islands developed a comparatively large 'other service activities' sector although their PCI scores for institutions, ICT, private sector and transport are not particularly high. The overall pattern presented in the figure, however, confirms the positive relation between those types of productive capacities and the share of 'other service activities' in GDP.

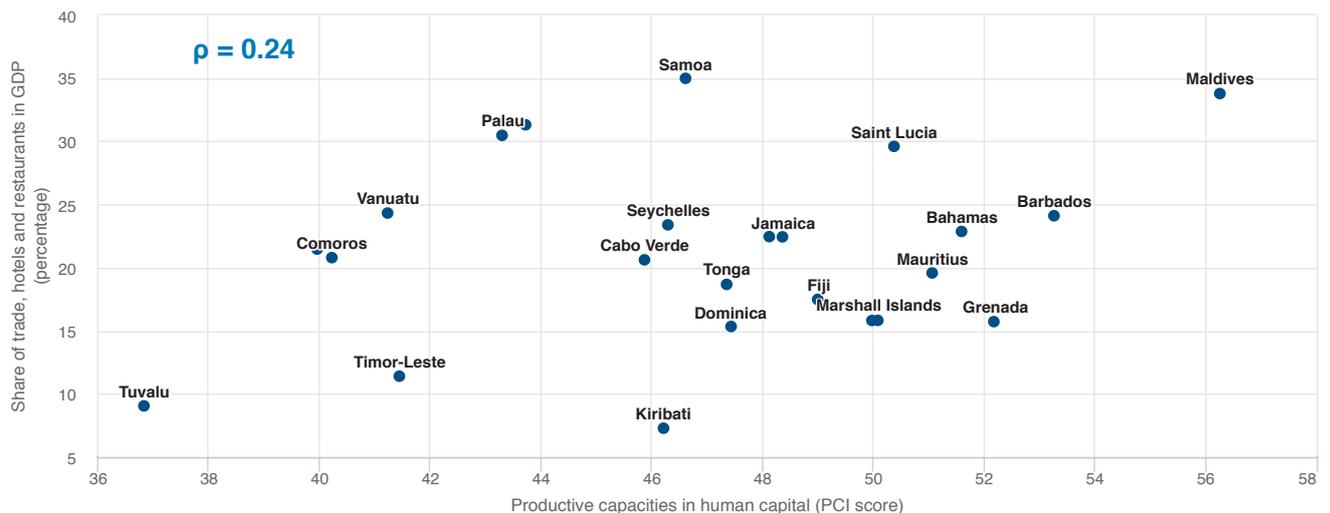
**Figure 6. Productive capacities in institutions, ICT, private sector and transport and the share of 'other' services in GDP, 2018**



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on data from UNCTAD (2021a).  
 Note: Geometric mean of PCI scores for institutions, ICT, private sector and transport.

Figure 7 illustrates how the productive capacity of human capital is related to the share of 'trade, hotels and restaurants' in GDP. Maldives provides an example where a relatively large 'trade, hotels and restaurants' sector goes hand in hand with a highly skilled workforce and/or an advanced educational infrastructure. In Tuvalu, by contrast, both aspects were relatively poorly developed in 2018. Several Caribbean SIDS, such as Saint Lucia, Barbados and the Bahamas, combine a relatively high share of 'trade, hotels and restaurants' in the economy with higher-than-average PCI scores in human capital. Only in Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, and Palau was the high share of economic activity in trade, hotels and restaurants achieved without particularly high human capital. In Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Comoros, human capital seems relatively low compared to other SIDS with a similar share of 'trade, hotels and restaurants'.

**Figure 7. Productive capacities in human capital and the share of trade, hotels and restaurants in GDP, 2018**

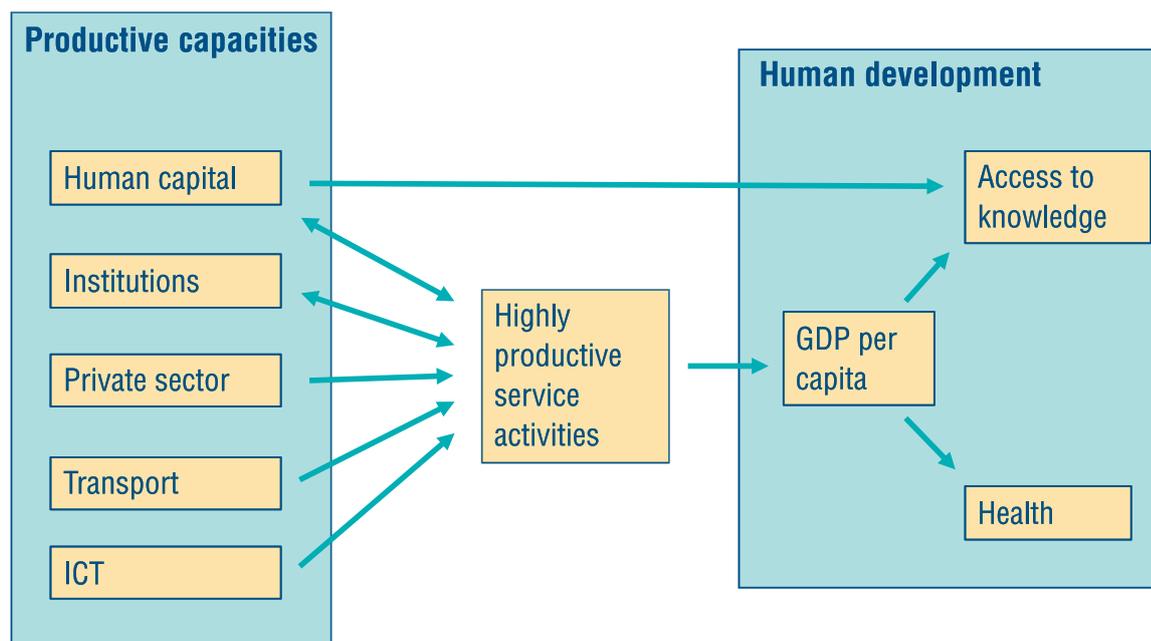


Source: UNCTAD calculations based on data from UNCTAD (2021a).  
 Note: Trade, hotels and restaurants include ISIC Rev. 3 sections G and H.

## How to develop productive capacities in SIDS?

The analysis shows that in SIDS productive capacities are highly correlated with human development. GDP per capita is highest in SIDS which have succeeded in transforming from agriculture to service activities. Productive capacities, especially those related to human capital, institutions, private sector, ICT and transport, play an important role in that structural transformation to services (see figure 8). Human capital has, firstly, a direct effect on human development, as it increases people's capability to acquire knowledge, and, secondly, an indirect effect, as it increases SIDS' economic capacity to develop a vital services sector. These vital sectors include 'trade, hotels and restaurants' and 'other service activities'. The latter comprise financial intermediation, business services, health services, public administration etc.

 **Figure 8. Linkages between productive capacities, servitization and human development**



Source: UNCTAD deliberations.

Highly productive (service) activities enable the generation of more income per worker than less productive activities, often found in agriculture. Thus, an expansion of those activities bears high potential for increasing GDP per capita. Growing GDP per capita levels, in turn, increase people's capabilities, thereby expanding their freedoms and advancing human development.

Capacity development targeting the promotion of structural transformation in SIDS must take into account their particular circumstances resulting from the small size of their economies, their remoteness from larger markets and their climatic conditions. Large-scale industrialization and high investments into machinery do not seem to play the same prominent role as they did in the structural transformation observed in Western Europe, Northern America and developed economies in other regions. In SIDS, servitization is almost uncorrelated with the structural change component of the PCI; productive capacities related to human capital, institutions, ICT, private sector and transport seem to be more important.

Based on these considerations, successful strategies to promote structural transformation in SIDS can be built on two pillars:

- Identifying activities that make best use of SIDS' specific comparative advantages, where service activities, in particular tourism and other service activities, currently play an important role, due to the SIDS geographic and climatic conditions,
- Enhancing productive capacities, in support of the identified comparative advantages, with a focus on the development of an efficient institutional framework, favourable conditions for doing business, high-quality, robust and viable ICT networks and an efficient transport infrastructure, as well as schools, training centers, research institutes and universities to foster human capital.

 **Capacity development for servitization in SIDS should target their comparative advantages and the development of tailored productive capacities**

The UNCTAD PCI is multidimensional and, as such, captures key drivers and enablers of growth and development. An analysis of its categories, with related statistics, provides a pragmatic tool for evidence-informed policy and an instrument to strengthen countries' productive capacity to progress towards the SDGs. The full application of the PCI in SIDS calls for strengthened development partnerships, particularly to address the SIDS' structural vulnerabilities (see [What makes a SIDS a SIDS?](#)).

Some conclusions emerge from the above analysis. First, despite their vulnerabilities, the productive capacity of SIDS is far better than that of LDCs and LLDCs, and this is reflected in higher levels of human development. Second, given their small size, paucity of labour, disconnectedness from factor and sales markets, on the one hand, and their rich ocean economy and their attractiveness as tourist destinations on the other, the SIDS' virtue lies in the development of services, especially tourism, and does not require the development of a large manufacturing sector as a precursor. As mentioned, servitization has enabled SIDS to achieve relatively high levels of GDP per capita, an important resource for human development. Third, productive capacities in human capital, institutions, ICT, private sector and transport are important drivers of servitization in SIDS. All in all, it appears that "size is not a significantly important determining factor for economic growth or GDP per capita", supporting the principal thesis proposed by Armstrong et al. (1998) and Easterly and Kraay (2000). The PCI provides a fresh approach to examining the potential and prospects for SIDS to develop their productive capacity independently of their small size and distance from markets.



### Notes

1. Fostering productive capacities and structural economic transformation for sustainable and inclusive growth and development has been intensely debated in recent major international conferences, such as the Fourth United Nations Conference on LDCs held in Istanbul, Turkey in May 2011, the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries held in Vienna, Austria in November 2014, and the Fourteenth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIV) held in Nairobi, Kenya in July 2016.
2. The PCI was developed by UNCTAD (2006) at the request of member States and covers 193 economies for the initial period from 2000 to 2018. The aim of the index is to improve the quality of trade and development policies by placing the fostering of productive capacities and structural economic transformation at the centre. The index helps identify economy-wide gaps and limitations that hinder efforts aimed at fostering productive capacities and structural economic transformation in developing countries. Information on the statistical techniques and methodology used in developing the PCI, including the list of indicators and data sources, as well as the complete scores for 193 economies, together with related analytical papers, reports and an operational manual, is available at <https://pci.unctad.org>. The data are available in UNCTAD (2021a) and information on the concepts and methods in UNCTAD (2020a) and (2020b).



## References

- Armstrong H, De Kervenoael RJ, Li X and Read R (1998). A comparison of the economic performance of different micro-states, and between micro-states and larger countries. *World Development*. 26(4):639–656.
- Baines T et al. (2017). Servitization: Revisiting the state-of-the-art and research priorities. *International Journal of Operations & Production Management*. 37(2):256–278.
- Barro RJ (1991). Economic Growth in a Cross Section of Countries\*. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 106(2):407–443.
- Bolesta A and Tateno Y (2019). Structural Transformation in Asia-Pacific Small Island Developing States. UNESCAP MPDD Policy Brief No. 100. UNESCAP.
- Easterly WR and Kraay A (2000). Small states, small problems? Income, growth and volatility in small states. *World Development*. 28(11):2013–2027.
- ECOSOC (2017). Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its nineteenth session. E/RES/2017/29. New York. (accessed 15 January 2021).
- Gunnarsson G, Mellander E and Savvidou E (2004). Human capital is the key to the IT productivity paradox. Working Paper Series No. 2004:13. IFAU - Institute for Evaluation of Labour Market and Education Policy. (accessed 12 April 2021).
- Hernández-Martín R (2008). Structural Change and Economic Growth in Small Island Tourism Countries. *Tourism and Hospitality Planning & Development*. 5(1):1–12.
- Kowalkowski C, Gebauer H, Kamp B and Parry G (2017). Servitization and deservitization: Overview, concepts, and definitions. *Industrial Marketing Management*. 604–10.
- Kuznets S (1966). *Modern Economic Growth*. Yale University Press. New Haven.
- Mankiw NG, Romer D and Weil D (1992). A Contribution to the Empirics of Economic Growth. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 107(May):407–437.
- North DC (1991). *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge; New York.
- OECD (2001). The Well-being of Nations: The Role of Human and Social Capital. Available at [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/the-well-being-of-nations\\_9789264189515-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/the-well-being-of-nations_9789264189515-en) (accessed 12 April 2021).
- Rodrik D (2013). Unconditional Convergence in Manufacturing. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 128(1):165–204.
- Slany A (2020). Multiple disasters and debt sustainability in Small Island Developing States. UNCTAD Research Paper No. 2020/14. UNCTAD/SER.RP/2020/14. Geneva.
- UN DESA (2021). Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category.html> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- UNCTAD, ed. (2006). *The Least Developed Countries Report 2006: Developing Productive Capacities*. United Nations. New York and Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2014). Small island developing states: Challenges in transport and trade logistics. TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/8. Geneva. 15 September.
- UNCTAD (2016). Nairobi Maafikiano. From decision to action: Moving towards an inclusive and equitable global economic environment for trade and development. TD/519/Add.2. Nairobi. 5 September.
- UNCTAD, ed. (2020a). *Productive Capacities Index: Focus on Landlocked Developing Countries*. United Nations. New York and Geneva.
- UNCTAD, ed. (2020b). *Productive Capacities Index: Methodological Approach and Results*. United Nations. New York and Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2021a). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNCTAD (2021b). Oceans Economy and Fisheries. Available at <https://unctad.org/topic/trade-and-environment/oceans-economy> (accessed 11 February 2021).
- UNDP (2016). Human Development Report 2016. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-report-2016> (accessed 8 April 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Human Development Report 2020. The next frontier. Human development and the Anthropocene. Human Development Reports. New York. (accessed 9 February 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- United Nations (1990). *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 3*. Statistical papers, Vol. M, No. 4. United Nations. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2002). *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 3.1*. Statistical papers, Vol. M, No. 4. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.08.XVII.25. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2008). *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 4*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.08.XVII.25. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2010). *International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics: 2008*. United Nations. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2020). SDG indicators: Metadata repository. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/> (accessed 20 April 2020).
- UNWTO and ILO (2014). *Measuring Employment in the Tourism Industries: Guide with Best Practices*. Madrid and Geneva.
- Williamson OE (1979). Transaction-Cost Economics: The Governance of Contractual Relations. *The Journal of Law & Economics*. 22(2):233–261.
- World Bank, Asian Development Bank and United Nations (2005). Maldives tsunami impact and recovery: Joint needs assessment, World Bank-Asian Development Bank-UN System. Available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/maldives/maldives-tsunami-impact-and-recovery-joint-needs-assessment-world-bank-asian> (accessed 9 February 2021).

## Debt and financial risks

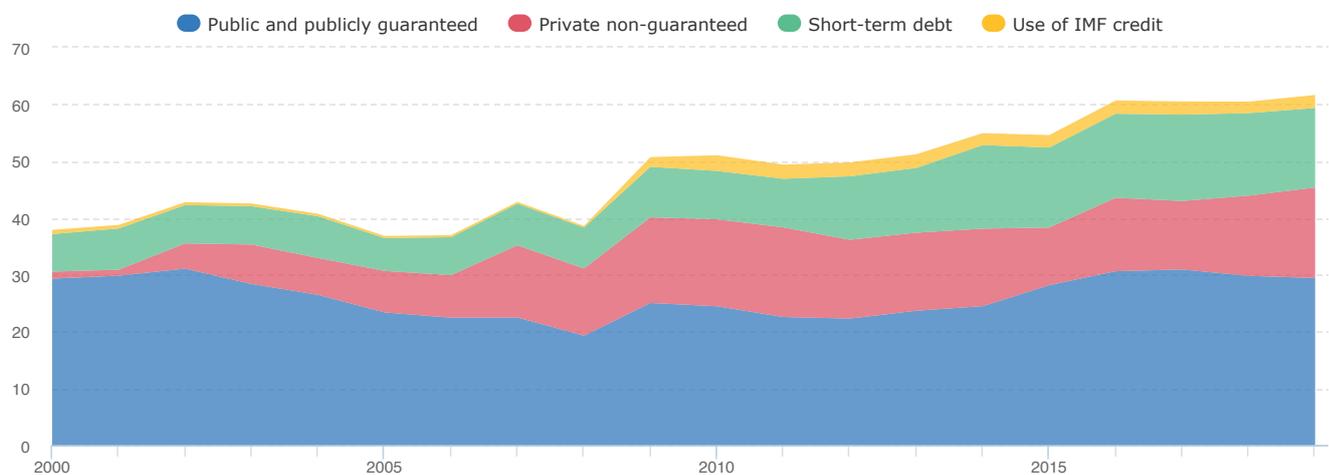
### Rise in SIDS' external debt since 2000

Overall, SIDS' external indebtedness is considerably higher than that of other developing countries. In 2019, SIDS' external debt accounted for 62 per cent of their GDP (figure 1), compared with 29 per cent for all developing countries and economies in transition (United Nations, 2020). This gap has widened substantially over the last decades. Between 2000 and 2019, the external debt-to-GDP ratio rose by 24 percentage points in SIDS while dropping 6 percentage points in all developing countries. Most of the increase occurred in the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis, and has accelerated since 2013, the year of the taper tantrum, which was then followed by a series of external shocks which in turn kept debt positions under strain<sup>1</sup>.

**SIDS' external debt-to-GDP ratio has risen**



**Figure 1. External debt-to-GDP ratio in SIDS by main components**  
(Percentage of GDP)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on World Bank (2020), IMF (2020) and national sources.

Note: 2019 data are estimated by UNCTAD. Data on the use of IMF credit are provided by the IMF Treasurer's Department. They are converted from special drawing rights into dollars using end-of-period exchange rates for stocks and average-over-the-period exchange rates for flows.

Large-scale borrowing from foreign creditors, both public or private, has opened new options for financing investment, recovering from natural disasters, and development in SIDS. However, this has come with greater exposure to the vagaries of international financial markets, including sudden changes in major exchange and interest rates, thereby raising concerns over sovereign risk.

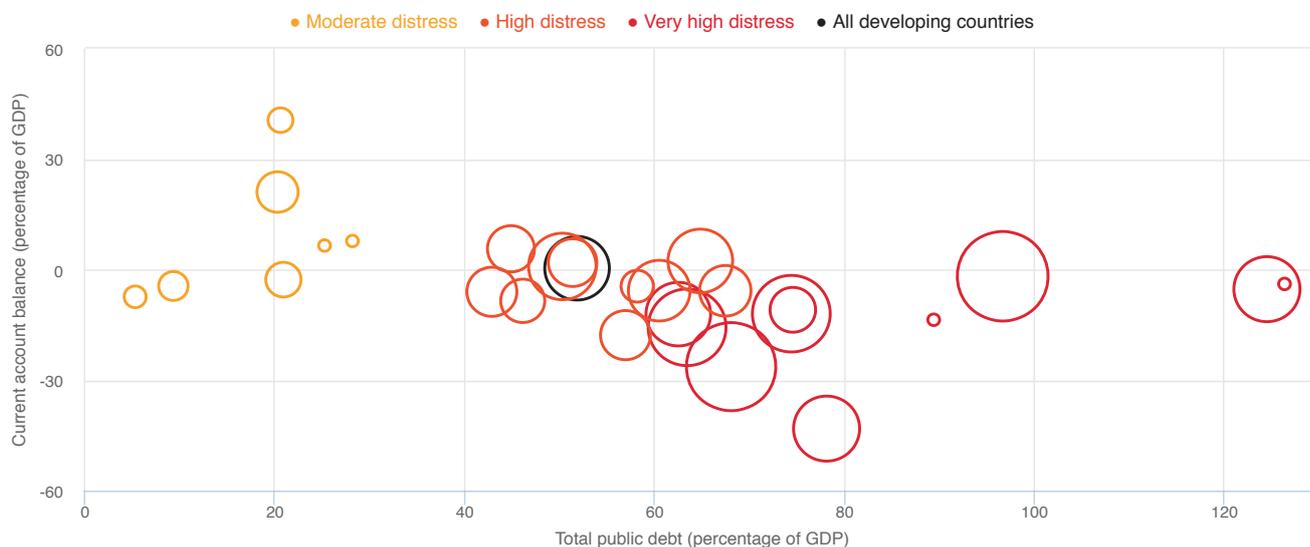
The rise in SIDS' external debt since 2000 has been mostly driven by long-term private debt along with short-term debt, while long-term public debt, on which policy focus has traditionally concentrated, has remained rather steady. Long-term private debt represented 15.9 per cent of SIDS' GDP in 2019, in stark contrast to 1.2 per cent in 2000. Over the same period, short-term debt increased from 6.6 per cent of SIDS' GDP to 14 per cent. Resorting to these two components of external debt is a risky undertaking. In many developing countries, high levels of private debt have failed to deliver growth, structural transformation or development, thereby compounding the threat that they pose to the sustainability of public finances in the medium to long run (UNCTAD, 2019). A greater fraction of short-term debt renders developing countries more vulnerable to liquidity crises and in turn exacerbates sovereign risk, particularly if it did not go hand in hand with an adequate process of international reserves accumulation (Rodrik and Velasco, 1999).

### Several SIDS in debt distress

By virtue of their economic situations, typified by low diversification and the ever-present risks of natural disasters, SIDS are naturally exposed to public debt distress, which rises when a government struggles over time to honor some or all of its debt obligations. In this regard, it is useful to scrutinize ratios of public debt service to government revenues<sup>2</sup>. There is a lot of variation among SIDS, ranging from

0.3 per cent in Timor-Leste to 21.6 per cent in Jamaica. However, these additionally need to be examined against total public debt stocks and current account balances. The former provides insights on whether the stress mirrored by debt service ratios is just temporary or likely to last, whereas the latter show in stark terms the capacity of the country to cope by mobilizing required financial resources from global trade<sup>3</sup>.

 **Figure 2. Total public debt, current account balance and debt service to government revenues in SIDS, 2018**  
(Percentage)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNCTAD (2021), World Bank (2021a), IMF (2020), (2021a) and (2021b).

Note: The x-axis refers to total public debt (percentage of GDP), the y-axis to the current account balance (percentage of GDP) and the size of the bubble to debt service to government revenues. Debt service data are not available for Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Marshall Islands and Tuvalu. The classification into the three groups of debt distress is made ex-post in light of the position of the countries in the three dimensions of the graph.

Once the vicious debt cycle is established, in which debt servicing burden, public debt stocks and current account deficit feed off each other, these three indicators are highly correlated. Figure 2 shows that this is the case for many SIDS: the further right the bubble is on the graph, the more public debt stocks a SIDS holds, the greater its current account deficit and its debt service ratio. When these three indicators are simultaneously high, the country is likely to experience debt distress.



SIDS perform on average less well than other developing countries against these three indicators, confirming, as mentioned above, that they intrinsically undergo higher debt distress. They yet show some degree of heterogeneity, so much so, they can be divided into three distinct subgroups.

SIDS located on the right-hand side of figure 2 have “very high” levels of public debt distress, including Barbados, which restructured its public debt for the first time in 2018 and 2019. Countries with “very high” public debt distress also include Cabo Verde, Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Sao Tome and Principe, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Maldives, Grenada and Bahamas. This category brings together countries with either very elevated public debt stocks, coupled with high debt service, or more moderate public debt stocks, but compounded by large current account deficits and heightened debt service. The economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic may severely aggravate the debt positions of these countries, putting them at higher risk of defaulting (UNCTAD, 2020b). All of these SIDS with “very high” level of public debt distress, except Antigua and Barbuda, have availed of the IMF’s (2021c) COVID-19 financial assistance and debt service relief since March 2020. Moreover, five SIDS, namely Grenada, Cabo Verde, Dominica, Maldives and Sao Tome and Principe, have been so far eligible for the G20 COVID-19 Debt Suspension Initiative (World Bank, 2021b).

The second subgroup is displayed at the left-hand side of figure 2. It refers to SIDS with a “moderate” level of debt distress. This group comprises Comoros, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste, as well as most of the least populated SIDS, such as the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands and Tuvalu. These states have relatively “low” levels of public debt, no or limited current account deficits and a small fraction of debt service to their government revenues. However, the least populated SIDS in this group face endemic issues, mostly related to climate change and their size, weighing on their debt positions, although their macroeconomic indicators, for instance GDP per capita, do not seem to be alarming (see Curtain and Dorman, 2019).

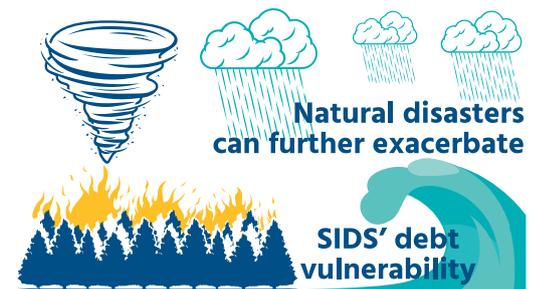
The other SIDS coalesce into a more homogenous group, concentrated in the middle of the graph, and epitomized by intermediate debt stocks, debt servicing and current account deficits in comparison with the two previous groups, hinting at a “high” level of debt distress. The group includes Mauritius, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Nauru, Seychelles, Vanuatu, Samoa, Fiji, Trinidad and Tobago and Tonga. Among them, Saint Lucia, Seychelles, Samoa and Tonga have received IMF’s COVID-19 Financial Assistance and Debt Service Relief (IMF, 2021c) and Fiji, Samoa, Saint Lucia and Tonga were eligible for the G20 Debt Suspension Initiative (World Bank, 2021b)<sup>4</sup>.

## Debt vulnerability to external shocks and links to natural disasters

Owing to their smallness and their dependency on the global economy, SIDS are extremely vulnerable to external shocks. The terms of trade for merchandise trade and services and their need for steady supplies of imported goods are beyond the domestic control of SIDS. During the COVID-19 crisis, a significant drop in SIDS’ current account balance can be expected, from -2.7 per cent of GDP in 2019 to -12.1 per cent in 2020 and further to -12.3 per cent in 2021 (Slany, 2020).

Small domestic financial markets make SIDS dependent on external borrowing to finance investments and recovery from natural disasters. Stronger economic growth and export diversification can make SIDS more eligible for external borrowing and improve their capability to manage and repay debt. Regarding SIDS’ exposure to natural disasters (see [Environment](#)), Slany (2020) finds that, on average, a severe natural disaster cannot be directly linked with increases in external debt across SIDS, despite the devastating impact natural disasters have on output and export revenues.

The small effect of severe natural disasters on debt relates to the restrictions of already indebted countries to access additional funding. Moreover, climate change and the risk of a natural disaster may cause a downgrading of credit ratings making it even more difficult for SIDS to borrow money at reasonable terms, inflating their annual debt service payments.



## Remittances important for many SIDS

Personal remittances are a notable source of funding for several SIDS. In 2019, SIDS received, on average, remittances worth US\$173 million. Two in three SIDS received less than US\$100 million per year. The top recipient was Jamaica, with US\$2.6 billion, while Palau received the least, US\$2 million (see table 1).



Personal remittance receipts as a percentage of GDP illustrate the significance of remittances for SIDS’ economies. In 2019, the top recipient of remittances in relation to GDP was Tonga, with 34.6 per cent. This is one of the highest shares in the world, after Haiti (39.5), while a SIDS with the lowest receipts of remittances relative to GDP, the Maldives, received a share of just 0.1 per cent of GDP.

The significance of remittances as a percentage of GDP has decreased or stayed relatively stable in most SIDS over the years. Tuvalu has seen the biggest drop: from almost 23 per cent of GDP in 2005 to 9 per cent in 2019. In the top recipient country, Tonga, the share of remittances of GDP has on the contrary grown by 8.2 percentage points since 2005. For Sao Tome and Principe, data on remittances are available only from 2013, but since then the share has dropped from 8.8 per cent to 2.4 per cent in 2019.

**Table 1. Receipts of personal remittances, 2019**

(Millions of US dollars at current prices and percentage of GDP)

SIDS	SIDS region	US\$ million, current prices	% of GDP
Jamaica	SIDS: Caribbean	2 574	16.0
Fiji	SIDS: Pacific	288	5.2
Cabo Verde	SIDS: Atlantic and Indian Ocean	236	11.8
Tonga	SIDS: Pacific	183	34.6
Mauritius	SIDS: Atlantic and Indian Ocean	179	1.3
Samoa	SIDS: Pacific	147	17.3
Trinidad and Tobago	SIDS: Caribbean	139	0.6
Comoros	SIDS: Atlantic and Indian Ocean	135	11.6
Barbados	SIDS: Caribbean	108	2.0
Timor-Leste	SIDS: Pacific	98	3.7
Dominica	SIDS: Caribbean	49	8.1
Grenada	SIDS: Caribbean	48	4.0
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	SIDS: Caribbean	47	5.6
Saint Lucia	SIDS: Caribbean	43	2.2
Vanuatu	SIDS: Pacific	35	3.9
Marshall Islands	SIDS: Pacific	31	14.3
Saint Kitts and Nevis	SIDS: Caribbean	26	2.5
Antigua and Barbuda	SIDS: Caribbean	25	1.4
Micronesia (Federated States of)	SIDS: Pacific	23	6.1
Seychelles	SIDS: Atlantic and Indian Ocean	23	1.4
Kiribati	SIDS: Pacific	20	11.3
Solomon Islands	SIDS: Pacific	19	1.5
Sao Tome and Principe	SIDS: Atlantic and Indian Ocean	10	2.4
Maldives	SIDS: Atlantic and Indian Ocean	4	0.1
Tuvalu	SIDS: Pacific	4	9.0
Palau	SIDS: Pacific	2	0.8

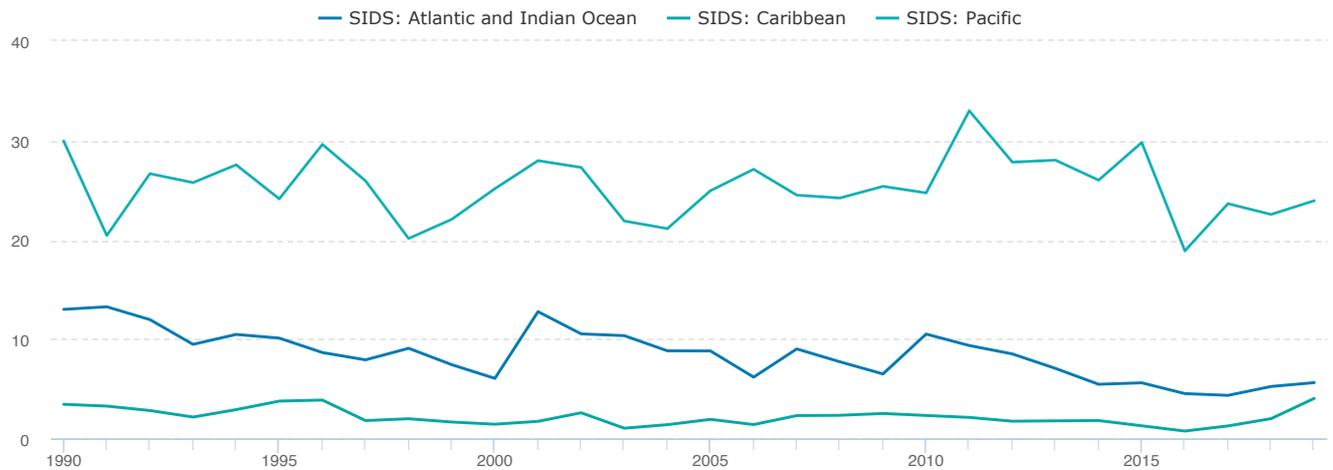
Source: UNCTAD (2021).

Note: No data on personal remittances for the Bahamas.

## Pacific SIDS especially dependent on ODA

ODA, though it tends to be smaller than FDI or private flows, is another important financing source for SIDS. ODA frequently functions as “seed funding” or catalysers of additional resource mobilization in sectors or projects where other funding options are limited, or where investors are reluctant to participate. Furthermore, for some countries in vulnerable situations, official funds are frequently the only source of financing available. Figure 3 illustrates net ODA received by SIDS on average as a percentage of GDP.

**Figure 3. Net ODA received, regional average**  
(Percentage of GDP)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on World Bank (2021a).

Since 1990, Caribbean SIDS have received ODA equaling on average to 2.2 per cent of their GDP. The equivalent figures for Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS and Pacific SIDS, respectively, are 8.5 per cent and 25.3 per cent. Despite some year-to-year fluctuation, trends have been relatively stable over time, though ODA as a share of GDP in Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS has fallen from more than 10 per cent in 2010 to just more than 5 per cent in 2019. Pacific SIDS receive significantly more ODA relative to their GDP, likely a function of their less developed economies and more remote geography. Regional averages mask intra-regional variations, however. For instance, in 2019, Fiji received ODA equivalent to 2.5 per cent of its GDP, on par with most Caribbean SIDS. The figure for Tuvalu in the same year by contrast was 77 per cent.

**ODA is crucial for Pacific SIDS:  
25% of GDP**

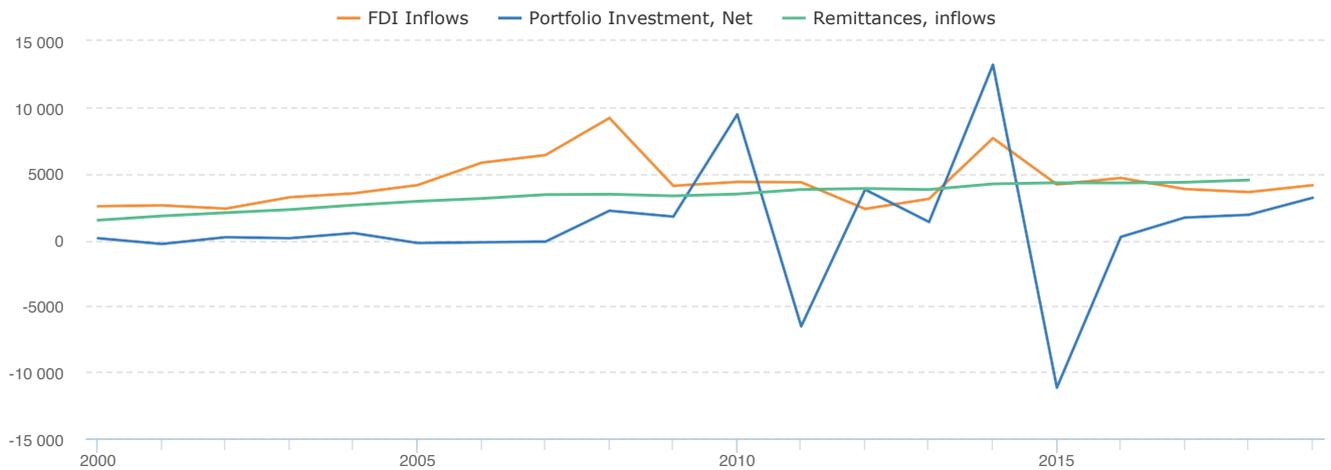


## Investment in SIDS increasing

FDI inflows to SIDS increased to US\$4.1 billion in 2019, up 14 per cent from 2018 <sup>5</sup>. In 2019, total FDI inflows to all SIDS were roughly on the same level as to individual countries, such as, Thailand, Norway and Cambodia. The main recipients among SIDS, Jamaica and the Bahamas, were just outside of the top-100 FDI recipient countries of the world in 2019.

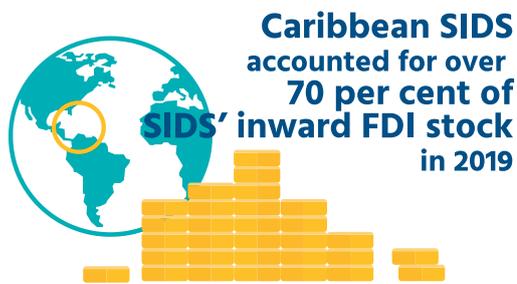
FDI inflows to SIDS grew until the wake of the global financial crises in 2008-2009 at an average annual rate of 17.5 per cent (see figure 4). Portfolio investment is a relatively new source of financing for SIDS. It has started to play a greater role since 2008. However, as for developing countries in general, portfolio investment flows have been volatile, mostly due to external factors, including monetary policy decisions in developed economies. This poses a challenge to the stability of SIDS' exchange rates and narrows their monetary and fiscal space. However, since 2016, net portfolio investment has been positive, with inflows outpacing outflows, and net flows have been rising for four consecutive years. Unfortunately, the pandemic which triggered substantial portfolio outflows, especially at its onset, from most developing countries, is likely to have reversed this trend in 2020.

**Figure 4. FDI inflows, net portfolio investment and remittance inflows in SIDS**  
(US\$ billion)

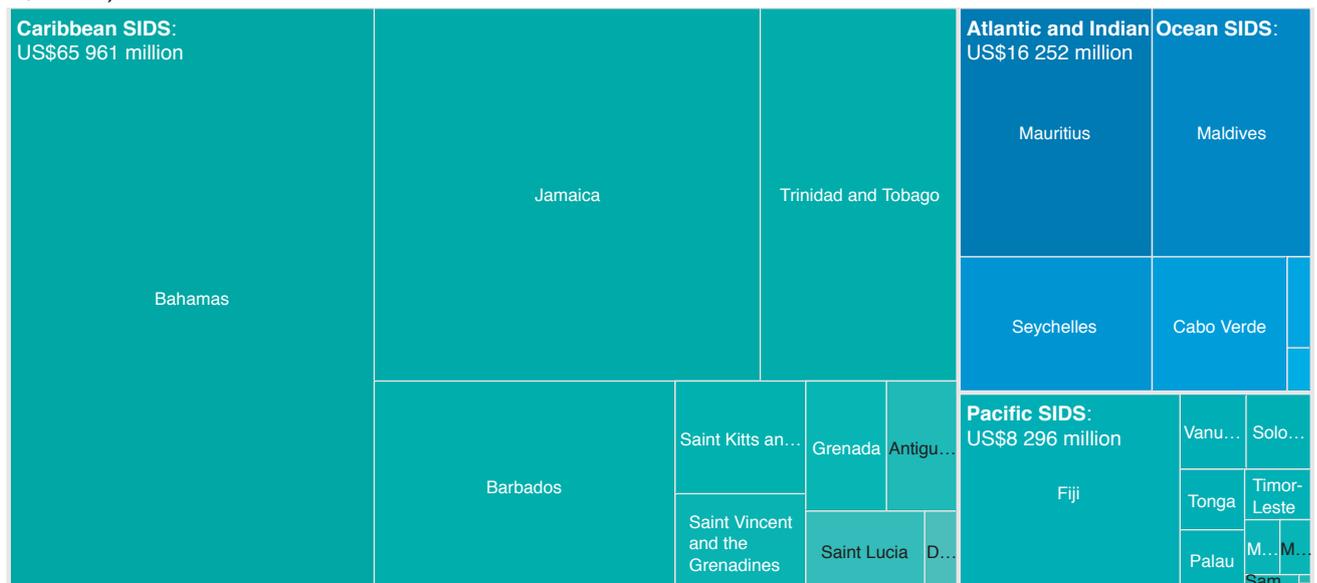


Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNCTAD (2021), IMF (2021a) and World Bank (2021a).

Overall, Caribbean SIDS (US\$66 billion in 2019) accounted for over 70 per cent of the total SIDS' inward FDI stock which was US\$90.5 billion in 2019 <sup>5</sup>. As shown in figure 5, four of the SIDS with most inward FDI stock are Caribbean, followed by Mauritius from Atlantic and Indian ocean and Fiji from Pacific. Large inward FDI stocks are also held by Maldives, Seychelles and Cabo Verde in Atlantic and Indian Ocean.



**Figure 5. Inward FDI stock by country in SIDS regions**  
(US\$ million)



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

FDI inward stock as a percentage of GDP is notably high in several SIDS, with big differences across the countries. In 2019, the lowest figure was 8 per cent for Kiribati and the highest was 200 per cent for the Bahamas. A high amount of FDI stock as a percentage of GDP can be an indication of high interconnectedness of a country with the global economy through investment and multinational enterprises. It also provides indications of potential exposure to international tax avoidance and IFFs (see European Commission, 2017).

The inward FDI stock relative to GDP is notably high in the SIDS group, reaching 71.9 per cent in 2019, compared to 33.9 for LDCs<sup>5</sup>. Globally, the British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands were the two countries with the highest FDI stock in GDP in 2019, at 55 042 and 8 885 per cent of GDP, respectively. These two countries have developed into offshore financial centers which attract financial capital disproportionate to their national economy.

The Bahamas ranks thirteenth globally with its inward FDI stock of 200 per cent of GDP. Seychelles, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Saint Kitts and Nevis also make it into the global top-20 with their inward FDI stock relative to GDP, ranging from 170 to 187 per cent. Inward FDI stock also exceeds GDP in Palau, Barbados, Cabo Verde, Jamaica and Grenada.



**SIDS' inward FDI stock of GDP was 71.9% in 2019, as compared to 33.9% for LDCs**

SIDS are slightly less represented among the top countries for outward FDI stock as a percentage of GDP, with Barbados ranking 15th (72 per cent of GDP) and the Bahamas 22nd (56 per cent of GDP). Globally, the median FDI inward stock is 47 per cent of GDP, and the outward stock below 6 per cent.

**Table 2. Top-10 SIDS measured by inward FDI stock in GDP, 2019**

(Percentage of GDP)

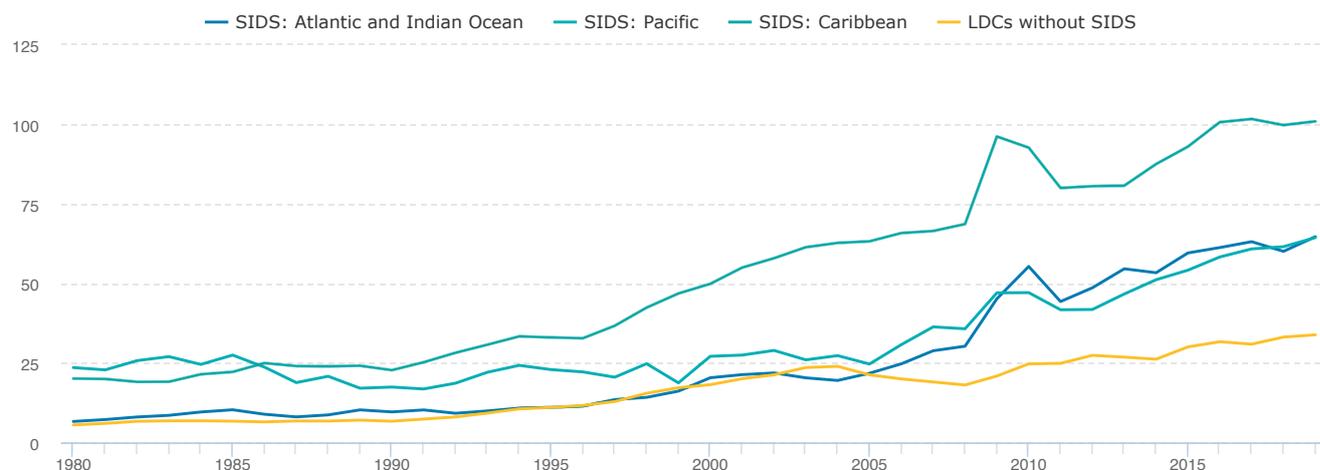
Economy	Subregion	Inward FDI stock, % GDP	Global ranking
Bahamas	SIDS: Caribbean	199.6	13
Seychelles	SIDS: Atlantic and Indian ocean	186.9	16
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	SIDS: Caribbean	178.4	18
Saint Kitts and Nevis	SIDS: Caribbean	170.8	19
Palau	SIDS: Pacific	160.7	21
Barbados	SIDS: Caribbean	141.4	24
Cabo Verde	SIDS: Atlantic and Indian ocean	108.4	32
Jamaica	SIDS: Caribbean	107.5	33
Grenada	SIDS: Caribbean	103.2	36
Fiji	SIDS: Pacific	93.9	39

Source: UNCTAD (2021).

Inward FDI stock as a percentage of GDP started growing visibly in the Caribbean SIDS in the 1990s, peaking for the first time in 2009 at 96 per cent of GDP. The rate exceeded 100 per cent in 2016 and came to 101 per cent in 2019. As of 2005, Pacific and Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS have joined the race, reaching nearly 65 per cent by 2019.


**Figure 6. Inward FDI stock by SIDS regions and other LDCs**

(Percentage of GDP)



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

 Note: See [note 5](#).

**Notes**

1. Besides the Taper Tantrum (2013), the series of external shocks include the commodity price slump (2014), the renminbi depreciation (2015), and the financial volatility related to political uncertainty in some advanced countries (since 2016). For more detail on these “push-factors” and their impact on developing country financial conditions (Bouhia and Munevar, 2019).
2. In this section, debt service includes external debt only, as data on domestic debt service is not available. The indicator that is used is more specifically the ratio of debt service on PPG debt to PPG debt stocks.
3. More specifically, financial resources can be also mobilized through unilateral transfers and investment income, which are also accounted for in the current account (see [Definitions](#)).
4. The Debt Service Suspension Initiative is aimed at LDCs and International Development Association countries. The latter includes countries with low per capita incomes lacking the financial ability to borrow from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
5. For the purposes of this study, the financial centres in the Caribbean are included in country-group totals in this graph, unlike in (UNCTAD, 2021). Such centres include Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.



## References

- Bouhia R and Munevar D (2019). External shocks and financial stress post the global financial crisis. UNCTAD financial conditions indicators and financial vulnerabilities in emerging markets. No. UNCTAD/GDS/2018/1. (accessed 17 February 2021).
- Curtain R and Dornan M (2019). *A Pressure Release Valve? Migration and Climate Change in Kiribati, Nauru and Tuvalu*. Development Policy Centre Working Paper. Crawford School of Public Policy. ANU College of Asia and the Pacific. The Australian National University.
- European Commission (2017). Aggressive tax planning indicators: Final report. Taxation Papers No. 71–2017. European Commission. (accessed 30 January 2021).
- IMF (2009). *International Transactions in Remittances: Guide for Compilers and Users (RCG)*. IMF. Washington, D.C.
- IMF (2014). *External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users*. IMF. Washington, D.C.
- IMF (2020). Global debt database. Available at <https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/datasets/GDD> (accessed 11 May 2020).
- IMF (2021a). World Economic Outlook (WEO) database. Available at <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/SPROLLs/world-economic-outlook-databases#sort=%40imfdate%20descending> (accessed 5 February 2021).
- IMF (2021b). Debt Sustainability Analysis Country Reports. Available at <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/dsa/lic.aspx> (accessed 12 February 2021).
- IMF (2021c). COVID-19 Financial Assistance and Debt Service Relief. Available at <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/COVID-Lending-Tracker#APD> (accessed 10 March 2021).
- Kuznets S (1966). *Modern Economic Growth*. Yale University Press. New Haven.
- OECD (2020). DAC glossary of key terms and concepts. Available at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/dac-glossary.htm> (accessed 20 April 2020).
- Reuters (2019). Key events for the Fed in 2013: the year of the “taper tantrum.” Available at <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-fed-2013-timeline-idUSKCN1P52A8> (accessed 14 February 2021).
- Rodrik D (2013). Unconditional Convergence in Manufacturing. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 128(1):165–204.
- Rodrik D and Velasco A (1999). Short-Term Capital Flows. NBER Working Paper No. 7364. National Bureau of Economic Research. (accessed 14 February 2021).
- Slany A (2020). Multiple disasters and debt sustainability in Small Island Developing States. UNCTAD Research Paper No. 2020/14. UNCTAD/SER.RP/2020/14. Geneva.
- UN DESA (2021). Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category.html> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- UNCTAD, ed. (2006). *The Least Developed Countries Report 2006: Developing Productive Capacities*. United Nations. New York and Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2017). *World Investment Report 2017: Investment and the Digital Economy*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.17.II.D.3. Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2019). *Trade and Development Report 2019: Financing a Global Green New Deal*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.19.II.D.15. New York and Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2020a). *Handbook of Statistics 2020*. UNCTAD. Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2020b). From the Great Lockdown to the Great Meltdown: Developing country debt in the time of Covid-19. Available at [https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/gdsinf2020d3\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/gdsinf2020d3_en.pdf) (accessed 10 May 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNCTAD and UNODC (2020). Conceptual framework for the measurement of illicit financial flows. Available at [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/IFF/IFF\\_Conceptual\\_Framework\\_for\\_publication\\_15Oct.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/IFF/IFF_Conceptual_Framework_for_publication_15Oct.pdf) (accessed 30 January 2021).
- United Nations (2020). External debt sustainability and development. Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 30 July 2020. A/RES/75/281. New York. 30 July. (accessed 14 February 2021).
- World Bank (2020). International debt statistics. Available at <https://databank.worldbank.org/data/source/international-debt-statistics> (accessed 10 May 2020).
- World Bank (2021a). World Development Indicators. Available at <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- World Bank (2021b). COVID-19 debt suspension initiative. Available at <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/debt/brief/covid-19-debt-service-suspension-initiative> (accessed 10 March 2021).

# Environment



## Environment

99

*‘The question of climate change can only be dealt with if we act on the scientific evidence- and act rapidly and decisively to turn the tide. Saving islands, also means saving the planet.’*

— James Michel, President of the Republic of the Seychelles



**Between 2010 and 2020, Pacific SIDS could expect a significant natural disaster every other year on average**

SIDS<sup>1</sup> are in possession of some of the planet’s most unique and, unfortunately, vulnerable geographies. These vulnerabilities include fast moving natural disasters, such as hurricanes and floods, as well as slower-moving threats, such as rising sea levels, ocean acidification and saline intrusion.

The environment plays a pivotal role in most SIDS’ economies, for instance in the form of tourism, agriculture and fishing, among others. That makes preparation and mitigation measures for existing in an environmentally changing world especially crucial.

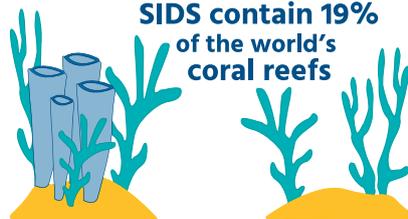
This chapter will discuss SIDS’ environments, including:

1. [Environment](#), describing SIDS’ lands, waters and the threats facing them as part of the global climate crisis.
2. [Plastics](#) and SIDS’ challenges and opportunities in the plastic economy.

**On average, 13 per cent of Pacific SIDS’ land lies 5 meters or less above sea level**



**SIDS contain 19% of the world’s coral reefs**



**SIDS can benefit from the emerging market for plastic alternatives and substitutes**



### Notes

1. Aggregates for SIDS and SIDS regions in this chapter refer to the analytical SIDS grouping, as detailed in [What makes a SIDS a SIDS](#), unless otherwise specified.

# Environment and climate crisis

## Many SIDS among the most environmentally vulnerable countries

For many people, the mention of countries like the Bahamas or Fiji tends to conjure up images of white sand beaches, azure blue seas and cloudless skies. This chapter, however, highlights how fragile and vulnerable these islands are (see [What makes a SIDS a SIDS](#)). Due to their unique geography, SIDS face a unique and varied mix of environmental concerns, ranging from increased exposure to storms and floods, to the loss of their actual land. They account for three of the top five most environmentally vulnerable countries according to the EVI in 2020 (see [Country profiles](#)), with Kiribati ranked most vulnerable (UN DESA, 2020). The scale and the source of vulnerability vary considerably by region: Pacific SIDS are the most vulnerable, with an average rank of 29 out of 143 countries classified, followed by the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS, with an average rank of 61, and finally by the Caribbean SIDS, with an average rank of 86.

 **Table 1. Ten most vulnerable countries according to the 2020 EVI**

Rank	Country
1	Kiribati
2	Marshall Islands
3	Tuvalu
4	Gambia
5	Chad
6	Somalia
7	Djibouti
8	Federated States of Micronesia
9	Eritrea
10	Botswana

Source: UN DESA (2020).  
 Note: SIDS highlighted



**4 of the top 10  
 most environmentally  
 vulnerable countries  
 are SIDS**

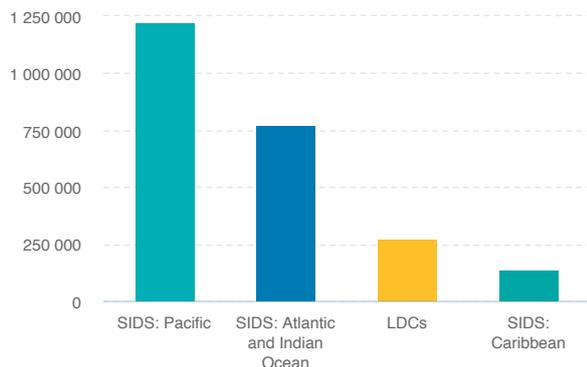


In order to grapple with the magnitude of the issues facing SIDS and the different challenges in each region, it is important to understand the physical geographies of each region, as well as how their populations live.

## SIDS' Oceans: an integral part of their economies and cultures

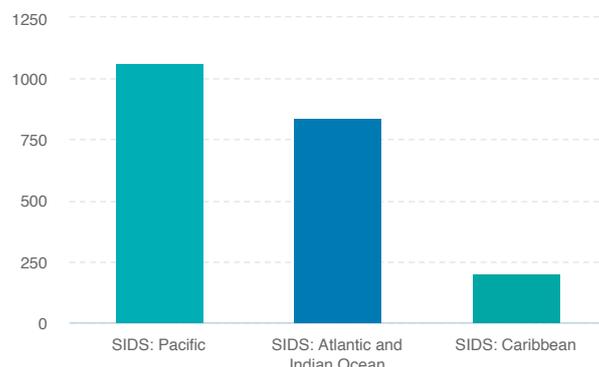
As the defining characteristic of SIDS is their island nature, it should come as no surprise that oceans play an important role. The oceans and seas touch every aspect of island life, from where people live, to how they support themselves, to how they communicate and interface with the rest of the world. Between SIDS, however, there is considerable variation in their relationships with their respective oceans. For example, figure 1 illustrates the stark differences in average size of adjacent marine resources under an island state's jurisdiction.

**Figure 1. Exclusive economic zone (EEZ), 2018**  
(regional average, km<sup>2</sup>)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on Sea Around Us (2016).

**Figure 2. Distance from capital to nearest neighbouring capital**  
(regional average, km)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on [NO\_PRINTED\_FORM] (Package "cshapes," 2016).

Pacific and Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS have on average substantially larger territorial waters than LDCs or Caribbean SIDS. The Caribbean SIDS in fact tend to have smaller EEZs than even LDCs. This is due to the different nature of the oceans and seas where the groups find themselves. The Caribbean SIDS are heavily concentrated in the relatively compact Caribbean Sea, while the Atlantic and Indian Ocean and Pacific SIDS tend to be widely spread apart over the expansive Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans. This also leads to different degrees of remoteness, as figure 2 reveals. Pacific and Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS' capitals are on average more than four times farther from the closest foreign capital than Caribbean SIDS'.

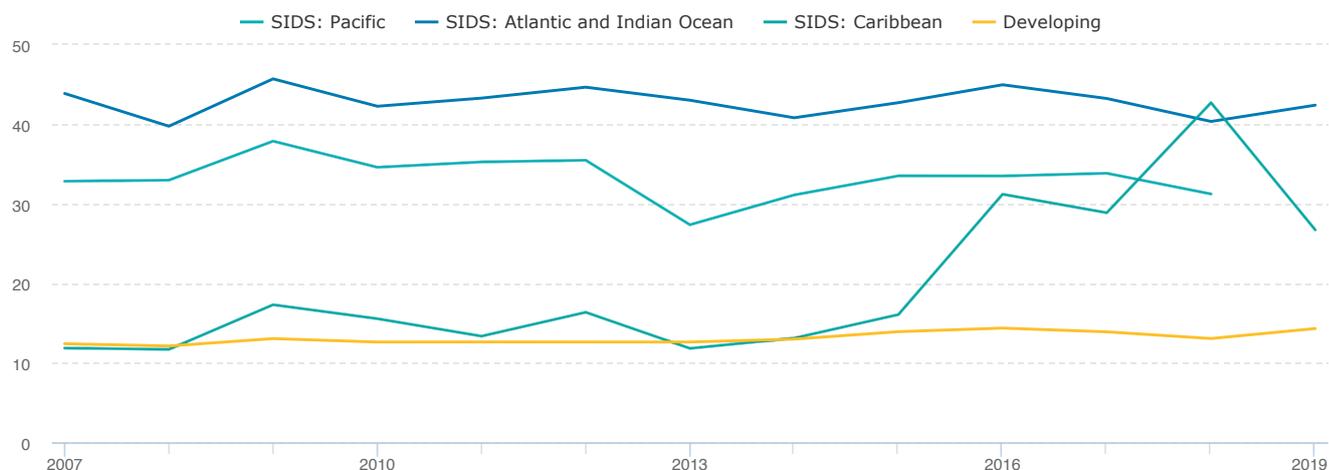
These vast territorial waters have a direct impact on the makeup of SIDS' economies, which often possess large tourism, fishing and other marine resource extraction sectors. The Caribbean SIDS rely on average more on tourism, and the Pacific SIDS more on fishing (OECD, 2018). This is an outcome of the groups' locations and geographies. The Caribbean SIDS' proximity to large economies in North and South America, as well as affordable and well-established air and cruise connections, ensure a higher proportion of tourism compared with the far-flung Pacific SIDS, to which trips by boat can take days or weeks, and air-connections are longer and pricier.

For SIDS, fishing and other marine-extraction activities account for an even larger proportion of employment and nutrition than of GDP (Small Island Developing States in Numbers. Climate Change Edition, 2015). This makes the islands particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The variety and breadth of that vulnerability, discussed later in the chapter, is daunting, including loss of fish stocks due to warming seas, increased frequency of storms and floods, loss of land to rising seas, bleaching of coral reefs, and destruction of marine ecosystems due to ocean acidification, to name a few.

Newly available data from the UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative further underscore the importance of biologically derived goods to SIDS' economies. Figure 3 shows the share of trade in biodiversity-based products as defined in the BioTrade Initiative's upcoming Trade and Biodiversity database.


**Figure 3. Trade in biodiversity-based products as a share of total trade**

(Percentage)



Source: UNCTAD (2020b).

Trade in biodiversity-based products accounts for a significantly higher share of trade in SIDS compared with other developing countries, with the exception of the Caribbean SIDS before 2015. In fact, this trade consistently accounts for more than 40 per cent of Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS' trade and more than 30 per cent of Pacific SIDS'. The percentage was historically lower in the Caribbean SIDS, but has been growing since 2015, even surpassing the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS' share in 2018. The UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative has been fostering sustainable trade as an incentive for biodiversity conservation and improved economic and social welfare since 1996. UNCTAD and its partners have been implementing the BioTrade principles and criteria (UNCTAD, 2020d). These have been implemented by governments, the private sector and civil society in over 80 countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe to develop sectors, value chains and businesses. The sales of BioTrade beneficiaries reached over €9 billion in 2020. For instance, in 2020 UNCTAD, OECS and CITES launched the Blue BioTrade project (UNCTAD, 2020c) that supports the development of the queen conch chain in selected Eastern Caribbean countries.

The Blue BioTrade project is part of UNCTAD's larger concept of the oceans economy, or the blue economy (UNCTAD, 2021a). The oceans economy simultaneously promotes economic growth, environmental sustainability and social inclusion related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources and ecosystems, reflected in SDG goal 14, Life Below Water. The oceans economy offers significant development opportunities for SIDS in sectors such as sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, renewable marine energy, marine bioprospecting, maritime transport, and marine and coastal tourism (UNCTAD, 2014a). Coastal and marine tourism is the largest oceans economic sector for SIDS, especially in the Caribbean (see [Tourism](#)). Other sectors, such as fisheries, though less relevant in terms of export value or GDP share, are important sources of income and employment, particularly for coastal communities and women. The fisheries sector has also proven to be resilient if adequately managed, as it is considered an essential activity for food security. It has also been less impacted by occasional climate events such as hurricanes or typhoons, which tend not to affect underwater ecosystems.

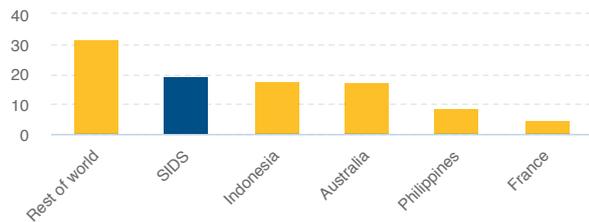
Therefore, the promotion of development strategies that consider the sustainable use of marine resources is crucial for these countries. To contribute to this goal, UNCTAD is working with Caribbean countries to identify and develop business opportunities that contribute to the development of sustainable oceans economic sectors through the definition and implementation of national and regional oceans economy and trade strategies (UNCTAD, 2021b).

Effective policy design, however, is significantly hampered by data limitations. Lack of data, particularly related to sustainable trade in ocean-based sectors, is also a feature of the oceans economy. UNCTAD is working on a novel sustainable ocean economy classification for tradable goods and services for all countries in response to these data limitations. The classification features three categories: goods, services and energy. It considers six sectors in goods, six sectors in services and a mixed sector, energy. Each sector is disaggregated further in subsectors, 52 in total. The classification includes ocean-based goods directly harvested from the oceans or cultivated from marine species, as well as marine-based processed goods and products for carrying out ocean-based activities. It also includes ocean-based services that use marine ecosystems to deliver services, seek to conserve, sustainably use, or clean up the marine environment, support marine industries, or seek to innovate processes based on marine resources. Finally, the classification includes ocean-renewable energies, e.g., offshore wind energy, tidal power and wave power.

Novel statistics on the sustainable ocean economy, to be launched during the first half of 2021, will provide data at national, regional and global levels and facilitate the monitoring of trends up to a three-digit level of disaggregation based on the Harmonized System for the classification of products for trade in goods. This comprehensive tool will enhance the understanding of the ocean economy's reach and importance, spur collaboration across sectors and countries, and help monitor and predict changes for the economy, society and the marine environment. It will also help countries assess trade prospects in ocean-based sectors to expand internal development planning to emerging sectors.

With large ocean territories comes a multitude of coral reefs in SIDS. In fact, more than 89 per cent of SIDS contain at least some coral reef (UNEP, 2001). Figure 5.1.4 shows the percentage of global coral reefs contained in SIDS, compared with other countries.

**Figure 4. Distribution of coral reefs**  
(Percentage)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNEP (2001).

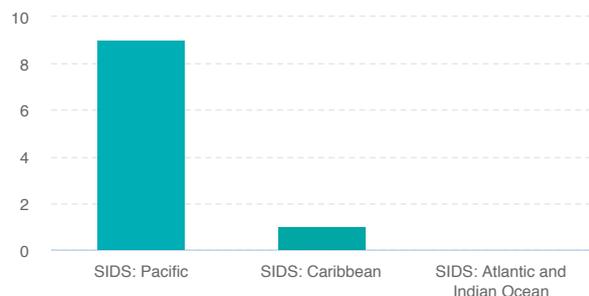
Counted together, SIDS contain the plurality of the world's coral reefs, ahead even of well-known coral reef-containing nations like Indonesia and Australia.

Coral reefs' many important roles, including acting as wave breakers to protect against flooding, encouraging biodiversity and decelerating coastal erosion, are all especially important to SIDS (Small Island Developing States in Numbers. Climate Change Edition., 2015). These functions are invaluable both geographically and economically, as reefs help preserve SIDS' territory while providing earnings from tourism and supporting healthy marine ecosystems, which are important for SIDS' fishing industries.

Therefore, the range of existential threats facing the world's coral reefs is of particular consequence to SIDS. Threats include ocean acidification, thermal stress from rising ocean temperatures and vicious cycles involving increased algae growth and compromised structures. Of the nine countries most vulnerable to coral reef degradation, five are SIDS: Grenada, Comoros, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Fiji. Ensuing economic losses promise to be relatively more devastating for these small island nations in comparison with the other, much larger and more diversified countries on the list, such as Indonesia or the Philippines (Burke et al., 2011).

Given the importance of reefs and the ocean in general to SIDS, extensive attention needs to be paid to the protection of their marine environments. While there is little they can do unilaterally regarding climate change or carbon emissions, certain measures can be taken to fight against threats such as over-fishing, pollution or exploitation. Figure 5 illustrates the extent to which SIDS in different regions protect their territorial waters, which entails measures such as restricting the types of activities allowed within a region to conserve ecological systems.

**Figure 5. Marine protected areas, regional average, 2018**  
(Per cent of territorial waters)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on World Bank (2021).

There is a large regional discrepancy, with Pacific SIDS protecting a significantly larger share of their waters than Caribbean SIDS, which in turn protect significantly more than Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS. However, even the Pacific SIDS remain below the goal of having 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas protected by 2020, established by the 2010 Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP, 2010) and reflected in SDG indicator 14.5.1.

# Climate change adaptation for coastal infrastructure in Caribbean SIDS

Seaports and coastal airports are critical infrastructure assets that serve as catalysts of economic growth and development in the Caribbean. Compelling scientific studies (IPCC, 2014a, 2014b, 2018) project that climate change will increase the hydro-meteorological hazards for the coastal transport infrastructure of the Caribbean, one of the most disaster-prone regions worldwide. Significant socio-economic consequences (e.g. for tourism and trade) are expected as these vital international transportation facilities are threatened by climate change. Climate-related extreme events affecting coastal transport infrastructure are likely to exacerbate existing challenges, making effective adaptation action an urgent imperative (UNCTAD, 2014b).

The Caribbean might face climate-related losses of US\$ 22 billion annually by 2050; in terms of infrastructure damages due to sea level rise alone (exclusive of hurricane damage), the cost of inaction has been projected to amount to about US\$ 16 billion annually, by 2050 (Bueno et al., 2008). The significance of threats associated with extreme weather events has been highlighted by the impacts of the 2017 hurricane season that wreaked havoc on several Caribbean islands, including coastal airports and seaports. Global economic losses in relation to extreme weather-related events in 2017 were estimated at US\$ 330 billion (Munich RE, 2018). Dominica's total damages and losses from hurricane Maria alone have been estimated at 224 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Government of Dominica, 2017), whereas losses for Anguilla, the Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Sint Maarten and Turks and Caicos Islands from hurricanes Irma and Maria have been estimated at US\$ 5.4 billion, with infrastructure-related costs representing a significant percentage of the total (UNECLAC, 2018). Economic implications of hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria also include, *inter alia*, reported losses by airlines serving the Caribbean, e.g. US\$ 75 million by American Airlines; US\$ 40 million by Spirit Airline, (Barrow, 2017); at the disruption peak, revenue losses for the industry were estimated at US\$75-85m per day (IATA, 2017).

A recent [assessment](https://SIDSport-ClimateAdapt.unctad.org) by UNCTAD of the climate change induced impacts on the seaports and coastal airports of two Caribbean SIDS (Jamaica, St. Lucia), which focused on the risk of coastal flooding and of potential operational disruptions under different climate scenarios (<https://SIDSport-ClimateAdapt.unctad.org>, Monioudi et al. (2018), see also IPCC (2018), highlights the importance of climate change adaptation for critical international transportation assets. The study projected severe impacts on coastal transport infrastructure and operations that could cause major disruptions to the connectivity of SIDS to international markets as well as to related economic sectors, such as tourism (Asariotis, 2020).

Projections showed that the coastal transportation assets of both SIDS will face rapidly increasing coastal flooding in the 21st century. Flooding is projected for the airport runways of some of the examined airports and for most seaports, from as early as the 2030s. Tests that consider the resilience of infrastructure in the face of a 1 in 100-year extreme event (in terms of sea level and waves) under the 1.5 °C specific warming level (which regrettably will be reached by the early 2030s) indicate flooding for the airport runways of some of the examined airports (the George Charles International Airport and Hewanorra International Airport in Saint Lucia; as well as Sangster International Airport in Jamaica) and for most of the seaports. The exposure of these assets to coastal flooding is projected to deteriorate as the century progresses (see Figure 6).

[Results of the study](#) also suggest that air transport operations will be affected in Jamaica and St. Lucia due to future Climate Variability and Change (CV & C). The projected increases in the frequency of hot days will likely affect the airport staff ability to work safely outdoors, require reductions in aircraft payloads and increase energy costs. The following operational disruptions are projected, *inter alia*:

- **Outside working conditions:** By the early 2030s, staff working outdoors at the Jamaican and Saint Lucian international transportation assets could be at "high" risk for 5 and 2 days per year, respectively. By 2081-2100, such days could increase to 30 and 55 days per year, respectively.
- **Aircraft take-off:** By 2030, Boeing 737-800 aircraft that serve all studied airports, will have to decrease their take-off load for 65 days per year at Sangster International Airport-SIA and 24 days per year at Norman Manley International Airport- NMIA (both in Jamaica), whereas by the 2070s such days could increase at least twofold for SIA and fourfold for NMIA, assuming no targeted aircraft design changes.
- **Energy needs:** a 1.5 °C temperature rise will increase energy requirements by 4 % for 214 days per year for Jamaican seaports, whereas a 3.7 °C rise (2081-2100) will increase energy requirements by 15 % for 215 days per year. Saint Lucia seaports are projected to experience similar trends.

Finally, the dominant 3S ('Sea-Sand-Sun') tourism model of Saint Lucia (and other Caribbean island destinations) is projected to be challenged by increasing beach erosion, which, by 2040, may overwhelm between 11 and 73 % of its beaches (UNCTAD, 2018), with negative ramifications for tourism, the main driver of many Caribbean SIDS' economy, accounting for between 11% and 79% of their GDP (UNECLAC,

2011). Due to the strong nexus between tourism and the facilitating transport infrastructure, this will also have negative impacts on transportation demand.

It should be noted that important gaps remain in terms of data availability, as well as current levels of resilience and preparedness among seaports worldwide, as revealed by the [UNCTAD Port Industry Survey on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation](#) (UNCTAD, 2017). Moreover, recent evidence suggests that both mean and extreme sea-levels, which are the main drivers for coastal flooding, will increase even faster than previously thought (Asariotis, 2021). Given the potential economic implications of climate-related damage, disruption and delay, relevant information and adequate climate adaptation efforts are therefore urgently required, especially for ports in developing regions and SIDS.

 **Figure 6. Projected flooding of George F.L. Charles International Airport (GCIA) and Port Castries (CSP), Saint Lucia**



Source: Monioudi et al. (2018).

Note: Under 1.5 °C warming compared with the pre-industrial times (2030), GCIA appears vulnerable to the one in 100 years extreme sea level (ESL100) mostly at its northern side (Vigie beach). As the century progresses, its vulnerability will increase. In addition, Vigie beach, located only 30 m away from the airport fence, has been projected to face significant beach erosion that will further increase coastal flooding. Under a 50-year ESL by 2050 (under the moderate IPCC RCP 4.5 scenario) the runway will be flooded from Vigie beach. Given that Port Castries is only about 1.5 m above mean sea level, there will be significant damage to the port and the capital city of Saint Lucia. Later in the century, and under both RCP scenarios tested, flooding is projected to deteriorate in the absence of effective adaptation measures.

## SIDS' land: diverse but vulnerable

Ranging from the far-flung, sun-soaked, tropical atolls of Kiribati, to the densely forested and mountainous islands of São Tomé and Príncipe, there is considerable geographic diversity across SIDS. Though their land territory is much smaller in area than their ocean territory, it plays no less a central role to life on the islands and is under no less threat.

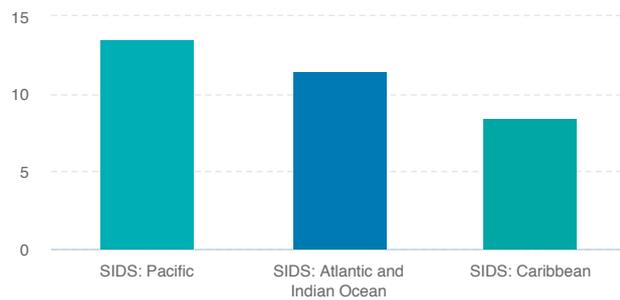
Generally speaking, SIDS are land constrained. The largest of them, Solomon Islands, measures 28 896 km<sup>2</sup>, comparable in size to Albania. The rest are considerably smaller, with Nauru measuring only 21 km<sup>2</sup>. Furthermore, of SIDS' scarce land, a considerable portion lies just five meters or less above sea level, making it more vulnerable to sea-level rise and saltwater encroachment, as illustrated by figure 7.

**On average,  
13 per cent of Pacific SIDS' land  
lies 5 meters or less above sea level**



**Figure 7. Share of land below five meters' elevation, regional average, 2010**

(Per cent of total land area)

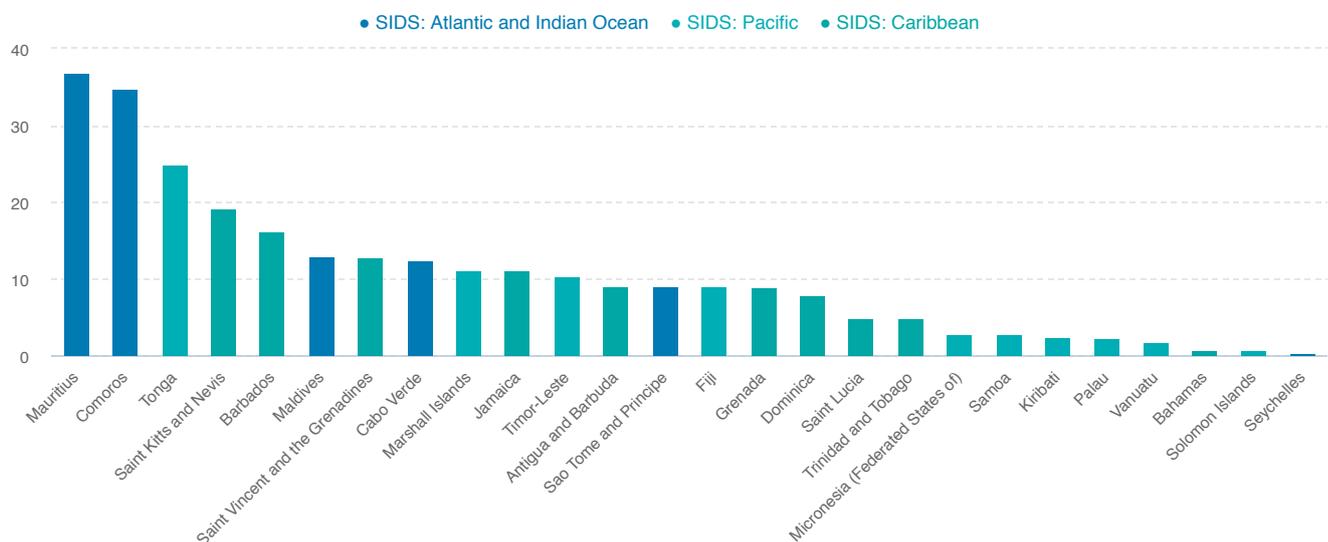


For comparison, in the OECD, 1 per cent of land lies five meters or less above sea level, which stands in stark contrast to Pacific SIDS' more than 13 per cent on average, clearly illustrating SIDS' heightened environmental vulnerability. Of the SIDS' land, often only a small portion is arable, as shown in figure 8.

Source: UNCTAD calculations based on World Bank (2021).

**Figure 8. Arable land as a share of total land area, 2016**

(Per cent of total land area)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on FAO as published by World Bank (2021).

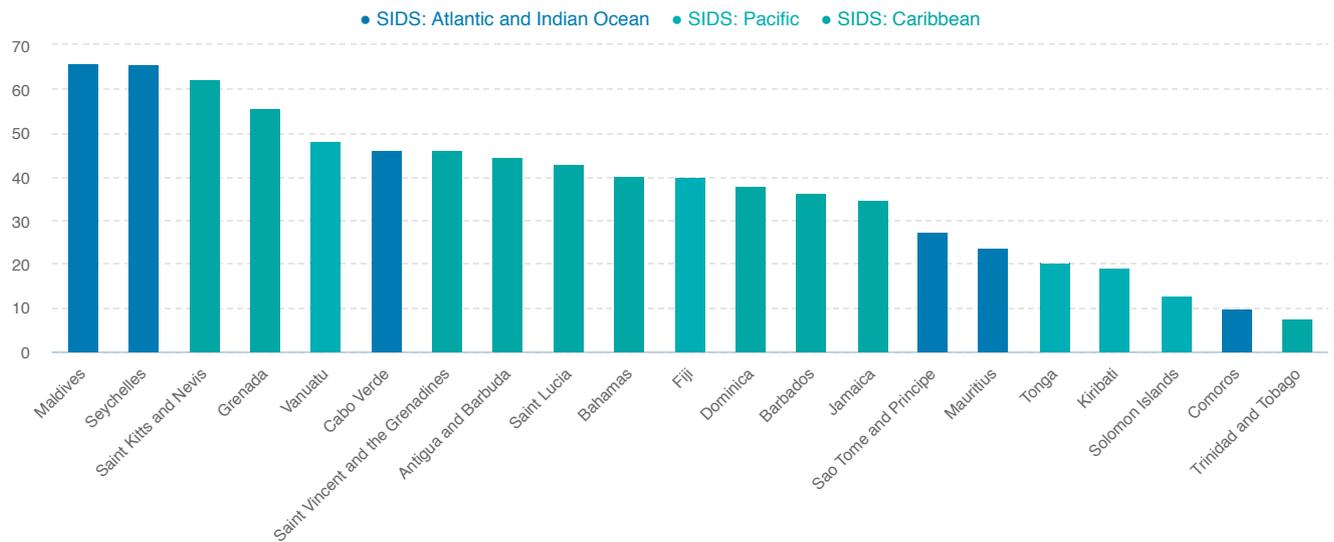
While some SIDS, especially among the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS, do have a relatively high share of arable land, their small size leads to limited agricultural opportunities. The regional averages are 18 per cent for Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS, 10 per cent for Caribbean SIDS, and just 7 per cent for Pacific SIDS. Pacific SIDS are particularly disadvantaged in this metric, holding 6 of the last 8 spots. However, agriculture is far less important to the two non-Pacific SIDS in the last 8, as Bahamas and Seychelles both have relatively high GDP per capita predicated on tourism and other services. The corresponding fraction of arable land in OECD countries is 11 per cent for comparison (World Bank, 2021).

This makes SIDS considerably more vulnerable to natural disasters due to climate change and rising sea levels. The vulnerability is further exacerbated by the fact that a large proportion of SIDS' populations tends to live in low-lying coastal lands (Small Island Developing States in Numbers. Climate Change Edition., 2015). In fact, on average, 12 per cent of the population of Atlantic and Indian Ocean and Pacific SIDS lives below 5 meters above sea-level. The figure for Caribbean SIDS is 5 per cent. For comparison, this share is less than 6 per cent on average for LDCs (World Bank, 2021).

These factors not only threaten SIDS' own populations, but also the prospects of a key industry - tourism. Research on the Caribbean SIDS in particular has revealed that an estimated 49 per cent of their resort properties are susceptible to damage from rising sea levels, storm surges and increased erosion (Small Island Developing States in Numbers. Climate Change Edition., 2015). Figure 9 illustrates just how important such environmental considerations are, considering the reliance on tourism of many SIDS' economies.


**Figure 9. Direct and indirect contribution of travel and tourism to GDP, 2019**

(Per cent of GDP)



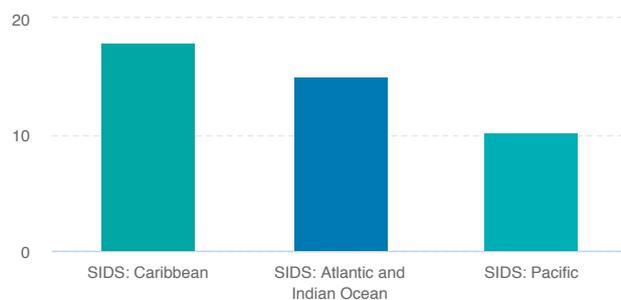
Source: UNCTAD calculations based on Knoema (2020).

Direct and indirect contributions of tourism account for more than half of economic output in four SIDS, and for more than 20 per cent in all but five. In the Caribbean, this dependence on tourism is strongest, accounting for more than 35 per cent of GDP in all countries except Trinidad and Tobago, which has an extensive oil and gas industry (see [Tourism](#)).

Corresponding to the need to preserve their limited land, SIDS protect on average a higher share of their land than their seas, as illustrated in figure 10.


**Figure 10. Terrestrial protected areas, regional average, 2018**

(Per cent of GDP)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on World Bank (2021).

The contrast is starkest among Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS, which on average hardly protect their seas, but protect 15 per cent of their lands. Regional figures mask intraregional differences, however. For instance, Seychelles protects more than 40 per cent of its territory, the highest share among SIDS, while Maldives only protects 1.2 per cent, the second least.

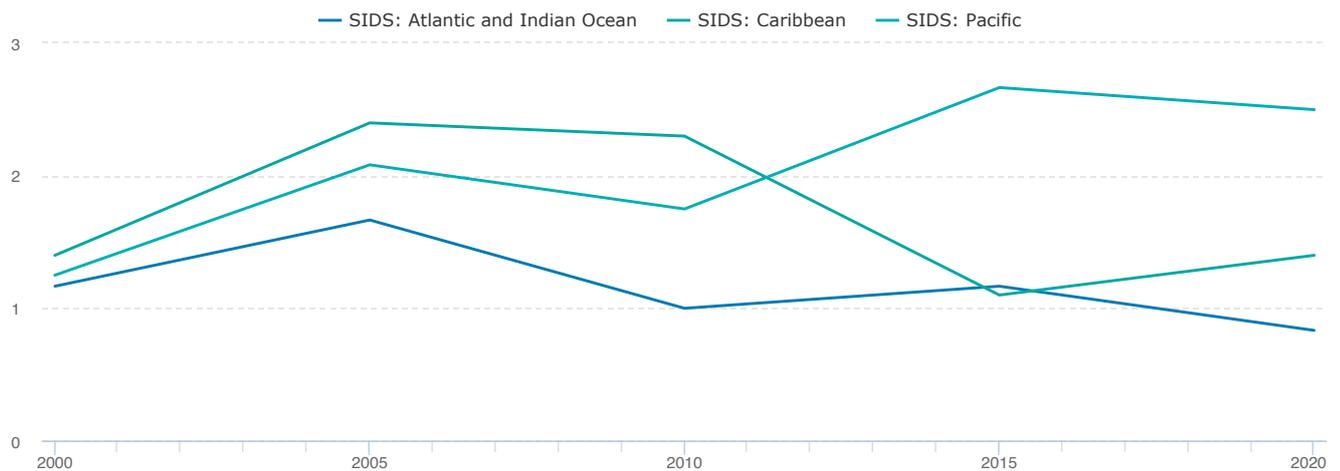
These percentages should be increased in the coming years to protect against the many threats facing SIDS' lands, a topic discussed in more detail in the next section.

## Climate crisis: threats, challenges and ways forward

SIDS' climate vulnerabilities can be broadly separated into two categories: short-term shocks and long-term risks. Short-term shocks refer to natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes and typhoons. These are already part of life in many SIDS but with climate change threaten to become more common in the future. Long-term risks include, but are not limited to, rising sea levels and its many repercussions, including loss of living space, loss of agricultural land and contamination of drinking water due to saline intrusion (Vollebregt, 2018), increased preponderance of drought and ocean acidification and heating and ensuing destruction to marine ecosystems and coral reefs.

Figure 11 gives a better understanding of the frequency of natural disasters in SIDS, displaying the number of natural disasters experienced per country over a five-year period as recorded in the International Disaster Database maintained by EM-DAT (UCL-CRED and Guha-Sapir, 2020).

**Figure 11. Number of natural disasters per country, five-year sum**

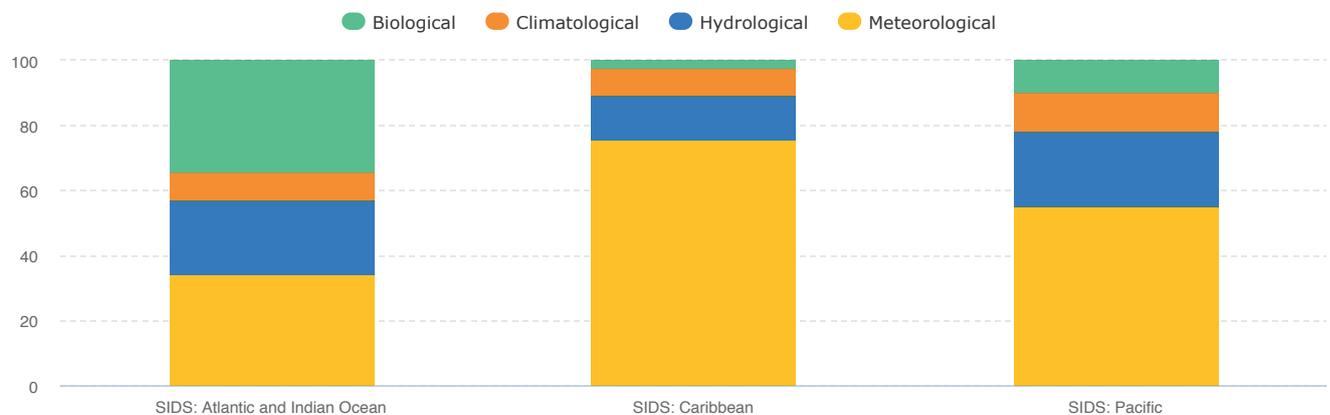


Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UCL-CRED and Guha-Sapir (2020).  
 Note: Excludes geophysical and extra-terrestrial disasters.

Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS suffer the lowest number of natural disasters, whereas, since 2010, Pacific SIDS have been suffering the highest number. Indeed, during that period, countries in this region could expect a natural disaster more than every other year. The increasing trend displayed in the Pacific SIDS is not present in the other two regions, highlighting their particular vulnerability to natural disasters. Figure 12 shows the distribution of types of natural disasters facing SIDS.

**Between 2010 and 2020, Pacific SIDS could expect a significant natural disaster every other year on average**

**Figure 12. Distribution of natural disasters, total from 1995 to 2020 (Percentage)**



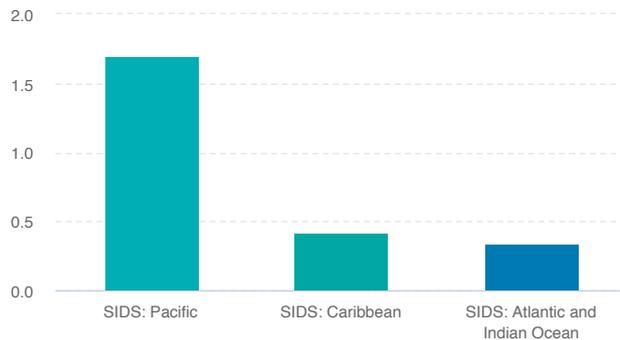
Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UCL-CRED and Guha-Sapir (2020).  
 Note: excludes geophysical and extra-terrestrial disasters.

Biological disasters include epidemics and insect infestations; climatological include droughts and wildfires; hydrological include floods and landslides; meteorological include storms and extreme temperatures. Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS suffer from relatively more epidemics than the other two groups which, in turn, suffer relatively more weather-related disasters, such as hurricanes, floods and droughts.

Disasters can have varying intensities. A meaningful assessment of their impact can be obtained by looking at the numbers of people they affect, through injury, death or displacement, as well as at their economic consequences. Figure 13 shows the proportion of SIDS' populations adversely affected by natural disasters on an annual basis. SDG indicators 1.5.1 and 11.5.1 both seek to track this number.

**Figure 13. Share of population affected by natural disasters annually, 2005-2019**

(Percentage)



Source: UNCTAD (2020b) and UNCTAD calculations based on United Nations (2021).

Note: No data for Bahamas, Kiribati, Micronesia (the Federated States of), Nauru, São Tomé and Príncipe and Tuvalu. Data exclude geophysical and extra-terrestrial disasters.

On average, Pacific SIDS can expect more than 1.7 per cent of their population to be adversely affected by a natural disaster in a year, more than four and five times the share of Caribbean and Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS, respectively.

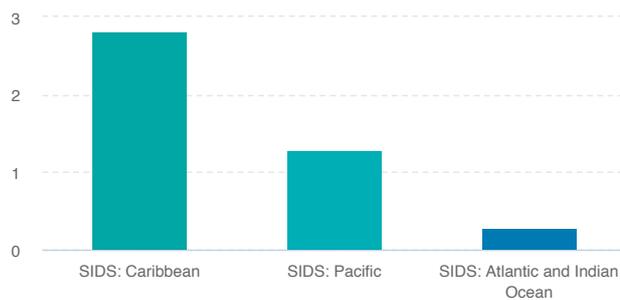
**Between 1995 and 2020, Caribbean SIDS lost on average 2.8 per cent of their annual GDP to natural disasters**



From an economic perspective, Caribbean SIDS lose a greater share of their GDP due to natural disasters than either Pacific or Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS – more than 2.8 per cent. SDG indicators 1.5.2 and 11.5.2 track economic losses from natural disasters.

**Figure 14. Share of GDP lost due to natural disasters, annual average from 1995 to 2020**

(Per cent of GDP)



Source: UNCTAD (2020b) and UNCTAD calculations based on UCL-CRED and Guha-Sapir (2020).

Note: excludes geophysical and extra-terrestrial disasters.

This is due to the region's high susceptibility to hurricanes, which cause extensive damage to key industries such as agriculture and tourism (ReliefWeb, 2004; UNISDR et al., 2018). Housing and infrastructure are also frequently damaged, further complicating the countries' development.

Exacerbating natural disasters' effects on SIDS is their lack of access to capital markets and sufficient funding due to their often already heavily indebted status (see [Debt and financial risk](#)). This handicaps their ability to respond in the aftermath of natural disasters as well as to invest in mitigation measures (Slany, 2020).

Unfortunately, these short-term shocks and disasters are only expected to grow in number and intensity in the coming years and decades as the effects of the climate crisis intensify. However, SIDS' climate vulnerabilities are not limited to such salient disasters, there are a number of slower-developing risks at play as well.

Foremost among those risks is the threat of rising sea levels. Annual sea level rise over the past century has been estimated at 3mm per year in the Caribbean, and as high as 6mm per year in the Pacific (UNCTAD, 2021c). In a business-as-usual scenario, this rate may increase to 16mm per year, culminating in a total rise of 1 meter by 2100. In the Caribbean, up to 29 per cent of resort properties would be at least partially flooded if sea levels rose by this one meter, while a further 49 per cent would be affected by downstream effects of sea level rise, such as increased coastal erosion and more frequent flooding (Scott et al., 2012). It would have even more dire consequences for some SIDS. Under such a scenario, for instance, the entirety of the islet of Fongafale in Tuvalu, its largest and home to its capital, would be below flood level (UNCTAD, 2021c).

Saline intrusion into fresh water sources from sea level rise also has repercussions for SIDS' economies and populations, as many are already water-stressed. Further loss of valuable fresh water resources threatens agricultural sectors as well as drinking water supplies (Small Island Developing States in Numbers. Climate Change Edition., 2015).

Unfortunately, in some cases, rising sea levels threaten not only SIDS' economic development and living standards, but their viability to support permanent populations (Small Island Developing States in Numbers. Climate Change Edition., 2015). Figure 7 illustrated to what degree SIDS' land is vulnerable to rising seas. The proportion of their populations this threatens is even higher, as much infrastructure and farmland and many population centres are concentrated in coastal zones. However, the figure smooths over regional variations, masking the

fact that some Pacific SIDS lie more than 50 per cent below five meters above sea level. 99 per cent of the Maldives, Tuvalu and Kiribati lies below 5 meters above sea level (Small Island Developing States in Numbers. Climate Change Edition., 2015). Inundation is not the only threat, as rising sea levels in conjunction with other climate change-related phenomena exacerbate land loss from coastal erosion (UNCCD and LDN, 2020).

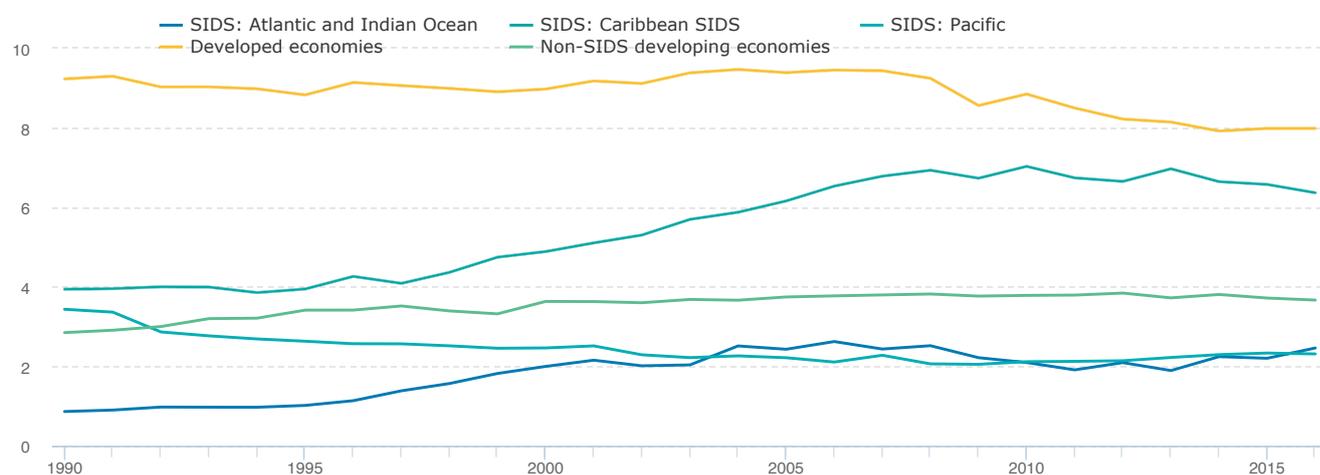
Another longer-term consequence of climate change for SIDS is the adverse impact on marine ecosystems, especially coral reefs and fisheries. Warming oceans will change the diversity and quantity of fish biomass, especially in the tropics, where most SIDS are located. Sub-tropical species will move from the tropics to what were formerly temperate zones, replacing cool-water and temperate species there, while no species will replace their departure (Small Island Developing States in Numbers. Climate Change Edition., 2015). This will have serious implications for SIDS' fishing industries in the future. This environmental threat makes it essential that human-induced threats are addressed where possible, something that SDG indicator 14.4.1, proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels, draws attention to.

Warming oceans and acidification also threaten coral reefs, leading to more bleaching and destruction of marine habitats and valuable coastal breakers in SIDS. Acidification derived from the increased concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere affects the ability of many marine organisms to form shells, which could lead to mass extinction events for corals, shellfish, crustaceans and sea urchins, among others (Earth Journalism Network, 2016). This in turn could trigger cascading effects throughout the food chain, further threatening fisheries and other ocean-related economic activities. In recognition of these threats, SDG target 14.3 specifically attempts to address and minimize the impact of ocean acidification.

SIDS' environmental vulnerabilities are not limited to global scale events, however. There are aspects of environmental degradation over which they do have control. These include issues like livestock farming practices, agricultural practices, deforestation, land use, fishing practices and other human activities like mining (UNCCD and LDN, 2020). SDG targets 15.1, 15.3 and 15.5 seek to specifically address terrestrial environmental sustainability, while target 14.1 seeks to address marine environment sustainability.

Carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions are the driving force behind climate change, but SIDS themselves have little scope to impact global emission levels.

 **Figure 15. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita, regional average**  
(Metric tons)

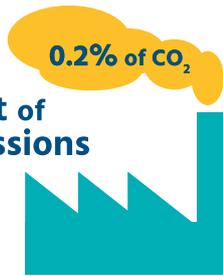


Source: UNCTAD calculations based on World Bank (2021).

Figure 15 shows SIDS' CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita over the past 30 years. Atlantic and Indian Ocean and Pacific SIDS emit at per-capita levels consistently less than a third of those of developed economies, below even other non-SIDS developing economies. Though Caribbean SIDS emit at higher levels, they still emit significantly less per capita than developed economies. This smaller per capita footprint, combined with SIDS' small size, led to a contribution of only 0.2 per cent to global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2016 (World Bank, 2021).

Despite their own minimal impact on global climate change, there are still incentives and opportunities for SIDS to adopt renewable energy, as most are heavy energy importers. Many SIDS possess ample potential renewable energy sources, including extensive offshore areas for wind, wave and tidal energy generation, as well as marine biomass (algae) and submarine geothermal resources (UNCTAD, 2014a). Development of such industries could be a boon to their economies while simultaneously reducing their energy dependence and carbon footprint. Despite large potential in the sector, the situation regarding renewables in most SIDS remains under-developed, requiring

**SIDS**  
contributed  
only **0.2 per cent** of  
global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
in 2016



investment frameworks and programmes to jump-start development (UNCTAD, 2014a). With their large potential, SIDS' renewable energy sectors may be able to contribute to achieving SDG target 7.2, substantially increasing the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

A final important aspect of climate change worth noting is the long lifespan of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. That means that the warming effects of gases emitted in the past up to the present day will continue to be felt centuries into the future regardless of the curbing of present and future emissions (UNCTAD, 2021c). It is

thus essential for SIDS and the global community to work not only to reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also to invest in adaptation measures for existing in the new, warmer world.

## Conclusion

The problems facing SIDS cannot be tackled unilaterally, as they are in essence global problems. As such, the continued success and attention to multilateral efforts, such as the SAMOA pathway (UN-OHRLS, 2014) and Paris Agreement (UNFCCC, 2016), are paramount to the continued economic and environmental viability of SIDS. The loss of every square meter of land or coral reef and every inhabitant displaced is not just a threat to the nation where it occurs, but a threat to our shared human and natural heritage.





## References

- Asariotis R (2020). Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Coastal Transportation Infrastructure: A Sustainable Development Challenge for SIDS in the Caribbean and Beyond. In Wang (Ed), *Coastal and Marine Environments, The Handbook of Natural Resources, Second Edition*. CRC Press. Boca Raton, FL, USA: 253–264.
- Asariotis R (2021). Climate change impacts on seaports: a growing threat to sustainable trade and development. Available at <https://unctad.org/news/climate-change-impacts-seaports-growing-threat-sustainable-trade-and-development> (accessed 9 June 2021).
- Barrow J (2017). Addressing the challenge of climate change adaptation and resilience building for key international transportation assets: Perspectives. Presented at the UNCTAD Regional Workshop. Bridgetown. 5 December. Available at [https://sidsport-climateadapt.unctad.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/JBarrow\\_CTO\\_BBWorkshop\\_p017\\_en.pdf](https://sidsport-climateadapt.unctad.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/JBarrow_CTO_BBWorkshop_p017_en.pdf) (accessed 3 June 2021).
- Bueno R, Herzfeld C, Stanton E and Ackerman F (2008). The Caribbean and climate change: The costs of inaction.
- Burke L, Reytar K, Spalding M and Perry A (2011). *Reefs at Risk Revisited*. WRI. Washington, D.C.
- Earth Journalism Network (2016). Ocean Acidification and Coral Bleaching. Available at <https://earthjournalism.net/resources/ocean-acidification-and-coral-bleaching> (accessed 30 November 2020).
- FERDI (2021). Your EVI. Available at <http://byind.ferdi.fr/en/indicator/evi/map/1585c3cf08139bbbc34290423cb82c1ff850de11> (accessed 22 March 2021).
- Government of Dominica (2017). Available at <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/dominica-pdna-maria.pdf>.
- Guillaumont P (2009). An Economic Vulnerability Index: Its Design and Use for International Development Policy. *Oxford Development Studies*. 37(3):193–228.
- IATA (2017). Available at <https://caribbeanhotelandtourism.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/IATA-201711-Aviation-Impact-of-Hurricanes-Irma-and-Maria-Report.pdf> (accessed 2 June 2021).
- IPCC (2014a). Climate Change 2014 Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability, Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. IPCC.
- IPCC (2014b). *Climate Change 2014, Synthesis Report, Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report (5AR) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. IPCC.
- IPCC (2018). Global warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty. Available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15>.
- Knoema (2020). Contribution of travel and tourism to GDP as a share of GDP. Available at <https://knoema.com/atlas/topics/Tourism/Travel-and-Tourism-Total-Contribution-to-GDP/Contribution-of-travel-and-tourism-to-GDP-percent-of-GDP#> (accessed 15 March 2021).
- Monioudi IN et al. (2018). Climate change impacts on critical international transportation assets of Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS): the case of Jamaica and Saint Lucia. *Regional Environmental Change*. 18(8):2211–2225.
- Munich RE (2018). Hurricanes cause record losses in 2017 - The year in figures. Available at <https://www.munichre.com/topics-online/en/climate-change-and-natural-disasters/natural-disasters/2017-year-in-figures.html> (accessed 2 June 2021).
- OECD (2003). EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ). Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=884> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- OECD (2018). *Making Development Co-Operation Work for Small Island Developing States*. OECD Publishing. Paris.
- OECD (2020). DAC glossary of key terms and concepts. Available at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/dac-glossary.htm> (accessed 20 April 2020).
- Package “cshapes” (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- ReliefWeb (2004). Hurricane season in the Caribbean causes more than US\$2.2 billion in losses. Available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/bahamas/hurricane-season-caribbean-causes-more-us22-billion-losses> (accessed 20 November 2020).
- Scott D, Simpson MC and Sim R (2012). The vulnerability of Caribbean coastal tourism to scenarios of climate change related sea level rise. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*. 20(6):883–898.
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- Slany A (2020). Multiple disasters and debt sustainability in Small Island Developing States. UNCTAD Research Paper No. 2020/14. UNCTAD/SER.RP/2020/14. Geneva.
- Small Island Developing States in Numbers. Climate Change Edition. (2015). Available at [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2189SIDS-IN-NUMBERS-CLIMATE-CHANGE-EDITION\\_2015.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2189SIDS-IN-NUMBERS-CLIMATE-CHANGE-EDITION_2015.pdf) (accessed 22 December 2020).
- UCL-CRED and Guha-Sapir D (2020). Available at <https://www.emdat.be> (accessed 3 February 2021).
- UN DESA (2020). United Nations Committee for Development Policy Secretariat. Triennial review dataset 2000 - 2018. Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category/ldc-data-retrieval.html> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- UN DESA (2021). Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category.html> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- UNCCD and LDN (2020). Land Degredation Neutrality in Small Island Developing States. UNCCD. (accessed 20 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2014a). The Oceans Economy: Opportunities and Challenges for Small Island Developing States. (accessed 27 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2014b). Small island developing states: Challenges in transport and trade logistics. TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/8. Geneva. 15 September.

- UNCTAD (2017). Port industry survey on climate change impacts and adaptation. UNCTAD Research Paper No. 2017/18. UNCTAD/SER.RP/2017/18/Rev.1. Geneva. December.
- UNCTAD (2018). *Climate Change Impacts on Coastal Transport Infrastructure in the Caribbean: Enhancing the Adaptive Capacity of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Saint Lucia: A Case Study*. UNCTAD/DTL/TLB/2018/3. New York and Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2020a). BioTrade Initiative. Available at <https://unctad.org/topic/trade-and-environment/biotrade> (accessed 10 June 2020).
- UNCTAD (2020b). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNCTAD (2020c). Blue BioTrade project set to improve fortunes in the eastern Caribbean. Available at <https://unctad.org/news/blue-biotrade-project-set-improve-fortunes-eastern-caribbean> (accessed 22 January 2021).
- UNCTAD (2020d). BioTrade Principles and Criteria for terrestrial, marine and other aquatic biodiversity-based products and services. Available at [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditcted2020d2\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditcted2020d2_en.pdf) (accessed 1 June 2021).
- UNCTAD (2021a). Oceans Economy and Fisheries. Available at <https://unctad.org/topic/trade-and-environment/oceans-economy> (accessed 11 February 2021).
- UNCTAD (2021b). Evidence-based and policy coherent Oceans Economy and Trade Strategies. Available at <https://unctad.org/project/evidence-based-and-policy-coherent-oceans-economy-and-trade-strategies> (accessed 11 February 2021).
- UNCTAD (2021c). Trade and Environment Review 2021 Trade-Climate Readiness for Developing Countries. No. UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2020/. UNCTAD.
- UNECLAC (2011). An Assessment of the Economic Impact of Climate Change on the Transportation Sector in Barbados. No. LC/CAR/L.309. UNECLAC.
- UNECLAC (2018). Irma and Maria by Numbers. The Magazine of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee No. Issue 1. UNECLAC. (accessed 2 June 2021).
- UNEP (2001). World Atlas of Coral Reefs. Available at <http://coral.unep.ch/atlaspr.htm> (accessed 13 March 2021).
- UNEP (2010). *Decision Adopted By The Conference Of The Parties To The Convention On Biological Diversity At Its Tenth Meeting*. Nagoya.
- UNFCCC (2016). Paris Agreement. FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1. Paris. 29 January. (accessed 31 May 2019).
- UNISDR, CRED and EM-DAT (2018). Economic losses, poverty & disasters: 1998-2017. UNISDR. (accessed 17 November 2020).
- United Nations (2010). *International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics: 2008*. United Nations. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UN-OHRLLS (2014). SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A.) Pathway. (accessed 25 November 2020).
- Vollebregt S (2018). From Plentiful Seawater to Precious Drinking Water. Available at <https://sidsgbn.org/2018/03/20/tackling-water-scarcity-on-islands/> (accessed 18 November 2020).
- World Bank (2021). World Development Indicators. Available at <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators> (accessed 8 November 2020).

## Plastics economy and SIDS

Small states<sup>1</sup>, and especially SIDS, are particularly vulnerable to the tide of plastics pollution and the more general threat of global warming and climate change. One challenge is that plastics are big business, producing both useful products and inputs to products that are ubiquitous to daily life, but which also contribute to pollution and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. As the core inputs of plastic are by-products from the refining processes of fossil fuels, they are extremely cheap and likely to become more so – meaning the threat to SIDS, who are already struggling at the forefront of global warming, will likely get worse. Furthermore, the challenge posed extends beyond plastic pollution's immediate impact on fishing waters and tourism resources. It includes the impact of microplastics entering the food chain and their potential toxicity to fish, chemical pollution associated with the plastic life cycle and climate change due to plastics' carbon footprint.

## Global plastics life-cycle trade and SIDS

In early 2021, UNCTAD released a new Plastics Trade database that tracks trade in plastics across its entire life cycle<sup>2</sup>. Plastics trade was estimated to be worth more than US\$1 trillion globally in 2018, with sub-sectors, such as plastic textiles and plastic packaging being worth hundreds of billions of dollars as well (UNCTAD, 2021). This is considerably more than estimated by previous means of measuring plastics trade, such as tallying the products with codes in HS chapter 39, *Plastics and articles thereof*, which does not include the entire lifecycle of plastic products. The UNCTAD database is still in prototype and is being refined, but expectations are that the true figures are even larger. The findings are important because of the large scale of global trade revealed, the significance of trade in the value chain of plastic, and because trade is so broad and multi-faceted, with virtually all countries involved in some way or another, including SIDS. When broadly defined in the category of SIDS and small states, total plastics exports accounted for about 8 million metric tonnes worth around US\$15 billion in 2018. For SIDS included in the analytical grouping, the estimate drops considerably to US\$260 million and less than ¼ million metric tonnes, but this is still significant when compared to other merchandise exports from these countries. Moreover, while this estimate includes intermediate and final use plastic products made by SIDS as part of global value chains, as well as plastic packaging and textiles, it still is almost certainly a significant underestimate, as the massive volume of 'embedded plastics' in other products is not included.



### SIDS exported around US\$260 million of plastics in 2018



estimate includes intermediate and final use plastic products made by SIDS as part of global value chains, as well as plastic packaging and textiles, it still is almost certainly a significant underestimate, as the massive volume of 'embedded plastics' in other products is not included.

SIDS' positioning in the global plastics market is complex, reflecting the heterogeneity and diversity of countries in this category. A few are fossil fuel producers; some are hosts to chemical industries that produce plastic; for many, plastics have been a way to diversify their economies and raise value added. All, however, face the health

effects of global warming and polluted water, soil and air from plastics production, consumption and incineration, especially those where recycling and waste management facilities are underdeveloped.

Thus, the narrative surrounding plastics is broadening beyond pollution to also include SIDS' abilities to create jobs and revenues in other areas that depend on clean ecosystems, such as tourism and fisheries. In addition to the global CO<sub>2</sub> costs, the costs to their governments of dealing with plastic refuse in already over-burdened infrastructures are now being factored in. Plastics' role is being reappraised in SIDS, as elsewhere, amid growing efforts to promote a more circular economy, to reduce single-use plastics and to reduce the production and trade in plastics more generally (Barrowclough and Deere Birkbeck, 2020; CIEL, 2019). Governments, citizens and corporations are giving higher priority to the natural environment as a development issue to help achieve the SDGs, and more specifically goals 12 (Responsible consumption and production), 13 (Climate action) and 14 (Life below water) (United Nations, 2020). This creates opportunities for small states and SIDS to increase production and enter the market for alternatives to plastic<sup>3</sup>. For example, producers of alternatives could tap into a global market for plastics textiles and plastic packaging currently worth more than US\$260 billion (UNCTAD, 2021). This potential market is directly relevant to SIDS.

**Table 1. Exports in selected plastics along the value chain, 2018**

(US\$ billion and Million Metric Tonnes for global exports, US\$ millions and Metric Tonnes for SIDS)

	Global exports (US\$ billion and MMT)	SIDS (US\$ million and MT)
Intermediate forms of plastic	\$168 b (43 MMT)	\$16 m (5 700 MT)
Intermediate manufactured plastic goods	\$67 b (16 MMT)	\$9 m (2 700 MT)
Final manufactured plastic products	\$422 b (72 MMT)	\$107 m (27 000 MT)
Plastic textiles	\$209 b (29 MMT)	\$48 m (6 300 MT)
Plastic packaging	\$53 b (14 MMT)	\$43 m (19 000 MT)
Total plastics exports	\$1 061 b (349 MMT)	\$259 m (181 000MT)

Source: Preliminary data from UNCTAD (2021).

Note: Volume and value categories do not sum to the total. Total volume is the sum of all plastics traded, which is different from plastics created.

## SIDS and plastic trade regulations

SIDS and small states are aware of these threats and, of the 127 measures notified to the WTO that are relevant to plastics, the majority have been notified by developing countries. In particular, two SIDS have already notified nine measures: Mauritius and Seychelles (WTO, 2021). The content of the measures includes mainly bans on the import, sales and manufacture of certain plastic bags (including non-woven polypropylene bags), straws, tableware and kitchenware, as well as plastic and foam boxes. They have been notified as quantitative restrictions under the 1994 GATT and under the WTO TBT.

Also, Table 2 shows how seven SIDS have introduced bans or plans to phase out or reduce the use of single-use plastics, styrofoam products and polystyrene, signalling a clear and rapid response to impacts of plastic pollution.

**Mauritius and Seychelles  
have notified nine measures  
regarding plastics to the WTO;**



**other SIDS have put in place  
plastics bans**

**Table 2. Plastics trade regulatory measures undertaken by SIDS**

Country (year)	Scope and key features of the measures taken	Notified to the WTO
Barbados (2019)	Ban on single-use plastic and plastic bags made with a petroleum-based resin. Exceptions for bags for garbage, medical use, preservation of food and a few other uses.	
Fiji (2017, 2019)	Plastic bag levy. A bill to ban the use and importation of single-use plastics and polystyrene under discussion.	
Marshall Islands (2017)	Ban on single-use plastic carrier bags and on Styrofoam and plastic cups, plates and packages.	
Mauritius (2015)	Ban on the import of plastic bags, including non-woven polypropylene bags.	X
Samoa (2018)	Ban on single-use plastic shopping bags, packing bags and straws.	
Seychelles (2017)	Ban on some plastic items such as plastic bags, styrofoam boxes and some plastic utensils and single-use plastic straws.	X
Vanuatu (2018)	Ban on single-use plastic bags, straws and polystyrene takeaway boxes. Certain exemptions for bags to wrap and carry fish or meat.	

Source: Barrowclough and Vivas Eugui (2021).

## New market opportunities for SIDS – alternatives to plastic

### SIDS can benefit from the emerging market for plastic alternatives and substitutes



Mauritius), and cardboard and paper (Barbados, Fiji).

