



# Vanuatu



<b>Background</b>	Austronesian speakers from the Solomon Islands first settled Vanuatu around 2000 B.C. The British and French, who settled the islands (then known as the New Hebrides) in the 19th century, agreed in 1906 to a condominium, which administered the islands until independence in 1980 under the new name of Vanuatu.
<b>Capital</b>	name: Port-Vila (on Efate)
<b>Government type</b>	parliamentary republic
<b>Area</b>	total : 12,189 sq km land: 12,189 sq km water: 0 sq km
<b>Climate</b>	tropical; moderated by southeast trade winds from May to October; moderate rainfall from November to April; may be affected by cyclones from December to April
<b>Natural resources</b>	manganese, hardwood forests, fish
<b>Population</b>	total: 318,007
<b>Population growth rate</b>	1.55% (2024 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups</b>	Ni-Vanuatu 99%, other 1% (European, Asian, other Melanesian, Polynesian, Micronesian, other) (2020 est.)
<b>Religions</b>	Protestant 39.9% (Presbyterian 27.2%, Seventh Day Adventist 14.8%, Anglican 12%, Churches of Christ 5%, Assemblies of God 4.9%, Neil Thomas Ministry/Inner Life Ministry 3.2%), Roman Catholic 12.1%, Apostolic 2.3%, Church of Jesus Christ 1.8%, customary beliefs (including Jon Frum cargo cult) 3.1%, other 12%, none 1.4%, unspecified 0.1% (2020 est.)
<b>Languages</b>	indigenous languages (more than 100) 82.6%, Bislama (official; creole) 14.5%, English (official) 2.1%, French (official) 0.8% (2020 est.)
<b>Executive branch</b>	chief of state: President Nikenike VUROBARAVU (since 23 July 2022) head of government: Prime Minister Charlot SALWAI (since 6 October 2023)
<b>Legislative branch</b>	summary: unicameral Parliament (52 seats)
<b>Diplomatic representation in the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador Odo TEVI (since 8 September 2017) note - also Permanent Representative to the UN
<b>Diplomatic representation from the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador Ann Marie YASTISHOCK (since 16 April 2024); note - also accredited to the Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, based in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
<b>Economic overview</b>	lower-middle income Pacific island economy; extremely reliant on subsistence agriculture and tourism; environmentally fragile; struggling post-pandemic and Tropical Cyclone Harold rebound; sizeable inflation; road infrastructure aid from Australia
<b>Real GDP (purchasing power parity)</b>	\$999.536 million (2023 est.) \$977.896 million (2022 est.) \$959.511 million (2021 est.)
<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$3,000 (2023 est.) \$3,000 (2022 est.) \$3,000 (2021 est.)
<b>Exports</b>	\$152.087 million (2022 est.) \$82.08 million (2021 est.) \$132.943 million (2020 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	Thailand 42%, Japan 27%, South Korea 7%, Philippines 6%, China 5% (2022)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	fish, perfume plants, copra, shellfish, cocoa beans (2022)
<b>Imports</b>	\$579.347 million (2022 est.) \$520.391 million (2021 est.) \$438.373 million (2020 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	China 24%, Australia 15%, Malaysia 12%, NZ 9%, Fiji 8% (2022)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	refined petroleum, ships, plastic products, poultry, broadcasting equipment (2022)