

# KOSRAE FACT SHEET

**Introduction:** Kosrae is one of the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and is located approximately halfway between Hawaii and the Phillipines at 5 degrees north of the equator and 163 degrees east of the Greenwich meridian. It is the eastern-most state and second-largest island in the FSM.

**Geography:** The island of Kosrae is characterized by steep, rugged mountains, and dense jungle in the interior. The coastal zone, where the majority of people live, consists of a beautiful coral reef and mangrove forests.

Total area: 43.2 sq. miles  
Maritime claims: 12 nm territorial sea, 200 nm exclusive economic zone  
Highest point: Mt. Finkol, 2,064 feet.

**Natural Resources** The resources available for sustainable use are the forests, marine products, and deep-seabed minerals.

**Climate:** The climate is tropical, consistently close to 80 degrees Fahrenheit, with heavy year-round rainfall. Unlike other parts of the Western Pacific, typhoons are extremely rare.

**Culture** Kosraens are friendly and happy to meet outsiders. Most people speak English and enjoy a relaxed island lifestyle. Although modernization has had its impact, many people still rely on fishing and farming for subsistence. The culture is traditional, yet adaptable. Religion plays an important role and Sundays are strictly reserved for rest. On Sundays, people go to church and throughout the day the unique and beautiful Kosraen choral singing can be heard all over the island.

Age structure: 0-14 years - 36%                      Religion: Congregationalist  
                    15-64 years – 60%                      Languages: Kosraen, English  
                    65 and over – 4%  
                    Median Age – 21 years

**Government:** The Federated States of Micronesia has a constitutional government in free association with the U.S. under the Compact of Free Association. Kosrae is one of the four states of the FSM and the state government has 3 branches, executive, judicial, and legislative. The Governor is the highest elected official in the state.

**Economy:** The major economic sectors of Kosrae are marine resources, tourism, and agriculture. Kosrae's untarnished wilderness and underwater ecosystems are unlike anywhere in the world and the state wishes to promote this resource through environmentally sustainable tourism. The fertile soils and abundant rainfall provide a large agricultural output and the potential for export to regional markets has yet to be truly exploited. The main private sector activities are retail trade, restaurants and hotels, farming, fishing, and some service businesses. Subsistence farming and fishing remains very important to most families. The public sector greatly depends upon the economic assistance of the United States through the Compact of Free Association.

GDP:                      \$16 million (Kosrae State)                      Imports: \$11 million  
Currency                      U.S. Dollar                      Exports: \$3 million

**Transportation:** Continental Air Micronesia provides commercial flight services to and from Kosrae with six flights per week. Shipping services to and from Kosrae are provided by PM&O Line of which departs from California and Kyowa Line of Japan.