

# POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNTRY FACTSHEETS

## Afghanistan

*Da Afghanistan Islami Jomhoriyat—Jamhuri-ye Islami-ye Afghanistan (Islamic Republic of Afghanistan)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Kabul

*Population estimate, 2015:* 32.53 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 1,885

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.465/171

*Internet domain extension:* .af

### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Kabul (Khwaja Rawash Airport). The national carrier is Ariana Afghan Airlines, which in 2010 operated direct flights from Kabul to Amritsar, Baku, Delhi, Dubai, Dushanbe, Frankfurt, Islamabad, Istanbul, Jeddah, Kuwait, Mashad, Moscow, Riyadh, Tehran and Urumqi, as well as domestic services. In 2014 it carried 253,040 passengers, up from 226,266 in 2013. The UN sanctions imposed on 14 Nov. 1999 included the cutting off of Afghanistan's air links to the outside world. In Jan. 2002 Ariana Afghan Airlines resumed services and Kabul airport was reopened. The airport was heavily bombed during the US campaign and although it is now functioning with some civilian flights it is still being used extensively by the military authorities. Afghanistan's first private airline, Kam Air, was launched in Nov. 2003.

### Climate

The climate is arid, with a big annual range of temperature and very little rain, apart from the period Jan. to April. Winters are very cold, with considerable snowfall, which may last the year round on mountain summits. Kabul, Jan. 27 °F (−2.8 °C), July 76 °F (24.4 °C). Annual rainfall 13" (338 mm).

### Constitution and Government

UN sanctions were imposed in 1999 but were withdrawn following the collapse of the Taliban regime. Following UN-sponsored talks in Bonn, Germany in Nov. 2001, on 22 Dec. 2001 power was handed over to an Afghan Interim Authority, designed to oversee the restructuring of the country until a second stage of government, the Transitional Authority, could be put into power. This second stage resulted from a *Loya Jirga* (Grand Council), which convened between 10–16 June 2002. The *Loya Jirga* established the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan. A constitutional commission was established, with UN assistance, to help the Constitutional *Loya Jirga* prepare a new constitution. A draft constitution was produced for public scrutiny in Nov. 2003 and was approved by Afghanistan's *Loya Jirga* on 4 Jan. 2004. The new constitution creates a strong presidential system, providing for a *President* and two *Vice-Presidents*, and a bicameral parliament. The constitution imposes a limit of two 5-year terms for a president. The lower house is the 249-member House of the People (*Wolesi Jirga*), directly elected for a 5-year term, and the upper house the 102-member House of Elders (*Meshrano Jirga*). The upper house is elected in three divisions. The provincial councils elect one third of its members for a 4-year term. The district councils elect the second third of the members for a 3-year term. The president appoints the remaining third for a 5-year term. At least one woman is elected to the *Wolesi Jirga* from each of the country's 32 regions, and half of the president's appointments to the *Meshrano Jirga* must be women. The constitution reserves 25% of the seats in the *Wolesi Jirga* for women. The president

appoints ministers, the attorney general and central bank governor with the approval of the *Wolesi Jirga*. Cabinet ministers must be university graduates. Presidential and parliamentary elections, the first in 25 years, were scheduled for June 2004 but were put back to Oct. 2004. The parliamentary elections were subsequently delayed again and were set to be held in April 2005, but were postponed a further time until Sept. 2005. In Dec. 2005 an elected parliament sat for the first time since 1973.

### Currency

The *afghani* (AFN) was introduced in Oct. 2002 with one of the new notes worth 1,000 old *afghani* (AFA). The old *afghani* had been trading at around 46,000 to the US\$.

### Defence

In 2013 military expenditure totalled US\$2,898 m. (US\$93 per capita), representing 13.8% of GDP. Since the fall of the Taliban, Afghanistan has had an all-volunteer professional-army. The UN-mandated international force, ISAF, assisted the government in the maintenance of security throughout the country until its mandate expired at the end of 2014. It had been led by NATO since 2003. About 12,900 personnel have been retained to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Security Forces in the context of Operation Resolute Support.

### Economy

In 2012 agriculture accounted for 25% of GDP, industry 21% and services 54%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 7,983,000 (5,569,000 in 2003). 49.0% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 9.2% of the population was unemployed. Afghanistan had 86,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

Afghanistan had approximately 540 newspapers in 2008 including 16 paid-for dailies. The main dailies were *Hewad*, *Anis* and the English language publications *Daily Outlook Afghanistan* and *Kabul Times*.

### Rail

Historically, Afghanistan has lacked its own railway system although two short stretches of railway extend inside the country from the Uzbek and Turkmen networks. In Feb. 2012 the first major Afghan-run railway opened to commercial traffic at a cost of US\$170 m., covering 75 km from Hairatan, a town on the border with Uzbekistan, to Mazar i Sharif. It is hoped it will be integrated into a wider network being developed as part of a Central Asia Regional Economic Co-operation programme.

### Religion

The predominant religion is Islam. According to a study by the Pew Research Center entitled *Mapping the Global Muslim Population*, around 84–89% of the population in 2009 were Sunni Muslims and 10–15% Shias. The Taliban provoked international censure in 2001 by forcing the minority population of Afghan Hindus and Sikhs to wear yellow identification badges.

### Roads

There were 42,150 km of roads in 2006, of which 29.3% were paved. A large part of the road network is in a poor state of repair as a result of military action,

but rebuilding is under way. In Jan. 2003 women regained the right to drive after a 10-year ban. 431,600 passenger cars (15 per 1,000 inhabitants in 2007) and 153,600 lorries and vans were in use in 2008.

### Shipping

There are practically no navigable rivers. A port has been built at Qizil Qala on the Oxus and there are three river ports on the Amu Darya, linked by road to Kabul. The container port at Kheyraabad on the Amu Darya river has rail connections to Uzbekistan.

### Social Statistics

Based on 2008 estimates: birth rate, 46.5 per 1,000 population; death rate, 19.6 per 1,000. Infant mortality (2010), 103 per 1,000 live births. Life expectancy at birth, 2013, was 62.2 years for women and 59.7 years for men. Fertility rate, 2008, 6.6 births per woman. In spite of the ongoing conflict in the country, Afghanistan has made significant progress in recent years in reducing maternal mortality. The number of deaths per 100,000 live births among mothers was reduced from 1,100 in 2000 to 400 in 2013.

### Telecommunications

There were 23,424,000 mobile phone subscriptions in 2014 (748.8 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 102,000 landline telephone subscriptions (3.3 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2014, 6.4% of the population were internet users. In March 2012 there were 257,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Afghanistan is bounded in the north by Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, east by China, east and south by Pakistan and west by Iran. The area is 652,230 km<sup>2</sup> (251,830 sq. miles). The last census was in 1979. Estimate, 2010, 27.96 m.; density, 42.9 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 22.9% of the population lived in urban areas. The country is divided into 34 regions (*velayat*). The capital, Kabul, had an estimated population of 2.94 m. in 2009. Main ethnic groups: Pashtuns, 38%; Tajiks, 25%; Hazaras, 19%; Uzbeks, 6%; others, 12%. The official languages are Pashto and Dari.

### Tourism

Owing to the political situation the tourism industry has been negligible since 2001. It is estimated that around 3,000–4,000 tourists visit the country annually.

## Albania

### *Republika e Shqipërisë (Republic of Albania)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Tirana

*Population estimate, 2015:* 2.90 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 9,943

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.733/85=

*Internet domain extension:* .al

#### Civil Aviation

The national carrier, Albanian Airlines, ceased operations in Nov. 2011. Subsequently Belle Air, a low-cost carrier founded in 2005, became the *de facto* national carrier, but it in turn ceased operations in Nov. 2013. It had international flights to a number of destinations in Europe as well as some charter flights. In 2006 scheduled airline traffic of Albania-based carriers flew 2 m. km, carrying 213,000 passengers (all on international flights). The main airport is Mother Teresa International Airport at Rinas, 25 km from Tirana, which handled 1,394,688 passengers in 2009.

#### Climate

Mediterranean-type, with rainfall mainly in winter, but thunderstorms are frequent and severe in the great heat of the plains in summer. Winters in the highlands can be severe, with much snow. Tirana, Jan. 44 °F (6.8 °C), July 75 °F (23.9 °C). Annual rainfall 54" (1,353 mm). Shkodër, Jan. 39 °F (3.9 °C), July 77 °F (25 °C). Annual rainfall 57" (1,425 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was adopted on 28 Nov. 1998. The supreme legislative body is the single-chamber *People's Assembly* of 140 deputies. As from April 2009 all members are elected through proportional representation, for 4-year terms. Where no candidate wins an absolute majority, a run-off election is held. The *President* is elected by parliament for a 5-year term.

#### Currency

The monetary unit is the *lek* (ALL), notionally of 100 *qindars*. In Sept. 1991 the lek (plural, *lekë* or leks) was pegged to the ecu at a rate of 30 leks = one ecu. In June 1992 it was devalued from 50 to 110 to US\$1.

#### Defence

Since 1 Jan. 2010 Albania has had an all-volunteer professional army. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$182 m. (US\$61 per capita), representing 1.4% of GDP.

#### Economy

In 2009 agriculture accounted for 20.4% of GDP (down from 29.1% in 2000), industry 19.4% (up from 19.0% in 2000) and services 60.2% (up from 51.9% in 2000).

#### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 1,287,000 (1,322,000 in 2003). 62.9% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 16.0% of the population was unemployed. Albania had 11,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

#### Press

In 2008 there were 28 paid-for dailies (combined circulation of 77,000) and 82 paid-for non-dailies. The leading newspaper in terms of circulation is *Shekulli*.

#### Rail

Total length in operation in 2012 was 399 km. Passenger-km travelled in 2012 came to 16 m. and freight tonne-km to 25 m.

#### Religion

At the 2011 census the declared religious adherence of the population included: Muslims (mainly Sunnis, but with a significant Bektashi Shia minority), 56.7%; Catholics, 10.0%; Orthodox, 6.7%. The remainder follow other religions or are atheists. The Roman Catholic Church has five dioceses in the country, including two archdioceses. The Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Albania is headed by Anastasios, Archbishop of Tirana, Durrës and All Albania (b. 1929).

#### Roads

In 2009 there were around 15,000 km of roads including 3,412 km of national or primary roads. There were 237,932 passenger cars in 2007, as well as 29,506 buses and coaches and 59,645 lorries and vans. There were 384 fatalities in road accidents in 2007.

#### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 46 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 61,000 GT. The main port is Durrës, with secondary ports being Vlërë, Sarandë and Shëngjin.

## Social Statistics

2007: births, 33,163; deaths, 14,528. Rates in 2007 (per 1,000): births, 10.5; deaths, 4.6. Infant mortality, 2010, was 16 per 1,000 live births. Fertility rate (number of births per woman), 1.9 in 2008. Annual population growth rate, 2008–10, 0.4%. Life expectancy at birth, 2007, was 73.4 years for men and 79.8 years for women. Abortion was legalized in 1991.

## Telecommunications

In 2010 there were 333,000 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 103.9 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 2,692,000 mobile phone subscriptions (or 840.2 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2009, 41.2% of the population were internet users. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 105,000 in 2009 (32.9 per 1,000 inhabitants). In March 2012 Albania had 1.06 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Albania is bounded in the north by Montenegro and Serbia, east by Macedonia, south by Greece and west by the Adriatic. The area is 28,703 km<sup>2</sup> (11,082 sq. miles). The population at the census of Oct. 2011 was 2,821,977 giving a density of 98.3 per km<sup>2</sup>. Population estimate, Jan. 2015: 2,893,005. In 2011, 52.9% of the population lived in urban areas. The capital is Tirana (population in 2011, 418,495). The country is administratively divided into 12 prefectures, 36 districts, 308 communes and 65 municipalities. In most cases prefectures are named after their capitals. The one exception is Dibrë, where the capital is Peshkopi. The vast majority of the population are Albanians, with small Greek, Roma, Aromanian and Macedonian minorities. The official language is Albanian.

## Tourism

In 2012 there were a record 3,156,000 international tourist arrivals, excluding same-day visitors (up from 2,469,000 in 2011); tourism expenditure in 2012 totalled US\$1,623 m.

# Algeria

*Jumhuriya al-Jazairiya ad-Dimuqratiya ash-Shabiya*  
(*People's Democratic Republic of Algeria*)

## Factsheet

*Capital:* Algiers  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 39.67 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 13,054  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.736/83  
*Internet domain extension:* .dz

## Civil Aviation

The main airport is Algiers International Airport (also known as Houari Boumedienne Airport), which opened a new terminal in July 2006 to allow for more international air traffic; some international services also use airports at Annaba, Constantine and Oran. The national carrier is the state-owned Air Algérie, which in 2013 carried 4,703,000 passengers (3,182,000 on international flights). In 2012 Houari Boumedienne Airport handled 5,404,971 passengers (3,824,009 on international flights) and 25,359 tonnes of freight.

## Climate

Coastal areas have a warm temperate climate, with most rain in winter, which is mild, while summers are hot and dry. Inland, conditions become more arid beyond the Atlas Mountains. Algiers, Jan. 54 °F (12.2 °C), July 76 °F (24.4 °C). Annual rainfall 30" (762 mm). Biskra, Jan. 52 °F (11.1 °C), July 93 °F (33.9 °C). Annual rainfall 6" (158 mm). Oran, Jan. 54 °F (12.2 °C), July 76 °F (24.4 °C). Annual rainfall 15" (376 mm).

## Constitution and Government

A referendum was held on 28 Nov. 1996. The electorate was 16,434,527; turnout was 79.6%. The electorate approved by 85.8% of votes cast a new constitution which defines the fundamental components of the Algerian people as Islam, Arab identity and Berber identity. It was signed into law on 7 Dec. 1996. Political parties are permitted, but not if based on a separatist feature such as race, religion, sex, language or region. There is no limit to the number of presidential terms after parliament voted in favour of abolishing the two-term limit in Nov. 2008, allowing the current president, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, to run for a third term. The President appoints the prime minister and cabinet ministers. Parliament is bicameral: a 462-member *National People's Assembly* elected by direct universal suffrage using proportional representation (389 prior to the elections of May 2012), and a 144-member *Council of the Nation*, one-third nominated by the President and two-thirds indirectly elected by the 48 local authorities. The Council of the Nation debates bills passed by the National Assembly which become law if a three-quarters majority is in favour.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *Algerian dinar* (DZD) of 100 *centimes*.

## Defence

Conscription is for 18 months (6 months basic training and 12 months civilian tasks). Military expenditure totalled US\$9,957 m. in 2013, equivalent to US\$261 per capita and representing 4.7% of GDP.

## Economy

In 2009 petroleum and natural gas (excluding refined petroleum) accounted for 31.0% of GDP; transport, communications, trade, restaurants, finance, real estate and services, 25.1%; public administration and defence, 10.9%; public utilities and construction, 10.9%.

## Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 12,088,000 (9,648,000 in 2003). 46.5% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 9.8% of the population was unemployed. Algeria had 71,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

Algeria had 65 paid-for daily newspapers in 2008 (including five sports dailies), with a combined average daily circulation of 2.16 m. There were also 226 non-dailies in 2008.

## Rail

In 2011 there were 3,720 km of 1,432 mm route (254 km electrified) and 1,090 km of 1,055 mm gauge. The railways carried 6.9 m. tonnes of freight and 24.7 m. passengers in 2008.

## Religion

The 1996 constitution made Islam the state religion, established a consultative *High Islamic Council*, and forbids practices 'contrary to Islamic morality'. In 2010 the population was 97.9% Muslim according to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, with 1.8% religiously unaffiliated and 0.2% Christian. The vast majority of citizens are Sunni Muslims. The Armed Islamic Group (GIA) vowed in 1994 to kill 'Jews, Christians and polytheists' in Algeria. Hundreds of foreign nationals, including priests and nuns, were killed during the 10-year long civil war. Signalling an increasing tolerance amongst the Muslim community, the Missionaries of Africa's house at Ghardaia Oasis was reopened in 2000.

## Roads

There were, in 2008, 111,261 km of roads including 29,146 km of highways and main roads. There were 2,042,800 passenger cars (58 cars per 1,000 inhabitants in 2005) and 1,166,200 lorries and vans in use in 2006.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 39 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 723,000 GT. Skikda, the leading port, handled 23,203,000 tonnes of cargo in 2008.

## Social Statistics

2007 estimates: births, 783,000; deaths, 149,000; marriages, 325,000. Rates (2007 estimates): births, 23.0 per 1,000; deaths, 4.4 per 1,000. Infant mortality in 2010 was 31 per 1,000 live births. Expectation of life (2007), 73.6 years for females and 70.8 years for males. Annual population growth rate, 1998–2008, 1.5%. Fertility rate, 2008, 2.4 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2014 mobile phone subscribers numbered 37,113,130 (929.5 per 1,000 persons). In the same year there were 3,098,787 main (fixed) telephone lines. 18.1% of the population were internet users in 2014. In June 2012 there were 3.6 m. Facebook users. Government plans to privatize Algérie Télécom, the major state-owned telecommunications company, were rejected in Feb. 2009. Mobilis, a subsidiary of Algérie Télécom, is one of three mobile phone networks operating in the country. It has the second largest market share, behind Djezzy and ahead of Nedjma.

## Territory and Population

Algeria is bounded in the west by Morocco and Western Sahara, southwest by Mauritania and Mali, southeast by Niger, east by Libya and Tunisia, and north by the Mediterranean Sea. It has an area of 2,381,741 km<sup>2</sup> (919,595 sq. miles) and is the largest country in Africa. Population (census 2008) 34,080,030 (16,847,283 female); density, 14.3 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 67.1% of the population lived in urban areas. 2.5 m. Algerians live in France. 86% of the population speak Arabic, 14% Berber; French is widely spoken. A law of Dec. 1996 made Arabic the sole official language, but in March 2002 Tamazight, the Berber language, was given official status and also made a national language. The capital is Algiers (2008 census population, 2,364,230). Other major towns (with 2008 census populations over 200,000): Oran, 803,329; Constantine, 448,028; Annaba, 342,703; Blida, 331,779; Batna, 289,504; Djelfa, 265,833; Sétif, 252,127; Sidi-bel-Abbès, 210,146; Biskra, 204,661.

## Tourism

In 2010 there were a record 2,070,000 foreign visitors, up from 1,912,000 in 2009 and 1,772,000 in 2008.

# Andorra

## *Principat d'Andorra (Principality of Andorra)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Andorra la Vella  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 70,000  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 43,978  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.845/34  
*Internet domain extension:* .ad

### Civil Aviation

The nearest airport is Seo de Urgel, over the border in Spain 12 km to the south of Andorra.

### Climate

Escaldes-Engordany, Jan. 35.8 °F (2.1 °C), July 65.8 °F (18.8 °C). Annual rainfall 34.9" (886 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The joint heads of state are the co-princes—the President of the French Republic and the Bishop of Urgel. A new democratic constitution was

approved by 74.2% of votes cast at a referendum on 14 March 1993. The electorate was 9,123; turnout was 75.7%. The new constitution, which came into force on 4 May 1993, makes the co-princes a single constitutional monarch and provides for a parliament, the unicameral *General Council of the Valleys*, with 28 members, two from each of the seven parishes and 14 elected by proportional representation from the single national constituency, for 4 years. In 1982 an *Executive Council* was appointed and legislative and executive powers were separated. The General Council elects the President of the Executive Council, who is the head of the government. There is a *Constitutional Court* of four members who hold office for 8-year terms, renewable once.

### Currency

Since 1 Jan. 2002 Andorra has been using the euro (EUR).

### Labour

Only 1% of the workforce is employed in agriculture, the rest in tourism, commerce, services and light industry. Manufacturing consists mainly of cigarettes, cigars and furniture.

### Press

In 2008 there were three daily newspapers with a combined circulation of about 32,000. *Diari d'Andorra* and *El Periòdic d'Andorra* are paid-for, while *Bondia* is free. *L'Esportiu*, a daily Catalan-language sports paper, is included in *Diari d'Andorra*. In the 2013 *World Press Freedom Index* compiled by Reporters Without Borders, Andorra was ranked fifth out of 179 countries.

### Religion

The Roman Catholic is the established church, but the 1993 constitution guarantees religious liberty. In 2011 around 90% of the population were Catholics.

### Roads

There were 76,616 motor vehicles in 2012 including 52,038 private cars and 13,154 motorcycles and mopeds. A total of 4,111,528 vehicles entered the country in 2012 (4,178,116 in 2011).

### Social Statistics

Births in 2006 numbered 843 (10.4 per 1,000 inhabitants) and deaths 260 (3.2). Life expectancy (2006): males, 78 years; females, 85 years. Annual population growth rate, 2000–05, 3.5%. Fertility rate, 2008, 1.3 births per woman (one of the lowest rates in the world). Infant mortality in 2010 was three per 1,000 live births.

### Telecommunications

In 2010 there were 38,171 landline telephone subscriptions, equivalent to 449.8 per 1,000 inhabitants. There were 65,500 mobile phone subscriptions in 2010 (771.8 per 1,000 inhabitants). Andorra had 785.3 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2009. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 32,000 in 2009 (382.6 per 1,000 inhabitants).

### Territory and Population

The co-principality of Andorra is situated in the eastern Pyrenees on the French-Spanish border. The country is mountainous and has an average altitude of 1,996 m. Area, 464 km<sup>2</sup>. In lieu of a census, a register of population is kept. The estimated population at 31 Dec. 2013 was 76,098; density, 164 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2010, 88% of the population lived in urban areas. The chief towns are Andorra la Vella, the capital (population, 22,546 in 2013) and Escaldes-Engordany (13,859); other towns are Encamp, Sant Julià de Lòria and La Massana. In 2010, 38.8% of the residential population were Andorran, 31.4% Spanish, 15.4% Portuguese and 6.0% French. Catalan is the official language, but Spanish and French are widely spoken.

### Tourism

Tourism is the main industry, accounting for 80% of GDP. In 2010 there were 1,808,000 international tourist arrivals (excluding same-day visitors).

## Angola

*República de Angola (Republic of Angola)*

### Factsheet

Capital: Luanda

Population estimate, 2015: 25.02 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPP\$) 6,822

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.532/149

Internet domain extension: .ao

### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Luanda (Fourth of February). The national carrier is Linhas Aéreas de Angola (TAAG), which in 2013 carried 1,322,000 passengers (669,000 on domestic flights and 653,000 on international flights).

### Climate

The climate is tropical, with low rainfall in the west but increasing inland. Temperatures are constant over the year and most rain falls in March and April. Luanda, Jan. 78 °F (25.6 °C), July 69 °F (20.6 °C). Annual rainfall 13" (323 mm). Lobito, Jan. 77 °F (25 °C), July 68 °F (20 °C). Annual rainfall 14" (353 mm).

### Constitution and Government

Under the Constitution adopted at independence, the sole legal party was the MPLA. In Dec. 1990, however, the MPLA announced that the Constitution would be revised to permit opposition parties. The supreme organ of state is the 220-member *National Assembly*. For the 2008 elections 30% of seats were guaranteed for women. There is an executive *President*, elected for renewable terms of 5 years, who appoints a *Council of Ministers*. In Dec. 2002 Angola's ruling party and the UNITA party of former rebels agreed on a new constitution. The president would keep key powers, including the power to name and to remove the prime minister. The president will also appoint provincial governors, rather than letting voters elect them, but the governor must be from the party that received a majority of votes in that province. A draft constitution was submitted to the constitutional commission of the Angolan parliament for consideration in Jan. 2004. A new constitution was adopted on 21 Jan. 2010 and came into effect on 5 Feb. although the opposition party UNITA boycotted the vote. Direct presidential elections were abolished. Instead the party with the majority in parliament will choose the president. A two 5-year term limit was introduced although it did not take effect until after the parliamentary elections in Aug. 2012, allowing President dos Santos to remain in power until 2022. The president was also made responsible for judicial appointments while the office of prime minister was replaced by that of a vice-president to be appointed by the president.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *kwanza* (AOA), introduced in Dec. 1999, replacing the *readjusted kwanza* at a rate of 1 kwanza = 1 m. readjusted kwanzas.

### Defence

Conscription is for 2 years. Defence expenditure totalled US\$6,049 m. in 2013 (US\$326 per capita), representing 4.8% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2011 agriculture accounted for 9% of GDP, industry 62% and services 29%.

### Labour

In 2010 the estimated economically active population numbered 8,533,000 (53% males), up from 6,238,000 in 2000. Angola had 17,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

The government-owned *Jornal de Angola* (circulation of 42,000) was the only daily newspaper in 2008. The *Diário da República* is the official gazette. There are 12 private weekly publications and four smaller regional weeklies.

### Rail

Prior to the civil war there was in excess of 2,900 km of railway (predominantly 1,067 mm gauge track), but much of the network was damaged during the war. However, restoration and redevelopment of the network is now under way, notably the Benguela Railway, linking the port city of Lobito with Huambo in Angola's rich farmlands and neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia.

### Religion

A study by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life estimated that there were 17.3 m. Christians in 2010 and 790,000 followers of folk religions. A further 980,000 people had no religious affiliation. Catholics account for around 65% of Christians and Protestants 35%. In Feb. 2016 there was one cardinal.

### Roads

There were 51,429 km of roads in 2001 and 671,100 vehicles in use in 2007. Many roads remain mined as a result of the civil war; a programme of de-mining and rehabilitation is under way.

### Shipping

There are ports at Luanda, Lobito and Namibe, and oil terminals at Malongo, Lobito and Soyo. In Jan. 2009 there were 28 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 21,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

Life expectancy at birth, 2013, 50.4 years for males and 53.4 years for females. 2008 births (estimates), 775,000; deaths, 306,000. Estimated birth rate in 2008 was 43 per 1,000 population; estimated death rate, 17. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.9%. Fertility rate, 2008, 5.8 births per woman; infant mortality, 2010, 98 per 1,000 live births.

### Telecommunications

In 2010 there were 303,200 main (fixed) telephone lines but mobile phone subscribers numbered 8.91 m. There were 32.8 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2009. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 320,000 in 2009 (17.2 per 1,000 inhabitants). In June 2012 there were 433,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Angola is bounded in the north by the Republic of the Congo, north and northeast by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, east by Zambia, south by Namibia and west by the Atlantic Ocean. The area is 1,246,700 km<sup>2</sup> (481,350 sq. miles) including the province of Cabinda, an exclave of territory separated by 30 km<sup>2</sup> of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's territory. Angola's first census in more than 40 years was held in May 2014; the provisional population was 24,383,301, giving a density of 19.6 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2010, 58.5% of the population were living in urban areas. Population figures are rough estimates because the civil war led to huge movements of population. The most important towns are Luanda, the capital (2012 population estimate, 5.85 m.), Huambo, Lobito, Benguela, Kuito, Lubango, Malanje and Namibe. The main ethnic groups are Umbundo (Ovimbundo), Kimbundo, Bakongo, Chokwe, Ganguela, Luvale and Kwanyama. Portuguese is the official language. Bantu and other African languages are also spoken.

### Tourism

In 2012 there were a record 528,000 non-resident tourists (up from 91,000 in 2002 and 195,000 in 2007), bringing revenue of US\$711 m.

## Antigua and Barbuda

### Factsheet

*Capital:* St John's  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 92,000  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 20,070  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.783/58  
*Internet domain extension:* .ag

### Civil Aviation

V. C. Bird International Airport is near St John's. A domestic flight links the airports on Antigua and Barbuda.

### Climate

A tropical climate, but drier than most West Indies islands. The hot season is from May to Nov., when rainfall is greater. Mean annual rainfall is 40" (1,000 mm).

### Constitution and Government

H.M. Queen Elizabeth, as Head of State, is represented by a Governor-General appointed by her on the advice of the Prime Minister. There is a bicameral legislature, comprising a 17-member Senate appointed by the Governor-General and an 18-member House of Representatives (with 17 members elected by universal suffrage for a 5-year term plus the Speaker). The Governor-General appoints a Prime Minister and, on the latter's advice, other members of the Cabinet. Barbuda is administered by a nine-member directly-elected council.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *East Caribbean dollar* (XCD), issued by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.

### Defence

The Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF) numbers 170 and has four units: the Antigua and Barbuda Regiment, the Service and Support Unit, the Coast Guard and the Antigua and Barbuda Cadet Corps. There are 75 reserves. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$26 m. (US\$286 per capita), representing 2.1% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2009 agriculture accounted for 1.7% of GDP, industry 22.0% and services 76.3%.

### Labour

In 2008, 38,500 people were in employment. The main areas of activity were: hotels and restaurants, 5,800; wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods, 5,500; public administration and defence, and compulsory social security, 5,000. The hourly minimum wage was raised to EC\$7.50 (US\$2.78) in Jan. 2008.

### Press

The main newspapers are *The Antigua Sun* and *The Daily Observer*, with a combined circulation of 9,000 in 2008.

### Religion

In 2010 an estimated 93.0% of the population were Christians (mainly Protestants) and 3.6% folk religionists according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life.

### Roads

In 2012 there were about 1,170 km of roads. 20,100 vehicles were in use in 2009, including 13,400 passenger cars and 5,300 commercial vehicles.

### Shipping

The main port is St John's Harbour. In Jan. 2009 there were 1,166 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 9,620,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

Expectation of life, 2009: males, 73 years, females, 76. Annual population growth rate, 2010–15, 1.1%. 2007: births, 1,240; deaths, 504. Infant mortality in 2010 was 7 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 2.1 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

There were 41,700 fixed telephone lines in 2010, or 470.5 per 1,000 inhabitants. Mobile phone subscribers numbered 163,900 in 2010. There were 742.0 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2009. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 15,600 in 2009 (177.7 per 1,000 inhabitants).

### Territory and Population

Antigua and Barbuda comprises three islands of the Lesser Antilles situated in the eastern Caribbean with a total land area of 442 km<sup>2</sup> (171 sq. miles); it consists of Antigua (280 km<sup>2</sup>), Barbuda, 40 km to the north (161 km<sup>2</sup>) and uninhabited Redonda, 40 km to the southwest (1 km<sup>2</sup>). The population at the census of May 2011 was 85,567 (1,634 on Barbuda); density, 194 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 30.4% of the population lived in urban areas. The chief town is St John's, the capital, on Antigua (22,219 inhabitants in 2011). Codrington (914 inhabitants in 2001) is the only settlement on Barbuda. English is the official language; local dialects are also spoken.

### Tourism

Tourism is the main industry, contributing about 70% of GDP and 80% of foreign exchange earnings and related activities. In 2010 there were 229,943 tourist arrivals by air and 557,635 cruise passengers arrivals.

## Argentina

### *República Argentina (Argentine Republic)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Buenos Aires  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 43.42 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2013:* (PPPS) 17,297  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.836/40  
*Internet domain extension:* .ar

### Civil Aviation

The main airport is Ministro Pistarini International Airport—also known as Ezeiza International Airport—which serves Buenos Aires and handled 7,910,048 passengers in 2009 (7,461,727 passengers on international flights). The second busiest airport is Aeroparque Jorge Newbery, also serving Buenos Aires, which handled 6,449,344 passengers in 2009. It is much more important as a domestic airport, with only 524,934 passengers on international flights in 2009. The national carrier, Aerolíneas Argentinas, was privatized in 1990 but renationalized in Sept. 2008. In 2006 scheduled airline traffic of Argentinian-based carriers flew 101 m. km, carrying 6,636,000 passengers (1,818,000 on international flights).

### Climate

The climate is warm temperate over the pampas, where rainfall occurs in all seasons, but diminishes towards the west. In the north and west, the climate is more arid, with high summer temperatures, while in the extreme south conditions are also dry, but much cooler. Buenos Aires, Jan. 74 °F (23.3 °C), July 50 °F (10 °C). Annual rainfall 37" (950 mm). Bahía Blanca, Jan. 74 °F (23.3 °C), July 48 °F (8.9 °C). Annual rainfall 21" (523 mm). Mendoza, Jan. 75 °F (23.9 °C), July 47 °F (8.3 °C). Annual rainfall 8" (190 mm). Rosario, Jan. 76 °F (24.4 °C), July 51 °F (10.6 °C). Annual

rainfall 35" (869 mm). San Juan, Jan. 78 °F (25.6 °C), July 50 °F (10 °C). Annual rainfall 4" (89 mm). San Miguel de Tucumán, Jan. 79 °F (26.1 °C), July 56 °F (13.3 °C). Annual rainfall 38" (970 mm). Ushuaia, Jan. 50 °F (10 °C), July 34 °F (1.1 °C). Annual rainfall 19" (475 mm).

### Constitution and Government

On 10 April 1994 elections were held for a 230-member constituent assembly to reform the 1853 constitution. The Justicialist National Movement (Peronist) gained 39% of votes cast and the Radical Union 20%. On 22 Aug. 1994 this assembly unanimously adopted a new constitution. This reduces the presidential term of office from 6 to 4 years, but permits the President to stand for two terms. The President is no longer elected by an electoral college, but directly by universal suffrage. A presidential candidate is elected with more than 45% of votes cast, or 40% if at least 10% ahead of an opponent; otherwise there is a second round. The Constitution reduces the President's powers by instituting a *Chief of Cabinet*. The bicameral *National Congress* consists of a Senate and a Chamber of Deputies. The Senate comprises 72 members (one-third of the members elected every 2 years to 6-year terms). The Chamber of Deputies comprises 257 members (one-half of the members elected every 2 years to 4-year terms) directly elected by universal suffrage. Voting is compulsory for citizens aged 18–70 and—with effect from the mid-term elections of Oct. 2013—optional for those aged 16 and 17.

### Currency

The monetary unit is the *peso* (ARS), which replaced the *austral* on 1 Jan. 1992 at a rate of one peso = 10,000 australs. For nearly a decade the peso was pegged at parity with the US dollar, but it was devalued by nearly 30% in Jan. 2002 and floated in Feb. 2002.

### Defence

Conscription was abolished in 1994. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$5,104 m. (US\$120 per capita), representing 1.0% of GDP (compared to over 8% in 1981).

### Economy

Agriculture contributed 7.5% of GDP in 2009, industry 31.8% and services 60.7%. In Jan. 2006 the government repaid the country's entire US\$9.57 bn. debt to the IMF ahead of schedule.

### Labour

In 2012 the labour force in urban areas totalled 16.90 m., of which 15.66 m. were employed and 1.24 m. were unemployed. The urban unemployment rate was 7.3% in 2012. Argentina had 35,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2014 there were 47 daily newspapers with a combined average daily circulation of 1.4 m. The main newspapers are *Clarín*, *La Nación* and *Diario Popular*.

### Rail

Much of the 34,000 km state-owned network (on 1,000 mm, 1,435 mm and 1,676 mm gauges) was privatized in 1993–94. 30-year concessions were awarded to five freight operators; long-distance passenger services are run by contractors to the requirements of local authorities. Metro, light rail and suburban railway services are also operated by concessionaires. The rail company carrying the most passengers is Trenes de Buenos Aires (190 m. in 2008); Ferrosur Roca carries the most freight (5.1 m. tonnes in 2005–06). The metro and light rail network in Buenos Aires extended to 75 km in 2005. A light railway opened in Mendoza in 2012, with a total length of 12.5 km.

### Religion

The Roman Catholic religion is supported by the State; according to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life there were 31.02 m. Catholics in 2010. There were four cardinals in Feb. 2016. Jorge Mario Bergoglio was a cardinal from 2001 until March 2013, when he was selected to succeed Benedict XVI as Pope. The Pew Research Center estimates that in 2010 there were also 2.96 m. Protestants, 440,000 other

Christians (including Latter-day Saints/Mormons), 400,000 Muslims, 330,000 folk religionists and 200,000 Jews.

### Roads

In 2012 there were 228,512 km of roads, of which 34.6% were paved. The four main roads constituting Argentina's portion of the Pan-American Highway were opened in 1942. Vehicles in use in 2007 totalled 12,399,900. In 2005, 3,443 people were killed in road accidents.

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 59 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 500,000 GT. The leading ports are Buenos Aires (which handled 12,745,000 tonnes of cargo in 2008) and Bahía Blanca (12,676,000 tonnes of cargo in 2008).

### Social Statistics

2010 births, 756,176; deaths, 318,602. Rates, 2010 (per 1,000 population): birth, 18.7; death, 7.9. Infant mortality, 2010, 12 per 1,000 live births. Life expectancy at birth, 2013, 72.6 years for males and 79.9 years for females. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 0.9%; fertility rate, 2008, 2.2 births per woman. Argentina legalized same-sex marriage in July 2010.

### Telecommunications

The telephone service Entel was privatized in 1990. The sell-off split Argentina into two monopolies, operated by Telefónica Internacional de España, and a holding controlled by France Télécom and Telecom Italia. In 2000 the industry was opened to unrestricted competition. In 2014 mobile phone subscribers numbered 66.4 m. (1,588-0 per 1,000 persons). In the same year there were 9.6 m. main (fixed) telephone lines. In 2014, 64.7% of the population were internet users. In June 2012 there were 19.0 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

The second largest country in South America, the Argentine Republic is bounded in the north by Bolivia, in the northeast by Paraguay, in the east by Brazil, Uruguay and the Atlantic Ocean, and the west by Chile. The republic consists of 23 provinces and one federal district. Argentina also claims territory in Antarctica. The area is 2,780,400 km<sup>2</sup> (excluding the claimed Antarctic territory) and the population at the 2010 census 40,117,096, giving a density of 14 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 92.6% of the population were urban. The population of the main metropolitan areas in 2010 was: Buenos Aires, 13,588,171; Córdoba, 1,453,865; Rosario, 1,236,089; Mendoza, 937,154; Tucumán, 794,327; La Plata, 787,294. 97% speak the national language, Spanish, while 2% speak Italian and 1% other languages. The 2010 census population included 1,805,957 persons born outside Argentina (550,713 born in Paraguay, 345,272 in Bolivia, 191,147 in Chile, 157,514 in Peru and 147,499 in Italy).

### Tourism

In 2009, 4,329,000 tourists visited Argentina (excluding same-day visitors), down from a record 4,700,000 in 2008 and 4,562,000 in 2007. Of the 4,329,000 tourists in 2009, 3,413,000 were from elsewhere in the Americas and 722,000 were from Europe.

## Armenia

### Hayastani Hanrapetoutiun (Republic of Armenia)

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Yerevan  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 3.02 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 8,124  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.733/85=  
*Internet domain extension:* .am

### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Yerevan (Zvartnots), which handled 1,443,557 passengers and 8,323 tonnes of freight in 2009. In April 2013 the Armenian flag carrier, Armavia, ceased operations. In 2010 there were direct flights from Yerevan to over 40 international destinations.

### Climate

Summers are very dry and hot although nights can be cold. Winters are very cold, often with heavy snowfall. Yerevan, Jan.  $-9^{\circ}\text{C}$ , July  $28^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Annual rainfall 318 mm.

### Constitution and Government

The constitution was adopted by a nationwide referendum on 5 July 1995. The head of state is the *President*, directly elected for 5-year terms. Parliament is a 131-member *Azgayin Zhoghov* (National Assembly), with 90 deputies elected by party list and 41 chosen by direct election. The government is nominated by the President.

### Currency

In Nov. 1993 a new currency unit, the *dram* (AMD) of 100 *lumma*, was introduced to replace the rouble.

### Defence

There is conscription for 24 months. Total active forces numbered 48,834 in 2011, including 25,880 conscripts. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$447 m. (US\$150 per capita), representing 4.3% of GDP. There is a Russian military base in Armenia with 3,303 personnel in 2011.

### Economy

In 2009 agriculture contributed 18.9% of GDP, industry 35.8% and services 45.3%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 1,536,000 (1,452,000 in 2003). 67.3% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 16.2% of the population was unemployed. Armenia had 11,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2008 there were 11 paid-for daily newspapers and 49 paid-for non-dailies with a combined circulation of 116,000.

### Rail

Total length in 2010 was 826 km of 1,520 mm gauge. Passenger-km travelled in 2010 came to 50 m. and freight tonne-km to 346 m.

### Religion

Armenia adopted Christianity in AD 301, thus becoming the first Christian nation in the world. The Armenian Apostolic Church is headed by its Catholicos (Karekin II, b. 1951) whose seat is at Echmiatsin, and who is head of all the Armenian (Gregorian) communities throughout the world. In 2013 it numbered 9 m. adherents, two-thirds of whom lived outside of Armenia. There is a second see located at Antelias in Lebanon—the Catholicos of Cilicia is Aram I (b. 1947). An estimated 87% of the population belonged to the Armenian Apostolic Church in 2010 according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. The largest religious minority is Armenian Catholicism.

### Roads

There were 7,515 km of road network in 2007, of which 89.8% were paved. In 2007 there were 289,800 passenger cars and 25,679 buses and coaches. There were 371 fatalities as a result of road accidents in 2007.

### Social Statistics

2010 births, 44,825; deaths, 27,921; marriages, 17,984; divorces, 2,097. Rates, 2010 (per 1,000 population): birth, 13.8; death, 8.6; marriage, 5.5;

divorce, 0.9. Infant mortality, 2010, 18 per 1,000 live births. Annual population growth rate, 2008–10, 0.2%. Life expectancy at birth, 2013, 71.3 years for men and 78.0 years for women; fertility rate, 2013, 1.7 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

There were 589,900 fixed telephone lines in 2010 (190.8 per 1,000 inhabitants). Mobile phone subscribers numbered 3.87 m. in 2010. There were 153.0 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2009. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 96,000 in 2010 (31.1 per 1,000 inhabitants). In March 2012 there were 283,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Armenia covers an area of 29,743 km<sup>2</sup> (11,484 sq. miles). It is bounded in the north by Georgia, in the east by Azerbaijan and in the south and west by Iran and Turkey. The 2011 census population was 3,018,854; population density, 101 per km<sup>2</sup>. Armenians account for 97.9%, Kurds 1.3% and Russians 0.5% in 1989, prior to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, 2.6% of the population were Azeris. Approximately 64% lived in urban areas in 2009. There are an estimated 8 m. Armenians worldwide, mainly living in Russia, the USA and Georgia as well as in Armenia itself. The capital is Yerevan (estimated population of 1,068,300 in 2014). The official language is Armenian.

### Tourism

In 2010 there were 684,000 international tourist arrivals (excluding same-day visitors), up from 575,000 in 2009.

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## Australia

### Commonwealth of Australia

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Canberra

*Population estimate, 2015:* 23.97 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 42,261

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.935/2

*Internet domain extension:* .au

#### Civil Aviation

Qantas Airways is Australia's principal international airline. A total of 54 international airlines operated scheduled air services to and from Australia in 2014. There are 11 international airports, the main ones being Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. In 2014–15 passenger movements totalled a record 147,353,391 (an increase of 0.6% on the previous financial year); domestic and regional passenger numbers totalled 113,486,916 and international 33,866,475; international freight increased by 6.3% to a record 936,733 tonnes; international mail decreased by 0.3% to 40,395 tonnes. Sydney (Kingsford Smith) handled the most traffic (26.5%) in Australia in 2014–15 (39,021,357 passengers, of which 25,513,156 on domestic and regional flights), followed by Melbourne International (21.7%) and Brisbane (14.9%). Internal airlines (domestic and regional) carried 54.0 m. passengers in 2010. Domestic airlines were deregulated in Oct. 1990. In 2014–15 there were 192 certified and 135 registered aerodromes in Australia and its external territories. At 30 June 2015 there were 15,287 registered aircraft on the Australian Civil Aircraft Register including 2,125 helicopters and 386 balloons.

#### Climate

Over most of the continent, four seasons may be recognized. Spring is from Sept. to Nov., summer from Dec. to Feb., autumn from March to May and winter from June to Aug., but because of its great size there are climates that range from tropical monsoon to cool temperate, with large areas of desert as well. In northern Australia there are only two seasons, the wet one lasting from Nov. to March, but rainfall amounts diminish markedly from the coast to the interior. Central and southern Queensland are subtropical, north and



central New South Wales are warm temperate, as are parts of Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania, where most rain falls in winter. Canberra, Jan. 68 °F (20 °C), July 42 °F (5.6 °C). Annual rainfall 25" (635 mm). Adelaide, Jan. 73 °F (22.8 °C), July 52 °F (11.1 °C). Annual rainfall 21" (528 mm). Brisbane, Jan. 77 °F (25 °C), July 58 °F (14.4 °C). Annual rainfall 45" (1153 mm). Darwin, Jan. 83 °F (28.3 °C), July 77 °F (25 °C). Annual rainfall 59" (1,536 mm). Hobart, Jan. 62 °F (16.7 °C), July 46 °F (7.8 °C). Annual rainfall 23" (584 mm). Melbourne, Jan. 67 °F (19.4 °C), July 49 °F (9.4 °C). Annual rainfall 26" (659 mm). Perth, Jan. 74 °F (23.3 °C), July 55 °F (12.8 °C). Annual rainfall 35" (873 mm). Sydney, Jan. 71 °F (21.7 °C), July 53 °F (11.7 °C). Annual rainfall 47" (1,215 mm).

### Constitution and Government

Under the Constitution legislative power is vested in a Federal Parliament, consisting of the Queen, represented by a Governor-General, a Senate and a House of Representatives. Under the terms of the constitution there must be a session of parliament at least once a year. *The Senate* (Upper House) comprises 76 Senators (12 for each State voting as one electorate and, as from Aug. 1974, two Senators respectively for the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory). Senators representing the States are chosen for 6 years. The terms of Senators representing the Territories expire at the close of the day next preceding the polling day for the general elections of the House of Representatives. In general, the Senate is renewed to the extent of one-half every 3 years, but in case of disagreement with the House of Representatives, it, together with the House of Representatives, may be dissolved, and an entirely new Senate elected. Elections to the Senate are on the single transferable vote system; voters list candidates in order of preference. A candidate must reach a quota to be elected, otherwise the lowest-placed candidate drops out and his or her votes are transferred to other candidates. The *House of Representatives* (Lower House) consists, as nearly as practicable, of twice as many Members as there are Senators, the numbers chosen in the several States being in proportion to population as shown by the latest statistics, but not less than five for any original State. Executive power is vested in the *Governor-General*, advised by an Executive Council. The Governor-General presides over the Council, and its members hold office at his pleasure. The policy of a ministry is, in practice, determined by the Ministers of State meeting without the Governor-General under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. This group is known as the *Cabinet*.

### Currency

The currency unit, the Australian dollar (AUD), is divided into 100 *cents*.

### Defence

2013 defence expenditure was US\$25,967 m., amounting to US\$1,166 per capita and representing 1.6% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2013 agriculture contributed 2% of GDP, industry 27% and services 71%.

### Labour

In 2010–11 the total labour force (persons aged 15 and over) numbered 11,993,800 (5,458,500 females). There were 11,386,900 employed persons in 2010–11 (45% females) with 3,372,300 in part-time employment (70% females). Average weekly wage, May 2011, \$A1,304.70 (men, \$A1,397.70; women, \$A1,159.20). Average weekly hours worked by full-time employed person, 2008–09: 39.8 h. In 2010–11 part-time work accounted for 30% of all employment in Australia. Foreign-born workers made up 28.8% of the labour force in Aug. 2014, the highest share of any major industrialized nation. In 2010 there were 227 industrial disputes recorded, which accounted for 126,600 working days lost (196,500 in 2008). In these disputes 54,800 workers were involved. In 2010–11, 606,900 persons were unemployed, of whom 19% had been unemployed for more than 1 year. The unemployment rate in Dec. 2015 was 5.8% (down from 6.1% in 2014 as a whole). Australia had 3,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

There were 49 English daily metropolitan newspapers in 2013 (2 national, 10 metropolitan and 37 regional). There are also 10 metropolitan Sunday newspapers. The papers with the largest circulations in June 2013 were the

*Sunday Telegraph* (New South Wales), with an average of 541,749 per issue; the *Sunday Herald Sun* (Victoria), with an average of 485,943 per issue; and the Saturday edition of the *Herald Sun* (Victoria), with an average of 416,662 per issue. In 2013 there were two free dailies, *mX* (with three editions, published in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney) and *Manly Daily*.

### Rail

In 2012 Australia had 33,299 route-km of open track of which 17,034 km were standard gauge (1,435 mm), 12,595 km were narrow gauge (1,067 mm), 3,281 km were narrow gauge (610 mm) and 389 km dual gauge; a total of 3,300 route-km were electrified. In 2009–10 a total of 815.3 m. tonnes of freight were carried; passengers carried totalled 755 m. urban (train and tram); 15 m. non-urban.

### Religion

Under the Constitution the Commonwealth cannot make any law to establish any religion, to impose any religious observance or to prohibit the free exercise of any religion. The following percentages refer to those religions with the largest number of adherents at the census of 2011. Answering the census question on religious adherence was not obligatory, however. Christian, 61.1% of population (including: Catholic, 25.3%; Anglican, 17.1%; Uniting Church, 5.0%; Presbyterian and Reformed, 2.8%; Eastern Orthodox, 2.6%; Baptist, 1.6%; Lutheran, 1.2%; Pentecostal, 1.1%). Religions other than Christian, 7.2% (including: Buddhism, 2.5%; Islam, 2.2%; Hinduism, 1.3%; Judaism, 0.5%). Other religions, 0.8%; no religion, 22.3%; not stated and others, 8.6%. The Anglican Church of Australia first ordained women as priests in 1992. Women have been ordained as bishops since May 2008. In Feb. 2016 the Roman Catholic church had two cardinals.

### Roads

At 30 June 2012 there were an estimated 900,083 km of roads (around 42.7% of which were sealed), including 51,847 km of highways. As at 31 Jan. 2011 registration totals were: 12,525,000 passenger vehicles, 2,531,000 light commercial vehicles, 547,000 trucks, 88,000 buses and 679,000 motorcycles. In 2014, 1,056 persons were killed in road accidents (less than half the 1989 total of 2,407).

### Shipping

The chief ports are Brisbane, Dampier, Fremantle, Gladstone, Hay Point, Melbourne, Newcastle, Port Hedland, Port Kembla, Port Walcott, Sydney and Weipa. Port Hedland overtook Dampier as Australia's busiest port in 2008–09, handling 159,391,000 tonnes of cargo (158,382,000 tonnes loaded and 1,009,000 tonnes discharged) compared to 140,824,000 tonnes for Dampier (140,122,000 tonnes loaded and 702,000 tonnes discharged). Iron ore exports to China are the principal factor behind the rapid growth of Dampier and Port Hedland (both of which are in Western Australia) during the 2000s. In Jan. 2009 there were 98 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 1,258,000 GT. Of the 98 vessels registered, 45 were passenger ships, 26 general cargo ships, 15 bulk carriers, seven oil tankers, four liquid gas tankers and there was one container ship.

### Social Statistics

Life expectancy at birth, 2010–12, 79.9 years for males and 84.3 years for females. 2013 births 308,065; deaths, 147,678; marriages, 118,962; divorces, 47,638. In 2012 the median age for marrying was 31.4 years for males and 29.4 for females. Infant mortality, 2012, was 3.3 per 1,000 live births. Population growth rate in 2014, 1.4%; fertility rate, 2013, 1.9 births per woman. Suicide rates (per 100,000 population, 2009): 10.4 (men, 16.0; women, 4.9). In the Human Development Index, or HDI (measuring progress in countries in longevity, knowledge and standard of living), Australia was ranked second (behind Norway) in the 2014 rankings published in the annual Human Development Report.

### Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 10,350,000 main (fixed) telephone lines, down from 10,709,000 in 2009. Mobile phone subscribers numbered 24,940,000 in 2013 (1068.4 per 1,000 persons). In 2013, 83.5% of the population aged 15 or over were internet users. The fixed broadband penetration rate in Dec. 2010 was 24.1 subscribers per 100 inhabitants. In Dec. 2011 there were 10.7 m. Facebook users (48% of the population).

## Territory and Population

Australia, excluding external territories, covers a land area of 7,692,024 sq. km, extending from Cape York (10.41° S) in the north some 3,680 km to South East Cape, Tasmania (43.39° S), and from Cape Byron, New South Wales (153.39° E) in the east some 4,000 km west to Steep Point, Western Australia (113.9° E). External territories under the administration of Australia comprise the Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Australian Antarctic Territory, Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Coral Sea Islands, the Heard and McDonald Islands and Norfolk Island. Population (2011 census) 21,507,717; density, 2.8 per sq. km. In 2010, 89.1% of the population lived in urban areas. The capital is Canberra, with a 2011 census population of 356,586. The median age of the 2011 census population was 37 years. Australians born overseas (census 2011), 5,294,200 (24.6%—the highest proportion anywhere in the industrialized world), of whom 1,101,100 (20.8%) were from the United Kingdom. Aboriginals have been included in population statistics only since 1967. At the 2011 census 548,370 people identified themselves as being of indigenous origin (2.5% of the total population). The national language is English. The Migration Act of Dec. 1989 sought to curb illegal entry and ensure that annual immigrant intakes were met but not exceeded. Provisions for temporary visitors to become permanent were restricted. In 2011–12, 84,183 people who were born overseas became Australian citizens.

## Tourism

In 2011 the total number of overseas visitors for the year stood at 5.9 m. (a 0.2% decrease on the previous year). The top source countries for visitors in 2011 were New Zealand (1,172,700); UK (608,300); China (542,000); USA (456,200); Japan (332,700); and Singapore (318,500). Tourism is Australia's largest single earner of foreign exchange.

# Austria

## Republik Österreich (Austrian Republic)

### Factsheet

Capital: Vienna

Population estimate, 2015: 8.55 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 43,869

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.885/23

Internet domain extension: .at

### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Vienna (Schwechat), Graz, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt, Linz and Salzburg. The national airline is Austrian Airlines, which was privatized after a takeover by Lufthansa in Sept. 2009. In April 2015 Tyrolean Airways merged into Austrian Airlines. In 2010, 65 other airlines had scheduled flights to and from Vienna. In 2011, 312,502 commercial aircraft and 25,704,655 passengers arrived and departed; 227,938 tonnes of freight and 13,551 tonnes of mail were handled. In 2011 Vienna handled 21,069,398 passengers and 218,835 tonnes of freight. Austrian Airlines carried 11,261,000 passengers in 2011.

### Climate

The climate is temperate and from west to east in transition from marine to more continental. Depending on the elevation, the climate is also predominated by alpine influence. Winters are cold with snowfall. In the eastern parts summers are warm and dry. Vienna, Jan. 0.0 °C, July 20.2 °C. Annual rainfall 624 mm. Graz, Jan. -1.0 °C, July 19.4 °C. Annual rainfall 825 mm. Innsbruck, Jan. -1.7 °C, July 18.1 °C. Annual rainfall 885 mm. Salzburg, Jan. -0.9 °C, July 18.6 °C. Annual rainfall 1,174 mm.

### Constitution and Government

The constitution of 1 Oct. 1920 was revised in 1929 and restored on 1 May 1945. Austria is a democratic federal republic comprising nine states (*Länder*), with a federal *President* (*Bundespräsident*) directly elected for

not more than two successive 6-year terms, and a bicameral National Assembly which comprises a National Council and a Federal Council. The National Council (*Nationalrat*) comprises 183 members directly elected for a 5-year term by proportional representation in a three-tier system by which seats are allocated at the level of 43 regional and nine state constituencies, and one federal constituency. Any party gaining 4% of votes cast nationally is represented in the National Council. In 2007 Austria's voting age was reduced to 16—the lowest for national elections in the EU. The Federal Council (*Bundesrat*) has 61 members appointed by the nine states for the duration of the individual State Assemblies' terms; the number of deputies for each state is proportional to that state's population. In March 2016 the ÖVP held 22 of the 61 seats, the SPÖ 20, the FPÖ 13, the Greens 4, Team Stronach 1 with one unattached member. The head of government is a *Federal Chancellor*, who is appointed by the President (usually the head of the party winning the most seats in National Council elections). The *Vice-Chancellor*, the *Federal Ministers* and the *State Secretaries* are appointed by the President at the Chancellor's recommendation.

### Currency

On 1 Jan. 1999 the euro (EUR) became the legal currency in Austria at the irrevocable conversion rate of 13.7603 schillings to one euro. The euro, which consists of 100 cents, has been in circulation since 1 Jan. 2002. On the introduction of the euro there was a 'dual circulation' period before the schilling ceased to be legal tender on 28 Feb. 2002.

### Defence

The Federal President is C.-in-C. of the armed forces. Conscription is for a 6-month period, with liability for at least another 30 days' reservist refresher training spread over 8–10 years. Conscientious objectors can instead choose to undertake 9 months' civilian service. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$3,232 m. (US\$393 per capita), representing 0.8% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2012 agriculture accounted for 2% of GDP, industry 28% and services 70%.

### Labour

The unemployment rate in Dec. 2015 was 5.8%. Of 3,421,755 employees in 2011 (annual average), 573,571 worked in the manufacturing and production of goods; 529,976 in public administration and defence, and compulsory social security; 518,188 in wholesale and retail trade, and the repair of motor vehicles; 233,994 in human health and social work; 184,548 in accommodation and food service activities. In 2011 there were an average of 73,800 job vacancies. There were no recorded strikes between 2005 and 2009. Austria has one of the lowest average retirement ages but reforms passed in 1997 now make it less attractive to retire before 60. Only 15% of men and 6% of women in the 60–65 age range work, although the legal retirement ages are 60 for women and 65 for men. Austria has one of the lowest average retirement ages but reforms passed in 1997 now make it less attractive to retire before 60. Only 15% of men and 6% of women in the 60–65 age range work, although the legal retirement ages are 60 for women and 65 for men.

### Press

There were 18 daily newspapers and 273 non-daily newspapers in 2014. The most popular newspaper is the mass-market tabloid *Kronen Zeitung*, with an average daily circulation of 815,000 in 2014. In the 2011–12 *World Press Freedom Index* compiled by Reporters Without Borders, Austria ranked fifth out of 179 countries.

### Rail

The Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB) has been restructured and was split up into ten new companies, which became operational on 1 Jan. 2005. Length of route in 2011, 5,500 km, of which 3,763 km were electrified. There are also a number of private railways. In 2011, 244.0 m. passengers and 107.6 m. tonnes of freight were carried by Federal Railways. There is a metro and tramway in Vienna, and tramways in Gmunden, Graz, Innsbruck and Linz.

### Religion

In 2012 there were 5.36 m. Roman Catholics (5.92 m. in 2001). There were an estimated 520,000 Muslims in 2009 (350,000 in 2001). Orthodox Christians

number around 500,000 and Evangelical Lutherans 300,000. The Roman Catholic Church has two ecclesiastical provinces and seven suffragan dioceses. In Feb. 2016 there was one cardinal.

### Roads

In 2007 the road network totalled 107,262 km (Autobahn, 1,677 km; highways, 10,408 km; secondary roads, 23,657 km). In 2007 passenger cars in use numbered 4,245,600, lorries and vans 372,600, buses and coaches 9,300, and motorcycles and mopeds 642,800. There were 691 fatalities in road accidents in 2007.

### Shipping

The Danube is an important waterway. Goods traffic (in 1,000 tonnes): 12,084 in 2005; 11,782 in 2006; 12,107 in 2007; 11,209 in 2008 (including the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal). There were four vessels of 300 GT or over registered in Jan. 2009, totalling 14,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

Statistics, 2014: live births, 81,722 (rate of 9.6 per 1,000 population); deaths, 78,252 (rate of 9.2 per 1,000 population); infant deaths, 249; marriages, 37,458; divorces, 16,647. In 2011 there were 1,286 suicides (rate of 15.3 per 100,000 population), of which 973 males and 313 females. Average annual population growth rate, 2007–11, 0.4%. Life expectancy at birth, 2011, 83.4 years for women and 78.1 years for men.

### Telecommunications

Österreichische Industrie Holding AG, the Austrian investment and privatization agency, holds a 28.4% stake in Telekom Austria. In 2014 mobile phone subscribers numbered 12,952,600 (1,519.1 per 1,000 persons). In the same year there were 3,254,700 main (fixed) telephone lines. In 2014, 81.0% of the population were internet users. In March 2012 there were 2.8 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Austria is bounded in the north by Germany and the Czech Republic, east by Slovakia and Hungary, south by Slovenia and Italy, and west by Switzerland and Liechtenstein. It has an area of 83,879 sq. km (32,386 sq. miles), including 1,444 sq. km (558 sq. miles) of inland waters. Population (2011) 8,401,940; density, 101.9 per sq. km. Population estimate, Jan. 2015: 8,584,926. Austria has now adopted a register-based method of calculating the population rather than a traditional census, and had a full register-based census in 2011 for the first time. Previous population censuses: (1923) 6.53 m., (1934) 6.76 m., (1951) 6.93 m., (1971) 7.49 m., (1981) 7.56 m., (1991) 7.96 m., (2001) 8.03 m. In 2011, 67.8% of the population lived in urban areas. The official language is German.

### Tourism

In 2011, 13,359 hotels and boarding houses had a total of 594,357 beds available; in the same year 23,012,000 non-resident tourists stayed in holiday accommodation and international tourist spending came to €14.3 bn. Of 126,002,551 overnight stays in tourist accommodation in 2011, 35,296,997 were by Austrians and 47,389,531 by Germans.

## Azerbaijan

*Azarbaijchan Respublikasy (Republic of Azerbaijan)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Baku

*Population estimate, 2015:* 9.75 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 16,428

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.751/78

*Internet domain extension:* .az

### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Baku. Azerbaijan Airlines, the national airline, had international flights in 2010 to Aktau, Ankara, Astrakhan, Dubai, İstanbul, London, Milan, Moscow, Paris, Rostov, St Petersburg, Tel Aviv and Urumqi. In 2005 scheduled airline traffic of Azerbaijan-based carriers flew 14.8 m. km, carrying 494,800 passengers.

### Climate

The climate is almost tropical in summer and the winters slightly warmer than in regions north of the Caucasus. Cold spells do occur, however, both on the high mountains and in the enclosed valleys. There are nine climatic zones. Baku, Jan. –6 °C, July 25 °C. Annual rainfall 318 mm.

### Constitution and Government

Parliament is the 125-member *Melli-Majlis*, with all seats elected from single-member districts. A constitutional referendum and parliamentary elections were held on 12 Nov. 1995. Turnout for the referendum was 86%. The new constitution was approved by 91.9% of votes cast. As a result of a referendum held on 24 Aug. 2002 a number of changes were made to the constitution, including the distribution of the *Melli-Majlis* seats—previously, 25 seats were distributed proportionally among political parties. The validity of the outcome of the referendum was questioned by international observers. In a referendum on 18 March 2009 a measure to abolish presidential term limits was approved, with 91.8% of votes cast in favour.

### Currency

The *manat* (AZM) of 100 *gyapiks* replaced the *rouble* in Jan. 1994. It was in turn replaced in Jan. 2006 by the *new manat* (AZN), also of 100 *gyapiks*, at 1 new manat = 5,000 manats.

### Defence

Conscription is for 18 months, or 12 in the case of university graduates. In 2013 defence spending reached US\$3.3 bn., up from US\$0.4 bn. a decade earlier. Defence expenditure in 2013 was equivalent to US\$209 per capita and represented 2.6% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2010 agriculture accounted for 5.8% of GDP, industry 64.7% and services 29.5%.

### Labour

In 2009 the economically active workforce numbered 4,331,800. The main areas of activity were: agriculture, hunting and forestry, 1,562,400; wholesale and retail trade/repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods, 661,500; education, 346,900; public administration and defence/social security, 277,200. The unemployment rate in 2009 was 6.0%. The average monthly salary in 2009 was 298 manats. Azerbaijan had 33,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2008 Azerbaijan published 32 paid-for daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 120,000. The leading paid-for daily is *Yeni Mısavat*, with an average daily circulation of 25,000 in 2008.

### Rail

Total length in 2011 was 2,079 km of 1,524 mm gauge (1,244 km electrified). Passenger-km travelled in 2011 came to 1,660 m. and freight tonne-km to 7.8 bn. There is a metro and tramway in Baku and a tramway in Sumgait.

### Religion

Azerbaijan is a secular state. In 2010 Muslims (mostly Shia) accounted for an estimated 97% of the population according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, the balance being mainly Russian Orthodox, Armenian Apostolic and Jewish.

## Roads

There were 59,141 km of roads (6,928 km highways and main roads) in 2006. Passenger cars in use in 2006 totalled 548,979 (57 per 1,000 inhabitants in 2005). In addition, there were 9,916 lorries and vans, and 27,474 buses and coaches. There were 1,107 fatalities as a result of road accidents in 2007.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 97 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 458,000 GT. Baku is the main port.

## Social Statistics

In 2009: births, 152,139; deaths, 52,514; marriages, 78,072; divorces, 7,784. Rates, 2009 (per 1,000 population): births, 17.2; deaths, 5.9; infant mortality (2010, per 1,000 live births), 39. Life expectancy in 2013: 73.9 years for females and 67.6 years for males. Annual population growth rate, 2005–12, 1.3%; fertility rate, 2013, 1.9 children per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 1,684,000 landline telephone subscriptions (180.9 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 10,120,000 mobile phone subscriptions (1,087.5 per 1,000 inhabitants). There were 274.0 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2009. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 871,000 in 2010 (94.8 per 1,000 inhabitants). In March 2012 there were 782,000 Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Azerbaijan is bounded in the west by Armenia, in the north by Georgia and the Russian Federation (Dagestan), in the east by the Caspian sea and in the south by Turkey and Iran. Its area is 86,600 km<sup>2</sup> (33,430 sq. miles), and it includes the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic and the largely Armenian-inhabited Nagorno-Karabakh. The population at the 2009 census was 8,922,447 (50.5% females); density, 103 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 52.1% of the population lived in urban areas. The population breaks down into 91.6% Azerbaijanis, 2.0% Lezgis, 1.3% Armenians and 1.3% Russians (2009 census). Chief cities (estimates of Jan. 2013): Baku, 1,200,300; Gandja 322,600; Sumgait 290,500. There are 66 districts and 13 cities. The official language is Azeri.

## Tourism

In 2012 there were 2,484,000 non-resident visitors; spending by tourists totalled US\$2,634 m. in 2012.

# The Bahamas

## Commonwealth of The Bahamas

### Factsheet

Capital: Nassau

Population estimate, 2015: 388,000

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 21,336

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.790/55

Internet domain extension: .bs

### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Nassau and Freeport (Grand Bahama Island). The national carrier is the state-owned Bahamasair. In 2006 scheduled airline traffic of Bahamas-based carriers flew 8 m. km, carrying 1,033,000 passengers (456,000 on international flights).

### Climate

Winters are mild and summers pleasantly warm. Most rain falls in May, June, Sept. and Oct., and thunderstorms are frequent in summer. Rainfall amounts vary over the islands from 30" (750 mm) to 60" (1,500 mm). Nassau, Jan. 71 °F (21.7 °C), July 81 °F (27.2 °C). Annual rainfall 47" (1,179 mm).

## Constitution and Government

The Commonwealth of The Bahamas is a free and democratic sovereign state. Executive power rests with Her Majesty the Queen, who appoints a Governor-General to represent her, advised by a Cabinet whom he appoints. There is a bicameral legislature. The *Senate* comprises 16 members all appointed by the Governor-General for 5-year terms, nine on the advice of the Prime Minister, four on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition, and three after consultation with both of them. The *House of Assembly* consists of 38 members elected from single-member constituencies for a maximum term of 5 years.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *Bahamian dollar* (BSD) of 100 cents. American currency is generally accepted.

## Defence

The Royal Bahamas Defence Force is a primarily maritime force tasked with naval patrols and protection duties in the extensive waters of the archipelago. Personnel in 2011 numbered 860. The base is at Coral Harbour on New Providence Island. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$64 m. (US\$201 per capita), representing 0.8% of GDP.

## Economy

Services contributed 78.9% to GDP in 2013, with industry accounting for 19.2% and agriculture 1.9%.

## Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 220,000 (165,000 in 2003). 80.2% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 16.2% of the population was unemployed.

## Press

There were four paid-for dailies in 2008.

## Religion

In 2010 the population was an estimated 96% Christian (mainly Protestant) according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. Most of the remainder of the population is religiously unaffiliated.

## Roads

There are approximately 2,700 km of roads, of which about 60% are paved. In 2007 there were around 27,100 vehicles in use.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 1,240 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 43.93 m. GT (representing 5.6% of the world total and a figure exceeded only by the fleets of Panama and Liberia). Of the 1,240 vessels registered, 439 were general cargo ships, 273 oil tankers, 225 bulk carriers, 146 passenger ships, 78 liquid gas tankers, 62 container ships and 17 chemical tankers.

## Social Statistics

2008 estimated births, 5,600; deaths, 2,000. Rates, 2008 estimates (per 1,000 population): birth, 16.7; death, 6.0; infant mortality (per 1000 live births), 2010, 14. Expectation of life was 72.1 years for males and 78.2 years for females in 2013. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 1.8%; fertility rate, 2008, 2.0 children per woman.

## Telecommunications

There were 129,300 fixed telephone lines in 2010 (377.1 per 1,000 inhabitants) and mobile phone subscribers numbered 428,400. There were 338.8 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2009. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 38,600 in 2009 (114.0 per 1,000 inhabitants). In June 2012 there were 164,000 Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

The Commonwealth of The Bahamas consists of over 700 islands and inhabited cays off the southeast coast of Florida extending for about

260,000 sq. miles. Only 22 islands are inhabited. Land area, 5,382 sq. miles (13,939 km<sup>2</sup>). Total census population for 2010 was 351,461. In 2011, 84.3% of the population were urban. The capital is Nassau on New Providence Island (246,329 in 2010). Other large towns are Freeport (on Grand Bahama), West End (also on Grand Bahama) and Coopers Town (on Abaco). English is the official language. Creole is spoken among Haitian immigrants.

### Tourism

Tourism is the most important industry, accounting for about 60% of GDP. In 2010 there were 1,370,028 overnight tourist arrivals by air and 3,803,122 cruise ship visitors, up from 1,327,007 and 3,255,780 respectively in 2009.

## Bahrain

### *Al-Mamlaka Al-Bahrayn (Kingdom of Bahrain)*

#### Factsheet

Capital: Manama

Population estimate, 2015: 1.38 m.

GNI per capita, 2013: (PPPS) 38,599

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.824/45

Internet domain extension: .bh

#### Civil Aviation

The national carrier is Gulf Air, now fully owned by the government of Bahrain after the other three former partners, Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Oman, withdrew in 2002, 2006 and 2007 respectively. In 2010 Gulf Air flew to about 40 international destinations. In 2014 Bahrain International Airport handled 8.10 m. passengers (all on international flights) and 219,332 tonnes of freight. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Bahrain-based carriers flew 83.5 m. km; passenger-km totalled 14.4 bn. in the same year.

#### Climate

The climate is pleasantly warm between Dec. and March but from June to Sept. the conditions are very hot and humid. The period June to Nov. is virtually rainless. Bahrain, Jan. 66 °F (19 °C), July 97 °F (36 °C). Annual rainfall 5.2" (130 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

The ruling family is the Al-Khalifa who have been in power since 1783. The constitution changing Bahrain from an Emirate to a Kingdom dates from 14 Feb. 2002. The new constitutional hereditary monarchy has a bicameral legislature, inaugurated on 14 Dec. 2002. National elections for a legislative body took place on 24 and 31 Oct. 2002 (the first since the National Assembly was adjourned 27 years earlier). One chamber (*Council of Representatives*) is a directly elected assembly while the second (upper) chamber, a *Shura* consultative council of experts, is appointed by the King. Both chambers have 40 members. All Bahraini citizens over the age of 21—men and women—are able to vote for the elected assembly. In the Oct. 2002 national elections women stood for office for the first time.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Bahraini dinar* (BHD), divided into 1,000 *fil*s.

#### Defence

The Crown Prince is C.-in-C. of the armed forces. An agreement with the USA in Oct. 1991 gave port facilities to the US Navy and provided for mutual manoeuvres. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$1,394 m. (up from US\$943 m. in 2011), with spending per capita US\$1,088. The 2013 expenditure represented 5.0% of GDP.

#### Economy

Finance and real estate accounted for 28.5% of GDP in 2009, crude petroleum and natural gas 23.1% and manufacturing 14.7%.

#### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 750,000 (more than double the 358,000 in 2003). 71.8% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 3.7% of the population was unemployed.

#### Press

There were eight daily newspapers in 2008 with a combined average daily circulation of 155,000.

#### Religion

Islam is the state religion. According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 the population was an estimated 70.3% Muslim (of whom around two-thirds Shia and a third Sunni), with 14.5% Christian and 9.8% Hindu.

#### Roads

A 25-km causeway links Bahrain with Saudi Arabia. In 2008 there were 3,942 km of roads, including 475 km of main roads and 563 km of secondary roads. Bahrain has one of the densest road networks in the world. In 2008 there were 310,200 passenger cars in use (404 per 1,000 inhabitants in 2007). In 2007 there were 91 fatalities in road accidents.

#### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 15 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 338,000 GT. The port of Mina Sulman is a free transit and industrial area.

#### Social Statistics

Statistics, 2009: births, 17,841; deaths, 2,387. Rates (per 1,000 population) in 2009: birth, 15.1; death, 2.0. Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births), 9 (2010). Life expectancy at birth, 2007, was 74.2 years for men and 77.4 years for women. Annual population growth rate, 2005–12, 4.7%; fertility rate, 2008, 2.3 children per woman. In 2006 there were 4,714 marriages and 1,130 divorces.

#### Telecommunications

Bahrain's telecommunications industry was fully liberalized on 1 July 2004. In 2014 there were 2,328,994 mobile phone subscriptions (1,732.7 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 284,684 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 211.8 per 1,000 inhabitants). 91.0% of the population were internet users in 2014. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 287,572 in 2014 (213.9 per 1,000 inhabitants). In March 2012 there were 346,000 Facebook users.

#### Territory and Population

The Kingdom of Bahrain forms an archipelago of 36 low-lying islands in the Persian Gulf, between the Qatar peninsula and the mainland of Saudi Arabia. The total area is 720 km<sup>2</sup>. Total census population in 2010 was 1,234,571 (males, 768,414; females, 466,157) of which 568,399 were Bahraini and 666,172 non-Bahraini. Among Bahrainis 50.5% of the population in 2010 were males but among non-Bahrainis 72.2% were males. The population density was 1,715 per km<sup>2</sup> in 2010. In 2011, 88.7% of the population were urban. There are five governorates: Capital, Central, Muharraq, Northern, Southern. Arabic is the official language. English is widely used in business.

#### Tourism

In 2012 there were 8,062,000 foreign visitors (up from 6,732,000 in 2011, but down from the record high of 11,952,000 in 2010 before the Arab Spring of early 2011 and the subsequent turmoil experienced by Bahrain).

## Bangladesh

*Gana Prajatantri Bangladesh (People's Republic of Bangladesh)*

### Factsheet

Capital: Dhaka

Population estimate, 2015: 161.00 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 3,191

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.570/142

Internet domain extension: .bd

### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Dhaka (Hazrat Shahjalal) and Chittagong, and eight domestic airports. Biman Bangladesh Airlines was state-owned until July 2007 when it became a public limited company. In 2009 Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport handled 4,254,427 passengers (3,657,449 on international flights) and 147,239 tonnes of freight. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Bangladesh-based carriers flew 67.9 m. km; passenger-km totalled 8.1 bn. in the same year.

### Climate

A tropical monsoon climate with heat, extreme humidity and heavy rainfall in the monsoon season, from June to Oct. The short winter season (Nov.–Feb.) is mild and dry. Rainfall varies between 50" (1,250 mm) in the west to 100" (2,500 mm) in the southeast and up to 200" (5,000 mm) in the northeast. Dhaka, Jan. 66 °F (19 °C), July 84 °F (28.9 °C). Annual rainfall 81" (2,025 mm). Chittagong, Jan. 66 °F (19 °C), July 81 °F (27.2 °C). Annual rainfall 108" (2,831 mm).

### Constitution and Government

Bangladesh is a unitary republic. The Constitution came into force on 16 Dec. 1972 and provides for a parliamentary democracy. The head of state is the *President*, elected by parliament every 5 years, who appoints a *Vice-President*. A referendum of Sept. 1991 was in favour of abandoning the executive presidential system and opted for a parliamentary system. There is a *Council of Ministers* to assist the President. The President appoints ministers. A 2011 constitutional amendment provided for a single-chamber parliament of 350 members, 300 directly elected every 5 years and 50 reserved for women, elected by the 300 MPs based on proportional representation in parliament. There have been 16 amendments to the Constitution altogether.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *taka* (BDT) of 100 *poisha*, which was floated in 1976.

### Defence

The supreme command of defence services is vested in the president. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$1,652 m. (US\$10 per capita), representing 1.2% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2011 agriculture accounted for 18% of GDP, industry 28% and services 54%.