SIDS may benefit from growing interest in ‘sunrise markets’ for alternative and substitute materials that can perform the same or similar functions as plastic, but without its negative health or environmental impacts (see table 3). The global plastics, textiles and packaging categories highlighted in table 1, for example, are worth more than US\$260 billion in 2018 and could be a target for producers of alternatives. Many island economies are active in these markets as they already possess the required resources, capacities and expertise. For example, some SIDS already export the following plastics-alternative materials: natural fibres (Mauritius), glass (Barbados and

**Table 3. Illustrative list of potential top plastic substitutes in SIDS, small economies and LDCs**

Product	Origin	Main uses	Properties	Health impact	Environmental impact
Glass	Sand-based	Food and pharmaceutical products containers, construction material	Solid, fragile, flexible, insulating, microwavable, heavy but tradable	Very good insulating material and non-toxic	Does not contain chemicals or carbon (only minerals), reusable, very slow degradation by erosion and recyclable
Natural fibres	Plant-based (e.g., jute, cotton, coconut, palm)	Textiles, packaging, ropes, clothes, furniture, etc.	Strong, flexible, light, and fully tradable	Non-toxic; production can allow carbon storage	Reusable, biodegradable and recyclable
Paper and cardboard	Cellulose-based	Bags, boxes, packaging, decoration, inputs to industrial products	Flexible, light, and fully tradable	Non-toxic	Reusable, biodegradable and recyclable, but increase in use may generate pressure on timber extraction, unless from managed or certified forests or from recycling

Source: Adapted from WTO (2020).

SIDS need not stop there. A second route to enter the plastics-alternatives economic space is to build capacities and create products that do not yet exist. This could yield promising new solutions once research has been carried out for new processes and designs for plastic-free or less plastic-intensive packing and business methods that imply direct delivery of products or less use of single-use plastics. Some examples that involve a realistic leap from existing comparative advantage include new forms of cellulose fibres that could be spun into yarns for packaging and fabrics, or into entirely new materials that could be used for packaging to carry liquids, etc. This is already taking place in some other countries. Additionally, increased capacity in solid waste management, including recycling, will still be mostly needed to absorb any plastics that cannot be reduced, substituted or reused.

## Plastics alternatives and policy space for SIDS

To this end, it will be critical for SIDS – and indeed for all developing countries – to ensure affordable access to new knowledge processes and raw materials, as well as to recycling and waste management technologies, whether proprietary or not. Making use of flexibility in the TRIPS Agreement, green patent pooling, preferential licenses, technological incentives and technical support to make use of new or mature but effective technologies will be of great importance. Furthermore, making use of soft intellectual property protection categories such as utility models and industrial design protection may be relevant to allow and promote local and low-cost innovation.



### Notes

1. Small states: Countries with a population of 1.5 million people or less.
2. This research was carried out as part of broader collaboration between UNCTAD and the Graduate Institute of Geneva, with co-financial support from the Swiss Network for International Studies. Raw data collection by Julien Christen. More information can be found at <https://www.plasticpoliticsolutions/>.
3. See for example <https://www.bbc.com/reel/video/p07l0ftg/how-a-group-of-women-saved-their-island-from-plastic>



### References

- Barrowclough D and Deere Birkbeck C (2020). Transforming the Global Plastics Economy. The Political Economy and Governance of Plastics Production and Pollution. GEG Working Paper No. 142. Global Economic Governance Programme, University of Oxford. Oxford.
- Barrowclough D and Vivas Eugui D (2021). Plastic Production and Trade in Small States and SIDS: The Shift Towards a Circular Economy. International Trade Working Paper No. 2021/01. Commonwealth Secretariat, London. (accessed 18 April 2021).
- CIEL (2019). Plastic and Climate; the Hidden Cost of a Plastic Planet. Centre for International Environmental Law. (accessed 18 April 2021).
- OECD (2020). DAC glossary of key terms and concepts. Available at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/dac-glossary.htm> (accessed 20 April 2020).
- UN DESA (2021). Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category.html> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTAD plastics life-cycle trade database prototype. Available at (accessed 1 December 2020).
- United Nations (2010). *International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics: 2008*. United Nations. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2020). SDG indicators: Metadata repository. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/> (accessed 20 April 2020).
- WTO (2020). Communication on Trade in Plastics, Sustainability and Development by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). No. JOB/TE/63. 1–11.
- WTO (2021). WTO Environmental Database. Available at <https://edb.wto.org/> (accessed 11 January 2021).

# Social development



## Social development

99

*‘We can all choose to challenge and call out gender bias, discriminatory social norms and inequality. We can all rally around to create an inclusive and equal Fiji.’*

— Ms. Mereseini Vuniwaqa, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation of Fiji, on Women’s Day, 8 March 2021



**SIDS’ adult literacy rate is 91.2% - the world average is 89.9%**



The COVID-19 pandemic has hit SIDS<sup>1</sup> far beyond impacts on health: it is affecting societies. While the impacts vary across SIDS, the pandemic is likely to increase poverty and inequalities also by increasing unemployment rates, especially in informal jobs.

Many SIDS have achieved high human development and adult literacy, while migration and health issues continue to pose challenges. Regional differences in poverty and gender equality are large with good progress in many SIDS, but severe gaps in others.

This chapter will discuss SIDS’ social development, including:

1. [Population and migration](#) noting that SIDS have surprisingly high migration compared to their small populations.
2. [Education and health](#) discussing their high human development and adult literacy, investments in education and health issues.
3. [Income, poverty and employment](#) highlighting SIDS’ progress to middle and high-income economies while poverty rates still vary across countries.
4. [Gender, inclusion and equality](#) analysing current gender inequalities in SIDS in the eyes of law, labour force and positions of power.

**SIDS lost on average 8% of their working hours due to COVID-19 in 2020**



**Half of SIDS’ population was using the Internet in 2017**



vs. 18% for LDCs



**Top-3 countries globally measured by female ownership in businesses are SIDS**



### Notes

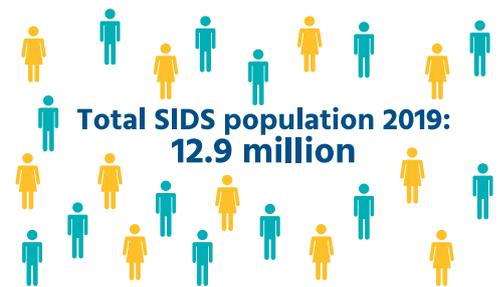
1. Aggregates for SIDS and SIDS regions in this chapter refer to the analytical SIDS grouping, as detailed in [What makes a SIDS a SIDS](#), unless otherwise specified.

# Population and migration

There is considerable variation among SIDS regarding their total population<sup>1</sup>, urbanization, population growth, migration and age structures. The most homogenous group are the Caribbean SIDS, which tend to have older populations and slower population growth compared with the world average. Pacific SIDS tend to have younger populations, faster population growth and sometimes considerable net emigration. Among Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS, there are economies of both types.

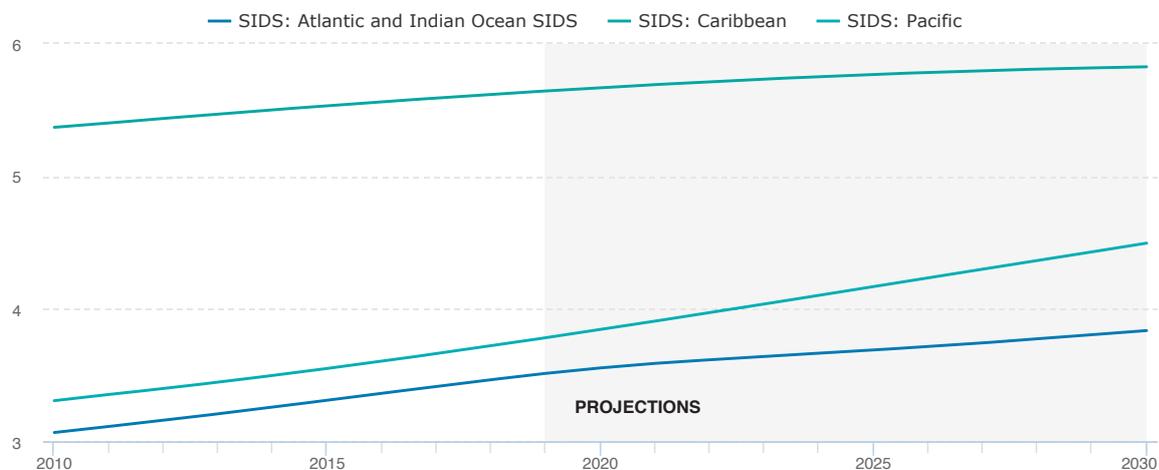
## Population growth is slower in the Caribbean, faster in the Pacific.

SIDS are, by definition, small. A total of 13 million people lived in SIDS in 2019, accounting for about 0.2 per cent of the total world population. Jamaica has a population of 2.9 million. In 2019, over 1 million people lived in: Trinidad and Tobago (1.4 million), Timor-Leste, and Maldives (both 1.3 million). Half of SIDS had a population of less than 200 000 and the smallest, Nauru, had a population of only 11 000.



About half of SIDS' population lives in the Caribbean. However, population is projected<sup>2</sup> to grow at a slower rate in the Caribbean than in other SIDS. Populations of Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS had been growing at a similar rate until 2019, but projections of their future populations differ. Growth is expected to slow down in Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS, whereas Pacific SIDS are projected to continue on a fast growth track. Much of the population growth in the Pacific SIDS is attributed to growth in Timor-Leste. (See figure 1.)

**Figure 1. Population estimates and projections by SIDS region**  
(Millions)



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

Note: Years after 2019 (shaded area) are projections. Projections are based on the medium fertility variant in UN DESA (2019a).

### Fertility ranges

**from 1.4 children per woman in Mauritius**



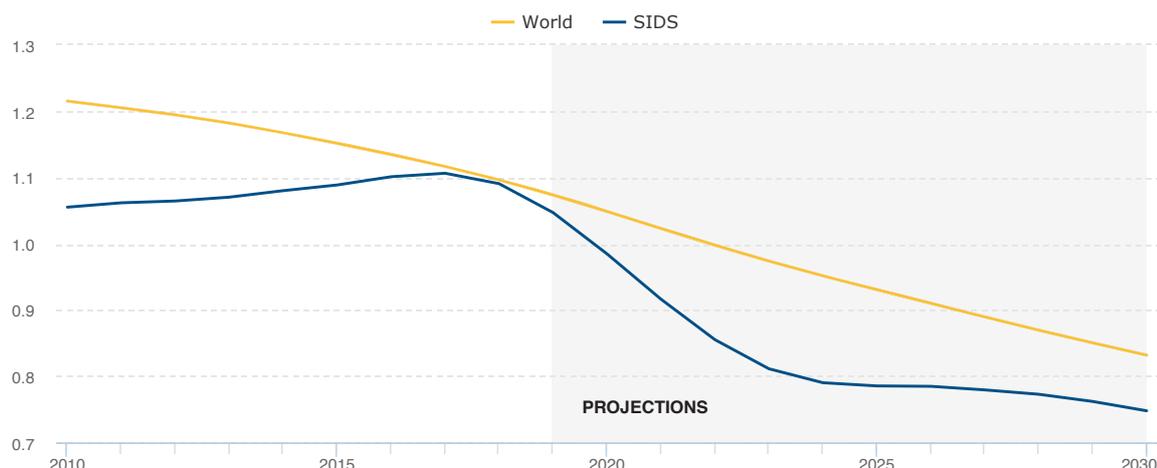
**to 4.1 in Solomon Islands**



the Solomon Islands and 1.4 in Mauritius. Over the next five years, the decrease in population growth for SIDS will be most influenced by Timor-Leste, where fertility is projected to remain high but to drop from 4.1 between 2015 and 2020 to 3.6 between 2020 and 2025 (UN DESA, 2019a).

Growth of SIDS population has been slower than that of the world total since 1965 (UNCTAD, 2021). Furthermore, as world population growth is projected to slow down, the same is true of SIDS. During the past decade, the growth rate of SIDS population has approached that of the world total, but it is projected to revert back in the coming decade to around 0.1 percentage points below the growth rate of the world total (see figure 2). In general, economies are expected to transition over time from high to low fertility (UN DESA, 2019b). SIDS are at very different stages of this transition. In the years 2015 – 2020, the hypothetical live births per woman was 4.1 in

**Figure 2. Population growth rate in the world and SIDS**  
(Average annual growth rate, percentage)

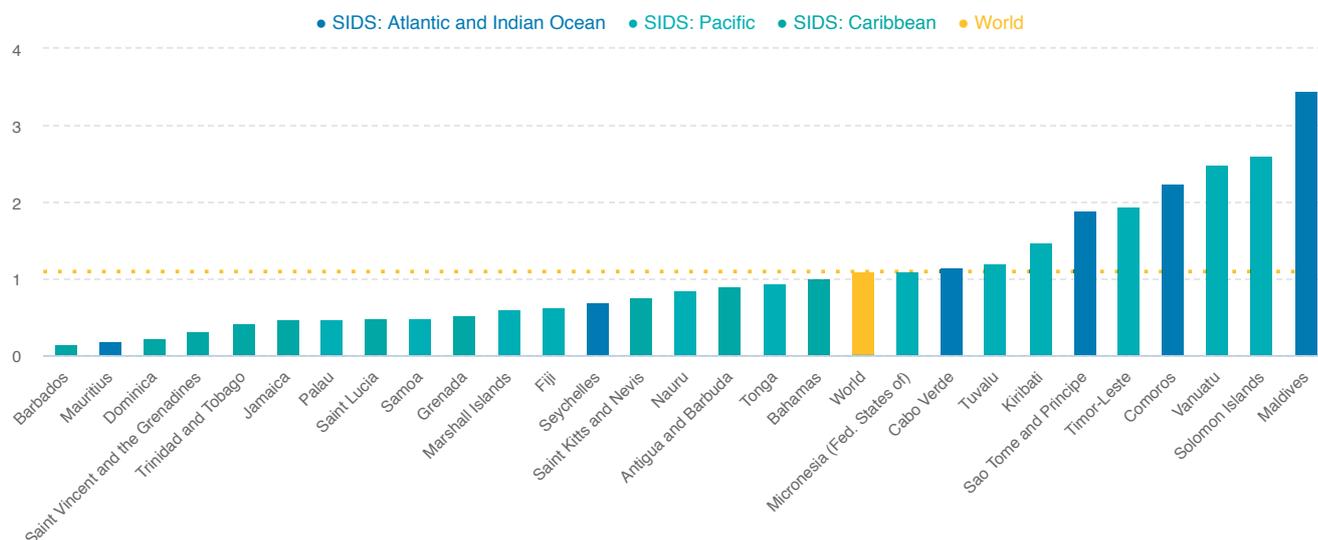


Source: UNCTAD (2021).

Note: Years after 2019 (shaded area) are projections. Projections are based on the medium fertility variant in UN DESA (2019a).

Within the geographical regions there is also further variation in terms of population growth. The global population grew on average by 1.1 per cent per year between 2015 and 2020. Ten SIDS grew faster than the world average. The fastest growing population was in the Maldives, where the population grew by 3.4 per cent per year. All Caribbean SIDS grew slower than the world and the population of Barbados grew only by 0.14 per cent per year. (See figure 3.)

**Figure 3. Population growth in SIDS, 2015 – 2020**  
(Average annual growth rate, percentage)



Source: UN DESA (2019a).

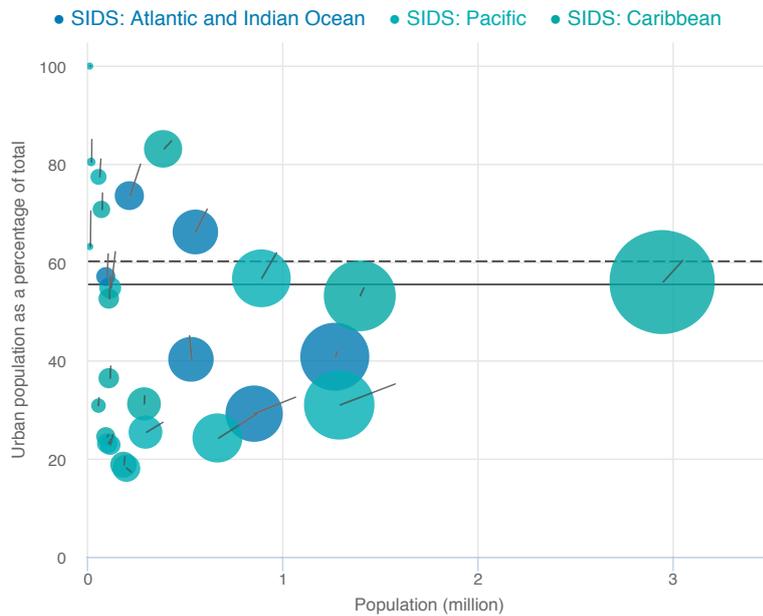
Note: The horizontal line represents the growth rate of the world population.

## Urbanization typically slower than world average

Of the total SIDS population, 46 per cent lived in urban areas in 2019, compared to 56 per cent for the world. The bigger SIDS were close to these averages while there was considerable variation among the smaller SIDS. Only 18 per cent of people in Samoa lived in the urban areas of the capital Apia, whereas all of Nauru’s population was considered urban. A majority of SIDS are projected to experience increased urbanization over the next decade, especially several smaller Pacific SIDS. However, on average, urbanization is expected to be slower in SIDS (2.7 percentage points) than globally, where the urban population is projected to grow by 4.7 percentage points by 2030. (See figure 4.)

**Figure 4. Total and urban population 2019 and projections to 2030, by SIDS regions**

(Average annual growth rate, percentage)



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

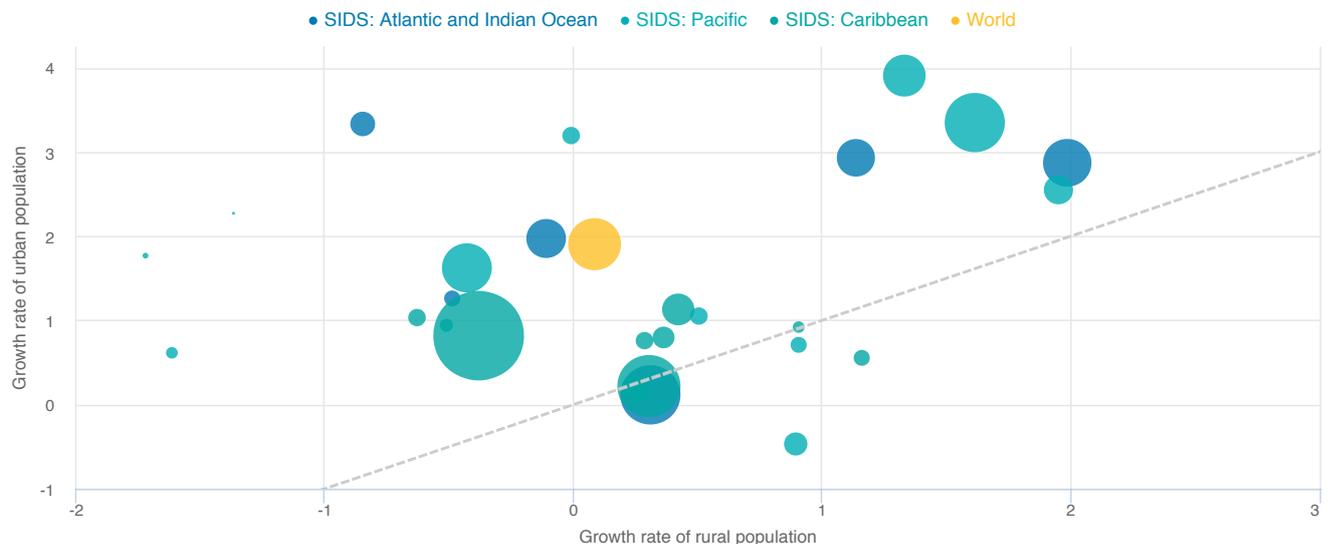
Note: Line segments represent projections for population and proportion urban population to 2030. The solid horizontal line represents the urban proportion of the World population 2019 while the dashed line represents the projected urban proportion of the World population in 2030. The definition of an urban area varies from economy to economy (UN DESA, 2018a).



Currently, the nature of the world’s urbanization is that, on average, urban areas are growing while rural areas are maintaining constant population levels. Caribbean SIDS are the SIDS that most homogenously reflect this pattern, though with urban growth below the world average. Among other SIDS, there are considerable variations in the balance between urban and rural growth. The Solomon Islands have increasing levels of urbanization, despite having an above average rural growth rate, owing to an even higher urban growth rate. Palau’s urbanization combines a shrinking rural population together with average growth of their urban population. The population in Samoa, already relatively rural, is becoming more so through growth in the rural population and a slow decrease in the urban population. (See figure 5.)

**Figure 5. Population growth in rural and urban areas, by SIDS regions, 2015 – 2020**

(Average annual growth rate, percentage)



Source: UN DESA (2018b).

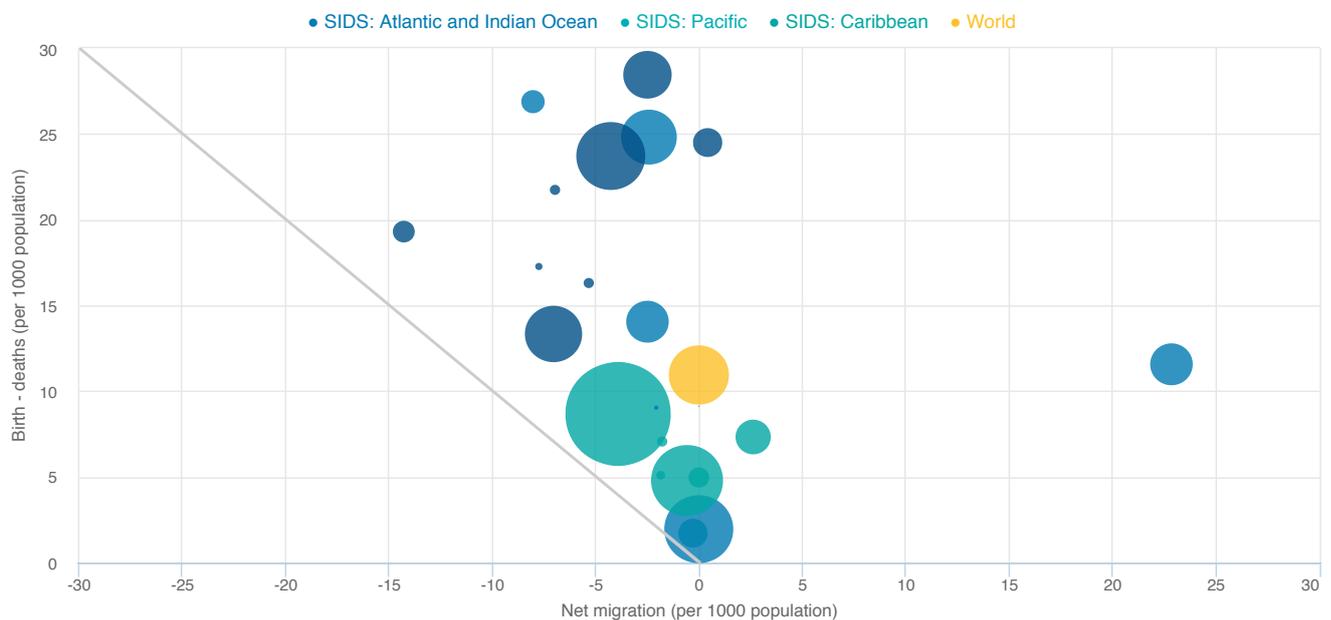
Note: The area above and to the left of the diagonal line implies more growth in urban areas than rural areas.

## SIDS experience net emigration

Net migration has a considerable impact on the population growth of some SIDS. While the geographical groups are more mixed in terms of total growth, the natural rate of increase is faster in all Pacific SIDS than in any of the Caribbean SIDS. Over the period 2015 to 2020, the birth rate per 1000 people per year was on average 26.7 among Pacific SIDS and 14.1 among Caribbean SIDS, while the corresponding death rates were 4.3 and 6.3, respectively. SIDS in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean sit along the continuum of natural rate of increase in population.

Most SIDS experience net emigration and in several SIDS the growth from the natural rate of population increase is significantly diminished by migration. A striking exception is the Maldives, which is home to many migrants from Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka. Immigration accounts for the Maldives having the fastest growing population among SIDS. Per 1 000 people there are 14 births and 3 deaths, but 23 more people immigrating than emigrating. At the other extreme is Samoa, which loses 14 people to migration while gaining 19 people from natural increase. Caribbean SIDS are again relatively homogeneous with close to zero net migration. (See figure 6.)

 **Figure 6. Sources of population change, by SIDS regions, 2015-2020**  
(Per 1 000 people)



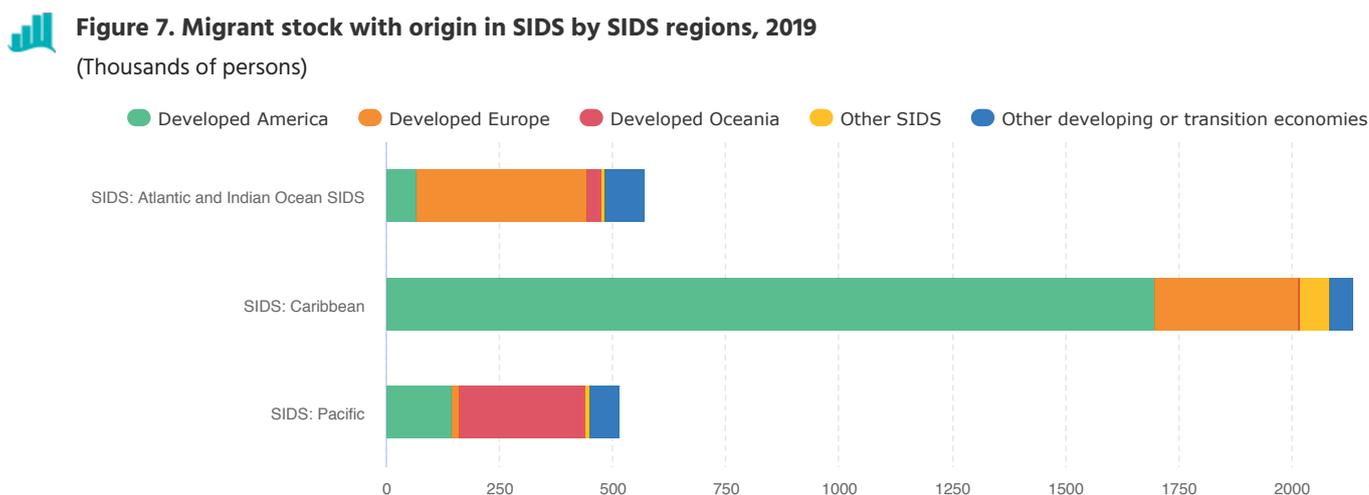
Source: UN DESA (2019a).

Note: The diagonal line represents balance between births, deaths and migration. Thus, distance above and to the right of the diagonal line implies population growth.

### 3.2 million international migrants originate from SIDS



While SIDS only represent 0.2 per cent of the world population, they represent just over 1 per cent of the world migrant stock. In 2019, 3.2 million migrants originated from SIDS, which was 250 000 more than in 2015. People emigrating from SIDS migrate mainly to developed economies. As would be expected, people tend to migrate to regions that are geographically close and share common or related languages. Migrants from Caribbean SIDS typically travel to North America, those from Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS tend to migrate to Europe, while Oceania receives most migrants from Pacific SIDS (see figure 7). For example, a big portion of the migrant stock in 2019 (1.3 million) originated from Jamaica or Trinidad and Tobago and now reside in the United States of America or Canada. The United Kingdom was home to another 190 000 migrants from these two Caribbean SIDS. From Fiji or Samoa, 220 000 people had moved to Australia or New Zealand. From Cabo Verde, 61 000 had moved to Portugal. Meanwhile, SIDS were collectively also home to 440 000 international migrants. (UN DESA, 2019c.)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UN DESA (2019c).

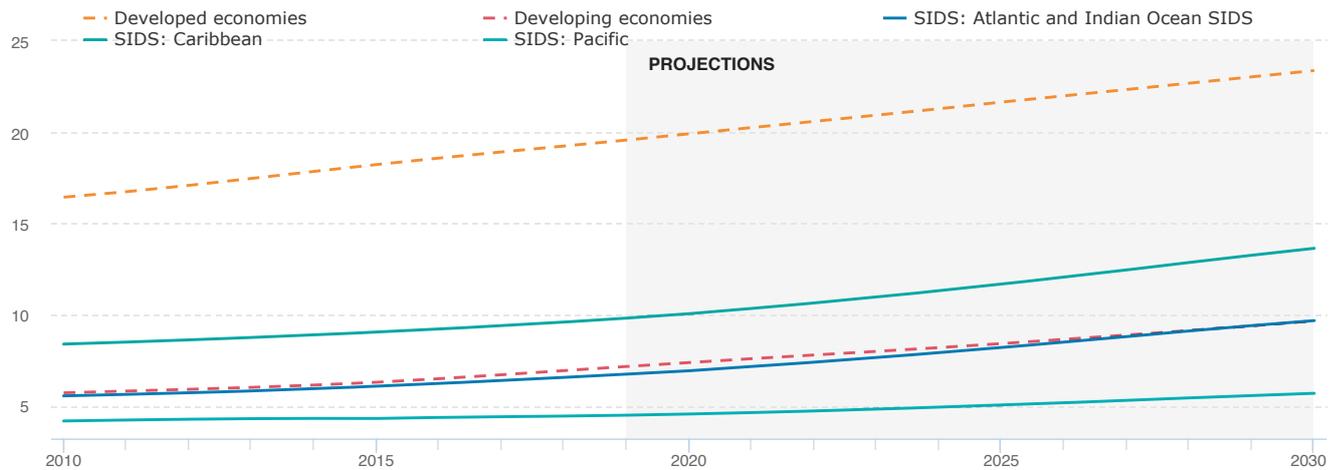
SIDS are threatened by the impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels, coastal flooding and erosion, storms and natural disasters, and related economic vulnerabilities. These effects have also led to discussions on the potential need to migrate in the future. Migration can help individuals and families to reduce their environmental, economic and social vulnerabilities. Some island economies have prepared relocation plans to escape potential climate impacts. In 2014, Kiribati, for instance, bought land on one of the Fiji Islands, about 2 000 km away (The Guardian, 2014). Kiribati has a population of about 118 000 people (2019) scattered over 33 low-lying coral islands at high risk to adverse impacts of climate change.

Domestic relocation may also be an option for some SIDS. In Fiji, for instance, following Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016, more than 60 villages were relocated to reduce peoples' exposure and vulnerability to further risks (IOM and OHRLLS, 2019). Climate migration is an increasing motivation for migration from SIDS, but there are also many other drivers, including the search for better economic possibilities. Even though SIDS' human development is relatively high, migration can improve livelihoods and income and access to health services and to higher education. Often, migrants continue to assist their home country by sending back remittances to their families and relatives which in turn can be an important resource for disaster recovery (Le De et al., 2013).

## Child dependency is decreasing in the Pacific, old age dependency increasing in the Caribbean

The population of the world is growing older, including SIDS' populations. The proportion of the population aged over 64 in SIDS, and the projections for this proportion, resemble those for other developing economies. (See figure 8.)

**Figure 8. Proportion of population over 65**  
(Percentage)

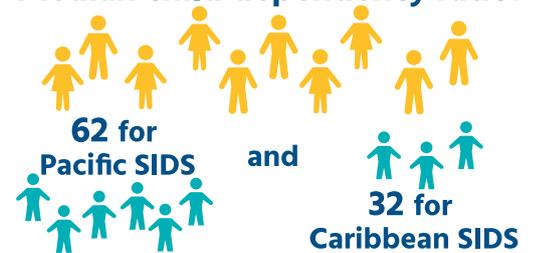


Source: UNCTAD (2021).

Note: Age distributions are not available for economies with a total population less than 90 000. Thus, data for Dominica, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Tuvalu are not included. Years after 2019 (shaded area) are projections. Projections are based on the medium fertility variant in UN DESA (2019a).

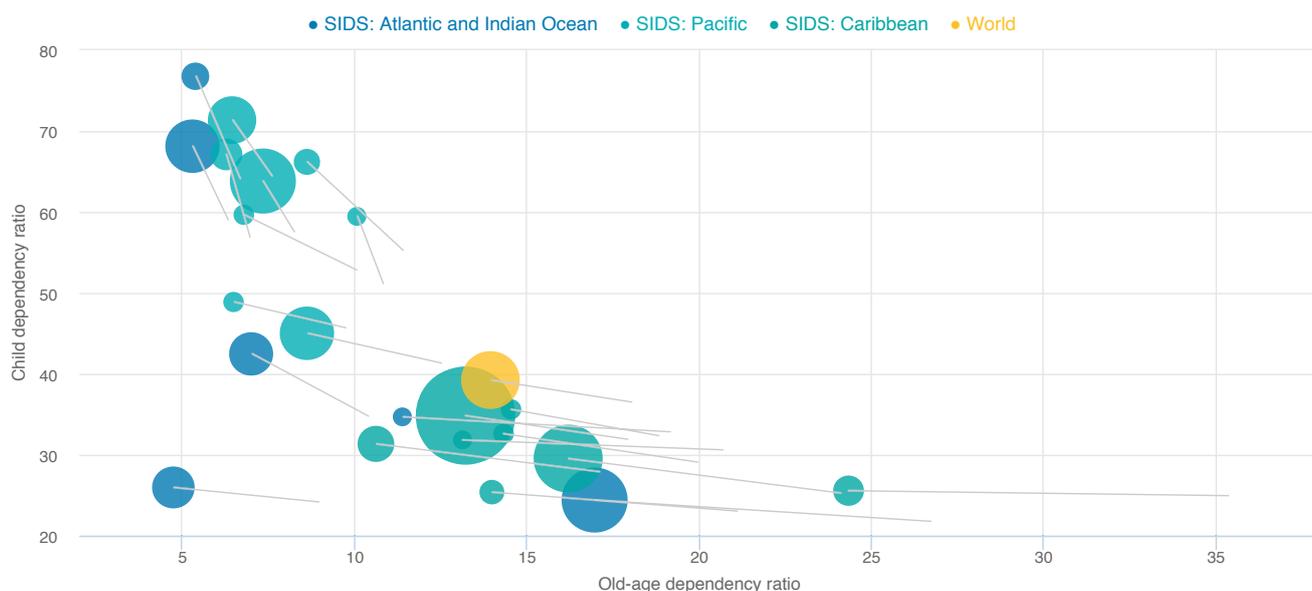
The SIDS as a group had, in 2019, a child dependency ratio of 41.7 and old-age dependency ratio of 11.4. There are, however, clear regional patterns hidden behind these figures. A corollary to the faster population growth in Pacific SIDS compared with Caribbean SIDS is that there are more children per person of working age in Pacific SIDS and that there are relatively more people over the age of 65 in Caribbean SIDS. The median child dependency was 62 for Pacific SIDS and 32 for Caribbean SIDS which is only somewhat balanced by a median old-age dependency ratio of 7 among Pacific SIDS and 14 among Caribbean SIDS. The net result is that Pacific SIDS tend to have above average total dependency ratios while the Caribbean SIDS have lower than average dependency ratios. Again, some of the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS resemble Pacific SIDS in this respect while others resemble Caribbean SIDS.

**Median child dependency ratio:**



**Figure 9. Dependency ratios in 2019 and projections to 2030**

(Dependent persons per hundred persons aged 15-64)



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

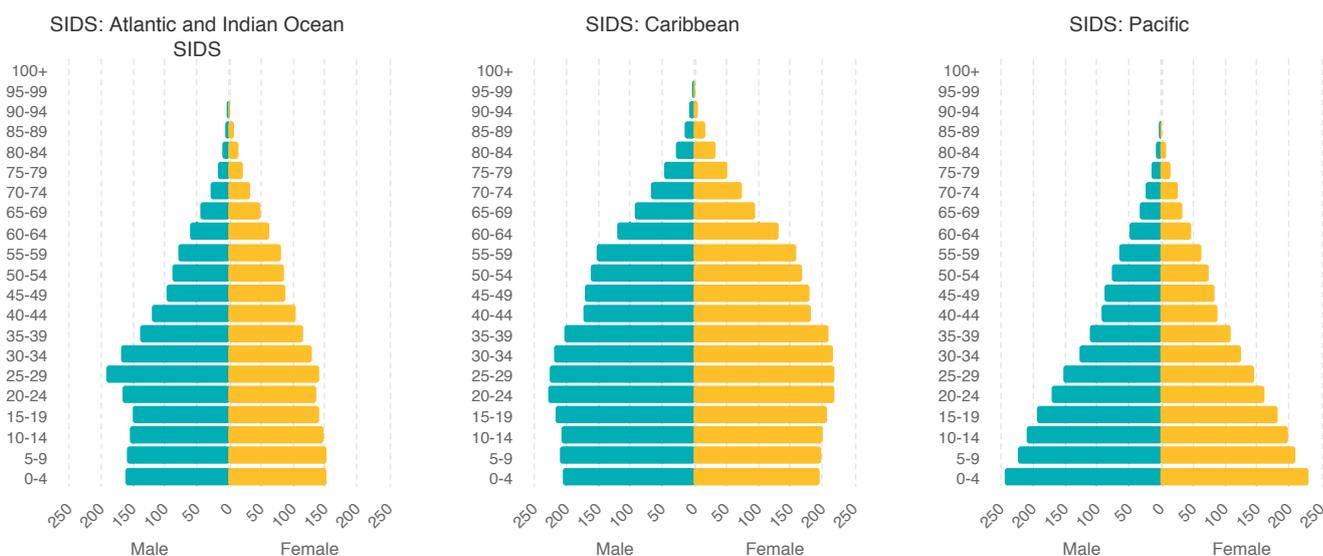
Note: Age distributions, and thus dependency ratios, are not available for economies with a total population less than 90 000. Thus, data for Dominica, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Tuvalu are not included. Line segments represent projections for population and proportion urban population to 2030. Projections are based on the medium fertility variant in UN DESA (2019a).

However, as populations age on average, child dependency is projected to decrease, and old-age dependency to increase. Economies with high child dependency ratios can hope for a demographic dividend in the future. Old age dependency ratios are projected to rise fastest among economies with already relatively old populations. The net effect is that it is the Pacific SIDS that will see a potentially favorable decrease in total dependency ratios. A decreasing child dependency ratio and growing numbers of people of working age can provide the conditions for faster economic growth (Cruz and Ahmed, 2018). Meanwhile, Caribbean SIDS are projected to experience an increase in old-age dependency. In 2030, compared with 2019, Sao Tome and Principe will have 11 fewer dependent children per 100 persons of working age while adding less than one old person. For Barbados, the development is a mirror image; one fewer dependent child is compensated by 11 new dependent old persons. (See figure 9.)

The coming changes in age structure can also be noticed in the population pyramids of the three SIDS regions (see figure 10). Pacific SIDS have the clearest pyramid shape with younger age cohorts being consistently bigger than the older ones. The biggest age cohort in the Caribbean SIDS is that of people aged 25 – 29 and age groups younger than that are successively smaller. The Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS is a heterogenous group of economies where the collective age structure retains a pyramid shape. Here, as in the Caribbean SIDS, there are relatively many persons aged between 20 and 34. This is partly explained by the fact that migrants to Maldives are primarily of this age group.


**Figure 10. Population pyramids for the three SIDS regions, 2019**

(Thousands)



Source: UNCTAD (2021).

Note: Age distributions are not available for economies with a total population less than 90 000. Thus, data for Dominica, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Tuvalu are not included.



## Notes

1. Population estimates and projections reported in this chapter represent the population present in an economy (including residents, migrants and refugees) as of 1 July of a given year. (UNCTAD, 2021; UN DESA, 2019a)
2. The projections in this chapter are based on the medium fertility variant in UN DESA (2019a). This projection is one of several population projection variants for the years from 2020 forward produced by UN DESA. The projections are highly dependent on the path that future fertility takes. The assumptions for the medium variant projections imply that the average fertility rate of the world will decline from 2.5 births per woman in 2019 to 2.2 in 2050.

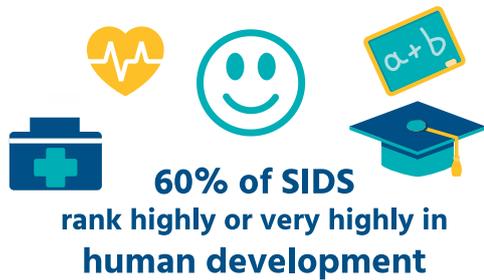


## References

- Cruz M and Ahmed SA (2018). On the impact of demographic change on economic growth and poverty. *World Development*. 10595–106.
- IOM and OHRLLS (2019). Climate Change and Migration in Vulnerable Countries A snapshot of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Available at <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/climate-change-and-migration-vulnerable-countries-snapshot-least-developed-countries-landlocked> (accessed 11 April 2021).
- Le De L, Gaillard JC and Friesen W (2013). Remittances and disaster: a review. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*. 4:34–43.
- The Guardian (2014). Besieged by the rising tides of climate change, Kiribati buys land in Fiji. Available at <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/jul/01/kiribati-climate-change-fiji-vanua-levu> (accessed 11 April 2021).
- UN DESA (2018a). World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision, Methodology. ESA/P/WP.252. New York.
- UN DESA (2018b). World Urbanization Prospects. Available at <https://population.un.org/wup/> (accessed 18 March 2021).
- UN DESA (2019a). World Population Prospects 2019. Available at <https://population.un.org/wpp/> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- UN DESA (2019b). World Population Prospects 2019: Methodology of the United Nations population estimates and projections. ST/ESA/SER.A/425. New York.
- UN DESA (2019c). International Migrant Stock 2019 (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2019). Available at <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates19.asp> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).

# Health and education

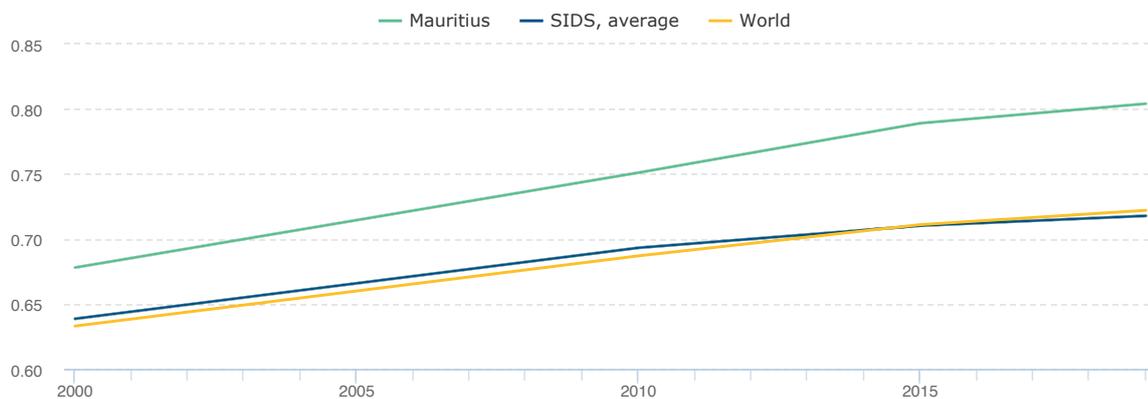
## SIDS receive high scores in human development and adult literacy



Success in human development can be a vital factor of wellbeing for the population and a driver of further economic growth (see [Productive capacity](#)). The HDI was created to emphasize that expanding human choices should be the ultimate criteria for assessing development results (UNDP, 2020). In 2019, Palau, Bahamas, Barbados and Mauritius were included in the group of countries with very high human development, classified as countries with HDI scores above 0.80. In addition, 14 SIDS were in the high human development category (ranked between 0.70 to 0.79). Perhaps more importantly, none of the SIDS belong to the group of countries with low human development (ranked less than 0.55). On average, SIDS score close to the

global average (almost 0.65 in 2000) and have followed a similar trend. Among SIDS, Mauritius has taken a leap from a medium human development country in 2000 (score 0.68) to a very high human development country in 2019 (0.80).

 **Figure 1. Human development in SIDS**  
(Index score)

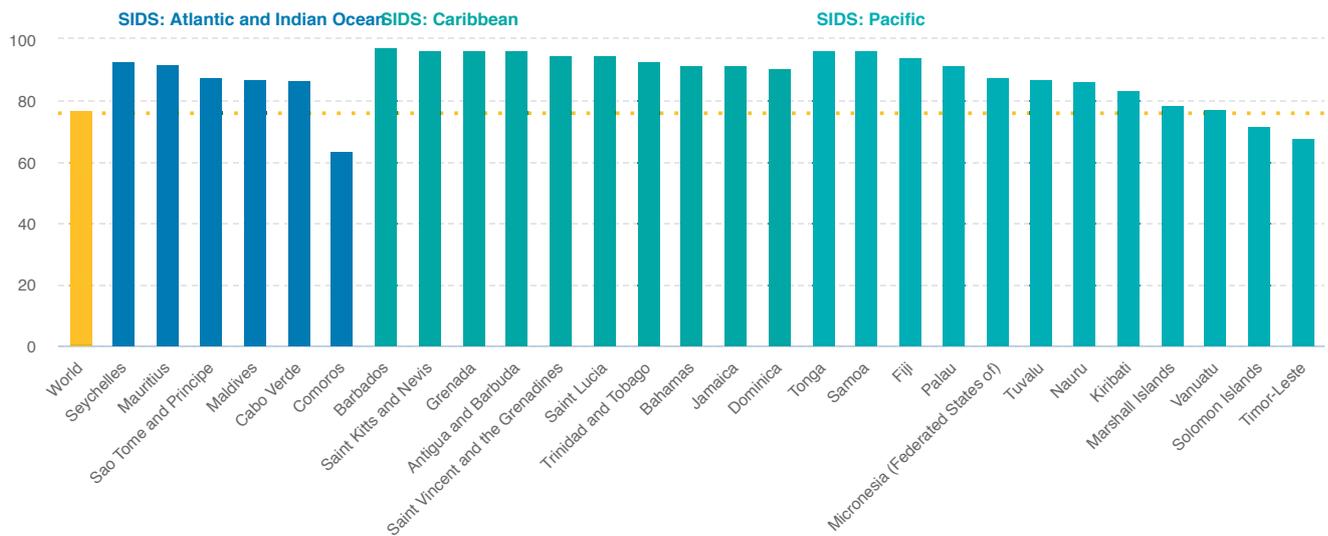


Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNDP (2021).

Note: No data for Nauru and Tuvalu. The figure presents a simple average of available country scores for SIDS and World aggregates.

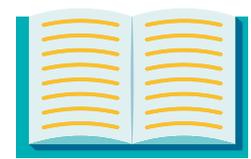
The human assets index also ranks SIDS highly. Except for Comoros, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste, SIDS were above world average in 2020. In 20 years, SIDS have improved their human assets index by 10 per cent as a group. This is the result of improvement across all the sub-indices, especially in reduced maternal and under-five mortality as well as prevalence of stunting. Improvements in school enrolment and adult literacy have also contributed to higher scores in the human assets index.

**Figure 2. Human assets index in SIDS, 2020**  
(Index score)



Source: UN DESA and the United Nations Committee for Development Policy Secretariat (2020).

Adult literacy is one of the sub-indices of the human assets index. SIDS' adult literacy rate is relatively high, at 91.2 per cent, and above the world average of 89.9 per cent. The Comoros and Timor-Leste have the lowest rates, with 58.8 and 68.1 per cent, respectively. In Timor-Leste, Cabo Verde, Comoros and Solomon Islands, adult literacy rate is significantly higher for men, with a gender difference between 7.7 and 14.7 percentage points. In contrast, in Jamaica women outscore men in literacy by 9.3 percentage points.

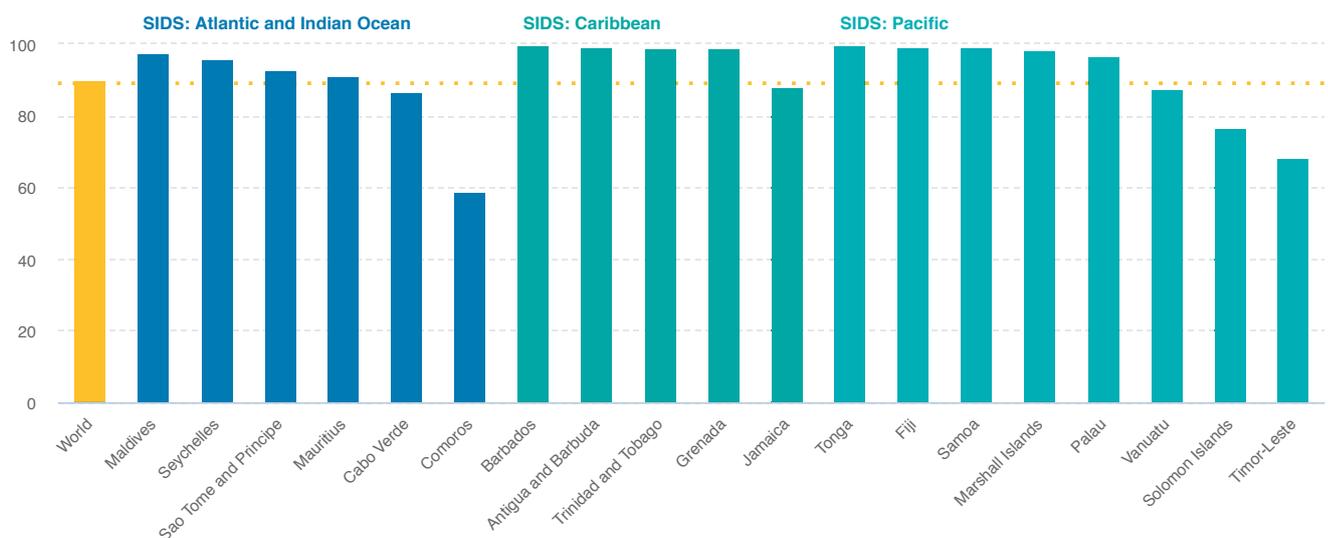


**SIDS' adult literacy rate is 91.2% - the world average is 89.9%**



Looking at the data available for 19 SIDS, the Caribbean SIDS reach the highest regional average of 96.8 per cent. Adult literacy is also high, at 90.6 per cent, in Pacific SIDS. Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS reach a rate of 87.2, which masks large country differences.

**Figure 3. Adult literacy rate, 2018 or latest available year**



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021).

Note: Data refer to 2017 for Sao Tome and Principe; 2016 for Trinidad and Tobago; 2015 for Cabo Verde, Grenada and Palau; 2014 for Barbados, Maldives and Samoa; 2011 for Antigua and Barbuda; 2010 for the Comoros and 2009 for Vanuatu.

## SIDS' citizens have a long school life expectancy

Education is one of the three dimensions of human development. Average school life expectancy of SIDS was 11.7 years in 2019. Tonga, Palau and Grenada had the longest school life expectancy in primary and secondary education, on average 13.5 years. These and most other SIDS were above the world average of 10.5 years of school life expectancy.

### The average school life expectancy



was 11.7 years in SIDS  
vs. 10.5 years globally

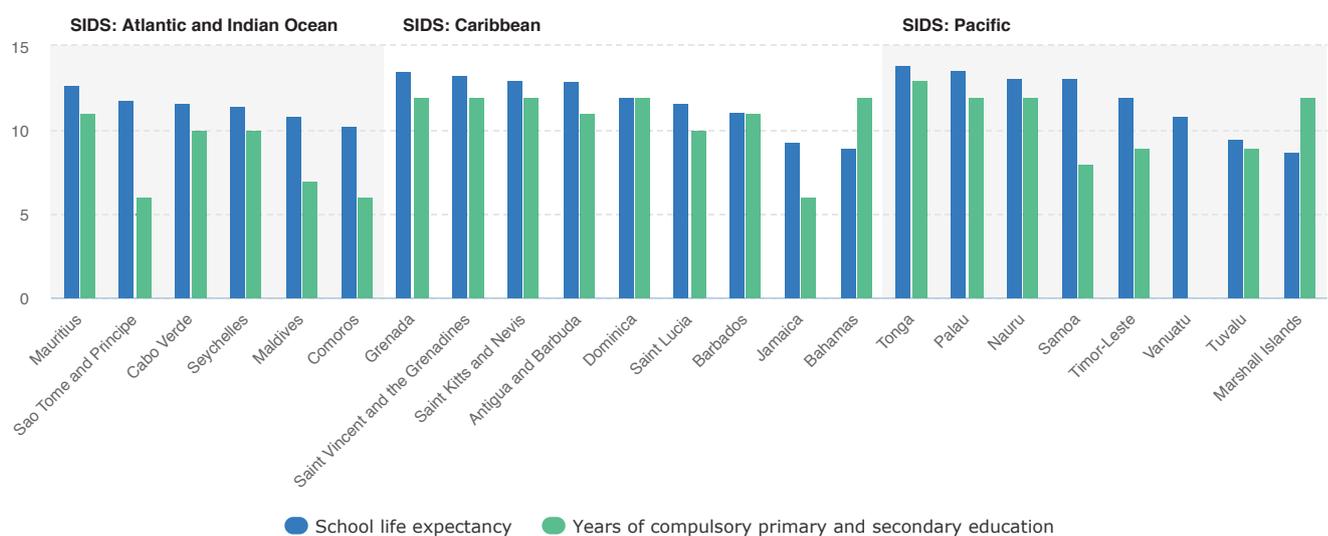
School life expectancy remains below 10 years in Tuvalu (9.5 years), Jamaica (9.3 years), Bahamas (9.0 years) and Marshall Islands (8.7 years). For most SIDS, the expected years of schooling exceed the duration of compulsory primary and secondary education. However, in the Marshall Islands and the Bahamas, it remains below the number of compulsory years of education defined in their national legislation.

Globally, the average number of years in primary and secondary education has increased from 8.9 years in 2000 to 10.5 years in 2019. The number of years has increased more for women (from 8.5 years to 10.4) than for men (from 9.3 years to 10.6), making the situation almost equal from a gender perspective. In those SIDS where data are available for both years (2000 and 2019), the situation was already relatively equal in 2000, and in 2019 there was practically no difference between women and men.

Interestingly, there is little difference in average school life expectancy across SIDS regions, with the average ranging from 11.5 years for Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS to 11.9 years for Pacific SIDS. Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands in the Pacific, the Bahamas and Jamaica in the Caribbean, and the Comoros in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean were below the global average.

**Figure 4. School life expectancy and compulsory education , 2019 or latest available year**

(Years)



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021).

Note: Data refer to 2018 for Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; 2017 for Sao Tome and Principe; 2016 for Saint Kitts and Nevis and Samoa; 2015 for Tonga and Vanuatu; and 2014 for Palau.

The net primary education enrolment rate was on average 93.9 per cent in SIDS based on latest statistics available for each country. According to the (World Bank, 2021), the global average was 90.5 per cent in 2018, 0.6 percentage points higher than ten years earlier. Primary education enrolment was slightly lower for girls, at 89.5 per cent in 2018 – little changed from the 89.2 per cent reported in 2009.

Globally, high income countries reached enrolment rates of 96.3 per cent on average, while low income countries remained at 80.5 per cent. Among SIDS, primary education enrolment was below the global average in Marshall Islands (74.1 per cent in 2019), Bahamas (76.5 per cent in 2018), Comoros (81.8 per cent in 2018), Jamaica (82.8 per cent in 2019) and Tuvalu (85.1 per cent in 2019). In the Comoros, the rate has increased significantly from 67.5 per cent in 2000. In Jamaica, on the other hand, the rate dropped from 92.8 per cent in 2000 to 82.8 per cent in 2019, at an equal rate for girls and boys.

## SIDS invest in education, but country variation is large

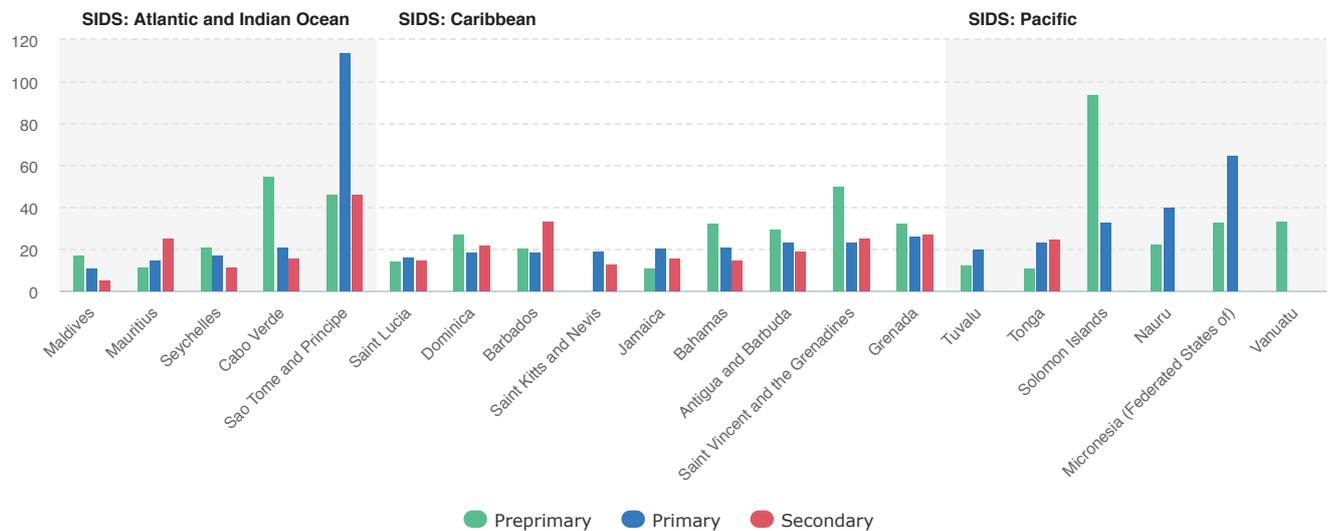
Between 2015 and 2019, government expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP was on average 5 per cent for SIDS, above the world median of 4.4 per cent in 2019. The Education 2030 Framework (UNESCO, 2015) urges all countries to adhere to allocating at least 4 per cent of GDP and at least 15 per cent of total public expenditure to education. This is considered an important prerequisite for achieving SDG 4 to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



Among the countries with a higher share of government expenditure on education relative to GDP are Cabo Verde (12.4 per cent in 2015), Bahamas (9.8 per cent in 2010) and Mauritius (6.7 per cent in 2018). In contrast, Dominica (2.6 per cent in 2019), Comoros (2.5 per cent in 2015), and Antigua and Barbuda (2.5 per cent in 2009) allocate the smallest share of government expenditure to education (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2021). The absolute differences in investment in education are large across the islands. In Mauritius, for instance, 6.7 per cent equates to an expenditure of US\$952 million, meaning about US\$750 per capita, while the 2.5 per cent in Comoros equates to an expenditure of US\$25 million, approximately US\$32 per capita.

One of the measures of resource sufficiency for education is the ratio of pupils per trained teacher. SDG target 4.c aims to substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers by 2030. The global average of pupils per one teacher in primary education was 27.9 in 2019. Sao Tome and Principe had by far the highest ratio among SIDS with 114 pupils per one teacher in primary education in 2017. In preprimary education, i.e., in early childhood education, Solomon Islands also had a high ratio: 94 pupils per teacher in 2018. Figure 5 illustrates the ratios for preprimary, primary and secondary education among SIDS.

**Figure 5. Pupil-trained teacher ratio by type of education**



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021).

## Technology skills are crucial for SIDS

As discussed in [Trade vulnerabilities](#), due to their remoteness, digital connectivity is important and quite well utilized in SIDS. Unfortunately, data are available to assess ICT skills of the population for only two SIDS (Cabo Verde and Jamaica). Only Jamaica has data disaggregated by gender, which show slightly better ICT skills for women, depending on type of skill. Men were reported to be more skilled in writing code and installing software. Considering the lack of these statistics for other island economies, SDG indicator 17.8.1 on the proportion of individuals using the Internet is presented as a proxy. The indicator on the use of technology should to some extent reflect the ability of the population to use technology better than indicators that focus on access to technology only.

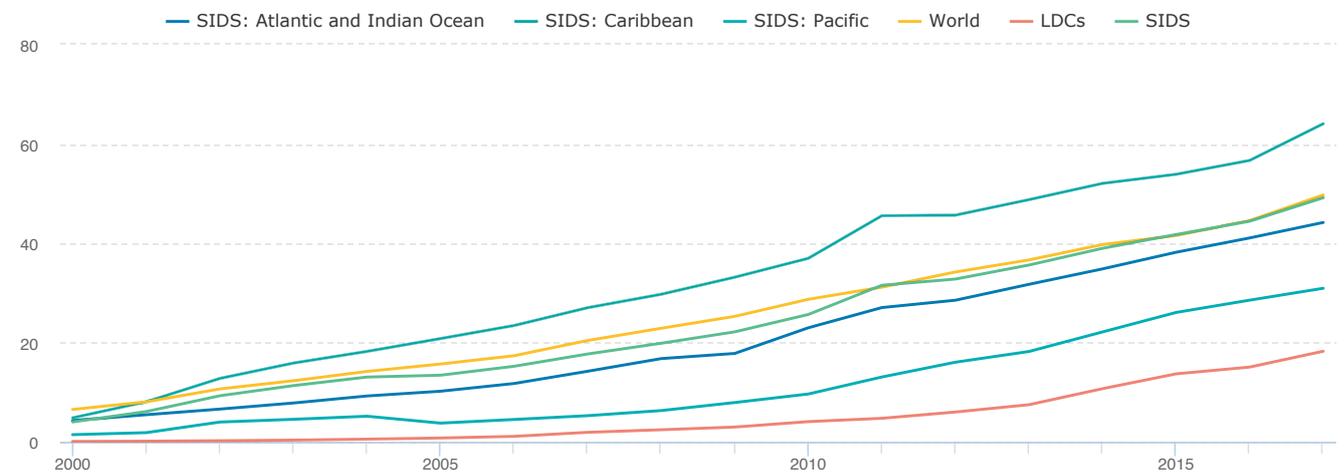
**Half of SIDS' population was using the Internet in 2017**



**vs. 18% for LDCs**

As a region, SIDS have been on par with the global share of Internet users since 2011, when they reached the 30 per cent mark for the first time. By 2017, almost half of SIDS' population and of the global population were using the Internet. LDCs were far behind with a share of 18 per cent. Caribbean SIDS have been ahead of other island economies; by 2017 64 per cent of the population were using the Internet. Three SIDS exceeded 80 per cent, all in the Caribbean, namely: the Bahamas, Barbados and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

**Figure 6. Internet users as a percentage of population (SDG 17.8.1)**  
(Percentage of population)



Source: ITU (2021).

## Substantial differences in life expectancy across SIDS

### Differences in life expectancy are large among SIDS

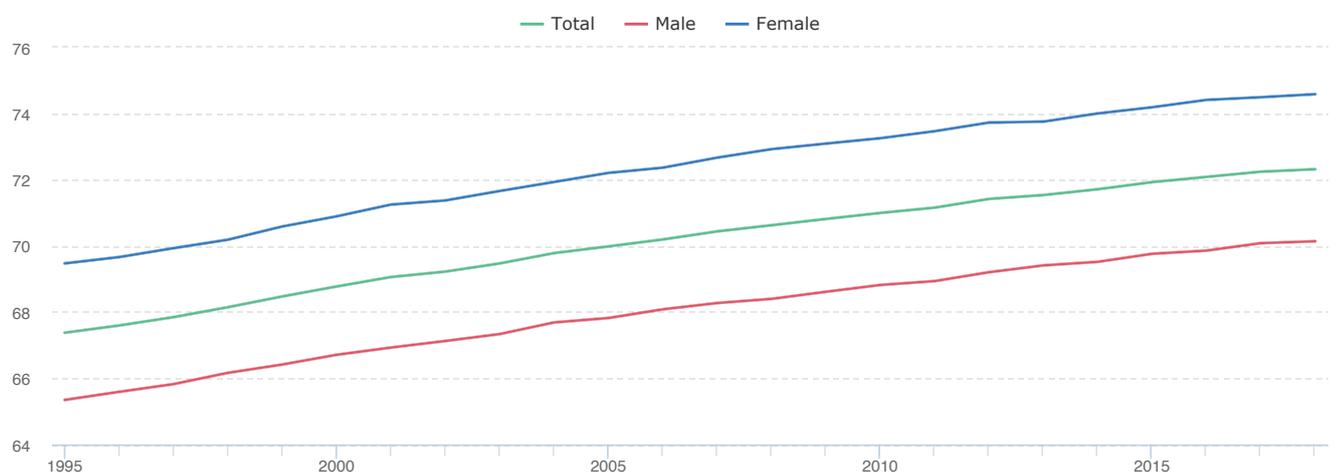


In 2018, average life expectancy at birth in SIDS was 72.3 years (74.6 for women and 70.1 for men). Life expectancy varies greatly among SIDS, for example, there is a difference of 15 years in the life expectancy for inhabitants of the Comoros (64.1 years) compared with those living in Barbados (79.1 years).

From 1995 to 2018, life expectancy increased by 5 years in SIDS (World Bank, 2021). The increase was somewhat larger for women (5.1 years) than for men (4.8 years). From 1995, Timor-Leste saw the largest increase of 15.7 years, while Jamaica (+0.2 years) and Seychelles (+0.4 years) barely improved on 1995 levels. In Seychelles, on the other

hand, female life expectancy has fallen by 2.1 years during the same period. In Grenada, life expectancy has also decreased gradually by 0.7 years between 2007 and 2018.

**Figure 7. Life expectancy at birth in SIDS**



Source: World Bank (2021).

Note: No data for Dominica, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Tuvalu and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

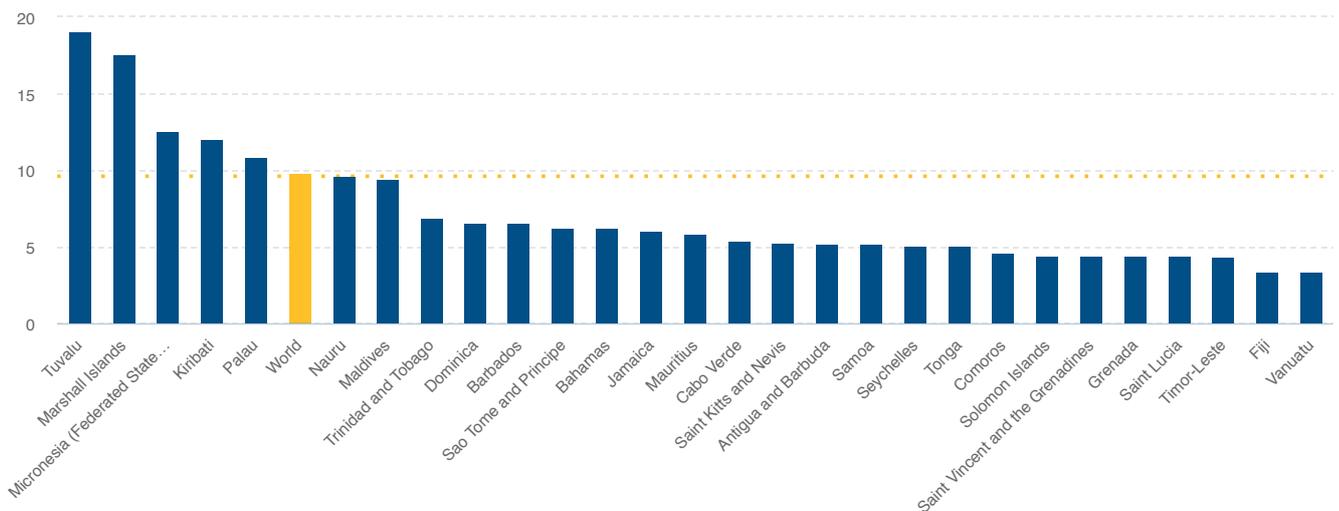
## SIDS' health expenditure below global average

Health expenditure as a percentage of GDP varies widely between SIDS. Countries such as Tuvalu, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and Kiribati had the highest expenditure on health relative to GDP in 2018. In contrast, Vanuatu and Fiji did not exceed 4 per cent of health expenditure in GDP. SIDS' average of 7.2 per cent remains well below the global average of 9.9 per cent. SIDS' median expenditure is even lower, at 4.5 per cent, with 22 SIDS below the global average.

**In 2017,  
SIDS' health expenditure  
in GDP was 7.1%**

**– below the global average of 9.9%**

**Figure 8. Current health expenditure as a percentage of GDP, 2018**  
(Percentage of GDP)



Source: WHO (2021a).

## Maternal and under five mortality reducing

Most SIDS have been exhibiting a downward trend in maternal mortality since 2000. SDG target 3.1 aims to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100 000 live births by 2030. In 2017, the average rate for SIDS was 80. Twelve SIDS were already at 70 or below; Grenada and Barbados had the lowest ratios, 25 and 27, respectively. The overall declining trend suggests that meeting the SDG target is a realistic prospect for SIDS as a group (see figure 9).

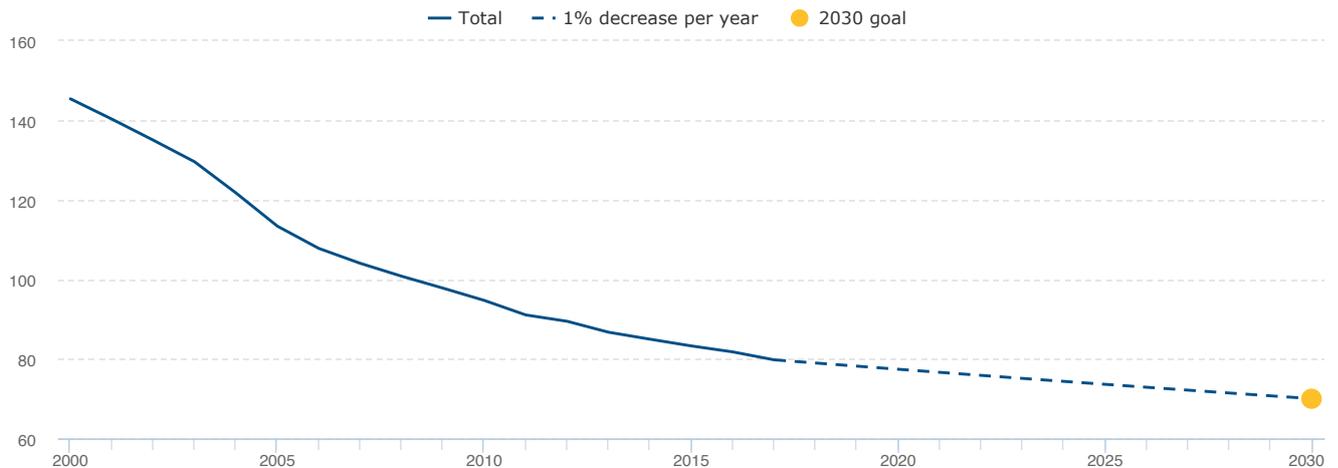
However, a few SIDS have experienced setbacks. Maternal mortality increased in Saint Lucia from 86 in 2000 to 117 per 100 000 live births in 2017. The only other countries with increasing ratios are Jamaica (from 77 to 80) and Mauritius (from 59 to 61).

The Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste saw the highest decreases in maternal mortality from 2000 to 2017, by 58 per cent and 81 per cent, respectively. Regardless of the positive trend in Timor-Leste (from 745 to 142), it remains one of the small island economies with the highest maternal mortality ratio, along with Comoros (273) and Sao Tome and Principe (130).



**Figure 9. Maternal mortality ratio in SIDS and path to the SDG target 3.1 (SDG 3.1.1)**

(Ratio per 100 000 live births)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNICEF (2021).

Note: A modelled estimate by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and the United Nations Population Division. The dotted line illustrates a trend towards the SDG target of 70 by 2030. No data for Dominica, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Tuvalu and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

SDG target 3.2 aims to reduce preventable deaths of children under 5 years of age to at least 25 per 1 000 live births. In 2019, the rate for most SIDS was below the world average of 37.7. Only Comoros (62.9), Kiribati (50.9) and Timor-Leste (44.2) exhibit a higher rate. In total, 18 SIDS already met SDG target 3.2 and two, namely Fiji and Vanuatu, were very close with rates of 25.7 and 25.9 respectively. Child mortality is declining in SIDS, except for in Dominica, Fiji, Grenada and Saint Lucia. In 2019, in almost all SIDS, the mortality rate for boys under the age of 5 was between 15 and 27 per cent higher than that of girls. In contrast, Tonga has an 18 per cent lower mortality rate for boys than for girls.

## Lifestyle diseases common in SIDS

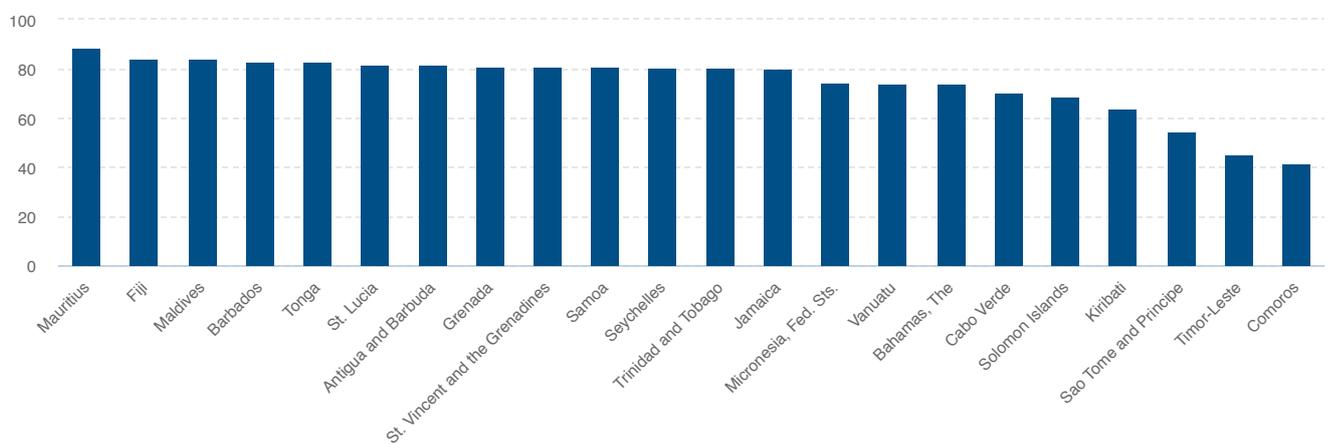
As countries develop economically, changes in food consumption habits and other factors contribute to the increase of non-communicable diseases, such as cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, digestive diseases, skin diseases, musculoskeletal diseases and congenital anomalies. In 2016, 16 SIDS were above the world average of 71.2 per cent in prevalence of non-communicable diseases, with an average of 74.5 per cent for SIDS. Mauritius, Fiji and Maldives were the three countries with the highest percentage of deaths related to non-communicable diseases.

### Non-communicable diseases more common in SIDS than globally



**Figure 10. SIDS with the largest share of non-communicable diseases as a cause of death, 2016**

(Percentage of all deaths)



Source: World Bank (2021) based on data from WHO's Global Health Estimates (WHO, 2021c).

Note: Data are not available for Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau and Tuvalu.

Obesity can be linked to many ill health effects, including to the prevalence of non-communicable diseases. BMI is used commonly to evaluate the likelihood of risks associated with being overweight. A BMI of over 25 is considered overweight, while a value over 30 is considered obese. Residents of SIDS have quite a high average body mass index which may contribute to the high rate of deaths due to non-communicable diseases. In 2016, only Sao tome and Principe, Comoros, Cabo Verde and Timor-Leste had an average BMI of under 25. In Nauru, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Kiribati and Saint Lucia, the average BMI exceeded 30.

 **Table 1. SIDS by groups of BMI**

(Average)

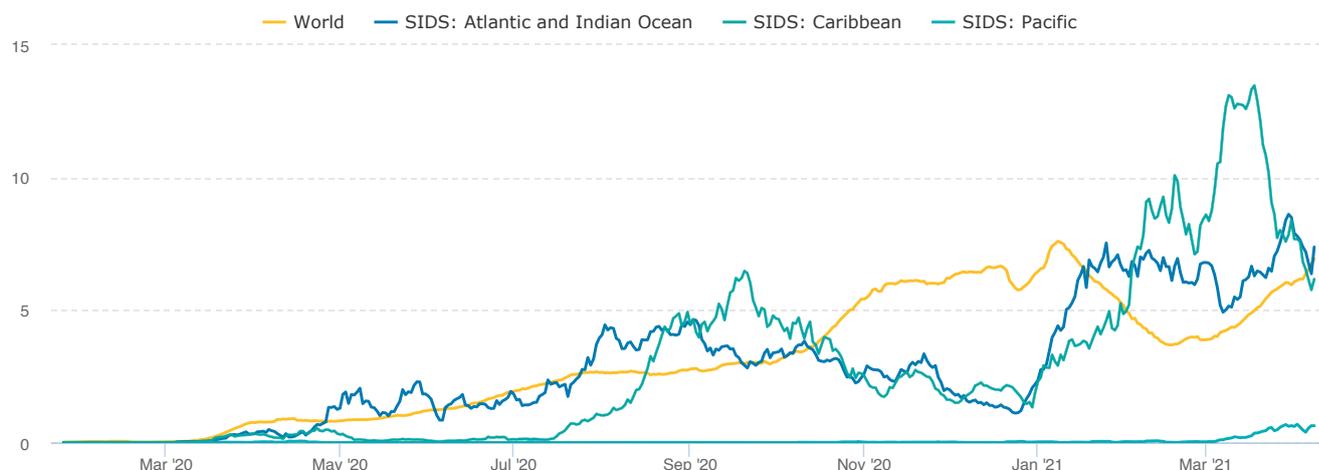
Normal	Overweight	Obesity
Sao Tome and Principe	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Nauru
Comoros	Marshall Islands	Samoa
Cabo Verde	Palau	Tonga
Timor-Leste	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Tuvalu
	Bahamas	Kiribati
	Barbados	Saint Lucia
	Jamaica	
	Fiji	
	Trinidad and Tobago	
	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
	Grenada	
	Dominica	
	Seychelles	
	Antigua and Barbuda	
	Solomon Islands	
	Vanuatu	
	Maldives	
	Mauritius	

Source: WHO (2021c)

## COVID-19 in SIDS

In contrast to the COVID-19 pandemic's disastrous impact on SIDS' economies (see [Trade](#)), its epidemiological and health impact has been more muted compared with many other countries' experiences. Of course, the situation is always evolving and this has the potential to change. Additionally, there is considerable heterogeneity in terms SIDS' number of cases and deaths, with some SIDS, especially in the Pacific, experiencing very few cases and sometimes no recorded deaths, and others in the Caribbean and Atlantic and Indian Oceans experiencing higher case and death rates than the global average. Figure 11 illustrates the number of daily cases per 100 000 population by SIDS region. Care should be taken when interpreting COVID-19 data, as different governments and health systems have different reporting practices.

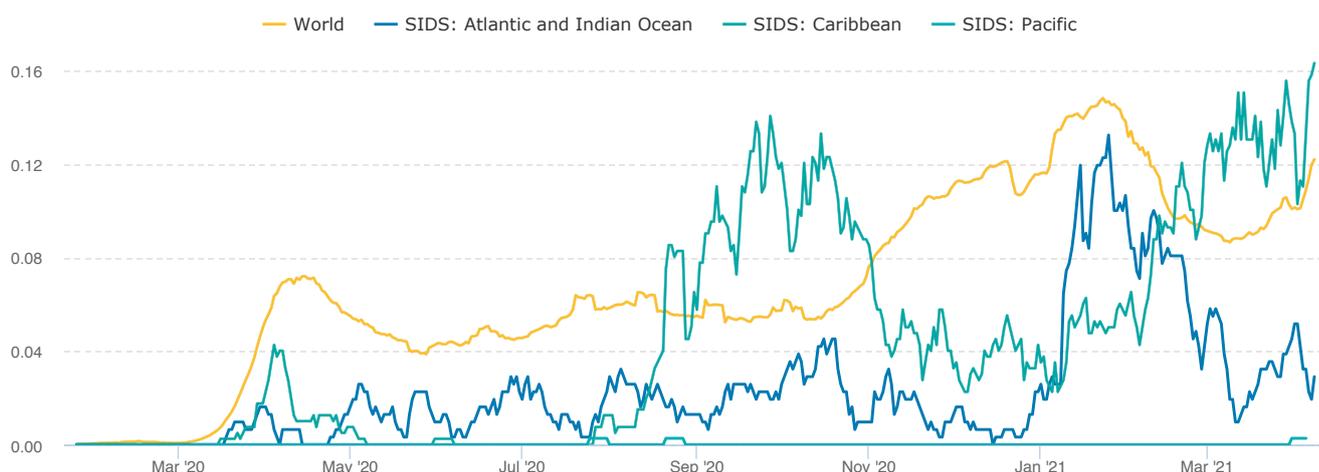
**Figure 11. Daily new COVID-19 cases, rolling 7-day average**  
(per 100 000 people)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on Dong et al. (2020) and UNCTAD (2021).  
Notes: Data is missing for Kiribati, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu.

We can see that Pacific SIDS have maintained remarkably low case numbers throughout the duration of the pandemic so far. The few cases they did report were almost always imported from abroad, with very few cases of community transmission (WHO, 2020). Pacific SIDS’ remoteness and relatively smaller economies likely aided them in combatting transmission and importation of the virus. Caribbean and Atlantic and Pacific Ocean SIDS have not been as untouched, with the Caribbean SIDS able to largely avoid initial outbreaks until August 2020, at which time the rate of new cases began to outpace the global average, before falling again until January 2021. Since then, Caribbean SIDS have again been experiencing higher rates of new infection than the global average. In terms of cases, Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS’ experiences closely mirror those of Caribbean SIDS, with the exception of not avoiding an initial outbreak from April to August 2020, tracking the global average closely over that time period. SIDS’ experiences in terms of deaths due to COVID-19 have been slightly different from that in terms of cases, as illustrated in figure 12.

**Figure 12. Daily new COVID-19 deaths, rolling 7-day average**  
(per 100 000 people)

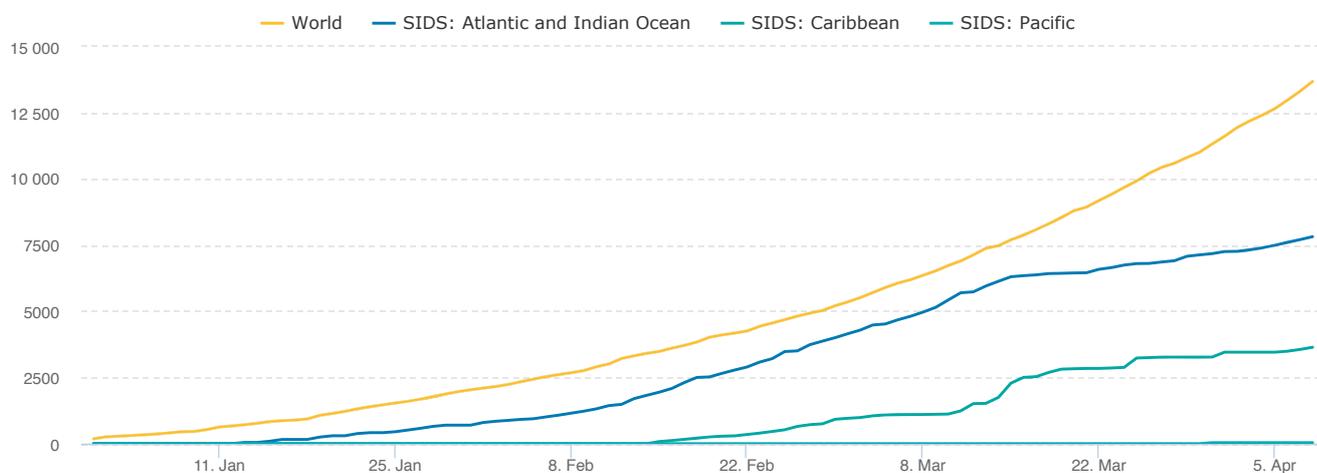


Source: UNCTAD calculations based on Dong et al. (2020) and UNCTAD (2021).  
Notes: Data is missing for Kiribati, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu.

For the majority of the pandemic so far, death rates in SIDS have remained well below the global average. The exceptions to this are both in Caribbean SIDS, between August and November 2020, and again more recently since February 2021. While Caribbean and Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS have had similar numbers of cumulative cases per 100 000 population so far, the number of deaths per 100 000 population has been about 1.7 times higher in Caribbean SIDS.

While many SIDS have been relatively less impacted by COVID-19 from a health perspective, the key to long-term management of the virus remains vaccines. Figure 13 illustrates the number of people vaccinated with at least a first dose per 100 000 population.

**Figure 13. Cumulative number of people vaccinated with at least one dose**  
(per 100 000 people)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on Our World in Data (2021) and UNCTAD (2021).

Notes: Data is not available for Comoros, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

Many SIDS have either not yet begun their vaccination campaigns or not begun reporting data on them, however, two SIDS in particular have already made rapid progress on this front. As of 11 April 2021, Seychelles had already inoculated almost 62 per cent of their population with at least a first dose and Barbados almost 25 per cent. Both rates comfortably outpace the global average and even many well-performing developed countries. As a group however, these two countries are not enough to prop up their respective regions, and the vaccination rate in all SIDS regions remains well below the world average.

In the near-term, COVID-19 remains primarily an economic rather than health issue for most SIDS. That does not mean that the situation cannot change, and these especially vulnerable countries should continue to be monitored until the global vaccination drive can mitigate the health impacts of the pandemic.





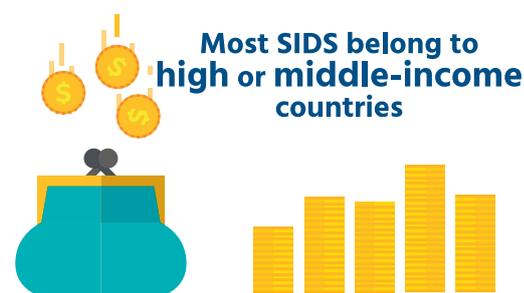
## References

- Dong E, Du H and Gardner L (2020). An interactive web-based dashboard to track COVID-19 in real time. *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*. 20(5):533–534.
- ITU (2021). ITU database for ICT SDG indicators. Available at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/SDGs-ITU-ICT-indicators.aspx> (accessed 21 February 2021).
- Our World in Data (2021). Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccinations. Available at <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations> (accessed 13 March 2021).
- UN DESA (2021). Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category.html> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- UN DESA and the United Nations Committee for Development Policy Secretariat (2020). Human Assets Index (HAI). Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category/hai-indicators.html> (accessed 30 October 2020).
- UN Women (2021). Gender Equality Glossary. Available at <https://trainingcentre.unwomen.org/mod/glossary/view.php?id=36> (accessed 1 March 2021).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Human Development Report 2020. The next frontier. Human development and the Anthropocene. Human Development Reports. New York. (accessed 9 February 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- UNESCO (2015). Education 2030 Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all. Available at [http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/ED/ED\\_new/pdf/FFA-ENG-27Oct15.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/ED/ED_new/pdf/FFA-ENG-27Oct15.pdf) (accessed 6 May 2021).
- UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2020). Glossary. Available at <http://uis.unesco.org/en/glossary> (accessed 15 March 2021).
- UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021). Available at <http://uis.unesco.org/> (accessed 15 March 2021).
- UNICEF (2021). UNICEF Data: Monitoring the situation of children and women. Available at <https://data.unicef.org/> (accessed 14 February 2021).
- WHO (2020). COVID-19 Joint external situation report for Pacific Islands #31. COVID-19 Joint external situation report for Pacific Islands No. 31. WHO, 9.
- WHO (2021a). Global Health Expenditure database. Available at <https://apps.who.int/nha/database> (accessed 3 March 2021).
- WHO (2021b). Noncommunicable diseases. Available at [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/noncommunicable-diseases#:~:text=Noncommunicable%20diseases%20\(NCDs\)%2C%20also,physiological%2C%20environmental%20and%20behaviours%20factors](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/noncommunicable-diseases#:~:text=Noncommunicable%20diseases%20(NCDs)%2C%20also,physiological%2C%20environmental%20and%20behaviours%20factors). (accessed 4 June 2020).
- WHO (2021c). WHO Statistical databases. Available at <https://www.who.int/nmh/databases/en/> (accessed 10 January 2021).
- WHO (2021d). Body mass index. Available at <https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/disease-prevention/nutrition/a-healthy-lifestyle/body-mass-index-bmi#:~:text=BMI%2C%20formerly%20called%20the%20Quetelet,have%20a%20BMI%20of%2022.9>. (accessed 21 January 2021).
- World Bank (2021). World Development Indicators. Available at <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators> (accessed 8 November 2020).

# Income, poverty and employment

## SIDS moving gradually to higher income levels

In recent years, SIDS have been moving from lower to higher income levels. The World Bank (2021a) classification places countries into income groups based on their GNI per capita. GNI measures the overall economic condition of a country. According to the World Bank classification (2021a), most SIDS belonged to the middle income category, with 11 SIDS in the upper middle income and eight SIDS in the lower middle income category, while the remaining nine were classified as high income economies (see table 1). Haiti and Guinea-Bissau were classified as low income countries.



**Table 1. Classification of SIDS by income level in 2019**

(GNI per capita)

High income Above US\$12 535	Upper middle income From US\$4 046 to US\$12 535	Lower middle income From US\$1,036 to US\$4,045
Antigua and Barbuda	Dominica	Cabo Verde
Bahamas	Fiji	Comoros
Barbados	Grenada	Kiribati
Mauritius	Jamaica	Micronesia, Federated States of
Nauru	Maldives	Sao Tome and Principe
Palau	Marshall Islands	Solomon Islands
Seychelles	Samoa	Timor-Leste
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Saint Lucia	Vanuatu
Trinidad and Tobago	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
	Tonga	
	Tuvalu	

Source: World Bank (2021a).

Note: Based on World Bank's classification of income levels.

Most high income SIDS are Caribbean, while lower middle income SIDS are found mainly in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans. The high income islands of Mauritius and Seychelles are exceptions to this rule – both located along the African coastline. The high income Pacific islands, Palau and Nauru also confound the generalisation.

## Poverty declining in SIDS

In the last 10 years, the percentage of the population living below the poverty line of US\$1.90 has decreased in SIDS. Although the availability and timeliness of data vary for SIDS, a downward trend can be identified for all countries, especially for Saint Lucia. In 1995, 34.7 per cent of Saint Lucia's population lived below the poverty line, whereas by 2016 the rate had decreased to 4.6 per cent. The situation across SIDS remains somewhat polarized: in 60 per cent of SIDS (with data), less than 5 per cent of the population lived below the poverty line, while in the rest, the share living in poverty was more than 10 per cent (see table 2). The timeliness of data varies from 1992 to 2017 depending on country. The situation is likely to have evolved notably over the years making country comparisons challenging.

To give some context, in 2017, 9.3 per cent of the world's population lived below the poverty line. Globally too progress has been visible compared to the level of 31.3 per cent in 1995. With a country average of 8.6 per cent of population living below the poverty line in SIDS, the situation is better than in lower middle income countries (16.9 per cent), but worse than in upper middle income countries (1.5 per cent). It

should be noted that data are not available for many Caribbean SIDS belonging to higher income groups. In most SIDS, there is still some way to go before reaching SDG target 1.1, “the eradication of extreme poverty for all people everywhere by 2030”.

**Table 2. Share of population living with less than US\$1.90 a day in SIDS**

(Percentage of population)

Country/Region	%	Reference year
<b>Atlantic and Indian Oceans SIDS:</b>		
Sao Tome and Principe	35.6	2017
Comoros	19.1	2014
Cabo Verde	3.4	2015
Seychelles	0.5	2018
Mauritius	0.2	2017
Maldives	0	2016
<b>Caribbean SIDS:</b>		
Saint Lucia	4.6	2016
Trinidad and Tobago	3.2	1992
Jamaica	1.7	2004
<b>Pacific SIDS:</b>		
Solomon Islands	24.7	2012
Timor-Leste	22	2014
Micronesia, Federated States of	15.4	2013
Vanuatu	13.2	2010
Kiribati	12.9	2006
Tuvalu	3.3	2010
Samoa	1.1	2013
Tonga	1	2015
Nauru	0.9	2012
Low income countries	45.6	2017
Lower middle income	16.9	2014
Upper middle income	1.5	2019
High income countries	0.6	2019
World	9.2	2017

Source: World Bank (2021a).

Note: Based on World Bank's poverty headcount ratio at US\$1.90 a day (2011 PPP).

**Less than 5% lived below the poverty line in over half of SIDS, more than 10% in the rest**



## Most SIDS exceed the world average labour force participation rate

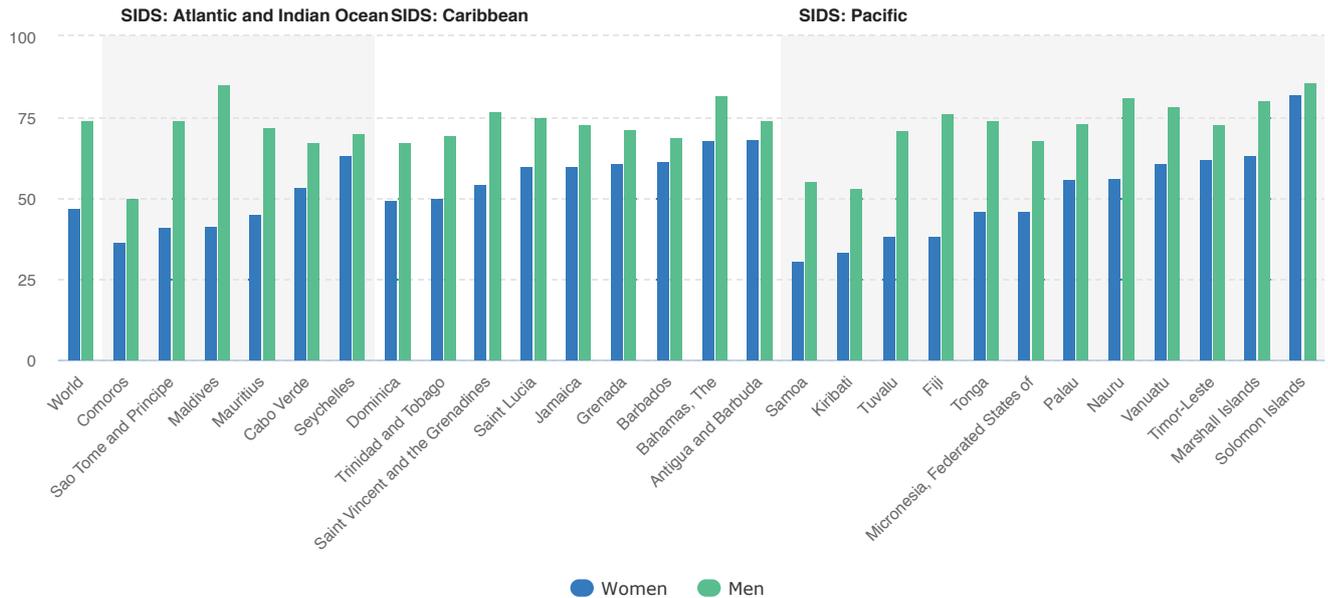
As figure 1 shows, among SIDS, the Solomon Islands have the highest labour force participation rate for both men and women, followed by Bahamas, Marshall Islands and Antigua and Barbuda<sup>1</sup>. Men participate in labour more than women in all SIDS, but the gender gap in labour force participation is smaller for SIDS (19 percentage points) than the world average gap (27 percentage points). Maldives and Fiji have the

largest gap between men’s and women’s participation in the labour force, at 44 and 38 percentage points respectively. Samoa, Comoros and Kiribati show the lowest labour force participation among SIDS. In total , 16 SIDS exceed the world average labour force participation rate of 60.5 per cent for both sexes.

**Labour force participation exceeds the world average – 60.5% in 16 SIDS**



**Figure 1. Labour force participation rate, 2020**  
(Percentage of the working age population)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on ILO (2020a) and national sources.

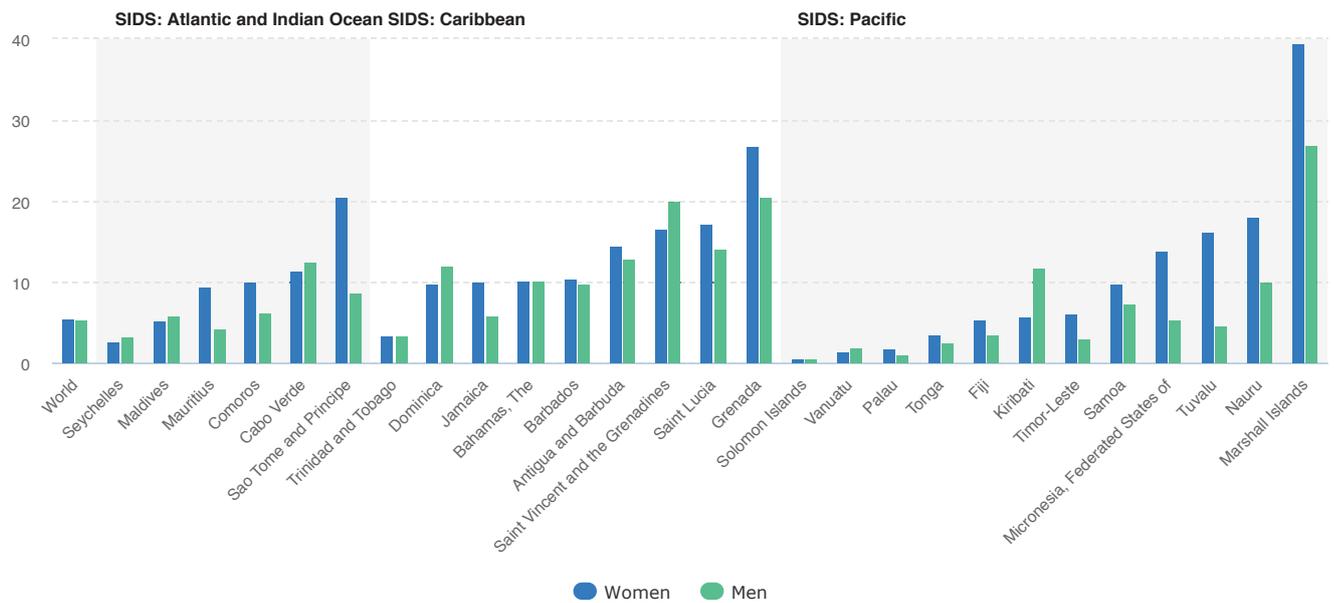
Note: Labour force survey data for: Kiribati referring to 2015, the Federated States of Micronesia 2014, Nauru 2013, Palau 2014, Seychelles 2019 and Tuvalu 2016. Data from national sources for Antigua and Barbuda referring to 2015; Dominica 2011; Grenada 2017; and the Marshall Islands 2012. For others, ILO modelled estimates for 2020.

## Women are more often unemployed than men

In 2019, the Marshall Islands had the highest unemployment rate for women and men, followed by Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (see figure 2). The widest gender gaps in unemployment were found in the Marshall Islands, Sao Tome and Principe, and Tuvalu. In all three, women’s unemployment was higher than for men. Women’s unemployment rate was lower than men’s in seven SIDS – Kiribati and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines recorded the largest differences, 6.2 and 3.5 percentage points, respectively. SIDS’ lowest unemployment rates were found in Solomon Islands, Palau, Vanuatu, Seychelles and Tonga. Trinidad and Tobago, Fiji and Timor-Leste were below the world average of 5.4 per cent for both sexes.


**Figure 2. Unemployment rate by sex, 2019**

(Percentage of the labour force)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on ILO (2020a) and national sources.

Note: Labour force survey data for: Kiribati referring to 2015, Federated States of Micronesia 2014, Nauru 2013, Palau 2014, Seychelles 2019 and Tuvalu 2016. Data from national sources for Antigua and Barbuda referring to 2015; Dominica 2011; Grenada 2017; and Marshall Islands 2012. Data refer to 2013 for Nauru, 2014 for Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia, 2015 for Kiribati and 2016 for Tuvalu. For others ILO modelled estimates by sex for 2019.

## Informal employment plays a significant role in many SIDS

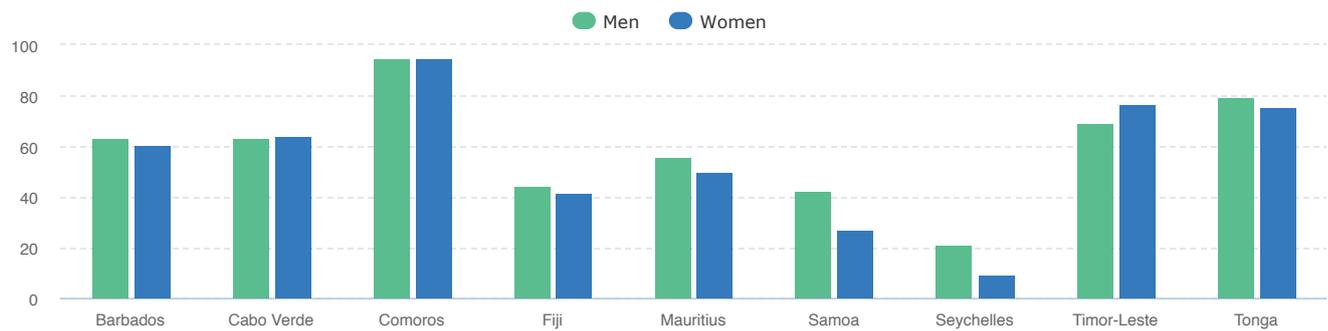
The informal economy contributes to jobs and income, playing an important role in SIDS as in many other developing economies. According to ILO (2020b), informal workers make up nearly half of the global workforce, and 80 per cent of them have suffered massive damage to their capacity to earn a living during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of them work in the hardest-hit sectors, such as tourism. The share of informal employment is high in many small island economies. Comoros, Tonga and Timor-Leste exhibit the highest shares of informal employment.

As figure 3 shows, based on data reported for SIDS between 2013 and 2019, the share of informal employment was highest in the Comoros (95 per cent), followed by Tonga and Timor-Leste. Seychelles reported the lowest share of informal employment, at 9 per cent for women and 21 per cent for men. In six out of the nine SIDS with data, men were slightly more often employed in informal jobs than women.

**COVID-19 hit informal jobs hardest – a significant source of employment in SIDS**



**Figure 3. Informal employment**  
(Percentage of total employment)



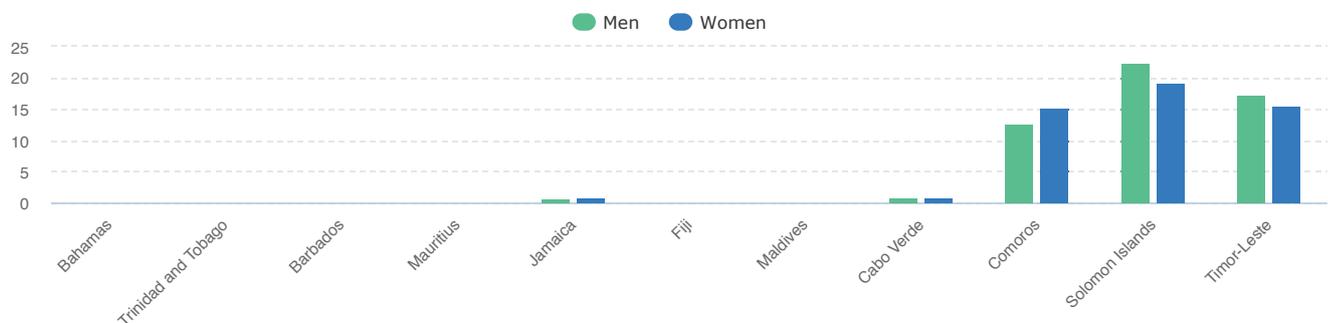
Source: UNCTAD calculations based on ILO (2020a).

Note: Data refer to 2019 for Mauritius and Seychelles, 2018 for Tonga, 2017 for Samoa, 2016 for Barbados and Fiji, 2015 for Cabo Verde, 2014 for the Comoros and 2013 for Timor-Leste. Data are sourced from the Labour Force Survey, except for Barbados from Household Income Survey.

## Working poverty persists in some SIDS

Even though working poverty is a serious concern for some SIDS, data are scarce. By 2019, some SIDS, including Bahamas, Barbados, Mauritius, Fiji, Trinidad and Tobago and Maldives managed to push working poverty down to almost zero (see figure 4). Jamaica and Cabo Verde are very close to that goal. Working poverty continues to be a challenge in Comoros, Timor-Leste and Solomon Islands. In the Solomon Islands, one in five people who are employed remain below the international poverty line of US\$1.90 per day. The rate exceeds 15 per cent in Timor-Leste and 10 per cent in the Comoros. In Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands, men make up a larger share of the working poor, while in the Comoros women form the larger share.

**Figure 4. Working poverty rate, 2019 (SDG 1.1.1)**  
(Percentage of employed persons)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on ILO (2020a).

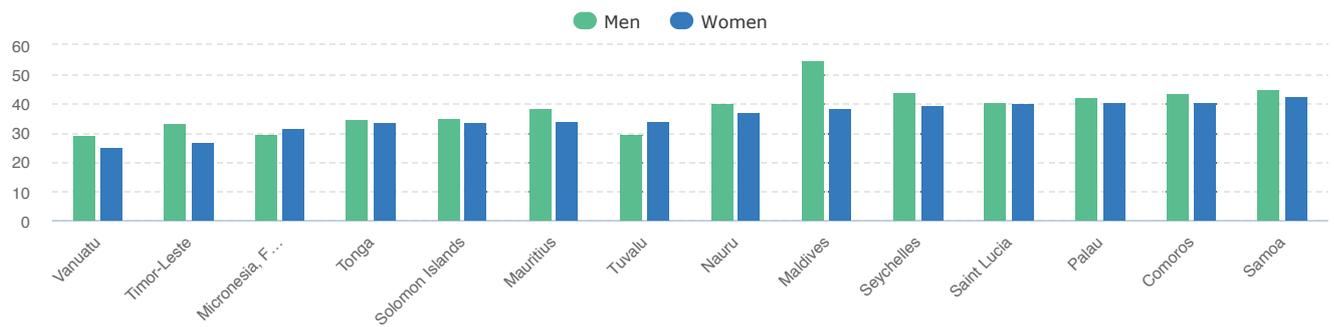
Note: Refers to employed population, at least 15 years of age.

## The COVID-19 pandemic led to a significant loss of working hours

There is considerable variation in the weekly working hours among SIDS (see figure 5). In Maldives, men worked on average almost 55 hours per week (data for 2016). That is almost double the number of men's weekly working hours in Tuvalu (data for 2016), the Federated States of Micronesia (2014) or Vanuatu (2010). In all SIDS for which data are available, except for Tuvalu and the Federated States of Micronesia, men worked more hours per week than women. The biggest gap between sexes, 16.5 hours per week, was reported in the Maldives. The difference between women and men was smallest in Saint Lucia (2019) - less than one hour.

**Figure 5. Weekly hours worked, latest available year**

(Hours per week)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on ILO (2020a).

Note: Data refer to 2019 for Mauritius, Saint Lucia and Seychelles; 2018 for Tonga; 2017 for Samoa; 2016 for Maldives, Timor-Leste and Tuvalu; 2014 for Comoros, Federated States of Micronesia and Palau; 2013 for Nauru and Solomon Islands; and 2010 for Vanuatu.

## SIDS lost on average 8% of their working hours due to COVID-19 in 2020

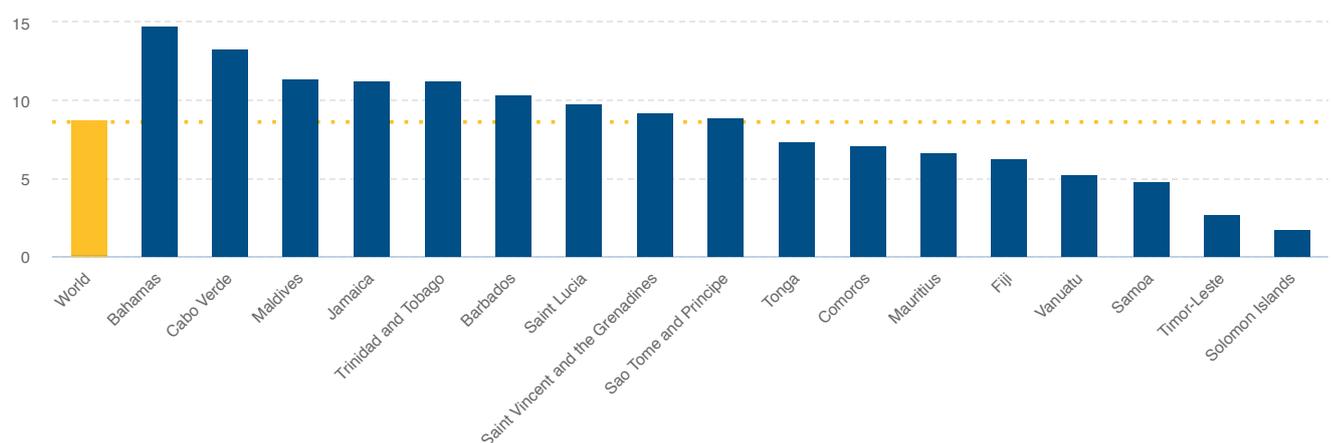


In 2020, the COVID-19 crisis caused a loss of working hours in practically every country in the world. The world average loss, according to ILO (2021) was estimated at 8.8 per cent in 2020, while for SIDS it was 8.4 per cent. Among SIDS, the loss was more than 10 per cent in Bahamas, Cabo Verde, Maldives, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Barbados (see figure 6). Countries with high working hour losses also faced substantial losses in labour income. So far, Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands have had the mildest effect from the COVID-19 pandemic on working hours. In the pessimistic scenario, the ILO (2021) estimates that working hours will remain 4.6 per cent lower globally in 2021 relative to pre-pandemic times i.e., the fourth quarter of

2019. In their optimistic scenario, employment is expected to recover in the course of 2021, while working hours will remain 1.3 per cent lower than pre-pandemic levels.

**Figure 6. Working hours lost due to the COVID-19 crisis, 2020**

(Percentage)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on ILO (2020a).

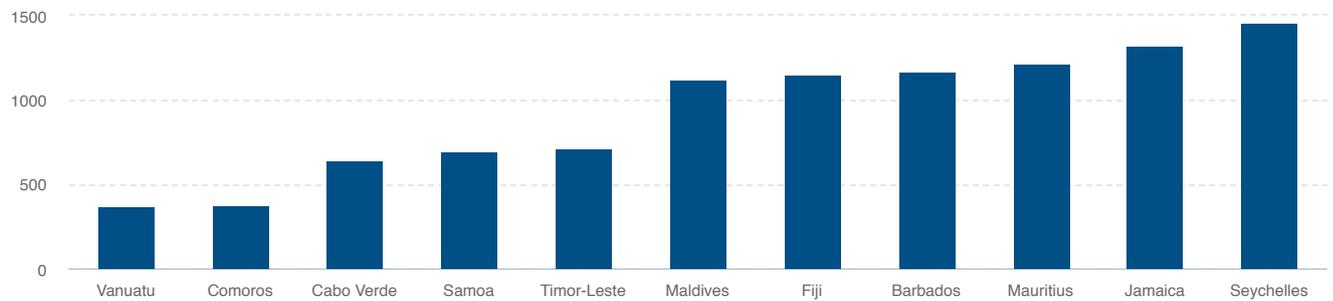
Note: ILO modelled estimates for 2020.

## Income inequality high in many SIDS

In each 11 SIDS for which data are available, the average monthly earnings of employees were below the global median of US\$1 600 (in 2017 PPPs). The earnings were highest in Seychelles, at US\$1 455 (in 2018), and in Jamaica, at US\$1 320 (in 2013). In Mauritius, Barbados, Fiji and Maldives, employees' monthly earnings hovered around US\$1 200. By contrast, Timor-Leste, Samoa and Cabo Verde reported monthly average earnings lower than US\$ 800. In the Comoros and Vanuatu, they were below US\$ 400.

By economic activity, the highest monthly earnings were paid to employees in financial and insurance activities, averaging US\$1 620 per month, followed by earnings just above US\$1 300 in education, professional, scientific and technical activities and in the energy sector. Information and communication activities and the public sector also provided relatively high salaries, while jobs in household activities, retail trade, accommodation and restaurants often provided somewhat lower monthly pay.

