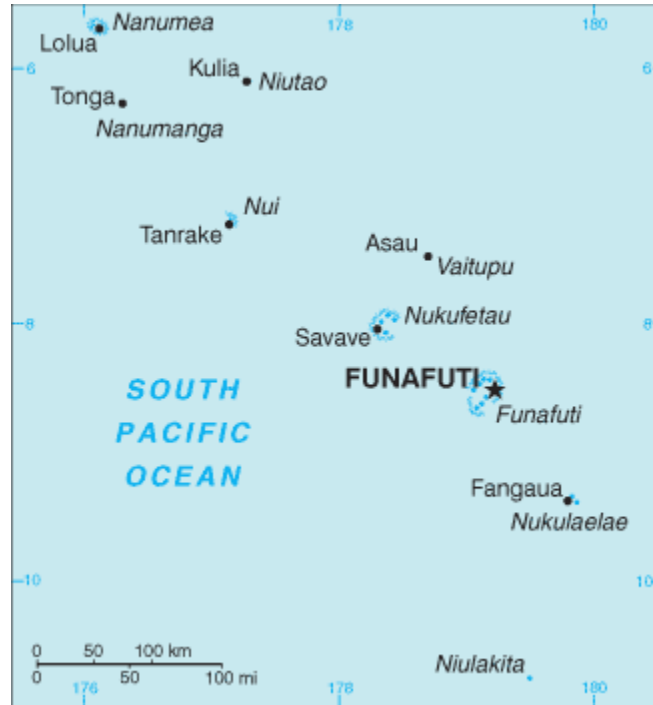


The World Factbook

Tuvalu



Introduction Tuvalu

Background: In 1974, ethnic differences within the British colony of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands caused the Polynesians of the Ellice Islands to vote for separation from the Micronesians of the Gilbert Islands. The following year, the Ellice Islands became the separate British colony of Tuvalu. Independence was granted in 1978. In 2000, Tuvalu negotiated a contract leasing its Internet domain name ".tv" for \$50 million in royalties over the next dozen years.

Geography Tuvalu

Location: Oceania, island group consisting of nine coral atolls in the South Pacific Ocean, about one-half of the way from Hawaii to Australia

Geographic coordinates: 8 00 S, 178 00 E

Map references: Oceania

Area: *total:* 26 sq km
water: 0 sq km
land: 26 sq km

Area - comparative: 0.1 times the size of Washington, DC

Land boundaries:	0 km
Coastline:	24 km
Maritime claims:	<i>contiguous zone:</i> 24 NM <i>territorial sea:</i> 12 NM <i>exclusive economic zone:</i> 200 NM
Climate:	tropical; moderated by easterly trade winds (March to November); westerly gales and heavy rain (November to March)
Terrain:	very low-lying and narrow coral atolls
Elevation extremes:	<i>lowest point:</i> Pacific Ocean 0 m <i>highest point:</i> unnamed location 5 m
Natural resources:	fish
Land use:	<i>arable land:</i> 0% <i>permanent crops:</i> 0% <i>other:</i> 100% (1998 est.)
Irrigated land:	NA sq km
Natural hazards:	severe tropical storms are usually rare, but, in 1997, there were three cyclones; low level of islands make them very sensitive to changes in sea level
Environment - current issues:	since there are no streams or rivers and groundwater is not potable, most water needs must be met by catchment systems with storage facilities (the Japanese Government has built one desalination plant and plans to build one other); beachhead erosion because of the use of sand for building materials; excessive clearance of forest undergrowth for use as fuel; damage to coral reefs from the spread of the Crown of Thorns starfish; Tuvalu is very concerned about global increases in greenhouse gas emissions and their effect on rising sea levels, which threaten the country's underground water table; in 2000, the government appealed to Australia and New Zealand to take in Tuvaluans if rising sea levels should make evacuation necessary
Environment - international agreements:	<i>party to:</i> Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution <i>signed, but not ratified:</i> Biodiversity, Law of the Sea
Geography - note:	one of the smallest and most remote countries on Earth; six of the coral atolls - Nanumea, Nui, Vaitupu, Nukufetau, Funafuti, and Nukulaelae - have lagoons open to the ocean; Nanumaya and Niutao have landlocked lagoons; Niulakita does not have a lagoon
People	Tuvalu
Population:	11,305 (July 2003 est.)
Age structure:	<i>0-14 years:</i> 31.9% (male 1,838; female 1,772)

15-64 years: 63% (male 3,432; female 3,687)
65 years and over: 5.1% (male 231; female 345) (2003 est.)

