



Land area

27,990 km²



Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

GDP (million, current USD, 2017): 1303.5

GDP per capita (current USD, 2017): 2132

GDP growth rate (% , average 2010-2017): 4.9



Population

Total (2017): 611,343

Density (per km², 2017): 22

Urban (% of total, 2017): 23

Life expectancy (years, 2016, male/female): 69/72



Human Development

Human Development Index (HDI¹) 2018: 0.546 (low human development group)

HDI rank: 152

Population below income poverty line² (% , 2013): 25.1

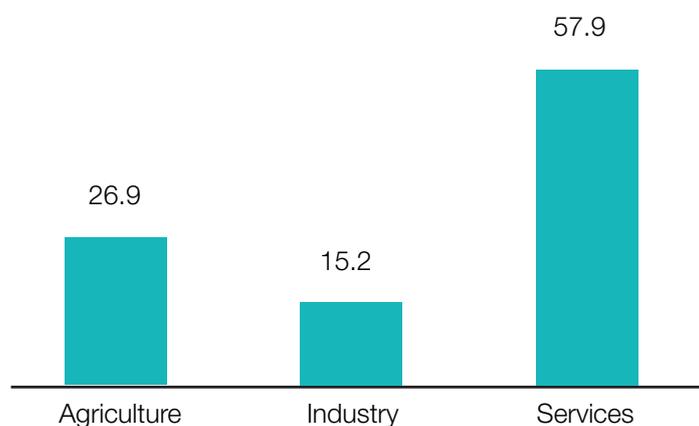
Gini Index³ (2013): 37.1

UN LDC group: Yes (it will, however, graduate from LDC status in December 2024)⁴

Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators database for all the indicators except HDI value and rank, which come from UNDP (2018).

Solomon Islands' sectoral structure of economic activity

(share of GDP in per cent, 2016)



Source: Calculations based on UNCTADstat Database



KEY FACTS

- Agriculture and fisheries remain the main sources of employment in the Solomon Islands.
- As in the other 9PICs⁵, Solomon Islands' small market prevents it from enjoying the potential benefits of economies of scale. This, combined with geographical remoteness, creates difficulties for this country to integrate into international markets.

Note:

¹ HDI is a composite index that integrates three basic dimensions of human development: life expectancy at birth as a proxy of the ability to live a long and healthy life; mean of years of schooling and expected years of schooling as a proxy of acquired knowledge; and gross national income per capita as a proxy of the ability to achieve a decent standard of living. An HDI close to zero indicates greater distance from the maximum that can be achieved on the factors entering the HDI and vice versa. For technical details, see <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi>.

² Based on USD (PPP) 1.90 per day

³ The Gini coefficient measures the deviation of the distribution of income among individuals or households from a perfectly equal distribution. A coefficient of 0 represents perfect income equality (all persons or households have the same income) and a value of 1, perfect income inequality (all income is concentrated by one person or one household).

⁴ General Assembly resolution A/73/L.40/Rev.1 adopted on 13 December 2018.

⁵ Nine Pacific Island Countries Signatories of the PACER Plus (9PICs).

