

**MISSIONS ATLAS PROJECT
NORTHWEST PACIFIC OCEAN
MICRONESIA**

Snapshots Section

Country Name: Federated States of Micronesia

Country Founded in: 1986

Population: 107,434 (2009 estimate)

Government Type: Constitutional Federation

Geography/location in the world: Four major island groups in the Pacific Ocean with 607 total islands. The Philippines are to the west, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands to the south, the Marshall Islands to the east, and the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam to the north.

Number of people groups: 25



Picture of flag:

Religion Snapshot: Roman Catholic 50%; Protestant 47%; Other 3%

The constitution provides for religious freedom, and other laws and policies support that. There were no reports of abuses or discrimination based on religion according to the 2009 Religious Freedom Report.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/fm.html>

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2009/127279.htm>

Country Profile

Basic Facts

Country Name: Federated States of Micronesia

Demographics:

The population of Micronesia is 107,434. About 22 percent of Micronesians live in urban areas. Roughly 35 percent are 14 years of age or younger. 62 percent are between 15 and 64 years old. Only about 3 percent are 65 or older. Life expectancy for Micronesians is about 71 years, as of 2009 estimates. Life expectancy for men is 69 and for women it is about 73.

Language:

English is the official and most common language. Other languages spoken include Chuukese, Kapingamarangi, Kosrean, Nukuoro, Pohnpeian, Ulithian, Woleaian, and Yapese.

Society/Culture:

While each state in the Federated States of Micronesia share some culture, each state also has particular characteristics. Yap is the most traditional of the four states and still has a strong caste system. Pohnpei is the most “western” of the four states, in large part because the national government is located there. In Chuuk, clan relationships are important. In Kosrae, the Congregational Church has a great influence in everyday life.

Music

Traditional music has been passed down through many generations, but local radio most often plays Micronesian pop, which has been influenced by traditional sounds, as well as reggae, modern europop, and American country music. Also, each state tends to have a different style.

Internet

As of December 2008, about 16,000 people in Micronesia had access to the Internet, which accounts for approximately 15% of the population.

<http://www.internetworldstats.com/pacific.htm#fm>

<http://www.visit-fsm.org/visitors/culture.html>

<http://www.visit-fsm.org/visitors/people.html>

Holidays

New Year's Day – January 1 – National holiday

Kosrae Constitution Day – January 11 – State holiday

Yap Day – March 1 – State holiday

March 31 – Culture Day – State holiday in Chuuk and Pohnpei

Good Friday – Different days each year – State holiday in Pohnpei

Easter – Different days each year

Federated States of Micronesia Day (Constitution Day) – May 10 – National holiday

Gospel Day – August 21 – State holiday in Kosrae
Kosrae Liberation Day – September 8 – State holiday
Pohnpei Liberation Day – September 11 – State holiday
Chuuk Liberation Day – September 23 – State holiday
Chuuk Constitution Day – October 1 – State holiday
United Nations' Day Holiday – October 24 – National holiday
FSM Independence Day – November 3 – National holiday
Pohnpei Constitution Day – November 8 – State holiday
Veterans of Foreign Wars Day – November 11 – National holiday
Thanksgiving Day – State holiday in Chuuk and Kosrae
Yap Constitution Day – December 24 – State holiday
Christmas Day – December 25 – National holiday

<http://www.qppstudio.net/publicholidays2009/micronesia.htm>

http://www.worldtravelguide.net/country/88/public_holidays/Australia-and-South-Pacific/Federated-States-Of-Micronesia.html

Government:

The Federated States of Micronesia is a constitutional confederation in free association with the United States, which means the United States is allowed to operate within the islands and, among other things, deny access to other nations. In exchange, the U.S. provides the islands with defense, economic assistance, and other benefits. The Compact of Free Association went into effect November 3, 1986. An amended version of the compact went into effect in June of 2004.

There are four groups of islands, each group forming a state: Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae. The federal capital is Palikir, on Pohnpei.

The government is structured similarly to that of the United States. There are three branches of government: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial. The constitution has a Declaration of Rights similar to the U.S. Bill of Rights. One difference, however, is that most functions of the government in Micronesia are carried out by each of the state governments. Primarily, only defense and foreign affairs are handled by the national government.

Legislative

Micronesia's Congress is unicameral. There are 14 Senators. They consist of one senator from each state who is elected to a four-year term in office and 10 senators who serve two-year terms in office. The state of Chuuk has six senators; Pohnpei has four; Yap has two; and Kosrae has two.

Executive

Congress elects the president and vice-president. Both are chosen from among the Senators who serve four-year terms in office. After those Senators move into the executive offices, special elections are held to fill their vacated seats in Congress. The president and vice-president serve four-year terms in office. The current president is Emanuel Mori. The vice-president is Alik L. Alik.

