

PALAU

EMPLOYMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY FACT SHEETS 2019

The Employment and Environmental Sustainability Fact Sheets series provides key features of employment and environmental sustainability performance. Jobs that are green and decent are central to sustainable development and resource productivity. They respond to the global challenges of environmental protection, economic development and social inclusion. Such jobs create decent employment opportunities, enhance resource efficiency and build low-carbon, sustainable societies. The fact sheets include the most recently available data for selected indicators on employment and environmental sustainability: (i) employment in environmental sectors; (ii) skill levels; (iii) vulnerability of jobs; (iv) jobs in renewable energy; (v) scoring on the Environmental Performance Index; and (vi) air quality.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Palau¹ is located in the northern Pacific Ocean, within the Micronesian group of islands.² It consists of more than 340 islands, of which only 9 are inhabited³ (Fig. 1). Its population is mostly urban and growing, with a fertility rate of 2 children and life expectancy of 73.4 years. Around 72 per cent of the population is of legal working age (15–64 years) (Fig. 2).

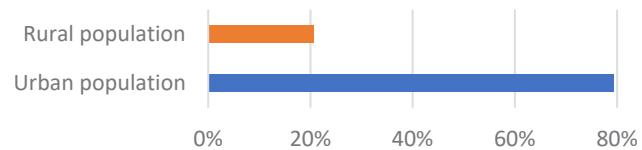
Figure 1. Map of Palau



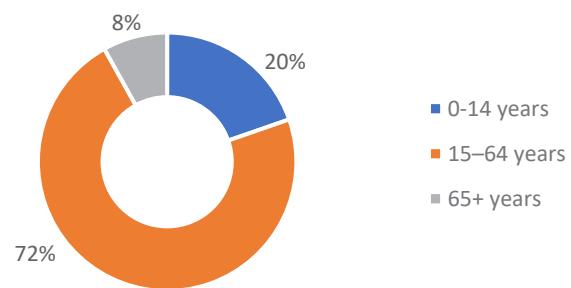
Figure 2. Palau population statistics

Population:⁴ 0.02 million

Population growth rate	Fertility rate	Life expectancy at birth
1.1%	2.0 children	73.4 years



Population age categories



Note: Data is for 2017, except fertility rate and life expectancy at birth (2018 data).

Source: ILO compilation using World development indicators, last updated: 28/06/2018; <http://databank.worldbank.org> (accessed on 30 December 2018) and Central Intelligence Agency: The world factbook 2013-2014, <https://www.cia.gov/> (accessed on 30 December 2018)..

¹ Palau became a member of the International Labour Organization in 2012.

² See <http://www.ilo.org/suva/countries-covered/palau/lang--en/index.htm>

³ See <http://palaugov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/finance/budgetandplanning/physical-features/htm>

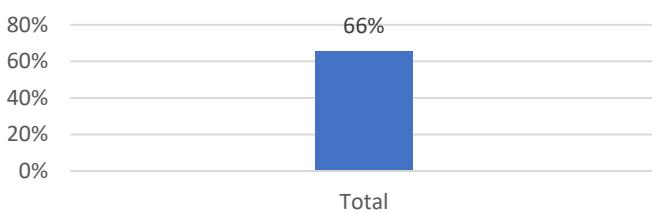
⁴ Population data based on 2017 data.

LABOUR FORCE

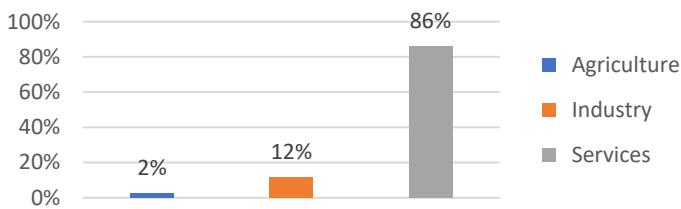
In 2005, the labour force participation rate was 67.5 per cent, with the male rate more than 17 percentage points higher than the female rate (no data is available on the employment-to-population ratio). The total unemployment rate was 13.1 in 2005, but there is no data on gender differences or youth unemployment. The proportion of youths aged 15-24 years not in education, employment or training was 27.2 per cent in 2000.⁵ Employment is heavily reliant on services, with no data available on employment by occupation (Fig. 3).