Median age: *total: 24.2 years*
male: 22.9 years
female: 25.8 years (2002)

Population growth rate: 1.42% (2003 est.)

Birth rate: 21.58 births/1,000 population (2003 est.)

Death rate: 7.34 deaths/1,000 population (2003 est.)

Net migration rate: 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2003 est.)

Sex ratio: *at birth: 1.05 male(s)/female*
under 15 years: 1.04 male(s)/female
15-64 years: 0.93 male(s)/female
65 years and over: 0.67 male(s)/female
total population: 0.95 male(s)/female (2003 est.)

Infant mortality rate: *total: 21.34 deaths/1,000 live births*
female: 18.18 deaths/1,000 live births (2003 est.)
male: 24.35 deaths/1,000 live births

Life expectancy at birth: *total population: 67.32 years*
male: 65.15 years
female: 69.59 years (2003 est.)

Total fertility rate: 3.05 children born/woman (2003 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: NA%

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS: NA

HIV/AIDS - deaths: NA

Nationality: *noun: Tuvaluan(s)*
adjective: Tuvaluan

Ethnic groups: Polynesian 96%, Micronesian 4%

Religions: Church of Tuvalu (Congregationalist) 97%, Seventh-Day Adventist 1.4%, Baha'i 1%, other 0.6%

Languages: Tuvaluan, English, Samoan, Kiribati (on the island of Nui)

Literacy: *definition: NA%*
total population: NA%
male: NA%

female: NA%

Government Tuvalu

- Country name:** *conventional long form*: none
conventional short form: Tuvalu
note: "Tuvalu" means "group of eight," referring to the country's eight traditionally inhabited islands
former: Ellice Islands
- Government type:** constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary democracy; began debating republic status in 1992
- Capital:** Funafuti
- Administrative divisions:** none
- Independence:** 1 October 1978 (from UK)
- National holiday:** Independence Day, 1 October (1978)
- Constitution:** 1 October 1978
- Legal system:** NA
- Suffrage:** 18 years of age; universal
- Executive branch:** *chief of state*: Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952), represented by Governor General Faimalaga LUKA (since 9 September 2003)
elections: the monarch is hereditary; governor general appointed by the monarch on the recommendation of the prime minister; prime minister and deputy prime minister elected by and from the members of Parliament; election last held 2 August 2002 (next to be held NA)
election results: Saufatu SOPOANGA elected prime minister; Parliamentary vote - Saufatu SOPOANGA 8, Amasone KILEI 7
cabinet: Cabinet appointed by the governor general on the recommendation of the prime minister
head of government: Prime Minister Saufatu SOPOANGA (since 2 August 2002)
- Legislative branch:** unicameral Parliament or Fale I Fono, also called House of Assembly (15 seats; members elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms)
elections: last held 25 July 2002 (next to be held NA 2006)
election results: percent of vote - NA%; seats - independents 15
- Judicial branch:** High Court (a chief justice visits twice a year to preside over its sessions; its rulings can be appealed to the Court of Appeal in Fiji); eight Island Courts (with limited jurisdiction)
- Political parties and leaders:** there are no political parties but members of Parliament usually align themselves in informal groupings
- Political** none

**pressure
groups and
leaders:**

International organization participation: ACP, AsDB, C, ESCAP, IFRC (associate), ITU, Sparteca, SPC, SPF, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UPU, WHO, WTrO (applicant)

Diplomatic representation in the US: Tuvalu does not have an embassy in the US - the country's only diplomatic post is in Fiji - Tuvalu does, however, have a UN office located at 800 2nd Avenue, Suite 400D, New York, New York 10017, telephone: [1] (212) 490-0534

Diplomatic representation from the US: the US does not have an embassy in Tuvalu; the US ambassador to Fiji is accredited to Tuvalu

Flag description: light blue with the flag of the UK in the upper hoist-side quadrant; the outer half of the flag represents a map of the country with nine yellow five-pointed stars symbolizing the nine islands

