



Seychelles



Background	Seychelles was uninhabited before Europeans discovered the islands early in the 16th century. After a lengthy struggle, France eventually ceded control of the islands to Great Britain in 1814. During colonial rule, a plantation-based economy developed that relied on imported labor, primarily from European colonies in Africa. Seychelles gained independence in 1976 through negotiations with Great Britain. In 1977, Prime Minister France-Albert RENE launched a coup against the country's first president, and Seychelles became a socialist one-party state until adopting a new constitution and holding elections in 1993. RENE continued to lead Seychelles through two election cycles until he stepped down in 2004. Vice President James Alix MICHEL took over the presidency and in 2006 was elected to a new five-year term; he was reelected in 2011 and again in 2015. In 2016, James MICHEL resigned and handed over the presidency to his vice-president, Danny FAURE. In 2020, Wavel RAMKALAWAN was elected president, the first time an opposition candidate has won the presidency.
Capital	name: Victoria
Government type	presidential republic
Area	total: 455 sq km land: 455 sq km water: 0 sq km
Climate	tropical marine; humid; cooler season during southeast monsoon (late May to September); warmer season during northwest monsoon (March to May)
Natural resources	fish, coconuts (copra), cinnamon trees
Population	total: 98,187 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	0.56% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	predominantly Creole (mainly of East African and Malagasy heritage); also French, Indian, Chinese, and Arab populations
Religions	Roman Catholic 76.2%, Protestant 10.5% (Anglican 6.1%, Pentecostal Assembly 1.5%, Seventh Day Adventist 1.2%, other Protestant 1.7%), other Christian 2.4%, Hindu 2.4%, Muslim 1.6%, other non-Christian 1.1%, unspecified 4.8%, none 0.9% (2010 est.)
Languages	Seychellois Creole (official) 89.1%, English (official) 5.1%, French (official) 0.7%, other 3.8%, unspecified 1.4% (2010 est.)
Executive branch	chief of state: President Patrick HERMINIE (since 26 October 2025) head of government: President Patrick HERMINIE (since 26 October 2025)
Legislative branch	legislature name: National Assembly
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador-designate Vivianne FOCK TAVE (since August 2025); note - also Permanent Representative to the UN-designate

Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Henry V. JARDINE (since 22 February 2023) and Chargé d'Affaires Adham LOUTFI (since 6 October 2023); note - Ambassador JARDINE is posted in Mauritius and is accredited to Seychelles, and Chargé d'Affaires LOUTFI is posted in Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles
Economic overview	high-income Indian Ocean island economy; rapidly growing tourism sector; major tuna exporter; offshore financial hub; environmentally fragile and investing in ocean rise mitigation; recently discovered offshore oil potential; successful anticorruption efforts
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$3.549 billion (2024 est.) \$3.43 billion (2023 est.) \$3.354 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$29,200 (2024 est.) \$28,600 (2023 est.) \$28,000 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$2.375 billion (2023 est.) \$2.247 billion (2022 est.) \$1.751 billion (2021 est.)
Exports - partners	France 20%, Mauritius 12%, UK 9%, Japan 8%, Italy 8% (2023)
Exports - commodities	fish, scrap iron, animal meal, broadcasting equipment, ships (2023)
Imports	\$2.437 billion (2023 est.) \$2.298 billion (2022 est.) \$1.821 billion (2021 est.)
Imports - partners	UAE 32%, Spain 10%, France 6%, South Africa 6%, India 6% (2023)
Imports - commodities	refined petroleum, fish, ships, cars, plastic products (2023)

Population Pyramid