Figure 3. Basic employment statistics for Palau

Unemployment, 2005



Employment by sector, 2008 (15+ years)

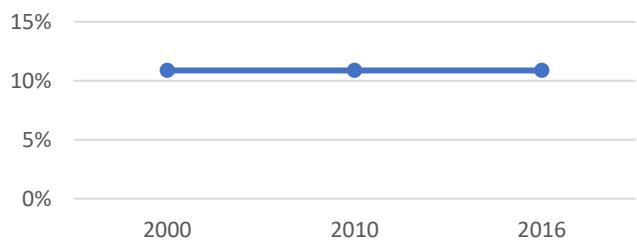


Note: ILO estimates. Labour force participation rate and unemployment: aged 15 years and older.

Source: ILO estimates and compilation using ILOSTAT, www.ilo.org/ilostat (accessed 30 December 2018) and ILO: Key indicators of the labour market (KILM), Ninth edition (Geneva, 2016).

Rural population growth was negative 1.8 per cent in 2017. The share of agricultural land in total land area remained steady at 11 percentage points between 2000 and 2016. No data is available on agricultural employment or agricultural employment within total employment (Fig. 4).

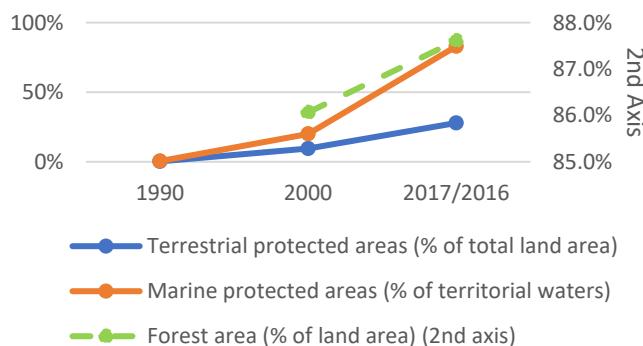
Figure 4. Agricultural land, 2000-2016



Source: ILO compilation using World development indicators, last updated: 28/06/2018; <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=world-development-indicators#> (accessed on 30 December 2018).

Forest area increased from 2000 to 2016, to approximately 87.6 per cent of total land area. From 1990 to 2017, the share of terrestrial protected area increased substantially, reaching 27.9 per cent of total land area. The proportion of marine protected area also increased, by 82.5 per cent (Fig. 5). There will be greater prospects for employment opportunities if there is a commitment to transition to a low-carbon and resource-efficient economy, such as jobs in resource management and environmental services.⁶

Figure 5. Forest area, terrestrial and marine protection area, 1990-2017



Note: Data for forest area is from 2016 and other data is from 2017.

Source: ILO compilation using World development indicators, last updated: 28/06/2018; <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=world-development-indicators#> (accessed on 19 February 2019).

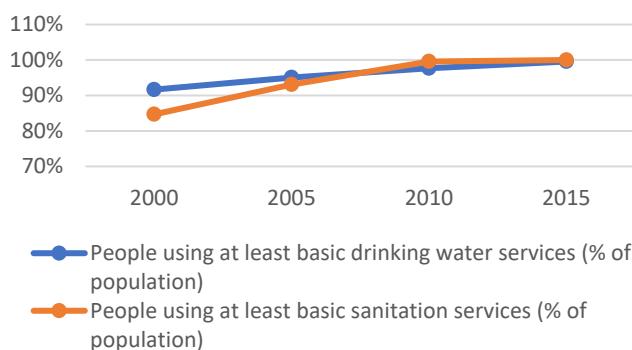
Since 2000, there has been a slight increase in access to basic drinking water, to an average of 99.6 per cent in 2015, and a gradual increase in access to basic sanitation, to an average of 100 per cent in 2015 (Fig. 8). Basic drinking water is still just below the ideal threshold of 100 per cent. Around 0.6 per cent of the labour force was employed in water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities in 2014

⁵ World development indicators. <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=world-development-indicators#> (accessed on 7 August 2018).

