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Chapter 1

237

1.1 237.guide

Texified version of data for Tonga.

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Tonga

1.2 237.guide/Tonga

Tonga

Geography (Tonga)
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1.3 237.guide/Geography (Tonga)

Geography (Tonga)

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Location:

Oceania, 2,250 km north-northwest of New Zealand, about two-thirds of the way between Hawaii and New Zealand

Map references:

Oceania, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

748 km²

land area:

718 km²

comparative area:

slightly more than four times the size of Washington, DC

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

419 km

Maritime claims:

continental shelf:

not specified

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

none

Climate:

tropical; modified by trade winds; warm season (December to May), cool season (May to December)

Terrain:

most islands have limestone base formed from uplifted coral formation;

others have limestone overlying volcanic base

Natural resources:

fish, fertile soil

Land use:

arable land:

25%

permanent crops:

55%

meadows and pastures:

6%
 forest and woodland:
 12%
 other:
 2%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km2
 Environment:
 archipelago of 170 islands (36 inhabited); subject to cyclones (October to April); deforestation

1.4 237.guide/People (Tonga)

People (Tonga)

=====

Population:
 103,949 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 0.8% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate: 25.16 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 6.75 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -10.4 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 21.38 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 67.79 years
 male:
 65.5 years
 female:
 70.24 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 3.68 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Tongan(s)
 adjective:
 Tongan
 Ethnic divisions:
 Polynesian, Europeans about 300
 Religions:
 Christian (Free Wesleyan Church claims over 30,000 adherents)
 Languages:
 Tongan, English
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1976)
 total population:
 57%
 male:
 60%

female:
60%
Labor force:
NA
by occupation:
agriculture 70%, mining (600 engaged in mining)

1.5 237.guide/Government (Tonga)

Government (Tonga)

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Names:
conventional long form:
Kingdom of Tonga
conventional short form:
Tonga
former:
Friendly Islands
Digraph:
TN
Type:
hereditary constitutional monarchy
Capital: Nuku alofa
Administrative divisions:
three island groups; Ha'apai, Tongatapu, Vava'u
Independence:
4 June 1970 (from UK)
Constitution:
4 November 1875, revised 1 January 1967
Legal system:
based on English law
National holiday:
Emancipation Day, 4 June (1970)
Political parties and leaders:
Democratic Reform Movement, 'Akilisi POHIVA; Christian Democratic Party,
leader NA
Suffrage:
all literate, tax-paying males and all literate females over 21
Elections:
Legislative Assembly:
last held 14-15 February 1990 (next to be held 3-4 February 1993); results ←
-
percent of vote NA; seats - (29 total, 9 elected) 6 proreform, 3
traditionalist
Executive branch:
monarch, prime minister, deputy prime minister, Council of Ministers
(cabinet), Privy Council
Legislative branch:
unicameral Legislative Assembly (Fale Alea)
Judicial branch:
Supreme Court
Leaders:

Chief of State:

King Taufa'ahau TUPOU IV (since 16 December 1965)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister Baron VAEA (since 22 August 1991); Deputy Prime Minister S. Langi KAVALIKU (since 22 August 1991)

Member of:

ACP, AsDB, C, ESCAP, FAO, G-77, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IMF, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, LORCS, SPARTECA, SPC, SPF, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WHO

Diplomatic representation in US:

Ambassador Sione KITE, resides in London

US diplomatic representation:

the US has no offices in Tonga; the ambassador to Fiji is accredited to Tonga and makes periodic visits

Flag:

red with a bold red cross on a white rectangle in the upper hoist-side corner

1.6 237.guide/Economy (Tonga)

Economy (Tonga)

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Overview:

The economy's base is agriculture, which employs about 70% of the labor force and contributes 40% to GDP. Coconuts, bananas, and vanilla beans are the main crops and make up two-thirds of exports. The country must import a high proportion of its food, mainly from New Zealand. The manufacturing sector accounts for only 11% of GDP. Tourism is the primary source of hard currency earnings, but the island remains dependent on sizable external aid and remittances to offset its trade deficit.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$92 million (FY90)

National product real growth rate:

0.4% (FY92 est.)

National product per capita:

\$900 (FY90)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

4% (FY92 est.)

Unemployment rate:

NA%

Budget:

revenues \$36.4 million; expenditures \$68.1 million, including capital expenditures of \$33.2 million (FY91 est.)

Exports:

\$18.8 million (f.o.b., FY92 est.)

commodities:

coconut oil, desiccated coconut, copra, bananas, taro, vanilla beans, fruits, vegetables, fish

partners:

Japan 34%, US 17%, Australia 13%, NZ 13% (FY91)

Imports:

\$68.3 million (c.i.f., FY92 est.)

commodities:
 food products, machinery and transport equipment, manufactures, fuels, chemicals

partners:
 NZ 33%, Australia 22%, US 8%, Japan 8% (FY91)

External debt:
 \$47.5 million (FY91)

Industrial production:
 growth rate 1.7% (FY90); accounts for 11% of GDP

Electricity:
 6,000 kW capacity; 8 million kWh produced, 80 kWh per capita (1990)

Industries:
 tourism, fishing

Agriculture:
 accounts for 40% of GDP; dominated by coconut, copra, and banana production ←
 ;
 vanilla beans, cocoa, coffee, ginger, black pepper

Economic aid:
 US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$16 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$258 million

Currency:
 1 pa'anga (T\$) = 100 seniti

Exchange rates:
 pa'anga (T\$) per US\$1 - 1.3996 (January 1993), 1.3471 (1992), 1.2961 (1991) ←
 ,
 1.2809 (1990), 1.2637 (1989), 1.2799 (1988)

Fiscal year:
 1 July-30 June

1.7 237.guide/Communications (Tonga)

Communications (Tonga)

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Highways:
 198 km sealed road (Tongatapu); 74 km (Vava'u); 94 km unsealed roads usable only in dry weather

Ports:
 Nukualofa, Neiafu, Pangai

Merchant marine:
 3 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 6,765 GRT/10,597 DWT; includes 1 cargo ←
 ,
 1 roll-on/roll-off cargo, 1 liquefied gas

Airports:
 total:
 6
 usable:
 6
 with permanent-surface runways:
 1
 with runways over 3,659 m:
 0
 with runways 2,440-3,659:

1
with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
1
Telecommunications:
3,529 telephones; 66,000 radios; no TV sets; broadcast stations - 1 AM, no
FM, no TV; 1 Pacific Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.8 237.guide/Defense Forces (Tonga)

Defense Forces (Tonga)

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Branches:

Tonga Defense Force, Tonga Maritime Division, Royal Tongan Marines, Royal
Tongan Guard, Police

Manpower availability:

NA

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$NA, NA% of GDP