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Marshall islands main language

By Sarah-Claire JordanThe Republic of the Marshall Islands is a nation made up of many islands in the Pacific Ocean. It is part of Micronesia, a larger island group made up of many different nations. The United States provides subsidies, defense, and more to the islands, making it a nation in free association with the United States. The currency is the U.S. dollar, and most of the country's revenue comes from the service industry. The two official languages of the Republic of the Marshall Islands are English and Marshallese, a Malayo-Polynesian language. Here are four important things to know about Marshallese:1. Marshallese is a very healthy language Although English is also an official language of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Marshallese is widely spoken throughout the country. The 1979 census recorded about 43,900 speakers on the islands, and even more in the pockets of speakers in other countries, including the United States. What distinguishes Marshallese from most Micronesian languages is the fact that it has so many speakers to date. Most Micronesian languages have not been so lucky and are overshadowed by English, with the exception of chuukese and pohnpeian2. There are two main dialectsThe Marshall Islands are composed of 34 atolls that can be divided into two main chains. To the east is the Ratak Range, and to the west you can find the Ralik Range. Each channel has its own dialect, which are named after the channel in which they are spoken. The dialects are not very different, except for the lexicon, and are very intelligible to each other. The main phonetic difference between these two dialects is the way they manipulate any rod that starts with two consonants. In Ratak Marshallese, a vowel is inserted between the two consonants, while in Ralik Marshallese a vowel is added in front of the two consonants3. Marshallese uses two different spellingsThe Latin alphabet has always been used to write marshallese, with the first spelling introduced by missionaries. This ancient spelling is still the most popular used today, despite the fact that it is not the most consistent or true to the sounds of Marshallese. The new spelling is much more faithful to the actual sounds used in Marshallese, and is becoming more and more popular. It is mainly used by children and young adults, and was used to create the only published marshallese dictionary to be considered complete.4. There are two types of sentence structures in MarshalleseJust as in most other Micronesian languages, marshallese divides sentences into two different groups: equation and preaching. Equational phrases are phrases that equate one thing with another, such as Mary is the bassist. This equates Mary with bass player. In marshallese, the subject and the predicate of equational sentences are both name phrases. In predictive sentences, something is done. For example, Mary plays bass is a Sentence. In marshallese, these types of phrases always have an SVO word order and include a main verb. For an overview of our translation expertise, visit our technical translation service page. Category: Foreign language In the Marshall Islands, the spoken language is Marshallese, English and the written language is Marshallese, English. The capital of the Marshall Islands is Majuro and the population is 70,822 with a total area of 181 square kilometers. American Translation Partners has created the Language Locator as a special research tool for our visitors who want to know which language is spoken in any specific country around the world. We hope you find the language locator usef ul. Please feel free to make suggestions on how to improve this tool or update content in a country (spoken languages, written languages, population, flags, region). Pacific Northwest Countries Coordinates: 9-N 168-E / 9-N 168-E/9; 168 Republic of the Marshall IslandsAolepon Aor-n Majel (Marshallese) Flag Seal Motto: Jepilpilin ke ejukaanRealization by a joint effortHymne: Forever Marshall IslandsCapitaland's largest cityMajuro[1]7-7-N 171-4-E / 7.117 N 171.067-E / 7.117; 171.067Official languagesMarshalleseEnglishEthnic groups (2006[2])92.1% Marshallese5.9% Mixed Marshallese2% OthersReligion (2010)97% Christianity2% None1% Others[3]Demonym(s)MarshalleseGovernmentUnitary parliamentary republic with an executive presidency• President David Kabua• Speaker Kenneth Kedi[4] LegislatureNitijelaIndependence from the United States• Self-government May 1, 1979• Compact of Free Association October 21, 1986 Area• Total181.43 km2 (70.05 sq mi) (188th)• Water (%)n/a (negligible)Population• 2018 estimate58,413[5][6] (211th)• 2011 census53,158[7]• Density293.0/km2 (758.9/sq mi) (28th)GDP (PPP)2019 estimate• Total\$215 million• Per capita\$3,789[8]GDP (nominal)2019 estimate• Total\$220 million• Per capita\$3,866[8]HDI (2019) 0.704[9]high - 117thCurrencyUnited States dollar (USD)Time zoneUTC+12 (MHT)Date formatMM/DD/YYYYDriving