### Labour

In 2010 the economically active workforce totalled 56,651,000 over the age of 15 years (39,477,000 males). The main areas of activity (in 1,000) were as follows: agriculture, forestry and fishing, 25,727; wholesale and retail trade, and repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods, 7,557; manufacturing, 6,737; transportation and storage, 3,983; construction, 2,617. In 2010, 4.5% of the workforce aged 15 or over were unemployed. For the 5-year period 2007–12 the National Minimum Wage Board established

the minimum monthly wage at Tk.1,500 (equivalent to US\$19) for all economic sectors not covered by industry-specific wages. The Ministry of Labor raised the minimum wage in the garment industry from Tk.1,662 (US\$21) per month to Tk.3,000 (US\$37) per month in 2010, but this still ranks among the lowest of any country. Bangladesh had 0.34 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*, the tenth highest total of any country.

### Press

In 2008 there were 430 paid-for daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 1.5 m.

### Rail

In 2005 there were 2,855 km of railways, comprising 660 km of 1,676 mm gauge, 1,830 km of metre gauge and 365 km of dual gauge. Passenger-km travelled in 2008 came to 402.4 m. and freight tonne-km to 952 m.

### Religion

Islam is the state religion. According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life the population was 89.8% Muslim in 2010, with Hindus accounting for 9.1%.

### Roads

In 2015 there were 3,813 km of national highways, 4,247 km of regional highways and 13,242 km of district roads plus secondary and rural roads. In 2007 there were 158,100 passenger cars, 168,600 vans and lorries, 31,600 buses and coaches, and 653,500 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 3,160 fatalities as a result of road accidents in 2006.

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 197 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 407,000 GT. The main port is Chittagong, which handled 27,026,000 tonnes of cargo in 2006 (3,090,000 tonnes loaded and 23,936,000 tonnes unloaded). There is also a seaport at Mongla. There are 8,000 km of navigable inland waterways.

### Social Statistics

2008 estimated births, 3,429,000; deaths, 1,054,000. In 2008 the birth rate was an estimated 21.4 per 1,000 population; death rate, 6.6; infant mortality, 2010, 38 per 1,000 live births (down from 99 per 1,000 in 1990). Life expectancy at birth, 2013, 71.5 years for females and 69.9 years for males. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 1.6%; fertility rate, 2008, 2.3 births per woman (down from 4.4 in 1990).

### Telecommunications

Mobile phone subscribers numbered 126,866,091 in 2014 (800.4 per 1,000 inhabitants). There were 974,181 main telephone lines in the same year. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 3,093,171 in 2014 (19.5 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2014, 9.6% of the population were internet users. In March 2012 there were 2.5 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Bangladesh is bounded in the west and north by India, east by India and Myanmar and south by the Bay of Bengal. The area is 147,570 km<sup>2</sup> (56,977 sq. miles). In 1992 India granted a 999-year lease of the Tin Bigha corridor linking Bangladesh with its enclaves of Angarpota and Dahagram. The most recent census took place in March 2011; population, 144,043,697 (72,109,796 males), giving a density of 976 persons per sq. km. In 2011, 28.6% of the population lived in urban areas. The country is administratively divided into seven divisions, subdivided into 21 *anchal* and 64 *zila*. The populations of the chief cities (2011 census) were as follows: Dhaka, 7,033,075 (Metropolitan area, 11,086,309); Chittagong, 2,592,439; Khulna, 663,342; Narayanganj, 543,090; Sylhet, 479,837; Tongi, 476,350; Rajshahi, 449,756; Bogra, 350,397; Barisal, 328,278; Comilla, 326,386. The official language is Bengali.

### Tourism

In 2010 there were 303,000 non-resident tourists, spending US\$81 m.

## Barbados

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Bridgetown  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 284,000  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 12,488  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.785/57  
*Internet domain extension:* .bb

### Civil Aviation

Grantley Adams International Airport is 16 km from Bridgetown. In 2009 it handled 1,939,059 passengers (down from 2,165,125 in 2008) and 21,098 tonnes of freight (up from 19,479 in 2008).

### Climate

An equable climate in winter, but the wet season, from June to Nov., is more humid. Rainfall varies from 50" (1,250 mm) on the coast to 75" (1,875 mm) in the higher interior. Bridgetown, Jan. 76 °F (24.4 °C), July 80 °F (26.7 °C). Annual rainfall 51" (1,275 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The head of state is the British sovereign, represented by an appointed Governor-General. The bicameral Parliament consists of a Senate and a House of Assembly. The *Senate* comprises 21 members appointed by the Governor-General, 12 being appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister, two on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition and seven at the Governor-General's discretion. The *House of Assembly* comprises 30 members elected every 5 years. In 1963 the voting age was reduced to 18. The *Privy Council* is appointed by the Governor-General after consultation with the Prime Minister. It consists of 12 members and the Governor-General as chairman. It advises the Governor-General in the exercise of the royal prerogative of mercy and in the exercise of his disciplinary powers over members of the public and police services.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Barbados dollar* (BBD), usually written as BDS\$, of 100 cents, which is pegged to the US dollar at BDS\$2 = US\$1.

### Defence

The Barbados Defence Force has a strength of about 610. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$33 m. (US\$115 per capita), representing 0.7% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2009 agriculture accounted for 3% of GDP, industry 23% and services 74%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 161,900 (up from 149,500 in 2003). 80.8% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 11.6% of the population was unemployed.

### Press

In 2008 there were two daily newspapers, the *Barbados Advocate* (est. 1895) and the *Daily Nation* (est. 1973). The *Daily Nation* has an average daily circulation of 33,000; the *Barbados Advocate*, 15,000.

### Religion

In 2010 there were an estimated 240,000 Protestants and 10,000 Roman Catholics according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, with the remainder of the population being unaffiliated or following other religions.

### Roads

Barbados has some 1,600 km of roads. In 2007 there were 103,500 passenger cars, 15,200 lorries and vans, and 630 buses and coaches. There were 38 deaths as a result of road accidents in 2007.

### Shipping

There is a deep-water harbour at Bridgetown. In Jan. 2009 there were 91 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 642,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

In 2007: births registered, 3,537; deaths registered, 2,213; birth rate, 12.9 per 1,000 population; death rate, 8.1 per 1,000 population; infant mortality (2010), 17 per 1,000 live births. Expectation of life, 2007, males 74.0 years and females 79.7. Population growth rate, 2005, 0.3%; fertility rate, 2008, 1.5 children per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 141,000 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 513.5 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 348,000 mobile phone subscriptions (1,270.1 per 1,000 inhabitants). Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 61,000 in 2009 (223.5 per 1,000 inhabitants). In Dec. 2011 Barbados had 118,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Barbados lies to the east of the Windward Islands. Area 430 km<sup>2</sup> (166 sq. miles). In 2010 the census population was 277,821; density, 646.1 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 45.1% of the population were urban. Bridgetown is the principal city: population (including suburbs), 122,000 in 2011. The country is divided into 11 parishes. The official language is English.

### Tourism

In 2010 there were 532,180 overnight tourist arrivals by air (of which 181,054 were from the United Kingdom) and 664,747 cruise ship visitors, up from 518,564 and 635,746 respectively in 2009.

## Belarus

### *Respublika Belarus (Republic of Belarus)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Minsk  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 9.50 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 16,676  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.798/50=  
*Internet domain extension:* .by

### Civil Aviation

The main airport is Minsk National Airport, which handled 2,593,559 passengers in 2014 and 19,900 tonnes of freight. The national carrier is Belavia, which in 2017 operated on domestic routes and also flew to more than 50 international destinations. In 2014 Belavia carried 1,973,000 passengers.

### Climate

Moderately continental and humid with temperatures averaging 20 °F (−6 °C) in Jan. and 64 °F (18 °C) in July. Annual precipitation is 22–28" (550–700 mm).

### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was adopted on 15 March 1994. It provides for a *President* who must be a citizen of at least 35 years of age, have resided for 10 years in Belarus and whose candidacy must be supported by the signatures of 70 deputies or 100,000 electors. At a referendum held on 17 Oct. 2004, 86.2% of

votes cast were in favour of the abolition of the two-term limit on the presidency. The vote was widely regarded as fraudulent. There is an 12-member *Constitutional Court*. The chief justice and five other judges are appointed by the president. Four referenda held on 14 May 1995 gave the president powers to dissolve parliament; work for closer economic integration with Russia; establish Russian as an official language of equal status with Belarusian; and introduce a new flag. At a further referendum of 24 Nov. 1996 turnout was 84%. 79% of votes cast were in favour of the creation of an upper house of parliament nominated by provincial governors and 70% in favour of extending the presidential term of office by 2 years to 5 years. The Supreme Soviet was dissolved and a 110-member lower *House of Representatives* established, whose members are directly elected by universal adult suffrage every 4 years. The upper chamber is the *Council of the Republic* (64 seats; 56 members elected by regional councils and eight members appointed by the president, all for 4-year terms). In practice, since 1996 the Belarusian parliament has only had a ceremonial function.

### Currency

The *rouble* was retained under an agreement of Sept. 1993 and a treaty with Russia on monetary union of April 1994. Foreign currencies ceased to be legal tender in Oct. 1994. Only banknotes are issued—there are no coins in circulation. In Jan. 2000 the Belarusian rouble was revalued at 1 new rouble (BYR) = 1,000 old roubles (BYB).

### Defence

Conscription is for 18 months, or 12 in the case of university and college graduates. A treaty with Russia of April 1993 co-ordinates their military activities. All nuclear weapons had been transferred to Russia by Dec. 1996. Total active armed forces in 2011 numbered 72,940. In addition there are Ministry of Interior paramilitary troops numbering 110,000. Defence expenditure in 2012 totalled US\$552 m. (US\$57 per capita), representing 1.0% of GDP.

### Economy

Mining and manufacturing contributed 25.3% to GDP in 2009; followed by finance, public administration, defence and services, 22.0%; construction, 10.7%; and trade and hotels, 10.7%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 4,482,700 (4,665,400 in 2003). 66.1% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 6.0% of the population was unemployed. Belarus had 11,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In Jan. 2013 there were about 1,500 registered print media in Belarus, of which more than 1,100 were non-state media. The most widely read paper is *Sovetskaya Belarussiya*, with a daily circulation of about 400,000. There are also Belarusian editions of the Russian daily *Komsomolskaya Pravda* and weekly *Argumenty i Fakty*.

### Rail

In 2013 there were 5,490 km of railways in use (1,520 mm gauge), of which 1,013 km were electrified. Passenger-km travelled in 2013 came to 9 bn. and freight tonne-km to 44 bn.

### Religion

The Orthodox Church claims the most adherents. There is a Roman Catholic archdiocese of Minsk and Mahilyou, and three dioceses. According to a report published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2011 an estimated 58.9% of the population were believers. Of these, 82% were Orthodox, 12% Catholic and the remainder followers of other religions.

### Roads

In 2013 there were 101,030 km of roads (87.0% paved), including 15,735 km of national roads. There were 2,670,567 passenger cars in use as of 1 Jan. 2014 (282 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2013 public transport totalled 10,546 m. passenger-km and freight 25,603 m. tonne-km. There were 894 fatalities as a result of road accidents in 2013.

### Social Statistics

2013 births, 118,463 (rate of 12.5 per 1,000 population); deaths, 125,872 (rate of 13.3 per 1,000 population); marriages, 87,127; divorces, 36,105. Annual population growth rate, 2005–12, –0.5%. Life expectancy at birth, 2013, was 64.2 years for men and 75.8 years for women. Infant mortality, 2010, four per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2013, 1.5 children per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 4,208,000 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 440.2 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 10,694,900 mobile phone subscriptions (or 1,118.8 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2011, 39.6% of the population were internet users. In March 2012 there were 409,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Belarus is situated along the western Dvina and Dnieper. It is bounded in the west by Poland, north by Latvia and Lithuania, east by Russia and south by Ukraine. The area is 207,600 km<sup>2</sup> (80,155 sq. miles). The capital is Minsk. Other important towns are Homel, Vitebsk, Mahilyou, Bobruisk, Hrodno and Brest. On 2 Nov. 1939 western Belorussia was incorporated with an area of over 108,000 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 4.8 m. Census population, 2009, 9,503,807; density, 45.8 per km<sup>2</sup>. Estimate, Jan. 2014: 9,468,154. In 2011, 75.2% of the population lived in urban areas. Major ethnic groups: 81.2% Belarusians, 11.4% Russians, 3.9% Poles, 2.4% Ukrainians. Belarus comprises six regions (Brest, Homel, Hrodno, Mahilyou, Minsk and Vitebsk) and one municipality (Minsk City). Belarusian and Russian are both official languages.

### Tourism

In 2011 there were 115,700 foreign tourists on organized trips. Spending by tourists totalled US\$747 m. in 2011.

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## Belgium

### *Royaume de Belgique Koninkrijk België (Kingdom of Belgium)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Brussels  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 11.30 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 41,187  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.890/21  
*Internet domain extension:* .be

#### Civil Aviation

The former national airline SABENA (*Société anonyme belge d'exploitation de la navigation aérienne*) was set up in 1923. However, in Nov. 2001 it filed for bankruptcy. Its successor, Delta Air Transport (DAT), a former SABENA subsidiary, was given a new identity in Feb. 2002 as SN Brussels Airlines. In Nov. 2006 SN Brussels Airlines merged with Virgin Express and since March 2007 has been trading under the name Brussels Airlines. The busiest airport is Brussels National Airport (Zaventem), which handled 18,710,388 passengers in 2008 and 658,743 tonnes of freight.

#### Climate

Cool temperate climate influenced by the sea, giving mild winters and cool summers. Brussels, Jan. 36 °F (2.2 °C), July 64 °F (17.8 °C). Annual rainfall 33" (825 mm). Ostend, Jan. 38 °F (3.3 °C), July 62 °F (16.7 °C). Annual rainfall 31" (775 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

Belgium is a constitutional, representative and hereditary monarchy. The legislative power is vested in the King, the federal parliament and the community and regional councils. The King convokes parliament after an



election or the resignation of a government, and has the power to dissolve it in accordance with Article 46 of the Constitution. The reigning King is **Philippe**, who succeeded his father, Albert II, on 21 July 2013. The communities are three in number and based on language: Flemish, French and German. The regions also number three, and are based territorially: Flemish, Walloon and the Brussels-Capital Region. Since 1995 the federal parliament has consisted of a 150-member *Chamber of Representatives*, directly elected by obligatory universal suffrage from 20 constituencies on a proportional representation system for 4-year terms, and a Senate. Most senators were directly elected until reforms that came into effect for the 2014 elections. Since the elections held on 25 May 2014 the *Senate* comprises 60 members (previously 71), of whom 50 are appointed by and from Community and Regional parliaments (29 by the Flemish parliament; 10 by the parliament of the French Community; 8 by the Walloon parliament; 2 by the French-speaking group in the Brussels-Capital Region parliament; and 1 by the parliament of the German-speaking Community). These senators co-opt a further ten senators (six Dutch-speaking and four French-speaking). The state reform that introduced these changes also devolved an array of powers from federal government to the regions and language communities. The federal parliament's powers relate to constitutional reform, federal finance, foreign affairs, defence, justice, internal security, social security and some areas of public health. The Senate is essentially a revising chamber, though it may initiate certain legislation, and is equally competent with the Chamber of Representatives in matters concerning constitutional reform and the assent to international treaties.

### Currency

On an. 1999 the euro (EUR) became the legal currency in Belgium at the irrevocable conversion rate of BEF40.3399 to EUR1. The euro, which consists of 100 cents, has been in circulation since 1 Jan. 2002. On the introduction of the euro there was a 'dual circulation' period before the Belgian franc ceased to be legal tender on 28 Feb. 2002.

### Defence

Conscription was abolished in 1994 and the Armed Forces were restructured, with the aim of progressively reducing the size and making more use of civilian personnel. Since 1 Jan. 2002 they have been organized into one unified structure consisting of four main components: the Land Component (Army), Naval Component (Navy), Air Component (Air Force) and Medical Component. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$5,294 m. (US\$507 per capita), representing 1.0% of GDP.

### Economy

Services contributed 76% of GDP in 2012, with industry accounting for 23% and agriculture 1%.

### Labour

In 2010 (Labour Force Survey), 60,686 persons worked in the primary sector (agriculture, fishing and mining), 1,049,239 in the secondary sector (industry and construction) and 3,298,598 in the tertiary sector (services). The unemployment rate was 7.9% in Dec. 2015 (down from 8.5% in 2014 as a whole). In French-speaking Wallonia the rate is more than double that in Dutch-speaking Flanders.

### Press

In 2013 there were 25 daily newspapers (23 paid-for and two free) with a combined circulation of 1,520,000. There were 14 newspaper online editions in 2012 with 3,818,000 unique daily visitors.

### Rail

The length of railway operated in 2005 was 3,696 km (electrified, 3,110 km). In 2008, 217 m. passengers and 55.5 m. tonnes of freight were carried.

### Religion

The Constitution provides for freedom of religion. Traditionally, Roman Catholicism has been the majority religion but it has been in rapid decline—according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion &

Public Life, an estimated 62% of the population in 2010 were Catholics, 29% religiously unaffiliated and 6% Muslim. There are nine Roman Catholic dioceses including the Archdiocese of Mechelen-Brussel. In Feb. 2016 there was one cardinal.

### Roads

Length of roads, 2006: motorways, 1,763 km; national roads, 12,585 km; secondary roads, 1,349 km; local roads, 136,559 km. Belgium has one of the densest road networks in the world. In 2007 there were 5,006,300 passenger cars in use, 29,000 buses and coaches, 696,700 lorries and vans, and 371,500 motorcycles and mopeds. Road accidents caused 994 fatalities in both 2008 and 2009 (1,470 in 2000).

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 81 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 3.93 m. GT. Antwerp is Europe's second busiest port in terms of both total cargo handled and container traffic after Rotterdam. In 2008, 189,390,000 tonnes of cargo were handled at the port of Antwerp (84,371,000 tonnes loaded and 105,018,000 tonnes discharged), with total container throughput 8,663,000 TEUs (20-foot equivalent units). The length of navigable inland waterways was 1,516 km in 2008; 108.2 m. tonnes of freight were carried on inland waterways in 2009.

### Social Statistics

In 2009 there were 127,297 births, 104,509 deaths, 43,303 marriages and 32,606 divorces. In 2010 Belgium received 19,941 asylum applications, equivalent to 1.9 per 1,000 inhabitants. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 0.7%. Life expectancy at birth, 2009, was 77.2 years for men and 82.4 years for women. 2009 birth rate (per 1,000 population): 11.8; death rate: 9.7. Infant mortality, 2008, 3.8 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2013, 1.9 children per woman. In 2003 Belgium became the second country to legalize same-sex marriage.

### Telecommunications

In 2014 mobile phone subscribers numbered 12,734,724 (1,142.7 per 1,000 persons). In the same year there were 4,532,475 main (fixed) telephone lines. 85.0% of the population were internet users in 2014. The fixed broadband penetration rate in 2014 was 359.9 subscribers per 1,000 inhabitants. In March 2012 there were 4.6 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Belgium is bounded in the north by the Netherlands, northwest by the North Sea, west and south by France, and east by Germany and Luxembourg. Its area is 30,528 sq. km. Population (at 1 Jan. 2015), 11,209,044 (5,703,950 females); density, 367.2 per sq. km. The Belgian exclave of Baarle-Hertog in the Netherlands has an area of seven sq. km and a population (2010) of 2,504. There were 1,195,122 resident foreign nationals as at 1 Jan. 2013. In 2011, 97.4% of the population lived in urban areas. Dutch (Flemish) is spoken by the Flemish section of the population in the north, French by the Walloon south. The linguistic frontier passes south of the capital, Brussels, which is bilingual. Population of the regions on 1 Jan. 2012: Brussels-Capital Region, 1,138,854; Flemish Region, 6,350,765; Walloon Region, 3,546,329. The most populous towns, with population on 1 Jan. 2012: Brussels, 1,138,854; Antwerp, 502,604; Ghent, 248,242; Charleroi, 203,871; Liège, 195,576; Bruges, 117,170; Namur (Namen) 110,096; Leuven, 97,656; Mons, 93,072; Mechelen, 82,325.

### Tourism

In 2014 there were 17,068,872 overnight stays by non-resident visitors, including 4,144,256 by visitors from the Netherlands and 2,449,842 by visitors from France. A total of 11,293,395 overnight stays were for leisure, holiday and recreation purposes, 3,554,876 for conferences, congresses and seminars and 2,220,601 for other business purposes.

## Belize

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Belmopan  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 359,000  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 7,614  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.715/101=  
*Internet domain extension:* .bz

### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport (Philip S. W. Goldson) in Belize City. The national carrier is Maya Island Air, which operates scheduled domestic services and charter flights to Guatemala and Honduras. In 2013 Philip S. W. Goldson International handled 542,833 passengers (449,291 in 2008).

### Climate

A tropical climate with high rainfall and small annual range of temperature. The driest months are Feb. and March. Belize City, Jan. 74 °F (23.3 °C), July 81 °F (27.2 °C). Annual rainfall 76" (1,890 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The head of state is the British sovereign, represented by an appointed Governor-General. The Constitution, which came into force on 21 Sept. 1981, provided for a National Assembly, with a 5-year term, comprising a 32-member *House of Representatives* (31 elected by universal suffrage plus the Speaker), and a *Senate* consisting of 13 members, six appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister, three on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition, one on the advice of the Belize Council of Churches and the Evangelical Association of Churches, one on the advice of the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Belize Business Bureau and one on the advice of the National Trade Union Congress of Belize and the Civil Society Steering Committee plus the Senate President.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Belize dollar* (BZD) of 100 *cents*. Since 1976 \$B2 has been fixed at US\$1.

### Defence

The Belize Defence Force numbers around 1,050 (2011) with 700 reservists. There are three infantry battalions, three reserve companies, a support group and an air wing. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$18 m. (US\$53 per capita), representing 1.1% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2011 agriculture accounted for 13% of GDP, industry 23% and services 64%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 149,600 (100,800 in 2003). 68.3% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 11.7% of the population was unemployed.

### Press

There are no daily newspapers although there were eight non-dailies in 2008, the largest of which were *Belize Times*, *The Amandala Press* and *The Reporter*.

### Religion

In 2010 there were an estimated 160,000 Roman Catholics and 110,000 Protestants according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, with the remainder of the population being unaffiliated or following other religions.

### Roads

In 2006 there were 575 km of main roads and 2,432 km of other roads. There were 40,000 passenger cars in use in 2006 and 14,800 trucks and vans. In 2006 there were 68 deaths as a result of road accidents.

### Shipping

The main port is Belize City, with a modern deep-water port able to handle containerized shipping. There are also ports at Commerce Bight and Big Creek. In Jan. 2009 there were 246 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 950,000 GT. Nine cargo shipping lines serve Belize, and there are coastal passenger services to the offshore islands and Guatemala.

### Social Statistics

2009 births (est.), 8,000; deaths (est.), 1,000. In 2009 the estimated birth rate per 1,000 was 25 and the death rate 4; infant mortality in 2010 was 14 per 1,000 live births; there were 2,020 marriages in 2004. Life expectancy in 2013 was 70.9 years for males and 77.1 for females. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 2.5%; fertility rate, 2013, 2.7 children per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 28,800 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 90.7 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 203,100 mobile phone subscriptions (or 638.7 per 1,000 inhabitants). Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 9,400 in 2010 (30.1 per 1,000 inhabitants).

### Territory and Population

Belize is bounded in the north by Mexico, west and south by Guatemala and east by the Caribbean. Fringing the coast there are three atolls and some 400 islets (cays) in the world's second longest barrier reef (140 miles), which was declared a world heritage site in 1996. Area, 22,965 km<sup>2</sup>. Population at the 2010 census, 324,528; density, 14.1 per km<sup>2</sup>. The capital is Belmopan (2010 census population, 13,931). In 2010, 45.0% of the population were urban.

### Tourism

There were 716 hotels and 7,111 hotel rooms in 2011. In 2012 there were 917,869 visitors of which 277,135 stayed overnight and 640,734 arrived on cruise ships.

## Benin

*République du Bénin (Republic of Benin)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Porto-Novo  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 10.88 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 1,767  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.480/166  
*Internet domain extension:* .bj

### Civil Aviation

The international airport is at Cotonou (Cadjehoun), which in 2012 handled 466,778 passengers (all on international flights) and 5,237 tonnes of freight. Westair Benin, the only operational airline based in the country, was founded in 2002. In 2010 there were direct flights to 17 destinations in Africa as well as Paris.

### Climate

In coastal parts there is an equatorial climate, with a long rainy season from March to July and a short rainy season in Oct. and Nov. The dry season increases in length from the coast, with inland areas having rain only between May and Sept. Porto-Novo, Jan. 82 °F (27.8 °C), July 78 °F (25.6 °C). Annual

rainfall 52" (1,300 mm). Cotonou, Jan. 81 °F (27.2 °C), July 77 °F (25 °C). Annual rainfall 53" (1,325 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The Benin Party of Popular Revolution (PRPB) held a monopoly of power from 1977 to 1989. In Feb. 1990 a 'National Conference of the Active Forces of the Nation' proclaimed its sovereignty and appointed Nicéphore Soglo prime minister of a provisional government. At a referendum in Dec. 1990, 93.2% of votes cast were in favour of the new constitution, which introduced a presidential regime. The *President* is directly elected for renewable 5-year terms. Parliament is the unicameral *National Assembly* of 83 members elected by proportional representation for 4-year terms. A 30-member advisory *Social and Economic Council* was set up in 1994. There is a *Constitutional Court*.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *franc CFA* (XOF) with a parity of 655.957 francs CFA to one euro.

### Defence

There is selective conscription for 18 months. Defence expenditure totalled US\$86 m. in 2013 (US\$9 per capita), representing 1.0% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture and fisheries accounted for 32.7% of GDP in 2009; trade and restaurants, 17.1%; finance, 10.7%; public administration, defence and services, 10.1%.

### Labour

The estimated labour force numbered 3,825,000 in 2010 (54% males), up from 3,212,000 in 2005. Approximately half of the economically active population is engaged in agriculture, fishing and forestry.

### Press

In 2008 there were 38 daily newspapers with an average circulation of 50,000. The main newspapers are *Le Matinal*, *Les Echos du Jour* and the government-controlled *La Nation*.

### Rail

In 2005 there were 438 km of metre-gauge railway. In 2007 railways carried 0.1 m. tonnes of freight.

### Religion

In 2010 there were an estimated 4.7 m. Christians, 2.1 m. Muslims and 1.6 m. folk religionists according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. A further 450,000 people had no religious affiliation. Catholics account for around 56% of Christians and Protestants 43%. Voodoo became an official religion in 1996.

### Roads

Benin had some 15,700 km of roads in 2010, of which about 6,100 km were main roads. Passenger cars in use in 2007 totalled 149,300, buses and coaches 1,100, and lorries and vans 35,700.

### Shipping

There is a port at Cotonou, which handled 6,307,000 tonnes of cargo in 2008 (714,000 tonnes loaded and 5,593,000 tonnes discharged).

### Social Statistics

2006 (estimates) births, 303,000; deaths, 79,000. Rates, 2006 estimates (per 1,000 population): births, 38.7; deaths, 10.1. Infant mortality, 2010 (per 1,000 live births), 73. Expectation of life in 2007 was 59.8 years for males and 62.1 for females. Annual population growth rate, 2010–15, 2.8%. Fertility rate, 2008, 5.4 children per woman.

### Telecommunications

Mobile phone subscribers numbered 10,562,647 in 2014 (996.5 per 1,000 persons). In the same year there were 195,662 main (fixed) telephone lines. 5.3% of the population were internet subscribers in 2014.

### Territory and Population

Benin is bounded in the east by Nigeria, north by Niger and Burkina Faso, west by Togo and south by the Gulf of Guinea. The area is 114,763 km<sup>2</sup>, and the population (2013 census) 10,008,749; density, 87.2 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 42.5% of the population were urban. Cotonou, the capital, had a population of 679,012 in 2013; other major towns are Abomey-Calavi, Godomey, Parakou and Porto-Novo. The official language is French.

### Tourism

In 2011 there were 209,000 non-resident tourists. Tourist spending totalled US\$188 m. in 2011.

## Bhutan

### *Druk-yul (Kingdom of Bhutan)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Thimphu

*Population estimate, 2015:* 775,000

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 7,176

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.605/132

*Internet domain extension:* .bt

#### Civil Aviation

In 2010 Drukair flew from Paro to Bagdogra (in India), Bangkok, Delhi, Dhaka, Kathmandu and Kolkata. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Bhutan-based carriers flew 3.0 m. km; passenger-km totalled 307 m. in the same year.

#### Climate

The climate is largely controlled by altitude. The mountainous north is cold, with perpetual snow on the summits, but the centre has a more moderate climate, though winters are cold, with rainfall under 40" (1,000 mm). In the south, the climate is humid sub-tropical and rainfall approaches 200" (5,000 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

Bhutan's first formal constitution came into force on 18 July 2008, after a period of almost 7 years of planning. There is a bicameral parliament. The lower house is the *National Assembly* (with a maximum of 55 members but currently with 47, all elected) and the upper house the 25-member *National Council* (with 20 members elected and five appointed by the king). Executive power is vested in the *Council of Ministers*. The reigning King is Jigme Kesar Namgyel Wangchuck (b. 1980), who succeeded his father King Jigme Singye Wangchuck (abdicated 14 Dec. 2006). He was crowned on 6 Nov. 2008. With the introduction of democratic elections in 2007–08, the King's role became more ceremonial. Nonetheless, all leading political parties have affirmed their loyalty to the monarchy, which remains central to political life. In 1907 the Tongsa Penlop (the governor of the province of Tongsa in central Bhutan), Sir Ugyen Wangchuck, GCIE, KCSI, was elected as the first hereditary Maharaja of Bhutan. The Bhutanese title is Druk Gyalpo, and his successors are addressed as King of Bhutan. The stated goal is to increase Gross National Happiness.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *ngultrum* (BTN) of 100 *chetrum*, at parity with the Indian rupee.

#### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 18.7% of GDP in 2009, with industry accounting for 43.2% and services 38.1%.

## Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 393,400 (273,300 in 2003). 74.8% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 2.9% of the population was unemployed.

## Press

Until 2006 there was only one newspaper, the government-controlled *Kuensel*, which is published in English, Dzongkha and Nepali. Two private non-dailies were launched in 2006. The country's first daily paper, the English-language *Bhutan Today*, was launched in 2008 and had an average daily circulation of 18,000 that year. Although still published, it no longer appears daily.

## Rail

Bhutan does not currently have a railway network but there are plans for a line funded by India that would link the town of Toribari with Hasimara in India.

## Religion

The state religion of Bhutan is the Drukpa Kagyupa, a branch of Mahayana Buddhism. Around 23% of the population is Hindu according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life.

## Roads

In 2006 there were about 4,153 km of roads, of which 1,577 km were highways. In 2007 there were 19,600 passenger cars, 180 buses and coaches, 5,400 lorries and vans, and 7,500 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 111 fatalities in road accidents in 2007.

## Social Statistics

2008 (estimates) births, 14,800 (rate of 21.5 per 1,000 population); deaths, 4,900 (rate of 7.1 per 1,000 population). Life expectancy at birth, 2013, was 68.0 years for men and 68.7 years for women. Infant mortality, 2010, 44 per 1,000 live births. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.5%; fertility rate, 2008, 2.6 children per woman.

## Telecommunications

There were 26,300 fixed telephone lines in 2010 (36.2 per 1,000 inhabitants). Mobile phone subscribers numbered 394,300 in 2010. There were 136.0 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 6,700 in 2009 (9.3 per 1,000 inhabitants).

## Territory and Population

Bhutan is situated in the eastern Himalayas, bounded in the north by Tibet and on all other sides by India. Area 46,650 km<sup>2</sup> (18,012 sq. miles); 2005 census population, 672,425 (364,482 males), giving a density of 14 per km<sup>2</sup>. The capital is Thimphu (2005 population, 79,185). The country is divided into 20 districts (*dzongkhag*). The official language is Dzongkha.

## Tourism

Bhutan was not formally opened to foreign tourists until 1974, but tourism is now the largest source of foreign exchange. In 2009, 23,000 tourists visited Bhutan; revenue totalled US\$32 m.

# Bolivia

*Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia (Plurinational State of Bolivia)*

## Factsheet

*Capital:* Sucre

*Seat of government:* La Paz

*Population estimate, 2015:* 10.73 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 5,760

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.662/119

*Internet domain extension:* .bo

## Civil Aviation

The three international airports are La Paz (El Alto), Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Viru Viru) and Cochabamba (Jorge Wisterman). The main airline is Aerosur. In 2005 scheduled airline traffic of Bolivian-based carriers flew 17.1 m. km, carrying 1,396,400 passengers.

## Climate

The varied geography produces different climates. The low-lying areas in the Amazon Basin are warm and damp throughout the year, with heavy rainfall from Nov. to March; the Altiplano is generally dry between May and Nov. with sunshine but cold nights in June and July, while the months from Dec. to March are the wettest. La Paz, Jan. 55.9 °F (13.3 °C), July 50.5 °F (10.3 °C). Annual rainfall 20.8" (529 mm). Sucre, Jan. 58.5 °F (14.7 °C), July 52.7 °F (11.5 °C). Annual rainfall 20.1" (510 mm).

## Constitution and Government

Bolivia's first constitution was adopted on 19 Nov. 1826. The present constitution, the fifteenth, came into effect following its acceptance in a referendum on 25 Jan. 2009 and defined Bolivia as 'a United Social State of Plurinational Communitarian Law'. Under its terms, running to 411 articles, the majority indigenous population has been granted increased rights (including recognition of indigenous systems of justice), state control is extended over the exploitation of natural resources and regional autonomy is enhanced. The separation of church and state is recognized and land reforms in favour of indigenous populations enshrined. A new 'plurinational Legislative assembly', consisting of a 130-member *Chamber of Deputies* and a 36-member *Senate*, took office following elections in Dec. 2009. The constitution also allows for the president to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. However, in April 2013 a constitutional tribunal ruled that President Morales could seek a third consecutive term as his first term had begun under the old constitution.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *boliviano* (BOB) of 100 *centavos*, which replaced the *peso* on 1 Jan. 1987 at a rate of one boliviano = 1 m. pesos.

## Defence

In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$373 m., with spending per capita US\$36. The 2013 expenditure represented 1.3% of GDP.

## Economy

In 2012 agriculture accounted for 13.0% of GDP, industry 38.7% and services 48.3%. Bolivia's 'shadow' (black market) economy is estimated to constitute approximately 63% of the country's official GDP, one of the highest percentages of any country in the world.

## Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 5,025,100 (3,913,600 in 2003). 74.2% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 2.6% of the population was unemployed.

## Press

There were 25 paid-for daily newspapers in 2008 with a combined circulation of 145,000. The top-selling daily is the tabloid *El Deber*, with an average daily circulation of 15,000 (30,000 on Sundays).

## Rail

In 2007 the railway network totalled 2,866 km of metre gauge track. Passenger-km travelled in 2007 came to 313 m. and freight tonne-km in 2005 to 1,027 m.

## Religion

The State is independent from religion. The Roman Catholic church was disestablished in 2009. It has four archdioceses, six dioceses, five apostolic

vicariates and two territorial prelatures. In 2010 there were an estimated 7.9 m. Roman Catholics and 1.4 m. Protestants according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, with most of the remainder of the population being unaffiliated.

### Roads

The total length of the road system was 62,479 km in 2004, of which 14,336 km were national roads. Total passenger cars in use in 2007 numbered 174,900, lorries and vans 468,800, and buses and coaches 7,000. There were 1,073 road accident fatalities in 2007.

### Shipping

Lake Titicaca and about 19,000 km of rivers are open to navigation. In Jan. 2009 there were 43 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 78,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

In 2008 births totalled an estimated 263,000 (birth rate of 27.1 per 1,000 population); deaths totalled an estimated 73,000 (rate, 7.5 per 1,000); infant mortality (2010), 42 per 1,000 live births, the highest in South America. Expectation of life (2013) was 65.1 years for men and 69.5 years for women. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 1.9%. Fertility rate, 2008, 3.5 children per woman (the highest in South America).

### Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 879,800 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 87.2 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 8,353,300 mobile phone subscriptions (or 828.0 per 1,000 inhabitants). Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 114,000 in 2010 (11.5 per 1,000 inhabitants). In June 2012 there were 1.6 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Bolivia is a landlocked state bounded in the north and east by Brazil, south by Paraguay and Argentina, and west by Chile and Peru, with an area of some 1,098,581 km<sup>2</sup> (424,165 sq. miles). Population (2012 census): 10,059,856 (5,040,409 females); density, 9.2 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 67.0% of the population lived in urban areas. Population (2012 census, in 1,000) of the principal towns: Santa Cruz de la Sierra, 1,442; El Alto, 847; La Paz, 759; Cochabamba, 632; Oruro, 265; Sucre, 239; Tarija, 180; Potosí, 176; Sacaba, 150. Spanish along with the Amerindian languages Quechua and Aymará are all official languages.

### Tourism

In 2010 there were 807,000 international tourists (excluding same-day visitors); total revenue from tourism was US\$379 m. in 2010.

## Bosnia-Herzegovina

*Republika Bosna i Hercegovina (Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina)*

### Factsheet

Capital: Sarajevo  
Population estimate, 2015: 3.81 m.  
GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 9,638  
HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.733/85=  
Internet domain extension: .ba

### Civil Aviation

There are airports at Sarajevo (Butmir), Tuzla, Banja Luka and Mostar. In 2012 Sarajevo handled 580,058 passengers (all international) and 1,858 tonnes of freight.

### Climate

The climate is generally continental with steady rainfall throughout the year, although in areas nearer the coast it is more Mediterranean.

### Constitution and Government

On 31 May 1994 the National Assembly approved the creation of the Muslim Croat federation (the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina). The government structure was established in 1996 as follows: Heading the state is a three-member *Presidency* (one Croat, one Muslim, one Serb) with a rotating president. The Presidency is elected by direct universal suffrage, and is responsible for foreign affairs and the nomination of the prime minister. There is a two-chamber parliament: the *House of Representatives* (which meets in Sarajevo) comprises 42 directly elected deputies, two-thirds Croat and Muslim and one-third Serb; and the *House of Peoples* (which meets in Lukavica) comprises five Croat, five Muslim and five Serb delegates. Below the national level the country is divided into two self-governing entities along ethnic lines.

### Currency

A new currency, the *konvertibilna marka* (BAM) consisting of 100 *pfennig*, was introduced in June 1998. Initially trading at a strict 1-to-1 against the Deutsche Mark, it is now pegged to the euro at a rate of 1.95583 convertible marks to the euro.

### Defence

Defence expenditure in 2012 totalled US\$231 m. (US\$60 per capita), representing 1.4% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2010 agriculture accounted for 7.6% of GDP, industry 28.0% and services 64.4%.

### Labour

The active labour force totalled 1,157,940 in April 2010 (62% males). Unemployment in April 2010 was 27.2% (25.6% for men and 29.9% for women). Among 15–24 year olds it was 57.5%.

### Press

There were seven paid-for daily newspapers in 2008 with a combined circulation of 75,000 and 46 paid-for non-dailies.

### Rail

There were 1,017 km of railways in 2008 (771 km electrified). It is estimated that up to 80% of the rail network was destroyed in the civil war, and it was not until July 2001 that the first international services were resumed. There are two state-owned rail companies—the Railway of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (ŽFBH) and the Railway of the Serb Republic (ŽRS). In 2008 ŽFBH carried 528,000 passengers and 8.1 m. tonnes of freight while ŽRS carried 727,000 passengers and 5.0 m. tonnes of freight.

### Religion

According to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 the vast majority of the population was Christian (1.98 m., of which 1.44 m. Orthodox Christians and 0.54 m. Catholics) or Muslim (1.70 m., most of whom were Sunnis). In Feb. 2016 the Roman Catholic church had one cardinal.

### Roads

In 2005 there were an estimated 22,419 km of roads (4,104 km main roads). Passenger cars numbered 473,076 in 2007 (123 per 1,000 inhabitants). There were 428 road accident fatalities in 2007.

### Social Statistics

2010 births, 33,779; deaths, 34,633. Rates per 1,000, 2010: birth, 8.8; death, 9.0. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 0.3%. Life expectancy at birth, 2013, was 73.8 years for men and 78.9 years for women. Infant mortality,

2010, eight per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2013, 1.3 children per woman (the joint lowest rate in the world).

### Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 955,900 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 254.8 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 3,171,300 mobile phone subscriptions (or 845.2 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2010, 52.0% of the population were internet users.

### Territory and Population

The republic is bounded in the north and west by Croatia, in the east by Serbia and in the southeast by Montenegro. The capital is Sarajevo. It has a coastline of only 20 km with no harbours. Its area is 51,210 km<sup>2</sup>, including 210 km<sup>2</sup> of inland waters. Provisional census population, 2013, 3,791,622; density, 74.0 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 49.2% of the population lived in urban areas.

### Tourism

In 2010, 365,000 non-resident tourists stayed in holiday accommodation (up from 311,000 in 2009 and 171,000 in 2000).

## Botswana

### *Lefatshe la Botswana (Republic of Botswana)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Gaborone

*Population estimate, 2015:* 2.26 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 16,646

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.698/106

*Internet domain extension:* .bw

#### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Gaborone (Sir Seretse Khama) and at Maun and six domestic airports. The national carrier is the state-owned Air Botswana, which in 2013 carried 265,000 passengers (173,000 on international flights). In 2012 Gaborone handled 403,372 passengers.

#### Climate

In winter, days are warm and nights cold, with occasional frosts. Summer heat is tempered by prevailing northeast winds. Rainfall comes mainly in summer, from Oct. to April, while the rest of the year is almost completely dry with very high sunshine amounts. Gaborone, Jan. 79 °F (26.1 °C), July 55 °F (12.8 °C). Annual rainfall varies from 650 mm in the north to 250 mm in the southeast. The country is prone to droughts.

#### Constitution and Government

The Constitution was adopted in March 1965 and became effective on 30 Sept. 1966. It provides for a republican form of government headed by the President with three main organs: the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. The executive rests with the President who is responsible to the National Assembly. The President is elected for 5-year terms by the National Assembly. The *National Assembly* consists of 63 members, of which 57 are elected by universal suffrage, four are specially elected members and two, the President and the Speaker, are *ex officio*. There is also a *House of Chiefs* to advise the government.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *pula* (BWP) of 100 *thebe*.

#### Defence

In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$438 m. (US\$206 per capita), representing 2.4% of GDP.

#### Economy

Services accounted for 52.5% of GDP in 2010, industry 45.0% and agriculture 2.5%.

#### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 1,128,700 (867,600 in 2003). 78.9% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 17.6% of the population was unemployed.

#### Press

The government-owned *Daily News* is distributed free (circulation, 2008: 65,000). There is one other daily, the independent *Mmegi* ('The Reporter'), and 14 non-dailies.

#### Rail

The main line from Mafeking in South Africa to Bulawayo in Zimbabwe traverses Botswana. The total length of the rail system was 888 km in 2005, including two branch lines. In 2006, 426,894 passengers and 1,712,607 tonnes of freight were carried.

#### Religion

Freedom of worship is guaranteed under the Constitution. In 2010 there were an estimated 1.32 m. Protestants and 120,000 Roman Catholics according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, with most of the remainder of the population being unaffiliated or folk religionists.

#### Roads

In 2005 the total road network was estimated to be 25,798 km (32.6% paved). In Dec. 2008 there were 256,498 motor vehicles registered. There were 497 deaths in road accidents in 2007.

#### Social Statistics

2008 (estimates) births, 47,000; deaths, 23,000. Rates, 2008 estimates (per 1,000 population): births, 24.5; deaths, 12.1. Infant mortality, 2010 (per 1,000 live births), 36. Expectation of life in 2013 was 62.1 years for males and 66.8 for females. In 2013, 21.9% of all adults between 15 and 49 were infected with HIV. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 1.4%. Fertility rate, 2008, 2.9 children per woman.

#### Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 149,600 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 73.7 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 2,900,300 mobile phone subscriptions (or 1,428.2 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2011, 7.0% of the population were internet users. In June 2012 there were 224,000 Facebook users.

#### Territory and Population

Botswana is bounded in the west and north by Namibia, northeast by Zambia and Zimbabwe, and east and south by South Africa. The area is 581,730 km<sup>2</sup>. 2011 census population, 2,024,904; density, 3.5 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 61.8% of the population were urban. The main towns (2011 census population) are Gaborone, 231,592; Francistown, 98,961; Molepolole, 66,466; Maun, 60,263; Mogoditshane, 58,079; Serowe, 50,820; Selebi-Phikwe, 49,411; Kanye, 47,007; Mochudi, 44,815; Mahalapye, 43,289. The official languages are Setswana and English.

#### Tourism

There were 2,145,000 international tourists (excluding same-day visitors) in 2010, with tourism receipts totalling US\$218 m.

## Brazil

*República Federativa do Brasil (Federative Republic of Brazil)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Brasília (Federal District)  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 207.85 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 15,175  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.755/75  
*Internet domain extension:* .br

### Civil Aviation

There are major international airports at Rio de Janeiro-Galeão (Antonio Carlos Jobim International) and São Paulo (Guarulhos) and some international flights from Brasília, Porto Alegre, Recife and Salvador. The main airlines are LATAM (created in June 2012 when the Brazilian carrier TAM merged with LAN Airlines, Chile's largest airline) and Gol (a low-cost airline launched in 2001). Brazil's busiest airport is Guarulhos (São Paulo), which handled 18,795,596 passengers in 2007, followed by Congonhas (São Paulo) with 15,244,401 passengers (all on domestic flights) and Brasília International (Presidente Juscelino Kubitschek International Airport) with 11,119,872 passengers.

### Climate

Because of its latitude, the climate is predominantly tropical, but factors such as altitude, prevailing winds and distance from the sea cause certain variations, though temperatures are not notably extreme. In tropical parts, winters are dry and summers wet, while in Amazonia conditions are constantly warm and humid. The northeast *sertão* is hot and arid, with frequent droughts. In the south and east, spring and autumn are sunny and warm, summers are hot, but winters can be cold when polar air-masses impinge. Brasília, Jan. 72 °F (22.3 °C), July 68 °F (19.8 °C). Annual rainfall 60" (1,512 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The present Constitution came into force on 5 Oct. 1988, the eighth since independence. The *President* and *Vice-President* are elected for a 4-year term. To be elected candidates must secure 50% plus one vote of all the valid votes, otherwise a second round of voting is held to elect the President between the two most voted candidates. A constitutional amendment of June 1997 authorizes the re-election of the President for one extra term of 4 years. *Congress* consists of an 81-member *Senate* (three Senators per federal unit plus three from the Federal District of Brasília) and a 513-member *Chamber of Deputies*. The Senate is directly elected (two-thirds of it and one-third of it elected for 8 years in rotation every 4 years). The Chamber of Deputies is elected by universal franchise for 4 years. There is a *Council of the Republic* which is convened only in national emergencies.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *real* (BRL) of 100 *centavos*, which was introduced on 1 July 1994 to replace the former *cruzeiro real* at a rate of 1 real (R\$1) = 2,750 cruzeiros reais (CR\$2,750).

### Defence

Conscription is for nine to 12 months. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$34,730 m. (US\$173 per capita), representing 1.4% of GDP. Brazil was responsible for 49% of South America's military spending in 2013.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 6.1% of GDP in 2009, industry 25.4% and services 68.5%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 108,384,600 (90,365,500 in 2003). 75.0% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. A constitutional amendment of 1996 prohibits the employment of children under 14 years. There is a minimum monthly wage, which was increased from R\$622 to R\$678 with effect from 1 Jan. 2013. In Sept. 2013, 4.9% of the workforce was unemployed based on figures from six of Brazil's largest metropolitan areas (down from 10.9% in Sept. 2004 and 7.7% in Sept. 2009).

### Press

There were 784 daily newspapers in 2014 with a combined circulation of 8,478,000. In the same year there were 123 newspapers with online editions. The daily newspapers with the highest circulation are *Folha de S. Paulo* and the tabloid *Super Notícia*. In the 2013 *World Press Freedom Index* compiled by Reporters Without Borders, Brazil was ranked 108th out of 179 countries.

### Rail

Brazilian railways have largely been privatized: all six branches of the large RFFSA network are now under private management. The largest areas of the network are now run by América Latina Logística (12,883 km of metre gauge in 2007) and Ferrovia Centro-Atlântica (7,080 km of metre-gauge).

### Religion

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life the population was an estimated 88.9% Christian in 2010, with folk religionists accounting for 2.8% and a further 7.9% unaffiliated. Only the USA has more Christians, although Brazil has the most Catholics of any country (an estimated 133.7 m. in 2010). The Roman Catholic Church has 44 ecclesiastical provinces, each headed by an archbishop. These ecclesiastical provinces are in turn subdivided into 215 dioceses. The Archbishop of São Salvador da Bahia (Murilo Sebastião Ramos Krieger) is also the Primate of Brazil. In Feb. 2016 there were ten Roman Catholic cardinals.

### Roads

In 2004 there were 1,751,868 km of roads, of which 93,071 km were highways, national and main roads. In 2007 there were 37,978,000 vehicles in use, including 30,283,000 passenger cars. In 2006, 407,685 persons were injured in road accidents and 35,155 were killed.

### Shipping

Inland waterways, mostly rivers, are open to navigation over some 43,000 km. Tubarão and Itaqui are the leading ports. In 2008 Santos, the leading container port, handled 2.68 m. TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units). In Jan. 2009 there were 166 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 2.02 m. GT.

### Social Statistics

The total number of registered live births in 2006 was 2,799,128 (rate of 15.4 per 1,000 population); deaths, 1,020,211 (5.6); marriages, 889,828 (4.9); divorces 162,244 (0.9). The average age at first marriage in 2006 was 28.3 years for men and 25.4 for women. Life expectancy in 2006 was 68.5 years for males and 76.1 for females. Annual population growth rate, 2000–05, 1.5%; infant mortality, 2010, 17 per 1,000 live births (down from 50 per 1,000 in 1990); fertility rate, 2006, 2.0 children per woman.

### Telecommunications

The state-owned telephone system was privatized in 1998. There were 44,128,188 main (fixed) telephone lines in 2014. In the same year 57.6% of the population were internet users. In June 2012 Brazil had 51.2 m. Facebook users, the second highest total after the USA (26% of the population).

### Territory and Population

Brazil is bounded in the east by the Atlantic and on its northern, western and southern borders by all the South American countries except Chile and Ecuador. The total area (including inland waters) is 8,514,877 km<sup>2</sup>. It is the

world's fifth largest country and occupies 47.8% of South America. 2010 census population: 190,755,799 (93,406,990 males and 97,348,809 females). Population density, 2010, 22.4 per km<sup>2</sup>. Population of principal cities (2010 census): São Paulo, 11,152,344; Rio de Janeiro, 6,320,446; Salvador, 2,674,923; Brasília, 2,482,210; Fortaleza, 2,452,185; Belo Horizonte, 2,375,151; Manaus, 1,792,881; Curitiba, 1,751,907; Recife, 1,537,704; Porto Alegre, 1,409,351. The official language is Portuguese.

### Tourism

In 2012, 5,677,000 tourists visited Brazil (up from 5,433,000 in 2011 and 3,785,000 in 2002). In 2011 the largest number of tourists came from elsewhere in the Americas (3,402,000); 1,663,000 European tourists visited the country, down from 1,938,000 in 2007. Receipts in 2012 totalled US\$6.89 bn. (US\$6.83 bn. in 2011).

## Brunei

### *Negara Brunei Darussalam (State of Brunei Darussalam)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Bandar Seri Begawan  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 423,000  
*GNI per capita, 2013:* (PPPS) 70,883  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.856/31  
*Internet domain extension:* .bn

#### Civil Aviation

Brunei International Airport (Bandar Seri Begawan) handled 1,262,343 passengers (all international) in 2005. The national carrier is the state-owned Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA).

#### Climate

The climate is tropical marine, hot and moist, but nights are cool. Humidity is high and rainfall heavy, varying from 100" (2,500 mm) on the coast to 200" (5,000 mm) inland. There is no dry season. Bandar Seri Begawan, Jan. 80 °F (26.7 °C), July 82 °F (27.8 °C). Annual rainfall 131" (3,275 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

The Sultan and Yang Di Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is HM Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzadin Waddaulah. On 29 Sept. 1959 the Sultan promulgated a constitution, but parts of it have been in abeyance since Dec. 1962 under emergency powers assumed by the Sultan. Since 1984 the Legislative Council (*Majlis Masyuarat Megeri*) has been effectively replaced by a Council of Cabinet Ministers appointed and presided over by the Sultan. The constitution was amended in Sept. 2004, allowing for the Legislative Council to be reconvened, but with no independent executive powers and its 21 members chosen by the Sultan.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Brunei dollar* (BND) of 100 cents, which is at parity with the Singapore dollar (also legal tender).

#### Defence

In 2013 military expenditure totalled US\$416 m. (US\$1,002 per capita), representing 2.5% of GDP.

#### Economy

In 2012 industry contributed 71.1% to GDP, services 28.2% and agriculture 0.7%. The fall in oil prices in 1997–98 led to the setting up of an Economic Council to advise the Sultan on reforms. In 1998 an investigation was mounted into the Amedeo Corporation, Brunei's largest private company, run by Prince Jefri, the Sultan's brother. Amedeo collapsed with large debts.

#### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 200,400 (167,200 in 2003). 67.4% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 3.8% of the population was unemployed.

#### Press

In 2008 there were three daily newspapers with an average circulation of 41,000. The *Borneo Bulletin* and the *Brunei Times* are English-language papers, while *Media Permata* is a Malay paper.

#### Religion

The official religion is Islam. In 2010, 75.1% of the population were Muslims (mostly Sunnis of Malay origin) according to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. There are also some Christians, Buddhists and folk religionists.

#### Roads

There were an estimated 3,560 km of roads in 2005; 77.2% of all roads were paved in 2005. The main road connects Bandar Seri Begawan with Kuala Belait and Seria. In 2007 there were 252,700 passenger cars in use (649 per 1,000 inhabitants—one of the highest rates in the world), 16,700 vans and lorries, 1,500 buses and coaches, and 12,200 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 38 fatalities in road accidents in 2005.

#### Shipping

Regular shipping services operate from Singapore, Hong Kong, Sarawak and Sabah to Bandar Seri Begawan, and there is a daily passenger ferry between Bandar Seri Begawan and Labuan. In 2005 merchant shipping totalled 2.4 m. GRT. In 2005 vessels totalling 1,066,381 NRT entered ports and vessels totalling 1,061,339 NRT cleared.

#### Social Statistics

2005 births, 6,933; deaths, 1,072. Rates, 2005: birth per 1,000 population, 18.7; death, 2.9. There were 2,018 marriages in 2005. Life expectancy in 2007: males, 74.9 years; females, 79.6. Annual population growth rate, 1995–2005, 2.5%. Infant mortality, 2010, six per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2005, 2.1 children per woman.

#### Telecommunications

There is a telephone network linking the main centres. Brunei had an estimated 412,900 mobile phone subscriptions in 2009 (or 1,033.0 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 80,500 fixed telephone lines. There were 787.8 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2009. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 100,000 in 2009 (255.6 per 1,000 inhabitants). In March 2012 there were 234,000 Facebook users.

#### Territory and Population

Brunei, on the coast of Borneo, is bounded in the northwest by the South China Sea and on all other sides by Sarawak (Malaysia), which splits it into two parts, the smaller portion forming the Temburong district. Area, 5,765 km<sup>2</sup> (2,226 sq. miles). Population (2011 census) 393,372 (203,144 males), giving a density of 68.2 per km<sup>2</sup>. 76.1% of the population lived in urban areas. The four districts are Brunei/Muara (2011 census: 279,924), Belait (60,744), Tutong (43,852) and Temburong (8,852). The capital is Bandar Seri Begawan (estimate 2001: 27,285). The official language is Malay but English is in use.

#### Tourism

In 2010, 214,290 non-resident tourists (excluding same-day visitors) arrived by air—up from 157,474 in 2009 but down from 225,757 in 2008.



## Bulgaria

### *Republika Bulgaria (Republic of Bulgaria)*

#### Factsheet

Capital: Sofia  
 Population estimate, 2015: 7.15 m.  
 GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 15,596  
 HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.782/59  
 Internet domain extension: .bg

#### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Sofia (Vrazhdebna), which handled 3,467,455 passengers (3,266,427 on international flights) and 16,246 tonnes of freight in 2012. The bankrupt former state-owned Balkan Bulgarian Airlines was replaced by Bulgaria Air (initially named Balkan Air Tour) in 2002 as the new national flag carrier.

#### Climate

The southern parts have a Mediterranean climate, with winters mild and moist and summers hot and dry, but further north the conditions become more Continental, with a larger range of temperature and greater amounts of rainfall in summer and early autumn. Sofia, Jan. 28 °F (−2.2 °C), July 69 °F (20.6 °C). Annual rainfall 25.4" (635 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was adopted at Tarnovo on 12 July 1991. The *President* is directly elected for not more than two 5-year terms. Candidates for the presidency must be at least 40 years old and have lived for the last 5 years in Bulgaria. American-style primary elections were introduced in 1996; voting is open to all the electorate. The 240-member *National Assembly* is directly elected by proportional representation. The *President* nominates a candidate from the largest parliamentary party as *Prime Minister*.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *lev* (BGN) of 100 *stotinki*. In May 1996 the lev was devalued by 68%. A new *lev* was introduced on 5 July 1999, at 1 new *lev* = 1,000 old *leva*.

#### Defence

Since 1 Jan. 2008 Bulgaria has had an all-volunteer professional army. Following restructuring the total strength of the armed forces has been reduced from more than 68,000 in 2002 to less than 32,000 in 2011. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$751 m. (US\$108 per capita), representing 1.4% of GDP.

#### Economy

Transport, communications, trade and restaurants contributed 21.8% to GDP in 2011; followed by mining, public utilities and manufacturing, 21.2%; finance and real estate, 15.0%; public administration and defence, 10.8%; and services, 6.8%.

#### Labour

A total of 2,949,600 persons were in employment in 2011, with the leading areas of activity as follows: manufacturing, 601,600; wholesale and retail trade, and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, 538,400; construction, 225,300; public administration and defence, and compulsory social security, 225,300; agriculture, forestry and fishing, 200,500. The unemployment rate was 12.3% in June 2012, up from 11.3% in 2011 as a whole and 5.6% in 2008. The monthly minimum wage was raised from 270 leva to 290 leva in May 2012.

#### Press

In 2012 there were 57 daily newspapers with a combined daily circulation of 639,000. The two biggest circulation paid-for dailies are *Telegraph* (which was only launched in 2005) and *Trud*, the only title from the socialist era that survived after 1989. A total of 8,263 book titles were published in 2012, including 2,171 fiction titles for adults.

#### Rail

In 2011 there were 3,947 km of 1,435 mm gauge railway (2,862 km electrified) and 125 km of 760 mm gauge. Passenger-km travelled in 2011 came to 2.07 bn. and freight tonne-km to 3.17 bn.

#### Religion

'The traditional church of the Bulgarian people' (as it is officially described) is that of the Eastern Orthodox Church. It was disestablished under the 1947 constitution. In 1953 the Bulgarian Patriarchate was revived. The Patriarch is Neofit (enthroned Feb. 2013). The seat of the Patriarch is at Sofia. The Bulgarian Orthodox Church has 15 dioceses, of which 13 are in Bulgaria and two abroad—one covering the United States, Canada and Australia, and the other Central and Western Europe. According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life the Orthodox population numbered an estimated 6.22 m. in 2010. There were also 1.02 m. indigenous Muslims (Pomaks) in 2010 and 310,000 people who were religiously unaffiliated.

#### Roads

In 2005 Bulgaria had 40,231 km of roads, including 331 km of motorways and 2,961 km of main roads. In 2007 there were 1,971,500 passenger cars (257 per 1,000 inhabitants), 262,900 lorries and vans, 26,300 buses and coaches, and 78,900 motorcycles and mopeds. In 2005 public transport totalled 13.7 bn. passenger-km. In 2007, 9,827 persons were injured in road accidents and 1,006 were killed.

#### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 86 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 890,000 GT. Bourgas is a fishing and oil-port.

#### Social Statistics

2008: live births, 77,712; deaths, 110,523; marriages, 27,722; divorces, 14,104. Rates per 1,000 population, 2008: birth, 10.2; death, 14.5; marriage, 3.6; divorce, 1.9; infant mortality, 11 per 1,000 live births (2010). There were 37,272 reported abortions in 2006. In 2005 the most popular age range for marrying was 25–29 for males and 20–24 for females. Expectation of life in 2007 was 69.6 years among males and 76.7 years among females. The annual population growth rate for the period 2010–15 was −0.6%, giving Bulgaria one of the fastest declining populations of any country. Fertility rate, 2008, 1.4 children per woman.

#### Telecommunications

The Bulgarian Telecommunications Company was privatized in Jan. 2004. In 2011 there were 2,310,800 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 310.3 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 10,475,100 mobile phone subscriptions (or 1,406.8 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2011, 51.0% of the population were internet users. In March 2012 there were 2.4 m. Facebook users.

#### Territory and Population

The area of Bulgaria is 111,002 km<sup>2</sup> (42,858 sq. miles). It is bounded in the north by Romania, east by the Black Sea, south by Turkey and Greece, and west by Serbia and the Republic of Macedonia. The country is divided into 28 districts. The capital, Sofia, has district status. The population of Bulgaria at the census of 2011 was 7,364,570 (females, 3,777,999); population density 66.3 per km<sup>2</sup>. Population of principal towns (2011 census): Sofia, 1,202,761; Plovdiv, 338,153; Varna, 334,870; Bourgas, 200,271; Rousse, 149,642; Stara Zagora, 138,272; Pleven, 106,954; Sliven, 91,620; Dobrich, 91,030. Bulgarian is the official language.

#### Tourism

There were 6,541,000 non-resident tourists in 2012 (5,151,000 in 2007). Earnings from tourism were US\$4,202 m. in 2012.

## Burkina Faso

*République Démocratique du Burkina Faso (Democratic Republic of Burkina Faso)*

### Factsheet

Capital: Ouagadougou  
Population estimate, 2015: 18.11 m.  
GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 1,591  
HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.402/183  
Internet domain extension: .bf

### Civil Aviation

The international airports are Ouagadougou (which handled 485,815 passengers in 2012) and Bobo-Dioulasso. The national carrier is Air Burkina, which in 2010 flew to Abidjan, Accra, Bamako, Cotonou, Dakar, Douala, Libreville, Lomé, Marseille, N'Djaména, Niamey and Paris in addition to operating on domestic routes. In 2013 Air Burkina carried 129,000 passengers (122,000 on international flights).

### Climate

A tropical climate with a wet season from May to Nov. and a dry season from Dec. to April. Rainfall decreases from south to north. Ouagadougou, Jan. 76 °F (24.4 °C), July 83 °F (28.3 °C). Annual rainfall 36" (894 mm).

### Constitution and Government

At a referendum in June 1991 a new constitution was approved; there is an executive presidency and a multi-party system. Parliament consists of the 127-member *National Assembly*, elected by universal suffrage. The *Chamber of Representatives*, a consultative body representing social, religious, professional and political organizations, was abolished in 2002.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *franc CFA* (XOF) with a parity of 655.957 francs CFA to one euro.

### Defence

There are three military regions. Defence expenditure totalled US\$153 m. in 2013 (US\$9 per capita), representing 1.3% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture contributed 31.8% of GDP in 2009; followed by public administration, defence and services, 15.6%; manufacturing, 11.1%; trade and hotels, 11.1%; and construction, 6.7%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 7,695,400 (5,625,600 in 2003). 85.1% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013.

### Press

There were five dailies (two government-owned) with a combined circulation of 36,000 in 2008. The leading newspaper in terms of circulation is *Le Pays*.

### Rail

The railway from Abidjan in Côte d'Ivoire to Kaya (600 km of metre gauge within Burkina Faso) is operated by the mixed public-private company Sitarail, a concessionaire to both governments.

### Religion

According to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 the population was 61.6% Muslim (nearly all Sunnis) with 22.5% Christian (mainly Catholic) and 15.4% folk religionists. In Feb. 2016 the Roman Catholic church had one cardinal.

### Roads

The road system comprised 92,495 km in 2004 (including 15,271 km of main roads). There were 97,100 passenger cars (seven per 1,000 inhabitants), 55,700 lorries and vans, and 356,400 motorcycles and mopeds in use in 2007.

### Social Statistics

2008 births (estimates), 719,000; deaths, 198,000. Estimated birth rate in 2008 was 47.2 per 1,000 population; estimated death rate, 13.0. Burkina Faso has one of the youngest populations of any country, with 73% of the population under the age of 30% and 45% under 15. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 3.3%. Expectation of life at birth, 2013, 56.9 years for females and 55.7 for males. Infant mortality, 2010 (per 1,000 live births), 93. Fertility rate, 2008, 5.9 children per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 141,500 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 8.3 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 7,628,100 mobile phone subscriptions (or 452.7 per 1,000 inhabitants). Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 28,700 in 2010 (1.7 per 1,000 inhabitants). In June 2012 there were 116,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Burkina Faso is bounded in the north and west by Mali, east by Niger and south by Benin, Togo, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. Area: 270,764 km<sup>2</sup>; 2006 census population, 14,017,262, giving a density of 51.8 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011 the population was 26.5% urban. The largest cities in 2006 were Ouagadougou, the capital (1,475,223), Bobo-Dioulasso (489,967), Koudougou (88,184), Banfora (75,917), Ouahigouya (73,153) and Pouytenga (60,618). French is the official language.

### Tourism

In 2009, 269,000 foreign tourists stayed in hotels or similar accommodation.

## Burundi

*Republika y'Uburundi (Republic of Burundi)*

### Factsheet

Capital: Bujumbura  
Population estimate, 2015: 11.18 m.  
GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 758  
HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.400/184  
Internet domain extension: .bi

### Civil Aviation

There were direct flights to Dar es Salaam, Kigali, Mwanza and Nairobi in 2010. Air Burundi is the state-owned national airline, but it has not been operational since Sept. 2009. Bujumbura International airport handled 291,838 passengers and 3,054 tonnes of freight in 2012.

### Climate

An equatorial climate, modified by altitude. The eastern plateau is generally cool, the easternmost savanna several degrees hotter. The wet seasons are from March to May and Sept. to Dec. Bujumbura, Jan. 73 °F (22.8 °C), July 73 °F (22.8 °C). Annual rainfall 33" (825 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The constitution of 1981 provided for a one-party state. In Jan. 1991 the government of President Maj. Pierre Buyoya, leader of the sole party, the Union for National Progress (UPRONA), proposed a new constitution which was approved by a referendum in March 1992 (with 89% of votes cast in favour), legalizing parties not based on ethnic group, region or religion and providing for presidential elections by direct universal suffrage.

On 28 Feb. 2005 citizens voted overwhelmingly to adopt a new constitution laying the foundations for the end of a 12-year civil war, with 92% of votes cast in favour of the constitution. Burundi has a bicameral legislature, consisting of the *National Assembly* of 121 members, with 100 members elected to serve 5-year terms and 21 co-opted members, and the *Senate* of 43 members (36 elected and seven appointed, including four former presidents).

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Burundi franc* (BIF) of 100 *centimes*.

### Defence

Defence expenditure totalled US\$64 m. in 2013 (US\$6 per capita), representing 2.5% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture contributed 33.3% to GDP in 2011; followed by public administration and defence, 21.7%; manufacturing, 13.6%; and transport and communications, 6.7%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 4,799,400 (3,287,700 in 2003). 83.6% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013.

### Press

There was one state-controlled daily newspaper (*Le Renouveau*) in 2008 with a circulation of 20,000.

### Religion

According to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 the population was 91.5% Christian with the remainder being folk religionists and Muslims. Around four-fifth of Christians are Catholics and the rest Protestants.

### Roads

Burundi has some 12,300 km of roads. There were 15,500 passenger cars (two per 1,000 inhabitants) and 32,700 lorries and vans in use in 2007.

### Shipping

There are lake services from Bujumbura to Kigoma (Tanzania) and Kalémie (Democratic Republic of the Congo). The main route for exports and imports is via Kigoma, and thence by rail to Dar es Salaam.

### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 278,000; deaths, 112,000. Rates, 2008 estimates (per 1,000 population): birth, 34.5; death, 13.9. Life expectancy at birth, 2013, was 52.2 years for men and 56.1 years for women. Infant mortality, 2010, 88 per 1,000 live births. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.8%; fertility rate, 2008, 4.6 children per woman.

### Telecommunications

There were 32,600 fixed telephone lines in 2010 (3.9 per 1,000 inhabitants) and mobile phone subscribers numbered 1.15 m. There were 21.0 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 5,000 in 2009 (0.6 per 1,000 inhabitants).

### Territory and Population

Burundi is bounded in the north by Rwanda, east and south by Tanzania and west by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and has an area of 27,830 km<sup>2</sup> (10,745 sq. miles) including 2,150 km<sup>2</sup> of inland water (830 sq. miles). The population at the 2008 census was 8,053,574 (4,088,668 females); density, 314 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 11.3% of the population lived in urban areas (the smallest proportion of any country in the world). There are 17 regions, all named after their chief towns. The capital, Bujumbura, had a population of 497,166 in 2008. There are four ethnic groups—Hutu (Bantu, forming 81% of the total); Tutsi (Nilotic, 16%); Lingala (2%);

Twa (pygmoids, 1%). The local language, Kirundi, and French are both official languages.

### Tourism

There were 212,000 foreign tourists in 2009 (202,000 in 2008).

## Cabo Verde

### *República de Cabo Verde (Republic of Cabo Verde)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Praia

*Population estimate, 2015:* 521,000

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 6,094

*HDI/world rank, 2013:* 0.646/122

*Internet domain extension:* .cv

### Civil Aviation

Amílcar Cabral International Airport, at Espargos on Sal, is a major refuelling point on flights to Africa and Latin America. A new international airport, Praia International Airport, has been built at Praia on São Tiago, and was opened in 2005. Transportes Aéreos de Cabo Verde (TACV), the national carrier, provided services to most of the other islands in 2010, and internationally to Bissau, Boston, Dakar, Fortaleza, Las Palmas, Lisbon and Paris. In 2006 Amílcar Cabral International Airport handled 562,972 passengers and 1,415 tonnes of freight.

### Climate

The climate is arid, with a cool dry season from Dec. to June and warm dry conditions for the rest of the year. Rainfall is sparse, rarely exceeding 5" (127 mm) in the northern islands or 12" (304 mm) in the southern ones. There are periodic severe droughts. Praia, Jan. 72 °F (22.2 °C), July 77 °F (25 °C). Annual rainfall 10" (250 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The Constitution was adopted in Sept. 1992 and was revised in 1995 and 1999. The *President* is elected for 5-year terms by universal suffrage. The 72-member *National Assembly (Assembleia Nacional)* is elected for 5-year terms.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Cape Verde escudo* (CVE) of 100 *centavos*, which is pegged at 110.265 to the euro.

### Defence

National service is by selective conscription. The President of the Republic is C.-in-C. of the armed forces. Defence expenditure totalled US\$9 m. in 2013 (US\$18 per capita), representing 0.5% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 8.9% of GDP in 2009, industry 19.7% and services 71.4%.

### Labour

In 2010 the estimated economically active population was 221,000 (57% males).

### Press

In 2008 there were 12 non-daily newspapers although no dailies. The most popular newspaper is the weekly *A Semana*.

## Religion

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 the population was an estimated 89.1% Christian with a further 9.1% being religiously unaffiliated and the remainder followers of other religions. Around 90% of Christians are Catholics.

## Roads

There are approximately 1,400 km of roads. In 2007 there were 49,800 vehicles in use.

## Shipping

The main ports are Mindelo and Praia. In Jan. 2009 there were 19 vessels of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 19,000 GT. There is a state-owned ferry service between the islands.

## Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 12,000; deaths, 2,000. Rates, 2008 estimates (per 1,000 population): birth, 24.1; death, 5.0. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 1.6%. Annual emigration varies between 2,000 and 10,000. Life expectancy at birth, 2013, was 71.1 years for men and 78.8 years for women. Infant mortality, 2010, 29 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 2.7 children per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 74,500 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 148.8 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 396,400 mobile phone subscriptions (or 791.9 per 1,000 inhabitants). There were 296.7 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2009. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 12,900 in 2009 (26.3 per 1,000 inhabitants).

## Territory and Population

Cabo Verde is situated in the Atlantic Ocean 620 km off west Africa and consists of ten islands (Boa Vista, Brava, Fogo, Maio, Sal, Santa Luzia, Santo Antão, São Nicolau, São Tiago and São Vicente) and five islets. The islands are divided into two groups, named Barlavento (windward) and Sotavento (leeward). The total area is 4,033 km<sup>2</sup> (1,557 sq. miles). The 2010 census population was 491,875 (248,282 female), giving a density of 122 per km<sup>2</sup>. The main towns are Praia, the capital, on São Tiago (127,832, 2010 census population) and Mindelo on São Vicente (70,468, 2010 census population). It is estimated that around 71% of the population are of mixed African and European descent, with 28% African (mainly Fulani, Balanta and Mandyako) and 1% European. The official language is Portuguese; a creole (Crioulo) is in ordinary use.

## Tourism

Tourism has experienced huge growth in the past few years. In 2009 there were 287,183 non-resident tourists staying at hotels and similar establishments, compared to 267,188 in 2007 and 197,844 in 2005.

# Cambodia

*Preah Reach Ana Pak Kampuchea (Kingdom of Cambodia)*

## Factsheet

Capital: Phnom Penh  
Population estimate, 2015: 15.58 m.  
GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 2,949  
HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.555/143=  
Internet domain extension: .kh

## Civil Aviation

Phnom Penh International Airport handled 1,587,986 passengers in 2009 and Siem Reap International Airport 1,255,166. The flag carrier is Cambodia Angkor Air (51% state-owned), which began services in 2009.

## Climate

A tropical climate, with high temperatures all the year. Phnom Penh, Jan. 78 °F (25.6 °C), July 84 °F (28.9 °C). Annual rainfall 52" (1,308 mm).

## Constitution and Government

A parliamentary monarchy was re-established by the 1993 constitution. King Norodom Sihamoni (b. 14 May 1953; appointed 14 Oct. 2004 and sworn in on 29 Oct. 2004) was chosen in the first ever meeting of the nine-member Throne Council following the abdication of his father King Norodom Sihanouk (b. 31 Oct. 1922) on health grounds. Cambodia has a bicameral legislature. There is a 123-member *National Assembly*. Its members are elected by popular vote to serve 5-year terms. There is also a 61-member *Senate*, established in 1999.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *riel* (KHR) of 100 *sen*.

## Defence

The King is C.-in-C. of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF). Conscription has not been implemented since 1993 although it is authorized. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$394 m. (US\$26 per capita), representing 2.5% of GDP.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 36% of GDP in 2009, industry 23% and services 41%.

## Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 8,446,300 (6,311,500 in 2003). 84.9% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 0.3% of the population was unemployed.

## Press

There were 22 paid-for daily newspapers in 2008 with a combined circulation of 60,000, including the English-language *Cambodia Daily*.

## Rail

All official rail services had been suspended by 2009 owing to the dilapidated state of the 600 km metre gauge network. However, a rehabilitation project began in 2006 and freight services were resumed in Oct. 2010 between Phnom Penh and Touk Meas. Some passenger services have been restored and plans are under way to build a 255 km extension to link the country to Vietnam.

## Religion

The constitution of 1989 reinstated Buddhism as the state religion; it had an estimated 13.69 m. adherents in 2010 according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. There are small Muslim, folk religionist and Protestant minorities.

## Roads

There were 39,704 km of roads in 2009, of which 8.2% were paved. In 2005 there were 195,300 passenger cars in use plus 3,200 buses and coaches, 32,100 lorries and vans and 566,300 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 1,545 fatalities in road accidents in 2007.

## Shipping

There is an ocean port at Kompong Som; the port of Phnom Penh can be reached by the Mekong (through Vietnam) by ships of between 3,000 and

4,000 tonnes. In Jan. 2009 there were 730 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 1,966,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

2008 estimated births, 360,000; deaths, 121,000. Rates, 2008 estimates (per 1,000 population): births, 24.7; deaths, 8.3. Infant mortality, 2010 (per 1,000 live births), 43. Expectation of life in 2013 was 69.1 years for males and 74.5 for females. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 1.7%. Fertility rate, 2008, 2.9 children per woman, down from 5.8 births per woman in 1990.

