

Tuvalu

Employment

The Government of Tuvalu (1992) reports that in 1991 fisheries-related employment was as follows:

Table A2.58: Estimates of Fisheries-Related Employment in Tuvalu, 1991

Category	No. of Men	No. of Women	Total No. of Fisheries Employment	% All Employment in Category
Formal Cash Employment in Fisheries	32	46	78	5.3
Traditional Fisheries Activity for Sale	237	23	260	21.6
Traditional Fisheries Activity for Subsistence	895	37	932	19.6

Source: Government of Tuvalu (1992).

The Household Income and Expenditure Survey 1994 (Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning 1998) shows that 316 persons were reported to get income from fishing. This appears quite similar to the 338 total employed (78 in formal cash employment plus 260 in traditional fisheries for sale) given in Table A2. 58.

Quoting census sources, Commonwealth Secretariat (1994) gave the following information related to employment in 1991:

- Percentage of households who participated in ocean fishing: 63%
- Percentage of households who participated in lagoon fishing: 65%
- Percentage of households who participated in reef fishing: 74%
- Percentage of households who participated in fish drying/salting: 63%
- Percentage of households who sold fresh fish: 10%
- Percentage of households who sold dried/salted fish: 8%

Volumes and Values of Fish Harvests

The following information is available on coastal fisheries production in Tuvalu:

- Patiale and Dallzel (1990) estimate that in 1989 the government fleet caught 20.5 mt of fish near Funafuti and state that private fishermen supply five times this amount to Funafuti, implying an annual Funafuti catch of 123 mt.
- Fisheries Division (1992) gives the total for “all fishing in Tuvalu during 1991” as 530 mt, with a breakdown for catches by the various categories: Fisheries Division, 9 mt; NAFICOT, 7 mt; Funafuti private fishermen, 166 mt; and outer island fishermen, 348 mt.
- Fisheries Division (1993) states that the Fisheries Division’s Research Section has estimated that “roughly 1,460 tons of fish are consumed by Tuvaluans in one year.”¹⁵
- ADB (1994), using 1993 dietary information, estimates the annual Funafuti catch as 300 mt artisanal and 430 mt subsistence.
- Sumner (2001) gives the 2000 landings to NAFICOT by private fishers, NAFICOT fleet, the vessel Manau, and outer island fishing centers as 53.9 mt.
- Dalzell et al. (1996), using FAO, SPC, and unpublished sources from the late 1980s and early 1990s, give the annual subsistence catch as 807 mt worth A\$657,781 and the commercial fisheries production as 120 mt worth A\$97,811.
- Laloni and Belhadjali (1996) state there are no records of fishery landings other than in Funafuti and Vaitupu. The report mentions the problems with the Funafuti data and omits the Vaitupu data.
- SCP (1997)¹⁶ stated that:

¹⁵ From the context, it appears that this amount does not include canned fish. The methodology used appears to overestimate fish consumption.

¹⁶ The project which produced the report had a substantial in-country presence in Tuvalu.

“Little information is available on the landings of fish in Tuvalu. A statistical program was initiated with assistance from SPC in about 1986, but has not been developed. Some surveys have been undertaken on Funafuti, but overall estimates for the country are probably most reliably derived from the 1994 household survey. This indicates consumption in Funafuti of the order of 60.0 kg per capita and on the islands of around 120.0 kg on average, though there is substantial variation between islands. These levels would indicate national landings of the order of 1,000 tonnes of fish.”

If it is assumed that the SCP reference is the most accurate, then a crude estimate for the annual fishery landings 5 years after that estimate was made could be 1,100 mt.

The Household Income and Expenditure Survey 1994 (Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning 1998) shows that A\$402,000 is spent by households in Tuvalu on “fish and other seafood,”¹⁷ and A\$217,000 is earned by the 316 persons who reported income from fishing.