 **Figure 7. Mean monthly earnings of employees, latest available year**  
(US\$, 2017 PPPs)



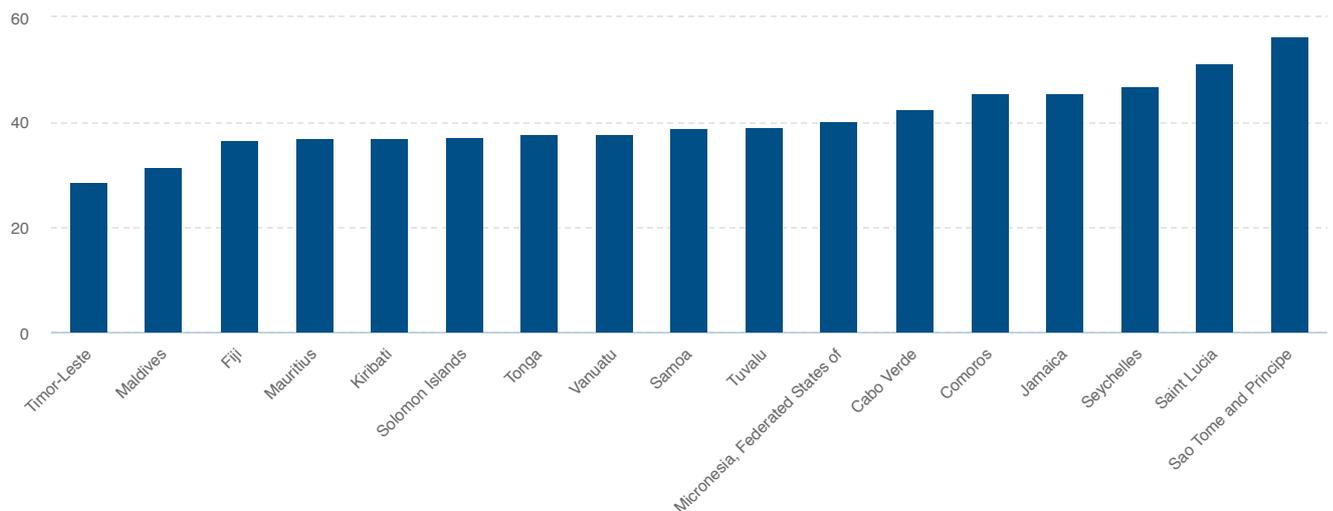
Source: UNCTAD calculations based on ILO (2020a).

Note: Data are provided in US\$ using 2017 PPP to allow for international comparisons, taking account of the differences in price levels between countries. Data refer to 2018 for Mauritius and Seychelles; 2017 for Samoa; 2016 for Timor-Leste, Maldives, Fiji and Barbados; 2015 for Cabo Verde; 2014 for the Comoros; 2013 for Jamaica; and 2010 for Vanuatu.

The pandemic is expected to lead to increased income inequality in 2020 and 2021 across all countries, especially those hit hardest by the economic consequences of the lockdowns and travel restrictions. Among SIDS, income equality was lowest in Timor-Leste, where the Gini index valued 28.7 (data for 2014), and highest in Sao Tome and Principe, with an index value of 56.3 (in 2017) (see figure 8). To put these numbers in perspective, among the 150 countries that have data, the Gini index varied from 24.2 in Slovenia to 63.0 in South Africa, the median being 36.1. All SIDS, except Maldives and Timor-Leste, exceeded the global median.



 **Figure 8. Gini index in SIDS, latest available year**



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on World Bank (2021c).

Note: Data refer to 2017 for Mauritius and Sao Tome and Principe; 2016 for Maldives and Saint Lucia; 2015 for Cabo Verde and Tonga; 2014 for Comoros and Timor-Leste; 2013 for Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Samoa, Seychelles and Solomon Islands; 2010 for Tuvalu and Vanuatu; 2006 for Kiribati; and 2004 for Jamaica.



## Notes

1. Unpaid work is relatively common in SIDS, and a large portion of the SIDS' labour force operates in the subsistence economy.



## References

- ILO (2016). Key Indicators of the Labour Market. Geneva, 140. (accessed 27 February 2021).
- ILO (2020a). ILOStat. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020b). As job losses escalate, nearly half of global workforce at risk of losing livelihoods. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_743036/lang-en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_743036/lang-en/index.htm) (accessed 11 December 2020).
- ILO (2021). ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work. Fourth edition. Updated estimates and analysis. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/briefingnote/wcms\\_767028.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/briefingnote/wcms_767028.pdf) (accessed 29 March 2021).
- OECD (2020). Glossary of statistical terms. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/index.htm> (accessed 11 May 2020).
- Shim JK and Siegel JG (1995). *Dictionary of Economics*. Business Dictionary Series.
- UN Women (2021). Gender Equality Glossary. Available at <https://trainingcentre.unwomen.org/mod/glossary/view.php?id=36> (accessed 1 March 2021).
- United Nations (2010). *International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics: 2008*. United Nations. New York, NY.
- United Nations, European Commission, IMF, OECD and World Bank (2009). *System of National Accounts 2008*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.08.XVII.29. New York.
- World Bank (2021a). World Bank Country and Lending Groups. Available at <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519> (accessed 27 February 2021).
- World Bank (2021b). Poverty. Understanding Poverty. Available at <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/overview> (accessed 30 March 2021).
- World Bank (2021c). World Development Indicators. Available at <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators> (accessed 8 November 2020).

## Gender, inclusion and equality

In most societies there are differences and inequalities between women and men in responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities (UN Women, 2021). In 2020, progress in gender equality has also been offset by the COVID-19 pandemic which has posed threats to the health, safety and livelihoods of women and men and has exacerbated disparities rooted in societal structures.

Gender inequality can manifest itself in many ways. Composite indicators can bring together several aspects of inequality. GII, for instance, looks at educational achievement, economic and political participation and reproductive health. The higher the value, the more there are disparities between women and men. According to UNDP (2020) gender inequality leads to loss of human development.



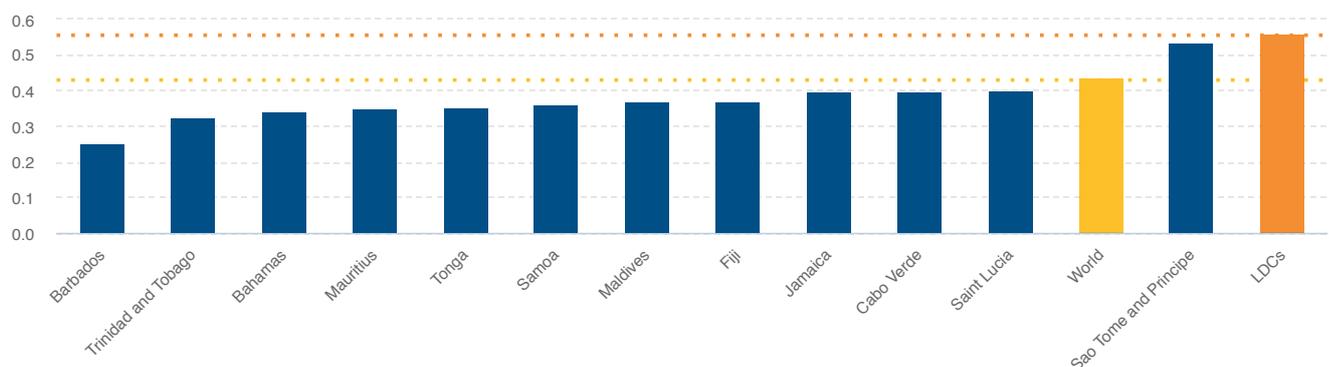
### Most SIDS rank better than world average in gender equality

In 2019, GII ranked eleven SIDS better than the world average (see figure 1). In total, 12 SIDS, representing all SIDS for which GII is available, are above LDCs' average. Almost all SIDS that have data for several reference years have seen a reduction in gender inequalities recently.



**Figure 1. Gender inequality in SIDS, 2019**

(GII index)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNDP (2020).

Note: The GII ranges from 0, where women and men fare equally, to 1, reflecting maximum inequality between women and men in all dimensions.

## Towards greater equality in the eyes of the law

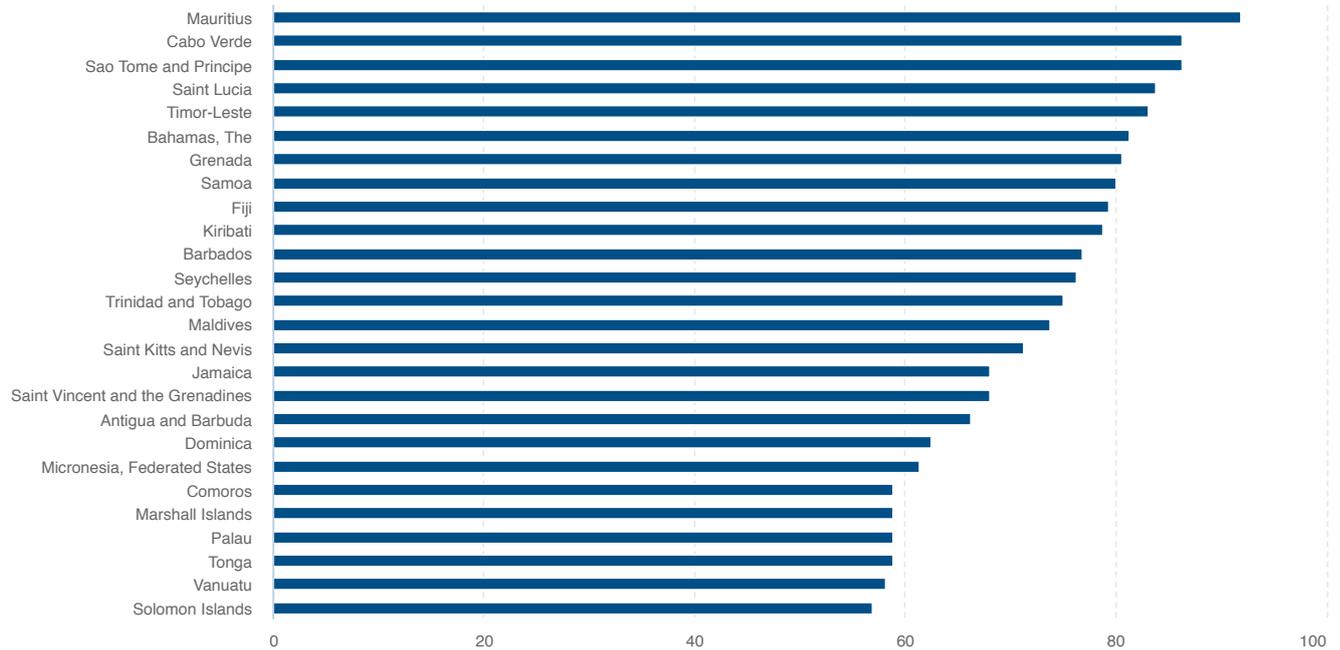
The Women, Business and the Law Index studies the impact of laws and regulations on women's economic opportunities (World Bank, 2021a). In 2019, 12 SIDS exceeded the global average score of 75.2. The top-3 countries – Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, and Cabo Verde – are all located in the Indian and Atlantic Ocean. Sao Tome and Principe was also among ten economies globally that improved the most from 2017. This is thanks to the adoption of a new labour code brought into compliance with international standards, prohibiting, for instance, the dismissal of pregnant women.



Since 2000, all SIDS for which the index exists have improved the legal environment for women's economic empowerment. Between 2017 and 2019, Fiji, for instance, introduced parenthood reforms, accepting paid leave for fathers for the first time and increasing maternity leave from 84 to 98 days. Grenada made changes to allow women to apply for a passport without additional documentation, i.e., on the same basis as men. Timor-Leste started counting periods of absence due to childcare towards pension entitlements, and Barbados enacted legislation to improve protection against sexual harassment.



**Figure 2. SIDS ranked by the Women, Business and the Law Index, 2019**  
(Index)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on World Bank (2021a).

## Inequalities persist in the labour markets

**Women in SIDS are more often unemployed**



**and one in two women are outside the labour force**

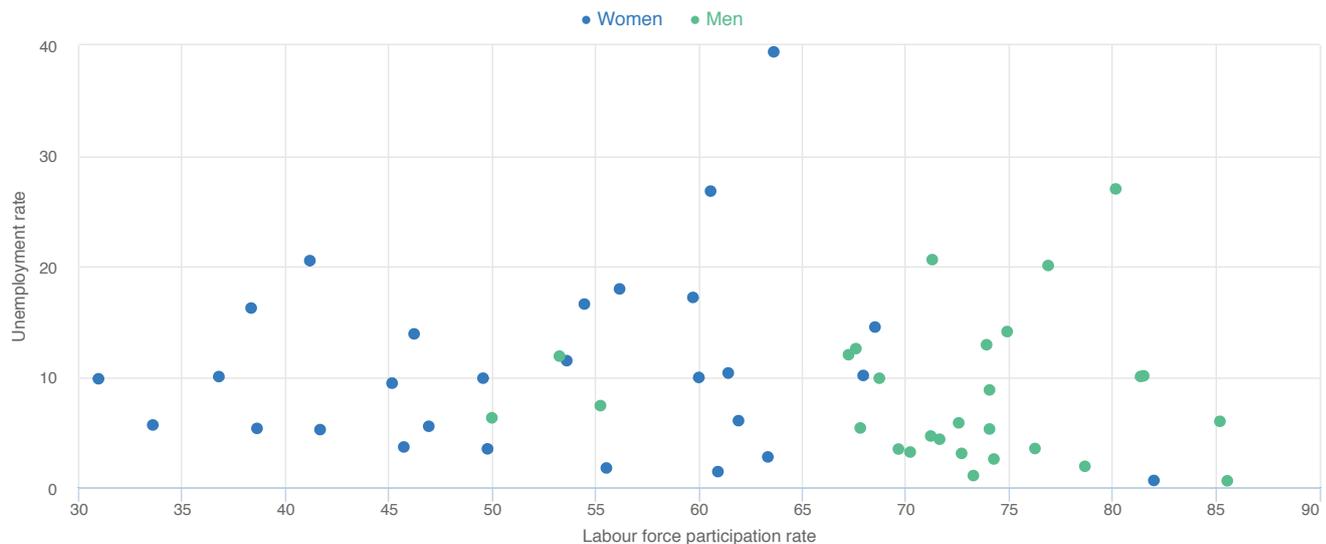


Tuvalu.

Women are more likely to be unemployed than men in SIDS, with average unemployment of 11 per cent compared to 8 per cent for men. Women’s labour force participation is also significantly lower in SIDS, on average 53 per cent, compared to 72 per cent for men. This is clearly illustrated in figure 3. The gap between male and female labour force participation is largest in Maldives, Fiji, and Sao Tome and Principe, and for unemployment rates in Marshall Islands, Sao Tome and Principe, and


**Figure 3. Labour force participation and unemployment rates by sex**

(Percentage)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on ILO (2020a).

 Note: Latest annual data on labour force participation and unemployment rates for each country. For more details on the reference years, please refer to [Income, poverty and employment](#), figures 1 and 2.

Average hourly earnings statistics are available for some SIDS only. In Timor-Leste (data for 2013), Tonga (2018) and Maldives (2016) women were paid about 80 per cent of men's hourly earnings. In Mauritius, women's earnings were 88 per cent of men's earnings in 2019. (ILO, 2020a.)

The gender wage gap varies significantly by occupation and country. For instance, in Cabo Verde (data for 2015) and Samoa (2017), female professionals earned about 60 per cent of their male colleagues' earnings. Women's hourly earnings exceeded men's earnings in clerical and support jobs in Maldives, Timor-Leste and Tonga, but women earned less than men in these occupations in Mauritius (94 per cent) and Samoa (80 per cent). Female managers' compared to male managers' earnings ranged from 40 per cent in Tonga and Maldives to 97 per cent in Mauritius. (ILO, 2020a.)

(UNCTAD, 2020) studied women producers of Kiribati and their participation in domestic and international trade. The study notes that women's economic activities, though mainly small-scale, play an important role in sustaining livelihoods for both urban and rural households despite women being discriminated by social norms and traditions. The smallness and remoteness from other countries and among the Kiribati islands makes the conditions for domestic and international trade very challenging.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated labour force inequalities in many countries (ILO, 2020b). Because women make up the majority of health, social service and unpaid care workers, they are also highly susceptible to varying effects of the pandemic. In the tourism sector, for example, many jobs were lost.

Information on time spent on unpaid domestic and care work is scarce for SIDS. Data are only available for Fiji (data for 2016) and Mauritius (2013), in which women spent 15 and 19 per cent of a 24-hour day in such activities. High share of time spent on unpaid domestic work can prevent women from entering the paid labour market and increase the risk of poverty.

## Women are less often in positions of power

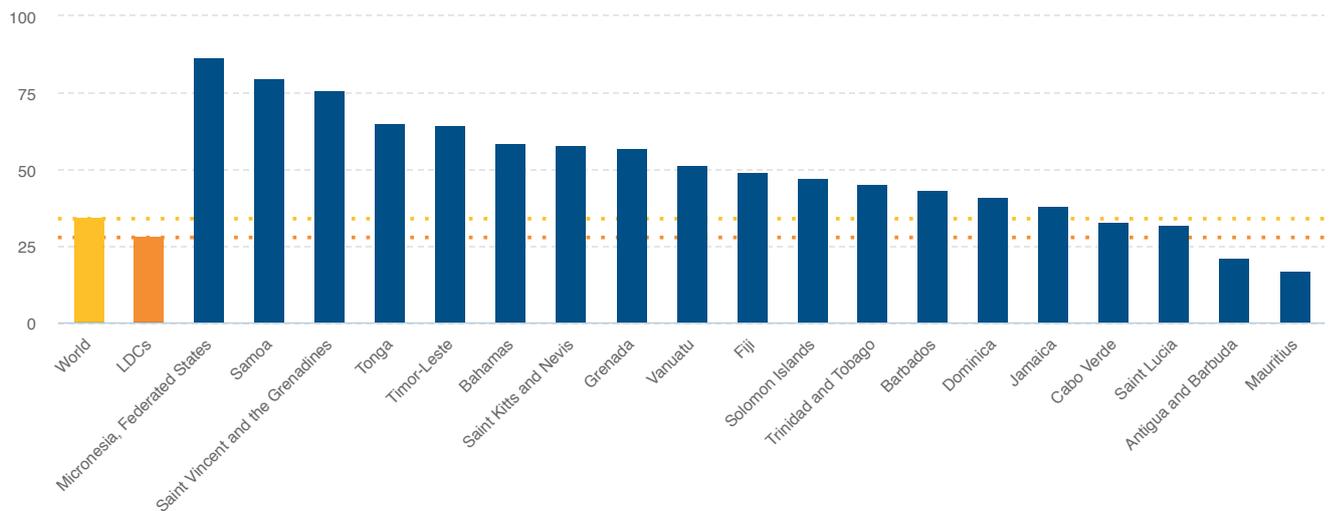
Women continue to be underrepresented in positions of power also in SIDS. However, globally, the top-3 countries measured by the share of firms with female participation in ownership are SIDS, namely Federated States of Micronesia, Samoa, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, where 87, 80 and 76 per cent of firms have female owners, respectively. Most SIDS exceed the world average (with their 48 per cent regional average) and are also clearly above LDC levels, except for Antigua and Barbuda and Mauritius. It should be noted, however, that some of these statistics date back to 2009, and the situation is likely to have evolved.



**Top-3 countries globally measured by female ownership in businesses are SIDS**



**Figure 4. Female participation in firm ownership, latest year**  
(Percentage of firms)

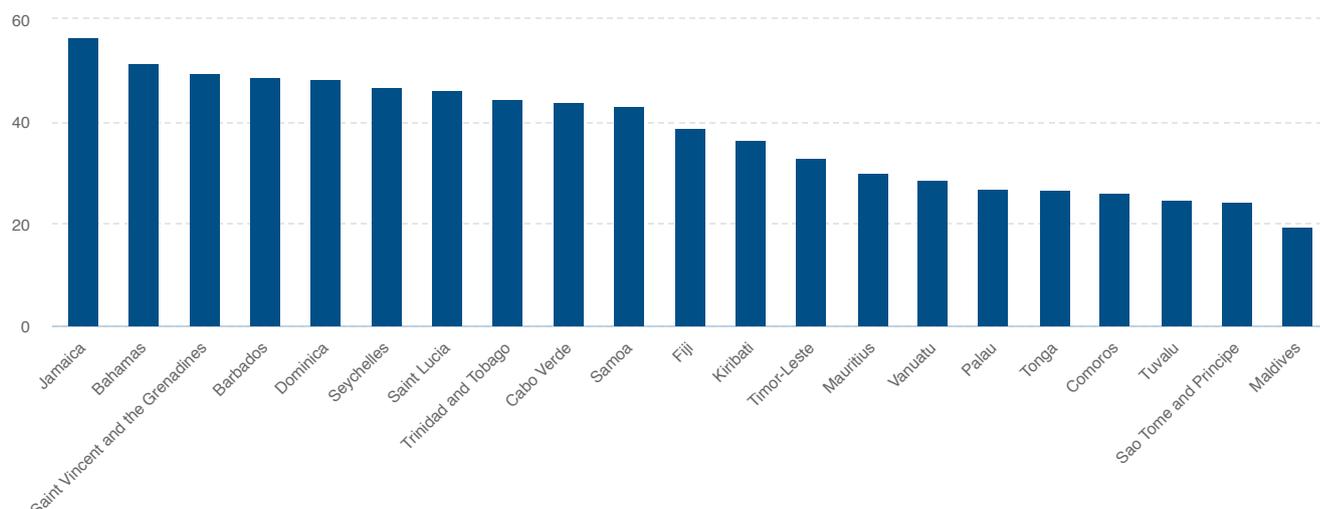


Source: UNCTAD calculations based on World Bank (2021b).

Note: Data for World and LDCs refer to 2019; 2015 for Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands; 2010 for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Bahamas, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda; and 2009 for Federated States of Micronesia, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, Fiji, Cabo Verde and Mauritius.

Several SIDS belong to the top-ranking countries globally with the SIDS' regional average share of women in managerial positions at 38 per cent. Women managers make up over 50 per cent of the total in Jamaica (56.7) and the Bahamas (51.6), while many other SIDS are also almost gender equal, such as Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (49.5), Barbados (48.6), Dominica (48.4), Seychelles (46.8) and Saint Lucia (46.1). The share of female managers has also increased in SIDS in the recent years. But variation is large: seven SIDS remain below a 30 per cent share of female managers.

**Figure 5. Women in managerial positions (SDG 5.5.2), latest year**  
(Percentage)



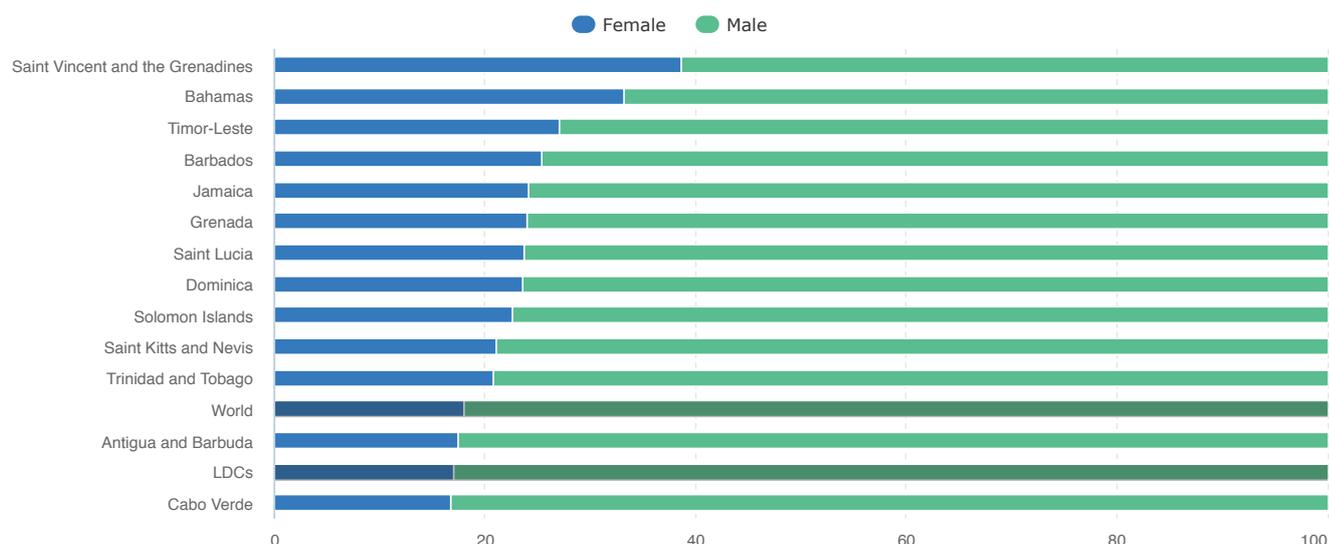
Source: UNCTAD calculations based on ILO (2020a).

Note: Data refer to 2017 for Jamaica, Seychelles, Cabo Verde, Samoa and Mauritius; 2016 for Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Fiji and Maldives; 2013 for Timor-Leste; 2012 for Sao Tome and Principe; 2011 for the Bahamas; 2010 for Kiribati; 2009 for Vanuatu; 2006 for Saint Lucia; 2004 for the Comoros; 2003 for Tonga; 2002 for Tuvalu; 2001 for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica; and 2000 for Palau. The dashed line illustrates gender equal distribution, i.e., 50/50 division between women and men.

The public sector is a significant employer in many SIDS, and in some larger than the private sector. In a report for the G20 countries, the ILO (2020b) notes that the public sector seems to provide more management opportunities for women overall. While the above indicator assesses women in total managerial posts, it is also important to review women's participation in senior or top manager positions.

In SIDS, the majority of top managers, i.e., the highest ranking manager or CEO, are men. The share of firms with a female top manager exceeds 30 per cent in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (39 per cent) and the Bahamas (33 per cent). About every fourth firm is headed by a woman in Timor-Leste, Barbados and Jamaica. Other SIDS with available data on this indicator are above the world average, other than Antigua and Barbuda, and Cabo Verde.

**Figure 6. Firms with female or male top manager, latest year**  
(Percentage of firms)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on World Bank (2021b).

Note: Data for World and LDCs refer to 2019; 2015 data for Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands; 2010 data for Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Grenada, Jamaica, Barbados, Bahamas, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and 2009 data for Cabo Verde.

## Gender equality in SIDS' parliaments yet to be achieved

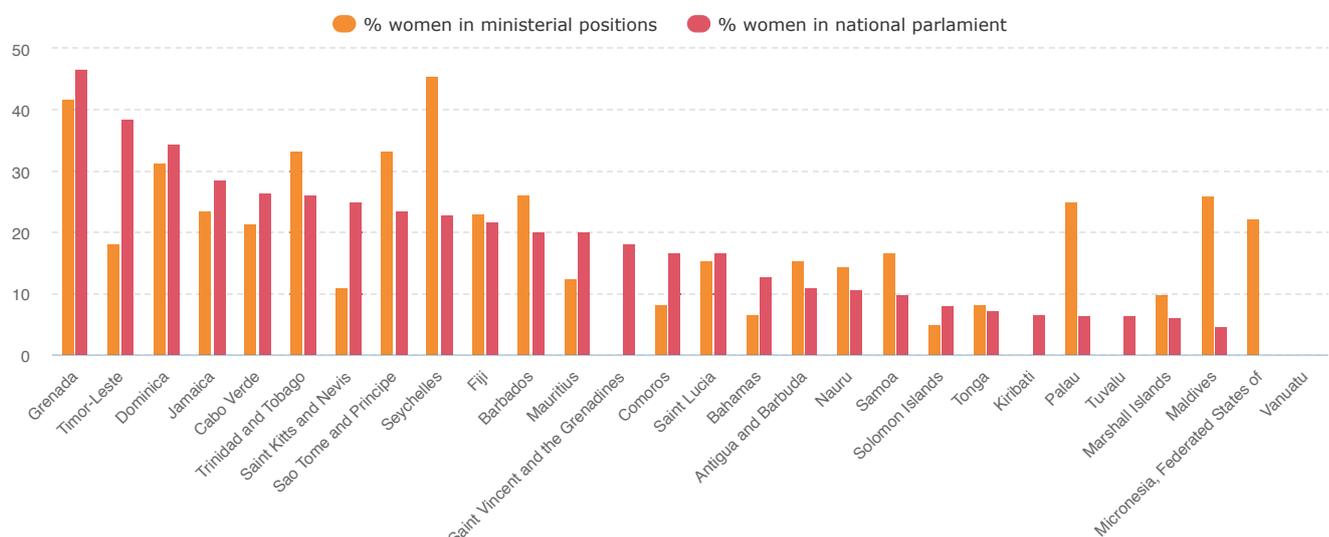


The Pacific islands region has the lowest level of women's political representation in the world (UNCTAD, 2019).

According to IPU (2020) SIDS have not yet achieved an even representation of women and men in their national parliaments by January 2021, although Grenada is close, with a 47 per cent female representation in parliament. Over one third of parliamentary representatives were women in Timor-Leste (39 per cent) and Dominica (34 per cent), followed closely by Jamaica at 29 per cent. There were two SIDS without any women in parliament: Vanuatu and the Federated States of Micronesia.

By January 2020, Seychelles had nearly achieved gender equality in ministerial positions with a 46 per cent share of women. Grenada reached 42 per cent, and Sao Tome and Principe, Trinidad and Tobago and Dominica one third. Based on the available data, there were no female ministers in Kiribati, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. (IPU, 2020.)

**Figure 7. Women in national parliaments and ministerial positions**  
(Percentage)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on IPU (2020).

Note: Data on the share of women in national parliament refer to January 2021, and the share of women in ministerial positions to January 2020.

SIDS' regional average share of women in national parliaments and ministerial positions is around 17 per cent for both indicators. Currently, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago have women in the highest position of the state, as head of government and as head of state, respectively. Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Dominica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago have women presiding over parliament. Women's participation in high political positions can be important to enact legal and institutional reforms to enhance gender equality. (IPU, 2020.)

## Adolescent pregnancy and early marriages in SIDS

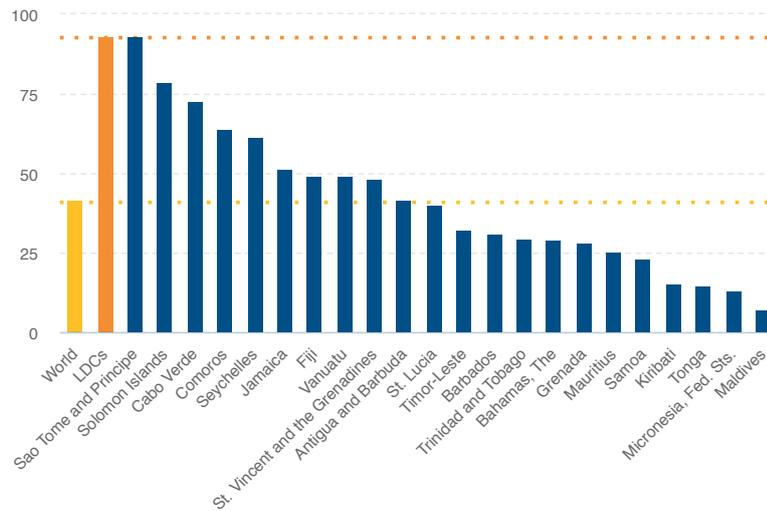
Adolescent pregnancy and early marriage are important problems that affect gender equality. Women having children at an early age may experience a curtailment of their opportunities for socio-economic improvement, particularly because young mothers are less likely to keep on studying or may find it difficult to combine family and work at a young age (WHO, 2021).

Globally, 42 out of every 1 000 women aged from 15 to 19 years gave birth in 2018. In SIDS, the average adolescent birth rate was just below the global average at 41, whereas for LDCs the average was 93. Sao Tome and Principe was the only SIDS that has a rate of teenage births as high as the LDCs' average.

In 2018, the rate was also high in Solomon Islands, Cabo Verde, Comoros and Seychelles, ranging from 61 to 78 per 1 000 women aged from 15 to 19. Adolescent births may put young women at risk of dropping out of school, increase health problems and future difficulties in accessing the labour force. The last ten years have shown a decreasing trend in the adolescent birth rate.


**Figure 8. Adolescent birth rate (SDG 3.7.2), 2018**

(Number of births per 1 000 women aged 15-19)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UN DESA (2019).

**Adolescent births still high:  
9 SIDS above  
world average**



The practice of marriage before the age of 18 is slowly declining. The risk of child marriage is 2.5 times higher for the poorest quintile of the global population, and girls who live in rural areas have a higher risk of becoming a child bride (UNICEF, 2014). Marriage before finishing school not only affects education outcomes, but also limits young women's options to informal and low skilled jobs. Among SIDS, Sao Tome and Principe and the Comoros have the highest shares of women married by the age of 18, according to the latest data, 35 and 32 per cent, respectively. The share is above 20 per cent in five other SIDS. The lowest share is found in Maldives, at 2.2 per cent.


**Table 1. Women first married by age 18 (SDG 5.3.1)**

(Share of women aged 20–24 years)

Country	Percentage	Year
Sao Tome and Principe	35.4	2014
Comoros	31.6	2012
Barbados	29.2	2012
Saint Lucia	24.0	2012
Vanuatu	21.4	2013
Solomon Islands	21.3	2015
Kiribati	20.3	2009
Timor-Leste	15.0	2016
Samoa	11.0	2014
Trinidad and Tobago	11.0	2011
Jamaica	7.9	2011
Tonga	6.0	2012
Maldives	2.2	2017

Source: WHO (2021).

Note: Data from the Demographic and Health Survey for Comoros, Kiribati, Maldives, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga and Vanuatu. Data from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey for Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe and Trinidad and Tobago.

## Gender-based violence persists in social and cultural structures

SDG target 5.2 aims to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. Gender-based violence is still present globally, affecting not only the health and private life of women and families, but also their wellbeing and work life. Some of the statistics on violence against women are not up to date and only cover 19 SIDS.

**Table 2. Women subjected to physical or sexual violence in the previous 12 months (SDG 5.2.1)**

(Percentage of women and girls aged 15 and above)

Country	Percentage	Year
Vanuatu	44.0	2009
Solomon Islands	41.8	2008
Kiribati	36.1	2008
Timor-Leste	34.6	2016
Fiji	29.7	2011
Sao Tome and Principe	26.3	2009
Micronesia, Federated States of	26.0	2014
Tuvalu	25.0	2007
Samoa	22.0	2000
Marshall Islands	20.1	2014
Tonga	18.9	2009
Palau	9.6	2013
Jamaica	8.5	2016
Cabo Verde	7.8	2005
Trinidad and Tobago	6.7	2017
Maldives	6.4	2006
Comoros	4.9	2012

Source: World Bank (2021c).

Gender-based violence is a significant constraint for the achievement of gender equality in small island economies. In ten SIDS, the percentage of women and girls subjected to violence exceeds 20 per cent. These are all Pacific SIDS, except for Sao Tome and Principe in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean region. The level of violence against women is especially high in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Timor-Leste and Fiji, ranging from 30 to 44 per cent.

**Violence against women  
persists particularly  
in Pacific SIDS**





## References

- ILO (2020a). ILOStat. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020b). Women in managerial and leadership positions in the G20. Data availability and preliminary findings. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/--dgreports/---ddg\\_p/documents/publication/wcms\\_762098.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/--dgreports/---ddg_p/documents/publication/wcms_762098.pdf) (accessed 3 March 2021).
- IPU (2020). Global data on national parliaments. Available at <https://data.ipu.org/women-averages> (accessed 2 March 2021).
- UN DESA (2019). World Population Prospects 2019. Available at <https://population.un.org/wpp/> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- UN DESA (2021). Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category.html> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- UN Women (2021). Gender Equality Glossary. Available at <https://trainingcentre.unwomen.org/mod/glossary/view.php?id=36> (accessed 1 March 2021).
- UNCTAD (2019). International trade, transparency and gender equality. The case of the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus. No. UNCTAD/DITC/2019/3. UNCTAD. Geneva, 66. (accessed 10 March 2021).
- UNCTAD (2020). Women producers of Kiribati and their participation in inter-island and international trade. No. UNCTAD/DITC/2020/4. UNCTAD. Geneva, 51. (accessed 10 March 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Human Development Report 2020. The next frontier. Human development and the Anthropocene. Human Development Reports. New York. (accessed 9 February 2021).
- UNICEF (2014). Ending child marriage. Progress and prospects. UNICEF. Data and Analytics Section. New York, 8. (accessed 3 March 2021).
- UNWTO and ILO (2014). *Measuring Employment in the Tourism Industries: Guide with Best Practices*. Madrid and Geneva.
- WHO (2021). WHO Statistical databases. Available at <https://www.who.int/nmh/databases/en/> (accessed 10 January 2021).
- World Bank (2021a). Women, Business and the Law 2021. Available at <https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/reports> (accessed 1 March 2021).
- World Bank (2021b). Enterprise surveys. Available at <https://www.enterprisesurveys.org/en/enterprisesurveys> (accessed 2 March 2021).
- World Bank (2021c). World Development Indicators. Available at <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators> (accessed 8 November 2020).

# Country profiles

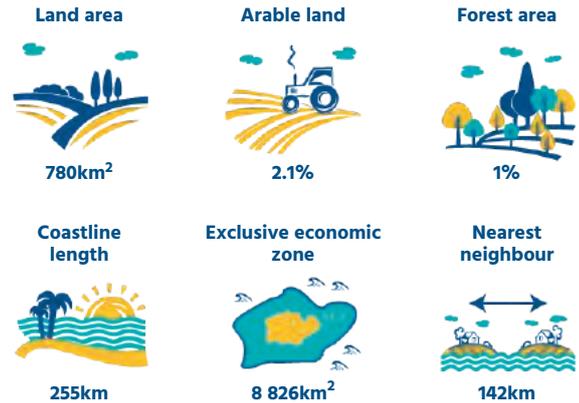


# Country profiles: Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS



## Bahrain

- > **Capital:** Manama (26°13' N, 50°35' E)
- > **International airport(s):** Bahrain International Airport (BAH)
- > **Official language(s):** Arabic
- > **Currency:** Bahraini dinar
- > **Time:** UTC +3
- > **Region:** Atlantic and Indian Ocean



### GEOGRAPHY

Bahrain, in Arabic "two seas", is situated in the southwestern coast of the Persian Gulf about 24 km off the east coast of Saudi Arabia and 28 km from Qatar. It is an archipelago consisting of 33 natural islands and numerous islets, shoals, and artificial islands. The islands' total land area is about 780 km<sup>2</sup>, which is slightly larger than Singapore and the Maldives, making it the third-smallest country in Asia. Bahrain is low-lying, with the highest point, Jebel Dukhan in the centre of Bahrain island, at 137 meters above sea level. Bahrain island is the largest island and accounts for about 85 per cent of the area. It is connected to adjacent islands and the mainland of Saudi Arabia by bridges and causeways. Located in one of the world's richest petroleum regions, the country itself is the smallest Gulf oil producer. In 2018, Bahrain announced the discovery of an offshore oil field off Bahrain's west coast, estimated to contain 80 billion barrels of shale oil.

### CLIMATE

Bahrain's climate is arid and is characterized by extremely hot summers and relatively mild winters. Average monthly temperatures range from 14 to 41 °C and are fairly uniform throughout the archipelago. There are two distinct seasons: a winter season from November to April, and a summer season from May to October (World Bank, 2020). The annual average rainfall is small (about 80 mm) and irregular, falling almost entirely in the winter months (World Bank, 2020). There are no rivers or permanent streams on the islands. Groundwater is the only natural source available for freshwater supply. Sandstorms are frequent, affecting all aspects of human activity and aggravating desertification. Despite the dry climate, about two hundred species of desert plants grow in the country. The only major tree growing in Bahrain is the Tree of Life (Shajarat-al-Hayat), 400 years old and 9.75 m high Prosopis cineraria tree, located 2 km from Jebel Dukhan.

### ECONOMY

The oil and gas industry dominates Bahraini economy. In 2019, it accounted for 17.8 per cent of the country's GDP. The country's largest non-oil sectors are the financial corporations sector contributing 16.5 per cent to GDP, and manufacturing sector contributing 14.5 per cent to GDP (Bahrain Ministry of Finance and National Economy, 2020). Bahrain hosts the world's largest aluminium shelter outside China, Alba, which is the dominant force in the country's manufacturing sector. The largest export partners are Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America. (UNCTAD, 2021).

Service sector employed roughly 64 per cent of total employed in the country in 2019, and these jobs were predominantly occupied by women (91 per cent of women were employed by the sector) (ILO, 2020a). Tourist arrivals averaged 11 million per year for the period 2015-2019, reaching a peak of 12 million in 2018. Tourism expenditure contributed 10 per cent of GDP in 2019 (UNWTO, 2021). Bahrain is classified as a high income economy (World Bank, 2021) and reached US\$23 504 per capita in 2019 (UNCTAD, 2021).

According to the (FAO, 2020), only 2 per cent of the territory is classified as arable land. Limited arable area, high temperatures, scarcity of water resources and loss of agricultural lands due to salinization result in a low development of agriculture. The main crops are alfalfa for animal fodder, but dates, figs, mangos, pomegranates, melons, papayas are also grown. Agriculture accounts for only 1 per cent of total employment (ILO, 2020a).

### CULTURE

In ancient times, Bahrain was part of Dilmun, a mercantile civilization, which dominated trade routes along the Persian Gulf from the fourth millennium Before Christ through to the ninth century BC. The country declared itself a constitutional monarchy in 2002.

Bahrain was one of the first areas to convert to Islam, in 628, four years before the death of the prophet Muhammad. Bahrainis are predominantly Muslims, both Sunni and Shia Muslims, the latter being the majority. (Britannica, 2021). Music is an important part of the island culture. *Fidjeri* songs once sung by pearl divers are still very popular. Cloth weaving, pottery, and basket weaving are traditional handicrafts

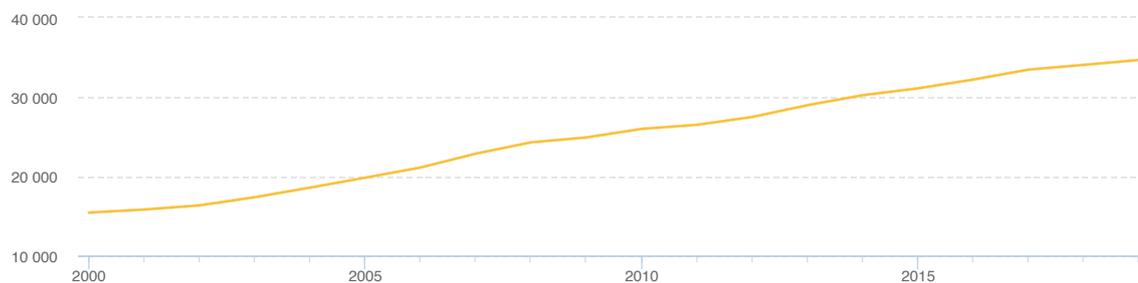
Local sports, such as horse and camel racing, are well-liked throughout the country. Wealthier Bahrainis practice falconry and gazelle and hare hunting. The most popular modern sport is soccer. In 1984, the country competed in the Summer [Olympic Games](#) for the first time. Bahrain hosted the First Formula One Grand Prix to be held in the Middle East, in 2004.

Bahrain's traditional food includes fish, shrimp, meat, rice, and dates. Among popular traditional dishes are *Machbous*, fish or meat served with rice, and *muhammar*, sweet brown rice with sugar or dates. Arab Coffee, or Qahwah, often flavored with cardamom and saffron, is the national drink.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



**GDP per capita  
2019**



**US\$23 504**

**Productive  
Capacity Index  
2018**



**39.0**

**Economic and environmental  
vulnerability index  
2019**



**28**

**Consumer Price  
Index growth  
2019**



**1.8%**

**Unemployment  
rate  
2012**



**Total 1.2%  
Female 3.9%, Male 0.5%**

### Main economic sectors, 2019

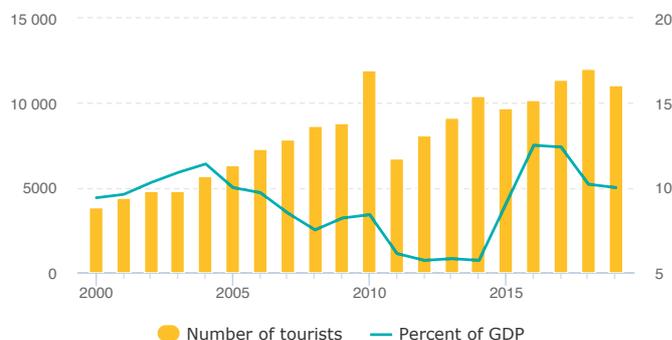
Percentage of GDP



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

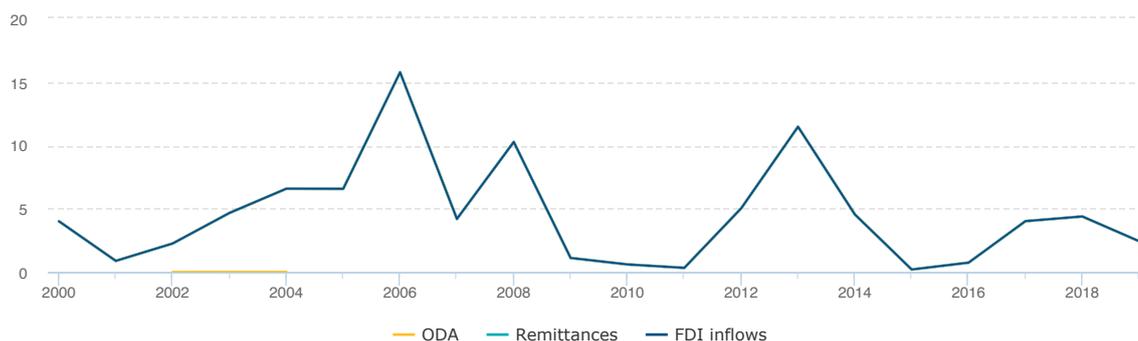
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



**Public debt as %  
of GDP**

**2018**



**94.7%**

## 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	1 748	11
Median time in port (days)	2	4
Average age of vessels	15	21
Average size (GT) of vessels	38 587	6

### Container port throughput

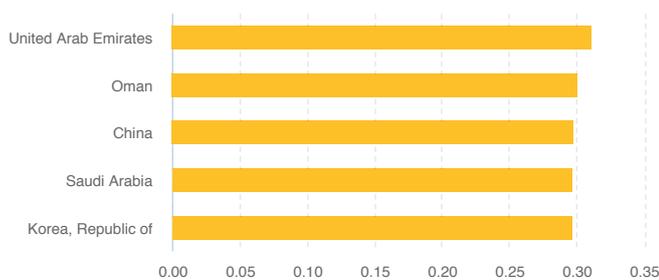
2019



408 402 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

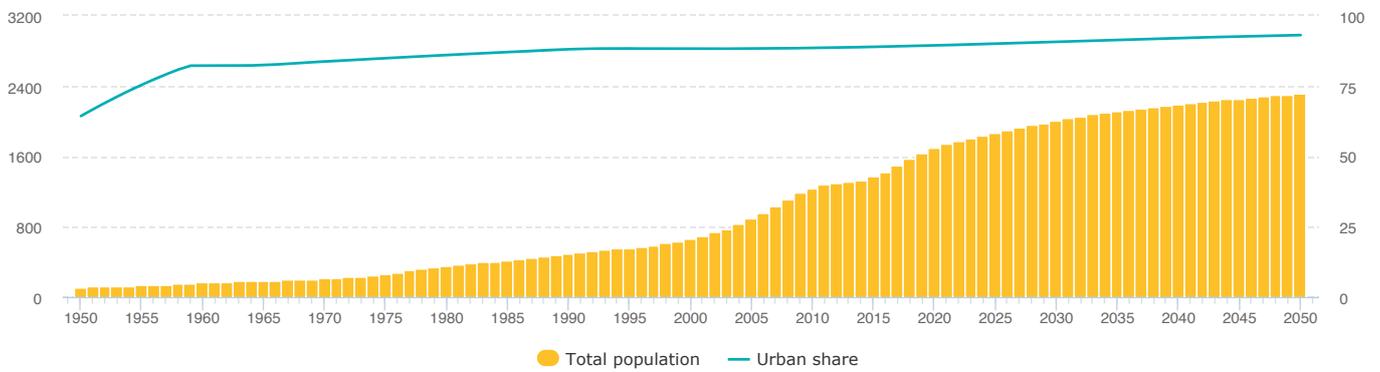
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	--	--
Human development index	2018	0.8
Human assets index	2020	95
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	2019	0.2

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



77 years

### Population density

2019



2 104 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

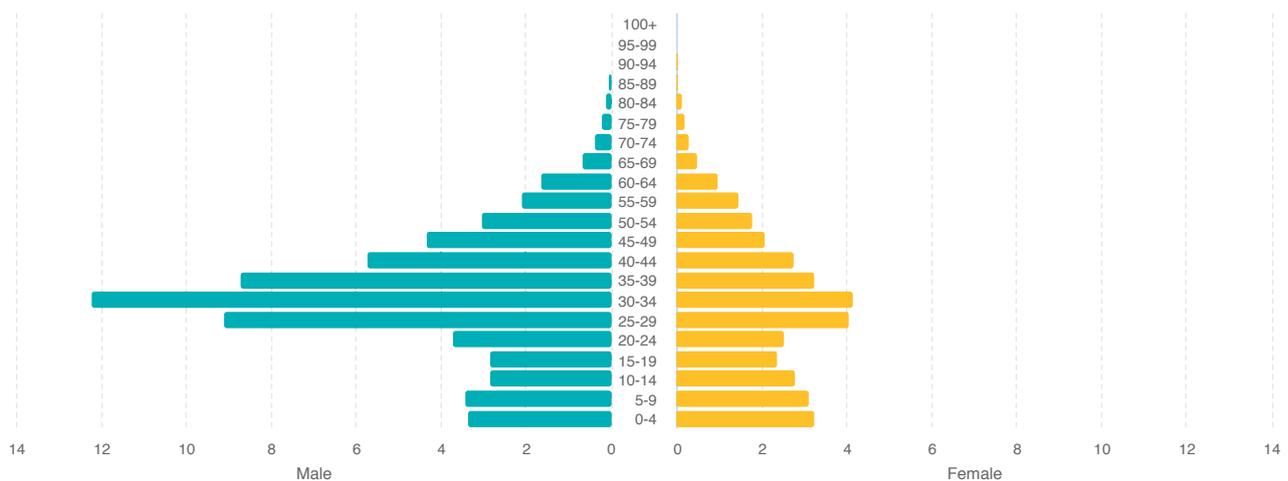
2019



Child: 23.7  
Old-age: 3.2

### 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	10 242	14 971	16 540	18 120	47
Merchandise imports	9 393	12 260	12 408	13 256	34.4
Services exports	3 155	4 233	9 113	11 578	30
Services imports	1 416	1 905	6 592	8 083	21

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



71% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.29

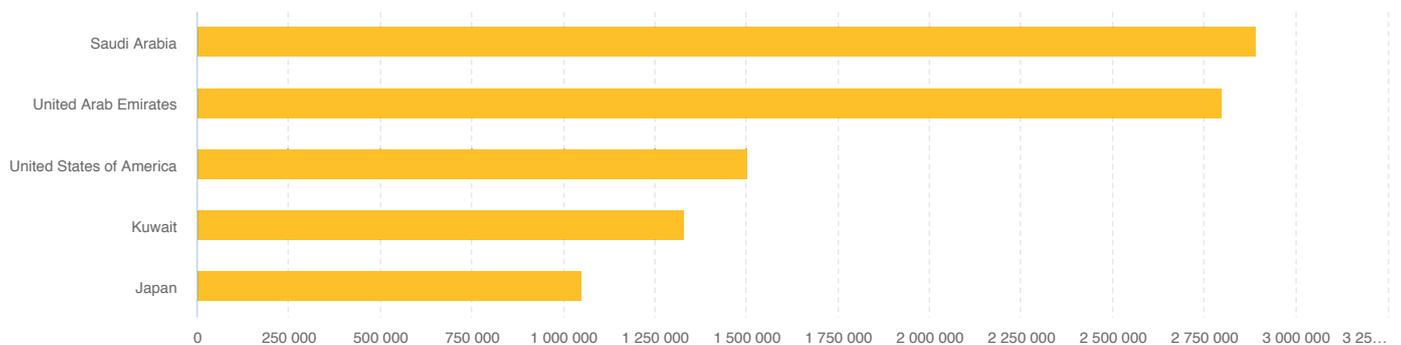
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



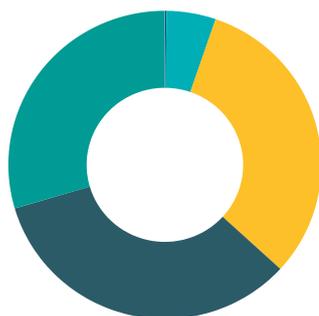
2.14

### 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

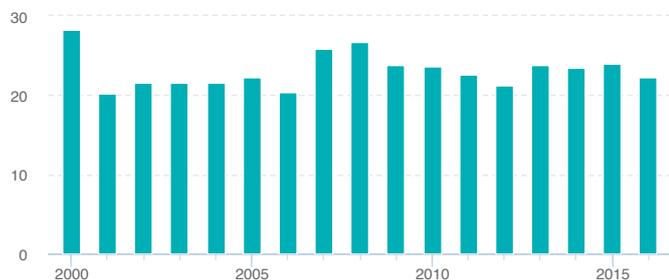
### Services exports by category, 2019

No data available

## ENVIRONMENT

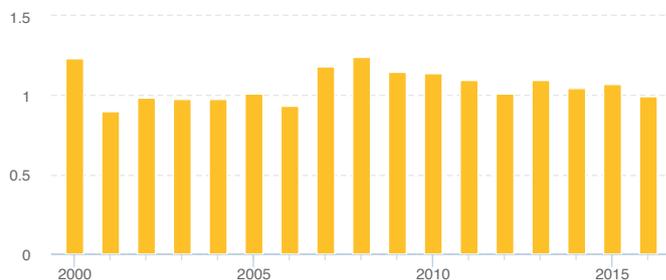
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



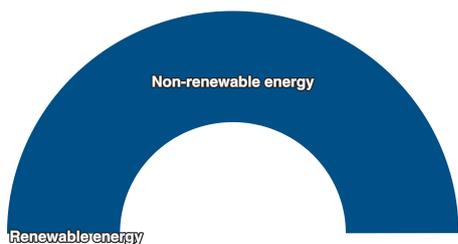
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



29.4kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



6.6%

### Marine protected area

2018



1.24%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

2018



Exports: 0.4%  
Imports: 4.2%

### Trade in ICT services

2018



Exports: 7.4%  
Imports: 1.3%

### Share of internet users

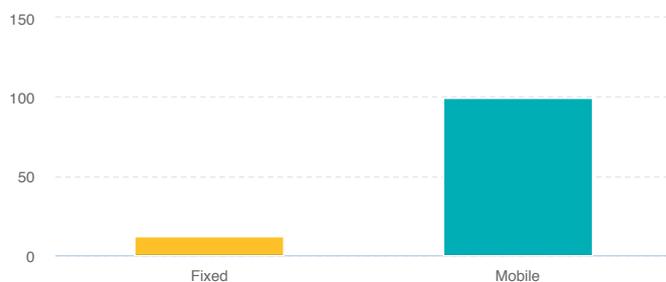
2018



99%

### Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions

Number of subscriptions per 100 people



## Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

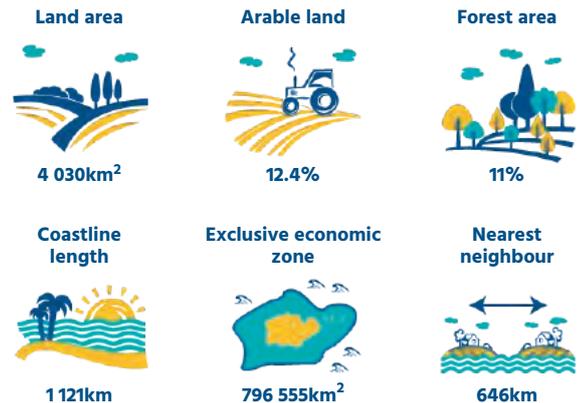
- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP: World 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](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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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](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/>

## References

- Bahrain Ministry of Finance and National Economy (2020). Bahrain Economic Report 2019. Available at <https://www.mofne.gov.bh/Files/cdoc/FI1267-BEQ%202019%20EN%20FINAL.pdf> (accessed 19 May 2021).
- Britannica (2021). Countries of the World, Bahrain. Available at <https://www.britannica.com/place/Bahrain/Religion> (accessed 19 May 2021).
- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- FAO (2020). FAOStat. Available at <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020a). ILOStat. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020b). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at [https://cran-r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf](https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf) (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).

## Cabo Verde

- > **Capital:** Praia, on Santiago (14°55' N, 23°31' W)
- > **International airport(s):** Amílcar Cabral International Airport, Nelson Mandela International Airport, Aristides Pereira International Airport, Cesária Évora Airport
- > **Official language(s):** Portuguese
- > **Currency:** Cabo Verdean escudo
- > **Time:** UTC -1
- > **Region:** Atlantic and Indian Ocean



### GEOGRAPHY

The Cabo Verde archipelago consists of ten volcanic islands in the central Atlantic Ocean, of which nine are inhabited. The archipelago is situated 570 km west of the Senegalese coast of West Africa, and named after Cap-Vert, or the green peninsula. The islands cover a combined area of slightly over 4 000 km<sup>2</sup>, and are divided into the Barlavento (Windward) group to the north and the Sotavento (Leeward) group to the south. The nation's capital, Praia, is located on Santiago, the largest island. The largest port of the islands is located at Mindelo, on São Vicente. It has a deep water harbour that can accommodate large vessels and has been used as a fueling station since the 19th century.

### CLIMATE

Cabo Verde enjoys a moderate climate characterized by stable temperatures; average monthly temperatures range from 21 to 26 °C. Three distinct seasons can be identified: a transition season from November to February, a dry season in the middle, and a rainy season from July to October. (World Bank, 2020) Owing to their proximity to the Sahara, most of the Cabo Verde islands are dry and arid. The archipelago can be divided into four broad ecological zones: arid, semiarid, subhumid and humid, according to altitude and average annual rainfall, which ranges from 200 mm along the arid coastline to more than 1 000 mm in the humid mountains. The annual average rainfall for the country is below 350 mm (World Bank, 2020).

Most rainfall precipitation is due to condensation of ocean mist. The islands have few rivers and suffer from cyclical drought and chronic water shortages, despite seasonal rains. Rains can be torrential, often causing significant damage, soil loss from water erosion and flooding. Western Hemisphere-bound hurricanes often have their early beginnings near the Cabo Verde Islands. These are referred to as Cabo Verde-type hurricanes and can become very intense. The five largest Atlantic tropical cyclones on record have been Cabo Verde-type hurricanes.

### ECONOMY

With all year-round sun, Cabo Verde's economy is driven by tourism. The country's service exports concentrate on transport and travel. Travel and tourism's contribution to the economy is large: In 2019, inbound tourism expenditure over GDP reached almost 29 per cent (UNWTO, 2021). With few natural or mineral resources and water shortages, exacerbated by cycles of sustained drought, agriculture is subsistence. According to the items attribute is mandatory, over 10 per cent of the territory is classified as arable land. The main crops grown are maize and beans, but bananas, sugar cane, sweet potatoes and cassava are also grown. Approximately 90 per cent of food consumed is imported. Agriculture accounts for about 10 per cent of employment on the islands; roughly 15 per cent for men. Over 80 per cent of women and 50 per cent of men are employed in services (ILO, 2020a). The seas around Cabo Verde are rich with many types of fish, therefore, a large proportion of exports consist of fish and sea food, but also clothing and footwear. The largest export partners are Spain, Portugal and Italy (UNCTAD, 2021).

### CULTURE

In 2013, the Cabo Verdean government determined that the Portuguese designation Cabo Verde would henceforth be used for official purposes, as at the United Nations, even in English contexts.

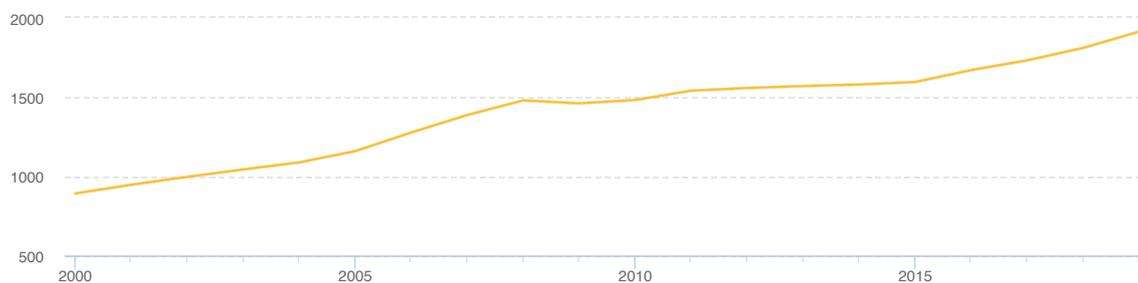
Cabo Verde's culture is influenced by a blend of its Portuguese as well as African traditions. Music is very important to island culture - the archipelago's most famous musical export is Cesaria Evora, the world renowned *morna* and *coladeras* artist. Other musical forms, such as, *batuko* and *funaná* are also popular on the islands. Cabo Verde has also produced a number of talented poets and authors including Baltasar Lopes da Silva, Frusoni Sergio, Eugénio Tavares and Manuel Lopes.

Local sports, such as *uril* and *bisca*, are popular throughout the country and tend to attract large crowds. Football is very popular amongst Cabo Verdeans, fueled by strong inter island rivalry. Basketball, long-distance running and swimming are also popular. Windsurfing, fishing, cycling, golfing, hiking, mountain climbing, horseback riding and scuba diving are common resort activities. The traditional African board game of *ouri* is also popular on the island.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$3 604

Productive Capacity Index  
2018



31.1

Economic and environmental vulnerability index  
2019



38

Consumer Price Index growth  
2019



0.4%

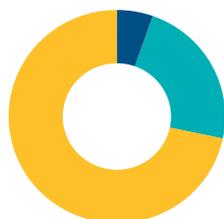
Unemployment rate  
2019



Total 11.3%  
Female 12.1%, Male 10.7%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

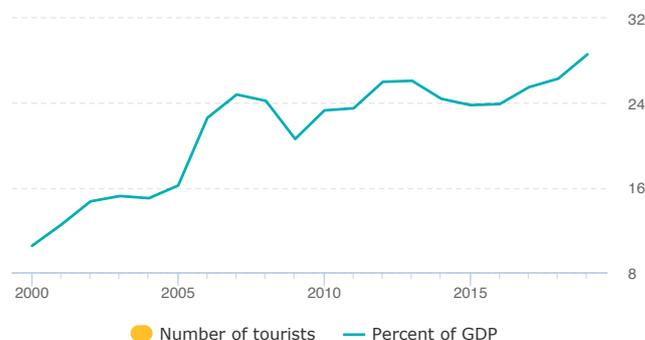
Percentage of GDP



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

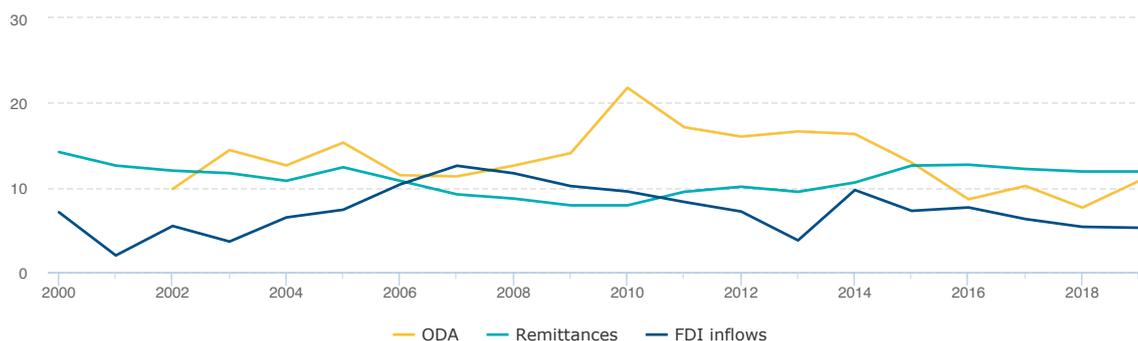
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



21.0%

## 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	3 565	6
Median time in port (days)	0.7	26
Average age of vessels	34	2
Average size (GT) of vessels	4 976	32

### Container port throughput

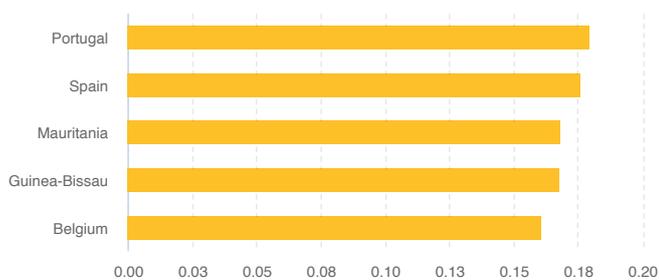
2019



52 378 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

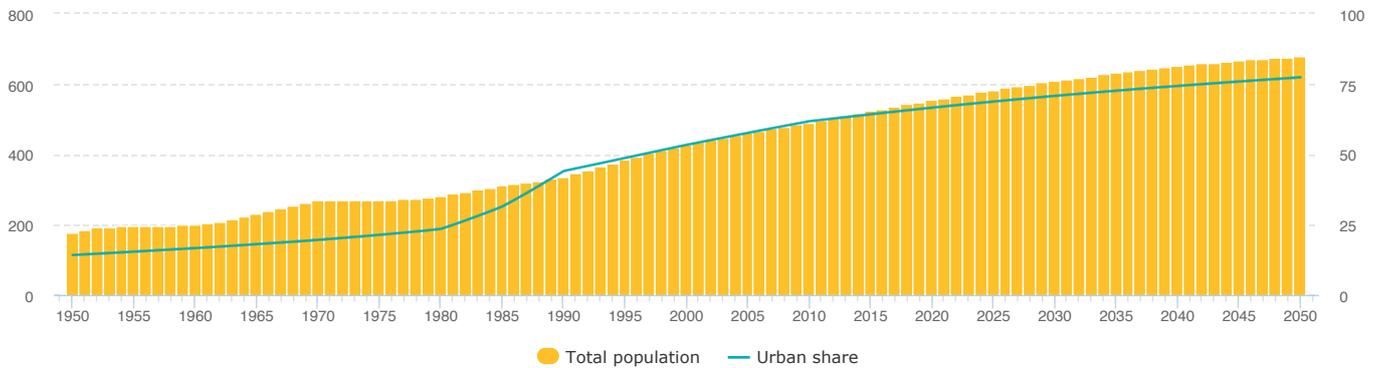
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2015	3.4
Human development index	2018	0.7
Human assets index	2020	87
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	2015	89.9
Gender inequality index	2019	0.4

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



73 years

### Population density

2019



136 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

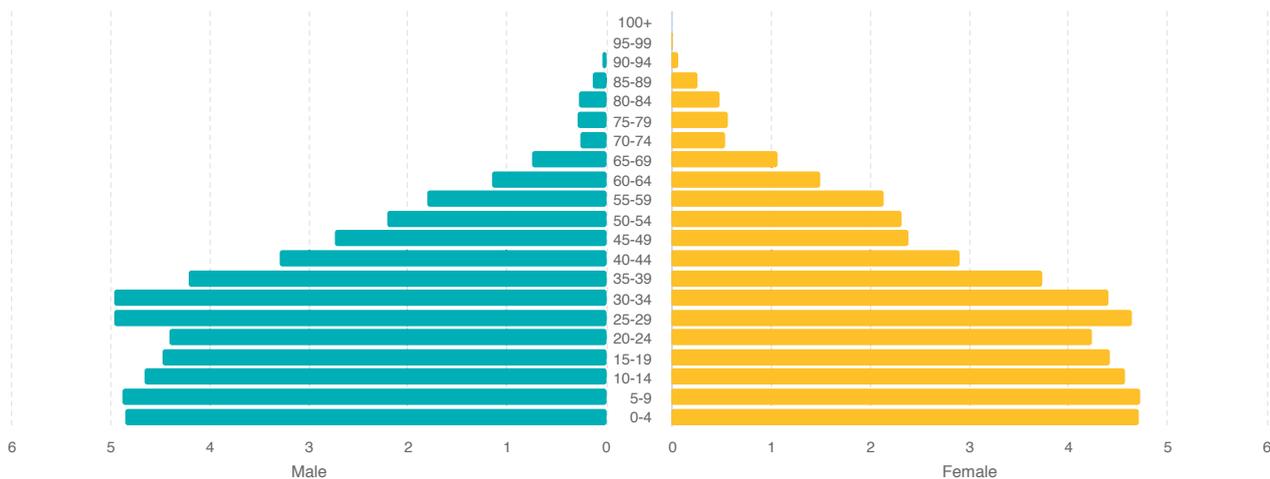
2019



Child: 42.5  
Old-age: 7.0

### 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	18	44	67	62	3.1
Merchandise imports	438	742	604	796	40.2
Services exports	277	507	501	742	37.4
Services imports	215	308	276	363	18.3

Trade openness  
Goods and services  
2019



58% of GDP

Export concentration index  
2019



0.45

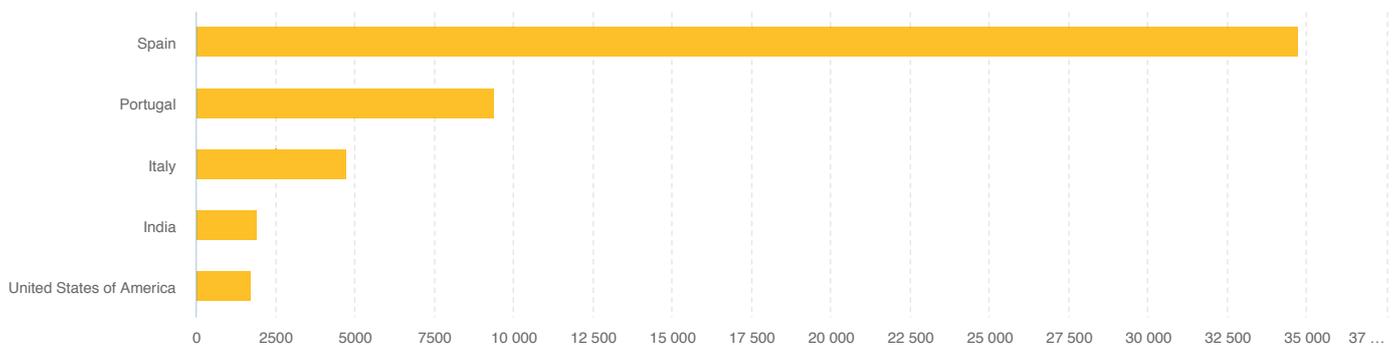
Food import dependency  
Average  
2015-2019



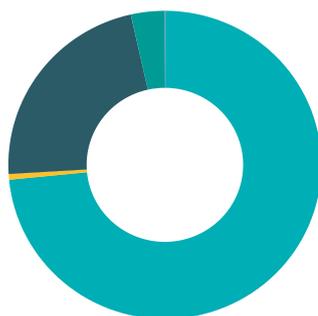
22.12

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

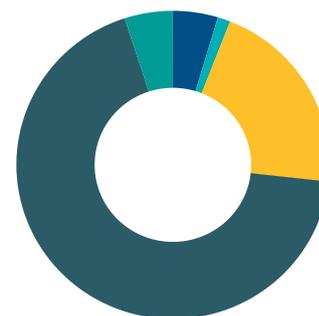


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

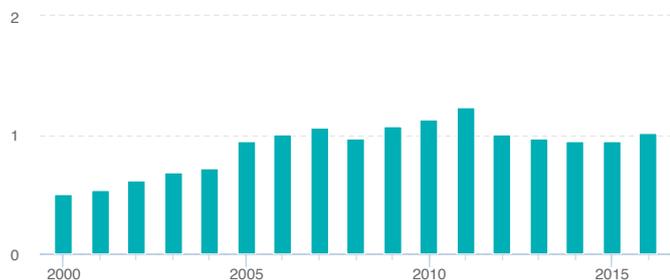


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



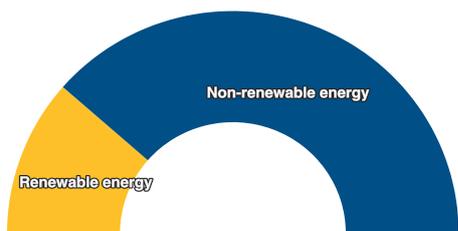
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



16.3kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



2.9%

### Marine protected area

2018



0%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

2019



Exports: 0.0%  
Imports: 3.0%

### Trade in ICT services

2019



Exports: 1.2%  
Imports: 4.1%

### Share of internet users

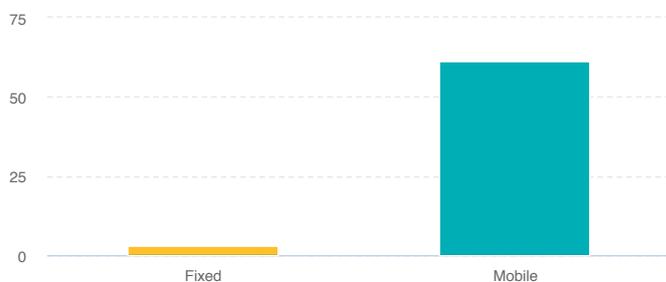
2017



57%

### 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>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

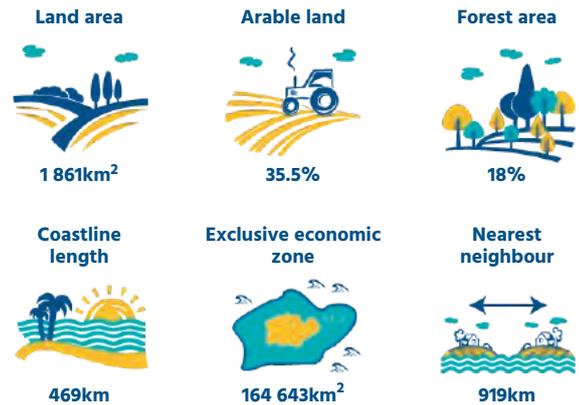
## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020a). ILOStat. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020b). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).



## Comoros

- > **Capital:** Moroni (11°41' S, 43°16' E)
- > **International airport(s):** Prince Said Ibrahim International Airport, Moroni
- > **Official language(s):** French, Arabic, Comorian
- > **Currency:** Comorian Franc
- > **Time:** UTC +3
- > **Region:** Atlantic and Indian Ocean



### GEOGRAPHY

Named after the Arabic word for 'moon', *Qamar*, the Comoros islands are an archipelago of volcanic islands in the Indian Ocean located off Africa's east coast and south of the Equator. Comoros is located on the Somali plate. They are also known as the 'perfumed islands', owing to fragrant plants, such as, frangipani, jasmine and lemongrass. The country consists of three main islands surrounded by coral reefs. The islands are Grande Comore, Mohéli and Anjouan, and the largest island (Grande Comore), is dominated by Karthala, a towering 2 360 m high volcano whose summit is almost constantly smothered in equatorial cloud. In April 2005, the volcano began spewing ash and gas, forcing as many as 10 000 people to flee.

### CLIMATE

The Comoro Islands have a humid, tropical climate. Monthly average temperatures range from 24 to 27 °C and the annual rainfall is around 1 600 mm, with the wettest time of the year lasting from January to March. The rainfall varies between the three islands due to differences in altitude and winds. During the humid rainy season, especially between January to April, tropical cyclones are a risk. (World Bank, 2020) The islands are also prone to heavy rains and flash floods. The islands are cooled by south-easterly trade winds during the dry season.

### ECONOMY

Subsistence farming and fishing are the main source of employment, partly due to low educational levels. Agriculture also accounts for almost one third of GDP in Comoros. Comoros is the world's principal producer of ylang-ylang essence, extracted from flowers of a tree. Export income is heavily reliant on ylang-ylang and two other main crops: vanilla and cloves, and remains vulnerable to extreme weather. Important export partners include India, France and Germany (UNCTAD, 2021). Deforestation has also negatively affected ground water supply on the islands. Several rivers have disappeared and many remaining rivers run dry during the dry season. In Grande Comore, 60 per cent of the population relies on uncovered water containers and 40 per cent on coastal aquifers. The Comoros imports roughly 70 per cent of the food it consumes.

The Comoros is experiencing some exodus of educated and skilled workers. GDP per capita has been growing only moderately in recent years, after many years of decline in the early 2000s. The capital, Moroni, located on the island of Grande Comore (N'gazidja), has most of the modern commercial and manufacturing facilities located in the country. With miles of beautiful beaches, tourists are drawn to Comoros. Inbound tourism expenditure over GDP has been growing in recent years and was at 6 per cent in 2019. Incorrect syntax for items

### CULTURE

The Comoros' culture has been influenced by Islamic tradition, mixed with French and African elements. Traditionally, people believed in spirits and the power of *djinn*, which is derived from African, Arab and Madagascan traditions.

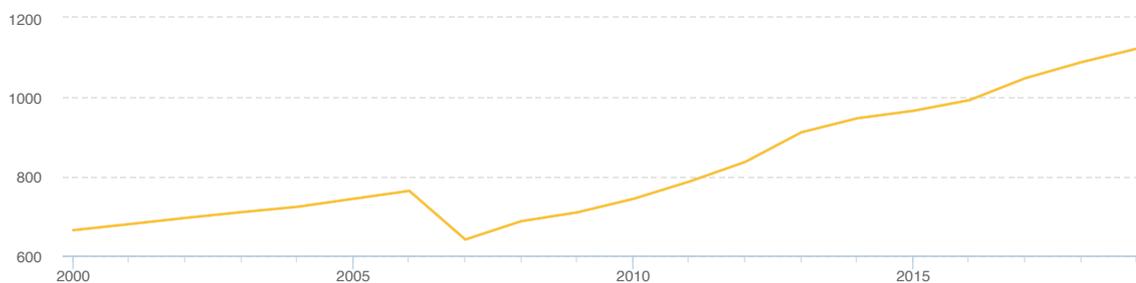
Local artisans are skilled in sculpture, pottery, embroidery and basketry. Diversity is also evident in the many prevalent languages used on the islands, including French, Comorian, Arabic and Swahili.

Customary celebrations in the Comoros often feature dancing, music and the re-creation of popular and important literary texts, including war epics and tales about the foundations of different villages. Embroidered ceremonial coats and Islamic bonnets are frequently donned. Jewelry is also widely produced and sold.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$1 370

Productive Capacity Index  
2018



24.6

Economic and environmental vulnerability index  
2019



40

Consumer Price Index growth  
2019



1.4%

Unemployment rate  
2014



Total 8.1%  
Female 10.4%, Male 6.7%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

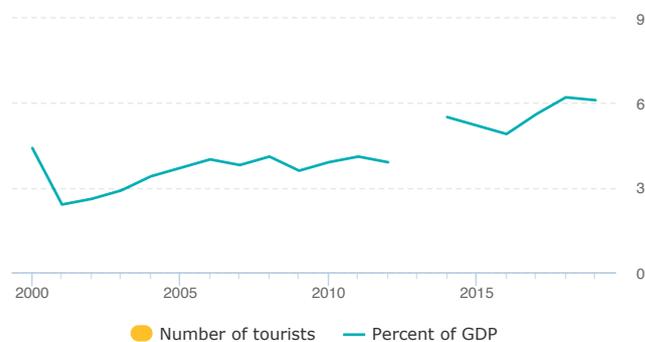
Percentage of GDP



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

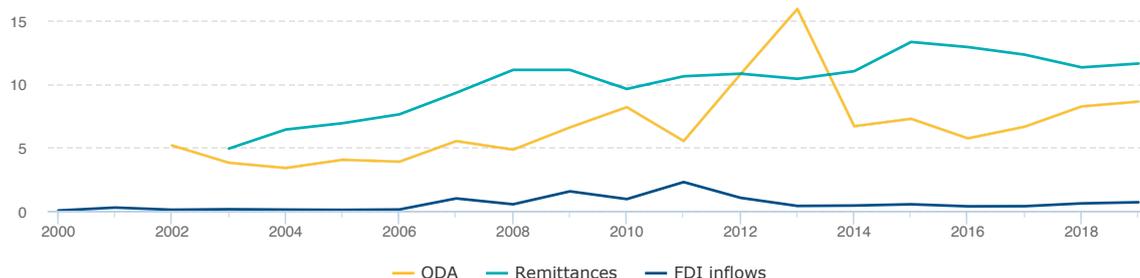
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



..%

## 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	197	27
Median time in port (days)	1	8
Average age of vessels	15	21
Average size (GT) of vessels	6 352	30

### Container port throughput

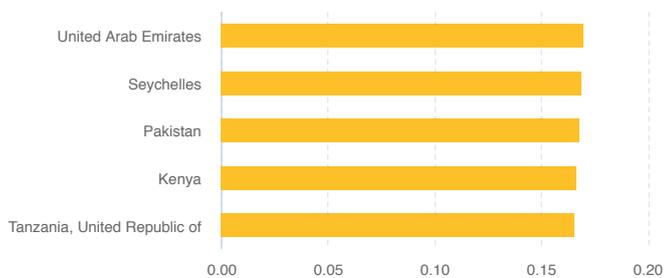
2019



54 359 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

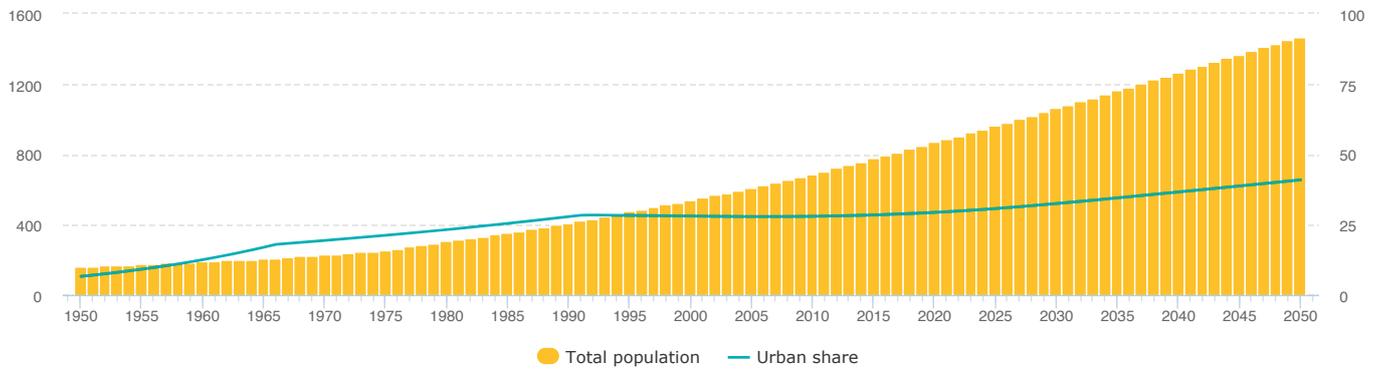
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2014	19.1
Human development index	2018	0.5
Human assets index	2020	64
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	--	--

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



64 years

### Population density

2019



457 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

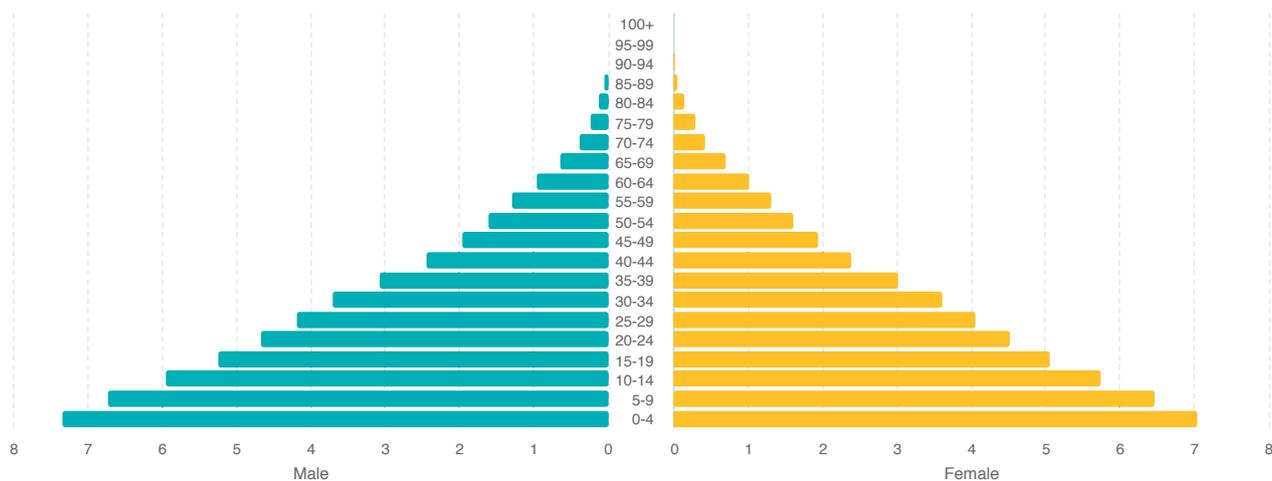
2019



Child: 68.1  
Old-age: 5.3

### 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	12	21	17	39	3.3
Merchandise imports	99	233	214	230	19.7
Services exports	43	65	80	0	0
Services imports	46	94	82	0	0

### Trade openness Goods and services

2018



22% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.67

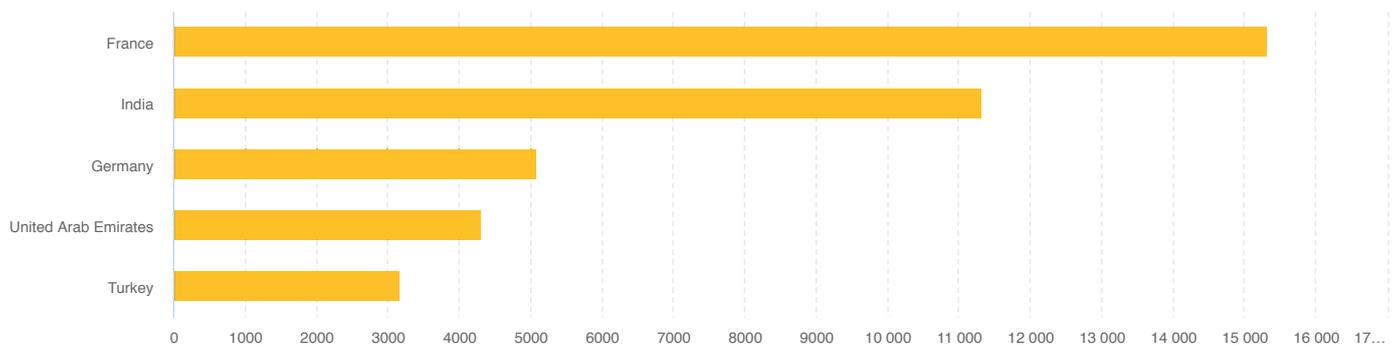
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



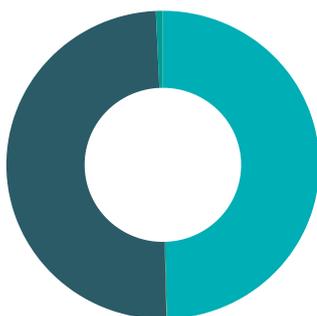
29.24

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

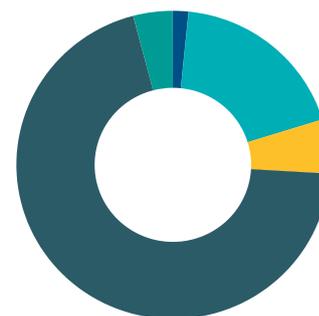


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

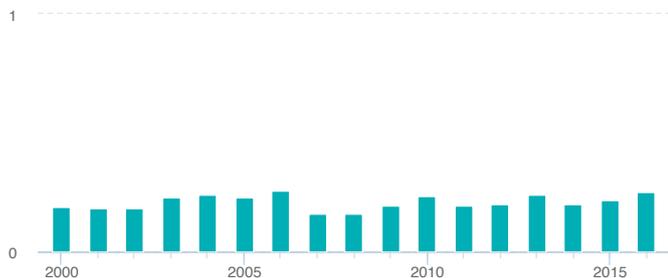


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

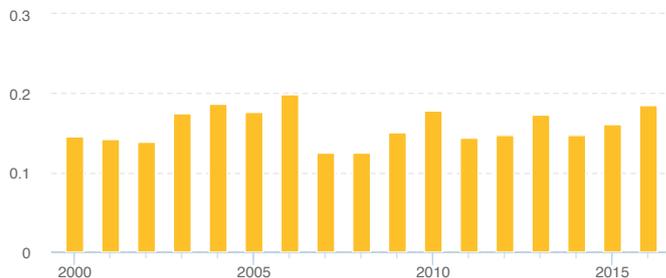
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



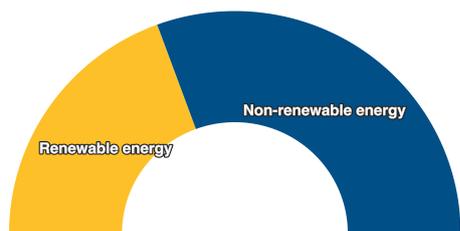
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



..kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



10.2%

### Marine protected area

2018



0.02%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

2019



Exports: 0.5%  
Imports: 1.2%

### Trade in ICT services

2018



Exports: 18.6%  
Imports: 6.5%

### Share of internet users

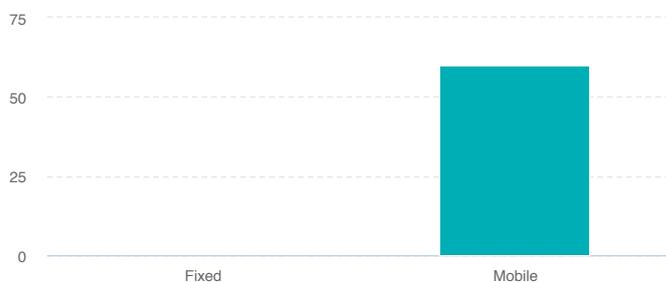
2017



8%

### Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions

Number of subscriptions per 100 people



## Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

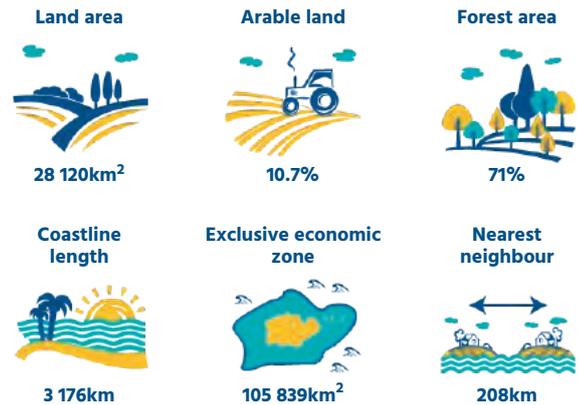
- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP: World 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- 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).

## Guinea-Bissau

- > **Capital:** Bissau (11°52'N, 15°36'W)
- > **International airport(s):** Osvaldo Vieira International Airport
- > **Official language(s):** Portuguese, Guinea-Bissau Creole
- > **Currency:** West African CFA Franc
- > **Time:** UTC (GMT)
- > **Region:** Atlantic and Indian Ocean



### GEOGRAPHY

Guinea-Bissau is a small country situated in Western Africa, bordered by Senegal, Guinea-Conakry and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. It is composed of an archipelago, the Bijagos, of more than 100 islands. Only twenty islands are populated year-round. Several ecosystems cohabit on the islands, such as mangroves, coastal savanna, sand banks and palm forests.

Guinea-Bissau consists mostly of low coastal plains and low-lying plateaus with a highest point at around 300m in the east of the country. Swamps of mangroves rise to the forest-savanna in the eastern part of the country, where both the Cacheu and Geba rivers cross. The southern edge of the Senegal River basin meets with Guinea-Bissau's interior plains.

### CLIMATE

Situated in the inter-tropical zone, with several winds circling near the Equator, Guinea-Bissau is composed of two distinct climatic regions: the tropical and humid sub-Guinean, which is characterized by heavy rainfall, and the tropical Sudanese region influencing the eastern half of the country, characterized by high temperature ranges (Republic of Guinea-Bissau, 2011).

The country is warm all year round, with an average temperature of 26°C, experiencing a dryer season with droughts between December and April, with a peak of temperature reaching nearly 30°C in April. Rainfall increases between May and November, reaching almost 500 mm in August. Climate fluctuations have been observed with the dry season lasting longer, especially in the eastern region of the country, and a late start of the rainy season beginning mid-June instead of mid-May. (World Bank, 2020) According to the United Nations University (2020) World Risk Index, Guinea-Bissau ranks 24<sup>th</sup> in the list of world's most at-risk country for natural hazards, and 5<sup>th</sup> in Africa. The country is experiencing recurrent droughts, rising sea levels and deforestation.

### ECONOMY

Guinea-Bissau's economy was traditionally primarily based on agriculture. According to the FAO (2020), roughly 10 per cent of the territory is classified as arable land. Agriculture accounts for about 68 per cent of employment in the country, roughly the same for women and men (ILO, 2020a). The share of agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing in total value added has been relatively stable for decades at about 50 per cent; services accounted for about 36 per cent and industry for 13 per cent in 2019 (UNCTAD, 2021). About one quarter of women and men are employed in services, and more than 9 per cent of men in industry, with women's share about half of that (ILO, 2020a). Inbound tourism expenditure's share of GDP has been consistently low at about 1.5 per cent (UNWTO, 2021).

Cashew cultivation is important for Guinea-Bissau's economy, both for economic performance and poverty reduction. The country's international trade is highly concentrated: more than 80 per cent of exports go to India, with Singapore and the United States of America also being important export destinations (UNCTAD, 2021).

### CULTURE

Guinea-Bissau is culturally very rich and composed of diverse ethnic groups with different customs, languages and social structures. The unique music style of the country is called *gumbe*, and the primary musical instrument is the *cabasa*, with accompanying songs' lyrics almost always in Guinea-Bissau creole.

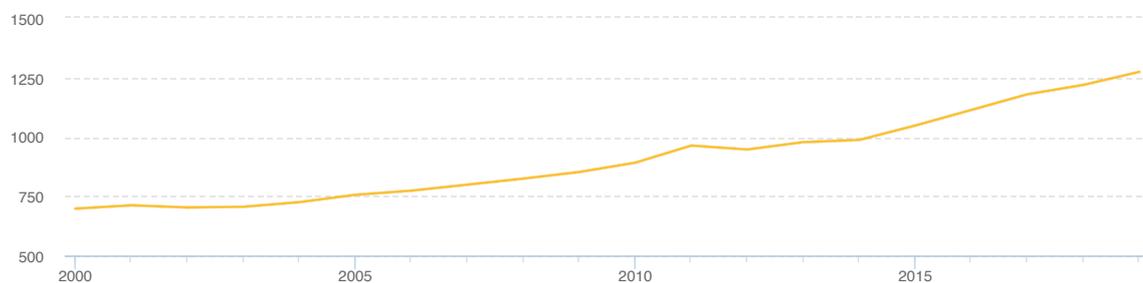
People consume mostly rice on the coast and millet in the interior of the country, but common dishes also include soups and stews, sweet potato, plantain and cassava among others.

The most popular sport in Guinea-Bissau is football, with the national team being a member of the Confederation of Africa Football and FIFA.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$688

Productive Capacity Index  
2018



18.4

Economic and environmental vulnerability index  
2019



40

Consumer Price Index growth  
2019



1.1%

Unemployment rate



Total ..%  
Female ..%, Male ..%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

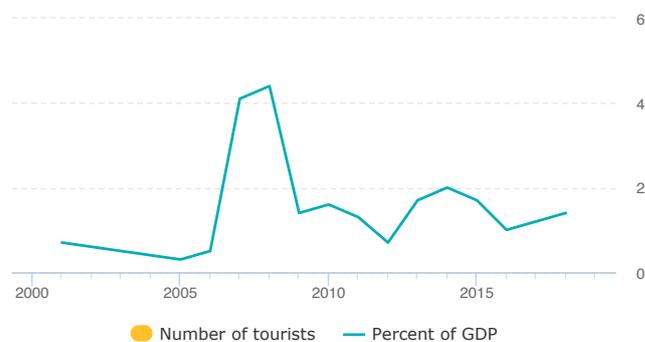
Percentage of GDP



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

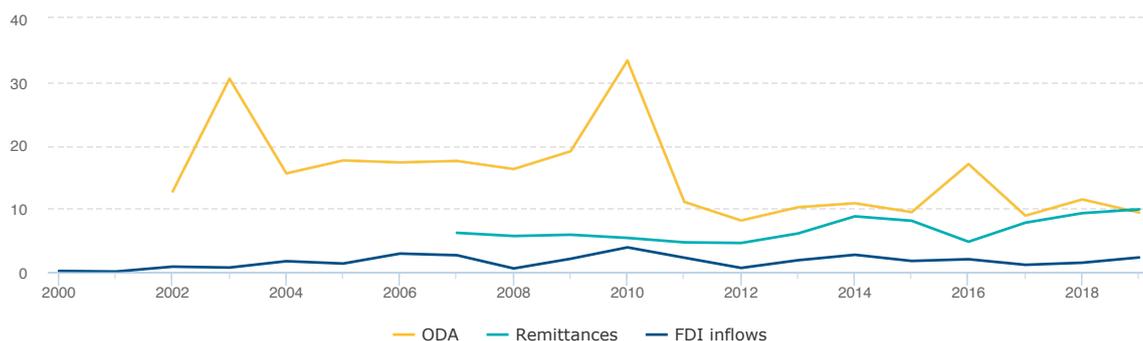
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



64.9%

## 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	146	31
Median time in port (days)	3	2
Average age of vessels	20	9
Average size (GT) of vessels	8 978	26

### Container port throughput

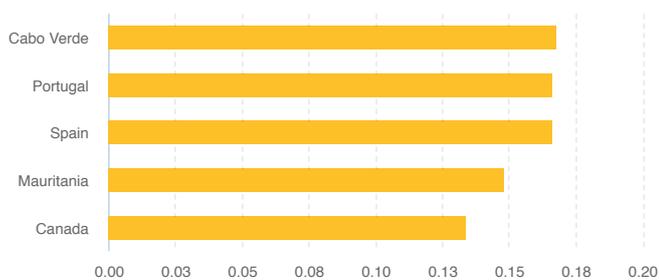
2019



28 700 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

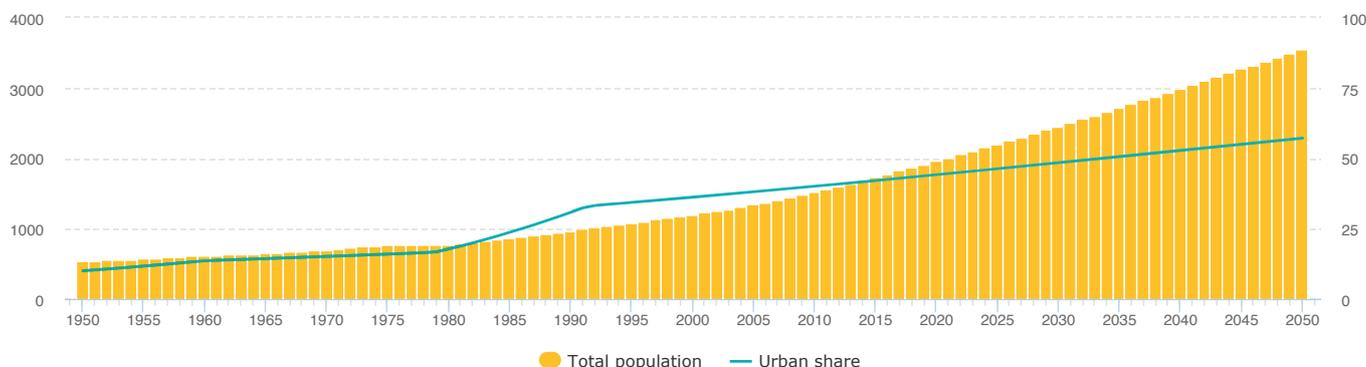
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2010	68.4
Human development index	2018	0.5
Human assets index	2020	38
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	--	--

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



58 years

### Population density

2019



68 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

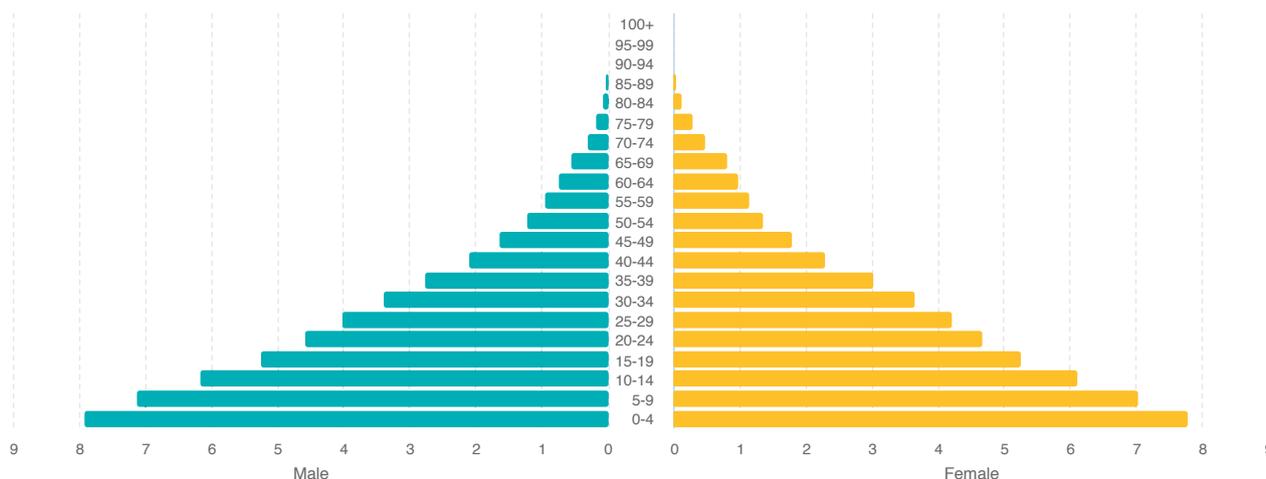
2019



Child: 76.7  
Old-age: 5.2

### 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	89	127	252	249	18.8
Merchandise imports	123	196	207	335	25.3
Services exports	5	44	36	40	3
Services imports	42	103	131	161	12.2

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



29% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.88

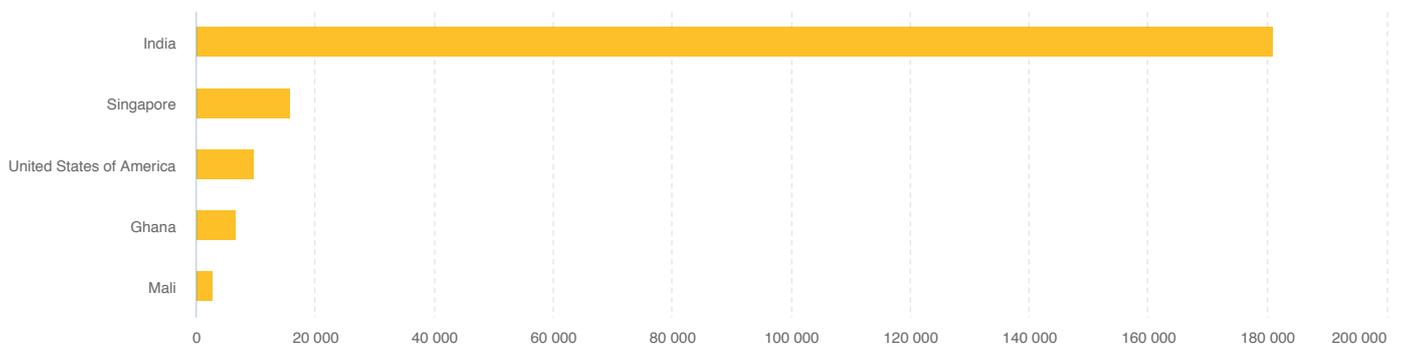
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



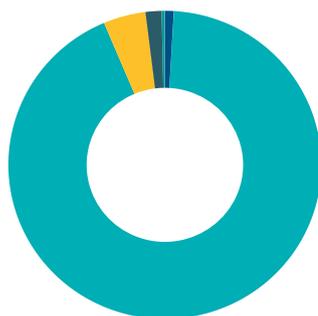
-79.62

### 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

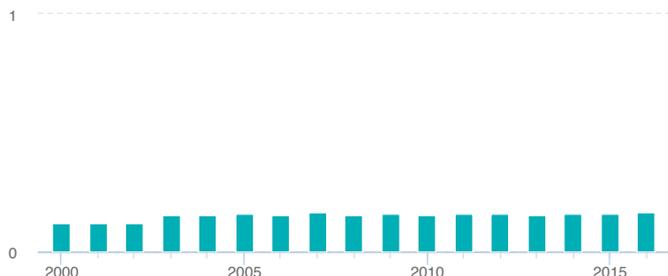
### Services exports by category, 2019

No data available

## ENVIRONMENT

### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



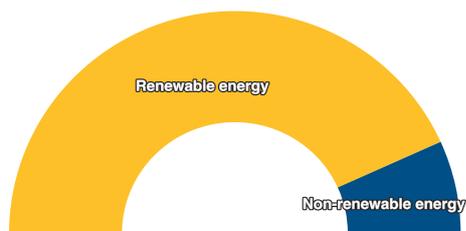
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

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

2005



Exports: 0.0%  
Imports: 1.9%

### Trade in ICT services

2018



Exports: 28.9%  
Imports: 11.1%

### Share of internet users

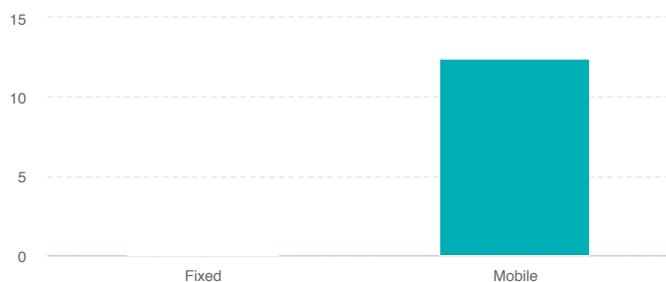
2017



4%

### Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions

Number of subscriptions per 100 people



## Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

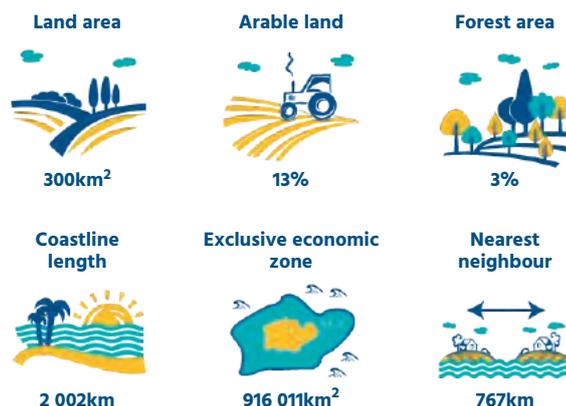
- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP: World 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- FAO (2020). FAOStat. Available at <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020a). ILOStat. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020b). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Republic of Guinea-Bissau (2011). Second National Communication on Climate Changes in Guinea-Bissau. Final Report. UNDP, 83. (accessed 18 May 2021).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- United Nations University (2020). World Risk Report. Institute for Environment and Human Security. (accessed 28 October 2020).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).

## Maldives

- > **Capital:** Malé (4°10' N, 73°30' E)
- > **International airport(s):** Velana International Airport, also known as Malé International Airport, Malé
- > **Official language(s):** Maldivian (Dhivehi)
- > **Currency:** Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR)
- > **Time:** UTC +5
- > **Region:** Atlantic and Indian Ocean



### GEOGRAPHY

The Maldives consists of 1 192 coral islands, grouped in 26 ring-shaped clusters or atolls, along the Equator, in the middle of the Indian Ocean. About 99 per cent of the Maldives' territory is open ocean. It is one of the smallest Asian countries with a land area of 300 km<sup>2</sup>. The atolls and islands run in a north south direction and are scattered over a vast area of 90 000 km<sup>2</sup>, making the Maldives one of the most geographically dispersed countries in the world.

The atolls sit atop a 960 km long submarine mountain range, called the Laccadives-Chagos Ridge. Safe navigation of vessels from one side of the Indian Ocean to the other is only possible towards the southern end of the country or through its territorial waters, where there are two open channels through the natural coral barricade to the open sea.

The Maldives is the world's flattest and lowest-lying country. The average ground level of the islands is 1.5 m above sea level. This makes the islands extremely vulnerable to rising sea levels due to global warming.

### CLIMATE

Maldives has a warm and humid tropical climate affected by its proximity to the Equator as well as the large South Asian landmass to the north. Two seasons dominate the Maldives' weather: the wet, rainy season which is brought by the southwest monsoon, and the dry season which is marked by the winter northeast monsoon. The monthly average temperatures vary very little around 28 °C (World Bank, 2020). Humidity is relatively high, around 80 per cent, and stable throughout the year. The average annual rainfall is generally below 2 400 mm: It is more abundant in the south than in the northern atolls. Due to the climate change, the Maldives has been experiencing greater variations in rainfall patterns, especially in the northern atolls, where dry seasons are becoming longer than usual, leading to shortages of fresh water. The Baa Atoll, comprised of 75 islands, was declared a World Biosphere Reserve in 2011 by UNESCO.

### ECONOMY

Since early 2000s, the Maldives have more than tripled its GDP per capita to reach almost US\$11 000 in 2019, current prices. The economy is driven by commerce, travel and tourism with the service sector accounting for almost 80 per cent of GDP. (UNCTAD, 2021) The contribution of travel and tourism to the economy is significant in the Maldives with inbound tourism expenditure at 55 per cent over GDP in 2019 (UNWTO, 2021). Fisheries, boat building and boat repairing are important employment sectors. Tuna is the predominant catch, and accounts for the bulk of exports. Apart from boat building, industry in the Maldives consists of garment production and handicrafts, such as the making of coir (coconut-husk fibre) and coir products. The main export destinations include Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United States of America, Germany and France.

Recently, the country has been conducting large public infrastructure projects and new resort investments. Construction, therefore, accounts for about 10 per cent of GDP (UNCTAD, 2021). Higher imports associated with these investments worsened the country's external position despite strong tourism receipts prior to the global pandemic of 2020. Among the most ambitious recent projects is the 2.1 km China-Maldives Friendship Bridge, funded by China, which opened in August 2018. It is the first cross-sea bridge connecting the Maldivian capital of Malé with neighboring Hulhule and Hulhumalé Islands.

### CULTURE

The name 'Maldives' may originate from '*Maale Dhivehi Raajje*' ('The Island Kingdom Malé'). The island nation was identified with its capital *Maale*, and the locals were called *Maldivian Dhivehin*. Other scholars argue that the name 'Maldives' derives from the *Sanskrit maladvipa*, meaning 'garland of islands,' or from *mahila dvipa*, meaning 'island of women'.

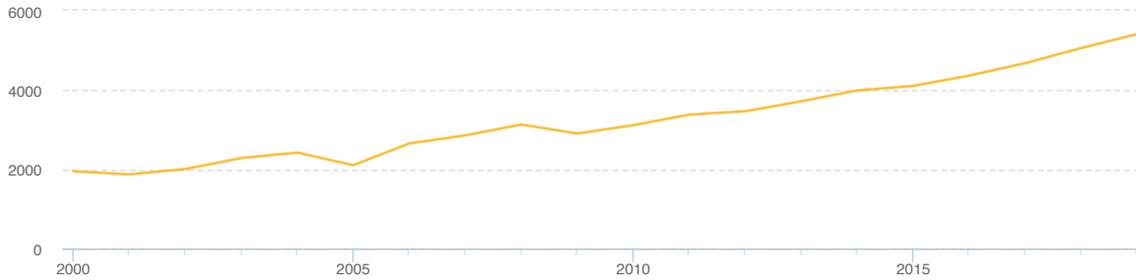
The Maldivian ethnic identity is a mixture of Indian, Sri Lankan, Malaysian, Indonesian, Arab and even African cultures. A traditional Maldivian dance-song, dating back to the 11th century, the Boduberu, which means 'Big (*bodu*) Drums (*beru*)', illustrates African influence on the culture and traditions of Maldivians.