### Telecommunications

Cambodia had 20,451,982 mobile phone subscribers in 2014 (1,327.3 for every 1,000 persons) but only 361,056 main (fixed) telephone lines (23.4 per 1,000 population). 9% of the population were internet users in 2014.

### Territory and Population

Cambodia is bounded in the north by Laos and Thailand, west by Thailand, east by Vietnam and south by the Gulf of Thailand. It has an area of about 181,035 km<sup>2</sup> (69,898 sq. miles). Population, 13,395,682 (2008 census), of whom 6,879,628 were females; density, 74.0 per km<sup>2</sup>. The capital, Phnom Penh, had a population of 1,242,992 in 2008. Other cities are Battambang and Siem Reap. Khmer is the official language.

### Tourism

In 2010 there were 2,399,000 international tourist arrivals (excluding same-day visitors), up from 2,046,000 in 2009 and 2,001,000 in 2008.

## Cameroon

### *République du Cameroun (Republic of Cameroon)*

#### Factsheet

Capital: Yaoundé

Population estimate, 2015: 23.34 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 2,803

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.512/153

Internet domain extension: .cm

#### Civil Aviation

There are 45 airports including three international airports at Douala, Garoua and Yaoundé (Nsimalen). In 2011 Douala handled 746,092 passengers. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Cameroon-based carriers flew 2.7 m. km; passenger-km totalled 638 m. in the same year.

#### Climate

An equatorial climate, with high temperatures and plentiful rain, especially from March to June and Sept. to Nov. Further inland, rain occurs at all seasons. Yaoundé, Jan. 76 °F (24.4 °C), July 73 °F (22.8 °C). Annual rainfall 62" (1,555 mm). Douala, Jan. 79 °F (26.1 °C), July 75 °F (23.9 °C). Annual rainfall 160" (4,026 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

The constitution was approved by referendum on 20 May 1972 and became effective on 2 June; it was amended in Jan. 1996. It provides for a *President* as head of state and government. The President is directly elected for a 7-year term, and there is a *Council of Ministers* whose members must not be members of parliament. A constitutional bill removing a two-term presidential limit was adopted in April 2008. The *National Assembly*, elected by universal adult suffrage for 5 years, consists of 180 representatives. The 1996 amendment to the constitution established a 100-seat *Senate*, although elections to it were not held until April 2013.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *franc CFA* (XAF) with a parity of 655.957 francs CFA to one euro.

#### Defence

The President of the Republic is C.-in-C. of the armed forces. Defence expenditure totalled US\$393 m. in 2013 (US\$19 per capita), representing 1.4% of GDP.

#### Economy

In 2009 agriculture, fishing and forestry contributed 21.6% of GDP; followed by trade and hotels, 19.4%; manufacturing, 15.0%; mining, 7.3%; finance and real estate, 6.9%; services, 6.7%.

#### Labour

The total labour force numbered 8,906,000 in 2013. 70% of employed persons work in agriculture. Cameroon had 0.15 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 Global Slavery Index.

#### Press

In 2008 there was one national government-owned daily newspaper with a circulation of 25,000, four privately-owned dailies and about 200 other privately owned-newspapers that appeared at irregular intervals.

#### Rail

Cameroon Railways (Camrail), 977 km in 2011, link Douala with Nkongsamba and Ngaoundéré, with branches from M'Banga to Kumba and Makak to M'Balmayo. In 2011 railways carried 1.5 m. passengers and 1.6 m. tonnes of freight.

#### Religion

In 2010 there were an estimated 7.6 m. Roman Catholics, 6.2 m. Protestants, 3.6 m. Muslims and 0.7 m. folk religionists according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. A further 1.1 m. people had no religious affiliation. In Feb. 2016 there was one cardinal.

#### Roads

There were about 51,300 km of roads in 2004, of which 8.4% were paved. In 2005 there were 174,900 passenger cars, 56,200 lorries and vans, 15,600 buses and coaches, and 65,600 motorcycles and mopeds. In 2007 there were 990 deaths in road accidents.

#### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were four vessels of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 2,000 GT. The main port is Douala; other ports are Bota, Campo, Garoua (only navigable in the rainy season), Kribi and Limbo-Tiko.

#### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 704,000; deaths, 271,000. Rates, 2008 estimates (per 1,000 population): birth, 36.9; death, 14.2. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.3%. Infant mortality, 2010, 84 per 1,000 live births. Life expectancy in 2013: males, 53.9 years; females, 56.2. Fertility rate, 2008, 4.6 children per woman.

#### Telecommunications

There were 496,500 fixed telephone lines in 2010 (25.3 per 1,000 inhabitants) and mobile phone subscribers numbered 8.16 m. In 2010 there were 40.0 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants. In the same year 1.9% of households had internet access at home. In June 2012 there were 494,000 Facebook users.

#### Territory and Population

Cameroon is bounded in the west by the Gulf of Guinea, northwest by Nigeria, east by Chad and the Central African Republic, and south by the Republic of the Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. The total area is

475,650 km<sup>2</sup> (land area, 466,050 km<sup>2</sup>). At the 2005 census the population was 17,463,836 (50.6% female); Jan. 2010 estimate, 19,406,100, giving a density of 41.6 per km<sup>2</sup>. The population is composed of Sudanic-speaking people in the north (Fulani, Sao and others) and Bantu-speaking groups, mainly Bamileke, Beti, Bulu, Tikar, Bassa and Duala, in the rest of the country. The official languages are French and English.

### Tourism

In 2010 there were 573,000 non-resident visitors (498,000 in 2009). Receipts from tourism totalled US\$171 m. in 2010.

## Canada

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Ottawa

*Population estimate, 2015:* 35.94 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 42,155

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.913/9=

*Internet domain extension:* .ca

### Civil Aviation

Civil aviation is under the jurisdiction of the federal government. The technical and administrative aspects are supervised by Transport Canada, while the economic functions are assigned to the Canadian Transportation Agency. The busiest Canadian airport is Toronto Pearson International, which in 2012 handled 34,912,029 passengers (21,265,866 on international flights), ahead of Vancouver International, with 17,742,065 passengers (9,170,801 on domestic flights) and Montreal (Pierre Elliot Trudeau International), with 13,798,672 passengers (8,466,108 on international flights). Toronto is also the busiest airport for freight, handling 417,022 tonnes in 2012. Air Canada (privatized in 1989) is the largest full-service airline and largest provider of scheduled passenger services in the Canadian market, carrying 34.9 m. revenue passengers in 2012; it took over its main competitor, Canadian Airlines, in 2000. Other major Canadian airlines are Air Transat and WestJet.

### Climate

The climate ranges from polar conditions in the north to cool temperate in the south, but with considerable differences between east coast, west coast and the interior, affecting temperatures, rainfall amounts and seasonal distribution. Winters are very severe over much of the country, but summers can be very hot inland.

### Constitution and Government

In Nov. 1981 the Canadian government agreed on the provisions of an amended constitution, to the end that it should replace the British North America Act and that its future amendment should be the prerogative of Canada. These proposals were adopted by the Parliament of Canada and were enacted by the UK Parliament as the Canada Act of 1982. This was the final act of the UK Parliament in Canadian constitutional development. The Act gave to Canada the power to amend the Constitution according to procedures determined by the Constitutional Act 1982. The latter added to the Canadian Constitution a charter of Rights and Freedoms, and provisions which recognize the nation's multi-cultural heritage, affirm the existing rights of native peoples, confirm the principle of equalization of benefits among the provinces, and strengthen provincial ownership of natural resources. Under the Constitution legislative power is vested in Parliament, consisting of the Queen, represented by a Governor-General, a Senate and a House of Commons. The members of the *Senate* are appointed until age 75 by summons of the Governor-General under the Great Seal of Canada. Members appointed before 2 June 1965 may remain in office for life. The Senate consists of 105 senators. The *House of Commons*, currently of 338 members, is elected by a first-past-the-post system. In 1977 the Queen approved the transfer to the Governor-General of functions discharged by the Sovereign. The Governor-General is assisted by a *Privy Council* composed of Cabinet Ministers.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Canadian dollar* (CAD) of 100 *cents*.

### Defence

The armed forces have been unified since 1968 as the Canadian Armed Forces (usually referred to as the Canadian Forces). The three commands are the Canadian Army (known until Aug. 2011 as Land Force Command), the Royal Canadian Navy (Maritime Command until Aug. 2011) and the Royal Canadian Air Force (Air Command until Aug. 2011). In 2011 the active armed forces numbered 65,700; reserves, 33,950. In 2010 defence expenditure totalled US\$20,240 m. (US\$600 per capita), representing 1.3% of GDP.

### Economy

Services accounted for 70.8% of GDP in 2010, industry 27.7% and agriculture 1.5%.

### Labour

In 2015 the labour force was 19,278,000 (10,182,400 males; 9,095,600 females), of whom 17,946,600 (9,422,700 males; 8,523,900 females) were employed. The unemployment rate in 2015 was 6.9% (7.5% among men and 6.3% among women).

### Press

In 2014 there were 95 daily papers with a total average circulation of 5.31 m.; *The Globe and Mail* had the largest circulation at 358,000 in 2014, followed by *Toronto Star* with 343,000. *Le Journal de Montréal* is the largest francophone daily with an average daily circulation in 2014 of 233,000.

### Rail

Canada has two great trans-continental systems: the Canadian National Railway system (CN), a body privatized in 1995 that operates the largest network with 36,565 km of routes in 2009, and the Canadian Pacific Railway (CP), with 21,055 km in 2009. A government-funded organization, VIA Rail, operates passenger services in all regions of Canada; 4.6 m. passengers were carried in 2008. There are several regional railways, operating 10,203 km in 2009. There are metros in Montreal and Toronto, and tram/light rail systems in Calgary, Edmonton, Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver.

### Religion

Membership of main religious denominations according to 2011 National Household Survey data: Roman Catholic Church, 12,728,885; United Church of Canada, 2,007,610; Anglican Church of Canada, 1,631,845; Muslim, 1,053,945; Canadian Baptist Ministries, 635,840; Christian Orthodox, 550,690.

### Roads

In 2007 there were 1,409,000 km of public roads, including 17,000 km of motorways, 86,000 km of main roads and 115,000 km of secondary roads. The National Highway System, spanning almost 25,000 km, includes the Trans-Canada Highway and other major east-west and north-south highways. Registered road motor vehicles totalled 21,387,132 in 2009; they comprised 19,876,990 passenger cars and light vehicles, 829,695 trucks and truck tractors (weighing at least 4,500 kg), 85,579 buses and 594,866 motorcycles and mopeds.

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 171 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 1.29 m. GT. Of the 171 vessels registered, 114 were passenger ships, 26 oil tankers, 18 general cargo ships, 9 bulk carriers, 2 chemical tankers and 2 container ships. In 2009 the total tonnage handled by Canadian ports was 409.1 m. tonnes (251.0 m. loaded and 158.1 m. unloaded). Canada's leading port in terms of cargo handled is Vancouver. The major canals are those of the St Lawrence Seaway. In 2010 total traffic on the Montreal-Lake Ontario (MLO) section of the seaway was 26,920,000 tonnes; on the Welland Canal section it was 29,180,000 tonnes. There were 3,925 vessel transits in 2010, generating \$60.7 m. CDN in toll revenue.

### Social Statistics

Average annual population growth rate, 2000–10, 1.1%. Live births, 2009–10, 383,585; deaths, 244,677. Birth rate, 2009–10 (per 1,000 population), 11.2; death rate, 7.2. Suicides, 2011, 3,728 (10.8 per 100,000 population). Life expectancy at birth, 2013, was 79.3 years for men and 83.6 years for women. Infant mortality, 2010, five per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2013, 1.7 children per woman. Canada legalized same-sex marriage in 2005.

### Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 28,360,000 mobile phone subscriptions (806.1 per 1,000 persons). In the same year retail access lines numbered 16,921,000. A 2010 survey found that 78% of households had a mobile phone and 13% only had a mobile phone; 17% only had a landline. In 2012, 81.5% of households had internet access. The fixed broadband penetration rate in Dec. 2010 was 30.7 subscribers per 100 inhabitants. In Dec. 2011 there were 17.1 m. Facebook users (49% of the population).

### Territory and Population

Canada is bounded in the northwest by the Beaufort Sea, north by the Arctic Ocean, northeast by Baffin Bay, east by the Davis Strait, Labrador Sea and Atlantic Ocean, south by the USA and west by the Pacific Ocean and USA (Alaska). The area is 9,984,670 sq. km, of which 891,163 sq. km are fresh water. 2011 census population, 33,476,688 (51.0% female), giving a density of 3.7 per sq. km. Figures for the 2011 census population according to ethnic origin (leading categories), were: Canadian, 10,563,805; English, 6,509,500; French origins, 5,077,215; Scottish, 4,714,970; Irish, 4,544,870; German, 3,203,330; Italian, 1,488,425; Chinese, 1,487,580; First Nations (North American Indian), 1,369,115; Ukrainian, 1,251,170. Populations of Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA) and Cities (proper), 2011 census: Toronto CMA 5,583,064, city proper 2,615,060; Montreal CMA 3,824,221, city proper 1,649,519; Vancouver CMA 2,313,328, city proper 603,502; Ottawa-Gatineau CMA 1,236,324, Ottawa city proper 883,391; Calgary CMA 1,214,839, city proper 1,096,833.

### Tourism

In 2010 foreign visitors made 15,864,000 overnight trips to Canada of which 11,749,000 were made by Americans. The next biggest tourist markets are the UK, France, Germany, Japan and Australia. Tourism expenditure by staying visitors amounted to \$11,902 m. CDN in 2010. In 2010, 617,300 were employed in tourism.

## Central African Republic

### République Centrafricaine

#### Factsheet

Capital: Bangui  
Population estimate, 2015: 4.90 m.  
GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 581  
HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.350/187  
Internet domain extension: .cf

#### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at M'Poko, near Bangui, which handled 124,940 passengers (91,854 on international flights) in 2012.

#### Climate

A tropical climate with little variation in temperature. The wet months are May, June, Oct. and Nov. Bangui, Jan. 31.9 °C, July 20.7 °C. Annual rainfall 1,289.3 mm. Ndele, Jan. 36.3 °C, July 30.5 °C. Annual rainfall 203.6 mm.

### Constitution and Government

Under the Constitution adopted by a referendum on 21 Nov. 1986, the sole legal political party was the *Rassemblement Démocratique Centrafricain*. In Aug. 1992 the Constitution was revised to permit multi-party democracy. Further constitutional reforms followed a referendum in Dec. 1994, including the establishment of a *Constitutional Court*. Following the coup of March 2003 Gen. François Bozizé suspended the constitution and dissolved parliament. However, at a referendum on 5 Dec. 2004, 90.4% of voters approved the adoption of a new constitution; voter participation was 77.4%. The new constitution resembles the previous one but permits the *President* to serve not more than two terms of 5 years. The President appoints the *Prime Minister* and leads the *Council of Ministers*. There is a 105-member *National Assembly*, with members elected in single-member constituencies for a 5-year term. However, the constitution was suspended by Michel Djotodia after he seized power in March 2013.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *franc CFA* (XAF) with a parity of 655.957 francs CFA to one euro.

### Defence

Defence expenditure totalled an estimated US\$54 m. in 2011 (approximately US\$11 per capita), representing around 2.5% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture, fishing and forestry contributed 50.2% to GDP in 2011; followed by trade, hotels and restaurants, 12.4%; finance and real estate, 6.4%; manufacturing, 6.2%; transport and communications, 5.4%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 2,236,000 (1,777,000 in 2003). 79.2% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013.

### Press

In 2008 there were 30 newspapers, of which six were dailies with a circulation of 5,000.

### Religion

In 2010 there were an estimated 2.67 m. Protestants, 1.26 m. Roman Catholics and 0.37 m. Muslims according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life.

### Roads

There were 20,278 km of roads in 2010, including 5,044 km of highways or main roads. In 2007 there were 1,200 passenger cars, 58 lorries and vans, and 4,500 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 583 road accident deaths in 2007.

### Shipping

Timber and barges are taken to Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo).

### Social Statistics

2008 births (estimates), 154,000; deaths, 74,000. Estimated birth rate in 2008 was 35.4 per 1,000 population; estimated death rate, 17.0. Infant mortality, 2010 (per 1,000 live births), 106. Expectation of life in 2013 was 48.3 years for males and 52.1 for females. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 1.8%. Fertility rate, 2008, 4.8 children per woman.

### Telecommunications

There were 12,000 fixed telephone lines in 2010 (2.7 per 1,000 inhabitants). Mobile phone subscribers numbered 1.02 m. in 2010. In 2008, 1.0% of the population were internet users. In June 2012 there were 144,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

The republic is bounded in the north by Chad, northeast by Sudan, east by South Sudan, south by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo, and west by Cameroon. Area, 622,984 km<sup>2</sup>

(240,534 sq. miles). The population at the 2003 census was 3,895,139, giving a density of 6 per km<sup>2</sup>. The capital, Bangui, had a census population in 2003 of 622,771. Other main towns, with 2003 census populations, are Bimbo (124,176), Beberati (76,918), Carnot (45,421), Bambari (41,356) and Bouar (40,353). There are a number of ethnic groups, the largest being Gbaya (34%), Banda (27%) and Mandja (21%). Sango and French are the official languages.

### Tourism

In 2009, 52,000 non-resident tourists-excluding same-day visitors-arrived by air (up from 31,000 in 2008).

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## Chad

### *République du Tchad (Republic of Chad)*

#### Factsheet

Capital: N'Djaména  
 Population estimate, 2015: 14.04 m.  
 GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 2,085  
 HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.392/185  
 Internet domain extension: .td

#### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at N'Djaména, from which there were direct flights in 2010 to Abidjan, Addis Ababa, Cotonou, Douala, Johannesburg, Ouagadougou, Paris and Tripoli. There were 5,286 aircraft movements in 2011.

#### Climate

A tropical climate, with adequate rainfall in the south, though Nov. to April are virtually rainless months. Further north, desert conditions prevail. N'Djaména, Jan. 75 °F (23.9 °C), July 82 °F (27.8 °C). Annual rainfall 30" (744 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

After overthrowing the regime of Hissène Habré, Idriss Déby proclaimed himself *President* and was sworn in on 4 March 1991. At a referendum on 31 March 1996 a new constitution was approved by 63.5% of votes cast. It defines Chad as a unitary state. The head of state is the *President*, elected by universal suffrage. On 26 May 2004 the *National Assembly* passed an amendment scrapping the two-term limit on the presidency, replacing it with an age limit of 70. The amendment was approved by referendum in June 2005. The National Assembly has 188 members, elected for a 4-year term.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *franc CFA* (XAF) with a parity of 655.957 francs CFA to one euro.

#### Defence

There are seven military regions. Total armed forces personnel numbered 25,350 in 2011, including republican guards. Defence expenditure totalled an estimated US\$202 m. in 2012 (approximately US\$18 per capita), representing around 2% of GDP.

#### Economy

In 2011 mining contributed 29.7% to GDP; followed by trade and hotels, 17.9%; agriculture, 15.8%; finance and real estate, 12.3%; public administration and defence, 8.1%.

#### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 4,874,000 (3,415,000 in 2003). 71.9% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 7.1% of the population was unemployed.

#### Press

There are no daily newspapers; there were five non-dailies in 2008, including the government-owned *Info-Tchad*. Combined circulation was 4,000.

#### Religion

The northern and central parts of the country are predominantly Muslim. There were an estimated 6.21 m. Muslims (both Sunnis and Shias) and 4.56 m. Christians (more Catholics than Protestants) in 2010 according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. Most of the remainder of the population is religiously unaffiliated, with some followers of folk religions.

#### Roads

In 2006 there were around 40,000 km of roads. 18,900 passenger cars were in use in 2006, plus 3,300 buses and coaches, 35,400 lorries and vans, and 63,000 motorcycles and mopeds. In 2007 there were 840 deaths in road accidents.

#### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 499,000; deaths, 182,000. Rates, 2008 estimates (per 1,000 population): births, 45.7; deaths, 16.7. Chad has one of the youngest populations of any country, with 73% of the population under the age of 30% and 45% under 15. Annual rate of growth, 2000–08, 3.3%. Expectation of life in 2013 was 50.3 years among males and 52.1 among females. Infant mortality, 2010 (per 1,000 live births), 99. Fertility rate, 2008, 6.2 children per woman.

#### Telecommunications

There were 51,200 fixed telephone lines in 2010 (4.6 per 1,000 inhabitants). Mobile phone subscribers numbered 2.61 m. in 2010. There were 17.0 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 4,600 in 2009 (0.4 per 1,000 inhabitants).

#### Territory and Population

Chad is bounded in the west by Cameroon, Nigeria and Niger, north by Libya, east by Sudan and south by the Central African Republic. Area, 1,284,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The population at the 2009 census was 11,039,873. About half the population lives in the southernmost 20% of the country's territory. Whereas in the south of the country most people are settled, in the north, east and centre people are generally nomadic or semi-nomadic. The capital is N'Djaména with 951,458 inhabitants (2009 census), other large towns being (2009 census figures) Moundou (137,251), Abéché (97,963) and Sarh (97,224). Following administrative reforms of 2002 and 2008, Chad's 14 prefectures were divided into 22 regions, including the City of N'Djaména (which is a commune governed by a special statute). The official languages are French and Arabic, but more than 100 different languages and dialects are spoken.

#### Tourism

In 2009, 31,000 non-resident tourists (including 16,000 from Europe) stayed in hotels or similar accommodation.

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## Chile

### *República de Chile (Republic of Chile)*

#### Factsheet

Capitals: Santiago (Administrative), Valparaiso (Legislative)  
 Population estimate, 2015: 17.95 m.



*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 21,290  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.832/42  
*Internet domain extension:* .cl

### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Antofagasta, Arica, Easter Island (Isla de Pascua), Iquique, Puerto Montt, Punta Arenas and Santiago (Comodoro Arturo Merino Benítez). In 2012 Santiago handled 14,168,282 passengers (6,753,584 on international flights). The largest airline is LATAM, created in June 2012 when the Chilean carrier LAN Airlines (formerly LAN-Chile) merged with TAM, Brazil's largest airline.

### Climate

With its enormous range of latitude and the influence of the Andean Cordillera, the climate of Chile is very complex, ranging from extreme aridity in the north, through a Mediterranean climate in Central Chile, where winters are wet and summers dry, to a cool temperate zone in the south, with rain at all seasons. In the extreme south, conditions are very wet and stormy. Santiago, Jan. 67 °F (19.5 °C), July 46 °F (8 °C). Annual rainfall 15" (375 mm). Antofagasta, Jan. 69 °F (20.6 °C), July 57 °F (14 °C). Annual rainfall 0.5" (12.7 mm). Valparaíso, Jan. 64 °F (17.8 °C), July 53 °F (11.7 °C). Annual rainfall 20" (505 mm).

### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was approved by 67.5% of the voters on 11 Sept. 1980 and came into force on 11 March 1981. The *President* is directly elected for a non-renewable 4-year term. Parliament consists of a 120-member *Chamber of Deputies* and a *Senate* of 38 members. In March 2006 the Senate became fully elected, by abolishing non-elected senators and eliminating life seats for former presidents. Senators are elected for an 8-year term. Santiago is the administrative capital of Chile, but since 11 March 1990 Valparaíso has been the legislative capital.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Chilean peso* (CLP) of 100 *centavos*.

### Defence

Conscription is compulsory when there are not enough voluntary recruits. Military service lasts for a maximum of 12 months in the Army and 22 months in the Air Force and the Navy. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$4,594 m. (US\$267 per capita), representing 1.6% of GDP. In 1985 defence spending had accounted for 10% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 3.2% of GDP in 2010, industry 42.9% and services 53.9%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 8,603,000 (6,372,000 in 2003). 67.4% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In Nov. 2015, 6.2% of the active population was unemployed (compared to 6.4% in 2014 as a whole).

### Press

In 2012 there were 65 daily newspapers (60 paid-for and five free) and 42 non-dailies (39 paid-for and three free). The dailies had a combined average daily circulation of 689,000 in 2012.

### Rail

The total length of railway lines was (2014) 5,529 km, about a fifth of which was electrified, of broad- and metre-gauge. The state railway (EFE) transported 11.3 m. passengers in 2005. Freight operations are in the hands of the semi-private companies Ferronor, Pacifico and the Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway (973 km, metre-gauge) which links the port of Antofagasta with Bolivia and Argentina. Passenger-km travelled in 2008 came to 759 m. and freight tonne-km in 2006 to 3,660 m. There are metro systems in Santiago (46.2 km) and Valparaíso (42.5 km).

### Religion

In 2010 there were an estimated 12.29 m. Roman Catholics, 2.66 m. Protestants and 0.35 m. other Christians according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. A further 1.47 m. people had no religious affiliation and there were 0.26 m. folk religionists. The Roman Catholic Church has five ecclesiastical provinces, each headed by an archbishop. In Feb. 2016 there were three cardinals.

### Roads

In 2004 there were 80,505 km of roads, but only 20.8% were hard-surfaced. There were 2,414 km of motorways and 16,785 km of main roads. In 2007 there were 1,701,036 passenger cars, 849,282 trucks and vans, 170,217 buses and coaches and 63,257 motorcycles and mopeds. In 2006 there were 2,280 road accident fatalities.

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 89 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 632,000 GT. The leading ports are Antofagasta, Arica, Iquique, Puerto Ventanas, San Antonio, Talcahuano/San Vicente and Valparaíso.

### Social Statistics

2007 births, 240,569; deaths, 93,000; marriages, 57,792. Rates, 2007 (per 1,000 population): birth, 14.6; death, 5.6; marriage, 3.5. Divorce was only made legal in 2004; abortion remains illegal. Annual population growth rate, 2008–10, 0.9%. Infant mortality, 2010 (per 1,000 live births), 8. In 2009 the most popular age range for marrying was 25–29 for both males and females. Expectation of life at birth (2013): males, 77.1 years; females, 82.7 years. Chile has the highest life expectancy in South America. Fertility rate, 2008, 1.9 children per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2012 there were 3,281,000 main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscriptions numbered 23,941,000. There were an estimated 413.0 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2009. In June 2012 there were 9.4 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Chile is bounded in the north by Peru, east by Bolivia and Argentina, and south and west by the Pacific Ocean. The area is 756,096 km<sup>2</sup> (291,928 sq. miles) excluding the claimed Antarctic territory. Many islands to the west and south belong to Chile: the Islas Juan Fernández (147 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 792 in 2012) lie about 600 km west of Valparaíso, and the volcanic Isla de Pascua (Easter Island or Rapa Nui, 164 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 5,761 in 2012), lies about 3,000 km west-northwest of Valparaíso. Population estimate, July 2012: 17,444,799, of which 8,809,706 females and 8,635,093 males (density of 23.1 per km<sup>2</sup>). 89.2% of the population lived in urban areas in 2011.

### Tourism

There were 3,069,792 non-resident overnight tourists in 2011 (2,766,007 in 2010). Tourist receipts were US\$2,751 m. in 2011.

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## China

*Zhonghua Renmin Gonghe Guo (People's Republic of China)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Beijing (Peking)  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 1,376.05 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 12,547  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.727/90=  
*Internet domain extension:* .cn

## Civil Aviation

There are major international airports at Beijing (Capital), Guangzhou (Baiyun), Hong Kong (Chek Lap Kok) and Shanghai (Hongqiao and Pudong). In 2012 there were 180 civil airports for regular flights. The national and major airlines are state-owned. The leading Chinese airlines operating scheduled services in 2013 were China Southern Airlines (91.8 m. passengers), China Eastern Airlines (79.1 m.) and Air China (77.7 m.). Other Chinese airlines include Hainan Airlines, Shandong Airlines, Shanghai Airlines, Shenzhen Airlines, Sichuan Airlines and Xiamen Airlines. In 2013 the busiest airport was Beijing (Capital International), with 83.7 m. passengers.

## Climate

Most of China has a temperate climate but, with such a large country, extending far inland and embracing a wide range of latitude as well as containing large areas at high altitude, many parts experience extremes of climate, especially in winter. Most rain falls during the summer, from May to Sept., though amounts decrease inland. Monthly average temperature and annual rainfall (2012) for Beijing (Peking): Jan. 25.5 °F (−3.6 °C), July 81.3 °F (27.4 °C); annual rainfall 28.9" (733 mm).

## Constitution and Government

On 21 Sept. 1949 the *Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference* met in Beijing, convened by the Chinese Communist Party. The Conference adopted a 'Common Programme' of 60 articles and the 'Organic Law of the Central People's Government' (31 articles). Both became the basis of the Constitution adopted on 20 Sept. 1954 by the 1st National People's Congress, the supreme legislative body. The Consultative Conference continued to exist after 1954 as an advisory body. The unicameral *National People's Congress* is the highest organ of state power. Usually meeting for one session a year, it can amend the constitution and nominally elects and has power to remove from office the highest officers of state. There are a maximum of 3,000 members of the Congress (and currently 2,949), who are elected to serve 5-year terms by municipal, regional and provincial people's congresses. The Congress elects a *Standing Committee* (which supervises the *State Council*) and the *President* (currently Xi Jinping; b. 1953) and *Vice-President* for a 5-year term. When not in session, Congress business is carried on by the Standing Committee. The State Council is the supreme executive organ and comprises the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers and State Councillors. The *Central Military Commission* is the highest state military organ.

## Currency

The currency is called Renminbi (i.e. People's Currency). The unit of currency is the *yuan* (CNY) which is divided into ten *jiao*, the *jiao* being divided into ten *fen*.

## Defence

The Chinese president is chairman of the State and Party's Military Commissions. China is divided into seven military regions. The military commander also commands the air, naval and civilian militia forces assigned to each region. China's armed forces, totalling nearly 3.0 m. in 2013 including the paramilitary People's Armed Police, are the largest of any country. Conscription is compulsory, but for organizational reasons, is selective: only some 10% of potential recruits are called up. Service is for 2 years. A military academy to train senior officers in modern warfare was established in 1985. Defence expenditure in 2013 was US\$112,173 m. (equivalent to US\$83 per capita). China's military spending during the 2000s more than trebled. The nuclear arsenal consisted of approximately 260 operational warheads in Jan. 2015 according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

## Economy

In 2012 agriculture accounted for 10.1% of GDP, industry 45.3% and services 44.6%.

## Labour

The employed population at the 1990 census was 647.2 m. (291.1 m. female). By 2012 it had risen to 767.0 m. (2.8 m. more than in 2011), of whom 396.0 m. worked in rural areas (9.0 m. fewer than in 2011) and 371.0 m. in

urban areas (11.9 m. more than in 2011). In Dec. 2010 China's registered urban jobless was 4.1%, with 9.08 m. registered unemployed in the country's cities.

## Press

China has two news agencies: Xinhua (New China) News Agency (the nation's official agency) and China News Service. In 2012 there were 1,918 newspapers and 9,867 magazines; 48,230 m. copies of newspapers and 3,350 m. copies of magazines were published. In 1980 there were fewer than 200 newspapers. The Communist Party newspaper is *Renmin Ribao* (People's Daily), which had a daily circulation of 2.9 m. in 2008. The most widely read newspaper is *Cankao Xiaoxi*, with a daily circulation of 3.1 m. in 2008. China has the second highest circulation of daily newspapers after India, with an estimated average daily total of 137.8 m. in 2014. As of Sept. 2014 it was also home to the world's two most visited online news sites: Xinhua News Agency (90.2 m. unique desktop users per month) and People's Daily Online (89.1 m.). In the 2013 *World Press Freedom Index* compiled by Reporters Without Borders, China ranked 173rd out of 179 countries.

## Rail

In 2013 there were 103,000 km of railway. The high-speed network, at 11,028 km in Dec. 2013, is the longest in the world. The high-speed line linking Beijing and Guangzhou, which opened in Dec. 2012, is the longest in the world at 2,293 km. The railways carried 1.53 bn. passengers in 2009 and 3.22 bn. tonnes of freight. China's railways are the busiest in the world, carrying 24% of global rail traffic. There are metro systems in Beijing, Chengdu, Dalian, Guangzhou, Haerbin (where the first line opened in Sept. 2013), Hangzhou (where the first line opened in Nov. 2012), Kunming (where the first line opened in June 2012), Nanjing, Shanghai, Shenyang, Shenzhen, Suzhou (where the first line opened in April 2012), Tianjin, Wuhan and Xian.

## Religion

The government accords legality to five religions only: Buddhism, Islam, Protestantism, Roman Catholicism and Taoism. A new quasi-religious movement, Falun Gong, was founded in 1992, but has since been banned by the authorities. The movement has claimed some 100 m. adherents, although the Chinese government has disputed this. According to estimates (by the state-approved Xinhua news agency, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the State Administration for Religious Affairs) there were 100 m. Buddhists, 23 m. Christians and more than 21 m. Muslims in the country in 2009. Other official figures indicate that there are 5.3 m. Catholics, although unofficial estimates are much higher.

## Roads

The total road length in 2012 was 4,237,500 km, including 96,200 km of expressways (of which there had not been any as recently as the mid-1980s); 31,885 m. tonnes of freight and 35,570 m. persons were transported by road that year. The number of civilian motor vehicles was 109.30 m. in 2012, including 89.43 m. passenger vehicles and 18.95 m. trucks (more than double the number in 2008, when there were 51.00 m. civilian vehicles overall including 38.39 m. passenger vehicles and 11.26 m. trucks). China is the world's fastest-growing car market. There were 204,196 traffic accidents in 2012, with 59,997 fatalities.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 2,495 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 25.36 m. GT. Of the 2,495 vessels registered, 1,022 were general cargo ships, 482 bulk carriers, 476 oil tankers, 178 passenger ships, 174 container ships, 83 liquid gas tankers and 80 chemical tankers. Mainland China's busiest port in 2012 was Ningbo-Zhoushan (handling 744.0 m. tonnes of cargo), followed by Shanghai (637.4 m. tonnes), Tianjin (477.0 tonnes), Guangzhou (Canton) (435.2 m. tonnes) and Qingdao (406.9 m. tonnes). Shanghai became the world's busiest container port in 2010 and handled 32.5 m. TEUs (20-foot equivalent units) in 2012. Inland waterways totalled 125,000 km in 2012; 4,587.0 m. tonnes of freight and 257.5 m. passengers were carried.

## Social Statistics

Births, 2012, 16,350,000; deaths, 9,660,000. 2012 birth rate (per 1,000 population), 12.1; death rate, 7.2. In 2005 the birth rate rose for the first time since 1987. There were 13,235,900 marriages and 3,103,800 divorces in

2012. Life expectancy at birth, 2010, was 72.4 years for men and 77.4 years for women. Infant mortality, 2010, 16 per 1,000 live births. Fertility rate, 2013, 1.7 births per woman (compared to over 6 in the mid-1960s). Annual population growth rate, 2000–10, 0.6%. According to the World Bank, the number of people living in poverty (less than US\$1.25 a day) at purchasing power parity declined from 835 m. in 1981 to 156 m. in 2010.

### Telecommunications

In 2013 mobile phone subscriptions numbered 1,229,113,000 (887.1 per 1,000 persons), making China the biggest market for mobile phones in the world. In 2013 there were 226,985,000 main (fixed) telephone lines, down from a peak of 367,786,000 in 2006. In 2012 an estimated 42.3% of the population were internet users. In March 2012 there were only 447,000 Facebook users in mainland China (less than 0.1% of the population).

### Territory and Population

China is bounded in the north by Russia and Mongolia; east by North Korea, the Yellow Sea and the East China Sea, with Hong Kong and Macao as enclaves on the southeast coast; south by Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, India, Bhutan and Nepal; west by India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. The total area (including Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao) is estimated at 9,572,900 sq. km (3,696,100 sq. miles). China's sixth national census was held on 1 Nov. 2010. The total population of the 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities and of servicemen on the mainland was 1,339,724,852 (652,872,280 females, representing 48.73%); density, 140 per sq. km. China's population in 2010 represented 19% of the world's total population. Population of largest cities in 2010: Shanghai, 20.22 m.; Beijing (Peking), 16.45 m.; Shenzhen, 10.36 m.; Guangzhou (Canton), 9.70 m.; Tianjin, 9.29 m. A number of widely divergent varieties of Chinese are spoken. The official 'Modern Standard Chinese' is based on the dialect of North China. Mandarin in one form or another is spoken by 885 m. people in China, or around 70% of the population of mainland China. The Wu language and its dialects has some 77 m. native speakers and Cantonese 66 m. China has 56 ethnic groups. According to the 2010 census 1,225,932,641 people (91.51%) were of Han nationality and 113,792,211 (8.49%) were from national minorities.

### Tourism

In 2012 tourist numbers totalled 57.7 m. The World Tourism Organization predicts that China will overtake France as the world's most visited destination by 2020. It was the third most visited destination in 2012 after France and the USA. Income from tourists in 2012 was US\$50.0 bn., ranking it fourth behind the USA, Spain and France. Expenditure by Chinese travellers outside of mainland China for 2013 was US\$128.6 bn., the most of any country. In 2011 both German and US travellers abroad had spent more than those from China.

## Colombia

### *República de Colombia (Republic of Colombia)*

#### Factsheet

Capital: Bogotá

Population estimate, 2015: 48.23 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 12,040

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.720/97=

Internet domain extension: .co

#### Civil Aviation

The main international airports at Barranquilla, Bogotá (Eldorado), Cali, Cartagena and Medellín. The main Colombian airline is Avianca. In 2005 scheduled traffic of Colombian-based carriers flew 132.5 m. km and carried 9,933,100 passengers. The busiest airport is Bogotá, which in 2014 handled 27,430,266 passengers (19,075,679 on domestic flights) and 636,657 tonnes of freight.

#### Climate

The climate includes equatorial and tropical conditions, according to situation and altitude. In tropical areas, the wettest months are March to May and Oct. to Nov. Bogotá, Jan. 58 °F (14.4 °C), July 57 °F (13.9 °C). Annual rainfall 42" (1,052 mm). Barranquilla, Jan. 80 °F (26.7 °C), July 82 °F (27.8 °C). Annual rainfall 32" (799 mm). Cali, Jan. 75 °F (23.9 °C), July 75 °F (23.9 °C). Annual rainfall 37" (915 mm). Medellín, Jan. 71 °F (21.7 °C), July 72 °F (22.2 °C). Annual rainfall 64" (1,606 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

Simultaneously with the presidential elections of May 1990, a referendum was held in which 7 m. votes were cast for the establishment of a special assembly to draft a new constitution. The Assembly produced a new constitution which came into force on 5 July 1991. The *President* is elected by direct vote. In Oct. 2005 the constitution was amended to allow a president to be re-elected for a second term. A vice-presidency was instituted in July 1991. The legislative power rests with a *Congress* of two houses, the *Senate*, of 102 members (including two elected from a special list set aside for American Indian communities), and the *House of Representatives*, of 166 members, both elected for 4 years by proportional representation.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Colombian peso* (COP) of 100 *centavos*.

#### Defence

There is selective conscription for 12–24 months. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$7,016 m. (US\$153 per capita), representing 1.8% of GDP.

#### Economy

In 2010 agriculture accounted for 7.1% of GDP, industry 36.3% and services 56.6%.

#### Labour

The economically active workforce in 2014 was 23.65 m., of which 21.50 m. were employed. The main areas of activity in 2014 were: commerce, restaurants and hotels (employing 5.86 m. persons); community, social and personal services (4.28 m.); and agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing (3.50 m.). The unemployment rate was 9.1% in 2014 (9.6% in 2013).

#### Press

There were 57 daily newspapers in 2014 (53 paid-for and four free); daily circulation totalled 1.53 m. in 2009.

#### Rail

The National Railways (2,532 km of route, 914 mm gauge) went into liquidation in 1990. There are currently two concessions operating—Ferrocarri del Oeste and Red Férrea del Atlántico. Ferrocarril del Oeste carried 360,000 tonnes of freight in 2007 and Red Férrea del Atlántico 22 m. tonnes in 2006. Passenger services are very limited. Total length in 2007 was 1,663 km. A metro system operates in Medellín.

#### Religion

The main religion is Roman Catholicism (an estimated 38.1 m. adherents in 2010 according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life), with the Archbishop of Bogotá as Primate of Colombia. The Roman Catholic Church has 13 ecclesiastical provinces, subdivided into 13 archdioceses and 52 dioceses. In Feb. 2016 there were four cardinals. The Pew Research Center estimated that there were also 4.64 m. Protestants in 2010 and 3.05 m. people who were religiously unaffiliated.

#### Roads

Total length of roads was 164,278 km in 2006 (including 14,143 km of main roads). In 2005 there were 2,686,000 vehicles in use, including 1,607,000 passenger cars. There were 5,486 road accident fatalities in 2006.

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 31 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 46,000 GT. The chief port is Cartagena, which handled 25.6 m. tonnes of foreign cargo in 2008. The Magdalena River is subject to drought, and navigation is always impeded during the dry season, but it is an important artery of passenger and goods traffic. The river is navigable for 1,400 km; steamers ascend to La Dorada, 953 km from Barranquilla.

### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 918,000; deaths, 248,000. Rates, 2008 estimates (per 1,000 population): births, 20.4; deaths, 5.5. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 1.5%. Life expectancy at birth, 2013, was 70.4 years for men and 77.7 years for women. Infant mortality, 2010, 17 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 2.4 children per woman. Abortion is illegal.

### Telecommunications

In 2012 there were 6,291,000 main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscriptions numbered 49,066,000 (1,028.5 per 1,000 persons). There were 3,313,000 fixed internet subscriptions in 2011 and 3,093,000 wireless broadband subscriptions. In June 2012 there were 16.8 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Colombia is bounded in the north by the Caribbean Sea, northwest by Panama, west by the Pacific Ocean, southwest by Ecuador and Peru, northeast by Venezuela and southeast by Brazil. The estimated area is 1,141,748 km<sup>2</sup> (440,829 sq. miles). Population census (2005), 42,888,592; density, 37.6 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 75.4% lived in urban areas. Population of Bogotá, the capital (census 2005): 6,824,510. The official language is Spanish.

### Tourism

In 2009 there were 1,354,000 non-resident visitors (including 1,064,000 from elsewhere in the Americas and 258,000 from Europe), bringing revenue of US\$2,609 m.

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## Comoros

### *Union des Comores (Union of the Comoros)*

#### Factsheet

Capital: Moroni  
 Population estimate, 2015: 788,000  
 GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 1,456  
 HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.503/159  
 Internet domain extension: .km

#### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Moroni (International Prince Said Ibrahim). In 2009 it handled 149,071 passengers (98,638 international) and 627 tonnes of freight.

#### Climate

There is a tropical climate, affected by Indian monsoon winds from the north, which gives a wet season from Nov. to April. Moroni, Jan. 81 °F (27.2 °C), July 75 °F (23.9 °C). Annual rainfall, 113" (2,825 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

At a referendum on 23 Dec. 2001, 77% of voters approved a new constitution that keeps the three islands as one country while granting each one greater autonomy. The *President of the Union* is Head of State. The presidency rotates every 4 years among the three main islands. There used to be a *Federal Assembly* comprised of 42 democratically elected officials and a 15-member *Senate* chosen by an electoral college, but these

were dissolved after the 1999 coup. A new 33-member *Federal Parliament* was established following the elections of April 2004. In 2004 there were 15 deputies selected by the individual islands' parliaments and 18 by universal suffrage but this was changed to nine selected by the individual islands' parliaments and 24 by universal suffrage for the 2009 elections.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Comorian franc* (KMF) of 100 centimes.

#### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 46.3% of GDP in 2009, industry 12.1% and services 41.6%.

#### Labour

The estimated economically active population in 2010 was 342,000 (53% males).

#### Press

There has not been a daily newspaper since *Le Matin des Comores* ceased publication in 2006. *Le Canal*, which is published in Mayotte, is distributed in the Comoros. There were five non-dailies in 2008. *Al-Watwan* is published 4 days a week in French and 1 day a week in Arabic.

#### Religion

Islam is the official religion: 98% of the population are Muslims; there is a small Christian minority. Following the coup of April 1999 the federal government discouraged the practice of religions other than Islam, with Christians especially facing restrictions on worship.

#### Roads

In 2005 there were 849 km of roads.

#### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 184 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 625,000 GT.

#### Social Statistics

2008 births (estimates), 21,000; deaths, 4,000. Estimated birth rate in 2008 was 32.4 per 1,000 population; estimated death rate, 6.7. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.2%. Infant mortality, 63 per 1,000 live births (2010). Expectation of life in 2013 was 59.5 years among males and 62.3 among females. Fertility rate, 2008, 4.0 children per woman.

#### Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 23,600 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 31.3 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 216,400 mobile phone subscriptions (or 287.1 per 1,000 inhabitants). Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 1,600 in 2009 (2.3 per 1,000 inhabitants).

#### Territory and Population

The Comoros consists of three islands in the Indian Ocean between the African mainland and Madagascar with a total area of 1,862 km<sup>2</sup> (719 sq. miles). The population at the 2003 census was 575,660 (285,590 males), giving a density of 309 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 28.3% of the population were urban. Population of the chief towns (2003 census): Moroni, 40,050; Mutsamudu, 20,828; Fomboni, 12,881; Domoni, 10,073. The indigenous population are a mixture of Malagasy, African, Malay and Arab peoples; the vast majority speak Comorian, an Arabized dialect of Swahili and one of the three official languages, but a small proportion speak one of the other official languages, French and Arabic, or Makua (a Bantu language).

#### Tourism

In 2010 there were 15,000 international tourists, bringing revenue of US\$35 m.

## Congo, Democratic Republic of the

### *République Démocratique du Congo*

#### Factsheet

Capital: Kinshasa  
 Population estimate, 2015: 77.27 m.  
 GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 680  
 HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.433/176  
 Internet domain extension: .cd

#### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Kinshasa (Ndjili). Other major airports are at Lubumbashi (Luano), Bukavu, Goma and Kisangani. The main carrier is Hewa Bora Airways. In 2009 Kinshasa handled 672,347 passengers (385,923 international) and 67,544 tonnes of freight.

#### Climate

The climate is varied, the central region having an equatorial climate, with year-long high temperatures and rain at all seasons. Elsewhere, depending on position north or south of the Equator, there are well-marked wet and dry seasons. The mountains of the east and south have a temperate mountain climate, with the highest summits having considerable snowfall. Kinshasa, Jan. 79 °F (26.1 °C), July 73 °F (22.8 °C). Annual rainfall 45" (1,125 mm). Kananga, Jan. 76 °F (24.4 °C), July 74 °F (23.3 °C). Annual rainfall 62" (1,584 mm). Kisangani, Jan. 78 °F (25.6 °C), July 75 °F (23.9 °C). Annual rainfall 68" (1,704 mm). Lubumbashi, Jan. 72 °F (22.2 °C), July 61 °F (16.1 °C). Annual rainfall 50" (1,237 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was adopted by the transitional parliament on 16 May 2005. It limits the powers of the president, who may now serve a maximum of two 5-year terms and lowers the minimum age for presidential candidates from 35 to 30. It allows a greater degree of federalism and recognises as citizens all ethnic groups at the time of independence in 1960. It also called for presidential elections by June 2006. In a referendum held on 18–19 Dec. 2005, 83% of voters approved the constitution in the country's first free vote in 40 years. The constitution was promulgated on 18 Feb. 2006.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Congolese franc* (CDF) which replaced the former *zaire* in July 1998.

#### Defence

Following the overthrow of the Mobutu regime in May 1997, the former Zaïrean armed forces were in disarray. In June 2003 command of ground forces and naval forces were handed over to the RCD-Goma and MLC factions respectively as part of the power-sharing transitional government. Supreme command of the armed forces will remain in the hands of the former government faction. A UN mission, MONUSCO, has been in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since 1999 (under the name of MONUC until June 2010). With 19,784 uniformed personnel in June 2015 it is the largest UN peacekeeping force in the world. An additional UN Intervention Brigade numbering approximately 3,000 personnel has been in the eastern part of the country since 2013 to neutralize anti-government rebels. The first UN peacekeeping force to be given an offensive combat mandate, it is composed of troops from Malawi, South Africa and Tanzania. In Dec. 2013 it became the first UN mission to deploy drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) to gather information for military intelligence. Defence expenditure totalled US\$416 m. in 2013 (US\$6 per capita), representing 2.2% of GDP.

#### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 45.5% of GDP in 2011 (one of the highest percentages of any country), industry 22.0% and services 32.5%.

#### Labour

The estimated economically active population in 2010 was 25.77 m. (59% males), up from 21.79 m. in 2005. Agriculture employs around 65% of the total labour force. The Democratic Republic of the Congo had 0.46 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*, the eighth highest total of any country.

#### Press

In 2008 there were 12 daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 50,000.

#### Rail

Total route length was 3,641 km on three gauges in 2011, of which 858 km was electrified. In 2008 the Office National des Transports carried 1.2 m. passengers and in 2011 the Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer du Congo (SNCC) carried 46,000 passengers. The SNCC carried 573,000 tonnes of freight in 2011.

#### Religion

According to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 the population was 95.8% Christian with 1.5% Muslim and 1.8% religiously unaffiliated. Around half the Christians are Catholics and half are Protestants. In Feb. 2016 there was one Roman Catholic cardinal.

#### Roads

In 2005 there were 171,250 km of roads (1.3% paved). In 2007 there were around 312,000 vehicles in use.

#### Shipping

The River Congo and its tributaries are navigable to 300-tonne vessels for about 14,500 km.

#### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 2,883,000; deaths, 1,090,000. Rates (2008 estimates, per 1,000 population); birth, 44.9; death, 17.0. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.9%. Infant mortality in 2010 was 112 per 1,000 live births (the second highest in the world after Sierra Leone). Expectation of life in 2013 was 48.2 years for men and 51.8 for females. Fertility rate, 2008, 6.0 children per woman.

#### Telecommunications

In 2009 the Democratic Republic of the Congo had just 42,300 main (fixed) telephone lines (0.7 for every 1,000 persons), but there were 9,459,000 mobile phone subscribers (147.3 for every 1,000 persons). The Democratic Republic of the Congo has among the highest ratios of mobile phone subscriptions to fixed telephone lines. In 2010, 0.7% of the population were internet users. In June 2012 there were 808,000 Facebook users.

#### Territory and Population

The Democratic Republic of the Congo, sometimes referred to as Congo (Kinshasa), is bounded in the north by the Central African Republic, north-east by South Sudan, east by Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Lake Tanganyika, south by Zambia, southwest by Angola and northwest by the Republic of the Congo. There is a 37-km stretch of coastline that gives access to the Atlantic Ocean, with the Angolan exclave of Cabinda to the immediate north, and Angola itself to the south. The area is 2,344,860 km<sup>2</sup> (905,360 sq. miles), including 77,810 km<sup>2</sup> (30,040 sq. miles) of inland waters. A census has not been held since 1984, when the population was 29,916,800. The United Nations gave an estimated population for 2012 of 70.29 m.; density, 31 per km<sup>2</sup>. 35.9% of the population was urban in 2011. The country is administratively divided into ten provinces plus Kinshasa city. The capital is Kinshasa (2010 population estimate, 8,415,000). Other main cities (with 2010 population estimates) are: Lubumbashi (1,486,000); Mbuji-Mayi (1,433,000); Kananga (846,000); Kisangani (783,000). The population is Bantu, with minorities of Sudanese (in the north), Nilotes (northeast), Pygmies and Hamites (in the east). French is the official

language, but of more than 200 languages spoken, four are recognized as national languages: Kiswahili, Tshiluba, Kikongo and Lingala. Lingala has become the *lingua franca* after French.

### Tourism

In 2010 there were 81,000 non-resident tourist arrivals by air.

## Congo, Republic of the

### *République du Congo*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Brazzaville  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 4.62 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 6,012  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.591/136  
*Internet domain extension:* .cg

#### Civil Aviation

The principal airports are at Brazzaville (Maya Maya) and Pointe-Noire. In 2012 Brazzaville handled 957,472 passengers (675,193 on domestic flights) and 26,418 tonnes of freight.

#### Climate

An equatorial climate, with moderate rainfall and a small range of temperature. There is a long dry season from May to Oct. in the southwest plateaux, but the Congo Basin in the northeast is more humid, with rainfall approaching 100" (2,500 mm). Brazzaville, Jan. 78 °F (25.6 °C), July 73 °F (22.8 °C). Annual rainfall 59" (1,473 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was approved in a referendum held in Jan. 2002. Under the new constitution the president's term of office is increased from 5 to 7 years. The constitution provides for a new two-chamber assembly consisting of a house of representatives and a senate. The president may also appoint and dismiss ministers. 84.3% of voters were in favour of the draft constitution and 11.3% against. Turnout was 78%, despite calls from opposition parties for a boycott. The new constitution came into force in Aug. 2002. There is a 139-seat *National Assembly*, with members elected for a 5-year term in single-seat constituencies, and a 72-seat *Senate*, with members elected for a 6-year term (one third of members every 2 years).

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *franc CFA* (XAF) with a parity of 655.957 francs CFA to one euro.

#### Defence

In 2012 military expenditure totalled an estimated US\$325 m. (approximately US\$74 per capita), representing around 2.5% of GDP.

#### Economy

Agriculture produced 3.4% of GDP in 2011, industry 76.6% and services 20.0%.

#### Labour

In 2010 the estimated economically active population was 1,637,000 (56% males), up from 1,256,000 in 2000. More than 50% of the labour force in 2010 were engaged in agriculture. The Republic of the Congo had 31,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

#### Press

In 2008 there were five daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 8,000.

#### Rail

A railway connects Brazzaville with Pointe-Noire via Loubomo and Bilinga, and a branch links Mont-Belo with Mbinda on the Gabon border. Total length in 2005 was 797 km (1,067 mm gauge). In 2006 passenger-km totalled 167 m. and freight tonne-km 264 m.

#### Religion

In 2010 there were an estimated 2.08 m. Protestants, 1.22 m. Roman Catholics, 0.18 m. other Christians and 0.11 m. folk religionists according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. A further 0.36 m. people had no religious affiliation.

#### Roads

In 2004 there were 17,289 km of roads, of which 5.0% were surfaced. Passenger cars in use in 2007 numbered 56,000 (15 per 1,000 inhabitants). There were 214 deaths in road accidents in 2007.

#### Shipping

The only seaport is Pointe-Noire. There are some 5,000 km of navigable rivers, and river transport is an important service for timber and other freight as well as passengers.

#### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 125,000; deaths, 46,000. Rates, 2008 estimates (per 1,000 population): births, 34.5; deaths, 12.9. Infant mortality, 2010 (per 1,000 live births), 61. Expectation of life in 2013 was 57.4 years for males and 60.2 for females. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.2%. Fertility rate, 2008, 4.4 children per woman.

#### Telecommunications

There were 9,800 fixed telephone lines in 2010 (2.4 per 1,000 inhabitants). Mobile phone subscribers numbered 3.80 m. in 2010. There were 56.0 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2011.

#### Territory and Population

The Republic of the Congo, sometimes referred to as Congo (Brazzaville), is bounded by Cameroon and the Central African Republic in the north, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the east and south, Angola and the Atlantic Ocean to the southwest and Gabon to the west, and covers 342,000 km<sup>2</sup>. At the census of 2007 the population was 3,697,490 (1,876,133 females); density, 11 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 62.5% of the population were urban. Census population of major cities in 2007: Brazzaville, the capital, 1,373,382; Pointe-Noire, 715,334; Loubomo (Dolisie), 83,798; N'Kayi, 71,620; Impfondo, 33,911; Ouessou, 28,179. Main ethnic groups are: Kongo (48%), Sangha (20%), Teke (17%) and M'Bochi (12%). French is the official language. Kongo languages are widely spoken. Monokutuba and Lingala serve as *lingua francas*.

#### Tourism

In 2009, 85,000 non-resident tourists stayed in hotels and similar accommodation (up from 63,000 in 2008 and 54,000 in 2007).

## Costa Rica

### *República de Costa Rica (Republic of Costa Rica)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* San José  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 4.81 m.

*GNI per capita, 2013:* (PPPS) 13,413  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.766/69=  
*Internet domain extension:* .cr

### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at San José (Juan Santamaría) and Liberia (Daniel Oduber Quirós). The national carrier is Líneas Aéreas Costarricenses (LACSA). In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Costa Rican-based carriers flew 23.2 m. km; passenger-km totalled 4.9 bn. in the same year. In 2012 San José handled 3,217,400 passengers (2,287,416 on international flights) and 80,157 tonnes of freight.

### Climate

The climate is tropical, with a small range of temperature and abundant rain. The dry season is from Dec. to April. San José, Jan. 66 °F (18.9 °C), July 69 °F (20.6 °C). Annual rainfall 72" (1,793 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The Constitution was promulgated on 7 Nov. 1949. The legislative power is vested in a single-chamber *Legislative Assembly* of 57 deputies elected for 4 years. The *President* and two *Vice-Presidents* are elected for 4 years; the candidate receiving the largest vote, provided it is over 40% of the total, is declared elected, but a second ballot is required if no candidate gets 40% of the total. Since 2003 former presidents have been permitted to stand again. Elections are normally held on the first Sunday in Feb. The President may appoint and remove members of the cabinet.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Costa Rican colón* (CRC) of 100 *céntimos*.

### Defence

In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$397 m. (US\$84 per capita), representing 0.8% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 7.3% of GDP in 2009, industry 27.3% and services 65.4%.

### Labour

In the third quarter of 2015 the economically active population numbered 2,273,300 of which 2,063,100 were employed. The main area of employment in the period July–Sept. 2015 was trade and repairs (373,600), followed by manufacturing (241,000) and agriculture, ranching and fisheries (239,800).

### Press

There were six daily newspapers in 2011 with a combined circulation of 380,000, and 50 non-dailies. The most widely read daily is *La Teja* (which was only launched in 2006), followed by *La Nación* and *Diario Extra*.

### Rail

The nationalized railway system (Incofer) was closed in 1995 following an earthquake in 1991. Freight services and some commuter services have now been resumed. In 2007 passenger-km totalled 872,000 and freight tonne-km 230,000.

### Religion

Roman Catholicism is the state religion; it had an estimated 3.11 m. adherents in 2010 according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. The Archbishop of Costa Rica has seven bishops at Alajuela, Cartago, Ciudad Quesada, Limón, Puntarenas, San Isidro de el General and Tilarán. The Pew Research Center estimated that there were also 1.06 m. Protestants in 2010. The remainder of the population are religiously unaffiliated or followers of other religions.

### Roads

In 2007 there were 36,654 km of roads, including 7,640 km of main roads. On the Costa Rica section of the Inter-American Highway it is possible to drive to

Panama during the dry season. The Pan-American Highway into Nicaragua is metalled for most of the way and a new highway between San José and Caldera opened in Jan. 2010. Passenger cars in use in 2007 numbered 525,400, buses and coaches 12,300, vans and lorries 139,600 and motorcycles and mopeds 100,100. There were 339 fatalities as a result of road accidents in 2007.

### Shipping

The chief ports are Limón on the Atlantic and Caldera on the Pacific. In Jan. 2009 there were two ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 2,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

Births, 2008: 75,187; deaths, 18,021. 2008 rates per 1,000 population: births, 16.9; deaths, 4.0. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 1.6%. Life expectancy at birth, 2013, was 77.8 years for men and 82.2 years for women. Infant mortality, 2008, 9.0 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 2.0 children per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 1,490,600 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 315.4 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 4,358,100 mobile phone subscriptions (or 922.0 per 1,000 inhabitants). There were 343.3 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2009. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 271,500 in 2009 (59.1 per 1,000 inhabitants). In Dec. 2011 there were 1.6 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Costa Rica is bounded in the north by Nicaragua, east by the Caribbean, southeast by Panama, and south and west by the Pacific. The area is estimated at 51,100 km<sup>2</sup> (19,730 sq. miles). The population at the census of May 2011 was 4,301,712 (2,195,649 females); density, 84.2 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 64.9% of the population were urban. There are seven provinces (with 2011 census population): Alajuela (848,146); Cartago (490,903); Guanacaste (326,953); Heredia (433,677); Limón (386,862); Puntarenas (410,929); San José (1,404,242). The largest cities are San José (estimated population of 1,330,000 in 2011), Heredia, Cartago and Alajuela. Main ethnic groups (2011): White or Mestizo 84%, Mulatto 7%, Amerindian 2%, Black or Afro-Caribbean 1%. Spanish is the official language.

### Tourism

In 2009 there were 1,923,000 non-resident tourists (excluding same-day visitors), down from 2,089,000 in 2008.

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## Côte d'Ivoire

*République de la Côte d'Ivoire (Republic of Côte d'Ivoire)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Yamoussoukro  
*Seat of government:* Abidjan  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 22.70 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 3,171  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.462/172  
*Internet domain extension:* .ci

### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Abidjan (Félix Houphouët-Boigny Airport), which in 2012 handled 961,643 passengers (842,927 on international flights) and 16,755 tonnes of freight. The national carrier is Air Côte d'Ivoire, which in 2015 operated domestic services and flew to 19 other African countries.

## Climate

A tropical climate, affected by distance from the sea. In coastal areas, there are wet seasons from May to July and in Oct. and Nov., but in central areas the periods are March to May and July to Nov. In the north, there is one wet season from June to Oct. Abidjan, Jan. 81 °F (27.2 °C), July 75 °F (23.9 °C). Annual rainfall 84" (2,100 mm). Bouaké, Jan. 81 °F (27.2 °C), July 77 °F (25 °C). Annual rainfall 48" (1,200 mm).

## Constitution and Government

The 1960 constitution was amended in 1971, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1986, 1990, 1998 and 2000. The sole legal party was the Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire, but opposition parties were legalized in 1990. There is a 255-member *National Assembly* elected by universal suffrage for a 5-year term. The *President* is also directly elected for a 5-year term (renewable). He appoints and leads a Council of Ministers. In Nov. 1990 the National Assembly voted that its Speaker should become President in the event of the latter's incapacity, and created the post of Prime Minister to be appointed by the President. Following the coup of Dec. 1999 a referendum was held on 23 July 2000 on the adoption of a new constitution, which set eligibility conditions for presidential candidates (the candidate and both his parents must be Ivorian), reduced the voting age from 21 to 18, and abolished the death penalty.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *franc CFA* (XOF) with a parity of 655.957 francs CFA to one euro.

## Defence

Defence expenditure totalled US\$751 m. in 2013 (US\$34 per capita), representing 2.7% of GDP.

## Economy

In 2011 agriculture contributed 29.1% to GDP; followed by finance and real estate, 13.2%; trade and restaurants, 13.2%; manufacturing, 11.9%; public administration and defence, 8.3%. Côte d'Ivoire's 'shadow' (black market) economy is estimated to constitute approximately 47% of the country's official GDP.

## Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 8,298,000 (6,551,000 in 2003). 67.9% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. Côte d'Ivoire had 0.16 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

In 2008 there were 23 paid-for daily newspapers with an estimated combined circulation of 200,000.

## Rail

From Abidjan a metre-gauge railway runs to Ouangolodougou near the border with Burkina Faso (660 km), and thence through Burkina Faso to Ouagadougou and Kaya. Operation of the railway in both countries is franchised to the mixed public-private company Sitarail.

## Religion

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 the population was an estimated 44.1% Christian and 37.5% Muslim, with 10.2% folk religionists and 8.0% religiously unaffiliated. Around 51% of the Christians are Protestants and 48% Catholics. In Feb. 2016 there was one Roman Catholic cardinal.

## Roads

In 2007 there were 81,996 km of roads, including 142 km of motorways. There were 314,165 passenger cars, 78,575 vans and trucks, 38,105 motorcycles and mopeds and 17,512 buses and coaches in use in 2007.

## Shipping

The main port is Abidjan, which handled 22.1 m. tonnes of foreign cargo in 2008. In Jan. 2009 there were two ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 1,000 GT.

## Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 720,000; deaths, 223,000. Rates (2008 estimates, per 1,000 population); birth, 35.0; death, 10.8. Expectation of life in 2013 was 50.0 years for males and 51.6 for females. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.2%. Infant mortality, 2010, 86 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 4.6 births per woman. 29% of the population are migrants.

## Telecommunications

There were 223,200 fixed telephone lines in 2010 (11 per 1,000 inhabitants). Mobile phone subscribers numbered 14.91 m. in 2010. In 2011 an estimated 2% of the population were internet users.

## Territory and Population

Côte d'Ivoire is bounded in the west by Liberia and Guinea, north by Mali and Burkina Faso, east by Ghana, and south by the Gulf of Guinea. It has an area of 322,463 km<sup>2</sup> (including 4,460 km<sup>2</sup> of inland water). A census was held in 2014 for the first time in 16 years. The population was 22,671,331 (51.7% male), giving a density of 71.3 per km<sup>2</sup>. The population was 51.3% urban in 2011. The country is administratively divided into 12 districts and the two autonomous districts of Abidjan and Yamoussoukro. In 2014 the census population of Abidjan was 4,395,243. Other major towns are Bouaké, Daloa, Korhogo, San-Pédro and Yamoussoukro. There are about 60 ethnic groups, the principal ones being the Baoulé (23%), the Bété (18%) and the Sénoufo (15%). French is the official language.

## Tourism

There were 252,000 non-resident visitors in 2010; spending by tourists in 2010 (excluding passenger transport) totalled US\$213 m.

# Croatia

## *Republika Hrvatska (Republic of Croatia)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Zagreb

*Population estimate, 2015:* 4.24 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 19,409

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.818/47

*Internet domain extension:* .hr

### Civil Aviation

The biggest international airports are Zagreb (Pleso), Split and Dubrovnik. The national carrier is Croatia Airlines, which carried 1,952,000 passengers in 2012. Zagreb Airport handled 2,317,170 passengers in 2012 (1,896,129 on international flights) and 6,929 tonnes of freight, Dubrovnik 1,455,470 passengers (1,215,168 on international flights) and Split 1,393,649 passengers (1,211,067 on international flights).

### Climate

Inland Croatia has a central European type of climate, with cold winters and hot summers, but the Adriatic coastal region experiences a Mediterranean climate with mild, moist winters and hot, brilliantly sunny summers with less than average rainfall. Average annual temperature and rainfall: Dubrovnik, 16.6 °C and 1,051 mm. Zadar, 15.6 °C and 963 mm. Rijeka, 14.3 °C and 1,809 mm. Zagreb, 12.4 °C and 1,000 mm. Osijek, 11.3 °C and 683 mm.



### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was adopted on 22 Dec. 1990 and was revised in both 2000 and 2001. The *President* is elected for renewable 5-year terms. There is a unicameral Parliament (*Hrvatski Sabor*), consisting of 151 deputies; 140 members are elected from multi-seat constituencies for a 4-year term, eight seats are reserved for national minorities and three members representing Croats abroad are chosen by proportional representation. The upper house, the *Chamber of Counties*, was abolished in 2001.

### Currency

On 30 May 1994 the *kuna* (HRK; a name used in 1941–45) of 100 *lipa* replaced the Croatian dinar at one kuna = 1,000 dinars.

### Defence

Conscription was abolished on 1 Jan. 2008. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$813 m. (US\$182 per capita), representing 1.4% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture contributed 5% of GDP in 2010, industry 27% and services 68%.

### Labour

In 2009 the labour force numbered 1,762,000 people of whom 1,498,800 were employed. In 2013 the unemployment rate was 17.7%, up from 15.8% in 2012; youth unemployment among 15 to 24-year-olds was 51.5% (44.1% in 2012). The main areas of activity in 2009 were manufacturing (employing 272,800 persons), wholesale and retail trade/repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (243,300), construction (140,700) and public administration and defence/compulsory social security (113,500). Croatia had 15,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2013 there were 13 daily newspapers. The papers with the highest circulation in 2013 were *24sata* (daily average of 108,000 copies and 1,176,000 unique monthly visitors in Dec. 2013 for its online edition), *Večerni list* and *Jutarnji list*.

### Rail

There were 2,722 km of 1,435 mm gauge rail in 2009 (985 km electrified). In 2009 railways carried 74 m. passengers and 12 m. tonnes of freight.

### Religion

At the census of 2011 the principal denominations were: Roman Catholic, 3,697,143; Orthodox, 190,143; Muslims, 62,977; no religion or atheist, 163,375; not stated, 93,018. In Feb. 2016 there was one cardinal.

### Roads

There were 29,333 km of roads in 2010 (including 1,126 km of motorways and 6,929 km of highways, national and main roads). In 2010 there were 1,515,449 passenger cars, 4,877 buses and coaches, and 157,731 goods vehicles. 56 m. passengers and 75 m. tonnes of freight were carried by road transport in 2010. There were 426 deaths in road accidents in 2010.

### Shipping

The main ports in 2010 (ports that had total traffic of goods greater than or equal to 1 m. tonnes) are Bakar (2.4 m. tonnes), Omišalj (5.9 m. tonnes), Ploče (4.5 m. tonnes), Raša (1.9 m. tonnes), Rijeka (2.0 m. tonnes) and Split (2.7 m. tonnes). Figures for 2010 show that 27.5 m. passengers and 24.3 m. tonnes of cargo were transported. In 2010 merchant shipping (passenger and cargo ships) totalled 1,625,210 GT, including liquid bulk carriers 554,805 GT.

### Social Statistics

2012: births, 41,771 (9.8 per 1,000 population); deaths, 51,710 (12.1). 2011: marriages, 20,211 (4.6); divorces, 5,662 (1.3); suicides (2009), 790 (17.8 per 100,000). Infant mortality, 2010, five per 1,000 live births. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, –0.2%. In 2010 the most popular age range for marrying was 25–29 for both males and females. Life expectancy at birth,

2011, was 73.8 years for males and 79.9 years for females. Fertility rate, 2013, 1.5 children per woman.

### Telecommunications

There were 1.87 m. fixed telephone lines in 2010 (423.7 per 1,000 inhabitants). Mobile phone subscribers numbered 6.36 m. in 2010. There were 603.2 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 1.50 m. in 2009 (339.7 per 1,000 inhabitants). In March 2012 there were 1.5 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Croatia is bounded in the north by Slovenia and Hungary, in the east by Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the southeast by Montenegro. It includes the areas of Dalmatia, Istria and Slavonia, which no longer have administrative status. Its area is 56,542 km<sup>2</sup>. 2011 census population, 4,284,889; population density, 75.8 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 58.0% of the population lived in urban areas. Zagreb, the capital, had a 2011 population of 688,163. Other major towns (with 2011 census population): Split (167,121), Rijeka (128,384) and Osijek (84,104). The official language is Croatian.

### Tourism

In 2010, 9.11 m. non-resident tourists stayed in holiday accommodation (up from 8.69 m. in 2009 and 7.74 m. in 2005).

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## Cuba

### *República de Cuba (Republic of Cuba)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Havana  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 11.39 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 7,301  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.769/67=  
*Internet domain extension:* .cu

#### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Havana (Jose Martí). The state airline Cubana operates all services internally, and in 2010 had international flights from Havana to Bogotá, Buenos Aires, Cancún, Caracas, Guatemala City, London, Madrid, Mexico City, Montreal, Moscow, Panama City, Paris, Rome, San José (Costa Rica), Santiago, Santo Domingo and Toronto. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Cuban-based carriers flew 15.6 m. km; passenger-km totalled 2.7 bn. in the same year. In 2009 Havana Jose Martí International handled 6,632,862 passengers and 27,339 tonnes of freight.

#### Climate

Situated in the sub-tropical zone, Cuba has a generally rainy climate, affected by the Gulf Stream and the N.E. Trades, although winters are comparatively dry after the heaviest rains in Sept. and Oct. Hurricanes are liable to occur between June and Nov. Havana, Jan. 72 °F (22.2 °C), July 82 °F (27.8 °C). Annual rainfall 48" (1,224 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

A Communist Constitution came into force on 24 Feb. 1976. It was amended in July 1992 to permit direct parliamentary elections and in June 2002 to make the country's socialist system 'irrevocable'. Legislative power is vested in the *National Assembly of People's Power*, which meets twice a year and consists of 612 deputies elected for a 5-year term by universal suffrage. The National Assembly elects a 31-member *Council of State* as its permanent organ. The Council of State's President, who is head of state and of government, nominates and leads a Council of Ministers approved by the National Assembly.

### Currency

There are two currencies in Cuba. The official currency ('*moneda nacional*') is the *Cuban peso* (CUP) of 100 *centavos*. The *Convertible peso* (CUC), introduced in 1994 (pegged since April 2005 at 1 Convertible peso = US\$1.08), is the 'tourist' currency.

### Defence

The National Defence Council is headed by the president of the republic. Conscription is for 2 years. In 2011 defence expenditure totalled US\$96 m. (US\$9 per capita).

### Economy

Services accounted for 75% of GDP in 2009, industry 20% and agriculture 5%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 5,360,000 (4,727,000 in 2003). 65.9% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 3.2% of the population was unemployed.

### Press

There were (2008) four national daily newspapers and 15 regional and local dailies with a combined circulation of 1.8 m. The most widely read newspaper is the Communist Party's *Granma*.

### Rail

There were 4,066 km of public railway (1,435 mm gauge) in 2005, of which 140 km was electrified. Passenger-km travelled in 2007 came to 1,285 m. and freight tonne-km to 783 m. In addition, the large sugar estates have 7,162 km of lines in total on 1,435 mm, 914 mm and 760 mm gauges.

### Religion

Religious liberty was constitutionally guaranteed in 1992. According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 an estimated 51.7% of the population was Roman Catholic, 23.0% had no religious affiliation and 17.4% were folk religionists. In 1994 Cardinal Jaime Ortega (b. 1936) was nominated Primate by Pope John Paul II. The Roman Catholic Church has three ecclesiastical provinces, each headed by an archbishop. In Feb. 2016 there was one cardinal.

### Roads

In 2007 there were 68,395 km of roads, of which 29,609 km were paved. Vehicles in use in 2008 included 236,881 passenger cars and 171,081 trucks and vans. There were 1,403 fatalities as a result of road accidents in 2008.

### Shipping

There are 11 ports, the largest being Havana, Cienfuegos and Mariel. In Jan. 2009 there were 15 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 32,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

2008 births, 122,569; deaths, 86,357; marriages, 61,852; divorces, 35,882; suicides, 1,357. Rates, 2008 (per 1,000 population): birth, 10.9; death, 7.7; marriage, 5.5; divorce, 3.2; suicide, 12.1 per 100,000 population. Infant mortality rate, 2008, 4.7 per 1,000 live births. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 0.0%. Life expectancy, 2013: 77.3 years for males and 81.3 for females. The fertility rate in 2008 was 1.6 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 1,193,400 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 106.0 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 1,315,100 mobile phone subscriptions (or 116.9 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2011, 23.2% of the population were internet users.

### Territory and Population

The island of Cuba forms the largest and most westerly of the Greater Antilles group and lies 215 km (135 miles) south of the tip of Florida, USA. The area is 109,884 km<sup>2</sup>, and comprises the island of Cuba (104,339 km<sup>2</sup>); the Isle of

Youth (Isla de la Juventud, formerly the Isle of Pines; 2,419 km<sup>2</sup>); and some 1,600 small isles ('*cays*'; 3,126 km<sup>2</sup>). Census population (2012), 11,167,325, giving a density of 101.6 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 75.2% of the population were urban. The capital city, Havana, had a census population in 2012 of 2,106,146. Other major cities (2012 census populations in 1,000): Santiago de Cuba (431), Camagüey (301), Holguín (288), Guantánamo (217), Santa Clara (212), Las Tunas, (163), Bayamo (157), Cienfuegos (147), Pinar del Río (140) and Matanzas (134). The official language is Spanish.

### Tourism

Tourism is Cuba's largest foreign exchange earner. There were 2,716,317 foreign visitors in 2011 (2,429,809 in 2009 and 2,531,745 in 2010), of whom 1,002,318 were from Canada, 175,822 from the United Kingdom and 110,432 from Italy.

## Cyprus

*Kypriaki Dimokratia—Kıbrıs Cumhuriyeti (Republic of Cyprus)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Nicosia  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 1.17 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 28,633  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.850/32=  
*Internet domain extension:* .cy

### Civil Aviation

Nicosia airport has been closed since the Turkish invasion in 1974. It is situated in the UN controlled buffer zone. There are international airports at Larnaca (the main airport) and Paphos. In 2009, 7,068,080 passengers, 59,092 aircraft and 38,502 tonnes of commercial freight went through these airports. In 2009, 2,318,107 passengers arrived at the two airports on scheduled flights and 2,306,850 passengers departed.