⁶ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development: The jobs potential of a shift towards a low-carbon economy, OECD Green Growth Papers, No. 2012/01 (Paris, 2012), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/5k9h3630320v-en>.

(Fig. 13). Water supply and sanitation sectors could provide more decent job opportunities in the future.

Figure 6. Basic drinking water and sanitation access, 2000-2015

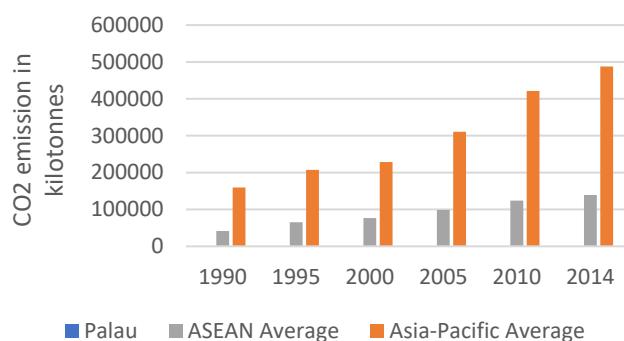


Source: ILO compilation using World development indicators, last updated: 21/05/2018; <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=world-development-indicators#> (accessed on 30 December 2018).

AIR QUALITY

The carbon dioxide (CO_2) emission levels for Palau increased slightly by an average of 0.4 per cent from 1990 to 2014 (Fig. 7).⁷ The increase was due primarily to the following major sources: energy, transport and waste sectors.⁸ The level of emissions is significantly lower than both the Asia-Pacific and ASEAN averages. No data is available on $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ (atmospheric particulate matter with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres) emission levels.

Figure 7. CO_2 emissions for Palau, 1990-2014



Note: Data for ASEAN and Asia-Pacific are the average of all the ILO member states of the regions. Asia-Pacific: data excludes Cook Islands, Timor-Leste (1990, 1995, 2000).

Source: ILO compilation using World Bank indicators.
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.KT?locations=IR> (accessed on 30 December 2018).

⁷ The value is calculated on the basis of CAGR (compound annual growth rate).

⁸ Republic of Palau Intended Nationally Determined Contribution November 2015 http://www4.unfccc.int/ndregistry/PublishedDocuments/Palau%20First/Palau_INDC.Final%20Copy.pdf

⁹ World development indicators; <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=world-development-indicators#> (accessed on 7 August 2018)

¹⁰ EM-DAT: The emergency events database - Université catholique de Louvain (UCL) - CRED, D. Guha-Sapir - www.emdat.be, Brussels, Belgium. Data accessed on: 20 July 2018.

¹¹ Climatological, hydrological and meteorological disasters.

Applying the Just Transition Guidelines, an area of possible intervention includes efforts to reduce harmful emissions, which could potentially generate green jobs in higher emitting sectors such as transportation and fuel-intensive industries. Reducing emissions is a significant challenge, which can be achieved not only by mitigation methods, but also by adapting to, and coping with, the changes required by the transition to a low-carbon economy.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

