

# **MALDIVES**









# INTRODUCTION

A sultanate since the 12th century, the Maldives archipelago became a British protectorate in 1887. Three years after independence in 1965, the islands established themselves as a republic.

# **GOVERNMENT**

# **Chief of State**

President Ibrahim "Ibu" Mohamed SOLIH

#### **Head of Government**

President Ibrahim Mohamed SOLIH

# **Government Type**

presidential republic

# Capital

. Male

# Legislature

unicameral Parliament or People's Majlis (87 seats)

# **GEOGRAPHY**

#### Area

total: 298 sq km land: 298 sq km water: 0 sq km

#### Climate

tropical; hot, humid; dry, northeast monsoon (November to March); rainy, southwest monsoon (June to August)

# **Natural Resources**

fish

# **ECONOMY**

# **Economic Overview**

upper middle-income Indian Ocean island economy; major tourism, fishing, and shipping industries; high public debt; systemic corruption; crippled by COVID-19; ongoing deflation; poverty has tripled since pandemic began

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$7.05 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$13,000 (2020 est.)

**Industries -** tourism, fish processing, shipping, boat building, coconut processing, woven mats, rope, handicrafts, coral and sand mining

**Agricultural products -** papayas, vegetables, roots/tubers nes, nuts, fruit, other meat, tomatoes, coconuts, bananas, maize

Exports \$256.2 million (2016 est.)

fish products, natural gas, scrap iron, jewelry, liquid pumps (2019) **partners:** Thailand 24%, US 13%, China 12%, France 11%, Germany 11%, Italy 5%, UK 5% (2019)

**Imports** \$2.125 billion (2016 est.)

refined petroleum, fruits, furniture, broadcasting equipment, lumber (2019)

partners: UAE 24%, China 16%, Singapore 14%, India 11%, Malaysia 6%, Thailand 5% (2019)

# **PEOPLE & SOCIETY**

# **Population**

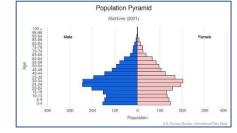
390,670 (July 2021 est.)

# **Population Growth**

-0.12% (2021 est.)

# **Ethnicity**

homogeneous mixture of Sinhalese, Dravidian, Arab, Australasian, and



African resulting from historical changes in regional hegemony over marine trade routes

# Language

Dhivehi (official, dialect of Sinhala, script derived from Arabic), English (spoken by most government officials)

# Religion

Sunni Muslim (official)