### Climate

The climate is Mediterranean, with very hot, dry summers and variable winters. Maximum temperatures may reach 112 °F (44.5 °C) in July and Aug., but minimum figures may fall to 22 °F (−5.5 °C) in the mountains in winter, when snow is experienced. Rainfall is generally between 10" and 27" (250 and 675 mm) and occurs mainly in the winter months, but it may reach 48" (1,200 mm) in the Troodos mountains. Nicosia, Jan. 50 °F (10.0 °C), July 83 °F (28.3 °C). Annual rainfall 19.6" (500 mm).

### Constitution and Government

Under the 1960 constitution executive power is vested in a *President* elected for a 5-year term by universal suffrage, and exercised through a Council of Ministers appointed by him or her. The *House of Representatives* exercises legislative power. It is elected by universal suffrage for 5-year terms, and consists of 80 members, of whom 56 are elected by the Greek Cypriot and 24 by the Turkish Cypriot community. As from Dec. 1963 the Turkish Cypriot members have ceased to attend, and the 24 seats allocated to the Turkish Cypriot community are no longer contested. Voting is compulsory, and is by preferential vote in a proportional representation system with reallocation of votes at national level.

### Currency

On 1 Jan. 2008 the euro (EUR) replaced the Cyprus pound (CYP) as the legal currency of Cyprus at the irrevocable conversion rate of £C0.585274 to one euro.

## Defence

Conscription is for 24 months. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$460 m., with spending per capita US\$398. The 2013 expenditure represented 2.1% of GDP. In 1998 the then president cancelled a US\$450 m. contract with Russia for the deployment of S-300 anti-aircraft missiles on the island and negotiated to place them on Crete instead.

## Labour

Out of an average of 381,300 people in employment in 2009, 71,800 were in wholesale and retail trade/repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; 44,300 in construction; and 34,800 in manufacturing. The unemployment rate was 7.1% in Sept. 2010. There were a total of 1,211 working days lost to strike action in 2009, up from 1,034 in 2008 but down from 10,289 in 2007.

## Press

In 2008 there were 22 paid-for dailies daily newspapers with a circulation of 103,000. The most widely read daily is *Phileleftheros*.

## Religion

The Greek Cypriots are predominantly Greek Orthodox Christians, and almost all Turkish Cypriots are Muslims (mostly Sunnis of the Hanafi sect). There are also small groups of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Roman Catholics (Maronites and Latin Rite) and Protestants (mainly Anglicans).

## Roads

In 2007 the total length of roads in the government-controlled area was 12,246 km, of which 64.0% were paved. In 2007 there were 410,936 passenger cars, 117,498 trucks and vans, 3,292 buses and coaches and 41,211 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 71 deaths as a result of road accidents in 2009.

## Shipping

The two main ports are Limassol and Larnaca. In 2009, 3,915 ships of 22,897,408 net registered tons entered Cyprus ports carrying 7,859,269 tonnes of cargo from, to and via Cyprus. In Jan. 2009 there were 867 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 20.03 m. GT. Among the 867 vessels registered were 286 bulk carriers, 216 general cargo ships and 192 container ships. The port in Famagusta has been closed to international traffic since the Turkish invasion in 1974.

## Social Statistics

2009 births, 9,608; deaths, 5,182; marriages, 12,769; divorces, 1,738. Rates, 2009 (per 1,000 population): birth, 12.0; death, 6.5; marriage (residents of Cyprus only), 7.9; divorce, 2.2. Life expectancy at birth, 2013, was 77.9 years for males and 81.8 years for females. Population growth rate, 2009, 0.8%; infant mortality, 2009, 3.3 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2013, 1.5 children per woman. In 2009 the average age of first marriage (residents of Cyprus only) was 29.5 years for men and 27.4 years for women.

## Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 405,000 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 362.7 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 1,090,900 mobile phone subscriptions (or 977.1 per 1,000 inhabitants). There were 529.9 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 190,900 in 2009 (175.1 per 1,000 inhabitants). In March 2012 there were 554,000 Facebook users. CYTA (short for Cyprus Telecommunications Authority) is the state-owned national telecommunications provider. It has developed an extensive submarine fiber optic cable network linking Cyprus with neighbouring countries such as Greece, Israel and Egypt and—by extension—with the rest of the world.

## Territory and Population

The island lies in the Mediterranean, about 60 km off the south coast of Turkey and 90 km off the coast of Syria. Area, 9,251 km<sup>2</sup> (3,572 sq. miles). The Turkish-occupied area is 3,355 km<sup>2</sup>. The 2011 census population (government-controlled area only) was 856,857. 70.3% of the population lived in urban areas in 2010. Principal towns with populations (2011 census): Nicosia (the capital), 239,277; Limassol, 180,201; Larnaca, 84,591; Paphos,

62,122. Nicosia is a divided city, with the UN-patrolled Green Line passing through it. Greek and Turkish are official languages. English is widely spoken.

## Tourism

There were 2,173,000 international tourist arrivals in 2010 (excluding same-day visitors). Most tourists in 2010 were from the UK (45.8%), followed by Russia (10.3%), Germany (6.4%) and Greece (5.9%). Tourist spending in 2010 totalled US\$2,371 m.

# Czech Republic

## Česká Republika

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Prague

*Population estimate, 2015:* 10.54 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 26,660

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.870/28

*Internet domain extension:* .cz

### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Prague (Ruzyně), Ostrava (Mošnov) and Brno (Turany). The national carrier is Czech Airlines, 56.0% of which is owned by the state. In 2007 it flew 82.9 m. km and carried 5,492,200 passengers (5,379,500 on international flights). In 2007 Prague handled 12,436,254 passengers; there were a total of 174,662 take-offs and landings.

### Climate

A humid continental climate, with warm summers and cold winters. Precipitation is generally greater in summer, with thunderstorms. Autumn, with dry clear weather, and spring, which is damp, are each of short duration. Prague, Jan. 29.5 °F (−1.5 °C), July 67 °F (19.4 °C). Annual rainfall 19.3" (483 mm). Brno, Jan. 31 °F (−0.6 °C), July 67 °F (19.4 °C). Annual rainfall 21" (525 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The constitution of 1 Jan. 1993 provides for a parliament comprising a 200-member *Chamber of Deputies*, elected for 4-year terms by proportional representation, and an 81-member *Senate* elected for 6-year terms in single-member districts, 27 senators being elected every 2 years. The main function of the Senate is to scrutinize proposed legislation. Senators must be at least 40 years of age, and are elected on a first-past-the-post basis, with a run-off in constituencies where no candidate wins more than half the votes cast. For the House of Representatives there is a 5% threshold; votes for parties failing to surmount this are redistributed on the basis of results in each of the eight electoral districts. There is a *Constitutional Court* at Brno, whose 15 members are nominated by the President and approved by the Senate for 10-year terms. Following a constitutional amendment that took effect in Oct. 2012, the *President* of the Republic is directly elected for a 5-year term. Candidates standing for office must be 40 years of age. In the event of no candidate winning an absolute majority, a second round is held between the two most successful candidates. A president may not serve more than two consecutive 5-year terms.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *koruna* (CZK) or crown of 100 *haler*, introduced on 8 Feb. 1993 at parity with the former Czechoslovakian koruna.

### Defence

Conscription ended in Dec. 2004 when the armed forces became all-volunteer. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$2,179 m. (US\$214 per capita), representing 1.1% of GDP.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 2.7% of GDP in 2014, industry 38.0% and services 59.3%.

## Labour

In the fourth quarter of 2010 the economically active population numbered 5,281,800; 1.28 m. persons worked in manufacturing; 589,400 in trade; 445,500 in construction; 338,300 in human health and social work activities; and 327,500 in public administration and defence. In Dec. 2015 the unemployment rate was 4.5%—the joint lowest in the European Union (down from 6.1% in 2014 as a whole). The average monthly gross wage was Kč. 23,004 in 2010. On 1 Aug. 2013 the minimum wage was increased from Kč. 8,000 a month to Kč. 8,500. The Czech Republic had 38,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

There were 81 daily newspapers in 2014 (79 paid-for and two free) with a combined average daily circulation of 1,209,000. In 2011 there were 417 non-dailies. The newspaper with the highest circulation is *Blesk* (daily average of 265,000 copies in 2014).

## Rail

In 2011 Czech State Railways had a route length of 9,470 km (9,448 km on 1,435 mm gauge), of which 3,020 km were electrified. Passenger-km travelled in 2011 came to 6.64 bn. and freight tonne-km to 13.85 bn. There is a metro (44 km) and tram/light rail system (496 km) in Prague, and also tram/light rail networks in Brno, Liberec, Most, Olomouc, Ostrava and Plzeň.

## Religion

According to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, 76.4% of the population was religiously unaffiliated in 2010—more than in any other country. Most of the remainder of the population are Christians (90% Catholics in 2010). Dominik Duka (b. 1943) was installed as Archbishop of Prague and Primate of Bohemia in April 2010. In Feb. 2016 the Roman Catholic church had two cardinals. The largest Protestant church is the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren, which unites Calvinists and Lutherans and has about 115,000 members. In 2009 there were 25 registered churches and religious societies.

## Roads

In 2007 there were 657 km of motorways, 6,191 km of highways and main roads, 48,736 km of secondary roads and 72,927 km of other roads, forming a total network of 128,511 km. Passenger cars in use in 2007 numbered 4,280,100 (414 per 1,000 inhabitants), and there were also 555,200 lorries and vans and 20,400 buses and coaches. Motorcycles and mopeds numbered 860,100. There were 832 deaths as a result of road accidents in 2009.

## Shipping

In 2009, 804,000 tonnes of freight were carried by inland waterways.

## Social Statistics

2009 births, 118,667; deaths, 107,421; marriages, 47,862; divorces, 29,133. Rates (per 1,000 population), 2009: birth, 11.3; death, 10.0; marriage, 4.6; divorce, 2.8. Life expectancy at birth, 2013, 74.6 years for males and 80.7 years for females. In 2009 the most popular age range for marrying was 30–34 for males and 25–29 for females. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 0.5%. Infant mortality, 2010, three per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2013, 1.6 children per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 2,001,000 main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscriptions numbered 13,670,000 (1,277.3 per 1,000 persons). Český Telecom was sold to the Spanish telecommunications firm Telefónica in April 2005. It has since become Telefónica O2 Czech Republic. In 2013, 74.1% of the population aged 16–74 were internet users. In March 2012 there were 3.5 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

The Czech Republic is bounded in the west by Germany, north by Poland, east by Slovakia and south by Austria. Its area is 78,867 km<sup>2</sup> (30,451 sq. miles), including 1,620 km<sup>2</sup> (625 sq. miles) of inland waters. The population at the 2011 census was 10,436,560; density, 135.1 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 73.6% of the population lived in urban areas. The census population of the principal towns in 2011 (in 1,000): Prague, 1,269; Brno, 386; Ostrava, 296; Pilsen, 170; Liberec, 103; Olomouc, 101; České Budějovice, 94; Hradec Králové, 94; Ústí nad Labem, 93; Pardubice, 91; Havířov, 77; Zlín, 75; Kladno, 68; Most, 65; Opava, 58. At the 2001 census 90.4% of the population was Czech, 3.7% Moravian and 1.9% Slovak. The official language is Czech.

## Tourism

In 2010, 6,334,000 non-resident tourists stayed in holiday accommodation. Of these, 1,350,000 were from Germany, 414,000 from Russia, 368,000 from the UK, 351,000 from Poland and 333,000 from Italy.

# Denmark

## *Kongeriget Danmark (Kingdom of Denmark)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Copenhagen

*Population estimate, 2015:* 5.67 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 44,025

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.923/4

*Internet domain extension:* .dk

### Civil Aviation

The main international airport is at Copenhagen (Kastrup), and there are also international flights from Aalborg, Aarhus, Billund and Esbjerg. The Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) resulted from the 1950 merger of the three former Scandinavian airlines. It is now known as Scandinavian Airlines. On 1 Jan. 2009 Denmark had 1,122 aircraft with a capacity of 19,077 seats. Copenhagen (Kastrup) handled 9,848,000 departing passengers in 2009, Billund 1,151,000, Aalborg 561,000 and Aarhus 255,000.

### Climate

The climate is much modified by marine influences and the effect of the Gulf Stream, to give winters that may be both cold or mild and often cloudy. Summers may be warm and sunny or chilly and rainy. Generally the east is drier than the west. Long periods of calm weather are exceptional and windy conditions are common. Copenhagen, Jan. 33 °F (0.5 °C), July 63 °F (17 °C). Annual rainfall 650 mm. Esbjerg, Jan. 33 °F (0.5 °C), July 61 °F (16 °C). Annual rainfall 800 mm. In general 10% of precipitation is snow.

### Constitution and Government

The present constitution is founded upon the Basic Law of 5 June 1953. The legislative power lies with the Queen and the *Folketing* (parliament) jointly. The executive power is vested in the monarch, who exercises authority through the ministers. The reigning Queen is **Margrethe II**, b. 16 April 1940; married 10 June 1967 to Prince Henrik, b. Count de Monpezat. The Queen receives a tax-free annual sum from the state. This was 79 m. kroner in 2015. The judicial power is with the courts. The monarch must be a member of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church, the official Church of the State, and may not assume major international obligations without the consent of the Folketing. The Folketing consists of one chamber. All men and women of Danish nationality of more than 18 years of age and permanently resident in Denmark possess the franchise, and are eligible for election to the Folketing, which is at present composed of 179 members; 135 members are elected by the method of proportional representation in 17 constituencies. Besides its legislative functions, every 6 years it appoints judges who, together with the ordinary members of the Supreme Court, form the *Rigsret*, a tribunal which can alone try parliamentary impeachments.

### Currency

The monetary unit is the *Danish krone* (DKK) of 100 *øre*.

### Defence

Denmark has a compulsory military service with mobilization based on the constitution of 1849. This states that it is the duty of every fit man to contribute to the national defence. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$4,509 m. (US\$812 per capita), representing 1.4% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2010 agriculture accounted for 1.2% of GDP, industry 21.8% and services 77.0%. Denmark gave US\$3.0 bn. in international aid in 2014, equivalent to 0.86% of GNI (making Denmark one of only five industrialized countries to meet the UN target of 0.7%).

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 2,902,000 (2,874,000 in 2003). 78.0% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In 2013, 34.9% of those in employment worked in the public sector. In Dec. 2015 the unemployment rate was 6.0% (down from 6.5% in 2014 as a whole), compared to the European Union average of 9.0%. The youth unemployment rate in the fourth quarter of 2015 was 10.7% (19.9% for the European Union as a whole).

### Press

In 2014 there were 31 daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 1.09 m. The newspaper with the largest average circulation in 2014 was *MetroXpress* (a free paper; 325,000 on weekdays).

### Rail

In 2012 there were 2,131 km of state railways of 1,435 mm gauge (619 km electrified). In 2011, 219 m. passengers were carried. DB Schenker Rail Scandinavia A/S (formerly the Danish State Railways Freight Division) carried 7.1 m. tonnes of freight in 2012. There were also 959 km of private railways. A metro system was opened in Copenhagen in 2002.

### Religion

There is complete religious liberty. The state church is the Evangelical-Lutheran to which 80.9% of the population belonged in 2010. There are ten dioceses, each with a Bishop. The Bishop together with the Chief Administrative Officer of the county make up the diocesan-governing body, responsible for all matters of ecclesiastical local finance and general administration. Bishops are appointed by the Crown after an election by the clergy and parish council members. Each diocese is divided into a number of deaneries (107 in the whole country), each with its own Dean and Deanery Committee, who have certain financial powers. 81% of church finance derives from a voluntary tax paid by members, at a rate between 0.4–1.5% of income depending upon location. A further 12% comes from state subsidiaries and 7% from other sources, such as church lands.

### Roads

Denmark proper had (1 Jan. 2009) 1,128 km of motorways, 3,790 km of other state roads and 69,500 km of other commercial roads. Motor vehicles registered at 1 Jan. 2010 comprised 2,120,322 passenger cars, 32,300 trucks, 462,359 vans, 14,509 buses and 147,373 motorcycles. There were 5,250 casualties in road accidents in 2009, resulting in 303 fatalities.

### Shipping

On 1 Jan. 2010 the merchant fleet consisted of 462 vessels (above 100 GT) totalling 10.7 m. GT. In 2009, 40 m. tonnes of cargo were unloaded and 29 m. tonnes were loaded in Danish ports; traffic by passenger ships and ferries is not included.

### Social Statistics

Live births, 2009: 62,818; deaths, 54,872. 2009 rates per 1,000 population: birth, 11.4; death, 9.9. Births outside marriage: 2006, 46.4%; 2007, 46.1%; 2008, 46.2%; 2009, 46.5%. Average annual population growth rate, 2005–09, 0.5%. Suicide rate, 2006 (per 100,000 population) was 11.9 (men, 17.5; women, 6.4). Life expectancy at birth, 2008–09, was 76.5 years for males

and 80.8 years for females. In 2007 the most popular age range for marrying was 30–34 for males and 25–29 for females. Denmark was the first country to legalize same-sex unions, in 1989. Infant mortality, 2009, 3.0 per 1,000 live births. Fertility rate, 2009, 1.8 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2009 there were 2,062,000 main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscribers numbered 7,424,000 (134.1 per 100 persons). In 2010, 86% of the population had access to the internet at home and 88% had access to a computer at home. Denmark has one of the highest fixed broadband penetration rates, at 37.7 subscribers per 100 inhabitants in Dec. 2010. In March 2012 there were 2.8 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Denmark is bounded in the west by the North Sea, northwest and north by the Skagerrak and Kattegat straits (separating it from Norway and Sweden), and south by Germany. A 16-km long fixed link with Sweden was opened in July 2000 when the Øresund motorway and railway bridge between Copenhagen and Malmö was completed. In 2010 an estimated 86.7% of the population lived in urban areas. In 2010, 91.4% of the inhabitants were born in Denmark, including the Faroe Islands and Greenland. On 1 Jan. 2013 the population of the capital, Copenhagen (comprising Copenhagen, Frederiksberg and Gentofte municipalities), was 1,230,728; Aarhus, 256,018; Odense, 170,327; Aalborg, 106,916; Esbjerg, 71,491; Randers, 60,895; Kolding, 57,583; Horsens, 55,253; Vejle, 52,449. The official language is Danish.

### Tourism

In 2009, 8,457,000 overnight tourists visited Denmark; foreign tourists spent some 35,482 m. kroner in the same year. Foreigners spent 11,164,000 nights in holiday cottages, 4,258,000 nights in hotels and 2,750,000 nights at camping sites in 2009.

## Djibouti

### *Jumhuriyya Djibouti (Republic of Djibouti)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Djibouti  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 888,000  
*GNI per capita, 2013:* (PPPS) 3,109  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.470/168  
*Internet domain extension:* .dj

#### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Djibouti (Ambouli), 5 km south of Djibouti. The national carrier is Air Djibouti, which was resurrected in 2015 after having gone into liquidation in 2002. In 2016 it had flights to Addis Ababa, Berbera, Dire Dawa, Hargeisa and Mogadishu.

#### Climate

Conditions are hot throughout the year, with very little rain. Djibouti, Jan. 78 °F (25.6 °C), July 96 °F (35.6 °C). Annual rainfall 5" (130 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

After a referendum at which turnout was 70%, a new constitution was approved on 4 Sept. 1992 by 96.63% of votes cast, which permits the existence of up to four political parties. Parties are required to maintain an ethnic balance in their membership. The *President* is directly elected for a renewable 6-year term. Parliament is a 65-member *National Assembly* elected for 5-year terms. In April 2010 the constitution was amended to allow the president to stand for a third consecutive term. It also provided for the creation of a *Senate*.

### Currency

The currency is the *Djibouti franc* (DJF), notionally of 100 *centimes*.

### Defence

France—Djibouti's former colonial ruler—maintains a naval base and forces numbering 1,900 as of Feb. 2014. Defence expenditure totalled an estimated US\$10 m. in 2011 (approximately US\$13 per capita), representing around 1% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2010 transport and communications contributed 25.3% of GDP; followed by trade and hotels, 16.7%; finance and insurance, 12.9%; public administration and defence, 12.1%; and construction, 11.5%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 300,000 (227,000 in 2003). Unemployment in 2012 was 48%.

### Press

There are no daily newspapers; in 2008 the government-owned *La Nation* was published four times a week.

### Rail

Traffic carried is mainly in transit to and from Ethiopia. A new line linking Ethiopia and Djibouti is currently being built by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation. It is expected to become operational during 2016.

### Religion

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 the population was an estimated 96.9% Muslim (Sunnis) with a small Christian minority.

### Roads

In 2011 there were an estimated 1,300 km of roads.

### Shipping

Djibouti is a free port and container terminal. In 2008, 5.82 m. tonnes of cargo were handled (7.33 m. tonnes in 2007).

### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 24,100; deaths, 9,300. Rates (2008 estimates, per 1,000 population); birth, 28.4; death, 11.0. 2006: marriages, 3,059; divorces, 723. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 1.9%. Infant mortality, 2010, 73 per 1,000 live births. Expectation of life, 2007: 53.7 years for men, 56.5 for women. Fertility rate, 2008, 3.9 children per woman.

### Telecommunications

There were 18,500 fixed telephone lines in 2010 (20.8 per 1,000 inhabitants). Mobile phone subscribers numbered 165,600 in 2010. There were an estimated 95 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2013.

### Territory and Population

Djibouti is in effect a city-state surrounded by a semi-desert hinterland. It is bounded in the northwest by Eritrea, northeast by the Gulf of Aden, southeast by Somalia and southwest by Ethiopia. The area is 23,200 km<sup>2</sup> (8,958 sq. miles). The population at the 2009 census was 818,159. In 2011, 76.3% of the population lived in urban areas. Around half the population in 2005 were Somali (Issa, Gadaboursi and Issaq), 35% Afar, with some Europeans (mainly French) and Arabs. There are five administrative regions, plus the city of Djibouti (areas in sq. km): Ali-Sabieh (2,200); Arta (1,800); Dikhil (7,200); Djibouti (200); Obock (4,700); Tadjourah (7,100). The capital is Djibouti (2009 population, 475,322). French and Arabic are official languages; Somali and Afar are also spoken.

### Tourism

There were 56,000 foreign tourists staying at hotels and similar establishments in 2011; tourist spending (excluding passenger transport) totalled US\$19 m.

## Dominica

### Commonwealth of Dominica

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Roseau  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 73,000  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 9,994  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.724/94=  
*Internet domain extension:* .dm

#### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Melville Hall and Cane Field. In 2010 there were direct flights to Antigua, Barbados, Georgetown, Guadeloupe, Porlamar (Venezuela), Puerto Rico, St Lucia and St Vincent.

#### Climate

A tropical climate, with pleasant conditions between Dec. and March, but there is a rainy season from June to Oct., when hurricanes may occur. Rainfall is heavy, with coastal areas having 70" (1,750 mm) but the mountains may have up to 225" (6,250 mm). Roseau, Jan. 76 °F (24.2 °C), July 81 °F (27.2 °C). Annual rainfall 78" (1,956 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

The head of state is the *President*, nominated by the *Prime Minister* and the Leader of the Opposition, and elected for a 5-year term (renewable once) by the House of Assembly. The *House of Assembly* has 32 members, of whom 21 members are elected and nine nominated by the President in addition to the Speaker and the Attorney General.

#### Currency

The *East Caribbean dollar* (XCD) and the US dollar are legal tender.

#### Economy

In 2009 agriculture accounted for 14% of GDP, industry 15% and services 71%.

#### Labour

Around 25% of the economically active population are engaged in agriculture, fishing and forestry. In 2006 the minimum wage was US\$0.75 an hour. The unemployment rate in 2008–09 was 14.0%.

#### Press

In 2008 there were no daily newspapers but there were four weeklies—*The Chronicle*, *The Sun*, *The Times* and *The Tropical Star*.

#### Religion

In 2010 around 94% of the population were Christians according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, of whom two-thirds were Catholics and a third Protestants.

#### Roads

In 2010 there were an estimated 905 km of roads, of which 82% were paved. Approximately 24,600 vehicles were registered in 2014.

### Shipping

There are deep-water harbours at Roseau and Woodbridge Bay. Roseau has a cruise ship berth. In Jan. 2009 there were 60 ships of 300 GT or over registered (including 15 bulk carriers and nine oil tankers), totalling 936,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

Births, 2006 estimates, 1,080 (rate of 14.9 per 1,000 population); deaths, 540 (rate of 7.5); marriages (2009), 250; divorces (2009), 85. Life expectancy, 2007: male, 72 years; female, 76 years. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, –0.2%. Infant mortality rate, 2010, 11 per 1,000 live births. Fertility rate, 2008, 2.1 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

There were 15,500 fixed telephone lines in 2010 (228.5 per 1,000 inhabitants). Mobile phone subscribers numbered 98,100 in 2010. There were 474.5 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010.

### Territory and Population

Dominica is an island in the Windward group of the West Indies situated between Martinique and Guadeloupe. It has an area of 750 km<sup>2</sup> (290 sq. miles) and a provisional population at the 2011 census of 71,293. The population density in 2011 was 95.1 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2010, 67.2% of the population were urban. The chief town, Roseau, had 14,725 inhabitants (provisional) in 2011. The population is mainly of African and mixed origins, with small white and Asian minorities. There is a Carib settlement of about 500, almost entirely of mixed blood. The official language is English, although 90% of the population also speak a French Creole.

### Tourism

In 2010 there were 76,517 overnight tourist arrivals by air, up from 74,924 in 2009 although down from 84,041 in 2006. There were 517,979 cruise ship visitors in 2010 (when there were 272 cruise ship calls), down from 532,352 in 2009 although up from 379,643 in 2006.

## Dominican Republic

### *República Dominicana*

#### Factsheet

Capital: Santo Domingo  
 Population estimate, 2015: 10.53 m.  
 GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 11,883  
 HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.715/101=  
 Internet domain extension: .do

#### Civil Aviation

The main airports are at Puerto Plata, Punta Cana and Santo Domingo (Las Américas). In 2009 Punta Cana was the busiest airport, handling 4,077,596 passengers, followed by Santo Domingo (2,887,175 passengers) and Puerto Plata (1,096,267). The largest airline operating in the Dominican Republic is the American low-cost airline JetBlue.

#### Climate

A tropical maritime climate with most rain falling in the summer months. The rainy season extends from May to Nov. and amounts are greatest in the north and east. Hurricanes may occur from June to Nov. Santo Domingo, Jan. 75 °F (23.9 °C), July 81 °F (27.2 °C). Annual rainfall 56" (1,400 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

A new constitution came into force on 26 Jan. 2010, replacing one from 1966. The new constitution's provisions included the establishment of a Constitutional Court, Council of the Judiciary and Supreme Electoral Court. It also

provides for recourse to instruments of direct democracy, including referenda and plebiscites. It outlaws same-sex marriages and abortion and defines Dominican nationals as the children of Dominican parents. The *President*, who has executive power, is elected for 4 years by direct vote but is prohibited from serving consecutive terms. A second round of voting in a presidential election is authorized when no candidate secures an absolute majority in the first ballot. There is a bicameral legislature, the *Congress*, comprising a 32-member *Senate* (one member for each province and one for the National District of Santo Domingo) and a 183-member *Chamber of Deputies*, both elected for 4-year terms. Citizens are entitled to vote at the age of 18.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *peso* (DOP), written as RD\$, of 100 *centavos*.

#### Defence

In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$378 m. (US\$37 per capita), representing 0.6% of GDP.

#### Economy

In 2009 agriculture accounted for 6.2% of GDP, industry 32.5% and services 61.3%.

#### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 4,636,000 (3,804,000 in 2003). The unemployment rate in 2013 was 14.9% (14.7% in 2012). The Dominican Republic had 23,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

#### Press

In 2008 there were ten dailies (eight paid-for and two free) with a combined circulation of 465,000.

#### Rail

The railway system has been closed down with the exception of 142 km line from Guayubin to the port of Pepillo, used primarily for the banana trade. There is a metro in Santo Domingo.

#### Religion

The religion of the state is Roman Catholicism; according to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life there were 6.67 m. adherents in 2010 (just over two-thirds of the population). The Pew Research Center estimated that Protestants numbered 2.08 m. in 2010 and 1.08 m. people were religiously unaffiliated. In Feb. 2016 there was one cardinal.

#### Roads

In 2002 the road network covered an estimated 19,705 km, of which 51.2% were paved. In 2007 there were 602,700 passenger cars (62 per 1,000 inhabitants), 525,400 lorries and vans, and 64,200 buses and coaches. Motorcycles and mopeds numbered 1.04 m. In 2008 there were 1,648 fatal road accidents resulting in 1,846 deaths.

#### Shipping

The main ports are Santo Domingo, Puerto Plata, La Romana and Haina. In Jan. 2009 there were five ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 5,000 GT.

#### Social Statistics

2009 estimates: births, 216,000; deaths, 59,000. Rates, 2009 estimates (per 1,000 population): birth, 22; death, 6. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 1.4%. Life expectancy, 2013: male, 70.4 years; female, 76.7 years. Infant mortality, 2010, 22 per 1,000 live births. Fertility rate, 2013, 2.5 children per woman.

#### Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 1,044,200 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 103.8 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 8,770,800 mobile phone subscriptions

(or 872.2 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2011, 35.5% of the population were internet users. In Dec. 2011 there were 2.5 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

The Dominican Republic occupies the eastern portion (about two-thirds) of the island of Hispaniola, the western division forming the Republic of Haiti. The area is 48,671 km<sup>2</sup> (18,792 sq. miles). Census population 2010, 9,445,281. In 2011 the population was 69.8% urban. Population of the main towns (2010 census, in 1,000): Santo Domingo, the capital, 2,582; Santiago de los Caballeros, 551; Los Alcarizos, 245; La Romana, 225; San Pedro de Macoris, 185. The population is mainly composed of a mixed race of European (Spanish) and African blood. The official language is Spanish; about 0.18 m. persons speak a Haitian-French Creole.

### Tourism

In 2010 there were 4,124,543 non-resident tourist arrivals by air, up from 3,992,303 in 2009 and 3,979,672 in 2008. There were 352,539 cruise ship visitors in 2010 (when there were 264 cruise ship calls), down from 496,728 in 2009 and 475,206 in 2008. The Dominican Republic had 66,968 hotel rooms in 2010.

## Ecuador

### *República del Ecuador (Republic of Ecuador)*

#### Factsheet

Capital: Quito

Population estimate, 2015: 16.14 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 10,605

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.732/88

Internet domain extension: .ec

#### Civil Aviation

The Ecuadorian flag carrier is Tame. There are international airports at Quito (Mariscal Sucre) and Guayaquil (José Joaquín de Olmedo). In 2009 Quito handled 4,746,292 passengers and 143,767 tonnes of freight, and Guayaquil handled 3,382,554 passengers and 55,605 tonnes of freight.

#### Climate

The climate varies from equatorial, through warm temperate to mountain conditions, according to altitude, which affects temperatures and rainfall. In coastal areas, the dry season is from May to Dec., but only from June to Sept. in mountainous parts, where temperatures may be 20 °F colder than on the coast. Quito, Jan. 59 °F (15 °C), July 58 °F (14.4 °C). Annual rainfall 44" (1,115 mm). Guayaquil, Jan. 79 °F (26.1 °C), July 75 °F (23.9 °C). Annual rainfall 39" (986 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

An executive *President* and a *Vice-President* are directly elected by universal suffrage. The president appoints and leads a *Council of Ministers*, and determines the number and functions of the ministries that comprise the executive branch. Legislative power is vested in a *National Assembly* of 137 members, popularly elected by province. One seat is reserved for overseas voters. A new constitution came into force on 20 Oct. 2008. It was drafted by a Constituent Assembly set up by President Correa in Nov. 2007 and was approved with 63.9% of the vote in a referendum on 28 Sept. 2008. It superseded the previous constitution that had been in place for 10 years. The 2008 constitution, which includes 444 articles, allows a president to run for two consecutive 4-year terms, dissolve parliament and call early elections, and set monetary policy. The *National Congress* was abolished and replaced by a new *National Assembly*.

#### Currency

The monetary unit is the US dollar.

#### Defence

Military service is selective, with a 1-year period of conscription. The country is divided into four military zones, with headquarters at Quito, Guayaquil, Cuenca and Pastaza. In 2012 defence expenditure totalled US\$1,509 m. (US\$99 per capita), representing 2.1% of GDP.

#### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 10.4% of GDP in 2011, industry 36.8% and services 52.8%.

#### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 7,554,000 (6,095,000 in 2003). 71.6% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. Ecuador had 44,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

#### Press

There were 47 daily newspapers in 2008, with a circulation of 591,000.

#### Rail

The railway network, only 10% of which was operational in 2008, has since been repaired and rebuilt. In 2015 it had a total length of 517 km.

#### Religion

The state recognizes no religion and grants freedom of worship to all. In 2010, 94.1% of the population were Christians according to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. Most of the remainder of the population was religiously unaffiliated. Of the Christians, 89% were Catholics and 10% Protestants. In Feb. 2016 there was one Roman Catholic cardinal.

#### Roads

In 2007 there were 43,670 km of roads. There were 507,500 passenger cars in 2007 (38 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 323,500 lorries and vans. There were 1,848 fatalities in road accidents in 2007. In 1998 storms and floods on the coast, caused by El Niño, resulted in 2,000 km of roads being damaged or destroyed.

#### Shipping

Ecuador has three major seaports, of which Guayaquil is the most important, and six minor ones. In Jan. 2009 there were 60 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 222,000 GT.

#### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 280,000; deaths, 70,000. Rates, 2008 estimates (per 1,000 population): birth, 20.8; death, 5.2. Life expectancy at birth, 2013, was 73.7 years for males and 79.4 years for females. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 1.1%. Infant mortality, 2010, 18 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 2.6 children per woman. In 2009 the most popular age for marrying was 20–24 for both men and women.

#### Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 2,210,600 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 150.7 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 15,332,700 mobile phone subscriptions (or 1,045.5 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2011, 31.4% of the population were internet users. In June 2012 there were 4.7 m. Facebook users.

#### Territory and Population

Ecuador is bounded in the north by Colombia, in the east and south by Peru and in the west by the Pacific ocean. The total area of the country is 256,369 km<sup>2</sup>, including the Galápagos Archipelago (8,010 km<sup>2</sup>), situated in the Pacific ocean about 960 km west of Ecuador, and comprising 13 islands and 19 islets. Census population in 2010, 14,483,449; density, 53 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 67.6% lived in urban areas. The population is an amalgam of European, Amerindian and African origins. Some 41% of the population is Amerindian: Quechua, Shiwiar, Achuar and Zaparo. The official language is Spanish. Quechua and other languages are also spoken.



## Tourism

Foreign visitors numbered 968,000 in 2009, of whom 735,000 were from elsewhere in the Americas and 197,000 from Europe.

# Egypt

*Jumhuriyat Misr al-Arabiya (Arab Republic of Egypt)*

## Factsheet

Capital: Cairo

Population estimate, 2015: 91.51 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 10,512

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.690/108

Internet domain extension: .eg

## Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Cairo, Luxor, Borg El Arab (serving Alexandria), Hurghada and Sharm El-Sheikh. The national carrier is Egyptair, which in 2013 carried 8,513,000 passengers (7,020,000 on international flights). In 2012 Cairo handled 14,839,421 passengers (12,865,751 on international flights). Hurghada was the second busiest airport in 2012, with 7,134,032 passengers.

## Climate

The climate is mainly dry, but there are winter rains along the Mediterranean coast. Elsewhere, rainfall is very low and erratic in its distribution. Winter temperatures are comfortable everywhere, but summer temperatures are very high, especially in the south. Cairo, Jan. 56 °F (13.3 °C), July 83 °F (28.3 °C). Annual rainfall 1.2" (28 mm). Alexandria, Jan. 58 °F (14.4 °C), July 79 °F (26.1 °C). Annual rainfall 7" (178 mm). Aswan, Jan. 62 °F (16.7 °C), July 92 °F (33.3 °C). Annual rainfall (trace). Giza, Jan. 55 °F (12.8 °C), July 78 °F (25.6 °C). Annual rainfall 16" (389 mm). Ismailia, Jan. 56 °F (13.3 °C), July 84 °F (28.9 °C). Annual rainfall 1.5" (37 mm). Luxor, Jan. 59 °F (15 °C), July 86 °F (30 °C). Annual rainfall (trace). Port Said, Jan. 58 °F (14.4 °C), July 78 °F (27.2 °C). Annual rainfall 3" (76 mm).

## Constitution and Government

Following the popular uprising that led to President Hosni Mubarak being deposed in Feb. 2011, a Provisional Constitution came into force to supersede the previous constitution dating from 1971. It in turn was replaced by a constitution passed into law by President Mohamed Morsi in Dec. 2012. However, he was deposed by the military in July 2013 and another new constitution was drafted by a 50-member constituent assembly. Under the terms of this revised constitution, the *President* may serve a maximum of two 4-year terms and may be impeached by parliament. The president, who must be at least 40 years old and an Egyptian citizen without a non-Egyptian parent or spouse, appoints the *Prime Minister* subject to parliamentary approval. The president also appoints the ministers of foreign affairs, the interior and justice. For two presidential terms (or 8 years) from the promulgation of the constitution, the military has the right to approve the appointment of the defence minister, who must be a military officer. Parliament consists of a single chamber, the *House of Representatives*, which has the right to call a referendum on early presidential elections with a two-thirds majority. Islam is the state religion and the principles of *Sharia* (Islamic law) are the main source of legislation. However, freedom of belief is guaranteed by the state, as is equality of the sexes.

## Currency

The monetary unit is the *Egyptian pound* (EGP) of 100 *piastres*.

## Defence

Conscription is selective, and for 12–36 months, depending on the level of education. Military expenditure totalled US\$5,278 m. in 2013 (US\$62 per capita), representing 2.0% of GDP.

## Economy

In 2009 agriculture accounted for 13.7% of GDP, industry 37.3% and services 49.0%.

## Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 28,974,000 (21,796,000 in 2003). 52.7% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 13.2% of the population was unemployed. Egypt had 69,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

In 2008 there were 18 dailies (17 paid-for and one free) with a total average circulation of 2.74 m. The leading dailies are *Al-Ahram* and *Al-Gomhuriya*.

## Rail

In 2011 there were 5,195 km of state railways (1,435 mm gauge). Passenger-km travelled in 2011 came to 40.8 bn. and freight tonne-km in 2010 to 1.6 bn. There are tramway networks in Cairo, Heliopolis and Alexandria, and a metro (63 km) opened in Cairo in 1987.

## Religion

Islam has constitutionally been the state religion since 1980. According to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 there were 77.0 m. Muslims (94.9% of the population) and 4.1 m. Christians (5.1%). The vast majority of Muslims are Sunnis. Most Christians belong to the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria but there are also some Protestants and Catholics. The Coptic Church is headed by a pope (Tawadros II, enthroned Nov. 2012). It has four metropolitan archbishops and four metropolitan bishops. In Feb. 2016 there was one cardinal in the Roman Catholic church.

## Roads

In 2006 there were 99,672 km of roads, of which 81.0% were paved. Vehicles in use in 2006 (in 1,000): passenger cars, 2,372 (29 per 1,000 inhabitants in 2005); lorries and vans, 1,463; motorcycles and mopeds, 751; buses and coaches, 79. There were 12,295 fatalities as a result of road accidents in 2007.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 100 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 923,000 GT. Of the 100 vessels registered, 39 were general cargo ships, 34 oil tankers, 11 bulk carriers, eight passenger ships, six chemical tankers and two container ships. The Egyptian-controlled fleet comprised 113 vessels of 1,000 GT or over in Jan. 2009, of which 59 were under the Egyptian flag and 54 under foreign flags. The leading ports are Adabeya, Alexandria, Damietta, Dekheila, Port Said and Sokhna.

## Social Statistics

Births (est.), 2009, 2,217,000 (28.8 per 1,000 population); deaths, 477,000 (6.2). Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 1.7%. In 2010, 73% of the population was under 40 years old. Life expectancy at birth, 2013, was 68.8 years for males and 73.6 years for females. Fertility rate, 2013, 2.8 births per woman; infant mortality, 2010, 19 per 1,000 live births. Egypt has made some of the best progress in recent years in reducing child mortality. The number of deaths per 1,000 live births among children under five was reduced from 86 in 1990 to 21 in 2012.

## Telecommunications

In 2013 mobile phone subscriptions numbered 99,705,000 (1,215.1 per 1,000 persons) and there were 6,821,000 fixed telephone lines. In 2005 the Egyptian government sold 20% of its holding in Telecom Egypt. There were 25,553,000 wireless broadband subscriptions and 2,675,000 fixed broadband subscriptions in 2013. In June 2012 there were 11.3 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Egypt is bounded in the east by Israel and Palestine, the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea, south by Sudan, west by Libya and north by the Mediterranean. The

total area is 1,009,450 km<sup>2</sup> (including 6,000 km<sup>2</sup> of inland water), but the cultivated and settled area, that is the Nile Valley, Delta and oases, covers only 35,000 km<sup>2</sup>. A number of new desert cities are being developed to entice people away from the overcrowded Nile valley, where 99% of the population lives. The 2006 census population was 72,798,031; density 72.5 per km<sup>2</sup>. Estimate, Jan. 2013: 83,667,047. In 2011, 43.5% of the population were urban. The capital, Cairo, had a census population in 2006 of 7,740,018. Other major cities, with populations at the 2006 census (in 1,000): Alexandria, 4,028; Giza, 3,022; Shubra Al Khayma, 1,026; Port Said, 571; Suez, 485. The official language is Arabic, although French and English are widely spoken.

### Tourism

There were 9,845,056 tourists in 2011, down from a record 14,730,813 in 2010. Of 12,535,885 foreign visitors in 2009 the main countries of origin were: Russia (2,035,330); UK (1,346,724); Germany (1,202,339).

## El Salvador

*República de El Salvador (Republic of El Salvador)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* San Salvador

*Population estimate, 2015:* 6.13 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 7,349

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.666/116

*Internet domain extension:* .sv

### Civil Aviation

The main airport is Monseñor Óscar Amulfo Romero International Airport (commonly known as Comalapa International Airport) in San Salvador. The national carrier is Taca International Airlines. It flies to various destinations in the USA, Mexico and all Central American countries. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of El Salvador-based carriers flew 86.1 m. km; passenger-km totalled 5.6 bn. in the same year. In 2012 El Salvador International handled 2,113,740 passengers (2,051,636 on international flights) and 23,363 tonnes of freight.

### Climate

Despite its proximity to the equator, the climate is warm rather than hot, and nights are cool inland. Light rains occur in the dry season from Nov. to April, while the rest of the year has heavy rains, especially on the coastal plain. San Salvador, Jan. 71 °F (21.7 °C), July 75 °F (23.9 °C). Annual rainfall 71" (1,775 mm). San Miguel, Jan. 77 °F (25 °C), July 83 °F (28.3 °C). Annual rainfall 68" (1,700 mm).

### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was enacted in Dec. 1983. Executive power is vested in a *President* and *Vice-President* elected for a non-renewable term of 5 years. There is a *Legislative Assembly* of 84 members elected by universal suffrage and proportional representation: 64 locally and 20 nationally, for a term of 3 years.

### Currency

The *dollar* (USD) replaced the *colón* as the legal currency of El Salvador in 2003.

### Defence

There is selective conscription for 12 months. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$154 m. (US\$25 per capita), representing 0.6% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 12.6% of GDP in 2010, industry 26.9% and services 60.5%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 2,712,000 (2,333,000 in 2003). 65.5% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 5.9% of the population was unemployed. El Salvador had 10,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2005 there were five daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 250,000.

### Rail

There are 555 km of 914 mm gauge railway. The railway was closed from 2002–06 but a limited service resumed in 2007.

### Religion

In 2010 there were an estimated 3.16 m. Roman Catholics (51% of the population) and 2.21 m. Protestants (36% of the population) according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, with 680,000 people religiously unaffiliated. There is an archbishop in San Salvador and bishops at Chalatenango, San Miguel, San Vicente, Santa Ana, Santiago de María, Sonsonate and Zacatecoluca.

### Roads

In 2011 there were 7,298 km of roads, 53.2% of which were paved. Vehicles in use in 2011: passenger cars, 331,200; trucks and vans, 275,000. There were 12,396 road accidents in 2009 resulting in 1,033 fatalities.

### Shipping

The main ports are Acajutla (which handled 5.86 m. tonnes of cargo in 2008) and Cutucú.

### Social Statistics

2008 births (est.), 112,000; deaths (est.), 32,000. Rates (2008, per 1,000 population): births (est.), 18.3; deaths (est.), 5.2. Life expectancy at birth in 2013 was 67.8 years for males and 77.1 years for females. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 0.5%. Infant mortality, 2010, 14 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 2.3 births per woman. Abortion is illegal.

### Telecommunications

The telephone system has been privatized and is owned by two international telephone companies. In 2010 there were 1,000,900 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 161.6 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 7,700,300 mobile phone subscriptions (or 1,243.4 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2010, 15.9% of the population were internet users. In Dec. 2011 there were 1.3 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

El Salvador is bounded in the northwest by Guatemala, northeast and east by Honduras and south by the Pacific Ocean. The area (including 247 km<sup>2</sup> of inland lakes) is 21,040 km<sup>2</sup>. Population (2007 census), 5,744,113 (female 53%), giving a population density of 273 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2007, 62.7% of the population were urban. Some 2.5 m. Salvadoreans live abroad, mainly in the USA. The republic is divided into 14 departments. The official language is Spanish.

### Tourism

There were 1,091,000 non-resident tourists in 2009 (excluding same-day visitors), down from 1,385,000 in 2008.

## Equatorial Guinea

*República de Guinea Ecuatorial (Republic of Equatorial Guinea)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Malabo  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 799,000  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 21,056  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.587/138  
*Internet domain extension:* .gq

### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Malabo. There were international flights in 2010 to Addis Ababa, Casablanca, Douala, Frankfurt, Madrid, Nairobi and Paris. In 2009 Malabo handled 283,981 passengers.

### Climate

The climate is equatorial, with alternate wet and dry seasons. In Rio Muni, the wet season lasts from Dec. to Feb.

### Constitution and Government

A Constitution was approved in a plebiscite in Aug. 1982 by 95% of the votes cast and was amended in Jan. 1995. It provided for an 11-member Council of State, and for a 41-member House of Representatives of the People. The President presides over a Council of Ministers. On 12 Oct. 1987 a single new political party was formed as the *Partido Democrático de Guinea Ecuatorial*. A referendum on 17 Nov. 1991 approved the institution of multi-party democracy, and a law to this effect was passed in Jan. 1992. The electorate is restricted to citizens who have resided in Equatorial Guinea for at least 10 years. A parliament created as a result, the *Cámara de Representantes del Pueblo (House of People's Representatives)*, has 100 seats, with members elected for a 5-year term by proportional representation in multi-member constituencies. In Nov. 2011 further constitutional amendments were approved by referendum. Official results indicated 97.7% support and turnout of 91.8%, although opposition parties alleged fraud. The amendments relaxed restrictions on the number of terms the *President* can serve and on the age of incumbents (previously set at between 40 and 75 years old), and provide for the creation of a *Senate*. The Senate has 75 members of whom 55 are elected and 15 appointed by the president, with five other *ex officio* members. A new position of *Vice President* was established, to be appointed by the President.

### Currency

On 2 Jan. 1985 the country joined the Franc Zone and the *ekpwele* was replaced by the *franc CFA (XAF)* which now has a parity value of 655.957 francs CFA to one euro.

### Defence

In 2011 defence expenditure totalled an estimated US\$8 m. (around US\$12 per capita).

### Economy

Crude petroleum contributed 58.8% to GDP in 2009; followed by construction, 18.4%; manufacturing, 13.4%.

### Labour

In 2010 the estimated economically active population was 270,000 (69% males). The wage-earning non-agricultural workforce is small.

### Press

There are no daily newspapers, although there are a number of periodicals that are published at varying degrees of regularity.

### Religion

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, an estimated 81% of the population in 2010 was Roman Catholic. There are also small Protestant and Muslim minorities.

### Roads

In 2015 the road network covered an estimated 2,700 km, around two-thirds of which are paved.

### Shipping

Bata is the main port, handling mainly timber. The other ports are Luba, formerly San Carlos, in Bioko, and Malabo, Evinayong and Mbini on the mainland. In Jan. 2009 there were seven ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 5,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 25,000; deaths, 10,000. Rates (2008 estimates, per 1,000 population); birth, 38.0; death, 15.0. Life expectancy (2013): male, 51.7 years; female, 54.6. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.8%. Infant mortality, 2010, 81 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 5.3 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2010 there were 13,500 main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscribers numbered 399,000 (570.1 per 1,000 persons). There were 60.0 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010.

### Territory and Population

The mainland part of Equatorial Guinea is bounded in the north by Cameroon, east and south by Gabon, and west by the Gulf of Guinea, in which lie the islands of Bioko (called Macías Nguema from 1973 to 1979 and before that Fernando Pó) and Annobón (called Pagalu from 1973 to 1979). The total area is 28,051 km<sup>2</sup> (10,831 sq. miles). Although the population at the last census in 2015 was provisionally given as 1,222,442, the United Nations does not consider this to be an accurate figure. In 2011, 39.9% of the population were urban. The seven provinces are grouped into two regions—Continental (C), chief town Bata; and Insular (I), chief town Malabo. In 2014 the capital, Malabo, had an estimated population of 145,000. The main ethnic group on the mainland is the Fang, which comprises 85% of the total population; there are several minority groups along the coast and adjacent islets. The official languages are French, Portuguese and Spanish.

### Tourism

The tourist industry is undeveloped and the tourism infrastructure is almost non-existent.

## Eritrea

*Hagere Ertra (State of Eritrea)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Asmara  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 5.23 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 1,130  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.391/186  
*Internet domain extension:* .er

### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Asmara (Yohannes IV Airport). In 2010 there were scheduled flights to Cairo, Dubai, Frankfurt, Jeddah, Khartoum, Milan, Nairobi, Rome and Sana'a. In 2012 Asmara handled 211,811 passengers (200,248 on international flights) and 2,705 tonnes of freight.

## Climate

Massawa, Jan. 78 °F (25.6 °C), July 94 °F (34.4 °C). Annual rainfall 8" (193 mm).

## Constitution and Government

A referendum to approve independence was held on 23–25 April 1993. The electorate was 1,173,506. 99.8% of votes cast were in favour. The transitional government consists of the *President* and a 150-member *National Assembly*. It elects the President, who in turn appoints the *State Council* made up of 14 ministers and the governors of the ten provinces. The President chairs both the State Council and the National Assembly. Eritrea is a single-party state.

## Currency

The *nakfa* (ERN) replaced the Ethiopian currency, the *birr*, in 1997.

## Defence

Conscripts (both male and female) are subjected to 6 months military training and 12 months work on national reconstruction. It has since been reduced to 16 months. The total strength of all forces was estimated at 201,750 in 2011. Defence expenditure totalled an estimated US\$78 m. in 2011 (approximately US\$13 per capita and around 3% of GDP).

## Economy

In 2010 public administration and defence contributed 27.7% to GDP; followed by trade and hotels, 19.1%; agriculture and fishing, 17.1%; and construction, 13.6%.

## Labour

In 2010 the estimated labour force was 2,230,000 (55% males). Eritrea had 44,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

In 2008 there were three government newspapers, one published three times a week and the others once a week. In Sept. 2001 the government closed down the country's eight independent newspapers. In the 2013 *World Press Freedom Index*, compiled by Reporters Without Borders, Eritrea ranked 179th and last out of the 179 countries covered. A number of journalists have been jailed.

## Rail

In 2000 the reconstruction of the 117 km Massawa-Asmara line reached Embatkala, thus opening up an 80 km stretch from Massawa on the coast. In 2003 the line was rebuilt right through to Asmara.

## Religion

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 the population was an estimated 63% Christian (mainly Eastern Orthodox but also Catholics, in the south) and 37% Muslim (mainly Sunnis, along the coast and in the north).

## Roads

There are some 14,000 km of roads including a number of asphalted highways. In 2007 there were 6.4 passenger cars per 1,000 inhabitants. About 500 buses operate regular services.

## Shipping

Massawa is the main port; Assab used to be the main port for imports to Ethiopia. Both were free ports for Ethiopia until the onset of hostilities. In Jan. 2009 there were five ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 12,000 GT.

## Social Statistics

2008 births (estimates), 182,000; deaths, 42,000. Estimated birth rate in 2008 was 37.0 per 1,000 population; estimated death rate, 12.4. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 3.7%. Life expectancy at birth, 2013, was 60.5 years for males and 65.2 years for females. Infant mortality, 2010, 42 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 4.6 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 58,000 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 10.7 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 241,900 mobile phone subscriptions (or 44.7 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2010, 5.4% of the population were internet users.

## Territory and Population

Eritrea is bounded in the northeast by the Red Sea, southeast by Djibouti, south by Ethiopia and west by Sudan. Some 300 islands form the Dahlak Archipelago, most of them uninhabited. Its area is 117,600 km<sup>2</sup> (45,410 sq. miles), including 16,600 km<sup>2</sup> (6,410 sq. miles) of inland waters. There has not been a census since Eritrea became independent in 1993. United Nations population estimate, 2010, 4.69 m.; density, 46 per km<sup>2</sup>. 22.1% of the population were urban in 2011. There are six regions: Anseba, Debub, Debubawi Keyih Bahri, Gash Barka, Maekel and Semenawi Keyih Bahri. The capital is Asmara (2014 estimated population, 775,000). Other large towns are Keren, Teseney and Mendefera. Arabic and Tigrinya are the official languages.

## Tourism

There were 79,000 foreign visitors in 2009, up from 70,000 in 2008.

# Estonia

## *Eesti Vabariik (Republic of Estonia)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Tallinn

*Population estimate, 2015:* 1.31 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 25,214

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.861/30

*Internet domain extension:* .ee

### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Tallinn (Lennart Meri International Airport), which handled 2.0 m. passengers (99% on international flights) and over 19,400 tonnes of freight and mail in 2014. The national carrier Estonian Air ceased operations and declared bankruptcy in Dec. 2015. The airline was 97.3% state-owned; in 2014 it carried 553,147 passengers (96% on scheduled flights). Estonian Air operated year-round services in 2014 to Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, Kyiv, Moscow, Oslo, St Petersburg, Stockholm, Trondheim and Vilnius, plus a number of seasonal routes.

### Climate

Because of its maritime location Estonia has a moderate climate, with cool summers and mild winters. Average daily temperatures in 2008: Jan. –1.5 °C; July 17.0 °C. Rainfall is heavy, 600–800 mm per year, and evaporation low.

### Constitution and Government

A draft constitution drawn up by a constitutional assembly was approved by 91.1% of votes cast at a referendum on 28 June 1992. Turnout was 66.6%. The constitution came into effect on 3 July 1992. It defines Estonia as a 'democratic state guided by the rule of law, where universally recognized norms of international law are an inseparable part of the legal system.' It provides for a 101-member national assembly (*Riigikogu*) elected for 4-year terms. There are 12 electoral districts with eight to 12 mandates each. The head of state is the *President*, elected by the Riigikogu for 5-year terms.

### Currency

On 1 Jan. 2011 the euro (EUR) replaced the *kroon* (EEK) as the legal currency of Estonia at the irrevocable conversion rate of 15.6466 krooni to one euro.

## Defence

The President is the head of national defence. Conscription is 8–11 months for men and voluntary for women. Conscientious objectors may opt for 16 months civilian service instead. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$480 m. (US\$379 per capita), representing 2.0% of GDP. The Estonian Defence Forces (EDF) regular component is divided into the Army, the Air Force and the Navy.

## Economy

Agriculture contributed 4% of GDP in 2012, industry 29% and services 67%.

## Labour

The workforce in 2010 totalled 686,800, of whom 570,900 were employed. The average monthly gross wage in the fourth quarter of 2011 was €865. The unemployment rate in Nov. 2015 was 6.5% (down from 7.4% in 2014 as a whole). Retirement age was 63 years for men and 61 years for women in 2012 although the female retirement age has increased gradually since then and is now 63. From 2017 the retirement age for both sexes will be increased gradually to reach 65 years in 2026.

## Press

In 2014 there were ten daily newspapers (combined circulation of 178,000) and 27 non-dailies (302,000). *The Baltic Times* is an English-language weekly covering news from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

## Rail

Length of railways in 2009 was 919 km (1,520 mm gauge), of which 131 km was electrified. In 2009, 4.9 m. passengers and 45.9 m. tonnes of freight were carried.

## Religion

There is freedom of religion in Estonia and no state church, although the population was traditionally seen as Lutheran. The Estonian Orthodox Church owed allegiance to Constantinople until it was forcibly brought under Moscow's control in 1940; a synod of the free Estonian Orthodox Church was established in Stockholm. Returning from exile, it registered itself in 1993 as the Estonian Apostolic Orthodox Church. By an agreement in 1996 between the Moscow and Constantinople Orthodox Patriarchates, there are now two Orthodox jurisdictions in Estonia. According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, an estimated 59.6% of the population in 2010 had no religious affiliation and 39.9% were Christian. There was also a small Muslim minority. Among Christians, 51% in 2010 were Lutherans and 45% Orthodox.

## Roads

As of 1 Jan. 2009 there were 16,487 km of national roads (28.4% of the total Estonian road network of 58,034 km). In Dec. 2010 there were 552,684 registered passenger cars in use, plus 81,204 lorries, 4,167 buses and 19,671 motorcycles. There were 1,340 road accidents and 78 fatalities in 2010.

## Shipping

There were 11 commercial ports and five ports offering international passenger services in 2009. Tallinn handled 31.6 m. tonnes of cargo traffic in 2009 (82% of total transport of freight through Estonian ports). In 2009, 7.26 m. passengers travelled through the port of Tallinn (more than 80% on the Tallinn-Helsinki route). In Jan. 2009 the Estonian-controlled fleet comprised 108 vessels of 1,000 GT or over, of which 87 were under foreign flags.

## Social Statistics

2012 registered births, 14,056; deaths, 15,450. Rates (per 1,000 population): birth, 10.9; death, 12.0. There were 7,915 registered abortions in 2012, including 6,056 legally induced abortions. Expectation of life in 2011 was 71.4 years for males and 81.3 for females. The annual population growth rate in the period 2005–10 was –0.1%. The suicide rate was 18.1 per 100,000 population in 2008 (rate among males, 30.6). The rate has more than halved in 13 years, having been 40.1 per 100,000 in 1995. Infant mortality in 2010 was four per 1,000 births. In 2012 total fertility rate was 1.6 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 470,500 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 351.0 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 1,863,000 mobile phone subscriptions (or 1,389.8 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2011, 76.5% of the population were internet users. In March 2012 there were 448,000 Facebook users. In 2000 the Estonian parliament voted to guarantee internet access to its citizens.

## Territory and Population

Estonia is bounded in the west and north by the Baltic Sea, east by Russia and south by Latvia. There are 1,521 offshore islands, of which the largest are Saaremaa and Hiiumaa, but only 12 are permanently inhabited. Area, 45,227 km<sup>2</sup> (17,462 sq. miles). The census population in Dec. 2011 was 1,294,455 (693,929 females), giving a density of 27.6 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2010, 69.5% of the population lived in urban areas. Of the whole population, Estonians accounted for 68.7% in 2011, Russians 24.8% and Ukrainians 1.7%. The capital is Tallinn (2011 population, 393,222 or 31.5%). Other large towns are Tartu (97,600), Narva (58,663), Pärnu (39,728) and Kohtla-Järve (37,201). In 2011 there were 15 counties, 47 cities and 193 rural municipalities. The official language is Estonian.

## Tourism

In 2011, 808,000 non-resident tourists and 918,000 Estonians stayed in holiday accommodation. Of the foreign tourists most were from Finland (841,000), followed by Russia (203,000), Germany (104,000), Sweden (86,000) and Latvia (85,000).

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# Ethiopia

## *Ye-Ityopyya Federalawi Dimokrasiyawi Ripeblik (Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Addis Ababa

*Population estimate, 2015:* 99.39 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 1,428

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.442/174

*Internet domain extension:* .et

### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Addis Ababa (Bole) and Dire Dawa. The national carrier is the state-owned Ethiopian Airlines, which in 2013 served 79 international and 18 domestic destinations. In the same year it carried 5,594,000 passengers (4,916,000 on international flights). In 2012 Addis Ababa (Bole) handled 7,511,465 passengers and 153,395 tonnes of freight.

### Climate

The wide range of latitude produces many climatic variations between the high, temperate plateaus and the hot, humid lowlands. The main rainy season lasts from June to Aug., with light rains from Feb. to April, but the country is very vulnerable to drought. Addis Ababa, Jan. 59 °F (15 °C), July 59 °F (15 °C). Annual rainfall 50" (1,237 mm). Harar, Jan. 65 °F (18.3 °C), July 64 °F (17.8 °C). Annual rainfall 35" (897 mm). Massawa, Jan. 78 °F (25.6 °C), July 94 °F (34.4 °C). Annual rainfall 8" (193 mm).

### Constitution and Government

A 548-member constituent assembly was elected on 5 June 1994; turnout was 55%. The EPRDF gained 484 seats. On 8 Dec. 1994 it unanimously adopted a new federal constitution which became effective on 22 Aug. 1995. It provided for the creation of a federation of nine regions based (except the capital and the southern region) on a predominant ethnic group. These regions have the right of secession after a referendum. The *President*, a largely ceremonial post, is elected for a 6-year term by both chambers of parliament (renewable

once only). The lower house is the 547-member *House of People's Representatives*; the upper house the 153-member *House of the Federation*.

### Currency

The *birr* (ETB), of 100 *cents*, is the unit of currency.

### Defence

In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$351 m. (US\$4 per capita), representing 0.8% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 48.8% of GDP in 2012, industry 10.1% and services 41.1%.

### Labour

The estimated labour force in 2010 was 41,310,000 (52% males), up from 28,996,000 in 2000. Coffee provides a livelihood to a quarter of the population. Ethiopia had 0.65 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*, the fifth highest total of any country.

### Press

In 2008 there were three paid-for daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 92,000 and 54 paid-for non-dailies. In the 2013 *World Press Freedom Index* compiled by Reporters Without Borders, Ethiopia was ranked 137th out of 179 countries.

### Rail

The Ethiopian-Djibouti Railway has a length of 781 km (metre gauge), but much of the route is in need of renovation. There are still passenger services from Dire Dawa, Ethiopia's second largest city, to Djibouti. However, there have not been services between Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa for many years. A new line linking Ethiopia and Djibouti is currently being built by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation. It is expected to become operational during 2016. Passenger-km travelled in 2005 came to 145 m. and freight tonne-km to 118 m.

### Religion

According to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, 62.8% of the population in 2010 were Christians, 34.6% were Muslims and 2.6% folk religionists. Among the Christians, 69% in 2010 were Ethiopian Orthodox and 30% Protestants. The predominant church in the country is the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church; the Head of all Archbishops and Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church is Abune Mathias (enthroned 3 March 2013). In Feb. 2016 there was one cardinal in the Roman Catholic church.

### Roads

There were 44,359 km of roads in 2007. Passenger cars in use in 2007 numbered 70,900 (one per 1,000 inhabitants) and there were also 149,000 lorries and vans, and 17,100 buses and coaches. In 2007 there were 2,517 deaths in road accidents.

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were nine ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 118,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

Births, 2008 estimate, 3,086,000; deaths, 954,000. Rates per 1,000 population, 2008 estimates: births, 38.2; deaths, 11.8. Expectation of life at birth in 2013 was 62.0 years for males and 65.3 years for females. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.6%; infant mortality, 2010, 68 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 5.3 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

The state-owned Ethio Telecom is the sole telecommunications service provider. There were 908,900 fixed telephone lines in 2010 (11.0 per 1,000 inhabitants). Mobile phone subscribers numbered 6.52 m. in 2010. There

were 7.5 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 74,600 in 2009 (0.9 per 1,000 inhabitants). Ethiopia's internet penetration rate is one of the lowest in Africa. In June 2012 there were 599,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Ethiopia is bounded in the northeast by Eritrea, east by Djibouti and Somalia, south by Kenya and west by South Sudan and Sudan. It has a total area of 1,127,127 km<sup>2</sup>. The secession of Eritrea in 1993 left Ethiopia without a coastline. The 2007 census population was 73,750,932 (36,533,802 females); density, 65.4 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2007, 83.9% of the population lived in rural areas. Ethiopia has 11 administrative divisions—eight states (Afar, Amhara, Benshangul/Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, the Peoples of the South, Somalia and Tigre) and three cities (Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa and Harar). The population of the capital, Addis Ababa, was 2,739,551 in 2007. Other large towns (2007 populations): Dire Dawa, 233,224; Nazret, 220,212; Mekele, 215,914; Gonder, 207,044. There are seven major ethnic groups (in % of total population in 2007): Oromo, 35%; Amhara, 27%; Somali, 6%; Tigrinya, 6%; Sidamo, 4%; Gurage, 3%; Welaita, 2%. The *de facto* official language is Amharic (which uses its own alphabet). Oromo is also widely spoken. In total there are around 80 local languages.

### Tourism

In 2011 there were 523,000 international tourist arrivals (excluding same-day visitors), up from 330,000 in 2006; tourist spending (excluding passenger transport) totalled US\$1,998 m. in 2011, up from US\$639 m. in 2006.

## Fiji

### *Matanitu Tugalala o Viti (Republic of Fiji)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Suva

*Population estimate, 2015:* 892,000

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 7,493

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.727/90=

*Internet domain extension:* .fj

#### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Nadi and Suva. The national carrier is Fiji Airways (51% government-owned). In 2013 it provided services to Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, USA and a number of Pacific island nations. In 2012 Nadi handled 1,856,667 passengers (1,602,216 on international flights).

#### Climate

A tropical climate, but oceanic influences prevent undue extremes of heat or humidity. The S. E. Trades blow from May to Nov., during which time nights are cool and rainfall amounts least. Suva, Jan. 80 °F (26.7 °C), July 73 °F (22.8 °C). Annual rainfall 117" (2,974 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

Parliament was reopened in Oct. 2001, having been suspended following a coup in May 2000. In 2006 another coup brought Commodore Frank Bainimarama to power but on 9 April 2009 the court of appeal declared his government illegal and he stood down. The next day the president repealed the constitution and assumed all governing power. The court was disbanded and Bainimarama's government restored. In March 2012 he disbanded the Great Council of Chiefs, which had existed in name only since April 2007 when Bainimarama suspended its operations. It had previously been responsible for appointing the president and 14 members of the Senate. A new constitution received presidential assent on 6 Sept. 2013 and came into immediate effect. It was drawn up by the government itself after proposals from an independent Constitutional Committee were rejected. The new constitution established a single-chamber 50-seat *Parliament* as the country's

supreme authority, elected every 4 years by proportional representation from a single national constituency. The voting age was reduced from 21 to 18. The executive authority of the State is vested in the *President*, who is appointed by Parliament. The presidential term of office is 3 years and may be renewed once.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Fiji dollar* (FJD) of 100 *cents*.

### Defence

In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$58 m. (US\$65 per capita), representing 1.4% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 13% of GDP in 2009, industry 18% and services 69%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 345,000 (314,000 in 2003). 57.2% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 8.3% of the population was unemployed.

### Press

In 2008 there were three national dailies with a combined circulation of 40,000.

### Rail

Fiji Sugar Cane Corporation runs 600 mm gauge railways at four of its mills on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, totalling 597 km.

### Religion

In 2010 the population was 64.4% Christian according to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, with 27.9% Hindu and 6.3% Muslim. Among Christians, 84% in 2010 were Protestants and 15% Catholics.

### Roads

The road network covers some 7,500 km. There were a total of 94,400 passenger cars and 48,000 lorries and vans in 2007. In 2006, 89 fatalities were caused by road accidents.

### Shipping

The three main ports are Suva, Lautoka and Levuka. The gross registered tonnage of ocean-going shipping entering the ports in 2007 totalled 8,361,785 GRT including liquid bulk carriers of 2,530,718 GRT. A total of 694 foreign vessels called into Suva port in 2007, 348 into Lautoka and 93 into Levuka. The inter-island shipping fleet is made up of private and government vessels.

### Social Statistics

2009 estimates: births, 19,000; deaths, 6,000. Rates, 2009 estimates (per 1,000 population): birth, 22; death, 7. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 0.9%. Life expectancy at birth in 2013 was 67.0 years for males and 73.0 years for females. Infant mortality, 2010, 15 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2013, 2.6 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 70,725 main (fixed) telephone lines and mobile phone subscriptions numbered 930,406 (105.6 per 100 persons). There were 148.2 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010. In 2009 there were 24.7 fixed broadband subscriptions per 1,000 inhabitants and 8.3 mobile broadband subscriptions per 1,000 inhabitants. In Dec. 2011 there were 163,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Fiji comprises 332 islands and islets (about one-third are inhabited) lying between 15 and 22 S. lat. and 174 E. and 178 W. long. Total area, 18,333 km<sup>2</sup> (7,078 sq. miles). Total population (2007 census), 837,271 (females,

410,095); ethnic groups: Fijian, 475,739; Indian, 313,798; other Pacific islanders, 15,311; part-European/European, 13,724; Rotuman, 10,335; Chinese, 4,704; other, 3,660. Population density (2007), 45.7 per km<sup>2</sup>; 50.7% of the population lived in urban areas in 2007. The population of the capital, Suva (including Nasinu), was 173,137 at the 2007 census. Other large towns are Lautoka (52,220), Nausori (47,604) and Nadi (42,284). English, Fijian and Hindustani are all official languages.

### Tourism

There were 542,000 foreign tourists in 2009 (excluding same-day visitors), down from 585,000 in 2008.

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## Finland

### *Suomen Tasavalta—Republiken Finland (Republic of Finland)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Helsinki

*Population estimate, 2015:* 5.50 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 38,695

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.883/24

*Internet domain extension:* .fi

#### Civil Aviation

The main international airport is at Helsinki (Vantaa), and there are also international airports at Turku, Tampere, Rovaniemi and Oulu. The national carrier is Finnair. Scheduled traffic of Finnish airlines covered 177 m. km in 2012. The number of passengers in 2012 was 10.6 m. and the number of passenger-km 24,953 m.; the air transport of freight and mail amounted to 711.7 m. tonne-km. Helsinki-Vantaa handled 12,611,187 passengers in 2009 (10,238,302 on international flights) and 122,107 tonnes of freight and mail. Oulu is the second busiest airport, handling 688,860 passengers in 2009, and Tampere-Pirkkala the third busiest, with 628,105 in 2009.

#### Climate

A quarter of Finland lies north of the Arctic Circle. The climate is severe in winter, which lasts about 6 months, but mean temperatures in the south and southwest are less harsh, 21 °F (−6 °C). In the north, mean temperatures may fall to 8.5 °F (−13 °C). Snow covers the ground for 3 months in the south and for over 6 months in the far north. Summers are short but quite warm, with occasional very hot days. Precipitation is light throughout the country, with one third falling as snow, the remainder mainly as rain in summer and autumn. Helsinki (Helsingfors), Jan. 30.2 °F (−1.0 °C), July 68.4 °F (20.2 °C). Annual rainfall 27.9" (708.7 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

Finland is a republic governed by the constitution of 1 March 2000 (which replaced the previous constitution dating from 1919). Although the president used to choose who formed the government, under the new constitution it is the responsibility of parliament to select the prime minister. The government is in charge of domestic and EU affairs with the president responsible for foreign policy 'in co-operation with the government'. Parliament consists of one chamber (*Eduskunta*) of 200 members chosen by direct and proportional election by all citizens of 18 or over. The country is divided into 15 electoral districts, with a representation proportional to their population. Every citizen over the age of 18 is eligible for parliament, which is elected for 4 years, but can be dissolved sooner by the president. The *president* is elected for 6 years by direct popular vote. In the event of no candidate winning an absolute majority, a second round is held between the two most successful candidates.

#### Currency

On 1 Jan. 1999 the euro (EUR) became the legal currency in Finland at the irrevocable conversion rate of 5.94573 marks to one euro. The euro, which

consists of 100 cents, has been in circulation since 1 Jan. 2002. On the introduction of the euro there was a 'dual circulation' period before the mark ceased to be legal tender on 28 Feb. 2002.

### Defence

Conscript service is 6–12 months. Total strength of trained and equipped reserves is about 490,000 (to be 350,000). In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$3,814 m. (US\$724 per capita), representing 1.4% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 3.0% of GDP in 2013, industry 26.9% and services 70.1%.

### Labour

In 2009 the labour force was 2,678,000 (51% males). Of this total, 71.5% of the economically active population worked in services (including 15.9% in trade and restaurants) and 15.4% in manufacturing. In Dec. 2015 unemployment was 9.5% (up from 8.7% in 2014 as a whole).

### Press

Finland had 235 newspapers in 2014, of which 46 were dailies (45 paid-for and one free) and 189 non-dailies. The total circulation of all newspapers in 2014 was 2.2 m. In the same year Finland had 175 newspaper online editions. There were 2,471 registered periodicals in 2014. The bestselling newspapers in 2014 were *Helsingin Sanomat* (average daily circulation, 285,223 copies), *Iltä-Sanomat* (110,226) and *Aamulehti* (106,842). In 2014 a total of 10,352 book titles were published. In the 2013 *World Press Freedom Index* compiled by Reporters Without Borders, Finland was ranked first out of 179 countries.

### Rail

In 2009 the total length of the line operated was 5,919 km (3,067 km electrified), all of it owned by the State. The gauge is 1,524 mm. In 2009, 67.6 m. passengers and 32.9 m. tonnes of freight were carried. There is a metro (21 km) and tram/light rail network (117 km) in Helsinki.

### Religion

Liberty of conscience is guaranteed to members of all religions. National churches are the Lutheran National Church and the Greek Orthodox Church of Finland. The Lutheran Church is divided into nine dioceses (Turku being the archiepiscopal see) and some 460 parishes. The Greek Orthodox Church is divided into three bishoprics (Kuopio being the archiepiscopal see) and 27 parishes, in addition to which there are a monastery and a convent. Percentage of the total population at the end of 2009: Lutherans, 79.9; Greek Orthodox, 1.1; others, 1.3; not members of any religion, 17.7.

### Roads

At 1 Jan. 2010 there were 78,161 km of public roads, of which 50,987 km were paved. At the end of 2009 there were 3,246,414 registered cars, 111,267 lorries, 332,645 vans and pick-ups, 13,017 buses and coaches and 12,821 special automobiles. Road accidents caused 279 fatalities in 2009.

### Shipping

The total registered mercantile marine in 2009 was 644 vessels of 1,534,000 GRT. In 2009 the total number of vessels arriving in Finland from abroad was 30,238 and the goods discharged amounted to 45.1 m. tonnes. The goods loaded for export from Finnish ports amounted to 37.5 m. tonnes. The lakes, rivers and canals are navigable for about 9,747 km. Timber floating is still practised; in 2010 bundle floating was about 0.5 m. tonnes.

### Social Statistics

Live births, 2009: 60,430; deaths, 49,883. In 2009 the rate per 1,000 population was: births, 11; deaths, 9; marriages, 6; infant deaths (per 1,000 live births), 2.6. Annual population growth rate, 1999–2009, 0.3%. In 2008 the suicide rate per 100,000 population was 30.7 among men and 8.5 among women, giving Finland one of the highest suicide rates in Europe. Life expectancy at birth, 2008, 76.3 years for males and 83.0 years for females. The most popular age range for marrying in 2008 was 25–29 for both males and females. Fertility rate, 2009, 1.9 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2012 mobile phone subscriptions numbered 9,320,000 (1,723.2 per 1,000 persons). In the same year there were 890,000 main (fixed) telephone lines. In Aug. 2010 around 99% of Finnish households owned at least one mobile phone. In 2013 there were 123.6 wireless broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants and 30.8 fixed broadband subscribers per 100. In March 2012 there were 2.1 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Finland, a country of lakes and forests, is bounded in the northwest and north by Norway, east by Russia, south by the Baltic Sea and west by the Gulf of Bothnia and Sweden. At the most recent ten-yearly census on 31 Dec. 2010 the population was 5,375,276. The semi-autonomous province of the Åland Islands (Ahvenanmaa) occupies a special position as a demilitarized area and is 91% Swedish-speaking. Åland elects a 30-member parliament (*Lagting*), which in turn elects the provincial government (*Landskapsstyrelse*). It has a population of 28,354. The capital is Mariehamn (Maarianhamina). In 2009, 68.1% of the population lived in urban areas. Nearly one-fifth of the total population lives in the Helsinki metropolitan region. Finnish and Swedish are the official languages. Three Sami languages are spoken in Lapland.