With regard to offshore production in 1999, no such catches are made by locally-based vessels. For foreign-based vessels, Gillett et al. (2001) estimate:

Table A2.59: Estimated Offshore Foreign-based Catches in the Tuvalu EEZ, 1999

Fishing Nation	mt
United States of America	35,989
Japan	4,338
Federated States of Micronesia	109
Solomon Islands	90
Korea, Rep. of	5
Taipei, China	1
Total	40,532

EEZ = exclusive economic zone; mt = metric ton.
Source: Gillett et al. (2001).

¹⁷ From the context, this figure probably includes canned fish.

Lewington (1999) and the associated excel worksheet give the 1998 commercial fish values as follows: A\$2.20 in Funafuti; A\$1.50 in outer island.

In summary, selectively using the above information, the Tuvalu annual fisheries production for recent years could be estimated as:

Table A2.60: Estimated Annual Fisheries Production of Tuvalu, late 1990s

Fishing Sector	Volume (mt)	Value (A\$)
Coastal Subsistence	880	1,443,200
Coastal Commercial	220	440,000
Offshore Locally-based	0	0
Offshore Foreign-based	40,532	58,900,000
Total	41,632	60,783,200

A\$ = Australian dollar; mt = metric ton.

Fishery Exports and Imports

It is assumed that fishery imports are equal to the imports of canned fish.

ADB (1998c) shows data on canned fish imports (FOB). These are presented in Table A2.61:

Table A2.61: Estimated Annual Canned Fish Imports of Tuvalu, 1992–1995

Imports	1992	1993	1994	1995
Canned Fish (A\$, FOB)	1,659	8,718	38,195	6,004

A\$ = Australian dollar; FOB = free on board.
Source: Asian Development Bank (1998c).

Unpublished Ministry of Finance data shows that canned fish imports in 2000 were estimated to be A\$7,366 (FOB).

The above figures appear to be an underestimate, as they would equate to about one can of fish per resident per year.

Unpublished Ministry of Finance data shows some information on fishery exports,¹⁸ as presented below in Table A2.62:

Table A2.62: Estimated Annual Fisheries Exports of Tuvalu, 1997–2000

Item	1997	1998	1999	2000
Fisheries Exports	US\$12,162	A\$4,580	A\$6,561	0

A\$ = Australian dollar; US\$ = United States dollar.
Source: Unpublished Ministry of Finance data.

ADB website shows the total exports of the country to be about A\$373,000 in 1998.

Access Fees

It is estimated that in 1999 Tuvalu obtained about US\$5.9 million in access fees.

Levels of Marine Resource Consumption

SCP (1997) stated that: “consumption in Funafuti [is] of the order of 60.0 kg per capita and on the [outer] islands of around 120.0 kg [per capita] on average, though there is substantial variation between islands.” According to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (1998), about 36% of the population reside in Funafuti. This suggests an average per capita consumption for all of Tuvalu of 98.4 kg per year, plus that from canned fish. Karim (mid 1990s) states, “Most households in Tuvalu, especially Nui and Vaitupu, rely on imported foods during periods of fish shortages.”

Other information on fish consumption in Tuvalu includes:

- Zann (1980), quoting a 1975 report, indicates that finfish are eaten at most meals while shellfish are rarely eaten.
- Fisheries Division (1994) suggests a per capita consumption of 146.0 kg per year. This apparently does not consider canned fish consumption.

¹⁸ The format of the report may lead to some confusion between US and Australian currency.

- Preston (2000), using 1995 FAO production, import and export statistics, indicates an apparent per capita supply of 85.0 kg per capita per year.
- FAO (2000a), using 1997 fish production and import/export information, gives an annual per capita supply of 23.6 kg.

Exchange Rates

Australian dollar (A\$) to the US dollar (US\$) as per ADB average-of-period rate:

1995	–	1.3490
1996	–	1.2779
1997	–	1.3474
1998	–	1.5918
1999	–	1.5500
2000	–	1.7250

