# SOLOMON ISLANDS









#### INTRODUCTION

The UK established a protectorate over the Solomon Islands in the 1890s. Self-government came in 1976 and independence in 1978. Ethnic violence, government malfeasance, endemic crime, and other issues undermined stability. From 2003 to 2017, the Australian-led multi-national Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands was generally effective in restoring law and order and rebuilding government institutions.

#### **GOVERNMENT**

## **Chief of State**

Queen ELIZABETH II Represented by Governor General Sir David VUNAGI

# **Head of Government**

Prime Minister Manasseh SOGAVARE

# **Government Type**

parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

#### Capital

Honiara

## Legislature

unicameral National Parliament (50 seats)

# **GEOGRAPHY**

# Area

Total: 28,896 sq km Land: 27,986 sq km Water: 910 sq km

#### Climate

tropical monsoon; few temperature and weather extremes

#### **Natural Resources**

fish, forests, gold, bauxite, phosphates, lead, zinc, nickel

# **ECONOMY**

#### **Economic Overview**

lower middle-income Pacific island economy; natural resource rich; primarily subsistent agriculture and fishing; land rights conflicts; fairly low public debt; underdeveloped financial sector; large, state-owned enterprise presence

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$1.71 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$2,500 (2020 est.)

Industries - fish (tuna), mining, timber

**Agricultural products -** oil palm fruit, sweet potatoes, coconuts, taro, yams, fruit, pulses nes, vegetables, cocoa, cassava

Exports \$430 million (2020 est.)

lumber, fish, aluminum, palm oil, cocoa beans (2019) **partners**: China 65%, Italy 9%, India 6% (2019)

Imports \$560 million (2020 est.)

refined petroleum, fish, insulated wiring, broadcasting equipment,

excavation machinery (2019)

partners: China 24%, Australia 13%, South Korea 12%,

Singapore 12%, Malaysia 10% (2019)

# **PEOPLE & SOCIETY**

# **Population**

690,600 (July 2021 est.)

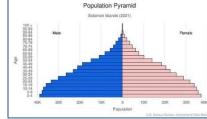
## **Population Growth**

1.75% (2021 est.)

# **Ethnicity**

Melanesian 95.3%,

Polynesian 3.1%, Micronesian 1.2%, other 0.3% (2009 est.)



## Language

Melanesian pidgin (in much of the country is lingua franca), English (official but spoken by only 1%-2% of the population), 120 indigenous languages

# Religion

Protestant 73.4%, Roman Catholic 19.6%, other Christian 2.9%, other 4%, unspecified 0.1% (2009 est.)

#### Urbanization

urban population: 25.1% of total population (2021) rate of urbanization: 3.57% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)