### Tourism

There were 2,220,267 foreign tourists in 2009; the income from tourism was €2,022 m. Major international tourist attractions include Uspensky Cathedral, Helsinki Cathedral and Suomenlinna (all in Helsinki). Helsinki's churches and Santa Park in Rovaniemi are particularly popular among foreigners, who account for the majority of their visitors.

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## France

### *République Française (French Republic)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Paris

*Population estimate, 2015:* 64.40 m

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 38,056

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.888/22

*Internet domain extension:* .fr

#### Civil Aviation

The main international airports are at Paris (Charles de Gaulle), Paris (Orly), Nice-Côte d'Azur, Lyon (Satolas), Marseille-Provence, Beauvais-Tillé, Toulouse (Blagnac), Nantes (Atlantique), Bordeaux (Mérignac) and Lille (Lesquin). The national airline, Air France, was 54.4% state-owned but merged in Oct. 2003 with the Dutch carrier KLM to form Air France-KLM. In 2013 Air France-KLM carried 77.3 m. passengers and 1.3 m. tonnes of cargo on board its 552 aircraft. In 2012 Charles de Gaulle airport handled 61,611,934 passengers (56,201,242 on international flights) and 2,150,950 tonnes of freight.

#### Climate

The northwest has a moderate maritime climate, with small temperature range and abundant rainfall; inland, rainfall becomes more seasonal, with a summer maximum, and the annual range of temperature increases. Southern France has a Mediterranean climate, with mild moist winters and hot dry summers. Eastern France has a continental climate and a rainfall maximum in summer, with thunderstorms prevalent. Paris, Jan. 37 °F (3 °C), July 64 °F (18 °C). Annual rainfall 22.9" (573 mm). Bordeaux, Jan. 41 °F (5 °C), July 68 °F (20 °C). Annual rainfall 31.4" (786 mm). Lyon, Jan. 37 °F (3 °C), July 68 °F (20 °C). Annual rainfall 31.8" (794 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

France is a decentralized republic, indivisible, secular, democratic and social; all citizens are equal before the law (Art. 1). National sovereignty resides with the people, who exercise it through their representatives and by referendums



(Art. 3). The head of state is the *President* (currently Emmanuel Macron, b. 1977 and assumed office in May 2017), who must be a French citizen, have attained the age of 18 years and be qualified to vote. The President sees that the Constitution is respected; ensures the regular functioning of the public authorities, as well as the continuity of the state; is the protector of national independence and territorial integrity (Art. 5). The President appoints (and dismisses) a Prime Minister and, on the latter's advice, appoints and dismisses the other members of the government (*Council of Ministers*) (Art. 8); presides over the Council of Ministers (Art. 9); may dissolve the National Assembly, after consultation with the Prime Minister and the Presidents of the two Houses (Art. 12); appoints to the civil and military offices of the state (Art. 13). Parliament consists of the National Assembly and the Senate. The *National Assembly* is elected by direct suffrage by the second ballot system (by which candidates winning 50% or more of the vote in their constituencies are elected, candidates winning less than 12.5% are eliminated and other candidates go on to a second round of voting); the Senate is elected by indirect suffrage (Art. 24). The *Constitutional Council* is composed of nine members whose term of office is 9 years (non-renewable), one-third every 3 years; three are appointed by the President of the Republic, three by the President of the National Assembly, three by the President of the Senate; in addition, former Presidents of the Republic are, by right, life members of the Constitutional Council (Art. 56). It oversees the fairness of the elections of the President (Art. 58) and Parliament (Art. 59), and of referendums (Art. 60), and acts as a guardian of the Constitution (Art. 61). The *Economic, Social and Environmental Council* advises on Government and Private Members' Bills (Art. 69). It comprises representatives of employers', workers' and farmers' organizations in each Department and Overseas Territory.

### Currency

On 1 Jan. 1999 the euro (EUR) became the legal currency in France at the irrevocable conversion rate of 6.55957 francs to one euro. The euro, which consists of 100 cents, has been in circulation since 1 Jan. 2002. On the introduction of the euro there was a 'dual circulation' period before the franc ceased to be legal tender on 17 Feb. 2002.

### Defence

The President of the Republic is the supreme head of defence policy and exercises command over the Armed Forces. He is the only person empowered to give the order to use nuclear weapons. He is assisted by the Council of Ministers, which studies defence problems, and by the Defence Council and the Restricted Defence Committee, which formulate directives. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$52,352 m. (equivalent to US\$794 per capita). Defence spending as a proportion of GDP was 1.9% in 2013. The nuclear arsenal consisted of approximately 290 warheads in Jan. 2015 according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 1.7% of GDP in 2014, industry 19.4% and services 78.9%.

### Labour

Of 30,031,000 people in employment in 2013. By sector, 74.5% worked in services (58.1% in 1980), 22.0% in industry and construction (33.1% in 1980) and 3.4% in agriculture (8.8% in 1980). Some 3.1 m. people work in the public sector at national and local level. The unemployment rate was 10.2% in Dec. 2015 (down slightly from 10.3% in both 2013 and 2014). The rate among the under 25s is more than double the overall national rate.

### Press

There were 118 daily papers in 2014 (84 paid-for—of which 23 national—and 34 free). The leading dailies are: *Ouest-France* (average circulation, 732,000), *Le Figaro* (average circulation, 325,000), *Le Monde* (average circulation, 299,000), *Sud Ouest*, *La Voix du Nord*, *Le Parisien*, *L'Équipe* and *Le Dauphiné Libéré*. The *Journal du Dimanche* is the only national Sunday paper. In 2014 total average daily press circulation was 8.9 m. copies. The daily newspaper websites with the highest number of unique monthly visitors are *Le Figaro* (9,036 in Dec. 2014) and *Le Monde* (7,899 in Dec. 2014). A total of 72,139 book titles were published in 2012 (70,109 in 2011).

### Rail

In 1938 all the independent railway companies were merged with the existing state railway system in a *Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Français* (SNCF), which became a public industrial and commercial establishment in 1983. Legislation came into effect in 1997 which vested ownership of the railway infrastructure (track and signalling) in a newly established public corporation, the *Réseau Ferré de France* (RFF/French Rail Network). In 2010 the RFF-managed network totalled 29,473 km of track (15,424 km electrified). High-speed TGV lines link Paris to the southwest, southeast and east of France, and north from Paris and Lille to the Channel Tunnel (Eurostar).

### Religion

A law of 1905 separated church and state. A survey conducted by the French Institute of Public Opinion in 2010 estimated that some 64% of the population was Roman Catholic, 28% non-religious/atheist, 3% Protestant and 5% belonged to other religions. In Feb. 2015 there were nine cardinals. The Catholic Church had 13,822 diocesan priests in 2011, down from 18,528 in 2001. There are generally estimated to be about 5 m.–6 m. Muslims in France. France has the third largest Jewish population, after Israel and the USA.

### Roads

In 2007 there were 951,125 km of road, including 11,010 km of motorway and 9,115 km of highways and main roads. France has the longest road network in the EU. Around 90% of all freight is transported by road. In 2007 there were 30.70 m. passenger cars (498 per 1,000 inhabitants), 6.27 m. lorries and vans, and 83,000 buses and coaches. Road passenger traffic in 2007 totalled 775 bn. passenger-km. In 2007 there were 4,620 road deaths, down from 8,445 in 1997.

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 232 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 6,025,000 GT. Of the 232 vessels registered, 88 were passenger ships, 58 oil tankers, 43 general cargo ships, 26 container ships, 13 liquid gas tankers, three bulk carriers and there was one chemical tanker. The French-controlled fleet comprised 285 vessels of 1,000 GT or over in Jan. 2009, of which 164 were under foreign flags and 121 under the French flag. The chief ports are Marseille, Le Havre, Dunkerque, Calais and Saint-Nazaire. France has extensive inland waterways. Canals are administered by the public authority *France Navigable Waterways* (VNF). In 2006 there were approximately 8,800 km of navigable rivers and canals (the longest network in the EU), with a total traffic in 2009 of 68.0 m. tonnes.

### Social Statistics

Births, 2013: 781,621; deaths, 558,408. Live birth rate (2011) was 12.5 per 1,000 population; death rate, 8.5; marriage rate, 3.7; divorce rate, 2.1. 52.9% of births in 2009 were outside marriage. In 2009 the average age at first marriage was 31.7 years for males and 29.8 years for females. Abortions were legalized in 1975; there were an estimated 209,300 in 2009. Life expectancy at birth, 2009, 77.7 years for males and 84.4 years for females. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 0.6%. In 2012 the suicide rate per 100,000 population was 15.1 (males, 24.9; females, 7.0). Infant mortality, 2010, three per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2013, 2.0 births per woman. In 2013 France received 60,234 asylum applications (35,404 in 2008), the third highest total after Germany and the USA. France legalized same-sex marriage in May 2013.

### Telecommunications

France Télécom, the country's largest telecommunications operator, was founded in 1988 and rebranded as Orange on 1 July 2013. It is 13.45% state-owned. In 2013 there were 39.1 m. main (fixed) telephone lines. In 2012 mobile phone subscriptions numbered 62.3 m. (973.8 per 1,000 persons). The largest operators are Orange, with a 38% share of the market, and SFR, with a 30% share. There were 24.2 m. fixed internet subscriptions and 33.1 m. wireless broadband subscriptions in 2013. In March 2012 there were 23.5 m. Facebook users (37% of the population).

### Territory and Population

France is bounded in the north by the English Channel (*La Manche*), north-east by Belgium and Luxembourg, east by Germany, Switzerland and Italy,

south by the Mediterranean (with Monaco as a coastal enclave), southwest by Spain and Andorra, and west by the Atlantic Ocean. The total area of metropolitan France is 543,965 km<sup>2</sup>. The population was 58,518,395 at the census of 1999 and 63,920,247 on 1 Jan. 2014 (density, 117.5 persons per km<sup>2</sup>). In 2011, 85.9% of the population lived in urban areas. In 2004 there were 4.96 m. people of foreign extraction in France (8.1% of the population). There are 13 metropolitan regions, which are divided into 96 metropolitan *départements*. In 2015 these consisted of 36,529 communes. The official language is French.

### Tourism

There were 83,633,000 foreign tourists in 2013; tourism receipts were US\$56.7 bn. France is the most popular tourist destination in the world, and receipts from tourism in 2013 were exceeded only in the USA and Spain. In 2012, 83.4% of tourists were from elsewhere in Europe and 7.8% from the Americas. Most visitors come from Germany, the UK, Belgium/Luxembourg, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland. As at 1 Jan. 2014 there were 1,245,600 beds at 17,100 tourist hotels.

## Gabon

### *République Gabonaise (Gabonese Republic)*

#### Factsheet

Capital: Libreville  
 Population estimate, 2015: 1.73 m.  
 GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 16,367  
 HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.684/110=  
 Internet domain extension: .ga

#### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Libreville (Léon M'Ba Airport), Port-Gentil and Franceville (Masuku); scheduled internal services link these to a number of domestic airfields. Libreville, the main airport, handled 839,571 passengers and 18,268 tonnes of freight in 2012. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Gabonese-based carriers flew 2.6 m. km; passenger-km totalled 115 m. in the same year. Gabon Airlines was established in July 2006 as a successor to the bankrupt national carrier Air Gabon, but it ceased operations in 2011.

#### Climate

The climate is equatorial, with high temperatures and considerable rainfall. Mid-May to mid-Sept. is the long dry season, followed by a short rainy season, then a dry season again from mid-Dec. to mid-Feb., and finally a long rainy season once more. Libreville, Jan. 80 °F (26.7 °C), July 75 °F (23.9 °C). Annual rainfall 99" (2,510 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

On 21 March 1997 the government presented to the Parliament legislation aimed at reforming the constitution in a number of key areas: notably, the bill mandated the creation of a Vice-President of the Republic, the extension of the presidential term of office from 5 to 7 years, and the transformation of the Senate into an Upper Chamber of Parliament. Gabon has a bicameral legislature, consisting of a 120-member *National Assembly* (with members elected by direct, popular vote to serve 5-year terms) and a 102-member *Senate* (elected for 6-year terms in single-seat constituencies by local and departmental councillors). In July 2003 Gabon's parliament approved an amendment to the constitution that allows the president to seek re-election indefinitely. The head of government is the *Prime Minister*, who appoints a Council of Ministers.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *franc CFA* (XAF) with a parity of 655.957 francs CFA to one euro.

#### Defence

In 2013 military expenditure totalled US\$263 m. (US\$161 per capita), representing 1.4% of GDP.

#### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 5% of GDP in 2009, industry 54% and services 41%. Gabon's 'shadow' (black market) economy is estimated to constitute approximately 47% of the country's official GDP.

#### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 628,000 (472,000 in 2003). 62.5% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 20.3% of the population was unemployed. There is a 40-h working week. Gabon had 14,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

#### Press

In 2008 there was one government-controlled daily newspaper (*L'Union*) with a circulation of 20,000.

#### Rail

The 669 km standard gauge Transgabonais railway runs from the port of Owendo to Franceville. Total length of railways, 2011, 810 km. In 2011 passenger-km travelled came to 118 m. and freight tonne-km to 2,417 m.

#### Religion

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, 76.5% of the population in 2010 was Christian and 11.2% Muslim, with 6.0% followers of folk religions; of the Christians, 69% were Catholics and 31% Protestants.

#### Roads

Gabon has some 10,000 km of roads. In 2010 there were about 195,000 registered vehicles. There were 252 deaths in road accidents in 2010.

#### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 12 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 6,000 GT. Owendo (near Libreville), Mayumba and Port-Gentil are the main ports. Rivers are an important means of inland transport.

#### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 39,000; deaths, 14,000. Estimated rates, 2008 (per 1,000 population): births, 27.3; deaths, 9.7. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.0%. Expectation of life at birth, 2013, 62.4 years for males and 64.5 years for females. Infant mortality, 2010, 54 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 3.3 births per woman.

#### Telecommunications

In 2010 there were 30,400 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 20.2 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 1,610,000 mobile phone subscriptions (or 1,069.4 per 1,000 inhabitants). Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 22,200 in 2010 (14.7 per 1,000 inhabitants).

#### Territory and Population

Gabon is bounded in the west by the Atlantic Ocean, north by Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon and east and south by the Republic of the Congo. The area covers 267,670 km<sup>2</sup>, including 10,000 km<sup>2</sup> of inland waters. Its population at the 2013 census was reported as 1,811,079. United Nations estimate, 2013, 1.82 m.; density, 7 per sq. In 2011, 86.4% of the population were urban. The capital is Libreville (703,940 inhabitants, 2013 census), other large towns (2013 census) being Port-Gentil (136,462), Franceville (110,568), Owendo (79,300) and Oyem (60,685). French is the official language.

#### Tourism

358,000 non-resident tourists arrived at Libreville airport in 2008, up from 169,000 in 2001.

## The Gambia

### Republic of The Gambia

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Banjul

*Population estimate, 2015:* 1.99 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 1,507

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.441/175

*Internet domain extension:* .gm

#### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Banjul (Yundum), which handled 313,173 passengers and 1,247 tonnes of freight in 2009. The then national carrier, Gambia International Airlines, ceased operations in 2007. A new national carrier, Gambia Bird, began scheduled services in Oct. 2012 but then suspended operations in Dec. 2014.

#### Climate

The climate is characterized by two very different seasons. The dry season lasts from Nov. to May, when precipitation is very light and humidity moderate. Days are warm but nights quite cool. The SW monsoon is likely to set in with spectacular storms and produces considerable rainfall from July to Oct., with increased humidity. Banjul, Jan. 73 °F (22.8 °C), July 80 °F (26.7 °C). Annual rainfall 52" (1,295 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

The 1970 constitution provided for an executive *President* elected directly for renewable 5-year terms. The President appoints a *Vice-President* who is the government's chief minister. The single-chamber *National Assembly* has 53 members (48 elected by universal adult suffrage for a 5-year term and five appointed by the President). A referendum of 8 Aug. 1996 approved a new constitution by 70.4% of votes cast. It took effect in Jan. 1997 and thereby created the Second Republic. Under this, the ban on political parties imposed in July 1994 was lifted. Members of the ruling Military Council resigned from their military positions before joining the Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction (APRC).

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *dalasi* (GMD), of 100 *butut*.

#### Defence

The Gambian National Army, 800 strong, has two infantry battalions, one engineer squadron and one company of presidential guards. The marine unit of the Army consisted in 2011 of approximately 70 personnel operating seven patrol boats. Defence expenditure totalled an estimated US\$6 m. in 2011 (approximately US\$4 per capita), representing around 0.5% of GDP.

#### Economy

Agriculture contributed 29.5% of GDP in 2010; followed by trade and hotels, 25.6%; finance and real estate, 12.7%; transport and communications, 10.7%; and public administration, defence and services, 6.1%.

#### Labour

The labour force in 2010 totalled 751,000 (52.1% males). Around 70% of the economically active population are engaged in agriculture. The Gambia had 14,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

#### Press

In 2008 there were three daily newspapers—the *Daily Observer*, *The Point* and the government-owned *Gambia Daily*.

#### Religion

In 2010 an estimated 95.1% of the population was Muslim (mainly Sunnis) and 4.5% Christian according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life.

#### Roads

There were some 3,742 km of roads in 2004, of which 19.3% were paved. Number of vehicles (2007): 8,800 passenger cars; 2,600 lorries and vans.

#### Shipping

The chief port is Banjul. Ocean-going vessels can travel up the Gambia River as far as Kuntaur. In Jan. 2009 there were five ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 32,000 GT.

#### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 61,000; deaths, 19,000. Estimated birth rate in 2008 was 36.8 per 1,000 population; estimated death rate, 11.3. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 3.0%. Expectation of life, 2013, was 57.5 years for males and 60.2 for females. Fertility rate, 2008, 5.1 births per woman; infant mortality, 2010, 57 per 1,000 live births. The Gambia has made some of the best progress in recent years in reducing child mortality. The number of deaths per 1,000 live births among children under five was reduced from around 153 in 1990 to approximately 106 in 2008.

#### Telecommunications

In 2010 there were 48,800 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 28.2 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 1,478,300 mobile phone subscriptions (or 855.3 per 1,000 inhabitants). There were 92.0 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010.

#### Territory and Population

The Gambia takes its name from the River Gambia, and consists of a strip of territory never wider than 10 km on both banks. It is bounded in the west by the Atlantic Ocean and on all other sides by Senegal. The area is 10,690 km<sup>2</sup>, including 2,077 km<sup>2</sup> of inland water. Census population, 2013 (provisional): 1,882,450, giving a density of 219 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 58.9% of the population were urban. The largest ethnic group is the Mandingo, followed by the Wolofs, Fulas, Jolas and Sarahuley. The country is administratively divided into eight local government areas (LGAs). The official language is English.

#### Tourism

Tourism is The Gambia's biggest foreign exchange earner. In 2009 there were 142,000 non-resident charter tourists (excluding same-day visitors).

## Georgia

### Sakartvelos Respublika (Republic of Georgia)

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Tbilisi

*Population estimate, 2015:* 4.00 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 7,164

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.754/76

*Internet domain extension:* .ge

#### Civil Aviation

The main airport is Tbilisi International Airport. The main Georgian carrier is Georgian Airways. In 2009 Tbilisi handled 702,596 passengers (714,976 in 2008) and 12,245 tonnes of freight.

## Climate

The Georgian climate is extremely varied. The relatively small territory covers different climatic zones, ranging from humid sub-tropical zones to permanent snow and glaciers. In Tbilisi summer is hot: 25–35 °C. Nov. sees the beginning of the Georgian winter and the temperature in Tbilisi can drop to –8 °C; however, average temperature ranges from 2–6 °C.

## Constitution and Government

A new constitution of 24 Aug. 1995 defines Georgia as a presidential republic with federal elements. The head of state is the *President*, elected by universal suffrage for not more than two 5-year terms. The 150-member *Supreme Council* is elected for 4-year terms, with 73 members elected in single-seat constituencies and 77 by proportional representation. There is a 5% threshold. Amendments limiting the power of the president in favour of the prime minister were passed in Oct. 2010 and came into force after Giorgi Margvelashvili was sworn in as president in Nov. 2013. The prime minister now has executive authority over domestic and foreign policy. The president remains head of state but no longer has the right to initiate laws, introduce a budget or hold an office in a political party.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *lari* (GEL) of 100 *tetri*, which replaced coupons at 1 lari = 1 m. coupons on 25 Sept. 1995.

## Defence

The total strength of the Armed Forces consisted of 20,655 personnel in 2011. Conscription is currently for 15 months although a bill proposing a move to an all-professional army was registered with parliament in 2015. The UN peacekeeping mission (United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia, or UNOMIG, which was established in Aug. 1993) ended in June 2009 owing to a lack of consensus among Security Council members on mandate extension. Following the collapse of the USSR in 1991 Russia maintained two bases in Georgia with some 4,000 personnel. The last Russian troops left Georgia in Nov. 2007. However, several thousand soldiers returned in Aug. 2008 when Moscow responded to Georgia's military attack on separatist forces in South Ossetia. Despite a subsequent withdrawal, some forces remain as part of a 'buffer zone' around South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Georgia hopes to join NATO, although its bid to become a member is fiercely opposed by Russia. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$389 m. (US\$85 per capita), representing 2.3% of GDP.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 9.2% of GDP in 2014, industry 24.4% and services 66.4%. Georgia's 'shadow' (black market) economy is estimated to constitute approximately 62% of the country's official GDP, one of the highest percentages of any country in the world.

## Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 2,417,000 (2,259,000 in 2003). 69.3% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 14.6% of the population was unemployed. Georgia had 16,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

In 2008 there were ten dailies with a combined circulation of 45,000, as well as 73 other papers.

## Rail

Total length in 2011 was 1,262 km (1,225 km of 1,524 mm gauge and 37 km of 900 mm gauge), (all electrified). In 2011 railways carried 20.1 m. tonnes of freight and 3.3 m. passengers. There is a metro system in Tbilisi.

## Religion

The Georgian Orthodox Church has its own organization under Catholicos (Patriarch) Ilia II who is resident in Tbilisi. According to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 there were 3.8 m. Orthodox and 500,000 Muslims (both Shias and Sunnis), plus small numbers of Catholics.

## Roads

There were 20,329 km of roads in 2007 (94.1% hard-surfaced). Passenger cars in use in 2007 numbered 416,300, and there were also 51,500 lorries and vans and 42,800 buses and coaches. In 2007 there were 737 road deaths.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 199 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 617,000 GT. The principal port is Poti, which handled 8.1 m. tonnes of cargo in 2008 (7.7 m. tonnes in 2007).

## Social Statistics

Births, 2011, 58,014; deaths, 49,818. Rates, 2011: birth, 12.9 per 1,000 population; death, 11.1 per 1,000. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, –0.4%. Life expectancy, 2013, 70.5 years for males and 77.8 years for females. Infant mortality, 2010, 20 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2013, 1.8 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 1,342,400 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 310.1 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 4,430,600 mobile phone subscriptions (or 1,023.5 per 1,000 inhabitants). There were 269.0 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 176,500 in 2009 (40.4 per 1,000 inhabitants). In March 2012 there were 908,000 Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Georgia is bounded in the west by the Black Sea and south by Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Area, 69,700 km<sup>2</sup> (26,900 sq. miles). Its provisional census population in 2014 was 3,729,635 (excluding Abkhazia and South Ossetia); density (excluding Abkhazia and South Ossetia), 65.2 per km<sup>2</sup>. 2014 population including estimates for Abkhazia and South Ossetia: 4,026,000. In 2012, 53.2% of the population lived in urban areas. The capital is Tbilisi (Jan. 2012 population estimate, 1.17 m.). Other principal towns (with Jan. 2012 population estimates in brackets): Kutaisi (196,800), Batumi (125,800), Rustavi (122,500). Georgians accounted for 86.8% of the 2014 census population; others included 6.3% Azerbaijanis, 4.5% Armenians and 0.7% Russians. Georgian is the official language. Armenian, Russian and Azeri are also spoken.

## Tourism

Investment in tourism has increased substantially in recent years, and large numbers of hotels have been built. In 2010 there were 2,032,000 international visitors, up from 1,423,000 in 2009. Most visitors in 2010 were from Armenia (548,000), Turkey (536,000), Azerbaijan (498,000) and Russia (171,000).

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# Germany

*Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Federal Republic of Germany)*

## Factsheet

*Capital:* Berlin  
*Seats of government:* Berlin, Bonn  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 80.69 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 43,919  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.916/6=  
*Internet domain extension:* .de

## Civil Aviation

Lufthansa, the largest carrier, was set up in 1953 and was originally 75% state-owned. The government sold its final shares in 1997. Other airlines include Air Berlin (Germany's second largest airline and Europe's third largest low-cost carrier), Condor, Eurowings, Germanwings and TUIfly. In 2012 the airlines of the Lufthansa Group carried 103 m. passengers (20 m. on

long-haul flights); revenue passenger-km totalled 204.8 bn. In 2014 civil aviation had 768 aircraft over 20 tonnes and 790 helicopters. In 2014 there were 104.82 m. passenger arrivals and 104.32 m. departures. Main international airports: Berlin (Schönefeld), Berlin (Tegel), Bremen, Cologne-Bonn, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt am Main, Frankfurt (Hahn), Hamburg (Fuhlsbüttel), Hanover, Leipzig, Munich, Nuremberg and Stuttgart. In 2014 Frankfurt am Main handled 59.55 m. passengers and 2,164,000 tonnes of freight. It is the busiest airport in Europe in terms of freight handled.

### Climate

Oceanic influences are only found in the northwest where winters are quite mild but stormy. Elsewhere a continental climate is general. To the east and south, winter temperatures are lower, with bright frosty weather and considerable snowfall. Summer temperatures are fairly uniform throughout. Berlin, Jan. 31 °F (−0.5 °C), July 66 °F (19 °C). Annual rainfall 22.5" (563 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The Basic Law (*Grundgesetz*) was approved by the parliaments of the participating *Bundesländer* and came into force on 23 May 1949. It is to remain in force until 'a constitution adopted by a free decision of the German people comes into being'. The Federal Republic is a democratic and social constitutional state on a parliamentary basis. The federation is constituted by the 16 *Bundesländer* (states). Executive power is vested in the *Bundesländer*, unless the Basic Law prescribes or permits otherwise. Federal law takes precedence over state law. Legislative power is vested in the *Bundestag* (Federal Assembly) and the *Bundesrat* (Federal Council). The Head of State is the Federal *President*, who is elected for a 5-year term by a *Federal Convention* specially convened for this purpose. No president may serve more than two terms. Executive power is vested in the Federal government, which consists of the Federal *Chancellor* (currently Angela Merkel, b. 1954 and assumed office in 2005), elected by the *Bundestag* on the proposal of the Federal *President*, and the Federal *Ministers*, who are appointed and dismissed by the Federal *President* upon the proposal of the Federal *Chancellor*. Federal laws are passed by the *Bundestag* and after their adoption submitted to the *Bundesrat*, which has a limited veto.

### Currency

On 1 Jan. 1999 the euro (EUR) became the legal currency in Germany at the irrevocable conversion rate of 1.95583 DM (Deutsche Mark) to one euro. The euro, which consists of 100 cents, has been in circulation since 1 Jan. 2002. It was still possible to make cash transactions in German marks until 28 Feb. 2002, although formally the mark had ceased to be legal tender on 31 Dec. 2001.

### Defence

Germany officially ended its compulsory military service on 1 July 2011. The total strength of the *Bundeswehr* (Federal Defence Forces of Germany) in Oct. 2012 was 195,893, including 7,132 in the vocational training service. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$44,201 m. (US\$545 per capita), representing 1.2% of GDP.

### Economy

Services accounted for 69.0% of GDP in 2014, industry 30.3% and agriculture 0.7%. Manufacturing's share of total GDP was 22.6%. In terms of total aid given, Germany was the third most generous country in the world in 2014 after the USA and the UK, donating US\$16.6 bn. in international aid in the course of the year. This represented 0.42% of GNI (compared to the UN target of 0.7%).

### Labour

Retirement age was traditionally 65 years, but is being raised gradually to 67 in a process that started at the beginning of 2012 and is to continue through to 2029. In 2012 the workforce was 43.88 m., of whom 41.57 m. were working and 2.32 m. (1.02 m. females) were unemployed. In 2014 the workforce was 44.67 m., of whom 42.58 m. were working and 2.09 m. (0.90 m. females) were unemployed. The standardized unemployment rate was 4.5% in Dec. 2015—the joint lowest in the European Union (down from 5.0% in 2014 as a whole and 5.2% in 2013). Unemployment in 2015 was at its lowest level since the reunification of Germany in 1990. Youth unemployment (under 25) is—at just 7.3% in Dec. 2014—the lowest in the European Union, helped by the fact that a quarter of employers provide formal apprenticeship schemes for young people. Long-term unemployment is particularly

high, with 47.4% of the labour force in 2010 having been out of work for more than a year. In Jan. 2005 the number of people out of work reached 5 m., the highest total since the 1930s, although by Oct. 2010 it had fallen to below 3 m. as Germany made a strong recovery from the recession. A national minimum wage of €8.50 per hour was introduced for the first time in Jan. 2015.

### Press

The daily press is mainly regional. The daily with the highest circulation is the tabloid *Bild* (2.22 m. copies per day in the fourth quarter of 2014, down from 3.03 m. in the fourth quarter of 2009). In 2014 the total circulation figures for the 349 German daily newspapers came to 16.3 m. The total circulation of daily newspapers in Germany is the highest in Europe. The leading daily newspaper websites are *Bild.de* (17.3 m. unique monthly visitors in Dec. 2014), *die Welt* (9.0 m.), *Süddeutsche.de* (5.8 m.) and *ZEIT ONLINE* (5.7 m.).

### Rail

Legislation of 1993 provides for the eventual privatization of the railways, but the state-owned Deutsche Bahn still dominates the market. On 1 Jan. 1994 West German Bundesbahn and the former GDR Reichsbahn were amalgamated as the Deutsche Bahn, a joint-stock company in which track, long-distance passenger traffic, regional passenger traffic, goods traffic and railway stations/services are run as five separate administrative entities. These were intended after 3–5 years to become companies themselves, at first under a holding company, and ultimately independent. In 2013 the total length of railway track was 37,860 km (nearly all 1,435 mm gauge track). 2,613 m. passengers were carried in 2013 and 365.0 m. tonnes of freight in 2014. There are metros in Berlin (152 km), Hamburg (101 km), Munich (101 km) and Nuremberg (35 km), and tram/light rail networks in over 50 cities.

### Religion

In 2013 there were 24,171,000 Roman Catholics in 11,085 parishes, 23,040,000 Protestants in 14,412 parishes; and in 2014, 100,437 Jews with 71 rabbis and 100 synagogues. The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees estimated in 2009 that there were between 3.8 m. and 4.3 m. Muslims resident in Germany, a number exceeded in the EU only in France. There are seven Roman Catholic archbishoprics (Bamberg, Berlin, Cologne, Freiburg, Hamburg, Munich and Freising, Paderborn) and 20 bishoprics. A concordat between Germany and the Holy See dates from 10 Sept. 1933. In April 2005 Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, former archbishop of Munich and Freising, was elected Pope as Benedict XVI. In Feb. 2013 he became the first Pope to resign in 600 years, citing age and declining health as the reasons for his decision. There were ten cardinals in Feb. 2016. The Evangelical (Protestant) Church (EKD) consists of 22 member-churches comprising nine Lutheran Churches, 11 United-Lutheran-Reformed Churches and two Reformed Churches. The Free Evangelical Church (BFEG) has some 460 communities.

### Roads

In 2014 the total length of the road network was 230,377 km, including 12,917 km of motorway (*Autobahn*), 39,389 km of federal highways and 86,210 km of secondary roads. The motorway network is the largest in Europe. On 1 Jan. 2015 there were 53,715,600 motor vehicles, including: passenger cars, 44,403,100 (more than one car for every two persons); lorries, 2,701,300; buses, 77,500; motorcycles, 4,145,400. In 2013, 9,306 m. passengers were transported by scheduled road transport services. There were 302,435 accidents in 2014 resulting in injuries to passengers. Road casualties in 2014 totalled 392,912, with 389,535 injured and 3,377 killed. In 2014 there were 4.2 fatalities per 100,000 population.

### Shipping

At 31 Dec. 2015 the mercantile marine comprised 351 ocean-going vessels of 10.30 m. GT. Sea-going ships in 2014 carried 300.1 m. tonnes of cargo. The busiest port, Hamburg, handled 126.0 m. tonnes of cargo in 2014, ranking it third in Europe behind Rotterdam and Antwerp. Hamburg is Europe's second busiest container port after Rotterdam. Navigable rivers and canals had a total length of 7,728 km in 2013. The inland waterways fleet on 31 Dec. 2014 included 842 motor freight vessels totalling 1.11 m. tonnes and 362 tankers of 689,341 tonnes. 228.5 m. tonnes of freight were transported in 2014.

## Social Statistics

Live births, 2013: 682,069; deaths, 893,825. Rates (per 1,000 population), 2013: birth, 8.5; death, 11.1; marriage, 4.6; divorce, 2.1; infant mortality, 3.3 per 1,000 live births; stillborn rate, 3.7 per 1,000 live births. Life expectancy, 2013: men, 78.8 years; women, 83.4. Suicide rates, 2010, per 100,000 population, 12.3 (men, 18.6; women, 6.1). Annual population growth rate, 2001–11, –0.3%; fertility rate, 2013, 1.4 births per woman (one of the lowest rates in the world).

## Telecommunications

Telecommunications were deregulated in 1989. On 1 Jan. 1995, three state-owned joint-stock companies were set up: Deutsche Telekom, Postdienst and Postbank. The partial privatization of Deutsche Telekom began in Nov. 1996; in 2013 the German government held only 14.5% of shares directly, and a further 17.4% indirectly through the government bank KfW. In 2010 there were 45.6 m. main (fixed) telephone lines, down from 54.8 m. in 2005. Mobile phone subscribers numbered 104.6 m. in 2010 (1,270.4 per 1,000 persons), up from 79.3 m. in 2005. T-Mobile and D2 Vodafone are the largest networks, with 36% and 32% of the market share respectively. Germany had 67.4 m. internet users in Dec. 2011. The fixed broadband penetration rate in Dec. 2010 was 31.9 subscribers per 100 inhabitants. In March 2012 there were 22.1 m. Facebook users (27% of the population).

## Territory and Population

Germany is bounded in the north by Denmark and the North and Baltic Seas, east by Poland, east and southeast by the Czech Republic, southeast and south by Austria, south by Switzerland and west by France, Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands. Area: 357,340 sq. km. Population estimate, 31 Dec. 2014: 81,197,537; density 227 per sq. km. Of the total population in 2014, 65,223,097 lived in the former Federal Republic of Germany (excluding West Berlin) and 15,974,440 in the six new states of the former German Democratic Republic (including 3,469,849 in Berlin). On 31 Dec. 2014 there were 8,152,968 resident foreigners, including 1,527,118 Turks, 674,152 Poles, 574,530 Italians, 355,343 Romanians, 328,564 Greeks and 263,347 Croats. In 2014 Germany received 202,834 asylum applications (of which 173,072 first time applications), up from 28,018 in 2008 although down from 438,191 in 1992. The Federation comprises 16 *Bundesländer* (states). The *Bundesländer* with the largest populations in Dec. 2013 (in 1,000) are: North Rhine-Westphalia, 17,572; Bavaria, 12,604; Baden-Württemberg, 10,631; Lower Saxony, 7,791; Hessen, 6,045. The capital is Berlin; the Federal German government moved from Bonn to Berlin in 1999. Populations of the largest cities in Dec. 2011 (in 1,000) are: Berlin, 3,502; Hamburg, 1,799; Munich/München, 1,378; Cologne/Köln, 1,017; Frankfurt am Main, 692. The official language is German.

## Tourism

In 2014 there were 51,865 places of accommodation with 3,563,595 beds (including 13,270 hotels with 1,095,075 beds). 32,999,000 foreign visitors and 127,791,000 tourists resident in Germany spent a total of 424,062,000 nights in holiday accommodation. The most visited city is Berlin with 11,871,000 overnight visitors in 2014; Bavaria is the most visited *Bundesland* with 32,462,000 (6,594,000 visited Munich). In 2014 the Netherlands was the country of origin of the largest number of overnight visitors (4,238,000), ahead of Switzerland (2,778,000) and the UK (2,415,000). In 2014 tourism brought in €32.6 bn. Expenditure by German travellers in foreign countries for 2014 was €70.3 bn.

# Ghana

## Republic of Ghana

### Factsheet

Capital: Accra  
Population estimate, 2015: 27.41 m.  
GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 3,852  
HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.579/140  
Internet domain extension: .gh

## Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Accra (Kotoka), which handled 2,424,153 passengers (1,726,051 on international flights) in 2012. As well as domestic flights, in 2010 there were direct international services connecting Accra with more than 20 destinations.

## Climate

The climate ranges from the equatorial type on the coast to savannah in the north and is typified by the existence of well-marked dry and wet seasons. Temperatures are relatively high throughout the year. The amount, duration and seasonal distribution of rain is very marked, from the south, with over 80" (2,000 mm), to the north, with under 50" (1,250 mm). In the extreme north, the wet season is from March to Aug., but further south it lasts until Oct. Near Kumasi, two wet seasons occur, in May and June and again in Oct., and this is repeated, with greater amounts, along the coast of Ghana. Accra, Jan. 80 °F (26.7 °C), July 77 °F (25 °C). Annual rainfall 29" (724 mm).

## Constitution and Government

After the coup of 31 Dec. 1981, supreme power was vested in the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC), chaired by Flight-Lieut. Jerry John Rawlings. A new constitution was approved by 92.6% of votes cast at a referendum on 28 April 1992. The electorate was 8,255,690; turnout was 43.8%. The constitution sets up a presidential system on the US model, with a multi-party parliament and an independent judiciary. The *President* is elected by universal suffrage for a 4-year term renewable once. The unicameral *Parliament* has 275 members, elected for a 4-year term in single-seat constituencies.

## Currency

The monetary unit is the *cedi* (GHS) of 100 *pesewas*. It was introduced in July 2007 and is equal to 10,000 old cedi (GHC).

## Defence

Defence expenditure totalled US\$306 m. in 2013 (US\$12 per capita), representing 0.6% of GDP. Between 2012 and 2013 Ghana increased its defence spending by 129%, the largest rise of any country that year.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 31.8% of GDP in 2009, industry 19.0% and services 49.2%.

## Labour

In 2013 the number of economically active persons totalled 14.04 m. Females constituted 51.7% of the labour force in 2013. The unemployment rate was 5.2% in 2013. Ghana had 0.18 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

There were 12 paid-for daily newspapers in 2008 with a combined circulation of 210,000 plus 95 paid-for non-dailies.

## Rail

Total length of railways in 2006 was 953 km of 1,067 mm gauge, all in the south of the country. In 2010 a US\$6 bn. deal was signed with China National Machinery Import & Export Corp. to construct a railway linking Kumasi (the northernmost point of the existing network) with Paga in the north of the country on the border with Burkina Faso. In 2006 railways carried 1.6 m. tonnes of freight and 2.3 m. passengers.

## Religion

In 2010 the population was 74.9% Christian according to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, with 15.8% Hindu and 4.9% folk religionist. Protestants constituted 81% of Christians in 2010 and Catholics 17%. In Feb. 2016 the Roman Catholic church had one cardinal.

## Roads

In 2005 there were 57,614 km of roads, including 11,177 km of highways, main and national roads. About 14.9% of all roads are paved. A Road Sector Strategy and Programme to develop the road network ran from 1995 to 2000. There were 493,800 passenger cars in use in 2007, 158,400 lorries and vans, and 121,100 buses and coaches. Motorcycles and mopeds numbered 149,100.

## Shipping

The chief ports are Tema and Takoradi. In 2008, 8.7 m. tonnes of cargo were handled at Tema and 4.0 m. tonnes at Takoradi. There is inland water transport on Lake Volta. In Jan. 2009 there were 14 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 15,000 GT. The Volta, Ankobra and Tano rivers provide 168 km of navigable waterways for launches and lighters.

## Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 756,000; deaths, 259,000. Rates, 2008 estimates (per 1,000 population): births, 32.4; deaths, 11.1. 2013 life expectancy, 60.2 years for men and 62.1 for women. Infant mortality, 50 per 1,000 live births (2010). Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.2%; fertility rate, 2008, 4.0 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

Ghana Telecom was privatized in 1996. There were 277,900 fixed telephone lines in 2010 (11.4 per 1,000 inhabitants). Mobile phone subscribers numbered 17.44 m. in 2010. There were 85.5 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 92,700 in 2009 (3.9 per 1,000 inhabitants). In June 2012 there were 1.3 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Ghana is bounded west by Côte d'Ivoire, north by Burkina Faso, east by Togo and south by the Gulf of Guinea. The area is 238,533 km<sup>2</sup>; the 2010 census population was 24,658,823 giving a density of 103.4 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 52.2% of the population were urban. An estimated 3 m. Ghanaians lived abroad in 2006. Ghana is divided into ten regions. In 2010 the capital, Accra, had a population of 1,848,614. Other major cities are Kumasi, Tamale, Sekondi-Takoradi and Ashiaman. About 42% of the population are Akan. Other tribal groups include Moshi (23%), Ewe (10%) and Ga-Adangme (7%). About 75 languages are spoken; the official language is English.

## Tourism

There were 931,000 non-resident tourists in 2010, spending US\$706 m.

# Greece

## *Elliniki Dimokratia (Hellenic Republic)*

### Factsheet

Capital: Athens

Population estimate, 2015: 10.96 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 24,524

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.865/29

Internet domain extension: .gr

### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Athens (Spata 'Eleftherios Venizelos') and Thessaloniki-Makedonia. The airport at Spata opened in 2001. The national carrier, Olympic Airlines, ceased operations in Sept. 2009 and Olympic Air, the new airline formed from its privatization, commenced flights that month. In Oct. 2013 Olympic Air was acquired by Aegean Airlines, the largest Greek airline in terms of the number of passengers carried. Apart from the international airports there are a further 25 provincial airports. 5.70 m. passengers were carried in 2005, of whom 2.90 m. were on domestic and 2.80 m. on international flights. Olympic Airlines operates routes from Athens to all

important cities of the country, Europe, the Middle East and USA. In 2006 Athens airport (Spata) handled 15,079,708 passengers (9,611,095 on international flights).

### Climate

Coastal regions and the islands have typical Mediterranean conditions, with mild, rainy winters and hot, dry, sunny summers. Rainfall comes almost entirely in the winter months, though amounts vary widely according to position and relief. Continental conditions affect the northern mountainous areas, with severe winters, deep snow cover and heavy precipitation, but summers are hot. Athens, Jan. 48 °F (8.6 °C), July 82.5 °F (28.2 °C). Annual rainfall 16.6" (414.3 mm).

### Constitution and Government

Greece is a presidential parliamentary democracy. A new constitution was introduced in June 1975 and was amended in March 1986, April 2001 and May 2008. The 300-member *Chamber of Deputies* is elected for 4-year terms by proportional representation. There is a 3% threshold. Extra seats are awarded to the party which leads in an election. The Chamber of Deputies elects the head of state, the *President*, for a 5-year term.

### Currency

In June 2000 EU leaders approved a recommendation for Greece to join the European single currency, the euro, and on 1 Jan. 2001 the euro (EUR) became the legal currency at the irrevocable conversion rate of 340.750 drachmas to 1 euro. The euro, which consists of 100 cents, has been in circulation since 1 Jan. 2002. On the introduction of the euro there was a 'dual circulation' period before the drachma ceased to be legal tender on 28 Feb. 2002.

### Defence

Prior to 2001 conscription was generally: (Army) 18 months, (Navy) 21 months, (Air Force) 20 months. However, following a gradual shortening of military service, in 2015 conscription was 9 months for the Army and 12 months for the Navy and the Air Force. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$5,681 m., with spending per capita US\$527. The 2013 expenditure represented 2.3% of GDP (the second highest percentage in the EU).

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 4% of GDP in 2012, industry 14% and services 82%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 5,008,000 (4,935,000 in 2003). 68.1% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 27.2% of the population was unemployed. In 2014 there was a monthly minimum wage of €683.76, down from €876.62 in 2012. The 'official' retirement age is 67, although on average Greek men retire at 63 and women at 59. In 2013 only 36% of Greeks between the ages of 55 and 64 were in employment. Unemployment was 24.5% in Oct. 2015 (down from 26.6% in 2014 as a whole and 27.5% in 2013). Youth unemployment—those under 25—is particularly high, at 48.6% in Oct. 2015 (although it was 60.5% in Feb. 2013). Greece has the highest rate of self-employed people in the European Union, at 36.8% of total employment in 2012.

### Press

There were 45 daily newspapers published in 2008 (41 paid-for and four free) with a combined daily circulation of 1,447,000. The papers with the highest circulation are the free *City Press* and *Metro*.

### Rail

In 2011 the state network, Hellenic Railways (OSE), totalled 2,554 km, of which 1,782 km were of standard 1,435 mm gauge and 772 km were of narrow gauge (1,000 mm and 600 mm). Railways carried 3.2 m. tonnes of freight and 15.3 m. passengers in 2012. A 52-km long metro opened in Athens in 2000.

## Religion

Greek Orthodoxy is the state religion. The primate of the Greek Orthodox Church is Archbishop Ieronymos II of Athens and All Greece (b. 1938). According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, an estimated 88.3% of the population in 2010 was Orthodox. Muslims constituted 5.4% of the population in 2010 and people with no religious affiliation 6.2%. There are also small numbers of Protestants and Catholics.

## Roads

There were 116,631 km of roads in 2005, including 868 km of motorway, 9,299 km of national roads and 30,864 km of secondary roads. Number of motor vehicles in 2005: 4,303,129 passenger cars (388 per 1,000 inhabitants), 1,186,483 trucks and vans, 1,124,172 motorcycles and 26,829 buses. There were 1,612 road deaths in 2007. With 14.4 deaths per 100,000 population in 2007, Greece has among the highest death rates in road accidents of any industrialized country.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 1,127 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 37.14 m. GT. Of the 1,127 vessels registered, 412 were oil tankers, 260 bulk carriers, 252 passenger ships, 120 general cargo ships, 45 container ships, 26 chemical tankers and 12 liquid gas tankers. The Greek-controlled fleet comprised 3,094 vessels of 1,000 GT or over in Jan. 2009, of which 2,361 were under foreign flags and only 737 under the Greek flag. There is a canal (opened 9 Nov. 1893) across the Isthmus of Corinth (about 7 km). The principal port is Piraeus, which handled 10,477,000 tonnes of cargo in 2008 (4,463,000 tonnes loaded and 6,014,000 tonnes discharged).

## Social Statistics

2009: 117,933 live births; 108,316 deaths; 59,212 marriages; 13,163 divorces (2008); 505 still births. 2009 rates: birth (per 1,000 population), 10.5; death, 9.6; marriage, 5.3; divorce, 1.2 (2008). Average annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 0.2%. In 2012 the suicide rate per 100,000 population was 3.8 (men, 6.3; women, 1.3). Expectation of life at birth, 2014, 78.0 years for males and 83.8 years for females. In 2005 the most popular age range for marrying was 25–29 for females and 30–34 for males. Infant mortality, 2009, 3.2 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2005, 1.2 births per woman (one of the lowest rates in the world).

## Telecommunications

In 2012 there were 5,461,000 main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscriptions numbered 13,360,000 (1,201.0 per 1,000 persons). In 2013, 59.8% of the population aged 16–74 were internet users. There were 19.9 fixed broadband subscribers per 100 inhabitants in Dec. 2010. In March 2012 there were 3.6 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Greece is bounded in the north by Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Bulgaria, east by Turkey and the Aegean Sea, south by the Mediterranean and west by the Ionian Sea. The total area is 131,958 km<sup>2</sup> (50,949 sq. miles), of which the islands account for 25,026 km<sup>2</sup> (9,663 sq. miles). The population was 10,815,197 according to the census of March 2011 (5,512,404 females and 5,302,703 males), giving a density of 82.0 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 61.7% of the population lived in urban areas. This excludes the population of the Monastic Republic of Mount Athos (a self-governing community composed of 20 monasteries). As well as 9,903,268 Greek nationals, there were 199,101 citizens of other European Union countries in Greece in March 2011, plus 708,003 citizens of other countries and 4,825 stateless persons or people with no specified citizenship. The largest cities (2011 census populations) are Athens (the capital), 3,168,036 (including the municipalities of Piraeus, Peristeri and Kallithea); Thessaloniki, 806,396; Patras, 195,265; Heraklion, 157,452; Larissa, 144,651; Volos, 130,094; Acharnai, 100,723. The modern Greek language had two contesting literary standard forms, the archaizing *Katharevousa* ('purist'), and a version based on the spoken vernacular, 'Demotic'.

## Tourism

Tourism is Greece's biggest industry, in 2011 accounting for 16.5% of GDP. In 2011 there were a record 16,427,000 foreign tourists (of which 10,698,000

from citizens of other European Union countries), up from 15,007,000 in 2010 and 14,915,000 in 2009. However, 2012 saw a decline with tourist arrivals falling to 15,518,000. There were 397,660 hotel rooms and 763,407 hotel beds in 2010 (358,721 rooms and 682,050 beds in 2005).

# Grenada

## Factsheet

*Capital:* St George's

*Population estimate, 2015:* 107,000

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 10,939

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.750/79

*Internet domain extension:* .gd

## Civil Aviation

The main airport is Maurice Bishop International Airport (MBIA), at St George's. Union Island and Carriacou have smaller airports. In 2010 there were direct flights from MBIA to Antigua, Barbados, Frankfurt, London, Miami, Portlamar (in Venezuela), Puerto Rico, St Vincent, Tobago, Toronto and Trinidad. MBIA handled 353,649 passengers in 2012 (293,933 on international flights) and 1,846 tonnes of freight.

## Climate

The tropical climate is very agreeable in the dry season, from Jan. to May, when days are warm and nights quite cool, but in the wet season there is very little difference between day and night temperatures. On the coast, annual rainfall is about 60" (1,500 mm) but it is as high as 150–200" (3,750–5,000 mm) in the mountains. Average temperature, 27 °C.

## Constitution and Government

The head of state is the British sovereign, represented by an appointed *Governor-General*. There is a bicameral legislature, consisting of a 13-member *Senate*, appointed by the Governor-General, and a 15-member *House of Representatives*, elected by universal suffrage.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *East Caribbean dollar* (XCD).

## Defence

Modelled on the British system, the 730-strong police force includes an 80-member paramilitary unit and a 30-member coastguard.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 5.2% of GDP in 2010, industry 17.1% and services 77.7%.

## Labour

In 2008 the labour force numbered 47,600, of whom 35,700 persons were employed. Unemployment was 24.9% in 2008.

## Press

In 2008 there were five weekly newspapers and several others that were published irregularly.

## Religion

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, half of the population in 2010 was Catholic and half Protestant.

## Roads

In 2001 there were 1,127 km of roads, of which 61.0% were hard-surfaced.



### Shipping

The main port is at St George's; there are eight minor ports. In Jan. 2009 there were four ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 2,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

Births, 2008 estimates, 2,000; deaths, 600. Rates per 1,000 population, 2008 estimates: birth, 19.4; death, 6.1. Life expectancy, 2013: 70.3 years for males; 75.3 years for females. Infant mortality, 2010, nine per 1,000 live births. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 0.3%; fertility rate, 2008, 2.3 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

There were 28,400 fixed telephone lines in 2010 (271.5 per 1,000 inhabitants). Mobile phone subscribers numbered 121,900 in 2010. There were 334.6 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 10,900 in 2009 (104.8 per 1,000 inhabitants).

### Territory and Population

Grenada is the most southerly island of the Windward Islands with an area of 344 km<sup>2</sup> (133 sq. miles); the state also includes the Southern Grenadine Islands to the north, chiefly Carriacou (58.3 km<sup>2</sup>) and Petite Martinique. The total population at the 2011 census (provisional) was 103,328 (52,651 males); density, 300 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 39.7% of the population were urban. The Borough of St George's, the capital, had 36,823 inhabitants in 2011 (provisional). 52% of the population is Black, 40% of mixed origins, 4% Indian and 1% White. The official language is English. A French-African patois is also spoken.

### Tourism

In 2010 there were 106,156 non-resident tourist arrivals by air and 333,556 cruise passenger arrivals. There were 206 cruise ship calls in 2010.

## Guatemala

### *República de Guatemala (Republic of Guatemala)*

#### Factsheet

Capital: Guatemala City  
 Population estimate, 2015: 16.34 m.  
 GNI per capita, 2014: (PPP\$) 6,929  
 HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.627/128  
 Internet domain extension: .gt

#### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Guatemala City (La Aurora) and Flores. In 2013, 59,078 domestic flights and 40,505 international flights arrived at and departed from La Aurora; the international flights carried 2,107,670 passengers.

#### Climate

A tropical climate, with little variation in temperature and a well-marked wet season from May to Oct. Guatemala City, Jan. 63 °F (17.2 °C), July 69 °F (20.6 °C). Annual rainfall 53" (1,316 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

A new constitution, drawn up by the Constituent Assembly elected on 1 July 1984, was promulgated in June 1985 and came into force on 14 Jan. 1986. In 1993, 43 amendments were adopted, reducing *inter alia* the President's term of office from 5 to 4 years. The President and Vice-President are elected by direct election (with a second round of voting if no candidate secures 50% of the first-round votes) for a non-renewable 4-year term. The unicameral *Congreso de la República* comprises 158 members, elected partly from constituencies and partly by proportional representation to serve 4-year terms.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *quetzal* (GTQ) of 100 *centavos*, established on 7 May 1925.

#### Defence

In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$256 m. (US\$18 per capita), representing 0.5% of GDP.

#### Economy

In 2011 agriculture accounted for 11.8% of GDP, industry 29.3% and services 58.9%.

#### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 6,628,000 (4,595,000 in 2003). 69.7% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 3.0% of the population was unemployed. Guatemala had 13,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

#### Press

In 2008 there were nine paid-for daily newspapers, the main ones being *Nuestro Diario* and *Prensa Libre*.

#### Rail

Ferrovías Guatemala (a subsidiary of Railroad Development Corporation, which secured a 50-year concession to upgrade Guatemala's decrepit rail network in 1997) operated 322 km of railway in 2007, with six locomotives carrying 40,000 tonnes of freight. However, after a contractual dispute with the government, the company suspended its operations in Sept. 2007 and no trains have run since then.

#### Religion

In 2010 there were an estimated 8.37 m. Roman Catholics, 5.13 m. Protestants and 0.20 m. other Christians according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. A further 0.59 m. people had no religious affiliation.

#### Roads

In 2012 there were 16,293 km of roads, of which 44.6% were paved. Vehicles in use in 2007 numbered 1,558,100.

#### Shipping

The chief ports on the Atlantic coast are Puerto Barrios and Santo Tomás de Castilla: on the Pacific coast, Puerto Quetzal and Champerico. Santo Tomás de Castilla, Guatemala's busiest port, handled 4.7 m. tonnes of cargo in 2008.

#### Social Statistics

Births, 2006, 368,399; deaths, 69,756. 2006 rates per 1,000 population: birth, 28.4; death, 5.4. Life expectancy, 2007: male 66.7 years, female 73.7. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 2.5%. Infant mortality, 2010, 25 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 4.1 births per woman.

#### Telecommunications

The government own and operate the telecommunications services. There were 1.50 m. fixed telephone lines in 2010 (104.1 per 1,000 inhabitants). Mobile phone subscribers numbered 18.07 m. in 2010. There were 105.0 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010. In Dec. 2011 there were 1.7 m. Facebook users.

#### Territory and Population

Guatemala is bounded on the north and west by Mexico, south by the Pacific ocean and east by El Salvador, Honduras and Belize, and the area is 108,889 km<sup>2</sup> (42,042 sq. miles). In March 1936 Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras agreed to accept the peak of Mount Montecristo as the common boundary point. The population at the last census, in 2002, was 11,237,196. The estimated population in 2012 was 15,073,400; density, 138 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 49.9% of the population were urban. There are four recognized ethnic

groups: Maya (the native people of the country); Ladino (people of mixed European and indigenous ancestry); Garifuna (a mix of African, Arawak and Carib); Xinka (also native people of the region but not descendants from the Maya). In 2012, 40% of the population identified themselves as indigenous. 51% speak Spanish, the official language of Guatemala, with the remainder speaking one or a combination of the 23 Indian dialects. In 2010 Guatemala City, the capital, had an estimated population of 2,584,000. Other major towns are Mixco, Villa Nueva, Quetzaltenango, Petapa and Escuintla.

### Tourism

There were 1,876,000 non-resident visitors in 2010 (up from 1,777,000 in 2009 and 1,715,000 in 2008).

## Guinea

### *République de Guinée (Republic of Guinea)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Conakry

*Population estimate, 2015:* 12.61 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 1,096

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.411/182

*Internet domain extension:* .gn

#### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Conakry (Gbessia). In 2010 there were scheduled flights to Abidjan, Bamako, Banjul, Bissau, Brussels, Casablanca, Dakar, Freetown, Monrovia, Nouakchott and Paris, as well as domestic services. In 2006 there were 103,200 air arrivals and 153,800 departures plus 9,600 passengers in transit. A total of 8.53 m. tonnes of air freight were handled in 2006.

#### Climate

A tropical climate, with high rainfall near the coast and constant heat, but conditions are a little cooler on the plateau. The wet season on the coast lasts from May to Nov., but only to Oct. inland. Conakry, Jan. 80 °F (26.7 °C), July 77 °F (25 °C). Annual rainfall 172" (4,293 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

There is a 114-member *National Assembly*, 38 of whose members are elected on a first-past-the-post system, and the remainder from national lists by proportional representation. It was dissolved following the military coup of Dec. 2008, but reinstated after parliamentary elections held in Sept. 2013 (the first in 11 years). On 11 Nov. 2001 a referendum was held in which 98.4% of votes cast were in favour of President Conté remaining in office for a third term, requiring an amendment to the constitution (previously allowing a maximum two presidential terms). The referendum, which also increased the presidential mandate from 5 to 7 years, was boycotted by opposition parties.

#### Currency

The monetary unit is the *Guinean franc* (GNF).

#### Defence

There is selective conscription for 2 years. Defence expenditure totalled an estimated US\$42 m. in 2011 (approximately US\$4 per capita), representing around 1% of GDP.

#### Economy

Agriculture produced 16.9% of GDP in 2009, industry 31.0% and services 52.1%.

#### Labour

In 2010 the labour force was 4,092,000 (54.8% males). The agricultural sector employs 80% of the workforce. Guinea had 82,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

#### Press

In 2008 there were two daily newspapers (circulation 25,000).

#### Rail

A railway connects Conakry with Kankan (662 km). A line 144 km long linking Conakry and Fria, where there is a bauxite mine and aluminium plant, opened in 1960 and a third line opened in 1973 links bauxite deposits at Sangaredi with Port Kamsar (134 km). There are two further railway used by the bauxite industry, running from Tougué to Dabola (130 km) and from Débéle to Conakry (102 km).

#### Religion

In 2010, 84.4% of the population was Muslim and 10.9% Christian according to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. Most Muslims in Guinea are Sunnis and most Christians are Catholics. In Feb. 2016 there was one cardinal in the Roman Catholic church.

#### Roads

In 2008 there were 6,758 km of roads, 35.4% of which were asphalted. In 2011 there were 299,200 vehicles in use.

#### Shipping

There are ports at Conakry and for bauxite exports at Kamsar (opened 1973). Merchant shipping totalled 1,000 GT in 2008.

#### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 390,000; deaths, 108,000. Rates, 2008 estimates (per 1,000 population): births, 39.6; deaths, 11.0. infant mortality, 2010, 81 per 1,000 live births. Life expectancy, 2013, 55.3 years for males and 56.9 for females. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.0%; fertility rate, 2008, 5.4 births per woman.

#### Telecommunications

The Société guinéenne des télécommunications, which was privatized in 1995, became 100% state-owned again in 2008 after Telekom Malaysia sold its 60% stake in the company. The company ceased operations in 2013 after it filed for bankruptcy but there are plans for its relaunch during 2016. There were 18,000 fixed telephone lines in 2010 (1.8 per 1,000 inhabitants). Mobile phone subscribers numbered 3.49 m. in 2009. There were 9.6 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010.

#### Territory and Population

Guinea is bounded in the northwest by Guinea-Bissau and Senegal, northeast by Mali, southeast by Côte d'Ivoire, south by Liberia and Sierra Leone, and west by the Atlantic Ocean. The area is 245,860 km<sup>2</sup> (94,930 sq. miles), including 140 km<sup>2</sup> (50 sq. miles) of inland water. In 2014 the census population (provisional) was 10,628,972 (density 43.2 per km<sup>2</sup>). The capital is Conakry. In 2011, 35.9% of the population were urban. Guinea is divided into seven administrative regions and the governorate of Conakry (national capital). These are in turn divided into 34 administrative regions. The major divisions (with their areas in sq. km) are: Boké, 31,186; Conakry (special zone-national capital), 450; Faranah, 35,581; Kankan, 72,156; Kindia, 28,873; Labé, 22,869; Mamou, 17,074; Nzérékoré, 37,668. The main towns are Conakry (provisional census population, 2014, 1,667,864), Nzérékoré, Kankan, Kindia, Manéah and Siguiri. The ethnic composition is Fulani (38.6%), Malinké (or Mandingo, 23.2%), Susu (11.0%), Kissi (6.0%), Kpelle (4.6%) and others (16.6%). The official language is French.

#### Tourism

In 2012, 96,000 non-resident tourists arrived at Conakry airport.

## Guinea-Bissau

*Republica da Guiné-Bissau (Republic of Guinea-Bissau)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Bissau

*Population estimate, 2015:* 1.84 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 1,362

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.420/178

*Internet domain extension:* .gw

### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport serving Bissau (Osvaldo Vieira). In 2010 there were scheduled flights to Conakry, Dakar, Lisbon and Praia.

### Climate

The tropical climate has a wet season from June to Nov., when rains are abundant, but the hot, dry Harmattan wind blows from Dec. to May. Bissau, Jan. 76 °F (24.4 °C), July 80 °F (26.7 °C). Annual rainfall 78" (1,950 mm).

### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was promulgated on 16 May 1984 and has been amended five times since, most recently in 1996. The Revolutionary Council, established following the 1980 coup, was replaced by a 15-member Council of State, while in April 1984 a new National People's Assembly was elected comprising 150 representatives elected by and from the directly-elected regional councils for 5-year terms. The sole political movement was the *Partido Africano da Independência da Guiné e Cabo Verde* (PAIGC), but in Dec. 1990 a policy of 'integral multi-partyism' was announced, and in May 1991 the National Assembly voted unanimously to abolish the law making the PAIGC the sole party. The *President* is Head of State and Government and is elected for a 5-year term. The *National Assembly* now has a maximum of 102 members. In the wake of the coup of April 2012 the military junta suspended the constitution and dissolved parliament (although it was resumed in Nov. 2012), and defied international demands for the constitution's restoration.

### Currency

In May 1997 Guinea-Bissau joined the French Franc Zone, and the *peso* was replaced by the franc CFA at 65 pesos = one franc CFA. The *franc CFA* (XOF) has a parity rate of 655.957 francs CFA to one euro.

### Defence

There is selective conscription. In 2012 defence expenditure totalled US\$26 m., with spending per capita US\$16. The 2012 expenditure represented 2.9% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2012 agriculture accounted for 38.7% of GDP; followed by commerce, 18.5%; food processing, 11.3%; public administration services, 7.9%; transport and telecommunications, 5.0%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2010 was 648,000 (52.7% males). Guinea-Bissau had 12,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

There are no daily newspapers. In 2008 there were six non-daily papers, which had a combined weekly circulation of 10,000 copies.

### Religion

In 2010 there were an estimated 680,000 Muslims, 470,000 followers of folk religions and 300,000 Christians according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life.

### Roads

In 2009 there were about 4,400 km of roads, of which 10% were paved. In 2008 there were 42,200 passenger cars in use (27 per 1,000 inhabitants in 2007) and 9,300 lorries and vans.

### Shipping

The main port is Bissau; minor ports are Bolama, Cacheu and Catió.

### Social Statistics

2008 births (estimates), 65,000; deaths, 27,000. Estimated rates per 1,000 population, 2008: births, 41.2; deaths, 17.2. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.4%. Life expectancy, 2013: male, 52.8 years; female, 55.8. Infant mortality, 2010, 92 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 5.7 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

There were an estimated 5,000 fixed telephone lines in 2010 (3.3 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 402,000 mobile phone subscriptions in 2011 (or 259.8 per 1,000 inhabitants). There were 24.5 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 699 in 2009 (0.5 per 1,000 inhabitants).

### Territory and Population

Guinea-Bissau is bounded by Senegal in the north, the Atlantic Ocean in the west and by Guinea in the east and south. It includes the adjacent archipelago of Bijagós. Area, 36,125 km<sup>2</sup> (13,948 sq. miles). 2009 census population, 1,520,830 (783,196 females); density, 42.1 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 30.2% of the population were urban. The largest ethnic group are the Balanta (nearly a third of the population), Fulani, Manjaco and Mandinga. Portuguese remains the official language, but Crioulo is spoken throughout the country.

### Tourism

In 2007, 30,000 non-resident tourists arrived by air.

## Guyana

*Co-operative Republic of Guyana*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Georgetown

*Population estimate, 2015:* 767,000

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 6,522

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.636/124

*Internet domain extension:* .gy

### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Georgetown (Timehri), which handled 438,532 passengers in 2009. In 2010 there were direct flights to Antigua, Barbados, Miami, New York, Port of Spain, St Kitts and the British Virgin Islands.

### Climate

A tropical climate, with rainy seasons from April to July and Nov. to Jan. Humidity is high all the year but temperatures are moderated by sea-breezes. Rainfall increases from 90" (2,280 mm) on the coast to 140" (3,560 mm) in the forest zone. Georgetown, Jan. 79 °F (26.1 °C), July 81 °F (27.2 °C). Annual rainfall 87" (2,175 mm).

## Constitution and Government

A new constitution was promulgated in Oct. 1980. There is an *Executive Presidency* and a *National Assembly*. The president is elected by simple majority vote as the designated candidate of a party list in parliamentary elections; there are no term limits. The National Assembly has 69 members who serve 5-year terms (65 directly elected, plus three non-elected ministers and the Speaker).

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *Guyana dollar* (GYD) of 100 cents.

## Defence

In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$35 m. (US\$48 per capita), representing 1.2% of GDP. The army, navy and air force are combined in a 1,100-strong Guyana Defence Force.

## Economy

In 2009 agriculture accounted for 24.0% of GDP, industry 30.9% and services 45.1%.

## Labour

In 2010 the estimated economically active population was 342,000 (66% males).

## Press

In 2008 there were three daily newspapers (the state-owned *Guyana Chronicle* and the privately-owned *Kaieteur News* and *Stabroek News*) with a combined average daily circulation of 32,000.

## Rail

There is a government-owned railway in the North West District, while the Guyana Mining Enterprise operates a standard gauge railway of 133 km from Linden on the Demerara River to Ituni and Coomacka.

## Religion

In 2010 the population was an estimated 66.0% Christian according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, with Hindus constituting 24.9% and Muslims 6.4%.

## Roads

There are approximately 4,000 km of roads. In 2008 there were 44,700 passenger cars in use, plus 28,100 lorries and vans, and 37,100 motorcycles and mopeds.

## Shipping

The major port is Georgetown; there are two other ports. In Jan. 2009 there were 28 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 25,000 GT. There are 217 nautical miles of river navigation. There are ferry services across the mouths of the Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo rivers.

## Social Statistics

2009 estimates: births, 14,000; deaths, 5,000. Rates, 2009 estimates (per 1,000 population): birth, 18; death, 6. Life expectancy at birth in 2013: male 63.6 years and female 68.9 years. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 0.7%. Infant mortality, 2010, 25 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2013, 2.5 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 152,600 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 201.8 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 518,800 mobile phone subscriptions (or 686.2 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2010, 29.9% of the population were internet users. In March 2012 there were 124,000 Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Guyana is situated on the northeast coast of Latin America on the Atlantic Ocean, with Suriname on the east, Venezuela on the west and Brazil on the

south and west. Area, 214,999 km<sup>2</sup> (83,013 sq. miles). In 2012 the census population (provisional) was 747,884; density 3.5 per km<sup>2</sup>. Guyana has the highest proportion of rural population in South America, with only 28.7% living in urban areas in 2011. Ethnic groups by origin: 49% Indian, 36% African, 7% mixed race, 7% Amerindian and 1% others. The capital is Georgetown (2012 provisional census population, 24,849; urban agglomeration, 118,363); other towns are Linden, New Amsterdam, Anna Regina and Corriverton.

## Tourism

141,000 non-resident tourists arrived at Timehri airport in 2009 (130,000 in 2008).

# Haiti

## *République d'Haïti (Republic of Haiti)*

## Factsheet

*Capital:* Port-au-Prince

*Population estimate, 2015:* 10.71 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 1,669

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.483/163

*Internet domain extension:* .ht

## Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Port-au-Prince. Cap Haïtien also has scheduled flights to the Turks and Caicos Islands. In 2001 Port-au-Prince handled 913,022 passengers (771,656 on international flights) and 13,455 tonnes of freight.

## Climate

A tropical climate, but the central mountains can cause semi-arid conditions in their lee. There are rainy seasons from April to June and Aug. to Nov. Hurricanes and severe thunderstorms can occur. The annual temperature range is small. Port-au-Prince, Jan. 77 °F (25 °C), July 84 °F (28.9 °C). Annual rainfall 53" (1,321 mm).

## Constitution and Government

A new constitution was signed off by President Martelly in June 2012, replacing one promulgated in 1987. The 2012 constitution had received parliamentary backing in May 2011 but was not written into law until after a year of legal wrangling. Among its provisions is the re-legalization of dual citizenship, which had been criminalized under the 1987 constitution. Haitians living abroad, who are responsible for remittances equivalent to 20% of GDP, have the right to own land in Haiti and to stand for political office (with the exceptions of the presidency, premiership, as a senator or a member of the Chamber of Deputies). The constitution also established a permanent constitutional court to mediate in disputes between parliament and the executive, as well as an electoral council to oversee free and fair elections. Women are required to hold at least 30% of government posts. There is a bicameral legislature (a 119-member *Chamber of Deputies* and a 30-member *Senate*) and an executive *President*, directly elected for a 5-year term.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *gourde* (HTG) of 100 centimes.

## Defence

After the restoration of civilian rule in 1994 the armed forces and police were disbanded and an Interim Public Security Force formed, although this was later also dissolved. In 1995 a new police force—Police Nationale d'Haïti (PNH)—was recruited from former military personnel and others not implicated in human rights violations. The PNH currently has about 2,000 members. A UN peacekeeping force, MINUSTAH, has been in Haiti since 2004. Following the earthquake of Jan. 2010 the UN Security Council passed a

resolution recommending an increase in overall force levels to support the immediate recovery, reconstruction and stability efforts in the country. As of June 2015 MINUSTAH consisted of 4,577 uniformed personnel. In the period 2002–12 annual defence expenditure is estimated to have averaged US\$8 m.

### Economy

Trade and restaurants contributed 26.9% to GDP in 2010–11; followed by agriculture and forestry, 23.8%; finance and real estate, 11.3%; and services, public administration and defence, 11.3%.

### Labour

In 2010 the labour force was 4,161,000 (53.0% males). The unemployment rate in 2009 was around 70%. Haiti had 0.21 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

There were two paid-for daily newspapers in 2008 with a combined circulation of 23,000.

### Religion

According to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, 86.9% of the population in 2010 was Christian and 10.6% had no religious affiliation; of the Christians, 65% were Catholics and 34% Protestants. The Roman Catholic Church comprises two ecclesiastical provinces, each headed by an archbishop. In Feb. 2016 there was one Roman Catholic cardinal. Voodoo was recognized as an official religion in 2003.

### Roads

Total length of roads was estimated at 3,500 km in 2013, although most of the network was in a poor state of repair.

### Shipping

Port-au-Prince and Cap Haïtien are the principal ports, and there are 12 minor ports. In Jan. 2009 there were three ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 2,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

2009 estimates: births, 266,000; deaths, 89,000. Rates, 2009 estimates (per 1,000 population): birth, 27; death, 9. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 1.5%. Expectation of life at birth, 2013, 61.2 years for males and 65.0 years for females. Infant mortality, 2010, 70 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2013, 3.1 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

The state telecommunications agency is Teleco. There were 108,300 fixed telephone lines in 2009 (11 per 1,000 inhabitants). Mobile phone subscribers numbered 3.65 m. in 2009. There were 83.7 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 100,000 in 2007 (ten per 1,000 inhabitants). In Dec. 2011 there were 295,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Haiti is bounded in the east by the Dominican Republic, to the north by the Atlantic and elsewhere by the Caribbean Sea. The area is 27,065 km<sup>2</sup> (10,450 sq. miles). The Île de la Gonâve, some 40 miles long, lies in the gulf of the same name. Among other islands is La Tortue, off the north peninsula. Census population, 2003, 8,373,750; density, 309 per km<sup>2</sup>. On 1 July 2009 the official population estimate was 9,923,243. In 2011, 53.6% of the population were urban. The capital is Port-au-Prince (2009 estimated population, 875,978; urban agglomeration, 2,296,386); the other main cities are Gonaïves (228,725 in 2009) and Cap Haïtien (155,505). Most of the population is of African or mixed origin. The official languages are French and Créole. Créole is spoken by all Haitians; French by only a small minority.

### Tourism

In 2009 there were 387,220 stopover tourists (including 268,224 from the USA); cruise passenger arrivals in 2009 numbered 439,055.

## Honduras

### *República de Honduras (Republic of Honduras)*

#### Factsheet

Capital: Tegucigalpa

Population estimate, 2015: 8.08 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 3,938

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.606/131

Internet domain extension: .hn

#### Civil Aviation

There are four international airports: San Pedro Sula (Ramón Villeda) and Tegucigalpa (Toncontín) are the main ones, plus Roatún and La Ceiba, with over 80 smaller airstrips in various parts of the country. In 2012 San Pedro Sula handled 769,516 passengers (700,892 on international flights) and 15,775 tonnes of freight, and Tegucigalpa handled 581,740 passengers (466,956 on international flights) and 3,674 tonnes of freight.

#### Climate

The climate is tropical, with a small annual range of temperature but with high rainfall. Upland areas have two wet seasons, from May to July and in Sept. and Oct. The Caribbean Coast has most rain in Dec. and Jan. and temperatures are generally higher than inland. Tegucigalpa, Jan. 66 °F (19 °C), July 74 °F (23.3 °C). Annual rainfall 64" (1,621 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

The present Constitution came into force in 1982 and was amended in 1995. The *President* is elected for a single 4-year term. Members of the *National Congress* (total 128 seats) and municipal mayors are elected simultaneously on a proportional basis, according to combined votes cast for the Presidential candidate of their party. In March 2009 the then president, Manuel Zelaya, proposed a referendum to approve an assembly to revise the constitution. His opponents feared that he was seeking revisions to allow him to stand for re-election. A constitutional crisis culminated in a military coup and Zelaya's exile to Costa Rica.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *lempira* (HNL) of 100 *centavos*.

#### Defence

Conscription was abolished in 1995. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$177 m. (US\$21 per capita), representing 0.9% of GDP.

#### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 11.9% of GDP in 2009, industry 26.8% and services 61.3%.

#### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 3,275,000 (2,413,000 in 2003). 64.5% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 3.9% of the population was unemployed.

#### Press

Honduras had six national daily papers in 2008, with a combined circulation of 200,000.

#### Rail

The small government-run railway was built to serve the banana industry and is confined to the northern coastal region and does not reach Tegucigalpa. Much of the network is now out of service and in 2012 only 62 km of 914 mm gauge railway were operational.

## Religion

In 2010 there were an estimated 3.82 m. Roman Catholics and 2.78 m. Protestants according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, with a further 790,000 people not having any religious affiliation. In Feb. 2016 there was one cardinal.

## Roads

Honduras is connected with Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua by the Pan-American Highway. There are some 14,000 km of roads, of which about 21% are paved. In 2007 there were 487,700 passenger cars in use, 31,500 buses and coaches, 165,200 lorries and vans, and 94,400 motorcycles and mopeds.

## Shipping

The largest port is Puerto Cortés on the Atlantic coast. There are also ports at Henecán (on the Pacific) and Puerto Castilla and Tela (northern coast). In Jan. 2009 there were 359 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 489,000 GT. Honduras is a flag of convenience registry.

