

Nauru

Nauru, also spelled Naoero, island and republic in the central Pacific Ocean, situated just south of the equator. It is a raised coral island, oval in shape, with an area of 21.2 sq km (8.2 sq mi). The population (2001 estimate) is 12,088. In the late 1980s the population was estimated to be made up of about 58 percent Nauruans, 26 percent other Pacific Islanders, 8 percent Chinese, and 8 percent Europeans. The Nauruans are of mixed Polynesian, Micronesian, and Melanesian origin. About four-fifths of the people are Christians. Nauruan and English are the main languages. Nauru does not have an official capital, but government offices are located in the district of Yaren.

Most of the people of Nauru live along a narrow, fertile coastal strip that encircles the island. The rest of the island consists of a central plateau, about 60 m (about 200 ft) in elevation, that contains rich deposits of high-quality phosphate rock. In the mid-1980s approximately 1.6 million metric tons of phosphate were exported annually to Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Korea, and Japan, primarily for use in the manufacture of fertilizer. In the early 1990s demand and export of phosphate rock declined, and in 1999 production was down to 600,000 metric tons.

The Nauruans receive generous royalties for the mined phosphate, and this makes Nauru one of the richest, per capita, countries in the world. However, the phosphate mining has severely damaged the island's environment. Eighty percent of the island has been rendered uninhabitable. Native birds are threatened by habitat loss, and Nauru is now seeking international aid in order to rehabilitate its land. Because of the expected depletion of the phosphate deposits, the Nauruan government is investing abroad and attempting to develop service industries to ensure the country's economic future.

Nauru was visited by the British in 1798 and annexed by Germany in 1888; it surrendered to Australian armed forces in 1914. It was occupied by the Japanese during World War II from 1942 until 1945, and in 1947 was placed under United Nations trusteeship, administered jointly by Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. Nauru gained its independence and was proclaimed a republic on January 31, 1968. Its unicameral parliament has 18 popularly elected members who serve terms of up to three years. Voting is compulsory for all citizens age 20 and older. The president, elected by parliament from among its members, is assisted by an appointed cabinet. Hammer DeRoburt became president upon independence, serving from 1968 to 1976. He was returned to the presidency in 1978 and was reelected in 1980, 1983, and 1987. In late 1989, after a period of political turmoil, Bernard Dowiyogo was elected president; he was reelected in 1992. The campaign for the November 1995 legislative elections was marked by allegations that the government had poorly managed royalties from the phosphate mining. In late November the new parliament elected Lagumot Harris to replace Dowiyogo as president. Political instability returned in 1996 and 1997, when parliament elected four presidents in less than three months. A new parliament, elected in February 1997, chose Kinza Clodumar as president, Nauru's fifth in less than a year. Nauru became a member of the United Nations in 1999.

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Nauru Facts and Figures

BASIC FACTS

Official name	Republic of Nauru
Capital	No official capital; government offices in Yaren
Area	21 sq km 8.2 sq mi

PEOPLE

Population	12,088 (2001 estimate)
Population growth	
Population growth rate	2 percent (2001 estimate)
Projected population in 2025	17,887 (2000 estimate)
Projected population in 2050	22,696 (2000 estimate)
Population density	570 persons per sq km (2001 estimate) 1,477 persons per sq mi (2001 estimate)
Urban/rural distribution	
Share urban	100 percent (1999 estimate)
Share rural	0 percent (1995 estimate)
Ethnic groups	
Nauruan	58 percent
Other Pacific Islander	26 percent
Chinese	8 percent
European	8 percent
Languages	
Nauruan (official), English widely used in government and commerce	
Religious affiliations	
Christian	80 percent
Other	20 percent

HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Life expectancy	
Total	61.2 years (2001 estimate)
Female	64.9 years (2001 estimate)
Male	57.7 years (2001 estimate)
Infant mortality rate	11 deaths per 1,000 live births (2001 estimate)
Population per physician	Not available
Population per hospital bed	Not available
Literacy rate	
Total	Not available
Female	Not available
Male	Not available
Education expenditure as a share of gross national product (GNP)	Not available

Number of years of compulsory schooling	10 years (1998)
Number of students per teacher, primary school	20 students per teacher (1997)

GOVERNMENT

Form of government	Republic
Voting qualifications	Universal and compulsory at age 20
Constitution	31 January 1968
Armed forces	
Total number of military personnel	Not available
Military expenditures as a share of gross domestic product (GDP)	Not available

ECONOMY

Gross domestic product (GDP, in U.S.\$)	Not available
GDP per capita (U.S.\$)	Not available
GDP by economic sector	
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	Not available
Industry	Not available
Services	Not available
Employment	
Number of workers	Not available
Workforce share of economic sector	
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	Not available
Industry	Not available
Services	Not available
Unemployment rate	Not available
National budget (U.S.\$)	
Total revenue	Not available
Total expenditure	Not available
Monetary unit	
1 Australian dollar (\$A), consisting of 100 cents	
Major trade partners for exports	
Australia, New Zealand	
Major trade partners for imports	
Australia, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Japan	

ENERGY, COMMUNICATIONS, AND TRANSPORTATION

Electricity production	
Electricity from thermal sources	100 percent (1999 estimate)
Electricity from hydroelectric sources	0 percent (1999 estimate)
Electricity from nuclear sources	0 percent (1999 estimate)
Electricity from geothermal, solar, and wind sources	0 percent (1999 estimate)
Number of radios per 1,000 people	609 (1997)
Number of telephones per 1,000 people	Not available
Number of televisions per 1,000 people	46 (1997 estimate)

Number of Internet hosts per 10,000 people	Not available
Daily newspaper circulation per 1,000 people	Not available
Number of motor vehicles per 1,000 people	Not available
Paved road as a share of total roads	Not available

SOURCES

Basic Facts and People sections

Area data are from the statistical bureaus of individual countries. Population, population growth rate, and population projections are from the United States Census Bureau, International Programs Center, International Data Base (IDB) (www.census.gov). Urban and rural population data are from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN), FAOSTAT database (www.fao.org). Largest cities population data and political divisions data are from the statistical bureaus of individual countries. Ethnic divisions and religion data are largely from the latest Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) *World Factbook* and from various country censuses and reports. Language data are largely from the *Ethnologue, Languages of the World*, Summer Institute of Linguistics International (www.sil.org).

