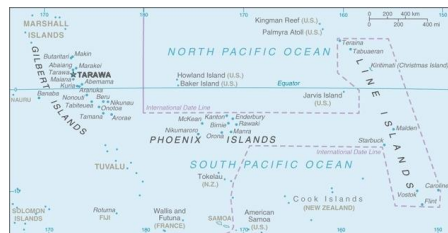




# KIRIBATI



## INTRODUCTION

The Gilbert Islands became a British protectorate in 1892 and a colony in 1915. They were captured by the Japanese in the Pacific War in 1941. The islands of Makin and Tarawa were the sites of major US amphibious victories over entrenched Japanese garrisons in 1943. The Gilbert Islands were granted self-rule by the UK in 1971 and complete independence in 1979 under the new name of Kiribati. Kiribati joined the UN in 1999 and has been an active participant in international efforts to combat climate change.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

President Taneti MAAMAU

### Head of Government

President Taneti MAAMAU

### Government Type

presidential republic

### Capital

Tarawa

### Legislature

unicameral House of Assembly or Maneaba Ni Maungatabu (46 seats)

### Ambassador to US

Ambassador Teburoro TITO

### US Ambassador

the US does not have an embassy in Kiribati; the US Ambassador to Fiji is accredited to Kiribati

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 811 sq km  
 Land: 811 sq km  
 Water: 0 sq km

### Climate

tropical; marine, hot and humid, moderated by trade winds

### Natural Resources

coconuts (copra), fish

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

lower-middle income, Pacific island economy; environmentally fragile; sizable remittances; key phosphate mining fund; tourism and fishing industries; public sector-dominated economy; recent withdrawal from Pacific Islands Forum; ongoing constitutional crisis

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$249.6 million (2021)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$1,900 (2021)

**Industries** - fishing, handicrafts

**Agricultural products** - coconuts, roots/tubers, bananas, vegetables, taro, tropical fruit, poultry, pork, nuts, eggs

**Exports** \$10.75 million (2021 est.)

skipjacks, tuna, fish fillets, ships, coconut oil, copra (2021)

**partners:** Thailand 60%, Indonesia 11%, Philippines 10%, Japan 6%, South Korea 3% (2021)

**Imports** \$202 million (2021 est.)

fishing ships, beef, netting, poultry meat, rice, refined petroleum, sugar, refrigerators (2021)

**partners:** China 23%, Taiwan 16%, Fiji 16%, Australia 12%, New Zealand 6% (2021)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

115,370 (2023 est.)

### Population Growth

1.02% (2023 est.)

### Ethnicity

I-Kiribati 95.78%, I-Kiribati/mixed 3.8%, Tuvaluan 0.2%, other 1.7% (2020 est.)

### Language

Gilbertese, English (official)

### Religion

Roman Catholic 58.9%, Kiribati Uniting Church 21.2%, Kiribati Protestant Church 8.4%, Church of Jesus Christ 5.6%, Seventh Day Adventist 2.1%, Baha'i 2.1%, other 1.7% (2020 est.)

### Urbanization

urban population: 57.8% of total population (2023)  
 rate of urbanization: 2.77% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)