Traditional Maldivian cuisine, also known as *Dhivehi* cuisine, is highly impacted by the Indian and Sri Lankan origins of the Maldivians. The inhabitants of the Maldives use a lot of peppers, chilis and curry in their cooking. Tuna is often the main component of Maldivian meals. Particularly popular is skipjack tuna, tuna frigate and yellowfin tuna, grilled or barbecued.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$10 626

### Productive Capacity Index

2018



34.1

### Economic and environmental vulnerability index

2019



44

### Consumer Price Index growth

2019



1.3%

### Unemployment rate

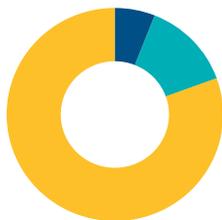
2016



Total 6.1%  
Female 5.6%, Male 6.4%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

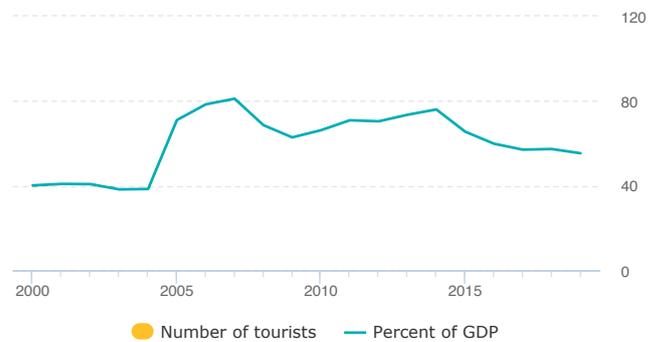
Percentage of GDP



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

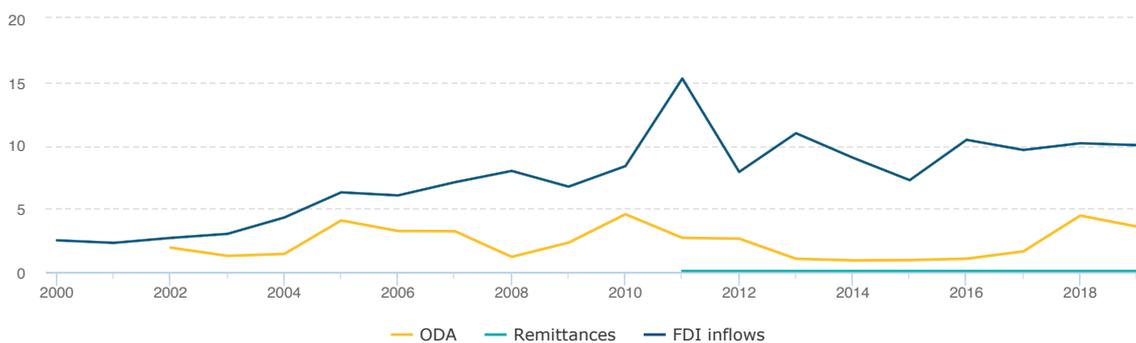
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



68.0%

## 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	303	25
Median time in port (days)	2	4
Average age of vessels	21	7
Average size (GT) of vessels	10 232	25

### Container port throughput

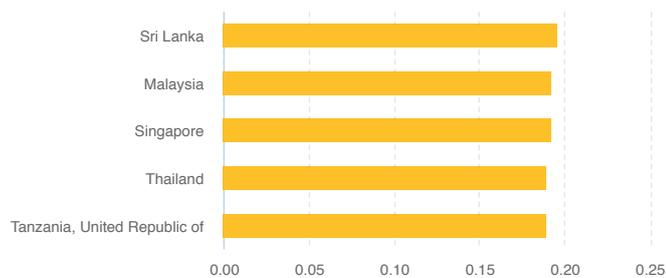
2019



107 728 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

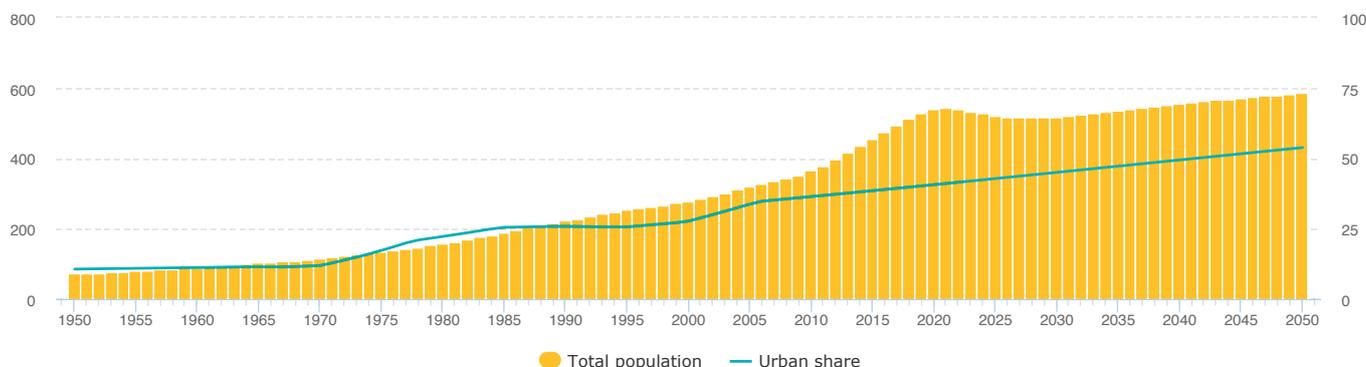
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2016	..
Human development index	2018	0.7
Human assets index	2020	87
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	2016	97.3
Gender inequality index	2019	0.4

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



79 years

### Population density

2019



1 770 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

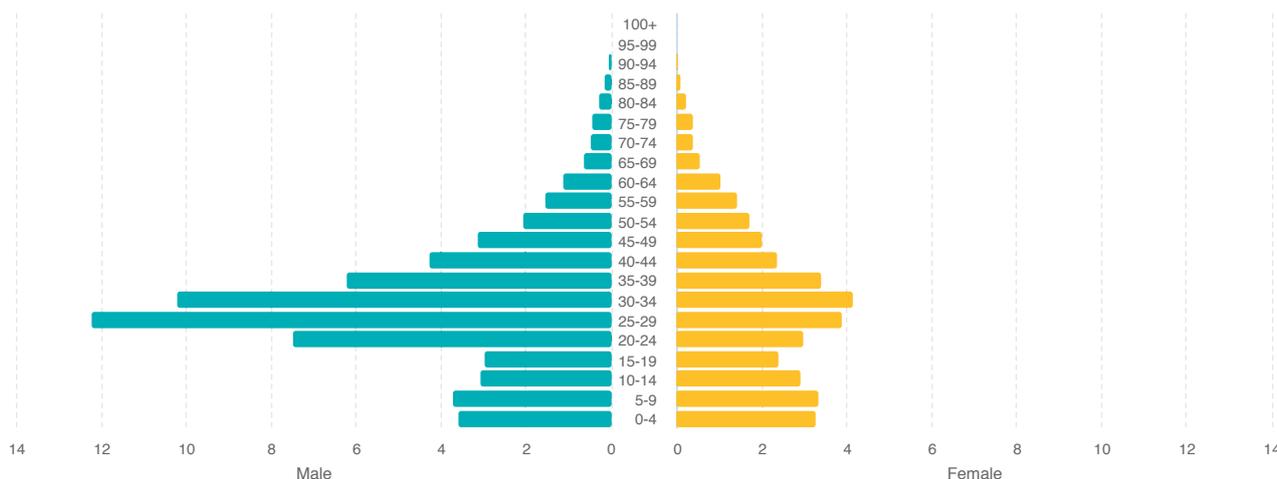
2019



Child: 26  
Old-age: 4.7

### 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	162	198	240	361	6.4
Merchandise imports	745	1 091	1 896	2 888	51.2
Services exports	323	1 810	2 905	3 421	60.6
Services imports	213	451	875	1 324	23.5

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



68% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.55

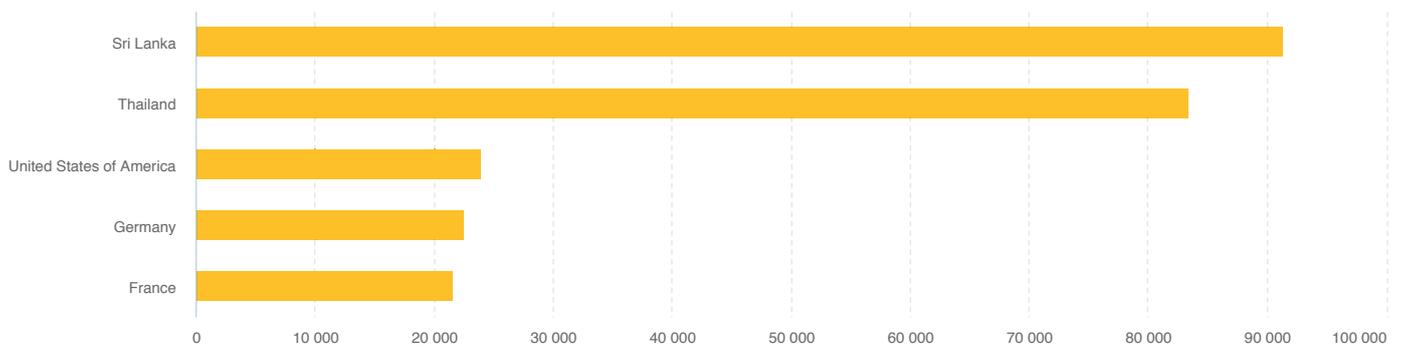
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



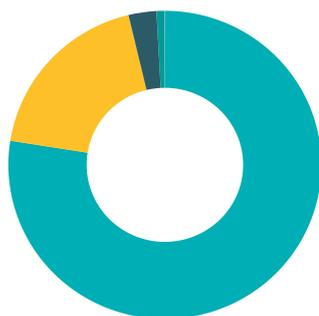
6.26

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

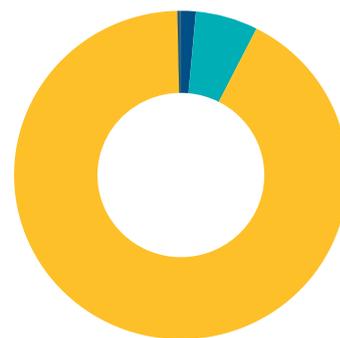


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019



- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

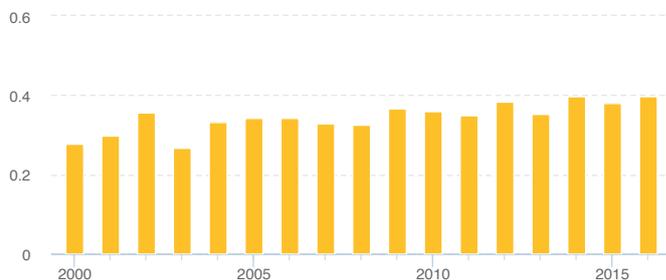
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



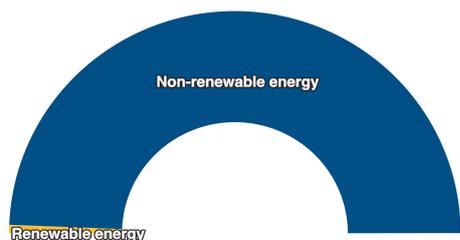
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



28.9kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



1.2%

### Marine protected area

2018



0.05%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

2018



Exports: 0%  
Imports: 4.5%

### Trade in ICT services

2019



Exports: 1.4%  
Imports: 0.0%

### Share of internet users

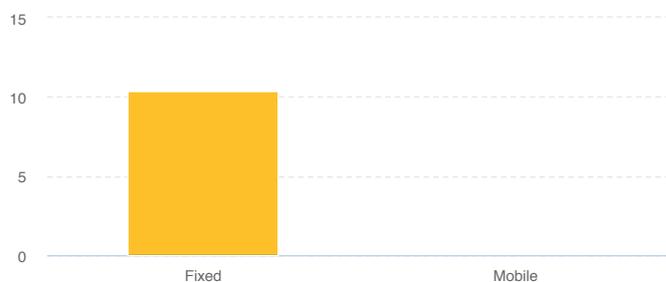
2017



63%

### 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>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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](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/>

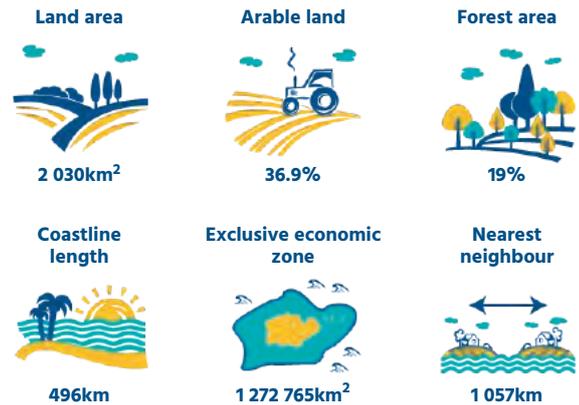
## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).



## Mauritius

- > **Capital:** Port Louis (20.2°S 57.5°E)
- > **International airport(s):** Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport
- > **Official language(s):** None (English, French, Mauritian Creole)
- > **Currency:** Mauritian rupee (MUR)
- > **Time:** UTC +4
- > **Region:** Atlantic and Indian Ocean



### GEOGRAPHY

Mauritius lies in the Indian Ocean about 2 000 km off the southeast coast of Africa. There are two main islands: Mauritius and Rodrigues, the latter located 560 km east of Mauritius. The island of Mauritius is 65 km long and 45 km wide. The outer islands include Agaléga and Saint Brandon. The country is known for its rich nature and many endemic species. The island was once home to the dodo, a flightless bird, which was driven to extinction by humans shortly after the island's settlement. These islands emerged as a result of underwater volcanic eruptions some 8 million years ago, though these volcanoes are no longer active. The highest peak, Piton de la Petite Rivière Noire, lying in the southwest at 828 m.

### CLIMATE

Mauritius has a tropical climate with two seasons. The summer is warm and humid and lasts from November to April, with a mean temperature of around 25 °C. The winter is relatively cold and dry, lasting from June to September with a mean temperature of 20-21 °C. The warmest months, January and February, reach average temperatures of 26 °C. Average annual rainfall is above 1 700 mm (World Bank, 2020) and ranges from 900 mm on the coast to higher amounts on the central plateau, most of which falls during the summer months. The wettest period lasts from January to March. Sea temperatures vary from 22 to 27 °C. Trade winds cool the eastern side and bring more rain. Between January and March the islands experience occasional tropical cyclones and heavy rains.

### ECONOMY

Mauritius has developed from a low-income economy based on agriculture into a diversified economy with a high, almost 80 per cent, share of services in GDP, a few per cent contributed by mining and 13 per cent by manufacturing (UNCTAD, 2021). The economy is heavily dependent on tourism, transport, textiles, sugar and financial services. In 2019, Mauritius attracted 1.4 million tourist arrivals with an inbound tourism expenditure at 14 per cent over GDP (UNWTO, 2021). After Seychelles, Mauritius has the second highest GDP per capita of the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS in 2019 with US\$11 000, current prices (UNCTAD, 2021).

This economic transformation, achieved since independence in 1968, is often referred to as 'the Mauritian Miracle', or the 'success of Africa'. The World Bank's 2019 Ease of Doing Business Index ranks Mauritius 13th worldwide. Mauritius has positioned itself as a hub for investment into Africa as it is strategically located between Asia and Africa. Important export destinations include France, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and South Africa. Mauritius has undertaken initiatives to develop its regulatory framework, protect investment, avoid double taxation, develop a competent and multilingual workforce and provides a politically stable environment. The country hosts numerous international banks, corporate services, law firms and investment funds. Mauritius also has challenges, such as reliance on relatively few sectors, a relatively small labour force and an increasing old-age dependency ratio of nearly 18 per 100 persons in 2020.

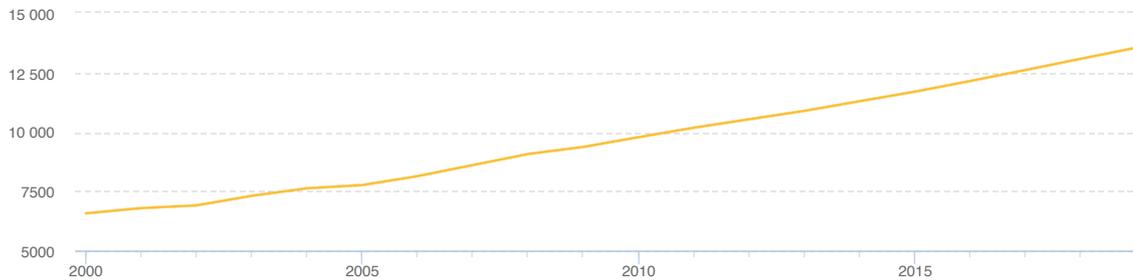
### CULTURE

Arts are an important part of the Mauritian culture and the country is home to several renowned painters. Literature is also important in the country, with J. M. G. Le Clézio winning the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2008. The island also hosts the Le Prince Maurice Prize that alternates annually between English and French speaking writers. Cuisine is a combination of Indian, Creole, French and Chinese, with many dishes unique to the island. Varying types of seafood and spices play an important part in the local cuisine.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$11 169

Productive Capacity Index

2018



37.4

Economic and environmental vulnerability index

2019



22

Consumer Price Index growth

2019



1.9%

Unemployment rate

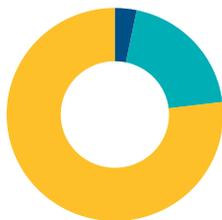
2019



Total 6.3%  
Female 9.7%, Male 4.1%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

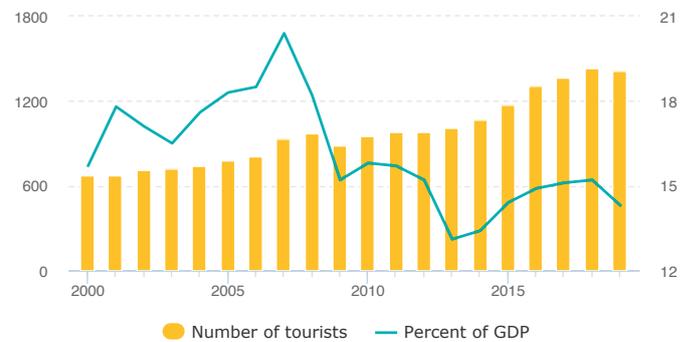
Percentage of GDP



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

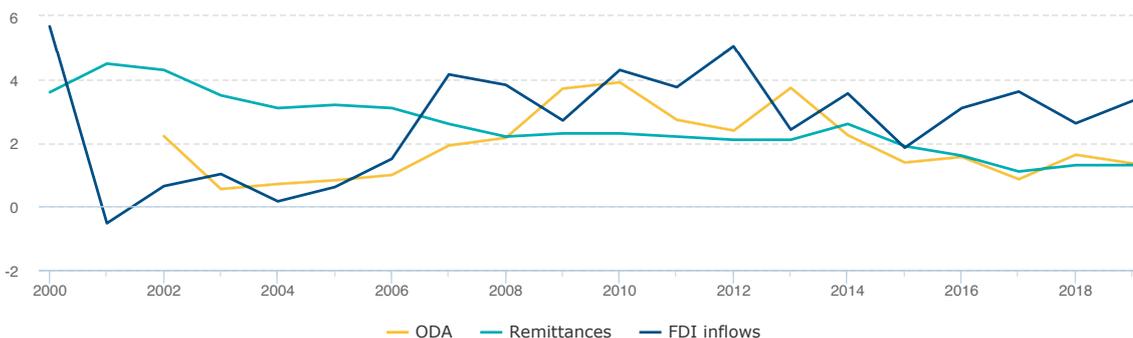
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as % of GDP

2018



25.2%

## 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	1 392	12
Median time in port (days)	1	8
Average age of vessels	13	28
Average size (GT) of vessels	28 975	13

### Container port throughput

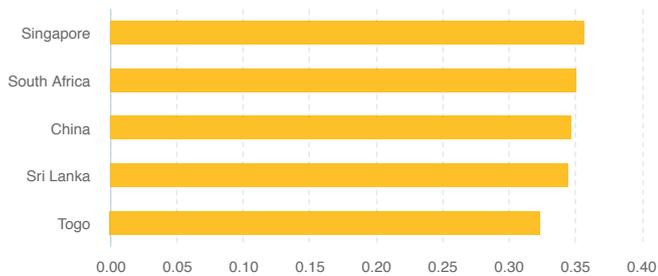
2019



570 817 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

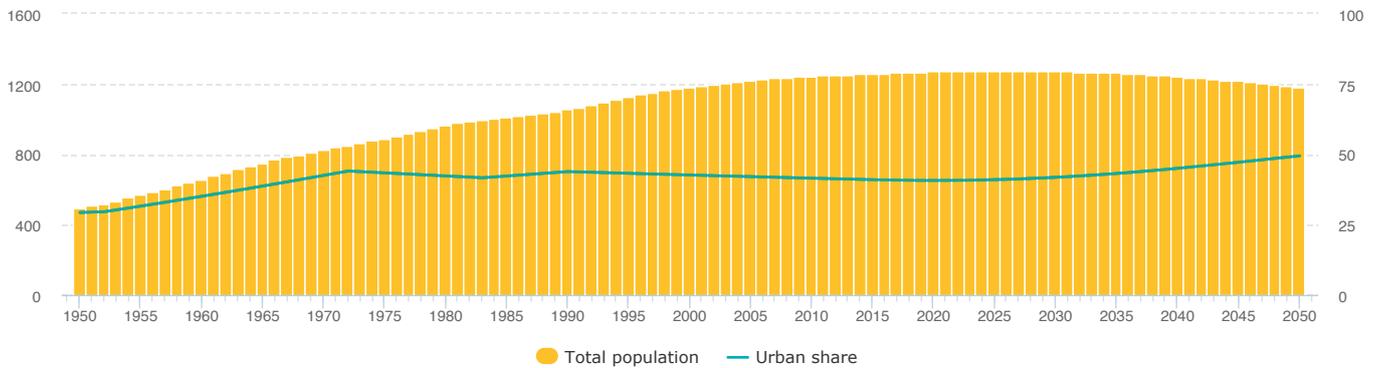
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2017	0.2
Human development index	2018	0.8
Human assets index	2020	92
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	2019	0.4

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



74 years

### Population density

2019



625 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

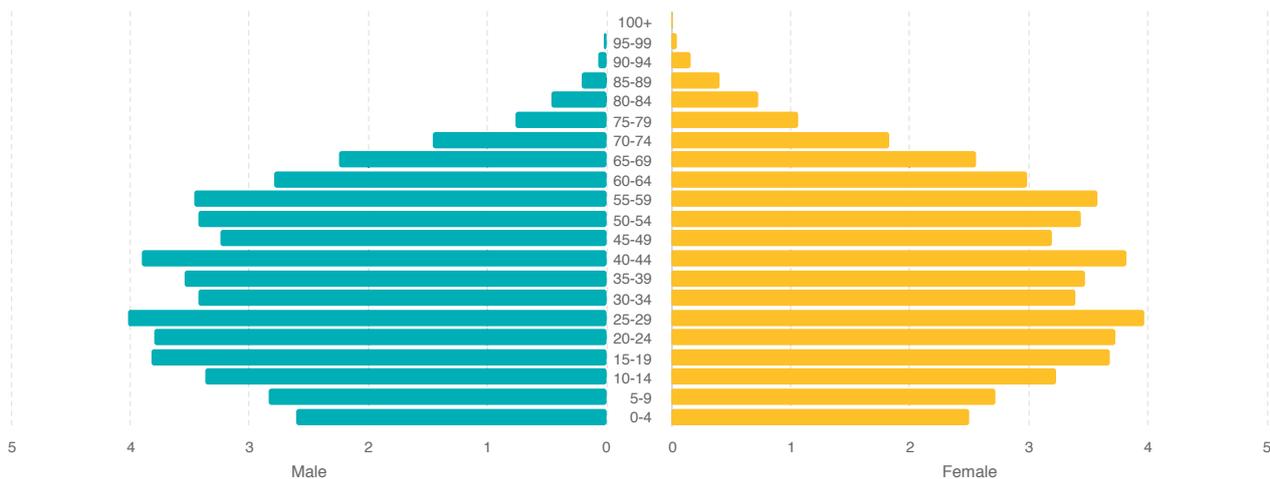
2019



Child: 24.4  
Old-age: 17.0

### 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	2 143	2 261	2 662	2 223	15.7
Merchandise imports	3 157	4 386	4 790	5 596	39.5
Services exports	1 618	2 695	2 733	2 949	20.8
Services imports	1 198	1 979	2 041	2 129	15

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



45% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.22

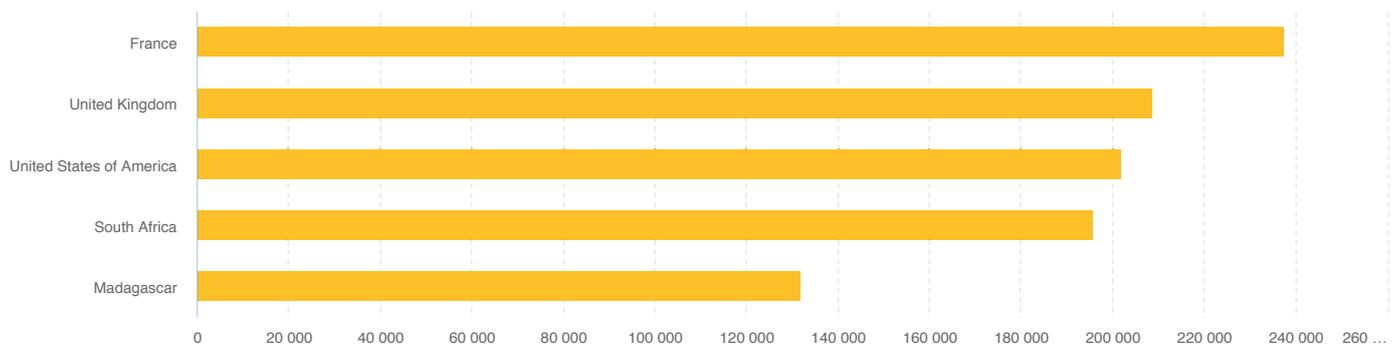
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



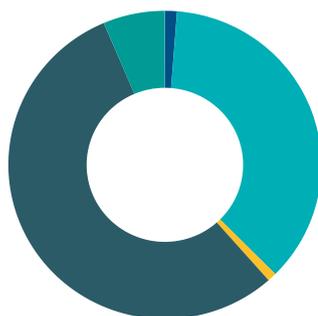
5.18

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

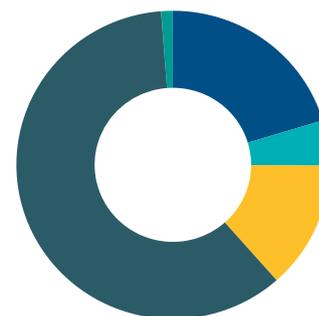


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

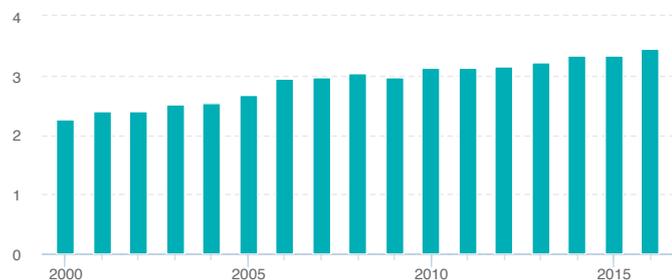


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



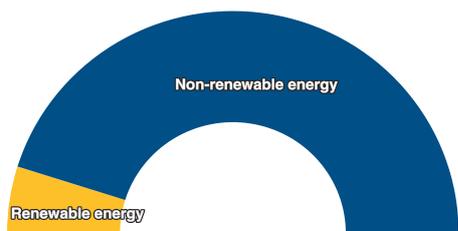
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



41.3kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



4.7%

### Marine protected area

2018



0%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

2019



Exports: 1.6%  
Imports: 5.8%

### Trade in ICT services

2019



Exports: 4.7%  
Imports: 4.5%

### Share of internet users

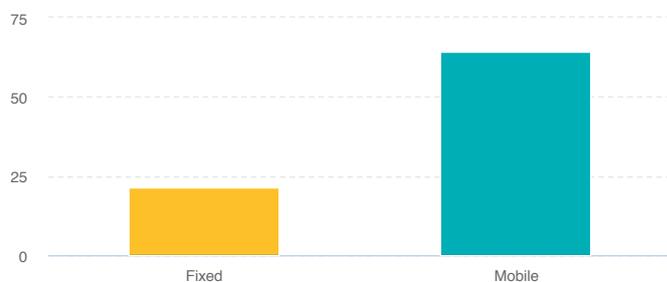
2018



59%

### Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions

Number of subscriptions per 100 people



## Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

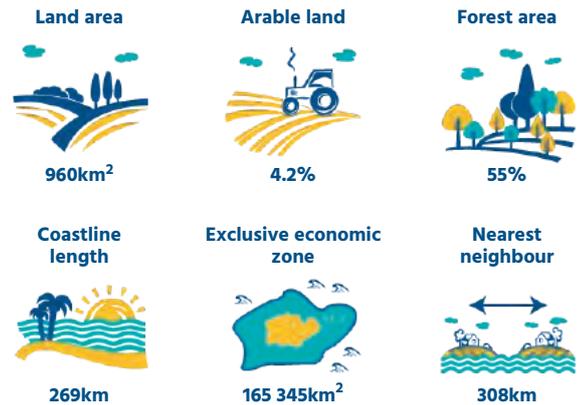
- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP: World 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).

## São Tomé and Príncipe

- > **Capital:** São Tomé (0°20' N 6°44' E)
- > **International airport(s):** São Tomé International Airport
- > **Official language(s):** Portuguese and regional languages: Forro, Angolar and Principense
- > **Currency:** Dobra (STN)
- > **Time:** UTC +0
- > **Region:** Atlantic and Indian Ocean



### 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 2 024 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 2 100 mm but varies from 5 000 mm on the southwestern slopes to 1 000 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 dêxa 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.

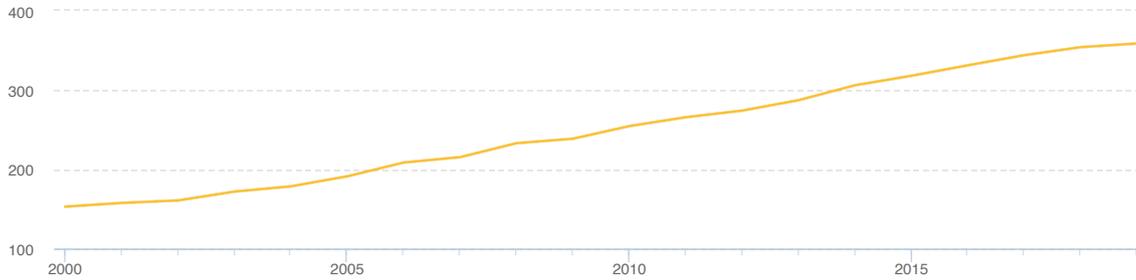
Tropical fruits, for instance, avocado, bananas and pineapple, play a large role in the local diet. People also eat fish and other seafood, beans, maize and cooked banana, often with hot spices. Coffee is also used as a spice or seasoning.

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



**GDP per capita  
2019**



**US\$1 961**

**Productive  
Capacity Index  
2018**



**26.7**

**Economic and environmental  
vulnerability index  
2019**



**30**

**Consumer Price  
Index growth  
2019**



**6.5%**

**Unemployment  
rate  
2012**



**Total 13.6%  
Female 24.5%, Male 11.1%**

### Main economic sectors, 2019

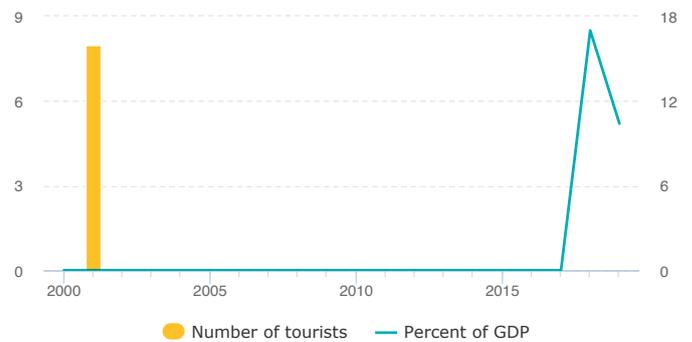
Percentage of GDP



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

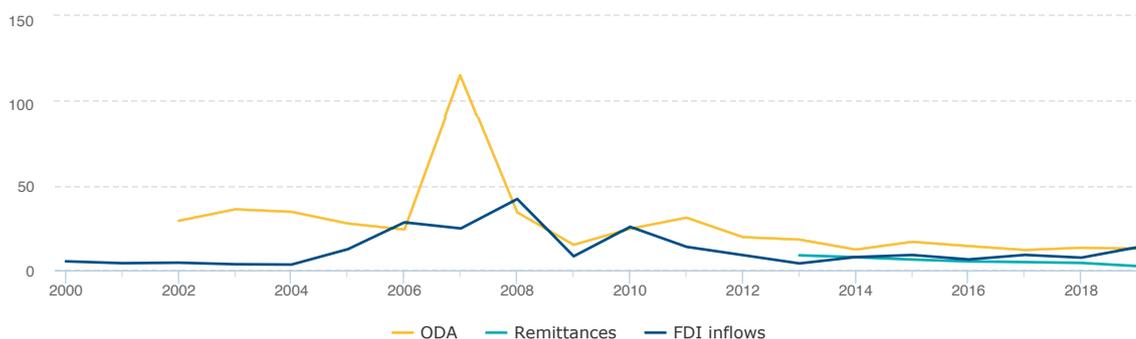
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



**Public debt as %  
of GDP**

**2018**



**114.3%**

## 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	0	36
Median time in port (days)	0	31
Average age of vessels	0	36
Average size (GT) of vessels	0	36

### Container port throughput

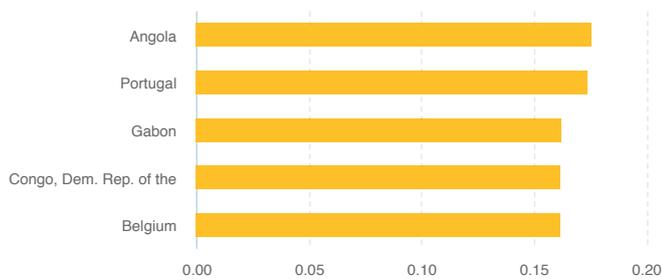
2019



49 553 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

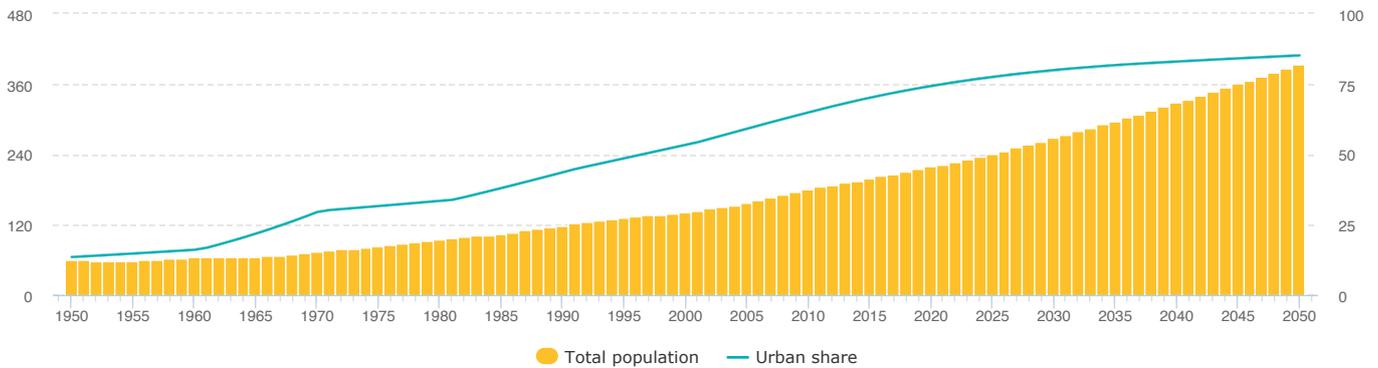
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2017	35.6
Human development index	2018	0.6
Human assets index	2020	88
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	..	..
Gender inequality index	2019	0.5

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



70 years

### Population density

2019



224 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

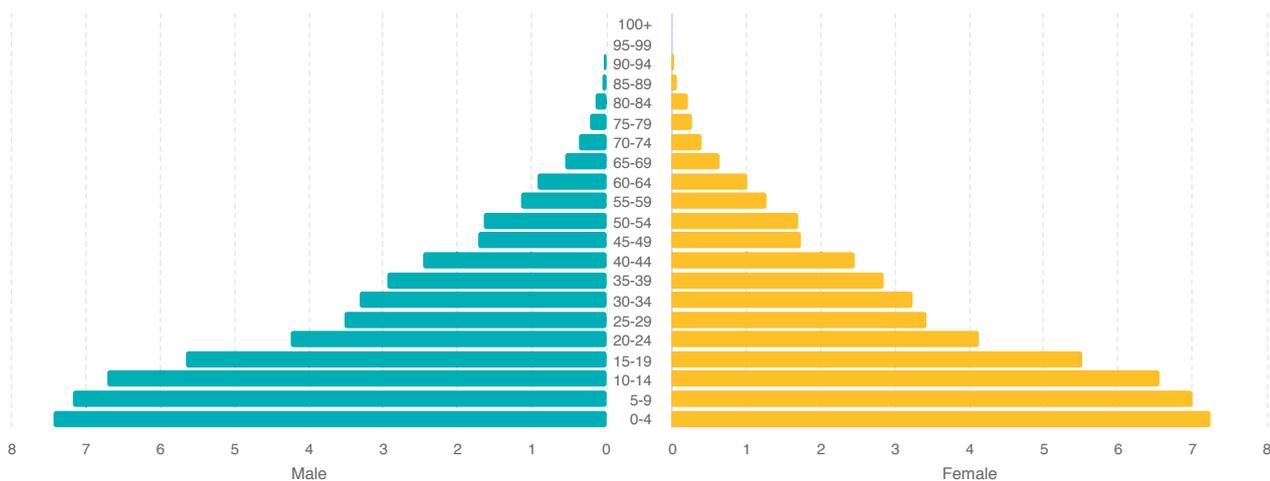
2019



Child: 76.8  
Old-age: 5.4

### 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	7	11	11	13	3.1
Merchandise imports	50	112	142	148	35.1
Services exports	9	13	79	56	13.3
Services imports	11	24	67	60	14.2

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



31% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.61

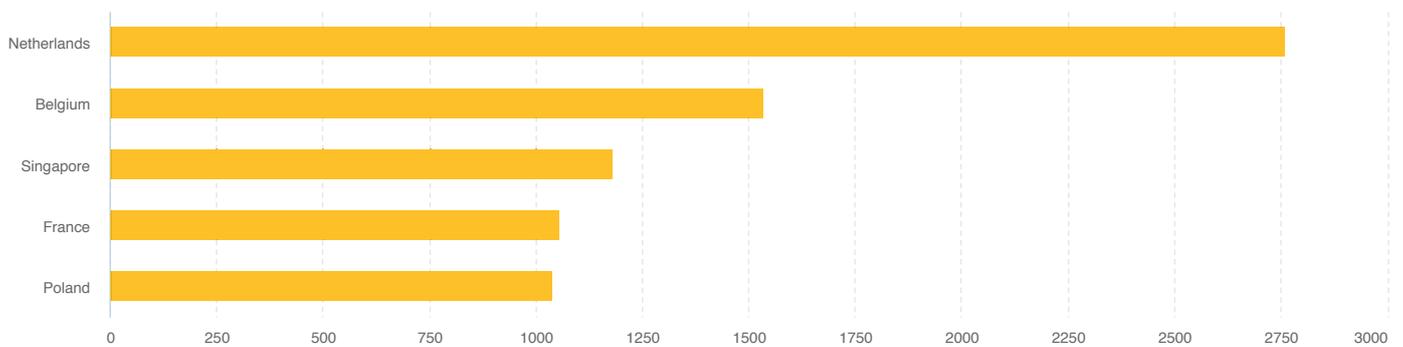
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



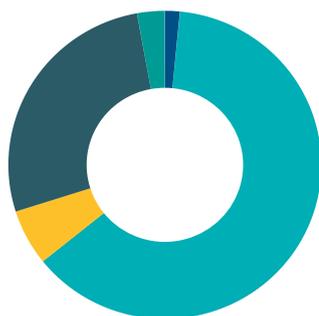
23.14

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

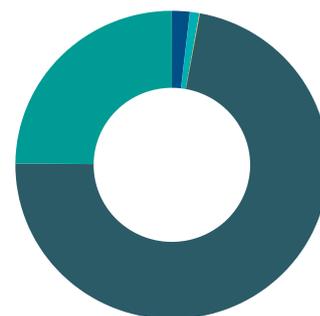


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

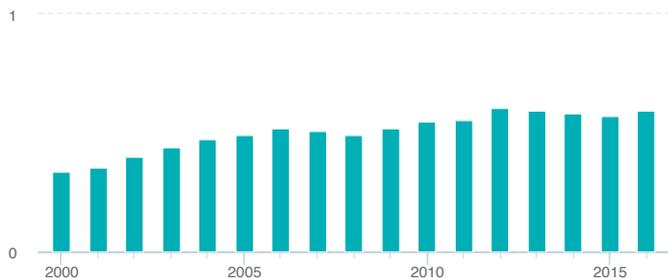


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



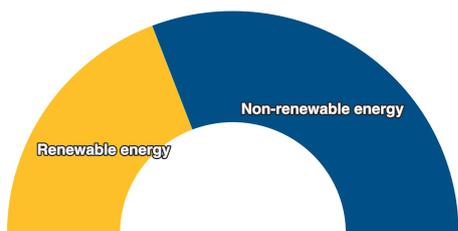
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



12.5kg

### 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

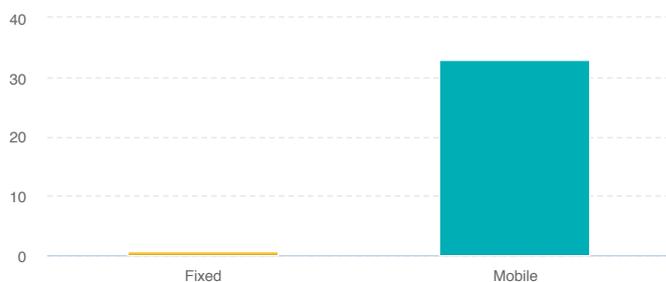
2017



30%

### Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions

Number of subscriptions per 100 people



## 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>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

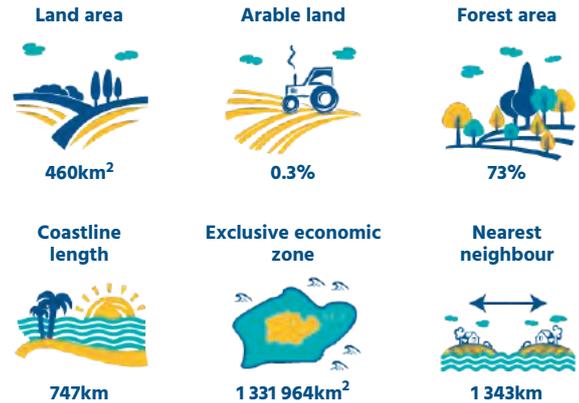
## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- 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).



## Seychelles

- > **Capital:** Victoria (4°37' S 55°27' E)
- > **International airport(s):** Seychelles International Airport
- > **Official language(s):** English, French, Seychellois Creole
- > **Currency:** Seychellois rupee (SCR)
- > **Time:** UTC +4
- > **Region:** Atlantic and Indian Ocean



### GEOGRAPHY

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 Segha 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 consumer a lot of breadfruit, coconut, mangoes and kordonnien fish and garnish their food with fresh flowers.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



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%

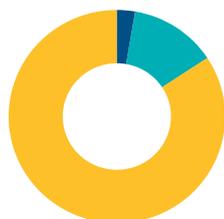
Unemployment rate



Total 3%  
Female 2.7%, Male 3.2%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

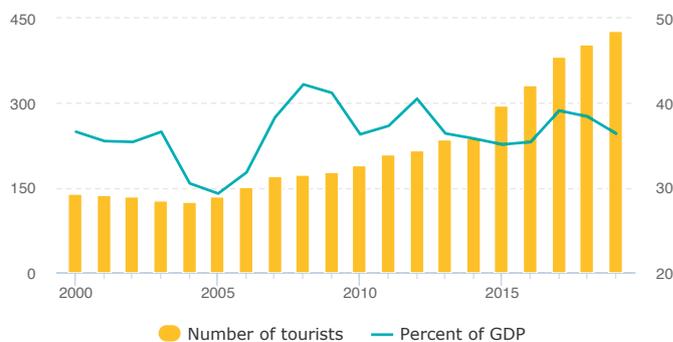
Percentage of GDP



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

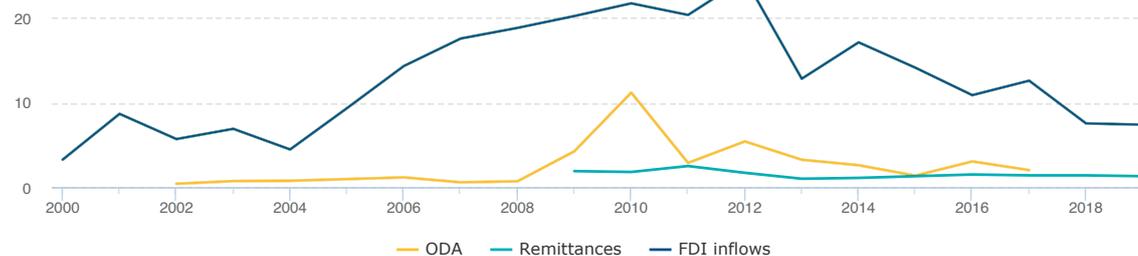
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



9.4%

## 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	335	23
Median time in port (days)	2	4
Average age of vessels	20	9
Average size (GT) of vessels	21 026	16

### Container port throughput

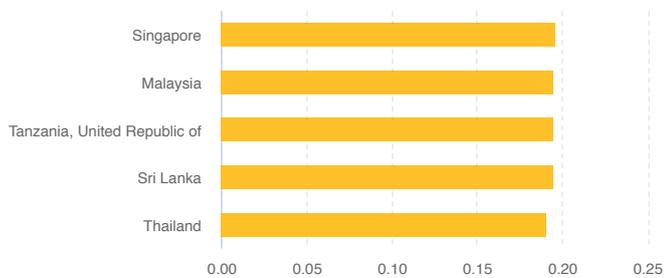
2019



154 423 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

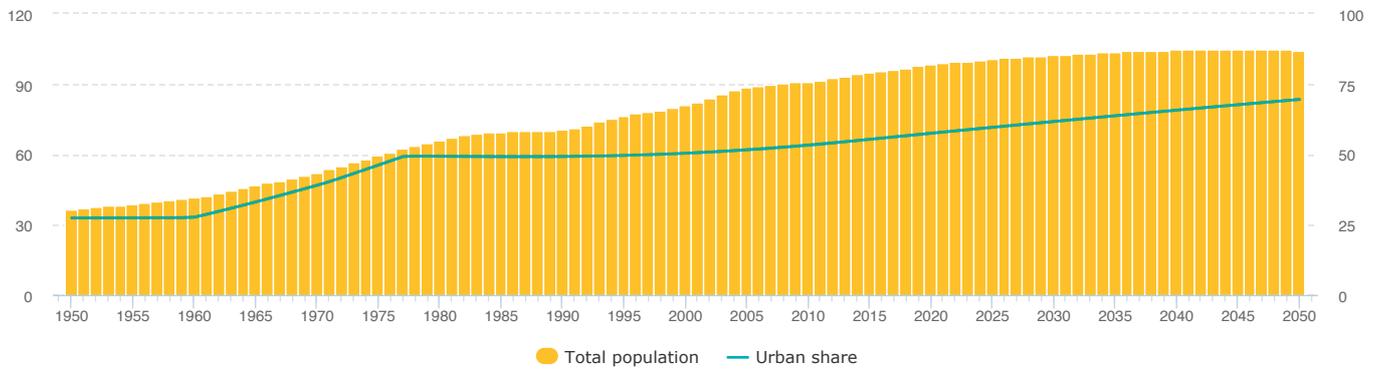
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2018	0.5
Human development index	2018	0.8
Human assets index	2020	93
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	--	--

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



74 years

### Population density

2019



212 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

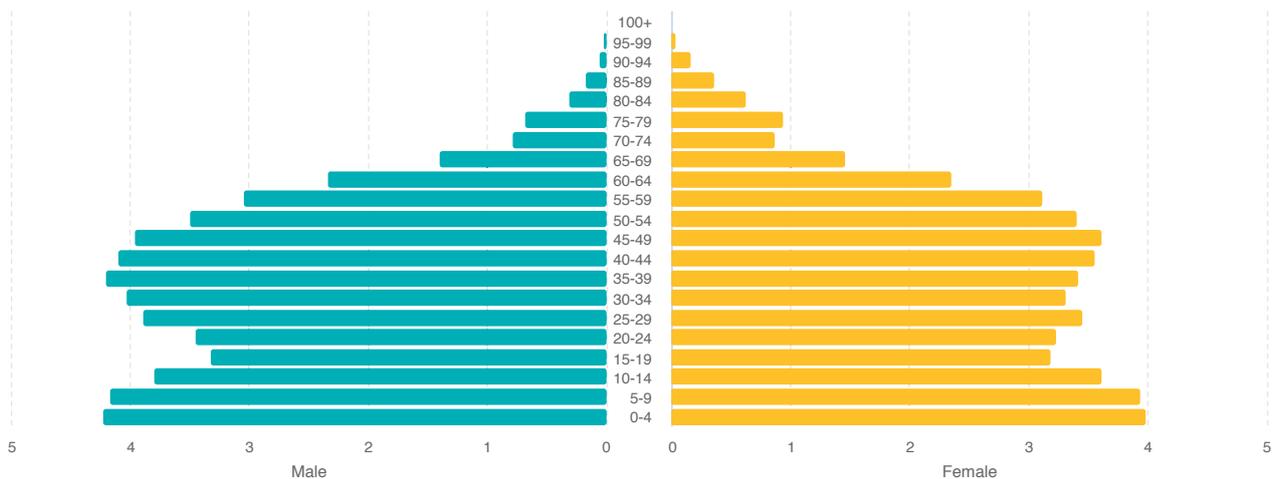
2019



Child: 34.7  
Old-age: 11.4

### 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	340	400	415	518	30.5
Merchandise imports	675	984	991	1167	68.7
Services exports	370	441	848	1123	66.1
Services imports	240	266	498	682	40.1

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



103% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.44

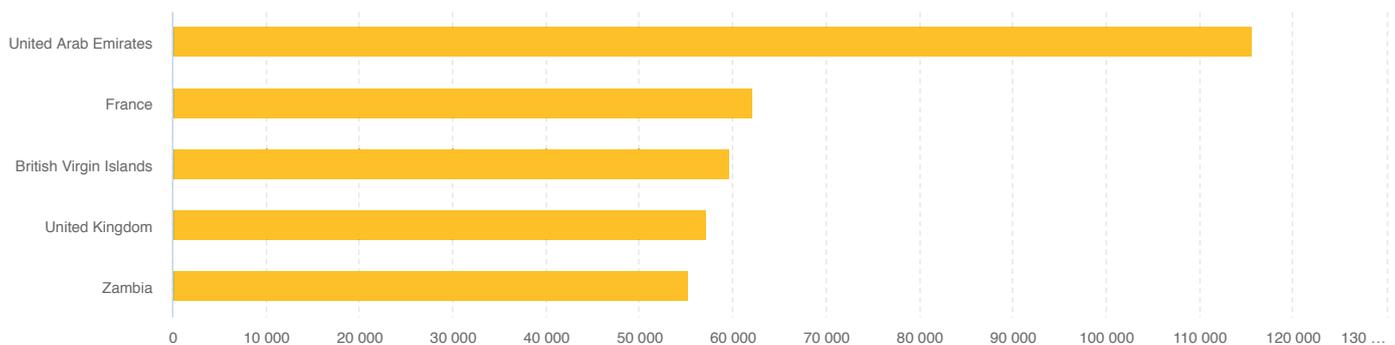
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



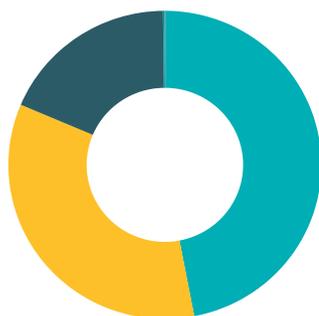
-10.00

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

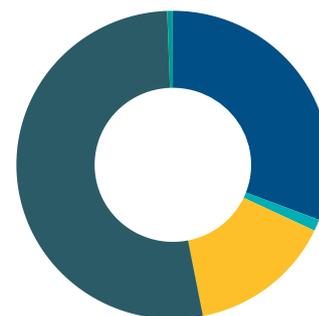


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

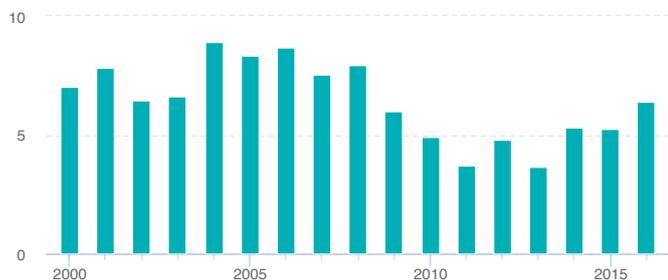


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

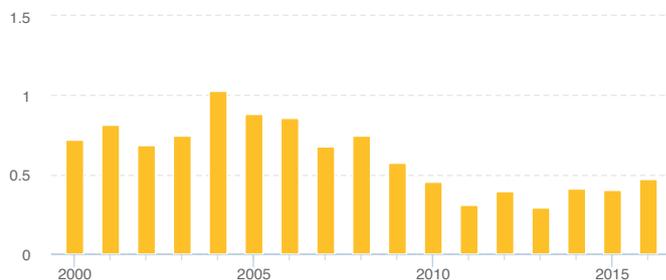
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



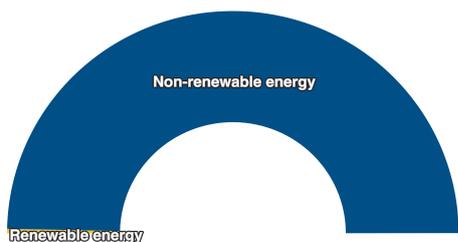
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



46.8kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



42.1%

### Marine protected area

2018



0.04%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

2019



Exports: 0.0%  
Imports: 2.3%

### Trade in ICT services

2019



Exports: 1.2%  
Imports: 0.2%

### Share of internet users

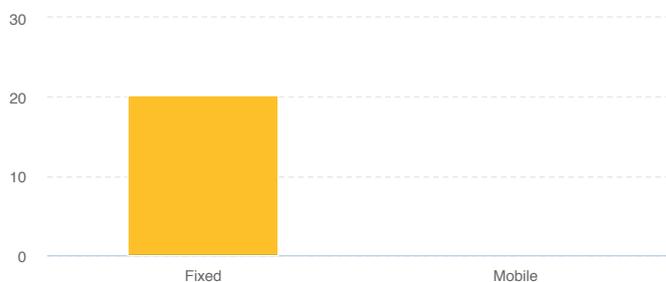
2017



59%

### 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>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

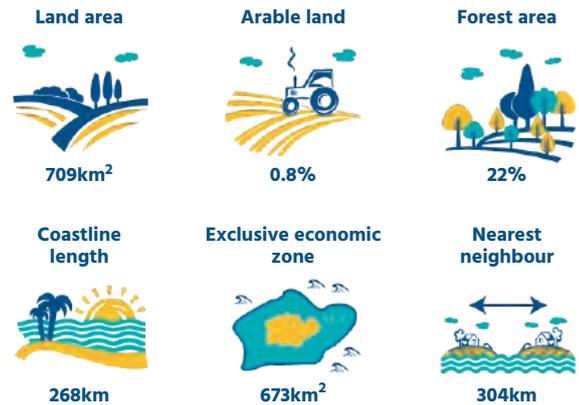
## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).



## Singapore

- > **Capital:** Singapore (1°17' N 103°50' E)
- > **International airport(s):** Singapore Changi Airport, Seletar Airport
- > **Official language(s):** Malay, Mandarin, Tamil and English
- > **Currency:** Singapore dollar (S\$)
- > **Time:** UTC +8
- > **Region:** Atlantic and Indian Ocean



### GEOGRAPHY

Singapore is an island state in Southeast Asia and consists of one 30-mile-long main island (Pulau Ujong) surrounded by more than 60 smaller ones. It is separated from Peninsular Malaysia by the Straits of Johor and from the Indonesian islands by the Straits of Singapore. The original name of the main island, Tumasik, was taken from the word tasek, which means "sea". For centuries, Tumasik was a stopping place for sailors traveling between India and China. Its strategic position at the extreme south edge of the Malay Peninsula made Singapore the largest port in Southeast Asia. Singapore's total land area is 709 km<sup>2</sup> (UNCTAD, 2021). Most of Singapore is flat, with more than half of the main island only 15 meters above sea level. Timah Hill, the highest summit, has an elevation of 162 m; with other peaks, such as Panjang and Mandai hills, it forms a block of rugged terrain in the middle of the island. Soils of Singapore, in particular its Eastern part, have suffered extensive degradation through erosion and are extremely infertile.

In Singapore, there are more than 300 parks and 4 nature reserves. There are also many trees planted, and almost fifty per cent of the country is covered by greenery. Because of this, Singapore is also commonly known as the 'Garden City'. The Singapore 'Botanic Gardens' was successfully inscribed as Singapore's first UNESCO World Heritage Site on 4 July 2015. (UNESCO, 2021).

### CLIMATE

Singapore enjoys a moderate climate characterized by uniform temperatures. The average monthly temperatures range from 26 to 28 °C, based on climate records since 1929. It enjoys a tropical, equatorial climate, with high humidity and abundant rainfall. Two distinct seasons can be identified, a dry season from June to September, and a rainy season from November to February (World Bank, 2020). Although the heaviest rain occurs from November through February, Singapore residents experience rainfall almost every day, including thunderstorms on 40 per cent of all days. The annual average rainfall for the country is more than 2 254 mm.

Singapore is vulnerable to the consequences of climate change, such as rising sea levels, intense rainfall, dry spells and other extreme weather events. Being close to sea level, some low-lying areas of Singapore are particularly at risk due to significant floods during periods of excessive rain.

### ECONOMY

In 2020, Singapore's total population, is estimated to be 5.85 million (UNCTAD, 2021). It has more than doubled since 1980, making the country one of the most populated SIDS in the world. However, high education rate, high income, and high life expectancy (83.6 years) help the country consistently rank very high for human development. In the World Bank (2021a) Human Capital Index, Singapore ranks as the best country in the world (with a score of 0.88). This means that a child born today in Singapore can expect to realize by the age of 18 88 per cent of their maximum productivity, if enjoying complete education and full health. Indeed, investment in education is very high, with government spending doubled from S\$6 billion in 2006 to S\$12 billion in 2019, in local currency (Government agency Singapore, 2021a). In addition, the country is ranked among the world's most competitive economies as it offers a well-established financial business framework.

Since 1963, in few decades, Singapore rapidly upgraded from a low-income country to a high-income country with a GNI of US\$58 187 per capita in 2019. The economy of Singapore is characterized by diversified economic structure based on business, finance, manufacturing, trade and transportation activities. Industry (26 per cent of GDP) and services (74 per cent of GDP) were key sectors in 2019. In 2019, Singapore's goods and services exports amounted to US\$595.6 billion, almost twice the GDP of Singapore (US\$370 billion). A large proportion of goods' exports consist of manufactured goods, such as electronic products, chemical, machinery and transport equipment. The country's service exports concentrate on transport and other services including construction, insurance and pension services, financial services, telecommunications and information services. The largest export partners are China, China Hong Kong, SAR, Malaysia and United States of America (UNCTAD, 2020). The country's strategic port is the busiest port in the world in terms of tons and container traffic (323 thousand DWT and 38 million TEU in 2019).

One of the major industries in the country is the tourism sector. In 2005 there were 8.9 million tourist visitors in the country. In 2019, the country achieved more than 19 million visitor arrivals (UNWTO, 2021). According to the government agency of Singapore (2021b), service sector accounts for more than 75 per cent of employment, 12 per cent manufacturing and 11 per cent construction. Singapore ranked as the smartest city in 2018 owing to its smart housing and utilities, digital economy and open adaptive learning (ITU, 2021a, 2021b).

## CULTURE

---

While the majority of the population are Chinese, there are also large populations of Malay, Indians, Arabs, Eurasians and Westerners. This multicultural environment ensures that, throughout the year, celebrations bring visual feast of colour, spectacles and ceremonies. Some of the well celebrated festivals of the country include the Festival of Lights (Deepvali), Buddhist celebration of Vesak Day, Chinese New Year and Christmas.

In Singapore, food is viewed as important to its national. Singapore serves up a wide array of dishes with origins from around the world. Rojak, for instance, is a salad-like dish that is served differently by various ethnicities. Indian rojak consists of squid, battered prawns and bean curd, deep-fried with vegetables on the side. In Malay rojak, fermented soybeans called tempeh are added to the mix. For the Chinese, cucumber, pineapple and dough fritters are drenched in a sweet sauce. Popular dishes include a crispy flatbread with fish curry called roti prata, and bak kut teh, pork ribs served in a peppery broth.

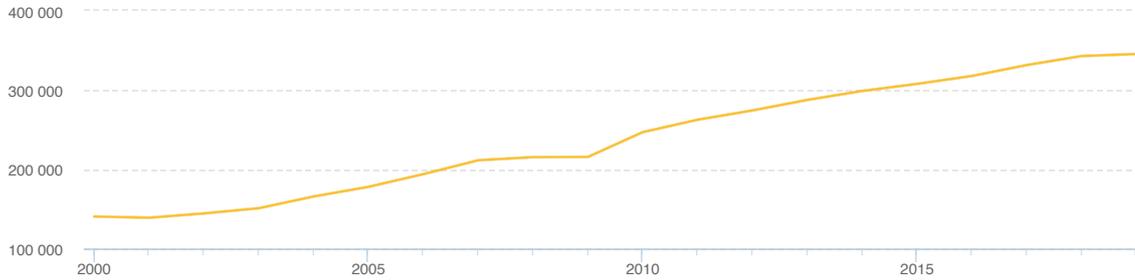
Singapore's literature reflects the multicultural society and writers such as Tan Swie Hian and Kup Pao Kun have made a significant contribution to local literature. The *Pulse* is the first published Singapore poetry collection written by Wang Gungwu in 1950.

Football, basketball, swimming, gymnastics and volleyball are among popular sports in the country. Water sports, such as water-skiing and kayaking are also very popular. The national football team was the Tiger Cup champion for a few years. It is the top football competition in Southeast Asia. Singapore has won a handful of Olympic Games medals, including their first Olympic gold medal in 2016, won by swimmer Joseph Schooling in men's 100 m butterfly.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



**GDP per capita  
2019**



**US\$64 103**

**Productive  
Capacity Index  
2018**



**44.5**

**Economic and environmental  
vulnerability index  
2019**



**26**

**Consumer Price  
Index growth  
2019**



**0.1%**

**Unemployment  
rate**



**Total 3.1%  
Female 4.4%, Male 4%**

### Main economic sectors, 2019

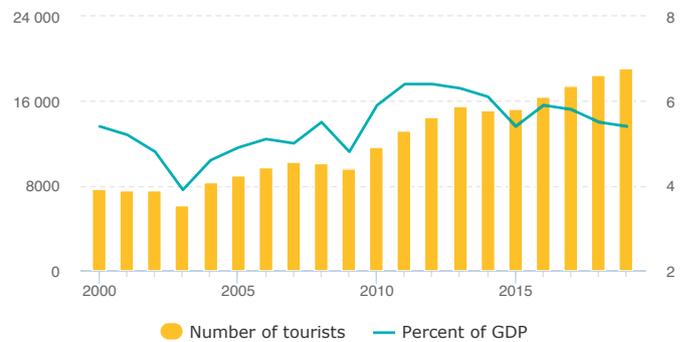
Percentage of GDP



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

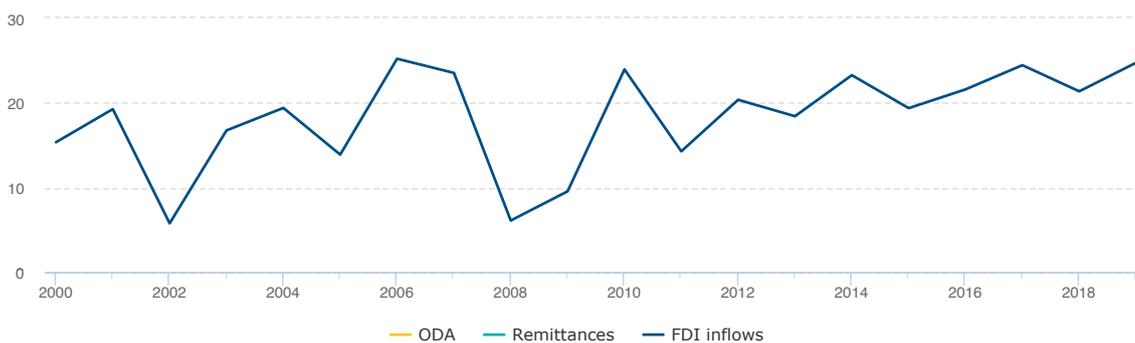
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



**Public debt as %  
of GDP**

**2018**



**72.8%**

## 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	61 152	1
Median time in port (days)	1	8
Average age of vessels	11	33
Average size (GT) of vessels	25 174	14

### Container port throughput

2019

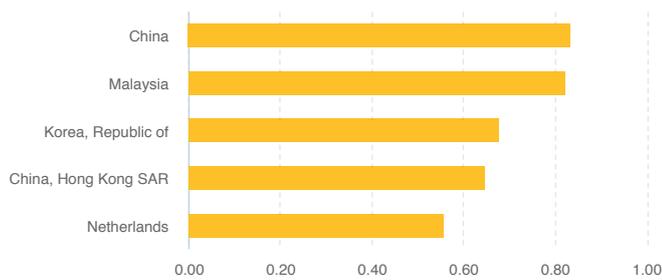


37 983 000

TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

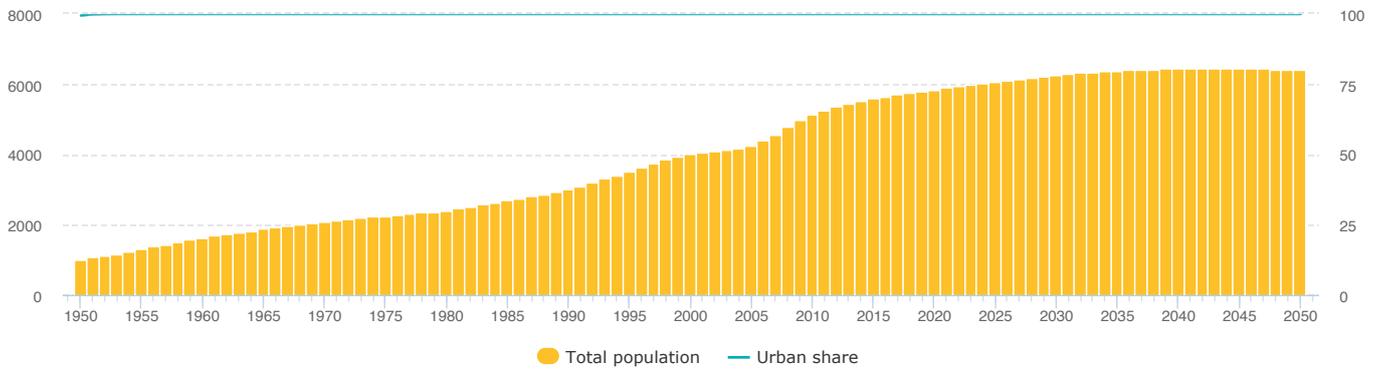
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	--	--
Human development index	2018	0.9
Human assets index	2020	98
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	2019	0.1

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



84 years

### Population density

2019



8 187 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

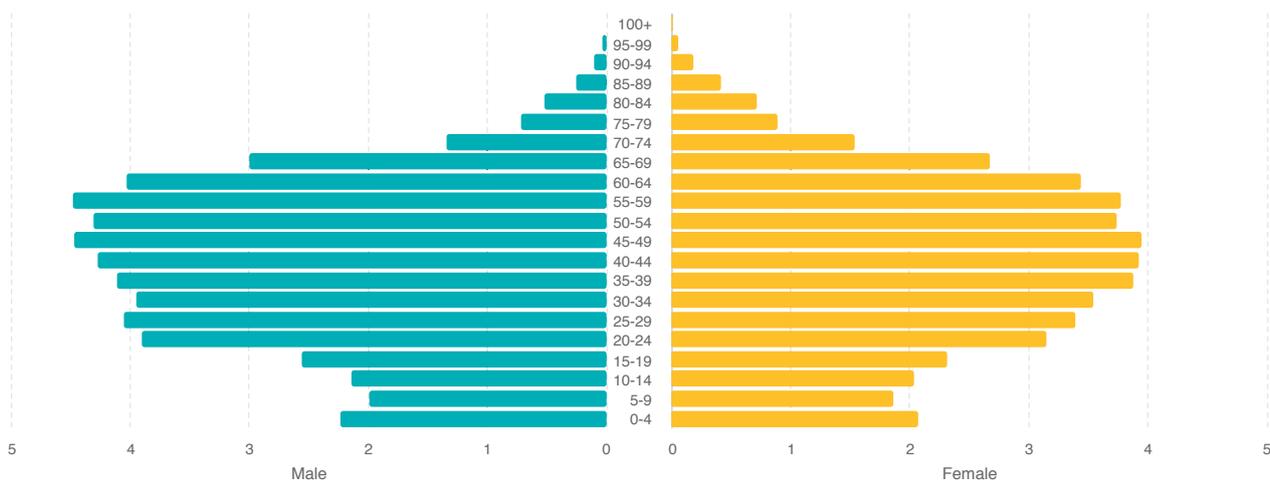
2019



Child: 16.4  
Old-age: 16.5

### 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	229 649	351 867	351 587	390 763	105
Merchandise imports	200 047	310 791	297 087	359 266	96.6
Services exports	45 605	100 382	153 200	204 814	55
Services imports	55 052	100 518	161 693	199 050	53.5

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



164% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.22

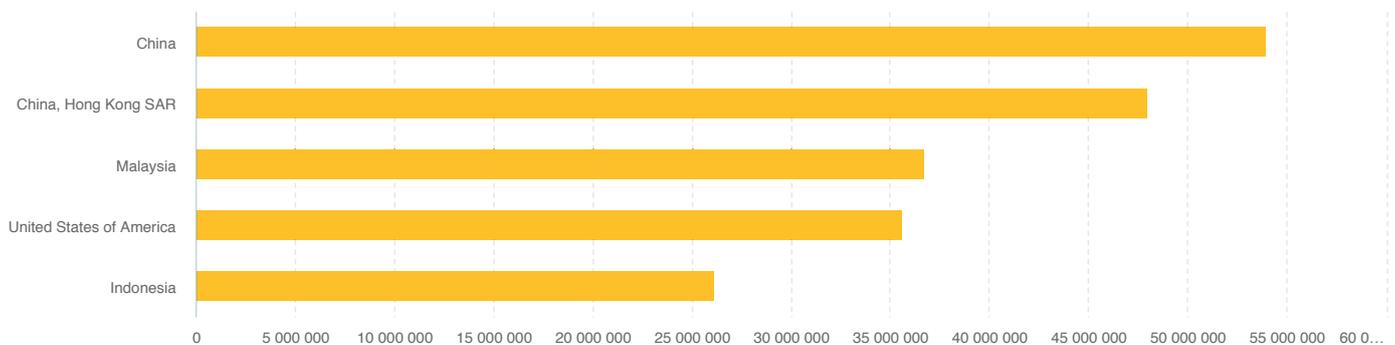
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



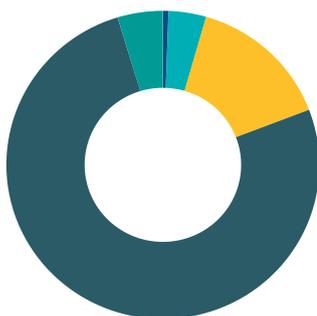
0.40

### 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

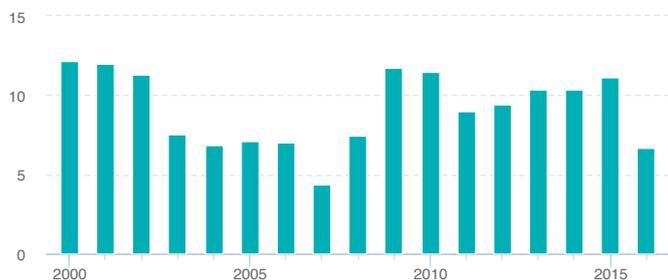


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

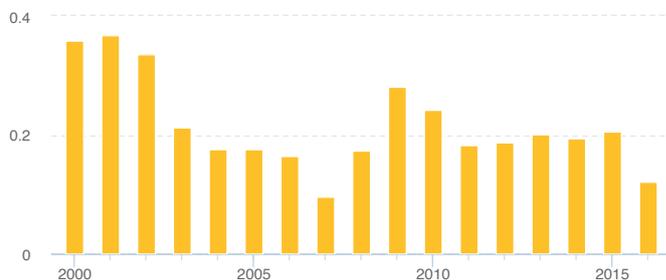
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



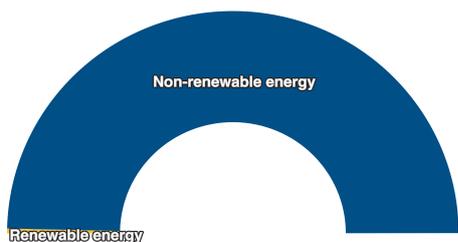
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



144.3kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



5.6%

### Marine protected area

2018



0.01%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

2019



Exports: 29.3%  
Imports: 26.9%

### Trade in ICT services

2019



Exports: 7.0%  
Imports: 6.9%

### Share of internet users

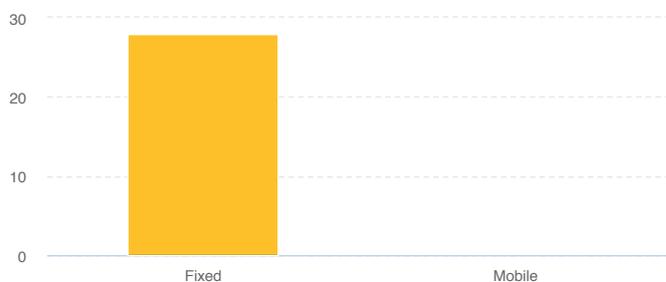
2018



88%

### 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 (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP: World Bank (2021b) <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/e3adb2406c2e452b81c3654e276f5ca\\_0](https://www.sdg.org/datasets/e3adb2406c2e452b81c3654e276f5ca_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 (2021b) <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 (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN>
- Marine protected area: World Bank (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/ER.MRN.PTMR.ZF>
- 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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](https://www.sdg.org/datasets/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990_0)
- ODA: OECD (2021) <https://stats.oecd.org>
- Percentage of population in low elevated coastal zones: World Bank (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.POP.EL5M.ZS>
- Poverty headcount ratio: World Bank (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.DDAY>
- Renewable energy share in total energy consumption: World Bank (2021b) <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 (2021b) <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](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/>



## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- Government agency Singapore (2021a). Government Total Expenditure on Education. Available at [https://data.gov.sg/dataset/government-expenditure-on-education?view\\_id=0c267eb5-49e9-4b42-ae72-0f15f896f455&resource\\_id=79a62357-49ec-4d78-9d00-50b0cf73084c](https://data.gov.sg/dataset/government-expenditure-on-education?view_id=0c267eb5-49e9-4b42-ae72-0f15f896f455&resource_id=79a62357-49ec-4d78-9d00-50b0cf73084c) (accessed 27 May 2021).
- Government agency Singapore (2021b). Employment Level By Industry. Available at <https://stats.mom.gov.sg/Pages/employment-distribution-and-employment-level-by-industry.aspx> (accessed 27 May 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- ITU (2021a). United 4 Smart Sustainable Cities. (accessed 27 May 2021).
- ITU (2021b). Smart Sustainable Cities. (accessed 27 May 2021).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2020). Rapid eTrade readiness assessment of least developed countries (eT Ready). Available at <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/Publications/E-Trade-Readiness-Assessment.aspx> (accessed 28 May 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1) (accessed 13 January 2021).
- UNESCO (2021). World Heritage List. Available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021). Available at <http://uis.unesco.org/> (accessed 15 March 2021).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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 (2021a). Human Capital Project. Available at <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/human-capital#Index> (accessed 27 May 2021).
- World Bank (2021b). World Development Indicators. Available at <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators> (accessed 8 November 2020).

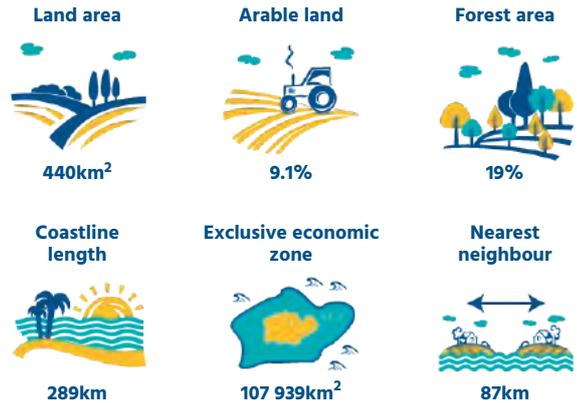
# Country profiles: Caribbean SIDS





## Antigua and Barbuda

- > **Capital:** Saint John's (Antigua) (1707' N, 61051' W)
- > **International airport(s):** St. Johns, Antigua
- > **Official language(s):** English
- > **Currency:** Eastern Caribbean Dollar
- > **Time:** UTC -4
- > **Region:** Caribbean



### GEOGRAPHY

Known as the 'Land of 365 Beaches', Antigua (pronounced An-tee'ga) and Barbuda is a twin-island country, located in the eastern Caribbean, at the southern end of the Leeward Islands chain. Antigua is about 23 km long and 18 km wide, encompassing 280 km<sup>2</sup>, including the capital city, Saint John's. The highest point on Antigua is Mount Obama (402 m), known as Boggy Peak until 2009. Barbuda is a flat coral island with an area of only 161 km<sup>2</sup>. The nation also includes the small (1.6 km<sup>2</sup>) uninhabited island of Redonda, which is now a nature preserve.

### CLIMATE

With a tropical maritime climate, there is little variation in seasonal temperatures, and steady south-easterly breezes. The hurricane season is from June to September. The islands receive a mean annual rainfall of some 2 500 mm, with October and November being the wettest months. With no rivers or springs, droughts are not uncommon. There is generally low humidity year around. Average monthly temperatures range between 25 to 27 °C. (World Bank, 2020) The country is fourth on the list of most at-risk countries according to the United Nations University (2020) World Risk Index.

### ECONOMY

Agriculture, once the mainstay of the economy, has been largely supplanted by tourism. Sugarcane was once the dominant crop on Antigua but is now insignificant. Today, fruit and vegetables, including citrus fruits, mangoes and eggplants are cultivated on the islands. Manufacturing plays a small role in the economy; most activity involves processing agricultural products and making clothing and textiles and concrete blocks. Manufactured exports mainly consist of iron, steel and shipping equipment. Shipping trade has also become important, and the country possesses one of the most important freight hubs in the Caribbean. Services account for almost three quarters of GDP. (UNCTAD, 2021) Tourism and financial services have turned the country into one of the more prosperous in the Caribbean. The contribution of travel and tourism to the economy is significant with over 1 million annual tourist arrivals each year from 2017 to 2019, and the inbound tourism expenditure reaching almost 45 per cent over GDP in 2019 (UNWTO, 2021).

### CULTURE

The national dish is fungie (pronounced 'foon-jee') made from cornmeal and pepper pot.

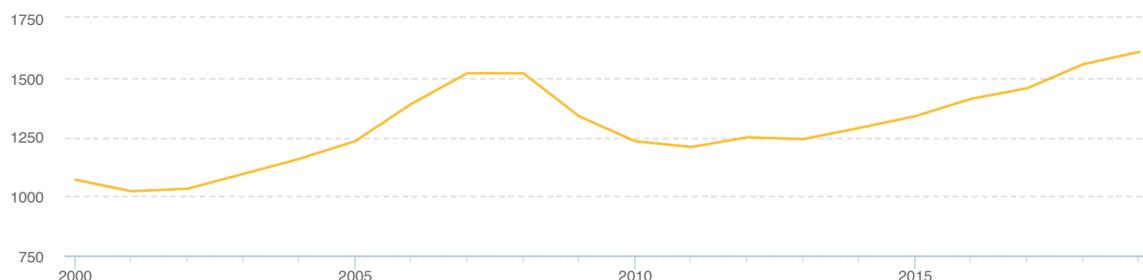
The nation's abundant coral reefs attract many snorkelers and scuba divers. Cricket is the favourite sport in Antigua and Barbuda, which has produced some of the greatest names in cricket, like Sir Vivian Richards, Andy Roberts and Riche Richardson. Other popular sports on the island include sport fishing, windsurfing and kite-surfing. While English is the official language, many people speak Antiguan Creole.

The Antigua and Barbuda Carnival is often organised as a ten-day festival featuring colourful costumes, beauty pageants, talent shows, and music. Steel drum music is an important part of the Carnival, and Antigua and Barbuda is home to many Caribbean steel bands. Soca is another typical type of music featured that grafts the slower beat of soul music onto the fast tempo of calypso. Reggae is also very popular and has been part of the Antigua and Barbudan music scene for a long time.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$17 113

Productive Capacity Index  
2018



Economic and environmental vulnerability index  
2019



Consumer Price Index growth  
2019



Unemployment rate



Total 8.4%  
Female 8.8%, Male 8%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

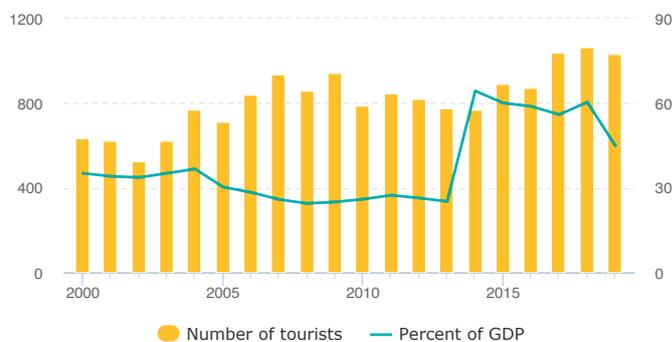
Percentage of GDP



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

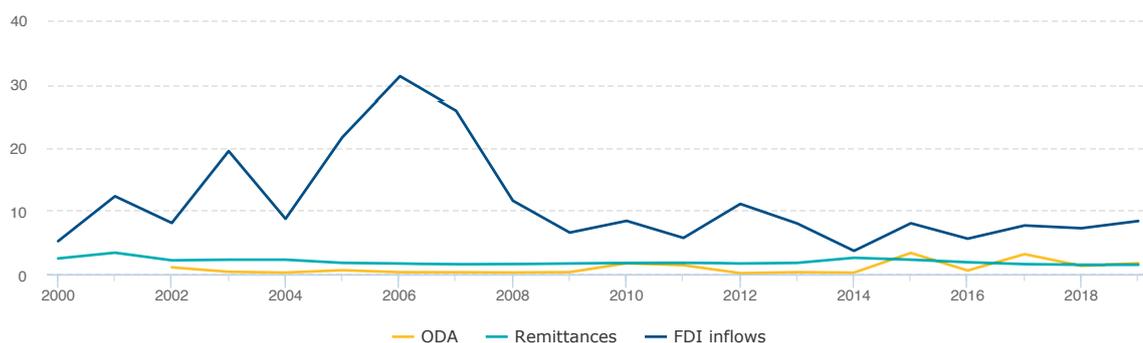
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



89.5%

## MARITIME TRANSPORT

### Fleet size

Number of ships

Ship type	2011	2019
Total fleet	1193	777
Oil tankers	3	2
Bulk carriers	35	32
General cargo	691	534
Container ships	391	150
Other types of ships	73	59

### Port performance

Ranked by 2019 data within SIDS group

Indicators	2019	SIDS Ranking
Number of port calls	839	1
Median time in port (days)	0.5	1
Average age of vessels	17	1
Average size (GT) of vessels	39 734	1

### Container port throughput

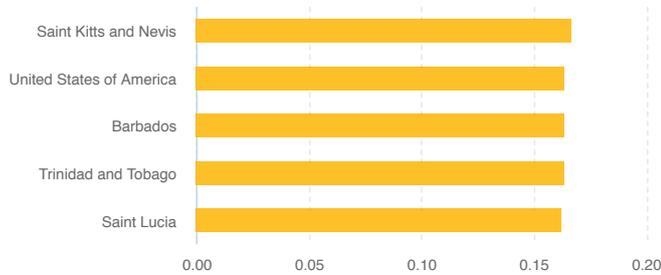
2019



27 657 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

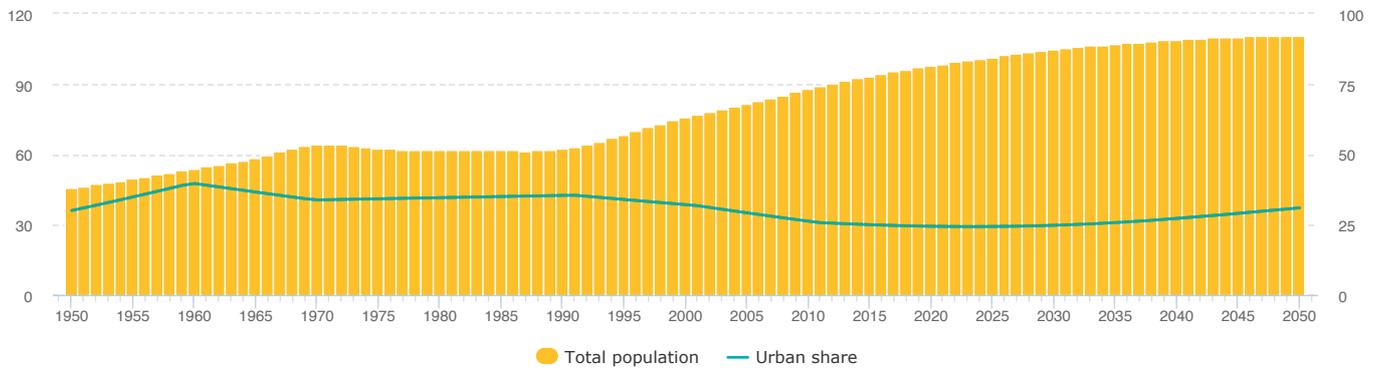
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	--	--
Human development index	2018	0.8
Human assets index	2020	96
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	--	--

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



77 years

### Population density

2019



221 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

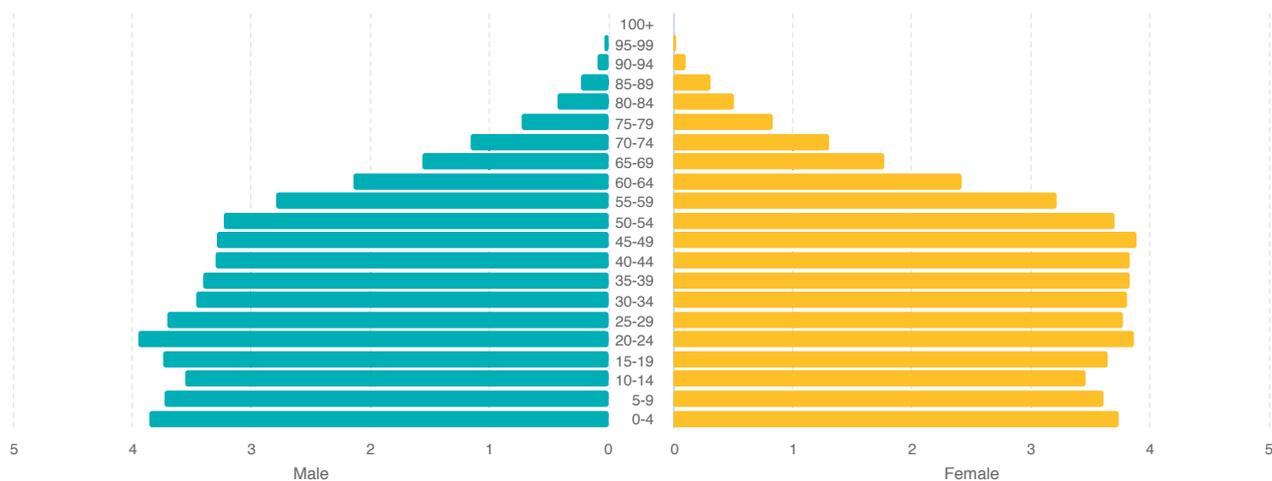
2019



Child: 31.8  
Old-age: 13.1

### 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	83	46	66	38	2.3
Merchandise imports	506	501	449	701	42.2
Services exports	463	478	949	1 157	69.6
Services imports	227	225	426	529	31.8

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



66% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.47

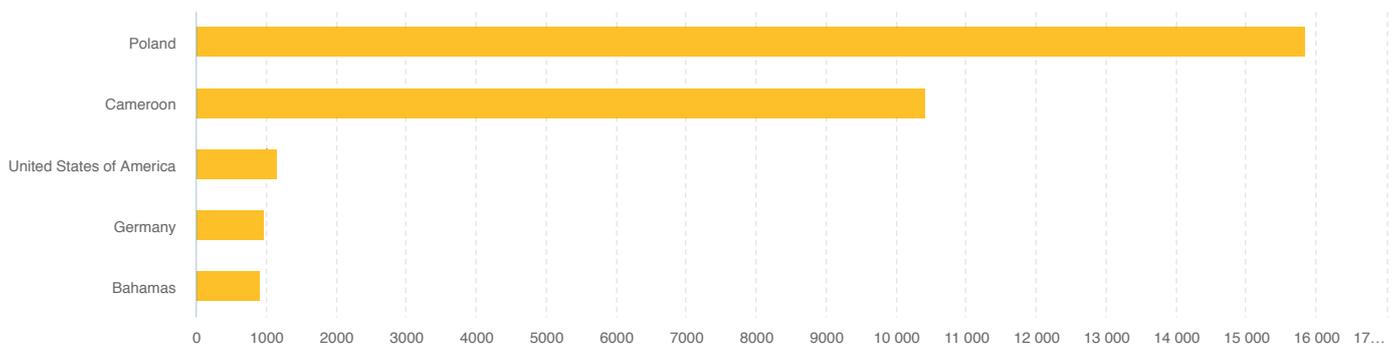
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



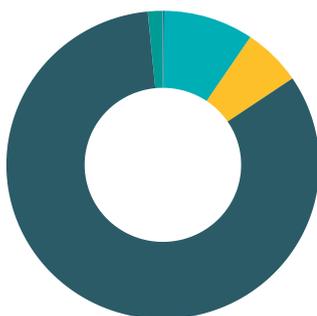
10.40

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

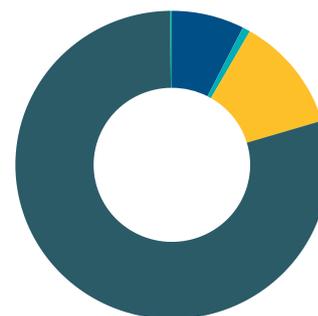


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

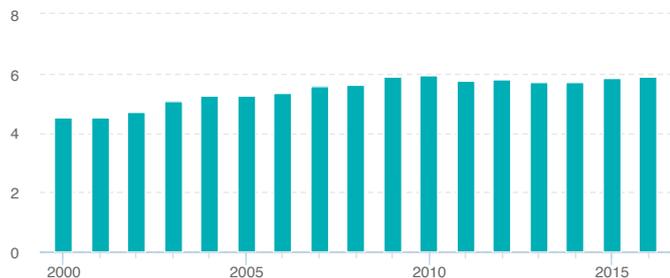


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

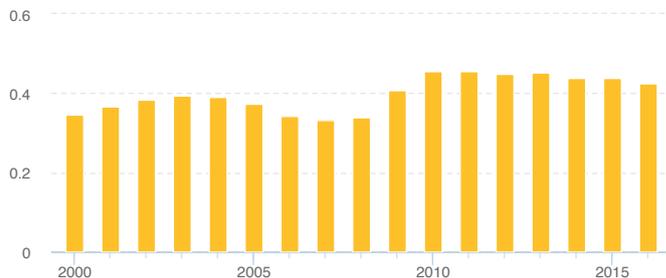
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



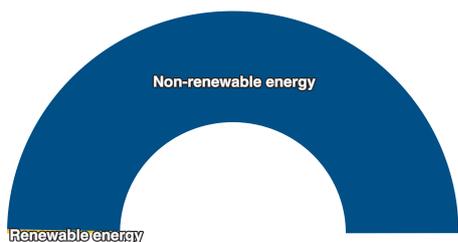
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



26.6kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



18.6%

### Marine protected area

2018



0.18%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

2019



Exports: 0.7%  
Imports: 3.6%

### Trade in ICT services

..



Exports: ..%  
Imports: ..%

### Share of internet users

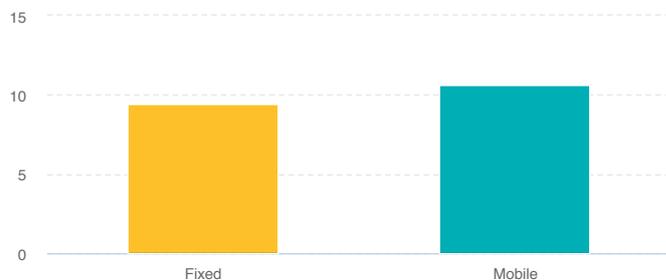
2017



76%

### Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions

Number of subscriptions per 100 people



## Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

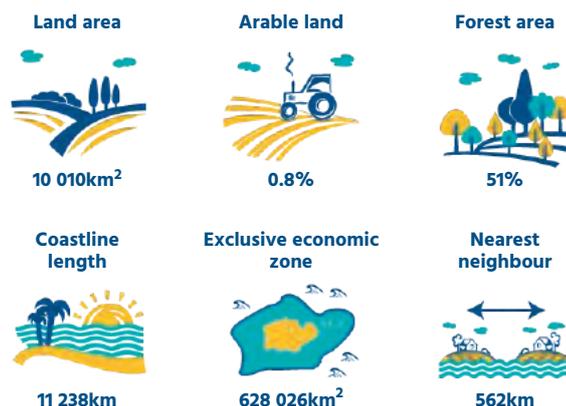
- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP: World 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](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](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](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.FL5M.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](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/>

## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seararoundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- United Nations University (2020). World Risk Report. Institute for Environment and Human Security. (accessed 28 October 2020).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).

## Bahamas

- > **Capital:** Nassau (25° 4' N, 77° 20' W)
- > **International airport(s):** Lynden Pindling International Airport, Grand Bahama International Airport, Leonard M. Thompson International Airport
- > **Official language(s):** English
- > **Currency:** Bahamian dollar (BSD)
- > **Time:** UTC -5
- > **Region:** Caribbean



### GEOGRAPHY

Located in the Atlantic Ocean, the Bahamas archipelago (also known as the Lucayan Archipelago) is comprised of some 700 low lying, tropical islands located off the east coast of Florida. Consisting mainly of raised coral reefs and sandbars, with a high point of only 63 m, it is one of the lowest countries in the world. It is unclear whether the name of the islands derive from the Spanish '*baja mar*', meaning shallow water, or from the Taíno '*ba ha ma*', meaning big upper middle land, which was a term for the region used by the indigenous peoples. Only about 30 of the islands are inhabited, with the majority (about 70 per cent) of people living in Nassau on the island of New Providence.

The Commonwealth of the Bahamas covers a massive 470 000 km<sup>2</sup> of ocean, stretching from Bimini, just 80 km off the Florida coast, then running along the entire coast of Cuba to Inagua, less than 100 km north of Haiti. The Bahamas sit right on the south western edge of the infamous Bermuda Triangle. The Tropic of Cancer bisects the Bahamian islands of Long Island and Exuma.

### CLIMATE

The Bahamas, surrounded by the warm Gulf stream, enjoys a tropical marine climate. The hot and rainy season spans from May to October while the cooler season lasts from November to April. Cooler weather is felt more on the north-western islands. Average monthly temperatures range between 22 to 29 °C. Sea temperatures remain at around 26 °C all year round. Hurricanes and tropical cyclones strike mainly from August to November. The average annual rainfall is about 1 300 mm, with June and September being the wettest months. (World Bank, 2020) The prevailing winds have a cooling effect on the often humid climate.

### ECONOMY

The Bahamas had the 3rd highest per capita GDP in the western hemisphere in 2019, after the United States and Canada (UNCTAD, 2021). In 2019, over seven million people arrived to the Bahamas by air and sea according to the local authorities. With only 0.8 per cent of arable land, according to FAO, agriculture makes a small contribution to the economy. Manufactured exports often relate to the oceans economy, such as shipping equipment and sea food, but also petroleum. Over 80 per cent of GDP comes from the service sector where four in five persons are employed (ILO, 2020a), many in tourism and transport. Travel and tourism's contribution to the economy is large. Almost 7.3 million tourists arrived in the country in 2019 and inbound tourism expenditure reached 28 per cent over GDP (UNWTO, 2021). The islands are also an important centre for business and financial services and banking (UNCTAD, 2021).

The Bahamas is a hub for transshipment and shipping services. It has one of the highest numbers of registered ships in the world - in particular, cruise ships that sail in the Caribbean. Other industries include oil bunkering, salt, rum, aragonite and pharmaceuticals. Because of its ship registries and heavy reliance on tourism, the Bahamas does not collect taxes on personal income or capital gains. Revenues are mainly generated from tariffs on imported goods, value added tax and property taxes, as well as from tourists who visit the country.

The Bahamas imports almost all its food. However, some fruits are cultivated locally, mainly: tomatoes, pineapple, banana, mango, guava, sapodilla, soursoap, grapefruit and sea grape. Some pigs, sheep and cattle are also raised. A small industry catches spiny lobster, grouper and conch.

## CULTURE

---

The national dish is Conch, a staple in the Bahamas. It is a large tropical mollusc (sea snail) with firm, white flesh. It is often served raw as Conch salad with lime juice, vegetables and fruit.

On 26 December each year, the Bahamians celebrate Junkanoo. It is a spectacular carnival, characterized by colourful costumes, stilt dancers, street dancers, clowns and acrobats, all accompanied by powerful rhythms beaten traditionally on goatskin drums, cowbells, bugles, horns, whistles and conch shells.

Cricket is the national sport of the Bahamas but track and field is also very popular. The Bahamas have produced some notable athletic stars, including: Frank Rutherford, Chandra Sturup, Debbie Ferguson, Eldece Clarke-Lewis, Pauline Davis-Thompson, Savatheda Fynes, Tonique Williams-Darling and Shaunae Miller.

For scuba divers, the Bahamas boasts the longest known underwater cave system in the world beneath Grand Bahama Island. It also has Dean's Blue Hole, located west of Clarence Town on Long Island, which, at 202 m, is one of the deepest blue holes in the world. The warm waters surrounding the islands boast colourful fish and turtles. Andros Island offers the 225 km-long Andros Barrier Reef, one of the longest coral reefs in the world.

The Bahamas have a number of national symbols: the yellow elder is the national flower, the Lignum Vitae (tree of life) the national tree, the flamingo the national bird and the blue marlin the national fish of the islands.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$34 863

Productive Capacity Index  
2018



36.3

Economic and environmental vulnerability index  
2019



28

Consumer Price Index growth  
2019



1.3%

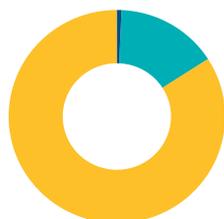
Unemployment rate  
2018



Total 10%  
Female 10%, Male 10.1%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

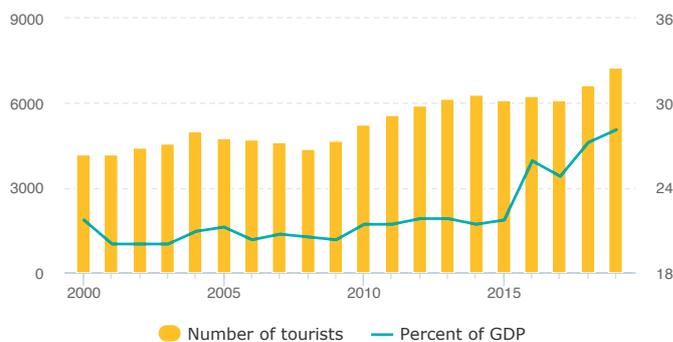
Percentage of GDP



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

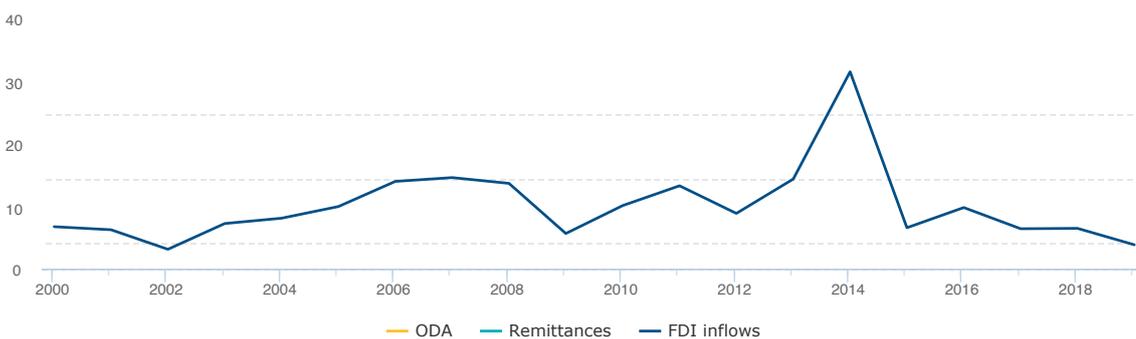
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



62.6%

## 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	6 315	2
Median time in port (days)	0.8	25
Average age of vessels	21	7
Average size (GT) of vessels	58 283	2

### Container port throughput

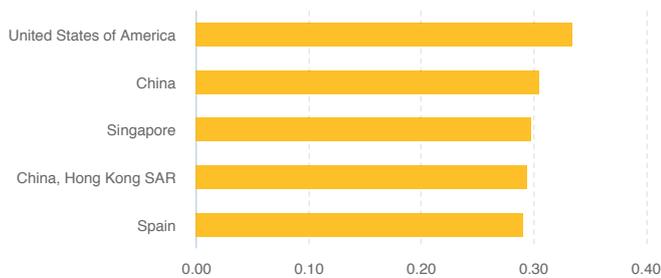
2019



1 473 460 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

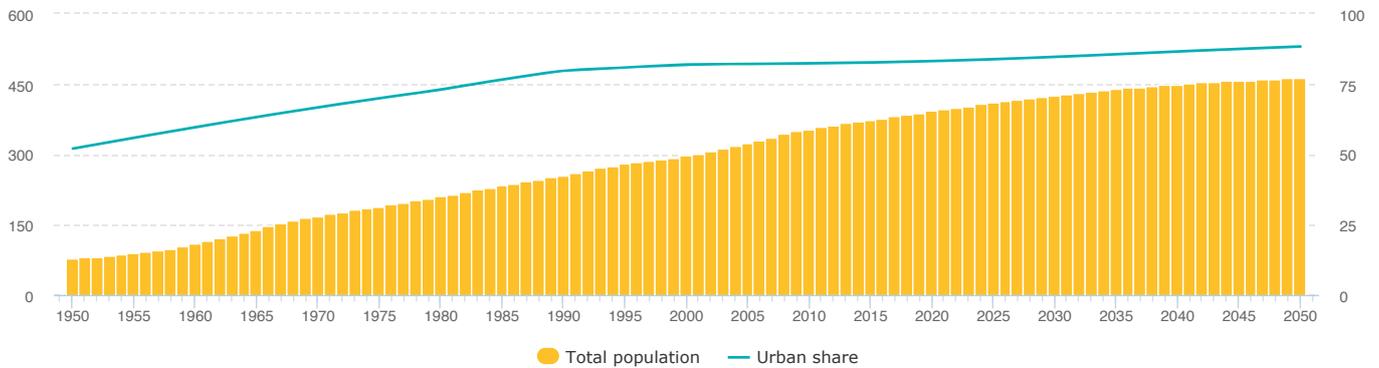
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	--	--
Human development index	2018	0.8
Human assets index	2020	92
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	2019	0.3

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



74 years

### Population density

2019



39 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

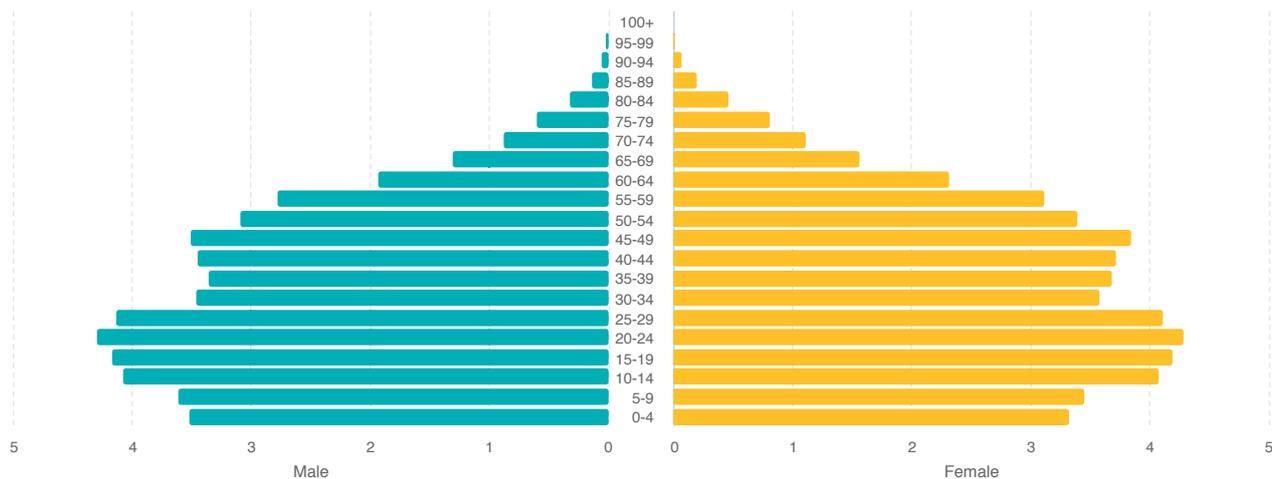
2019



Child: 31.3  
Old-age: 10.6

### 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	549	702	521	669	4.9
Merchandise imports	2 312	2 591	2 954	3 073	22.6
Services exports	2 511	2 494	2 896	4 094	30.1
Services imports	1 286	1 181	1 278	1 954	14.4

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



38% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.42

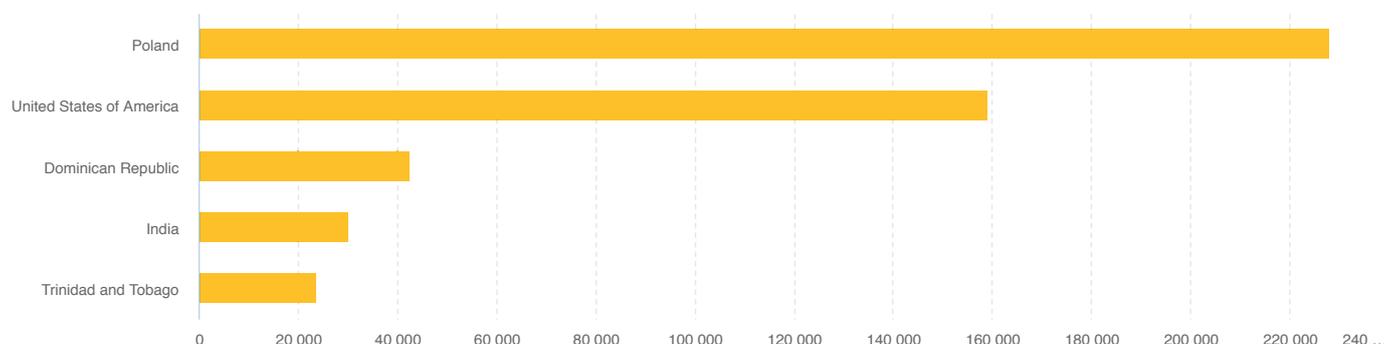
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



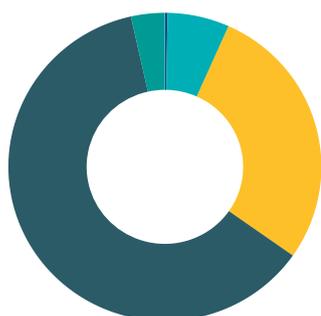
10.06

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

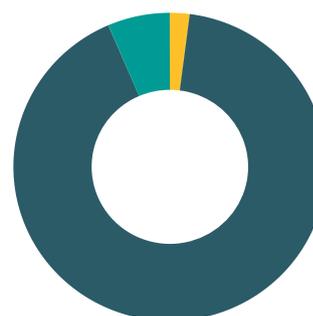


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

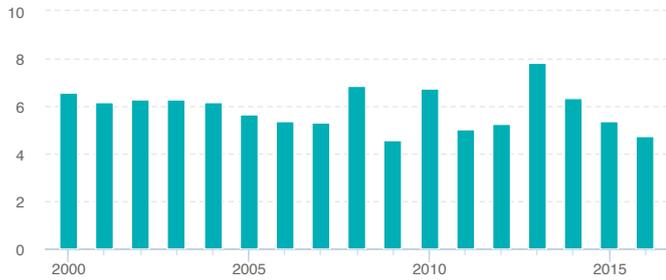


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



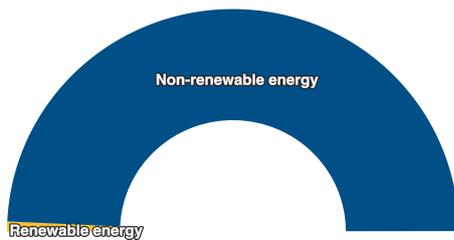
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



38.8kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



36.6%

### Marine protected area

2018



7.92%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

2018



Exports: 0.6%  
Imports: 2.8%

### Trade in ICT services

2018



Exports: 0.0%  
Imports: 0.0%

### Share of internet users

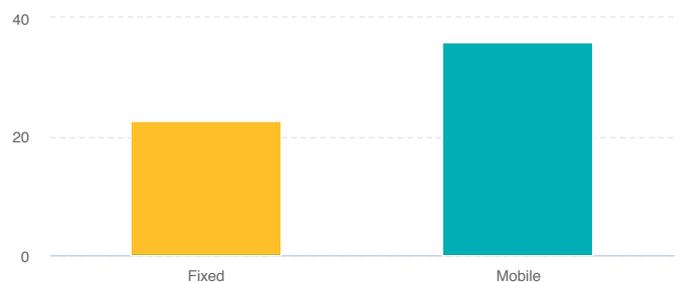
2017



85%

### 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>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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](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/>

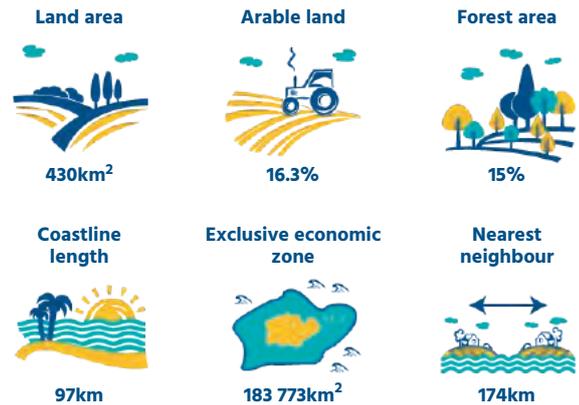


## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020a). ILOStat. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020b). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description.UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description.UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).