Judicial

The Federated States of Micronesia has a Supreme Court with three justices from the trial and appellate divisions. Justices are nominated by the president and confirmed by the Congress. Their appointments to the court are for life.

State

The four state governments are structured similarly to the national government with Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches.

<http://www.visit-fsm.org/visitors/government.html>

Economy:

Primary industries are fishing, agriculture, tourism, construction, and crafts. The main exports are fish, kava, and betel nut. Export partners include Japan, the United States and several others.

The main imports are food, manufactured goods, and fuel. The main import partner is the United States, but they also receive imports from Japan and other countries. Currency is the U.S. dollar.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/1839.htm>

Literacy: The literacy rate is 89%. Slightly more men are literate than women.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/fm.html>
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/1839.htm>

Land/Geography:

The Federated States of Micronesia is made up of 607 islands spread out across 2,000 miles of the Pacific Ocean. Some of the islands are tall and mountainous, and some are low atolls made of coral.

The tropical climate is hot and humid. Daily high temperatures are typically no more than 10 degrees above the nighttime lows. The islands receive moderate to abundant rainfall throughout the year, but the wettest season is usually from June to November. Micronesia is on the southern edge of the “typhoon belt,” so the islands are occasionally hit with strong storms.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/fm.html>
http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/world/country_guides/results.shtml?tt=TT005630

History

The earliest known settlers of the Caroline Islands of Micronesia arrived there more than 4,000 years ago. Much later, during the 1700s, first Portuguese and then Spanish explorers discovered the islands of Micronesia.

The Spanish ruled the islands until 1899 when control was given to Germany. Later, in 1919, control of the islands was transferred to the Japanese through the Treaty of Versailles. After

World War II, the islands were designated a “trust territory” of the United Nations, administered by the United States.

On May 10, 1979, four of the districts within the “trust territory” formed a new constitution and became the Federated States of Micronesia.

In 1986, the Compact of Free Association with the United States went into effect in the Federated States of Micronesia. This provided the islands with defense, economic assistance, and other benefits from the United States. In exchange, the United States is allowed to operate within the territory and deny access to other nations, among other things. An amended version of the compact went into effect in June of 2004.

On September 17, 1991, the Federated States of Micronesia became part of the United Nations.

<http://www.fsmlaw.org/compact/>

<http://www.visit-fsm.org/visitors/history.html>

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/1839.htm>

Christian History

In 1668, the Catholic Church began working in the Caroline Islands—the islands that are now the Federated States of Micronesia. Protestants started working in the area in 1852. Most of the Protestant denominations were started by Congregationalist missionaries from the United States. Today, the predominant Protestant church is the United Church of Christ.

In the 1890s, on the island of Pohnpei, conflicts between missionaries divided churches along clan lines. Many of those divisions are still present on the island. Catholics generally live on the eastern side of the island; Protestants mostly live on the western side.

Germany had claimed sovereignty over the Micronesian islands in 1885. Later, the American Board of missionaries requested that Germany send Christian missionaries to the islands. In 1906, the Liebenzell Mission started working on the Chuuk (or Truk) islands. By 1914, there were 7 mission stations run by 11 missionaries and 50 people from the local population.

German missionaries were evacuated from the islands during World War I. They returned in 1925, and by 1928 had started a mission on Pohnpei. After World War II, they extended their mission work to the island of Yap.

The four island states have different percentages of Protestants and Catholics. Pohnpei is split half and half between Catholics and Protestants. On Kosrae, 95 percent are Protestants. On the islands of Yap and Chuuk (or Truk), about 40 percent are Protestant, and 60 percent are Catholic. Church attendance is usually high, and churches are considered to be a significant facet of their society.

Most of the immigrants to the Federated States of Micronesia are from the Philippines, and most of them are Catholic.

Religion

Non Christian

Buddhism - As of 2000 there were about 831 Buddhists in Micronesia.

Baha'i- As of 2000 there were about 1,899 followers of the Baha'i faith.

Chinese folk-religionists- As of 1995 there were about 340 Chinese folk-religionists.

Jehovah's Witness - As of 1995 there were 6 congregations and 172 members; 1,100 people were affiliated with the Jehovah's Witnesses.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) - As of 2000 there were 29 Mormon congregations and 1,737 members; 2,900 people were affiliated with the church.

New Religionists - As of 1995 there were about 400 New Religionists.

Non-religious - As of 2000 there were about 1,068 people in this category.

Catholic/Orthodox

Catholics started working in the islands in 1668, but the first official Catholic Church is believed to have begun in 1902. As of 2000, there were 30 congregations and 33,140 members; 57,000 people were affiliated with the church.

Christian/Evangelical

Baptists

Independent Baptist Churches began in 1972. As of 1995 there were 10 congregations and 400 members; 670 people were affiliated with the church.

