



### Land area

810 km<sup>2</sup>



### Population

Total (2017): 116,398

Density (per km<sup>2</sup>, 2017): 144

Urban (% of total, 2017): 53

Life expectancy (years, 2016, male/female): 63/70



### Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

GDP (million, current USD, 2017): 185.6

GDP per capita (current USD, 2017): 1594

GDP growth rate (% average 2010-2017): 3.1



### Human Development

Human Development Index (HDI<sup>1</sup>) 2017: 0.612

(medium human development group)

HDI rank: 134

Population below income poverty line<sup>2</sup> (% 2006):

12.9

Gini Index<sup>3</sup> (2006): 37.0

UN LDCs group: Yes

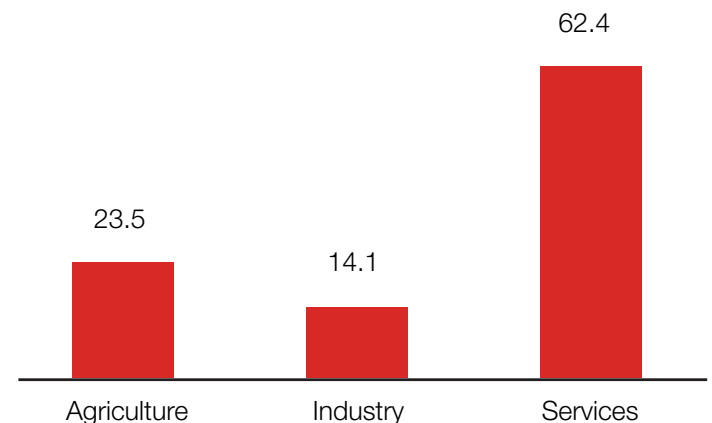
Sources: World Bank, World Development Indicators database for all the indicators except HDI value and rank, which come from UNDP (2018).

## KEY FACTS

- Services remain the main source of employment in Kiribati.
- As in the other 9PICs<sup>4</sup>, Kiribati's 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.



## Kiribati's sectoral structure of economic activity (share of GDP in per cent, 2016)



Source: Calculations based on UNCTADstat Database

Note:

<sup>1</sup> 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>.

<sup>2</sup> Based on USD (PPP) 1.90 per day.

<sup>3</sup> 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).

<sup>4</sup> Nine Pacific Island Countries Signatories of the PACER Plus (9PICs).

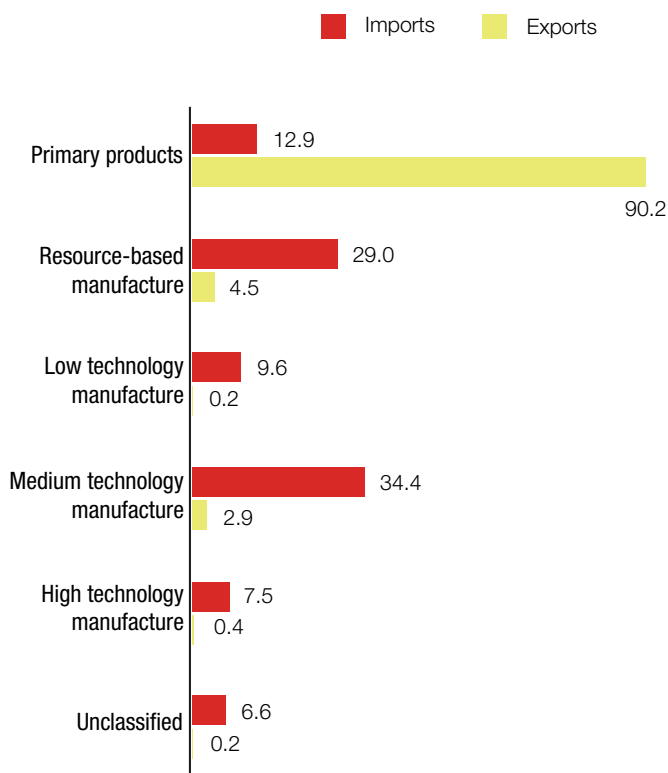
## Trade profile

### Kiribati's membership in trade agreements

Agreement	Scope
South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (SPARTECA)	Duty free access or preferential access to the markets of Australia and New Zealand for most products. Provisions for technical cooperation
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
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
Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)	Beneficiaries have duty free or preferential access to the preference-giving country markets
Everything But Arms (EBA)	Beneficiaries (LDCs) enjoy full duty free and quota free access to the EU market for all products (except arms and armaments)