## Barbados

- > **Capital:** Bridgetown (13° 6' N, 59° 37' W)
- > **International airport(s):** Grantley Adams Airport, Bridgetown
- > **Official language(s):** English
- > **Currency:** Barbados Dollar
- > **Time:** UTC -4
- > **Region:** Caribbean



### GEOGRAPHY

Known as both *'the land of the flying fish'* and the *'jewel of the Caribbean'*, Barbados is the easternmost island in the Caribbean island chain, otherwise known as the Lesser Antilles in the West Indies. Unlike many Caribbean islands, Barbados is non-volcanic and composed mainly of coral limestone. It has a varied landscape including flatlands, highlands, terraces and rugged cliffs, caves and tropical rainforests. The island's name means *'the bearded ones'*, after the indigenous bearded fig trees once found in abundance on the island.

### CLIMATE

Barbados, lying just north of the equator, enjoys a hot and humid, moderately tropical, oceanic climate all year round. However, the heat is tempered by northeast trade winds. Temperatures do not vary by much throughout the year, with monthly average temperatures ranging from 26 to 27°C; humidity usually stays between 70 and 76 per cent. Sea temperatures average around 25°C. The average annual rainfall is about 2 200 mm, with November as the wettest month. Barbados lies along the southern edge of the Caribbean hurricane zone. Hurricanes have caused great devastation in the past. The Atlantic hurricane season coincides with the wet season, which lasts from June to November. (World Bank, 2020)

### ECONOMY

Barbados has an open, market-oriented economy. The Barbados economy, formerly solely dependent on sugar, has diversified over the past 30 years into services (tourism and financial services) and light industry and agriculture (sugar). According to the items attribute is mandatory, almost 30 per cent of men work in industry, and nearly 10 per cent for women. Relatively few are employed in agriculture. Services account for over 80 per cent of GDP (UNCTAD, 2021), and almost the same proportion of employment. In 2018, almost 1.4 million tourists arrived in the country and inbound tourism expenditure reached 22 per cent over GDP (UNWTO, 2021).

As a small and open economy, Barbados is vulnerable to global economic downturns and those of its trade partners. A significant amount of income is received in the form of remittances from Barbadians overseas. Barbados' best-known export is Mount Gay Rum, one of the oldest and most famous brands of fine rum in the world and produced in Barbados since 1703. Given this history, it is not surprising that the export of beverages constitutes well over 10 per cent of the value of commodity exports in Barbados. The main export partners include, for instance the United States of America, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica.

### CULTURE

Barbados has the third oldest parliament in the world, with uninterrupted parliamentary governance since 1639. The capital of Barbados, Bridgetown, has been an important port town for many centuries. This colourful and well-preserved historic town is a UNESCO heritage site.

Barbados is also known for its small wooden chattel houses. Chattel, meaning movable property, arose in the past as homeowners were not necessarily landowners. Thus, chattel houses were constructed on blocks, so if an owner had to move, they could take the house with them. Over time, a distinct and ornate design of Barbadian chattel house evolved, making them unique and traditionally Barbadian in style.

Barbadian cuisine includes a unique blend of foods with African, Indian and British influences. The national dish of Barbados is Cou-Cou and Flying Fish. Cou-Cou is made with yellow cornmeal and okras, in much the same way that it has been made in Africa for centuries. Flying Fish is prepared and stewed in an aromatic sauce of tomato, onion, chives, thyme, fresh pepper, garlic and other local herbs. Other popular dishes include fried fish cakes, souse (a pickled pork dish), black pudding, macaroni pie, and sweet desserts such as tamarind balls and baked custard.

Music plays an important role in the country's culture, blending calypso, local spouge, jazz, reggae and soca. Perhaps their best known musical exports are Rihanna and Grandmaster Flash.

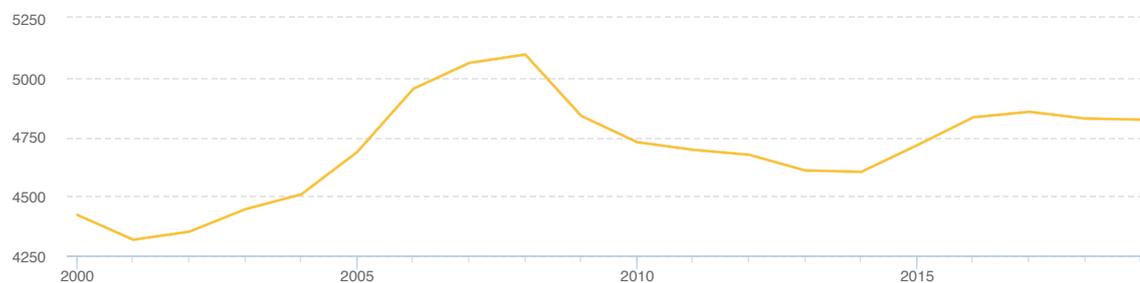
Cricket is considered the national sport. One of the greatest cricket all-rounders, Sir Garfield St. Auburn Sobers, was born in 1936 in Barbados.

Before the Concorde supersonic jet was decommissioned in 2003, Barbados was one of only four countries with regular Concorde service from London.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$18 149

Productive Capacity Index  
2018



38.4

Economic and environmental vulnerability index  
2019



16

Consumer Price Index growth  
2019



2.5%

Unemployment rate  
2016



Total 9.7%  
Female 10%, Male 9.3%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

Percentage of GDP



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

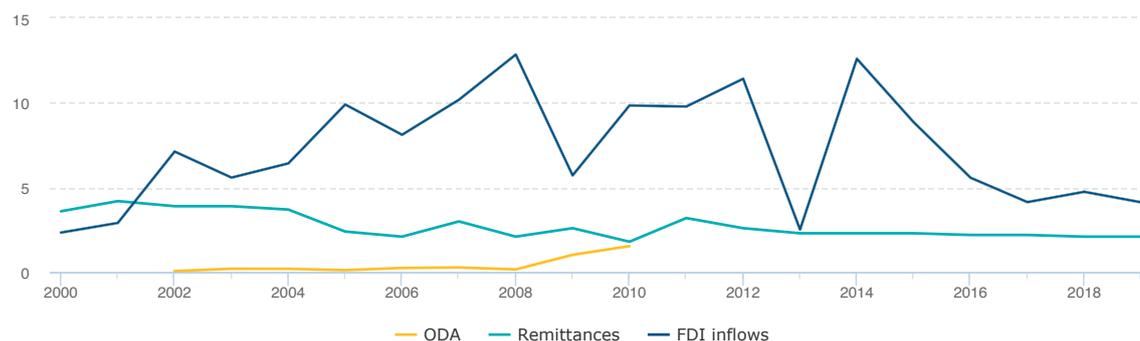
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



126.3%

## 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	1 305	13
Median time in port (days)	0.6	27
Average age of vessels	18	11
Average size (GT) of vessels	33 198	9

### Container port throughput

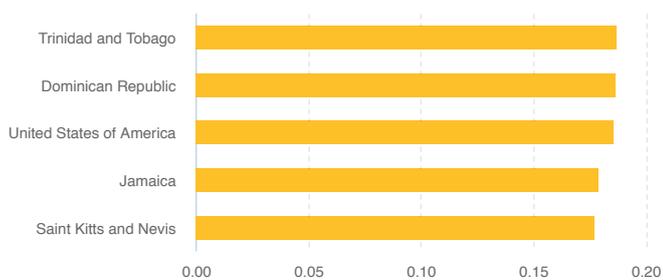
2019



82 204 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

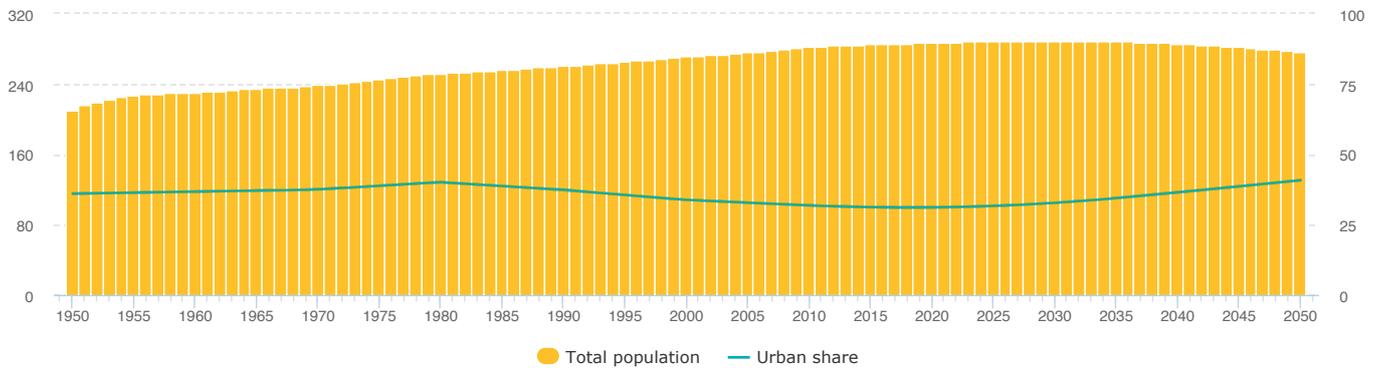
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	--	--
Human development index	2018	0.8
Human assets index	2020	98
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	2019	0.3

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



79 years

### Population density

2019



667 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

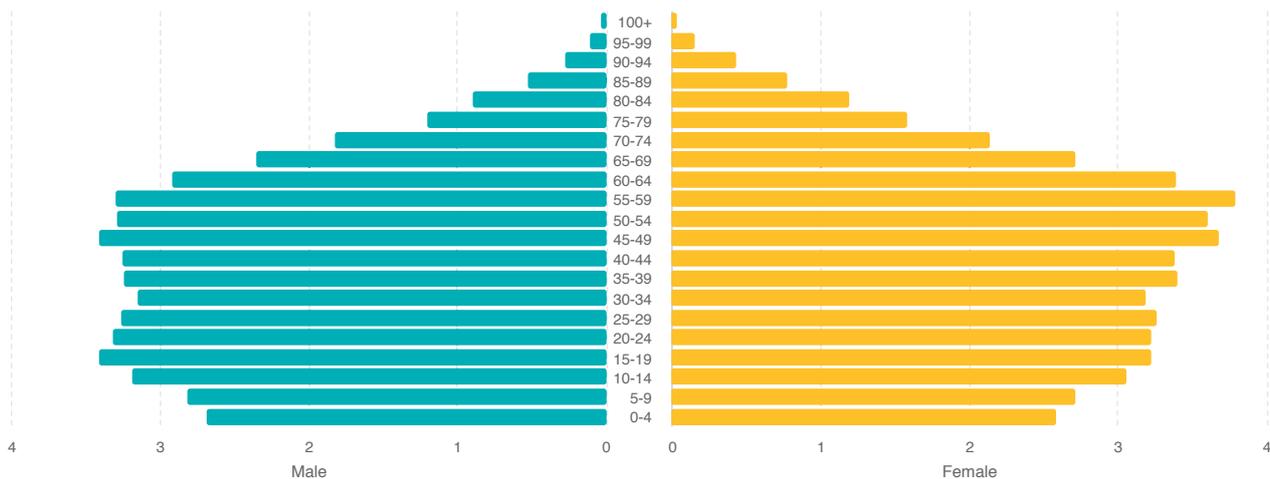
2019



Child: 25.6  
Old-age: 24.3

### 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	359	429	483	444	8.5
Merchandise imports	604	569	618	581	30.4
Services exports	1 255	1 332	1 419	1 498	28.8
Services imports	522	670	713	574	11

**Trade openness**  
Goods and services  
**2019**



**39% of GDP**

**Export concentration index**  
**2019**



**0.15**

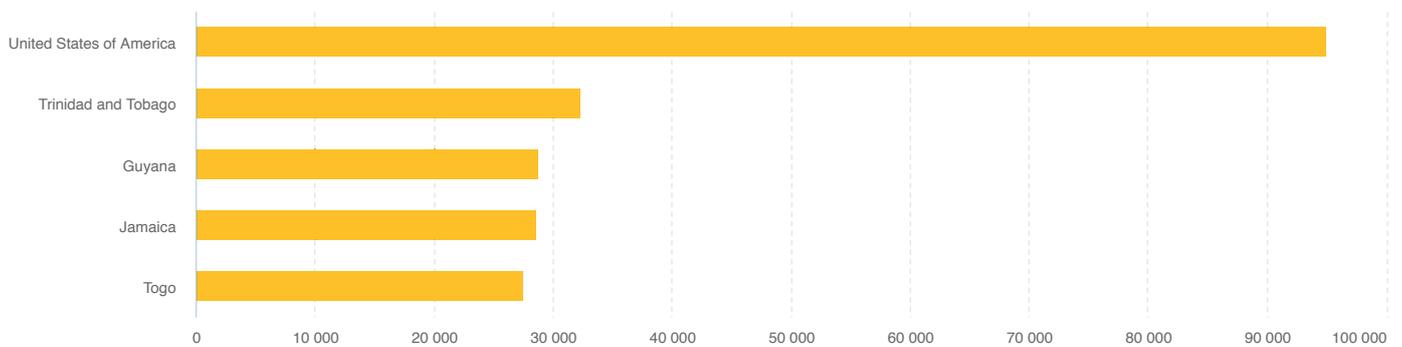
**Food import dependency**  
Average  
**2015-2019**



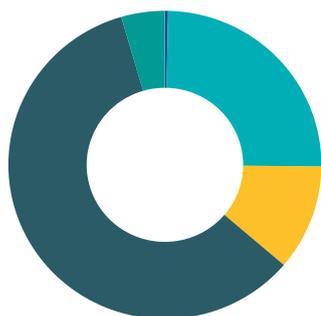
**13.86**

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

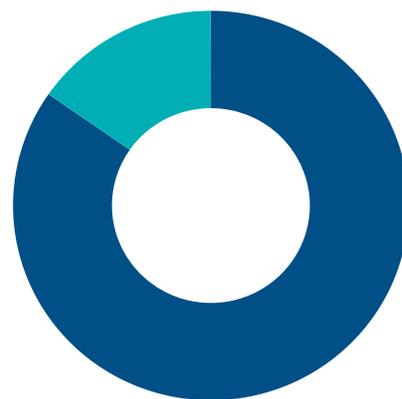


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

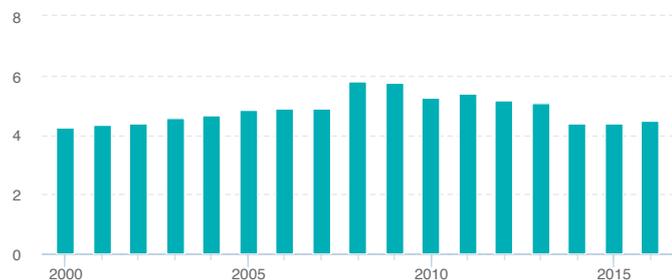


- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

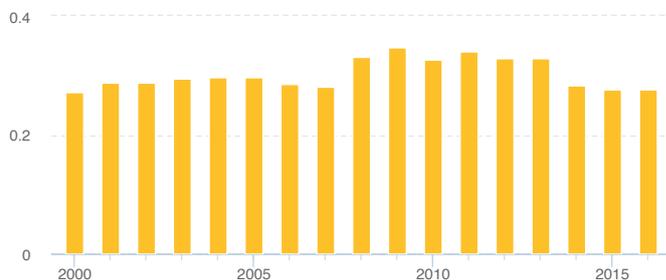
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



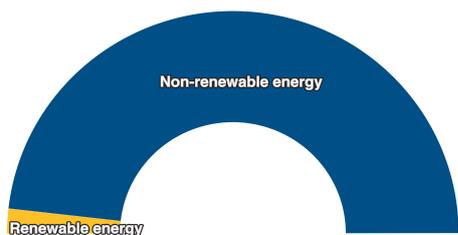
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



22.1kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



1.3%

### Marine protected area

2018



0.01%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

2019



Exports: 0.3%  
Imports: 3.1%

### Trade in ICT services

2016



Exports: 0.7%  
Imports: 8.1%

### Share of internet users

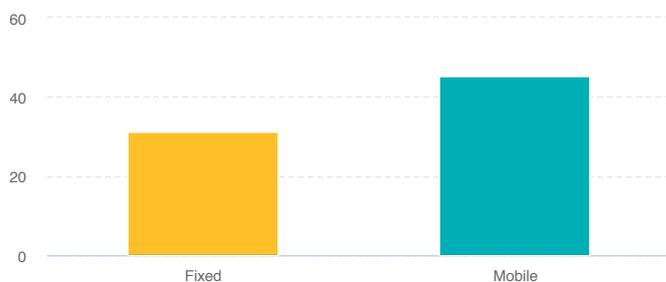
2017



82%

### Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions

Number of subscriptions per 100 people



## Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

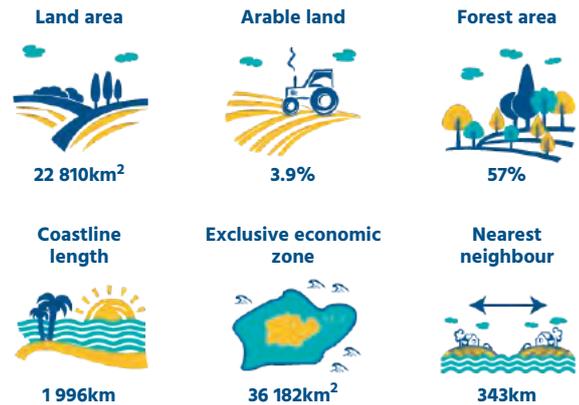
- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP: World 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).

## Belize

- > **Capital:** Belmopan (17°15' N 88°46' W)
- > **International airport(s):** Philip S. W. Goldson Airport
- > **Official language(s):** English
- > **Currency:** Belize dollar
- > **Time:** UTC -6
- > **Region:** Caribbean



### GEOGRAPHY

Belize is located on the northeast, Caribbean coast of Central America. It borders Mexico to the north and Guatemala to the west and south, making it the only Central American country without a Pacific coastline. While the northern and southern borders are largely defined by the courses of two rivers, the Hondo and the Sarstoon River, respectively, the western border follows no natural features and runs in a relatively straight line north-to-south through highland plateaus and the country's predominant lowlands (swampy at the coast and covered in forest inland). A total land border of 516 km is contrasted by the 386 km coastline to the east in the Caribbean Sea. The coast is flanked by the second-longest barrier reef in the world. The Belize Barrier Reef consists of a 300 km long section of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System with a total length of 900 km. Belize has 1 060 islands and many lagoons along the coast.

### CLIMATE

Having a tropical climate, Belize experiences pronounced wet and dry seasons. Temperatures in Belize are affected by elevation, proximity to the coast and the effects of trade winds from the Caribbean. Average temperatures range from 23 °C in January to 27 °C in June (World Bank, 2020), with the interior having somewhat higher and highlands somewhat lower temperatures. Seasons are mostly determined by the amount of rainfall. The wet season in Belize occurs during the months of May to October and the dry season from November to April. During the wet season, Belize usually receives mean monthly rainfall of 150-400 mm in the south of the country; in the rest of the country precipitation is limited with less than 100 mm of rainfall per month (World Bank, 2020).

Hurricanes have major effects on the climate of Belize, often devastating ones. The city of Belmopan was built in 1970 to become the new capital, since Belize City was so often devastated by hurricanes. Belmopan is the third-largest settlement in Belize, following Belize City and San Ignacio.

### ECONOMY

Belize's economy has traditionally been based primarily on agriculture. Key export crops include citrus, sugar, banana, and marine products such as shrimp (World Bank, 2020). According to the FAO (FAO, 2020), less than 4 per cent of the territory is classified as arable land. The share of agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing in total value added has fallen to just below 11 per cent in 2019, whereas services now account for three quarters (UNCTAD, 2021). Agriculture accounts for about 17 per cent of employment in the country; roughly 24 per cent for men. Over 85 per cent of women and 55 per cent of men are employed in service sector (ILO, 2020a).

Tourism has been gaining importance in the economy of Belize since the early 2000s: inbound tourism expenditure as a per cent of GDP was over 27 per cent in 2019 and the number of inbound tourists reached almost 1.7 million by 2018 (UNWTO, 2021). Belize's main export partners are the United States of America and the United Kingdom, jointly dominating the trade accounting for around 60 per cent of Belize's total exports. Jamaica, Ireland and Spain are also important export partners. (UNCTAD, 2021).

### CULTURE

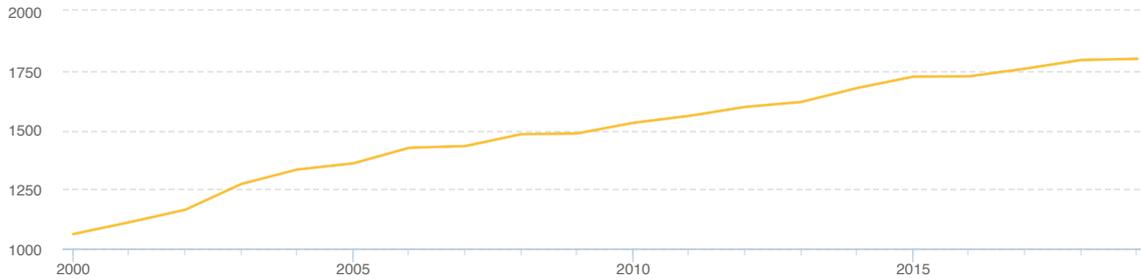
Belize's culture is an amalgamation of various ethnicities in the country, ranging from Central American to Afro-Caribbean, with a blend of Indian and Chinese communities. This is most pronounced in cuisine, but also in music and national folklore, the latter reflecting various legends.

Local food is diverse and influenced by the history of the country. Belizean cuisine offers spicy Creole dishes, corned beef and fried paca, which is a small jungle rodent. Beans and rice are a staple for most meals, and they commonly include coconut milk, hot peppers and plantains. Underground roasted pig is one of the delicious dishes still prepared, especially in the countryside.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$4 815

Productive Capacity Index

2018



34.3

Economic and environmental vulnerability index

2019



40

Consumer Price Index growth

2019



0.4%

Unemployment rate

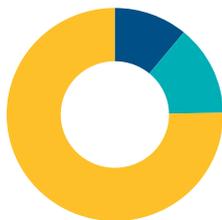
2017



Total 6.6%  
Female 9.8%, Male 4.6%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

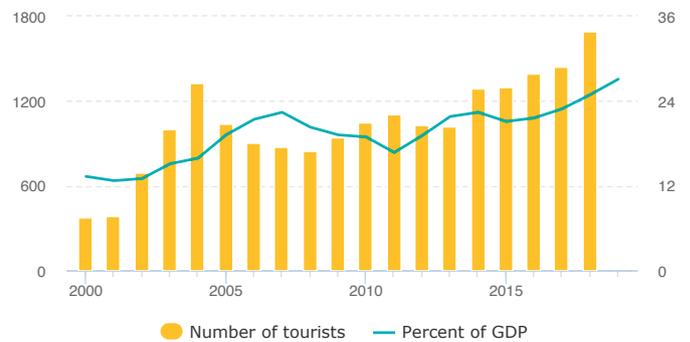
Percentage of GDP



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

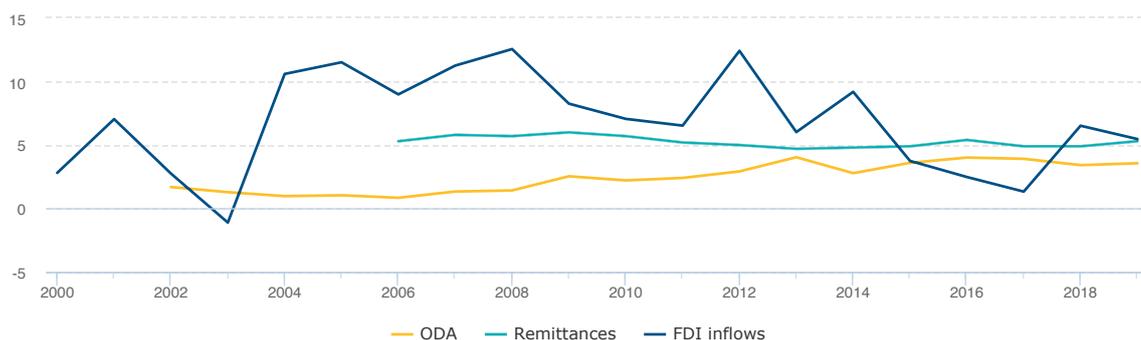
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



95.2%

## 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	570	20
Median time in port (days)	0.5	28
Average age of vessels	13	28
Average size (GT) of vessels	70 933	1

### Container port throughput

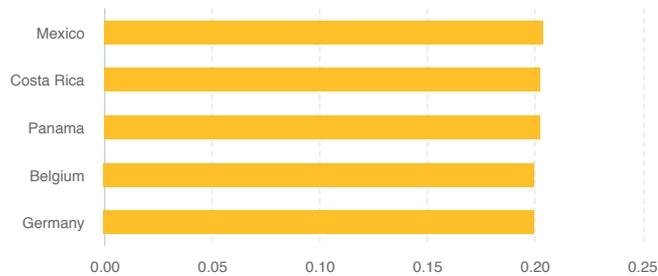
2019



44 510 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

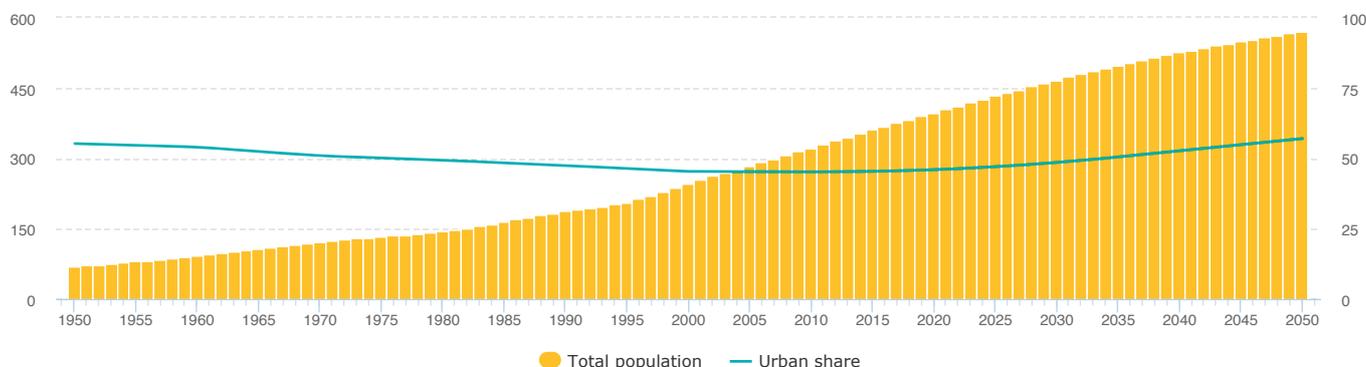
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	--	--
Human development index	2018	0.7
Human assets index	2020	86
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	2019	0.4

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



75 years

### Population density

2019



17 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

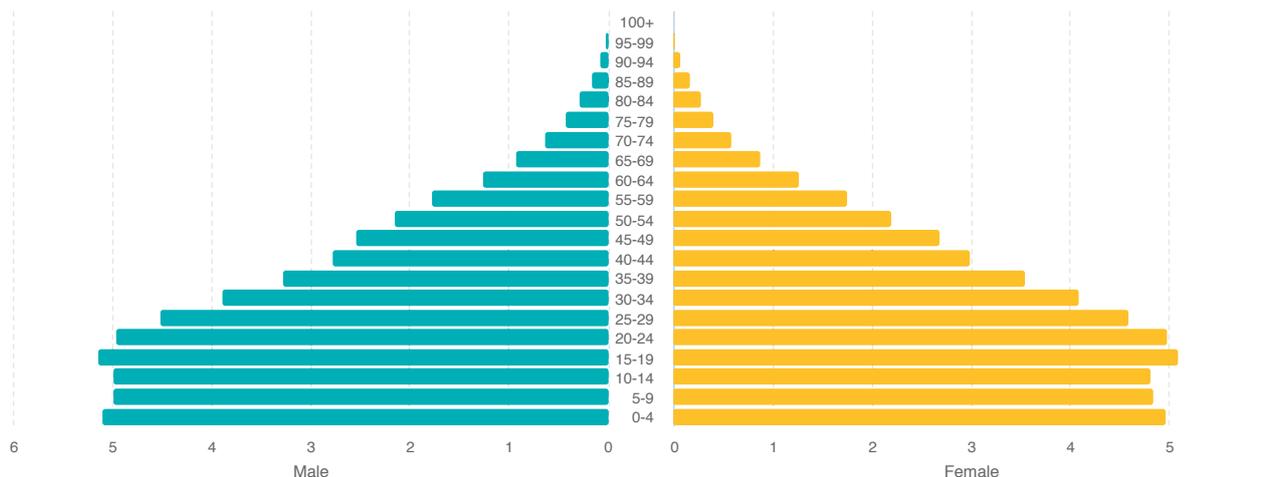
2019



Child: 45.4  
Old-age: 7.4

### 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	319	478	538	462	24.6
Merchandise imports	593	706	991	986	52.5
Services exports	307	354	496	686	36.5
Services imports	159	162	221	295	15.7

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



63% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.29

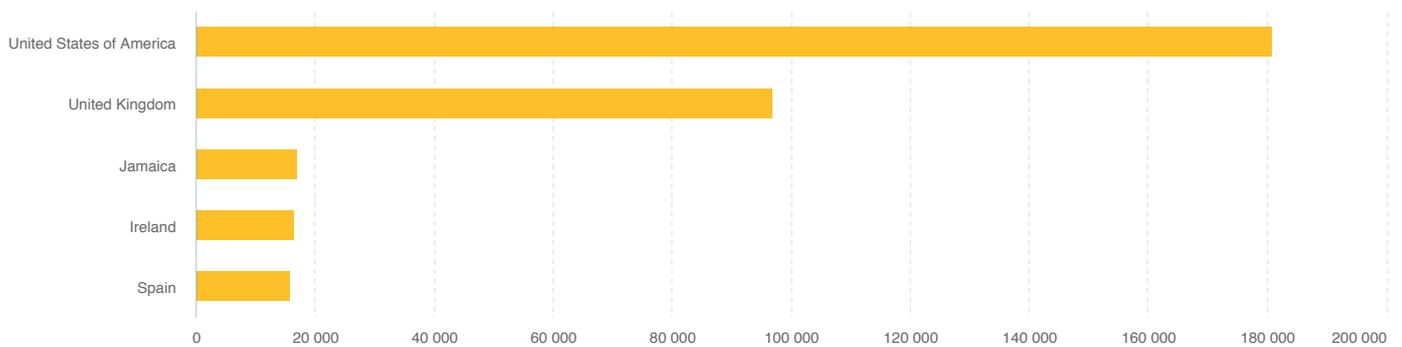
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



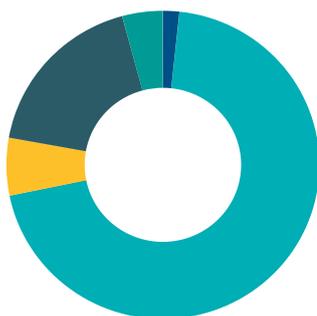
-16.19

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

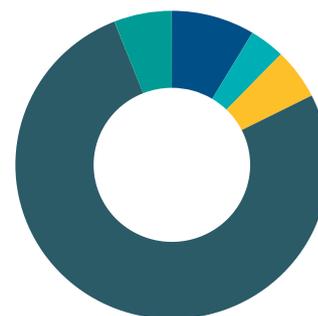


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

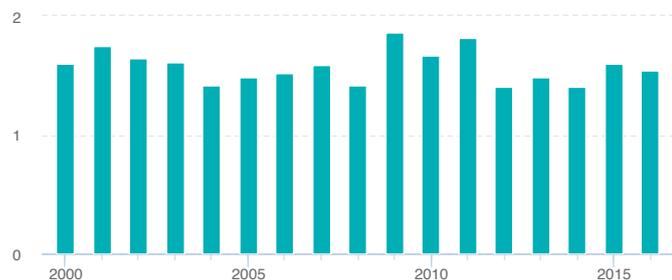


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



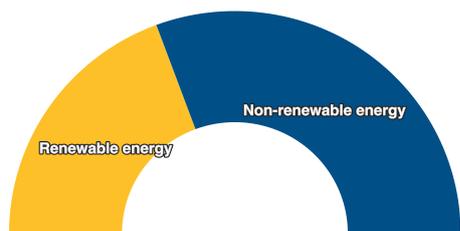
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



15.1kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



37.7%

### Marine protected area

2018



10.08%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

2019



Exports: 0.4%  
Imports: 3.1%

### Trade in ICT services

2019



Exports: 3.5%  
Imports: 6.5%

### Share of internet users

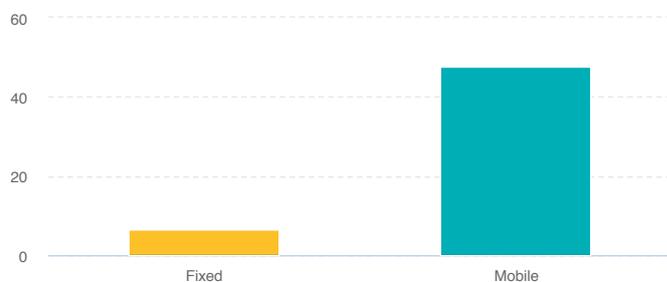
2017



47%

### 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>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>



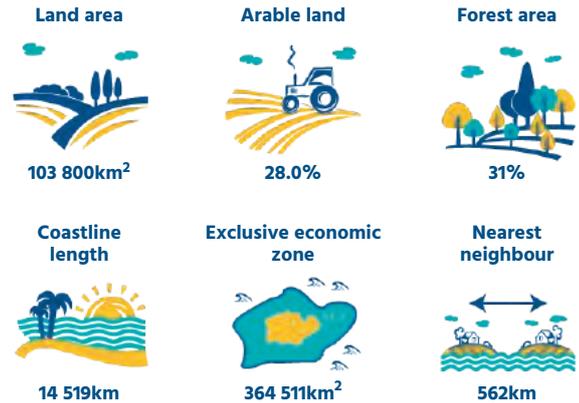
## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- FAO (2020). FAOStat. Available at <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020a). ILOStat. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020b). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).



## Cuba

- > **Capital:** Havana (23°8'N, 82°23'W)
- > **International airport(s):** José Martí International Airport
- > **Official language(s):** Spanish
- > **Currency:** Cuban peso
- > **Time:** UTC -5
- > **Region:** Caribbean



## GEOGRAPHY

Cuba consists of an archipelago of islands located in the northern Caribbean Sea. Cuba is the main island, surrounded by four smaller island groups: the Colorados, the Sabana-Camagüey, the Jardines de la Reina and the Canarreos. The main island is 1 250 km long. It is the largest island in the Caribbean and 17<sup>th</sup> largest island in the world measured by land area. The Sierra Maestra mountains are located in the southeast on the main island with the highest point, "Pico Turquino" reaching 1 974 m. All in all, the country consists of more than 1 600 islands, islets and cays. The second largest individual island is the Isla de la Juventud (the Isle of Youth), which is part of the Canarreos archipelago. Havana is the largest city of Cuba and its capital. Other large cities include Santiago de Cuba and Camagüey.

## CLIMATE

Cuba has a tropical climate with a rainy season in summer. Cuba is highly vulnerable to climate variability, with rainwater its only water resource. Therefore, rain also has an important impact on agricultural activity. Average monthly temperatures range from 23 to 28 °C. The annual average rainfall is 1 376 mm. Although Cuba does not have annual hurricanes, September and October are prone to heavy rains. Monthly rainfall exceeds 150 mm from May to October. These are also the warmest months of the year. (World Bank, 2020)

## ECONOMY

Travel and tourism are important for Cuba. In 2018, over 4.7 million tourists visited Cuba (UNWTO, 2021). With few natural or mineral resources and water shortages, exacerbated by cycles of sustained drought, agriculture is mostly subsistence-level. According to the FAO (2020), over 28 per cent of the territory is classified as arable land. The soil is highly fertile, but agriculture is highly dependent on precipitation. The main crops grown include among others sugarcane, tobacco, rice, citrus fruits and potatoes. Sugar, beverages and tobacco are important export products, and the main export destinations include China, Canada and Venezuela (UNCTAD, 2021).

In 2019, agriculture accounted for about 18 per cent of employment in Cuba; roughly 24 per cent for men and 7 per cent for women. In total, two in three Cubans worked in services, four in five among women. Industry employed 10 per cent of women and 20 per cent of men. (ILO, 2020a) The Cuban economy is dominated by state-run enterprises and most people are employed by the state. Cuba is classified as an upper middle income country (World Bank, 2021a) and GDP reached US\$9 295 per capita in 2019 (UNCTAD, 2021).

## CULTURE

Music is an important part of Cuban culture and brings together influences from both Spanish and African music. The traditional music of Cuba includes cha-cha-cha, charanga, danzon, mambo, and rumba, among others. Salsa evolved from these rhythms.

In addition to music, Cuba is well known for its handmade cigars. The country produces several million cigars per year, and the International Havana Cigar Festival brings many tourists to the country

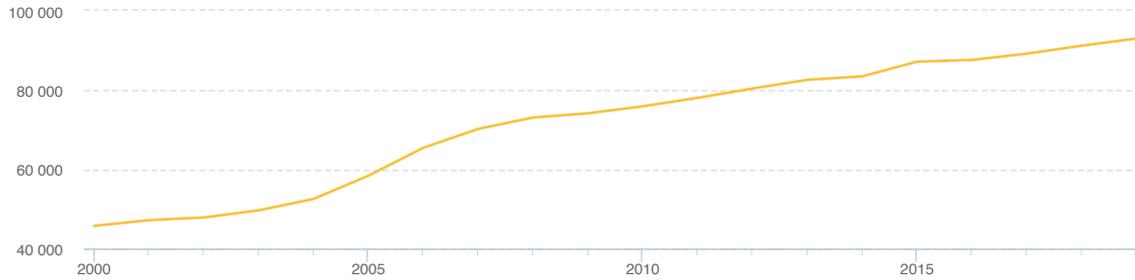
Pork is the meat of choice for traditional feasts and is often served with rice and beans. Black beans are a common ingredient and in several types of dishes. Rice with black beans is called arroz congri. Cuban cuisine uses tomatoes, cassava, lettuce, and, when afforded, chicken, beef, pork and eggs. Cuban coffee is famous, but most of its coffee is exported and Cubans themselves consume imported coffee, often from Africa.

Baseball is the most popular sport in Cuba, though other sports also play an important role in Cuban society. In the warm local climate, Cubans often wear cool and relaxed clothing with a tradition of simplicity. Guayabera is the most famous traditional clothing worn by men as a classic linen or cotton shirt, usually in white, and women wear Guayabera dresses.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$9 296

### Productive Capacity Index

2018



30.6

### Economic and environmental vulnerability index

2019



28

### Consumer Price Index growth

2019



5.4%

### Unemployment rate

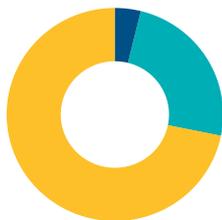
2018



Total 1.7%  
Female 1.8%, Male 1.6%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

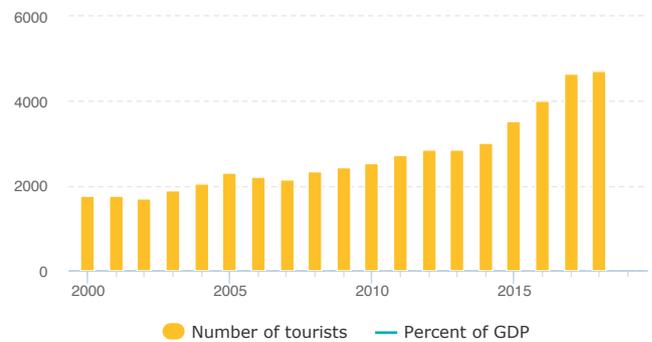
Percentage of GDP



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

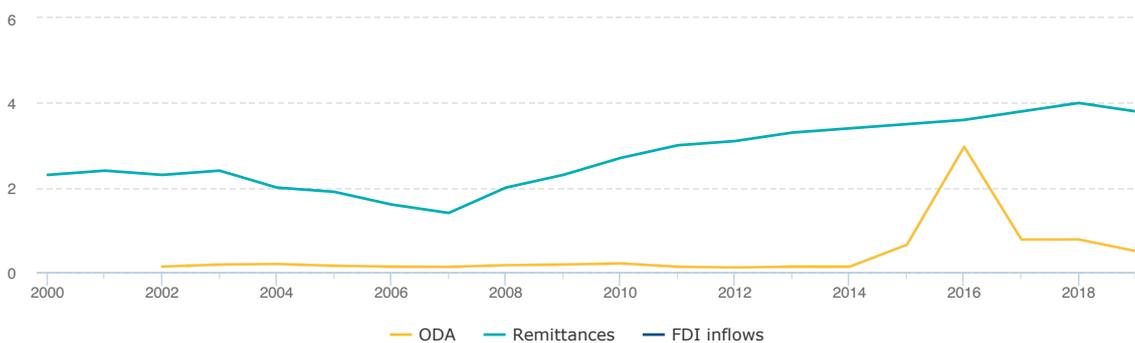
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



78.2%

## 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	1 933	10
Median time in port (days)	2.5	3
Average age of vessels	17	14
Average size (GT) of vessels	16 520	19

### Container port throughput

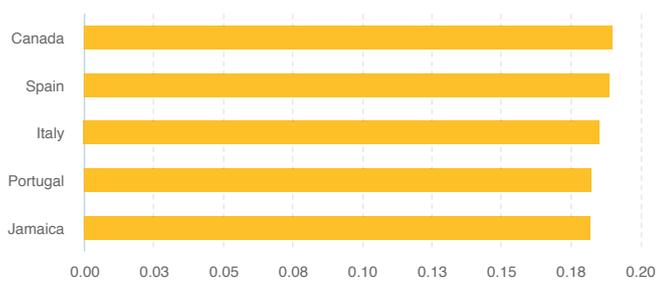
2019



340 950 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

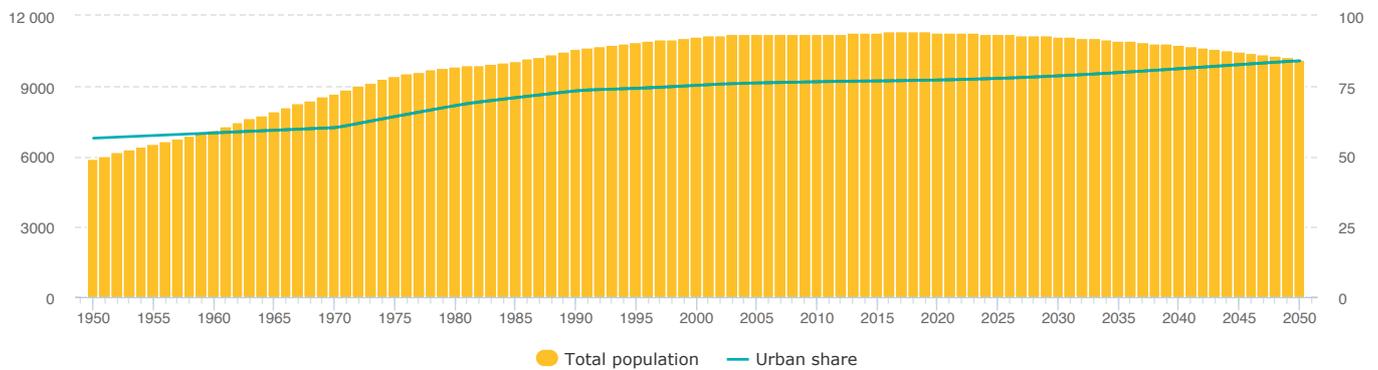
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	--	--
Human development index	2018	0.8
Human assets index	2020	98
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	2019	0.3

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



79 years

### Population density

2019



109 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

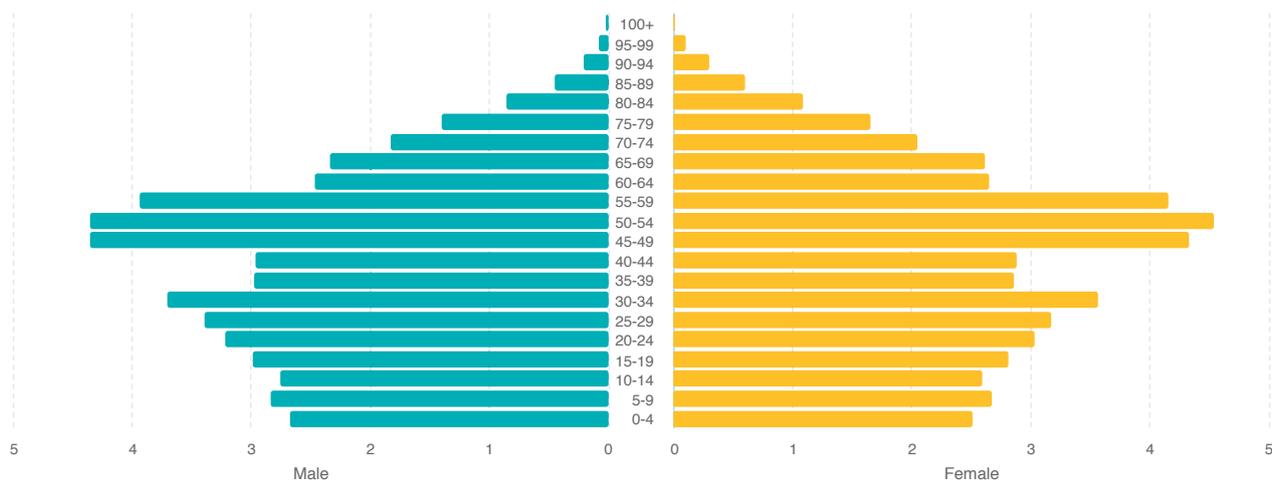
2019



Child: 23.5  
Old-age: 22.8

### 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	2 319	4 914	3 350	2 062	2
Merchandise imports	8 084	11 496	11 702	9 901	9.4
Services exports	7 075	10 546	11 369	0	0
Services imports	1 015	1 923	2 035	0	0

### Trade openness Goods and services

2018



14% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.24

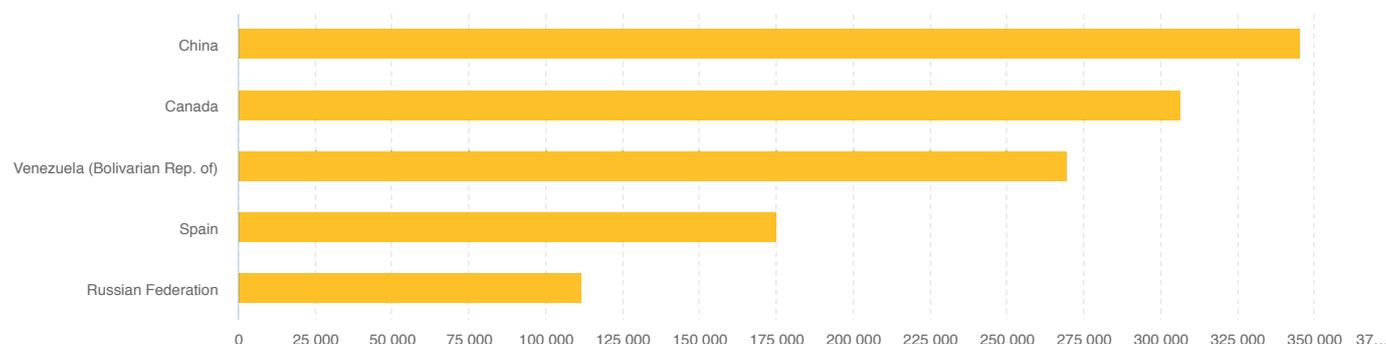
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



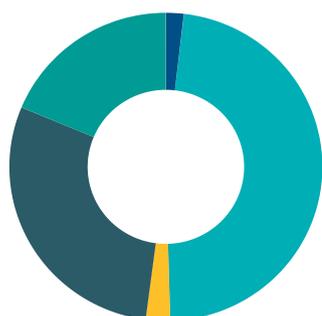
15.76

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

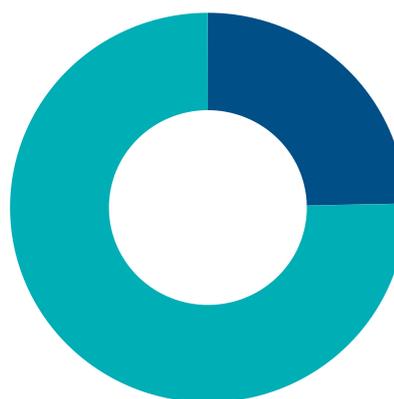


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019



- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



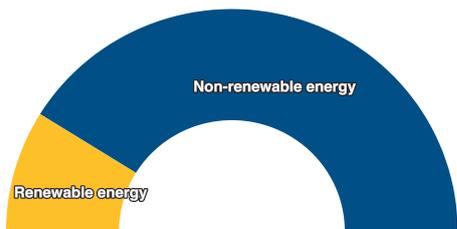
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



13.8kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



16.6%

### Marine protected area

2018



4.32%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

2006



Exports: 0.7%  
Imports: 2.1%

### Trade in ICT services

..



Exports: ..%  
Imports: ..%

### Share of internet users

2017



57%

### Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions

Number of subscriptions per 100 people



## Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

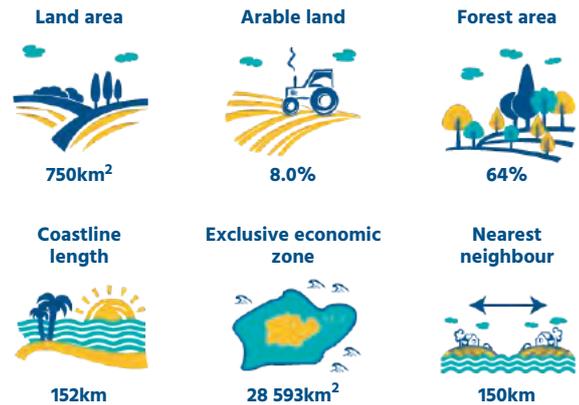
- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP: World Bank (2021b) <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](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 (2021b) <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 (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN>
- Marine protected area: World Bank (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/ER.MRN.PTMR.ZS>
- 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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](https://www.sdg.org/datasets/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990_0)
- ODA: OECD (2021) <https://stats.oecd.org>
- Percentage of population in low elevated coastal zones: World Bank (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.POP.EL5M.ZS>
- Poverty headcount ratio: World Bank (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.DDAY>
- Renewable energy share in total energy consumption: World Bank (2021b) <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 (2021b) <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](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/>

## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- FAO (2020). FAOStat. Available at <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020a). ILOStat. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020b). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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 (2021a). World Bank Country and Lending Groups. Available at <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519> (accessed 27 February 2021).
- World Bank (2021b). World Development Indicators. Available at <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators> (accessed 8 November 2020).

## Dominica

- > **Capital:** Roseau (15°18' N 61°23' W)
- > **International airport(s):** Douglas-Charles Airport, Marigot
- > **Official language(s):** English
- > **Currency:** East Caribbean dollar (XCD)
- > **Time:** UTC -4
- > **Region:** Caribbean



### GEOGRAPHY

Dominica is a small island state in the Caribbean Sea, to the south of Guadeloupe and north of Martinique. The highest peak is Morne Diablotins, rising 1 447 m above sea level. Dominica is the youngest island in the Lesser Antilles and is still being formed by geothermal-volcanic activity. It has the world's second-largest hot spring, called Boiling Lake. Dominica is known as 'The Nature Island of the Caribbean', as the mountainous island and its rainforests are home to many rare plants, animals and birds. The Sisserou parrot (also called the imperial amazon) is the island's national bird, lives only in Dominica and is featured on the national flag. Dominica's flag is one of only two national flags that include the colour purple, the other being Nicaragua.

### CLIMATE

Dominica has a tropical maritime climate with a relatively cool and dry season from January to mid-April and a hot and rainy season from mid-June to mid-November. The average monthly temperature is around 25-26 °C, dropping only a little to 24-25 °C in the period from December to February. The average annual rainfall is 3 200 mm. (World Bank, 2020) However, while some of the western coast can be rather dry (below 2 000 mm annually), heavy rainfalls occur more often inland and on the eastern coast, around 5 000 mm annually - in some places even up to 9 000 mm. The northeastern slopes of Morne Diablotins are among the rainiest places in the world. Dominica is vulnerable to hurricanes, which usually hit between June and October, sometimes causing heavy rains, extensive flooding, landslides, destroying homes and causing damage to agriculture. The country is the third most at-risk country according to the United Nations University (2020) World Risk Index.

### ECONOMY

Dominica has traditionally been dependent on agriculture, mainly bananas, but is diversifying its economy to make the country an eco-tourism destination. In addition to bananas, its main export products include soap, bay oil, vegetables and revenue stamps. Nearly one third of the labour force works in agriculture. The economy is highly vulnerable to natural disasters and weather conditions. Economic growth relies on increases in tourism, construction, and offshore and other services, in addition to the banana industry.

Tourism has developed more slowly in Dominica than on other Caribbean islands. Cruise ship stopovers have increased with the better availability of modern waterfront facilities in the capital, Roseau. Dominica makes an attractive tourism destination with its mountains, rainforests, lakes and hot springs, waterfalls and related water sport opportunities. In 2019, Dominica attracted over 322 thousand tourist arrivals compared to 199 thousand in 2018. The growth is likely to have increased inbound tourism expenditure over GDP from 21 per cent recorded in 2018. (UNWTO, 2021)

### CULTURE

Music and dance are important in the Dominican culture. Creole festival weeks have been organised since 1997, called 'Creole in the Park' and the 'World Creole Music Festival'. Exile One was a famous music group from the 1970s and paved the way for modern Creole music. Dominica's music mixes Haitian, Afro-Cuban, African and European music styles. The second Pirates of the Caribbean film was largely filmed in Dominica as well as parts of the third film in the series.

Dominicans eat often saltfish and baked goods for breakfast or for a fast-food snack throughout the day. Cornmeal porridge is also part of a typical breakfast - made with fine cornmeal or polenta, milk, condensed milk and sugar. Common vegetables include peas, plantains, potatoes, rice, tania (a root vegetable) and yams. These are often prepared with meat or fish in stews with onions, carrots, garlic, ginger and herbs like thyme. The vegetables and meat are browned to create a rich dark sauce.

Cricket is a popular sport in Dominica. Association football, basketball, netball, rugby and tennis are gaining in popularity as well. In 2014, Dominica participated for the first and only time in the Winter Olympics, competing in cross-country skiing. Dominicans also participate in Track and Field, winning a bronze medal from the 1995 World Championships in the triple jump.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$ 111

Productive Capacity Index  
2018



34.2

Economic and environmental vulnerability index  
2019



35

Consumer Price Index growth  
2019



0.4%

Unemployment rate  
2001



Total 11%  
Female 9.5%, Male 11.9%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

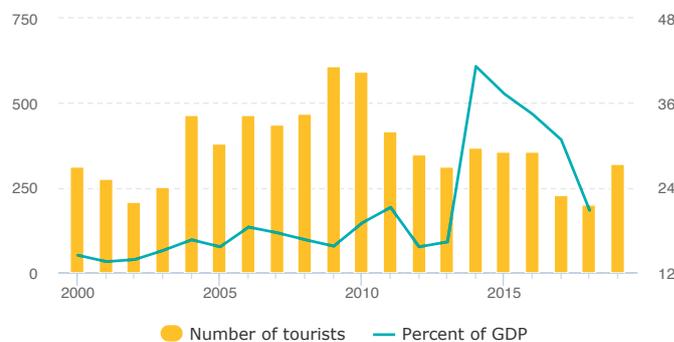
Percentage of GDP



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

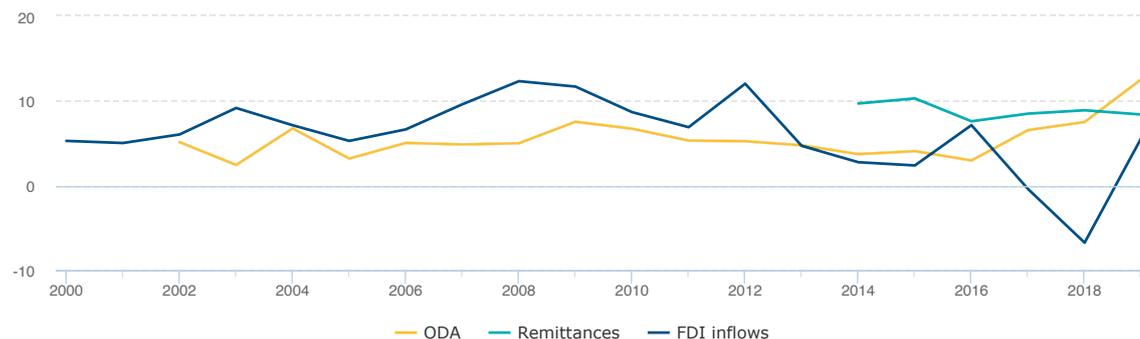
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



53.1%

## 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	330	24
Median time in port (days)	0.4	30
Average age of vessels	17	14
Average size (GT) of vessels	34 807	8

### Container port throughput

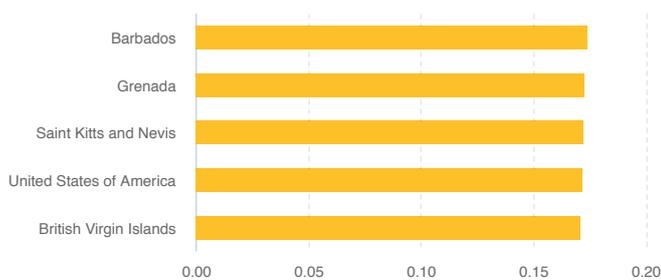
2019



8 083 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

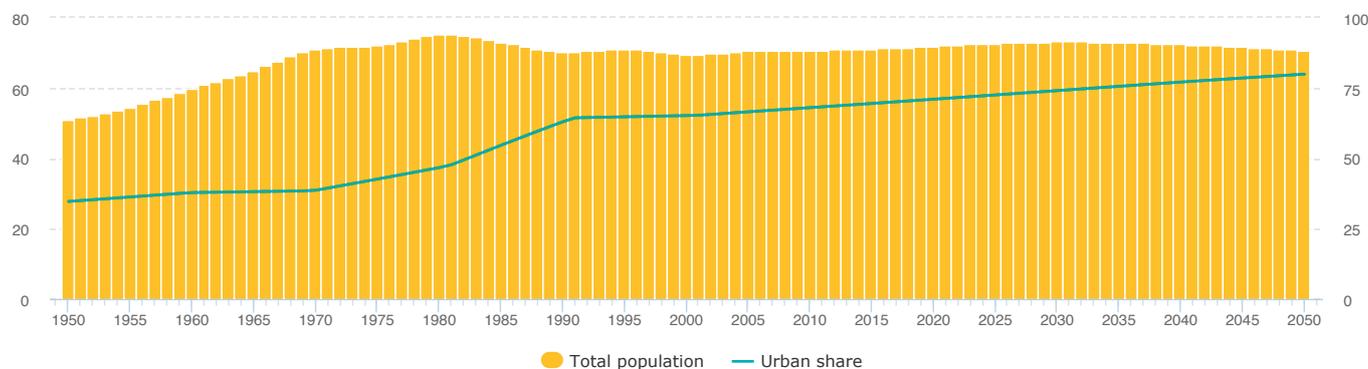
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	..	..
Human development index	2018	0.7
Human assets index	2020	91
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	..	..
Gender inequality index	..	..

### Life expectancy at birth

2002



77 years

### Population density

2019



96 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

2019



Child: ..  
Old-age: ..

### 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	42	37	30	18	3.1
Merchandise imports	165	224	214	294	50.5
Services exports	86	137	221	148	25.4
Services imports	50	68	132	143	24.6

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



45% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.41

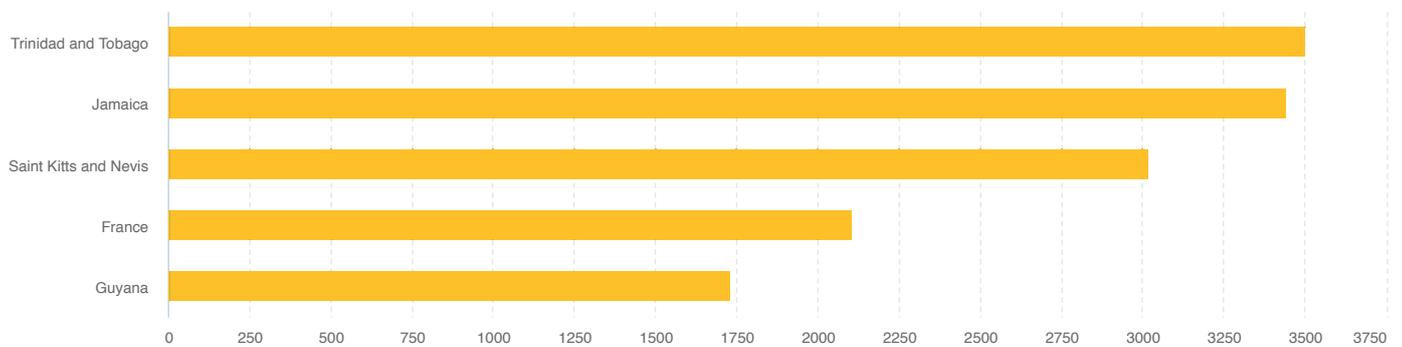
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



19.41

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

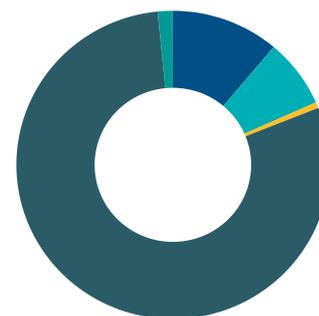


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

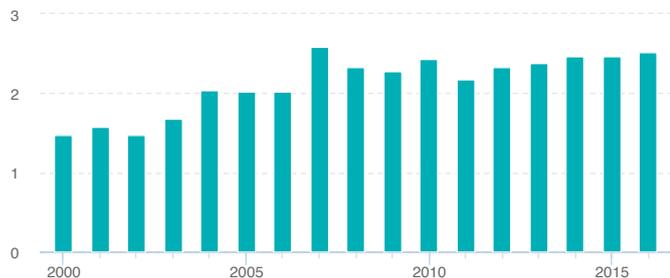


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



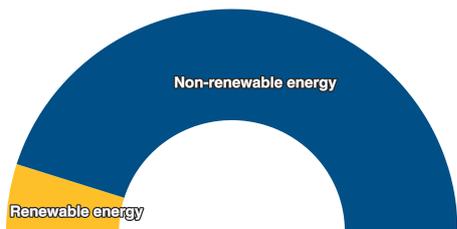
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

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

2012



Exports: 7.8%  
Imports: 4.3%

### Trade in ICT services

..



Exports: ..%  
Imports: ..%

### Share of internet users

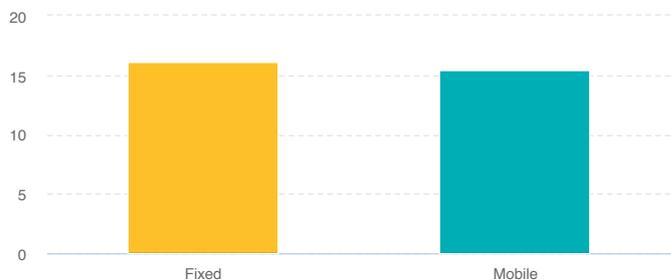
2017



70%

### 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>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

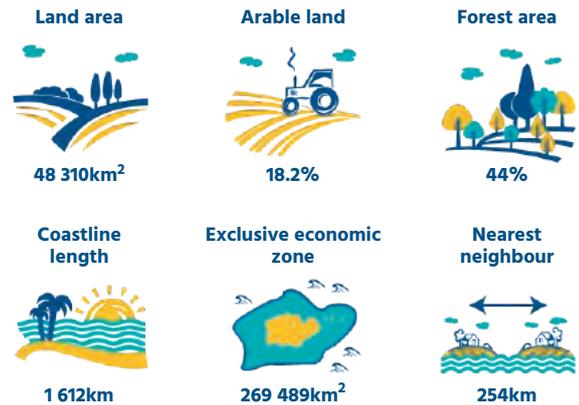
## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- United Nations University (2020). World Risk Report. Institute for Environment and Human Security. (accessed 28 October 2020).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).



## Dominican Republic

- > **Capital:** Santo Domingo (18°28'N, 69°57'W)
- > **International airport(s):** Punta Cana International Airport, Las Américas International Airport, Cibao International Airport, Gregorio Luperón International Airport
- > **Official language(s):** Spanish
- > **Currency:** Dominican Peso
- > **Time:** UTC -4
- > **Region:** Caribbean



### GEOGRAPHY

The Dominican Republic is the second largest country in the Caribbean in terms of land area, after Cuba. It encompasses the eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola, between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean. It shares Hispaniola with Haiti. Coastal areas of the Dominican Republic are generally more developed, especially in the southern coastal plains and the Cibao Valley, where population density is highest.

A geographically diverse state, the Dominican Republic is home to both the Caribbean's tallest mountain peak, Pico Duarte (3 098 m), and the Caribbean's largest lake and point of lowest elevation, Lake Enriquillo. Besides 1 288 km of coastline, the country's landscape consists of rugged highlands and mountains interspersed with fertile valleys. This island state is the site of the first cathedral, castle and monastery built in the Americas, located in Santo Domingo's Colonial Zone, a World Heritage Site.

### CLIMATE

There is more climate variation over short distances in the Dominican Republic than in any other Caribbean state. The coastal and lowland areas are characterized by a tropical rainforest climate, the Cibao region dwells in the tropical savanna, while snowfall can sometimes cover the summit of Pico Duarte. The annual average temperature at higher elevations is 18 °C, while near sea level it is 28 °C.

Tropical cyclones strike the Dominican Republic every couple of years, mainly impacting the southern coast. Hurricanes occur most often between June and October. The country can suffer from heavy flooding. Some areas - mainly in the west - also witness periodic droughts and consequent water shortages. Soil erosion is frequent on the island, damaging coral reefs. Deforestation is a serious concern, as well. The Dominican Republic is highly vulnerable to climate change since climate variations tend to accelerate natural disaster incidences.

### ECONOMY

Historically, the Dominican Republic's economy was dominated by agriculture, and the country was known for its exports of sugar, cocoa, coffee and tobacco. Over the last three decades, the economy has made an effective move to a diversified mix of services, manufacturing, agriculture, mining and trade. The Dominican Republic is the site of one of the largest gold mines in the world, the Pueblo Viejo mine.

In 2019, the service sector accounted for 63 per cent of GDP, while manufacturing accounted for a further 31 per cent. From 2010 to 2019, real GDP increased on average by 5.3 per cent annually, indicating steady, robust growth. Its most important trade partner is the United States of America, the destination of about half of the Dominican Republic's exports in 2019. (UNCTAD, 2021). The country is classified as upper middle income economy (World Bank, 2021a)

In 2019, 71 per cent of employed people worked in the services sector, 20 per cent in industry and 9 per cent in agriculture (ILO, 2020a). The shift towards services is mainly due to the growth in tourism and free trade zones. Although the Dominican Republic has in recent years been the most popular inbound tourism destination in the Caribbean – hosting more foreign visitors than any other state in the region – the contribution of inbound tourism expenditure to GDP has remained between 8 and 9 per cent since 2013 (UNWTO, 2021). This reveals that the country is less dependent on tourism than many Caribbean states. Income inequalities persist and remittances remain an important source of subsistence (UNCTAD, 2021).

## CULTURE

---

The Dominican Republic is a culturally diverse society, blending influences from European (mainly Spanish), native Taino and African heritage. This rich culture is present in visual arts, literature and architecture. The share of urban population stood at 83 per cent in 2020 (UNCTAD, 2021). Baseball is the most popular sport in the Dominican Republic, which features a league of six teams.

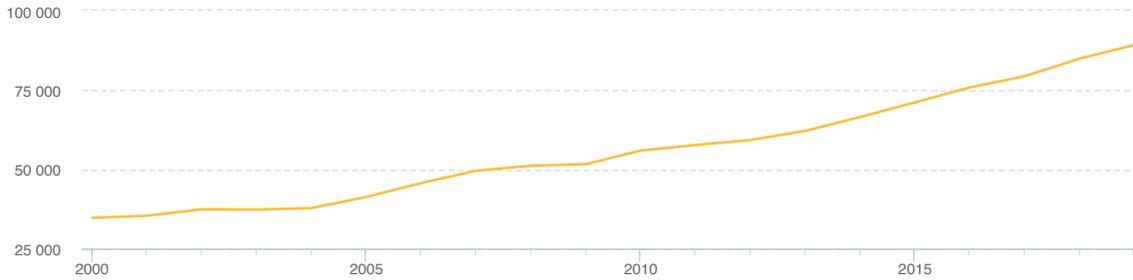
Local cuisine is rather characteristic of the Caribbean islands. Meals tend to favour meats and starches over dairy products and vegetables. Many dishes are made with *sofrito*, which is a mix of local herbs used as a wet rub for meats. In the south-central region, bulgur is a main ingredient in *quipes* or *tipili* (bulgur salad). Other favorite foods include *chicharrón*, *yuca*, *pastelitos* (*empanadas*), *batata*, and *yam*.

Music is an inseparable part of the lifestyle in the Dominican Republic, and the country is known for the creation of many musical styles. Popular *merengue* and *bachata* music and dances originated from the Dominican Republic. *Palo* is an Afro-Dominican sacred music that can be found throughout the island. Carnivals, Latino and traditional music festivals are very popular, organized throughout the year, featuring vibrant music and dances, colorful costumes, and traditional food stands, hosting presentations, tastings and more.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



**GDP per capita  
2019**



**US\$8 282**

**Productive  
Capacity Index  
2018**



**32.4**

**Economic and environmental  
vulnerability index  
2019**



**22**

**Consumer Price  
Index growth  
2019**



**2.2%**

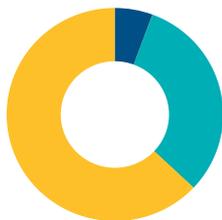
**Unemployment  
rate  
2019**



**Total 6.4%  
Female 9.5%, Male 4.1%**

### Main economic sectors, 2019

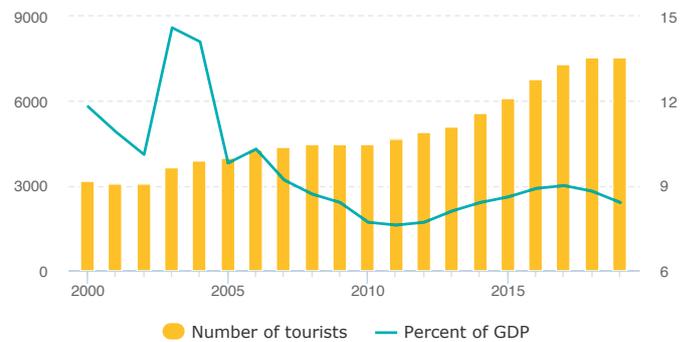
Percentage of GDP



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

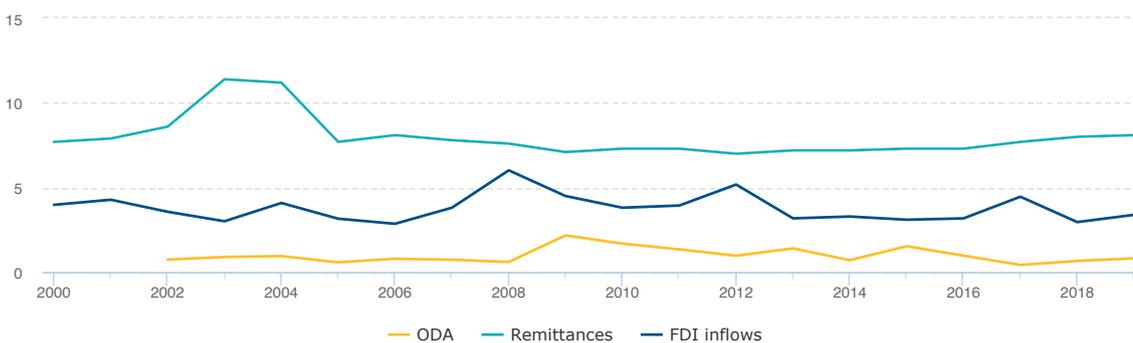
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



**Public debt as %  
of GDP**

**2018**



**46.2%**

## 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	4 223	4
Median time in port (days)	1	8
Average age of vessels	14	25
Average size (GT) of vessels	31 673	11

### Container port throughput

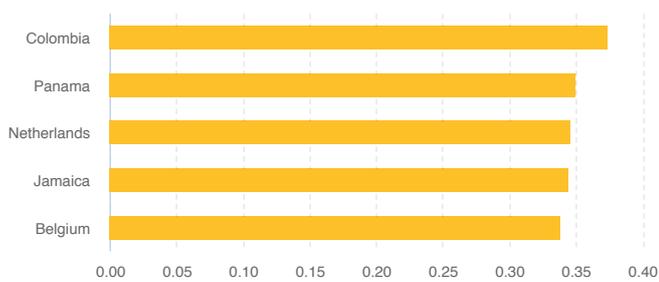
2019



1 338 403 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

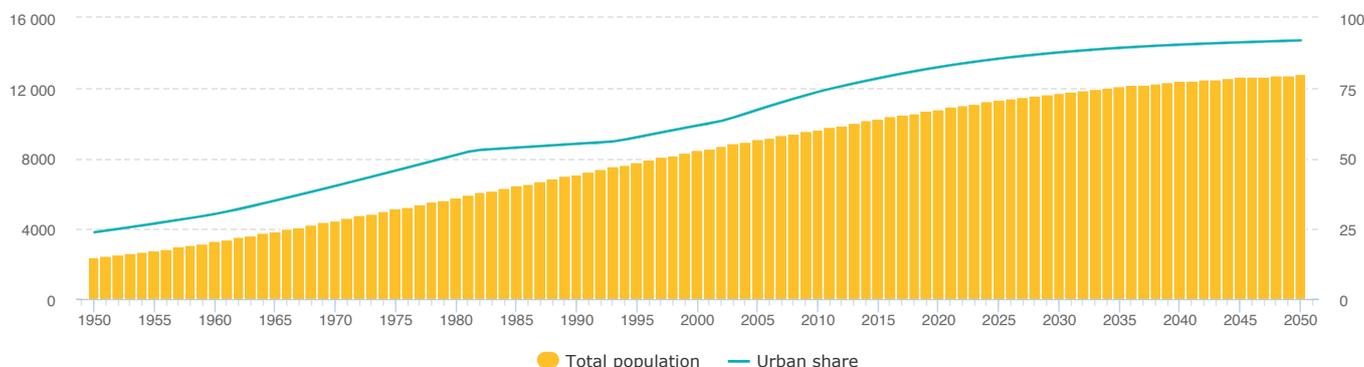
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2019	0.6
Human development index	2018	0.8
Human assets index	2020	90
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	2016	92.7
Gender inequality index	2019	0.5

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



74 years

### Population density

2019



222 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

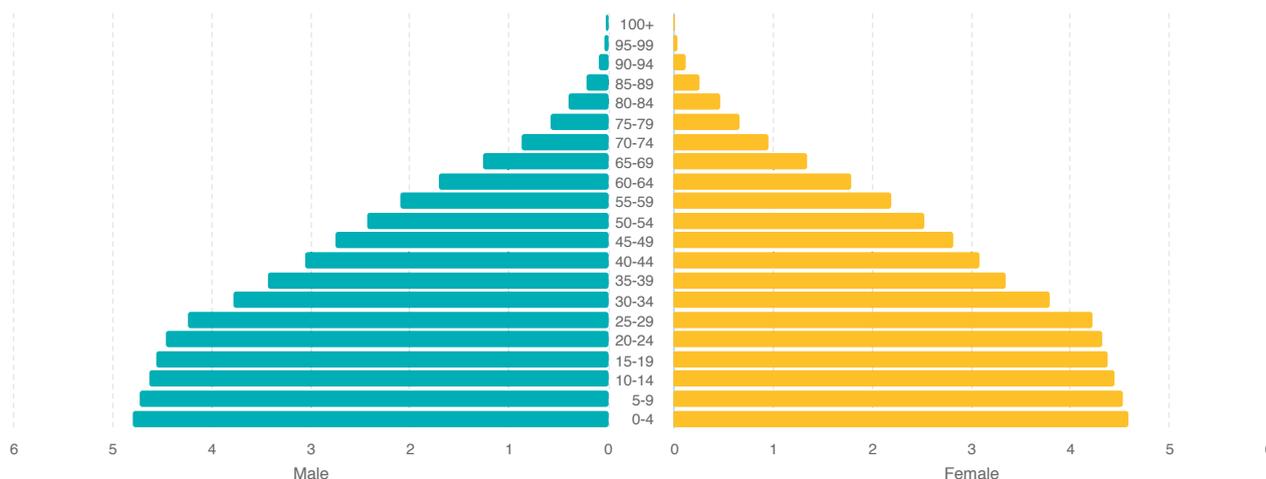
2019



Child: 42.6  
Old-age: 11.2

### 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	6 145	6 754	9 442	11 219	12.6
Merchandise imports	9 869	15 489	16 907	20 288	22.8
Services exports	6 182	5 455	7 542	9 346	10.5
Services imports	1 478	2 588	3 174	3 893	4.4

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



26% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.20

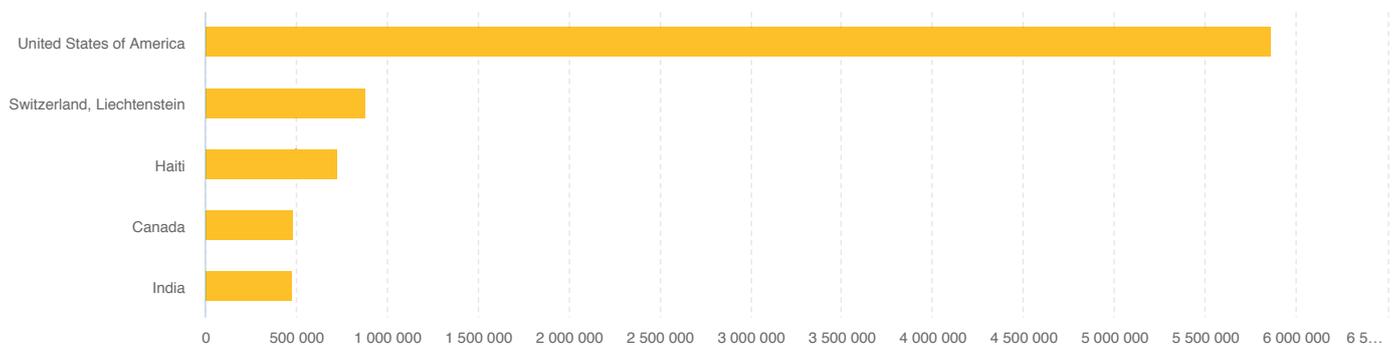
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



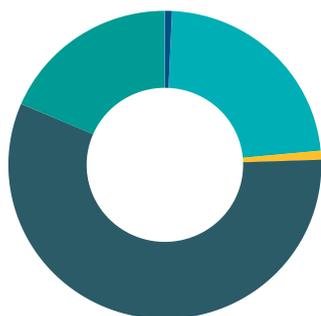
6.81

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

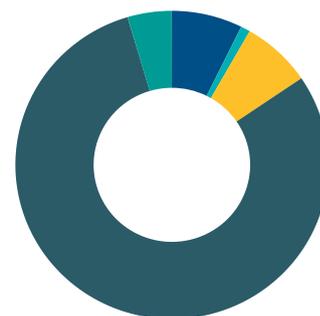


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

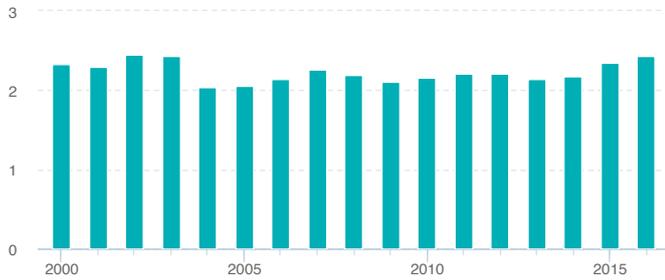


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

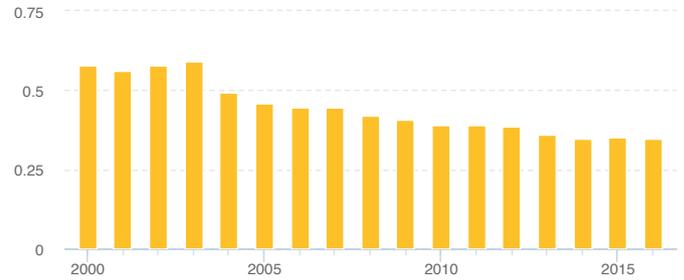
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



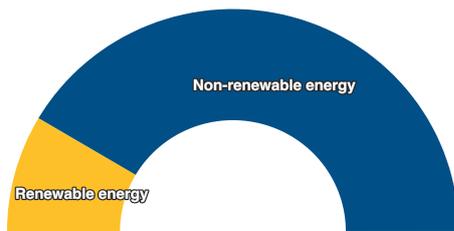
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

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

2018



Exports: 2%  
Imports: 4.6%

### Trade in ICT services

2019



Exports: 1%  
Imports: 1.6%

### Share of internet users

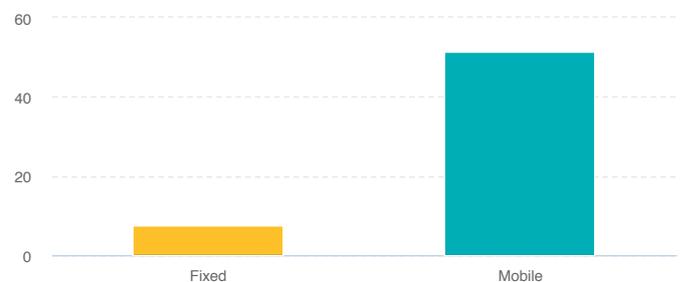
2018



75%

### 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 (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP: World Bank (2021b) <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](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 (2021b) <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 (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN>
- Marine protected area: World Bank (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/ER.MRN.PTMR.ZS>
- 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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](https://www.sdg.org/datasets/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990_0)
- ODA: OECD (2021) <https://stats.oecd.org>
- Percentage of population in low elevated coastal zones: World Bank (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.POP.EL5M.ZS>
- Poverty headcount ratio: World Bank (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.DDAY>
- Renewable energy share in total energy consumption: World Bank (2021b) <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 (2021b) <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](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/>



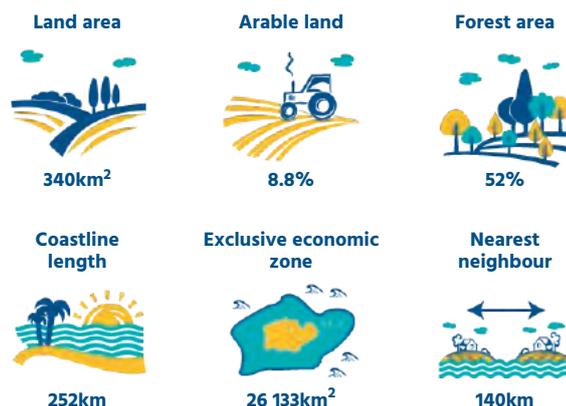
## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020a). ILOStat. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020b). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- World Bank (2021a). World Bank Country and Lending Groups. Available at <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519> (accessed 27 February 2021).
- World Bank (2021b). World Development Indicators. Available at <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators> (accessed 8 November 2020).



## Grenada

- > **Capital:** St. George's (12°03' N 61°45' W)
- > **International airport(s):** Maurice Bishop International Airport, St. George's
- > **Official language(s):** English
- > **Currency:** East Caribbean dollar (XCD)
- > **Time:** UTC -4
- > **Region:** Caribbean



### GEOGRAPHY

Grenada consists of several islands, some of them uninhabited. The main island, also called Grenada, is a mountainous island 140 km north of Trinidad and Tobago on the border of the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean. The two next biggest islands, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, are 40-50 km north from the main island. All three islands are volcanic in origin, but the volcanoes are, currently, not active. The only active volcano in the area is called Kick'em Jenny, a submarine volcano. Grenada's highest point is Mount St. Catherine, 840 m above sea level.

### CLIMATE

The climate of Grenada is tropical, with a cooler and dryer season from January to May and a hot and rainy season from June to December. The average annual rainfall is around 1 500 mm, and on the lower areas of the main island at about 2 000 mm. However, February, March and April see rainfall of below 70 mm. (World Bank, 2020) The area around the highest point, St. Catherine volcano, receives even more rain, 3 500 mm annually. Carriacou and Petite Martinique are a bit dryer with less than 1 500 mm of rain per year. The average temperature is very stable, with lows around 22-24 °C and highs around 30-31 °C. Monthly average temperatures vary only little between 26 to 28 °C (World Bank, 2020). The sea water temperature ranges from 27 to 29 °C. Grenada is rarely affected by hurricanes.

### ECONOMY

Tourism plays an important role in Grenada's economy - since 2018, Grenada has attracted about 0.5 million tourist arrivals each year leading to an inbound tourism expenditure of about 46 per cent over GDP (UNWTO, 2021). Services, including tourism, form the largest economic sector with about an 80 per cent share of GDP (UNCTAD, 2021). Important infrastructural investments and projects related to tourism have been recently reflected in the growth of the construction sector in Grenada. Another central industry is the production of spices, especially nutmeg and mace. Grenada is sometimes called the 'spice island', as it is one of the biggest producers of nutmeg in the world. The main export partners include the United States of America, Japan, Dominica, Saint Lucia and Saint Kitts and Nevis (UNCTAD, 2021).

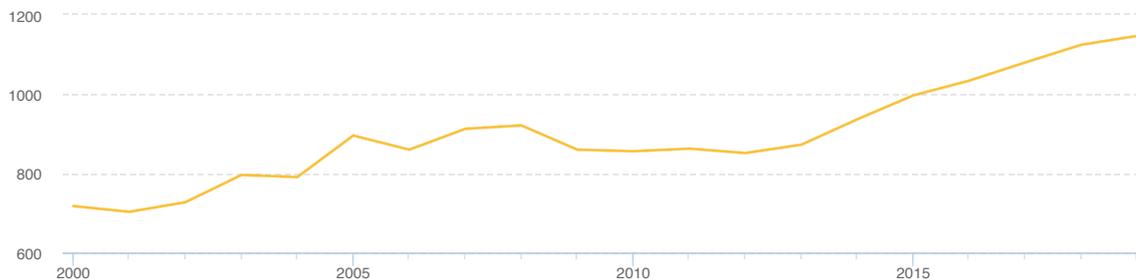
### CULTURE

Grenada's culture is heavily influenced by the African roots of its population, although British and French influence is visible in food and cooking styles. The national dish 'oil-down' is prepared by cooking with coconut milk until the milk has been completely absorbed. The dish includes a mixture of salted pigtail, pig's feet (trotters), salt beef and chicken, dumplings made from flour and some breadfruit, green banana, yam and potatoes. Music played is typically soca, calypso, reggae or rap.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$10 818

Productive Capacity Index  
2018



34.6

Economic and environmental vulnerability index  
2019



34

Consumer Price Index growth  
2019



0.7%

Unemployment rate  
2015



Total 22.9%  
Female ..%, Male ..%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

Percentage of GDP



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

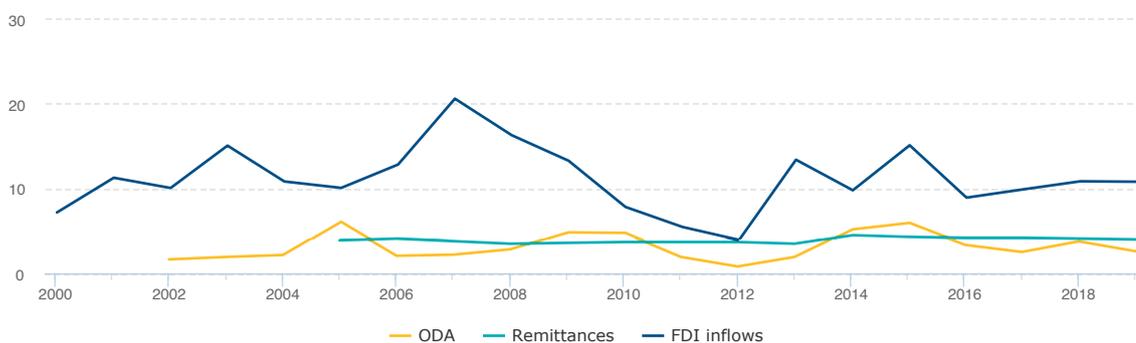
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



52.9%

## 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	506	21
Median time in port (days)	0	31
Average age of vessels	17	14
Average size (GT) of vessels	35 481	7

### Container port throughput

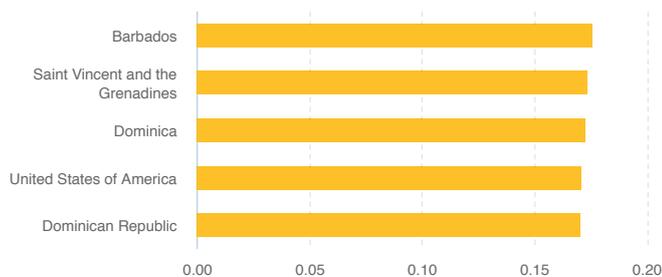
2019



26 290 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

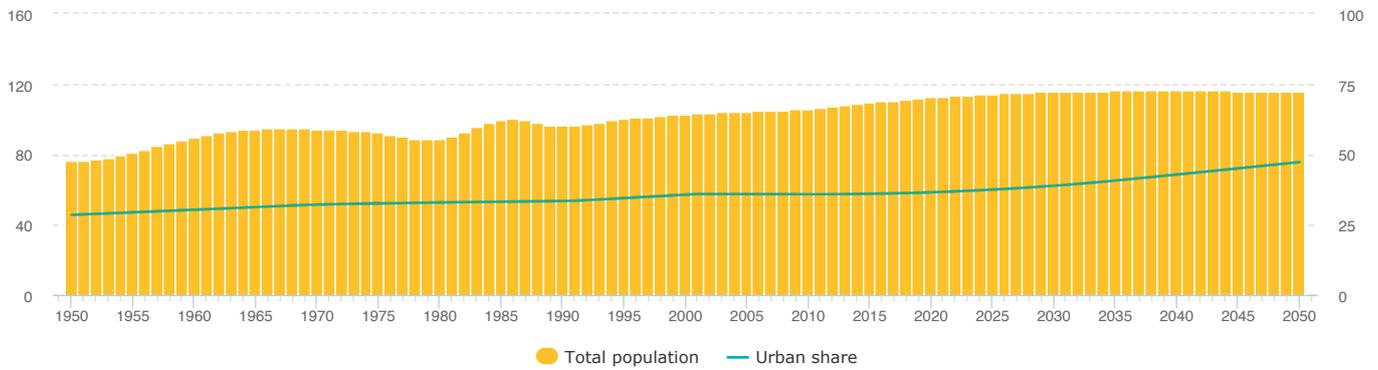
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	--	--
Human development index	2018	0.8
Human assets index	2020	97
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	--	--

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



72 years

### Population density

2019



329 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

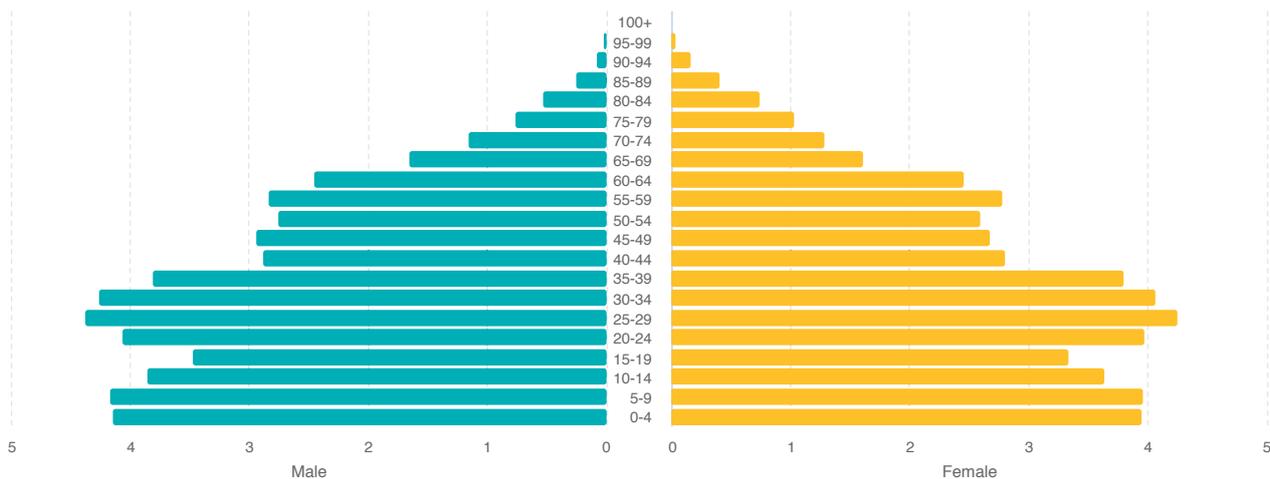
2019



Child: 35.6  
Old-age: 14.5

### 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	28	25	33	32	2.6
Merchandise imports	328	318	372	470	38.8
Services exports	116	153	467	650	53.6
Services imports	96	94	200	258	21.3

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



56% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.24

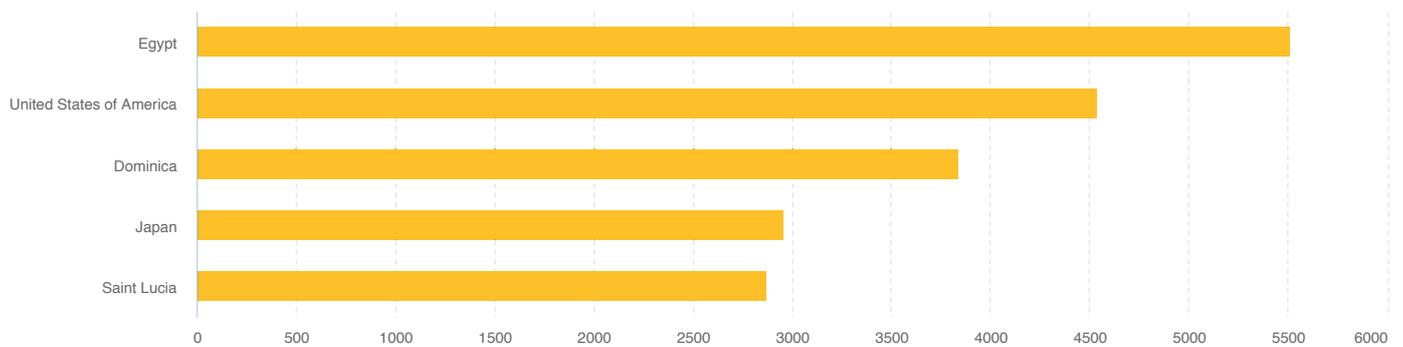
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



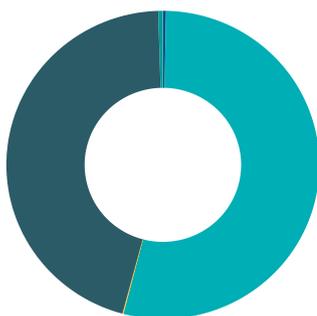
18.09

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

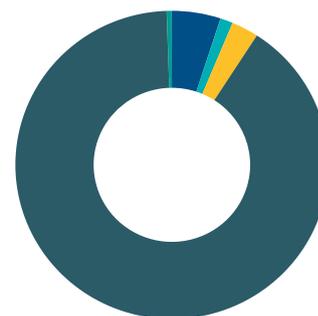


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

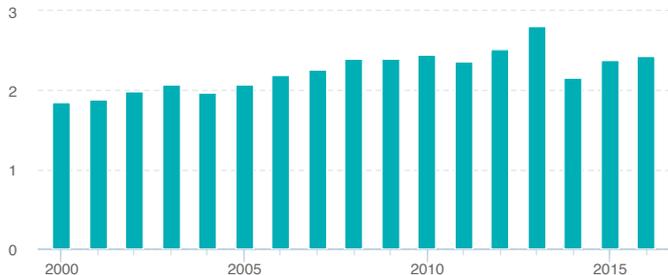


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

**ENVIRONMENT**

**CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita**

Kg per capita



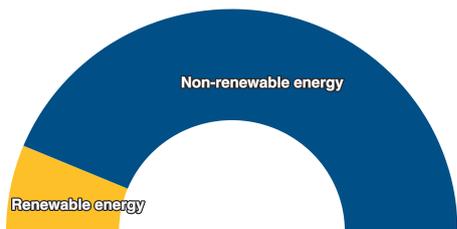
**CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP**

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**

2009



Exports: 0%  
Imports: 4.4%

**Trade in ICT services**

..



Exports: ..%  
Imports: ..%

**Share of internet users**

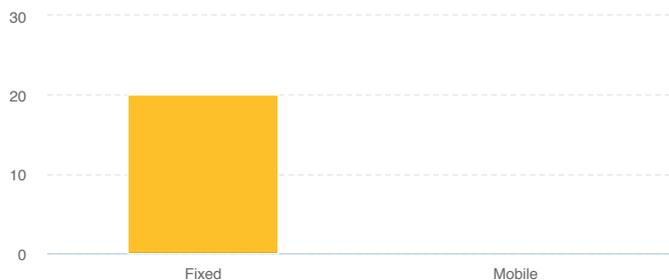
2017



59%

**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>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>



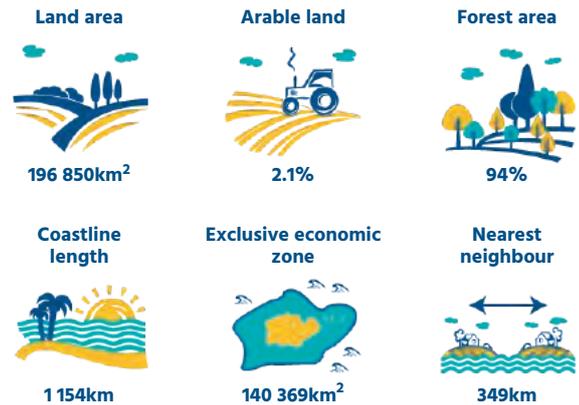
## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).



## Guyana

- > **Capital:** Georgetown (30°37'N, 97°40'W)
- > **International airport(s):** Cheddi Jagan International
- > **Official language(s):** English
- > **Currency:** Guyana Dollar
- > **Time:** UTC -4
- > **Region:** Caribbean



## GEOGRAPHY

Guyana is located on the northern shores of South America, sharing borders with Brazil, Suriname and Venezuela. Only 25 per cent of Guyana's 2 933 km frontier is coastline. With an area of around 197 000 km<sup>2</sup>, Guyana is one of the smallest countries in South America. The low coastal plains, which account for about 5 per cent of the land area accommodates about 90 per cent of the population and lies between 1 m and 1.5 m below sea level at high tide. The shoreline is protected by a complex set of seawalls and sluices, much of it built by the Dutch in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Further inland, a sand belt supports dense virgin, hardwood rainforest and is where Guyana's reserves of bauxite, gold and diamonds are principally found. Further inland, the mountainous grasslands support only grazing.

Known as the 'land of many waters,' Guyana claims the world's widest and longest single-drop waterfall - the Kaieteur Falls - which at 251 m are four times higher than Niagara, with an average flow rate of 663 cubic meters per second. Reputedly, Guyana was also home to the famed El Dorado - the lost city of gold.

## CLIMATE

Guyana enjoys a humid, tropical climate, relieved by northeast trade winds. There are two rainy seasons (May to mid-August and November to January), during which, more than half over half of the average 2 300 mm of rain per year falls in the capital Georgetown. The average monthly temperatures in Guyana range between 25°C in February and 27°C in October. Guyana lies south of the Caribbean hurricane pathway (World Bank, 2020). According to the United Nations University (2020) World Risk Index, Guyana ranks 6th in the list of world's most at-risk country for natural hazards.

## ECONOMY

Agriculture, fishing together with mining are among Guyana's most important economic activities, with sugar, rum, rice and gold production accounting for 70 to 75 per cent of export earnings. The share of agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing in GDP has been gradually declining over the years and was just below 20 per cent in 2019, while industry accounts for almost one third and services nearly half of GDP. (UNCTAD, 2021)

In 2019, 17 per cent of the labor force was engaged in agriculture, 23 per cent in industry, and 60 per cent in the services sector (ILO, 2020a). Over 80 per cent of employed women were engaged in service jobs. Despite this high employment share in services, in 2019, inbound tourism expenditure accounted for only 0.6 per cent of GDP (UNWTO, 2021). In 2019, top destinations for exports included Germany, Canada, and Trinidad and Tobago (UNCTAD, 2021).

## CULTURE

Guyana boasts six ethnic groups, several religions, with influences from both mainland South America and the Caribbean, and it is the only English-speaking country in South America. At 43.5 m, Saint George's Cathedral, built in 1892, in Georgetown, was once the tallest wooden church in the world.

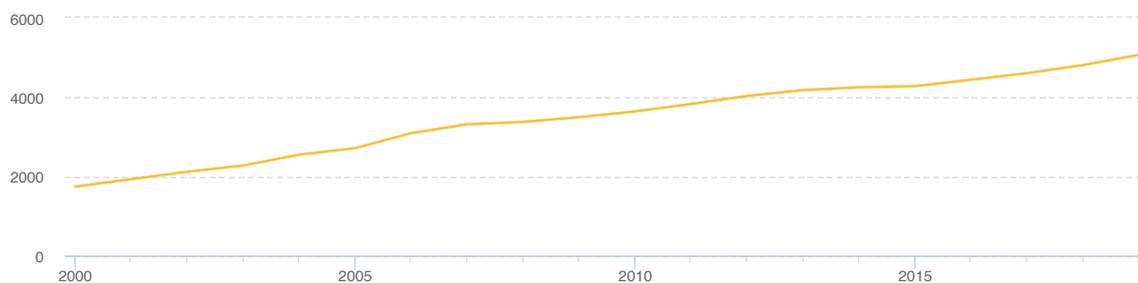
The cuisine embodies the ethnic makeup of the country and reflects its history, comprising Amerindian, European, African, East Indian, Portuguese and Chinese dishes. 'Seven curry' is a popular dish that is the most important ritual food too. It is served with rice or roti, mashed pumpkin cooked with curry powder and brown sugar, chickpeas, potatoes, curried mangoes and *dhal*.

Sports is an integral part of Guyanese culture. Cricket, softball, soccer, field hockey, rounders, netball, lawn tennis, table tennis, basketball, squash, boxing, horse racing and rugby are all popular sports. Guyana has produced its share of colourfully named, internationally recognized, athletes, such as, Andrew "Sixhead" Lewis, Wayne "Big Truck" Braithwaite and "Vicious" Vivian Harris, all of whom are world title boxers, and the female boxer Gwendolyn "Stealth Bomber" O'Neil.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$6 610

Productive Capacity Index  
2018



30.9

Economic and environmental vulnerability index  
2019



46

Consumer Price Index growth  
2019



1%

Unemployment rate  
2018



Total 14%  
Female 16.5%, Male 12.3%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

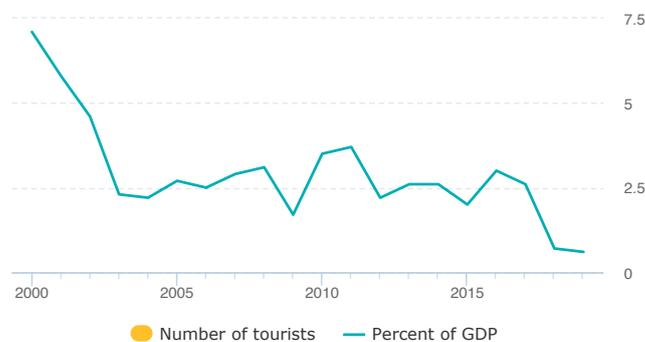
Percentage of GDP



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

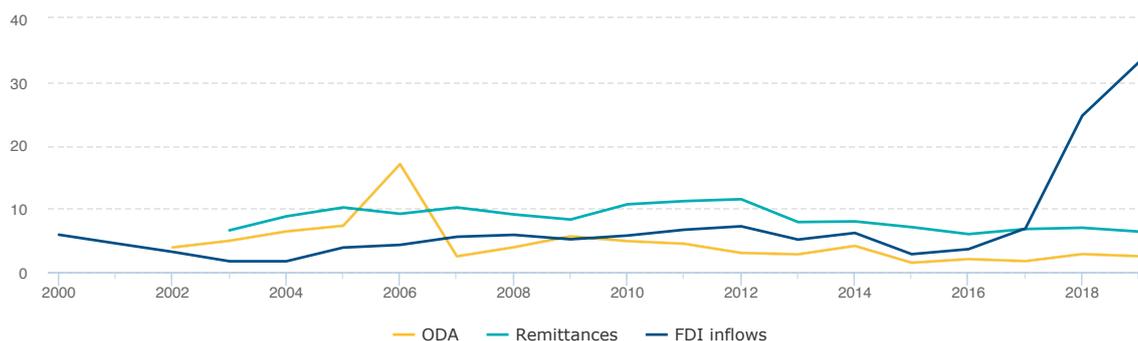
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



33.3%

## 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	1 273	14
Median time in port (days)	1	8
Average age of vessels	16	19
Average size (GT) of vessels	7 288	28

### Container port throughput

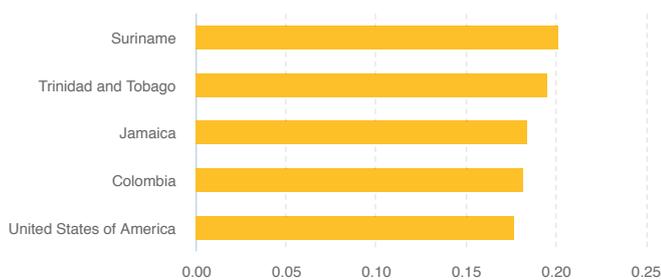
2019



51 360 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

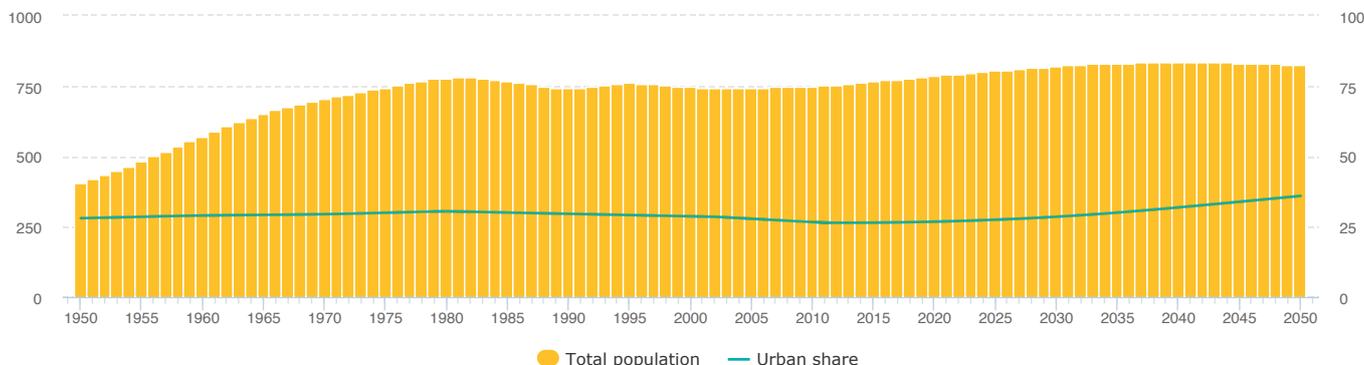
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	--	--
Human development index	2018	0.7
Human assets index	2020	89
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	2019	0.5

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



70 years

### Population density

2019



4 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

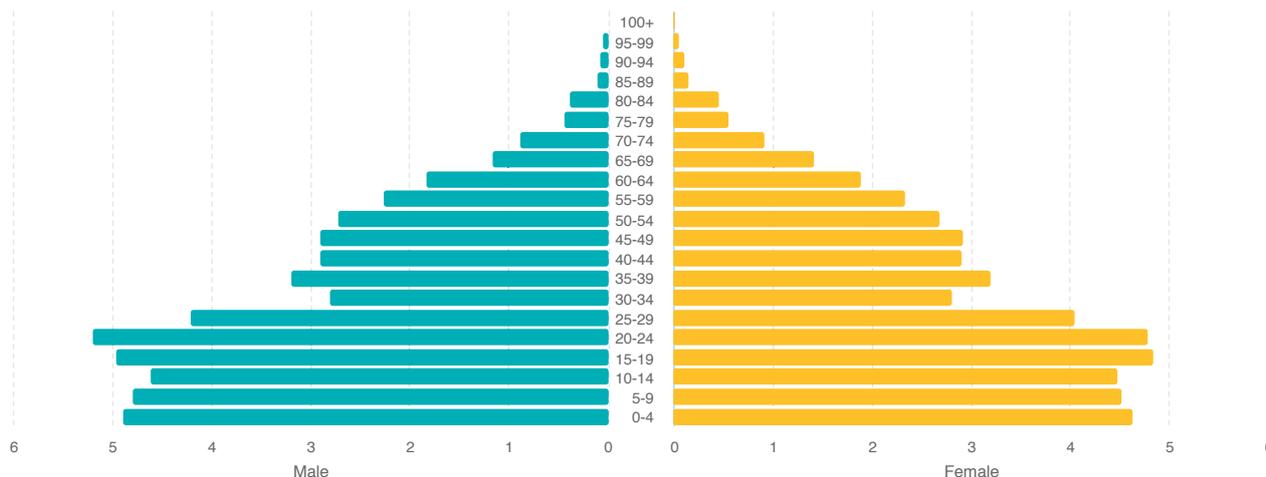
2019



Child: 42.7  
Old-age: 10.3

### 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	553	880	1 151	1 567	30.3
Merchandise imports	788	1 397	1 492	3 019	58.4
Services exports	148	248	145	0	0
Services imports	201	344	423	0	0

### Trade openness Goods and services

2018



61% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.44

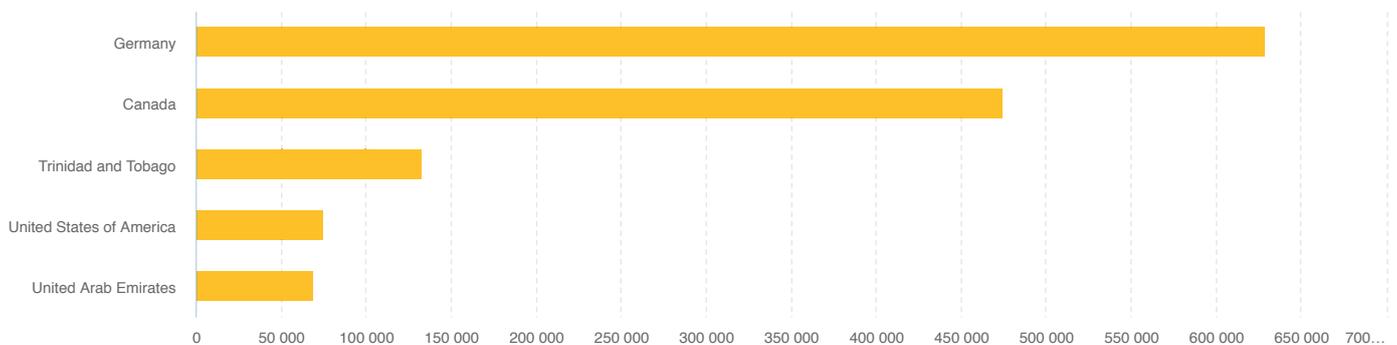
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



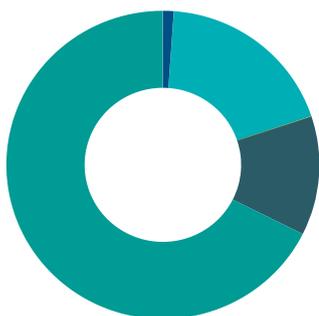
-5.82

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

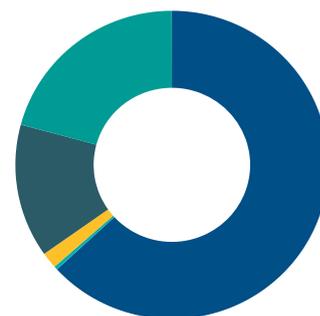


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

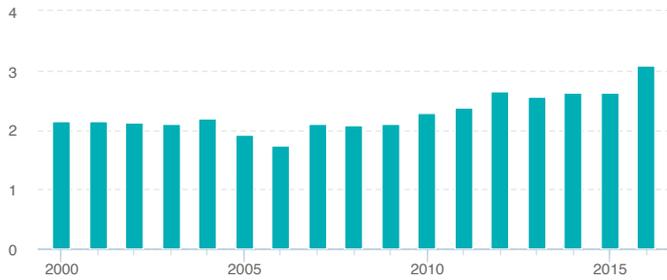


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

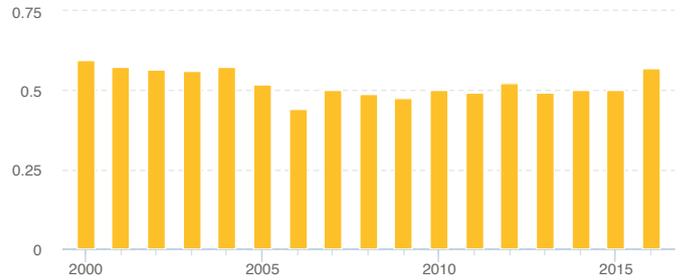
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



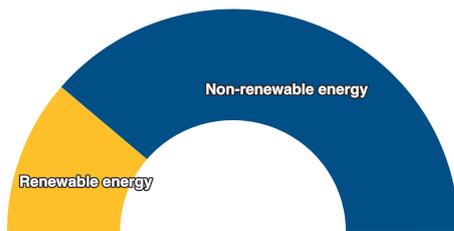
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



222.7kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



8.7%

### Marine protected area

2018



0.01%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

2019



Exports: 0.2%  
Imports: 0.9%

### Trade in ICT services

2018



Exports: 0.4%  
Imports: 0.7%

### Share of internet users

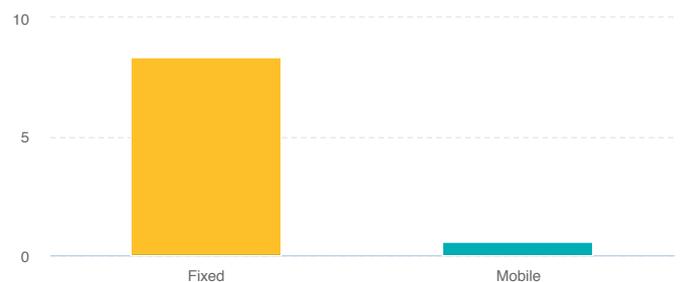
2017



37%

### 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>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

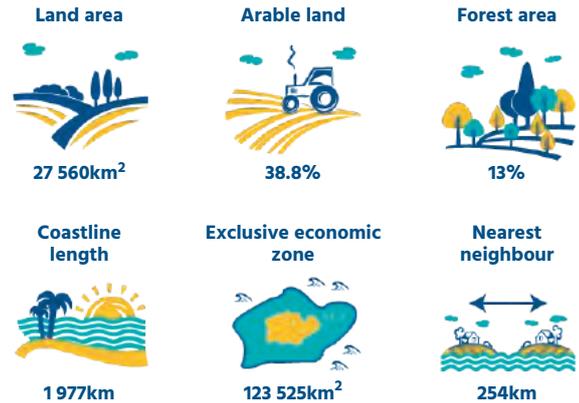
## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020a). ILOStat. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020b). Unemployment rate. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description.UR.EN.pdf> (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- United Nations University (2020). World Risk Report. Institute for Environment and Human Security. (accessed 28 October 2020).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).



