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)

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)

as of October 2021