TUVALU

INTRODUCTION
In 1974, ethnic differences within the British colony of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands caused the Polynesians of the Ellice Islands to vote for separation from the Micronesians of the Gilbert Islands. The following year, the Ellice Islands became the separate British colony of Tuvalu. Independence was granted in 1978.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
Queen ELIZABETH II represented by Acting Governor General
Teniku TALESI Honolulu
Head of Government
Prime Minister Kausea NATANO
Government Type
parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm
Capital
Funafuti
Legislature
unicameral House of Assembly or Fale I Fono (16 seats)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
11,450 (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
0.85% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Tuvaluan 86.8%, Tuvaluan/Kiribati 5.6%, Tuvaluan/other 6.7%, other 0.9% (2012 est.)
Language
Tuvaluan (official), English (official), Samoan, Kiribati (on the island of Nui)
Religion
Protestant 92.4%, Baha'i 2%, Jehovah's Witness 1.3%, Church of Jesus Christ 1%, other 3.1%, none 0.2% (2012 est.)
Urbanization
urban population: 64.8% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: 2.08% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
upper middle-income but very fragile Pacific island economy; currency pegged to Australian dollar; public revenues from international aid, fishing licenses, and national trust fund; pursuing Te Kakeega sustainable development; significant remittances
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $50 million (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $4,400 (2020 est.)
Industries - fishing
Agricultural products - coconuts, vegetables, tropical fruit, bananas, roots/tubers, nes, pork, poultry, eggs, pig fat, pig offals
Exports $600,000 (2010 est.)
fish, ships, coins, metal-clad products, electrical power accessories (2019)
partners: Thailand 50%, Indonesia 40% (2019)
Imports $20.69 billion (2017 est.)
refined petroleum, fishing ships, tug boats, other ships, iron structures (2019)
partners: China 32%, Japan 29%, Fiji 23%, NZ 6% (2019)

GEOPGRAPHY
Area
Total: 26 sq km
Land: 26 sq km
Water: 0 sq km
Climate
tropical; moderated by easterly trade winds (March to November); westerly gales and heavy rain (November to March)
Natural Resources
fish, coconut (copra)

as of October 2021