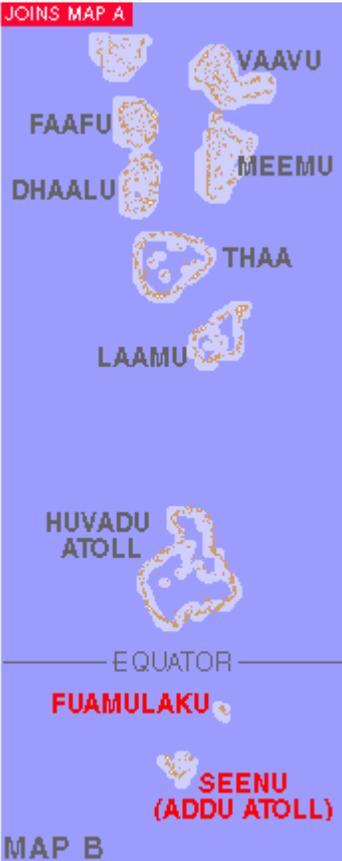
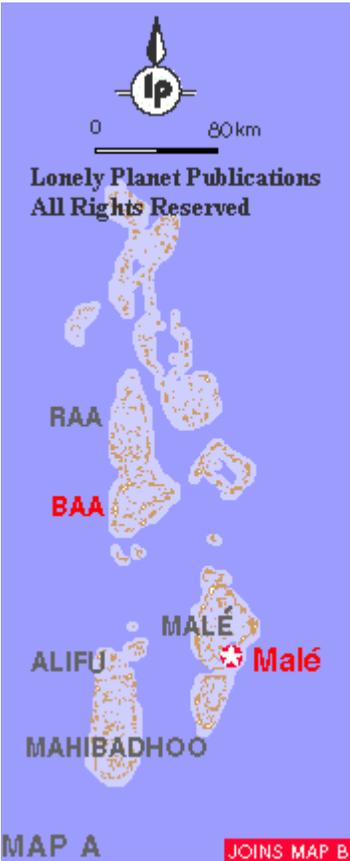


February 2002

Energy Country Analysis Brief: Maldives¹

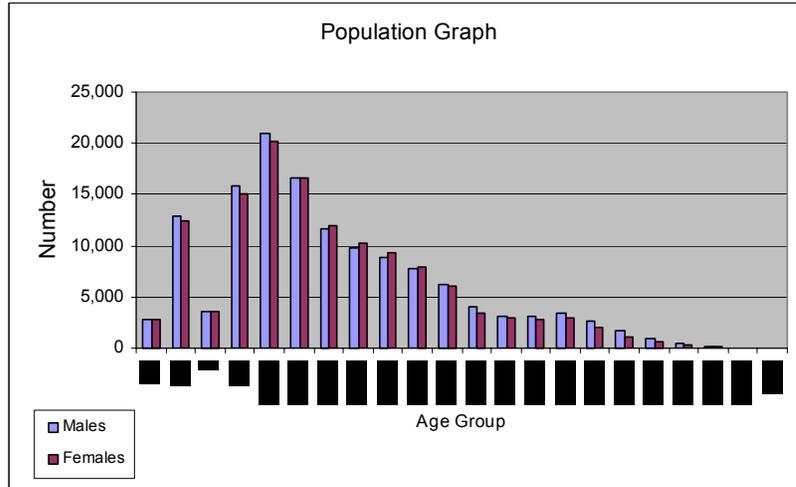


Background

The Maldives, situated in the Indian Ocean, consists of 1,192 coral islands with only 199 inhabited. According to the Census 2000, the population of the country was 270,101 in March 2000, out of which 137,200 are males and 132,901 are females. Almost 41% of the population is under 15 years of age. Over 27% of the population live in the capital, Male'. The population is increasing at a rate of 1.96% per year, which has decreased from a rate of 2.7% per year five years ago. In the year 2000 the life expectancy at birth for males was 70.7 years and for females it was 72.2 years.

¹ This report was prepared by Mariyam Saba as part of the South Asian Regional Initiative program held in Kathmandu, Nepal in January, 2002.

The People of the Maldives



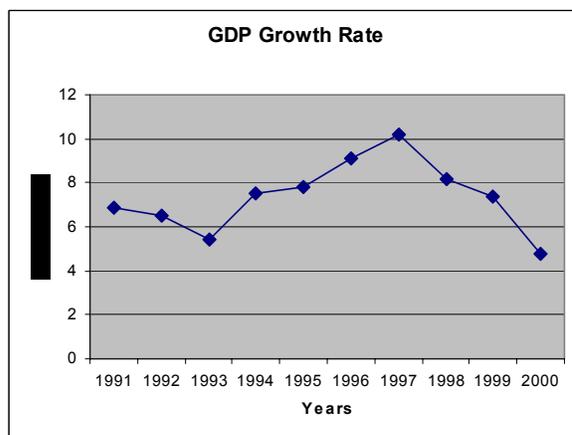
The total labor force of the Maldives is 87,987, from which 26,790 are employed in the government sector. There are around 27,000 foreign workers working in the country both in the government and private sector. Most of them work in the tourism sector.

Maldivians communicate in Dhivehi and English. Dhivehi is the first language and English the second language, which is taught in school from the beginning.

