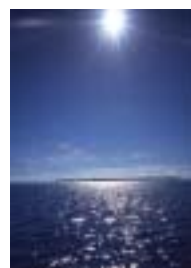


Maldives



1. General Information

Population ^{*1}	310,764 (July 2001 est.)
Population density ^{*1} [km ²]	1,035
Languages ^{*1}	Maldivian Dhivehi (dialect of Sinhala, script derived from Arabic), English spoken by most government officials
Ethnic Groups ^{*1}	South Indians, Sinhalese, Arabs
Climate ^{*1}	tropical; hot, humid; dry, northeast monsoon (November to March); rainy, southwest monsoon (June to August)
Land Area ^{*1} [km ²]	300

Comments for General information ^{*1}

The Maldives were long a sultanate, first under Dutch and then under British protection. They became a republic in 1968, three years after independence. Tourism and fishing are being developed on the archipelago.

2. Economy

GDP ^{*1} [US\$]	594 million (2000 est.)	
GDP-per capita ^{*1} [US\$]	2,000 (2000 est.)	
Imports ^{*1} [US\$]	372 million (f.o.b., 2000 est.)	
	consumer goods, intermediate and capital goods, petroleum products	
Exports ^{*1} [US\$]	88 million (f.o.b., 2000 est.)	
	fish, clothing	
Composition of Industry ^{*1} (Ratio to GDP)	Agriculture & Fishery [%]	20 (2000)
	Industry [%]	18 (2000)
	Service [%]	62 (2000)

Comments for Economy ^{*1}

Tourism, Maldives largest industry, accounts for 20% of GDP and more than 60% of the Maldives' foreign exchange receipts. Over 90% of government tax revenue comes from import duties and tourism-related taxes. Almost 400,000 tourists visited the islands in 1998. Fishing is a second leading sector. The Maldivian Government began an economic reform program in 1989 initially by lifting import quotas and opening some exports to the private sector. Subsequently, it has liberalized regulations to allow more foreign investment. Agriculture and manufacturing continue to play a minor role in the economy, constrained by the limited availability of cultivable land and the shortage of domestic labor. Most staple foods must be imported. Industry, which consists mainly of garment production, boat building, and handicrafts, accounts for about 18% of GDP. Maldivian authorities worry about the impact of erosion and possible global warming on their low-lying country; 80% of the area is one meter or less above sea level.

3. Energy

Electricity ^{*1}	Electricity production [kWh]		101 million (1999)
	Electricity consumption [kWh]		93.9 million (1999)
	Electricity - production by source		Fossil fuel: 100%; hydro: 0%; nuclear: 0%; Other: 0% (1999)
Energy Resources ^{*2}	Production	Oil	0 (ton)
		Coal	NA
		Gas	NA
	Consumption	Oil	100,000 (ton)
		Coal	NA
		Gas	NA

Comments for Energy ^{*4}

Economy of Maldives mainly depends on the tourism. To promote the tourism more as the important source of foreign exchange within the context of the sustainable development, it is necessary to develop and utilize the renewable energy. In addition, “Self sufficient Island by the renewable energy” or “the challenge to the global warming” can be the most attractive copy for the tourists from the developed countries.

4. Water

Precipitation ^{*3}	1972.3 mm
Internal renewable Water Resources ^{*3}	0
Population with Access to Improved Water Supply ^{*3}	100 %

Total Water Withdraw ^{*3}	NA	Industry [%]	1
		Domestic [%]	99
		Agriculture [%]	0

Comments for Water^{*4}

The comments for water are the following:

- Depletion of freshwater aquifers threatens water supplies
- Huge and growing population is overstraining natural resources
- Inadequate facilities for disposal of solid waste.

5. Environment and Population

CO ₂ Emission ^{*5}	Total metric tons	286 (thousand tons of carbon) (1995)
	Metric tons per capita	0.001 (thousand tons of carbon) (1995)

Sea Level^{*1}

Low level of islands makes them very sensitive to changes in sea level. The comments for Sea Level Rise are the following:

- Coastal erosion
- Salt water intrusion into freshwater aquifers
- Degradation of water quality

Comments for Environment^{*1}

The comments for environment are the following:

- Deforestation
- Soil erosion

References

- *1 <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook>
- *2 <http://www.eia.doe.gov>
- *3 <http://www.geodata.grid.unep.ch>
- *4 Energy and Sustainable Development – Pacific Regional Submission to the 9th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD9)-
- *5 <http://www.unescap.org/stat/statdata/>

Information

HP: <http://www.visitmaldives.com/htm>