Church of Christ

The Church of Christ, as of 1995, had 5 congregations and 100 members; 170 people were affiliated with the church.

United Churches of Christ in Pohnpei began in 1852. As of 1995 there were 22 congregations and 5,600 members; 11,200 people were affiliated with the churches.

Nazarene

As of 2000 there were 3 Nazarene congregations and 250 members; 550 people were affiliated with the church.

Pentecostals

Assemblies of God began in 1960. As of 2000 there were 5 congregations and 400 members; 700 people were affiliated with the church.

Pentecostal Churches began around 1975. As of 1995 there were 4 congregations and 200 members; 400 people were affiliated with the church.

United Pentecostal Church started in 1981. As of 1995 there were 5 congregations and 100 members; 250 people were affiliated with the church.

Seventh-day Adventist

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, as of 1995 had 10 congregations and 300 members; 520 people were affiliated with the church.

Independent churches found in the country

The Congregational Church started in 1984. As of 1995 there were 2 congregations and 200 members; 500 people were affiliated with the church.

The Liebenzell Mission began in 1906. As of 2000 had 154 congregations and 9,250 members; 18,500 people were affiliated with the church.

Nukuono Protestant Church began around 1990. As of 1995 there were 5 congregations and 100 members; 150 people were affiliated with the church.

Protestant Church of the Caroline Islands began in 1906. As of 1995 there were 100 congregations and 6,000 members; 12,000 people were affiliated with the church.

The Protestant Church of Chuuk, as of 2000, had 22 congregations and 6,500 members; 13,000 people were affiliated with the church.

The Protestant Church of East Truk began in 1885. As of 1995 there were 28 congregations and 8,350 members; 16,700 people were affiliated with the church.

People Groups

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Americans, U.S. (1,500)

The Americans are primarily Protestant. More than 10 percent are evangelical Christians. The Bible, the *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are all available.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=110448>

18337

Carolinian (2,948)

The Carolinians are mostly Roman Catholic. Less than two percent are evangelical believers. The Bible has not been translated into their primary language. The *Jesus* film has not been translated. There are no Gospel recordings available. Radio broadcasts are not available. These resources are available in the major languages of the country.

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=101890>

18349

Chamorro (1,086)

The Chamorros are mostly Roman Catholic. Only about two percent are evangelical believers. Only portions of the Bible have been translated into their primary language. The *Jesus* film has been translated. There are no Gospel recordings available. Radio broadcasts are not available.

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=103498>

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Deaf (population unknown)

The deaf are primarily Christians, with more than 5 percent evangelical. It is not known what resources might be available for them.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=114916>

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Filipino (1,000)

The Filipino people of Micronesia are primarily Catholic, and there are few, if any, known evangelical believers. The Bible has been translated into their primary language of Tagalog, as has the *Jesus* film. There are Gospel recordings available, as well.

<http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/tgl>

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=109692>

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Han Chinese, Mandarin (500)

The Han Chinese people are primarily non-religious. About 40 percent are Christians. Less than 2 percent of the Han Chinese are evangelical believers. The Bible is available in their first language, as are the *Jesus* film and other Gospel recordings.

<http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/cmn>

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=103686>

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Japanese (800)

The Japanese are primarily Buddhists. Less than 2 percent are evangelical Christian. The Bible is available in their first language, as well as the *Jesus* film and Gospel recordings.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=104189>
<http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/jpn>

18357

Kapingamarangian (2,616)

Most of the Kapingamarangians are Roman Catholic. Less than two percent are evangelical believers. Portions of the Bible have been translated into their primary language of Kapingamarangi, but the *Jesus* film has not. There are Gospel recordings available. Radio broadcasts are not available.

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>
<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=104615>

18361

Kosraen, Kusaie (6682)

The Kosraen are primarily Protestant, and at least 10 percent are evangelical Christian. The Bible has been translated into their primary language. The *Jesus* film has not been translated, but there are Gospel recordings. Radio broadcasts are not available.

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>
<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=105256>

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Micronesians, English-Speaking (2,100)

They are primarily Christian, but there are few, if any, known evangelicals. The Bible, *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are all available.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=106613>

18363

Mokilese (1,270)

The Mokilese are mostly Protestant. More than 10 percent are evangelical believers. The Bible has not been translated into their primary language. The *Jesus* film has not been translated. There are no Gospel recordings available. Radio broadcasts are not available. These resources are available in several of the major languages of the country.