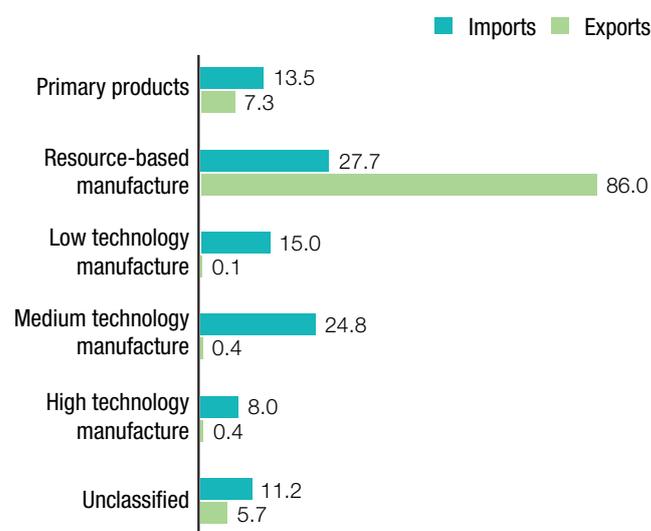
Trade profile

Solomon Islands' membership in trade agreements

Agreement	Scope
South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (SPARTECA)	Duty free access to the markets of Australia and New Zealand
Melanesian Spearhead Group Trade Agreement (MSGTA)	Gradual liberalization of tariffs and other protectionist mechanisms affecting trade in goods among MSG countries
The Cotonou Agreement	Development; political; economic and trade cooperation. From "non-reciprocal" trade preferences in favour of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to reciprocal trade preferences through Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)
The Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA)	Progressive reduction/elimination of tariffs among member countries
Pacific Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)	Trade in goods (duty-free, quota-free access into the EU), asymmetric and gradual opening of Fiji and PNG markets to EU goods; trade facilitation; development assistance
Melanesian Spearhead Group Skills Movement Scheme (MSGSMS)	Temporary movement of skilled workers among the parties based on mutual recognition of professional qualifications
PICTA Trade in Services Protocol (PICTA-TIS)	Preferential trade among the parties on a range of services
Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus	Trade in goods and services, temporary movement of skilled workers, investment, development and economic cooperation
General Scheme of Preferences (GSP)	Beneficiaries have duty free or preferential access to the donor country markets
Everything But Arms (EBA)	Beneficiaries enjoy full duty free and quota free access to the European Union market for all products (except arms and armaments)
WTO membership	Trade in goods and services; IPRs, trade remedies; implementation and monitoring; dispute settlement; capacity building

Source: UNCTAD Secretariat

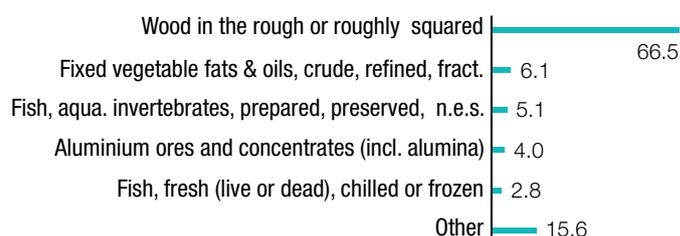
Solomon Islands' trade composition by product group between 2015-2017 (per cent shares)



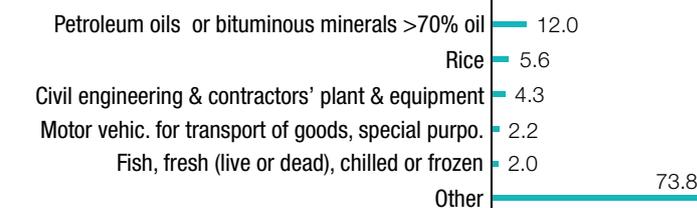
Source: Calculations based on UNCTADstat Database

Solomon Islands' main export and import products (2015-2017 average)

EXPORTS (share of total)



IMPORTS (share of total)



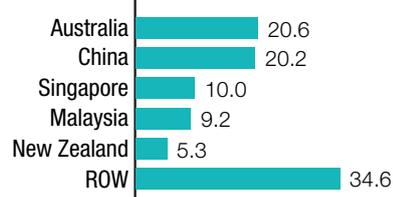
Source: Calculations based on UNCTADstat Database

Solomon Islands' main export and import partners (2015–2017 average)

EXPORTS (share of total)



IMPORTS (share of total)



Source: Calculations based on UNCTADstat Database

KEY FACTS

- Merchandise exports as a percentage of GDP in Solomon Islands increased from 26 to 39 per cent between 2005–2007 and 2015–2017 while merchandise imports fell from 46 to 43 per cent of GDP for the same periods. Trade in services, on the other hand, increased for both exports and imports for the same periods (from 10 to 11 per cent, and from 15 to 18 per cent, respectively).
- Solomon Islands has a high dependence on few export products as shown by its concentration index⁶ (this increased from 0.57 for 1995–1997 to 0.65 for 2015–2017). The concentration index of imports remained at about 0.13–0.15 for the same periods –suggesting a more homogeneous distribution of imports among a wider range of products.
- The technological classification of trade⁷ for the period 2015–2017 shows that most of Solomon Islands exports are resource-based manufactures (86 per cent). Imports are dominated by resource-based manufactures (28 per cent) and medium technology manufactures (25 per cent).
- Solomon Islands' exports have significantly grown towards developing Asia during the period 1995–1997 and 2015–2017⁸ (from 36 to 83 per cent). At the country level, China, Italy and India are Solomon Islands' main partners.
- Developing Asia share in Solomon Islands' imports have also gained market share between 1995–1997 and 2015–2017 (from 28 to 59 per cent). Countries in developed Oceania remain important import partners for Solomon Islands even

though their relative importance has receded in recent years (from 52 to 26 per cent). Australia, China and Singapore are the country's main partners.

