



Land area

30 km²



Population

Total (2017): 11,192

Density (per km², 2017): 373

Urban (% of total, 2017): 62

Life expectancy (years, 2016, male/female): 65/71



Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

GDP (million, current USD, 2017): 39.7

GDP per capita (current USD, 2017): 3550

GDP growth rate (% , average 2010-2017): 2.8



Human Development

Human Development Index (HDI¹) 2018: ..

HDI rank: ..

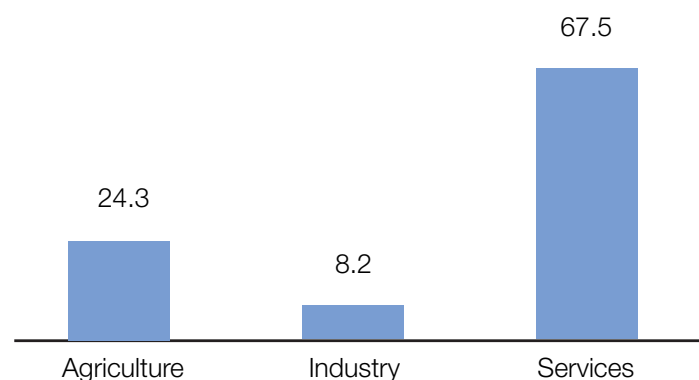
Population below income poverty line² (% , 2010): 3.3

Gini Index³ (2010): 39.1

UN LDC group: Yes

Source: UNCTADStat database for land area, GDP and population indicators, UNFPA Pacific Sub-regional Office (2014) for life expectancy.

Tuvalu's sectoral structure of economic activity (share of GDP in per cent, 2016)



Source: Calculations based on UNCTADstat Database



KEY FACTS

- The services sector remains the main source of employment in Tuvalu.
- As in the other 9PICs⁴, Tuvalu's small market prevents it from enjoying the potential benefits of economies of scale. This, combined with geographical remoteness, creates difficulties for the country to integrate into international markets.

Note:

¹ HDI is a composite index that integrates three basic dimensions of human development: life expectancy at birth as a proxy of the ability to live a long and healthy life; mean of years of schooling and expected years of schooling as a proxy of acquired knowledge; and gross national income per capita as a proxy of the ability to achieve a decent standard of living. An HDI close to zero indicates greater distance from the maximum that can be achieved on the factors entering the HDI and vice versa. For technical details, see <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi>.

² Based on USD (PPP) 1.90 per day.

³ The Gini coefficient measures the deviation of the distribution of income among individuals or households from a perfectly equal distribution. A coefficient of 0 represents perfect income equality (all persons or households have the same income) and a value of 1, perfect income inequality (all income is concentrated by one person or one household).

⁴ Nine Pacific Island Countries Signatories of the PACER Plus (9PICs).

