NAURU

INTRODUCTION
Nauru was inhabited by Micronesian and Polynesian settlers by around 1000 B.C. In 1798, the British spotted the island. Germany annexed Nauru in 1888. Australia captured Nauru from Germany during World War I, and in 1919, it became a joint Australian-British-New Zealand mandate with Australian administration. Nauru opted for independence in 1968.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Lionel AINGIMEA
Head of Government
President Lionel AINGIMEA
Government Type
parliamentary republic
Capital
no official capital; government offices in the Yaren District
Legislature
unicameral parliament (19 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 21 sq km
Land: 21 sq km
Water: 0 sq km
Climate
tropical with a monsoonal pattern; rainy season (November to February)
Natural Resources
phosphates, fish

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
upper-middle-income Pacific island country; phosphate resource exhaustion made island interior uninhabitable; licenses fishing rights; houses Australia’s Regional Processing Centre; former known tax haven; largely dependent on foreign subsidies
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $150 million (2019 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $13,500 (2019 est.)
Industries - phosphate mining, offshore banking, coconut products
Agricultural products - coconuts, tropical fruit, vegetables, pork, eggs, pig offals, pig fat, poultry, papayas, cabbages
Exports $30 million (2018 est.)
fish, calcium phosphates, low-voltage protection equipment, air conditioners, leather apparel
partners: Thailand 34%, Australia 16%, United States 13%, South Korea 10%, Philippines 9%, Japan 7%, France 5%
Imports $90 million (2018 est.)
refined petroleum, construction vehicles, tug boats, poultry meats, cars

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
9,810 (2022 est.)
Population Growth
-0.42% (2022 est.)
Ethnicity
Nauruan 88.9%, part Nauruan 6.6%, I-Kiribati 2%, other 2.5% (2007 est.)
Language
Nauruan 93% (official, a distinct Pacific Island language), English 2% (widely understood, spoken, and used for most government and commercial purposes), other 5% (includes I-Kiribati 2% and Chinese 2%) (2011 est.)
Religion
Protestant 60.4% (includes Nauru Congregational 35.7%, Assembly of God 13%, Nauru Independent Church 9.5%, Baptist 1.5%, and Seventh Day Adventist 0.7%), Roman Catholic 33%, other 3.7%, none 1.8%, unspecified 1.1% (2011 est.)
Urbanization
urban population: 100% of total population (2022)
rate of urbanization: 0.18% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

as of April 2022