siderightCalling code+692ISO 3166 codeMHInternet TLD.nh 2005 estimate. The Marshall Islands, officially the Republic of the Marshall Islands (Marshallese: Aolepon Aor-kin Majel),[note 1] is an island country and associated state of the United States near Ecuador in the Pacific Ocean, slightly west of the international date line. Geographically, the country is part of the largest island group in Micronesia. The country's population of 58,413 (in the 2018 World Bank Census[10]) is spread over 29 coral atolls,[2] comprising 1,156 islands and individual islets. The capital and largest city is Majuro. It owns most of its water territory of any sovereign state, 97.87 per 19 per 20 per 200. islands share wake Island to the north[note 2], Kiribati to the southeast, Nauru to the south and the Federated States of Micronesia to the west. About 52.3% of Marshall Island residents (27,797 in the 2011 census) live in Majuro. [2] United Nations data indicate an estimated population of 58,413 in 2018. In 2016, 73.3% of the population was defined as urban. The UN also reports a population density of 295 per sq km (765 people per mi2) and its projected population for 2020 is 59,190. Micronesian settlers reached the Marshall Islands with canoes around the 2nd millennium BC. J.-C., inter-Island navigation made possible by traditional stick maps. They ended up moving here. The islands of the archipelago were first explored by Europeans in the 1520s, starting with Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese explorer serving Spain, Juan Sebastian Elcano and Miguel de Saavedra. The Spanish explorer Alonso de Salazar reported seeing an atoll in August 1526. Other expeditions of Spanish and English ships followed. The islands are named after John Marshall, who visited in 1788. The islands were historically known by locals as jolet jen Anij (Gifts of God). [13] Spain claimed the islands in 1592, and European powers recognized its sovereignty over the islands in 1874. They were officially part of the Spanish East Indies since 1528. Later, Spain sold some of the islands to the German Empire in 1885, and they became part of German New Guinea that year, run by commercial companies doing business in the islands, especially the Jaluit Company. During World War I, the Empire of Japan occupied the Marshall Islands, which in 1920 the League of Nations joined other former German territories in forming the mandate of the South Sea. During World War II, the United States took control of the islands during the Gilbert and Marshall Islands campaign in 1944. Nuclear tests began on Bikini Atoll in 1946 and were completed in 1958. The U.S. government formed the Congress of Micronesia in 1965, a plan for increased autonomy of the Pacific Islands. In May 1979, the Territory Trust of the Pacific Islands granted independence to the Marshall Islands, whose constitution and president (Amata Kabua) were officially recognized by the United States. Full sovereignty or self-government was achieved through a Free Association Pact with the United States. The Marshall Islands have been members of the Pacific Community (SPC) since 1983 and a member state of the United Nations since 1991. [12] Politically, the Marshall Islands are a parliamentary republic with a Executive in free association with the United States, with the United States providing defense, grants, and access to U.S.-based agencies such as the Federal Communications Commission and the U.S. Postal Service. With few natural resources, the wealth of the islands depends on an economy of services, as well as on the Agriculture U.S. aid accounts for a significant percentage of the islands' gross domestic product. The country uses the U.S. dollar as its currency. In 2018, it also announced its intention to use a new cryptocurrency as a legal tender. [14] [15] The majority of citizens of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, formed in 1982, are of Marshallese origin, although there are a small number of immigrants from the United States, China, the Philippines and other Pacific islands. The two official languages are Marshallese, which is one of the oceanic languages, and English. Almost the entire population of the islands practices a certain religion: three quarters of the country follows either the United Church of Christ - Congregationalist in the Marshall Islands (UCCCMi) or the Assemblies of God. [16] Manila Galleon History in the Marianas and Carolinas, c. 1590 Boxer Codex Marshall Islanders sailing in traditional costume, circa 1899-1900 Marshall Islanders sailing, with brailed sails (reefed), c. 1899-1900 Battle of Kwajalein in 1944 Bikini Islanders departing Bikini Atoll in March 1948 Main article: History of the Marshall Islands This section needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding quotes to reliable sources. Unsumred material may be challenged and removed. Find sources: Marshall Islands - news Newspapers Books scholar JSTOR (January 2009) (Learning how and when to delete this typical