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INTRODUCTION

Samoans settled Niue in about A.D. 900, followed by Tongans around 1500. In 1889, tribal chiefs asked the UK for protectorate status, which was granted in 1900. In 1901, Niue was annexed to New Zealand as part of the Cook Islands. Niue became self-governing in 1974, in free association with New Zealand, which is responsible for its defense and foreign affairs.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

King CHARLES III; represented by Governor-General of New Zealand Cindy KIRO

Head of Government

Premier Dalton TAGELAGI

Government Type

parliamentary democracy

Capital

Alofi

Legislature

unicameral Assembly or Fono Ekepule (20 seats)

Ambassador to US

NA

US Ambassador

none (self-governing territory in free association with New Zealand)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 260 sq km Land: 260 sg km Water: 0 sq km

Climate

tropical; modified by southeast trade winds

Natural Resources

arable land, fish

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

upper-middle-income self-governing New Zealand territorial economy; environmentally fragile; massive emigration; postpandemic tourism rebound; postage stamps, small-scale agricultural processing, and subsistence farming; most recent Asian Development Bank member

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$18.7 million (2021) GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$11,100 (2021)

Industries - handicrafts, food processing

Agricultural products - coconuts, taro, fruit, sweet potatoes, tropical fruit, yams, vegetables, lemons, limes, bananas

Exports \$5.68 million (2021 est.)

tanker ships, collector's items, commemorative coins, fruits, nuts, juice, electrical resistors (2021)

partners: Indonesia 57%, Thailand 7%, South Korea 5%, Czechia 4%, Poland 4% (2021)

Imports \$43.8 million (2021 est.)

floating platforms, tugboats, refined petroleum, cargo ships, cars, plasticware (2021)

partners: New Zealand 41%, UK 40%, Japan 15%, Israel 3%, Fiji 1% (2021)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

2,000 (2022 est.)

Population Growth

-0.03% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Niuean 65.4%, part-Niuean 14%, non-Niuean 20.6% (2017 est.)

Language

Niuean (official) 46% (a Polynesian language closely related to Tongan and Samoan), Niuean and English 32%, English (official) 11%, Niuean and others 5%, other 6% (2011 est.)

Religion

Ekalesia Niue 61.7%, Church of Jesus Christ 8.7%, Roman Catholic 8.4%, Jehovah's Witness 2.7%, Seventh Day Adventist 1.4%, other 8.2%, none 8.9% (2017 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 48.2% of total population (2023) rate of urbanization: 1.43% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)