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Chapter 1

217

1.1 217.guide

Texified version of data for Solomon Islands.

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Solomon Islands

1.2 217.guide/Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands

Geography (Solomon Islands)
People (Solomon Islands)
Government (Solomon Islands)
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Economy (Solomon Islands)
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1.3 217.guide/Geography (Solomon Islands)

Geography (Solomon Islands)

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Location:
Oceania, just east of Papua New Guinea in the South Pacific Ocean
Map references:
Oceania, Standard Time Zones of the World
Area:
total area:
28,450 km²
land area:
27,540 km²
comparative area:
slightly larger than Maryland
Land boundaries:
0 km
Coastline:
5,313 km
Maritime claims:
measured from claimed archipelagic baselines
exclusive economic zone:
200 nm
territorial sea:
12 nm
International disputes:
none
Climate:
tropical monsoon; few extremes of temperature and weather
Terrain:
mostly rugged mountains with some low coral atolls
Natural resources:
fish, forests, gold, bauxite, phosphates
Land use:
arable land:
1%
permanent crops:
1%
meadows and pastures:
1%
forest and woodland:
93%

other:
 4%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km2
 Environment:
 subject to typhoons, which are rarely destructive; geologically active
 region with frequent earth tremors
 Note:
 located just east of Papua New Guinea in the South Pacific Ocean

1.4 217.guide/People (Solomon Islands)

People (Solomon Islands)
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Population:
 372,746 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 3.46% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 39.37 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 4.76 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 29 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 70.13 years
 male:
 67.73 years
 female:
 72.65 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 5.88 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Solomon Islander(s)
 adjective:
 Solomon Islander
 Ethnic divisions:
 Melanesian 93%, Polynesian 4%, Micronesian 1.5%, European 0.8%, Chinese
 0.3%, other 0.4%
 Religions:
 Anglican 34%, Roman Catholic 19%, Baptist 17%, United
 (Methodist/Presbyterian) 11%, Seventh-Day Adventist 10%, other Protestant 5%
 Languages:
 Melanesian pidgin in much of the country is lingua franca, English spoken
 by
 1-2% of population
 note:

120 indigenous languages
 Literacy:
 total population:
 NA%
 male:
 NA%
 female:
 NA%
 Labor force:
 23,448 economically active
 by occupation:
 agriculture, forestry, and fishing 32.4%, services 25%, construction,
 manufacturing, and mining 7.0%, commerce, transport, and finance 4.7% ↵
 (1984)

1.5 217.guide/Government (Solomon Islands)

Government (Solomon Islands)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 none
 conventional short form:
 Solomon Islands
 former:
 British Solomon Islands
 Digraph:
 BP
 Type:
 parliamentary democracy
 Capital:
 Honiara
 Administrative divisions:
 7 provinces and 1 town*; Central, Guadalcanal, Honiara*, Isabel, Makira,, ↵
 Malaita, Temotu,
 Western
 Independence:
 7 July 1978 (from UK)
 Constitution:
 7 July 1978
 Legal system:
 common law
 National holiday:
 Independence Day, 7 July (1978)
 Political parties and leaders:
 People's Alliance Party (PAP); United Party (UP), leader NA; Solomon ↵
 Islands
 Liberal Party (SILP), Bartholemew ULUFA'ALU; Nationalist Front for Progress
 (NFP), Andrew NORI; Labor Party (LP), Joses TUHANUKU
 Suffrage:
 21 years of age; universal
 Elections:

National Parliament:

last held 22 February 1989 (next to be held 26 May 1993); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (38 total) PAP 13, UP 6, NFP 4, SILP 4, LP 2, independents 9

Executive branch:

British monarch, governor general, prime minister, Cabinet

Legislative branch:

unicameral National Parliament

Judicial branch:

High Court

Leaders:

Chief of State:

Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952), represented by Governor General Sir George LEPPING (since 27 June 1989, previously acted as governor ← general since 7 July 1988)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister Solomon MAMALONI (since 28 March 1989); Deputy Prime Minister