## Social Statistics

2009 estimates: births, 201,000; deaths, 37,000. Rates, 2009 estimates (per 1,000 population): birth, 27; death, 5. 2013 life expectancy, 71.5 years for men and 76.2 for women. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 1.7%. Infant mortality, 2010, 20 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2013, 3.0 births per woman. Abortion is illegal.

## Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 609,200 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 78.6 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 8,062,200 mobile phone subscriptions (or 1,039.7 per 1,000 inhabitants). There were 110.9 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 72,400 in 2009 (9.7 per 1,000 inhabitants). In Dec. 2011 there were 1.1 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Honduras is bounded in the north by the Caribbean, east and southeast by Nicaragua, west by Guatemala, southwest by El Salvador and south by the Pacific Ocean. The area is 112,492 km<sup>2</sup> (43,433 sq. miles). In 2013 the census population was 8,303,771 (4,251,456 females), giving a density of 73.8 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 52.2% of the population lived in urban areas. The chief cities and towns are (2009 estimated populations): Tegucigalpa, the capital (990,600), San Pedro Sula (646,300), Choloma (223,900), La Ceiba (172,900), El Progreso (122,000), Choluteca (91,000), Comayagua (78,300), Puerto Cortés (68,400), La Lima (67,100), Danlí (62,100). The official language is Spanish. The Spanish-speaking population is of mixed Spanish and Amerindian descent (87%), with 6% Amerindians.

## Tourism

In 2009 there were 870,000 non-resident tourists, down from 899,000 in 2008 although up from 831,000 in 2007.

# Hungary

## Magyarország

### Factsheet

Capital: Budapest

Population estimate, 2015: 9.86 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 22,916

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.828/44

Internet domain extension: .hu

## Civil Aviation

Budapest airport (Ferihegy) handled 8,095,367 passengers in 2009 (all on international flights) and 54,355 tonnes of freight. Malév, the former national carrier, ceased operations in Feb. 2012. The largest Hungarian airline is now Wizz Air, which started flying in 2004 and is Central and Eastern Europe's largest low-cost carrier.

## Climate

A humid continental climate, with warm summers and cold winters. Precipitation is generally greater in summer, with thunderstorms. Dry, clear weather is likely in autumn, but spring is damp and both seasons are of short duration. Budapest, Jan. 32 °F (0 °C), July 71 °F (21.5 °C). Annual rainfall 25" (625 mm). Pécs, Jan. 30 °F (−0.7 °C), July 71 °F (21.5 °C). Annual rainfall 26.4" (661 mm).

## Constitution and Government

On 18 Oct. 1989 the National Assembly approved by an 88% majority a constitution which abolished the People's Republic, and established Hungary as an independent, democratic, law-based state. In April 2011 parliament passed proposals for a new constitution, known as the 'Easter constitution', by a vote of 263 to 44 (with one abstention). It came into force on 1 Jan. 2012. Two of the three main opposition parties refused to vote in protest at what critics claimed were attacks by the ruling Fidesz party on the rights of various minority groups, including those with mental illness, the gay and lesbian community, and pro-abortion bodies. The constitution's preamble emphasizes Hungary's Christian heritage while other clauses restrict the voting rights of those with 'limited mental ability'. It defines marriage as a union of a man and a woman, and stipulates that the life of a foetus should be protected from conception. The head of state is the *President*, who is elected for 5-year terms by the National Assembly. The single-chamber *National Assembly* currently has 199 members (386 prior to the elections of April 2014), made up of 106 elected in individual constituencies and 93 allocated by proportional representation from party lists (including minority-list seats). It is elected for 4-year terms.

## Currency

A decree of 26 July 1946 instituted a new monetary unit, the *forint* (HUF) of 100 *fillér*. The forint was made fully convertible in Jan. 1991 and moves in a 15% band against the euro either side of a central rate of €1 = 282.4 forints.

## Defence

The President of the Republic is C.-in-C. of the armed forces. Conscription was abolished in 2004. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$1,100 m. (US\$111 per capita), representing 0.8% of GDP.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 4.6% of GDP in 2013, industry 30.1% and services 65.3%.

## Labour

In 2009 out of an economically active population of 4,202,600 there were 3,781,900 employed persons, of which 3,309,900 were employees. Among the employed persons in 2009, 64.2% worked in services, 31.2% in industry and construction, and 4.6% in agriculture. Average gross monthly wages of full-time employees in 2009: 199,837 forints. Minimum monthly wage, 2009, 71,500 forints (more than twice the 2000 level). There were a total of 6,474 working days lost to strike action in 2009, down from 25,004 in 2008. The unemployment rate was 6.3% in Nov. 2015 (down from 7.7% in 2014 as a whole). Long-term unemployment is particularly high, with 50.6% of the labour force in 2010 having been out of work for more than a year. The normal retirement age is 62 years 6 months but is increasing gradually to 65 for both men and women by 2022. Hungary had 36,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

In 2014 there were 31 daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 1,210,000. The most widely read newspapers are the free tabloid *Metropol* and the paid-for tabloid *Blikk*. A total of 12,841 book titles were published in 2009 in 36.02 m. copies.

## Rail

In 2011 the rail network was 7,896 km in length; 115.6 m. passengers were carried that year. Rail Cargo Hungaria carried 29.1 m. tonnes of freight in 2012. There is a metro in Budapest (38.2 km), and tram/light rail networks in Budapest (332.0 km), Debrecen, Miskolc and Szeged.

## Religion

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, an estimated 81.0% of the population in 2010 was Christian and 18.6% had no religious affiliation. Of the Christians, 73% in 2010 were Catholics and 26% Protestants. The Roman Catholic primate of Hungary is Péter Erdő, Archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest, installed in Jan. 2003. The Roman Catholic Church comprises four ecclesiastical provinces and nine suffragan dioceses. In Feb. 2016 the Roman Catholic church had one cardinal.

## Roads

In 2007 there were 195,719 km of roads, including 1,157 km of motorways, 6,745 km of main roads and 23,280 km of secondary roads; 37.7% of roads were paved. Passenger cars numbered 3,012,200 in 2007; lorries and vans, 829,800; motorcycles and mopeds, 135,900; and buses and coaches, 17,900. In 2007 there were 20,635 road accidents with 1,232 fatalities.

## Shipping

In 2008 there were 1,440 km of navigable waterways. In 2009 the Hungarian river fleet comprised 318 pushed or towed barges, 83 self-propelled barges and 80 other pushed or towed vessels. In 2009, 7.75 m. tonnes of cargo and 859,000 passengers were carried. The Hungarian Shipping Company (MAHART) has agencies at Amsterdam, Alexandria, Algiers, Beirut, Rijeka and Trieste. It has 23 ships and runs scheduled services between Budapest and Esztergom.

## Social Statistics

2011: births, 88,049; deaths, 128,795; marriages, 35,812; divorces, 23,335. There were 2,422 suicides in 2011. Rates (per 1,000 population), 2011: birth, 8.8; death, 12.9; marriage, 3.6; divorce, 2.3. Population growth rate, 2009, -0.2%. The suicide rate, at 24.6 per 100,000 population in 2009, is one of the highest in the world (although it has fallen since the mid-1980s when it was over 44 per 100,000). Expectation of life at birth, 2011, 70.9 years for males and 78.2 years for females. Infant mortality, 2010, 5 per 1,000 live births. Fertility rate, 2011, 1.2 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 2,978,000 main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscribers numbered 11,590,000 (1,164.3 per 1,000 persons). Matav, the privatized former national telephone company, still has more than 80% of the fixed line market. 72.6% of the population aged 16-74 were internet users in 2013. There were 19.6 fixed broadband subscribers per 100 inhabitants in Dec. 2010. In March 2012 there were 3.8 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Hungary is bounded in the north by Slovakia, northeast by Ukraine, east by Romania, south by Croatia and Serbia, southwest by Slovenia and west by Austria. The peace treaty of 10 Feb. 1947 restored the frontiers as of 1 Jan. 1938. The area of Hungary is 93,030 km<sup>2</sup> (35,919 sq. miles), including 690 km<sup>2</sup> (266 sq. miles) of inland waters. At the census of 1 Oct. 2011 the population was 9,937,628 (52.5% females). 67.7% of the population was urban in Jan. 2008; population density, Oct. 2011, 108.1 per km<sup>2</sup>. Hungary is divided into 19 counties (*megyék*) and the capital, Budapest, which has county status. The official language is Hungarian.

## Tourism

In 2011, 3,822,000 non-resident tourists and 4,199,000 domestic tourists stayed in holiday accommodation (3,462,000 and 4,011,000 respectively in 2010). The main countries of origin of non-resident tourists in 2011 were: Germany (542,000), Austria (295,000), the UK (221,000) and Romania (216,000).

# Iceland

## *Lyðveldið Ísland (Republic of Iceland)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Reykjavík  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 329,000  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 35,182  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.899/16  
*Internet domain extension:* .is

### Civil Aviation

Icelandair is the national carrier, serving 27 destinations in Europe and 16 in north America. In 2011 it carried 1.7 m. passengers. The second largest airline is the low-cost carrier WOW air. The main international airport is at Keflavík (Leifsstöd), with Reykjavík for flights to the Faroe Islands, Greenland and domestic services. Keflavík handled 2,112,014 passengers in 2011 (of which 412,440 transit passengers) and 36,628 tonnes of freight.

### Climate

The climate is cool temperate oceanic and rather changeable, but mild for its latitude because of the Gulf Stream and prevailing S.W. winds. Precipitation is high in upland areas, mainly in the form of snow. Reykjavík, Jan. 31.1 °F (-0.5 °C), July 51.1 °F (10.6 °C). Annual rainfall, 2009: 28.1" (713 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The present constitution came into force on 17 June 1944 and has been amended four times since, most recently on 24 June 1999. The President is elected by direct, popular vote for a period of 4 years (no term limits). The *Alþingi* (parliament) is elected in accordance with the electoral law of 1999, which provides for an *Alþingi* of 63 members. The country is divided into a minimum of six and a maximum of seven constituencies. There are currently six constituencies: Northwest (10 seats); Northeast (10 seats); South (10); Southwest (11); Reykjavík north (11); and Reykjavík south (11).

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *króna* (ISK) of 100 *aurar* (singular: *eyrir*).

### Defence

Iceland possesses no armed forces. Under the North Atlantic Treaty, US forces were stationed for many years in Iceland as the Iceland Defence Force. In Sept. 2006 an agreement was signed between USA and Iceland, withdrawing all US forces from the island.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 7.8% of GDP in 2012, industry 23.6% and services 68.6%.

### Labour

In 2013 the labour force was 190,000 (170,000 in 2003). 84.4% of the population aged 15-64 was economically active in 2013. Iceland has a very high employment rate among older workers, with 55.3% of the population aged 65-69 in 2014 still working. The unemployment rate in Dec. 2015 was 3.6% (down from 5.0% in 2014 as a whole).

### Press

In 2008 there were four daily newspapers (two paid-for and two free) and 20 non-daily newspapers. Combined circulation was 336,459 (of which dailies accounted for 278,154 and non-dailies 58,305). Iceland has the highest circulation rates of daily newspapers in the world, at 817 per 1,000 adult inhabitants in 2008. Iceland publishes more books per person than any other country in the world. In 2008, 1,637 volumes of books and booklets were published.

## Religion

The national church, the Evangelical Lutheran, is endowed by the state. There is complete religious liberty. The affairs of the national church are under the superintendence of a bishop. In 2010, 251,487 persons (79.2% of the population) were members of it (93.2% in 1980). 16,497 persons (5.2%) belonged to Lutheran free churches. 39,310 persons (12.4%) belonged to other religious organizations and 10,336 persons (3.3%) did not belong to any religious community.

## Roads

On 1 Jan. 2009 the length of the public roads (including roads in towns) was 12,888 km. Of these 7,829 km were main and secondary roads and 5,059 km were provincial roads. Total length of surfaced roads was 4,566 km. A ring road of 1,400 km runs just inland from much of the coast; about 80% of it is smooth-surfaced. Motor vehicles registered at the end of 2009 numbered 238,149, of which 207,226 were passenger cars (643 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 30,923 lorries and vans; there were also 9,420 motorcycles. There were 15 fatal road accidents in 2009 with 17 persons killed.

## Shipping

On 1 Jan. 2008 the merchant fleet consisted of 52 vessels totalling 8,515 GT, including 49 passenger ships and ferries of 7,669 GT.

## Social Statistics

Live births in 2009, 5,027; deaths, 2,002. 2009 rates per 1,000 population: births, 15.8; deaths, 6.3. 64.4% of births are to unmarried mothers, the highest percentage in Europe. Population growth rate, 2009, -0.5%. In 2009 the most popular age range for marrying was 30–34 for males and 25–29 for females. Life expectancy, 2009: males, 79.7 years; females, 83.3. Infant mortality, 2009, 2.4 per 1,000 live births (one of the lowest rates in the world); fertility rate, 2009, 2.2 births per woman. Iceland legalized same-sex marriage in July 2010.

## Telecommunications

The number of telephone main lines was 168,023 in 2013; mobile phone subscribers, 356,264 (more than the population of Iceland and equivalent to 1,081 subscriptions per 1,000 population). In 2013, 96.6% of the population (the highest percentage in the world) were internet users. The fixed broadband penetration rate in Dec. 2010 was 33.7 subscribers per 100 inhabitants. In March 2012 there were 210,000 Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Iceland is an island in the North Atlantic, close to the Arctic Circle. Area, 102,819 km<sup>2</sup> (39,698 sq. miles). Of the population of 317,630 in 2010, 20,428 were domiciled in rural districts and 297,202 (93.6%) in towns and villages (of over 200 inhabitants). Population density (2010), 3.1 per km<sup>2</sup>. The capital, Reykjavík, had on 1 Jan. 2013 a population of 118,918; main other towns were: Kópavogur, 31,719; Hafnarfjörður, 26,800; Akureyri, 17,963; Keflavík and Njarðvík, 14,153; Garðabær, 11,421. The official language is Icelandic.

## Tourism

There were 459,252 visitors in 2010; revenue totalled 152,941 m. kr. Overnight stays in hotels and guest houses in 2009 numbered 1,939,667 (of which foreign travellers, 1,553,927; Icelanders, 385,740). Tourism accounts for 19.4% of foreign currency earnings.

# India

## *Bharat (Republic of India)*

### Factsheet

Capital: New Delhi

Population estimate, 2015: 1,311.05 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 5,497

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.609/130

Internet domain extension: .in

## Civil Aviation

The main international airports are at Chennai, Delhi (Indira Gandhi), Kolkata, Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram, with some international flights from Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bangalore, Calicut, Goa and Hyderabad. Air transport was nationalized in 1953 with the formation of two Air Corporations: Air India for long-distance international air services, and Indian Airlines for air services within India and to adjacent countries. Indian (as Indian Airlines became in 2005) merged into Air India in Feb. 2011. Both domestic and international air transport have been opened to private companies, the largest of which is Jet Airways. Two leading budget airlines, IndiGo and SpiceJet, now operate international as well as domestic services. All operational airports handled a total of 116.9 m. passengers (87.1 m. domestic and 29.8 m. international) in the year to 31 March 2008. Total aircraft movements reached 1.31 m. and freight volumes increased to over 1.7 m. tonnes. In 2007 Mumbai was the busiest airport, handling 25.2 m. passengers, followed by Delhi, with 23.3 m. passengers. Both airports were privatized in 2006, with extensive modernization.

## Climate

India has a variety of climatic sub-divisions. In general, there are four seasons. The cool one lasts from Dec. to March, the hot summer is in April and May, the rainy season is June to Sept., followed by a further dry season until Nov. Rainfall, however, varies considerably, from 4" (100 mm) in the N.W. desert to over 400" (10,000 mm) in parts of Assam.

## Constitution and Government

The Constitution was passed by the Constituent Assembly on 26 Nov. 1949 and came into force on 26 Jan. 1950. It has since been amended 96 times. India is a republic and comprises a Union of 29 States and seven Union Territories. Each State is administered by a Governor appointed by the President for a term of 5 years while each Union Territory is administered by the President through a Lieut.-Governor or an administrator appointed by him. The head of the Union (head of state) is the *President* in whom all executive power is vested, to be exercised on the advice of ministers responsible to Parliament. The President, who must be an Indian citizen at least 35 years old and eligible for election to the House of the People, is elected by an electoral college of all the elected members of Parliament and of the state legislative assemblies, holds office for 5 years and is eligible for re-election. There is also a *Vice-President* who is *ex officio* chairman of the Council of States. There is a *Council of Ministers* to aid and advise the President; this comprises Ministers who are members of the Cabinet and Ministers of State and deputy ministers who are not. The *Prime Minister* is appointed by the President; other Ministers are appointed by the President on the Prime Minister's advice. Parliament consists of the President, the *Council of States (Rajya Sabha)* and the *House of the People (Lok Sabha)*.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *Indian rupee (INR)* of 100 *paise*.

## Defence

The Supreme Command of the Armed Forces is vested in the president. As well as armed forces of 1,325,000 personnel in 2011, there are 1,301,000 active paramilitary forces including 208,000 members of the Border Security Force based mainly in the troubled Jammu and Kashmir region. Military service is voluntary but, under the amended constitution, it is regarded as a fundamental duty of every citizen to perform National Service when called upon. Defence expenditure totalled US\$36,297 m. in 2013 (US\$30 per capita), representing 1.8% of GDP. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, India's nuclear arsenal was estimated to consist of 90–110 nuclear warheads in Jan. 2015.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 18.0% of GDP in 2013 (down from 55% in 1950), industry 30.7% (up from 15% in 1950) and services 51.3% (up from 30% in 1950).



## Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 487,882,000 (442,357,000 in 2003). 56.4% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 3.6% of the population was unemployed. India's working-age population is set to overtake that of China to become the world's largest around 2025. India had 13.96 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*, the highest total of any country.

## Press

There were 99,660 registered publications in March 2014 (up from 73,146 in March 2009), with a total circulation of 450.6 m. In 2011 there were 4,397 dailies with a total circulation of 175.70 m. (up from 162.35 m. in 2010). India's circulation of paid-for dailies overtook that of China in 2008 to become the highest of any country; in 2014 it totalled 264.3 m. Hindi papers have the highest number and circulation, followed by English and Urdu. The newspaper with the highest circulation is the *Dainik Bhaskar*, a Hindi-language paper (daily average of 3.6 m. copies in 2014 and a readership of 13.8 m.). The English-language paper with the highest circulation is *The Times of India*, with a daily average of 3.4 m. copies in 2014.

## Rail

Indian railway system is government-owned (under the control of the Railway Board). There are 17 zones. The total length of the Indian railway network was 64,460 km in March 2011 (19,607 electrified), with the Northern zone having the longest network, at 6,968 km. There are metros in Bangalore (6.7 km), Chennai (19.7 km), Delhi (189.6 km) and Kolkata (25.5 km).

## Religion

India is a secular state; any worship is permitted, but the state itself has no religion. The principal religions in 2011 were: Hindus, 966 m. (80% of the population); Muslims, 172 m. (14%); Christians, 28 m.; Sikhs, 21 m.; Buddhists, 8 m.; Jains, 4 m. In addition to having the largest Hindu population of any country, India has the third highest number of Muslims, after Indonesia and Pakistan. In Feb. 2016 the Roman Catholic church had five cardinals.

## Roads

In March 2011 there were 3,790,342 km of roads of which 2,341,480 km were surfaced. Roads are divided into six main administrative classes, namely: national highways, state highways, other public works department (PWD) roads, *Panchayati Raj* roads, urban roads and project roads. In 2006 there were 11,526,000 passenger cars, 64,743,000 motorcycles and scooters, 992,000 buses and coaches, and 4,436,000 lorries and vans. In 2007 there were 476,219 road accidents resulting in 114,444 deaths.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 625 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 8.57 m. GT. Of the 625 vessels registered, 301 were general cargo ships, 117 oil tankers, 108 bulk carriers, 51 passenger ships, 22 liquid gas tankers, 16 container ships and ten chemical tankers. The Indian-controlled fleet comprised 403 vessels of 1,000 GT or over in Jan. 2009, of which 347 were under the Indian flag and 56 under foreign flags. The busiest container port is Jawaharlal Nehru, which handled 3.9 m. 20-ft equivalent units (TEUs) in 2008. There are about 3,700 km of major rivers navigable by motorized craft, of which 2,000 km are used. Canals, 4,300 km, of which 900 km are navigable by motorized craft.

## Social Statistics

Many births and deaths go unregistered. The Registrar General's data suggests a birth rate for 2009 of 22.5 per 1,000 population and a death rate of 7.3, which would indicate in a year approximately 27.2 m. births and 8.8 m. deaths. The growth rate is, however, slowing, and by 2010 had dropped to 1.4%, having been over 2% in 1991. Expectation of life at birth, 2013, 64.7 years for males and 68.3 years for females. In 2010, 50% of the population was aged under 25. Population growth rate, 2001–11, 17.64% (the lowest since 1941–51). Infant mortality, 2009, 50 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2013, 2.5 births per woman. Child deaths (under the age of five) fell from 123 per 1,000 in 1990 to 64 per 1,000 in 2009.

## Telecommunications

The telephone system is in the hands of the Telecommunications Department, except in Delhi and Mumbai, which are served by a public corporation. In 2010 there were 35.1 m. main (fixed) telephone lines. Mobile phone subscriptions numbered 752.2 m. in Dec. 2010 (623.9 per 1,000 persons), more than double the number just 2 years earlier and treble the number 3 years earlier. The number of fixed line subscribers has been gradually falling since 2005. India's largest mobile phone operator is Bharti Airtel, with a 22.8% market share in July 2014, ahead of Vodafone and Idea Cellular. An estimated 12.6% of the population were internet users in 2012. In March 2012 there were 45.0 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

India is bounded in the northwest by Pakistan, north by China (Tibet), Nepal and Bhutan, east by Myanmar, and southeast, south and southwest by the Indian Ocean. The far eastern states and territories are almost separated from the rest by Bangladesh. The area is 3,287,263 km<sup>2</sup> (land area, 2,973,190 km<sup>2</sup>; water area, 314,073 km<sup>2</sup>). A Sino-Indian agreement of 7 Sept. 1993 settled frontier disputes dating from the war of 1962. Population, 2011 census: 1,210,854,977. 51.5% of the population was male and 48.5% female. Density, 407.3 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. There are also 20 m. Indians and ethnic Indians living abroad, notably in Malaysia, the USA, Saudi Arabia, the UK and South Africa. 68.8% of the population was rural in 2011. Goa is the most urban state, at 62.2% in 2011; and Himachal Pradesh the most rural, at 90.0% in 2011. By 2050 India is expected to have a population of 1.62 bn. It is projected to overtake China as the world's most populous country around 2022. Largest urban agglomerations (with 2011 census populations): Mumbai (Bombay), 18,394,912; Delhi, 16,349,831; Kolkata (Calcutta), 14,057,991; Chennai (Madras), 8,653,521; Bangalore, 8,520,435.

## Tourism

In 2012 there were 6,578,000 non-resident overnight tourists (up from 6,309,000 in 2011 and 5,082,000 in 2007). Of the non-resident overnight tourists in 2011, 34% were from Europe, 21% from the Americas and 19% from East Asia and the Pacific. Tourist receipts amounted to US\$18.3 bn. in 2012.

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# Indonesia

*Republik Indonesia (Republic of Indonesia)*

## Factsheet

*Capital:* Jakarta  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 257.56 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 9,788  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.684/110=  
*Internet domain extension:* .id

## Civil Aviation

Garuda Indonesia is the state-owned national flag carrier. Merpati Nusantara Airlines, their domestic subsidiary, suspended all services in Feb. 2014 due to cashflow issues. There are international airports at Jakarta (Sukarno-Hatta), Denpasar (on Bali), Medan (Sumatra), Pekanbaru (Sumatra), Ujung Pandang (Sulawesi), Manado (Sulawesi), Solo (Java) and Surabaya Juanda (Java). Jakarta is the busiest airport, in 2012 handling 57,772,762 passengers (42,660,093 domestic passengers, 11,286,687 on international passengers and 3,285,982 direct transit passengers) and 634,751 tonnes of freight. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Indonesia-based carriers flew 466.8 m. km; passenger-km totalled 82.9 bn. in the same year.

## Climate

Conditions vary greatly over this spread of islands, but generally the climate is tropical monsoon, with a dry season from June to Sept. and a wet one from Oct. to April. Temperatures are high all the year and rainfall varies according

to situation on lee or windward shores. Jakarta, Jan. 78 °F (25.6 °C), July 78 °F (25.6 °C). Annual rainfall 71" (1,775 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The constitution originally dates from Aug. 1945 and was in force until 1949; it was restored on 5 July 1959. The political system is based on *pancasila*, in which deliberations lead to a consensus. There is a 560-member *Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat* (House of People's Representatives), with members elected for a 5-year term by proportional representation in multi-member constituencies. An upper house, the *Dewan Perwakilan Daerah* (House of Regional Representatives), has 132 members elected by single non-transferable vote to serve 5-year terms. The two chambers together form the *Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat* (People's Consultative Assembly). The constitution was changed on 10 Aug. 2002 to allow for direct elections for the president and the vice-president. There is no limit to the number of presidential terms. Although predominantly a Muslim country, the constitution protects the religious beliefs of non-Muslims.

### Currency

The monetary unit is the *rupiah* (IDR) notionally of 100 *sen*.

### Defence

There is selective conscription for 2 years. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$8,366 m. (up from US\$6,524 m. in 2012), with spending per capita US\$33. The 2013 expenditure represented 0.9% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 15.3% of GDP in 2009, industry 47.7% and services 37.0%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 numbered 122,125,000, up from 103,424,000 in 2003. 70.0% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. Women constituted 38.0% of the workforce in 2013. In the same year 6.3% of the population was unemployed. Indonesia had 0.21 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2014 there were a total of 653 newspapers (of which 431 were dailies and 222 non-dailies), with a total circulation of 10,994,000.

### Rail

In 2005 the national railways totalled 6,482 km of 1,067 mm gauge, comprising 3,012 km on Java (of which 565 km electrified), 1,348 km on Sumatra and 2,122 km which was non-operational. Passenger-km travelled in 2008 came to 18.5 bn. and freight tonne-km to 5.5 bn.

### Religion

Indonesia has six officially recognized religions: Islam, Catholicism, Protestantism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Confucianism. In 2010 there were an estimated 209.1 m. Muslims according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life (making Indonesia the country with the largest Muslim population). There were also 13.9 m. Protestants in 2010, 7.2 m. Catholics, 4.1 m. Hindus and 1.7 m. Buddhists. As a proportion of the total population in 2010, 87.2% were Muslims, 9.9% Christians, 1.7% Hindus and 0.7% Buddhists. In Feb. 2016 there was one cardinal.

### Roads

In 2006 there were 324,150 km of classified roads (27,668 km of highways or main roads), of which 54% was surfaced. Motor vehicles, 2005: passenger cars, 5,494,034; buses and coaches, 1,184,918; trucks and vans, 2,920,828; motorcycles, 28,556,498. There were 11,451 fatalities in road accidents in 2005.

### Shipping

There are 16 ports for ocean-going ships, the largest of which is Tanjung Priok, which serves the Jakarta area and has a container terminal. In 2007 cargo traffic at Tanjung Priok totalled 42.0 m. tonnes. The national shipping company Pelajaran Nasional Indonesia (PELNI) maintains inter-island

communications. In Jan. 2009 there were 1,856 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 5.15 m. GT. Of the 1,856 vessels registered, 1,095 were general cargo ships, 261 oil tankers, 246 passenger ships, 92 bulk carriers, 85 container ships, 67 chemical tankers and ten liquid gas tankers.

### Social Statistics

Estimated births, 2008, 4,222,000; deaths, 1,434,000. 2008 estimated birth rate, 18.6 per 1,000 population; death rate, 6.3. Life expectancy in 2013 was 68.8 years for men and 72.9 for women. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 1.3%. Infant mortality, 2010, 27 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 2.2 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 30,723,000 main (fixed) telephone lines; in the same year mobile phone subscriptions numbered 313,227,000 (1,253.6 per 1,000 persons). The number of mobile phone subscriptions more than doubled between 2008 and 2013. 15.8% of the population were internet users in 2013, up from 6.9% in 2009. In March 2012 there were 43.5 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Indonesia, with a land area of 1,910,931 km<sup>2</sup> (737,615 sq. miles), consists of 17,507 islands (6,000 of which are inhabited) extending about 3,200 miles east to west through three time-zones (East, Central and West Indonesian Standard time) and 1,250 miles north to south. The largest islands are Sumatra, Java, Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo), Sulawesi (Celebes) and Papua, formerly West Papua (the western part of New Guinea). Population at the 2010 census was 237,641,326; density, 124.4 per km<sup>2</sup>. Indonesia has the fourth largest population in the world, after China, India and the USA. In 2011, 44.6% of the population were urban. The capital, Jakarta, had an estimated population of 9.61 m. in 2010. Other major cities (2010 census population in 1 m.): Surabaya, 2.77; Bandung, 2.39; Bekasi, 2.33; Medan, 2.10; Tangerang, 1.80; Depok, 1.74; Semarang, 1.52. The principal ethnic groups are the Acehnese, Bataks and Minangkabaus in Sumatra, the Javanese and Sundanese in Java, the Madurese in Madura, the Balinese in Bali, the Sasaks in Lombok, the Menadonese, Minahasans, Torajas and Buginese in Sulawesi, the Dayaks in Kalimantan, the Irianese in Papua and the Ambonese in the Moluccas. There were an estimated 6.5 m. Chinese resident in 2005. Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesian) is the official language; Dutch is spoken as a colonial inheritance.

### Tourism

In 2010 there were 7,003,000 international tourist arrivals (excluding same-day visitors), up from 6,324,000 in 2009 and 5,002,000 in 2005. The main countries of origin of non-resident tourists in 2010 were: Singapore (1,129,000), Malaysia (1,035,000), Australia (731,000) and China (422,000).

## Iran

### *Jomhuri-e-Eslami-e-Iran (Islamic Republic of Iran)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Tehran

*Population estimate, 2015:* 79.11 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 15,440

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.766/69=

*Internet domain extension:* .ir

#### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Tehran (Mehrabad), Shiraz and Bandar-e-Abbas. Tehran is the busiest airport, in 2014 handling 13,617,094 passengers. The Imam Khomeini International Airport, construction of which began in 1977 before being halted in 1979, was inaugurated in Feb. 2004. The first flight arrived at the airport in May 2004 but it was then shut down by Iran's Revolutionary Guard, citing breaches of security by the foreign operators. The state-owned IranAir is the flag-carrying airline. In 2012 scheduled airline

traffic of Iranian-based carriers flew 105.4 m. km; passenger-km totalled 13.6 bn. in the same year.

### Climate

Mainly a desert climate, but with more temperate conditions on the shores of the Caspian Sea. Seasonal range of temperature is considerable, as is rain (ranging from 2" in the southeast to 78" in the Caspian region). Winter is normally the rainy season for the whole country. Abadan, Jan. 54 °F (12.2 °C), July 97 °F (36.1 °C). Annual rainfall 8" (204 mm). Tehran, Jan. 36 °F (2.2 °C), July 85 °F (29.4 °C). Annual rainfall 10" (246 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic was approved by a national referendum in Dec. 1979. It was revised in 1989 to expand the powers of the presidency and eliminate the position of prime minister. It gives supreme authority to the *Spiritual Leader (wali faqih)*, a position which was held by Ayatollah Khomeini until his death on 3 June 1989. Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei was elected to succeed him on 4 June 1989. Following the death of the previous incumbent, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was proclaimed the *Source of Knowledge (Marja e Taghliid)* at the head of all Shia Muslims in Dec. 1994. The 86-member *Assembly of Experts* was established in 1982. It is popularly elected every 8 years. Its mandate is to interpret the constitution and select the Spiritual Leader. Candidates for election are examined by the *Council of Guardians*. The *Islamic Consultative Assembly* has 290 members, elected for a 4-year term in single-seat constituencies. All candidates have to be approved by the 12-member *Council of Guardians*. The *President* of the Republic is popularly elected for not more than two 4-year terms plus a third non-consecutive term and is head of the executive; he appoints Ministers subject to approval by the *Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis)*. The president is Iran's second highest-ranking official. Legislative power is held by the *Islamic Consultative Assembly*, directly elected on a non-party basis for a 4-year term by all citizens aged 17 or over.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *rial* (IRR) of which 10 = 1 *toman*.

### Defence

18 months' military service is compulsory (10 months in the case of university graduates). In 2013 defence spending totalled US\$17,749 m., with spending per capita US\$222. The 2013 expenditure represented 4.1% of GDP (down from 5.2% in 2012).

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 9.0% of GDP in 2013, industry 40.2% and services 50.8%. Manufacturing's share of total GDP was 11.7%.

### Labour

The labour force numbered 26,643,000 in 2013, up from 22,262,000 in 2003. 47.2% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. Women constituted 18.3% of the workforce in 2013. In the same year 12.9% of the population was unemployed. Iran had 65,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2008 there were 183 paid-for daily newspapers and more than 3,300 non-dailies. Approximately 80% of the Iranian press is printed in Farsi; much of the remaining 20% is in English or Arabic. In the 2013 *World Press Freedom Index* compiled by Reporters Without Borders, Iran ranked 174th out of 179 countries.

### Rail

The State Railways totalled 8,217 km in 2011, of which 148 km were electrified. The railways carried 28.6 m. passengers in 2011 and 33.1 m. tonnes of freight. An isolated 1,676 mm gauge line (94 km) in the southeast provides a link with Pakistan Railways.

### Religion

The official religion is the Shia branch of Islam. In 2009 approximately 90–95% of the population were adherents according to the Pew Research Center's

Forum on Religion & Public Life, with most of the remainder of the population being Sunnis. However, adult attendance at Friday prayers is low compared to other Muslim countries, with some analysts putting the figure as only 2%, and Islam plays a smaller role in public life today than it did even in the mid-2000s.

### Roads

In 2006 the total length of roads was 174,301 km, of which 1,429 km were motorways, 27,256 km main roads, 41,129 km secondary regional roads and 104,487 km other local roads. In 2007 there were 920,100 passenger cars; 862,600 motorcycles and mopeds; 179,700 vans and lorries; 4,900 buses and coaches. In 2006 there were 165,130 road accidents resulting in 6,380 deaths.

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 202 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 959,000 GT. Of the 202 vessels registered, 148 were general cargo ships, 18 bulk carriers, 12 oil tankers, 12 passenger ships, seven container ships, four chemical tankers and there was one liquid gas tanker. The Iranian-controlled fleet comprised 191 vessels of 1,000 GT or over in Jan. 2009, of which 126 were under foreign flags and 65 under the Iranian flag. The principal port is Bandar-e-Abbas, which handled 52,373,000 tonnes of cargo in 2008 (17,185,000 tonnes loaded and 35,161,000 tonnes discharged).

### Social Statistics

2007–08 births, 1,286,716; deaths, 412,735. Rates (2007–08, per 1,000 population): birth, 18.1; death, 5.8. Expectation of life at birth, 2013, 76.1 years for females and 72.2 years for males. Infant mortality, 2010, 22 per 1,000 live births. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 1.1%; fertility rate, 2013, 1.9 births per woman. Iran has had one of the largest reductions in its fertility rate of any country in the world over the past quarter of a century, having had a rate of 4.8 births per woman in 1990. 2.3% of Iran's adult population are dependent on opiates—the second highest rate in world behind Afghanistan.

### Telecommunications

In 2013 Iran had 29,689,000 main (fixed) telephone lines (383.3 per 1,000 population). In 2013 there were 4,351,202 fixed broadband subscriptions, more than double the number in 2011.

### Territory and Population

Iran is bounded in the north by Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Caspian Sea and Turkmenistan, east by Afghanistan and Pakistan, south by the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf, and west by Iraq and Turkey. It has an area of 1,648,195 km<sup>2</sup> (636,368 sq. miles) including 116,600 km<sup>2</sup> (45,020 sq. miles) of inland water, but a vast portion is desert. Population (2011 census): 75,149,669. Population density: 46 per km<sup>2</sup>. The population was 71.3% urban in 2011. At the 2011 census the populations of the principal cities were: Tehran, 8,154,051; Mashhad, 2,749,374; Esfahan, 1,756,126; Karaj, 1,614,626; Tabriz, 1,494,908; Shiraz, 1,460,665; Ahvaz, 1,112,021; Qom, 1,074,036. The official language is Farsi or Persian.

### Tourism

There were 3,354,000 non-resident visitors in 2011 (1,402,000 in 2001), spending US\$2,574 m.

## Iraq

### *Jumhuriya al 'Iraqia (Republic of Iraq)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Baghdad

*Population estimate, 2015:* 36.42 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 14,003

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.654/121

*Internet domain extension:* .iq

### Civil Aviation

In 2000 there were international flights for the first time since the 1991 Gulf War, with air links being established between Iraq and Egypt, Jordan and Syria. Since 2003 the two international airports at Baghdad and Basra have undergone post-war reconstruction. Major domestic airports are at Mosul, Kirkuk and Erbil. In May 2010 the government dissolved the state airline, Iraqi Airways, owing to a legal dispute with Kuwait dating back to the Iraqi invasion in 1990. It began flying again in 2012 and now serves a number of destinations in Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

### Climate

The climate is mainly arid, with limited and unreliable rainfall and a large annual range of temperature. Summers are very hot and winters are cold. Baghdad, Jan. 50 °F (10 °C), July 95 °F (35 °C). Annual rainfall 6" (140 mm). Basra, Jan. 55 °F (12.8 °C), July 92 °F (33.3 °C). Annual rainfall 7" (175 mm). Mosul, Jan. 44 °F (6.7 °C), July 90 °F (32.2 °C). Annual rainfall 15" (384 mm).

### Constitution and Government

Until the fall of Saddam Hussein, the highest state authority was the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) but some legislative power was given to the 220-member *National Assembly*. The only legal political grouping was the National Progressive Front (founded 1973) comprising the Arab Socialist Renaissance (Ba'ath) Party and various Kurdish groups, but a law of Aug. 1991 legalized political parties provided they were not based on religion, race or ethnicity. In July 2003 a 25-man Iraqi-led governing council met in Baghdad for the first time since the US-led war in an important staging post towards full self-government. The temporary Coalition Provisional Authority was dissolved on 28 June 2004. Power was handed over to the interim Iraqi government which assumed full sovereign powers for governing Iraq. It became a transitional government after elections in Jan. 2005. The 275-member Transitional National Assembly approved a draft new constitution on 29 Aug. 2005. It was approved in a nationwide referendum held on 15 Oct., with 78.6% of votes cast in favour. The constitution states that Iraq is a democratic, federal, representative republic and a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-sect country. Islam is the official religion of the state and a basic source of legislation. Elections were held in Dec. 2005 for the new 275-member *Council of Representatives*. In Dec. 2009 the number of seats was increased from 275 to 325 ahead of the March 2010 elections. In Nov. 2013 this was further increased to 328 ahead of the April 2014 elections.

### Currency

From 15 Oct. 2003 a new national currency, the new *Iraqi dinar* (NID), was introduced to replace the existing currencies in circulation in the south and north of the country.

### Defence

Following the downfall of Saddam Hussein, recruitment began in July 2003 for a new professional army run by the US military. Saddam Hussein's forces numbered 400,000 at their peak. In Nov. 2008 Iraq's parliament approved a plan that saw the last American troops leave the country in Dec. 2011. In 2013 military expenditure totalled US\$16,897 m. (US\$530 per capita), representing 7.2% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2011 oil and gas accounted for about 60% of GDP.

### Labour

In 2011 the labour force was 7.9 m. (72% of working age males and 13% of working age females). The state employs nearly two-thirds of the workforce. Unemployment was officially put at 12% in Feb. 2012. Iraq had 28,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2008 several hundred daily and weekly publications appeared regularly, the most popular of which, *Al-Sabah* ('The Morning'), had an average circulation of 50,000.

### Rail

In 2005 railways comprised 2,032 km of 1,435 mm gauge route. Passenger-km travelled in 2014 came to 99 m. and freight tonne-km to 249 m.

### Religion

The constitution proclaims Islam the state religion, but also stipulates freedom of creed and religious practices. In 2010 the population was 99.0% Muslim according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life; there were also an estimated 270,000 Christians.

### Roads

In 2012 there were 59,623 km of roads (up from 40,988 km in 2007). Vehicles in use in 2006 included 785,000 passenger cars and 1,345,000 lorries and vans. In 2005 there were 1,789 road accident deaths.

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 18 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 86,000 GT. A 565-km canal was opened in 1992 between Baghdad and the Persian Gulf for shipping, irrigation, the drainage of saline water and the reclamation of marsh land. Iraq has three oil tanker terminals at Basra, Khor Al-Amaya and Khor Al-Zubair. Its single deep-water port is at Umm Qasr.

### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 940,000; deaths, 177,000; marriages, 171,000. Birth and death rates, 2008 estimates (per 1,000 population): births, 31.2; deaths, 5.9. Life expectancy at birth, 2007, was 64.2 years for men and 71.8 years for women. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.5%. Infant mortality, 2008: 36 per 1,000 live births. Fertility rate, 2008: 4.1 births per woman. Estimated maternal mortality rate per 10,000 live births, 2005: 30.

### Telecommunications

There were 1.72 m. fixed telephone lines in 2010 (55.6 per 1,000 inhabitants). In the same year mobile phone subscriptions numbered 23.26 m. (75.1 per 1,000 inhabitants). Mobile phones were banned during the Saddam Hussein era. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled just 270 in 2010. In March 2012 there were 1.6 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Iraq is bounded in the north by Turkey, east by Iran, southeast by the Persian Gulf, south by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and west by Jordan and Syria. In April 1992 the UN Boundary Commission redefined Iraq's border with Kuwait, moving it slightly northwards in line with an agreement of 1932. Area, 434,128 km<sup>2</sup>. Population, 1997 census, 22,046,244; density, 50.8 per km<sup>2</sup>. 2009 estimate, 31,664,466, density 72.9 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2009, 69.0% of the population lived in urban areas. The most populous cities are Baghdad (the capital), with an estimated population of 6,150,000 in 2011, Mosul and Basra. Around 1.4 m. Iraqis protected and assisted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees are displaced within the country. In 2014 Iraqis dropped to the ninth largest refugee group with just 377,700 living abroad (down from 1,873,500 in 2008), mainly in Syria and to a lesser extent Jordan. The population is approximately 80% Arab, 17% Kurdish (mainly in the north of the country) and 3% Turkmen, Assyrian, Chaldean or other. Shia Arabs (predominantly in the south of the country) constitute approximately 60% of the total population and Sunni Arabs (principally in the centre) 20%. The official language is Arabic.

### Tourism

In 2010 there were 1,518,000 foreign tourists, up from 864,000 in 2008.

## Ireland

*Éire*

### Factsheet

Capital: Dublin

Population estimate, 2015: 4.69 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPP\$) 39,568

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.916/6=

Internet domain extension: .ie

### Civil Aviation

Aer Lingus and Ryanair are the two major airlines operating in Ireland. Aer Lingus was founded in 1936 as a State-owned enterprise. It was privatized in 2006 and was bought in 2015 by International Airlines Group (IAG), the owner of British Airways. In the year ended 31 March 2012 Ryanair carried 75.8 m. passengers (all on international flights); revenue passenger-km totalled 94.3 bn. In addition to Aer Lingus and Ryanair, there are 13 other independent air transport operators. Dublin, the busiest airport, is operated by the Dublin Airport Authority plc as is Cork, the second busiest; Shannon, the third busiest, used to be as well but has been a publicly owned commercial airport operated and run by the Shannon Airport Authority plc since the beginning of 2013. In 2012 Dublin handled 19.1 m. passengers (an increase of 1.9% on 2011) and 111,069 tonnes of freight and mail.

### Climate

Influenced by the Gulf Stream, there is an equable climate with mild south-west winds, making temperatures almost uniform over the whole country. The coldest months are Jan. and Feb. (39–45 °F, 4–7 °C) and the warmest July and Aug. (57–61 °F, 14–16 °C). May and June are the sunniest months, averaging 5.5 to 6.5 h each day, but over 7 h in the extreme southeast. Rainfall is lowest along the eastern coastal strip. The central parts vary between 30–44" (750–1,125 mm), and up to 60" (1,500 mm) may be experienced in low-lying areas in the west. Dublin, Jan. 40 °F (4 °C), July 59 °F (15 °C). Annual rainfall 30" (750 mm). Cork, Jan. 42 °F (5 °C), July 61 °F (16 °C). Annual rainfall 41" (1,025 mm).

### Constitution and Government

Ireland is a sovereign independent, democratic republic. Its parliament exercises jurisdiction in 26 of the 32 counties of the island of Ireland. On 14 June 1937 a new constitution was approved by Parliament and enacted by a plebiscite on 1 July 1937. This constitution came into operation on 29 Dec. 1937. Under it the name Ireland (*Éire*) was restored. The head of state is the *President*, whose role is largely ceremonial, but who has the power to refer proposed legislation which might infringe the Constitution to the Supreme Court. The *Oireachtas* or National Parliament consists of the President, a House of Representatives (*Dáil Éireann*) and a Senate (*Seanad Éireann*). The *Dáil*, consisting of 158 members, is elected by adult suffrage on the Single Transferable Vote system in constituencies of three, four or five members. A maximum period of 90 days is afforded to the Senate for the consideration or amendment of Bills sent to that House by the *Dáil*, but the Senate has no power to veto legislative proposals. No amendment of the Constitution can be effected except with the approval of the people given at a referendum.

### Currency

On 1 Jan. 1999 the euro (EUR) became the legal currency in Ireland at the irrevocable conversion rate of 0.787564 Irish pounds to 1 euro. The euro, which consists of 100 cents, has been in circulation since 1 Jan. 2002. On the introduction of the euro there was a 'dual circulation' period before the Irish pound ceased to be legal tender on 9 Feb. 2002.

### Defence

The total strength of the Permanent Defence Force in Dec. 2011 was 9,438 (including 565 women) and the total strength of the Reserve Defence Force

was 5,220. In Dec. 2011, 529 Defence Forces personnel were involved in 11 peace-support missions throughout the world. Defence expenditure in 2011 totalled €926.83 m., representing 0.6% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 1.4% of GDP in 2013, industry 26.1% and services 72.5%.

### Labour

The total labour force in 2008 was 2,239,600, of whom 126,700 were out of work. The unemployment rate in April and May 2001 was just 3.7%, down from 17.1% in Sept. 1985. However, it rose sharply as a consequence of the global economic crisis, peaking at 15.1% in Nov. 2011 and again in Feb. 2012. It has gradually fallen since then and in Dec. 2015 was 8.8%. Of those at work in 2008, 1,246,400 were employed in the services sector, 492,000 in the industrial sector and 113,800 in the agricultural sector. Employment rose by approximately 40% between 1998 and 2008. In 2001 there were only 69,400 unemployed people, down from 226,000 in 1987, although this figure has risen steadily back up since then and in 2009 exceeded the 1987 total, with 264,600 unemployed. Ireland, along with the UK and Sweden, decided to open its labour market to nationals of the new EU member states in May 2004. Poles in particular went to Ireland following the EU expansion and by 2011 were the largest ethnic minority ahead of UK nationals; there were 122,585 Polish citizens in Ireland at the time of the 2011 census. On 1 Feb. 2011 the minimum hourly wage was lowered to €7.65 from €8.65. The normal retirement age is 65 years.

### Press

In 2014 there were nine dailies and seven Sunday newspapers (all in English) with a combined circulation of 1,202,000. There were 60 newspaper online editions in 2014.

### Rail

The total length of railway open for traffic in 2009 was 1,919 km (52 km electrified), all 1,600 mm gauge. A massive investment in public transport infrastructure is taking place in Ireland. The second National Development Plan that ran from Jan. 2007 to Dec. 2013 allowed for €12.9 bn. to be invested in public transport, particularly in the Greater Dublin area.

### Religion

According to the census of population taken in 2011 the principal religious professions were as follows: Roman Catholics, 3,861,335; Church of Ireland (including Protestants), 129,039; Muslims, 49,204; Orthodox, 45,223; Presbyterians, 24,600; Other stated religions, 136,126; Not stated or no religion, 342,725. In Feb. 2016 there were two cardinals.

### Roads

On 31 Dec. 2012 there were 95,811 km of public roads, consisting of 5,515 km of National Primary Roads (including 1,187 km of motorway), 2,716 km of National Secondary Roads, 11,607 km of Regional Roads and 78,773 km of Local Roads. Number of licensed motor vehicles at 31 Dec. 2011: private cars, 1,887,810; public service vehicles, 33,405; goods vehicles, 320,966; agricultural and industrial vehicles, 71,677; motorcycles, 36,582; other vehicles, 74,716. In 2011 a total of 186 people were killed in road accidents.

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 32 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 122,000 GT. Total cargo traffic passing through the country's ports amounted to 41,880,000 tonnes in 2009 (down from 51,081,000 in 2008). Dublin handled 18.6 m. tonnes of cargo in 2009 and Cork 8.0 m. tonnes.

### Social Statistics

Births, 2012, 71,674; deaths, 29,186. 2012 rates (per 1,000 population): birth, 15.6; death, 6.4. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 1.5%. Expectation of life at birth, 2011, 78.3 years for males and 82.8 years for females. In 2009 the suicide rate per 100,000 population was 11.8 (men, 19.0; women, 4.7).

Infant mortality in 2010, three per 1,000 live births; fertility rate (2013), 2.0 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

The largest mobile telephone operators in terms of subscribers are Vodafone Ireland and O2 Ireland. In 2013 there were 4,755,000 mobile phone subscriptions (1,027.6 per 1,000 population) and 2,034,000 fixed telephone subscriptions. In 2013, 78.3% of the population aged 16–74 were internet users. The fixed broadband penetration rate stood at 21.1 subscribers per 100 inhabitants in Dec. 2010. In March 2012 there were 2.1 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

The Republic of Ireland lies in the Atlantic Ocean, separated from Great Britain by the Irish Sea to the east, and bounded in the northeast by Northern Ireland (UK). In 2011, 62.3% of the population lived in urban areas. The population at the 2011 census was 4,588,252 (2,315,553 females), giving a density of 67.0 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. The census population in 2011 was the highest figure since 1861 when the census recorded a population of 4.40 m. The capital is Dublin (Baile Átha Cliath). Town populations, 2011: Greater Dublin, 1,110,627; Cork, 198,582; Limerick, 91,454; Galway, 76,778; Waterford, 51,519. The official languages are Irish (the national language) and English; according to the 2011 census, Irish is spoken by 1.77 m. persons in the Republic of Ireland aged 3 years and over (1.66 m. in 2006). It is a compulsory subject at school.

### Tourism

Total number of overseas tourists in 2008 was 7,839,000 (a 2.2% fall from 2007). In 2008 earnings from all visits to Ireland, including cross-border visits, amounted to €4,781 m. 49% of visits in 2008 were from Great Britain. Irish residents made 7,877,000 visits abroad in 2008 (a 2.1% increase on 2007).

## Israel

### *Medinat Israel (State of Israel)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Jerusalem

*Population estimate, 2015:* 8.06 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 30,676

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.894/18

*Internet domain extension:* .il

#### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Tel Aviv (Ben Gurion), Eilat (J. Hozman), Haifa and Ovda. Tel Aviv is the busiest airport, in 2012 handling 13,133,992 passengers (12,400,479 on international flights) and 285,813 tonnes of freight. El Al is the flag carrier. In 2005 scheduled airline traffic of Israeli-based carriers flew 97.9 m. km and carried 4,382,200 passengers. In 2010 services were also provided by another Israeli airline, Arkia, and by around 50 international carriers.

#### Climate

From April to Oct., the summers are long and hot, and almost rainless. From Nov. to March, the weather is generally mild, though colder in hilly areas, and this is the wet season. Jerusalem, Jan. 12.8 °C, July 28.9 °C. Annual rainfall, 657 mm. Tel Aviv, Jan. 17.2 °C, July 30.2 °C. Annual rainfall, 803 mm.

#### Constitution and Government

Israel is an independent sovereign republic, established by proclamation on 14 May 1948. The *President* (head of state) is elected by the Knesset by secret ballot by a simple majority; his term of office is 7 years. He may only serve for one term. The Knesset, a one-chamber Parliament, consists of 120 members.

It is elected for a 4-year term by secret ballot and universal direct suffrage. Under the system of election introduced in 1996, electors vote once for a party and once for a candidate for Prime Minister. To be elected Prime Minister, a candidate must gain more than half the votes cast, and be elected to the Knesset. If there are more than two candidates and none gain half the vote, a second round is held 15 days later. The Prime Minister forms a cabinet (no fewer than eight members and no more than 18) with the approval of the Knesset.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *shekel* (ILS) of 100 *agorot*.

#### Defence

Conscription (for Jews and Druze only) is 3 years (usually 4 years for officers; 24 months for women). Israel is one of the few countries with female conscription. A law passed in March 2014 ended the wholesale army exemptions granted to ultra-Orthodox seminary students. It is set to be fully implemented in 2017 and will involve an annual enlistment quota. The Israel Defence Force is a unified force, in which army, navy and air force are subordinate to a single chief-of-staff. The Minister of Defence is *de facto* C.-in-C. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$15,163 m., representing 6.0% of GDP (compared to 30% in the early 1970s). Expenditure per capita in 2013 was US\$1,967, a figure exceeded only by Oman and Saudi Arabia. Israel has an undeclared nuclear weapons capability. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the nuclear arsenal was estimated to have about 80 warheads in Jan. 2015.

#### Economy

Services account for about 82% of GDP, industry 16% and agriculture 2%.

#### Labour

The economically active workforce was 2,270,500 in 2001 (1,236,200 males). The principal areas of activity were: manufacturing, mining and quarrying, 394,200; wholesale and retail trade/repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods, 299,800; education, 283,700; and real estate, renting and business activities, 277,200. Unemployment was 5.2% in Dec. 2015.

#### Press

In 2012 there were 11 daily newspapers with an estimated combined circulation of 1.1 m. The most widely read paper is the free *Israel Hayom*.

#### Rail

There were 1,079 km of standard gauge line in 2011. 35.9 m. passengers and 6.2 m. tonnes of freight were carried in 2011. One of the smallest metro systems in the world (1,800 metres) was opened in Haifa in 1959. A tram system in Jerusalem opened in Aug. 2011.

#### Religion

Religious affairs are under the supervision of a special ministry, with departments for the Christian and Muslim communities. The religious affairs of each community remain under the full control of the ecclesiastical authorities concerned: in the case of the Jews, the Ashkenazi and Sephardi Chief Rabbis, in the case of the Christians, the heads of the various communities, and in the case of the Muslims, the Qadis. The Druze were officially recognized in 1957 as an autonomous religious community. According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 there were an estimated 5.6 m. Jews, 1.4 m. Muslims, 230,000 people with no religious affiliation and 150,000 Christians.

#### Roads

There were 17,870 km of paved roads in 2007, including 344 km of motorway. Motor vehicles in use in 2007 totalled 1,805,400 passenger cars, 362,200 lorries and vans, 94,800 motorcycles and mopeds, and 21,300 buses and coaches. There were 398 fatalities as a result of road accidents in 2007.

## Shipping

Israel has three commercial ports—Haifa, Ashdod and Eilat. In Jan. 2009 there were 15 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 428,000 GT.

## Social Statistics

2008 births, 156,923; deaths, 39,484; marriages, 50,038; divorces, 13,488. 2008 crude birth rate per 1,000 population of Jewish population, 20.4; Non-Jewish: Muslims, 28.5; Christians, 16.5; Druzes, 21.0. Crude death rate per 1,000 (2008), Jewish, 6.2; Muslims, 2.5; Christians, 4.7; Druzes, 3.0. Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2005–09), 4.0 (Jewish, 2.9; Muslims, 7.5; Christians, 2.3; Druzes, 5.2). Life expectancy, 2013, 79.9 years for males and 83.6 for females. Average annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 2.3%. Fertility rate, 2008, 2.8 births per woman. There were 16,892 immigrants in 2011, up from 13,699 in 2008 but down from 199,516 in 1990 and 176,100 in 1991 following the fall of communism in Eastern Europe and the break-up of the former Soviet Union.

## Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 3.5 m. main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscribers numbered 9.2 m. (1,219.8 per 1,000 persons). There were 25.8 fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in 2009 and 62.5 mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants. In 2009, 74.5% of households had a computer and 66.3% of households had internet access at home. In March 2012 there were 3.5 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

The area of Israel, including the Golan Heights (1,154 km<sup>2</sup>) and East Jerusalem, is 22,072 km<sup>2</sup> (8,522 sq. miles), of which 21,643 km<sup>2</sup> (8,357 sq. miles) are land. The population in Dec. 2011 was 7.84 m. (5.91 m. Jews, 1.61 m. Arabs and 0.32 m. others), including East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and Israeli settlers in the West Bank but excluding 200,000 foreign workers. Population density, 362 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 91.9% of the population lived in urban areas. On 23 Jan. 1950 the Knesset proclaimed Jerusalem the capital of the State and on 14 Dec. 1981 extended Israeli law into the Golan Heights. Population of the main towns (Dec. 2011): Jerusalem, 804,400; Tel Aviv/Jaffa, 404,800; Haifa, 270,300; Rishon le-Ziyyon, 232,400; Ashdod, 212,300; Petach Tikva, 210,400. The official languages are Hebrew and Arabic.

## Tourism

In 2011 there were 2,820,000 tourist arrivals (excluding same-day visitors), up from 2,803,000 in 2010 and 2,417,000 in 2000. The main countries of origin of non-resident tourists in 2011 were the USA (21%), followed by Russia (13%) and France (10%). 86% of all tourist arrivals in 2011 were by air and 14% were by land border crossings.

# Italy

## *Repubblica Italiana (Italian Republic)*

### Factsheet

Capital: Rome

Population estimate, 2015: 59.80 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 33,030

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.873/27

Internet domain extension: .it

### Civil Aviation

Alitalia commenced operations in Jan. 2009 as a privately-owned company (25%-owned by Air France-KLM), having taken over the name, landing rights and significant assets of the former national carrier (also Alitalia, which went bankrupt in 2008) and having merged with rival airline Air One. In 2013 the Alitalia group carried 23,993,486 passengers. In 2012 Rome (Fiumicino) airport handled 36,980,157 passengers (24,925,722 on

international flights) and 143,172 tonnes of freight. Milan Malpensa was the second busiest for passengers, handling 18,522,760 (14,773,460 on international flights), but the busiest for freight, with 414,318 tonnes.

## Climate

The climate varies considerably with latitude. In the south, it is warm temperate, with little rain in the summer months, but the north is cool temperate with rainfall more evenly distributed over the year. Florence, Jan. 47.7 °F (8.7 °C), July 79.5 °F (26.4 °C). Annual rainfall 33" (842 mm). Milan, Jan. 38.7 °F (3.7 °C), July 73.4 °F (23.0 °C). Annual rainfall 38" (984 mm). Naples, Jan. 50.2 °F (10.1 °C), July 77.4 °F (25.2 °C). Annual rainfall 36" (935 mm). Palermo, Jan. 52.5 °F (11.4 °C), July 78.4 °F (25.8 °C). Annual rainfall 35" (897 mm). Rome, Jan. 53.4 °F (11.9 °C), July 76.3 °F (24.6 °C). Annual rainfall 31" (793 mm). Venice, Jan. 43.3 °F (6.3 °C), July 70.9 °F (21.6 °C). Annual rainfall 32" (830 mm).

## Constitution and Government

The Constitution dates from 1948. Italy is 'a democratic republic founded on work'. Parliament consists of the *Chamber of Deputies* and the *Senate*. The Chamber is elected for 5 years by universal and direct suffrage and consists of 630 deputies. The Senate is elected for 5 years on a regional basis by electors over the age of 25, each Region having at least seven senators. The total number of senators is 322, of which 315 are directly elected. The *President* is elected in a joint session of Chamber and Senate, to which are added three delegates from each Regional Council (one from the Valle d'Aosta). The President can dissolve the chambers of parliament, except during the last 6 months of the presidential term. There is a *Constitutional Court* that consists of 15 appointed judges, five each by the President, Parliament (in joint session) and the highest law and administrative courts. The Court can decide on the constitutionality of laws and decrees, define the powers of the State and Regions, judge conflicts between the State and Regions and between the Regions, and try the President and Ministers.

## Currency

On 1 Jan. 1999 the euro (EUR) became the legal currency in Italy at the irrevocable conversion rate of 1,936.27 lire to 1 euro. The euro, which consists of 100 cents, has been in circulation since 1 Jan. 2002. On the introduction of the euro there was a 'dual circulation' period before the lira ceased to be legal tender on 28 Feb. 2002.

## Defence

Head of the armed forces is the Defence Chief of Staff. Conscription was abolished at the end of 2004 with the military becoming all-professional from 2005. In Aug. 1998 the government voted to allow women into the armed forces. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$25,229 m. (US\$410 per capita), representing 1.2% of GDP.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 2% of GDP, industry 24% and services 74% in 2012. Italy's 'shadow' (black market) economy is estimated to constitute approximately 17% of the country's official GDP.

## Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 25,474,000 (24,007,000 in 2003). 63.9% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. Of those in employment in 2013, 69.4% worked in services, 27.2% in industry and 3.4% in agriculture. Unemployment stood at 11.4% in Dec. 2015 (down from 12.7% in 2014 as a whole). In 2012 the pensionable retirement age was 62 for women employed in the private sector, 63 for self-employed women and 66 for men (both employed and self-employed) and women in the public sector. The pensionable retirement age for women not in the public sector is gradually increasing and will be 66 years by 2018. It is expected that the age will increase for both sexes to at least 67 in 2021. Italy had 8,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

In 2011 there were 97 paid-for dailies with a combined circulation of 4.3 m. copies and ten free dailies with a combined circulation of 1.7 m. copies.

Several of the papers are owned or supported by political parties. The church and various economic groups exert strong right of centre influence on editorial opinion. Most newspapers are regional but *Corriere della Sera* (which has the highest circulation of any Italian newspaper), *La Repubblica*, *Il Sole 24 Ore*, *La Gazzetta* and *La Stampa* are the most important of those papers that are nationally circulated. In 2011 there were 101 newspaper online editions.

### Rail

The length of state-run railway (*Ferrovie dello Stato*) in 2011 was 16,726 km (11,925 km electrified). Italy's first section of high-speed railway opened in 1981; by 2009 the total length had reached 923 km. In 2011 the railways carried 522.9 m. passengers and 46.1 m. tonnes of freight. There are metros in Milan (76.0 km), Rome (38.0 km), Naples (29.8 km), Turin (9.6 km), Genoa (5.3 km) and Catania (3.8 km).

### Religion

The treaty between the Holy See and Italy of 11 Feb. 1929, confirmed by article 7 of the Constitution of the republic, lays down that the Catholic Apostolic Roman Religion is the only religion of the State. Other creeds are permitted, provided they do not profess principles, or follow rites, contrary to public order or moral behaviour. The appointment of archbishops and of bishops is made by the Holy See; but the Holy See submits to the Italian government the name of the person to be appointed in order to obtain an assurance that the latter will not raise objections of a political nature. In Feb. 2016 there were 47 cardinals. According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 there were an estimated 50.3 m. Roman Catholics, 7.5 m. people with no religious affiliation, 2.2 m. Muslims, 800,000 Protestants and 500,000 other Christians.

### Roads

Roads totalled 175,430 km in 2005, of which 6,542 km were motorways, 21,524 km were highways and main roads, and 147,364 km were regional and provincial roads. In 2005 there were 47,104,048 motor vehicles, including: passenger cars, 34,882,476 (594 per 1,000 inhabitants); buses and coaches, 96,477; vans and trucks, 3,982,001. There were 5,426 fatalities in road accidents in 2005.

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 779 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 13.32 m. GT. Of the 779 vessels registered, 280 were passenger ships, 212 oil tankers, 131 general cargo ships, 62 bulk carriers, 45 chemical tankers, 26 liquid gas tankers and 23 container ships. The Italian-controlled fleet comprised 745 vessels of 1,000 GT or over in Jan. 2009, of which 527 were under the Italian flag and 218 under foreign flags. The chief ports are Genoa (which handled 54,218,000 tonnes of cargo in 2008), Trieste (48,279,000 tonnes in 2008) and Taranto (43,271,000 tonnes in 2008). Gioia Tauro, the busiest container port, handled 3.5 m. 20-ft equivalent units (TEUs) in 2008.

### Social Statistics

Vital statistics (and rates per 1,000 population), 2008: births, 576,659 (9.6); deaths, 585,126 (9.8). Marriages in 2007, 250,360 (4.2); divorces in 2006, 49,534 (0.8). Infant mortality rate, 2010 (up to 1 year of age): three per 1,000 live births. Expectation of life, 2007: females, 84.0 years; males, 78.1. In 2010, 20.3% of the population was over 65—one of the highest percentages in the world. Annual population growth rate, 2010–15, –0.1%; fertility rate, 2008, 1.4 births per woman. With only 17.7% of births being to unmarried mothers in 2007 (albeit up from 8.1% in 1995), Italy has one of the lowest rates of births out of marriage in Europe. In 2006 there were 3,701 suicides; 76.8% were men.

### Telecommunications

There were 20,570,000 main (fixed) telephone lines in 2014. 62.0% of the population were internet users in 2014. There were 235.3 fixed broadband subscribers per 1,000 inhabitants in 2014. In March 2012 there were 20.9 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Italy is bounded in the north by Switzerland and Austria, east by Slovenia and the Adriatic Sea, southeast by the Ionian Sea, south by the Mediterranean Sea, southwest by the Tyrrhenian Sea and Ligurian Sea and west by France. The area is 302,071 km<sup>2</sup>. Population in 2011, 59,433,744 (30,688,237 females). Density: 197 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 68.6% of the population lived in urban areas. Communes of more than 250,000 inhabitants, with population resident at the census of 9 Oct. 2011: Rome (Roma), 2,617,175; Milan (Milano), 1,242,123; Naples (Napoli), 962,003; Turin (Torino), 872,367; Palermo, 657,561; Genoa (Genova), 586,180; Bologna, 371,337; Florence (Firenze), 358,079; Bari, 315,933; Catania, 293,902; Venice (Venezia), 261,262; Verona, 252,520. The official and by far the most widely spoken language is Italian.

### Tourism

In 2010, 43.6 m. international tourists visited Italy (43.2 m. in 2009); receipts from tourism in 2010 were US\$38.8 bn. (US\$40.2 bn. in 2009). Only France, the USA, China and Spain received more foreign tourists in 2010.

## Jamaica

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Kingston

*Population estimate, 2015:* 2.79 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 7,415

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.719/99

*Internet domain extension:* .jm

### Civil Aviation

International airlines operate through the Norman Manley and Sangster airports at Palisadoes and Montego Bay. Sangster International is the busiest for passenger traffic, handling 3,378,000 passengers in 2006–07. Norman Manley airport is busier for freight, handling 16,136 tonnes of freight in 2006 but only 1,715,078 passengers.

### Climate

A tropical climate but with considerable variation. High temperatures on the coast are usually mitigated by sea breezes, while upland areas enjoy cooler and less humid conditions. Rainfall is plentiful over most of Jamaica, being heaviest in May and from Aug. to Nov. The island lies in the hurricane zone. Kingston, Jan. 76 °F (24.4 °C), July 81 °F (27.2 °C). Annual rainfall 32" (800 mm).

### Constitution and Government

Under the constitution of Aug. 1962 the Crown is represented by a Governor-General appointed by the Crown on the advice of the Prime Minister. The Governor-General is assisted by a Privy Council of six appointed members. The Legislature comprises the *House of Representatives* and the *Senate*. Electors and elected must be Jamaican or Commonwealth citizens resident in Jamaica for at least 12 months before registration.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Jamaican dollar* (JMD) of 100 cents.

### Defence

In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$129 m. (US\$44 per capita), representing 0.8% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2009 agriculture accounted for 6.2% of GDP, industry 22.1% and services 71.7%.



## Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 1,291,000 (1,202,000 in 2003). 67.8% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 15.0% of the population was unemployed.

## Press

In 2008 there were three daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 115,000.

## Rail

Passenger traffic ceased in 1992, but restarted in 2011. However, it closed again in Aug. 2012 as a result of the service suffering heavy losses. Freight transport continues on a limited basis, mainly for carrying bauxite to docks.

## Religion

Freedom of worship is guaranteed under the Constitution. The main Christian denominations are Anglican, Baptist, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Church of God, United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (Presbyterian-Congregational-Disciples of Christ), Moravian, Seventh-day Adventist, Pentecostal, Salvation Army and Quaker. Pocomania is a mixture of Christianity and African survivals. Non-Christians include Hindus, Jews, Muslims, Bahai followers and Rastafarians.

## Roads

In 2007 the island had 22,121 km of roads, including 44 km of motorway and 4,922 km of main roads. In 2006 there were 373,700 passenger cars in use and 29,100 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 350 fatalities in traffic accidents in 2007.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 21 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 229,000 GT. Kingston handled 16.3 m. tonnes of cargo in 2008 (down from 17.7 m. tonnes in 2007).

## Social Statistics

Vital statistics (2006): births, 46,277 (17.4 per 1,000 population); deaths, 16,317 (6.1); marriages, 23,181 (8.7); divorces, 1,768 (0.7). There were 17,100 emigrants in 2006, mainly to the USA. Expectation of life at birth, 2007, 68.3 years for males and 75.1 years for females. Annual population growth rate, 2008–10, 0.3%; infant mortality, 2010, 20 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 2.4 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 272,100 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 98.9 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 2,974,700 mobile phone subscriptions (or 1,081.2 per 1,000 inhabitants). There were 261.0 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 114,600 in 2009 (42.0 per 1,000 inhabitants). In Dec. 2011 there were 684,000 Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea about 150 km south of Cuba. The area is 10,991 km<sup>2</sup> (4,244 sq. miles). The population at the census of April 2011 was 2,697,983, distributed on the basis of the 13 parishes of the island. Chief towns (in 1,000), 2011: Kingston (metropolitan area), 585; Portmore, 182; Spanish Town, 147; Montego Bay, 110; May Pen, 62. In 2011, 52.1% of the population were urban. The population is about 92% of African ethnic origin. The official language is English. Patois, a combination of English and African languages, is widely spoken.

## Tourism

In 2011 there were a record 1,951,752 non-resident overnight tourists and 1,125,481 cruise passenger arrivals (down from a peak of 1,336,994 in 2006).

# Japan

## *Nihon (or Nippon) Koku (Land of the Rising Sun)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Tokyo

*Population estimate, 2015:* 126.57 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 36,927

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.891/20

*Internet domain extension:* .jp

### Civil Aviation

The main international airports are at Fukuoka, Hiroshima, Kagoshima, Nagoya, Naha, Niigata, Osaka (Kansai International), Sapporo, Sendai and two serving Tokyo—at Narita (New Tokyo International) and Haneda (Tokyo International). The principal airlines are Japan Airlines International (JAL), formed when Japan Airlines and Japan Air System merged in 2001, and All Nippon Airways. In the financial year 2008 Japanese companies carried 92.89 m. passengers on domestic services and 16.43 m. passengers on international services. In 2007 Narita handled 35,478,146 passengers (mainly on international flights) and 2,254,421 tonnes of freight (making it the 7th busiest airport in the world for freight).

### Climate

The islands of Japan lie in the temperate zone, northeast of the main monsoon region of southeast Asia. The climate is temperate with warm, humid summers and relatively mild winters except in the island of Hokkaido and northern parts of Honshu facing the Sea of Japan. There is a month's rainy season in June–July, but the best seasons are spring and autumn, although Sept. may bring typhoons. Tokyo, Jan. 5.8 °C, July 25.4 °C. Annual rainfall 1,467 mm. Hiroshima, Jan. 5.3 °C, July 26.9 °C. Annual rainfall 1,541 mm. Nagasaki, Jan. 6.8 °C, July 26.6 °C. Annual rainfall 1,960 mm. Osaka, Jan. 5.8 °C, July 27.2 °C. Annual rainfall 1,306 mm. Sapporo, Jan. –4.1 °C, July 20.5 °C. Annual rainfall 1,128 mm.

### Constitution and Government

The Emperor is Akihito (b. 23 Dec. 1933), who succeeded his father, Hirohito on 7 Jan. 1989 (enthroned, 12 Nov. 1990); married 10 April 1959, to Michiko Shoda (b. 20 Oct. 1934). The 1947 constitution supersedes the Meiji constitution of 1889. In it the Japanese people pledge themselves to uphold the ideas of democracy and peace. The Emperor is the symbol of the unity of the people. Sovereign power rests with the people. The Emperor has no powers related to government. Fundamental human rights are guaranteed. Legislative power rests with the *Diet*, which consists of the *House of Deputies* (Shugi-in), elected by men and women over 20 years of age for a 4-year term, and an upper house, the *House of Councillors* (Sangi-in) of 242 members (96 elected by party list system with proportional representation according to the d'Hondt method and 146 from prefectural districts), one-half of its members being elected every 3 years. The number of members has been reduced in recent years. There had been 252 members until 2001 and 247 members from 2001 until elections of July 2004.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *yen* (JPY).

### Defence

Japan has renounced war as a sovereign right and the threat or the use of force as a means of settling disputes with other nations. Its troops had not previously been able to serve abroad, but in 1992 the House of Representatives voted to allow up to 2,000 troops to take part in UN peacekeeping missions. A law of Nov. 1994 authorizes the Self-Defence Force to send aircraft abroad in rescue operations where Japanese citizens are involved. Following the attacks on New York and Washington of 11 Sept. 2001, legislation was passed allowing Japan's armed forces to take part in operations in the form of logistical support assisting the US-led war on terror. The legislation permits

troops to take part in limited overseas operations but not to engage in combat. In May 2003 parliament passed a series of measures in response to North Korea's nuclear programme. Central government won increased control over the military which now has greater freedom to requisition civilian property in the event of attack. In Jan. 1991 Japan and the USA signed a renewal agreement under which Japan pays 40% of the costs of stationing US forces and 100% of the associated labour costs. US forces in Japan totalled 40,180 in 2011 (mostly marines and air force personnel). Total armed forces in 2011 numbered 247,750. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$50,977 m. (US\$401 per capita). In 2013 defence spending represented 1.0% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2011 services accounted for 73% of GDP, industry 26% and agriculture 1%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 65,559,000, down from 66,934,000 in 2003. 74.9% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. Of those in employment in 2013, 69.1% worked in services, 25.8% in industry and 3.7% in agriculture. In that year 42.6% of the labour force was female. In Dec. 2015 unemployment stood at 3.3%, down from a record high of 5.7% in July 2009. The youth unemployment rate in 2013 was the lowest in the industrialized world, at just 6.9%. Long-term unemployment rose from 26.6% of the labour force between 16 and 64 having been out of work for more than a year in 2001 to 39.4% in 2011. The declining population means that the United Nations expects the working-age population in 2050 to be lower than it was in the 1950s. Retirement age is being raised progressively from 60 years to reach 65 by 2025. Japan had 80,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2014 daily newspapers numbered 104 with aggregate circulation of 45.45 m. including four major English-language newspapers. The newspapers with the highest circulation are *Yomiuri Shimbun* (daily average of 9.2 m. copies in 2014) and *Asahi Shimbun* (daily average of 6.8 m. copies in 2014). They are also the two most widely read newspapers in the world. Japan has one of the highest circulation rates of daily newspapers in any country. In the 2013 *World Press Freedom Index* compiled by Reporters Without Borders, Japan was ranked 53rd out of 179 countries. In 2013, 82,589 new book titles were published.

### Rail

The first railway was completed in 1872, between Tokyo and Yokohama (29 km). Most railways are of 1,067 mm gauge, but the high-speed 'shinkansen' lines are standard 1,435 mm gauge. In April 1987 the Japanese National Railways was reorganized into seven private companies, the Japanese Railways (JR) Group—six passenger companies and one freight company. Total length of railways in 2008–09 was 27,343 km, of which the JR had 19,987 km and other private railways 7,356 km. In 2008–09 the JR carried 8,984 m. passengers (other private, 13,992 m.) and 33 m. tonnes of freight (other private, 13 m.). An undersea tunnel linking Honshu with Hokkaido was opened to rail services in 1988.

### Religion

State subsidies have ceased for all religions, and all religious teachings are forbidden in public schools. In Dec. 2012 Shintoism claimed 100.94 m. adherents, Buddhism 85.14 m.; these figures overlap. Christians numbered 1.91 m.