message) Evidence suggests that about 3,000 years ago, successive waves of human migrants from Southeast Asia spread across the Western Pacific Ocean, populating its many small islands. The Marshall Islands were colonized by the Micronesians in the 2nd millennium BC. Little is known about the beginnings of island history. The first settlers travelled between the islands by canoe using traditional stick maps. The Spanish explorer Alonso de Salazar landed there in 1526, and the archipelago became known as Los Pintados (The Painted, perhaps referring to the indigenous peoples who first found themselves there), Las Hermanas (The Sisters) and Los Jardines (The Gardens) within the Spanish Empire. It was first under the jurisdiction of the viceroyalty of New Spain, then administered by Madrid, through the captain general of the Philippines, to the independence of Latin America and the dissolution of New Spain from 1821. American whalers visited the islands in the 19th century. The first on record was the Awashonks in 1835 and the last was the Andrews Hicks in 1905. The islands were officially owned by Spain for much of their european maps have been grouped with the Caroline Islands, which now make up Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia,[19] or alternatively the Nuevas Filipinas (New Philippines). The islands have mostly been left to their with the exception of short-term religious missions (documented in 1668 and 1731) in the 16th and 17th centuries. They were largely ignored by the European powers, with the exception of the demarcation mapping treaties between the Iberian empires (Portugal and Castilian Spain) in 1529, 1750 and 1777. The archipelago corresponding to the present country was independently named by Krusenstern, after the British explorer John Marshall, who visited them with Thomas Gilbert in 1788, en route from botany bay to Canton with two ships of the First Fleet, and began to establish German and British trading posts, which were not officially contested by Spain. The Marshall Islands were officially claimed by Spain in 1874 by its capital in the East Indies, Manila. This marked the beginning of several strategic initiatives of the German Empire in the 1870s and 1880s to annex them (claiming them by chance unoccupied). This policy culminated in a tense naval episode in 1885, which did not degenerate into conflict due to the poor preparation of the Spanish naval forces and the refusal of open military action on the German side. Following papal mediation and German compensation of \$4.5 million, Spain reached an agreement with Germany in 1885: the Spanish-German Protocol of Rome of 1885. This agreement established a protectorate and established commercial stations on the islands of Jaluit (Jol) and Ebon to carry out the flourishing trade of coora (dried coconut meat). Marshallese Iroij (high chiefs) continued to govern under German indirect colonial administration, tacitly effective in the wording of the 1885 Protocol, which delimited an area subject to Spanish sovereignty (0-11oN, 133-164oE) omitting the Eastern Carolinas, the Marshall and Gilbert archipelagos, where most of the German trade posts were located. [21] The disputes were made moot after the sale of the entire archipelago of Caroline to Germany 13 years later. At the beginning of World War I, Japan took control of the Marshall Islands. The Japanese headquarters was established at the German administration centre, Jaluit. On January 31, 1944, U.S. forces landed on Kwajalein Atoll and U.S. marine and military troops then took control of the islands from the Japanese on February 3, following intense fighting over Kwajalein and Enewetak atolls. In 1947, the United States, as the occupying power, reached an agreement with the UN Security Council to administer much of Micronesia, including the Marshall Islands, as a trusted territory of the Pacific Islands. From 1946 to 1958, it served as a Pacific test ground for the United States and was the site of the nuclear tests on various atolls. The world's first hydrogen bomb, named Mike, was tested on Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Islands on November 1 (local date) by the United States. [24] Mushroom cloud the largest atmospheric nuclear test ever conducted by the United States, castle bravo nuclear tests began in 1946 on Bikini Atoll after residents were evacuated. Over the years, 67 weapons tests have been conducted, including the 15-megaton Castle Bravo hydrogen bomb test, which has produced significant spillovers to the region. The trials were completed in 1958. Over the years, only one of the more than 60 islands has been cleaned up by the U.S. government, and residents are still waiting for the \$2 billion in compensation assessed by the Nuclear Claims Tribunal. Many islanders and their descendants still live in exile, as the islands remain contaminated by high levels of radiation. [25] A significant radar facility was built on Kwajalein Atoll. [26] On May 1, 1979, in recognition