



# VANUATU



## INTRODUCTION

Multiple waves of colonizers, each speaking a distinct language, migrated to the New Hebrides in the millennia preceding European exploration in the 18th century. This settlement pattern accounts for the complex linguistic diversity found on the archipelago to this day. The British and French, who settled the New Hebrides in the 19th century, agreed in 1906 to an Anglo-French Condominium, which administered the islands until independence in 1980, when the new name of Vanuatu was adopted.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

President Nikenike VUROBARAVU

### Head of Government

Prime Minister Sato KILMAN

### Government Type

parliamentary republic

### Capital

Port-Vila (on Efate)

### Legislature

unicameral Parliament (52 seats)

### Ambassador to US

Ambassador Odo TEVI

### US Ambassador

the US does not have an embassy in Vanuatu; the US Chargé d'Affaires to Papua New Guinea Matthew BUNT is accredited to Vanuatu

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 12,189 sq km

Land: 12,189 sq km

Water: 0 sq km

### Climate

tropical; moderated by southeast trade winds  
May to October; moderate rainfall from November to April; may be affected by cyclones from December to April

### Natural Resources

manganese, hardwood forests, fish

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

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

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$888.2 million (2021)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$2,800 (2021)

**Industries** - food and fish freezing, wood processing, meat canning

**Agricultural products** - coconuts, roots/tubers, bananas, vegetables, pork, fruit, milk, beef, groundnuts, cocoa

**Exports** \$88.81 million (2021 est.)

tuna, floating platforms, cargo ships, perfume plants, mollusks, copra (2021)

**partners:** Thailand 54%, Japan 18%, South Korea 6%, Cyprus 5%, China 4% (2021)

**Imports** \$495.9 million (2021 est.)

refined petroleum, fishing ships, poultry meats, delivery trucks, lumber, rice, broadcasting equipment (2021)

**partners:** China 26%, Australia 16%, New Zealand 15%, Fiji 8%, Singapore 7% (2021)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

313,050 (2023 est.)

### Population Growth

1.59% (2023 est.)

### Ethnicity

Ni-Vanuatu 99%, other 1% (European, Asian, other Melanesian, Polynesian, Micronesian, other) (2020 est.)

### Language

Indigenous languages (more than 100) 82.6%, Bislama (official; creole) 14.5%, English (official) 2.1%, French (official) 0.8% (2020 est.)

### Religion

Protestant 39.9%, Roman Catholic 12.1%, Apostolic 2.3%, Church of Jesus Christ 1.8%, customary beliefs 3.1%, other 12%, none 1.4%, unspecified 0.1% (2011 est.)

### Urbanization

urban population: 26% of total population (2023)

rate of urbanization: 2.55% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

as of September 2023