## Haiti

- > **Capital:** Port-au-Prince (18°32'N 72°20'W)
- > **International airport(s):** Toussaint Louverture International Airport, Cap-Haïtien International Airport
- > **Official language(s):** French, Haitian Creole
- > **Currency:** Gourde
- > **Time:** UTC -5
- > **Region:** Caribbean



## GEOGRAPHY

Haiti is a country forming the western part of the second largest island in the Greater Antilles, Hispaniola. With an area of more than 27 000 km<sup>2</sup>, Haiti is the third largest country in the Caribbean, after Cuba and the Dominican Republic, the latter of which it shares with the island of Hispaniola. The land border is about 360 km long, yet with the characteristic horseshoe shape of the country, Haiti's coastline is disproportionately long: over 1 700 km, and the country also includes several offshore islands. Haiti's terrain consists mostly of mountains, river valleys and small coastal plains. It is the most mountainous nation in the Caribbean.

## CLIMATE

Haiti has a tropical climate, although some variations are present depending on the altitude. Average monthly temperatures range from 23 °C in January to almost 27 °C in August. Average monthly rainfall ranges from almost 40 mm in January to peaks of over 200 mm in May and October, which are the two rainy seasons. Haiti's topography, however, decisively determines the rainfall, with central mountainous regions receiving more rainfall than lowlands, averaging 1 200 mm and 550 mm, respectively (World Bank, 2020). Haiti is often hit by hurricanes and tropical storms which cause massive flooding and deadly landslides.

## ECONOMY

Agriculture plays an important role in the Haitian economy: it accounts for almost 29 per cent of employment in the country; roughly 42 per cent for men (ILO, 2020a). According to FAO (FAO, 2020), almost 40 per cent of the territory is classified as arable land. The share of agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing in total value added has been relatively stable in the last two decades, at about 20 per cent; stability has also been observed in industry (roughly one third) and services, which generate just below half of Haiti's total value added (UNCTAD, 2021). Over 85 per cent of women and 47 per cent of men in Haiti are employed in services (ILO, 2020a).

Tourism has been gaining importance in the economy of Haiti. The number of inbound tourists has been steadily rising, reaching over 1.3 million in 2018 and 0.9 million in 2019, yet inbound tourism expenditure as a per cent of GDP has remained steady at about 6 per cent (UNWTO, 2021). Haiti's main trade partner is the United States of America, dominating both imports and exports with 62 and 77 per cent shares in Haiti's trade, respectively (UNCTAD, 2021).

## CULTURE

Haiti's cultural identity is influenced by both traditional French and African customs, mixing in also elements from Spanish and indigenous cultures. This rich and unique culture is depicted in Haiti's paintings and sculptures, music and dance, and literature. Haiti's culture is also prominently spread outside the country through notable artists, such as Frankétienne, one of Haiti's greatest authors, and Wyclef Jean, a hip-hop artist. Football is the most popular sport in Haiti.

Haitians enjoy a mainly Creole cuisine that is a blend of the different culinary styles contributed by the many cultures inhabiting the country. The cuisine is characterized by simple and tasty dishes with bold and spicy flavors. The staples of the diet include beans, corn, potatoes, rice and plantains. The climate supports the cultivation of many tropical fruits. Riz National is a common dish consisting of rice with red kidney beans topped with tomatoes, onions and red snapper. It is often served with a soup with potatoes, tomatoes, meats and spices. Tchaka is a hearty stew consisting of squash, meat and beans.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$715

Productive Capacity Index  
2018



22.5

Economic and environmental vulnerability index  
2019



33

Consumer Price Index growth  
2019



11.7%

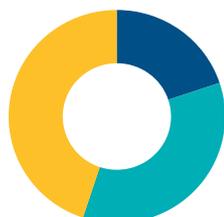
Unemployment rate



Total 14.1%  
Female 17.3%, Male 11.5%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

Percentage of GDP



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

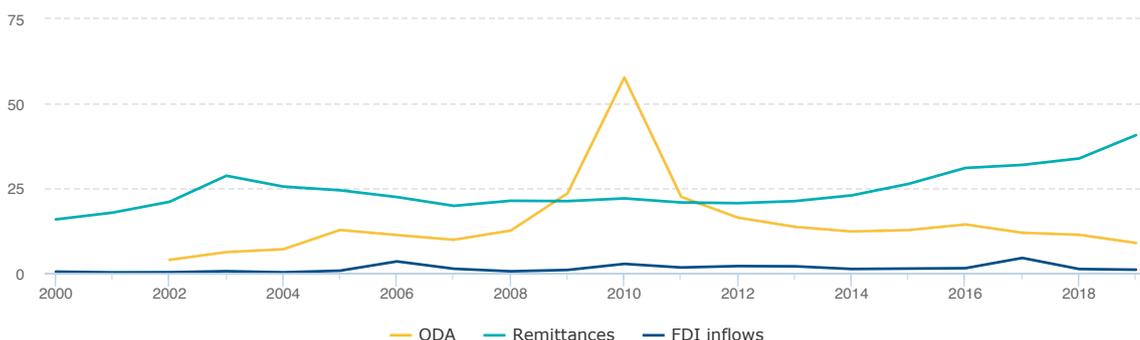
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



96.8%

## 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	977	16
Median time in port (days)	1	8
Average age of vessels	17	14
Average size (GT) of vessels	24 906	15

### Container port throughput

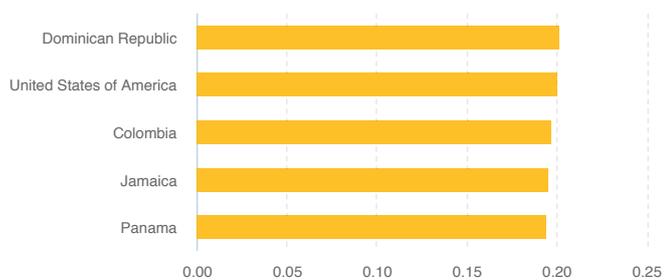
2019



169 967 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

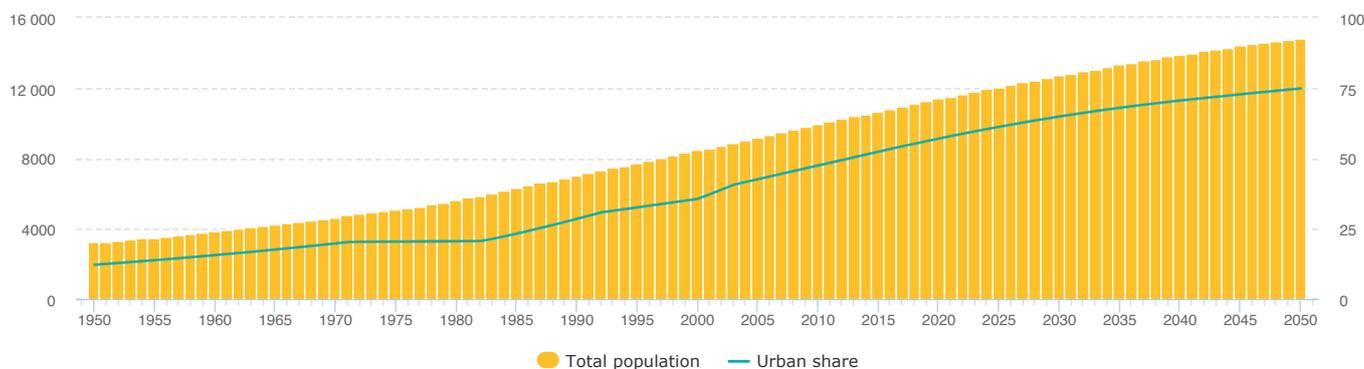
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2012	24.5
Human development index	2018	0.5
Human assets index	2020	58
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	2019	0.6

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



64 years

### Population density

2019



409 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

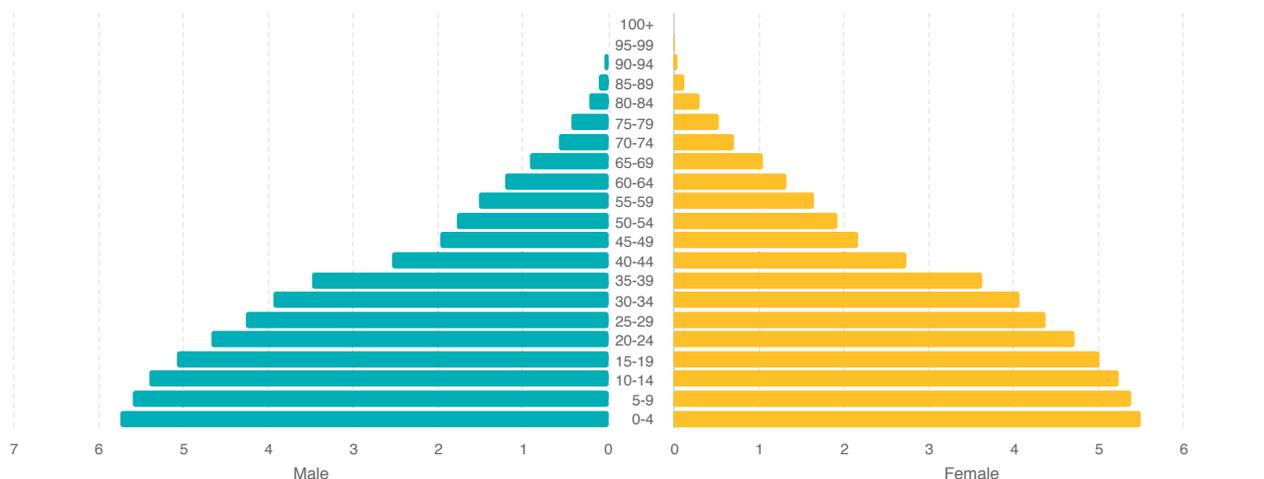
2019



Child: 52.9  
Old-age: 8.2

### 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	470	579	882	1 200	14.9
Merchandise imports	1 454	3 146	3 683	4 513	56.1
Services exports	145	453	724	417	5.2
Services imports	544	1 277	1 042	946	11.7

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



49% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.51

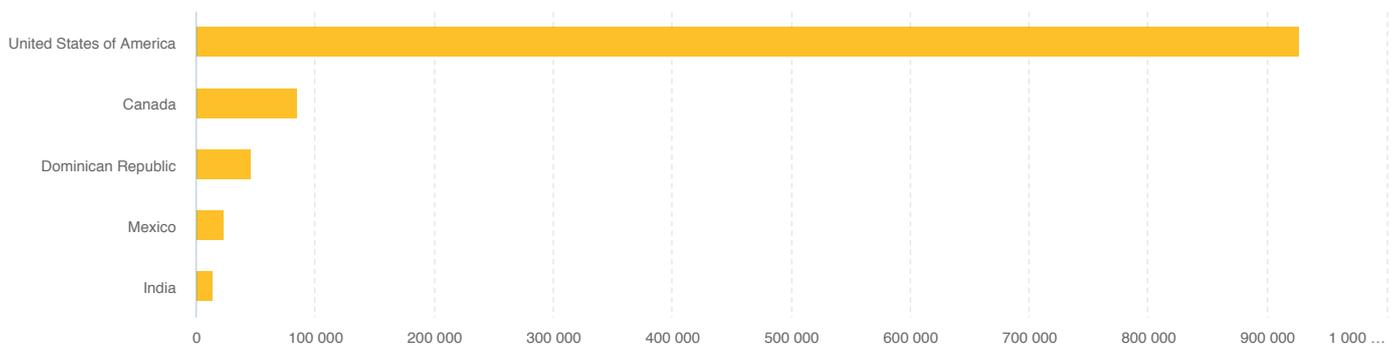
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



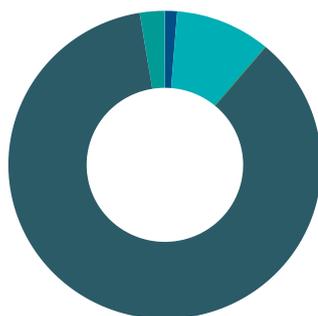
40.78

### 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

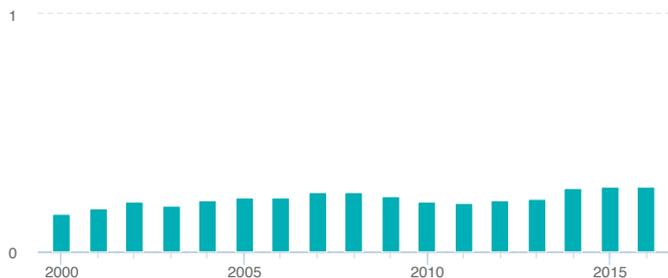
### Services exports by category, 2019

No data available

## ENVIRONMENT

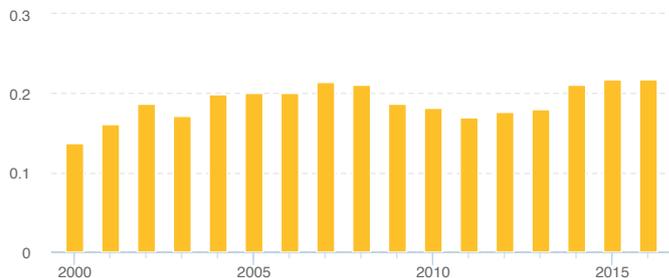
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



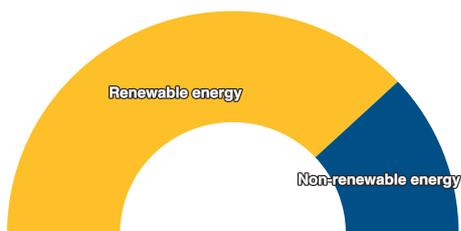
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



2.2kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



2%

### Marine protected area

2018



0%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

..



Exports: ..%  
Imports: ..%

### Trade in ICT services

2018



Exports: 3.7%  
Imports: 1.0%

### Share of internet users

2018



32%

### Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions

Number of subscriptions per 100 people



## Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

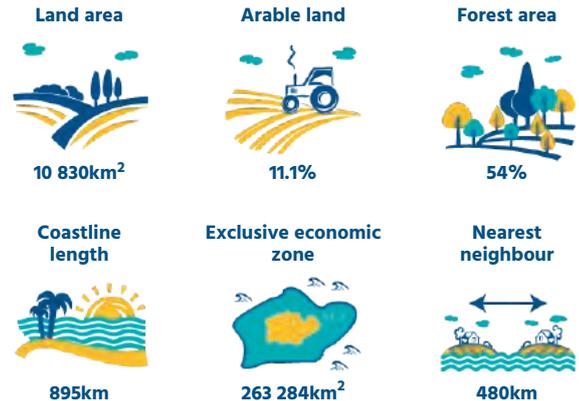
- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP: World 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- FAO (2020). FAOStat. Available at <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020a). ILOStat. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020b). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).

## Jamaica

- > **Capital:** Kingston (17°58' N 76°47' W)
- > **International airport(s):** Sangster International Airport, Montego Bay; Norman Manley International Airport, Kingston; Ian Fleming International Airport, Ocho Rios
- > **Official language(s):** English
- > **Currency:** Jamaican dollar (JMD)
- > **Time:** UTC -5
- > **Region:** Caribbean



## GEOGRAPHY

Jamaica lies in the Caribbean Sea, located 145 km south of Cuba between the Cayman Trench and the Jamaica Channel, the main sea lanes for the Panama Canal. Its land area is 10 830 km<sup>2</sup>, making it the third largest island in the Caribbean after Cuba and Hispaniola. Kingston is the world's seventh-largest harbour.

Jamaica is mostly mountainous, with a narrow and irregular coastal plain, and is itself the tip of a submerged mountain. It can be divided in three geographical regions: the eastern mountains, the central valleys and plateaus, and the coastal plains. About two-thirds of the island, especially the central and western sections, are covered with a thick layer of limestone formed from remnants of corals and seashells.

A remote region in the central valleys and plateaus, known as Cockpit Country, is famous for its unusual limestone landscape with sinkholes (cockpits), as much as 120 m deep in places.

## CLIMATE

Jamaica's climate is tropical, influenced by the ocean and northeast trade winds. It is hot and humid on the coasts and temperate inland. The monthly average temperatures range from 24 to 27 °C (World Bank, 2020). Along the coast temperatures range between 22 to 31 °C, and from 15 to 22 °C at higher elevations. Temperatures may dip to as low as -10 °C in the peaks of the Blue Mountains.

Rainfall is seasonal, with May, September, October and November as the wettest months. Average annual rainfall is about 2 100 mm, but considerable variations occur from one year to another and from one region to another. The dry season lasts from December to April, occasionally turning into extended drought. (World Bank, 2020)

Jamaica lies at the edge of the Atlantic hurricane belt. As a result, it is largely left untouched by hurricanes and tropical storms, which make a direct strike only every 11 years on average. The most destructive were hurricanes Charlie (1951) and Gilbert (1988). Earthquakes occur more often than hurricanes, as the island is located near the northern edge of the Caribbean Plate.

## ECONOMY

Jamaica's economy is heavily dependent on services, which account for around 70 per cent of GDP since 2000. Remittances from abroad (16 per cent of GDP) and tourism constitute an important source of foreign exchange. (UNCTAD, 2021) Jamaica received over 4.2 million tourist arrivals in 2019 with an inbound tourism expenditure of almost 22 per cent over GDP (UNWTO, 2021). Agriculture, forestry and fishing account for 8 per cent of GDP and provide one sixth of employment. The main agricultural products include sugarcane, bananas, coconuts, oranges, coffee, cacao and ginger. Jamaica is one of the world's largest exporters and producers of rum, and it exports some beer as well. Jamaica is a large producer of bauxite and alumina. The main manufacturing products are processed foods, textiles, metal and petroleum products, and key destinations include the United States of America, the Netherlands, Canada and Iceland.

## CULTURE

Jamaica's folk music includes Mento, which is a form of music and dance with roots in Africa. It has greatly influenced reggae music. Its most famous performer, Robert 'Bob' Marley, was born in Jamaica.

Sports play an important role in the country's culture. Cricket, athletics, football and netball are the most popular sports. Widely known Jamaican sprinters are Usain Bolt and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce.

Although Jamaica is a tropical nation, it has a Bobsled team which competes in the Winter Olympics. The 1988 Winter Olympics Jamaican bobsled team inspired the popular Disney film 'Cool Runnings'.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$ 369

Productive Capacity Index

2018



32.6

Economic and environmental vulnerability index

2019



29

Consumer Price Index growth

2019



3.6%

2011

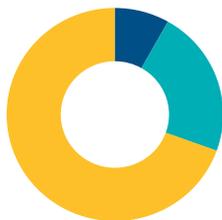
Unemployment rate



Total 12.7%  
Female 17.2%, Male 9.6%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

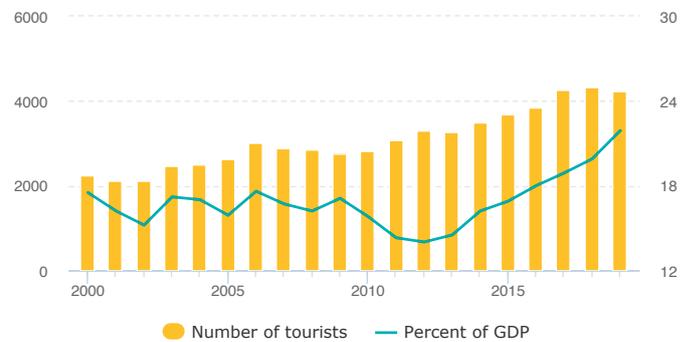
Percentage of GDP



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

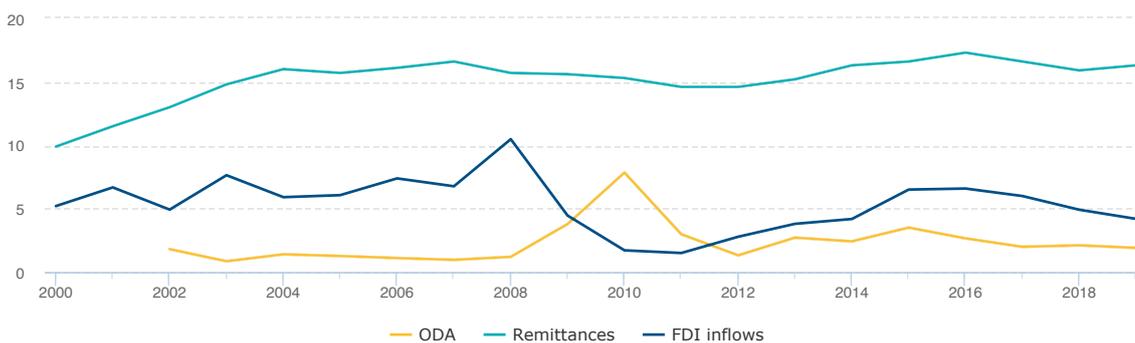
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



20.6%

## 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	3 833	5
Median time in port (days)	1	8
Average age of vessels	14	25
Average size (GT) of vessels	30 947	12

### Container port throughput

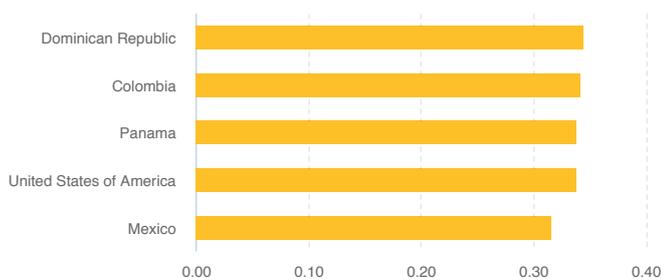
2019



1 873 399 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

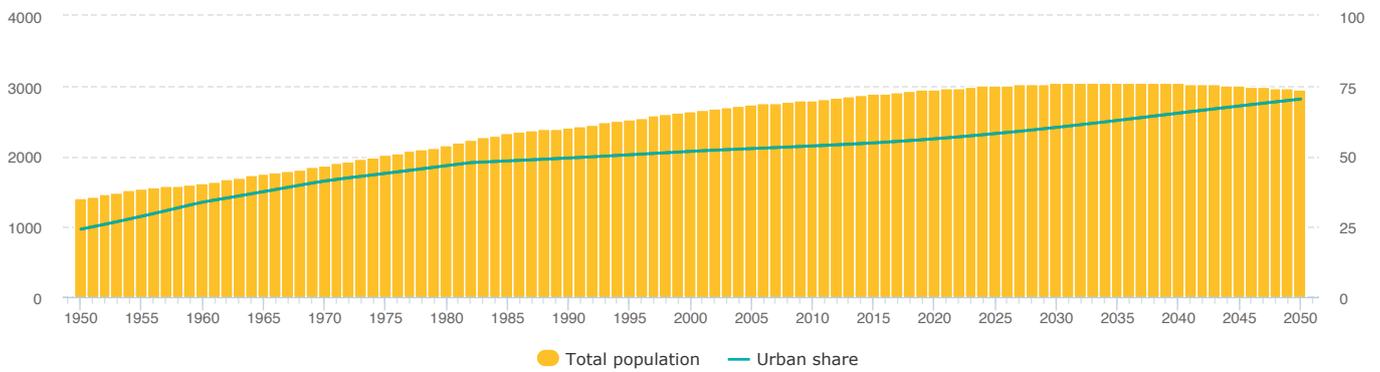
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2004	1.7
Human development index	2018	0.7
Human assets index	2020	91
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	2019	0.4

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



74 years

### Population density

2019



272 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

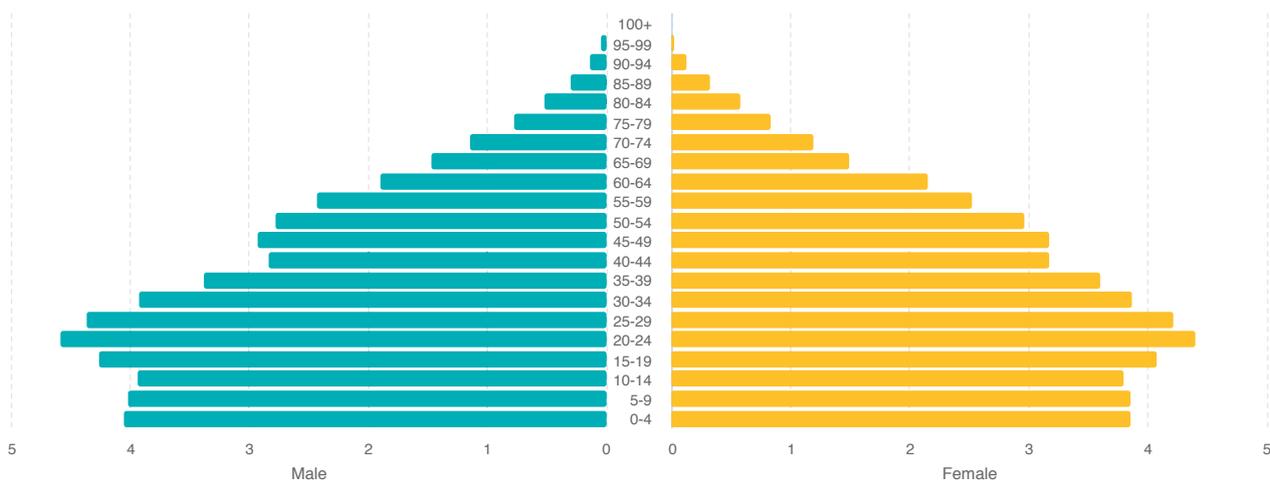
2019



Child: 34.8  
Old-age: 13.2

### 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	1 532	1 328	1 263	1 586	10
Merchandise imports	4 739	5 225	4 993	6 339	40
Services exports	2 330	2 634	3 059	4 336	27.4
Services imports	1 722	1 824	2 161	2 688	17

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



45% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.53

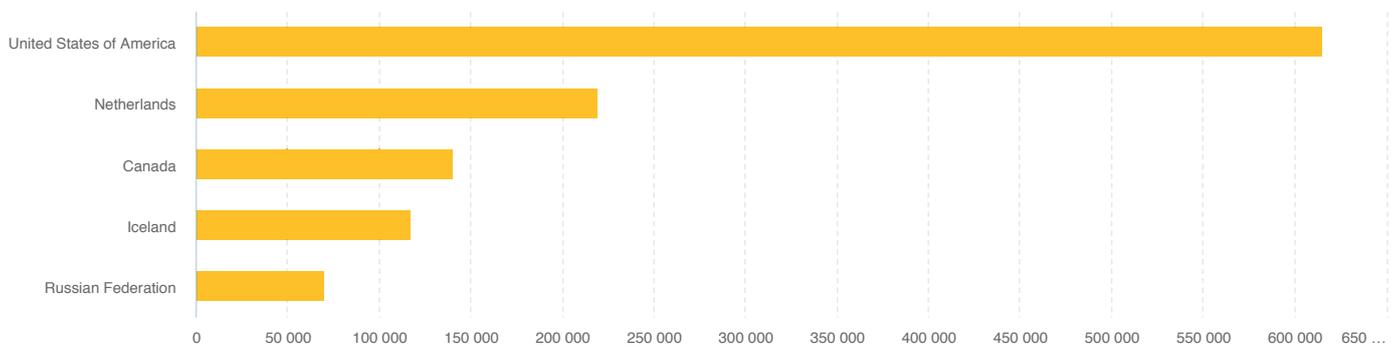
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



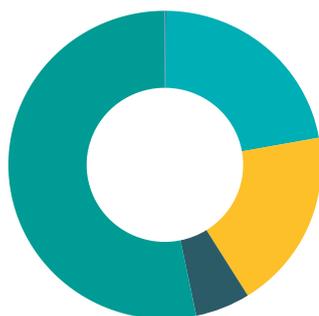
12.78

### 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

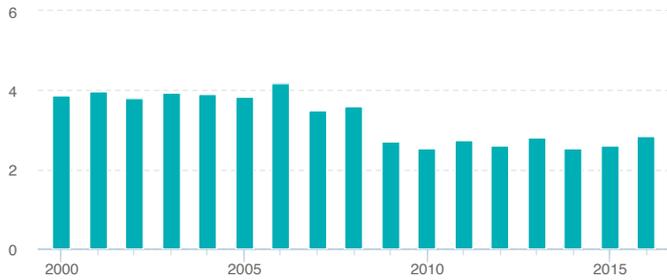
### Services exports by category, 2019

No data available

## ENVIRONMENT

### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



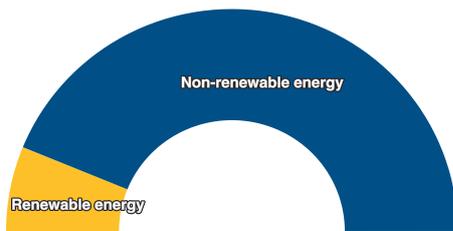
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



15.3kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



15.9%

### Marine protected area

2018



0.75%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

2019



Exports: 0.5%  
Imports: 3.2%

### Trade in ICT services

2018



Exports: 3.2%  
Imports: 3.0%

### Share of internet users

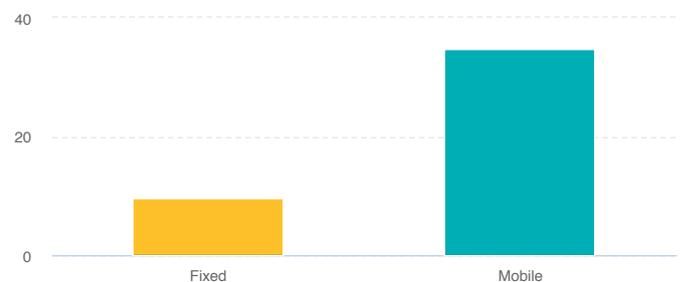
2017



55%

### Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions

Number of subscriptions per 100 people



## Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

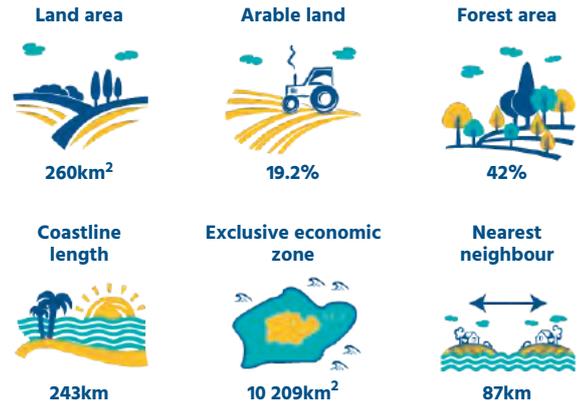
- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP: World 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).

## St. Kitts and Nevis

- > **Capital:** Basseterre (17°18' N 62°44' W)
- > **International airport(s):** Robert L. Bradshaw International Airport, Saint Kitts; Vance W. Amory International Airport, Nevis
- > **Official language(s):** English
- > **Currency:** East Caribbean dollar (XCD)
- > **Time:** UTC -4
- > **Region:** Caribbean



### GEOGRAPHY

Saint Kitts and Nevis, also known as the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis, is located in the West Indies, in the Leeward chain of the Lesser Antilles. It is the smallest sovereign state in the Western Hemisphere in both area and population. The two main islands are Saint Kitts and Nevis, separated by the 3 km wide Narrows strait. Both islands are of volcanic origin, with large central peaks and tropical rainforests. Most of the population lives along the coast. Saint Kitts contains several mountain ranges, with Mount Liamuiga 1 156 m the highest peak. The land narrows in the southeast, forming a peninsula which contains the Great Salt Pond. Nevis, the smaller of the two main islands, is dominated by Nevis Peak, with a height of 985 m. There are 176 species of bird on the island. The national bird is the brown pelican.

### CLIMATE

Saint Kitts has a tropical savanna climate, while Nevis has a tropical monsoon climate. Mean monthly temperatures in the capital city, Basseterre, vary only slightly, from 24 °C to 27 °C. Average annual rainfall is approximately 2 400 mm, although with high variance in the period from 1901 to 2016. Saint Kitts and Nevis have a wet season between July and December and a drier season between January and April. (World Bank, 2020) In the course of its history, the island has been affected by natural disasters. In 1690, an earthquake destroyed Jamestown, the capital of Nevis, forcing the construction of a new capital at Charlestown, where further damage was caused by a hurricane in 1707. In 1998, the country and its economy suffered due to Hurricane Georges.

### ECONOMY

The economy of Saint Kitts and Nevis is characterised by the dominant tourism sector, diversified manufacturing and some agriculture. Sugar was the primary export early on, but rising production costs, low market prices and efforts to reduce dependence on sugar have led to increasing diversification of agricultural production. In recent years, construction has been booming, now accounting for about one fifth share of GDP.

According to items attribute is mandatory, Saint Kitts and Nevis attracted 1.1 million tourist arrivals in 2019 and 1.3 million in 2018, and the inbound tourism expenditure was 37 per cent over GDP in 2018. In addition to a high dependence on tourism, the country is seeking to diversify its sources of revenue by developing agriculture, increasing the export-orientation of manufacturing and enabling financial services. The country exports many kinds of electrical products, switches and radios. Saint Kitts and Nevis' principal export destinations are United States of America, Bangladesh and Malta. At over 70 per cent, the service sector accounts for most of the country's GDP. (UNCTAD, 2021)

### CULTURE

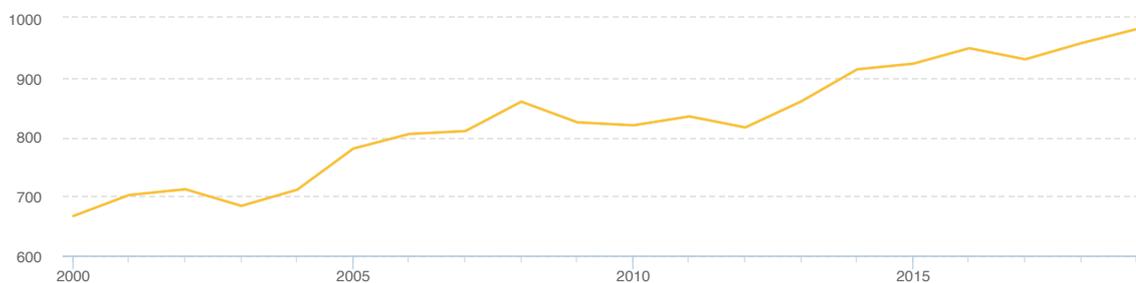
Cricket, rugby and netball are common in Saint Kitts and Nevis. In recent years, the national football team, also known as the 'Sugar Boyz', has experienced some international success.

The national dish is stewed saltfish served with spicy plantains, coconut dumplings and seasoned breadfruit. Also popular is green papaya and dumplings in a tomato stew. One of the local dishes is pelau, which combines chicken, pig tail, saltfish and vegetables with rice and pigeon peas.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$19 892

Productive Capacity Index  
2018



29.3

Economic and environmental vulnerability index  
2019



35

Consumer Price Index growth  
2019



-0.7%

Unemployment rate  
2001



Total 5.1%  
Female 4.3%, Male 5.9%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

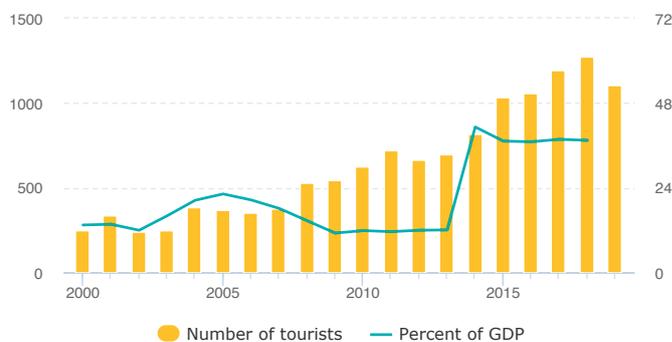
Percentage of GDP



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

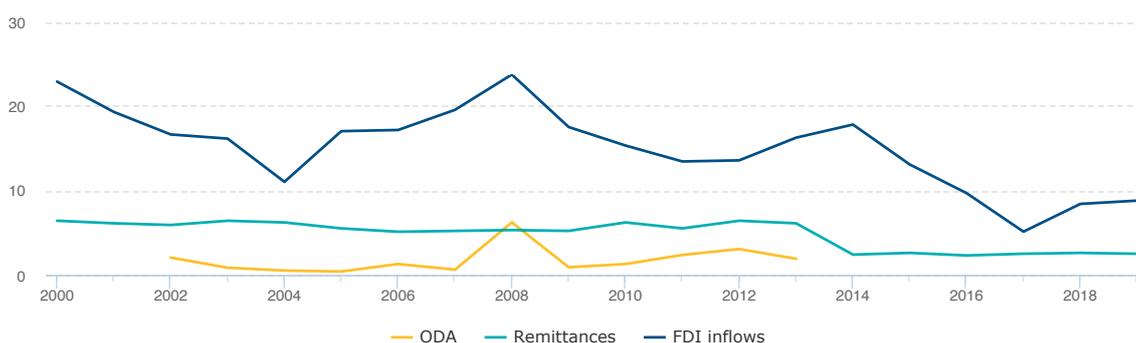
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



50.3%

## 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	798	19
Median time in port (days)	0	31
Average age of vessels	22	5
Average size (GT) of vessels	49 152	4

### Container port throughput

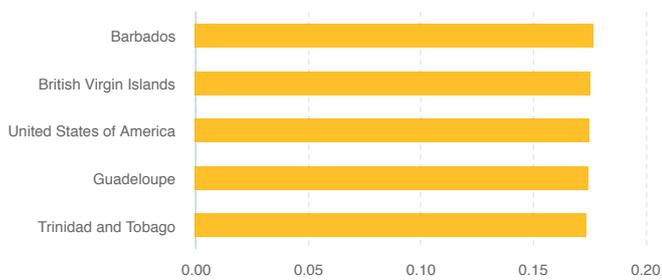
2019



14 258 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

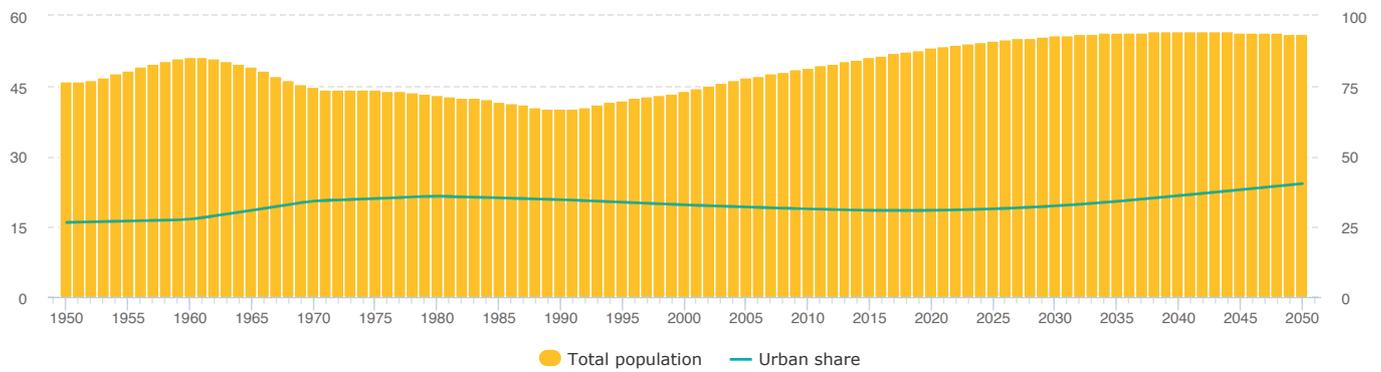
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	--	--
Human development index	2018	0.8
Human assets index	2020	97
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	--	--

### Life expectancy at birth

2002



71 years

### Population density

2019



203 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

2019



Child: ..  
Old-age: ..

### 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	34	32	55	58	5.5
Merchandise imports	210	270	297	338	32.2
Services exports	163	150	496	587	55.9
Services imports	95	111	216	256	24.4

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



61% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.26

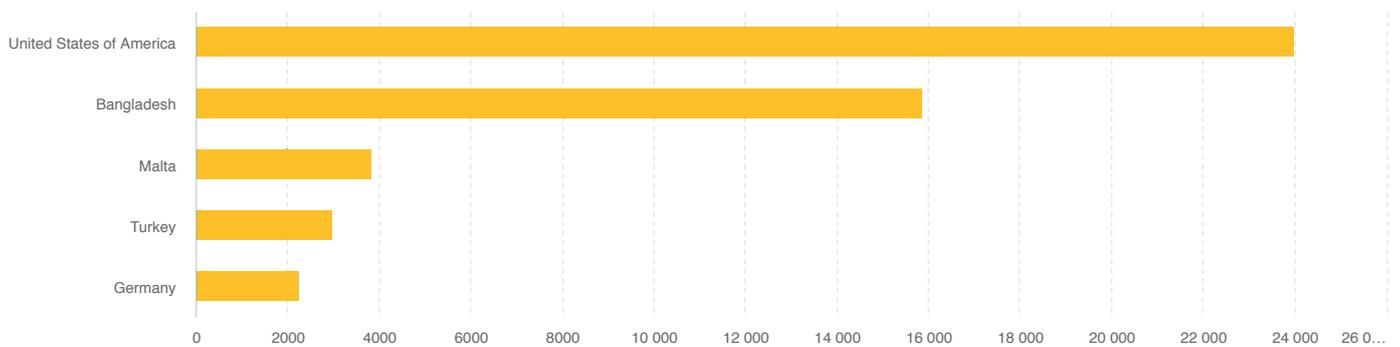
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



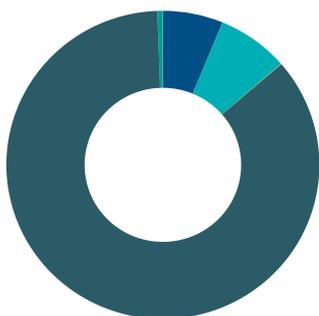
19.24

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

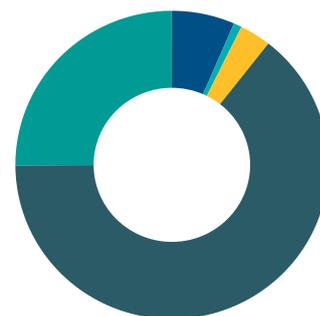


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

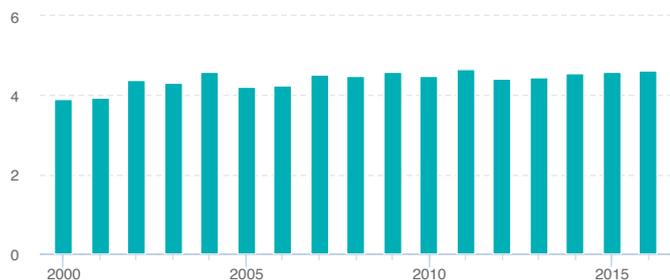


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



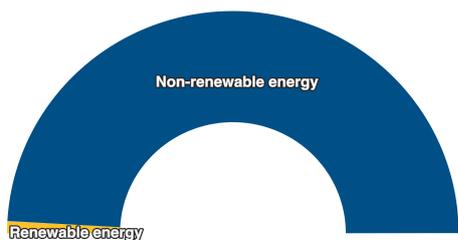
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

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

2017



Exports: 26.5%  
Imports: 5.5%

### Trade in ICT services

..



Exports: ..%  
Imports: ..%

### Share of internet users

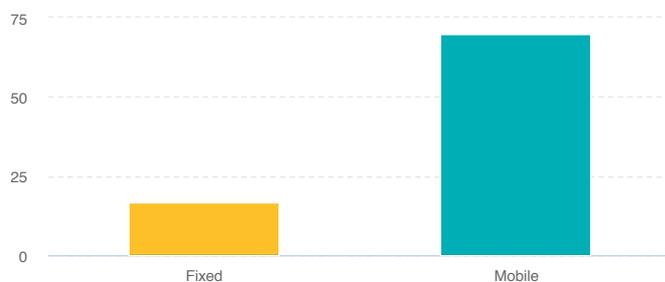
2017



81%

### 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>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

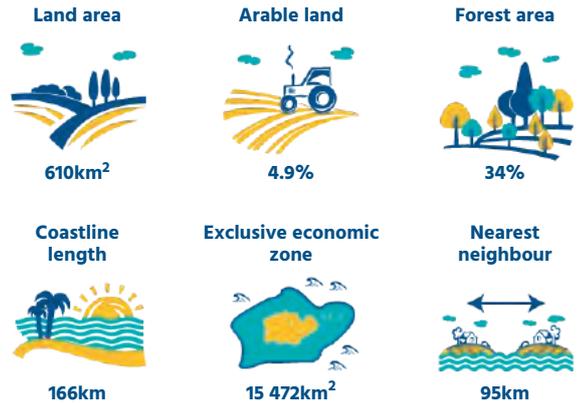


## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- 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).

## St. Lucia

- > **Capital:** Castries (14°1' N 60°59' W)
- > **International airport(s):** Hewanorra International Airport (UVF) in Vieux Fort and George F. L. Charles Airport (SLU) in Castries
- > **Official language(s):** English
- > **Currency:** East Caribbean dollar (XCD)
- > **Time:** UTC -4
- > **Region:** Caribbean



### GEOGRAPHY

Saint Lucia is located in the eastern Caribbean Sea section of the Lesser Antilles, lying northeast of Saint Vincent, northwest of Barbados and south of Martinique. Saint Lucia is a mountainous volcanic island, with a land area of 617 km<sup>2</sup> of which about two thirds is covered by forest. At 950 m, Mount Gimie is the highest point on the island. Two other mountains called the Pitons are famous landmarks in Saint Lucia. Saint Lucia also consists of many small islands such as the Maria Islands in the southeast. About one third of the population lives in the capital city, Castries. More generally, the population tends to be concentrated along the coastline.

### CLIMATE

Saint Lucia has a tropical rainforest climate moderated by northeast trade winds. There are two distinct seasons, with the dry season lasting from December to May, followed by a wet season for the rest of the year with November as the wettest month. Since Saint Lucia is close to the Equator, winter and summer temperatures do not fluctuate much. Monthly average temperatures range from 25 to 27 °C. The average annual rainfall on the island is below 2 500 mm, somewhat lower on the coast and higher in the mountain rainforests. (World Bank, 2020)

### ECONOMY

Saint Lucia is attractive to foreign businesses and investments in banking and the tourism sector. The educated workforce and improvements in infrastructure, including roads, water supply, sewerage, communications and ports contribute to a positive investment environment. Manufacturing makes a relatively small contribution to GDP, but is diverse. St. Lucia is currently trying to revitalise its banana industry. In addition, Saint Lucia exports beer, jewellery, automobiles and petroleum products. The main export destinations are the United States of America, United Kingdom and Trinidad and Tobago. The service sector accounts for most of the country's GDP, with agriculture playing a smaller role compared with many other SIDS. Trade, restaurants and hotels contributing about 30 per cent of the country's GDP (UNCTAD, 2021). All in all, travel and tourism are vital to the economy with 1.2 million tourist arrivals in 2019 and an inbound tourism expenditure of 46 per cent over GDP (UNWTO, 2021). Peak tourism seasons is the dry season when cruise ships visit the ports of Saint Lucia.

### CULTURE

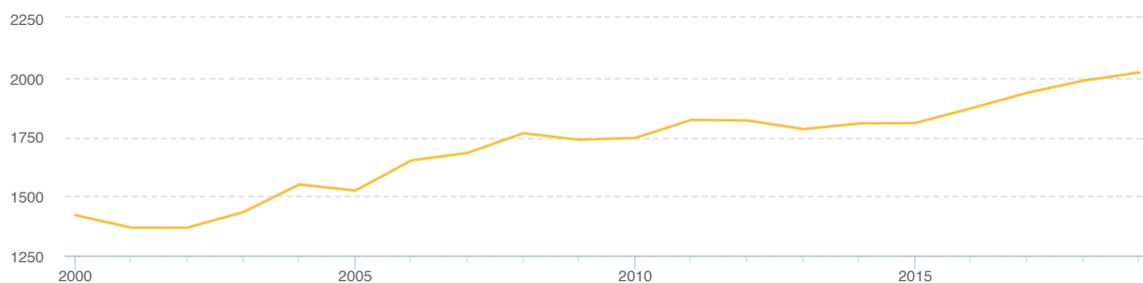
Traditional cultural festivals include La Rose and La Marguerite, with their origins in secret societies representing local fraternal societies, a Saint Lucian equivalent of Freemasonry. The biggest festival of the year is the Saint Lucia Jazz Festival, which is held in early May. A popular folk dance, the Kwadril, can be seen during festivities.

Saint Lucia boasts a high number of Nobel laureates relative to its population: Sir Arthur Lewis won the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1979 and the poet Derek Walcott in Literature in 1992.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$11 611

Productive Capacity Index  
2018



33.8

Economic and environmental vulnerability index  
2019



32

Consumer Price Index growth  
2019



-0.3%

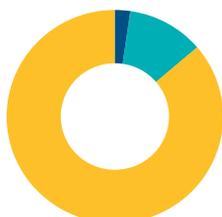
Unemployment rate



Total 15.3%  
Female 17%, Male 13.8%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

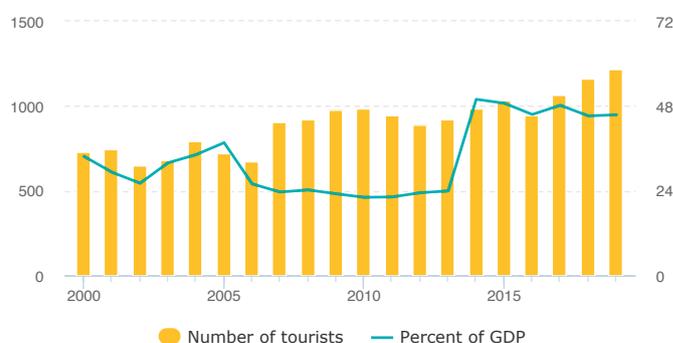
Percentage of GDP



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

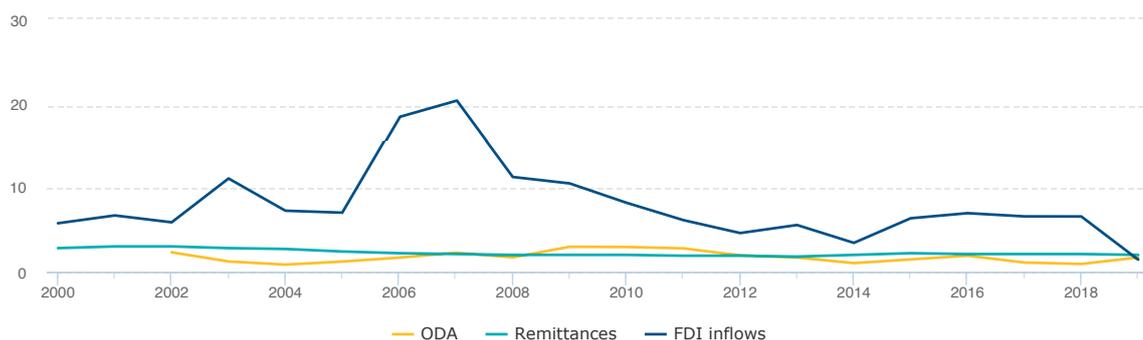
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



74.5%

## 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	1 267	15
Median time in port (days)	1	8
Average age of vessels	18	11
Average size (GT) of vessels	32 633	10

### Container port throughput

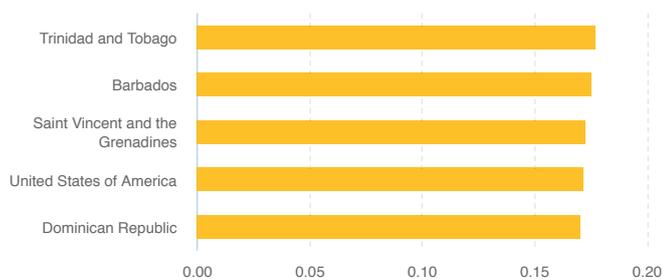
2019



31 875 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

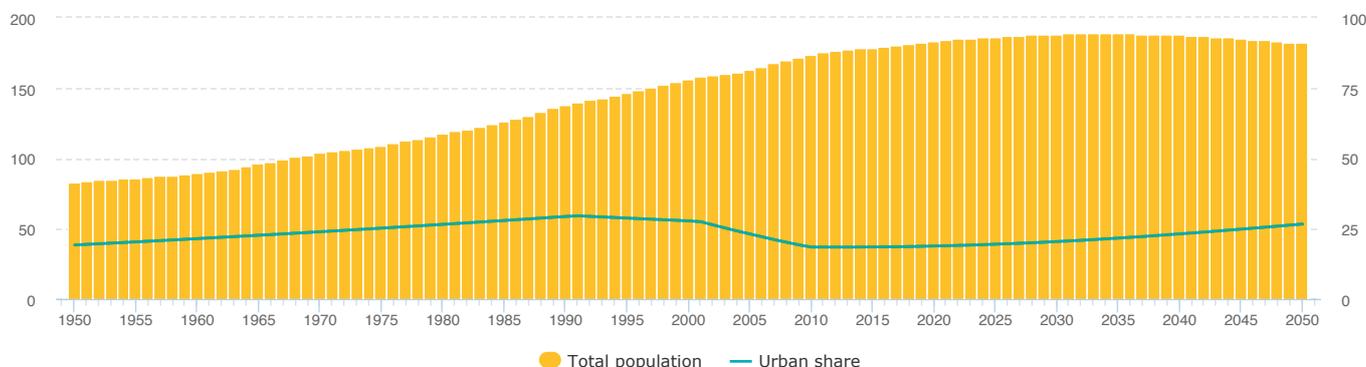
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	--	--
Human development index	2018	0.8
Human assets index	2020	95
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	2019	0.4

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



76 years

### Population density

2019



300 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

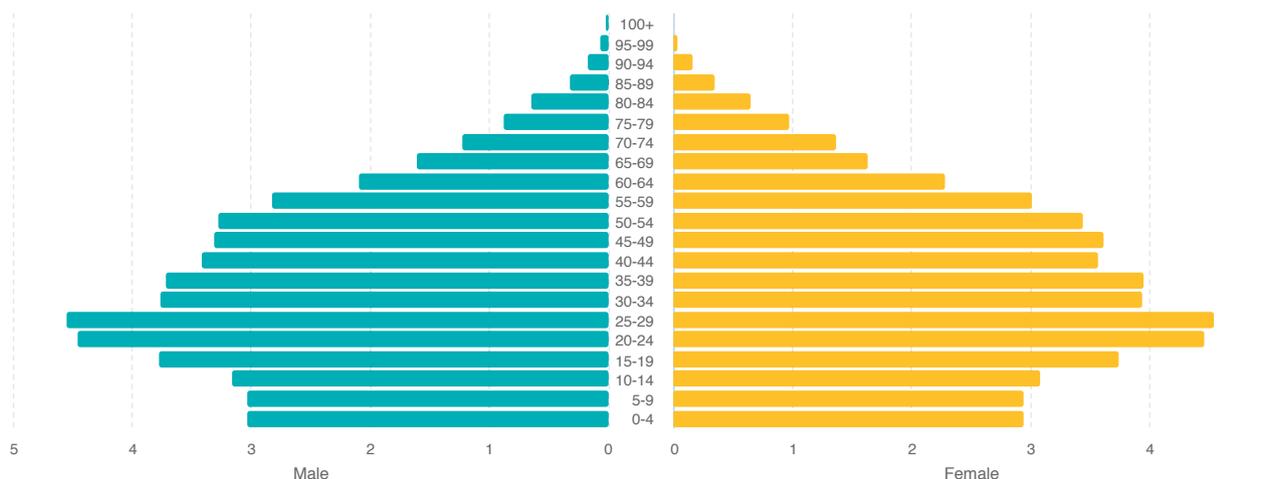
2019



Child: 25.4  
Old-age: 14.0

### 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	64	215	180	82	3.9
Merchandise imports	486	662	570	598	28.2
Services exports	436	370	867	1 103	52
Services imports	177	204	335	412	19.4

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



56% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.16

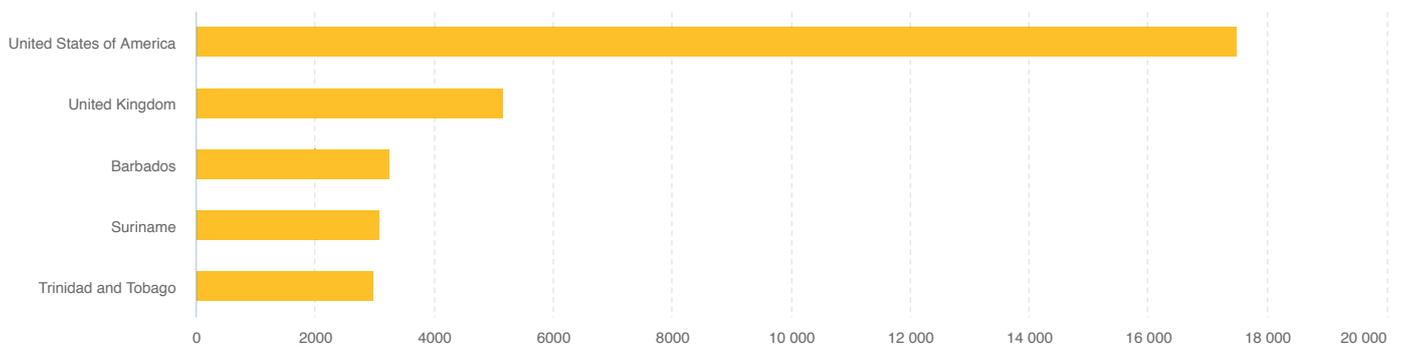
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



10.81

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

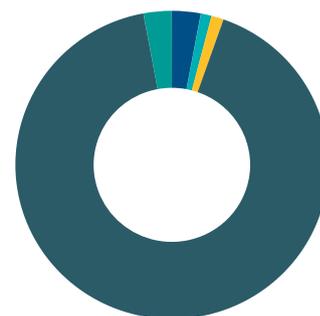


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

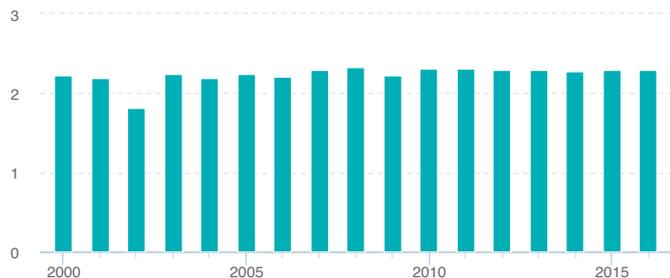


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



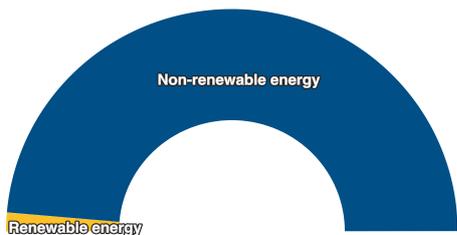
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

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

2019



Exports: 6.6%  
Imports: 4.6%

### Trade in ICT services

..



Exports: ..%  
Imports: ..%

### Share of internet users

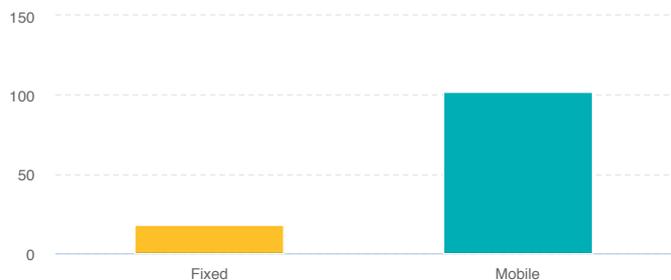
2017



51%

### Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions

Number of subscriptions per 100 people



## Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

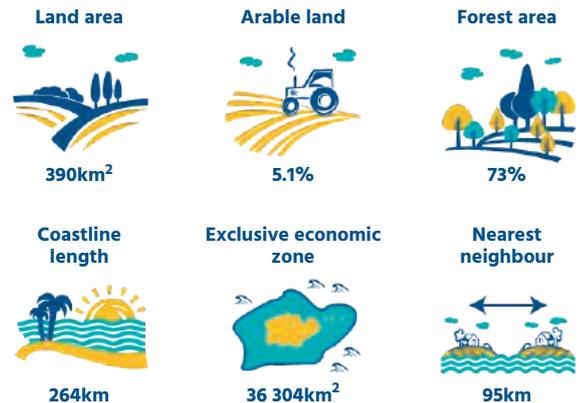
- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP: World 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](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](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](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.FL5M.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](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/>

## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seararoundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).

## St. Vincent and the Grenadines

- > **Capital:** Kingstown (13°10' N 61°14' W)
- > **International airport(s):** Argyle International Airport
- > **Official language(s):** English
- > **Currency:** East Caribbean dollar (XCD)
- > **Time:** UTC -4
- > **Region:** Caribbean



### GEOGRAPHY

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has a territory of 389 km<sup>2</sup>, with only some of the islands inhabited. The country is in the Lesser Antilles island arc in the West Indies. To the north of Saint Vincent lies Saint Lucia, to the east Barbados and to the south Grenada. The main island, Saint Vincent, measures 26 km in length and 15 km in width. The country is densely populated for its size, with over 300 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>. Saint Vincent is of volcanic origin and heavily forested with limited flat terrain. The windward side is rocky and steep, while the leeward side has some sandy beaches. The highest peak (1 234 m) is the La Soufrière volcano. Other notable mountains include Richmond Peak and Mount Brisbane.

### CLIMATE

The climate of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is tropical, humid and hot all year, with a cooler dry season from January to April and a hot and rainy season from May to October. Average monthly temperature ranges from 26 to 28 °C. (World Bank, 2020) Rainfall is abundant on Saint Vincent, with almost 2 000 mm of rainfall annually. Rainfall is below 100 mm only from January to April. The Grenadines are a bit drier, receiving less than 1 500 mm of rain per year. Rain mainly comes in sudden, intense downpours or thunderstorms, but do not last long, thus typically not reducing hours of sunshine. Tropical storms and cyclones are typical, but Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is located in the southernmost part of the hurricane belt, where hurricanes are relatively rare.

### ECONOMY

Agriculture contributes less than 10 per cent to GDP, but important agricultural products, like banana and crop are cultivated and exported. The country also produces and exports beer and distils rum. At 70 per cent, the service sector accounts for most of the country's GDP (UNCTAD, 2021), and almost the same share of employment (ILO, 2020a). The service sector is dominated by tourism. According items attribute is mandatory, tourism arrivals in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have reached 392 thousand in 2019 and inbound tourism expenditure equalled 30 per cent over GDP in 2018. The filming of movies, like the Pirates of the Caribbean, has attracted visitors, which has stimulated construction work to improve the infrastructure to enable increasing tourist flows. Unemployment has been high and tropical storms occasionally cause serious problems to banana and coconut plantations, hampering economic development. There are some manufacturing and offshore financial activities that attract international businesses. The main export destinations are Jordan, France and Switzerland in addition to the other Caribbean islands (UNCTAD, 2021).

### CULTURE

Rugby, cricket and association football are popular among men, while netball is popular among women. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have their own national rugby union team that has participated in the world cup. Basketball, volleyball and tennis are also played. Popular music includes bele, big drum, calypso, chutney, reggae, soca and steelpan. Traditional storytelling is also a popular way to spend time.

People grow breadfruit and arrowroot, among others, and a wide array of spice plants. The country hosts a Breadfruit Festival each August with music, dancing and multiple preparations of breadfruit. The cuisine is based on a rich variety of fish and seafood, including tuna, bonito, mahi mahi, kingfish and snapper. In Barrouallie, on the west coast of Saint Vincent, a local delicacy is black fish, or pilot whale. Lobster, squid, octopus and queen conch are also regularly enjoyed.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$7 463

Productive Capacity Index  
2018



34.1

Economic and environmental vulnerability index  
2019



28

Consumer Price Index growth  
2019



0.7%

Unemployment rate  
2008



Total 18.8%  
Female 18.6%, Male 22.6%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

Percentage of GDP



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

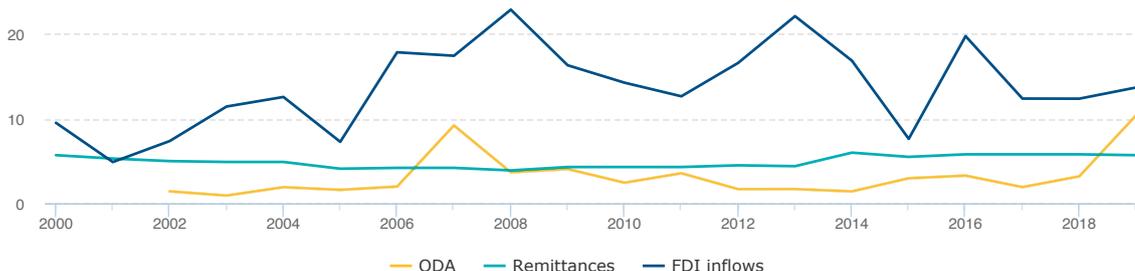
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



56.9%

## 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	2 332	9
Median time in port (days)	0	31
Average age of vessels	44	1
Average size (GT) of vessels	6 106	31

### Container port throughput

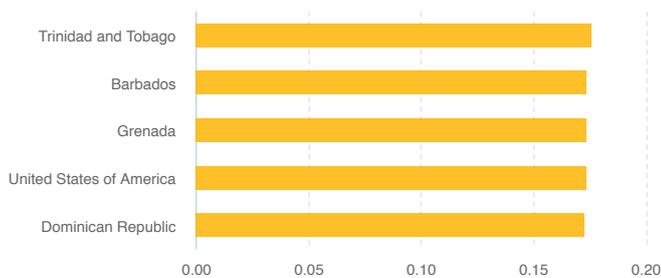
2019



18 650 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

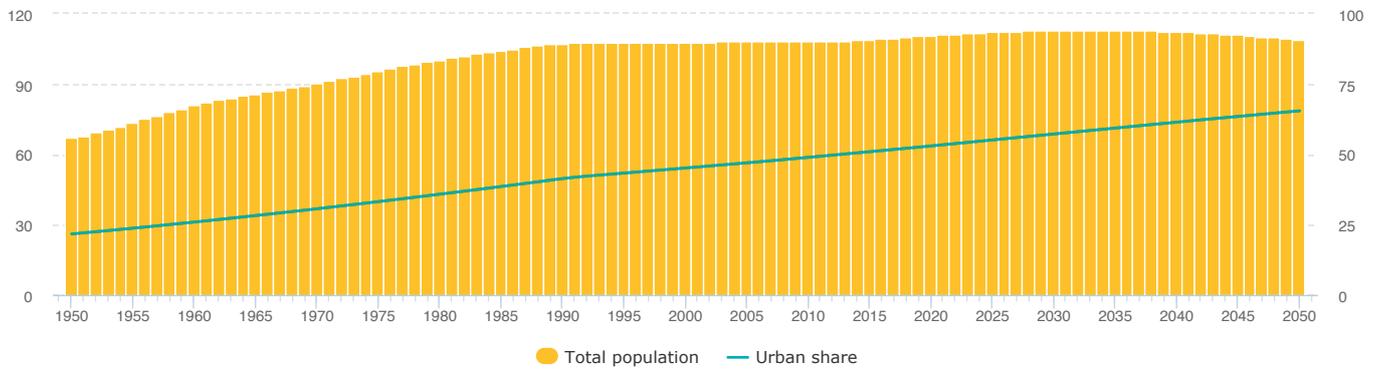
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	--	--
Human development index	2018	0.7
Human assets index	2020	95
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	--	--

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



73 years

### Population density

2019



284 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

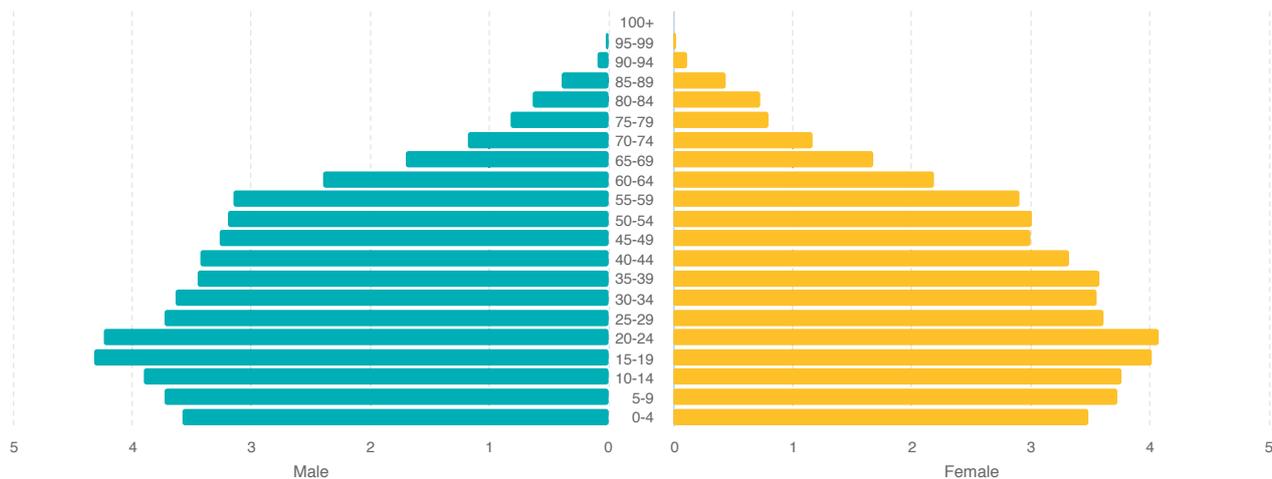
2019



Child: 32.6  
Old-age: 14.3

### 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	40	42	46	38	4.6
Merchandise imports	240	338	334	335	40.6
Services exports	158	138	238	291	35.3
Services imports	79	91	122	144	17.4

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



47% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.44

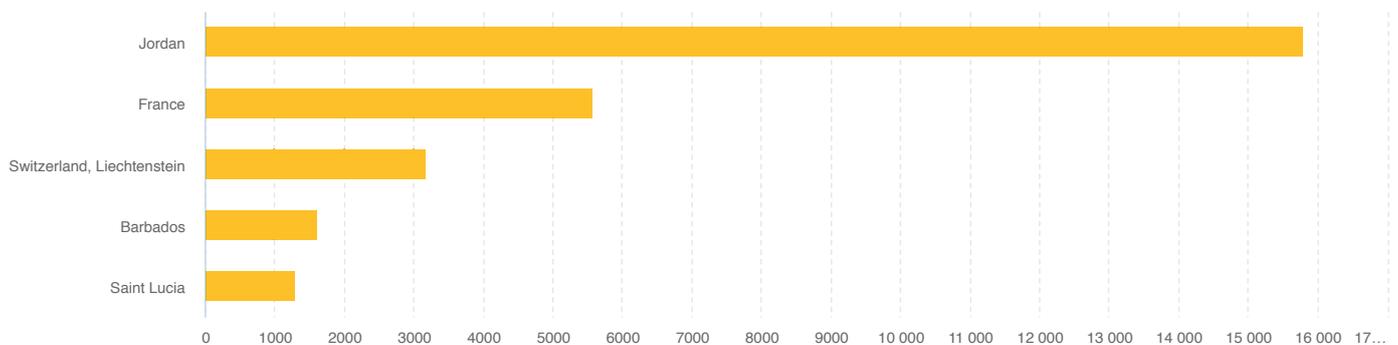
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



17.03

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

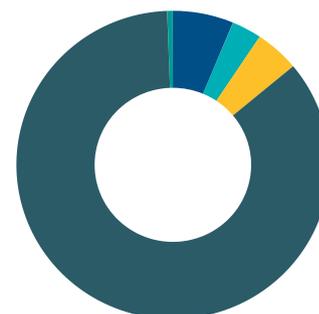
Exports in millions US dollars



### 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

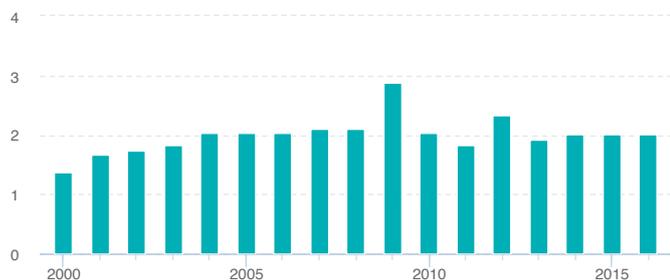


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

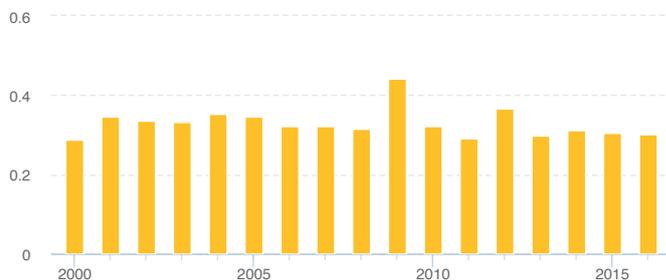
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



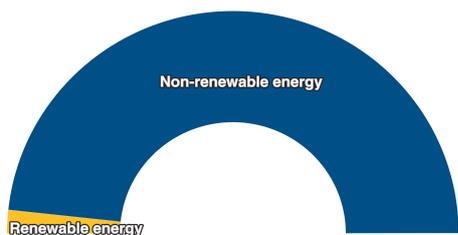
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

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

2019



Exports: 1.3%  
Imports: 4.2%

### Trade in ICT services

..



Exports: ..%  
Imports: ..%

### Share of internet users

2018



22%

### 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>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

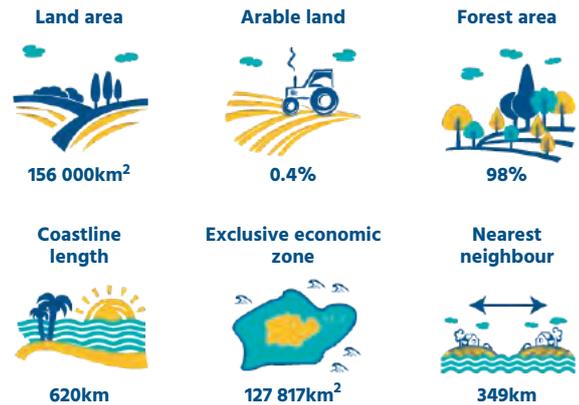
## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020a). ILOStat. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020b). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- 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).



## Suriname

- > **Capital:** Paramaribo (5°50'N 55°10'W)
- > **International airport(s):** Johan Adolf Pengel International Airport
- > **Official language(s):** Dutch
- > **Currency:** Surinamese Dollar
- > **Time:** UTC -3
- > **Region:** Caribbean



### GEOGRAPHY

Suriname is situated on the northern Atlantic coast of South America. Lying just north of the equator, its territory is dominated by sparsely populated, dense rain forests in the south and interior. The northern lowland coastal areas by contrast are largely cultivated and host the majority of inhabitants, centered around the capital of Paramaribo. The Bakuys and Van Asch Van Wijck mountain ranges run through the interior, with Julianatop (1 286 m) as their highest point.

### CLIMATE

Suriname has a tropical, wet climate with little intra-annual variation due to its proximity to the equator. Average monthly temperatures range from 25°C in February to 27°C in October, though high humidity levels can cause temperatures to feel even warmer. The country has wet seasons from April to July and December to February, with intervening dry seasons. (World Bank, 2020)

### ECONOMY

Suriname has an economy concentrated on mining and natural resource extraction, particularly bauxite, which makes up a large portion of GDP and exports. Agriculture, especially products like rice and bananas, also make up a significant portion of the economy, as well as aquaculture products such as shrimp. In 2019, 8 per cent of the labor force was engaged in agriculture, 23 per cent in industry, mostly the processing of bauxite into aluminum, and 69 per cent in the services sector (ILO, 2020a). Despite this high employment share in services and Suriname's natural features, tourism remains a nascent industry with inbound tourism expenditure accounting for only 1.6 per cent of GDP in 2019 (UNWTO, 2021). Remittances are another important income source, flowing mainly from the Netherlands, the United States of America and French Guiana. In 2019, top destinations for exports included Switzerland, China Hong Kong SAR, the United Arab Emirates, Belgium and Guyana (UNCTAD, 2021).

### CULTURE

Suriname is culturally diverse, incorporating elements of Dutch, Indian, African, Chinese, Indonesian, and indigenous cultures. It is well-known for its kaseko music, an evolution of the Afro-Surinamese call-and-response kawina genre.

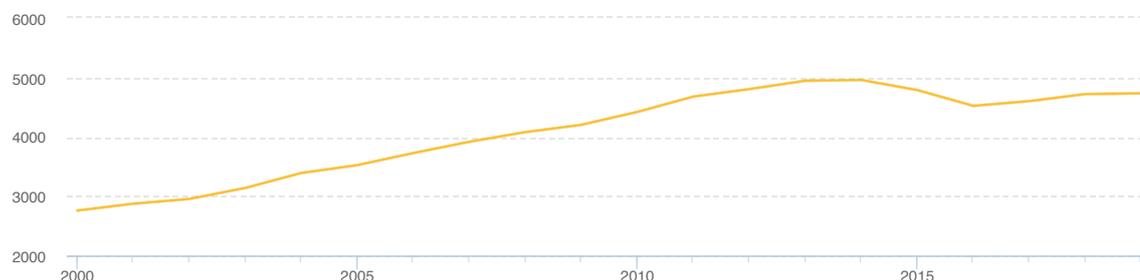
Its cuisine is similarly diverse as its culture, combining native flora, such as cassava, with imported dishes such as roti. Chicken, rice, cassava, and spiced fish (bakkeljauw) are common elements of Surinamese cuisine.

Football, cricket, and especially swimming are all popular in Suriname. Suriname has won two Olympic medals in swimming, including one gold, in 1988 and 1992.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$6 360

Productive Capacity Index  
2018



31.5

Economic and environmental vulnerability index  
2019



44

Consumer Price Index growth  
2019



19.1%

Unemployment rate  
2016



Total 7.9%  
Female 11.1%, Male 5.7%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

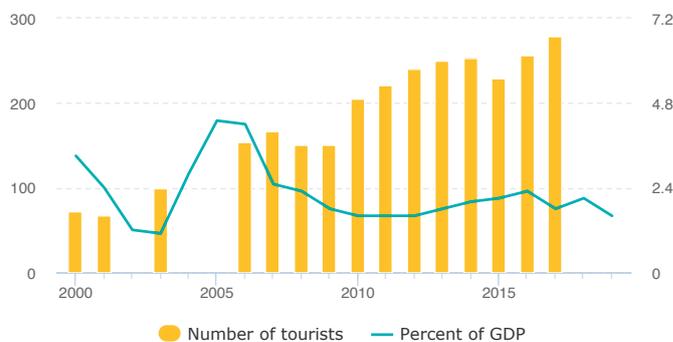
Percentage of GDP



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

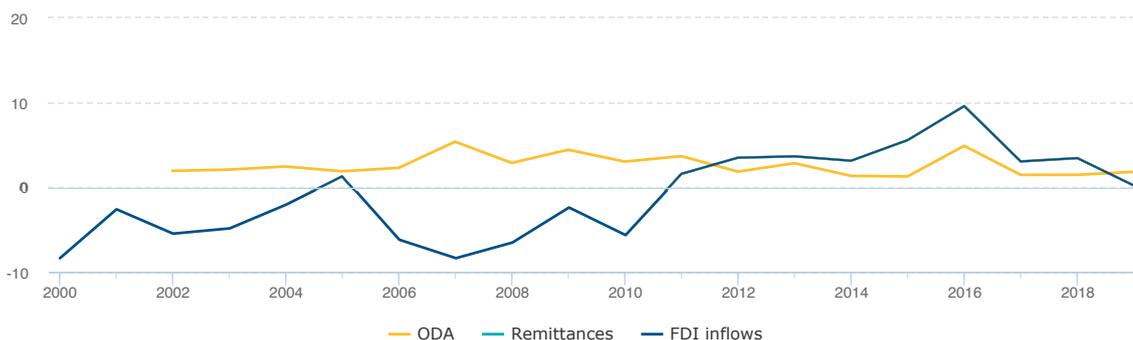
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



5.3%

## 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	843	17
Median time in port (days)	1	8
Average age of vessels	15	21
Average size (GT) of vessels	8 334	27

### Container port throughput

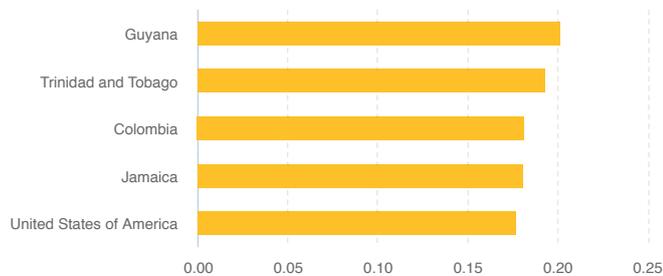
2019



110 659 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

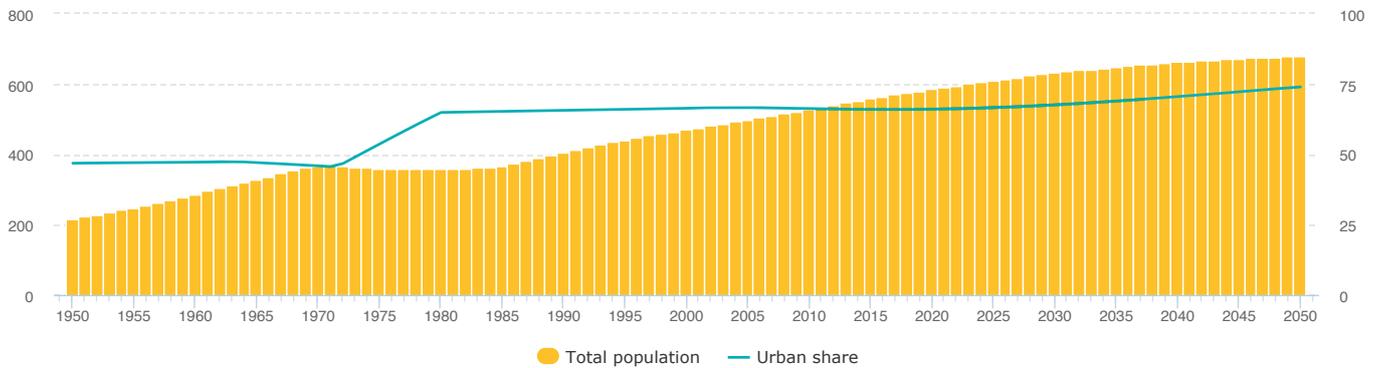
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	--	--
Human development index	2018	0.7
Human assets index	2020	91
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	2019	0.4

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



72 years

### Population density

2019



4 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

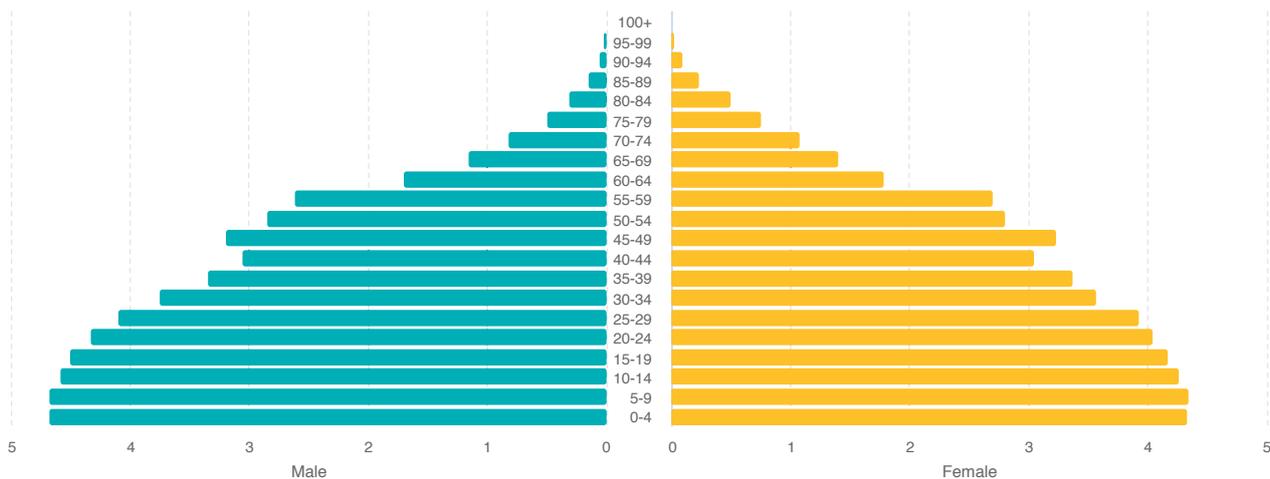
2019



Child: 40.7  
Old-age: 10.6

### 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	997	2 026	1 652	2 127	57.5
Merchandise imports	1 050	1 398	2 028	1 702	46
Services exports	204	241	177	127	3.4
Services imports	352	259	709	729	19.7

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



65% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.78

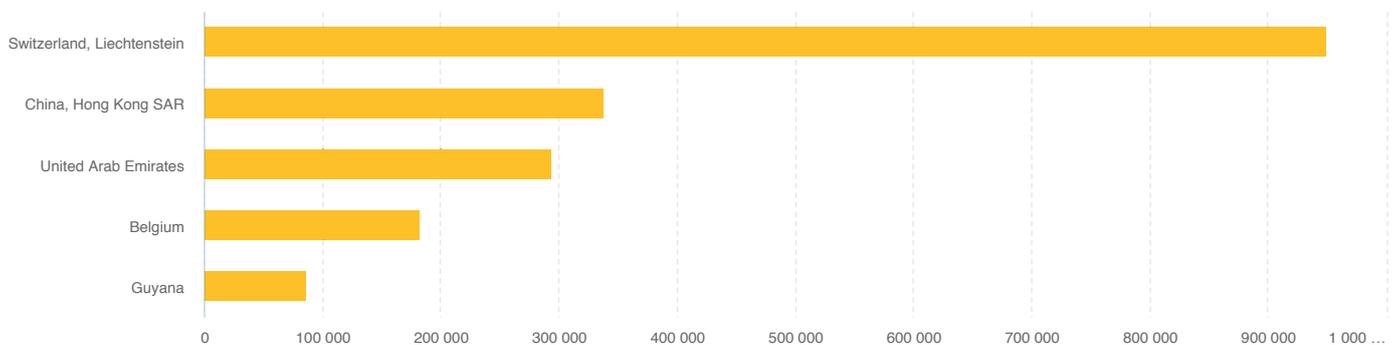
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



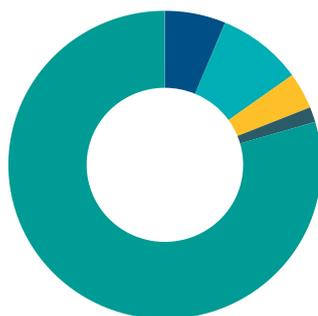
3.94

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

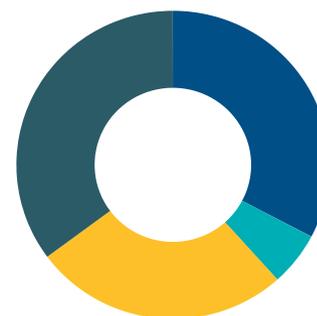


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

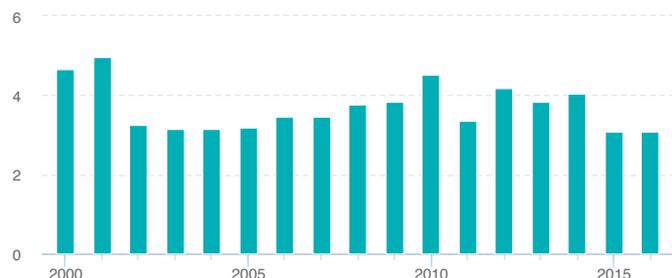


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



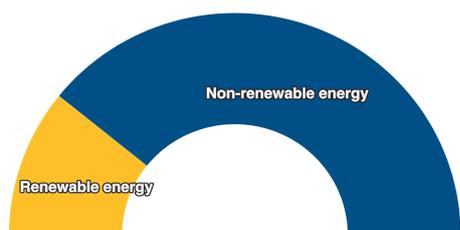
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

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

2019



Exports: 0.1%  
Imports: 2.0%

### Trade in ICT services

2019



Exports: 6.7%  
Imports: 5.0%

### Share of internet users

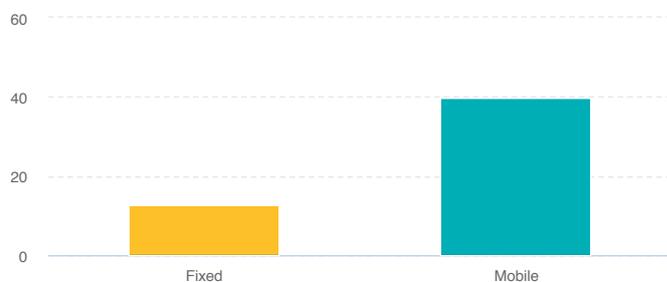
2017



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>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

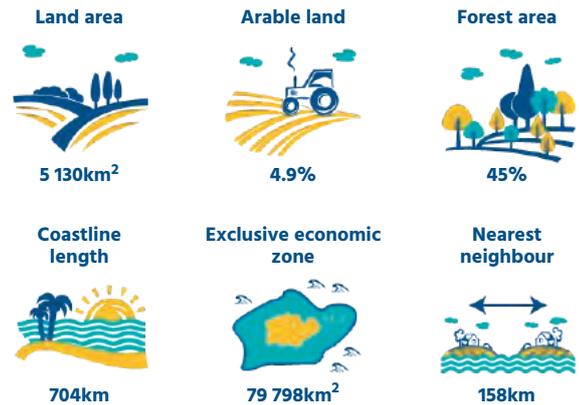


## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020a). ILOStat. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020b). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).

## Trinidad and Tobago

- > **Capital:** Port of Spain (10°40' N 61°30' W)
- > **International airport(s):** Piarco International Airport, Piarco; A.N.R. Robinson International Airport, Crown Point
- > **Official language(s):** English
- > **Currency:** Trinidad and Tobago dollar (TTD)
- > **Time:** UTC -4
- > **Region:** Caribbean



### GEOGRAPHY

Trinidad and Tobago is the southern-most island country in the Caribbean. Located 130 km south of Grenada and 11 km north east of the Venezuelan coast, Trinidad and Tobago share maritime boundaries with Barbados, Grenada, Guyana and Venezuela. Trinidad is traversed by three distinct mountain ranges that are a continuation of the Venezuelan coastal cordillera. As it was once part of continental South America, Trinidad has an assortment of tropical vegetation and wildlife considerably more varied than most Caribbean islands. Tobago has a generally similar but less varied flora.

### CLIMATE

Trinidad and Tobago have a maritime tropical climate with two seasons annually: a dry season from January to May, and a rainy season for the remainder of the year. Annual minimum and maximum temperatures are 23 °C and 31 °C, respectively, with a mean daily temperature of 26 °C. The island receives an average of 1 600 mm of rainfall per year, usually concentrated in the months of June through December (World Bank, 2020), when brief, intense showers frequently occur. During the dry season, drought plagues the island's central interior. Trinidad and Tobago lie outside the main hurricane alleys. Hurricane Ivan was the most powerful storm to pass close to the islands in 2004. In the northern part of the country the climate is cooler due to constant cloud and mist cover and heavy rains in the mountains.

### ECONOMY

Trinidad and Tobago is one of the most developed economies in the Caribbean, with a correspondingly high GDP per capita of US\$17 000, current prices, in 2019 (UNCTAD, 2021). The economy is strongly influenced by the petroleum industry and has a viable manufacturing sector that supplies food, beverages and cement to the Caribbean region. The United States of America and many Latin American countries are important export destinations. Oil and gas typically account for around 40 per cent of GDP and 80 per cent of exports, but less than 5 per cent of employment. According to items attribute is mandatory, about 60 per cent of employed men work in services and 86 per cent of women. Tourism is important, especially to Tobago, and has been growing, but is not as central to the economy as in some other Caribbean islands. In 2019, the country received 480 thousand tourist arrivals with an inbound tourism expenditure of 2 per cent over GDP (UNWTO, 2021). The main agricultural products include citrus and cocoa.

### CULTURE

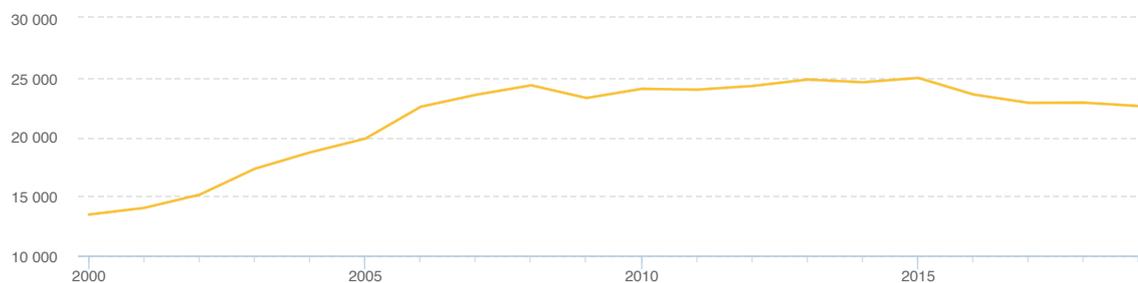
The islands of Trinidad and Tobago have produced writers of international stature, including Samuel Selvon, Earl Lovelace and Nobel Prize for Literature winner V.S. Naipaul, as well as the noted cultural historian and cricket writer C.L.R. James.

The cuisine of Trinidad and Tobago reflects the rich diversity of African, Arabic, Cajun, Creolean, European, Indian, Spanish and Chinese influence among others. Indian dishes like channa (chickpeas), curry, aloo choka (potatoes) and roti (flatbread) are popular. The Creole cuisine adds stewed chicken, red beans and homemade ginger beer. Chowmein, dumplings and crab represent Chinese dishes consumed in the country. People of the country are known to be highly generous with food at religious and social events and festivals.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$16 637

Productive Capacity Index  
2018



36.7

Economic and environmental vulnerability index  
2019



28

Consumer Price Index growth  
2019



2.3%

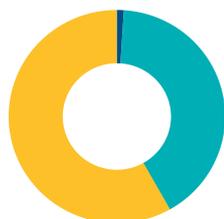
Unemployment rate  
2009



Total 5.3%  
Female 6.3%, Male 4.6%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

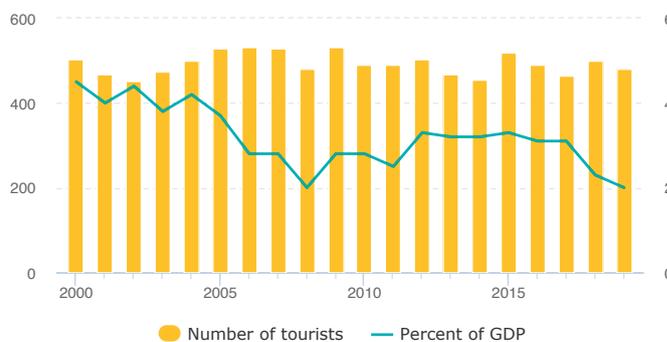
Percentage of GDP



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

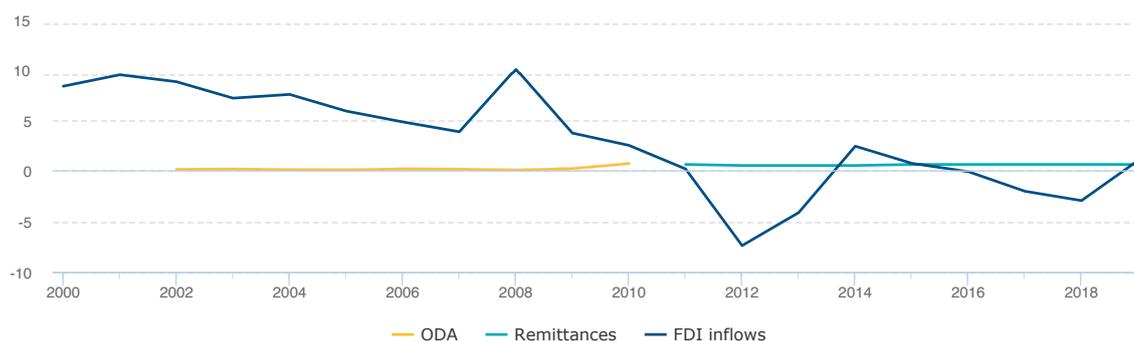
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



44.9%

## 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	5 127	3
Median time in port (days)	1	8
Average age of vessels	13	28
Average size (GT) of vessels	17 375	17

### Container port throughput

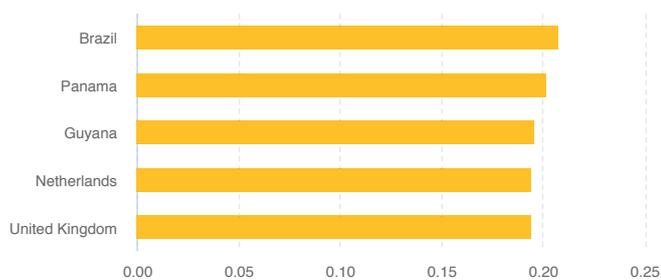
2019



368 055 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

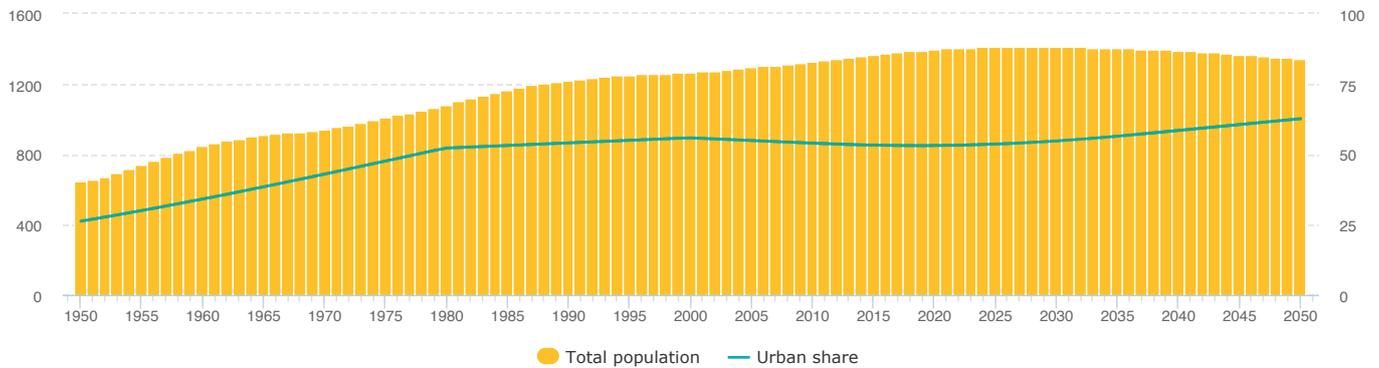
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	--	--
Human development index	2018	0.8
Human assets index	2020	93
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	2019	0.3

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



74 years

### Population density

2019



272 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

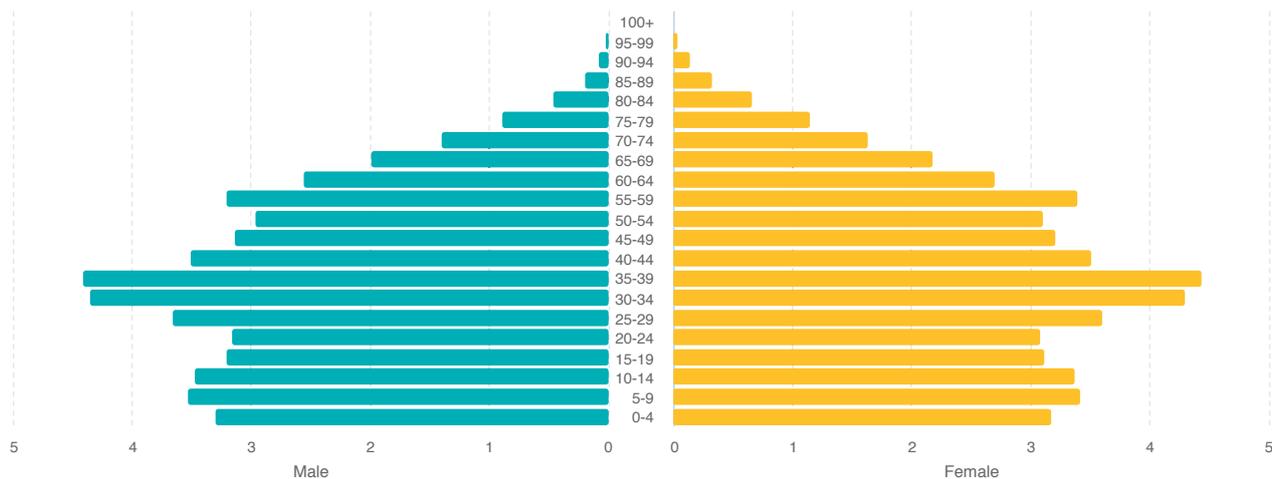
2019



Child: 29.5  
Old-age: 16.2

### 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	9 942	10 982	10 748	7 192	31
Merchandise imports	5 694	6 480	9 233	6 327	27.3
Services exports	897	874	1 125	772	3.3
Services imports	545	389	2 914	1 708	7.4

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



35% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.34

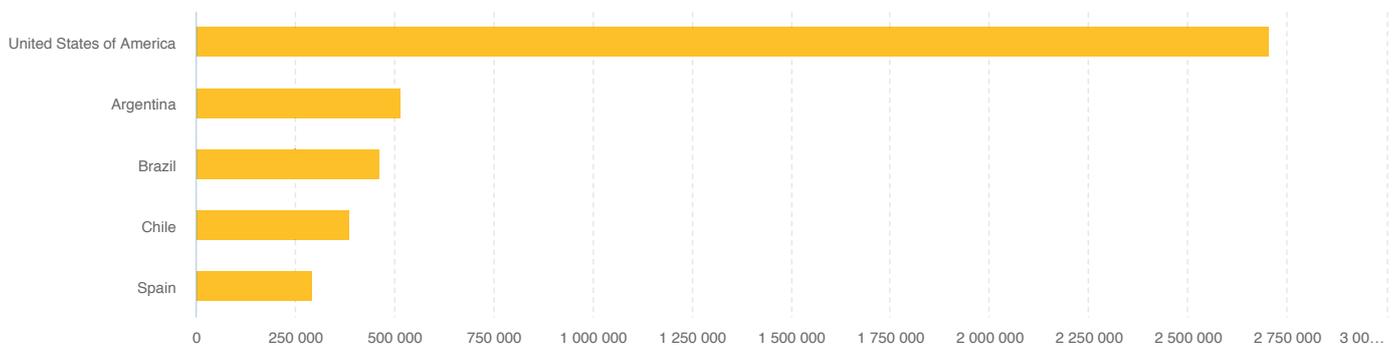
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



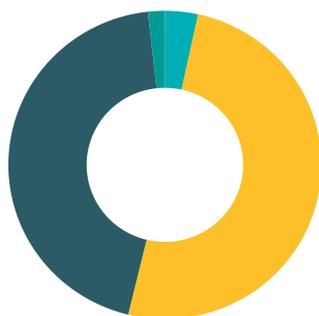
7.60

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

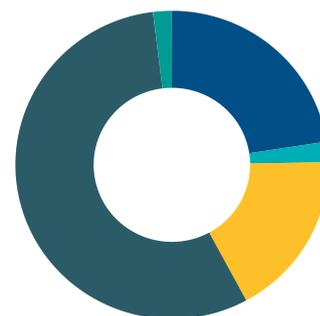


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

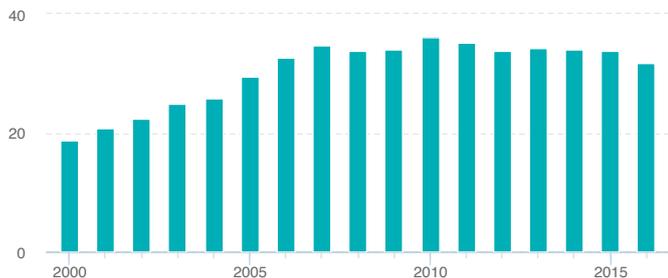


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



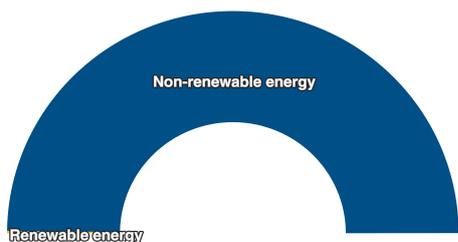
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



10.8kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



30.6%

### Marine protected area

2018



0.05%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

2015



Exports: 0.1%  
Imports: 4.3%

### Trade in ICT services

2019



Exports: 2.1%  
Imports: 2.6%

### Share of internet users

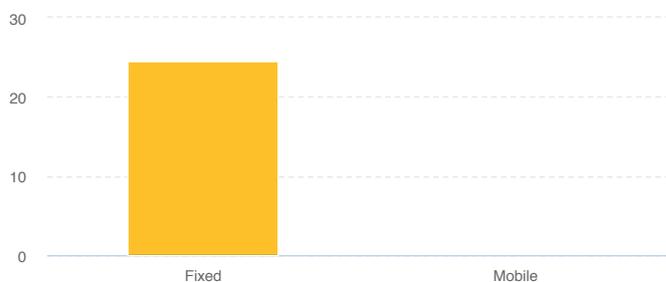
2017



77%

### 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>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>



## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).

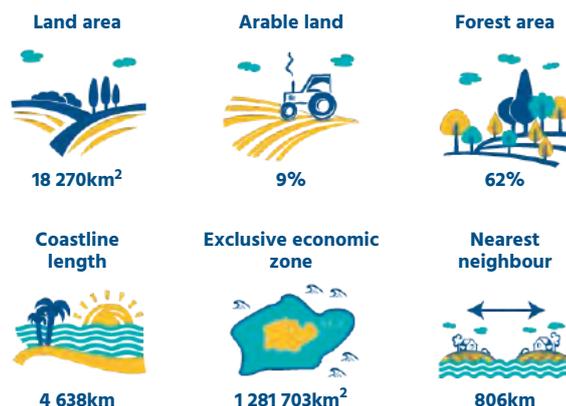
# Country profiles: Pacific SIDS





# Fiji

- > **Capital:** Suva (18°10' S 178°27' E)
- > **International airport(s):** Nadi International Airport, Nadi
- > **Official language(s):** Fijian, English, Fiji Hindi
- > **Currency:** Fijian dollar (FJD)
- > **Time:** UTC +12/+13
- > **Region:** Pacific



## GEOGRAPHY

Volcanic in origin, the Fiji archipelago is situated in the South Pacific Ocean, about 1 800 km north of New Zealand. Of Fiji's more than 800 islands and islets, a little more than 100 are permanently inhabited. The biggest island is Viti Levu, followed by Vanua Levu. Both islands are mountainous, the highest peak (Mount Tomanivi, in Viti Levu) rising to 1 324 m above the sea level.

## CLIMATE

Fiji has a tropical climate. Average monthly temperatures vary between 22 and 26 °C (World Bank, 2020). A hot, rainy season lasts from December to April. The dryer and cooler season lasts from June to October, although the southeastern slopes of the main islands remain relatively humid year-round. The southeastern parts of Viti Levu get up to 2 900 mm of rain per year, while in the northwestern corner of the same island the figure is around 2 000 mm. The average temperatures are also a bit higher in the northwest. Fiji can be affected by tropical cyclones, usually between November and mid-May.

