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WRITTEN BY		August 25, 2022	

REVISION HISTORY

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Chapter 1

57

1.1 57.guide

Texified version of data for Cook Islands.

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Cook Islands

1.2 57.guide/Cook Islands

Cook Islands

Header (Cook Islands)

Geography (Cook Islands)

People (Cook Islands)

Government (Cook Islands)

Government (Cook Islands 2. usage)

Economy (Cook Islands)

Communications (Cook Islands)

Defense Forces (Cook Islands)

1.3 57.guide/Header (Cook Islands)

Header (Cook Islands)

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Affiliation:

(free association with New Zealand)

1.4 57.guide/Geography (Cook Islands)

Geography (Cook Islands)

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Location:

Oceania, 4,500 km south of Hawaii in the South Pacific Ocean, about halfway between Hawaii and New Zealand

Map references:

Oceania

Area:

total area:

240 km²

land area:

240 km²

comparative area:

slightly less than 1.3 times the size of Washington, DC

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

120 km

Maritime claims:

continental shelf:

200 nm or the edge of continental margin

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

none

Climate:

tropical; moderated by trade winds

Terrain:

low coral atolls in north; volcanic, hilly islands in south
 Natural resources:
 negligible
 Land use:
 arable land:
 4%
 permanent crops:
 22%
 meadows and pastures:
 0%
 forest and woodland: 0%
 other:
 74%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km2
 Environment:
 subject to typhoons from November to March

1.5 57.guide/People (Cook Islands)

People (Cook Islands)

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Population:
 18,903 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 1.18% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 23.4 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 5.2 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -6.45 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 24.7 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 71.14 years
 male:
 69.2 years
 female:
 73.1 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 3.32 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Cook Islander(s)
 adjective:
 Cook Islander
 Ethnic divisions:
 Polynesian (full blood) 81.3%, Polynesian and European 7.7%, Polynesian and
 other 7.7%, European 2.4%, other 0.9%
 Religions:

Christian (majority of populace members of Cook Islands Christian Church)
 Languages:
 English (official), Maori
 Literacy:
 total population:
 NA%
 male:
 NA%
 female:
 NA%
 Labor force:
 5,810
 by occupation:
 agriculture 29%, government 27%, services 25%, industry 15%, other 4% ↔
 (1981)

1.6 57.guide/Government (Cook Islands)

Government (Cook Islands)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 none
 conventional short form:
 Cook Islands
 Digraph:
 CW
 Type:
 self-governing parliamentary government in free association with New Zealand; Cook Islands is fully responsible for internal affairs; New Zealand ↔ retains responsibility for external affairs, in consultation with the Cook Islands
 Capital:
 Avarua
 Administrative divisions:
 none
 Independence:
 none (became self-governing in free association with New Zealand on 4 August ↔ 1965 and has the right at any time to move to full independence by unilateral action)
 Constitution:
 4 August 1965
 Legal system:
 NA
 National holiday:
 Constitution Day, 4 August
 Political parties and leaders:
 Cook Islands Party, Geoffrey HENRY; Democratic Tumu Party, Vincent INGRAM; Democratic Party, Terepai MAOATE; Cook Islands Labor Party, Rena JONASSEN; Cook Islands People's Party, Sadaraka SADARAKA

Suffrage:

universal adult at age NA

Elections:**Parliament:**

last held 19 January 1989 (next to be held by January 1994); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (24 total) Cook Islands Party 12, Democratic Tumu Party 2, opposition coalition (including Democratic Party) 9, independent 1

Executive branch:

British monarch, representative of the UK, representative of New Zealand, prime minister, deputy prime minister, Cabinet

Legislative branch:

unicameral Parliament; note - the House of Arikis (chiefs) advises on traditional matters, but has no legislative powers

Judicial branch:

High Court

Leaders:**Chief of State:**

Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952); Representative of the UK Sir Tangarua TANGARUA (since NA); Representative of New Zealand Adrian SINCOCK (since NA) Head of Government:

Prime Minister Geoffrey HENRY (since 1 February 1989); Deputy Prime Minister

Inatio AKARURU (since NA February 1989)

Member of:

AsDB, ESCAP (associate), ICAO, IOC, SPARTECA, SPC, SPF, UNESCO, WHO

Diplomatic representation in US:

none (self-governing in free association with New Zealand)

1.7 57.guide/Government (Cook Islands 2. usage)

Government (Cook Islands 2. usage)

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US diplomatic representation:

none (self-governing in free association with New Zealand)

Flag:

blue, with the flag of the UK in the upper hoist-side quadrant and a large circle of 15 white five-pointed stars (one for every island) centered in the outer half of the flag ↔

1.8 57.guide/Economy (Cook Islands)

Economy (Cook Islands)

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Overview:

Agriculture provides the economic base. The major export earners are fruit, copra, and clothing. Manufacturing activities are limited to a fruit-processing plant and several clothing factories. Economic development is hindered by the isolation of the islands from foreign markets and a lack of natural resources and good transportation links. A large trade deficit ←

is annually made up for by remittances from emigrants and from foreign aid. Current economic development plans call for exploiting the tourism ← potential

and expanding the fishing industry.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$40 million (1988 est.)

National product real growth rate:

5.3% (1986-88 est.)

National product per capita:

\$2,200 (1988 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

8% (1988)

Unemployment rate:

NA%

Budget:

revenues \$33.8 million; expenditures \$34.4 million, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1990 est.)

Exports:

\$4.0 million (f.o.b., 1988)

commodities:

copra, fresh and canned fruit, clothing

partners:

NZ 80%, Japan

Imports:

\$38.7 million (c.i.f., 1988)

commodities:

foodstuffs, textiles, fuels, timber

partners: NZ 49%, Japan, Australia, US

External debt:

\$NA

Industrial production:

growth rate NA%

Electricity:

14,000 kW capacity; 21 million kWh produced, 1,170 kWh per capita (1990)

Industries:

fruit processing, tourism

Agriculture:

export crops - copra, citrus fruits, pineapples, tomatoes, bananas;

subsistence crops - yams, taro

Economic aid:

Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$128 million

Currency:

1 New Zealand dollar (NZ\$) = 100 cents

Exchange rates:

New Zealand dollars (NZ\$) per US\$1 - 1.9490 (January 1993), 1.8584 (1992), 1.7266 (1991), 1.6750 (1990), 1.6711 (1989), 1.5244 (1988)

Fiscal year:

1 April - 31 March

1.9 57.guide/Communications (Cook Islands)

Communications (Cook Islands)

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Highways:

187 km total (1980); 35 km paved, 35 km gravel, 84 km improved earth, 33 km unimproved earth

Ports:

Avatiu

Merchant marine:

1 cargo ship (1,000 or over) totaling 1,464 GRT/2,181 DWT

Airports:

total:

7

usable:

7

with permanent-surface runways:

1

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

0

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

5

Telecommunications:

broadcast stations - 1 AM, 1 FM, 1 TV; 11,000 radio receivers; 17,000 TV receivers (1989); 2,052 telephones; 1 Pacific Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.10 57.guide/Defense Forces (Cook Islands)

Defense Forces (Cook Islands)

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Note: defense is the responsibility of New Zealand