

## Introduction

Palau is an island nation in the Pacific Ocean southeast of the Philippines. It is the westernmost archipelago in the Caroline chain, consisting of six island groups totaling more than 300 islands. The geology is varied from mountains on the main island to low, coral islands fringed by barrier reefs. The government system is a presidential republic in free association with the United States; the chief of state and the head of government is the president. Palau, largely dependent on the United States, has a traditional economic system in which the majority of the population engages in subsistence agriculture and farming.



**Location:** Oceania, Micronesia

**Capital City:** Ngerulmud

**Chief of State:** President Surangel Whipps Jr.

**Head of Govt.:** President Surangel Whipps Jr.

**Currency:** United States Dollar (USD)

**Major Languages:** Palauan (official on most islands) 65.2%, other Micronesian 1.9%, English (official) 19.1%, Filipino 9.9%, Chinese 1.2%, other 2.8% (2015 est.)

**Primary Religions:** Roman Catholic 46.9%, Protestant 30.9% (Evangelical 24.6%, Seventh Day Adventist 5%, other Protestant 1.4%), Modekngei 5.1% (indigenous to Palau), Muslim 4.9%, other 12.3% (2020 est.)

**Calling Code:** 680

**Voltage:** 110/220

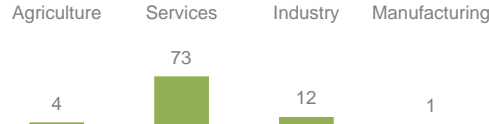
## Key Websites

Main Government Page: [palaugov.pw](http://palaugov.pw)

## Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Upper Middle Income
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$0.27 billion (2021)
GDP growth (annual %):	-13.33% (2021)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$15,211.87 (2021)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	1.10% (2021)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$0.06 billion (2021)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	12.35% (2022)
Labor force, total:	941,783 (2011)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	23.70% (2010)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$0.22 billion (2018)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$0.13 billion (2018)

## GDP Composition %



*\*Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.*

## Rankings

Index	Rank
KOF Index of Globalization	139 / 185

## U.S. Embassy

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