### Roads

The total length of roads (including urban and other local roads) was 1,196,217 km at 1 April 2008. There were 54,736 km of national roads of which 49,756 km were paved. In 2006, 79.2% of all roads were paved. Motor vehicles, at 31 March 2010, numbered 78,693,000, including 40,419,000 passenger cars and 6,362,000 trucks. In 2007 there were 5,353,648 new vehicle registrations. In 2009 there were 4,914 road deaths (10,679 in 1995).

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 2,524 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 12.29 m. GT. Of the 2,524 vessels registered, 966 were general cargo ships, 499 oil tankers, 370 bulk carriers, 306 passenger ships, 249 chemical tankers, 162 liquid gas tankers and 22 container ships. The Japanese-controlled fleet is the largest in the world, comprising 3,674 vessels of 1,000 GT or over in Jan. 2009. Only 646 of the 3,474 vessels in Jan. 2009 were flying the Japanese flag. The busiest ports are Nagoya (218,130,000 freight tons handled in 2008), Chiba, Yokohama, Kitakyushu and Osaka.

### Social Statistics

Births, 2007, 1,090,000; deaths, 1,108,000. Birth rate of Japanese nationals in present area in 2007, 8.6 per 1,000 population (1947: 34.3); death rate, 8.8. Marriage rate in 2007 (per 1,000 persons), 5.7; divorce rate, 2.0. In 2007 the mean age at first marriage was 30.1 for males and 28.3 for females. The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 2 (2010), is one of the lowest in the world. In 2007 only 2.0% of births were outside marriage. Life expectancy at birth was 86.0 years for women and 79.0 years for men in 2007. Japan's life expectancy is the highest of any sovereign country. In 2012 the total fertility rate was 1.41 births per woman (compared to a low of 1.26 in 2005 but 1.91 in 1975 and 3.65 in 1950). There was a total of 33,093 suicides in 2007, a rate of 35.8 males per 100,000 and 13.7 females per 100,000. The rate among women is one of the highest in the world. A UNICEF report published in 2010 showed that 14.9% of children in Japan live in relative poverty (living in a household in which disposable income—when adjusted for family size and composition—is less than 50% of the national median income), compared to just 4.7% in Iceland.

### Telecommunications

Telephone services have been operated by private companies (NTT and others) since 1985. In 2013 there were 1,176.3 mobile phone subscriptions per 1,000 inhabitants and 479.9 fixed telephone subscriptions per 1,000 population. In March 2012 there were 7.7 m. Facebook users (only 6% of the population).

### Territory and Population

Japan consists of four major islands, Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu and Shikoku, and many small islands, with an area of 377,950 km<sup>2</sup>. Census population of 1 Oct. 2010 (2005 census in brackets), 128,057,352 (127,767,994); of which males, 62,327,737 (62,348,977), females, 65,729,615 (65,419,017); population density (land area only), 351 per km<sup>2</sup> (351 per km<sup>2</sup>). In 2011, 67.0% of the population lived in urban areas. The official language is Japanese. Japan is divided into 43 prefectures, one metropolis (Tokyo), one territory (Hokkaido) and two urban prefectures (Kyoto and Osaka). The Tokyo conurbation, with a population in 2010 of 36.9 m., is the largest in the world, having overtaken New York around 1970. The leading cities, with population in 2010 (in 1,000), are: Tokyo, 8,946; Yokohama, 3,689; Osaka, 2,665; Nagoya, 2,264; Sapporo, 1,914; Kobe, 1,544.

### Tourism

In 2012 there were 8,358,000 foreign visitors (up from 6,219,000 in 2011 although down from 8,611,000 in 2010). Of the foreign visitors in 2011, 77% were from elsewhere in East Asia and the Pacific, 12% from the Americas and 9% from Europe. Tourist receipts amounted to US\$16.2 bn. in 2012.

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## Jordan

*Al-Mamlaka Al-Urduniya Al-Hashemiyah (Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Amman  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 7.60 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 11,365  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.748/80  
*Internet domain extension:* .jo

### Civil Aviation

The Queen Alia International airport is at Zizya, 30 km south of Amman. There are also international flights from Amman's second airport. Queen Alia International handled 6,250,048 passengers in 2012 (6,190,911 on international flights) and 96,855 tonnes of freight. Royal Jordanian is the national carrier.

### Climate

Predominantly a Mediterranean climate, with hot dry summers and cool wet winters, but in hilly parts summers are cooler and winters colder. Those areas below sea-level are very hot in summer and warm in winter. Eastern parts have a desert climate. Amman, Jan. 46 °F (7.5 °C), July 77 °F (24.9 °C). Annual rainfall 13.4" (340.6 mm). Aqaba, Jan. 61 °F (16 °C), July 89 °F (31.5 °C). Annual rainfall 1.4" (36.7 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy headed by H. M. King **Abdullah Bin Al Hussein II**, born 30 Jan. 1962, married H. M. Queen Rania (Rania Al-Yassin, b. 31 Aug. 1970) on 10 June 1993. He succeeded on the death of his father, H. M. King Hussein, on 7 Feb. 1999. The Constitution ratified on 8 Dec. 1952 provides that the Cabinet is responsible to Parliament. It was amended in 1954, 1958, 1960, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1984 and 2011. The legislature consists of a *Senate* of 60 members appointed by the King and a *House of Representatives* of 150 members (15 are reserved for women) elected by universal suffrage.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Jordan dinar* (JOD), usually written as JD, of 1,000 *fil*s, pegged to the US dollar since 1995 at a rate of one dinar = US\$1.41.

### Defence

Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$1,216 m. (US\$188 per capita), representing 3.6% of GDP.

### Economy

Services accounted for 65.5% of GDP in 2009, industry 31.6% and agriculture 2.9%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 1,717,000 (1,294,000 in 2003). 43.6% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 12.6% of the population was unemployed. Jordan had 13,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2008 there were seven paid-for daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 270,000 and 23 paid-for non-dailies.

### Rail

The 1,050 mm gauge Hedjaz Jordan Railway (HJR) runs from the Syrian border to Amman. HJR controls 496 km of track but much of it is out of use.

### Religion

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 an estimated 97.2% of the population were Muslims (mainly Sunnis) and 2.2% Christians (mainly Orthodox).

### Roads

Total length of roads, 2007, 7,768 km, of which 3,206 km were main roads. In 2007 there were 536,700 passenger cars (94 per 1,000 inhabitants), 2,800 motorcycles and mopeds, 17,200 coaches and buses, and 230,800 lorries and vans. There were 992 deaths in road accidents in 2007 (388 in 1992).

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 21 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 315,000 GT. The main port is Aqaba, which handled 17.3 m. tonnes of foreign cargo in 2008.

### Social Statistics

Births (est.), 2008, 180,000; deaths, 20,000. Rates, 2008 per 1,000 population: birth (est.), 31; death (est.), 4. Annual population growth rate, 2008–10, 2.2%. Life expectancy at birth in 2013; 72.3 years for men, 75.6 for women. Infant mortality, 2010, 18 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 3.1 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 465,400 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 73.5 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 7,482,600 mobile phone subscriptions (or 1,182.0 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2000 the government sold a 40% stake in Jordan Telecommunications Company (Jordan Telecom) to France Télécom. In 2006 France Télécom (rebranded as Orange in 2013) became the majority shareholder when it purchased a further 11% of Jordan Telecom from the government. Jordan Telecom's monopoly on fixed-line services ended on 1 Jan. 2005. In 2011, 34.9% of the population were internet users. In March 2012 there were 2.2 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Jordan is bounded in the north by Syria, east by Iraq, southeast and south by Saudi Arabia and west by Israel. It has an outlet to an arm of the Red Sea at Aqaba. Its area is 89,342 km<sup>2</sup> (including 540 km<sup>2</sup> inland water). The 2004 census population was 5,103,639; Dec. 2012 estimate, 6,388,000, giving a density of 71.5 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 78.6% of the population lived in urban areas. The largest towns, with 2004 census population, are: Amman, the capital, 1,036,330; Zarqa, 395,227; Irbid, 250,645. The official language is Arabic.

### Tourism

In 2009 there were 3,789,000 non-resident tourists (excluding same-day visitors), up from 3,729,000 in 2008 and 3,431,000 in 2007.

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## Kazakhstan

### *Qazaqstan Respūblīkasy (Republic of Kazakhstan)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Astana  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 17.63 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 20,867  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.788/56  
*Internet domain extension:* .kz

#### Civil Aviation

The national carrier is Air Astana, which carried 3,770,000 passengers in 2014. There are international airports at Almaty and Astana.

#### Climate

The climate is generally fairly dry. Winters are cold but spring comes earlier in the south than in the far north. Almaty, Jan. –4 °C, July 24 °C. Annual rainfall 598 mm.

#### Constitution and Government

Relying on a judgement of the Constitutional Court that the 1994 parliamentary elections were invalid, President Nazarbayev dissolved parliament on 11 March 1995 and began to rule by decree. A referendum on the adoption of a new constitution was held on 30 Aug. 1995. The electorate was 8.8 m.; turnout was 80%. 89% of votes cast were in favour. The Constitution thus adopted allowed the President to rule by decree and to dissolve parliament if it

holds a no-confidence vote or twice rejects his nominee for Prime Minister. It established a parliament consisting of a 39-member Senate (two selected by each of the elected assemblies of Kazakhstan's 16 principal administrative divisions plus seven appointed by the president); and a lower house (*Majlis*) of 77 (67 popularly elected by single mandate districts, with ten members elected by party-list vote). In June 2010 parliament approved an amendment to the constitution giving President Nazarbayev the title 'Leader of the Nation'.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *tenge* (KZT) of 100 *tyin*, which was introduced on 15 Nov. 1993 at 1 *tenge* = 500 roubles.

### Defence

Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$2,318 m. (US\$131 per capita), representing 1.1% of GDP. There is currently conscription for 12 months, but Kazakhstan is set to switch to a fully professional army during 2016.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 6.4% of GDP in 2009, industry 40.3% and services 53.3%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 9,198,000 (7,756,000 in 2003). 78.6% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 5.2% of the population was unemployed. Kazakhstan had 47,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

There were 1,900 newspapers and magazines in 2008. The leading newspapers are the Kazakh-language *Egemen Kazakhstan* and the Russian-language *Kazakhstanskaya Pravda*.

### Rail

In 2012 there were 14,319 km of 1,520 mm gauge railways. Passenger-km travelled in 2009 came to 14.9 bn. and freight tonne-km to 197.3 bn. The first section of a metro in Almaty, covering 8.6 km, opened in 2011. Eventually it is expected to reach 45 km in length.

### Religion

In 2010 there were an estimated 11.3 m. Muslims according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life (70.4% of the population), with the main minorities being Orthodox Christians (3.4 m.), Catholics (380,000) and Protestants (310,000). A further 670,000 people had no religious affiliation.

### Roads

In 2007 there were 93,123 km of roads, of which 23,507 were highways, main or national roads. Passenger cars in use in 2007 numbered 2,183,100, and there were also 359,200 lorries and vans, 83,400 buses and coaches, and 45,200 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 4,365 fatalities as a result of road accidents in 2007. With 28.2 deaths per 100,000 population in 2007, Kazakhstan has among the highest death rates in road accidents of any country.

### Shipping

There is one large port, Aktau. In Jan. 2009 there were nine ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 33,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

2007: births, 321,963; deaths, 158,297; marriages, 146,379; divorces, 36,107. Rates, 2007 (per 1,000 population): birth, 20.8; death, 10.2; marriage, 9.5; divorce, 2.3. Suicides in 2007 numbered 4,168 (rate of 26.9 per 100,000 population). Annual population growth rate, 2010–15, 1.6%. Expectation of life at birth, 2007, 59.1 years for males and 71.2 years for females. Infant mortality, 2010, 29 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 2.3 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

There were 4.01 m. fixed telephone lines in 2010 (250.3 per 1,000 inhabitants). Mobile phone subscribers numbered 19.77 m. in 2010. There were 182.0 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2009. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 846,900 in 2010 (52.8 per 1,000 inhabitants). In March 2012 there were 452,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Kazakhstan is bounded in the west by the Caspian Sea and Russia, in the north by Russia, in the east by China and in the south by Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan. The area is 2,724,900 km<sup>2</sup> (1,052,090 sq. miles). The population at the census of Feb. 2009 was 16,009,597 (density of 5.9 per km<sup>2</sup>), of whom Kazakhs accounted for 63.1% and Russians 23.7%. Kazakhstan's administrative divisions consist of 14 provinces and three cities. In Dec. 1997 the capital was moved from Almaty to Aqmola, which was renamed Astana in May 1998 (the name of the province remained as Aqmola). Astana has a population of 613,006 (Feb. 2009 census). Other major cities, with Feb. 2009 populations: Almaty (1,365,632); Shymkent (603,499); Qaraghandy (459,778). The official languages are Kazakh and Russian; Russian is more widely spoken.

### Tourism

In 2010 there were 3,393,000 non-resident tourists, up from 3,118,000 in 2009. There were 1,460 hotels in 2010.

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## Kenya

### *Jamhuri ya Kenya (Republic of Kenya)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Nairobi  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 46.05 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2013:* (PPPS) 2,762  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.548/145=  
*Internet domain extension:* .ke

#### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Nairobi (Jomo Kenyatta International) and Mombasa (Moi International). The national carrier, Kenya Airways, is operated under a public-private partnership with the Kenyan government owning a 29.8% share and Dutch airline KLM 26.7%. In 2013 it carried 3,693,000 passengers (2,808,000 on international flights), serving 58 international and four domestic destinations. In 2010 Jomo Kenyatta International handled 5,484,771 passengers and Moi International 1,271,078.

#### Climate

The climate is tropical, with wet and dry seasons, but considerable differences in altitude make for varied conditions between the hot, coastal lowlands and the plateau, where temperatures are very much cooler. Heaviest rains occur in April and May, but in some parts there is a second wet season in Nov. and Dec. Nairobi, Jan. 65 °F (18.3 °C), July 60 °F (15.6 °C). Annual rainfall 39" (958 mm). Mombasa, Jan. 81 °F (27.2 °C), July 76 °F (24.4 °C). Annual rainfall 47" (1,201 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was approved in a referendum on 4 Aug. 2010 with 66.9% of votes cast in favour. Under its terms, the *President* and *Parliament* will have 5-year fixed terms. The president may not serve more than two terms. To be elected president, a candidate must secure at least 50% of votes cast, with at least a quarter coming from more than half of the county constituencies. The old 46 local government districts were restructured into 47 counties, with each county having a governor and a senator. Senators sit in a newly-created 68-member upper house, providing the country with a bicameral legislature following the elections of March 2013. The *National Assembly*, the lower

house, is made up of 350 members following the election with 290 directly elected, 47 women, 12 nominated plus the Speaker (up from 224 previously, with 210 directly elected, 12 appointed plus the Speaker and the Attorney General). The *Senate* consists of 47 elected senators, 20 nominated senators plus the Speaker. Each county assembly must return at least one female MP. Parliament has the power to vet key appointments previously appointed by order of the president. The constitution also provides for a supreme court (the highest court in the land) backed by a court of appeals. Judges are subject to review by a judicial appointments panel.

### Currency

The monetary unit is the *Kenya shilling* (KES) of 100 cents.

### Defence

In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$975 m. (US\$22 per capita), representing 2.1% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture contributed 22.6% of GDP in 2009, industry 15.3% and services 62.1%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 16,969,000 (12,574,000 in 2003). 67.8% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 9.1% of the population was unemployed. Kenya had 37,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2010 there were eight paid-for daily papers with a total average daily circulation of 310,000 plus 15 paid-for non-dailies. The most widely read paper is the English-language *Daily Nation*.

### Rail

In 2006 there were 2,064 km of railways (metre gauge). Most of the network (1,918 km, including non-operational sections) is managed by Rift Valley Railways (Kenya) Ltd. In 2008–09, 4.4 m. passengers and 1.6 m. tonnes of freight were carried. The Magadi Railway Co. Ltd manages a 146 km stretch of line from Manzi to Konza to carry soda ash for export through Mombasa.

### Religion

In 2010 there were 24.2 m. Protestants according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, 9.0 m. Catholics, 3.9 m. Muslims and 0.7 m. folk religionists. A further 1.0 m. people did not have any religious affiliation. In Feb. 2016 there was one Roman Catholic cardinal.

### Roads

In 2004 there were 63,265 km of roads (6,527 km of highways, national and main roads). There were, in 2007, 562,400 passenger cars in use, 210,900 vans and lorries, 180,800 motorcycles and mopeds, and 20,100 buses and coaches. There were 2,893 fatalities as a result of road accidents in 2007.

### Shipping

The main port is Mombasa, which handled 16.4 m. tonnes of cargo in 2008; container traffic totalled 616,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) in 2008. In Jan. 2009 there were six ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 6,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

2008 births (estimates), 1,503,000; deaths, 451,000. Estimated birth rate in 2008 was 38.8 per 1,000 population; estimated death rate, 11.6. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.6%. Expectation of life at birth in 2007 was 53.2 years for males and 54.0 years for females. Infant mortality, 2010, 55 per 1,000 live births. Fertility rate, 2008, 4.9 births per woman. In 2005, 46% of Kenyans lived below the poverty line (down from 52% in 1997).

### Telecommunications

Kenya had 283,500 landline telephone subscribers in 2011, or 6.8 per 1,000 persons. Since 1999 the government has been introducing measures to liberalize the telecommunications sector that have led to massive price reductions and improved services. In 2011 mobile phone subscribers numbered 26,980,800. The main mobile providers are Safaricom and Airtel Kenya. There were 209.8 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 8,300 in 2009 (0.2 per 1,000 inhabitants). In June 2012 there were 1.4 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Kenya is bounded by South Sudan and Ethiopia in the north, Uganda in the west, Tanzania in the south and Somalia and the Indian Ocean in the east. The total area is 581,313 km<sup>2</sup>. The 2009 census gave a population of 38,610,097 (19,417,639 females); density, 66 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2009, 70.2% of the population were rural. In 2006 more than 30,000 Somali refugees entered Kenya to escape the fighting that escalated in Somalia the course of the year. Kenya is divided into seven provinces and one national capital area (Nairobi; 2009 census population of 3,138,369). Other large towns (2009): Eldoret (252,061), Ruiru (236,961), Kikuyu (190,208), Thika (136,576). Most of Kenya's 38.61 m. people belong to 13 tribes. Swahili and English are both official languages, but people belonging to the different tribes have their own language as their mother tongue.

### Tourism

In 2009 there were 1,392,000 non-resident tourists (down from a high of 1,686,000 in 2007). In 2009 receipts from tourism amounted to US\$1,124 m., down from US\$1,514 m. in 2007. Tourism is the country's leading source of hard currency.

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## Kiribati

### *Ribaberikin Kiribati (Republic of Kiribati)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Bairiki (Tarawa)  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 112,000  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 2,434  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.590/137  
*Internet domain extension:* .ki

#### Civil Aviation

The national airline is the state-owned Air Kiribati. In 2010 there were scheduled services from Tarawa (Bonriki) to Fiji as well as domestic flights linking the main islands of Kiribati.

#### Climate

The Line Islands, Phoenix Islands and Banaba have a maritime equatorial climate, but the islands further north and south are tropical. Annual and daily ranges of temperature are small; mean annual rainfall ranges from 50" (1,250 mm) near the equator to 120" (3,000 mm) in the north. Typhoons are prevalent (Nov.-March) and there are occasional tornadoes. Tarawa, Jan. 83 °F (28.3 °C), July 82 °F (27.8 °C). Annual rainfall 79" (1,977 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

Under the constitution founded on 12 July 1979 the republic has a unicameral legislature, the *House of Assembly* (Maneaba ni Maungatabu), comprising 46 members, 44 of whom are elected by popular vote, and two (the Attorney-General *ex officio* and a representative from the Banaban community) appointed for a 4-year term. The *President* is both Head of State and government. Presidential candidates are initially selected by members of parliament before facing a popular vote.

## Currency

The currency in use is the Australian *dollar*.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 26% of GDP in 2009, industry 8% and services 66%.

## Labour

The economically active population classified as cash workers (not including village workers engaged in subsistence activities) totalled 13,133 in 2005. In 2005, 52.9% of cash workers were employed in public administration, 11.2% in transport and communication, 9.0% in retail trade, and 7.1% in agriculture and fishing. 6.1% of the labour force were unemployed in 2005; the unemployment rate in 2005 including village workers was 64.5%.

## Press

In 2008 there were three newspapers with a combined circulation of 4,000.

## Religion

In 2010 an estimated 50% of the population were Roman Catholics according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life and 40% Kiribati Protestants; there are also small numbers of Seventh-day Adventists, Latter-day Saints (Mormons) and Bahá'ís.

## Roads

There are some 810 km of roads, of which about 130 km are sealed. There were 9,600 cars, 4,320 trucks and vans and 2,080 motorcycles in 2008.

## Shipping

The main port is at Betio (Tarawa). Other ports of entry are Banaba, English Harbor and Kanton. There is also a small network of canals in the Line Islands. In Jan. 2009 there were 58 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 245,000 GT.

## Social Statistics

2005 estimates: births, 2,460; deaths, 810. Rates, 2005 estimates (per 1,000 population): births, 26.6; deaths, 8.7. Infant mortality rate (2010), 39 per 1,000 live births; life expectancy (2005), 61.0 years. Annual population growth rate, 2000–05, 1.8%; fertility rate, 2008, 3.1 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 8,461 main (fixed) telephone lines and 13,788 mobile phone subscriptions. There were 90 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010.

## Territory and Population

Kiribati (pronounced Kiribahss) consists of three groups of coral atolls and one isolated volcanic island, spread over a large expanse of the Central Pacific with a total land area of 811 km<sup>2</sup> (313 sq. miles). The capital is the island of Bairiki in Tarawa. The gradual rise in sea levels in recent years is slowly reducing the area of the islands. Most of the land is less than 3 m above sea level. Population, 2010 census, 103,058 (52,262 females); density, 127 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 44.0% of the population lived in urban areas. Banaba, all 16 Gilbert Islands, Kanton (or Abariringa) in the Phoenix Islands and three atolls in the Line Islands (Teraina, Tabuaeran and Kiritimati—formerly Washington, Fanning and Christmas Islands respectively) are inhabited. The remaining 12 atolls have no permanent population; the seven Phoenix Islands comprise Birnie, Rawaki (formerly Phoenix), Enderbury, Manra (formerly Sydney), Orona (formerly Hull), McKean and Nikumaroro (formerly Gardner), while the others are Malden and Starbuck in the Central Line Islands, and Millennium Island (formerly Caroline), Flint and Vostok in the Southern Line Islands. The population is almost entirely Micronesian. English is the official language; I-Kiribati (Gilbertese) is also spoken.

## Tourism

In 2011, 5,264 non-resident tourists—excluding same-day visitors—arrived by air at Tarawa and Kiritimati (the two most populous islands).

# North Korea

## *Chosun Minchu-chui Inmin Konghwa-guk (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Pyongyang

*Population estimate, 2015:* 25.16 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* US\$696

*Internet domain extension:* .kp

### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Pyongyang (Sunan). There were flights in 2010 to Bangkok, Beijing, Shenyang and Vladivostok. The national carrier is Air Koryo.

### Climate

There is a warm temperate climate, though winters can be very cold in the north. Rainfall is concentrated in the summer months. Pyongyang, Jan. 18 °F (−7.8 °C), July 75 °F (23.9 °C). Annual rainfall 37" (916 mm).

### Constitution and Government

North Korea adopted a new constitution in April 2009 that formalized *songun* or 'military first' politics as a guiding principle of state but dropped the word 'communism'. The Constitution provides for a 687-seat *Supreme People's Assembly* elected every 5 years by universal suffrage. Citizens of 17 years and over can vote and be elected. The government consists of the *Administration Council* directed by the Central People's Committee. In 1998, 4 years after the death of Kim Il-sung, the title of president was abolished. On the death of Kim Jong-il on 19 Dec. 2011 his son and designated successor, Kim Jong-un (b. 1983), assumed the role of 'supreme Leader'. About 3 m. people are affiliated with the ruling party, the Workers' Party of Korea. There are also the puppet religious Chongu and Korean Social Democratic Parties and various organizations combined in a Fatherland Front.

### Currency

The monetary unit is the *won* (KPW) of 100 *chon*.

### Defence

The Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces is Kim Jong-un. Military service is compulsory at the age of 16 for periods of 5–12 years in the Army, 5–10 years in the Navy and 3–4 years in the Air Force, followed by obligatory part-time service in the Pacification Corps to age 40. Total armed forces troops were estimated to number 1,106,000 in 2007, up from 840,000 in 1986 although down from 1,160,000 in 1997. Around 70% of the troops are located along or near the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea. Defence expenditure in 2012 totalled an estimated US\$3.5 bn. in 2012, which is believed to equate to approximately 22% of GDP. North Korea was for many years suspected of having a secret nuclear-weapons programme, and perhaps enough material to build two warheads. In April 2009 North Korea was accused by South Korea and the UN of testing long-range nuclear missile technology. North Korea responded by walking out of international talks to wind up its nuclear programme. The following month Pyongyang claimed it had successfully completed underground nuclear tests. In June the UN imposed new sanctions, with Pyongyang stating its intent to weaponize plutonium supplies. A 'miniaturized' nuclear device was tested underground at the Punggye-ri test site in Feb. 2013, prompting new UN sanctions the following month.

### Economy

Agriculture is estimated to account for approximately 25% of GDP, industry 60% and services 15%. In 2012 North Korea received approximately US\$126 m. in foreign aid. North Korea was rated the joint most corrupt country in the world in a 2015 survey of 168 countries carried out by the anti-corruption organization *Transparency International*.

## Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 15,206,000 (14,048,000 in 2003). 82.7% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 4.1% of the population was unemployed.

## Press

There were three national daily newspapers and 12 regional dailies in 2008 with a combined circulation of 4.5 m. The party newspaper is *Nodong* (or *Rodong Sinmun* (Workers' Daily News). In the 2013 *World Press Freedom Index* compiled by Reporters Without Borders, North Korea ranked 178th out of 179 countries.

## Rail

Rail transport is provided by Korean State Railways. There is an extensive network of standard gauge lines totalling over 6,000 km and a network of 762 mm narrow gauge lines covering some 350 km. Main lines cover around 2,500 km. There is a metro and two tramways in Pyongyang. Two passenger trains crossed the border between North and South Korea on 17 May 2007 (one northbound and one southbound), completing the first cross-border journey in more than 50 years.

## Religion

The state-sanctioned philosophy of *Juche* is the only government-recognized ideology, to the point of excluding all other religions. *Juche* means 'self-reliance' in Korean. Although the official North Korean line is that it is an atheistic philosophy, many observers maintain that it is a religion. There are small numbers of Buddhists, Cheondoists and Christians. Persecution of Christians is considered to be more severe than in any other country.

## Roads

There were 25,554 km of road in 2006. The first of two planned cross-border roads between the two Koreas opened in Feb. 2003.

## Shipping

The leading ports are Chongjin, Wonsan and Hungnam. Pyongyang is connected to the port of Nampo by railway and river. In Jan. 2009 there were 223 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 884,000 GT. The biggest navigable river is the Yalu, 698 km up to the Hyesan district.

## Social Statistics

2008 estimated births, 327,000; deaths, 238,000. 2008 estimated birth rate, 13.7 per 1,000 population; death rate, 10.0. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 0.5%. Marriage is discouraged before the age of 32 for men and 29 for women. Life expectancy at birth, 2013, was 66.4 years for men and 73.4 years for women. Infant mortality, 2010, 26 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 1.9 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

There were 1.18 m. main (fixed) telephone lines in 2013. A mobile phone service was introduced in Dec. 2008 4 years after a previous service had been shut down without explanation. In 2013 there were 2.42 m. subscribers (972 for every 10,000 inhabitants). It was only in 2013 that the number of mobile phone subscriptions surpassed the number of fixed telephone subscriptions.

## Territory and Population

North Korea is bounded in the north by China, east by the Sea of Japan (East Sea of Korea), west by the Yellow Sea and south by South Korea, from which it is separated by a demilitarized zone of 1,262 km<sup>2</sup>. Its area is 122,762 km<sup>2</sup>. The census population in 2008 was 24,052,231; density 195.9 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 60.3% of the population were urban. Pyongyang, the capital, had a 2008 census population of 2,581,076. Other large towns (census, 2008): Hamhung (703,610); Chongjin (614,892); Sinuiju (334,031). The official language is Korean.

## Tourism

A 40-year ban on non-Communist tourists was lifted in 1986. In 2014 there were approximately 100,000 foreign tourists. On 19 Nov. 1998 North Korea

received its first tourists from South Korea, on a cruise and tour organized by the South Korean firm Hyundai.

# South Korea

## *Daehan Minguk (Republic of Korea)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Seoul

*Population estimate, 2015:* 50.29 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 33,890

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.898/17

*Internet domain extension:* .kr

### Civil Aviation

There are six international airports in South Korea: at Seoul (Incheon), Busan (Gimhae), Daegu, Jeju, Yangyang and Cheongju. Incheon airport, 50 km to the west of Seoul and built on reclaimed land made up of four small islands, opened in March 2001 and is the largest airport in Asia. It replaced Gimpo Airport as Seoul's International Airport; Gimpo remains open for domestic flights and is the second busiest airport with 14.3 m. passengers in 2008. Incheon handled 30.0 m. passengers in 2008, while Jeju handled 12.4 m. and Busan 7.2 m. The national carrier is Korean Air, which in June 2009 operated flights to 101 cities in 39 countries.

### Climate

The country experiences continental temperate conditions. Rainfall is concentrated in the period April to Sept. and ranges from 40" (1,020 mm) to 60" (1,520 mm). Busan, Jan. 36 °F (2.2 °C), July 76 °F (24.4 °C). Annual rainfall 56" (1,407 mm). Seoul, Jan. 23 °F (−5 °C), July 77 °F (25 °C). Annual rainfall 50" (1,250 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The 1988 constitution provides for a *President*, directly elected for a single 5-year term, who appoints the members of the *State Council* and heads it, and for a *National Assembly (Gukhoe)*, currently of 299 members, directly elected for 4 years (243 from constituencies and 56 from party lists in proportion to the overall vote). The current constitution created the Sixth Republic. The minimum voting age is 20.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *won* (KRW).

### Defence

Peacetime operational control, which had been transferred to the United Nations Command (UNC) under a US general in July 1950 after the outbreak of the Korean War, was restored to South Korea on 1 Dec. 1994. In the event of a new crisis, operational control over the Korean armed forces will revert to the Combined Forces Command (CFC). Conscription is 21 months in the Army, 23 months in the Navy and 24 months in the Air Force. In Sept. 2007 it was announced that the length of conscription will be gradually reduced and that conscientious objectors will be allowed to choose community service in place of military service. In 2004 the USA and South Korea agreed to the redeployment of 12,500 US personnel in three phases that would continue until 2008. In April 2008 the number of troops had been reduced to 28,000 (mainly army and air force personnel) from 37,000 in 2002. The number of US troops in South Korea has remained unchanged since then. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$31,846 m. (US\$651 per capita), representing 2.5% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 2.5% of GDP in 2013, industry 38.4% and services 59.3%.

## Labour

In Sept. 2010 the population of working age was 40.68 m.; the economically active population was 24.91 m. (14.51 m. males and 10.40 m. females) including 16.44 m. persons employed in services, 5.85 m. in construction, manufacturing and mining, and 1.76 m. in agriculture, fisheries and forestry. 5.61 m. persons were self-employed in Sept. 2010. Unemployment was 3.5% in Dec. 2015—one of the lowest rates in the industrialized world. South Korea had 10,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

There were 324 daily newspapers in 2012. With 10.9 m. paid daily newspaper subscriptions in 2012, South Korea has the fifth highest newspaper circulation among developed countries. The most widely read dailies are *Chosun Ilbo* (average daily circulation of 1.8 m. per issue in 2013), *JoongAng Ilbo* (1.3 m. copies) and *Dong-A Ilbo* (907,000 copies). Newspaper online editions had 847,000 unique monthly visitors in 2010.

## Rail

In 2009 Korail's system totalled 3,380 km of 1,435 mm gauge (including 240 km of high speed railways). In 2009 passenger-km travelled came to 31.3 bn. and freight tonne-km to 9.3 bn. In June 2000 it was agreed to start consultations to restore the railway from Seoul to Sinuiju, on the North Korean/Chinese border, by rebuilding a 12 km long stretch from Munsan, in South Korea, to Jangdan, on the South Korean/North Korean border, and an 8 km long stretch in North Korea. Two passenger trains crossed the border between North and South Korea on 17 May 2007 (one northbound and one southbound), completing the first cross-border journey in more than 50 years.

## Religion

Traditionally, Koreans have lived under the influence of shamanism, Buddhism (introduced AD 372) and Confucianism, which was the official faith from 1392 to 1910. Catholic converts from China introduced Christianity in the eighteenth century, but a ban on Roman Catholicism was not lifted until 1882. The Anglican Church was introduced in 1890 and became an independent jurisdiction in 1993 under the Archbishop of Korea. According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 estimated affiliations of the main religions were: Buddhism, 11,050,000; Protestantism, 8,560,000; Roman Catholicism, 5,270,000. People with no religious affiliation numbered 22,350,000 in the same year, equivalent to 46.4% of the population. In Feb. 2016 there were two Roman Catholic cardinals.

## Roads

In 2007 there were 102,061 km of roads, comprising 3,103 km of motorways, 14,225 km of highways and main roads and 84,733 km of secondary roads; 77.6% of roads (79,189 km) were paved. In 2006, 97,854 m. passenger-km were travelled by road and 12,545 m. tonne-km of freight were moved. In 2007 motor vehicles in use included 12,020,700 passenger cars, 4,189,000 vans and lorries, 182,100 buses and coaches, and 1,821,300 motorcycles and mopeds. In 2007 there were 6,166 fatalities as a result of road accidents (9,353 in 2000).

## Shipping

In 2005 there were 52 ports (28 for international trade), including Busan, Incheon, Gunsan, Mokpo, Yeosu, Pohang, Donghae, Jeju, Masan, Ulsan, Daesan and Kwangyang. In Jan. 2009 there were 1,128 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 13.41 m. GT. Of the 1,128 vessels registered, 350 were general cargo ships, 260 oil tankers, 242 bulk carriers, 81 container ships, 80 passenger ships, 67 chemical tankers and 48 liquid gas tankers. The busiest port is Busan, which was visited by 48,343 vessels of 354,350,000 GRT in 2005. Cargo handled in 2005 totalled 217,217,000 tonnes (112,103,000 tonnes loaded and 105,114,000 tonnes discharged).

## Social Statistics

2008: births, 465,900; deaths, 246,100; marriages, 327,700; divorces, 116,500. Rates per 1,000 population in 2008: birth, 9.7; death, 5.1; marriage, 6.8; divorce, 2.4. In 2006 only 1.5% of births were outside marriage, one of the lowest rates in the world. South Korea has among the highest suicide rates of any country, at 36.6 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2012 (a rate of 49.9 among

males although only 23.4 among females). Expectation of life at birth, 2007, 82.4 years for females and 75.8 for males. Life expectancy had been 47 in 1955 and 62 in 1971. Infant mortality, 2010, four per 1,000 live births. The fertility rate in 2008 was 1.2 births per woman (the joint lowest rate in the world), down from 6.3 per woman in the period 1955–60. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 0.5%. In 2009 the average age of first marriage was 31.6 for men and 28.7 for women.. South Korea has one of the most rapidly ageing populations in the world, partly owing to an ever-decreasing birth rate. In 2009, 10.7% of the population were over 65, up from 2.9% in 1960. There were 16.92 m. households in 2009, with on average 2.8 members per household. According to the UN Human Development Report 2009, South Korea has an emigration rate of 3.1%; North America is the main destination, with 50.3% of South Korean migrants living there. Within South Korea, there are 551,200 foreign migrants, representing 1.2% of the total population.

## Telecommunications

In 2014 mobile phone subscribers numbered 57,290,356 (1,157.1 per 1,000 persons). The largest operator, SK Telecom, has 49% of the market share for smartphone subscriptions, ahead of KT with 31%. There were 29,481,226 main (fixed) telephone lines in 2014. In 2014, 84.3% of the population were internet users. In March 2012 there were 6.4 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

South Korea is bounded in the north by the demilitarized zone (separating it from North Korea), east by the Sea of Japan (East Sea), south by the Korea Strait (separating it from Japan) and west by the Yellow Sea. The area is 99,461 km<sup>2</sup>. The population at the census of 1 Nov. 2010 was 48,580,293; density, 488.4 per km<sup>2</sup> (one of the highest in the world). In 2011 the urban population was 83.3%. The official language is Korean. There are nine provinces (*do*) and seven metropolitan cities with provincial status. Cities with over 1,000,000 inhabitants (census 2010): Seoul, 9,794,304; Busan, 3,414,950; Incheon, 2,662,509; Daegu, 2,446,418; Daejeon, 1,501,859; Gwangju, 1,475,745; Ulsan, 1,082,567; Suwon, 1,071,913; Changwon, 1,058,021.

## Tourism

A record 9,795,000 foreign nationals visited South Korea in 2011 (up from 8,798,000 in 2010 and 6,023,000 in 2005). The leading countries of origin of non-resident tourists in 2011 were: Japan (3,289,000), mainland China (2,220,000), the USA (662,000), Taiwan (428,000) and the Philippines (337,000). 12,694,000 South Koreans travelled abroad in 2011 (up from 12,488,000 in 2010 and 10,080,000 in 2005). In Nov. 1998 the first South Korean tourists to visit North Korea went on a cruise and tour organized by the South Korean firm Hyundai.

# Kuwait

## *Dowlat al Kuwait (State of Kuwait)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Kuwait  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 3.89 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 83,961  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.816/48  
*Internet domain extension:* .kw

### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport (Kuwait International). The national carrier is the state-owned Kuwait Airways. Kuwait's first low-cost airline, Jazeera Airways, began operations in Oct. 2005. In 2005 scheduled airline traffic of Kuwait-based carriers flew 50.7 m. km and carried 1,944,200 passengers. Kuwait International airport handled 8,967,413 passengers in 2012 and 184,784 tonnes of freight.



### Climate

Kuwait has a dry, desert climate which is cool in winter but very hot and humid in summer. Rainfall is extremely light. Kuwait, Jan. 56 °F (13.5 °C), July 99 °F (36.6 °C). Annual rainfall 5" (125 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The ruler is HH Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah, the 15th Amir of Kuwait, who succeeded on 29 Jan. 2006. *Crown Prince*: Sheikh Nawwaf al-Ahmed al-Sabah (b. 1937). The present constitution was approved and promulgated on 11 Nov. 1962. In 1990 the *National Council* was established, consisting of 50 elected members and 25 appointed by the Amir. It was replaced by a *National Assembly* or *Majlis al-Umma* in 1992, consisting at the time of 50 elected members. It now has 65 members, of whom 50 are elected. Women were eligible to stand for election and to vote in a council by-election held in April 2006 and in the full parliamentary election held in June 2006. Executive authority is vested in the *Council of Ministers*.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Kuwaiti dinar* (KWD), usually written as KD, of 1,000 *filis*.

### Defence

In Sept. 1991 the USA signed a 10-year agreement with Kuwait to store equipment, use ports and carry out joint training exercises. In March 2013, 15,000 US troops were stationed in Kuwait. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$4,427 m. (US\$1,642 per capita), representing 2.6% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 0.4% of GDP in 2014, industry 64.3% and services 35.3%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 1,899,000 (1,051,000 in 2003). 70.1% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 3.2% of the population was unemployed. Approximately 80% of nationals work for the government, with around 95% of private jobs being filled by expatriates. In March 2013 the government announced its intention to reduce by a million the number of foreign workers over a period of 10 years.

### Press

In 2008 there were 17 daily newspapers, with a combined circulation of 630,000. Formal press censorship was lifted in Jan. 1992.

### Religion

In 2010 there were 2.0 m. Muslims according to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life (of whom approximately two-thirds to three-quarters Sunnis and the rest Shias), plus 390,000 Christians and 230,000 Hindus.

### Roads

There were 5,749 km of roads in 2004, 85% of which were paved. There were 750,600 passenger cars in use in 2007 (282 per 1,000 inhabitants), 573,200 lorries and vans, and 27,300 buses and coaches. In 2014 there were 99,047 road accidents involving injury with 461 fatalities.

### Shipping

The port of Kuwait formerly served mainly as an entrepôt, but this function is declining in importance with the development of the oil industry. The largest oil terminal is at Mina Ahmadi. Three small oil ports lie to the south of Mina Ahmadi: Mina Shuaiba, Mina Abdullah and Mina al-Zor. In Jan. 2009 there were 52 ships of 300 GT or over registered (including 22 oil tankers), totalling 2.33 m. GT.

### Social Statistics

Births, 2008, 54,571; deaths, 5,701. The birth rate in 2009 was 21.9 per 1,000 population and death rate 2.3 per 1,000 population (one of the lowest in the world). Expectation of life at birth, 2013, was 73.5 years for males and 75.5

years for females. Infant mortality, 2010, ten per 1,000 live births. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 5.3%. Fertility rate, 2008, 2.2 births per woman. Kuwait has had one of the largest reductions in its fertility rate of any country in the world over the past 30 years, having had a rate of 7.2 births per woman in 1975.

### Telecommunications

In 2010 Kuwait had an estimated 566,000 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 207 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 4.4 m. mobile phone subscriptions (or 1,608 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2011, 74.2% of the population were internet users. In March 2012 there were 899,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Kuwait is bounded in the east by the Persian Gulf, north and west by Iraq and south and southwest by Saudi Arabia, with an area of 17,818 km<sup>2</sup>. In 1992–93 the UN Boundary Commission redefined Kuwait's border with Iraq, moving it slightly northwards in conformity with an agreement of 1932. The population at the 2011 census was 3,065,850; density, 172 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 98.4% of the population were urban. In June 2014 the population was estimated at 4,039,445, of which 68.8% were non-Kuwaitis. The country is divided into six governorates: the capital (comprising Kuwait City, Kuwait's nine islands and territorial and shared territorial waters) (2011 census population, 326,513); Farwaniya (818,571); Hawalli (672,910); Ahmadi (588,068); Jahra (400,975); Mubarak al-Kabir (258,813). The capital city is Kuwait, with an estimated population in 2010 (metropolitan area) of 2,102,000. Other major cities are Hawalli, Qalib ash-Shuyukh and as-Salimiya. Over 78% speak Arabic, the official language. English is also used as a second language.

### Tourism

There were 5,729,000 non-resident visitors in 2012 (up from 4,482,000 in 2007), bringing revenue of US\$780 m.

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## Kyrgyzstan

### *Kyrgyz Respublikasy (Kyrgyz Republic)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital*: Bishkek  
*Population estimate, 2015*: 5.94 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014*: (PPPS) 3,044  
*HDI/world rank, 2014*: 0.655/120  
*Internet domain extension*: .kg

#### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Bishkek (Manas). The national carrier is Air Kyrgyzstan. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Kyrgyz-based carriers flew 5.0 m. km; passenger-km totalled 522.9 m. in the same year.

#### Climate

The climate varies from dry continental to polar in the high Tien-Shan, to subtropical in the southwest (Fergana Valley) and temperate in the northern foothills. Bishkek, Jan. 9 °F (−13 °C), July 70 °F (21 °C). Annual rainfall 14.8" (375 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was adopted in June 2010 after it won overwhelming support in a referendum following the ousting of the incumbent president, Kurmanbek Bakiyev, in April 2010. Under the terms of the constitution, greater power is invested in parliament at the expense of the presidency. The president is allowed to serve a maximum of one 6-year term and cannot seek re-election, although the office does retain its power of veto and has the authority to appoint heads of various state institutions. The unicameral parliament (*Jogorku Kenesh*) is comprised of 120 seats, with no single party allowed to hold more than 65. Political parties cannot be constituted

on religious or ethnic grounds and members of the armed forces, the judiciary and the police are banned from party membership.

### Currency

On 10 May 1993 Kyrgyzstan introduced its own currency unit, the *som* (KGS), of 100 *tyjyn*, at a rate of 1 som = 200 roubles.

### Defence

Conscription is for 12 months. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$102 m. (US\$18 per capita), representing 1.4% of GDP. The USA opened a military base in Kyrgyzstan in 2001 to aid the war in Afghanistan against the Taliban. The base was scheduled to close by the end of Aug. 2009 after an eviction notice was served on 20 Feb. 2009 giving the US military 180 days to vacate the site. However, on 23 June 2009 the Kyrgyz and US governments agreed a new deal that allowed a 1-year extension of the lease. The base closed when a further lease expired in June 2014. In Sept. 2003 Kyrgyzstan also agreed to allow Russia to open an air force base in the country.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 21% of GDP in 2009, industry 27% and services 52%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 2,677,000 (2,172,000 in 2003). 70.9% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 8.3% of the population was unemployed. Kyrgyzstan had 16,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

There were three national daily newspapers in 2008, with a combined circulation of 40,000.

### Rail

In the north a railway runs from Lugovaya through Bishkek to Rybachi on Lake Issyk-Kul. Towns in the southern valleys are linked by short lines with the Ursatyevskaya-Andizhan railway in Uzbekistan. Total length of railway, 2011, 417 km. Passenger-km travelled in 2011 came to 83 m. and freight tonne-km to 798 m.

### Religion

In 2010 there were an estimated 4.69 m. Muslims (mainly Sunnis) and 610,000 Christians (mainly Orthodox) according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. There were 1,784 mosques, 359 Christian congregations, one synagogue and one Buddhist temple in 2008.

### Roads

There were 34,000 km of roads in 2007. Passenger cars in use in 2007 numbered 229,700 (44 per 1,000 inhabitants). There were 1,252 road accident fatalities in 2007.

### Social Statistics

2009 births, 135,494; deaths, 35,898; marriages (2006), 43,760. Rates, 2009 (per 1,000 population): birth, 26.4; death, 7.0; infant mortality (per 1,000 live births, 2010), 33. Life expectancy, 2007, 63.9 years for males and 71.4 for females. In 2003 the most popular age for marrying was 20–24 for females and 25–29 for males. Annual population growth rate, 2010–15, 1.6%; fertility rate, 2008, 2.5 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2010 there were 489,100 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 91.7 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 5,275,500 mobile phone subscriptions (or 989.0 per 1,000 inhabitants). Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 68,900 in 2010 (12.9 per 1,000 inhabitants).

### Territory and Population

Kyrgyzstan is situated on the Tien-Shan mountains and bordered in the east by China, west by Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, north by Kazakhstan and south by Tajikistan. Area, 199,945 km<sup>2</sup> (77,199 sq. miles). Population (census 2009), 5,362,793 (51.3% females); density, 27 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2009, 65.9% of the population lived in rural areas. The republic comprises seven provinces (Batken, Djalal-Abad, Issyk-Kul, Naryn, Osh, Talas and Chu) plus the city of Bishkek, the capital (formerly Frunze; 2014 estimated population, 901,700). Other large towns (with 2014 estimates) are Osh (238,600), Djalal-Abad (96,600), Karakol (formerly Przhvevsk, 69,300), Tokmak (57,400), Uzgen (53,400), Balykchy (44,600) and Karabalta (42,200). The Kyrgyz are of Turkic origin and formed 69.2% of the population in 2008; the rest included Uzbeks (14.5%), Russians (8.7%) and Dungans (1.2%). The official languages are Kyrgyz and Russian.

### Tourism

In 2010 there were 1,316,000 non-resident tourists, down from 2,147,000 in 2009. This was as a consequence of the political upheaval in April 2010 and the ethnic conflict that ensued.

## Laos

### *Sathalanalath Pasathipatai Pasasonlao (Lao People's Democratic Republic)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Vientiane

*Population estimate, 2015:* 6.80 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 4,680

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.575/141

*Internet domain extension:* .la

#### Civil Aviation

There are three international airports at Vientiane (Wattay), Pakse and Luang Prabang. The national carrier is Lao Airlines, which in 2005 operated domestic services and international flights to Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Kunming, Phnom Penh and Siem Reap (Cambodia). In 2006 scheduled airline traffic of Laos-based carriers flew 4 m. km, carrying 327,000 passengers (81,000 on international flights).

#### Climate

A tropical monsoon climate, with high temperatures throughout the year and very heavy rains from May to Oct. Vientiane, Jan. 70 °F (21.1 °C), July 81 °F (27.2 °C). Annual rainfall 69" (1,715 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

In Aug. 1991 the National Assembly adopted a new constitution. The head of state is the President, elected by the National Assembly, which consists of 132 members (115 prior to the elections of April 2011). Under the constitution the People's Revolutionary Party of Laos (PPPL) remains the 'central nucleus' of the 'people's democracy'; other parties are not permitted. The PPPL's Politburo comprises 11 members, including Choummaly Sayasone (PPPL, *President*).

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *kip* (LAK).

#### Defence

Military service is compulsory for a minimum of 18 months. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$21 m. (US\$3 per capita), representing 0.2% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2009 agriculture accounted for 35.2% of GDP, industry 25.5% and services 39.3%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 3,297,000 (2,569,000 in 2003). 80.6% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 1.3% of the population was unemployed. Laos had 50,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2008 there were six paid-for national dailies with a combined circulation of 25,000.

### Rail

A 3.5-km stretch of railway from Nongkhai, on the Thai bank of the Mekong River, across the Thai–Lao Friendship Bridge to Thanaleng in Laos was opened in 2009.

### Religion

In 2010 there were an estimated 4.1 m. Buddhists and 1.9 m. folk religionists according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. There is also a small Christian minority.

### Roads

In 2006 there were 29,811 km of roads, of which 13.5% were paved. In 2007 there were 12,800 passenger cars (two per 1,000 inhabitants), 109,000 lorries and vans, 6,400 buses and coaches, and 506,500 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 5,198 traffic accidents with 608 fatalities in 2006. A bridge over the River Mekong, providing an important north-south link, was opened in 1994.

### Shipping

The River Mekong and its tributaries are an important means of transport. In Jan. 2008 there were two ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 3,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

2009 estimates: births, 141,000; deaths, 37,000. Rates, 2009 estimates (per 1,000 population): birth, 23; death, 6. Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births, 2010), 42. Life expectancy, 2013: 66.9 years for men and 69.7 for women. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 2.0%. Fertility rate, 2008, 3.5 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 107,600 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 17.1 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 5,480,900 mobile phone subscriptions (or 871.6 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2011, 9.0% of the population were internet users. In March 2012 there were 156,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Laos is a landlocked country of 236,800 km<sup>2</sup> (91,428 sq. miles) bordered on the north by China, the east by Vietnam, the south by Cambodia and the west by Thailand and Myanmar. Apart from the Mekong River plains along the border of Thailand, the country is mountainous, particularly in the north, and in places densely forested. The population (2005 census) was 5,621,982 (2,821,431 females); density, 24 per km<sup>2</sup>. 2011 estimate: 6,385,057. In 2011, 34.3% of the population lived in urban areas. There are 16 provinces and one prefecture divided into 141 districts and one special region (*khetphiset*). The capital and largest town is Vientiane, with a population of (2005 estimate) 570,000. Other important towns are Savannakhet, Pakse, Xam Neua and Luang Prabang. The population is divided into three groups: about 67% Lao-Lum (Valley-Lao); 17% Lao-Theung (Lao of the mountain sides); and 7.4% Lao-Sung (Lao of the mountain tops), who comprise the Hmong and Yao (or Mien). Lao is the official language. French and English are spoken.

### Tourism

There were 2,140,000 non-resident tourists in 2012 (up from 1,142,000 in 2007); revenue from tourism amounted to US\$461 m.

## Latvia

### Latvijas Republika (Republic of Latvia)

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Riga

*Population estimate, 2015:* 1.97 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 22,281

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.819/46

*Internet domain extension:* .lv

#### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Riga. A new national carrier, airBaltic, assumed control of Latavio and Baltic International Airlines in Aug. 1995 and began flying in Oct. 1995. It went on to become eastern Europe's first low-cost airline; in 2012 it carried 3.08 m. passengers and operated scheduled services to 55 destinations. It is 99.8% state-owned, with Transaero owning the remaining 0.2%. In 2010 Riga handled 4,663,692 passengers and 12,247 tonnes of freight.

#### Climate

Owing to the influence of maritime factors, the climate is relatively temperate but changeable. Average temperatures in Jan. range from  $-2.8^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the western coastal town of Liepāja to  $-6.6^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the inland town of Daugavpils. The average summer temperature is  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

#### Constitution and Government

The Declaration of the Renewal of the Independence of the Republic of Latvia dated 4 May 1990, and the 21 Aug. 1991 declaration re-establishing *de facto* independence, proclaimed the authority of the Constitution (*Satversme*). The Constitution was fully re-instituted as of 6 July 1993, when the fifth Parliament (*Saeima*) was elected. The head of state in Latvia is the *President*, elected by parliament for a period of 4 years and for a maximum of two terms. The highest legislative body is the one-chamber parliament comprised of 100 deputies and elected in direct, proportional elections by citizens 18 years of age and over. Deputies serve for 4 years and parties must receive at least 5% of the national vote to gain seats in parliament. A seven-member *Constitutional Court* was established in 1996 with powers to invalidate legislation not in conformity with the constitution. Its members are appointed by parliament for 10-year terms. Executive power is held by the *Cabinet of Ministers*.

#### Currency

On 1 Jan. 2014 the euro (EUR) replaced the *lats* (LVL) as the legal currency of Latvia at the irrevocable conversion rate of 0.702804 lats to one euro.

#### Defence

The National Armed Forces (NAF) were created in 1994 and comprise the Land Forces, which are based on an infantry brigade and the National Guard, the Naval Forces, the Air Forces, the Logistic Command, the Training Doctrine Command and the National Defence Academy. Compulsory military service was abolished in Jan. 2007. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$300 m. (US\$138 per capita), representing 1.0% of GDP.

#### Economy

Services accounted for 76.1% of GDP in 2009, industry 20.6% and agriculture 3.3%.

## Labour

The total labour force (persons aged 15–74) in 2011 numbered 1,028,200. In 2011 there were 861,600 persons in employment in Latvia. The leading areas of activity were: wholesale and retail trade/repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, 136,200; manufacturing, 114,400; education, 88,800. In 2011 women constituted 52% of the workforce. In 2011 there was a monthly minimum wage of 200 lats. Average gross monthly salary was 464 lats in 2011. The average gross monthly salary in the public sector in 2011 was 492 lats. The unemployment rate (persons aged 15–74) in the second quarter of 2012 was 16.1%, one of the highest rates in the EU.

## Press

Latvia had 19 daily newspapers in 2008 (17 paid-for and two free) with a combined circulation of 370,000. The leading newspapers in terms of readership in 2008 were *Diena* and *Latvijas Avīze*, both of which are in Latvian, and the Russian-language *Vesti Segodnya*.

## Rail

In 2014 there were 1,860 km of 1,520 mm gauge route (251 km electrified). In 2014, 57.0 m. tonnes of cargo and 19.2 m. passengers were carried by rail. The main groups of freight transported are oil and oil products, mineral fertilizers, ferrous metals and ferrous alloys.

## Religion

In order to practise in public, religious organizations must be licensed by the Department of Religious Affairs attached to the Ministry of Justice. New sects are required to demonstrate loyalty to the state and its traditional religions over a 3-year period. According to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, 990,000 people (43.8% of the population) had no religious affiliation in 2010. There were some 450,000 Protestants in the same year, 430,000 Catholics and 370,000 Orthodox Christians. In Feb. 2016 the Roman Catholic church had one cardinal.

## Roads

In 2014 there were 58,628 km of roads, including 20,150 km of state roads. Road passenger traffic in 2012 totalled 13,886 m. passenger-km; freight transport totalled 13,670 m. tonne-km in 2014. There were 3,728 road accidents in 2014 resulting in 212 deaths. Passenger cars in 2014 numbered 657,799 (331 per 1,000 inhabitants), in addition to which there were 83,205 lorries and tractors and 4,845 buses.

## Shipping

There are two major ports. Riga handled 41.1 m. tonnes of cargo in 2014 and Ventspils 26.2 m. tonnes. There is a smaller port at Liepāja. A total of 65.1 m. tonnes were loaded at the three ports in 2014 and 9.1 m. tonnes unloaded. In Jan. 2009 there were 28 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 240,000 GT.

## Social Statistics

2010: births, 19,219 (rate of 8.6 per 1,000 population); deaths, 30,040 (13.4 per 1,000 population); marriages, 9,290 (4.1 per 1,000 population); divorces, 4,930 (2.2 per 1,000 population); infant mortality, 5.7 per 1,000 live births (2010). In 2007 life expectancy was 67.1 years for males but 77.1 years for females. In 2005 the most popular age range for marrying was 25–29 for males and 20–24 for females. The annual population growth rate in the period 2000–05 was –0.6%. Fertility rate, 2011, 1.2 births per woman (the joint lowest rate in the world). The suicide rate was 22.9 per 100,000 population in 2009 (rate among males, 40.0). In 2005 there were 1,886 immigrants and 2,450 emigrants.

## Telecommunications

Telecommunications are conducted by companies in which the government has a 51% stake, under the aegis of the state controlled Lattelecom. There were 516,300 landline telephone subscriptions in 2011 (equivalent to 230.2 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 2,303,600 mobile phone subscriptions in 2009 (or 1,018.7 per 1,000 inhabitants). There were 684.2 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010. In 2009 there were 18.6 fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants and 8.8 mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants. In March 2012 there were 319,000 Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Latvia is situated in northeastern Europe. It is bordered by Estonia on the north and by Lithuania on the southwest, while on the east there is a frontier with the Russian Federation and to the southeast with Belarus. Territory, 64,559 km<sup>2</sup> (larger than Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland), including 2,402 km<sup>2</sup> of inland waters. Population (2011 census), 2,070,371; density, 32.1 per km<sup>2</sup>. The UN gives a projected population for 2015 of 2.03 m. In 2006, 68.0% of the population were urban. Major ethnic groups in 2006: Latvians 59.0%, Russians 28.5%, Belarusians 3.8%, Ukrainians 2.5%, Poles 2.4%, Lithuanians 1.4%, Jews 0.4%, Roma 0.4%, Germans 0.2%, Estonians 0.1%. There are 110 municipalities (*novadi*) and nine republican cities (*republikas pilsētas*). The capital is Riga (658,640, or nearly a third of the country's total population, at the 2011 census); other principal towns, with 2011 populations, are Daugavpils (93,312), Liepāja (76,731), Jelgava (59,511), Jūrmala (50,840) and Ventspils (38,750). The official language is Latvian. Latgalian is also spoken.

## Tourism

In 2010 there were 1,373,000 overnight non-resident tourists (1,323,000 in 2009). The main countries of origin of non-resident tourists in 2010 were Russia (189,000), Lithuania (182,000), Sweden (157,000) and Estonia (130,000).

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# Lebanon

## *Jumhuriya al-Lubnaniya (Republic of Lebanon)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Beirut

*Population estimate, 2015:* 5.85 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 16,509

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.769/67=

*Internet domain extension:* .lb

### Civil Aviation

Beirut International Airport was served in 2010 by more than 40 airlines. It handled 5,960,414 passengers (5,913,225 on international flights) in 2012 and 84,911 tonnes of freight. The national airline is the state-owned Middle East Airlines. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Lebanese-based carriers flew 42.0 m. km; passenger-km totalled 4.1 bn. in the same year.

### Climate

A Mediterranean climate with short, warm winters and long, hot and rainless summers, with high humidity in coastal areas. Rainfall is largely confined to the winter months and can be torrential, with snow on high ground. Beirut, Jan. 55 °F (13 °C), July 81 °F (27 °C). Annual rainfall 35.7" (893 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The first Constitution was established under the French Mandate on 23 May 1926. It has since been amended in 1927, 1929, 1943 (twice), 1947 and 1990. It is based on a separation of powers, with a President, a single-chamber *National Assembly* elected by universal suffrage at age 21 in 12 electoral constituencies, and an independent judiciary. The executive consists of the President and a Prime Minister and Cabinet appointed after consultation between the President and the National Assembly. On 21 Sept. 1990 President Haraoui established the Second Republic by signing constitutional amendments which had been negotiated at Taif (Saudi Arabia) in Oct. 1989. These institute an executive collegium between the President, Prime Minister and Speaker, and remove from the President the right to recall the Prime Minister, dissolve the Assembly and vote in the Council of Ministers.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Lebanese pound* (LBP) of 100 *piastres*.

## Defence

There were 14,000 Syrian troops in the country in early 2005, but in March 2005 Lebanon and Syria agreed that the troops would be redeployed to the Bekaa Valley in the east of the country. They were subsequently all withdrawn from Lebanon. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), created in 1978, had a strength of 1,990 in June 2006. Following the conflict between Israel and Lebanon of July–Aug. 2006 the Security Council established UNIFIL II, a more powerful peacekeeping force deployed to maintain the ceasefire, support the Lebanese armed forces and aid humanitarian efforts. In June 2015 UNIFIL II comprised 10,410 uniformed personnel from 37 countries. Conscription was reduced from 12 months to 6 in 2005, and was finally abolished in Feb. 2007. Defence expenditure in 2012 totalled US\$1,735 m. (US\$419 per capita), representing 4.2% of GDP.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 5.9% of GDP in 2009, industry 23.4% and services 70.7%.

## Labour

The economically active population in 2007 was 1,228,800 (921,600 males and 307,100 females), of whom 1,118,400 (842,400 males and 276,000 females) were in employment.

## Press

In 2009 there were 14 paid-for daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 244,000 and two free dailies. The newspapers with the highest circulation are *An-Nahar* and *As-Safir*.

## Rail

Railways are state-owned. There is 222 km of standard gauge track.

## Religion

In 2010 an estimated 61.3% of the population were Muslims according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life (roughly similar numbers of Sunnis and Shias) and 38.3% Christians (mainly Catholics). In Feb. 2016 there were two cardinals.

## Roads

There were 6,970 km of roads in 2005, including 170 km of motorway. Registered vehicles in 2011 numbered 1,525,738. In 2007 there were 4,281 road accidents resulting in 487 deaths.

## Shipping

Beirut is the largest port, followed by Tripoli, Jounieh and Saida (Sidon). In Jan. 2009 there were 46 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 140,000 GT.

## Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 66,000; deaths, 29,000. Estimated rates, 2008 (per 1,000 population): births, 15.7; deaths, 7.0. Infant mortality was 19 per 1,000 live births in 2010; expectation of life (2013), 78.1 years for males and 82.3 for females. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 1.3%; fertility rate, 2008, 1.8 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2010 there were 887,800 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 210.0 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 2,874,800 mobile phone subscriptions (or 680.0 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2011, 52.0% of the population were internet users. In March 2012 there were 1.4 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Lebanon is mountainous, bounded on the north and east by Syria, on the west by the Mediterranean and on the south by Israel. The area is 10,201 km<sup>2</sup> (3,939 sq. miles). The United Nations gave an estimated population for 2012 of 4.65 m.; density, 456 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 87.4% of the population were urban. The principal towns, with estimated population (1998), are: Beirut (the

capital), 1.5 m.; Tripoli, 160,000; Zahlé, 45,000; Saida (Sidon), 38,000. The official language is Arabic.

## Tourism

In 2009 there were 1,844,000 non-resident tourists (excluding Syrians, Palestinians, students and same-day visitors), up from 1,333,000 in 2008.

# Lesotho

## *Muso oa Lesotho (Kingdom of Lesotho)*

## Factsheet

*Capital:* Maseru

*Population estimate, 2015:* 2.14 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 3,306

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.497/161

*Internet domain extension:* .ls

## Civil Aviation

There are direct flights from Maseru's Moshoeshoe International Airport to Johannesburg. In 2004 it handled 37,162 passengers (36,045 on international flights).

## Climate

A mild and temperate climate, with variable rainfall, but averaging 29" (725 mm) a year over most of the country. The rain falls mainly in the summer months of Oct. to April, while the winters are dry and may produce heavy frosts in lowland areas and frequent snow in the highlands. Temperatures in the lowlands range from a maximum of 90 °F (32.2 °C) in summer to a minimum of 20 °F (−6.7 °C) in winter.

## Constitution and Government

Lesotho is a constitutional monarchy with the King as Head of State. Following the death of his father, Moshoeshoe II, **Letsie III** succeeded to the throne in Jan. 1996. The 1993 constitution provided for a *National Assembly* comprising an elected 80-member lower house and a *Senate* of 22 principal chiefs and 11 members nominated by the King.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *loti* (plural *maloti*) (LSL) of 100 *lisente*, at par with the South African rand, which is legal tender. Total money supply in July 2005 was 1,659 m. maloti and foreign exchange reserves were US\$539 m.

## Defence

South African and Batswanan troops intervened after a mutiny by Lesotho's armed forces in Sept. 1998. The foreign forces were withdrawn in May 1999. The Royal Lesotho Defence Force has about 2,000 personnel. Defence expenditure totalled US\$54 m. in 2013 (US\$28 per capita), representing 2.1% of GDP.

## Economy

In 2009 agriculture accounted for 7.7% of GDP, industry 32.9% and services 59.4%.

## Labour

The labour force in June 2008 was 789,000 (54% males) of whom 609,000 were employed (including 247,000 in subsistence agriculture), giving an unemployment rate of 22.7%. Lesotho had 15,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

There were 14 non-daily newspapers and periodicals in 2008, but no dailies.

### Rail

A branch line built by the South African Railways, one mile long, connects Maseru with the Bloemfontein–Natal line at Marseilles for transport of cargo.

### Religion

A study by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life estimated that there were 1.08 m. Protestants in 2010 and 999,000 Catholics, with most of the remainder of the population being religiously unaffiliated.

### Roads

In 2009 the road network totalled about 6,550 km, of which around 1,220 km were paved. There were 75,000 motor vehicles in 2009 including 34,000 light vehicles, 21,000 medium vehicles and 13,000 minibuses. There were 402 deaths in 2007 as a result of road accidents.

### Social Statistics

2008 estimated births, 59,000; deaths, 35,000. Rates, 2008 estimates: birth (per 1,000 population), 28.9; death, 16.9. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 1.0%. Life expectancy at birth in 2013 was 49.4 years. In 2011, 23.3% of all adults between 15 and 49 were infected with HIV. Infant mortality, 2012, 74 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 3.3 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2010 there were 38,600 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 17.8 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 987,400 mobile phone subscriptions (or 454.8 per 1,000 inhabitants). There were 38.6 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010.

### Territory and Population

Lesotho is an enclave within South Africa. The area is 30,355 km<sup>2</sup> (11,720 sq. miles). The census in 2006 showed a total population of 1,876,633 (963,835 females); density, 61.8 per km<sup>2</sup>. There are ten districts, all named after their chief towns, except Berea (chief town, Teyateyaneng). In 2011 the capital, Maseru, had a population of 178,345. Other major towns (with 2011 estimated census population) are: Teyateyaneng, 61,578; Maputsoe, 48,243; Mafeteng, 30,602; Mohale's Hoek, 25,308. The official languages are Sesotho and English. The population is more than 98% Basotho. The rest is made up of Xhosas, approximately 3,000 expatriate Europeans and several hundred Asians.

### Tourism

In 2010 there were a record 425,870 non-resident visitors, up from 343,743 in 2009 and 293,073 in 2008.

## Liberia

### Republic of Liberia

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Monrovia  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 4.50 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 805  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.430/177  
*Internet domain extension:* .lr

#### Civil Aviation

There are two international airports (Roberts International and Sprigg Payne), both near Monrovia. In 2010 there were services to Abidjan, Accra, Addis Ababa, Banjul, Brussels, Casablanca, Conakry, Freetown, Lagos and Nairobi as well as internal flights.

### Climate

An equatorial climate, with constant high temperatures and plentiful rainfall, although Jan. to May is drier than the rest of the year. Monrovia, Jan. 79 °F (26.1 °C), July 76 °F (24.4 °C). Annual rainfall 206" (5,138 mm).

### Constitution and Government

A constitution was approved by referendum in July 1984 and came into force on 6 Jan. 1986. Under it the *National Assembly* consisted of a 26-member *Senate* and a 64-member *House of Representatives*. For the elections of 2005 the number of seats in the Senate was increased to 30 and in 2010 a further nine seats were added to the House of Representatives, bringing the total to 73. The executive power of the state is vested in the *President*, who may serve up to two 6-year terms.

### Currency

US currency is legal tender. There is a *Liberian dollar* (LRD), in theory at parity with the US dollar.

### Defence

In June 2003 UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan called for an international peacekeeping force to restore peace after fighting broke out between government forces and Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD). An ECOWAS peacekeeping force of over 3,000 troops was deployed initially, but this has been replaced by the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), totalling 5,934 uniformed personnel in June 2015. The Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) were created in 2007 to replace the Liberian Army, which was demobilized in 1999. In 2009 there were approximately 2,100 troops. The AFL became operational in June 2013 when a Liberian platoon was deployed to Mali as part of the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA). Defence expenditure totalled US\$13 m. in 2011 (US\$3 per capita), representing 0.8% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 39% of GDP in 2012, industry 16% and services 45%.

### Labour

In 2010 the labour force was 1,374,000 (52.3% males). Liberia had 30,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

There were seven paid-for daily newspapers in 2008 with a combined circulation of 55,000, plus 24 paid-for non-dailies.

### Rail

There is a total of 490 km single track. A 148-km freight line connects iron mines to Monrovia. There is a line from Bong to Monrovia (78 km). The railways were out of use for many years because of the civil wars but there is now some traffic, both freight and passenger. However, large sections of track have been dismantled.

### Religion

In 2010 there were an estimated 3.4 m. Christians (mainly Protestants) and 480,000 Muslims (mainly Sunnis) according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life.

### Roads

The road network totals around 10,000 km, much of it in extremely poor condition. In 2007 there were 7,400 passenger cars in use and 2,800 lorries and vans.

### Shipping

There are ports at Buchanan, Greenville, Harper and Monrovia. Over 2,000 vessels enter Monrovia each year. The Liberian government requires only a modest registration fee and an almost nominal annual charge and maintains no control over the operation of ships flying the Liberian flag. In Jan. 2009

there were 2,203 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 80.15 m. GT (a figure only exceeded by Panama's fleet). Of the 2,203 vessels registered, 741 were container ships, 669 oil tankers, 404 bulk carriers, 262 general cargo ships, 83 liquid gas tankers, 40 chemical tankers and four passenger ships.

### Social Statistics

2008 births, estimate, 145,000; deaths, 40,000. 2008 rates (per 1,000 population), estimate: birth, 38.3; death, 10.5. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 3.7%. Life expectancy at birth (2013): 59.6 years for men and 61.5 years for women. Infant mortality in 2010 was at 74 per 1,000 live births. Fertility rate, 2008, 5.9 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2009 Liberia had just 2,200 main (fixed) telephone lines, but there were 1,058,000 mobile phone subscribers. No other country had such a high ratio of mobile phone subscriptions to fixed telephone lines in 2009. There were an estimated 5.1 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2009.

### Territory and Population

Liberia is bounded in the northwest by Sierra Leone, north by Guinea, east by Côte d'Ivoire and southwest by the Atlantic ocean. The total area is 97,036 km<sup>2</sup>. At the last census, in 2008, the population was 3,476,608; density, 36 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2007, 59.5% of the population lived in urban areas. English is the official language spoken by 20% of the population. The rest belong in the main to three linguistic groups: Mande, West Atlantic and the Kwa. The population of Monrovia (the capital) was 970,824 in 2008 including its suburbs.

## Libya

### *Dawlat Libya (State of Libya)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Tripoli

*Population estimate, 2015:* 6.28 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 21,666

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.724/94=

*Internet domain extension:* .ly

#### Civil Aviation

The UN ban on air traffic to and from Libya enforced since April 1992 was lifted in April 1999 following the handing over for trial of two suspected Lockerbie bombers. The national flag carrier, Libyan Airlines, was grounded in March 2011 as a result of the Libyan revolution but has now resumed operations. However, in Dec. 2014 all Libya-based carriers were added to the EU aviation safety blacklist, which either banned or restricted Libyan airlines from operating in the European Union.

#### Climate

The coastal region has a warm temperate climate, with mild wet winters and hot dry summers, although most of the country suffers from aridity. Tripoli, Jan. 52 °F (11.1 °C), July 81 °F (27.2 °C). Annual rainfall 16" (400 mm). Benghazi, Jan. 56 °F (13.3 °C), July 77 °F (25 °C). Annual rainfall 11" (267 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

Following the uprising in 2011 that culminated in the capture and killing of Libya's incumbent leader, Col. Gaddafi, the National Transitional Council (NTC)-formed in Feb. 2011-formally announced the country's 'liberation' in Oct. and appointed an executive committee to serve as the *de facto* interim government. A panel to draft a new constitution was elected in Feb. 2014. Once the new constitution has won approval by referendum, parliamentary elections are required to be held within 6 months. However, as of March 2015 the country was riven by civil unrest.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Libyan dinar* (LYD) of 1,000 *millemes*.

#### Defence

Defence expenditure in 2013 was estimated US\$4,771 m. (US\$795 per capita), representing 5.0% of GDP. The former Libyan Army effectively ceased to exist as an organized force in 2011 as the civil war escalated. Much of the equipment was damaged or destroyed during the conflict.

#### Economy

Petroleum and natural gas contributed 71.6% to GDP in 2007; followed by public administration, defence and services, 6.9%; finance, insurance and real estate, 6.2%; and construction, 4.3%. Libya featured among the ten most corrupt countries in the world in a 2014 survey of 175 countries carried out by the anti-corruption organization *Transparency International*.

#### Labour

The labour force in 2010 was 2,379,000 (72.0% males). Libya had 18,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

#### Press

In 2008 there were six daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 100,000.

#### Rail

Although there have not been any operational railways since 1965, some routes were under construction at the outbreak of the civil conflict in Feb. 2011. However, the projects were then abandoned. Talks were held in early 2013 between Chinese and Russian companies and the Libya Rail Implementation Authority when Libya was starting to show signs of a recovery but in early 2016 the projects were on hold again.

#### Religion

Islam is declared the State religion, but the right of others to practise their religion is provided for. In 2010 an estimated 96.6% of the population were Muslim (almost all Sunnis) according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life.

#### Roads

In 2010 the road network covered about 34,000 km. In 2007 there were 1,388,200 passenger cars in use (225 per 1,000 inhabitants), plus 310,500 lorries and vans. There were 2,301 deaths as a result of road accidents in 2009, which at 38.6 per 100,000 inhabitants gives Libya one of the highest traffic-related death rates in the world.

#### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 28 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 239,000 GT.

#### Social Statistics

Estimates, 2008: births, 147,000; deaths, 26,000. Estimated rates, 2008 (per 1,000 population): births, 23.3; deaths, 4.1. Life expectancy (2013), 73.5 years for men and 77.3 for women. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.0%; infant mortality, 2010, 13 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 2.7 births per woman.

#### Telecommunications

There were 1.23 m. fixed telephone lines in 2010 (193.3 per 1,000 inhabitants). Mobile phone subscribers numbered 9.53 m. in 2009. There were 108.0 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2009. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 772,500 in 2009 (123.3 per 1,000 inhabitants). In June 2012 there were 560,000 Facebook users.

#### Territory and Population

Libya is bounded in the north by the Mediterranean Sea, east by Egypt and Sudan, south by Chad and Niger and west by Algeria and Tunisia. The area is

1,759,540 km<sup>2</sup>. The population at the 2006 census was 5,657,692; density, 3.2 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 78.1% of the population lived in urban areas. The population is largely a mixture of Arab and Berber ethnicities. Libya is divided into 22 districts (*sha'biyat*). The two largest cities are Tripoli, the capital (with an estimated population of 1,095,000 in 2010), and Benghazi (estimated population of 678,000 in 2010). The official language is Arabic.

### Tourism

In 2007 there were 106,000 non-resident visitors, down from 125,000 in 2006.

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## Liechtenstein

### *Fürstentum Liechtenstein (Principality of Liechtenstein)*

#### Factsheet

Capital: Vaduz

Population estimate, 2015: 38,000

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 79,851

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.908/13

Internet domain extension: .li

#### Climate

There is a distinct difference in climate between the higher mountains and the valleys. In summer the peaks can often be foggy while the valleys remain sunny and warm, while in winter the valleys can often be foggy and cold whilst the peaks remain sunny and comparatively warm. Vaduz, Jan. 0 °C, July 20 °C. Annual rainfall 1,090 mm.

