

# Republic of Marshall Islands



## 1. General Information

Population <sup>*1</sup>	70,822 (July 2001)
Population Density [./km <sup>2</sup> ] <sup>*1</sup>	391 (July 2001)
Languages <sup>*1</sup>	English (universally spoken and is the official language), two major Marshallese dialects from the Malayo-Polynesian family, Japanese
Ethnic Groups <sup>*1</sup>	Micronesian
Climate <sup>*1</sup>	Wet season from May to November; hot and humid; islands border typhoon belt
Land Area [km <sup>2</sup> ] <sup>*1</sup>	181.3

### Comments for General information <sup>\*1</sup>

After almost four decades under US administration as the easternmost part of the UN Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Marshall Islands attained independence in 1986 under a Compact of Free Association. Compensation claims continue as a result of US nuclear testing on some of the islands between 1947 and 1962. There are two archipelagic island chains of 30 atolls and 1,152 islands in Marshall Islands, Bikini and Enewetak are former US nuclear test sites. Kwajalein, the famous World War II battleground, is now used as a US missile test range. The government type of Marshall Islands is constitutional government in free association with the US. US Government assistance is the mainstay of this tiny island economy.

## 2. Economy

GDP [US\$] <sup>*1</sup>	105 million (1998)
GDP-per capita [US\$] <sup>*1</sup>	1,670 (1998)
Imports [US\$] <sup>*1</sup>	58 million (1997)

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	Foodstuffs, machinery and equipment, fuels, beverages and tobacco	
Exports [US\$] <sup>*1</sup>	28 million (1997)	
	Fish, coconut oil, trochus shells	
Composition of Sector (Ratio to GDP) <sup>*1</sup>	Agriculture & Fishery [%]	15% (1995)
	Industry [%]	13% (1995)
	Service [%]	72% (1995)

Comments for Economy <sup>\*1</sup>

Agricultural production is concentrated on small farms, and the most important commercial crops are coconuts, tomatoes, melons, and breadfruit. Small-scale industry is handicrafts, fish processing, and copra. The tourist industry, now a source of foreign exchange employing about 10% of the labor force, which is the best hope for future added income.

3. Energy

Electricity	Electricity production [kWh] <sup>*1</sup>		57 million (1999)
	Electricity consumption [kWh] <sup>*1</sup>		57 million (1999)
	Electricity <sup>*1</sup> - production by source		Fossil fuel:100%; hydro: 0%; nuclear: 0%; other: 0% (1995)
Energy Resources	Production <sup>*1</sup>	Oil	0
		Coal	0
		Gas	0
	Consumption <sup>*1</sup>	Oil	NA
		Coal	NA
		Gas	NA

Comments for Energy <sup>\*1</sup>

To promote the tourist industry as the important source of foreign exchange, the development of renewable energy is clue to supply enough energy to the facilities without imported fossil fuels. In addition, it is better to install the power generation system with renewable energy if additional desalination system will be considered because independent from the fossil fuel is also key issue for this country. And also, the challenge to the global warming by themselves is also important key to this region in future.

4. Water

Precipitation <sup>*3</sup>	2,750.3 mm (Average from 1961 to 1990)
Internal renewable Water Resources	NA

Population with Access to Improved Water Supply <sup>*4</sup>		Urban:76% Rural: 2%	
Total Water Withdrawl	NA	Industry [%]	NA
		Domestic [%]	NA
		Agriculture [%]	NA

#### Comments for Water <sup>\*5</sup>

Main water resources are the rainwater, ground water and fresh water from the RO desalination system. Several water conservation efforts are made such as the rainwater catchments system for the houses and offices, airport rainwater collection system and so on. RO desalination units are equipped in major city area. The water quality of these systems is fairly passes WHO water quality standard. However, the residents need lower salinity level for the drinking water. Major issue in Marshall Island is huge gape between urban area and outer islands in term with quality and quantity of water. Almost 100 % of residents in urban area are supplied the portable water by the water supply system. On the other hand, only 20 % of residents in rural area receive these services.

### 5. Environment and Pollution

CO <sub>2</sub> Emission	Total metric tons	NA
	Metric tons per capita	NA

#### Comments for Environment <sup>\*5</sup>

Marshall Island is very concerned about global increases in greenhouse gas emissions and their effect on rising sea levels, which threaten the country's underground water lens. Water pollution due to incompleteness of sewage disposal makes the situation more serious.

#### References

- \*1 <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook>
- \*2 <http://www.eia.doe.gov>
- \*3 <http://geodata.grid.unep.ch>
- \*4 Development Co-operation South Pacific 1991/1992 Report, UNDP, 1995.9
- \*5 Encyclopedia of World Geography

#### Information

<http://www.rmiembassyus.org>