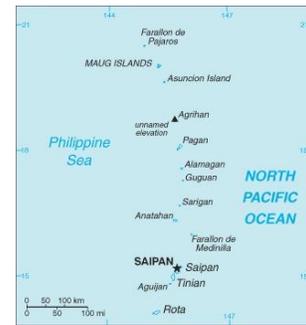
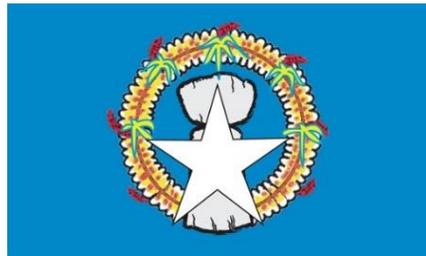


# NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS



## INTRODUCTION

Under US administration as part of the UN Trust Territory of the Pacific, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands decided in the 1970s not to seek independence but instead to forge closer links with the US. A covenant to establish a commonwealth in political union with the US was approved in 1975, and came into force on 24 March 1976. A new constitution went into effect in 1978.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

President Joseph R. BIDEN Jr.

### Head of Government

Governor Ralph TORRES

### Government Type

republican form of government with separate executive, legislative, and judicial branches; a commonwealth in political union with and under the sovereignty of the US

### Capital

Saipan

### Legislature

bicameral Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature consists of the Senate (9 seats) and the House of Representatives (20 seats)

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 464 sq km  
Land: 464 sq km  
Water: 0 sq km

### Climate

tropical marine; moderated by northeast trade winds, little seasonal temperature variation; dry season December to June, rainy season July to October

### Natural Resources

arable land, fish

as of October 2021

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

US Pacific island commonwealth economy; growing Chinese and Korean tourist destination; hit hard by 2018 typhoon; dependent on energy imports; exempt from some US labor and immigration laws; longstanding garment production

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$1.242 billion (2016 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$24,500 (2016 est.)

**Industries** - tourism, banking, construction, fishing, handicrafts

**Agricultural products** - vegetables and melons, fruits and nuts, ornamental plants, livestock, poultry, eggs, fish and aquaculture products

**Exports** \$914 million (2016 est.)

scrap iron, scrap copper, scrap aluminum, computers, laboratory diagnostic equipment (2019)

**partners:** South Korea 73%, Peru 5% (2019)

**Imports** \$893 million (2016 est.)

refined petroleum, trunks/cases, cars, watches, jewelry (2019)

**partners:** Hong Kong 29%, Japan 29%, Singapore 16%, South Korea 9% (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

51,660 (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

-0.36% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

Asian 50% (includes Filipino 35.3%, Chinese 6.8%, Korean 4.2%, and other Asian 3.7%), Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander 34.9% (includes Chamorro 23.9%, Carolinian 4.6%, and other Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 6.4%), other 2.5%, two or more ethnicities or races 12.7% (2010 est.)

### Language

Philippine languages 32.8%, Chamorro (official) 24.1%, English (official) 17%, other Pacific island languages 10.1%, Chinese 6.8%, other Asian languages 7.3%, other 1.9% (2010 est.)

### Religion

Christian (Roman Catholic majority; traditional beliefs and taboos may still be found)