of the changing political status of the Marshall Islands, the United States recognized the constitution of the Marshall Islands and the creation of the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The Constitution incorporates both American and British constitutional concepts. There have been a number of local and national elections since the creation of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The United Democratic Party, a candidate on a reform platform, won the 1999 parliamentary elections, taking control of the presidency and cabinet. The islands signed a Free Association Pact with the United States in 1986. The guardianship ended under United Nations Security Council Resolution 683 of 22 December 1990. Until 1999, the islanders received US\$180 million for the continued use by the United States of Kwajalein Atoll, US\$250 million in nuclear test compensation and US\$600 million in other payments under the pact. Despite the constitution, the government was largely controlled by Iroij. It was not until 1999, following allegations of political corruption, that the aristocratic government was overthrown, with imata Kabua replaced by communist Kessai Note. The Runit Dome was built on Runit Island to deposit radioactive soil and debris produced by the United States, including lethal amounts of plutonium. There is still concern about the deterioration of the waste site and a potential radioactive spill. [27] Geography Main Articles: Geography of the Marshall Islands, Administrative Divisions of the Marshall Islands, and Effects of Climate Change on Island Nations Map of the Marshall Islands Aerial View of Majuro, one of the many atolls that make up the landscapes from Marshall Islands beach to Eneko Island, Majuro Coastal View of Bikini Atoll above view of the Marshall Islands submerged volcanoes rising from the bottom of the ocean, halfway between Hawaii and Australia,[13] north of Nauru and Kiribati, east of the Federated States of Micronesia, and south of the disputed U.S. territory of Wake Island, to which it also claims. [28] Atolls and islands form two groups: the (sunrise) and the Ralik (sunset). The two island chains are approximately parallel to each other, working from northwest to southeast, comprising approximately 750,000 square miles (1,900,000 km2) of ocean, but only about 180 km2 of land mass. Each includes 15 to 18 islands and atolls. [29] The country consists of a total of 29 atolls and five individual islands located in approximately 180,000 square miles (470,000 km2) of the Pacific. The largest atoll with an area of 16 km2 is Kwajalein. [28] The largest atoll with an area of 6 square miles (16 km2). It surrounds a lagoon of 1,700 km2. Twenty-four atolls and islands are inhabited. The remaining atolls are uninhabited due to poor living conditions, lack of rain or nuclear contamination. The uninhabited atolls are: Ailinginae Atoll Bikar (Bikaar) Atoll Bikini Atoll Bokak Atoll Enrikub Atoll Jemo Island Nadikdik Atoll Rongerik Atoll Toke Atoll Ujelang Atoll The average altitude above sea level for the whole country is 7 feet (2.1 m). Shark Sanctuary In October 2011, the government declared that an area covering nearly 2,000,000 square kilometres (772,000 square miles) of ocean will be reserved as a shark sanctuary. It is the world's largest shark sanctuary, extending the global ocean area where sharks are protected from 2,700,000 to 4,600,000 square kilometres (1,042,000 to 1,776,000 square miles). In protected waters, all shark fishing is prohibited and all catches must be released. However, some have questioned the Marshall Islands' ability to enforce this area. [31] Land Claim on Wake Island The Marshall Islands also claim Wake Island. While wake island has been administered by the United States since 1899, the Marshallese government refers to it as Enen-kio. [33] Climate Average monthly temperatures (red) and precipitation (blue) on Majuro The climate has a relatively dry season from December to April and a wet season from May to November. Many Pacific typhoons begin as tropical storms in the Marshall Islands region and strengthen as they move westward to the Mariana Islands and the Philippines. Due to its very low altitude, the Marshall Islands are threatened by the potential effects of sea level rise. [34] According to the President of Nauru, the Marshall Islands are the most threatened nation in the world due to floods caused by climate change. [36] The population has exceeded the supply of fresh water, usually precipitation. The northern atolls get 50 inches (1300 mm) of precipitation per year; southern atolls about twice as much. The threat of drought common in all island chains. [37] Wildlife Main articles: Marshall Islands Mammal List and Marshall Islands Crab Butterfly List include hermit crabs and coconut crabs. [38] Birds Main Article: List of Marshall Islands Birds Most of the birds found in the Marshall Islands, with with the exception of these few introduced by humans, are either seabirds or a migratory species. [39] There are about 70 species of birds, including 31 seabirds. 