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[Home](#) [Who We Are](#) [What We Do](#) [Islands We Serve](#) [News](#)

Office of Insular Affairs /

Islands We Serve / Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

cited in Minto v. Sessions, No. 12-74027 archived on April 11, 2017



Commonwealth of the Northern

Mariana Islands

Political Status

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) emerged from the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) which the United States administered on behalf of the United Nations from 1947 until Palau, the last member of the TTPI to choose its own political future, became an independent country 1994. The Federal law (the Covenant) making the CNMI a U.S. territory passed in 1975. The CNMI adopted its constitution in 1977, and its first constitutional government took office in 1978. The CNMI came under Federal minimum wage regulations in 2007 and immigration law in 2008. In June 2009, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security takes over the CNMI's immigration and border controls.

Elected Leaders

Governor: Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres

Delegate to the House of Representatives: Gregorio "Kilili" Camacho Sablan

Current Speaker of the House: Rafael S. Demapan

Current President of the Senate: Francisco M. Borja

Labor Force & Employment

Total labor force: 38,935 (2005)

Total employment: 35,400 (2005)

Private sector employment: 32,214

Government employment: 3,186

Private sector employment as a % of total: 91

Government employment as a % of total: 9

Unemployment rate: 8%

- [USCIS Form I-9 Guidance for Employers Hiring Individuals in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands](#)

Distances from places

Washington DC: 8,950 miles

Los Angeles: 6,300 miles

Honolulu: 3,800

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Tokyo: 1,500 miles

Economy & Income Sources

GDP: \$716 million (BEA 2009)

Per capita GDP: \$13,288 (BEA 2009)

U.S. per capita GDP: \$48,133

Total population: 53,883 (2010 census)

Tourism

340,957 tourists in 2011

506,846 tourists in 2005

528,608 tourists in 2000

Japanese tourists: 41.9 percent of total (2011)

Korean tourists: 31.5 percent of total (2011)

Services

Wholesale and retail trade

Hotels and restaurants

Tourist and recreational services

Government services

Other services

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Gross business receipts in 2009: \$1.6 billion

Gross business receipts in 2010: \$1.3 billion

Gross business receipts in 2005: \$2.0 billion

Gross business receipts in 2000: \$2.3 billion

Government Finances

Total revenues: \$230.2 million (FY 09)

Total spending: \$277.6 million (FY 09)

Total Federal grants: \$64.4 million (FY 09)

Government Finances

Total gov't. revenues: \$244.3 million (FY 07)

Total gov't. spending: \$289.1 million (FY 07)

Total Federal grants: \$61.3 million (FY 07)

Geography

Located just north of Guam, the CNMI is a three-hundred mile archipelago consisting of 14 islands, with a total land area of 183.5 square miles. The principal inhabited islands are Saipan, Rota and Tinian. The northern, largely uninhabited islands are Farallon de Medinilla, Anatahan, Sariguan, Gudgeon, Alamagan, Pagan, Agrihan, Asuncion, Maug Islands, and Farallon de Pajaro. Saipan is 3,300 miles from Honolulu; 5,625 from San Francisco; 1,272 miles from Tokyo; and 3,090 miles from Sydney.

The Mariana Islands are on the edge of the Philippine Plate. They were formed by underwater volcanoes along the Marianas Trench. The northern islands are high volcanic islands and the southern islands are raised limestone.

Anatahan is currently an active volcano with the first recorded volcanic eruption on May 10, 2003.

[Click here to visit the Anatahan Volcano home page.](#)

Culture

The U.S. citizen population of the Northern Marianas is predominantly of Chamorro cultural extraction, although a number of Carolinians (Chuukese, Kosraeans, Pohnpeians and Yapese) and immigrants from other areas of East Asia and Micronesia have also settled in the islands. English is the official language of the CNMI, but Chamorro and Carolinian are the spoken native tongues. The Spanish culture, which influenced the Chamorro culture for nearly four centuries, is still present today. Japanese is also spoken in many of the hotels and shops, reflecting the heavy tourism industry. The non-citizen population is made up primarily of Filipino and Chinese, with some representation from several other Asian countries.

OIA Contacts

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CNMI Leadership

Office of the Governor

T.H. Iloy Enos Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands	Caller Box 10007 Capital Hill Saipan, MP 96950	1 (670) 664-2280 1 (670) 664-2211 Fax
T.H. Gregorio Camacho Sablan - U.S. Representative	U.S. House of Representatives 423 Cannon House Building Washington, D.C. 20515	Telephone (202) 225-2646 Fax (202) 226-4249 Website: http://www.sablan.house.gov/

Former Resident Representatives

Former Governors

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Back to top

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About

Meet the Secretary

Bureaus

Our Priorities

American Energy

Climate Change

Resources

Cobell / Land Buy-back

Deepwater Horizon

For Employees	Jobs	Hurricane Sandy
Contact Us	Regulatory Reform	Open Government Initiative
	Stewardship	Strategic Plan
	Tribal Nations	

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