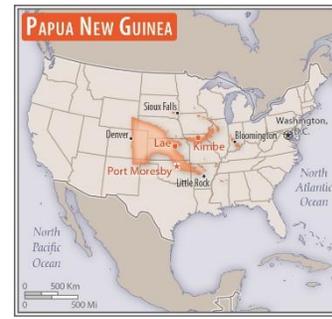


PAPUA NEW GUINEA



INTRODUCTION

The eastern half of the island of New Guinea was divided between Germany (north) and the UK (south) in 1885. The latter area was transferred to Australia in 1902, which occupied the northern portion during World War I and continued to administer the combined areas until independence in 1975. Since 2001, Bougainville has experienced autonomy. In a 2019 referendum, almost 98% of voters choose eventual independence.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

Queen ELIZABETH II
represented by Governor General Grand Chief Sir Bob DADAE

Head of Government

Prime Minister James MARAPE

Government Type

parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

Capital

Port Moresby

Legislature

unicameral National Parliament (111 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 462,840 sq km
Land: 452,860 sq km
Water: 9,980 sq km

Climate

tropical; northwest monsoon (December to March), southeast monsoon (May to October); slight seasonal temperature variation

Natural Resources

gold, copper, silver, natural gas, timber, oil, fisheries

as of October 2021

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

lower middle-income Pacific island economy; very diverse, primarily informal agricultural labor force; natural resource rich extraction account for export volume; growing youth population faces lack of formal employment; hit by COVID-19

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$36.69 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$4,100 (2020 est.)

Industries - copra, palm oil, plywood production, wood chip production, mining, crude oil and petroleum products, construction, tourism, livestock, dairy products, spice products, fisheries products

Agricultural products - oil palm fruit, bananas, coconuts, fruit, sweet potatoes, game meat, yams, roots/tubers, vegetables

Exports \$8.522 billion (2017 est.)

natural gas, gold, copper, lumber, crude petroleum, nickel, palm oil, fish, coffee (2019)

partners: Australia 26%, China 26%, Japan 22%, Taiwan 7% (2019)

Imports \$1.876 billion (2017 est.)

refined petroleum, excavation machinery, crude petroleum, foodstuffs, delivery trucks (2019)

partners: Australia 33%, China 19%, Singapore 14%, Malaysia 9% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

7.4 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

1.61% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Melanesian, Papuan, Negrito, Micronesian, Polynesian

Language

Tok Pisin (official), English (official), Hiri Motu (official), some 839 indigenous languages spoken (about 12% of the world's total); many languages have fewer than 1,000 speakers

Religion

Protestant 64.3%, Roman Catholic 26%, other Christian 5.3%, non-Christian 1.4%, unspecified 3.1% (2011 est.)

