



VANUATU



INTRODUCTION

Multiple waves of colonizers, each speaking a distinct language, migrated to the New Hebrides in the millennia preceding European exploration in the 18th century. This settlement pattern accounts for the complex linguistic diversity found on the archipelago to this day. The British and French, who settled the New Hebrides in the 19th century, agreed in 1906 to an Anglo-French Condominium, which administered the islands until independence in 1980, when the new name of Vanuatu was adopted.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Tallis Obed MOSES

Head of Government

Prime Minister Bob LOUGHMAN

Government Type

parliamentary republic

Capital

Port-Vila (on Efate)

Legislature

unicameral Parliament (52 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 12,189 sq km

Land: 12,189 sq km

Water: 0 sq km

Climate

tropical; moderated by southeast trade winds from May to October; moderate rainfall from November to April; may be affected by cyclones from December to April

Natural Resources

manganese, hardwood forests, fish

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

Pacific island agriculture- and tourism-based economy; environmentally vulnerable to cyclones; poor property rights administration; corruption-prone; subsidizing loss-prone state enterprises in agriculture, banking, and airports

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$945 million (2019 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$3,153 (2019 est.)

Industries - food and fish freezing, wood processing, meat canning

Agricultural products - coconuts, roots/tubers, bananas, vegetables, pork, fruit, milk, beef, groundnuts, cocoa

Exports \$44.7 million (2017 est.)

fish and fish products, tug boats, perfume plants, mollusks, cocoa beans (2019)

partners: Japan 33%, Thailand 13%, Mauritania 13%, South Korea 11%, China 9%, Fiji 7% (2019)

Imports \$273.7 million (2017 est.)

refined petroleum, fishing ships, delivery trucks, poultry meats, broadcasting equipment (2019)

partners: China 29%, Australia 18%, New Zealand 11%, Fiji 11%, Taiwan 5%, Thailand 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

303,000 (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

1.67% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Melanesian 99.2%, non-Melanesian 0.8% (2016 est.)

Language

local languages (more than 100) 63.2%, Bislama (official; creole) 33.7%, English (official) 2%, French (official) 0.6%, other 0.5% (2009 est.)

Religion

Protestant 70%, Roman Catholic 12.4%, customary beliefs 3.7% (including Jon Frum cargo cult), other 12.6%, none 1.1%, unspecified 0.2% (2009 est.)