15 of these species actually nest locally. Seabirds include the black noddy and the white tern. The only land bird is the house sparrow, introduced by humans. [38] Marine There are about 300 species of fish, 250 of which are reef fish. Turtles: green turtles, hawksers, leatherback turtles and olive tortoises. [41] Sharks: There are at least 22 species of shark including: blue shark, silky shark, Bigeye thresher shark, thresher pelagic shark, oceanic white shark, and Tawny nurse shark. [42] [43] Arthropod scorpions: dwarf wood scorpion, and common house scorpion. Pseudoscorpions are occasionally found. [44] Spiders: Two: a scytodes, Dictis striatipes; [44] and Jaluiticola a genus of jumping spiders endemic to the Marshall Islands. Its only species is Jaluticola hesslei. [45] Amphipod: One - Talorchestia spinipalma. Orthoptera: cockroaches, American cockroaches, short-horned grasshopper, crickets. [44] Demography Main Article: Demography of the Panorama of the Marshall Islands of Majuro, capital and largest city of the Marshall Islands The historical demographics of the Marshall Islands are unknown. In 1862, the population of the islands was estimated at 10,000. [29] In 1960, the population of the islands was about 15,000. The 2011 census counted 53,158 residents of the island. More than two-thirds of the inhabitants of the Marshall Islands live in the capital, Majuro, and the secondary urban centre, Ebeye (located in Kwajalein Atoll). These figures exclude Marshall Islanders who have moved elsewhere; the Compact of Free Association allows them to move freely to the United States and find work there. [46] Approximately 4,300 Marshall Islanders moved to Springdale, Arkansas in the United States; this figure represents the largest concentration of the Marshall Islands indigenous population outside their island. [47] Most Marshall Islands residents are Marshallese. The Marshallese are of Micronesian origin and are believed to have migrated from Asia to the Marshall Islands several thousand years ago. A minority of Marshallese have some recent Asian (mainly Japanese) ancestry. About half of the national population lives in Majuro and Ebeye. [48] [49] [50] [51] The official languages of the Marshall Islands are English and Marshallese. Both languages are widely spoken. [52] Religion Main Article: Religion in the Marshall Islands Christians in the Marshall Islands The main religious groups in the Republic of the Marshall Islands include the United Church of Christ. Marshall Islands, with 51.5% of the population; Assemblies of God, 24.2%; Roman Catholic Church, 8.4%; [53] and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), (Mormons), Bukot Nan Jesus (also known as the Assembly of God Part TWO), 2.2%; Baptiste, 1.0%; Seventh-day Adventists, 0.9%; Full Gospel, 0.7%; and Baha'i faith, 0.6%. [53] People without religious affiliation make up a very small percentage of the population. [53] Islam is also present through the Ahmadiyya Muslim community which is based in Majuro, with the opening of the first mosque in the capital in September 2012. [54] Key Health Article: Health in the Marshall Islands during the Castle Bravo test of the first deployable thermonuclear bomb, a computational error resulted in the explosion being more than twice as large as expected. The nuclear fallout has spread eastward over the inhabited atolls of Rongelap and rongerik. These islands were not evacuated before the explosion. Many natives of the Marshall Islands have since suffered radiation burns and radioactive dusting, suffering the same fate as Japanese fishermen aboard the Daigo Fukury-Maru, but have received little, if any, compensation from the federal government. [55] Senior Government Article: Marshall Islands Policy The Marshall Islands Capitol (now out of disuse) H.E. Hilda C. Heine, the first woman and former president of the Marshall Islands, walking through the Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Amphitheatre on September 12, 2017 The Marshall Islands government operates under a mixed parliamentary-presidential system as set out in its 1979 Constitution. [56] Elections are held every four years by universal suffrage (for all citizens over the age of 18), with each of the twenty-four constituencies (see below) electing one or more representatives (senators) to the lower house of the RMI's unicameral legislature, the Nitijela. (Majuro, the atoll of the capital, elects five senators.) The president, who is head of state as well as head of government, is elected by the 33 senators of Nitijela. Four of the five Marshallese presidents who have been elected since the