Sir Baddeley DEVESI (since NA October 1990)

Member of:

ACP, AsDB, C, ESCAP, FAO, G-77, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, IOC, ITU, SPARTECA, SPC, SPF, UN, UNCTAD, UPU, WFTU, WHO, WMO

Diplomatic representation in US: chief of mission:

(vacant); ambassador traditionally resides in Honiara (Solomon Islands)

US diplomatic representation:

Ambassador Robert W. FARRAND

embassy:

Mud Alley, Honiara

1.6 217.guide/Government (Solomon Islands 2. usage)

Government (Solomon Islands 2. usage)

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mailing address:

American Embassy, P. O. Box 561, Honiara

telephone:

(677) 23890

FAX:

(677) 23488

Flag:

divided diagonally by a thin yellow stripe from the lower hoist-side corner ← ;

the upper triangle (hoist side) is blue with five white five-pointed stars arranged in an X pattern; the lower triangle is green

1.7 217.guide/Economy (Solomon Islands)

Economy (Solomon Islands)

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Overview:

About 90% of the population depend on subsistence agriculture, fishing, and forestry for at least part of their livelihood. Agriculture, fishing, and forestry contribute about 70% to GDP, with the fishing and forestry sectors being important export earners. The service sector contributes about 25% to GDP. Most manufactured goods and petroleum products must be imported. The islands are rich in undeveloped mineral resources such as lead, zinc, nickel, and gold. The economy suffered from a severe cyclone in mid-1986 that caused widespread damage to the infrastructure.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$200 million (1990 est.)

National product real growth rate:

6% (1990 est.)

National product per capita:

\$600 (1990 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

14.3% (1991)

Unemployment rate:

NA%

Budget:

revenues \$48 million; expenditures \$107 million, including capital expenditures of \$45 million (1991 est.)

Exports:

\$74.2 million (f.o.b., 1991 est.)

commodities:

fish 46%, timber 31%, copra 5%, palm oil 5%

partners:

Japan 51%, UK 12%, Thailand 9%, Netherlands 8%, Australia 2%, US 2% (1985)

Imports:

\$87.1 million (c.i.f., 1991 est.)

commodities:

plant and machinery 30%, fuel 19%, food 16%

partners:

Japan 36%, US 23%, Singapore 9%, UK 9%, NZ 9%, Australia 4%, Hong Kong 4%, China 3% (1985)

External debt:

\$128 million (1988 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate 0% (1987); accounts for 5% of GDP

Electricity:

21,000 kW capacity; 39 million kWh produced, 115 kWh per capita (1990)

Industries:

copra, fish (tuna)

Agriculture:

including fishing and forestry, accounts for about 70% of GDP; mostly subsistence farming; cash crops - cocoa, beans, coconuts, palm kernels, timber; other products - rice, potatoes, vegetables, fruit, cattle, pigs; not self-sufficient in food grains; 90% of the total fish catch of 44,500 metric tons was exported (1988)

Economic aid:

Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1980-89), \$250 million

Currency:

1 Solomon Islands dollar (SI\$) = 100 cents

Exchange rates:

Solomon Islands dollars (SI\$) per US\$1 - 3.1211 (January 1993), 2.9281 (1992), 2.7148 (1991), 2.5288 (1990), 2.2932 (1989), 2.0825 (1988)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

1.8 217.guide/Communications (Solomon Islands)

Communications (Solomon Islands)

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Highways:

about 2,100 km total (1982); 30 km paved, 290 km gravel, 980 km earth, 800 private logging and plantation roads of varied construction

Ports:

Honiara, Ringi Cove

Airports:

total:

30

usable:

29

with permanent-surface runways:

2

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

0

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

3

Telecommunications:

3,000 telephones; broadcast stations - 4 AM, no FM, no TV; 1 Pacific Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.9 217.guide/Defense Forces (Solomon Islands)

Defense Forces (Solomon Islands)

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Branches:

Police Force

Manpower availability:

NA

Defense expenditures:

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