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>
<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=106725>

18365**Mortlockese (6,079)**

The Mortlockese are mostly Roman Catholic. Less than two percent are evangelical believers. The New Testament has been translated into their primary language. The *Jesus* film has not been translated. There are no Gospel recordings available. Radio broadcasts are not available.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=106810>
<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

18366**Namonuito (966)**

The Namonuito people are mostly Roman Catholic. There are no known evangelical believers. The Bible has not been translated into their primary language. The *Jesus* film has not been translated. There are no Gospel recordings available. Radio broadcasts are not available.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=107060>
<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

18380**Ngatik (608)**

The Ngatik people are primarily Roman Catholic. The Bible has not been translated into their primary language. The *Jesus* film has not been translated. There are no Gospel recordings available. Radio broadcasts are not available.

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

18382**Nukoro, Nukuoro (662)**

The Nukoro people are primarily Roman Catholic. More than 10 percent are evangelical believers. The New Testament has been translated into their primary language. The *Jesus* film has not been translated. There are no Gospel recordings available. Radio broadcasts are not available.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=107499>
<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

18384**Paafang (1,357)**

The Paafang people are primarily Roman Catholic. More than 10 percent are evangelical believers. The Bible has not been translated into their primary language. The *Jesus* film has not been translated. There are no Gospel recordings available. Radio broadcasts are not available. These resources are available in the major languages of the country.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=107725>
<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

18386

Pingilapese, Pingelap (1,563)

The Pingilapese people are predominantly Roman Catholic. More than 10 percent are evangelical believers. The Bible has not been translated into their primary language. The *Jesus* film has not been translated. There are no Gospel recordings available. Radio broadcasts are not available.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=108040>
<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

18388

Ponapean (25,904)

The Ponapean people are Roman Catholic primarily. More than 10 percent are evangelical believers. The Bible has been translated into their primary language. The *Jesus* film has been translated. There are Gospel recordings available. Radio broadcasts are not available.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=108108>
<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

18390

Puluwat (1,400)

The Puluwat people are mostly Roman Catholic. More than 10 percent are evangelical believers. The Bible has not been translated into their primary language. The *Jesus* film has not been translated. There are no Gospel recordings available. Radio broadcasts are not available. These resources are available in the major languages of the country.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=108168>
<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

18391

Satawalese (499)

The Satawalese people are mostly Roman Catholic. There are no known evangelical believers. The Bible has not been translated into their primary language. The *Jesus* film has not been translated. There are no Gospel recordings available. Radio broadcasts are not available.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=108742>
<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

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Sonsorol (900)

The Sonsorol people are primarily Christian, and more than 5 percent are evangelical believers. Neither the Bible nor the *Jesus* film has been translated into their primary language. There are no Gospel recordings. These resources are available in the major languages of the country.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=109419>

18392

Trukese (31,659)

The Trukese people are primarily Protestant. More than 10 percent are evangelical believers. The Bible has been translated into their primary language of Chuukese. The *Jesus* film has been translated. There are Gospel recordings available. Radio broadcasts are not available.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=110201>

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

18393

Ulithian (3,583)

The Ulithian people are primarily Protestant. More than 10 percent are evangelical believers. The Bible has been translated into their primary language. The *Jesus* film has not been translated. There are no Gospel recordings available. Radio broadcasts are not available.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=110385>

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

18395

Woleaian (1,463)

The Woleaian people are primarily Roman Catholic. More than 10 percent are evangelical believers. The Bible has not been translated into their primary language. The *Jesus* film has not been translated. There are no Gospel recordings available. Radio broadcasts are not available. These resources can be found in the major languages of the country.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=110854>

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

18396

Yapese (10,365)

The Yapese people are mostly Roman Catholic. Less than 2 percent are evangelical believers. The Bible has been translated into their primary language. The *Jesus* film has not been translated. There are no Gospel recordings available. Radio broadcasts are not available.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=FM&rop3=110981>

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and churches should recognize the churches in these islands and seek to aid them in guiding more of the church members to deepen religious life. The realization, that in most cases, less than 10% of those who claim Christianity truly are evangelical. This should point to a significant field of evangelism.
2. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to provide materials and training for local believers for the evangelization of Catholics and others who belong to churches but are not in the evangelical camp.
3. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek opportunities for evangelism in the 607 islands, finding places where churches are needed and finding ways to provide these congregations.

Links

Background Notes – Micronesia

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/1839.htm>

BBC News Country Profiles – Micronesia

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1300849.stm

BBC News Weather – Country Guide – Micronesia

http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/world/country_guides/results.shtml?tt=TT005630

CIA World Factbook – Micronesia

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/fm.html>

Government of the Federated States of Micronesia

<http://www.fsmgov.org/>

Religious Freedom Report for 2009

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2009/127279.htm>

Travel Information from the U.S. Department of State

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_971.html

Timeline of Key Events in Micronesia from the BBC News

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1300865.stm

TimelinesDB – Micronesia

<http://timelinesdb.com/listevents.php>

Wikipedia – Federated States of Micronesia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federated_States_of_Micronesia

World Health Organization – Micronesia

<http://www.who.int/countries/fsm/en/>