

Republic of Nauru



1. General Information

Population ^{*1}	12,088 (July 2001 est.)
Population density [/km ²] ^{*1}	575.62
Languages ^{*1}	Nauruan (official, a distinct Pacific Island language), English widely understood, spoken, and used for most government and commercial purposes
Ethnic Groups ^{*1}	Nauruan 58%, other Pacific Islander 26%, Chinese 8%, European 8%
Climate ^{*1}	Tropical marine; only slight seasonal temperature variation
Land Area [km ²] ^{*1}	21

Comments for General Information ^{*1}

Nauru's phosphate deposits began to be mined early in the 20th century by a German-British consortium; the island was occupied by Australian forces in World War I. Upon achieving independence in 1968, Nauru became the smallest independent republic in the world. It is an isolated, uplifted limestone island located 41 km south of the equator. It joined the UN in 1999.

2. Economy

GDP [US\$] ^{*1}	59 million (purchasing power parity, 2000)	
GDP-per capita [US\$] ^{*1}	5,000 (purchasing power parity, 2000)	
Imports [US\$] ^{*1}	21.1 million (1991)	
Exports [US\$] ^{*1}	Food, fuel, manufactures, building materials, machinery	
	25.3 million (1991)	
Composition of Sector ^{*1} (Ratio to GDP)	Agriculture & Fishery [%]	NA
	Industry [%]	NA
	Service [%]	NA

Comments for Economy ^{*1}

Revenues of this tiny island have come from exports of phosphates, but reserves are expected to be exhausted within five to ten years. Phosphate production has declined since 1989, as demand has fallen in traditional markets and as the marginal cost of extracting the remaining phosphate increases, making it less internationally competitive. While phosphates have given Nauruans one of the highest per capita incomes in the Third World, few other resources exist with most necessities being imported, including fresh water from Australia.

3. Energy

Electricity	Electricity production [kWh] ^{*1}		30 million (1999)
	Electricity consumption [kWh] ^{*1}		27.9 million (1999)
	Electricity - production by source ^{*1}		Fossil fuel: 100%; hydro: 0%; nuclear: 0%; other: 0% (1999)
Energy Resources	Production ^{*2}	Oil	0
		Coal	0
		Gas	0
	Consumption ^{*2}	Oil	1 (thousand barrels per day)
		Coal	0
		Gas	0

Comments for Energy ^{*5}

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 and to be independent on imported fossil fuels. And also, the challenge to the global warming by themselves is also important to this region in future. In case that the additional desalination system is considered as the next countermeasure against the serious water shortage, it is better to install the power generation system with renewable energy for the desalination system because independence from the fossil fuel is also key issue for the sustainable development.

4. Water

Precipitation ^{*3}		2445.1 mm	
Internal Renewable Water Resources ^{*3}		NA	
Population with Access to Improved Water Supply ^{*3}		NA	
Total Water Withdrawal ^{*3}	NA	Industry [%]	NA
		Domestic [%]	NA
		Agriculture [%]	NA

Comments for Water ^{*4}

Apart from Buada Lagoon, a landlocked, slightly brackish, freshwater lake, there are no surface

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freshwater resources on Nauru. The only significant permanent freshwater resource is groundwater in the form of a “ lens” of often slightly brackish freshwater. The height of the freshwater lens above sea level and the level of salinity vary in relation to the elevation, geology, texture and shape of the island, and with the amount of water use and rainfall. A modern desalination plant has been commissioned by NPC, using the waste heat generated from the power station. This is the island’s current supply of water.

The biggest problem the island faces at present is water shortage:

- No proper sewage treatment and increasing pollution
- Lack of proper environment legislation and policies

Therefore proper legislation and policies for sanitation standards should be developed to properly seal waste from water table.

5. Environment and Pollution

CO ₂ Emission	Total metric tons	NA	
	Metric tons per capita	NA	

Comments for Environment*¹

The comments for environment are the following:

- Intensive phosphate mining during the past 90 years has left the central 90% of Nauru a wasteland and threatens limited remaining land resources.

References

- *1 <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook>
- *2 <http://www.eia.doe.gov>
- *3 <http://geodata.grid.unep.ch>
- *4 Issue raised by NGO’s working in the water sector in the pacific
- *5 Energy and Sustainable Development – Pacific Regional Submission to the 9th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD9)-

Information

http://www.janeresture.com/nauru_home/index.htm