constitution was adopted in 1979 have been traditional supreme leaders. [57] Former President Hilda Heine with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-ven in October 2017 In January 2016, Senator Hilda Heine was elected by Parliament as the first woman president of the Marshall Islands; former President Casten Nemra lost his post after serving two weeks in a vote of no confidence. [12] The legislative power rests with Nitijela. The upper house of Parliament, called the Iroij Council, is an advisory body composed of twelve supreme leaders. The executive branch consists of the President and the Presidential Cabinet, which consists of ten ministers appointed by the President with the approval of the Nitijela. twenty-four constituencies in which the country is divided correspond to inhabited islands and atolls. There are currently four political parties in the Marshall Islands: Aelon'Kein Ad (AKA), United People's Party (UPP), (UPP), Eo Am (KEA) and United Democratic Party (UDP). The rule is shared by the AKA and the UDP. The following senators are in the legislative body: Ailinglaplap Atoll – Christopher Loesak (AKA), Alfred Alfred, Jr. (IND) Ailuk Atoll – Maynard Alfred (UDP) Arno Atoll – Mike Halferty (KEA), Jejwadrik H. Anton (IND) Aur Atoll – Hilda C. Heine (AKA) Ebon Atoll – John M. Silk (UDP) Enewetak Atoll – Jack J. Ading (UPP) Jabat Island – Kessai H. Note (UDP) Jaluit Atoll – Casten Nemra (IND), Daisy Alik Momotaro (IND) Kilil Island – Eldon H. Note (UDP) Kwajalein Atoll – Michael Kabua (AKA), David R. Paul (KEA), Alvin T. Jacklick (KEA) Lae Atoll – Thomas Heine (AKA) Lib Island – Jerakoj Jerry Bejang (AKA) Likiep Atoll – Leander Leander, Jr. (IND) Majuro Atoll – Sherwood M. Tibon (KEA), Anthony Muller (KEA), Brenson S. Wase (UDP), David Kramer (KEA), Kalani Kaneko (KEA) Maloelap Atoll – Bruce Billmon (IND) Mejit Island – Dennis Momotaro (AKA) Mili Atoll – Wilbur Heine (AKA) Namdrik Atoll – Wise Zackhras (IND) Namu Atoll – Tony Aiseia (AKA) Rongelap Atoll – Kenneth A. Kedi (IND) Ujae Atoll – Atbi Riklon (IND) Utirik Atoll – Amenta Mathew (KEA) Wotho Atoll - David Kabua (AKA) Wotje Atoll - Litokwa Tomeing (UPP) Foreign Affairs and Defence USCGC Oliver Berry and RMIS Lomor on joint patrol[58] More information: Marshall Islands External Relations and Free Association Pact The Free Association Pact with the United States gives the United States sole responsibility for international defence. It gives islanders the right to emigrate and work in the United States. [59] The Marshall Islands were admitted to the United Nations on the basis of the Security Council's recommendation on 9 August 1991, in Resolution 704 and the approval of the General Assembly on 17 September 1991, in Resolution 46/3. [60] In international policy within the United Nations, the Marshall Islands has often voted consistently with the United States on General Assembly resolutions. On April 28, 2015, the Iranian navy captured the MV Maersk Tigris, flying the flag of Marshall Island, near the Strait of Hormuz. The ship had been chartered by German Ship Management, which said the ship contained no special cargo and no military weapons. The ship is believed to be under the control of iran's Revolutionary Guards, according to the Pentagon. Tensions have escalated in the region as the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen has intensified. The Pentagon reported that the destroyer USS Farragut and a maritime reconnaissance aircraft had been dispatched to the roads after receiving a distress call from the Tiger ship and it was also reported that all 34 crew members had been arrested. U.S. officials defence said they would review U.S. defence obligations to the Marshall Islands government in the wake of recent and also condemned the shots fired on the bridge as inappropriate. It was reported in May 2015 that Tehran would release the ship after paying a penalty. [62] [63] In March 2017, at the 34th regular session of the UN Human Rights Council, Vanuatu issued a joint statement on behalf of the Marshall Islands and a few other Pacific countries raising human rights violations in western New Guinea, which has been occupied by Indonesia since 1963.[64] and asked the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to produce a report. [65] [66] Indonesia has denied the allegations. [66] More than 100,000 Papuans died during a 50-year conflict. [67] Since 1991, the Maritime Patrol of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, a division of the Marshall Islands police, has operated the 160-ton patrol vessel RMIS Lomor. Lomor is one of 22 Pacific Forum patrol vessels that Australia has provided to small Pacific Forum countries. While the missions of some other countries for their ships include sovereignty, protection, the terms of the Free Association Pact limit Lomor to civilian missions, such as fisheries protection and search and rescue. Culture Main Article: Marshall Islands Culture See also: Marshallese cuisine marshallese fans Although ancient skills are now in decline, the Marshallese were once capable navigators, using stars and stick-and-shell cards. Sports Main Articles: Marshall Islands Athletics, Marshall Islands at the Olympics, and Category: Sports in the Marshall Islands Association Football See also: List of Association