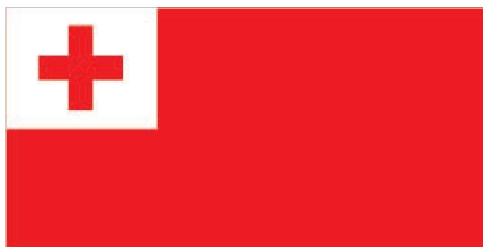




# TONGA



## INTRODUCTION

Tonga - unique among Pacific nations - never completely lost its indigenous governance. The archipelagos of "The Friendly Islands" were united into a Polynesian kingdom in 1845. Tonga became a constitutional monarchy in 1875 and a British protectorate in 1900. It withdrew from the protectorate and joined the Commonwealth of Nations in 1970. Tonga remains the only monarchy in the Pacific.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

King TUPOU VI

### Head of Government

Prime Minister Pohiva TU'ONETOA

### Government Type

constitutional monarchy

### Capital

Nuku'alofa

### Legislature

unicameral Legislative Assembly or Fale Alea (up to 30 seats)

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 747 sq km

Land: 717 sq km

Water: 30 sq km

### Climate

tropical; modified by trade winds; warm season (December to May), cool season (May to December)

### Natural Resources

arable land, fish

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

upper middle-income Pacific island economy; enormous diaspora and remittance reliance; key tourism and agricultural sectors; major fish exporter; rapidly growing Chinese infrastructure investments; rising methamphetamine hub

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$667 million (2019 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$6,380 (2019 est.)

**Industries** - tourism, construction, fishing

**Agricultural products** - coconuts, gourds, cassava, sweet potatoes, vegetables, yams, taro, roots/tubers nes, plantains, lemons/limes

**Exports** \$90 million (2020 est.)

squash, fish, fruits and nuts, antiques, coral and shells (2019)

**partners:** US 38%, South Korea 18%, Australia 14%, NZ 14%, Japan 6%, (2019)

**Imports** \$300 million (2020 est.)

refined petroleum, poultry meats, audio equipment, mutton, goat meat, broadcasting equipment (2019)

**partners:** Fiji 29%, NZ 23%, China 14%, US 8%, Australia 6%, Japan 6% (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

105,780 (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

-0.23% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

Tongan 97%,

part-Tongan 0.8%,

other 2.2%, unspecified <0.1% (2016 est.)

### Language

Tongan and English 76.8%, Tongan, English, and other language 10.6%, Tongan only (official) 8.7%, English only (official) 0.7%, other 1.7%, none 2.2% (2016 est.)

### Religion

Protestant 64.1%, Church of Jesus Christ 18.6%, Roman Catholic 14.2%, other 2.4%, none 0.5%, unspecified 0.1% (2016 est.)

### Urbanization

urban population: 23.1% of total population (2021)

rate of urbanization: 0.99% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

