INTRODUCTION
The population of the Faroe Islands is largely descended from Viking settlers who arrived in the 9th century. The islands have been connected politically to Denmark since the 14th century.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
Queen MARGRETHE II of Denmark represented by High Commissioner Lene Moyell JOHANSEN
Head of Government
Prime Minister Bardhur A STEIG NIELSEN
Government Type
parliamentary democracy (Faroese Parliament); part of the Kingdom of Denmark
Capital
Torshavn
Legislature
unicameral Faroese Parliament or Logting (33 seats); Faroe Islands elect 2 members to the Danish Parliament

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
high-income Danish territorial economy; party neither to the EU nor the Schengen Area; associate Nordic Council member; very low unemployment; unique foreign ownership allowance in fishing industry; known salmon exporter; growing IT industries
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $2 billion (2014 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $40,000 (2014 est.)
Industries - fishing, fish processing, tourism, small ship repair and refurbishment, handicrafts
Agricultural products - potatoes, mutton, sheep skins, sheep offals, beef, sheep fat, cattle offals, cattle hides, cattle fat
Exports $1.184 billion (2016 est.)
fish and fish products
partners: Russia 26%, UK 14%, Germany 8%, China 8%, Spain 7%, Denmark 6%, US 5% (2017)
Imports $978.4 million (2016 est.)
household goods, machinery, transport equipment, fuels, raw materials and semi-manufactures, cars
partners: Denmark 33%, China 11%, Germany 8%, Poland 7%, Norway 7%, Ireland 5% (2017)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
51,940 (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
0.62% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Faroese 85.9% (Scandinavian and Anglo-Saxon descent), Danish 8.2%, other Nordic 1.4%, other 4.5% (includes Filipino, Romanian, Polish) (2021 est.)
Language
Faroese 93.8% (derived from Old Norse), Danish 3.2%, other 3% (2011 est.)
Religion
Christian 89.3% (predominantly Evangelical Lutheran), other 1%, none 3.8%, unspecified 6% (2011 est.)
as of October 2021