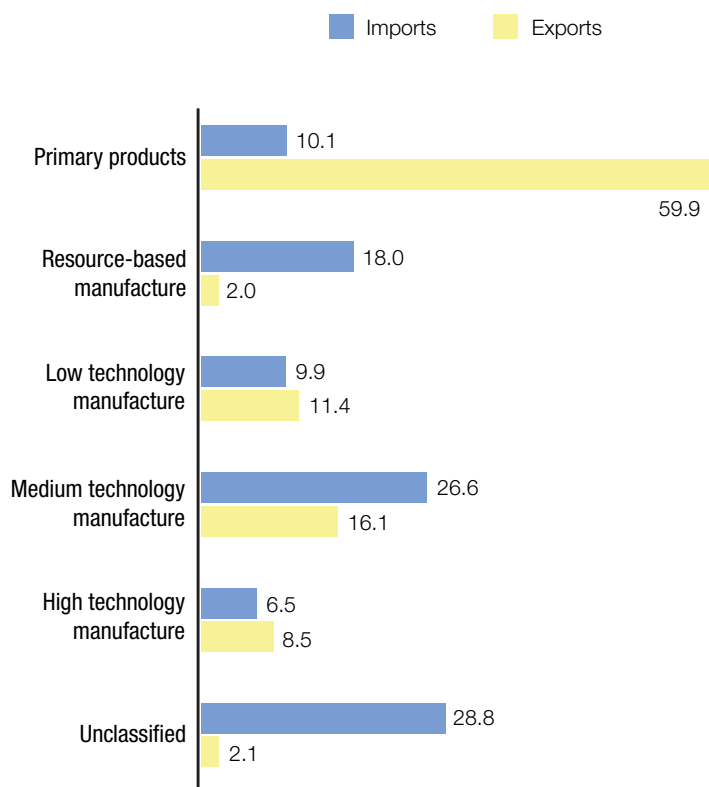
Trade profile

Tuvalu's membership in trade agreements

Agreement	Scope
South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (SPARTECA)	Duty free access to the markets of Australia and New Zealand
The Cotonou Agreement	Development; political; economic and trade cooperation. From "non-reciprocal" trade preferences in favour of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to reciprocal trade preferences through Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)
The Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA)	Progressive reduction/elimination of tariffs among member countries
PICTA Trade in Services Protocol (PICTA-TIS)	Preferential trade among the parties on a range of services
Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus	Trade in goods and services, temporary movement of skilled workers, investment, development and economic cooperation
General Scheme of Preferences (GSP)	Beneficiaries have duty free or preferential access to the donor country markets
Everything But Arms (EBA)	Beneficiaries enjoy full duty free and quota free access to the European Union market for all products (except arms and armaments)
WTO membership	

Source: UNCTAD Secretariat

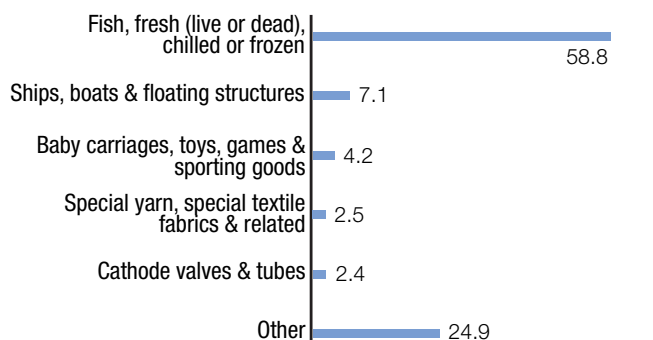
Tuvalu's trade composition by product group between 2015-2017 (per cent shares)



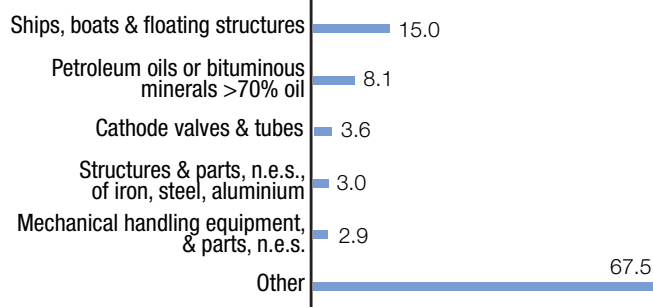
Source: Calculations based on UNCTADstat Database

Tuvalu's main export and import products (2015-2017 average)

EXPORTS (share of total)



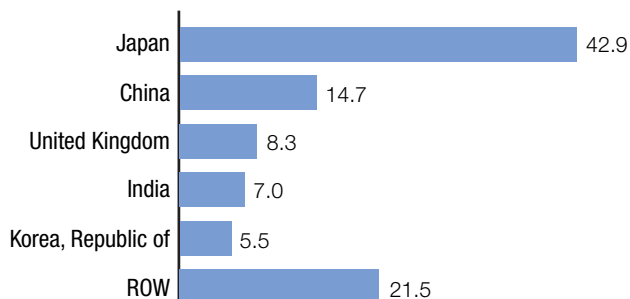
IMPORTS (share of total)



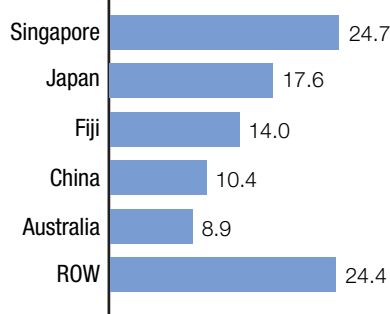
Source: Calculations based on UNCTADstat Database

Tuvalu's main export and import partners (2015-2017 average)

EXPORTS (share of total)



IMPORTS (share of total)



Source: Calculations based on UNCTADstat Database

KEY FACTS

- Merchandise exports as a percentage of GDP in Tuvalu remained very low (less than 1 per cent) in both 2005–2007 and 2015–2017, while merchandise imports grew from about 43 to almost 53 per cent of GDP for the same periods. Trade in services, on the other hand, maintained its share of GDP for the same periods of about 10 per cent in the case of exports while it decreased (from 59 to about 47 per cent of GDP) in the case of imports.
- The technological classification of trade⁵ for the period 2015–2017 shows that most of Tuvalu's exports (60 per cent) are primary products and medium technology manufactures (16 per cent). Imports are led by medium technology manufactures (27 per cent) and resource-based manufactures (18 per cent).
- Tuvalu has high dependence on few export products as shown by its concentration index.⁶ The index increased from 0.37 on average for the period 1995–1997 to 0.56 for 2015–2017. Tuvalu's concentration index of imports also increased significantly for the same periods (from 0.11 to 0.30).