Health and Education section

Life expectancy and infant mortality data are from the United States Census Bureau, International Programs Center, International database (IDB) (www.census.gov). Population per physician and population per hospital bed data are from the World Health Organization (WHO) (www.who.int). Education data are from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) database (www.unesco.org).

Government section

Government, independence, legislature, constitution, highest court, and voting qualifications data are largely from various government Web sites, the latest *Europa World Yearbook*, and the latest Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) *World Factbook*. The armed forces data is from *Military Balance*.

Economy section

Gross domestic product (GDP), GDP per capita, GDP by economic sectors, employment, and national budget data are from the World Bank database (www.worldbank.org). Monetary unit, agriculture, mining, manufacturing, exports, imports, and major trade partner information is from the latest *Europa World Yearbook* and various International Monetary Fund (IMF) publications.

Energy, Communication, and Transportation section

Electricity information is from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) database (www.eia.doe.gov). Radio, telephone, television, and newspaper information is from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) database (www.unesco.org). Internet hosts, motor vehicles, and road data are from the World Bank database (www.worldbank.org).

Note

Figures may not total 100 percent due to rounding.

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0°31'40.09" S 166°56'04.60" E

elev 108 ft

Jun 2, 2005

Eye alt 26573 ft

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Detailed Map of Nauru

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Heldur Netocny/Panos Pictures

Beach on Nauru

Nauru, a small island country in the central Pacific Ocean, has the richest concentration of phosphate salt in the world. The phosphate is mined from a plateau on the island's interior and then refined in a treatment plant. Because Nauru has no harbor, a system of conveyor belts and cantilevers, *background*, is used to load the phosphate onto ships.

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Nauru

Average temperature, rainfall and snowfall information is available for the following climate stations in Nauru

• NAURU

Official name:	Republic of Nauru
Capital:	no official capital; government offices in Yaren District
Area:	total: 21 sq km water: 0 sq km land: 21 sq km
Climate:	tropical; monsoonal; rainy season (November to February)
Location:	Oceania, island in the South Pacific Ocean, south of the Marshall Islands
Geographic coordinates:	0 32 S, 166 55 E
Comparative Area:	about 0.1 times the size of Washington, DC
Land boundaries:	0 km
Coastline:	30 km
Terrain:	sandy beach rises to fertile ring around raised coral reefs with phosphate plateau in center
Elevation extremes:	lowest point: Pacific Ocean 0 m highest point: unnamed location along plateau rim 61 m

Map of Nauru

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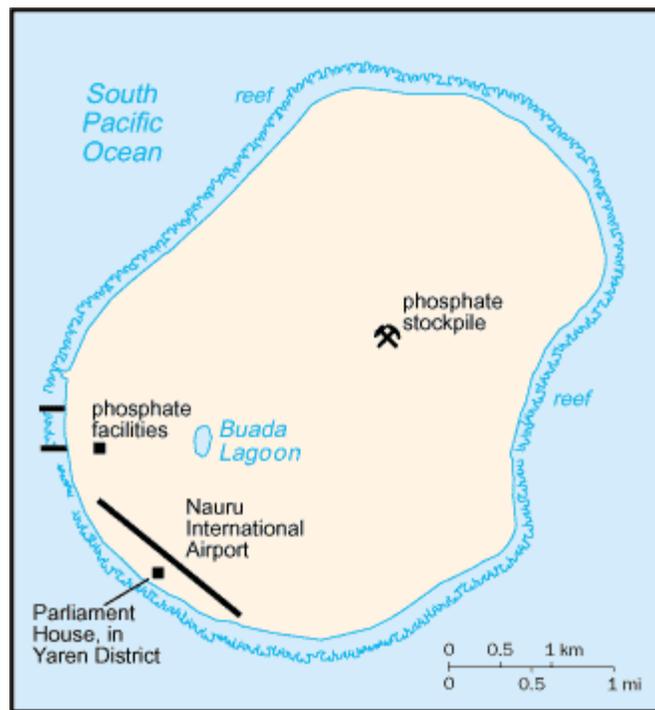
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General info

Entity:
 Nauru
Capital:
 no official capital
Population (2008-07-01):
 13,770 (CIA)
Area:
 21 sq.km.
Country code:
 NR
Region:
 Micronesia

Nauru

Administrative units

	administrative units	capital	area (sq.km.)	population 1992-04-17 census
	Aiwo		1.1	1,072
	Anabar		1.5	320
	Anetan		1.0	427
	Anibare		3.1	165
	Baitsi		1.2	450
	Boe		0.5	750
	Buada		2.6	661
	Denigomodu		0.9	2,548
	Ewa		1.2	355
	Ijuw		1.1	206
	Meneng		3.1	1,269
	Nibok		1.6	577
	Uaboe		0.8	447
	Yaren		1.5	672
	total		21.2	9,919

source: "Book of the Year 2004", Encyclopedia Britannica.

note: 1992 population count counted 6831 Nauruans and 3088 Non-Nauruans.