

Tuvalu



1. General Information

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|--|--|
| Population ^{*1} | 10,991 (July 2001) |
| Population Density [/km ²] ^{*1} | 423 (July 2001) |
| Languages ^{*1} | Tuvaluan, English |
| Ethnic Groups ^{*1} | Polynesian 96% |
| Climate ^{*1} | Tropical; moderated by easterly trade winds (March to November); westerly gales and heavy rain (November to March) |
| Land Area [km ²] ^{*1} | 26 |

Comments for General Information ^{*1}

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. The government type of Tuvalu is constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary democracy; began debating republic status in 1992. Tuvalu consists of a densely populated, scattered group of nine coral atolls with poor soil. Farming and fishing are the primary economic activities of Tuvalu.

2. Economy

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| GDP [US\$] ^{*1} | 11.6 million (1999) |
| GDP-per capita [US\$] ^{*1} | 1,100 (1999) |
| Imports [US\$] ^{*1} | 4.4 million (1989) |
| | Food, animals, mineral fuels, machinery, manufactured goods |
| Exports [US\$] ^{*1} | 165,000 (1989) |

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|--|---------------------------|--------------|
| Composition of Sector (Ratio to GDP) ^{*1} | Agriculture & Fishery [%] | 24.7% (1992) |
| | Industry [%] | 25.3% (1996) |
| | Service [%] | 50% (1996) |

Comments for Economy ^{*1}

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. Farming and fishing are the primary economic activities. Government revenues largely come from the sale of stamps and coins and worker remittances.

3. Energy

| | | | |
|------------------|---|------|--|
| Electricity | Electricity production [kWh] ^{*3} | | 3 million (1995) |
| | Electricity consumption [kWh] ^{*3} | | 3 million (1995) |
| | Electricity ^{*3} - production by source | | Fossil fuel: 100%; hydro: 0%; nuclear: 0%; other: 0% (1995) |
| Energy Resources | Production | Oil | NA |
| | | Coal | NA |
| | | Gas | NA |
| | Consumption | Oil | NA |
| | | Coal | NA |
| | | Gas | NA |

Comments for Energy ^{*7}

The plan of the electric power is held by help of United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and European Development Fund (EDF). There is a small-scale power generation plant in Funafuti, and the electricity is used at the meteorological observing station, the broadcasting station, the hospital, and the hotel. However, electricity is hardly used in an individual house.

Introduction of Renewal Energy use ^{*4}

Tuvalu is reliant mainly on imported fossil fuels for its energy generation together with resources such as solar energy and fuelwood, which contribute towards a small proportion of the total energy used. SOPAC has undertaken training workshops to strengthen the country's capacity to plan and manage the energy sector efficiently. To reduce the level of fuel imports, SOPAC has assisted Tuvalu in the identification of renewable energy sources and appropriate energy supply policies.

4. Water

| | | | |
|---|----|--|----|
| Precipitation ^{*5} | | 3,034.8 mm (Average from 1961 to 1990) | |
| Internal Renewable Water Resources | | NA | |
| Population with Access to Improved Water Supply ^{*5} | | 100% | |
| Total Water Withdrawl | NA | Industry [%] | NA |
| | | Domestic [%] | NA |
| | | Agriculture [%] | NA |

Comments for Water^{*6}

The water issues in Tuvalu are as follows:

- Increased pressure on water supply
- Less of effective protection and management of water resources
- Well water contaminated by sea water

5. Environment and Pollution

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

Comments for Environment^{*1}

- 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
- 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.
- Pollution of drinking water with waste from incompleteness of sewage treatment equipment and mining and agriculture.

References

- *1 <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook>
- *2 Development Co-operation South Pacific 1991/1992 Report, UNDP, 1995.9
- *3 <http://www.eia.doe.gov>
- *4 <http://www.sopac.org>
- *5 <http://geodata.grid.unep.ch>
- *6 Issues raised by NGO's working in the Water Sector in the Pacific, June-July 2002
- *7 Encyclopedia of World Geography

Information

<http://www.tuvaluislands.com>