

CABO VERDE

Capital

Praia

Ethnic Groups

Creole (Mulatto) 71%, African 28%, European 1%

Languages

Portuguese (official), Krioulo (a Portuguese-based Creole language with two main dialects spoken in Cabo Verde and in the Cabo Verdean diaspora worldwide)

Religions

Roman Catholic 77.3%, Protestant 4.6% (includes Church of the Nazarene 1.7%, Adventist 1.5%, Assembly of God 0.9%, Universal Kingdom of God 0.4%, and God and Love 0.1%), other Christian 3.4% (includes Christian Rationalism 1.9%, Jehovah's Witness 1%, and New Apostolic 0.5%), Muslim 1.8%, other 1.3%, none 10.8%, unspecified 0.7%

Population

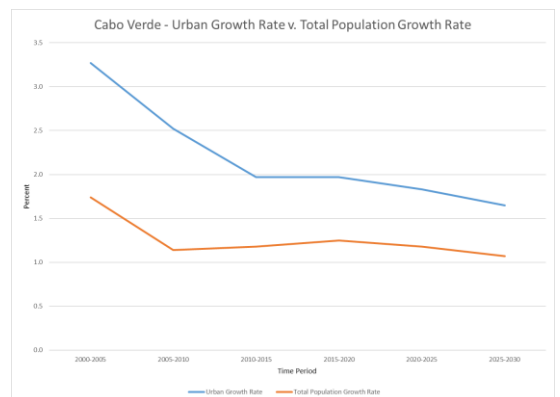
Total: 603,900
Median age: 26.8 years
Population growth rate: 1.19%
Urban: 68%
Rural 32%

Fertility

Birth rate: 18.19 births/1,000 population
Total fertility rate: 2.11 children born/woman
Sex ratio of population: 0.95 male(s)/female

Mortality

Death rate: 5.77 deaths/1,000 population
Life expectancy at birth: 74.02 years
Maternal mortality rate: 58 deaths/100,000 live births
Infant mortality rate: 22.96 deaths/1,000 live births



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Migration

Net migration rate: -0.57 migrants/1,000 population

Health

Current health expenditure: 6% of GDP

Physician density: 0.83 physicians/1,000 population

Adult obesity: 11.8%

Alcohol consumption per capita: 4.7 liters of pure alcohol

Education

Education expenditures: 7.6% of GDP

Literacy: 86.8%

Population Distribution

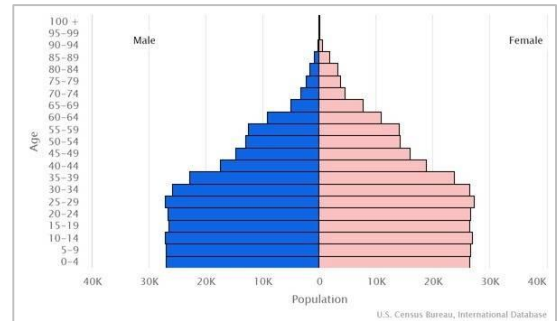
among the nine inhabited islands, population distribution is variable; islands in the east are very dry and are only sparsely settled to exploit their extensive salt deposits; the more southerly islands receive more precipitation and support larger populations, but agriculture and livestock grazing have damaged the soil fertility and vegetation; approximately half of the population lives on Sao Tiago Island, which is the location of the capital of Praia; Mindelo, on the northern island of Sao Vicente, also has a large urban population

Demographic Profile

Cabo Verde's population descends from its first permanent inhabitants in the late 15th-century – a preponderance of West African slaves, a small share of Portuguese colonists, and even fewer Italians, Spaniards, and Portuguese Jews. Over the centuries, the country's overall population size has fluctuated significantly, as recurring periods of famine and epidemics have caused high death tolls and emigration.

Labor migration historically reduced Cabo Verde's population growth and still provides a key source of income through remittances. Expatriates probably outnumber Cabo Verde's resident population, with most families having a member abroad. Cabo Verdeans have settled in the US, Europe, Africa, and South America. The largest diaspora community in New Bedford, Massachusetts, dating to the early 1800s, is a byproduct of the transatlantic whaling industry. Cabo Verdean men fleeing poverty at home joined the crews of US whaling ships that stopped in the islands. Many settled in New Bedford and stayed in the whaling or shipping trade, worked in the textile or cranberry industries, or operated their own transatlantic packet ships that transported compatriots to the US. Increased Cabo Verdean emigration to the US coincided with the gradual and eventually complete abolition of slavery in the archipelago in 1878.

Age Structure



Population Distribution