- Tuvalu's main export markets are in developed Asia (the share grew from 0.7 to 43 per cent between 1995–1997 and 2015–2017⁷) and in developing Asia (about 30 per cent for both periods). Japan and China are the country's leading export partners; yet, one should note that merchandise exports as a share of GDP is very low in Tuvalu.
- Tuvalu's imports from developing Asia increased sharply between 1995–1997 and 2015–2017 (from 5 to 47 per cent of total imports). Imports from developed Asia and developing Oceania also rose (from 8 to 18 per cent, and from nil to 14 per cent, respectively). In contrast, developed Oceania relative importance in Tuvalu's imports weakened (from 50 to 15 per cent of Tuvalu's total imports).
- Tuvalu is not a member of the WTO.
- Tuvalu is a member of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).⁸

Gender profile

KEY FACTS

- Tuvalu has achieved gender parity in primary education (UNFPA Pacific Sub-regional Office, 2014). Notably, gender gaps in school enrolment at the secondary and tertiary levels favour women.
- The Labour Force Participation rate in 2016 was 73 per cent for men and 41 per cent for women; among the youth (15–24 years old) it was 53 per cent for men and 26 per cent for women.
- 77 per cent of employed women work in the services sector; 10 per cent in agriculture and 4 per cent in industry
- Women are mainly employed in the following services: Public administration, community, social, personal and similar services (65 per cent); trade including wholesale, retail trade and repair (11 per cent); and finance (5 per cent).
- Tuvaluan customary law, intrinsic to the Constitution of Tuvalu, can discriminate against women when non-discriminatory and equality principles conflict with the

Note:

⁵ Lall (2000).

⁶ The Concentration Index or Herfindahl-Hirschmann Index is a measure of the degree of product concentration of exports (or imports). Values close to 1 indicate that export (or imports) are highly concentrated in a few products while values close to 0 indicate a more homogeneous distribution of exports (or imports) among a wider range of products (UNCTADstat).

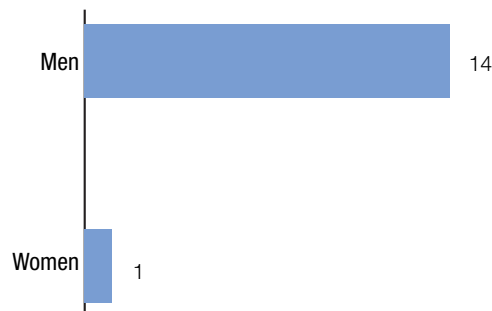
⁷ These periods have been chosen to analyse whether there have been significant changes or not after two decades.

⁸ PIF is the region's premier political and economic policy organization.

specially recognised traditional values. This is the case in areas of land, inheritance and decision making. The Constitution is currently under review.

- The Tuvalu Human Rights Action Plan 2016-2020 includes a commitment to cover gender in the non-discrimination clause.
- The Tuvalu National Gender Policy (2014–2019) recognizes the importance of increasing capacity within all sectors of government to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment (including in legislation), and to creating an enabling environment for the full participation of women in economic development and to participate in decision-making so to enhance leadership and governance at all levels. It also calls for the elimination of all forms of violence against women.

Number of women and men in Parliament, 2018



Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union (2018)

Tuvalu’s gender inputs

Ratified International Conventions or Commitments	Gender in trade policy	Other Gender Programmes
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (1999)	Tuvalu introduced gender considerations in its national strategy for sustainable development.	Advancing Gender Justice in the Pacific (AGJP, UN Women)
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (1995)		Ending Violence Against Women (EVAW, UN Women)
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)		Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE, UN Women)
Agenda 2030 (2015)		Increasing Community Resilience through Empowerment of Women to Address Climate Change and Natural Hazards Programme (IREACH, UN Women).

Sources: Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute; University of the South Pacific’s School of Law; UN Women – Asia-Pacific (2018).