- Solomon Islands has been a member of the WTO since 1996.
- Solomon Islands is a member of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).⁹

Gender profile

KEY FACTS

- Unlike most of the 9PICs, Solomon Islands has not achieved gender parity in primary education (UNFPA Pacific Sub-regional Office 2014). Gender disparities regarding other levels of education remain in favour of the male population (ADB 2015).
- Solomon Islands is the only country among the 9PICs that has a significant gender gap in literacy rate in favour of the male population (among the 15–64 years old the gap is 79 per cent for females versus 89 per cent for males).¹⁰
- The Labour Force Participation rate in 2014 was 89 per cent for men and 85 per cent for women; among the youth (15–24 years old) it was 70 per cent for men and 72 per cent for women.
- 71 per cent of employed women work in agriculture; 22 per cent in the services sector and 7 per cent in industry.
- Women are mainly employed in the following services (out of the 22 per cent): Public administration, community, social, personal and similar services (10 per cent); trade including wholesale, retail trade and repair (8 per cent) and tourism including accommodation and food services (2 per cent).
- The Constitution of the Solomon Islands acknowledges that all people have fundamental rights and freedoms, while a non-discrimination provision, including with sex as a basis, is outlined.

Note:

⁶ The Concentration Index or Herfindahl-Hirschmann Index is a measure of the degree of product concentration of exports (or imports). Values close to 1 indicate that export (or imports) are highly concentrated in a few products while values close to 0 indicate a more homogeneous distribution of exports (or imports) among a wider range of products (UNCTADstat).

⁷ Lall (2000).

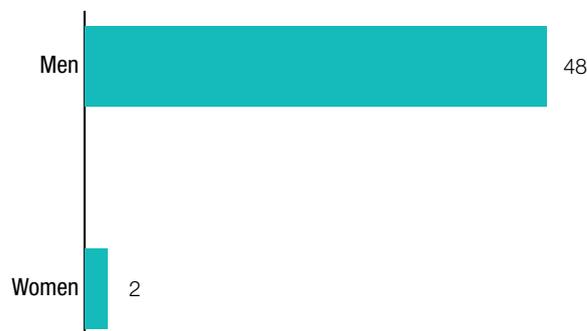
⁸ These periods have been chosen to analyse whether there have been significant changes or not after two decades.

⁹ PIF is the region's premier political and economic policy organization.

¹⁰ The data for Solomon Islands is from the 2009 census, which may not reflect its current situation.

- The Political Parties Integrity Act 2014 requires each party to field a minimum of 10 per cent female candidates and grants financial provisions to those parties with women holding parliamentary seats.
- The Solomon Islands Gender Equality and Women’s Development Policy (2016–2020) recognizes the importance of gender responsive government programmes, of women participation in public leadership and decision-making, and of equal access to economic opportunities, education and health. It also calls for increased prevention and effective response to violence against women and girls.

Number of women and men in Solomon Islands’ Parliament (2018)



Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union (2018)

Solomon Islands’ gender inputs:

Ratified International Conventions or Commitments	Gender in trade policy	Other Gender Programmes
International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1982)	Solomon Islands launched its trade policy framework in October 2017; the framework recognizes that women’s groups need to be part of the non-state actors to be consulted in the development of productive capacity. The framework, however, does not include specific gender provisions.	Advancing Gender Justice in the Pacific (AGJP, UN Women)
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (1995)		Ending Violence Against Women (EVAW, UN Women)
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)		Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE, UN Women)
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (2002)		Increasing Community Resilience through Empowerment of Women to Address Climate Change and Natural Hazards Programme. (IREACH, UN Women)
Optional Protocol CEDAW (2002)		
Agenda 2030 (2015)		

Sources: Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute; University of the South Pacific’s School of Law; UN Women – Asia-Pacific (2018).