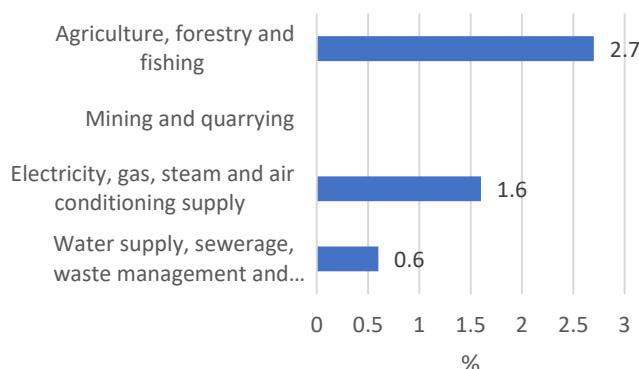
Palau is not covered by the *World Risk Report* due to lack of data. The country has low exposure and susceptibility to climate events. Part of the country's vulnerability relates to the 3.5 per cent of the total population who, in 2010, lived in the 2 per cent of the total land area below 5 metres above sea level.⁹

According to the *Emergency Events Database*,¹⁰ since 1980 there have been only two natural disasters¹¹ of sufficient strength to register, which were tropical cyclones in 2012 and 2013. Despite this lack of major natural disasters, developing preventative measures to limit infrastructure and property damage and increase institutional capacity to respond to climate events, particularly for small businesses, can be a source of decent job creation while building resilience.

GREEN JOBS POTENTIAL

In 2014, 2.7 per cent of total employment was in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector (Fig. 8). Although reliance on agriculture is low, there are still opportunities for job creation in sustainable production and organic farming.

Figure 8. Employment in sectors with strong green jobs potential in 2014



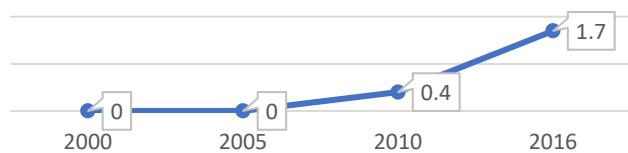
Note: These sectors have the most potential for green job opportunities. Employment by selected 1-digit sector level (ISIC - Rev. 4, 2008).

Source: ILO estimates and compilation using ILOSTAT, www.ilo.org/ilostat (accessed on: 30 December 2018).

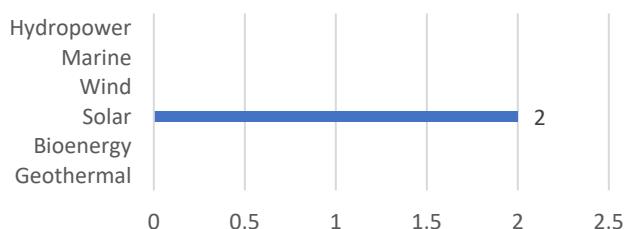
In 2016, approximately 87 per cent of the population relied primarily on clean fuel and technology, in the sense that these do not create pollution within the home.¹² Renewable energy generation has been minimal but has been increasing since 2010, with solar power being the main renewable energy source in 2016 (Fig. 9). Data is not available for renewable energy sector employment rates. The country's employment rate in electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning was only 1.6 per cent in 2014 (Fig.8). With the push for increasing reliance on renewable energy, there is the potential for decent job opportunities in the future.

Figure 9. Renewable energy electricity generation, 2000-2016

Total renewable energy electricity generation (gigawatt hours - GWh)



Renewable energy electricity generation (GWh) in 2016, by technology



Source: ILO compilation using Source: IRENA (2018); Renewable electricity capacity and generation statistics, June 2018. Available at: <http://resourceirena.irena.org>

Better data collection relating to the green economy and the environmental sector would be very valuable for policy-makers in Asia-Pacific countries. In particular, better data on green and decent jobs is needed to assess the impact of climate change and climate-related policies on social inclusion. Without better data it will be difficult to determine what policy changes are needed to ensure a just transition to environmental sustainability and to monitor progress going forward.

¹² The proportion of the population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology is calculated as the number of people using clean fuels and technologies for cooking, heating and lighting divided by the total population reporting any cooking, heating or lighting, expressed as a percentage. "Clean" is defined by the emission rate targets and specific fuel recommendations (against unprocessed coal and kerosene) included in the normative World Health Organization guidelines for indoor air quality; see the data for household fuel combustion, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-07-01-02.pdf>.



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