Maldives experiences two seasons, which are the rainy season and the sunny season. The temperature varies from 24 to 31 degrees celsius all through the year.

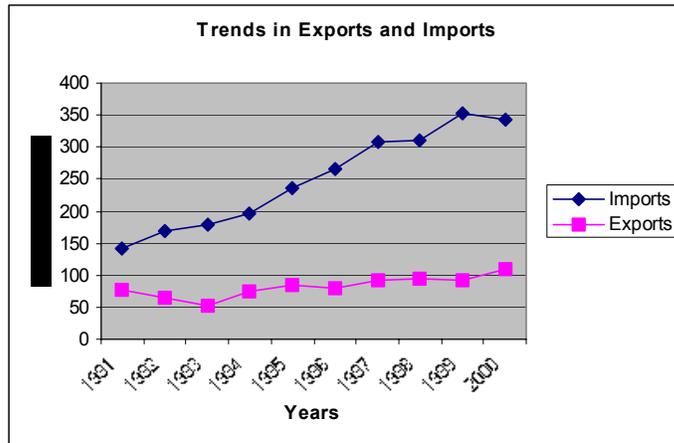
The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the Maldives has increased from US \$364.4 in 1995 to US \$532.2 in 2000. The GDP growth rate has decreased from 7.8% in 1995 to 4.6% in 2000. Tourism has the highest contribution to the GDP, which is around 32 to 34 percent during the period from 1995 to 2000. GDP per capita in the year 2000 was US \$1,961.

The Economy of the Maldives



Maldives imports most products from other countries. The major products imported are textile articles, machinery and mechanical appliances. Maldives exports very few goods. The main exports are fish products, apparel and clothing. Maldives mainly imports from Singapore, Sri Lanka and Malaysia. Most of the products from the country are exported to USA, Sri Lanka and Germany.

Maldives in the International Market



Energy

The Maldives has no reserves of oil, natural gas or coal. Wood had been the main source of energy, which was mainly used for cooking in the residential sector. Presently, very few people use wood for cooking but instead use kerosene or gas.

Oil

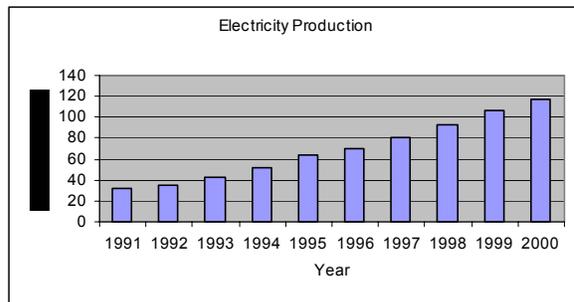
The Maldives produces no oil. Motor gasoline, jet fuel, kerosene and gas diesel are imported. Gas diesel is the largest import, which was around 139 metric tons in the year 2000. Kerosene was the smallest import, at around 5 thousand metric tons in 2000.

Table 1: Imports of Motor Gasoline, Jet Fuel, Kerosene and Gas Diesel
(in thousands of metric tons)

Year	1998	1999	2000
Motor Gasoline	5	8	9
Jet Fuel	72	79	69
Kerosene	NA	4	5
Gas Diesel	98	131	139

Electricity

Almost all of the 199 inhabited islands have electricity through the Maldives Electricity Bureau and the State Electricity Company. The remaining inhabited islands utilize privately generated electricity, all of which is thermal. The total capacity is around 36 thousand kilowatts. Electricity utilization in the capital is 90.48 million Kwh. Fuel consumption for electricity generation in the capital is 4.68 million gallons (of what??). Electricity production in 1991 was 31 million Kwh, increasing by 1995 to 63 million Kwh. In the year 2000, 44 million Kwh was consumed by the household sector, and 116 Kwh was produced.



Conclusion

Maldives, with a population of 270,101, has no reserves of oil, natural gas or coal and must import these products from other countries. Electricity is the main source of energy, all of which is thermal. Out of the 1,192 islands, 199 are inhabited, and almost all the inhabited islands have access to electricity through the government or privately owned generators.

Country Overview

Head of State: Maumoon Abdul Gayyum

Head of Government: Maumoon Abdul Gayyum

Capital: Male'

Area (including sea in sq km): 115,300

Currency: Rufiya

Exchange Rate: US\$ 1 = Rf 12.85

Major Export Products: fish, apparel and clothing

Major Import Products: textiles, machinery and mechanical appliances

Largest Trading Partners: USA, Sri Lanka and Singapore

Languages: Dhivehi and English

Table 2:Key Economic Indicators

	1998	1999	2000
Mid-year population (estimated)	260,777	266,093	271,410
Gross Domestic Product (GDP, in US\$)	473.7	508.8	532.2
Real GDP Growth (percent)	8.2	7.4	4.8
Per Capita GDP (in US\$)	1,825	1,923	1,961
Inflation Rate	-1.4	3.0	-1.2
Merchandise Exports (in millions of US\$)	95.6	91.5	108.7
Merchandise Imports (in millions of US\$)	-311.5	-353.9	-342.0
Trade Balance (in millions of US\$)	-215.9	-262.4	-233.3