Source: UNCTAD Secretariat

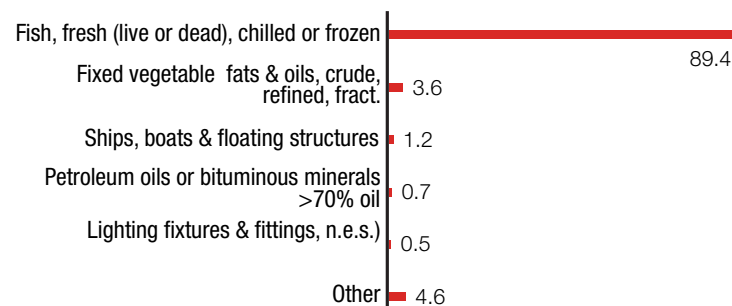
### Kiribati's trade composition by product group between 2015-2017 (per cent shares)



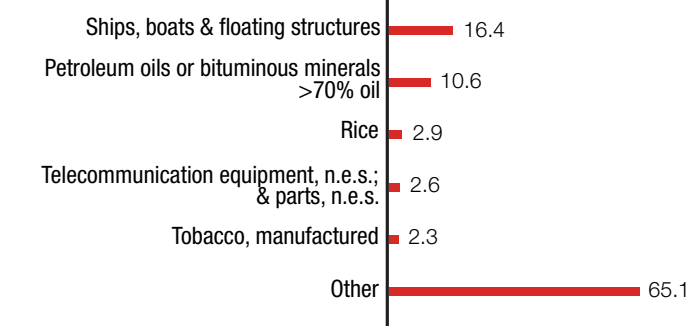
Source: Calculations based on UNCTADstat Database

### Kiribati's main export and import products (2015-2017 average)

#### EXPORTS (share of total)



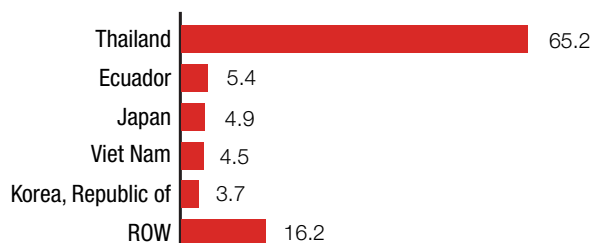
#### IMPORTS (share of total)



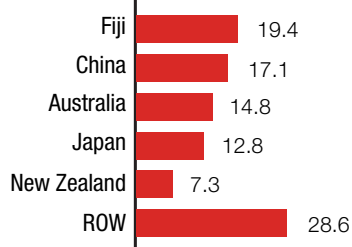
Source: Calculations based on UNCTADstat Database

## Kiribati's 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 in Kiribati maintained their share of GDP at about 6 per cent between 2005–2007 and 2015–2017 while merchandise imports increased from 58 to 66 per cent for the same periods. On the other hand, services exports decreased their share with respect to GDP during those periods (from 8.4 to 5 per cent) while services imports increased it from 34.3 to 40.4 per cent.
- The technological classification of trade<sup>5</sup> for the period 2015–2017 shows that 90.2 per cent of Kiribati's exports are primary products. Most imports are medium technology manufactures (34.4 per cent), resource-based manufactures (29 per cent), and primary products (12.9 per cent).
- Kiribati has increased its dependence on few export products as shown by its concentration index<sup>6</sup> (which increased from 0.41 for the period 1995–1997 to 0.90 for 2015–2017). Its concentration index of imports also increased for the same periods (from 0.11 to 0.18).
- Most of Kiribati's export partners are located in developing Asia and are increasing in importance (exports increased from 47 to 83 per cent between 1995–1997 and 2015–2017). Thailand, Japan, China and Vietnam are key export partners.

