

Kingdom of Tonga



1. General Information

Population ^{*1}	104,227 (July 2001 est.)
Population density [/km ²] ^{*1}	139.34
Languages ^{*1}	Tongan, English
Ethnic Groups ^{*1}	Christian
Climate ^{*1}	Tropical; modified by trade winds; warm season (December to May), cool season (May to December)
Land Area [km ²] ^{*1}	748

Comments for General Information^{*1}

The kingdom of Tonga is a small archipelagic country of volcanic and coral origin, located in the central South Pacific. Most of the approximately 150 islands, of which only 36 are inhabited, are fertile.

The archipelago of "The Friendly Islands" was united into a Polynesian kingdom in 1845. It became a constitutional monarchy in 1875 and a British protectorate in 1900. Tonga acquired its independence in 1970 and became a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. It remains the only monarchy in the Pacific.

2. Economy

GDP [US\$] ^{*1}	225 million (purchasing power parity, 2000)	
GDP-per capita [US\$] ^{*1}	2,200 (purchasing power parity, 2000)	
Imports [US\$] ^{*1}	69 million (1998)	
	Foodstuffs, machinery and transport equipment, fuels, chemicals	
Exports [US\$] ^{*1}	8 million (1998)	
	Squash, fish, vanilla beans	
Composition of Sector ^{*1}	Agriculture & Fishery [%]	30

(Ratio to GDP)	Industry [%]	10
	Service [%]	60

Comments for Economy ^{*1}

Tonga has a small, open economy with a narrow export base in agricultural goods, which contributes 30% to GDP. Squash, coconuts, bananas, and vanilla beans are the main crops, and agricultural exports make up two-thirds of total exports. The country must import a high proportion of its food, mainly from New Zealand. The industrial sector accounts for only 10% of GDP. Tourism is the primary source of hard currency earnings.

3. Energy

Electricity	Electricity production [kWh] ^{*1}		35 million (1999)
	Electricity consumption [kWh] ^{*1}		32.6 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	NA
		Gas	NA

Comments for Energy ^{*1,*6}

The heavy reliance on the imported fossil fuel is also main energy issue in Tonga. Indeed, mainly fossil fuels are consumed to generate electricity. To be independent on the fossil fuels, the small scale and distributed power supply system based on the renewable energy are the one of the countermeasure. In terms with the environmental protection and social development, the installation of the renewable energy has to be taken into consideration further for the sustainable development. Simultaneously, the capacity building about energy issue is also critical for the next step.

4. Water

Precipitation ^{*3}		1,965.6 mm	
Internal renewable Water Resources ^{*3}		NA	
Population with Access to Improved Water Supply ^{*3}		100%	
Total Water Withdrawal ^{*3}	NA	Industry [%]	NA
		Domestic [%]	NA
		Agriculture [%]	NA

Comments for Water^{*4}

Water issues of Tonga are shown as follows:

- Poor water quality.
- No code of practice leads to polluted water from pesticides etc.
- Local contribution of materials/ resources is not always available.
- Lengthy time waiting for projects to be approved by donors.
- Insufficient fund to assist all interested families in providing cement water tanks

5. Environment and Pollution

CO ₂ Emission ^{*5}	Total metric tons	117
	Metric tons per capita	1.2

Comments for Environment^{*1}

The comments for environment are the following:

- More land is being cleared for agriculture and settlement and it resulted in deforestation.
- Starfish, indiscriminate coral and shell collectors damage to coral reefs.
- Over hunting threatens native sea turtle populations.

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 <http://cdiac.esd.ornl.gov>
- *6 Energy and Sustainable Development – Pacific Regional Submission to the 9th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD9)

Information

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