Football Clubs in the Marshall Islands The Marshall Islands have a small league of clubs, including Koober as the most successful club. A tournament was organized by Play Soccer Make Peace. There is a small football association on the island of Majuro. The sport of association football in its growth is new to the Marshall Islands. The Marshall Islands does not currently have a national football team. The Marshall Islands is the only sovereign country in the world that does not have a record of a national football match. [68] Marshall Islands Baseball/Softball Federation Softball and baseball are held under a single sports federation in the Marshall Islands. The President is Jeimata Nokko Kabua. Both sports are growing at a rapid pace with hundreds of Marshallese behind the Marshall Islands Baseball/Softball Federation. The Marshall Islands won a silver medal at the Micronesian Games in 2012, as well as medals at the PSG Games. [69] Economics Main Article: Marshall Islands Economics Graphic representation of Marshall Islands product exports in 28 colour-coded Islands have few natural resources, and their imports far exceed exports. According to the CIA, the value of exports in 2013 was about \$53.7 million, while imports were estimated at \$133.7 million. Agricultural products include coconuts, tomatoes, melons, taro, pigs and chickens. The industry is made up of the production of copra and handicrafts, tuna processing and tourism. GDP in 2016 was estimated at \$180 million, with a real growth rate of 1.7%. GDP per capita was \$3,300. [70] The International Monetary Fund reported in mid-2016 that the Republic's economy had grown by about 0.5 per cent in fiscal 2015 as a result of the improvement in the fishing sector. A surplus of 3% of GDP was recorded due to record fishing rights. Growth is expected to reach about 1.5% and inflation at about 0.5% in 2016, with the effects of the drought in early 2016 offset by the resumption of infrastructure projects. In 2018, the Republic of the Marshall Islands passed the Sovereign Currencies Act, making it the first country to issue its own cryptocurrency and certify it as a legal tender; currency is called the sovereign. [72] Expedition The Marshall Islands play a vital role in the international shipping industry as a flag of convenience for commercial vessels. The Marshallese Register began operations in 1990, and is managed through a joint venture with International Registries, Inc., a U.S. company with offices in major marine centres around the world. In 2017, the Marshallese Ship Registry was the second largest in the world, after Panama. [75] Unlike some flag-flagged countries, it is not necessary for a vessel flying the Marshallese flag to be owned by a marshallese person or company. Following the seizure of the MV Maersk Tigris in 2015, the United States announced that its conventional obligation to defend the Marshall Islands did not extend to ships flying the Marshallese flag belonging to foreign interests at sea. [76] As a result of ship-to-ship transfers by Marshallese-flagged tankers, the Marshall Islands have been statistically one of the largest importers of crude oil from the United States, despite the fact that the islands do not have oil refining capacity. [77] Work In 2007, the Marshall Islands joined the International Labour Organization, which means that its labour laws will comply with international criteria. This can affect business conditions in the islands. [78] Taxation Income tax has two brackets, with rates of 8% and 12%. [79] Corporate tax is 3% of revenue. [79] Foreign aid from U.S. government assistance is the backbone of the economy. Under the amended Free Association Pact, the United States has committed us\$57.7 million in assistance Marshall Islands (RM) until 2013, and then US\$62.7 million until 2023, when a trust fund, consisting of U.S. and RMI contributions, will begin making perpetual annual payments. The U.S. military maintained the Ronald Reagan ballistic missile test site on Kwajalein Atoll. Marshallese landowners receive rent for the base. Agriculture Coconuts in the Marshall Islands production is concentrated on small farms. The most important commercial crop is coora.[83] followed by coconut, bread fruit, pandanus, banana, taro and arrowroot. The cattle consist mainly of pigs and chickens. [84] [71] Industry The small-scale industry is limited to crafts, fish processing and copra. [citation needed] Fishing Majuro is the world's busiest tuna transfer port, with 704 transshippers totalling 444,393 tonnes in 2015. Majuro is also a tuna processing centre; Pan Pacific Foods exports processed tuna to a number of countries, mainly the United States under the Bumble Bee brand. [86] Fishing licence fees, primarily for tuna, provide a remarkable income for the government. In 1999, a private company built a tuna fishing plant with more than 400 employees, mostly women. But the plant closed in 2005 after a failed attempt to convert it into tuna steaks, a process that