



Cabo Verde



Background The Portuguese discovered and colonized the uninhabited islands of Cabo Verde in the 15th century; Cabo Verde subsequently became a trading center for African slaves and later an important coaling and resupply stop for whaling and transatlantic shipping. The fusing of European and various African cultural traditions is reflected in Cabo Verde's Crioulo language, music, and pano textiles. After gaining independence in 1975, a one-party system was established and maintained until multi-party elections were held in 1990. Cabo Verde continues to sustain one of Africa's most stable democratic governments and relatively stable economies, maintaining a currency pegged first to the Portuguese escudo and then to the euro since 1998. Repeated droughts during the second half of the 20th century caused significant hardship and prompted heavy emigration. As a result, Cabo Verde's expatriate population -- concentrated in Boston, Massachusetts and Western Europe -- is greater than its domestic one.

Most Cabo Verdeans have both African and Portuguese antecedents. Cabo Verde's population descends from its first permanent inhabitants in the late 15th-century -- a preponderance of West African slaves, a small share of Portuguese colonists, and even fewer Italians and Spaniards. Among the nine inhabited islands, population distribution is varied. The islands in the east are very dry and are home to the country's growing tourism industry. The more western islands receive more precipitation and support larger populations, but agriculture and livestock grazing have damaged their soil fertility and vegetation. For centuries, the country's overall population size has fluctuated significantly, as recurring periods of famine and epidemics have caused high death tolls and emigration.

Capital	name: Praia
Government type	parliamentary republic
Area	total : 4,033 sq km land: 4,033 sq km water: 0 sq km
Climate	temperate; warm, dry summer; precipitation meager and erratic
Natural resources	salt, basalt rock, limestone, kaolin, fish, clay, gypsum
Population	total: 611,014 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	1.16% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	Creole (Mulatto) 71%, African 28%, European 1%

Religions	Roman Catholic 72.5%, Protestant 4% (includes Adventist 1.9%, Nazarene 1.8%, Assembly of God 0.2%, God is Love 0.1%), Christian Rationalism 1.7%, Muslim 1.3%, Jehovah's Witness 1.2%, Church of Jesus Christ 1%, other Christian 1.3%, other 1.2%, none 15.6%, no response 0.4% (2021 est.)
Languages	Portuguese (official), Crioulo (a Portuguese-based creole language with two main dialects)
Executive branch	chief of state: President Jose Maria Pereira NEVES (since 9 November 2021) head of government: Prime Minister Jose Ulisses CORREIA e SILVA (since 22 April 2016)
Legislative branch	legislature name: National Assembly (Assembleia Nacional)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Jose Luis do Livramento MONTEIRO ALVES DE BRITO (since 23 December 2020)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Jennifer ADAMS (since 10 September 2024)
Economic overview	stable, middle-income, developing island economy; strong GDP growth led by tourism sector recovery; sustained poverty reduction through PEDS II development plan; high reliance on foreign remittances and aid to finance external debt
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$5.2 billion (2024 est.) \$4.848 billion (2023 est.) \$4.6 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$9,900 (2024 est.) \$9,300 (2023 est.) \$8,900 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$1.158 billion (2024 est.) \$972.636 million (2023 est.) \$851.907 million (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	Spain 46%, Portugal 9%, Togo 7%, Italy 7%, India 6% (2023)
Exports - commodities	fish, refined petroleum, railway cargo containers, shellfish, garments (2023)
Imports	\$1.473 billion (2024 est.) \$1.428 billion (2023 est.) \$1.31 billion (2022 est.)
Imports - partners	Portugal 29%, Saudi Arabia 11%, Netherlands 9%, Spain 8%, China 7% (2023)
Imports - commodities	refined petroleum, aircraft, cars, fish, railway cargo containers (2023)

Population Pyramid