Economy Tuvalu

Economy - overview: Tuvalu consists of a densely populated, scattered group of nine coral atolls with poor soil. The country has no known mineral resources and few exports. Subsistence farming and fishing are the primary economic activities. Fewer than 1,000 tourists, on average, visit Tuvalu annually. Government revenues largely come from the sale of stamps and coins and worker remittances. About 1,000 Tuvaluans work in Nauru in the phosphate mining industry. Nauru has begun repatriating Tuvaluans, however, as phosphate resources decline. Substantial income is received annually from an international trust fund established in 1987 by Australia, NZ, and the UK and supported also by Japan and South Korea. Thanks to wise investments and conservative withdrawals, this Fund has grown from an initial \$17 million to over \$35 million in 1999. The US government is also a major revenue source for Tuvalu, because of payments from a 1988 treaty on fisheries. In an effort to reduce its dependence on foreign aid, the government is pursuing public sector reforms, including privatization of some government functions and personnel cuts of up to 7%. In 1998, Tuvalu began deriving revenue from use of its area code for "900" lines and in 2000, from the lease of its ".tv" Internet domain name. Royalties from these new technology sources could increase substantially over the next decade. With merchandise exports only a fraction of merchandise imports, continued reliance must be placed on fishing and telecommunications license fees, remittances from overseas workers, official transfers, and investment income from overseas assets.

GDP: purchasing power parity - \$12.2 million (2000 est.)

GDP - real growth rate: 3% (2000 est.)

GDP - per capita: purchasing power parity - \$1,100 (2000 est.)

GDP - composition by sector:	<i>agriculture: NA%</i> <i>industry: NA%</i> <i>services: NA%</i>
Population below poverty line:	NA%
Household income or consumption by percentage share:	<i>lowest 10%: NA%</i> <i>highest 10%: NA%</i>
Inflation rate (consumer prices):	5% (2000 est.)
Labor force:	7,000 (2001 est.)
Labor force - by occupation:	people make a living mainly through exploitation of the sea, reefs, and atolls and from wages sent home by those abroad (mostly workers in the phosphate industry and sailors)
Unemployment rate:	NA%
Budget:	<i>revenues: \$22.5 million</i> <i>expenditures: \$11.2 million, including capital expenditures of \$4.2 million (2000 est.)</i>
Industries:	fishing, tourism, copra
Industrial production growth rate:	NA%
Electricity - production by source:	<i>fossil fuel: NA%</i> <i>hydro: NA%</i> <i>nuclear: NA%</i> <i>other: NA%</i>
Agriculture - products:	coconuts; fish
Exports:	\$276,000 f.o.b. (1997)
Exports - commodities:	copra, fish
Exports - partners:	UK 58.3%, Italy 16.7%, Denmark 8.3%, Fiji 8.3% (2002)
Imports:	\$7.2 million c.i.f. (1998)
Imports - commodities:	food, animals, mineral fuels, machinery, manufactured goods
Imports -	Hungary 68.2%, Japan 12.9%, Fiji 11.9% (2002)

partners:**Debt - external:** \$NA**Economic aid - recipient:** \$13 million ; note - major donors are Australia, Japan, and the US (1999 est.)**Currency:** Australian dollar (AUD); note - there is also a Tuvaluan dollar**Currency code:** AUD**Exchange rates:** Tuvaluan dollars or Australian dollars per US dollar - 1.8406 (2002), 1.9320 (2001), 1.7173 (2000), 1.5497 (1999), 1.5888 (1998)**Fiscal year:** calendar year**Communications Tuvalu****Telephones - main lines in use:** 1,000 (1997)**Telephones - mobile cellular:** 0 (1994)**Telephone system:** *general assessment:* serves particular needs for internal communications
domestic: radiotelephone communications between islands
international: NA**Radio broadcast stations:** AM 1, FM 0, shortwave 0 (1999)**Radios:** 4,000 (1997)**Television broadcast stations:** 0 (1997)**Televisions:** 800**Internet country code:** .tv**Internet Service Providers (ISPs):** 1 (2000)**Internet users:** NA**Transportation Tuvalu****Railways:** 0 km**Highways:** *total:* 8 km
paved: 0 km
unpaved: 8 km (1999 est.)**Waterways:** none

Ports and harbors: Funafuti, Nukufetau

Merchant marine: *total:* 4 ships (1,000 GRT or over) 33,199 GRT/56,187 DWT
note: includes some foreign-owned ships registered here as a flag of convenience: Germany 5 (2002 est.)
ships by type: cargo 2, passenger/cargo 1, petroleum tanker 1

Airports: 1 (2002)

Airports - with unpaved runways: *total:* 1
1,524 to 2,437 m: 1 (2002)

Military Tuvalu

Military branches: no regular military forces; Police Force (includes Maritime Surveillance Unit for search and rescue missions and surveillance operations)

Military expenditures - dollar figure: \$NA

Military expenditures - percent of GDP: NA%

Transnational Issues Tuvalu

Disputes - international: none

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