- Most of Kiribati's import partners are located in both Asia and Oceania. Developing Asia increased its participation between 1995–1997 and 2015–2017 from 14 to 37 per cent of imports while developing Oceania's share increased from 16 to 20 per cent during the same periods. In contrast, imports from developed Oceania decreased from 40 to 22 per cent, and imports from developed Asia slightly increased from 12 to 13 per cent for the same periods.
- Kiribati is not a member of the WTO.
- Kiribati is a member of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).<sup>8</sup>

## Gender profile

### KEY FACTS

- Gender gaps regarding school enrolment at the primary and secondary levels indicate a more favourable situation for women than for men while gender parity is observed at the tertiary level (UNFPA. Pacific Subregional Office 2014).
- Youth (15–24 years old) literacy in Kiribati is high (more than 90 per cent) for both the male and female population.
- The Labour Force Participation rate in 2010 was 58% for men and 49.2% for women in the youth population.
- 66% of employed women work in the services sector; 25% in industry and 9% in agriculture
- Women are mainly employed in the following services sectors: Public administration, community, social, personal and other services (33 per cent); Trade including wholesale, retail trade and repair (20.5 per cent); and tourism including accommodation and food services (0.9 per cent).
- Kiribati's regulatory framework to foster gender equality and women's empowerment focuses on eliminating violence and employment discrimination. Kiribati's Constitution does not explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sex or gender.
- The Employment Act prohibits direct and indirect discrimination in employment based on sex and ensures equal pay for equal work.

Note:

<sup>5</sup>Lall (2000).

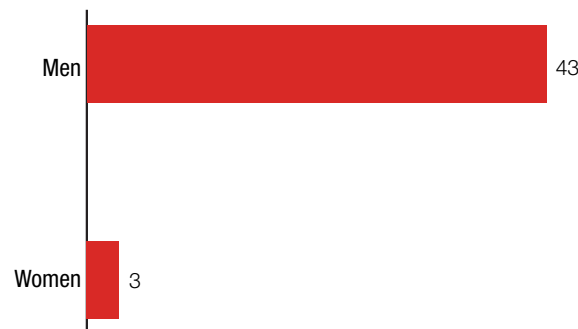
<sup>6</sup>The Concentration Index or Herfindahl-Hirschmann Index is a measure of the degree of product concentration of exports (or imports). Values close to 1 indicate that exports (or imports) are highly concentrated in a few products while values close to 0 indicate a more homogeneous distribution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

<sup>7</sup>These periods have been chosen to consider whether there have been significant changes after two decades.

<sup>8</sup>PIF is the region's premier political and economic policy organization.

- The National Approach to Eliminating Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Kiribati. Policy and National Action Plan 2011-2021 recognises that sexual and gender based violence affects the entire population and spans the responsibilities of many Ministries. It clearly specifies responsibilities and accountabilities and encourages and directs actions from the village through island to the national level.
- The Family Safety Act 2013 criminalises domestic violence and establishes a victim protection system.
- The Kiribati Family Peace Act 2014 outlines measures to address domestic violence, support victims, and hold offenders accountable.

**Number of women and men in Parliament, 2018**



Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union (2018 )

**Kiribati’s gender inputs:**

Ratified International Conventions or Commitments	Gender in trade policy	Other Gender Programmes
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)	Kiribati introduced its trade policy framework for 2017-2027, in which gender is considered in the context of inclusive trade. The policy framework recognizes the need to provide economic and trade opportunities for women along with youth and people with disabilities; however, it lacks sufficient detail.	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)
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, CEDAW (2004)		Women’s Empowerment Principles (UN Women and UN Global Compact)
Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child in Armed Conflict (2000) and on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2000)		Increasing Community Resilience through Empowerment of Women to Address Climate Change and Natural Hazards Programme (IREACH, UN Women)
Agenda 2030 (2015)		Gender and Protection in Humanitarian Action (GPiHA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (UN Women)
		Women’s Political Empowerment and Leadership (WPEL, UN Women)

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