## ECONOMY

The economy of Fiji is based primarily on tourism and agriculture, and it is one of the most developed among the Pacific island economies. Sugar production has traditionally been an important economic activity, while the garment industry has also grown in importance over the years. The main trading partners are the United States of America, Australia and Japan. Around two thirds of Fiji's GDP is generated by services, while industry accounts for almost one fifth. (UNCTAD, 2021) According to the items attribute is mandatory, service sector jobs account for half of total employment in Fiji, while one third is employed in agriculture. The majority of Fiji's international trade in services consists of tourism-related transport and travel services. From 2016 to 2019, tourist arrivals to Fiji have been close to one million per year, and their expenditure equalled to 24 per cent over GDP in 2019 (UNWTO, 2021). Fiji is quite rich in natural resources, with exports consisting of minerals such as copper and gold, oil, fish and wood.

## CULTURE

Features of traditional Fijian culture are still part of important ceremonies and festivities in the country today. Traditional handicrafts, music and dancing also contribute to tourism.

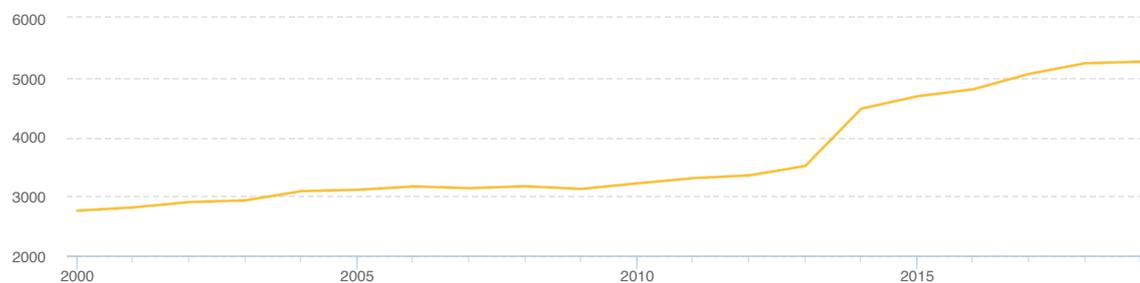
Root vegetables and coconut are important ingredients in Fijian cuisine and daily nutrition. Fiji is also famous for its seafood. However, Indian curries and Chinese dishes are also very popular in Fiji. The national beverage is yaqona, more widely known as kava or grog - described as a mildly narcotic drink.

Fijian sport activities include canoeing, wrestling and a local form of shuffleboard. Nowadays, rugby is also very popular, and many Fijian players play in the top leagues around the world. Fiji won the men's rugby sevens Olympic gold medal at the 2016 Summer Games. It was the first ever Olympic medal for Fiji, who has participated in the Olympic Summer Games since 1956. This special occasion was celebrated by announcing a public holiday. Fiji has participated in several Olympic Winter Games as well.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$6 185

Productive Capacity Index  
2018



31.7

Economic and environmental vulnerability index  
2019



39

Consumer Price Index growth  
2019



2.9%

Unemployment rate  
2016



Total 4.3%  
Female 5.5%, Male 3.7%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

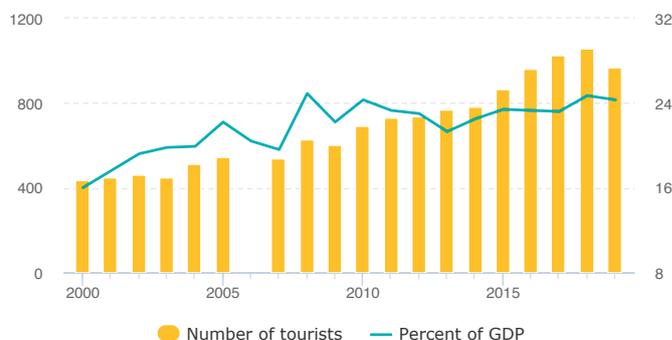
Percentage of GDP



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

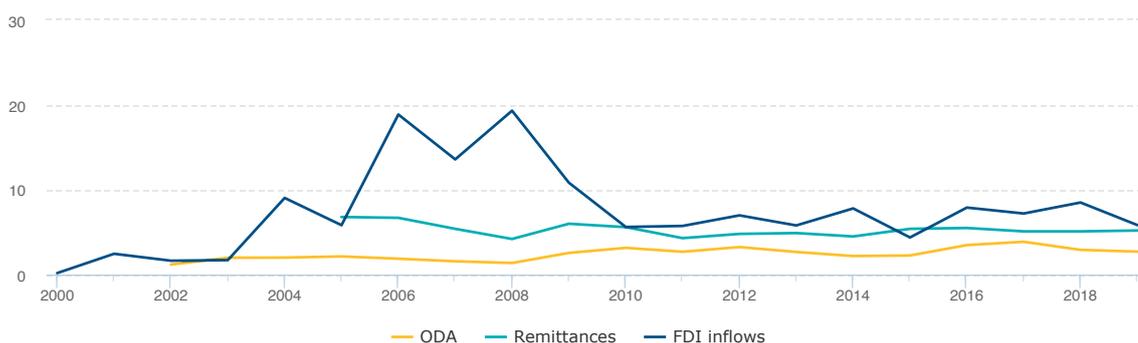
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



63.5%

## 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	2 342	8
Median time in port (days)	1	8
Average age of vessels	26	4
Average size (GT) of vessels	10 285	24

### Container port throughput

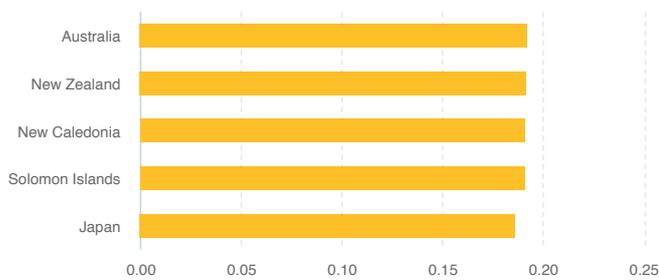
2019



145 782 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

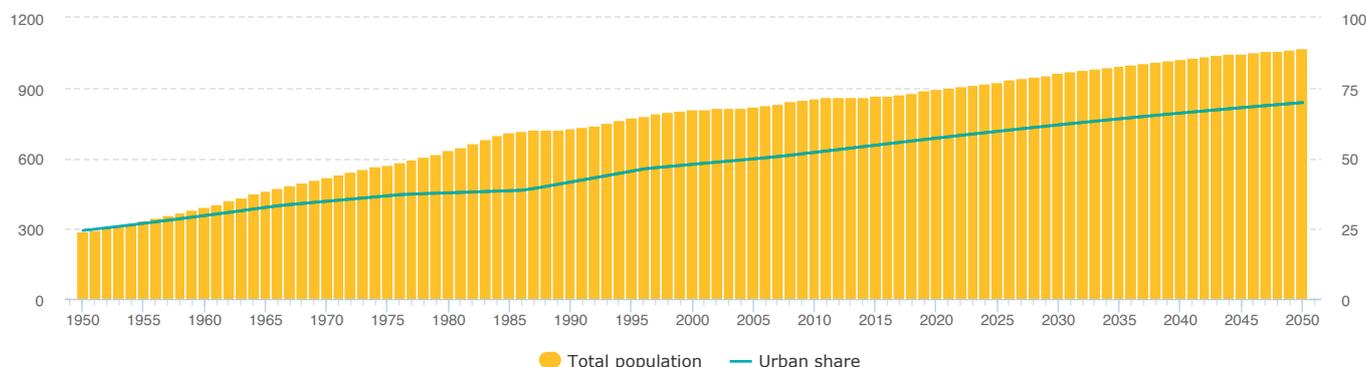
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2013	0.5
Human development index	2018	0.7
Human assets index	2020	94
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	2017	99.7
Gender inequality index	2019	0.4

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



67 years

### Population density

2019



49 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

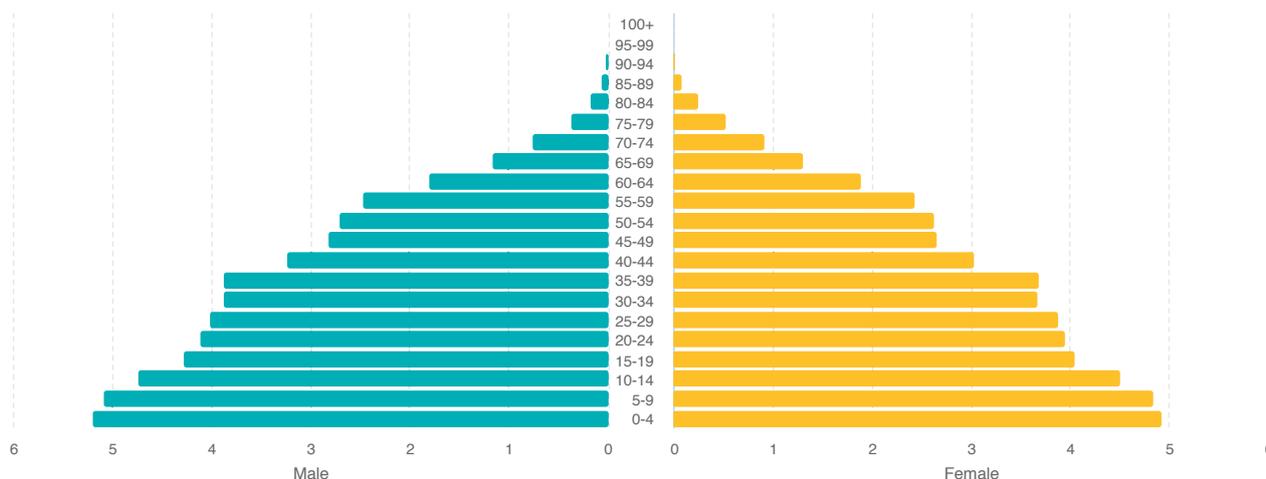
2019



Child: 45  
Old-age: 8.6

### 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	701	841	895	1033	18.8
Merchandise imports	1 607	1 808	2 081	2 734	49.7
Services exports	930	987	1 312	1 613	29.3
Services imports	530	448	568	793	14.4

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



52% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.19

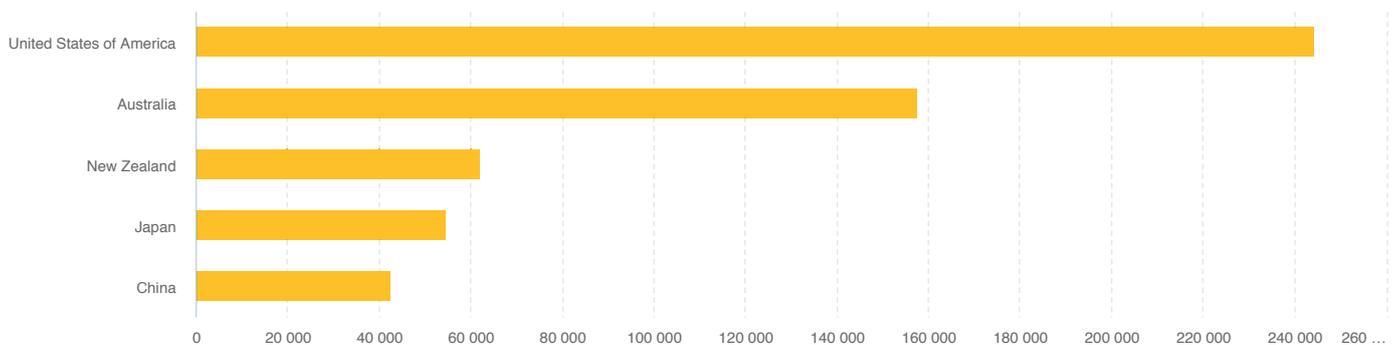
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



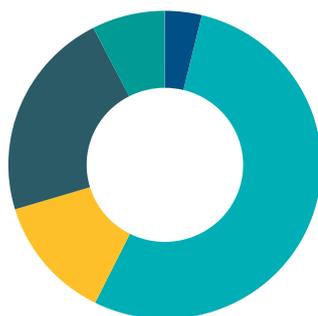
2.57

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

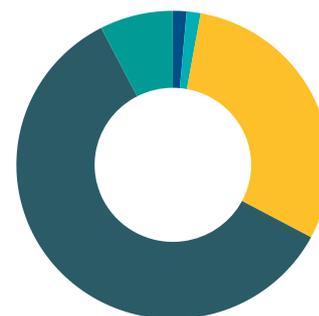


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

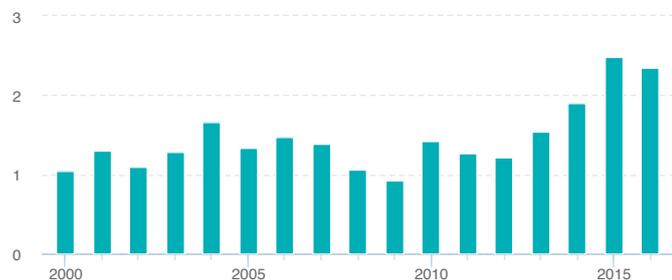


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

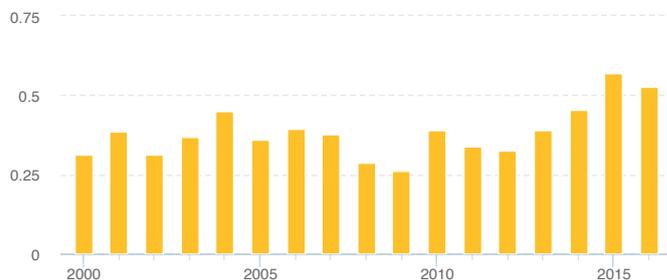
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



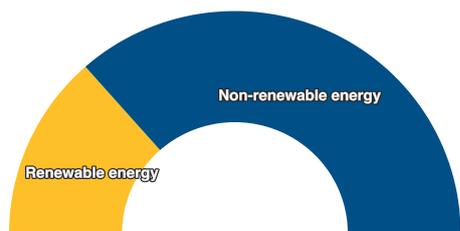
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



14.1kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



5.4%

### Marine protected area

2018



0.92%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

2019



Exports: 5.9%  
Imports: 4.9%

### Trade in ICT services

2019



Exports: 1.4%  
Imports: 4.5%

### Share of internet users

2017



50%

### 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>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

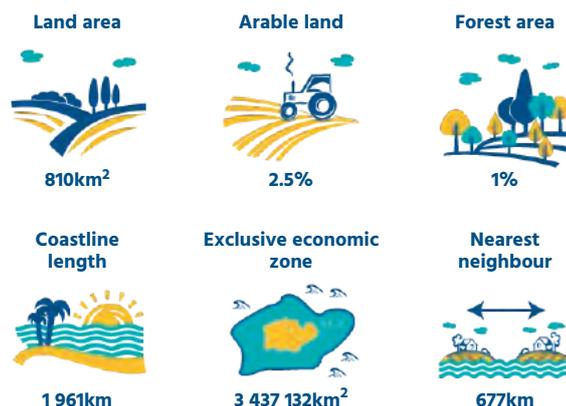
## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).



## Kiribati

- > **Capital:** Tarawa (1°28' N, 173°2' E)
- > **International airport(s):** Bonriki International Airport, Tarawa; Cassidy International Airport, Kiritimati
- > **Official language(s):** English, Gilbertese
- > **Currency:** Kiribati dollar, Australian dollar (AUD)
- > **Time:** UTC+12, +13, +14
- > **Region:** Pacific



### GEOGRAPHY

Kiribati (pronounced kee-ree-bas) consists of 33 coral islands with a total land area of 810 km<sup>2</sup>. Only 21 of the islands are inhabited. The islands are scattered over 3.5 million km<sup>2</sup> in the Central Pacific Ocean, making it one of the most remote and geographically dispersed countries in the world.

It is composed of three island groups: the Gilbert Islands, the Line Islands and the Phoenix Islands. All of the islands are atolls or ring-shaped with central lagoons, except for the island of Banaba, which is a raised limestone island. It is the only country situated in four hemispheres of the world. It is also the furthest ahead of Greenwich meantime at UTC +14, making it the first country in the world to see in the New Year. Caroline island was the first island to ring in the Third Millennium in 2000 and, to celebrate the occasion, it was renamed Millennium Island.

Most of the atolls are low-lying, making them vulnerable to tidal surges and rising sea levels as a result of global warming. Two small uninhabited islets, Tebua Tarawa and Abanuea, which ironically means 'the beach which is long-lasting', disappeared below the sea in 1999. In 2014, to escape climate change, Kiribati acquired 20 km<sup>2</sup> of land in Fiji for the purpose of food security and as a possible refuge.

### CLIMATE

Kiribati experiences a hot and humid equatorial maritime climate, moderated by the trade winds. The temperature in Kiribati is closely related to the temperatures of seas surrounding the islands. There is almost no variation in temperature, with average monthly temperatures falling between 27 and 28 °C through the year. Annual rainfalls vary greatly throughout the year and between islands. Average annual rainfall is generally below 1 200 mm in Kiribati but varies between 1 000 and 3 000 mm across the country: the northern parts of the Gilbert and Line groups receive more rain than the Phoenix group. (World Bank, 2020)

The Phoenix islands are also home to the second largest marine protected area in the world, called the Phoenix Islands Protected Area. In 2010, it was inscribed to UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites.

### ECONOMY

Kiribati is among the least developed Pacific island nations with a GDP per capita of US\$1 657 in 2019. Foreign aid and personal remittances provide important sources of funding at 10 per cent of GDP each (UNCTAD, 2021). Fish constitute the bulk of goods exports, with over 80 per cent share. According to the items attribute is mandatory, Kiribati's large exclusive economic zone in the Pacific accounts for one quarter of the global total of tuna species. The ADB estimates that revenue from fishing licenses equals two thirds of GDP in Kiribati. Together agriculture, forestry and, especially fishing, account for almost one fourth of GDP, while services constitute the largest economic sector (UNCTAD, 2021). Kiribati was the destination of 12 thousand tourist arrivals in 2019 and 9 thousand in 2018. Inbound tourism expenditure was below 2 per cent over GDP in 2018 (UNWTO, 2021). EVI of Kiribati is the highest among the SIDS and in the world (UN DESA, 2020).

### CULTURE

The name Kiribati is the Gilbertese pronunciation of Gilberts, - *Ki-ruh-bas*, - the main archipelago of the country. The letter 's' doesn't exist in the 13-letter Gilbertese alphabet and is written as 'ti'. This explains why *Kiribati* isn't pronounced the way it is spelled.

The native islanders of Kiribati are known as I-Kiribati. They are Micronesian, the largest ethnic group accounting for around 96 per cent of the country's population. The most widely practiced religion in Kiribati is Christianity. The most important institutional symbol in Kiribati is the *maneaba ni Maungatabu*, social and community hall, where people meet to discuss matters of importance, under the leadership of elected elders, *Unimwane* and Christian leaders.

The traditional dances of Kiribati, or *'te Mwaie ni Kiribati'*, are unique bird-like dances, imitating the movements of the frigate bird while walking and flying.

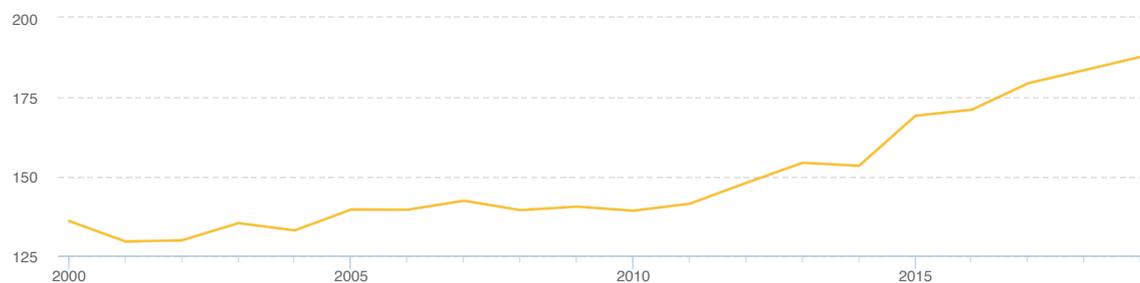
*Oreano* is a traditional team sport and the national sport in Kiribati - two opposing teams throw a heavy woven ball of somewhere between 2 to 5 kg, which should be caught without being dropped or injuring the players. Other popular sports are canoe racing and football.

The national dish of Kiribati is *Palusami*. It consists of coconut cream with onions and curry powder wrapped in taro leaves. It is eaten with roast pork or chicken. Another popular dish is boiled pandanus fruit, or screw pine.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$1 657

Productive Capacity Index  
2018



27.9

Economic and environmental vulnerability index  
2019



66

Consumer Price Index growth  
2019



0.3%

Unemployment rate  
2015



Total 9.3%  
Female 5.6%, Male 11.9%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

Percentage of GDP



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

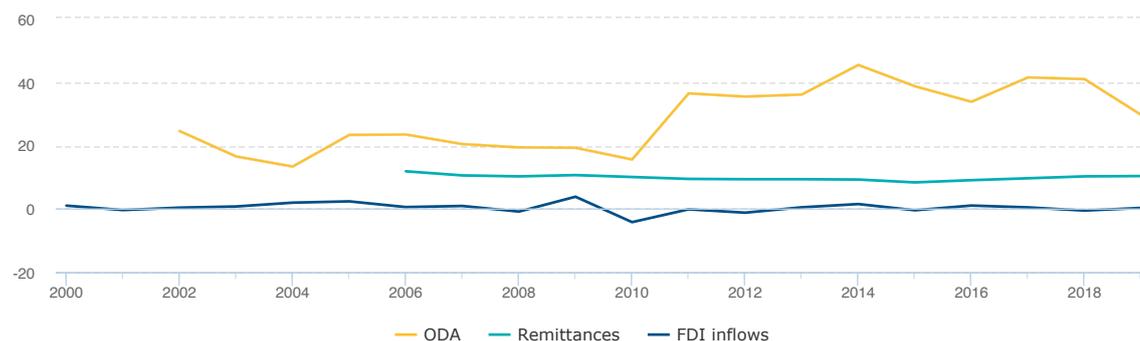
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



64.3%

## 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	41	35
Median time in port (days)	2	4
Average age of vessels	6	35
Average size (GT) of vessels	14 257	20

### Container port throughput

2019



52 100 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners

No data available

### Liner shipping connectivity index

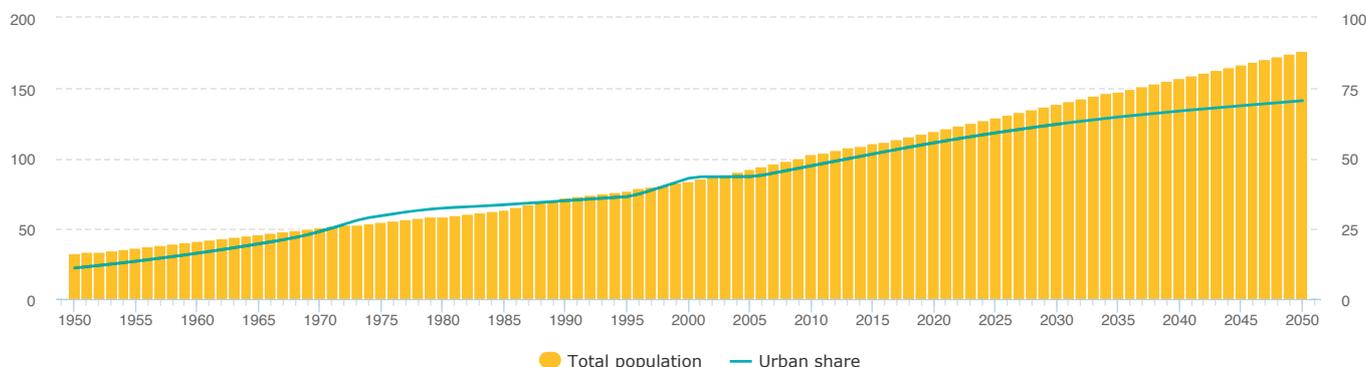
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2006	12.9
Human development index	2018	0.6
Human assets index	2020	83
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	..	..
Gender inequality index	2010	0.7

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



68 years

### Population density

2019



145 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

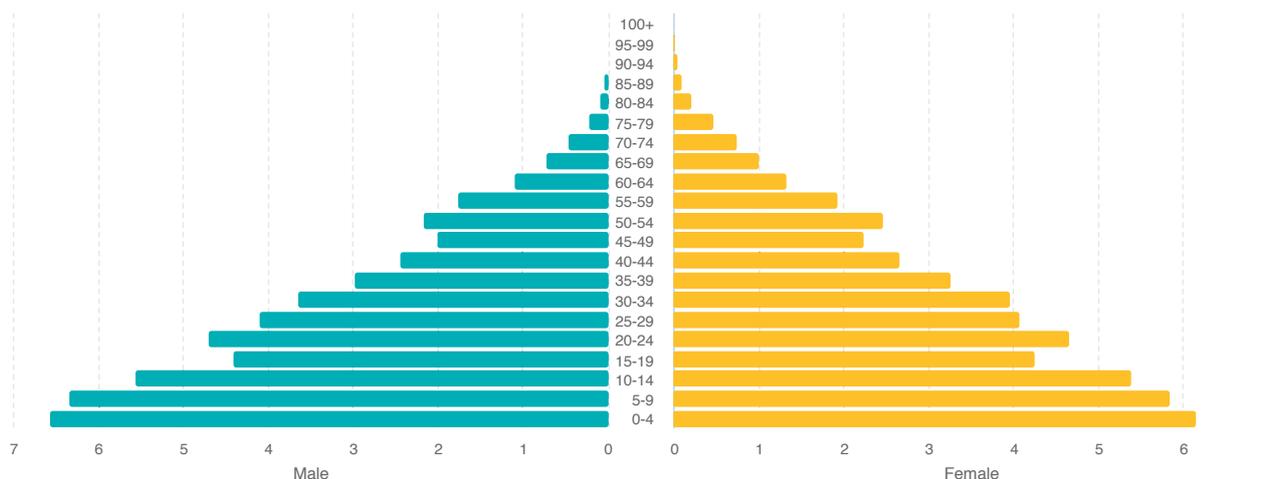
2019



Child: 59.7  
Old-age: 6.8

### 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	4	4	10	12	6.2
Merchandise imports	74	73	117	132	67.7
Services exports	11	12	16	0	0
Services imports	44	52	82	0	0

### Trade openness Goods and services

2018



50% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.83

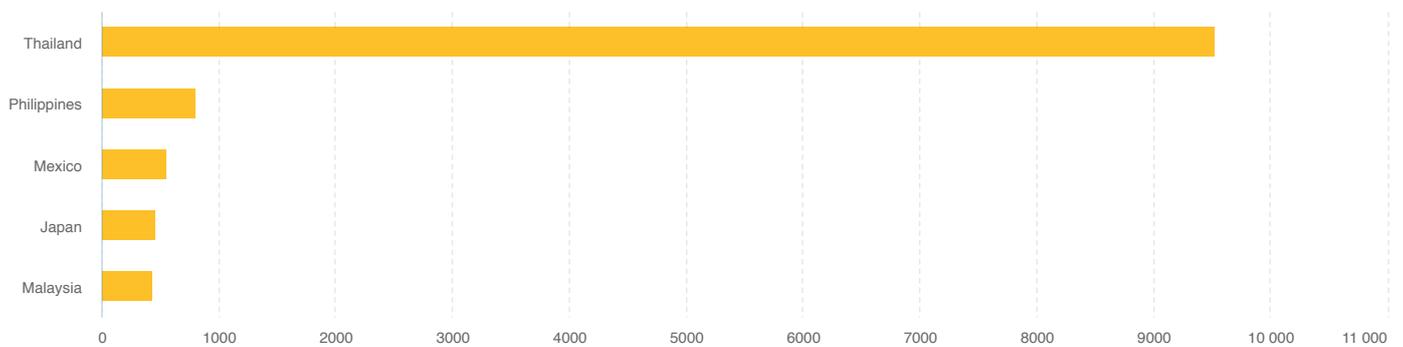
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



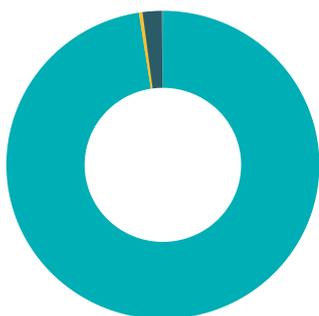
18.40

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

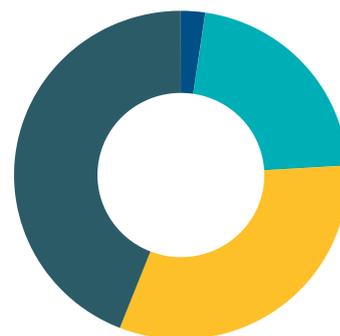


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

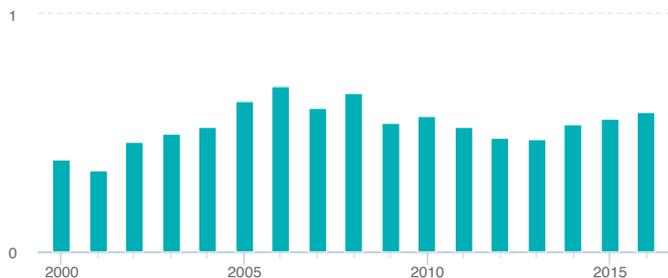


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

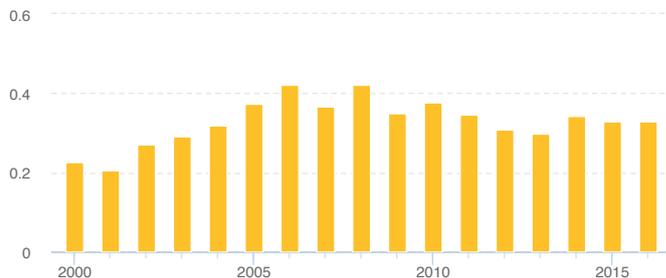
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



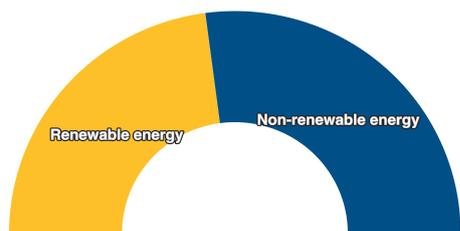
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



..kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



22.4%

### Marine protected area

2018



11.82%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

2016



Exports: 0.1%  
Imports: 5.6%

### Trade in ICT services

2014



Exports: 2.9%  
Imports: 0.0%

### Share of internet users

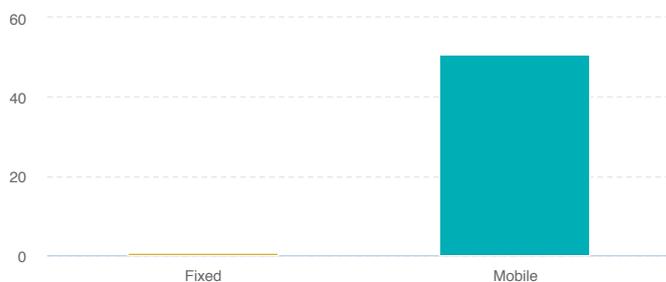
2017



15%

### 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>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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](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/>

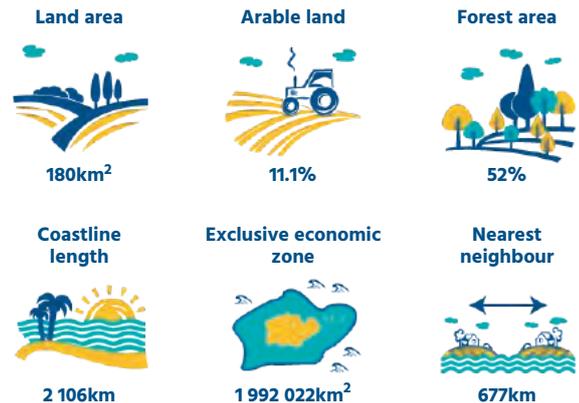


## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UN DESA (2020). Economic and environmental vulnerability indicators. Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category/evi-indicators-ldc.html> (accessed 13 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).

## Marshall Islands

- > **Capital:** Majuro (7°7' N 171°4' E)
- > **International airport(s):** Marshall Islands International Airport, Majuro; the Bucholz Army Airfield, Kwajalein
- > **Official language(s):** Marshallese, English
- > **Currency:** United States dollar (USD)
- > **Time:** UTC +12
- > **Region:** Pacific



### GEOGRAPHY

The Marshall Islands are situated approximately between the Philippines and Hawaii. More than 1 200 islands and islets in two parallel chains of coral atolls constitute the country: the Ralik, to the west and the Ratak to the east. The chains lie about 200 km apart and extend some 1 287 km northwest to southeast. Most of the atolls consists of irregular, oval-shaped coral reefs surrounding a lagoon; the islets lie along the coral reef. The islands and islets of the Ratak chain tend to be more heavily wooded than those of the Ralik. The main vegetation consists of coconut and pandanus palms and breadfruit trees. Soils are generally sandy and of poor quality. Several of the northern atolls are uninhabited owing to insufficient rainfall.

### CLIMATE

The climate is tropical. The average temperature is very stable, with a monthly average of 28 °C through the year. Average annual rainfall in the Marshall Islands is below 2 800 mm and varies from 500 to 800 mm in the north, to 4 000 mm in the southern atolls. September, October and November tend to be the most humid months with a rainfall of more than 280 mm per month, while a drier season occurs between December and April. (World Bank, 2020) Many pacific typhoons begin as tropical storms in the Marshall Islands region and grow stronger as they move west toward the Mariana Islands and the Philippines.

### ECONOMY

Main activities in the islands include agriculture, fishing, shipping, tourism and farming. The Marshall Islands is among the three leading countries in foreign ship registrations after Panama and Liberia, making ship registration, along with fishing license fees, an important source of revenues. Pig and poultry farming are important agricultural activities, as are the major food crops: coconut, pandanus, breadfruit and taro. Copra is the chief source of income for the outer islands. Key export destinations include Poland, Denmark, Republic of Korea, Indonesia and Cyprus. The country is dependent on imported food, machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods and fuels; primarily from the United States of America, Japan and Australia. Remittances are important, accounting for almost 15 per cent of GDP (UNCTAD, 2021). In 2018, inbound tourism expenditure reached almost 10 per cent over GDP. EVI of the Marshall Islands is the second highest among the SIDS and in the world (UN DESA, 2020).

### CULTURE

Extended families and clan systems are common on the islands. Marshallese society is matrilineal where land is passed down from generation to generation through the mother.

Local food specialties include breadfruit, coconut, bananas, papaya, seafood, pandanus and bwiro. Food preservation has been a historic part of Marshallese culture and continues to be practiced today.

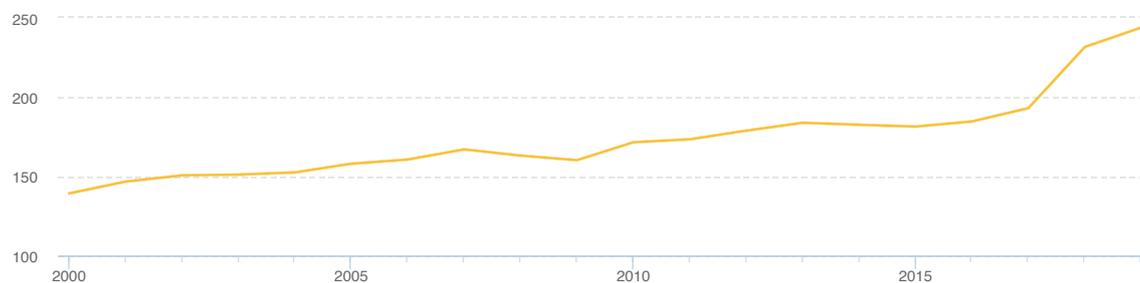
Throughout the years of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, United Nations day was an important holiday, but that has now been replaced by Marshall Islands Independence Day. Other important celebrations commemorate the end of suffering during World War II and Kurijmoj (Christmas), a ritual event of up to four months in duration, celebrated by all (not only church members).

The most popular sports in the Marshall Islands are softball and baseball. Both sports are growing at a fast pace. The Marshall Islands achieved a silver medal in men's 200 m and two bronze medals in women's 100 m and 200 m in the Micronesian Games in 2014.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$4 038

Productive Capacity Index  
2018



30.7

Economic and environmental vulnerability index  
2019



60

Consumer Price Index growth  
2019



-0.5%

Unemployment rate  
2005



Total 25.4%  
Female ..%, Male ..%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

Percentage of GDP



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

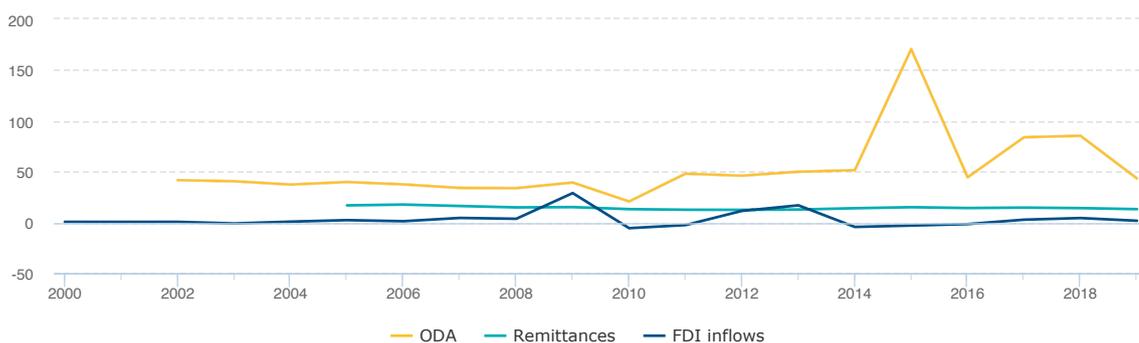
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



..%

## 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	101	32
Median time in port (days)	1	8
Average age of vessels	15	21
Average size (GT) of vessels	11 556	22

### Container port throughput

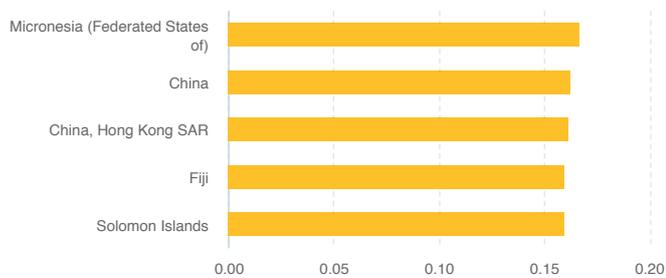
2019



30 711 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

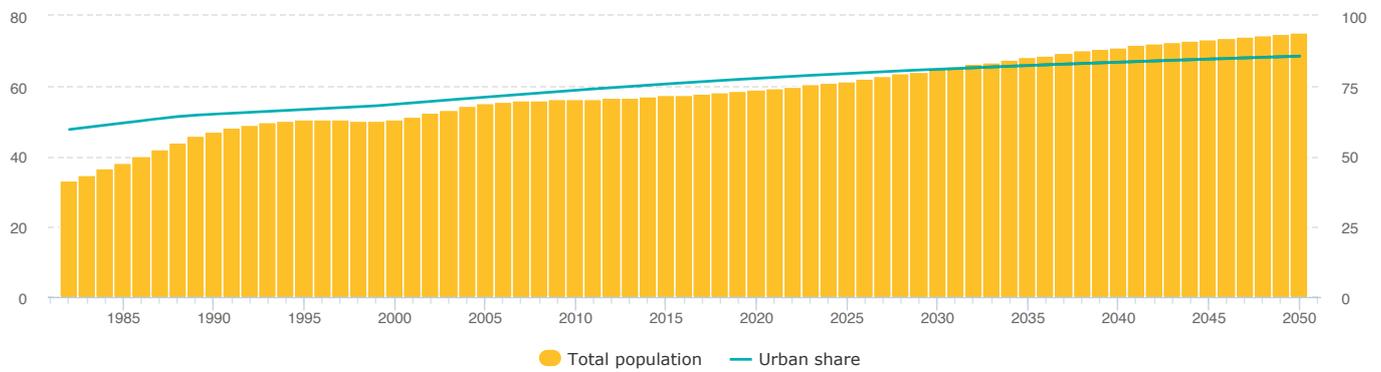
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	--	--
Human development index	2018	0.7
Human assets index	2020	79
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	2010	0.6

### Life expectancy at birth

2000



65 years

### Population density

2019



327 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

2019



Child: ..  
Old-age: ..

### 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	25	32	52	55	23.2
Merchandise imports	94	150	108	68	28.6
Services exports	0	0	0	0	0
Services imports	0	0	0	0	0

Trade openness  
Goods and services

..



..% of GDP

Export concentration index

2019



0.70

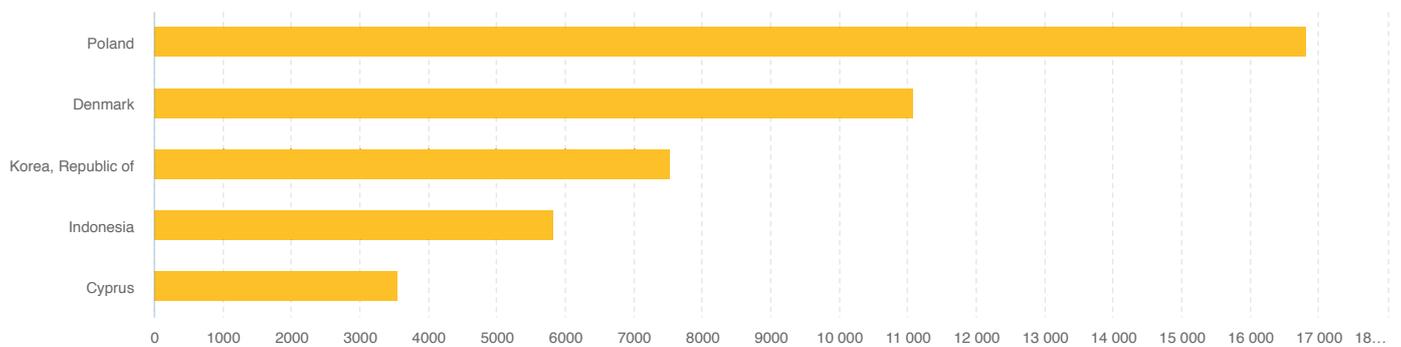
Food import dependency  
Average 2015-2019



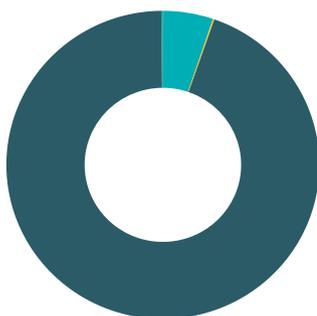
-5.39

### 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

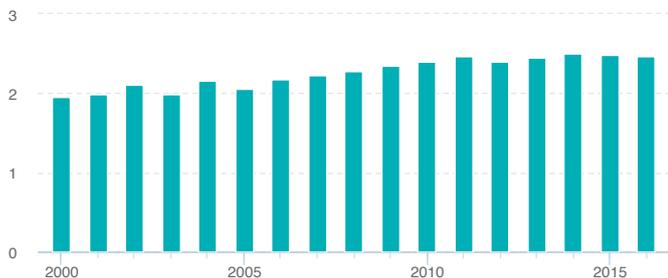
### Services exports by category, 2019

No data available

## ENVIRONMENT

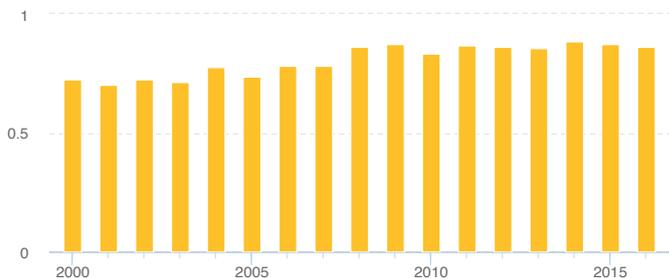
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



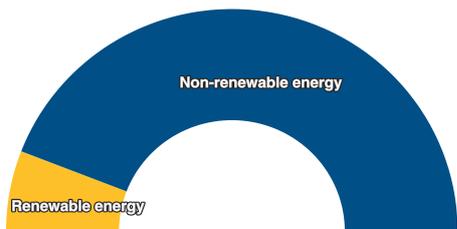
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

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

..



Exports: ..%  
Imports: ..%

### Trade in ICT services

..



Exports: ..%  
Imports: ..%

### Share of internet users

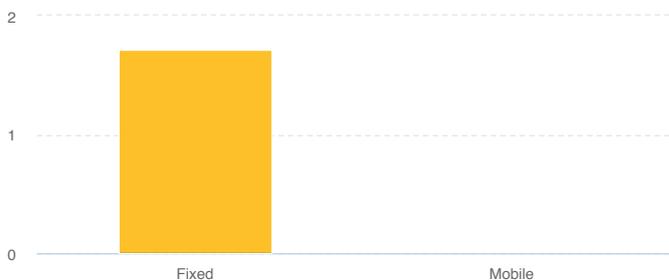
2017



39%

### Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions

Number of subscriptions per 100 people



## Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

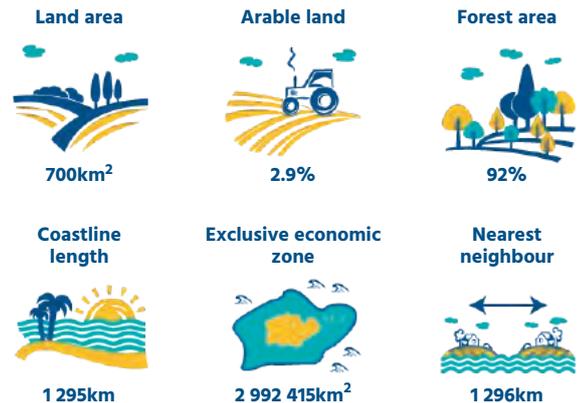
- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP: World 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UN DESA (2020). Economic and environmental vulnerability indicators. Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category/evi-indicators-ldc.html> (accessed 13 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- 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).

## Micronesia (Federal States of)

- > **Capital:** Palikir (6°55' N 158°11' E)
- > **International airport(s):** Chuuk International Airport, Weno; Kosrae International Airport, Okat; Pohnpei International Airport, Pohnpei; Yap International Airport, Yap
- > **Official language(s):** English
- > **Currency:** United States dollar (US\$)
- > **Time:** UTC +10/+11
- > **Region:** Pacific



### GEOGRAPHY

The Federated States of Micronesia consist of four states - Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap - and comprises of more than 600 islands. The islands are in the Micronesian sub-region of the western Pacific Ocean and together with the islands of Palau are also called Caroline Islands. Some of the islands have high mountains while others are low coral atolls. Mount Nanlaud is the highest point (782 m) of the Federated States and is situated on Pohnpei island.

### CLIMATE

The climate is hot, humid and rainy throughout the year. Average annual rainfall in Micronesia is approximately 3 800 mm. The wet season takes place between April and September, and the rainfall is relatively high, above 300 mm per month, also from October to December. The rainiest island is Palikir, which receives almost 4 800 mm of rain annually. The driest islands are the flat atolls, where annual rainfall may stay below 3 000 mm. Average temperatures are very stable, ranging from lows of 22-25 °C to highs of between 30-32 °C. The sea in Micronesia is pleasantly warm all year round, at about 29 °C. The area can be affected by tropical cyclones, storm waves, droughts and flooding. (World Bank, 2020)

### ECONOMY

Agriculture and fishing are the main economic activities in Micronesia contributing almost 30 per cent to GDP. Fish represents about 90 per cent of its total exports of goods. The islands also export nuts and vegetable products. Important export destinations include Thailand, China, Japan and Guam. Fishing licenses are also an important source of revenue. Services constitute over 65 per cent of GDP, but tourism is held back by poor infrastructure. (UNCTAD, 2021)

### CULTURE

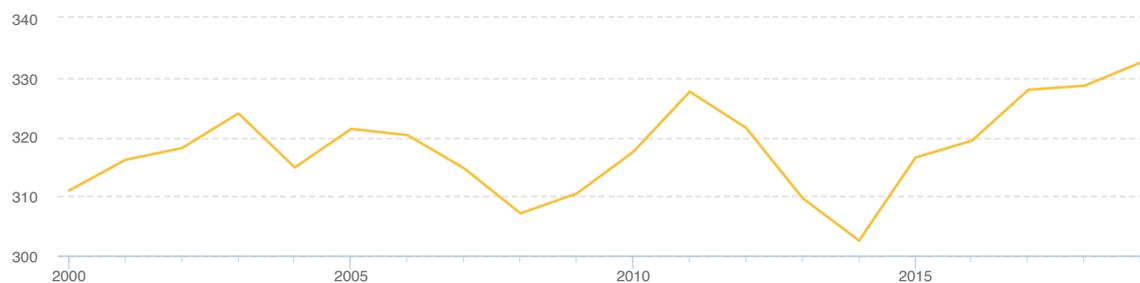
Culture and traditions vary between the four states, but some common cultural features exist. Traditional dances include stick dancing in Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap, standing dances in Chuuk and sitting dances in Yap. A famous 'Moonlight Dance' is performed in Chuuk during a full moon and only with the permission of the village chief and is one of the very few dances allowing men and women dance together.

Local gastronomic specialties include breadfruit and thinly sliced raw fish with peppery sauce. Chuuk island does not allow the consumption of alcohol. The island of Yap is known for its stone money, called 'Rai' - the most valuable calcite disks are up to four metres in diameter. The most popular sport in Micronesia is baseball. The Federated States of Micronesia have participated in the Olympic Summer Games since 2000.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$3 641

Productive Capacity Index  
2018



35.3

Economic and environmental vulnerability index  
2019



51

Consumer Price Index growth  
2019



0.5%

Unemployment rate  
2014



Total 8.9%  
Female 13.9%, Male 5.4%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

Percentage of GDP



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

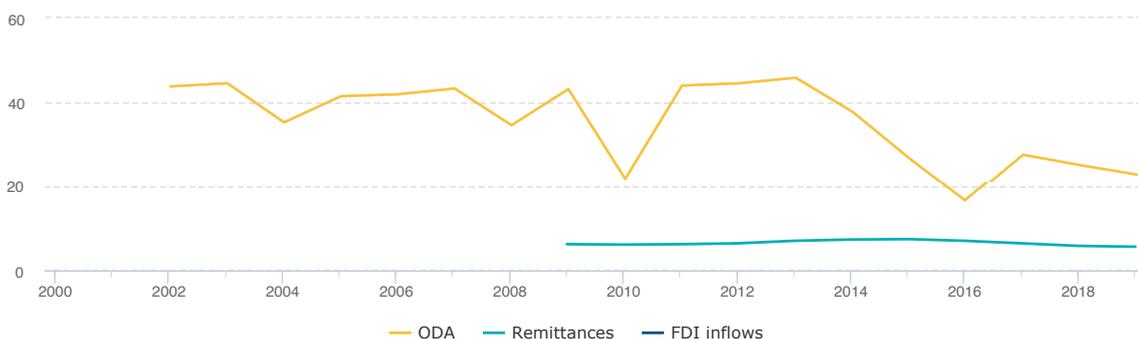
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP

No data available

### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



58.3%

## 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

Ranked by 2019 data within SIDS group

Indicators	2019	SIDS Ranking
Number of port calls	73	33
Median time in port (days)	0	31
Average age of vessels	22	5
Average size (GT) of vessels	4 352	34

### Container port throughput

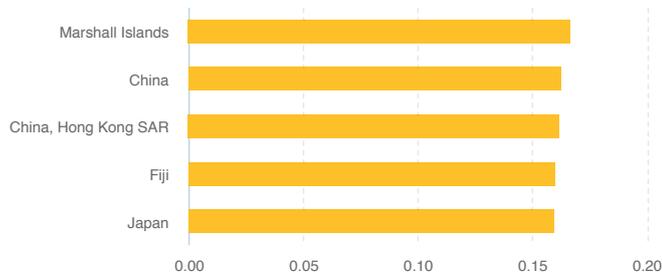
2019



25 234 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

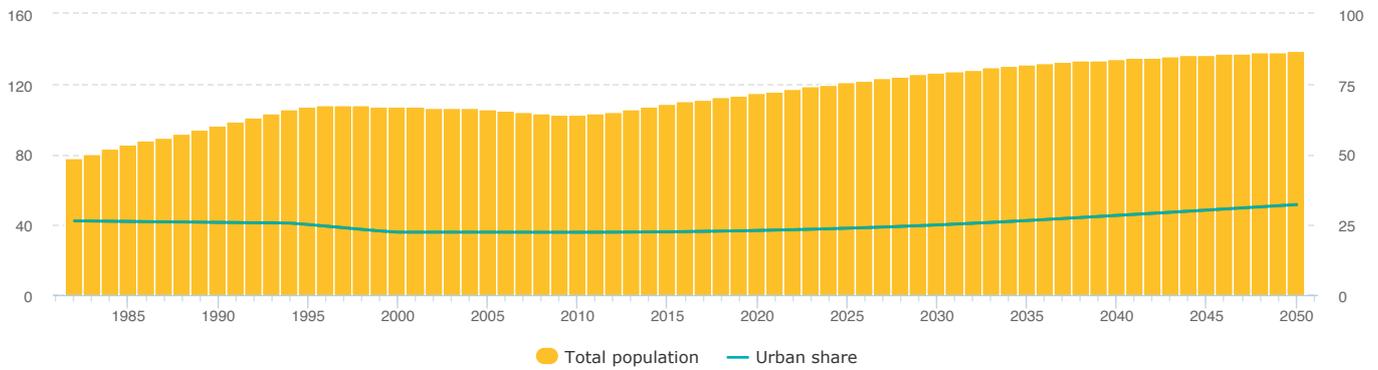
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	--	--
Human development index	2018	0.6
Human assets index	2020	88
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	2010	0.8

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



68 years

### Population density

2019



163 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

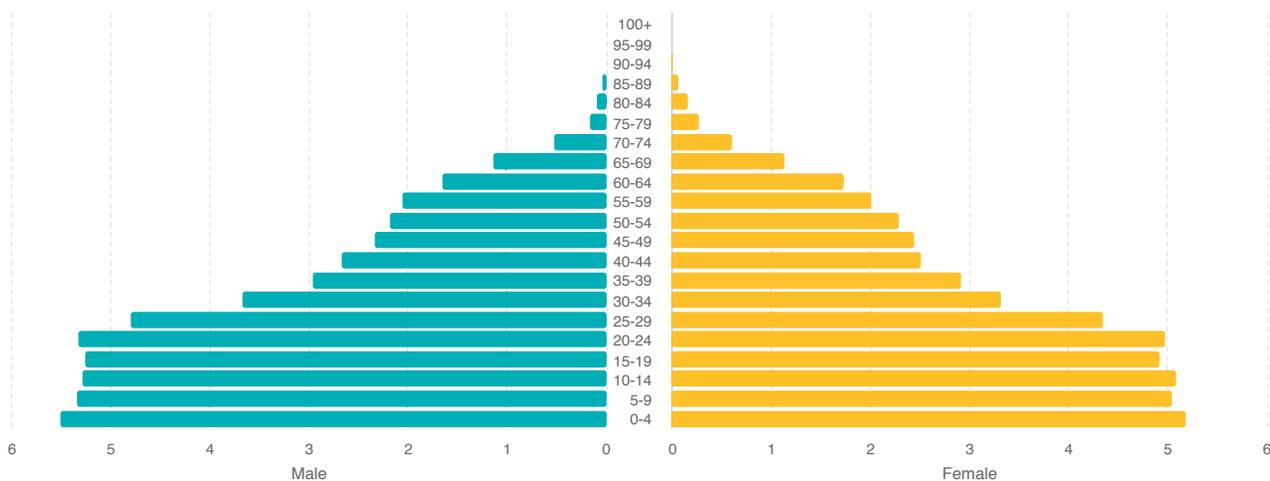
2019



Child: 48.9  
Old-age: 6.5

### 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	19	30	40	49	11.8
Merchandise imports	130	168	160	195	47.1
Services exports	19	35	46	0	0
Services imports	60	80	80	0	0

### Trade openness Goods and services

2018



55% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.86

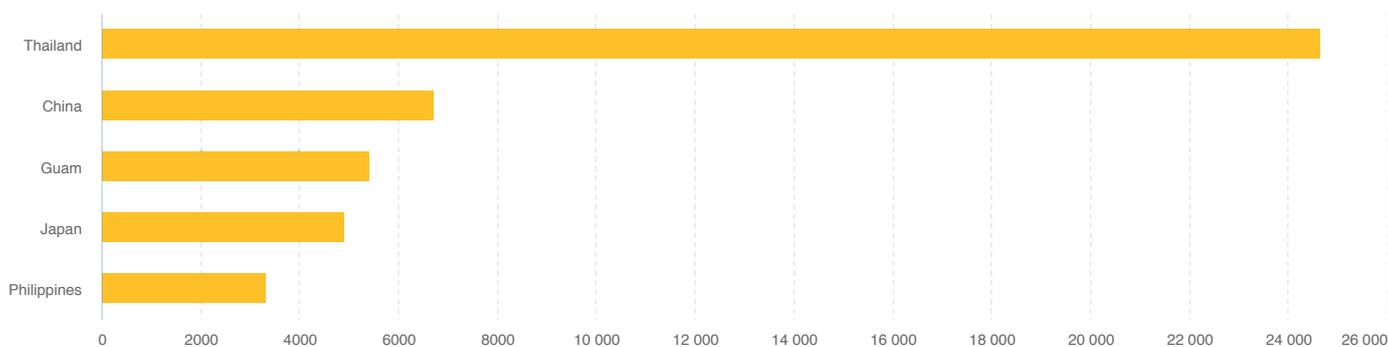
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



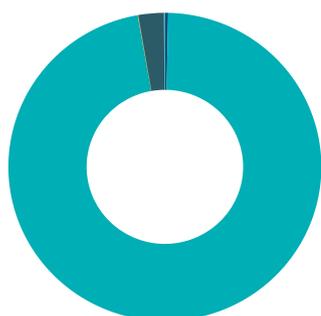
-2.59

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

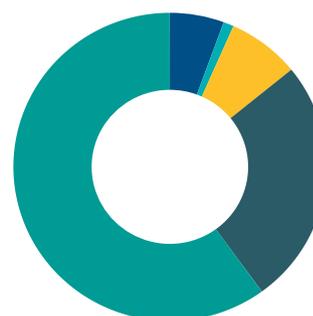


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

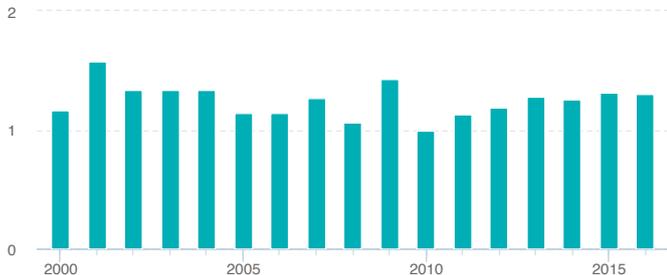


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

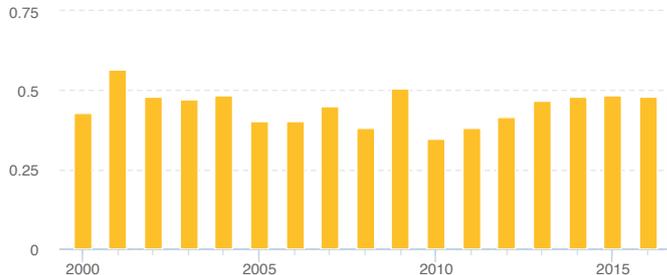
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



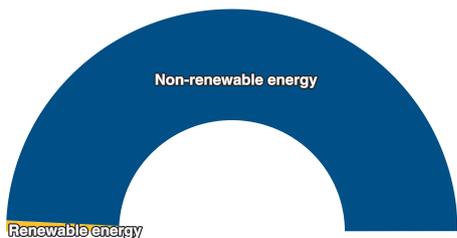
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

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

2013



Exports: 0.0%  
Imports: 1.9%

### Trade in ICT services

2018



Exports: 1.1%  
Imports: 0.0%

### Share of internet users

2017



35%

### Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions

Number of subscriptions per 100 people



## Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

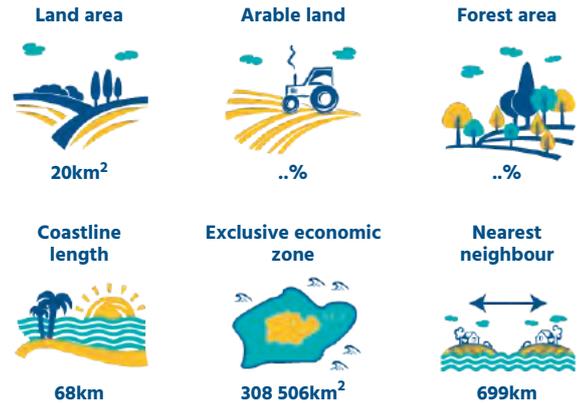
- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP: World 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- 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).

## Nauru

- > **Capital:** Yaren (no official capital)
- > **International airport(s):** Nauru International Airport, Yaren
- > **Official language(s):** Nauruan
- > **Currency:** Australian dollar (AUD)
- > **Time:** UTC +12
- > **Region:** Pacific



### GEOGRAPHY

Nauru is a small island country in Micronesia, in the South-West Pacific, surrounded by coral reef. It is the third smallest country in the world and the smallest outside of Europe. It is also recognized as the smallest republic of the world. The highest point of the island (Command Ridge) rises 71 m above the sea level. Only the coastal areas of Nauru are fertile. Nauru is the only country in the world without an official capital. The parliament meets in Yaren.

### CLIMATE

The climate of Nauru is hot and humid throughout the year, with constant rains and no dry season. Annual average rainfall is about 2 400 mm. On average, there are no months with rainfall below 150 mm, with this figure rising from December to January to 250 mm or more. The monthly average temperature is very stable at 28 °C with daily lows around 24-25 °C and highs around 30-31 °C. Nauru is outside of the path of tropical cyclones. (World Bank, 2020)

### ECONOMY

The economy of Nauru is based on phosphate mining and the processing of coconut products. Nauru is also known as a center of offshore banking. In addition, the government gets revenue from the sale of fishing rights. Nauru's GDP is heavily dependent on industry, which accounts for 38 per cent, of which, mining is the dominant activity. Services account for about 60 per cent of GDP with trade, restaurants and hotels contributing over 20 per cent to GDP. Nauru's principal export destinations are Nigeria, Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea and New Zealand. (UNCTAD, 2021) Nauru's GDP per capita is the second highest among the Pacific SIDS with more than US\$12 000 in 2019, current prices.

### CULTURE

Music and dance are the most popular traditional art forms in Nauru. Handicrafts and clothing, made of coconut trees, are typical. Nauruan cuisine has a strong Chinese influence. Traditional Christmas cakes are made of banana and coconut.

The majority of the population speak English, which is commonly used as the language of administration, even though English is not an official language of Nauru.

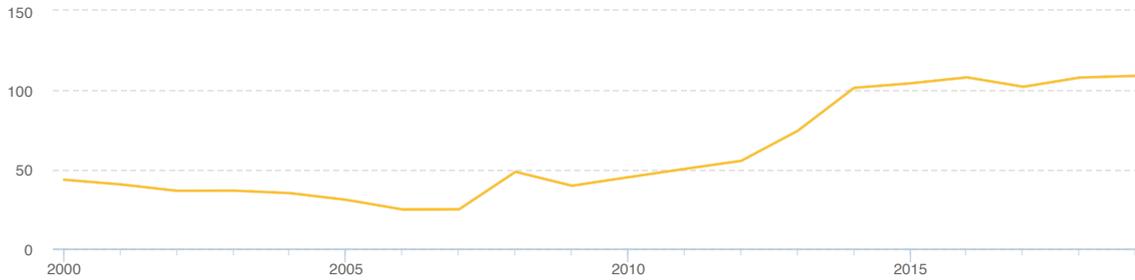
The most popular sport in Nauru is Australian football. A traditional sport, specific to Nauru, is catching birds by lassoing them when they return from the sea to the island in the evening.

Nauru is the smallest member nation of the International Olympic Committee and has competed at the Olympic Summer Games since 1996. Weightlifting is the traditional Olympic sport of Nauru.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



**GDP per capita  
2019**



**US\$12 342**

**Productive Capacity Index**

**2018**



**31.4**

**Economic and environmental vulnerability index**

**2019**



**37**

**Consumer Price Index growth**

**2019**



**5.5%**

**Unemployment rate**

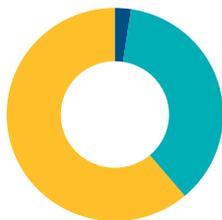
**2013**



**Total 13.3%  
Female 18%, Male 10%**

### Main economic sectors, 2019

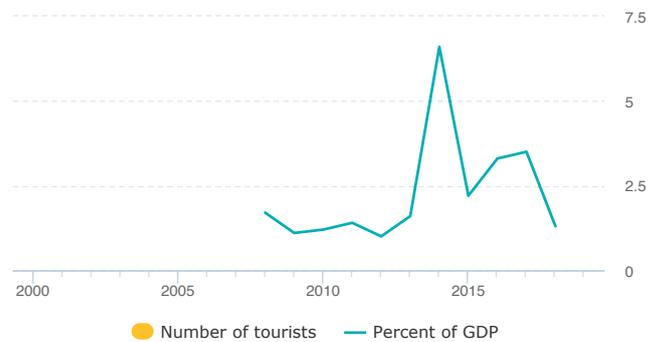
Percentage of GDP



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

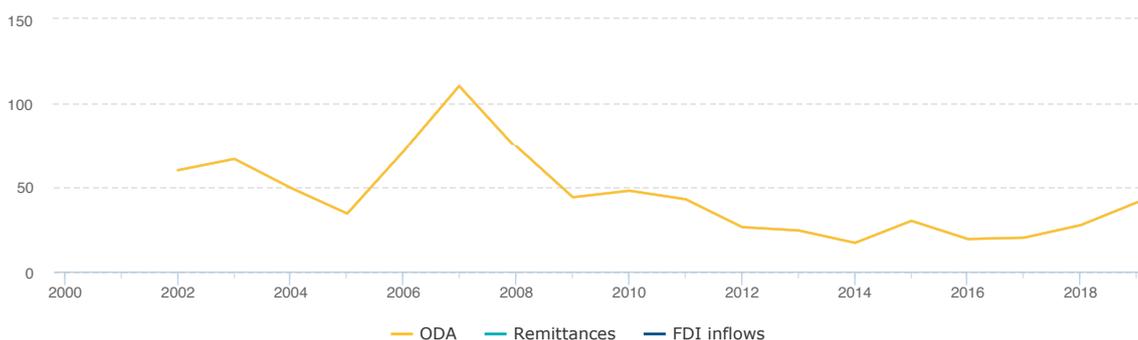
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



**Public debt as %  
of GDP**

**2018**



**67.4%**

## 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	0	36
Median time in port (days)	0	31
Average age of vessels	0	36
Average size (GT) of vessels	0	36

### Container port throughput

2019



5 327 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners

No data available

### Liner shipping connectivity index

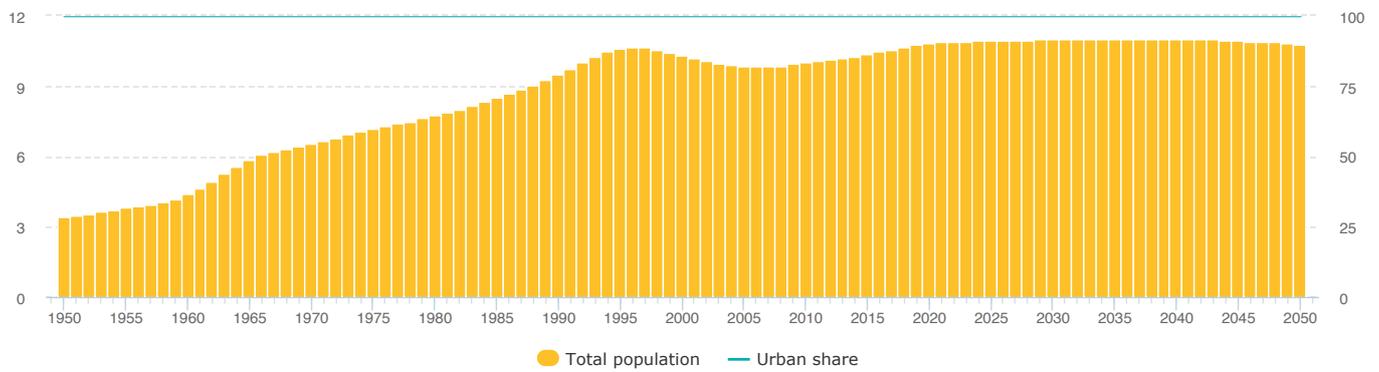
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2012	0.9
Human development index	2018	..
Human assets index	2020	86
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	..	..
Gender inequality index	2010	0.8

### Life expectancy at birth



### Population density

2019



### Dependency ratio

2019



### 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	3	50	11	19	14.3
Merchandise imports	25	20	91	36	27.1
Services exports	0	4	22	0	0
Services imports	0	7	37	0	0

### Trade openness Goods and services

2018



74% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.56

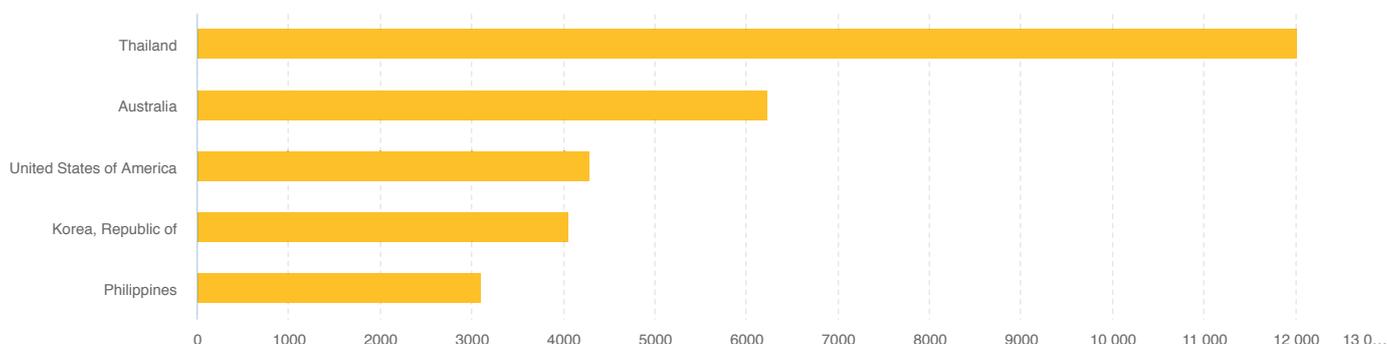
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



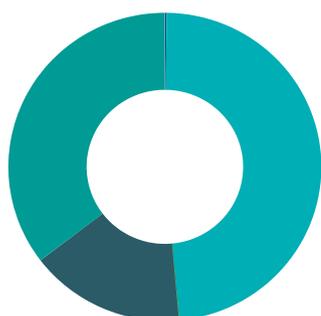
9.69

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

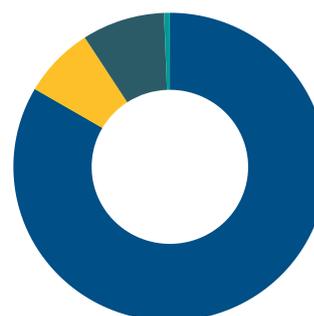


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

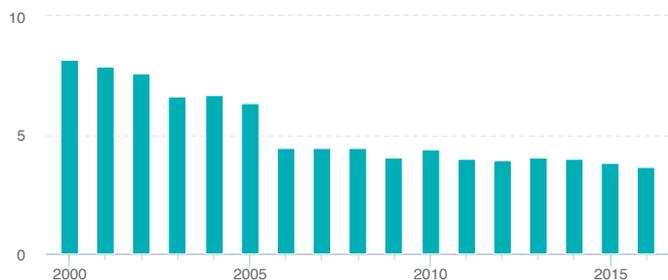


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

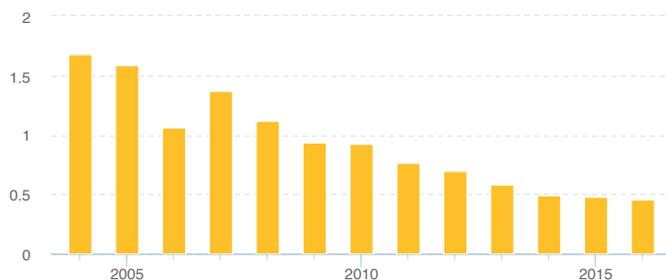
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



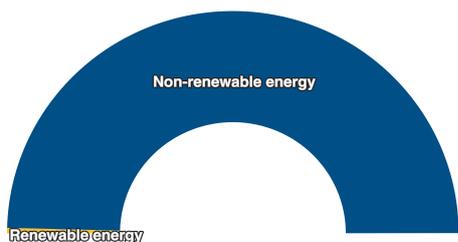
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

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

..



Exports: ..%  
Imports: ..%

### Trade in ICT services

..



Exports: ..%  
Imports: ..%

### Share of internet users

2017



57%

### 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>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

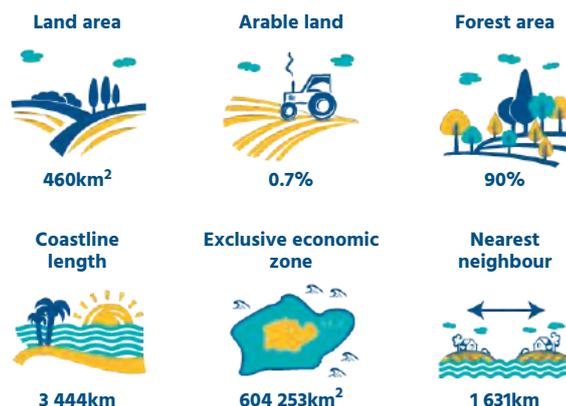


## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- 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).

## Palau

- > **Capital:** Ngerulmud (7°30' N 134°37' E)
- > **International airport(s):** Roman Tmetuchl International Airport, Airai
- > **Official language(s):** English, Palauan, Japanese, Sonsorolese, Tobian
- > **Currency:** United States dollar (US\$)
- > **Time:** UTC +9
- > **Region:** Pacific



### GEOGRAPHY

Palau is situated in the western Pacific Ocean, southeast of the Philippines, and consists of some 340 coral and volcanic islands. All but six of Palau's islands sit inside an expansive lagoon enclosed by a huge barrier reef. Palau stretches across 700 km of ocean and its forest coverage is one of the highest in the world. The topography of the islands varies from the mountainous main island, Babelthuap, to many low-lying coral islands.

### CLIMATE

Palau has a tropical climate. Annual average temperature is around 28 °C and remains the same throughout the year, with daily highs around 31 °C and lows around 24 °C. The difference between the hottest and coldest months is about 0.8 °C. Heavy rains occur all year, with the least rainfall occurring between February and April. Annual average rainfall is about 3 100 mm. (World Bank, 2020) Palau does not lie directly in the path of tropical cyclones but is nevertheless sometimes affected. One of the most powerful tropical cyclones ever recorded, Haiyan, hit Palau in January 2014.

### ECONOMY

Tourism, fishing and agriculture are the main economic activities of Palau. Tourism infrastructure is well developed - tourist activities focus on water sports like scuba diving and snorkeling. Helicopter rides are also popular. The service sector accounts for most of the country's GDP with 88 per cent, including retail trade, restaurants and hotels contributing about 30 per cent to GDP. Palau exports fish, especially yellowfin tuna. The main export partners are Japan, Greece and the United States of America. Among the Pacific SIDS, Palau had the highest GDP per capita in 2019 at US\$16 000, current prices. (UNCTAD, 2021)

### CULTURE

Women play an important role in Palauan society as it is organized around matrilineal clans. Senior women have strong decision making powers with regard to property.

Poetry and dancing are important arts in Palau. Traditional line dances are performed by both men and women. Men's dances often include war-related elements.

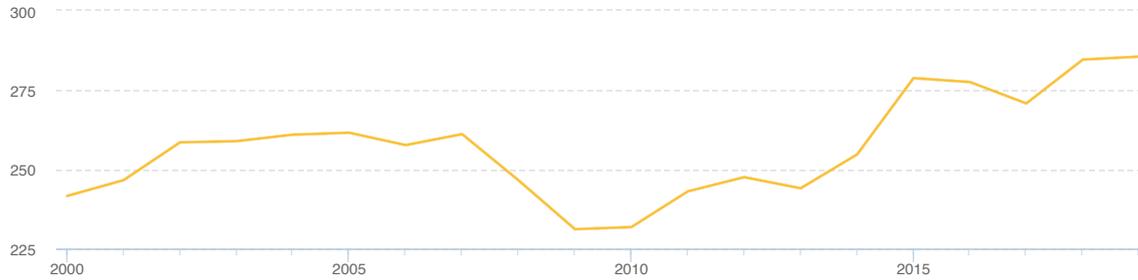
The Palauan cuisine is centered around root vegetables, seafood dishes and the versatile use of coconut. It takes influences from the cuisines of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan and the United States, but adds a unique Palauan twist.

Baseball is the most popular sport played in Palau. Palau first joined the Olympic Games in the 2000 Sydney Summer Games but has not yet participated in the Winter Games.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$15 579

Productive Capacity Index

2018



33.4

Economic and environmental vulnerability index

2019



48

Consumer Price Index growth

2019



0.7%

2014

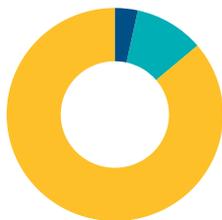
Unemployment rate



Total 1.4%  
Female 1.8%, Male 1.1%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

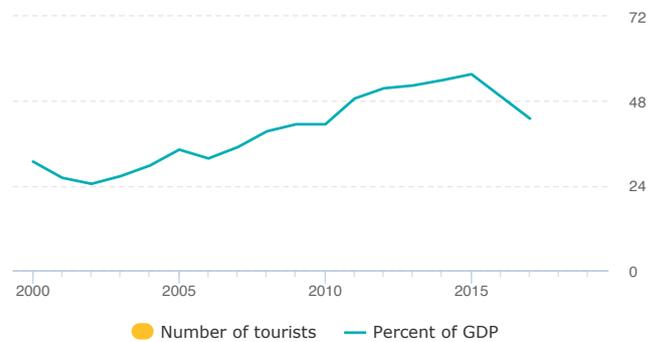
Percentage of GDP



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

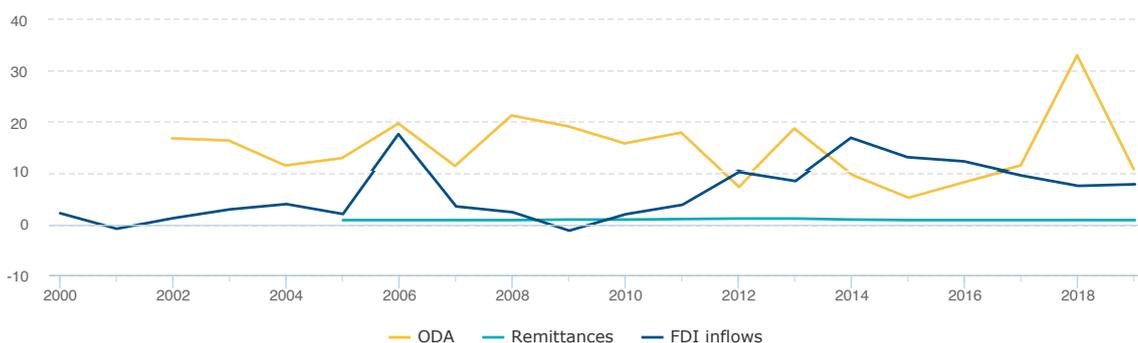
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



35.5%

## 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	0	36
Median time in port (days)	0	31
Average age of vessels	0	36
Average size (GT) of vessels	0	36

### Container port throughput

2019



16 399 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners

No data available

### Liner shipping connectivity index

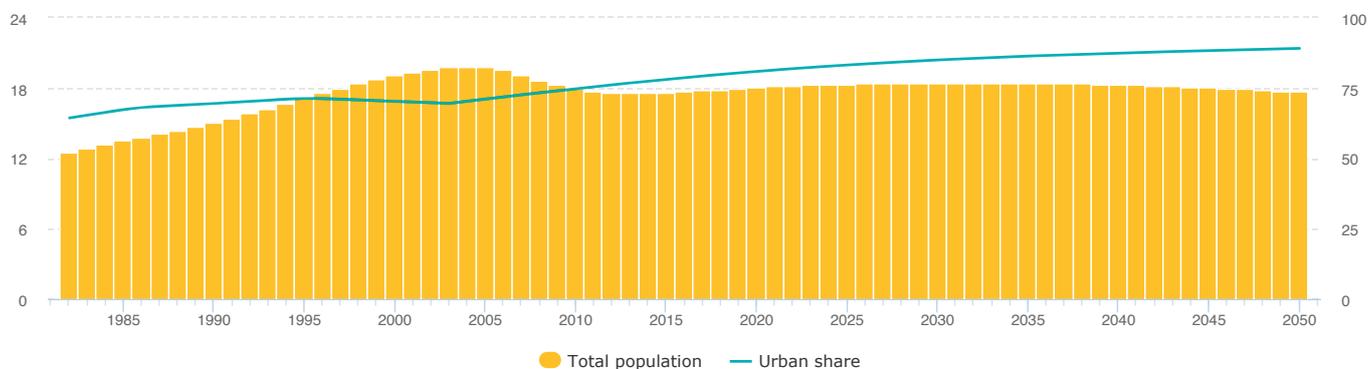
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	--	--
Human development index	2018	0.8
Human assets index	2020	91
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	2010	0.7

### Life expectancy at birth

2005



69 years

### Population density

2019



39 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

2019



Child: ..  
Old-age: ..

### 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	13	6	6	7	2.5
Merchandise imports	105	107	150	169	60.3
Services exports	0	0	0	0	0
Services imports	0	0	0	0	0

Trade openness  
Goods and services

..



..% of GDP

Export concentration index

2019



0.59

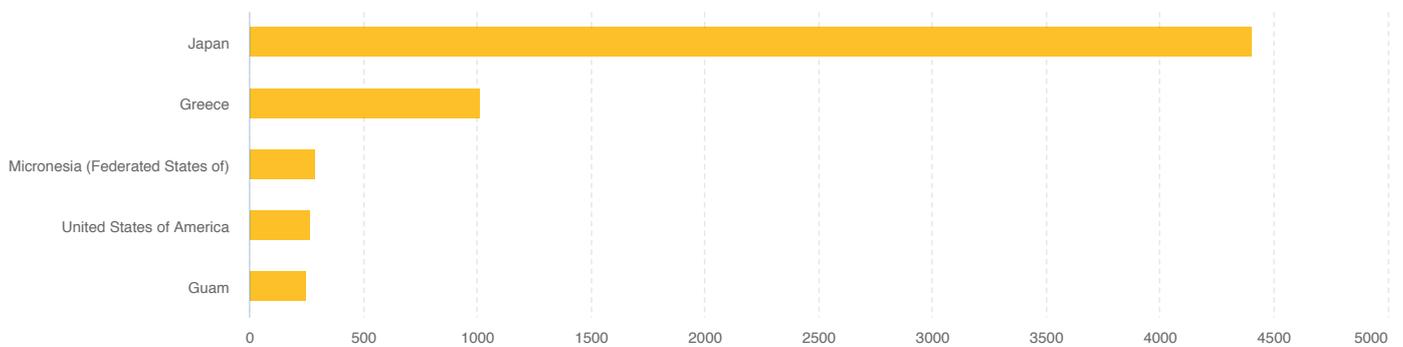
Food import dependency  
Average 2015-2019



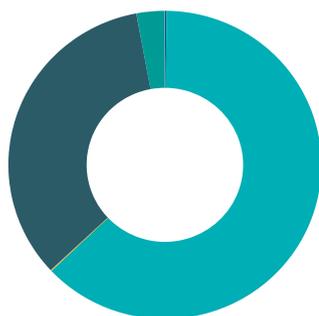
13.25

### 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

### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



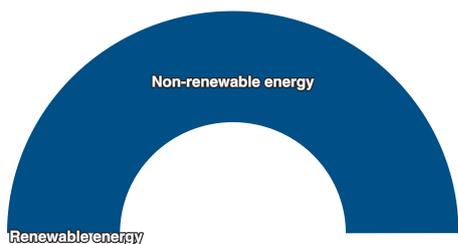
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



..kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



28%

### Marine protected area

2018



82.99%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

2018



Exports: 0.0%  
Imports: 3.1%

### Trade in ICT services

..



Exports: ..%  
Imports: ..%

### Share of internet users

%



### 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>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- 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).

## Papua New Guinea

- > **Capital:** Port Moresby (09°28'S, 147°08'E)
- > **International airport(s):** Jacksons International Airport
- > **Official language(s):** English, Hiri Motu, Papua New Guinean Sign Language, Tok Pisin
- > **Currency:** Kina
- > **Time:** UTC+10, UTC+11
- > **Region:** Pacific



### GEOGRAPHY

Papua New Guinea is the world's 3rd largest island country, located north of Australia. It comprises the eastern half of the island of New Guinea and the offshore islands in Melanesia. The largest towns are located in the eastern part of New Guinea, including Lae and the capital city, Port Moresby. Papua New Guinea includes other major islands and up to 600 smaller islets and atolls.

A series of mountains, the New Guinea Highlands, runs along the island of New Guinea. They form highlands that are mostly covered with tropical rainforest. Papua New Guinea hosts a range of ecosystems, such as mountain glaciers, humid tropical rainforests, swampy wetlands, and coral reefs. Because of dense rainforests and the large wetlands, some areas are only accessible by foot or by air. There are several active volcanoes in Papua New Guinea with frequent eruptions. Earthquakes are relatively common, sometimes accompanied by tsunamis.

### CLIMATE

Papua New Guinea has a monsoonal climate with high temperatures and humidity throughout the year. Two monsoonal seasons occur from December to March and from May to October. Rainfall exceeds 2 500mm in many areas of the country, with the heaviest rainfall in the highlands. Average monthly temperatures range from 24 to 26 °C. Papua New Guinea one of the few regions close to the equator that experience snowfall, which occurs in the most elevated parts of the mainland. (World Bank, 2020)

Papua New Guinea is prone to natural disasters and climate variability, and climatic changes are set to accelerate the occurrence of landslides, soil erosion, deforestation, and loss of biodiversity, as well as increase occurrence of recurrent floods and droughts. It is the world's 10<sup>th</sup> most at-risk country for natural hazards, according to the United Nations University (2020) World Risk Index.

### ECONOMY

Agriculture, fishing, community forestry, and artisanal and small-scale mining are the primary livelihood activities in rural areas (World Bank, 2020). Almost 60 per cent of all employed people worked in the agricultural sector in 2019 (ILO, 2020a), even though the share of arable land is less than 1 per cent of total land area in Papua New Guinea (FAO, 2020). Palm oil, coffee, cocoa and coconut oil are among the main export products. The rich natural resources are an important source of export income, which include gold, oil, and copper. The top-3 destinations for exports are Australia, China and Japan (UNCTAD, 2021).

Services employed a bit more than a third of people in the country in 2019 (ILO, 2020a), which is less than in SIDS on average. Tourist arrivals have been close to 200 000 per year recently until 2019. Tourism expenditure remained of relatively small importance to the economy, at 0.02 per cent of GDP in 2018 (UNWTO, 2021). Papua New Guinea is classified as a lower middle income country (World Bank, 2021a) and reached US\$2 845 per capita in 2019 (UNCTAD, 2021).

### CULTURE

Papua New Guinea is a culturally diverse country. The share of urban population is low, reaching only 13 per cent in 2020 (UNCTAD, 2021). The country includes a few thousand different cultural groups, many with their own languages. Wood carving is a popular handicraft skill in the country, often portraying imaginative plants or animals.

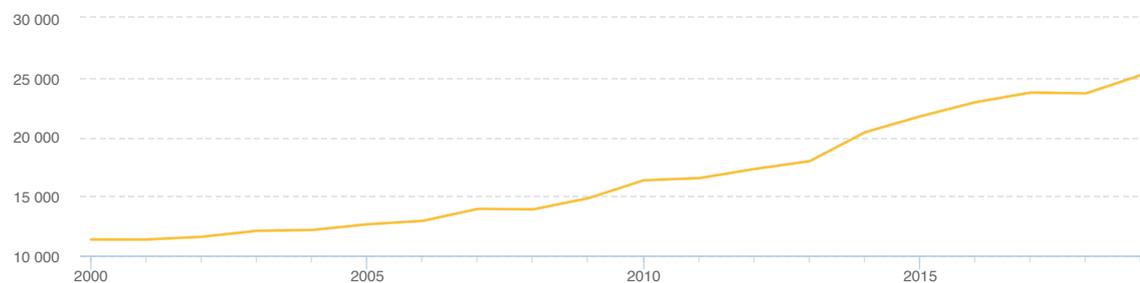
Traditional celebrations, which include song, dance, feasting and gift-giving, are called singsings. Vibrant and colorful costumes adorn the dancers, while a leader and a chorus sing a staggered approach to the same song, producing a fugue-like effect. Sport is important in Papua New Guinea, especially rugby league – one of the most popular sports in the country.

Papuan cuisine includes many starchy vegetables, such as wild sago, sweet potatoes, yams, rice and breadfruit, often served with bananas and coconuts. Meat comes from domesticated livestock and hunting of game like pork, cassowaries, marsupials and birds. On the coast, seafood, such as shellfish, is a key part of nutrition.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$2 845

Productive Capacity Index  
2018



25.0

Economic and environmental vulnerability index  
2019



31

Consumer Price Index growth  
2019



5.3%

Unemployment rate  
2000



Total 2.9%  
Female ..%, Male ..%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

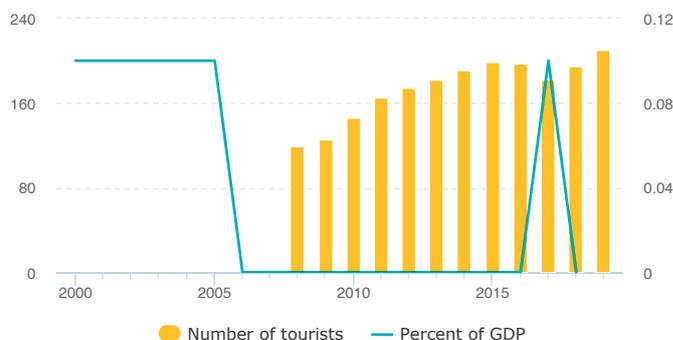
Percentage of GDP



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

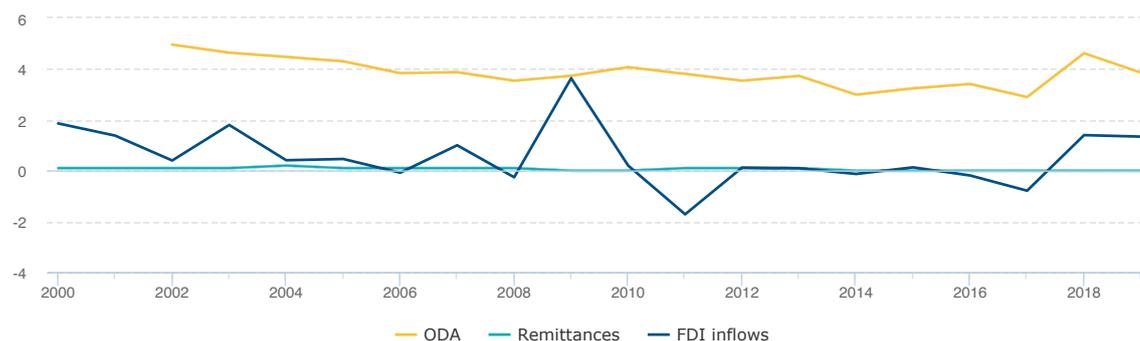
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



60.5%

## 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	3 478	7
Median time in port (days)	1	8
Average age of vessels	13	28
Average size (GT) of vessels	13 756	21

### Container port throughput

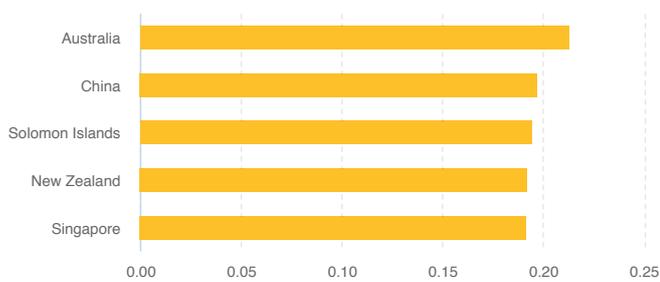
2019



338 300 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

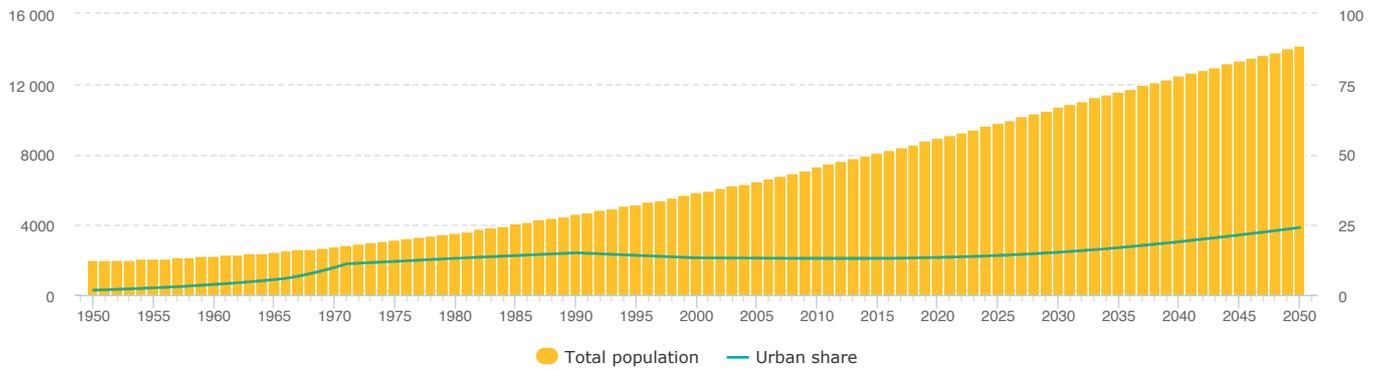
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2009	38
Human development index	2018	0.5
Human assets index	2020	53
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	..	..
Gender inequality index	2019	0.7

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



65 years

### Population density

2019



19 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

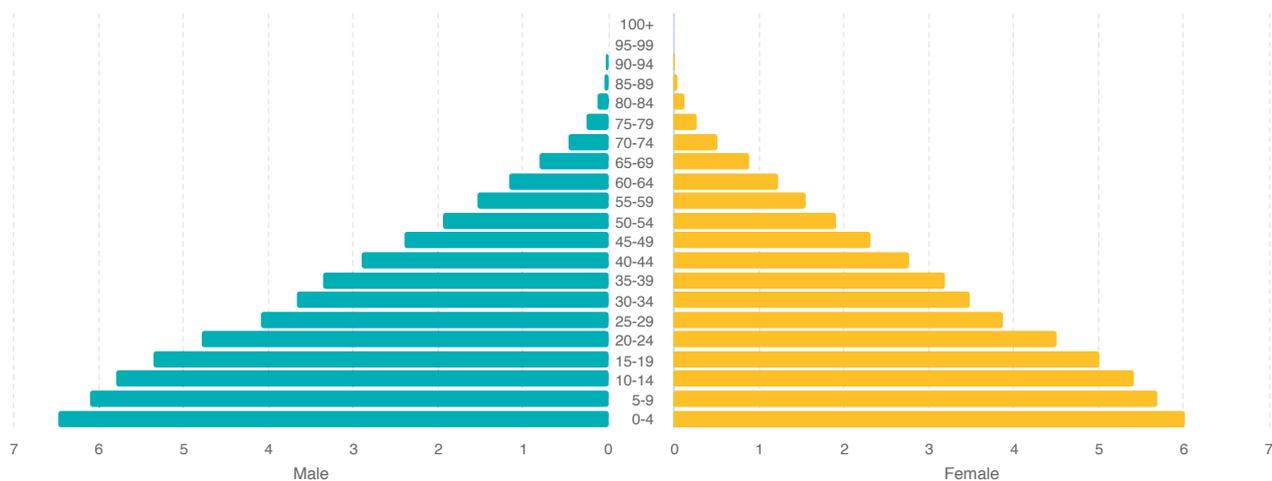
2019



Child: 58.2  
Old-age: 5.8

### 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	3 273	5 742	8 453	11 399	45.7
Merchandise imports	1 729	3 950	2 551	3 934	15.8
Services exports	303	309	146	266	1.1
Services imports	1 167	2 759	1 338	1 507	6

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



34% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.29

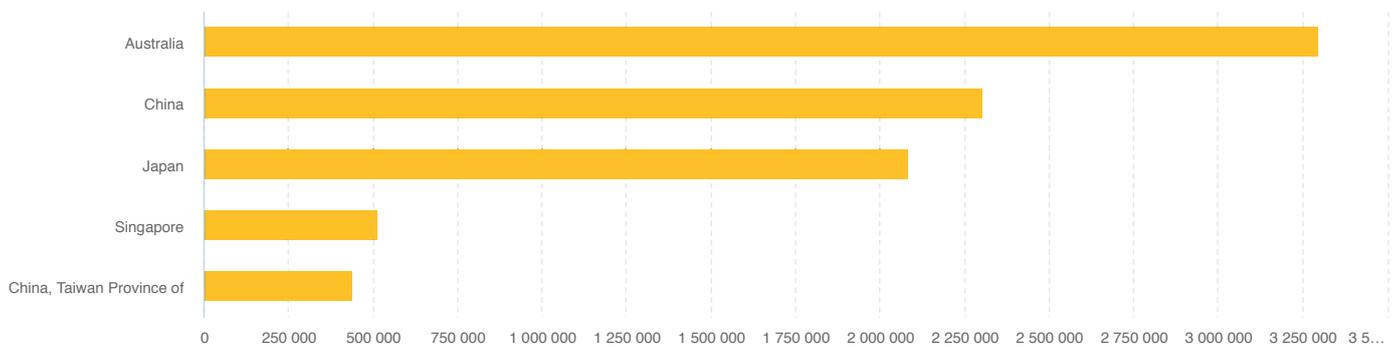
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



-29.95

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

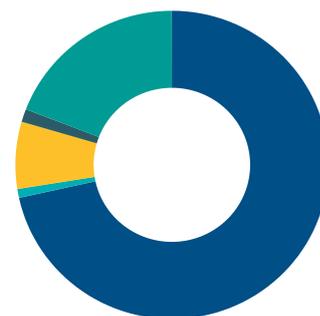


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

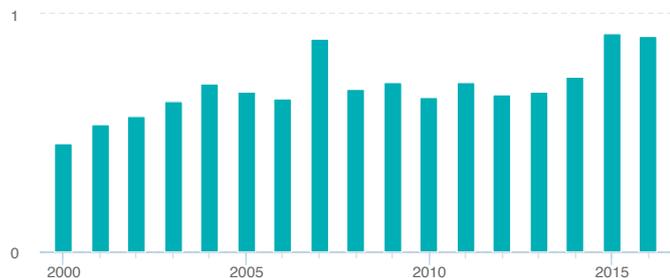


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



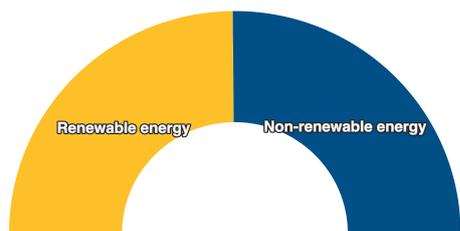
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



5.2kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



3.1%

### Marine protected area

2018



0.19%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

2012



Exports: 0.0%  
Imports: 2.2%

### Trade in ICT services

2019



Exports: 0.9%  
Imports: 0.0%

### Share of internet users

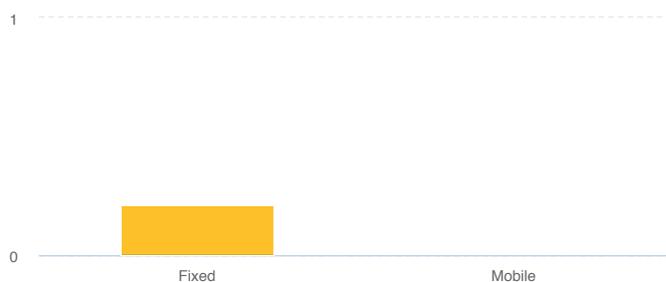
2017



11%

### Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions

Number of subscriptions per 100 people



## Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

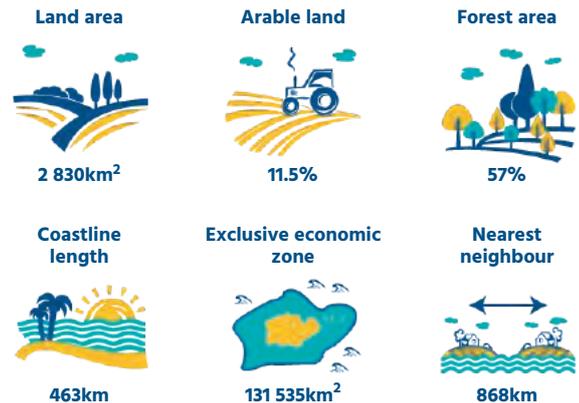
- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP: World Bank (2021b) <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](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 (2021b) <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 (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN>
- Marine protected area: World Bank (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/ER.MRN.PTMR.ZS>
- 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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](https://www.sdg.org/datasets/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990_0)
- ODA: OECD (2021) <https://stats.oecd.org>
- Percentage of population in low elevated coastal zones: World Bank (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.POP.EL5M.ZS>
- Poverty headcount ratio: World Bank (2021b) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.DDAY>
- Renewable energy share in total energy consumption: World Bank (2021b) <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 (2021b) <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](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/>

## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- FAO (2020). FAOStat. Available at <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020a). ILOStat. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020b). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- United Nations University (2020). World Risk Report. Institute for Environment and Human Security. (accessed 28 October 2020).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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 (2021a). World Bank Country and Lending Groups. Available at <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519> (accessed 27 February 2021).
- World Bank (2021b). World Development Indicators. Available at <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators> (accessed 8 November 2020).

## Samoa

- > **Capital:** Apia (13°50′ S 171°45′ W)
- > **International airport(s):** Faleolo International Airport, Faleolo
- > **Official language(s):** Samoan, English
- > **Currency:** Samoan Tala (WST)
- > **Time:** UTC +13, Summer (DST) +14
- > **Region:** Pacific



### GEOGRAPHY

Samoa lies south of the equator, about halfway between Hawaii and New Zealand, and consists of two main islands, Savai'i and Upolu, and eight smaller islands. All islands have volcanic origins. Samoa's highest peak, Mount Silisili (1 853 m), is located in Savai'i and is the only remaining active volcano. Besides the mountainous interior areas of Sava'i and Upolu, Samoa consists mainly of coastal plains.

### CLIMATE

The tropical climate of Samoa is humid and rainy with warm temperatures year-round. Monthly average temperatures vary only between 27 and 28 °C, while night-time temperatures remain above 20 °C. From November to April, Samoa has a rainy and warm season, while a dry and cooler season takes place from May to October. The average annual rainfall is just below 3 100 mm, and in the capital area at 2 800 mm, but can reach up to five meters in the region of Mount Silisili. The Samoa Islands can be exposed to severe tropical cyclones from December to February, especially. (World Bank, 2020)

### ECONOMY

Samoa has a relatively small economy that is dependent on trade. Agriculture employs two-thirds of the labour force (ILO, 2020a). The main agricultural products are coconuts, bananas, taro, yams, coffee and cocoa. Other industries mainly include the processing of agricultural products, petroleum and tourism. Remittances are important for the economy, contributing 17 per cent to GDP (UNCTAD, 2021). The tourism sector has been expanding rapidly in recent decades. Samoa received 181 thousand tourist arrivals in 2019 with an inbound tourism expenditure almost reaching 25 per cent over GDP (UNWTO, 2021). The service sector makes up three fourths of the country's GDP. The most common destination for exports are American Samoa, Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America. (UNCTAD, 2021) More than half of Samoa's electricity comes from renewable sources and the country aspires towards total renewable energy by 2021.

### CULTURE

Fa'a Samoa, or the Samoan Way, describes the communal way of life of Samoans. Faith, family and music are the basic pillars of Samoan culture. Most activities are done together and sometimes the extended family lives together in the oval or circular shaped traditional house (fale) with wooden posts holding up a domed roof. Traditional buildings also do not have walls. Family elders are greatly respected, and they hold the highest status.

The Ava Ceremony is an important ritual performed on different occasions. It includes speeches and the formal drinking of 'Ava, a beverage made of pepper root. Ava is considered non-alcoholic but has a relaxing, euphoric effect.

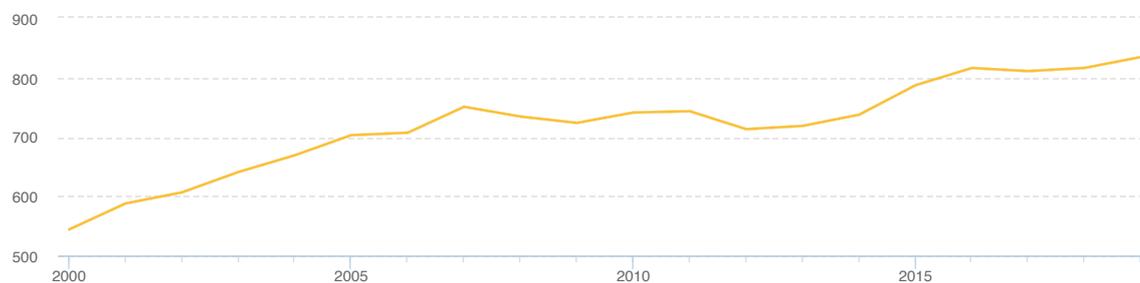
Dancing has a special place in Samoan culture. Traditional Samoan dance has managed to avoid western impact.