requires half as many employees. Operating costs exceeded revenues, and plant owners attempted to partner with the government to prevent the closure. But government officials personally interested in an economic interest in the plant refused to help. After the plant closed, it was taken over by the government, which had been the guarantor of a \$2 million loan to the company. [citation needed] Energy On September 15, 2007, Witon Barry (from the Tobolar Copra processing plant in the Marshall Islands capital in Majuro) said that electricity authorities, private companies and contractors had experimented with coconut oil as an alternative to diesel fuel for vehicles, electric generators and ships. Coconut trees abound in the tropical Pacific islands. Copra, the meat of coconut, produces coconut oil (1 litre for 6 to 10 coconuts). [87] In 2009, a 57 kW solar power plant was installed, the largest in the Pacific at the time, including New Zealand. [88] It is estimated that 330 kW of solar energy and 450 kW of wind power would be needed to make the Marshall Islands College's energy autonomous. Marshalls Energy Company (MEC), a government entity, supplies electricity to the islands. In 2008, 420 home solar systems of 200 Wp each were installed on Ailinglaplap Atoll, which is sufficient for limited electricity consumption. [90] Education The Ministry of Education is the island education agency. Marshall Islands Public School System operates public schools in the Marshall Islands. During the year 1994-1995, the country had 103 primary schools and 13 secondary schools. There were 27 private primary schools and one private high school. Christian groups operated most of the private schools. [91] Historically, the Marshallese population was taught in English first with marshallese instruction coming later, but this was reversed in the 1990s to keep the cultural heritage of the islands and so children could write in Marshallese. Now Now language teaching begins in Grade 3. Christine McMurray and Roy Smith wrote in Diseases of Globalization: Socioeconomic Transition and Health that this could weaken children's English skills. There are two higher education institutions operating in the Marshall Islands, the College of the Marshall Islands[92] and the University of the South Pacific. Transportation Main Article: Transportation to the Marshall Islands The Marshall Islands are served by Marshall Islands International Airport in Majuro, the Bucholz Army Airfield in Kwajalein and other small airports and airstrips. Airlines include United Airlines, Nauru Airlines, Air Marshall Islands and Asia Pacific Airlines. [94] Media and Communications The Marshall Islands has several AM and FM radio stations. The AM stations are 1098.5 kW V7AB Majuro (Radio Marshalls, national coverage) and 1224 AFN Kwajalein (both public radio stations) as well as 1557 Micronesia Heatwave. The FM stations are 97.9 V7AD Majuro.[95] V7AA 96.3 FM Uliga[96] and 104.1 V7AA Majuro (Baptist religious). BBC World is broadcast on 98.5 FM Majuro. The most recent station is Power 103.5, which began broadcasting in 2016. [98] AFRTS stations include 99.9 APN Kwajalein (country), 101.1 APN (adult rock) and 102.1 APN (hot AC). [99] [100] There is a state-operated broadcasting television station, MBC-TV. [101] Cable television is available. On cable television, most programs are broadcast two weeks later than in North America, but real-time news can be viewed on CNN, CNBC and the BBC. [102] American Forces Radio and Television also provides a television service at Kwajalein Atoll. [103] The Marshall Islands National Telecommunications Authority (NTA) provides telephone, cable (MHTV), FAX, cellular and Internet services. [104] [105] The Authority is a private company of great ownership by the national government. [106] Loan Ran Kein Newspapers, a Marshallese-language newspaper, was published from 1953 to 1954. The current national newspaper is a bilingual weekly (Marshallese and English). The Marshall Islands Journal. It has been published since 1980. [107] See also Geographical Portal Oceania portal Outline of the Marshall Islands Index of Marshall Islands-related articles Pacific Proving Grounds List of island countries The Plutonium Files Visa policy of the Marshall Islands Notes Marshallese: Aolepon Aor-kin Majel ([a̠lɔjɓɛ̞ɲɔŋ.ɔryŋɨj](j)mɔy.zjɛjɻ) - Wake Island is claimed as a territory of the Marshall Islands, but is also claimed as an unseated, unincorporated territory of the United States, with de facto control (and all military defences operated by the U.S. military). References - The largest cities in the Marshall Islands, ranked by archived population 3, 2011, at the Wayback Machine. population.mongabay.com. Recovered May 25, 2012. a b c Geography of the Marshall Islands. CIA World Factbook. 2019 International Religious Freedom Report: Marshall Islands. U.S. Department of State. User, Super, Members. rmparlament.org. Recovered August 22, 2017. 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