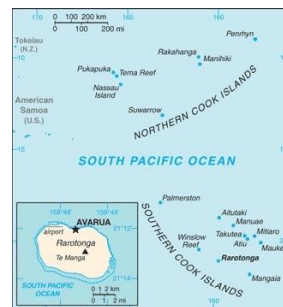
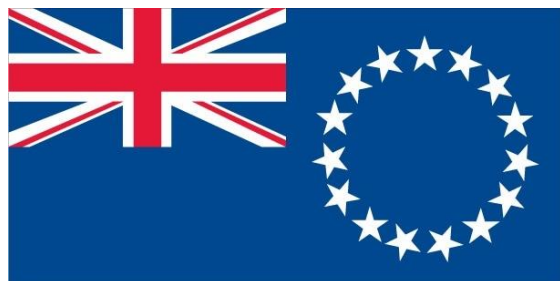




COOK ISLANDS



INTRODUCTION

Polynesians from Tahiti first settled the islands around A.D. 900. They are named for British explorer Capt. James COOK who spotted one of the islands in 1773. In 1901, the UK placed them in the New Zealand Colony and in 1915, organized the Cook Islands into one political entity.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

King CHARLES III; represented by Sir Tom J. MARSTERS

Head of Government

Prime Minister Mark BROWN

Government Type

parliamentary democracy

Capital

Avarua

Legislature

unicameral Parliament, formerly the Legislative Assembly (24 seats)

Ambassador to US

NA

US Ambassador

NA

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 236 sq km

Land: 236 sq km

Water: 0 sq km

Climate

tropical oceanic; moderated by trade winds; a dry season from April to November and a more humid season from December to March

Natural Resources

coconuts (copra)

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

high-income self-governing New Zealand territorial economy; tourism-based activity but diversifying; severely curtailed by COVID-19 pandemic; copra and tropical fruit exporter; Asian Development Bank aid recipient

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$266 million (2022)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$15,600 (2022)

Industries - fishing, fruit processing, tourism, clothing, handicrafts

Agricultural products - vegetables, coconuts, roots/tubers,

cassava, papayas, tomatoes, pork, fruit, sweet potatoes, mangoes/guavas

Exports \$31.4 million (2021 est.)

fish products, recreational boats, paintings, lobsters, tuna (2021)

partners: Japan 41%, France 18%, Thailand 16%, Greece 7%, China 6% (2021)

Imports \$215 million (2021 est.)

motorboats, refined petroleum, integrated circuits, lumber, cars, edible preparations, flavored water, beer (2021)

partners: New Zealand 57%, Turkey 12%, Italy 11%, Israel 5%, Fiji 4% (2021)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

7,940 (2023 est.)

Population Growth

-2.31% (2023 est.)

Ethnicity

Cook Island Maori (Polynesian) 81.3%, part Cook Island Maori 6.7%, other 11.9% (2011 est.)

Language

English (official) 86.4%, Cook Islands Maori (Rarotongan) (official) 76.2%, other 8.3% (2011 est.)

Religion

Protestant 62.8%, Roman Catholic 17%, Church of Jesus Christ 4.4%, other 8%, none 5.6%, no response 2.2% (2011 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 76.2% of total population (2023)

rate of urbanization: 0.52% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)