The main sports played in Samoa are rugby union and rugby league, and it has done well in the rugby world cup. Samoa has participated in the Summer Olympic Games since 1984 and won silver medal in women's weightlifting at the 2008 Games.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita  
2019



US\$4 286

Productive Capacity Index  
2018



31.5

Economic and environmental vulnerability index  
2019



28

Consumer Price Index growth  
2019



1.8%

Unemployment rate  
2017



Total 14.5%  
Female 21.3%, Male 10.6%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

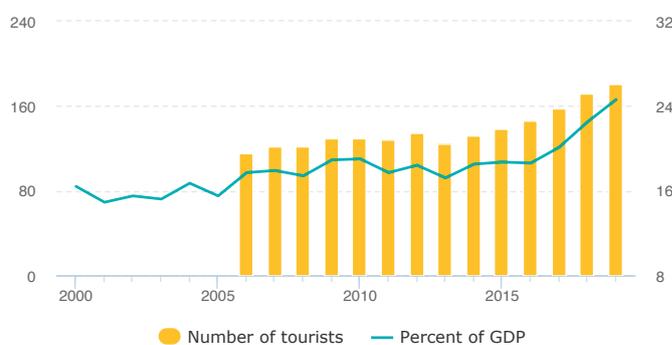
Percentage of GDP



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

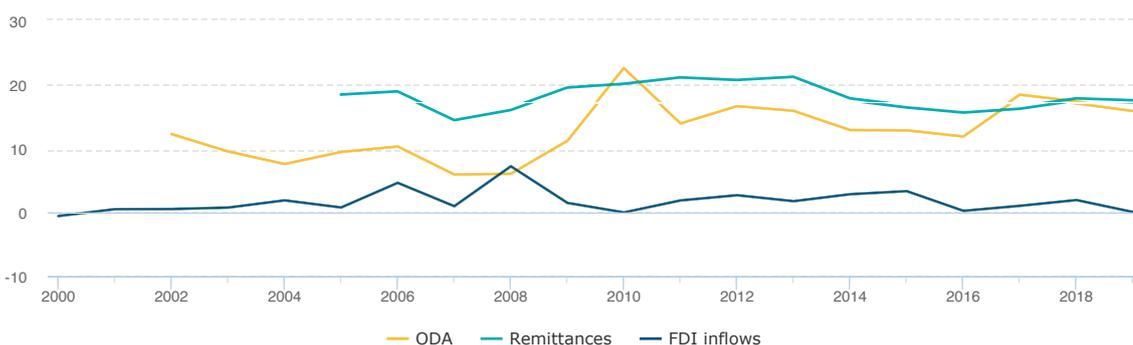
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



Public debt as %  
of GDP

2018



51.4%

## 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	151	30
Median time in port (days)	1	8
Average age of vessels	14	25
Average size (GT) of vessels	11 502	23

### Container port throughput

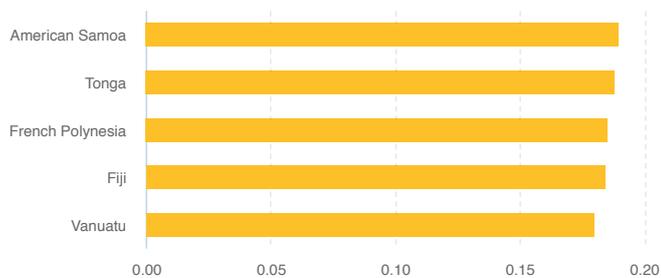
2019



27 221 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

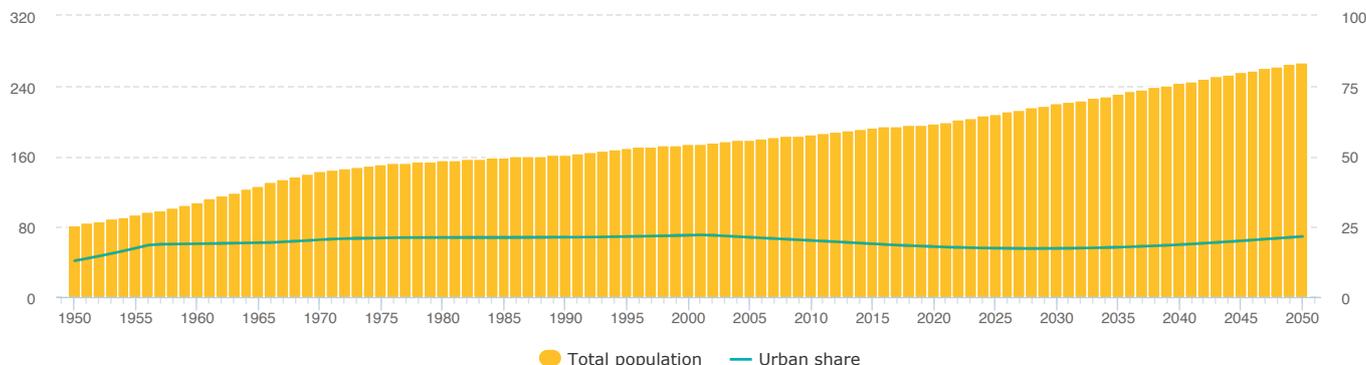
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2013	1.1
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



73 years

### Population density

2019



70 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

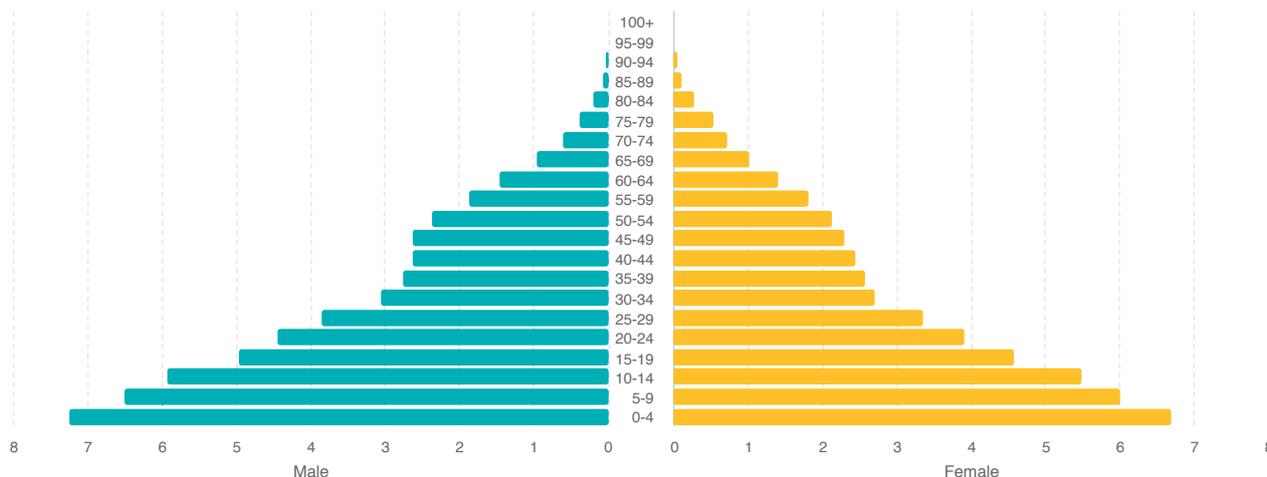
2019



Child: 66.2  
Old-age: 8.6

### 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	87	70	59	49	5.8
Merchandise imports	239	310	371	391	46.3
Services exports	130	172	198	294	34.8
Services imports	69	82	74	112	13.3

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



48% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.34

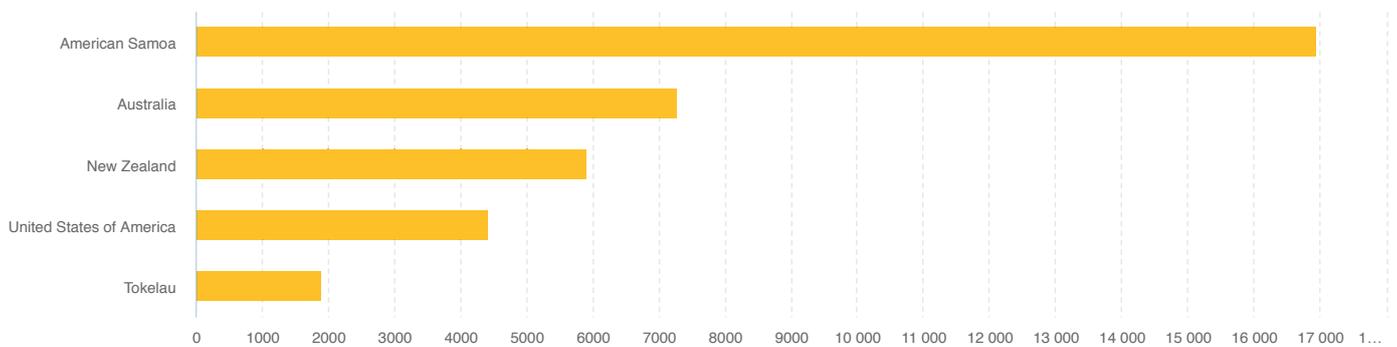
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



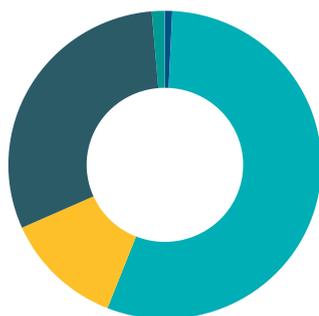
17.29

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

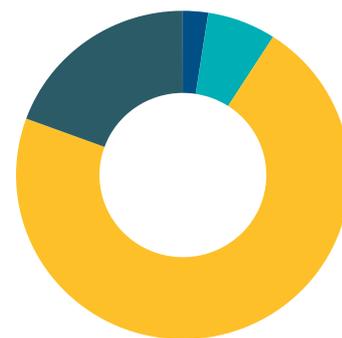


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019



- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

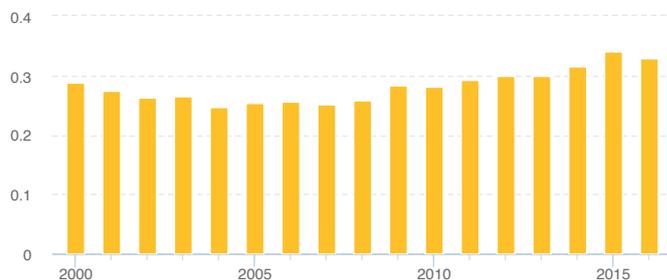
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



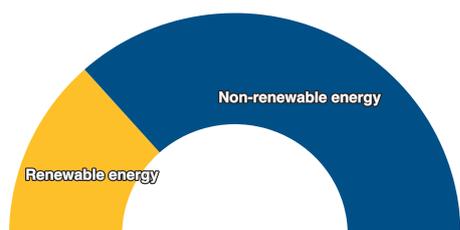
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



16.5kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



7.4%

### Marine protected area

2018



0.09%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

2019



Exports: 0.2%  
Imports: 4.1%

### Trade in ICT services

2019



Exports: 2.9%  
Imports: 2.4%

### Share of internet users

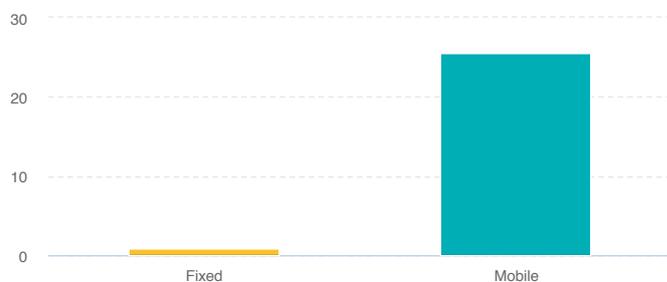
2017



34%

### Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions

Number of subscriptions per 100 people



## Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

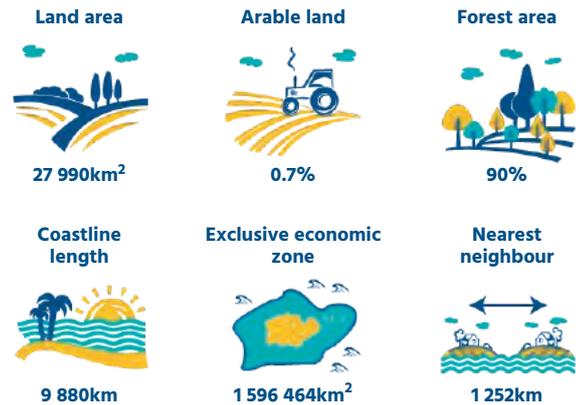
- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP: World 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020a). ILOStat. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020b). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).

## Solomon Islands

- > **Capital:** Honiara (9°28' S 159°49' E)
- > **International airport(s):** Honiara International Airport, Lungga
- > **Official language(s):** English
- > **Currency:** Solomon Islands dollar (SBD)
- > **Time:** UTC +11
- > **Region:** Pacific



### GEOGRAPHY

Solomon Islands consists of six major islands and over 900 smaller islands to the east of Papua New Guinea and northwest of Vanuatu. Many of the islands are notable for their steep mountains. The highest mountain, Makarakomburu (2 293 m), is located on Guadalcanal Island, which also hosts the capital city, Honiara. In addition to rocky islands, there are also several atolls and reef islands. Several dormant and two active volcanoes can also be found on its territory. Dense tropical rainforest covers 90 per cent of land area, making the Solomon Islands the sixth most forest covered land in the world (FAO, 2020).

### CLIMATE

Solomon Islands have an equatorial hot and humid climate with a rainy season lasting from December to April. Tropical storms and occasional cyclones can occur during this period. In 2002, Cyclone Zoë hit the isolated islands of Tikopia and Anuta. The monthly average temperature is about 25-26 °C with only minor variations between highs of 30 °C and lows of 23 °C. Average annual rainfall is 3 000 mm but can vary across the archipelago. (World Bank, 2020)

The Solomon Islands can have 60 to 70 earthquakes a year. Most of them are small, but there are also some severe quakes followed by tsunamis and aftershocks. In recent years, the most severe have hit the Western Solomons (8.1 magnitude) in 2007 and the Santa Cruz Islands (8.0 magnitude) in 2013. The country is fifth on the list of most at-risk countries according to the United Nations University (2020) World Risk Index.

### ECONOMY

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries provide jobs for almost 40 per cent of employment (ILO, 2020a), while accounting for about 25 per cent of GDP (UNCTAD, 2021). The islands are rich in mineral resources such as lead, zinc, nickel and gold, but the deposits remain largely undeveloped. Export products also include wood (Ramin or Teak), tuna and palm oil. The main export partners include China, Italy and India, followed by Thailand and the Philippines. With investment in infrastructure and transport, tourism could be further developed beyond its current volume of inbound tourism expenditure of only 6 per cent over GDP (UNWTO, 2021). In 2019, services already provided more than half of jobs in the Solomon Islands (ILO, 2020a). The Tina River Hydropower Project aims at eliminating energy dependency on imported fossil fuels to locally produced renewable energy.

### CULTURE

Solomon Islands' arts and crafts reflect styles specific to different islands and cover woven objects, carved wood, stone and shell items. Traditional music in Solomon Islands is often performed by slit drum and panpipe ensembles.

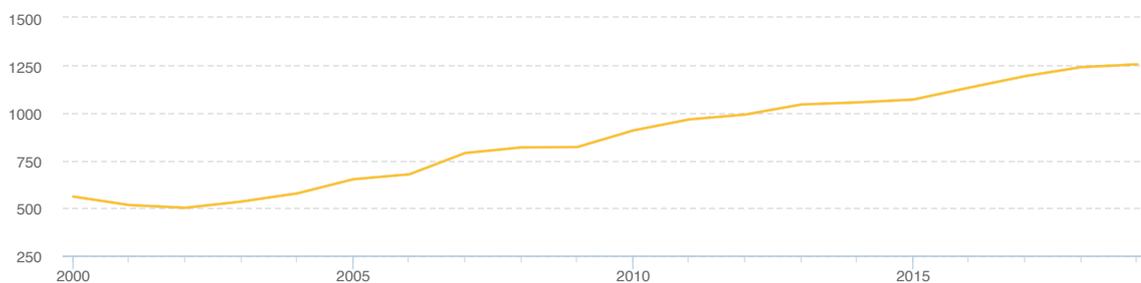
The local cuisine has developed over the history of the islands with many external influences. 'Ulu' is breadfruit that may be served with any dish. As a result of agriculture and fishing, residents eat a lot of fish, coconut, sweet potato and a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, such as bananas wrapped in pearl cassavas. A local specialty called 'Poi' is made with fermented taro roots and served during festivities.

Sport is an important part of Solomon Island culture. Football is the most popular sport in the country, but cricket, Australian football, rugby and horse racing are also popular. In the international sphere, the most successful national teams are its beach soccer team - 'the Bilikiki Boys' - and the futsal team - 'the Kurukuru'. Both of these teams have managed to win the Oceanian Championship and qualified for their respective FIFA World Cups. The Solomon Islands has participated in the Summer Olympic Games since 1984.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



**GDP per capita  
2019**



**US\$1 945**

**Productive  
Capacity Index  
2018**



**26.2**

**Economic and environmental  
vulnerability index  
2019**



**46**

**Consumer Price  
Index growth  
2019**



**1.1%**

**Unemployment  
rate  
2013**



**Total 0.7%  
Female 0.7%, Male 0.7%**

### Main economic sectors, 2019

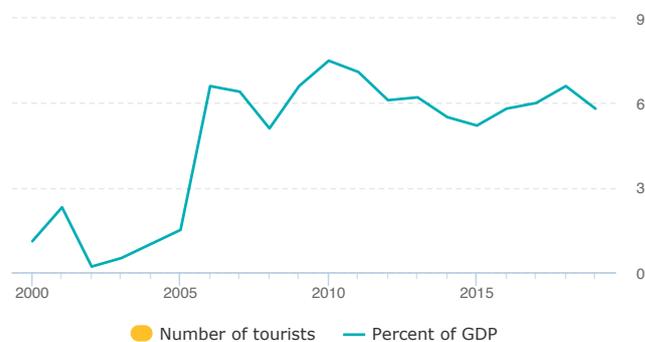
Percentage of GDP



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

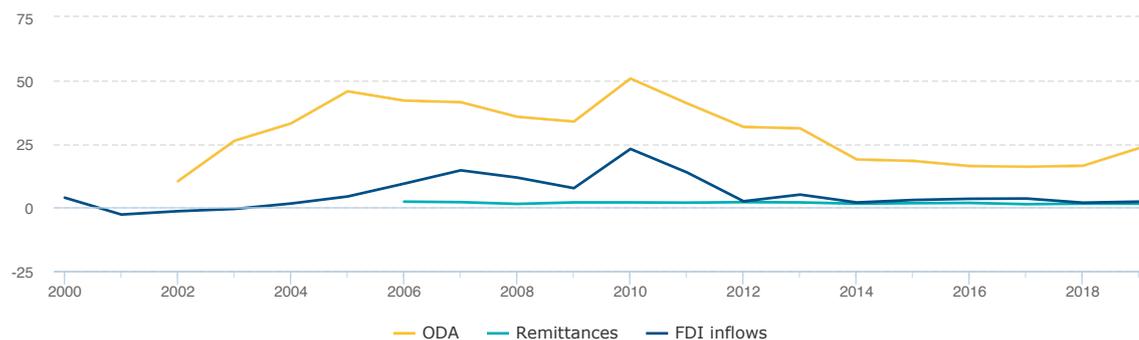
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



**Public debt as %  
of GDP**

**2018**



**124.5%**

## 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	187	28
Median time in port (days)	1	8
Average age of vessels	11	33
Average size (GT) of vessels	17 189	18

### Container port throughput

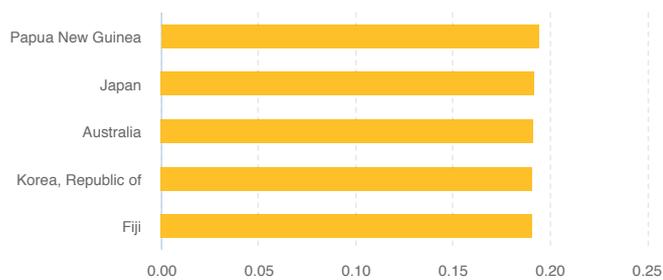
2019



128 036 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

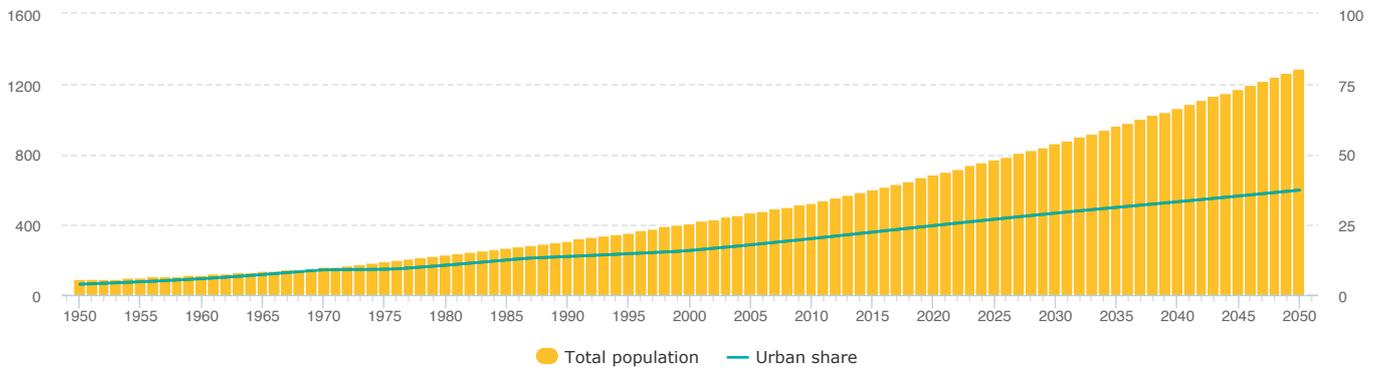
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2012	24.7
Human development index	2018	0.6
Human assets index	2020	72
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	2010	0.8

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



73 years

### Population density

2019



24 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

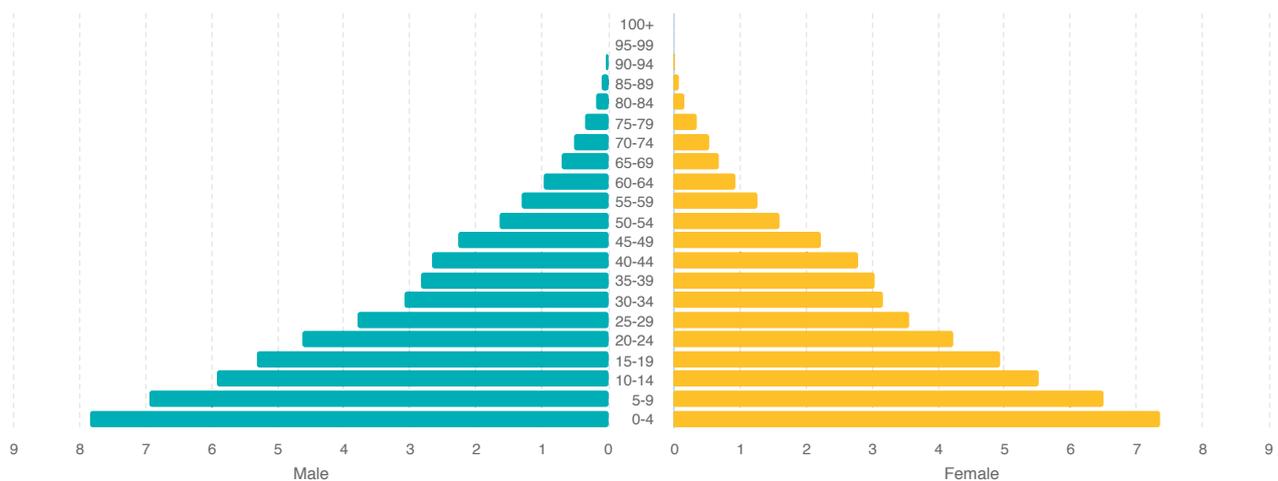
2019



Child: 71.4  
Old-age: 6.5

### 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	103	224	400	461	35.4
Merchandise imports	185	404	466	590	45.3
Services exports	41	92	105	128	9.8
Services imports	58	188	183	241	18.5

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



50% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.67

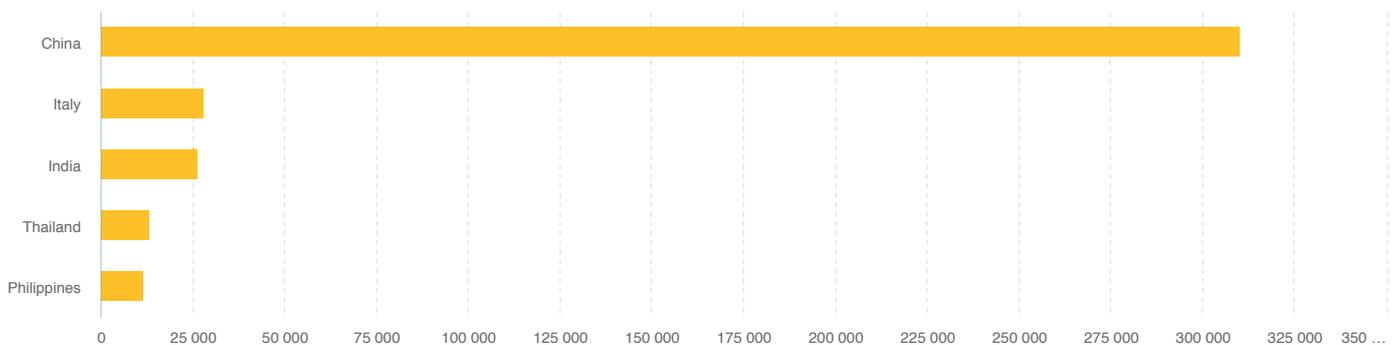
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



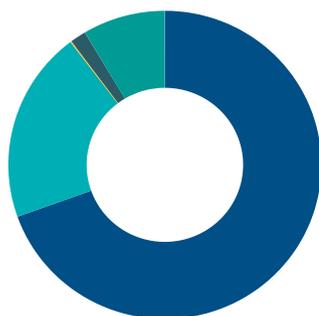
3.43

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

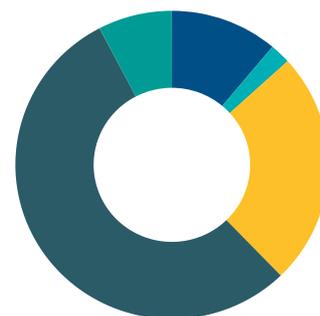


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

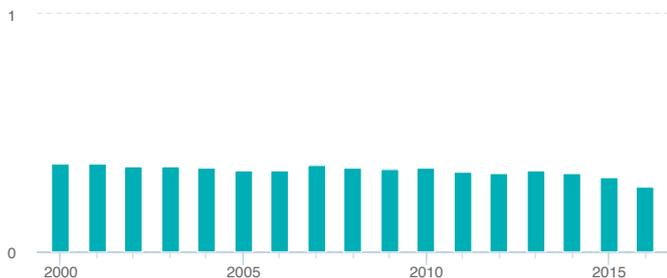


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

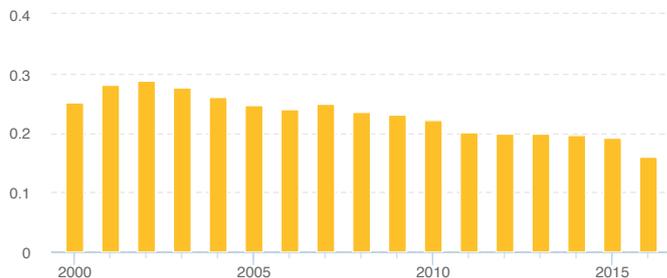
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



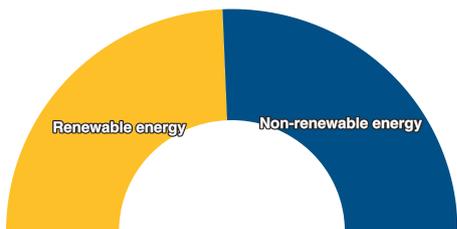
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

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

2018



Exports: 0.0%  
Imports: 2.6%

### Trade in ICT services

2019



Exports: 2.2%  
Imports: 0%

### Share of internet users

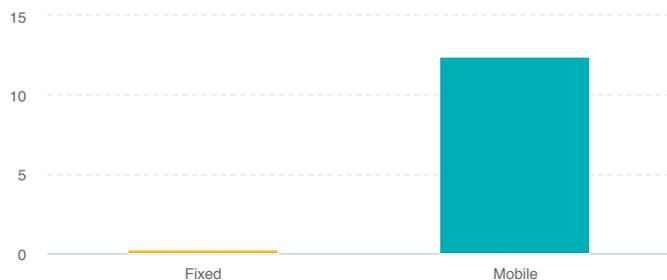
2017



12%

### Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions

Number of subscriptions per 100 people



## Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

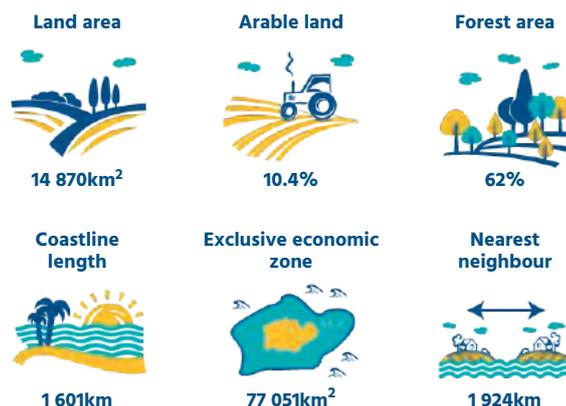
- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP: World 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](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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- FAO (2020). FAOStat. Available at <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020a). ILOStat. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020b). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at [https://cran-r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf](https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf) (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- United Nations University (2020). World Risk Report. Institute for Environment and Human Security. (accessed 28 October 2020).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).

## Timor-Leste

- > **Capital:** Dili (8°55' S, 125°56' E)
- > **International airport(s):** Presidente Nicolau Lobato International Airport, Dili
- > **Official language(s):** Tetum, Portuguese
- > **Currency:** United States dollar (US\$)
- > **Time:** UTC +9
- > **Region:** Pacific



### GEOGRAPHY

Timor-Leste lies 400 km north of Australia, across the Timor Sea, and belongs to the Lesser Sunda Islands. It comprises the eastern half of Timor Island (which it shares with Indonesia), the separate enclave of Oecusse, situated in West Timor and the small offshore islands of Atauro and Jaco. Timor-Leste is extremely rocky, with mountains rising to over 2 000 m. Tatamailau, sometimes also referred to as Mount Ramelau, is the highest peak in Timor-Leste, measuring 2 986 m. Almost half of Timor-Leste's land area has a slope of 40 degrees or more. There are some highland plains, important for agriculture, to the west of Baucau and around Lospalos and Maliana.

### CLIMATE

Timor-Leste has a tropical climate with a dry season from May to November, and a wet season for the remainder of the year. Average monthly temperatures are high and vary between 24-27 °C throughout the year. In the mountains at higher elevations, temperatures are much cooler. Generally, the total annual rainfall is between 1 200 and 1 400 mm. There is little or no rain for almost eight months of the year, and a wet season which lasts from December to March. (World Bank, 2020) Tropical cyclones can hit Timor-Leste between January and mid-April in their early stages and therefore, usually, with moderate intensity. The sea in Timor-Leste is warm throughout the year. Water temperatures range from 27 °C in July and August to 30 °C in November and December.

### ECONOMY

Timor-Leste's economy is mostly dependent on the extraction of oil reserves from the Timor Sea. Oil, gas and other mineral fuels and lubricants account for about 35 per cent of exports and mining contributes nearly 40 per cent to GDP. Coffee exports and tourism provide additional income. Developing agriculture and fishing are also seen as important for future growth, though currently they only account for 10 per cent of GDP. The main export destinations are Singapore, Indonesia and the United States of America. (UNCTAD, 2021) According to items attribute is mandatory, agriculture and services provide most of the employment opportunities in Timor-Leste. Much of the population still live below the poverty line and unemployment is high.

### CULTURE

The tradition of poetry is very strong in Timor-Leste. Craftmanship is also important. The nation's music is affected by Portuguese and Indonesian influences with the guitar being a central instrument. Children usually learn traditional dancing at school.

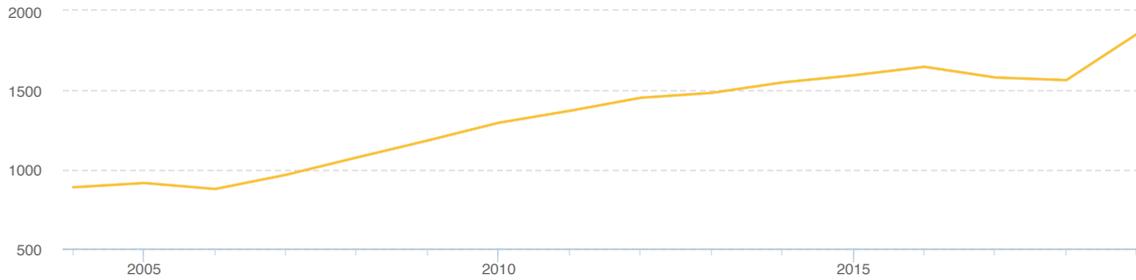
The country has a strong culture of hospitality and is famous for its rich and dark coffee grown organically on the hills. A typical meal includes rice, meat or fish, often with beans, corn and seasonal vegetables. Spices and herbs grown in the country bring the food its local flavour. Tropical fruits are a natural part of the diet, and sometimes coconut milk is used to soften the extremely hot chili paste.

The most popular sport in Timor-Leste is football. Cycling, martial arts, weightlifting and badminton are also quite popular. Timor-Leste participated for the first time in the Olympic Summer Games in 2004 and in the Winter Games in 2014.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



**GDP per capita  
2019**



**US\$1 561**

### Productive Capacity Index

**2018**



**29.3**

### Economic and environmental vulnerability index

**2019**



**40**

### Consumer Price Index growth

**2019**



**0.5%**

**2016**

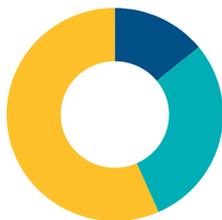
### Unemployment rate



**Total 4.7%  
Female 6.3%, Male 3.3%**

### Main economic sectors, 2019

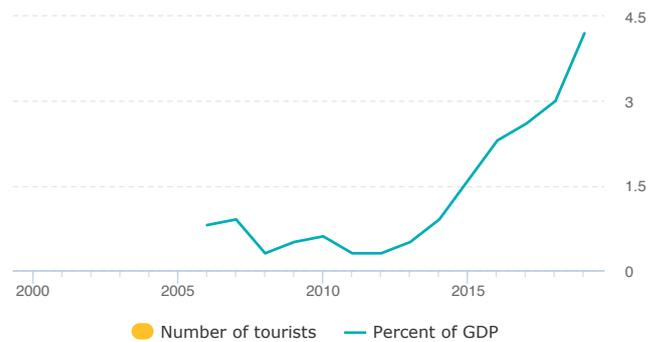
Percentage of GDP



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

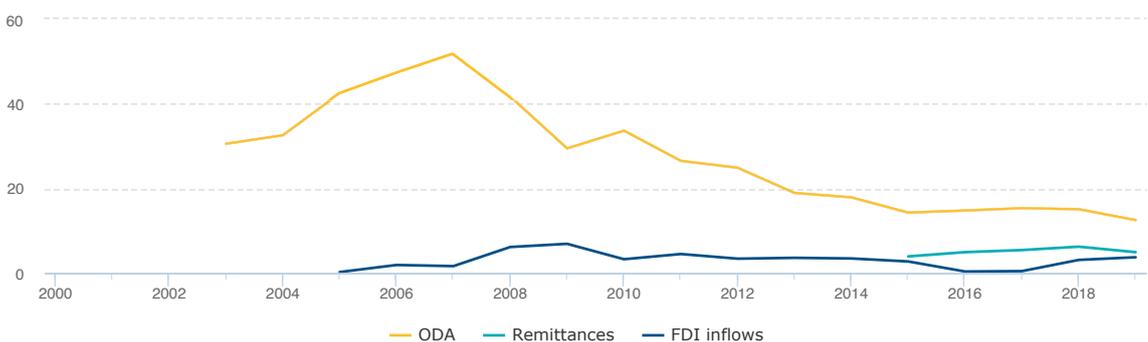
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



**Public debt as %  
of GDP**

**2018**



**74.5%**

## 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	177	29
Median time in port (days)	1	8
Average age of vessels	16	19
Average size (GT) of vessels	4 538	33

### Container port throughput

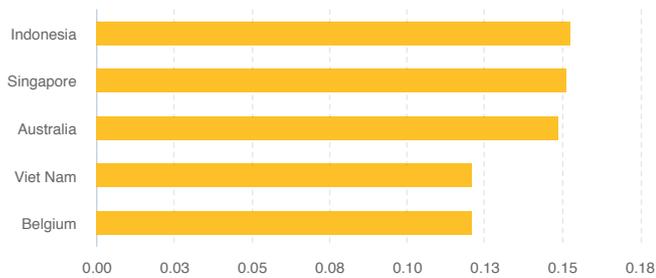
2019



53 289 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

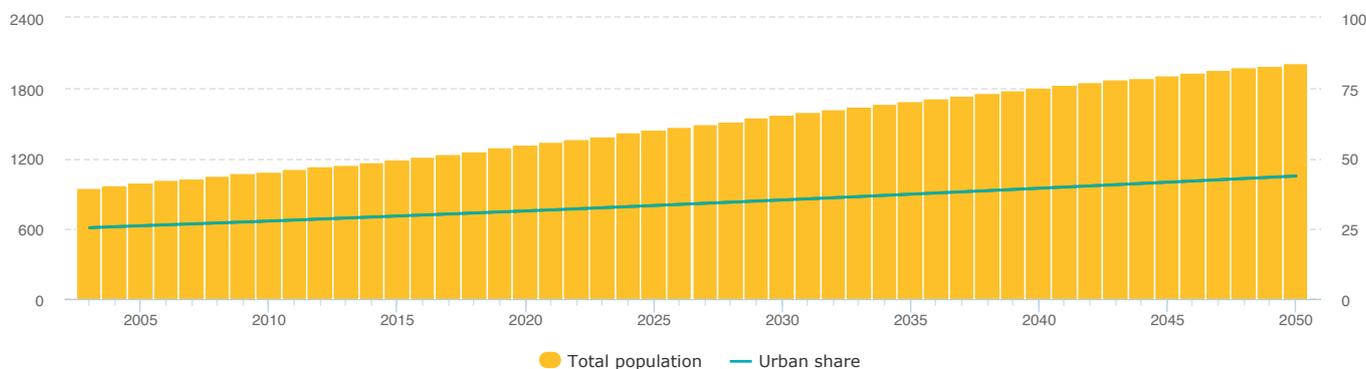
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2014	22
Human development index	2018	0.6
Human assets index	2020	68
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	2010	0.6

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



70 years

### Population density

2019



87 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

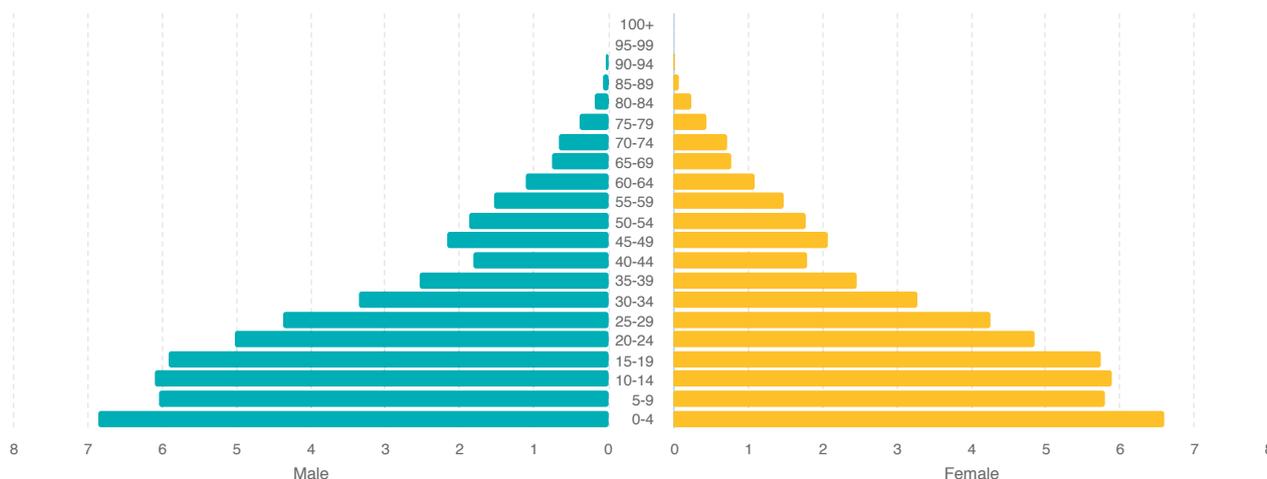
2019



Child: 63.8  
Old-age: 7.3

### 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	8	16	18	154	7.6
Merchandise imports	109	246	578	591	29.3
Services exports	0	68	73	92	4.6
Services imports	0	1035	667	447	22.2

### Trade openness Goods and services

2019



22% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.53

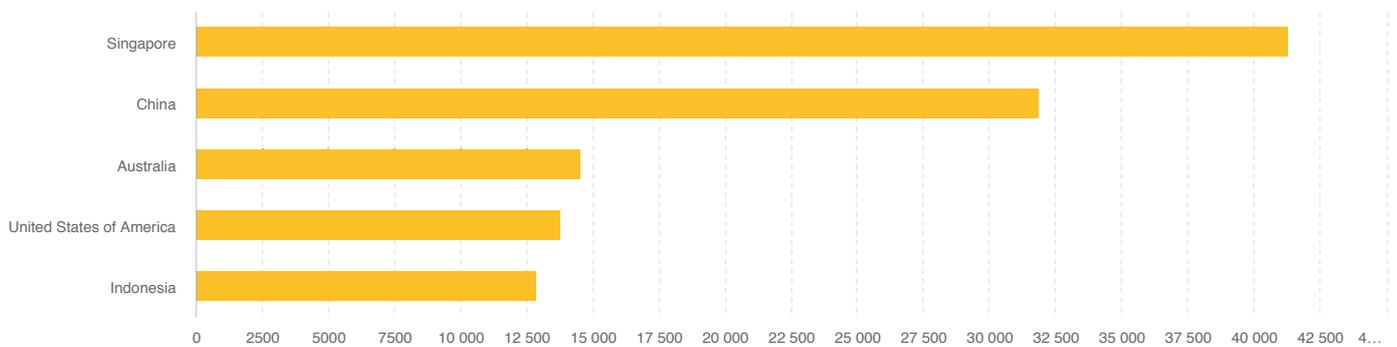
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



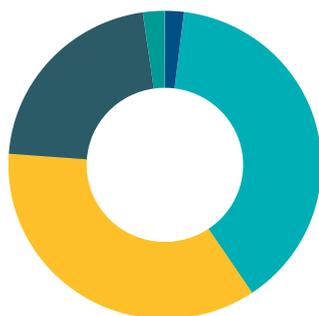
22.36

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

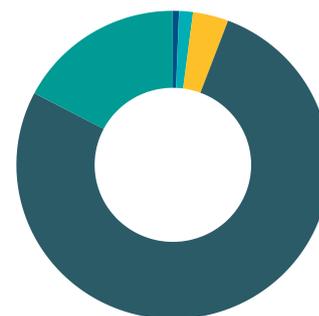


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

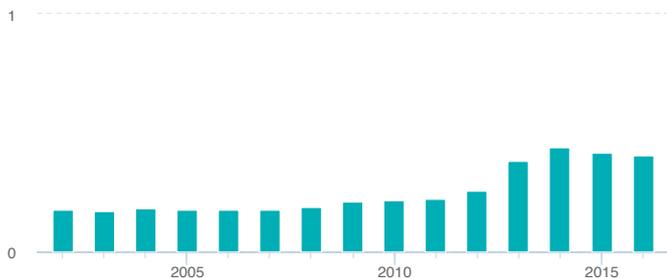


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



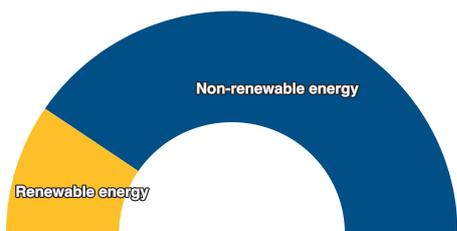
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

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

2017



Exports: 0.3%  
Imports: 3.9%

### Trade in ICT services

2019



Exports: 1.4%  
Imports: 0.4%

### Share of internet users

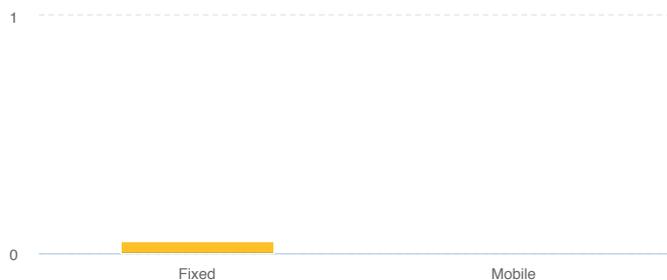
2017



27%

### Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions

Number of subscriptions per 100 people



## Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

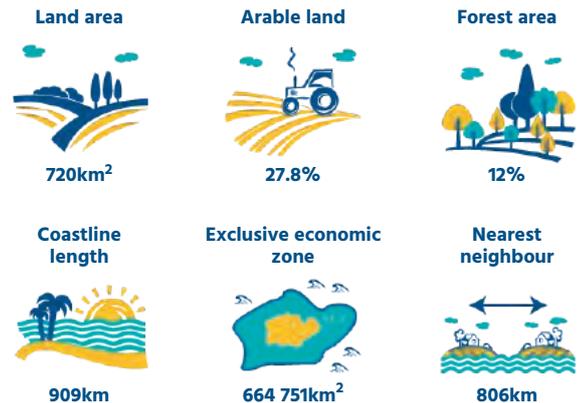
- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP: World 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- 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).

## 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.

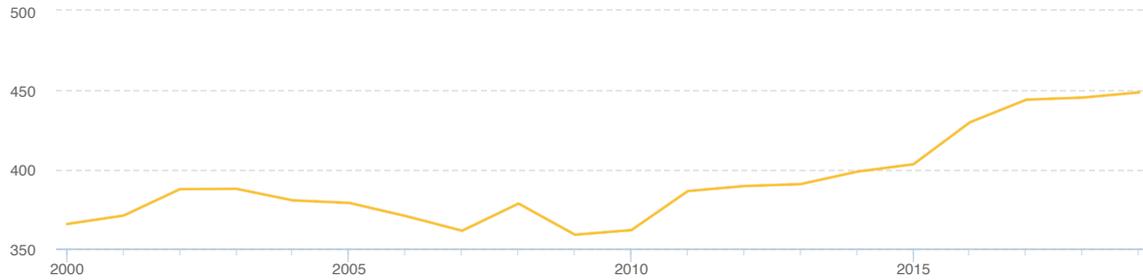
Tongans quite literally live from the land. They are highly self-reliant and eat many locally grown and hand-picked fruits, such as breadfruits, coconuts, bananas, mandarins, papayas, lemons, passion fruits and guavas. Lemon leaves are also used for tea. Vegetables such as taro, cassava, kumara and yam 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



33.0

Economic and environmental vulnerability index

2019



43

Consumer Price Index growth

2019



3.3%

Unemployment rate

2018



Total 3.1%  
Female 3.6%, Male 2.6%

### Main economic sectors, 2019

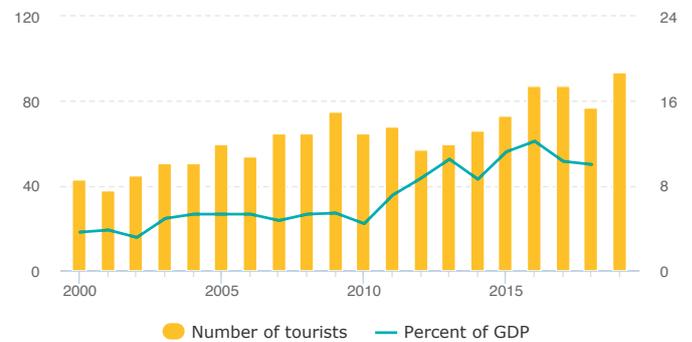
Percentage of GDP



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

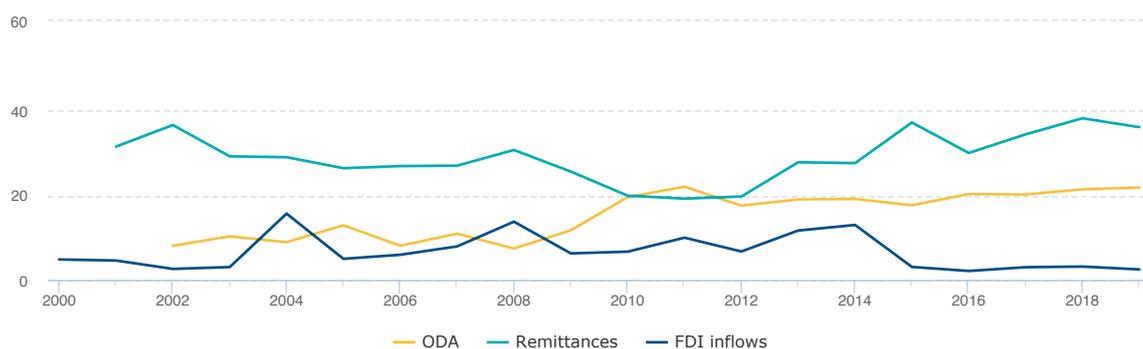
### Tourist arrivals

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

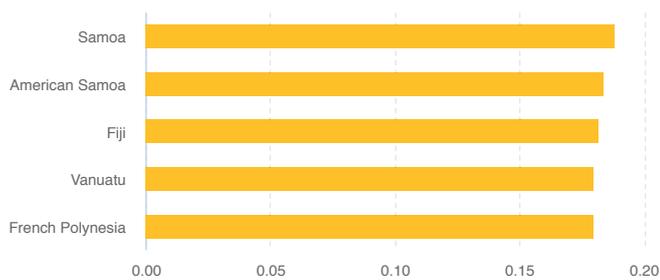
2019



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 km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

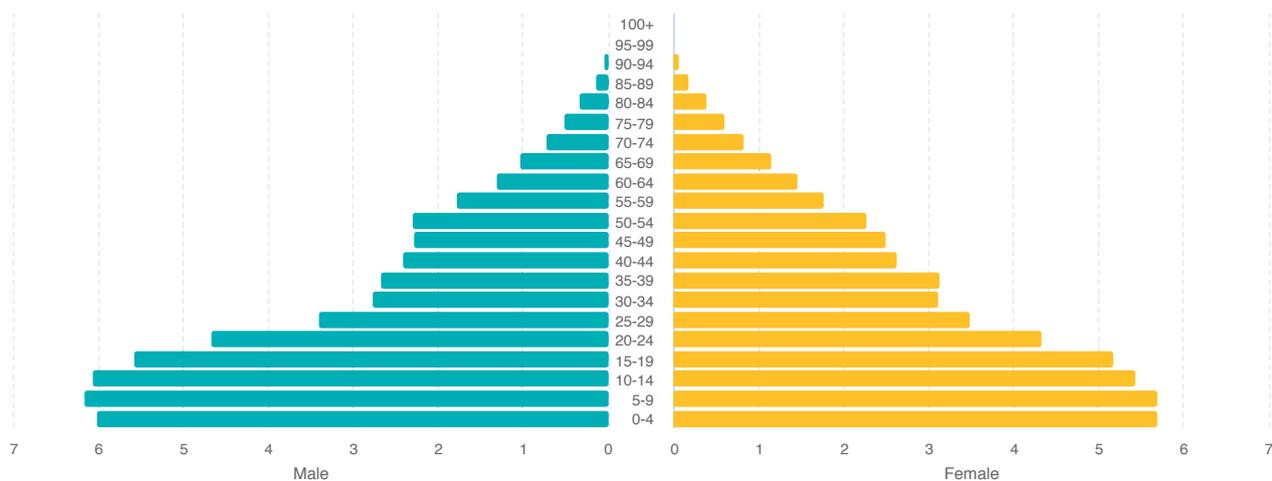
2019



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

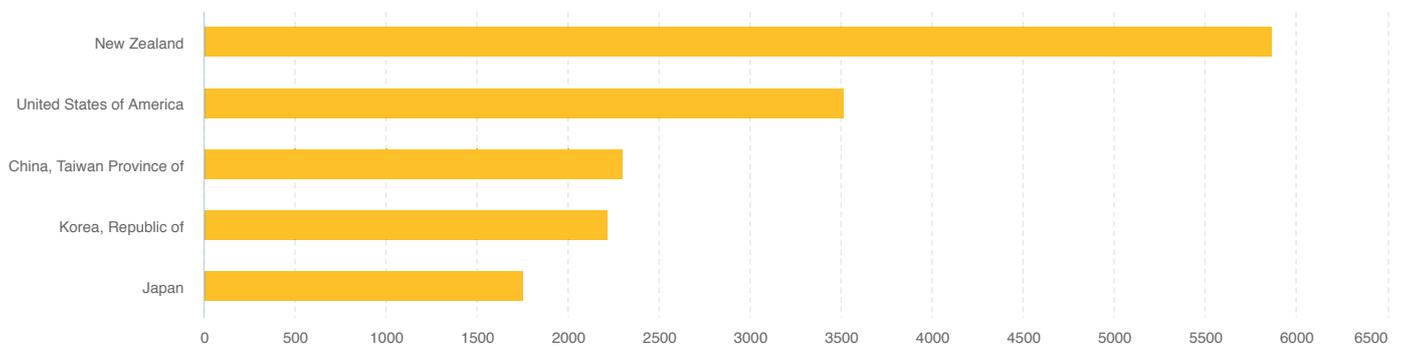
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



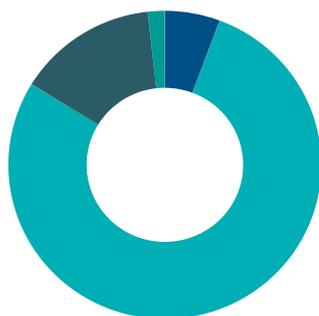
18.91

### 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

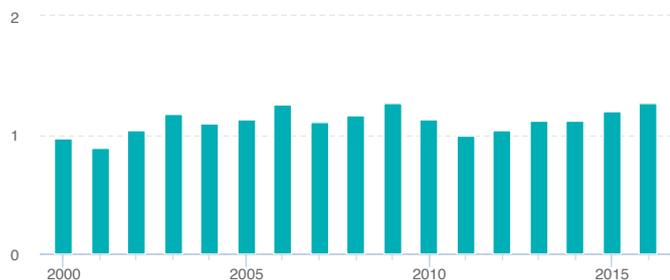
### Services exports by category, 2019

No data available

## ENVIRONMENT

### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



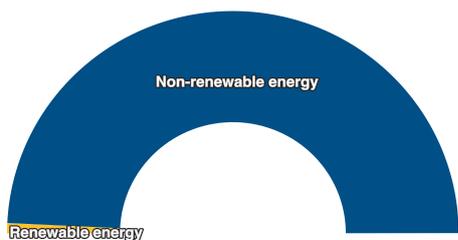
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

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

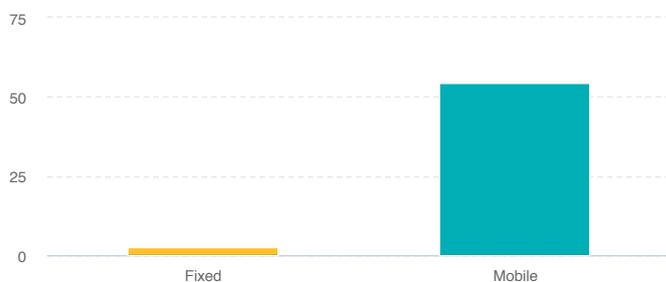
2017



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>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>



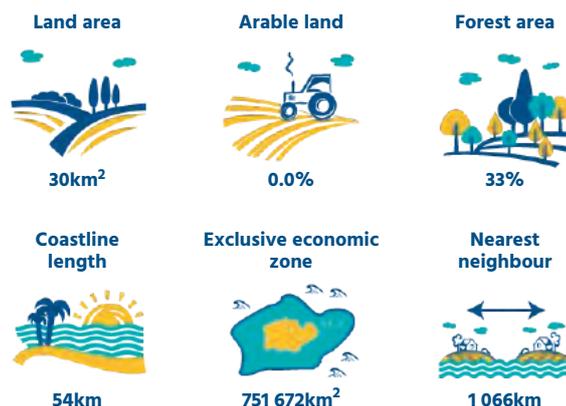
## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020a). ILOStat. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- ILO (2020b). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- United Nations University (2020). World Risk Report. Institute for Environment and Human Security. (accessed 28 October 2020).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- 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).



## 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 km<sup>2</sup>. 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

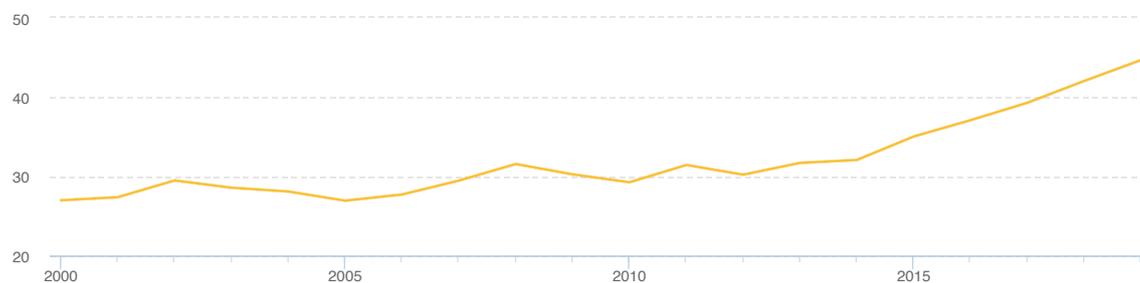
Culture in Tuvalu underpins the ability of the people of Tuvalu to live and thrive in an island environment. The communities in Tuvalu have actively engaged in the cultural production of a variety of handicrafts, such as mats, baskets, fans, shell necklaces and costumes for traditional performances.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



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

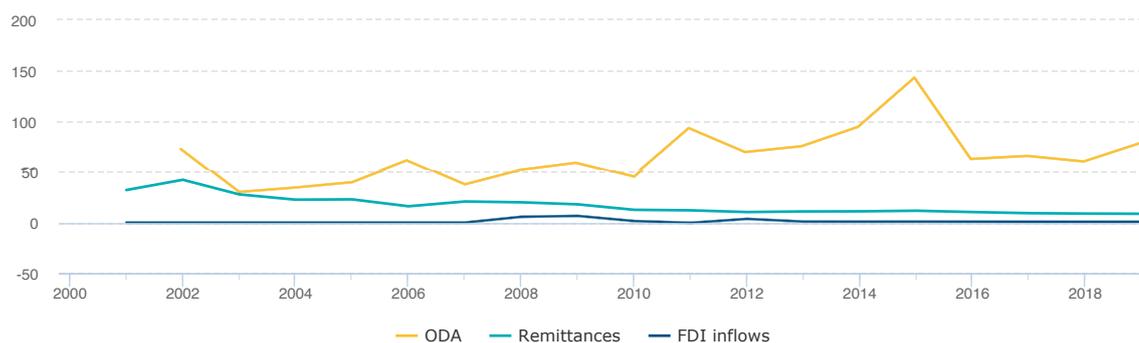
### Tourist arrivals

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

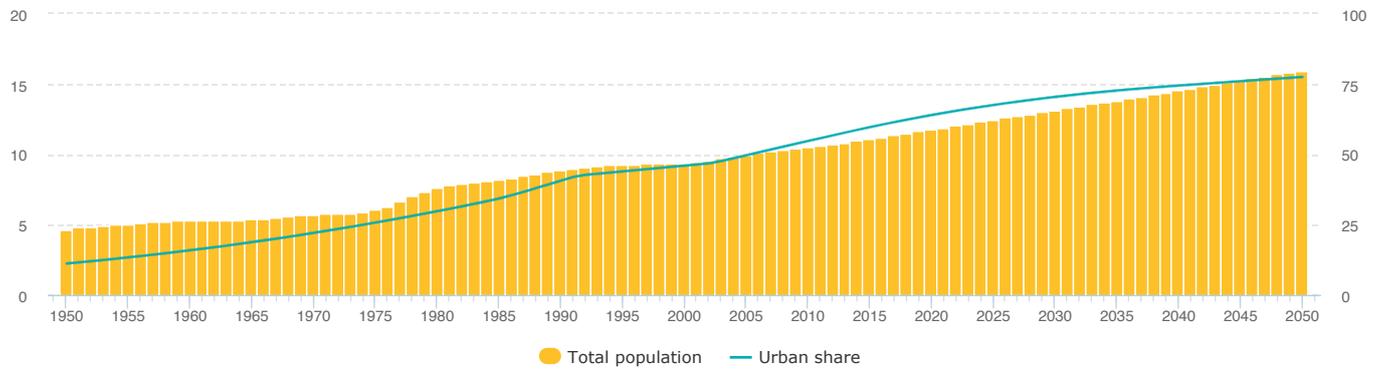
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## 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

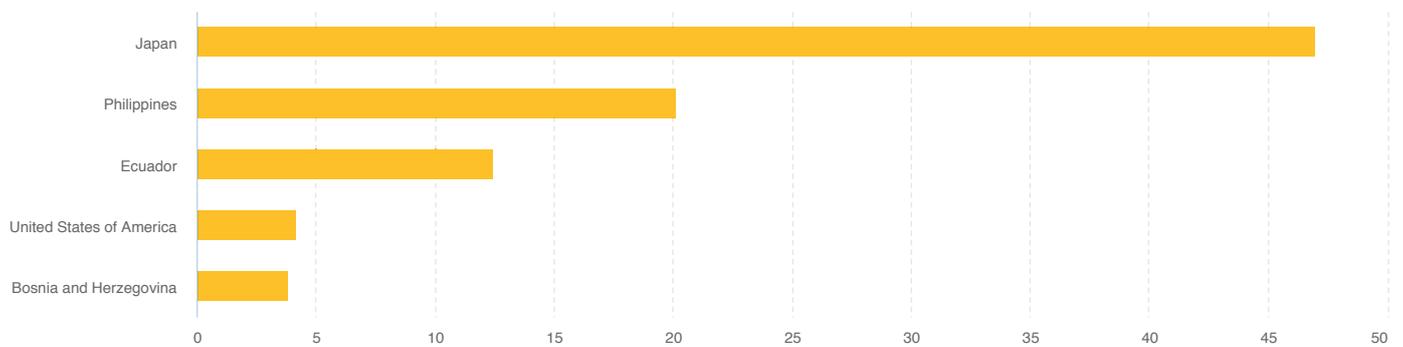
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



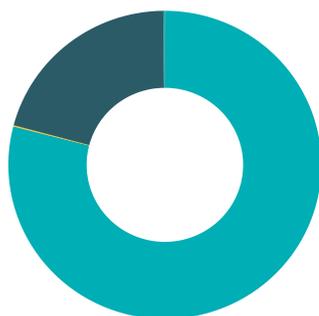
10.41

### 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

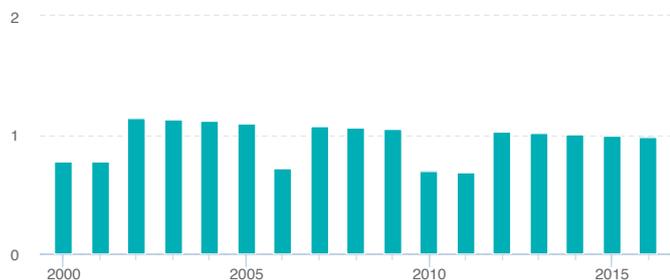
### Services exports by category, 2019

No data available

## ENVIRONMENT

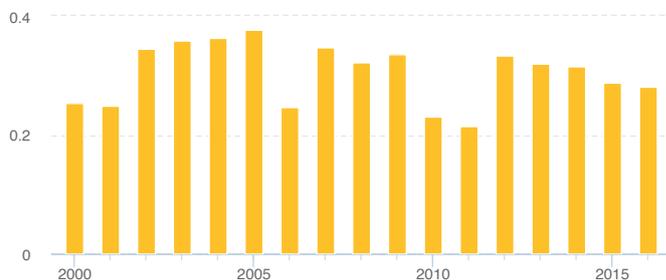
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



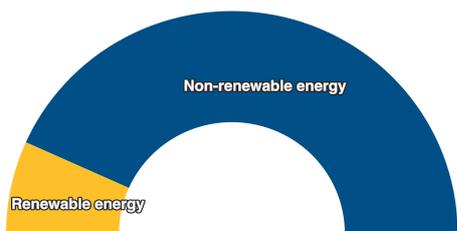
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

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>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

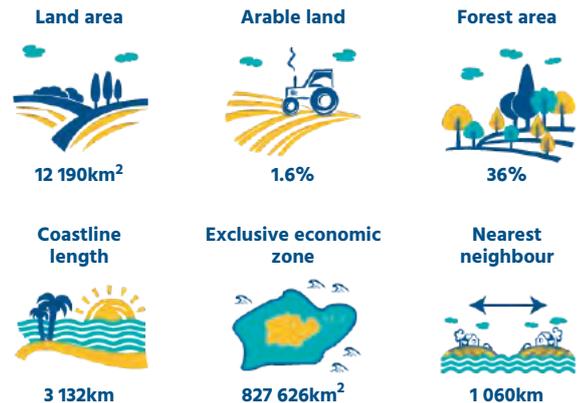
## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UN DESA (2020). Economic and environmental vulnerability indicators. Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category/evi-indicators-ldc.html> (accessed 13 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- 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).



## Vanuatu

- > **Capital:** Port Vila (17°44´ S, 168°19´ E)
- > **International airport(s):** Bauerfield International Airport, Port Vila
- > **Official language(s):** Bislama, English, French
- > **Currency:** Vanuatu Vatu (VUV)
- > **Time:** UTC+11
- > **Region:** Pacific



### GEOGRAPHY

Vanuatu forms an archipelago of about 83 small islands of volcanic origin. Located in the South Pacific about 2 000 km East of Queensland in Australia. The distance between its most northern and southern islands is about 1 300 km. Only 14 of the 83 islands have a land area larger than 100 km<sup>2</sup>. The largest islands are Espiritu Santo and Malakula. Only 67 of the 83 islands are inhabited. Most islands are steep on the edges with a rocky shoreline, fringing reefs, unstable soil and little permanent freshwater. Volcanic activity is common, Mount Yasur on the island of Tanna remains active. Earthquakes are a common feature of island life in Vanuatu.

### CLIMATE

The climate in Vanuatu is tropical. The rainy season is long, with significant rainfall and hot weather especially from December to April. Cyclones are possible during this time of year. The remainder of the year is cooler and drier. Average monthly temperatures range from 23 to 25 °C. Water temperatures range from 22 °C in the winter to 28 °C in the summer. Annual average rainfall is 2 500 mm with large variations: the northern islands receive over 4 000 mm of rainfall, while the southern extremes of the archipelago receive about 1 500 mm. Cyclones are common during the warm and wet months, although recently cyclones hit outside of the usual season. (World Bank, 2020) Vanuatu is the world's most at-risk country for natural hazards, according to the United Nations University (2020) World Risk Index.

### ECONOMY

Vanuatu's economy is centered on agriculture, raising of cattle, tourism and offshore financial services. Agriculture provides employment for more than half of the population. Fishing is also important for domestic consumption. The tropical climate supports a wide range of fruits, vegetables and spices, such as kava, coconut and cocoa. Important export markets include Malaysia, Australia and Japan. Together, agriculture and fishing account for about one quarter of GDP (UNCTAD, 2021). In 2016, Vanuatu launched a citizenship programme, offering the possibility to buy a Vanuatu passport for US\$150 000, which enjoys visa-free travel throughout Europe. With demand from the Chinese market booming, by 2018 passport sales generated about a third of government revenues. Vanuatu's economic growth has recently been driven by tourism and construction. Tourist arrivals in Vanuatu vary from 250 to 350 thousand annually. In 2018, inbound tourism expenditure equalled 37 per cent over GDP. Incorrect syntax for items Still, economic development is constrained by the concentration of exports in relatively few commodities, vulnerability to natural disasters and connectivity issues between islands and main markets.

### CULTURE

The density of languages per capita is the highest in the world in Vanuatu, with an average of 2 000 speakers per language. More than 95 per cent of Bislama words are of English origin, whilst the remainder comprises a few dozen words from French, as well as some specific vocabulary inherited from various languages of Vanuatu; though these are essentially limited to flora and fauna. Vanuatu's national anthem, 'Yumi, Yumi, Yumi', is composed in Bislama. 'Yumi' means 'we', derived from the words you and me.

Traditional music in Bislama is popular in rural areas. Musical instruments consist mostly of various types of drums, slit gongs and rattles. Vanuatu was home to an internationally known women's rights activist, Grace Mera Molisa, who became famous for her poetry.

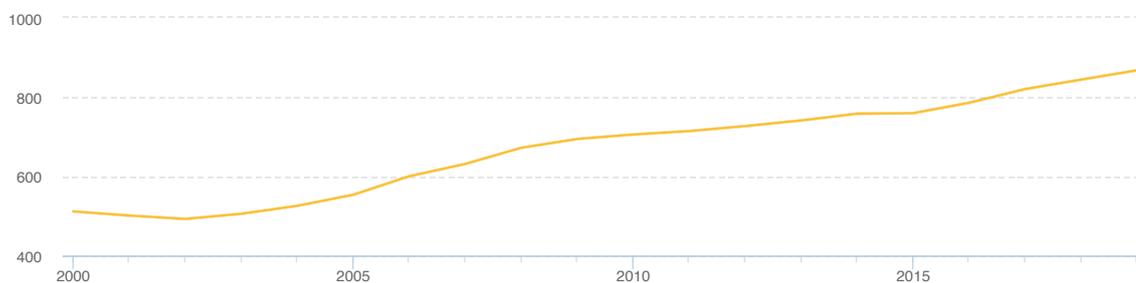
Vanuatu cuisine incorporates fish, root vegetables, vegetables and many fruits, such as papayas, pineapples, mangoes, plantains and sweet potatoes. Coconut milk flavors many dishes. Most island families grow food in their gardens throughout the year.

Cricket is very popular in Vanuatu with about 8 000 registered cricketers. In 1988, Vanuatu became a member of FIFA and the Oceania Football Confederation. Vanuatu also has a successful Women's Beach-Volleyball team. Vanuatu first participated in the Olympic Games in 1988 in Seoul, South Korea, in track and field and boxing.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



**GDP per capita  
2019**



**US\$3 023**

**Productive  
Capacity Index  
2018**



**29.4**

**Economic and environmental  
vulnerability index  
2019**



**39**

**Consumer Price  
Index growth  
2019**



**2.3%**

**Unemployment  
rate  
2010**



**Total 1.8%  
Female 1.6%, Male 2.1%**

### Main economic sectors, 2019

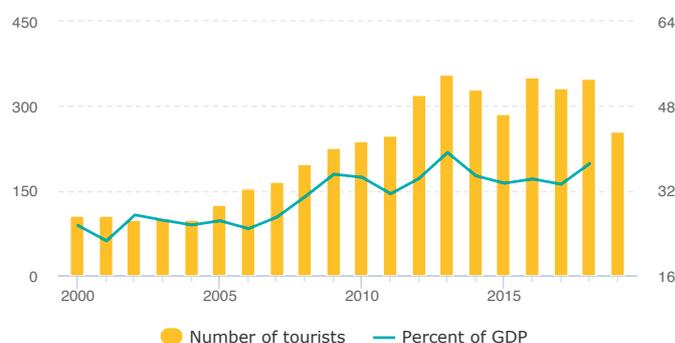
Percentage of GDP



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

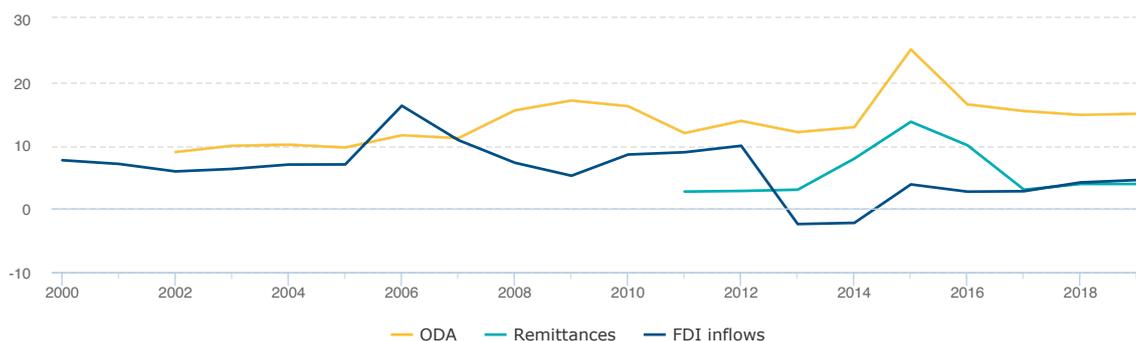
### Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



### External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



**Public debt as %  
of GDP**

**2018**



**20.3%**

## 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	251	26
Median time in port (days)	0.9	24
Average age of vessels	18	11
Average size (GT) of vessels	51 822	3

### Container port throughput

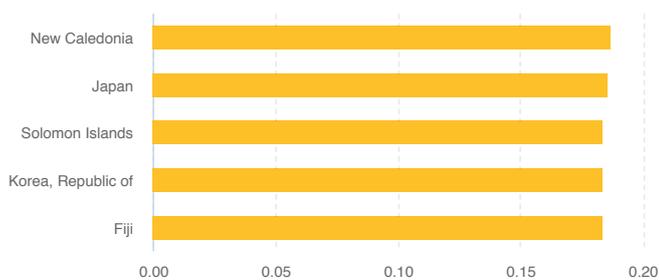
2019



77 436 TEU

### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



### Liner shipping connectivity index

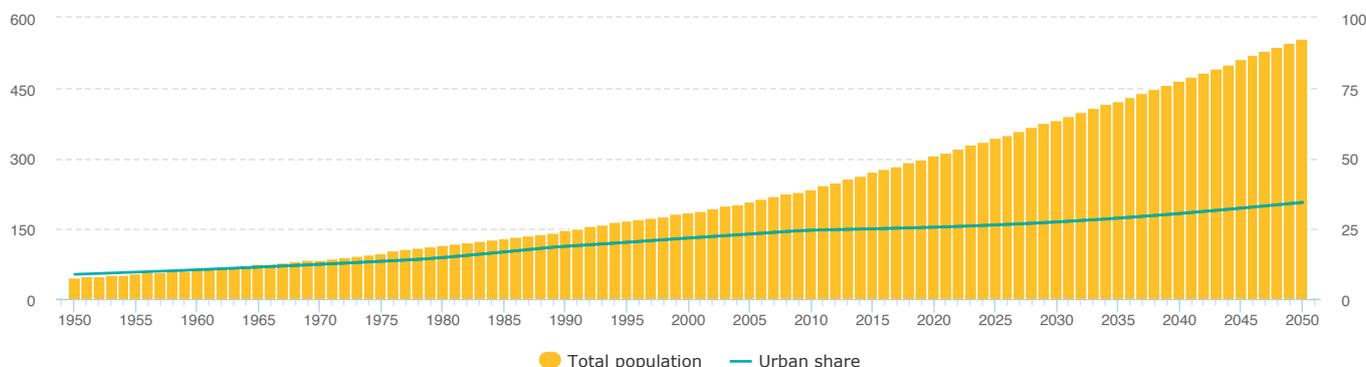
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



## POPULATION

### Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



### Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2010	13.2
Human development index	2018	0.6
Human assets index	2020	77
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)	--	--
Gender inequality index	--	--

### Life expectancy at birth

2019



70 years

### Population density

2019



25 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

### Dependency ratio

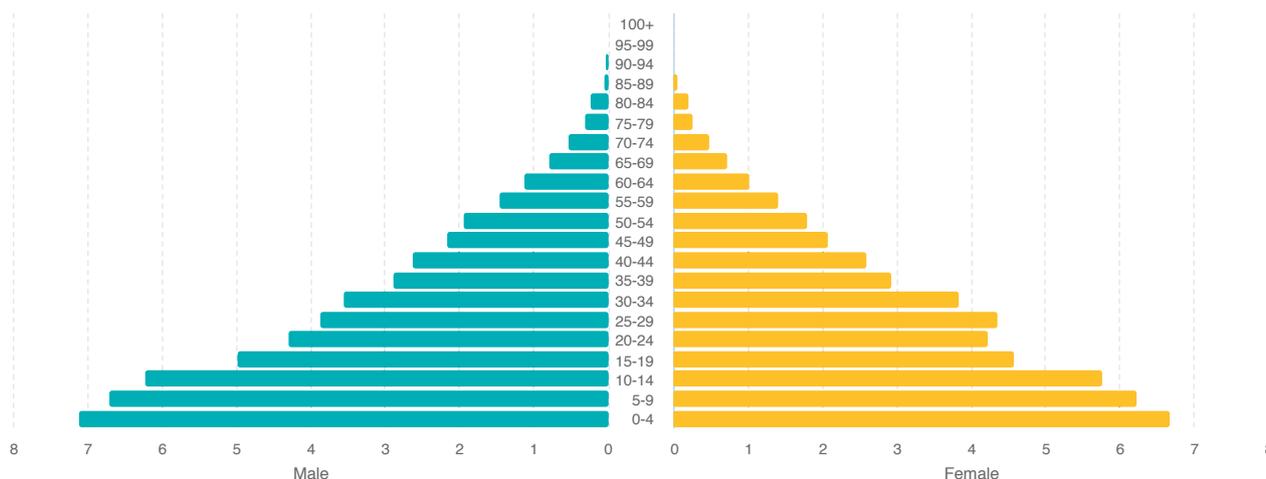
2019



Child: 67.1  
Old-age: 6.3

### 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	38	49	39	58	6.4
Merchandise imports	149	285	367	333	36.7
Services exports	139	277	283	0	0
Services imports	74	125	171	0	0

### Trade openness Goods and services

2018



55% of GDP

### Export concentration index

2019



0.24

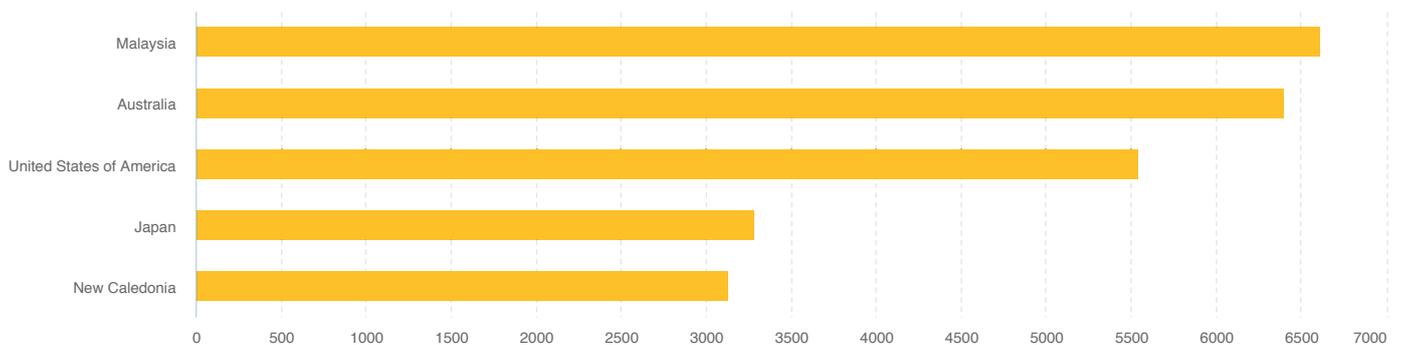
### Food import dependency Average 2015-2019



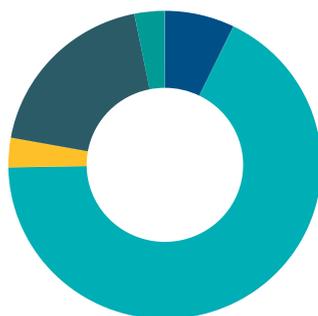
9.34

### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

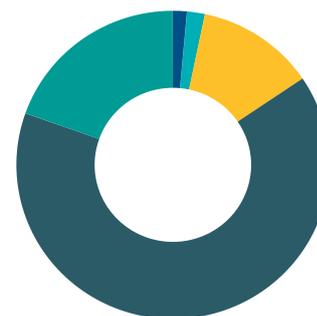


### Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



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

### Services exports by category, 2019

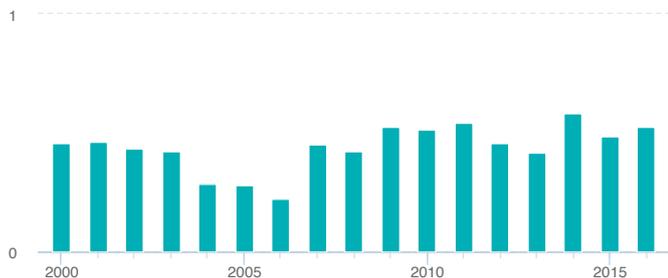


- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

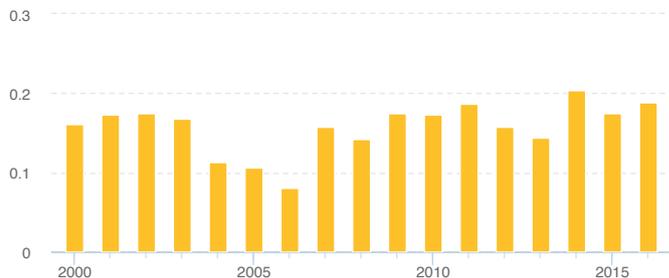
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Kg per capita



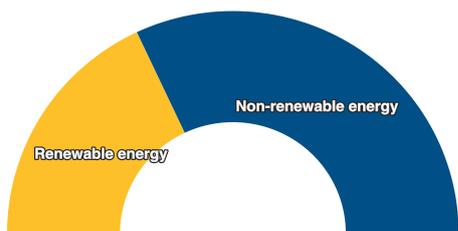
### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per GDP

Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017

Percentage of total energy consumption



### Material footprint per capita

2016



15.7kg

### Terrestrial protected area

2018



4.2%

### Marine protected area

2018



0.01%

### Disasters indicators

Data not available

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Trade in ICT goods

2011



Exports: 0.0%  
Imports: 3.1%

### Trade in ICT services

2013



Exports: 0.5%  
Imports: 7.7%

### Share of internet users

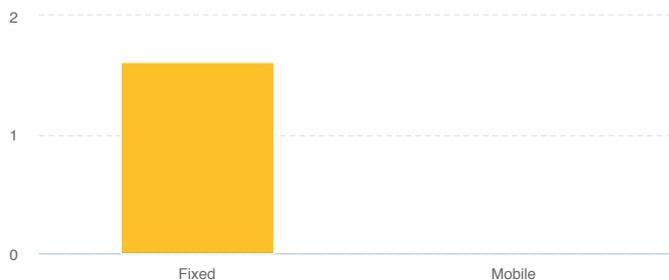
2017



26%

### 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>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO<sub>2</sub> 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](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://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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990\\_0](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.FL5M.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](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/>

## References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description\\_UR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf) (accessed 15 June 2020).
- 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).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package "cshapes" (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- 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](https://environmentlive.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).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- United Nations University (2020). World Risk Report. Institute for Environment and Human Security. (accessed 28 October 2020).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- 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).

# Glossary



# Glossary

## A-C

A classification	A classification scheme can be understood as the descriptive information about the way observation units are arranged into groups, based on common characteristics. (ISO, 2015)
A trained teacher	A trained teacher is one who has received at least the minimum organized pedagogical teacher training pre-service and in-service required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country in a given academic year. (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2021).
Adolescent birth rate	Adolescent birth rate measures the annual number of births to women aged 15-19 years per 1 000 women in that age group. The rate provides a basic measure of reproductive health focusing on a vulnerable group of adolescent women. (WHO, 2021a)
Adult literacy rate	Adult literacy rate is the percentage of the population aged 15 years and over that can read and write (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020).
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)
Average hourly earnings	Average hourly earnings measure the gross remuneration in cash and in kind paid to employees, as a rule at regular intervals, for time worked or work done together with remuneration for time not worked, such as annual vacation, other type of paid leave or holidays. Earnings exclude employers' contributions in respect of their employees paid to social security and pension schemes and also the benefits received by employees under these schemes. Earnings also exclude severance and termination pay. Statistics on average hourly earnings by sex are the basis for the calculation of the gender pay gap. (ILO, 2020)
B2C	Business-to-consumer E-commerce index (B2C)
Biotrade	Biotrade refers to those activities of collection, production, transformation, and commercialization of goods and services derived from native biodiversity under the criteria of environmental, social and economic sustainability known as the BioTrade Principles and Criteria (UNCTAD, 2020a).
Blank sailing	Blank sailing means no sailing or cancelled sailing. It happens when an ocean vessel does not call at one or more of its scheduled intermediate stops. A blank sailing can refer to a sailing skipping one specific port (while still traversing the rest of the scheduled route) or to the entire voyage being cancelled (Universal Cargo, 2021; Marine Insight, 2021).
BMI	Body mass index (BMI) formerly called the Quetelet index, is a measure for indicating nutritional status in adults. It is defined as a person's weight in kilograms divided by the square of the person's height in metres (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ). For example, an adult who weighs 70 kg and whose height is 1.75 m will have a BMI of 22.9. (WHO, 2021b)
BPM6	Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, 6th Edition
CDP	Committee for Development Policy (CDP), until 1998 the Committee for Development Planning (CDP, 2014).
Child dependency ratio	Child dependency ratio is defined as the number of children per hundred persons of working age (15 – 64 years old). (UNCTAD, 2021a)
CITES	The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) is a colourless, odourless and non-poisonous gas formed by combustion of carbon and in the respiration of living organisms (OECD, 2020a).
Comparative advantage	Comparative advantage is a concept from Ricardian theory of international trade, which describes a country's possibility to produce a good at lower costs relative to a reference good than another country.
Container port throughput	Container port throughput presents the estimated total number of containers handled, per country, expressed in TEUs.
COVID-19	Infectious disease caused by the strain of coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 discovered in December 2019. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans. In humans, several coronaviruses are known to cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The most recently discovered coronavirus causes a coronavirus disease called COVID-19.
Current account	Current account, within the balance of payments, displays the transactions between residents and non-residents of a reporting economy, involving economic values, namely the cross-national exchange of goods and services as well as cross-national transfers of primary and secondary income (UNCTAD, 2020b).
Current account balance	Current account balance displays the flows of goods, services, primary income, and secondary income between residents and nonresidents of an economy. The current account balance measures, in general, the difference between current receipts and expenditures for internationally traded goods, services and income payments. At the same time, from a national perspective, the current account balance represents the gap between domestic saving and investment.(UNCTAD, 2021a)

## D-F

DAC	Development Assistance Committee (DAC)
Debt service	Debt service refers to payments made to satisfy a debt obligation, including principal, interest and any late payment fees (IMF, 2014).
Debt service on PPG debt	Debt service on PPG debt is the sum of principal repayments and interest actually paid in currency, goods, or services on PPG debt.
Dependency ratio	Dependency ratio is defined as the number of children and older persons per hundred persons of working age (15 – 64 years old). It can be expressed as the sum of the child dependency ratio and the old-age dependency ratio. (UNCTAD, 2021a)
Digitally-deliverable services	Digitally-deliverable services (potentially ICT-enabled services) are an aggregation of services that can be delivered remotely over ICT networks (UNCTAD, 2015).
diseconomies of scale	The diseconomies of scale, occurs when the average unit costs of production increase beyond a certain level of output. At the point where the average costs are at a minimum, the minimum efficient scale of output of a firm or plant is reached. (OECD, 2020b)
Domestic tourism	Domestic tourism comprises the activities of a resident visitor within the country of reference, either as part of a domestic tourism trip or part of an outbound tourism trip (United Nations, 2010, para. 2.39)
Economic and environmental vulnerability index	<p>Economic and environmental vulnerability index is a composite index of two subindices: an economic vulnerability index and an environmental vulnerability index. The economic vulnerability sub-index is made up of four indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Share of agriculture, forestry and fishing in GDP;</li> <li>2. Remoteness and landlockedness;</li> <li>3. Merchandise export concentration; and</li> <li>4. Instability of exports of goods and services.</li> </ol> <p>The environmental vulnerability sub-index is also made up of four indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Share of population in low elevated coastal zones;</li> <li>2. Share of population living in drylands;</li> <li>3. Instability of agricultural production; and</li> <li>4. Victims of disasters.</li> </ol>
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
EEZ	Exclusive economic zone (EEZ) is a concept adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (1982), whereby a coastal State assumes jurisdiction over the exploration and exploitation of marine resources in its adjacent section of the continental shelf, taken to be a band extending 200 miles from the shore (OECD, 2003).
EM-DAT	Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT)
Environmental vulnerability index	Environmental vulnerability index is comprised of 50 'smart' indicators estimating the vulnerability of the environment of the 235 countries and territories included, to future shocks. It was developed by the SOPAC (2004), the United Nations Environment Programme etc. The index defines vulnerability as the potential for attributes of any system, human or natural, to respond adversely to events. It is concerned with the risk of damage to the natural environment of a country. These are: (i) the risk of hazards occurring, (ii) the inherent resistance to damage and (iii) the acquired vulnerability resulting from past damage.
EVI	Economic vulnerability index (EVI): Economic vulnerability can be defined as the probability that a country's economic development may be hampered by unforeseen exogenous shocks (Guillaumont, 2009; FERDI, 2021) which is one of the three criteria for the identification of the Least Developed Countries. It was also proposed as a criterion for the allocation of official development assistance.
External debt	External debt is debt owed to nonresidents repayable in currency, goods, or services. IMF (2014) defines it as outstanding amount of those actual current, and not contingent, liabilities that require payment(s) of principal and/or interest by the debtor at some point(s) in the future and that are owed to nonresidents by residents of an economy.
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is an investment involving a long-term relationship and reflecting a lasting interest and control by a resident entity in one economy (foreign direct investor or parent enterprise) in an enterprise resident in an economy other than that of the foreign direct investor (FDI enterprise or affiliate enterprise or foreign affiliate) (UNCTAD, 2017).
FERDI	Fondation pour les études et recherches sur le développement international (FERDI)
Fertility rate	Fertility rate is defined as "The average number of live births a hypothetical cohort of women would have at the end of their reproductive period if they were subject during their whole lives to the fertility rates of a given period and if they were not subject to mortality. It is expressed as live births per woman." (UN DESA, 2019)
Firms with female top manager	Firms with female top manager measures the percentage of firms in the private sector who have females as top managers. Top manager refers to the highest ranking manager or CEO of the establishment. This person may be the owner if he/she works as the manager of the firm. (World Bank, 2021a)

## G-J

G20	Group of Twenty (G20)
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)
GDP	Gross domestic product (GDP)
Gender	Gender refers to the roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society at a given time considers appropriate for women and men. In addition to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, gender also refers to the relations between women and those between men. These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through socialization processes. They are context/ time-specific and changeable. Gender determines what is expected, allowed and valued in a woman or a man in a given context. (UN Women, 2021)
GII	Gender Inequality Index (GII) measures gender inequalities in three aspects of human development: reproductive health, measured by maternal mortality ratio and adolescent birth rates; empowerment, measured by proportion of parliamentary seats occupied by females and proportion of adult females and males aged 25 years and older with at least some secondary education; and economic status, expressed as labor market participation and measured by labor force participation rate of female and male populations aged 15 years and older (UNDP, 2020).
Gini index	Gini index measures the extent to which the distribution of a variable over a population deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. A Gini index of zero represents perfect equality and 100, perfect inequality. (OECD, 2020b)
GLI	Grubel-Lloyd Index (GLI) is calculated on products categorized as manufacturing intermediate inputs (e.g. parts and components), computed at the industry level (as defined by the 4 digit Harmonized System classification) and then aggregated at the sectoral level using bilateral trade shares. (UNCTAD, 2020c)
GNI	Gross national income (GNI) is equal to GDP less primary incomes payable to non-resident units plus primary incomes receivable from non-resident units. In other words, GNI is equal to GDP less taxes (less subsidies) on production and imports, compensation of employees and property income payable to the rest of the world, plus the corresponding items receivable from the rest of the world. (United Nations et al., 2009)
GNP	Gross national product (GNP)
Government expenditure on education to in GDP	General government expenditure on education (current, capital, and transfers) is expressed as a percentage of GDP. It includes expenditure funded by transfers from international sources to government. General government usually refers to local, regional and central governments (World Bank, 2021b).
HAI	Human Assets Index (HAI) is a summary measure of the level of human capital. It is composed of six indicators with each indicator carrying an equal weight. It comprises the under-five mortality rate, prevalence of stunting, maternal mortality rate, gross secondary school enrollment ratio, adult literacy rate and gender parity index for gross secondary school enrollment.(UN DESA and the United Nations Committee for Development Policy Secretariat, 2020)
HDI	Human development index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement of human development in three dimensions: health, education and standards of living. The health dimension is assessed by life expectancy at birth, the education dimension by mean of years of schooling for adults aged 25 years and more, and expected years of schooling for children of school entering age. The standard of living dimension is measured by GNI per capita. The HDI is the geometric mean of normalized indices for each of the three dimensions. The cut off points are: HDI of less than 0.550 for low human development, 0.550–0.699 for medium human development, 0.700–0.799 for high human development and 0.800 or greater for very high human development. (UNDP, 2020)
HS	Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS)
ICLS	International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS)
ICT	Information and communications technology (ICT)
ICT goods	ICT goods are those goods that are either intended to fulfil the function of information processing and communication by electronic means, including transmission and display, which use electronic processing to detect, measure and/or record physical phenomena, or to control a physical process (UNCTAD, 2018b).
ICT services	ICT services are defined in the alternate aggregation of the ISIC Rev.4 as a component of the ICT sector and include software publishing, telecommunications, computer programming, consultancy and related activities, data processing, hosting and related activities, web portals, and repair of computers and communication equipment (UNCTAD, 2015).
ICTSD	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)
IDA	International Development Association (IDA)
IDCs	Island Developing Countries (IDCs)
IFFs	Illicit financial flows (IFFs) are defined as financial flows that are illicit in origin, transfer or use, that reflect an exchange of value and that cross country borders. The four main types of activities that can generate IFFs include: 1) tax and commercial activities; 2) illegal markets; 3) corruption; and 4) exploitation-type activities and financing of crime and terrorism (UNCTAD and UNODC, 2020).
ILO	International Labour Organization (ILO)
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Inbound tourism	Inbound tourism comprises the activities of a non-resident visitor within the country of reference on an inbound tourism trip (United Nations, 2010, para. 2.39).
Inbound tourism expenditure	Inbound tourism expenditure is the tourism expenditure of a non-resident visitor within the economy of reference (United Nations, 2010, para 4.15 (b)).
Industrial production	Industrial production, or industry includes in ISIC Rev. 3 mining and quarrying (ISIC C), manufacturing (ISIC D), electricity, gas and water supply (ISIC E) and construction (ISIC F) (UNCTAD, 2021a).
Informal employment	Informal employment comprises persons who in their main or secondary jobs were own-account workers, employers and members of producers' cooperatives; own-account workers engaged in the production of goods exclusively for own final use by their household; contributing family workers; and employees holding informal jobs. The criteria used are based on employment status, institutional sector, destination of production, bookkeeping, registration, social security contribution, places of work and size. (ILO, 2020)
International tourism	International tourism comprises inbound tourism and outbound tourism, i.e., the activities of resident visitors outside the country of reference, either as part of domestic or outbound tourism trips and the activities of non-resident visitors within the country of reference on inbound tourism trips (United Nations, 2010, para. 2.40(c)).
IRTS	International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics (IRTS)
ISIC	International standard industrial classification of all economic activities
ITU	International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

## K-M

km <sup>2</sup>	Square kilometre (km <sup>2</sup> )
Labour force participation rate	Labour force participation rate is defined as the ratio of the labour force to the working age population. It is a measure of the extent of an economy's working-age population that is economically active. It provides an indication of the relative size of the supply of labour available to produce goods and services. The breakdown of the labour force by sex and age group gives a profile of the distribution of the economically active population within a country. (ILO, 2016)
LCSI	Liner shipping connectivity index/indices (LSCI) measure the relative position of a country/pair of countries/port in global container shipping networks. This position has important implications for trade competitiveness.
LDCs	Least developed countries (LDCs) are low-income countries confronting severe structural impediments to sustainable development. They are highly vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks and have low levels of human assets (UN DESA, 2021).
LLDC	Landlocked least developed countries (LLDC)
LNG	Liquefied natural gas (LNG)
LPG	Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)
LSBCI	Liner shipping bilateral connectivity index (LSBCI)
M49 classification	M49 classification provides Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use (Series M, No. 49). It is a standard used by the United Nations for statistical purposes, developed and maintained by UNSD.
Manufacturing	Manufacturing can broadly be understood as "the physical or chemical transformation of materials, substances, or components into new products" (United Nations, 2008), consisting of section D in ISIC Rev. 3 (United Nations, 1990).
MFN	Most Favoured Nation (MFN)
mm	millimetre (mm)
MMT	Million Metric Tons (MMT)
Monthly earnings of employees	Monthly earnings of employees relate to the gross remuneration in cash and in kind paid to employees, at regular intervals, for time worked or work done together with remuneration for time not worked, such as annual vacation, other type of paid leave or holidays (ILO, 2016).
MVA	Manufacturing value added (MVA) is the net-output of all resident manufacturing activity units. It is obtained by adding up their outputs and subtracting intermediate inputs (United Nations, 2020).

## N-P

Non-communicable diseases	Non-communicable diseases, also known as chronic diseases, tend to be of long duration and are the result of a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental and behaviours factors (WHO, 2021c).
Obesity	Obesity for adults is defined as a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 30. Globally, 13 per cent were obese in 2016 (WHO, 2021a).
Oceans economy	Oceans economy is defined as a subset of, and complement to, the evolving development paradigm emphasizing greener and more sustainable and inclusive economic paths (UNCTAD, 2021b).
ODA	Official Development Assistance (ODA) are resource flows to countries and territories which are: (a) undertaken by the official sector; (b) with promotion of economic development and welfare as the main objective; (c) at concessional financial terms (implying a minimum grant element depending on the recipient country and the type of loan). In addition to financial flows, technical co-operation is also included (OECD, 2020a).
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
Old-age dependency ratio	Old-age dependency ratio is defined as the number of older persons per hundred persons of working age (15 – 64 years old). (UNCTAD, 2021a)
Other business services	Other business services cover research and development, professional and management consulting, and technical, trade-related, and other business services (IMF, 2009a).
Other service activities	Other service activities are the activities covered by the divisions J to P of ISIC, thus: financial intermediation (J); real estate, renting and business activities (K); public administration and defense, compulsory social security (L); education (M); health and social work (N); other community social and personal service activities (O); and activities of private households as employers and undifferentiated production activities of private households (P) (United Nations, 2002).
Outbound tourism	Outbound tourism comprises the activities of a resident visitor outside the country of reference, either as part of an outbound tourism trip or as part of a domestic tourism trip (United Nations, 2010, para. 2.39(c)).
Outbound tourism expenditure	Outbound tourism expenditure is the tourism expenditure of a resident visitor outside the economy of reference (United Nations, 2010, para. para. 4.15(c)).
Overweight	Overweight for adults is defined as a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 25. Globally, over 39 per cent of adults were overweight in 2016 (WHO, 2021d).
Paris Climate Agreement	Paris Climate Agreement is an agreement within the UNFCCC aiming is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further, to 1.5°C. It aims to strengthen countries' ability to deal with the impacts of climate change. To reach these ambitious goals, appropriate financial flows, a new technology framework and an enhanced capacity building framework are intended to support developing countries, in line with their national objectives (UNFCCC, 2016).
PCI	Productive Capacities Index (PCI) is a multidimensional composite index that measures productive capacities of economies by using eight categories: natural and human capital, energy, institutions, private sector, structural change, transport and information, and communication technologies, which together yield the multidimensional productive capacity index. The choice of indicators to measure productive capacity is based on the UNCTAD (2006) definition and the availability of comparable data.
Personal remittances	Personal remittances comprise (1) compensation of employees, defined as the income of workers employed in an economy where they are not resident and of residents employed by non-resident employers; and (2) personal (current) transfers, defined as current transfers in kind or in cash, between resident and non-resident households (IMF, 2009b).
PNG	Private nonguaranteed external debt (PNG) comprises long-term external obligations of private debtors that are not guaranteed for repayment by a public entity.
Poverty line	Poverty line is an income level that is considered minimally sufficient to sustain a family in terms of food, housing, clothing, medical needs, and so on (Shim and Siegel, 1995). The international poverty line is set at \$1.90 using 2011 prices (World Bank, 2021c).
PPG	Public and publicly guaranteed (PPG) debt comprises long-term external obligations of public debtors, including the national government, Public Corporations, State Owned Enterprises, Development Banks and Other Mixed Enterprises, political subdivisions (or an agency of either), autonomous public bodies, and external obligations of private debtors that are guaranteed for repayment by a public entity.
PPP	Purchasing power parity (PPP)
Primary commodities	Primary commodities are goods where all, or almost all, of the value-added during production has been generated by the primary sectors of the economy i.e. primary commodities are largely unprocessed or unrefined. (UNCTAD, 2018a)
Primary education	Primary education provides learning and educational activities typically designed to provide students with fundamental skills in reading, writing and mathematics (i.e. literacy and numeracy), and to establish a sound foundation for learning and solid understanding of core areas of knowledge and personal development, preparing for lower secondary education. It aims at learning at a basic level of complexity with little if any specialisation (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020).
Productive capacity	Productive capacity, is a concept developed by UNCTAD based on three dimensions: the productive resources, the entrepreneurial capabilities and production linkages which together determine the capacity of a country to produce goods and services and enable it to grow and develop (UNCTAD, 2006).
Pupil-teacher ratio	Pupil-teacher ratio measures pupils' access to trained teachers and, thus, the quality of education and the allocation of human resources for it.

## Q-S

R&D	Research and development (R&D)
RCA	Revealed comparative advantage (RCA) is based on Ricardian trade theory, which posits that patterns of trade among countries are governed by their relative differences in productivity. Although such productivity differences are difficult to observe, an RCA metric can be readily calculated using trade data to "reveal" such differences. While the metric can be used to provide a general indication and first approximation of a country's competitive export strengths, it should be noted that applied national measures which affect competitiveness such as tariffs, non-tariff measures, subsidies and others are not taken into account in the RCA metric. (UNCTAD, 2021c)
SAMOA pathway	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway is an international framework that was developed as the outcome of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS Conference) held on 1-4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa (UN-OHRLLS, 2014).
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
SDSN	Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
Secondary education	Secondary education provides learning and educational activities building on primary education and preparing for both first labour market entry as well as post-secondary non-tertiary and tertiary education. Broadly speaking, secondary education aims at learning at an intermediate level of complexity. ISCED distinguishes lower and upper secondary education (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020).
SEEA	System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA)
Service sector	Service sector includes according to ISIC Rev. 3 G-P: wholesale, retail trade, restaurants and hotels (ISIC G-H), transport, storage and communications (ISIC I) and other activities (ISIC J-P) (United Nations, 2002).
Servitization	Servitization is the process whereby the relative importance of service offerings from a business unit increases, leading to a greater service business orientation. It refers to the process where the production and sale of a product is increasingly bundled with services such as leasing and other financial services, maintenance and repair, training, customer support agreements and outcome contracts. From the point of view of measurement, this means that an increasing share of value added originates from service activities, possibly leading to a classification of an establishment as a service provider. (see Kowalkowski et al., 2017; and Baines et al., 2017)
Ship ownership	Ship ownership refers to "Beneficial Ownership Location": it indicates the economy in which the company that has the main commercial responsibility for the vessel is located (Clarksons, 2021).
Ship registration	Ship registration refers to mechanism for establishing a ship's nationality and for regulating shipping (International Maritime Organization, 2021). In 2020, 56 per cent of the beneficially owned fleet was registered under a foreign flag (UNCTAD, 2020d).
Short-term debt	Short-term debt includes all debt having an original maturity of one year or less and interest in arrears on long-term debt.
SIDS	small island developing States (SIDS) were recognized as a distinct group of developing countries at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. More information on <a href="#">UNCTAD official page</a> .
SIDVS	Small island developing and vulnerable states (SIDVS)
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)
SIVS	Small island vulnerable states (SIVS)
SMEs	Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs)
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)
SSF	Small States Forum (SSF)
Structural transformation	Structural transformation can be broadly defined as the reallocation of economic activity across three broad sectors, agriculture, manufacturing and services, which accompanies the process of economic growth. (Kuznets, 1966) It usually refers to the transfer or shift of production factors — especially labour, capital and land — away from activities and sectors with low productivity to those with higher productivity, which are typically different in location, organization and technology (UNCTAD, 2006; Rodrik, 2013)
Subsistence economy	Subsistence economy is an economy directed to basic subsistence (the provision of food, clothing, shelter) rather than to the market.

## T-V

Taper tantrum	Taper tantrum refers to the 2013 collective panic that triggered a spike in treasury yields in the United States of America, after investors learned of Federal Reserve's plans to wind down the program, known as quantitative easing (Reuters, 2019).
TBT	Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)
TEU	Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit (TEU) represent the volume of standard 20-feet long intermodal container units.
Total net enrolment rate	Total net enrolment rate : Total number of students of the official age group for a given level of education who are enrolled in any level of education, expressed as a percentage of the corresponding population. The purpose of the indicator is to measure the actual school participation of official school age population for the given level of education. (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020).
Total public debt	Total public debt refers to both public external debt (short-term and long-term alike) and public domestic debt.
Tourism	Tourism refers to the activity of visitors (United Nations, 2010, para. 2.9). International tourism expenditure is often approximated by the sum of travel services and transport of passengers, reported under balance of payments statistics (see <a href="#">Trade in services</a> ). Transport of passengers not considered, tourism represents a subset of travel, as some travelers, such as border-workers, travel for regular work, as they are holding employment contracts outside their usual residential environment. Activities of border-workers and similar travelers do not belong under tourism. (United Nations, 2010)
Tourism direct contribution to GDP	Tourism direct contribution to GDP is the part of gross value added (at basic prices) generated by any industry in response to internal tourism consumption plus the amount of net taxes on products and imports included within the value of this expenditure at purchasers' prices (United Nations, 2010). Tourism does not exist as a separate industry in the standard industrial classification but is embedded in various other industries. Thus, tourism direct GDP corresponds to the part of GDP generated by all industries directly in contact with visitors (OECD, 2021).
Tourism expenditure	Tourism expenditure refers to the amount paid for the acquisition of consumption goods and services, as well as valuables, for own use or to give away, for and during tourism trips. It includes expenditures by visitors themselves, as well as expenses that are paid for or reimbursed by others (United Nations, 2010, para. para. 4.2).
Tourism industries	Tourism industries refer to tourism characteristic activities which include those ISIC activities that typically produce tourism characteristic products. These are listed at ISIC 4-digit level in Annex 3 of IRTS. (United Nations, 2010, 2008).
Tourism Satellite Account	Tourism Satellite Account has been developed to present economic data relative to tourism within a framework of internal and external consistency with the rest of the statistical system through its link to the System of National Accounts. It is the basic reconciliation framework of tourism statistics (United Nations, 2010).
Tourism sector	Tourism sector is the cluster of production units in different industries that provide consumption goods and services demanded by visitors. Such industries are called tourism industries because visitor acquisition represents such a significant share of their supply that in the absence of visitors, the production of these would cease to exist in meaningful quantities (UNWTO and ILO, 2014).
trade in services	In the international trade in services context, services are understood as the result of a production activity that changes the conditions of the consuming units or facilitates the exchange of products or financial assets (IMF, 2009a). Following the balance-of-payments classification, trade in services refers to manufacturing services, repair services, transport, travel, construction, telecommunications, computer services, financial services, insurance, intellectual-property related and other business services, as well as personal and cultural services, and government services.
Trade-to-GDP ratio	Trade-to-GDP ratio can be calculated for exports, imports and the sum of exports and imports as percentage of GDP.
Travel services	Within the balance-of-payments classification of services, travel services cover goods and services - for own use or to give away - acquired from an economy by non-residents during visits to that economy. In this context, travel does not include passenger transport. (IMF, 2009a).
TRIPS	Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)
UCL-CRED	Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (UCL-CRED)
UCPI	UNCTAD Commodity Price Index (UCPI)
UN-OHRLLS	United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Unemployment rate	Unemployment rate (as defined by the ILO for international comparison) measures the proportion of the labour force that does not have a job, is available to work and is actively looking for work. The labour force is the sum of the total persons employed and unemployed. The overall unemployment rate for a country is a widely used measure of its unutilized labour supply. (ILO, 2016)
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
Visitor	Visitor is a traveller taking a trip to a main destination outside his/her usual environment, for less than a year, for any main purpose (business, leisure or other personal purpose) other than to be employed by a resident entity in the country or place visited (United Nations, 2010, para. 2.9).

## W-Z

WCED	World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED)
WEF	World Economic Forum
WHO	World Health Organization (WHO)
Women, Business and the Law index	Women, Business and the Law index measures global progress toward gender equality in the law in 190 economies annually. Overall scores are calculated by taking the average score of each of the eight areas: Mobility, workplace, pay, marriage, parenthood, entrepreneurship, assets and pension. 100 represents the highest possible score for gender equality in the law. (World Bank, 2021d)
Working poverty rate	Working poverty rate conveys the percentage of employed persons living in poverty in spite of being employed. Poverty is defined using the international poverty line of US\$1.90 per day in PPP. (OECD, 2020b)
WTO	World Trade Organization (WTO)
WTTC	World Travel and Tourism Council



## References

- Baines T et al. (2017). Servitization: Revisiting the state-of-the-art and research priorities. *International Journal of Operations & Production Management*. 37(2):256–278.
- CDP (2014). The Committee for Development Policy. Available at <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/backgroundnote.pdf> (accessed 25 March 2021).
- Clarksons (2021). Clarksons Research. Available at <https://www.clarksons.com/services/research/>.
- FERDI (2021). Your EVI. Available at <http://byind.ferdi.fr/en/indicator/evi/map/1585c3cf08139bbbc34290423cb82c1ff850de11> (accessed 22 March 2021).
- Guillaumont P (2009). An Economic Vulnerability Index: Its Design and Use for International Development Policy. *Oxford Development Studies*. 37(3):193–228.
- ILO (2016). Key Indicators of the Labour Market. Geneva, 140. (accessed 27 February 2021).
- ILO (2020). ILOstat. Available at <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 28 October 2020).
- IMF (2009a). *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual Sixth Edition (BPM6)*. IMF. Washington, D.C.
- IMF (2009b). *International Transactions in Remittances: Guide for Compilers and Users (RCG)*. IMF. Washington, D.C.
- IMF (2014). *External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users*. IMF. Washington, D.C.
- International Maritime Organization (2021). *Registration of Ships and Fraudulent Registration Matters*. International Maritime Organization. London, United Kingdom.
- ISO (2015). ISO. Available at <https://www.iso.org/cms/render/live/en/sites/isoorg/contents/data/standard/06/19/61932.html> (accessed 25 March 2021).
- Kowalkowski C, Gebauer H, Kamp B and Parry G (2017). Servitization and deservitization: Overview, concepts, and definitions. *Industrial Marketing Management*. 604–10.
- Kuznets S (1966). *Modern Economic Growth*. Yale University Press. New Haven.
- Marine Insight (2021). What is blank sailing. Available at <https://www.marineinsight.com/maritime-law/what-is-blank-sailing/> (accessed 19 March 2021).
- OECD (2003). EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ). Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=884> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- OECD (2020a). DAC glossary of key terms and concepts. Available at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/dac-glossary.htm> (accessed 20 April 2020).
- OECD (2020b). Glossary of statistical terms. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/index.htm> (accessed 11 May 2020).
- OECD (2021). Tourism GDP. Available at <https://data.oecd.org/industry/tourism-gdp.htm> (accessed 22 March 2021).
- Reuters (2019). Key events for the Fed in 2013: the year of the “taper tantrum.” Available at <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-fed-2013-timeline-idUSKCN1P52A8> (accessed 14 February 2021).
- Rodrik D (2013). Unconditional Convergence in Manufacturing. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 128(1):165–204.
- Shim JK and Siegel JG (1995). *Dictionary of Economics*. Business Dictionary Series.
- SOPAC (2004). The Environmental Vulnerability Index (EVI) 2004. SOPAC Technical Report No. 384. South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission. (accessed 17 December 2020).
- UN DESA (2019). World Population Prospects 2019. Available at <https://population.un.org/wpp/> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- UN DESA (2021). Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category.html> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- UN DESA and the United Nations Committee for Development Policy Secretariat (2020). Human Assets Index (HAI). Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category/hai-indicators.html> (accessed 30 October 2020).
- UN Women (2021). Gender Equality Glossary. Available at <https://trainingcentre.unwomen.org/mod/glossary/view.php?id=36> (accessed 1 March 2021).
- UNCTAD, ed. (2006). *The Least Developed Countries Report 2006: Developing Productive Capacities*. United Nations. New York and Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2015). International trade in ICT services and ICT-enabled services: Proposed Indicators from the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development. UNCTAD Technical Notes on ICT for Development No. 3. (accessed 27 January 2021).
- UNCTAD (2017). *World Investment Report 2017: Investment and the Digital Economy*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.17.II.D.3. Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2018a). UNCTAD Commodity Price Index Methodological Note. UNCTAD/STAT/CPB/MN/1. Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2018b). Updating the partnership definition of ICT goods from hs 2012 to hs 2017. UNCTAD Technical Notes on ICT for Development No. 10. (accessed 27 January 2021).
- UNCTAD (2020a). BioTrade Principles and Criteria. Available at <https://unctad.org/topic/trade-and-environment/biotrade/principles-and-criteria> (accessed 10 June 2020).
- UNCTAD (2020b). *Handbook of Statistics 2020*. UNCTAD. Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2020c). Global trade impact of the Corona virus (COVID-19) epidemic. UNCTAD/DITC/INF/2020/1, Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2020d). *Review of Maritime Transport 2020*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.20.II.D.31. New York and Geneva.
- UNCTAD (2021a). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNCTAD (2021b). Oceans Economy and Fisheries. Available at <https://unctad.org/topic/trade-and-environment/oceans-economy> (accessed 11 February 2021).
- UNCTAD (2021c). UNCTADStat. Revealed comparative advantage. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/RcaRadar.html> (accessed 22 March 2021).
- UNCTAD and UNODC (2020). Conceptual framework for the measurement of illicit financial flows. Available at [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/IFF/IFF\\_Conceptual\\_Framework\\_for\\_publication\\_15Oct.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/IFF/IFF_Conceptual_Framework_for_publication_15Oct.pdf) (accessed 30 January 2021).

- UNDP (2020). Human Development Report 2020. The next frontier. Human development and the Anthropocene. Human Development Reports. New York. (accessed 9 February 2021).
- UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2020). Glossary. Available at <http://uis.unesco.org/en/glossary> (accessed 15 March 2021).
- UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021). Available at <http://uis.unesco.org/> (accessed 15 March 2021).
- UNFCCC (2016). Paris Agreement. FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1. Paris. 29 January. (accessed 31 May 2019).
- United Nations (1990). *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 3*. Statistical papers, Vol. M, No. 4. United Nations. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2002). *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 3.1*. Statistical papers, Vol. M, No. 4. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.08.XVII.25. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2008). *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 4*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.08.XVII.25. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2010). *International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics: 2008*. United Nations. New York, NY.
- United Nations (2020). SDG indicators: Metadata repository. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/> (accessed 20 April 2020).
- United Nations, European Commission, IMF, OECD and World Bank (2009). *System of National Accounts 2008*. United Nations publication. Sales No. E.08.XVII.29. New York.
- Universal Cargo (2021). Blank sailing. Available at <https://www.universalcargo.com/what-is-blank-sailing/> (accessed 19 March 2021).
- UN-OHRLLS (2014). SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A.) Pathway. (accessed 25 November 2020).
- UNWTO and ILO (2014). *Measuring Employment in the Tourism Industries: Guide with Best Practices*. Madrid and Geneva.
- WHO (2021a). WHO Statistical databases. Available at <https://www.who.int/nmh/databases/en/> (accessed 10 January 2021).
- WHO (2021b). Global Health Expenditure database. Available at <https://apps.who.int/nha/database> (accessed 3 March 2021).
- WHO (2021c). Noncommunicable diseases. Available at [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/noncommunicable-diseases#:~:text=Noncommunicable%20diseases%20\(NCDs\)%2C%20also,physiological%2C%20environmental%20and%20behaviours%20factors](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/noncommunicable-diseases#:~:text=Noncommunicable%20diseases%20(NCDs)%2C%20also,physiological%2C%20environmental%20and%20behaviours%20factors). (accessed 4 June 2020).
- WHO (2021d). Body mass index. Available at <https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/disease-prevention/nutrition/a-healthy-lifestyle/body-mass-index-bmi#:~:text=BMI%2C%20formerly%20called%20the%20Quetelet,have%20a%20BMI%20of%2022.9>. (accessed 21 January 2021).
- World Bank (2021a). Enterprise surveys. Available at <https://www.enterprisesurveys.org/en/enterprisesurveys> (accessed 2 March 2021).
- World Bank (2021b). World Development Indicators. Available at <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- World Bank (2021c). Poverty. Understanding Poverty. Available at <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/overview> (accessed 30 March 2021).
- World Bank (2021d). Women, Business and the Law 2021. Available at <https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/reports> (accessed 1 March 2021).



Printed at United Nations, Geneva  
2118678 (E) – December 2021 – 837

**UNCTAD/GDS/2021/2**

United Nations publication  
Sales No. E.21.II.D.22

ISBN 978-92-1-113028-7