#### Constitution and Government

Liechtenstein is a constitutional monarchy ruled by the princes of the House of Liechtenstein. The reigning Prince is **Hans-Adam II**, b. 14 Feb. 1945; he succeeded his father Prince Francis Joseph, 13 Nov. 1989 (he exercised the prerogatives to which the Sovereign is entitled from 26 Aug. 1984); married on 30 July 1967 to Countess Marie Kinsky von Wchinitz und Tettau. The monarchy is hereditary in the male line. The present constitution of 5 Oct. 1921 provided for a unicameral parliament (*Landtag*) of 15 members elected for 4 years, but this was amended to 25 members in 1988. Election is on the basis of proportional representation. The prince can call and dismiss the parliament, and following a referendum held on 16 March 2003, dismiss the government and veto bills. On parliamentary recommendation, he appoints the ministers. According to the constitution, the Government is a collegial body consisting of five ministers including the prime minister.

#### Currency

Swiss currency has been in use since 1920 and became legal tender in 1924.

#### Economy

Liechtenstein is one of the world's richest countries with a well diversified economy. Low taxes and bank secrecy laws have made Liechtenstein a successful financial centre.

#### Labour

The workforce was 32,435 in 2007, including employees commuting from abroad (16,242 in 2007). The farming population went down from 70% in 1930 to 1.1% in 2007. The rapid change-over has led to the immigration of foreign workers (Austrians, Germans, Italians, Swiss).

#### Press

In 2008 there were two daily newspapers (*Liechtensteiner Vaterland* and *Liechtensteiner Volksblatt*) with an estimated total circulation of 20,000.

#### Rail

The 10 km of main railway passing through the country is operated by Austrian Federal Railways.

#### Religion

Religious affiliation at the 2010 census: Roman Catholic, 75.9%; Protestant, 8.5%; Muslim, 5.4%; other religion, 2.2%; no religion, 5.4%; not stated, 2.6%.

#### Roads

There are 400 km of roads. Postal buses are the chief means of public transportation within the country and to Austria and Switzerland. There were 28,102 cars in 2013. There were 403 road accidents in 2012 (one fatal).

#### Social Statistics

In 2011 there were 395 births and 248 deaths (rates of 10.9 per 1,000 population and 6.8 respectively). The annual population growth rate was 0.7% over the period 2007–12.

#### Telecommunications

Liechtenstein had 18,559 main telephone lines in 2012 and 36,080 mobile phone subscriptions. In 2009 there were 751.9 fixed broadband subscriptions per 1,000 inhabitants and 452.2 mobile broadband subscriptions per 1,000 inhabitants.

#### Territory and Population

Liechtenstein is bounded on the east by Austria and the west by Switzerland. Total area 160 km<sup>2</sup> (61.8 sq. miles). The population (Dec. 2011) was 36,475 (18,433 females), including 12,144 resident foreigners, giving a density of 228 per km<sup>2</sup>. The population of Liechtenstein is predominantly rural. Population of Schaan (2011), 5,853; Vaduz (2011), 5,236. The official language is German.

#### Tourism

In 2008, 77,957 overnight tourists visited Liechtenstein.

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## Lithuania

### *Lietuvos Respublika (Republic of Lithuania)*

#### Factsheet

Capital: Vilnius

Population estimate, 2015: 2.88 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 24,500

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.839/37=

Internet domain extension: .lt

#### Civil Aviation

The main international airport is based in the capital, Vilnius. Other international airports are at Kaunas and Palanga. FlyLAL—Lithuanian Airlines, formerly Lithuania's largest airline, ceased operations in 2009. Air Lituania, founded in 2013, was the national flag carrier until it ceased operations in May 2015. In 2015 a number of international airlines ran regular scheduled flights to Lithuania. Vilnius handled 1,308,065 passengers in 2009 and 4,336 tonnes of freight. Kaunas handled 456,698 passengers in 2009 and Palanga 105,195.

#### Climate

Vilnius, Jan. −2.8 °C, July 20.5 °C. Annual rainfall 520 mm. Klaipėda, Jan. −0.6 °C, July 19.4 °C. Annual rainfall 770 mm.



## Constitution and Government

A referendum to approve a new constitution was held on 25 Oct. 1992. Parliament is the 141-member *Seimas*. Under a new electoral law passed in July 2000, 71 of the parliament's 141 members will defeat rivals for their seats if they receive the most votes in a single round of balloting. Previously they had to win 50% of the votes or face a run-off against the nearest competitor. The parliament's 70 other seats are distributed according to the proportional popularity of the political parties at the ballot box. The *Constitutional Court* is empowered to rule on whether proposed laws conflict with the constitution or existing legislation. It comprises nine judges who serve 9-year terms, one third rotating every 3 years.

## Currency

On 1 Jan. 2015 the euro (EUR) replaced the *litas* (LTL) as the legal currency of Lithuania at the irrevocable conversion rate of 3.45280 litai to one euro. Total money supply was 13,884 m. litai in July 2005, foreign exchange reserves were US\$3,411 m. and gold reserves 186,000 troy oz.

## Defence

Conscription ended on 1 July 2009 but was reintroduced in 2015 in view of Russia's military intervention in Ukraine. Conscripts between the ages of 19–26 are subjected to 9 months of service. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$355 m. (US\$101 per capita), representing 0.8% of GDP.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 3.4% of GDP in 2009, industry 26.9% and services 69.7%.

## Labour

In 2013 the number of employed persons was 1.3 m. (71.4% in private enterprises and 28.6% in the public sector). Employed population by activity (as a percentage): wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, 17.6; manufacturing, 15.4; education, 9.7; construction, 7.7; transportation and storage, 7.3; human health and social work activities, 6.6; real estate activities, 1.2. Employment skills in 2013 included 41.0% with tertiary education and 55.0% with upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education. There were a total of 3,080 working days lost to strike action in 2012 (31,601 in 2008; legal strikes did not take place in 2009–11 or in 2013). In 2013 average gross monthly earnings were 2,231.7 litai; legal minimum wage was 1,000 litai in 2013.

## Press

In 2008 there were 327 newspapers (24 paid-for dailies, one free daily and 302 paid-for non-dailies). The papers with the highest circulation are the free *15 minučių* and the paid-for *Vakaro inios* and *Lietuvos rytas*.

## Rail

In 2011 there were 1,767 km of railway track in operation in Lithuania. The majority of rail traffic was diesel propelled, although 122 km of track was electrified. In 2011, 4.7 m. passengers and 52.3 m. tonnes of freight were carried.

## Religion

Under the Constitution, the state recognizes traditional Lutheran churches and religious organizations, as well as other churches and religious organizations if their teaching and rituals do not contradict the law. According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 there were an estimated 2.76 m. Catholics and 170,000 Orthodox Christians; a further 330,000 people had no religious affiliation. In Feb. 2016 there was one cardinal.

## Roads

In 2007 there were 80,715 km of roads (including 309 km of motorways), of which 28.6% were paved. There were 1,587,900 passenger cars in use in 2007

(470 per 1,000 inhabitants), plus 14,000 buses and coaches, 14,500 lorries and vans, and 35,300 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 6,448 traffic accidents in 2007, with 740 fatalities.

## Shipping

The ice-free port of Klaipėda plays a dominant role in the national economy and Baltic maritime traffic. It handled 29,880,000 tonnes of cargo in 2008 (22,218,000 tonnes loaded and 7,662,000 tonnes discharged); container traffic totalled 373,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) in 2008. A 412 ha. site at the port is dedicated a Free Economic Zone, which offers attractive conditions to foreign investors. In Jan. 2009 there were 52 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 348,000 GT. In Jan. 2009 the Lithuanian-controlled fleet comprised 64 vessels of 1,000 GT or over, of which 37 were under the Lithuanian flag and 27 under foreign flags.

## Social Statistics

2009: births, 36,682; deaths, 42,032; marriages, 20,542; divorces, 9,270; infant deaths, 181. Rates (per 1,000 population): birth, 11.0; death, 12.6; marriage, 6.2; divorce, 2.8. The population started to decline in 1993, a trend which is set to continue. Annual population growth rate, 2010–15, –1.3%. In 2014, 8,809 live births were registered to unmarried mothers and there were 5,231 legally induced abortions. Life expectancy at birth in 2007 was 65.9 years for males and 77.7 years for females. In 2006 the most popular age range for marrying was 25–29 for males and 20–24 for females. Infant mortality, 2010, five per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 1.3 births per woman (one of the lowest rates in the world). In 2014 there were 36,621 emigrants and 24,294 immigrants. Lithuania has one of the world's highest suicide rates, at 33.3 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2012 (a rate of 59.5 among males but only 10.9 among females). The male suicide rate is the highest in any country.

## Telecommunications

A majority stake in Lithuanian Telecom (the only fixed telephone service provider) was sold to the Finnish and Swedish consortium SONERA in 1998 and by Jan. 2003 the telecommunications market was fully liberalized. In 2010 there were 733,700 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 220.8 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 4,891,000 mobile phone subscriptions (or 1,471.6 per 1,000 inhabitants). There were 621.2 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 636,000 in 2009 (190.3 per 1,000 inhabitants). In March 2012 there were 983,000 Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Lithuania is bounded in the north by Latvia, east and south by Belarus, and west by Poland, the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad and the Baltic Sea. The total area is 65,300 km<sup>2</sup> (25,212 sq. miles), including 2,265 km<sup>2</sup> (875 sq. miles) of inland waters, and the population (2011 census) 3,043,429 (1,640,825 females); density, 48.3 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 67.1% of the population lived in urban areas. Of the 2011 census population, Lithuanians accounted for 84.2%, Poles 6.6%, Russians 5.8% (9.4% in 1989), Belarusians 1.2% and Ukrainians 0.5%. There are ten counties (with capitals of the same name): Alytus; Kaunas; Klaipėda; Marijampolė; Panevėžys; Šiauliai; Tauragė; Telšiai; Utena; Vilnius. The capital is Vilnius (2011 census population, 535,631). Other large towns are Kaunas (315,933 in 2011), Klaipėda (162,360), Šiauliai (109,328) and Panevėžys (99,690). The official language is Lithuanian, but ethnic minorities have the right to official use of their language where they form a substantial part of the population.

## Tourism

In 2010 accommodation establishments received 1,552,900 guests (up from 1,325,600 in 2005), of whom 840,400 were foreigners (681,500 in 2005). The leading countries of origin of non-resident overnight visitors in 2010 were: Poland (135,900), Russia (105,900), Germany (105,800) and Belarus (71,400). Lithuania had 908 accommodation establishments in 2010 with 50,087 beds, including 342 hotels with 23,137 beds.

## Luxembourg

### *Grand-Duché de Luxembourg (Grand Duchy of Luxembourg)*

#### Factsheet

Capital: Luxembourg  
 Population estimate, 2015: 567,000  
 GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 58,711  
 HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.892/19  
 Internet domain extension: .lu

#### Civil Aviation

Findel is the airport for Luxembourg. 1,643,000 passengers and 856,450 tonnes of freight were handled in 2007. The national carrier is Luxair, in which the state has a 39.05% stake directly along with a further 21.81% indirectly through the Banque et Caisse d'Épargne de l'État (State and Savings Bank). Cargolux has developed into one of the major international freight carriers. In 2006 scheduled airline traffic of Luxembourg-based carriers flew 93 m. km, carrying 928,000 passengers (all on international flights).

#### Climate

In general the country resembles Belgium in its climate, with rain evenly distributed throughout the year. Average temperatures are Jan. 0.8 °C, July 17.5 °C. Annual rainfall 30.8" (782.2 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is a constitutional monarchy. The reigning Grand Duke is **Henri**, b. 16 April 1955, son of the former Grand Duke Jean and Princess Joséphine-Charlotte of Belgium; succeeded 7 Oct. 2000 on the abdication of his father; married Maria Teresa Mestre 14 Feb. 1981. The separation of powers between the legislature and the executive is not very strong, resulting in much interaction between the two bodies. Only the judiciary is completely independent. The 12 cantons are divided into four electoral districts: the South, the East, the Centre and the North. Voters choose between party lists of candidates in multi-member constituencies. The parliament is the *Chamber of Deputies*, which consists of a maximum of 60 members elected for 5 years. There is a *Council of State* of 21 members appointed by the Sovereign.

#### Currency

On 1 Jan. 1999 the euro (EUR) became the legal currency in Luxembourg at the irrevocable conversion rate of 40.3399 Luxembourg francs to 1 euro. The euro, which consists of 100 cents, has been in circulation since 1 Jan. 2002. On the introduction of the euro there was a 'dual circulation' period before the Luxembourg franc ceased to be legal tender on 28 Feb. 2002. Euro banknotes in circulation on 1 Jan. 2002 had a total value of €5.6 bn.

#### Defence

There is a volunteer light infantry battalion of (2009) 900, of which only the career officers are professionals. In recent years Luxembourg soldiers and officers have been actively participating in peacekeeping missions, mainly in the former Yugoslavia. There is also a Gendarmerie of 600. In 2000 the Gendarmerie and the police force merged to form the Police Grand-Ducale. NATO maintains a squadron of E-3A *Sentries*. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$249 m. (US\$484 per capita), representing 0.4% of GDP.

#### Economy

Services accounted for 86% of GDP in 2012 and industry 14%.

#### Labour

In 2004 the estimated total workforce was 301,000. The government fixes a legal minimum wage. Retirement is at 65. Employment creation was 3.2% in 2004–05. In Dec. 2014 the unemployment rate was 5.9%.

#### Press

There were eight paid-for daily newspapers in 2008 with an average circulation of 117,000 and two free dailies with an average circulation of 127,000; there were also 15 non-dailies. The German-language *Luxemburger Wort* has the highest circulation, with an average of 72,000 copies in 2008. In the 2013 *World Press Freedom Index* compiled by Reporters Without Borders, Luxembourg was ranked fourth out of 179 countries.

#### Rail

In 2011 there were 275 km of railway (standard gauge) of which 262 km were electrified; passenger-km totalled 349 m. in 2011.

#### Religion

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, an estimated 64.7% of the population in 2010 were Roman Catholics and 27.5% had no religious affiliation. There are small Protestant, Jewish, Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox and Muslim communities as well.

#### Roads

On 1 Jan. 2008 there were 2,894 km of roads of which 147 km were motorways. Motor vehicles registered at 1 Jan. 2008 numbered 394,917 including 321,520 passenger cars, 27,043 trucks, 1,455 coaches and 14,946 motorcycles. In 2009 there were 47 fatalities in road accidents.

#### Social Statistics

2010 rates per 1,000 population; birth, 11.6; death, 7.4; marriage, 3.5; divorce, 2.1. Nearly half of annual births are to foreigners. In 2008 the most popular age range for marrying was 30–34 for males and 25–29 for females. Life expectancy at birth in 2013 was 78.0 years for males and 83.0 years for females. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 2.1%. Infant mortality, 2010, two per 1,000 live births (one of the lowest rates in the world); fertility rate, 2008, 1.7 births per woman. In 2009 Luxembourg received 477 asylum applications.

#### Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 267,600 main (fixed) telephone subscriptions. Active mobile phone subscribers numbered 707,000 in 2008 (1,471.1 per 1,000 persons). There were an estimated 387,000 internet users in 2008. The fixed broadband penetration rate in Dec. 2010 was 33.5 subscribers per 100 inhabitants. In March 2012 there were 190,000 Facebook users.

#### Territory and Population

Luxembourg has an area of 2,586 km<sup>2</sup> (999 sq. miles) and is bounded on the west by Belgium, south by France and east by Germany. A census took place on 1 Feb. 2011; the population was 512,353 (including 220,522 foreigners); density, 198 per km<sup>2</sup>. The percentage of foreigners living in Luxembourg has increased dramatically in recent years, from 26% in 1986 to 43% in 2011 (the highest percentage in the EU). In 2011, 85.4% of the population were urban. The capital, Luxembourg, has (Feb. 2011 census) 95,058 inhabitants; Esch-sur-Alzette, the centre of the mining district, 30,125; Differdange, 21,935; Dudelange, 18,781; Pétange, 16,085; Sanem, 14,470; Hesperange, 13,335. Lëtzebuergesch is spoken by most of the population, and since 1984 has been an official language with French and German.

#### Tourism

In 2010 there were 907,000 overnight tourists and 2,256,000 overnight stays; there were 7,751 hotel rooms in 2010. Tourists spent US\$4,108 m. in 2010 (excluding passenger transport). Camping is widespread; there were 739,000 overnight stays at campsites in 2010.

## Macedonia

*Republika Makedonija (The Republic of Macedonia) (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)*

### Factsheet

Capital: Skopje  
 Population estimate, 2015: 2.08 m.  
 GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 11,780  
 HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.747/81=  
 Internet domain extension: .mk

### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Skopje and Ohrid. A new Macedonia-based carrier, Aeromak, has been established to replace MAT Macedonian Airlines, the former flag carrier which ceased operations in 2009. In 2009 Skopje handled 602,298 passengers (658,366 in 2008) and 2,326 tonnes of freight. The much smaller airport at Ohrid handled 36,652 passengers in 2009 (44,413 in 2008).

### Climate

Macedonia has a mixed Mediterranean-continental type climate, with cold moist winters and hot dry summers. Skopje, Jan.  $-0.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ , July  $23.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

### Constitution and Government

The *President* is directly elected for 5-year terms. Candidates must be citizens aged at least 40 years. The parliament is a 123-member single-chamber *Assembly (Sobranie)*, elected by universal suffrage for 4-year terms. There is a *Constitutional Court* whose members are elected by the assembly for non-renewable 8-year terms, and a *National Security Council* chaired by the President. Laws passed by the Assembly must be countersigned by the President, who may return them for reconsideration, but cannot veto them if they gain a two-thirds majority.

### Currency

The national currency of Macedonia is the *denar* (MKD), of 100 *deni*.

### Defence

The President is the C.-in-C. of the armed forces. Compulsory national military service was abolished in 2006. Defence expenditure in 2012 totalled US\$129 m. (US\$62 per capita), representing 1.3% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 11.3% of GDP in 2010, industry 27.8% and services 60.9%.

### Labour

In April 2004 there were 522,995 employed persons, including: 116,300 in manufacturing; 87,608 in agriculture, hunting and forestry; 74,218 in wholesale and retail trade/repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods; and 33,635 in education. The number of unemployed persons in 2004 was 309,286, giving an unemployment rate of 37.2%.

### Press

There were 12 daily newspapers in 2008 with a circulation of 295,000 copies. *Dnevnik* is the most popular with a daily circulation of 50,000 copies in 2008.

### Rail

In 2009 there were 699 km of railways (234 km electrified). 1.5 m. passengers and 2.9 m. tonnes of freight were transported in 2009. The former

Macedonian Railways was reorganized in 2007 with two new entities being created—Macedonian Railways Infrastructure (PE Makedonski eleznici Infrastruktura, or M-I), which is responsible for the maintenance and operation of the infrastructure, and Macedonian Railways Transport (M Transport AD, or M-T), which is responsible for the operation of passenger and freight services.

### Religion

Macedonia is traditionally Orthodox but the church is not established and there is freedom of religion. A study by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life estimated that there were 1.33 m. Orthodox Christians in 2010 and 810,000 Muslims (mainly Sunni). In 1967 an autocephalous Orthodox church—the Macedonian Orthodox Church—split off from the Serbian Orthodox Church. Its head is the Archbishop of Ohrid and Macedonia, whose seat is at Skopje.

### Roads

In 2007 there were 221 km of motorways, 690 km of other main roads, 3,774 km of regional roads and 9,155 km of local roads. There were 248,800 passenger cars in use in 2007, plus 2,300 buses and coaches, and 26,600 lorries and vans. In the same year there were 4,037 road accidents with 173 fatalities.

### Social Statistics

In 2011: live births, 22,770; deaths, 19,465; marriages, 14,736; divorces, 1,753; infant deaths, 172. Rates (per 1,000 population): live births, 11.1; deaths, 9.5; marriages, 7.2; divorces, 0.9. Infant mortality, 2011 (per 1,000 live births), 7.6. Expectation of life at birth in 2007 was 71.7 years for males and 76.5 years for females. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 0.2%. In 2012 the most popular age range for marrying was 25–29 for males and 20–24 for females. Fertility rate, 2011, 1.6 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 413,500 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 200.3 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 2,257,100 mobile phone subscriptions (or 1,093.6 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2011, 56.7% of the population were internet users. In 2002 the Hungarian firm Matav acquired a 51% stake in MakTel, the state monopoly telecommunications provider, in the most significant economic development in the country's history. The deal was worth €618.2 m. (US\$568.4 m.) over 2 years. In March 2012 there were 880,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Macedonia (referred to within the United Nations as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) is bounded in the north by Serbia, in the east by Bulgaria, in the south by Greece and in the west by Albania. Its area is 25,713 km<sup>2</sup>, including 490 km<sup>2</sup> of inland water. According to the 2002 census final results, the population on 1 Nov. 2002 was 2,022,547. A census scheduled for 2011 was deferred following ethnic disputes. The main ethnic group are Macedonians, followed by Albanians, with smaller numbers of Turks, Roma, Serbs and Bosniaks. Ethnic Albanians predominate on the western side of Macedonia. Population estimate, Dec. 2013, 2,065,769; density, 82 per km<sup>2</sup>. Minorities are represented in the Council for Inter-Ethnic Relations. In 2011, 59.4% of the population lived in urban areas. Macedonia is divided into 84 municipalities. The major cities (with 2013 population estimates) are: Skopje, the capital, 497,900; Kumanovo, 72,800; Bitola, 72,400; Prilep, 65,400; Tetovo, 55,600. The official language is Macedonian, which uses the Cyrillic alphabet. Around 25% of the population speak Albanian.

### Tourism

There were 261,696 foreign tourists in 2010, the highest total since 1991. The main countries of origin of non-resident tourists in 2010 were: Serbia (13.7%), Greece (10.3%), Turkey (7.7%) and Albania (6.5%).

## Madagascar

### *Repoblikan'i Madagasikara (Republic of Madagascar)*

#### Factsheet

Capital: Antananarivo  
 Population estimate, 2015: 24.24 m.  
 GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 1,328  
 HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.510/154  
 Internet domain extension: .mg

#### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Antananarivo (Ivato) and Mahajanga (Amborovy). The national carrier is Air Madagascar, which is 90.6% state-owned. In 2013 it carried 539,000 passengers (303,000 on domestic flights), serving six international and 22 domestic destinations. In 2012 Antananarivo handled 890,632 passengers (586,532 on international flights) and 22,276 tonnes of freight.

#### Climate

A tropical climate, but the mountains cause big variations in rainfall, which is very heavy in the east and very light in the west. Antananarivo, Jan. 70 °F (21.1 °C), July 59 °F (15 °C). Annual rainfall 54" (1,350 mm). Toamasina, Jan. 80 °F (26.7 °C), July 70 °F (21.1 °C). Annual rainfall 128" (3,256 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was promulgated on 10 Dec. 2010, having won 74.2% support at a referendum held in Nov. 2010. However, the referendum was boycotted by the three main opposition parties and turnout was 52.6%, with registered voters accounting for only about a third of the population. On the day of the vote there was an unsuccessful army mutiny against the rule of Rajoelina. The new constitution reduced the minimum age requirement for the presidency from 40 years to 35 (allowing the then 36-year old Rajoelina to stand in the next presidential election). It also demanded that presidential candidates should be resident in the country in the 6 months leading up to an election, which effectively ruled out Rajoelina's exiled predecessor, Marc Ravalomanana, from standing against him. Rajoelina's critics argued the constitution was designed to bolster the interim president's personal standing.

#### Currency

In July 2003 then President Marc Ravalomanana announced that the *Ariary* (MGA) would become the official currency, replacing the *Malagasy franc* (MGFr). The Ariary became legal tender on 1 Aug. 2003 at a rate of 1 *Ariary* = 5 *Malagasy francs*. The Ariary is subdivided into five *Iraimbilanja*. In July 2005 foreign exchange reserves were US\$435 m. and total money supply was 1,324.0 bn. ariarys.

#### Defence

There is conscription (including civilian labour service) for 18 months. Defence expenditure totalled US\$72 m. in 2013 (US\$3 per capita), representing 0.7% of GDP.

#### Economy

In 2009 agriculture contributed 29.1% of GDP, industry 16.0% and services 54.9%.

#### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 11,688,000 (8,182,000 in 2003). 89.7% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 3.6% of the population was unemployed. Madagascar had 19,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

#### Press

In 2008 there were 13 daily newspapers with a total circulation of 115,000.

#### Rail

In 2005 there were 854 km of railways, all metre gauge. In 2005, 100,000 passengers and 300,000 tonnes of freight were transported.

#### Religion

In 2010 there were an estimated 8.11 m. Protestants and 7.26 m. Catholics according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, with folk religionists numbering 900,000 and 1.4 m. people having no religious affiliation.

#### Roads

In 2012 there were 31,640 km of roads, 21.9% of which were paved. There were 146,300 passenger cars, 280,800 buses and coaches and 83,800 lorries and vans in 2008. 550 people died in road accidents in 2006.

#### Shipping

The main ports are Toamasina, Mahajanga, Antsiranana and Toliary. In Jan. 2009 there were 19 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 18,000 GT.

#### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 686,000; deaths, 176,000. Rates, 2008 estimates (per 1,000 population): births, 35.9; deaths, 9.2. Infant mortality, 2010 (per 1,000 live births), 43. Expectation of life in 2013 was 63.2 years for males and 66.2 for females. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.8%. Fertility rate, 2008, 4.7 births per woman.

#### Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 130,100 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 6.5 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 8,159,600 mobile phone subscriptions (or 382.8 per 1,000 inhabitants). There were 17.0 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 8,300 in 2009 (0.4 per 1,000 inhabitants). In June 2012 there were 233,000 Facebook users.

#### Territory and Population

Madagascar is situated 400 km (250 miles) off the southeast coast of Africa, from which it is separated by the Mozambique channel. Its area is 587,041 km<sup>2</sup> (226,658 sq. miles), including 5,500 km<sup>2</sup> (2,120 sq. miles) of inland water. At the last census, in 1993, the population was 12,092,157 (50.45% female); density, 20.6 per km<sup>2</sup>. The estimate for 2011 was 20,696,100; density, 35.6 per km<sup>2</sup>. 69.8% of the population lived in rural areas in 2010. The indigenous population is of Malayo-Polynesian stock, divided into 18 ethnic groups of which the principal are Merina (24%) of the central plateau, the Betsimisaraka (13%) of the east coast and the Betsileo (11%) of the southern plateau. Foreign communities include Europeans (mainly French), Indians, Chinese, Comorians and Arabs. Malagasy, French and (since 2007) English are all official languages.

#### Tourism

In 2011, 225,005 non-resident tourists arrived by air (excluding same-day visitors), up from 196,052 in 2010 although down from the peak of 375,010 in 2008.

## Malawi

### *Dziko la Malawi (Republic of Malawi)*

#### Factsheet

Capital: Lilongwe  
 Population estimate, 2015: 17.22 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 747  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.445/173  
*Internet domain extension:* .mw

### Civil Aviation

The national carrier is Malawian Airlines, which is 49% owned by Ethiopian Airlines. It was founded in 2013 following the liquidation of the former flag carrier, Air Malawi. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Malawi-based carriers flew 3.7 m. km; passenger-km totalled 207.5 m. in the same year. The main international airports is Lilongwe (Lilongwe International Airport). The airport at Blantyre (Chileka) also has some international flights. Lilongwe handled 261,267 passengers in 2012 (198,620 on international flights) and 3,932 tonnes of freight.

### Climate

The tropical climate is marked by a dry season from May to Oct. and a wet season for the remaining months. Rainfall amounts are variable, within the range of 29–100" (725–2,500 mm), and maximum temperatures average 75–89 °F (24–32 °C), and minimum temperatures 58–67 °F (14.4–19.4 °C). Lilongwe, Jan. 73 °F (22.8 °C), July 60 °F (15.6 °C). Annual rainfall 36" (900 mm). Blantyre, Jan. 75 °F (23.9 °C), July 63 °F (17.2 °C). Annual rainfall 45" (1,125 mm). Zomba, Jan. 73 °F (22.8 °C), July 63 °F (17.2 °C). Annual rainfall 54" (1,344 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The *President* is also head of government. Malawi was a one-party state, but following a referendum on 14 June 1993, in which 63% of votes cast were in favour of reform, a new constitution was adopted on 17 May 1994 which ended Hastings Banda's life presidency and provided for the holding of multi-party elections. At these Bakili Muluzi was elected president with 47.2% of votes cast, beating President Banda and two other opponents. There is a *National Assembly* of 193 members, elected for 5-year terms in single-seat constituencies.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *kwacha* (MWK) of 100 *tambala*.

### Defence

All services form part of the Army. Defence expenditure totalled US\$25 m. in 2013 (US\$2 per capita), representing 0.7% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 30% of GDP in 2010, industry 20% and services 50%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2010 was 6,708,000 (51.5% female). Approximately 80% of the economically active population in 2010 were engaged in agriculture. Malawi had 0.11 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

There were two paid-for dailies and nine paid-for non-dailies in 2008. The two dailies are *The Nation* (average circulation of 15,000 copies daily in 2008); and *The Daily Times* (7,000 copies daily in 2008).

### Rail

In 2005 Malawi Railways operated 797 km on 1,067 mm gauge, providing links to the Mozambican ports of Beira and Nacala. In 2009 passenger-km travelled came to 44 m. and freight tonne-km to 47 m.

### Religion

According to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 the population was 82.7% Christian (mainly Protestants) and 13.0% Muslim.

### Roads

The road network consisted of 24,929 km in 2008, of which 16.3% were paved. There were 53,300 passenger cars and 59,800 vans and trucks in 2007.

### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 597,000; deaths, 182,000. Estimated rates, 2008 (per 1,000 population): births, 40.2; deaths, 12.3. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.8%. Expectation of life at birth in 2013 was 55.1 years for males and 55.4 for females. Infant mortality, 2010, 58 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 5.5 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 173,500 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 11.3 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 3,855,800 mobile phone subscriptions (or 250.7 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2011, 3.3% of the population were internet users. In June 2012 there were 140,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Malawi lies along the southern and western shores of Lake Malawi (the third largest lake in Africa), and is otherwise bounded in the north by Tanzania, south by Mozambique and west by Zambia. Area (including the inland water areas of Lake Malombe, Chilwa, Chiuta and the Malawi portion of Lake Malawi, which total 24,208 km<sup>2</sup>), 118,484 km<sup>2</sup> (45,747 sq. miles). Census population (2008), 13,077,160 (6,718,227 females); density, 138.7 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 20.3% of the population were urban. Population of main towns (2008): Lilongwe, 674,448; Blantyre, 661,256; Mzuzu, 133,968; Zomba, 88,314. Population of the regions (2008): Northern, 1,708,930; Central, 5,510,195; Southern, 5,858,035. The official languages are Chichewa, spoken by over 58% of the population, and English.

### Tourism

There were 755,031 non-resident tourists in 2009 (excluding same-day visitors), up from 742,457 in 2008.

## Malaysia

### *Persekutuan Tanah Malaysia (Federation of Malaysia)*

### Factsheet

*Capitals:* Putrajaya (Administrative), Kuala Lumpur (Legislative and Financial)

*Population estimate, 2015:* 30.33 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 22,762

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.779/62

*Internet domain extension:* .my

### Civil Aviation

There are a total of 19 airports of which five are international airports and 14 are domestic airports at which regular public air transport is operated. Malaysia Airlines, the national airline, is 52% state-owned, and operates domestic flights within Malaysia and international flights to nearly 40 different countries. A low-cost airline, AirAsia, began operations in Nov. 1996; its budget sister long-haul carrier, Air Asia X, started flying in Nov. 2007. In 2005 scheduled airline traffic of Malaysian-based carriers flew 282.7 m. km, carrying 23,026,000 passengers. In 2012 Kuala Lumpur handled 39,887,866 passengers (27,612,088 on international flights) and 702,226 tonnes of freight. Kota Kinabalu handled 5,848,135 passengers in 2012 and Penang 4,767,815.

### Climate

Malaysia lies near the equator between latitudes 1° and 7° North and longitudes 100° and 119° East. Malaysia is subject to maritime influence and the interplay of wind systems which originate in the Indian Ocean and the South

China Sea. The year is generally divided into the South-East and the North-East Monsoon seasons. The average daily temperature throughout Malaysia varies from 21 °C to 32 °C. Humidity is high.

### Constitution and Government

The Constitution of Malaysia is based on the Constitution of the former Federation of Malaya, but includes safeguards for the special interests of Sabah and Sarawak. It was amended in 1983. The Constitution provides for one of the Rulers of the Malay States to be elected from among themselves to be the *Yang di-Pertuan Agong* (Supreme Head of the Federation). He holds office for a period of 5 years. The Rulers also elect from among themselves a Deputy Supreme Head of State, also for a period of 5 years. In Feb. 1993 the Rulers accepted constitutional amendments abolishing their legal immunity.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the Malaysian *ringgit* (RM) of 100 *sen*.

### Defence

The Constitution provides for the Head of State to be the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces who exercises his powers in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet. The Malaysian Armed Forces has participated in 25 UN peacekeeping missions in Africa, the Middle East, Indo-China and Europe. Since 2004 a lottery system has been in place to choose conscripts to serve 3 months of national service. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$5,000 m. (US\$169 per capita), representing 1.5% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2009 agriculture accounted for 9.5% of GDP, industry 43.8% and services 46.7%.

### Labour

In 2001 the workforce was 9,892,000 (46.7% female in 2000), of whom 9,535,000 were employed (22.6% in manufacturing, 14.2% in agriculture, forestry and fishing, 10.5% in government services and 8.9% in construction). Unemployment was 3.8% in 2002. It is estimated that Malaysia has some 500,000 illegal workers. Malaysia had 25,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2008 there were 50 daily newspapers (49 paid-for and one free) with a combined circulation of 4,750,000. The dailies with the highest circulation are the Malay-language *Mingguan Malaysia* and the Chinese-language *Sin Chew Daily*.

### Rail

Length of route in 2011, 2,250 km, of which 350 km were electrified. The Malayan Railway carried 39.5 m. passengers and 5.4 m. tonnes of freight in 2010; the Sabah State Railway carried 594,000 passengers and 89,000 tonnes of freight in 2011. A railway from Kuala Lumpur to the international airport opened in 2002 and carried 3.9 m. passengers in 2009. There are two metro systems in Kuala Lumpur with a combined length of 56 km.

### Religion

Malaysia has a multi-racial population divided between Islam, Buddhism, Taoism, Hinduism and Christianity. Under the Federal constitution, Islam is the official religion of Malaysia but there is freedom of worship. In 2001 there were an estimated 10.77 m. Muslims, 5.45 m. adherents of Chinese traditional religions, 1.88 m. Christians, 1.66 m. Hindus and 1.50 m. Buddhists.

### Roads

Total road length in 2012 was 180,882 km, of which 78.1% were paved. In 2006 there were 7,024,000 passenger cars in use, 60,000 buses and coaches, 836,600 lorries and vans, and 7,458,100 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 6,287 deaths as a result of road accidents in 2006, which at 24.1 per 100,000 people ranks among the highest rates in the world.

### Shipping

Port Kelang, the busiest port, handled 152,348,000 freight tons of cargo in 2008; container throughput in 2008 was 7,974,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units), making it Malaysia's busiest container port. In Jan. 2009 there were 457 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 6.43 m. GT. Of the 457 vessels registered, 189 were general cargo ships, 130 oil tankers, 45 container ships, 34 liquid gas tankers, 26 passenger ships, 20 chemical tankers and 13 bulk carriers. The Malaysian-controlled fleet comprised 307 vessels of 1,000 GT or over in Jan. 2009, of which 242 were under the Malaysian flag and 65 under foreign flags.

### Social Statistics

2007 estimated births, 481,000; deaths, 120,000. 2007 rates (per 1,000 population): birth, 18.1; death, 4.5. Life expectancy, 2007: males, 71.9 years; females, 76.6 years. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 1.9%. Infant mortality, 2010, five per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2007, 2.3 births per woman. Today only 6% of Malaysians live below the poverty line, compared to 50% in the early 1970s.

### Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 4,536,000 main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscribers numbered 42,996,000 (1,446.9 per 1,000 persons). 67.0% of the population were internet users in 2013. In March 2012 there were 12.4 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

The federal state of Malaysia comprises the 13 states and three federal territories of Peninsular Malaysia, bounded in the north by Thailand, and with the island of Singapore as an enclave on its southern tip; and, on the island of Borneo to the east, the state of Sabah (which includes the federal territory of the island of Labuan), and the state of Sarawak, with Brunei as an enclave, both bounded in the south by Indonesia and in the northwest and northeast by the South China and Sulu Seas. The area of Malaysia is 330,803 km<sup>2</sup> (127,724 sq. miles), and the 2010 census population 28,334,135; density, 85.7 per km<sup>2</sup>. Malaysia's national waters cover 515,256 km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 73.0% of the population lived in urban areas. Putrajaya, a planned new city described as an 'intelligent garden city', became the administrative capital of Malaysia in 1999 and was created a federal territory on 1 Feb. 2001. Bahasa Malaysia (Malay) is the official language of the country—50% of the population are Malays.

### Tourism

In 2009, 23,646,000 international tourists visited Malaysia (up from 22,052,000 in 2008), making it the ninth most popular tourist destination; receipts from tourism in 2009 totalled US\$15,772 m.

## Maldives

### *Divehi Raajjeyge Jumhooriyyaa (Republic of the Maldives)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Malé

*Population estimate, 2015:* 364,000

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 12,328

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.706/104

*Internet domain extension:* .mv

#### Civil Aviation

The former national carrier Air Maldives collapsed in April 2000 with final losses in excess of US\$50 m. The national airline is now Maldivian, which was founded in 2000 and initially operated domestic flights only. It began to serve international destinations in Asia in 2008. In 2010 there were international flights from Malé International Airport (now officially known as Velana International Airport) to Bangalore, Bangkok, Bologna, Colombo, Doha,

Dubai, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Guangzhou, Kuala Lumpur, London, Milan, Moscow, Munich, Muscat, Paris, Rome, Singapore, Thiruvananthapuram and Zürich, as well as domestic services.

### Climate

The islands are hot and humid, and affected by monsoons. Malé: average temperature 81 °F (27 °C), annual rainfall 59" (1,500 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The present constitution came into effect on 1 Jan. 1998. There is a Citizens' *Majlis* (Parliament) which consists of 77 members all of whom are directly elected for a term of 5 years. Political parties were not permitted until the introduction of a multiparty system in June 2005. In a referendum held on 18 Aug. 2007 voters supported the retention of a presidential system, with 62.0% of votes cast in favour and 38.0% for a switch to a parliamentary system. The President of the Republic is elected by the Citizens' *Majlis*.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *rufiyaa* (MVR) of 100 *laari*.

### Defence

In 2008 military expenditure totalled US\$43 m. (US\$111 per capita), representing 3.4% of GDP.

### Economy

Fisheries accounts for approximately 7% of GDP, industry 15% and services 78%.

### Labour

In 2005 the economically active workforce totalled 99,000 of whom 96,000 were employed. More than two-thirds of the working population are engaged in tourism.

### Press

In 2008 there were six paid-for daily newspapers and around 200 independent newspapers and periodicals in total.

### Religion

The State religion is Islam—adherence to it is legally required of citizens.

### Roads

In 2007 there were 3,060 passenger cars in use (10 per 1,000 inhabitants), 26,780 motorcycles and mopeds, 2,870 lorries and vans, and 74 buses and coaches.

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 58 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 130,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

2006 births, 5,827; deaths, 1,084. Birth rate, 2006, per 1,000 population, 19.5; death rate, 3.6. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 1.8%. Life expectancy at birth in 2007 was 69.7 years for males and 72.7 years for females. Infant mortality, 2010, 14 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 2.0 births per woman. The Maldives has had the largest reduction in its fertility rate of any country in the world over the past quarter of a century, having had a rate of 6.1 births per woman in 1990. It has also made some of the best progress in recent years in reducing child mortality. The number of deaths per 1,000 live births among children under five was reduced from 94 in 1990 to 11 in 2012.

### Telecommunications

There were 48,000 fixed telephone lines in 2010 (152.0 per 1,000 inhabitants). Mobile phone subscribers numbered 494,400 in 2010. There were 283.0 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010. Fixed internet subscriptions totalled 20,100 in 2009 (64.4 per 1,000 inhabitants). In March 2012 there were 120,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

The republic, some 650 km to the southwest of Sri Lanka, consists of 1,192 low-lying (the highest point is 2.4 m above sea-level) coral islands, grouped into 19 atolls and two cities. 199 are inhabited. Area 298 km<sup>2</sup> (115 sq. miles). In 2014 the preliminary census population was 341,256; density, 1,145.2 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 41.3% of the population lived in urban areas. Capital, Malé (2014 provisional census population, 109,635). The official and spoken language is Divehi.

### Tourism

Tourism is the major foreign currency earner. There were a record 791,917 tourist arrivals in 2010, spending US\$714 m.

## Mali

### *République du Mali (Republic of Mali)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Bamako  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 17.60 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 1,583  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.419/179  
*Internet domain extension:* .ml

#### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Bamako (Senou), which handled 533,054 passengers (446,793 on international flights) and 7,538 tonnes of freight in 2012. In 2010 Air Mali operated direct flights to Abidjan, Accra, Conakry, Cotonou, Dakar, Kinshasa, Libreville, Lomé, Luanda, Madrid, Marseille, Niamey, Nouakchott, Ouagadougou, Paris and Pointe-Noire. Air Mali ceased operations in Dec. 2012. There were also flights in 2010 with foreign airlines to Abidjan, Addis Ababa, Algiers, Brazzaville, Casablanca, Conakry, Cotonou, Dakar, Johannesburg, Libreville, Lomé, Nairobi, Niamey, Nouakchott, Ouagadougou, Paris, Tripoli (Libya) and Tunis.

#### Climate

A tropical climate, with adequate rain in the south and west, but conditions become increasingly arid towards the north and east. Bamako, Jan. 76 °F (24.4 °C), July 80 °F (26.7 °C). Annual rainfall 45" (1,120 mm). Kayes, Jan. 76 °F (24.4 °C), July 93 °F (33.9 °C). Annual rainfall 29" (725 mm). Tombouctou, Jan. 71 °F (21.7 °C), July 90 °F (32.2 °C). Annual rainfall 9" (231 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

A national conference of 1,800 delegates agreed a draft constitution enshrining multi-party democracy in Aug. 1991, and this was approved by 99.76% of votes cast at a referendum in Jan. 1992. Turnout was 43%. The *President* is elected for not more than two terms of 5 years. There is a *National Assembly*, consisting of 147 deputies (formerly 116) plus 13 Malinese living abroad. A *Constitutional Court* was established in 1994. In May 2012 the rebel National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNL) and Ansar Dine, an Islamist militant group, declared Azawad—a region in the north covering over half of Mali's total land area—a breakaway Islamic state. The unilateral declaration went unrecognized by Bamako and the international community.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *franc CFA* (XOF), which replaced the Mali franc in 1984. It has a parity rate of 655.957 francs CFA to one euro.

### Defence

There is selective conscription for 2 years. In 2013 military expenditure totalled US\$301 m. (US\$19 per capita), representing 2.6% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 39% of GDP in 2009, industry 21% and services 40%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 5,748,000 (3,310,000 in 2003). 67.0% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 8.1% of the population was unemployed. Mali had 0.10 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2008 there were 12 daily newspapers with an estimated combined circulation of 40,000.

### Rail

Mali has a railway from Kayes to Koulikoro by way of Bamako, a continuation of the currently non-operational Dakar–Kayes line in Senegal; total length, 2005, 643 km (metre gauge). In 2005, 179,000 passengers and 1.7 m. tonnes of freight were transported.

### Religion

The state is secular, but predominantly Sunni Muslim. According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, an estimated 3.2% of the population in 2010 were Christians and 2.7% folk religionists.

### Roads

There were 18,912 km of roads in 2005, of which 19.0% were paved. In 2007 there were 87,000 passenger cars (seven per 1,000 inhabitants), 26,800 lorries and vans, and 10,000 motorcycles and mopeds.

### Shipping

For about 7 months in the year small steamboats operate a service from Koulikoro to Tombouctou and Gao, and from Bamako to Kouroussa.

### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 541,000; deaths, 200,000. Rates, 2008 estimates (per 1,000 population): births, 42.6; deaths, 15.7. Infant mortality, 2010 (per 1,000 live births), 99. Expectation of life in 2013 was 55.1 years for males and 54.9 for females. Mali was one of only two countries where the life expectancy at birth for males in 2013 was higher than for females (the other being Swaziland). Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.4%; fertility rate, 2008, 6.5 children per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 126,000 fixed telephone lines; mobile phone subscribers numbered 19,749,000 in the same year (129.1 per 100 persons). There were 27,677 fixed internet subscriptions in 2013. In June 2012 there were 141,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Mali is bounded in the west by Senegal, northwest by Mauritania, northeast by Algeria, east by Niger and south by Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea. Its area is 1,248,574 km<sup>2</sup> (482,077 sq. miles) and it had a population of 14,528,662 at the 2009 census; density, 1.6 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 36.6% of the population were urban. In 2009 the capital, Bamako, had a population of 1,809,000. The second largest town, Sikasso, had a population of 226,000 in 2009. The Bambara, Khassonké, Malinké and Soninké, all of which belong to the broader Mandé group, make up 50% of the population; the other leading groups are the Fula (17%), Voltaic (12%), Songhai (6%), and Tuareg and Moor (10%). The official language is French; Bambara is spoken by about 68% of the population.

### Tourism

There were 169,000 non-resident tourists in 2010; tourist revenue totalled US\$296 m. in the same year.

## Malta

### *Repubblika ta' Malta (Republic of Malta)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Valletta  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 419,000  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 27,930  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.839/37=  
*Internet domain extension:* .mt

#### Civil Aviation

The national carrier is Air Malta, which is 98% state-owned. In 2010 it carried 1.70 m. passengers and flew from Malta to nearly 40 destinations in other European countries. In 2012 there were 32,286 aircraft movements at Malta International Airport. A total of 3,658,972 passengers and 16,487 tonnes of cargo were handled.

#### Climate

The climate is Mediterranean, with hot, dry and sunny conditions in summer and very little rain from May to Aug. Rainfall is not excessive and falls mainly between Oct. and March. Average daily sunshine in winter is six hours and in summer over ten hours. Valletta, Jan. 12.8 °C (55 °F), July 25.6 °C (78 °F). Annual rainfall 578 mm (23").

#### Constitution and Government

Malta is a parliamentary democracy. The constitution of 1964 provides for a *President*, a *House of Representatives* of members elected by universal suffrage and a Cabinet consisting of the Prime Minister and such number of Ministers as may be appointed. The Constitution makes provision for the protection of fundamental rights and freedom of the individual, and for freedom of conscience and religious worship, and guarantees the separation of executive, judicial and legislative powers. The House of Representatives currently has 70 members (65 directly elected). Malta uses the single transferable vote system.

#### Currency

On 1 Jan. 2008 the euro (EUR) replaced the Maltese lira (MTL) as the legal currency of Malta at the irrevocable conversion rate of Lm0.4293 to one euro.

#### Defence

The Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) are made up of a Headquarters and three Regiments. In 2011 they had a strength of 1,954 personnel. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$60 m. (US\$145 per capita), representing 0.6% of GDP.

#### Economy

Services accounted for 65% of GDP in 2009, industry 32% and agriculture 3%.

#### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 187,000 (162,000 in 2003). 63.4% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 6.5% of the population was unemployed. 30.5% of the labour force in 2013 had a secondary education as the highest level and 23.7% had a tertiary education.



## Press

In 2008 there were two English paid-for dailies (*TheTimes* and *TheMalta Independent*) and two Maltese dailies (*In-Nazzjon* and *L-Orizzont*). There were seven paid-for non-dailies and six Sunday newspapers (three in English and three in Maltese).

## Religion

97% of the population belong to the Roman Catholic Church, which is established by law as the religion of the country, although full liberty of conscience and freedom of worship are guaranteed. In Feb. 2016 there was one cardinal.

## Roads

In 2004 there were 3,096 km of roads, including 185 km of highways. 87.5% of roads are paved. Malta has one of the densest road networks in the world. Motor vehicles in use in 2007 included 203,900 passenger cars, 23,600 vans and lorries, 10,600 motorcycles and mopeds, and 690 buses and coaches. There were 1,209 casualties in traffic accidents in 2007, including 14 fatalities.

## Shipping

There is a car ferry between Malta and Gozo. In Jan. 2009 there were 1,487 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 31.65 m. GT; Malta's fleet was the sixth largest in terms of the number of ships and the eighth largest on the basis of gross tonnage. Of the 1,487 vessels registered, 498 were general cargo ships, 464 bulk carriers, 346 oil tankers, 78 container ships, 56 passenger ships, 24 liquid gas tankers and 21 chemical tankers.

## Social Statistics

2009: births, 3,713; deaths, 3,221; marriages, 2,353; emigrants, 9,708 (1,771 Maltese); immigrants, 8,147 (1,190 returning Maltese). 2009 rates per 1,000 population: birth, 9.4; death, 7.8; marriage, 5.7. Abortion is illegal, as was divorce until Oct. 2011. Parliament voted in July 2011 to legalize divorce following a vote in favour of the reform by 52.7% to 47.3% in a referendum held in May. Until then Malta had been one of only three countries still to outlaw divorce (the others being the Philippines and the Vatican). In 2008 the most popular age range for marrying was 25–29 for both males and females. Life expectancy at birth in 2013: 77.5 years for males and 82.0 years for females. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 0.5%. Infant mortality in 2010: five per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 1.3 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 231,331 main (fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscribers numbered 556,652 in 2013 (129.8 per 100 persons). There were 135,758 fixed internet subscriptions in 2012 and 149,788 wireless broadband subscriptions. In March 2012 there were 192,000 Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

The three Maltese islands and minor islets lie in the Mediterranean 93 km (at the nearest point) south of Sicily and 288 km east of Tunisia. The area of Malta is 246 km<sup>2</sup> (94.9 sq. miles); Gozo, 67 km<sup>2</sup> (25.9 sq. miles) and the virtually uninhabited Comino, 3 km<sup>2</sup> (1.1 sq. miles); total area, 316 km<sup>2</sup> (121.9 sq. miles). The census population in 2011 was 417,432 (Malta island, 386,057; Gozo and Comino, 31,375); density, 1,321 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 94.8% of the population were urban. Chief town and port, Valletta, population 5,748 (2011 census). Other towns: Birkirkara, 21,749; Mosta, 19,750; St Paul's Bay, 16,395; Qormi, 16,394; Zabbar, 14,916. The constitution provides that the national language and language of the courts is Maltese, but both Maltese and English are official languages. Italian is also spoken.

## Tourism

Tourism is a major component of the Maltese economy. In 2010 there were 1,336,000 staying foreign tourists, spending US\$1,130 m.; 31% of tourists in 2010 were from the UK and 16% from Italy. Cruise passenger visits totalled 491,201 in 2010 (more than double the 2000 total of 170,782).

# Marshall Islands

## Republic of the Marshall Islands

### Factsheet

Capital: Majuro  
Population estimate, 2015: 53,000  
GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 4,674  
Internet domain extension: .mh

### Civil Aviation

There were two international airports and 30 airfields on 24 atolls and islands in 2004. The main airport is Majuro International. In 2017 there were flights to Guam, Honolulu, Kiribati, Micronesia and Nauru as well as domestic services. The national carrier is Air Marshall Islands.

### Climate

Hot and humid, with wet season from May to Nov. The islands border the typhoon belt. Jaluit, Jan. 81 °F (27.2 °C), July 82 °F (27.8 °C). Annual rainfall 161" (4,034 mm).

### Constitution and Government

Under the constitution which came into force on 1 May 1979, the Marshall Islands form a republic with a *President* as head of state and government, who is elected for 4-year terms by the parliament. The parliament consists of a 33-member *House of Assembly* (Nitijela), directly elected by popular vote for 4-year terms. There is also a 12-member appointed *Council of Chiefs* (Iroij) which has a consultative and advisory capacity on matters affecting customary law and practice.

### Currency

US currency is used.

### Defence

The Compact of Free Association gives the USA responsibility for defence in return for US assistance. In 2003 the US lease of Kwajalein Atoll, a missile testing site, was extended by 50 years.

### Economy

Agriculture accounts for approximately 15% of GDP, industry 13% and services 72%.

### Labour

In 2004 the labour force was estimated at 17,342. Approximately 34% were unemployed in 2004. In 2007, 37% of employed people worked in the private sector. In the same year 35% of workers were employed in public administration, 18% in wholesale and retail trade, 12% in extra-territorial organizations and bodies and 8% in construction. Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing accounted for just 3%.

### Press

There is a publication called *Micronitor* (The Marshall Islands Journal).

### Religion

The population is mainly Protestant (primarily the United Church of Christ). Other Churches and denominations include Assemblies of God, Roman Catholics, Latter-day Saints (Mormons), Bukot Nan Jesus and Baptists.

### Roads

There are paved roads on major islands (Majuro, Kwajalein); roads are otherwise stone-, coral- or laterite-surfaced. In 2004 there were 1,555 passenger cars and 159 trucks and buses.

## Shipping

Majuro is the main port. In Jan. 2009 there were 1,125 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 41.58 m. GT (a figure exceeded only by the fleets of Panama, Liberia and the Bahamas). Of the 1,125 vessels registered, 434 were oil tankers, 311 bulk carriers, 192 container ships, 110 general cargo ships, 56 liquid gas tankers, 15 chemical tankers and seven passenger ships. The ship's register of the Marshall Islands is a flag of convenience register.

## Social Statistics

2006 births, estimate, 1,576; deaths, 318. 2006 rates per 1,000 population, estimates: birth, 30.3; death, 6.1. Infant mortality rate, 2010, 22 per 1,000 live births. Life expectancy, 2008: male, 68.9 years; female, 73.0. Annual population growth rate, 1998–2008, 1.6%; fertility rate, 2008, 3.7 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2014 there were 2,361 main (fixed) telephone lines. There is a US satellite communications system on Kwajalein and two Intelsat satellite earth stations (Pacific Ocean). The National Telecommunications Authority provides domestic and international services. Mobile phone subscribers numbered 15,500 in 2014. An estimated 11.7% of the population were internet users in 2013.

## Territory and Population

The Marshall Islands lie in the North Pacific Ocean north of Kiribati and east of Micronesia, and consist of an archipelago of 31 coral atolls, five single islands and 1,152 islets strung out in two chains, eastern and western. Of these, 25 atolls and islands are inhabited. The land area is 181 km<sup>2</sup> (70 sq. miles). At the 2011 census the population was 53,158 (27,243 males); density, 294 per km<sup>2</sup>. The capital is Mjauro (also known as Dalap-Uliga-Darrit) on Majuro Atoll (2011 population, 27,797) in the eastern chain. The largest atoll in the western chain is Kwajalein (2011 population, 11,408), containing the only other town, Ebeye. In 2011 the population was 72.1% urban. About 88% of the population are Marshallese, a Micronesian people. English is universally spoken and is the official language. Two major Marshallese dialects from the Malayo-Polynesian family and Japanese are also spoken.

## Tourism

In 2011, 4,559 non-resident tourists (excluding same-day visitors) arrived by air. Tourism offers one of the best opportunities for economic growth.

# Mauritania

*Al-Jumhuriyah al-Islamiyah al-Muritaniyah (Islamic Republic of Mauritania)*

## Factsheet

Capital: Nouakchott  
 Population estimate, 2015: 4.07 m.  
 GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 3,560  
 HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.506/156=  
 Internet domain extension: .mr

## Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Nouakchott, Nouâdhibou and Néma. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Mauritania-based carriers flew 2.0 m. km; passenger-km totalled 160.8 m. in the same year. Mauritania Airlines International, founded in 2010, is the national flag carrier.

## Climate

A tropical climate, but conditions are generally arid, even near the coast, where the only appreciable rains come in July to Sept. Nouakchott, Jan. 71 °F (21.7 °C), July 82 °F (27.8 °C). Annual rainfall 6" (158 mm).

## Constitution and Government

A referendum was held on 25 June 2006 to approve a new constitution. Turnout was 76.5%; 96.99% of votes cast were in favour. The constitution imposes a limit of two 5-year terms for a president, to be elected by popular vote. It also sets a maximum age of 75 for a president. There is a 56-member *Senate* (53 elected and three appointed) and a 146-member *National Assembly*. Following a coup d'état in Aug. 2008 a transitional government took power, headed by an 11-member High Council of State (all of whom came from the military). The junta retained the constitution and vowed to protect the country's democratic institutions. In April 2009 Gen. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz—the leader of the coup—stood down as head of government to run in the presidential elections of July 2009, which he won by a large margin.

## Currency

The monetary unit is the *ouguiya* (MRO) which is divided into five *khoums*.

## Defence

Conscription is authorized for 2 years. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$145 m. (US\$42 per capita), representing approximately 3% of GDP.

## Economy

In 2010 agriculture accounted for 16.8% of GDP, industry 44.0% and services 39.2%.

## Labour

In 2008 the economically active population was estimated at 1,353,000 (58% males). Of those in employment, 24.6% worked in commerce, 15.2% in administration, 14.9% in services and 10.5% in agriculture. The unemployment rate in 2008 was 31.2%. Slavery was only abolished in Mauritania in 1981, making it the last country where it was still being practised legally. Nonetheless, the practice remains widespread and there were 0.15 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

In 2008 there were four daily newspapers with a circulation of 9,000.

## Rail

A 704-km railway links Zouérate with the port of Point-Central, 10 km south of Nouâdhibou, and is used primarily for iron ore exports. In 2008 it carried 11.1 m. tonnes of freight and 100,000 passengers.

## Religion

Over 99% of Mauritians are Sunni Muslim, mainly of the Qadiriyyah sect.

## Roads

There were about 11,066 km of roads in 2006, of which 26.8% were paved.

## Shipping

The major ports are at Point-Central (for mineral exports), Nouakchott and Nouâdhibou.

## Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 108,000; deaths, 33,000. 2008 rates, estimate (per 1,000 population): births, 33.6; deaths, 10.3. Expectation of life at birth in 2013 was 60.0 years for males and 63.1 for females. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.6%. Infant mortality, 2010, 75 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 4.5 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 54,000 active fixed telephone subscriptions and 3,988,000 active mobile phone subscriptions (102.5 per 100 persons). In the same year an estimated 6.2% of the population were internet users.

### Territory and Population

Mauritania is bounded west by the Atlantic Ocean, north by Western Sahara, northeast by Algeria, east and southeast by Mali, and south by Senegal. The total area is 1,030,700 km<sup>2</sup> (398,000 sq. miles) of which 47% is desert. The population at the 2013 census was 3,537,368; density, 3.4 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 41.7% of the population lived in urban areas. Mauritania was traditionally a nomadic country but since independence in 1960 there has been rapid urbanization, primarily as a result of a series of droughts. It is estimated that around 40% of the population are Black Moors, 30% White Moors and 30% Black Africans of the Pulaar, Soninke and Wolof tribes. Arabic is the official language. French no longer has official status. Pulaar, Soninke and Wolof are national languages.

### Tourism

There were 30,000 foreign tourists in 2000; spending by tourists totalled US\$25 m.

## Mauritius

### Republic of Mauritius

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Port Louis  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 1.27 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 17,470  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.777/63  
*Internet domain extension:* .mu

#### Civil Aviation

In 2012, 2,690,869 passengers were handled at Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport. The national carrier is Air Mauritius, which is partly state-owned. In 2013 it carried 1,318,000 passengers (1,196,000 on international flights).

#### Climate

The sub-tropical climate is humid. Most rain falls in the summer. Rainfall varies between 40" (1,000 mm) on the coast to 200" (5,000 mm) on the central plateau, though the west coast only has 35" (875 mm). Mauritius lies in the cyclone belt, whose season runs from Nov. to April, but is seldom affected by intense storms. Port Louis, Jan. 73 °F (22.8 °C), July 81 °F (27.2 °C). Annual rainfall 40" (1,000 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

The present constitution came into effect on 12 March 1968 and was amended on 12 March 1992. The head of state is the *President*, elected by a simple majority of members of the National Assembly. The role of *President* is largely a ceremonial one. The 69-seat *National Assembly* consists of 62 elected members (three each for the 20 constituencies of Mauritius and two for Rodrigues) and seven additional seats in order to ensure a fair and adequate representation of each community within the Assembly. The government is headed by the *Prime Minister* and a Council of Ministers. Elections are held every 5 years on the basis of universal adult suffrage.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Mauritius rupee* (MUR) of 100 cents.

### Defence

The Police Department is responsible for defence. Its strength was (2008) 8,000. In addition there is a special mobile paramilitary force of approximately 1,400, a Coast Guard of about 700 and a helicopter unit of about 100. Defence expenditure totalled US\$83 m. in 2013 (US\$63 per capita), representing 0.7% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 4.3% of GDP in 2009, industry 29.1% and services 66.6%.

### Labour

In 2007 the labour force was estimated at 548,900. Manufacturing employed the largest proportion, with 30.8% of total employment; agriculture, forestry and fishing, 7.2%; wholesale and retail trade, 6.3%. In 2007 the unemployment rate was 8.5%.

### Press

In 2008 there were four daily papers with a combined circulation of 110,000, plus 16 non-dailies.

### Religion

In 2010 an estimated 56.4% of the population were Hindus according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, with 25.3% Christians (mainly Catholics) and 16.7% Muslims.

### Roads

In 2007 there were 75 km of motorway, 962 km of main roads and 991 km of secondary and other roads. In 2007 there were 144,400 passenger cars, 142,600 motorcycles and mopeds, 40,900 lorries and vans, and 4,000 buses and coaches. In 2007 there were 140 deaths as a result of road accidents.

### Shipping

A free port was established at Port Louis in Sept. 1991. In 2008–09 Port Louis handled 6,295,000 tonnes of cargo. In Jan. 2009 there were three ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 13,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

2007: births, 17,034 (rate of 13.5 per 1,000 population); deaths, 8,498 (6.7 per 1,000); marriages, 11,547 (9.2 per 1,000); divorces, 1,302 (1.0 per 1,000). In 2007 the suicide rate was 15.7 per 100,000 population among men and 4.7 per 100,000 among women. Population growth rate in 2007 was 0.65%. In 2007 the most popular age range for marrying was 25–29 for males and 20–24 for females. Life expectancy at birth in 2007 was 69.1 years for males and 75.8 for females. Infant mortality, 2010, 13 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2007, 2.0 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2012 there were 349,100 main (fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscribers numbered 1,486,000 in 2012 (119.9 per 100 persons). In 2013, 39.0% of the population were internet users. In June 2012 there were 324,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Mauritius, the main island, lies 800 km (500 miles) east of Madagascar. Rodrigues is 560 km (350 miles) east. The outer islands are Agalega and the St Brandon Group. Port Louis is the capital (128,851 inhabitants in 2010). Other towns: Beau Bassin-Rose Hill, 110,687; Vacoas-Phoenix, 106,404; Curepipe, 84,487; Quatre Bornes, 77,495. In 2010, 58.3% of the population were rural. The majority of the population are Indo-Mauritians (people of Indian descent). The Afro-Mauritians are the other major group, and there are also Sino-Mauritians (of Chinese origin) and Franco-Mauritians (descendants of French settlers). Mauritius has no indigenous population. The official language is English, although French is widely used. Creole and Bhojpuri are vernacular languages.

## Tourism

In 2010 there were 934,827 visitors (including 605,401 from Europe and 226,207 from other African countries), bringing in US\$1,227 m. in tourist revenue.

# Mexico

## *Estados Unidos Mexicanos (United Mexican States)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Mexico City  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 127.02 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 16,056  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.756/74  
*Internet domain extension:* .mx

### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Mexico City (Benito Juárez) and 55 other international and 29 national airports. Each of the larger states has a local airline which links it with main airports. The national carrier is Aeroméxico, which was privatized in 1988. In 2012 Mexico City handled 29,491,553 passengers (19,678,042 on domestic flights). Cancún was the second busiest airport for passengers in 2012, with 14,555,184 (9,855,771 on international flights). Guadalajara handled 7,448,214 passengers (4,966,411 on domestic flights).

### Climate

Latitude and relief produce a variety of climates. Arid and semi-arid conditions are found in the north, with extreme temperatures, whereas in the south there is a humid tropical climate, with temperatures varying with altitude. Conditions on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico are very warm and humid. In general, the rainy season lasts from May to Nov. Mexico City, Jan. 55 °F (12.9 °C), July 61 °F (16.2°C). Annual rainfall 31" (787.6 mm).

### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was promulgated on 5 Feb. 1917 and has occasionally been amended. Mexico is a representative, democratic and federal republic, comprising 31 states and a federal district, each state being free and sovereign in all internal affairs, but united in a federation established according to the principles of the Fundamental Law. The head of state and supreme executive authority is the *President*, directly elected for a non-renewable 6-year term. The constitution was amended in April 2001, granting autonomy to 10 m. indigenous peoples. The amendment was opposed both by the National Congress of Indigenous Peoples and Zapatista rebels who claimed it would leave many indigenous people worse off. There is complete separation of legislative, executive and judicial powers (Art. 49). Legislative power is vested in a General Congress of two chambers, a *Chamber of Deputies* and a *Senate*.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Mexican peso* (MXN) of 100 *centavos*. A new peso was introduced on 1 Jan. 1993: 1 new peso = 1,000 old pesos. The peso was devalued by 13.94% in Dec. 1994. Foreign exchange reserves were US\$82,023 m. and gold reserves 288,000 troy oz in Sept. 2009.

### Defence

Conscription is for 12 months. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$5,775 m. (US\$50 per capita), representing 0.5% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 4.0% of GDP in 2009, industry 33.7% and services 62.3%.

### Labour

In the period March–June 2001 the employed population totalled 39,004,300. The principal areas of activity were (in 1,000): wholesale and retail trade/repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods, 8,839.2; manufacturing, 7,373.0; agriculture, hunting and forestry, 6,920.7; construction, 2,396.9; hotels and restaurants, 1,982.2; education, 1,971.6. Unemployment rate, Dec. 2014, 4.3%. The daily minimum wage for general workers at Jan. 2014 ranged from 63.77 new pesos to 67.29 new pesos. Mexico had 0.1 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2008 there were 462 daily newspapers with a circulation of 4,590,000. The three leading dailies are *Esto* (average daily circulation of 320,000 in 2008), *La Prensa* (315,000) and *El Universal Gráfico* (300,000).

### Rail

The National Railway, *Ferrocarriles Nacionales de México*, was split into four companies in 1995 as a preliminary to privatization. It ceased operations in 1999. The rail network comprises 26,717 km of 1,435 mm gauge. In 2010 railways carried 40.2 m. passengers and 104.6 m. tonnes of freight. There is a 202 km metro in Mexico City with 11 lines. There are light rail lines in Guadalajara (24 km) and Monterrey (32 km).

### Religion

In 2010 there were an estimated 96.3 m. Roman Catholics according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, giving Mexico the second largest Catholic population after Brazil. In Feb. 2016 there were five cardinals. The Church is separated from the State, and the constitution of 1917 provided strict regulation of this and all other religions. In 1991 Congress approved an amendment to the 1917 constitution permitting the recognition of churches by the state, the possession of property by churches and the enfranchisement of priests. Church buildings remain state property. There were also an estimated 9.4 m. Protestants and 2.0 m. other Christians in 2010. A further 5.3 m. people in 2010 were religiously unaffiliated.

### Roads

The total road length in 2007 was 360,075 km, of which 6,565 km were motorways, 40,631 km other main roads, 73,874 km secondary roads and 239,005 km other roads. In 2005 there were 14,074,669 passenger cars, 7,111,172 trucks and vans and 264,726 buses and coaches. There were 5,398 fatalities as a result of road accidents in 2007.

### Shipping

Mexico had 114 ports and terminals in 2007 (66 ocean navigation), of which the most important are Altamira, Progreso, Tampico, Tuxpan and Veracruz on the Gulf coast and Manzanillo on the Pacific coast. Mexico's busiest port is Manzanillo, which handled 22.11 m. tonnes of cargo in 2008 (7.74 m. tonnes loaded and 14.37 m. tonnes discharged). A law to privatize port operations was passed in 1993. In Jan. 2009 there were 81 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 879,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

Rates per 1,000 population, 2009: births, 18.0; deaths, 4.9. In 2006 the most popular age range for marrying was 20–24 for both males and females. Infant mortality was 14.7 per 1,000 live births in 2009. Life expectancy at birth in 2007 was 73.6 years for males and 78.5 years for females. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 1.8%. Fertility rate, 2008, 2.2 births per woman (less than half the number in the late 1970s). Much of the population still lives in poverty, with the gap between the modern north and the backward south constantly growing.

### Telecommunications

Telmex (Teléfonos de México), a former state-run company privatized in 1991 and a wholly owned subsidiary of América Móvil, is the leading provider of fixed-line telephone services and broadband, with around 80% of the market. In 2011 there were 19,997,000 fixed telephone lines and 94,583,000 mobile phone subscribers (792.4 per 1,000 persons). The leading mobile phone operator is Telcel (part of América Móvil), which has about

70% of the market. In 2013 there were 13,539,000 fixed internet subscriptions and 16,865,000 wireless broadband subscriptions. In Dec. 2011 there were 31.0 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Mexico is bounded in the north by the USA, west and south by the Pacific Ocean, southeast by Guatemala, Belize and the Caribbean Sea, and northeast by the Gulf of Mexico. It comprises 1,964,375 km<sup>2</sup> (758,464 sq. miles), including uninhabited islands (5,127 km<sup>2</sup>) offshore. Population at recent censuses: 1970, 48,225,238; 1980, 66,846,833; 1990, 81,249,645; 2000, 97,483,412; 2005, 103,263,388; 2010, 112,336,538 (57,481,307 females). Population density, 57.2 per km<sup>2</sup> (2010). 78.1% of the population were urban in 2011. The *de facto* official language is Spanish, the mother tongue of over 93% of the population (2005), but there are some indigenous language groups (of which Náhuatl, Maya, Zapotec, Otomi and Mixtec are the most important) spoken by 6,011,202 persons over 5 years of age (census 2005). The populations (2010 census) of the largest cities (1,000,000 and more) were: Mexico City, 8,555,272; Ecatepec de Morelos, 1,655,015; Guadalajara, 1,495,182; Heroica Puebla de Zaragoza, 1,434,062; Juárez, 1,321,004; Tijuana, 1,300,983; León de los Aldama, 1,238,962; Zapopan, 1,142,483; Monterrey, 1,135,512; Ciudad Nezahualcoyotl, 1,104,585.

### Tourism

There were 21.45 m. non-resident tourists in 2009 (excluding same-day visitors), making Mexico the tenth most popular tourist destination; spending amounted to US\$11,275 m. in 2009.

## Micronesia

### Federated States of Micronesia

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Palikir  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 104,000  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 3,432  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.639/107  
*Internet domain extension:* .fm

#### Civil Aviation

There are international airports on Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap and Kosrae. There were 12 operational airports and airfields in total in 2012. Services are provided by United Airlines. In 2013 there were international flights to Guam, Honolulu, Manila, the Marshall Islands and Palau in addition to domestic services.

#### Climate

Tropical, with heavy year-round rainfall, especially in the eastern islands, and occasional typhoons (June–Dec.). Kolonia, Jan. 80 °F (26.7 °C), July 79 °F (26.1 °C). Annual rainfall 194" (4,859 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

Under the Constitution founded on 10 May 1979, there is an executive presidency and a 14-member *National Congress*, comprising ten members elected for 2-year terms from single-member constituencies of similar electorates, and four members elected one from each State for a 4-year term by proportional representation. The *Federal President* and *Vice-President* first run for the Congress before they are elected by members of Congress for a 4-year term.

#### Currency

US currency is used.

#### Labour

In 2007 just over half the labour force were government employees. In 2007, 41.7% of employees worked in public administration, 21.1% in wholesale and retail trade and repairs and 7.0% in transport, storage and communications. Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing accounted for 1.7% of employees. The unemployment rate was 16.2% in 2010.

#### Religion

The population is predominantly Christian. Yap is mainly Roman Catholic; Protestantism is prevalent elsewhere.

#### Roads

In 2004 there were 240 km of roads (42 km paved).

#### Shipping

The main ports are Kolonia (Pohnpei), Colonia (Yap), Lepukos (Chuuk), Okat and Lelu (Kosrae). In Jan. 2009 there were 11 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 9,000 GT.

#### Social Statistics

2009 estimates: births, 2,800; deaths, 700. Rates, 2009 estimates (per 1,000 population): birth, 25; death, 6. Infant mortality rate (2010), 34 per 1,000 live births. 2013 life expectancy, 68.0 years for men and 69.9 years for women. Population growth rate, 2005–10, –0.5%; fertility rate, 2008, 3.6 births per woman.

#### Telecommunications

There were an estimated 38,000 mobile phone subscriptions in 2009 (343.2 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 8,700 fixed telephone lines; in the same year there were an estimated 15,350 internet users.

#### Territory and Population

The Federated States lie in the North Pacific Ocean between 137° and 163° E, comprising 607 islands with a total land area of 701 km<sup>2</sup> (271 sq. miles). The 2010 census population was 102,843; density, 147 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 22.8% of the population lived in urban areas. Kosrae consists of a single island. Its main town is Lelu (2,160 inhabitants in 2010). Pohnpei comprises a single island (covering 334 km<sup>2</sup>) and eight scattered coral atolls. Kolonia (6,074 inhabitants in 2010) was the national capital until 1989. The new capital, Palikir (6,647 inhabitants in 2010), lies approximately 10 km southwest in the Palikir valley. Chuuk consists of 542 islets in a 7,190 km<sup>2</sup> reef-fringed lagoon (36,152 inhabitants in 2010); the state also includes coral atolls (12,502 inhabitants in 2010), the most important being the Mortlock Islands. English is used in schools and is the official language. Trukese, Pohnpeian, Yapese and Kosrean are also spoken.

#### Tourism

In 2012 there were 38,263 foreign visitors, up from 35,378 in 2011 although down from 44,738 in 2010.

## Moldova

### Republica Moldova (Republic of Moldova)

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Chişinău  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 4.08 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 5,223  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.693/107  
*Internet domain extension:* .md

### Civil Aviation

The main Moldovan-based airline is Air Moldova, which in 2013 carried 527,000 passengers. In 2010 it flew to Athens, Bucharest, Frankfurt, İstanbul, Larnaca, Lisbon, London, Madrid, Milan, Moscow, Paris, Prague, Rome, St Petersburg, Verona and Vienna. In 2012 the airport at Chişinău handled 1,220,496 passengers (almost all on international flights) and 2,766 tonnes of cargo.

### Climate

The climate is temperate, with warm summers, crisp, sunny autumns and cold winters with snow. Chişinău, Jan.  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$ , July  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Annual rainfall 677 mm.

### Constitution and Government

A declaration of republican sovereignty was adopted in June 1990 and in Aug. 1991 the republic declared itself independent. A new constitution came into effect on 27 Aug. 1994, which defines Moldova as an 'independent, democratic and unitary state'. The 1994 constitution makes provision for the autonomy of Transnistria and the Gagauz (Gagauzi Yeri) region. Work began in July 2003 on the drafting of a new constitution to resolve the conflict between Moldova and Transnistria.

### Currency

A new unit of currency, the *leu* (MDL), replaced the *rouble* in Nov. 1993.

### Defence

Conscription is for 12 months (3 months for higher education graduates). In 2013 military expenditure totalled US\$24 m. (US\$7 per capita), representing 0.3% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 10.1% of GDP in 2009, industry 13.1% and services 76.8%.

### Labour

In 2007 the labour force totalled 1,314,000. A total of 1,247,000 persons were in employment in 2007, including 409,000 engaged in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fisheries, 250,000 in public administration, education, health and social work, 198,000 in wholesale and retail trade/hotels and restaurants and 128,000 in manufacturing. In 2007 the unemployment rate was 5.1%. Moldova had 33,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2008 there were seven paid-for daily newspapers and 240 non-dailies. The dailies had a combined circulation of 303,000, with the most widely read being the Russian-language *Komsomolskaya Pravda v Moldove*.

### Rail

Total length in 2011 was 1,146 km of 1,524 mm gauge. Passenger-km travelled in 2011 came to 363 m. and freight tonne-km to 1,172 m.

### Religion

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 the population was an estimated 95.5% Orthodox. There are two main Orthodox denominations. The larger Moldovan Orthodox Church is subordinate to the Russian Orthodox Church while the Bessarabian Orthodox Church is subordinate to the Romanian Orthodox Church.

### Roads

There were 9,343 km of public roads in 2009 (94.3% hard surfaced). Registered passenger cars (including taxis) in 2008 numbered 366,351, there were 115,967 goods vehicles and 21,491 buses and minibuses. In 2005 there were 2,289 road accidents resulting in 391 deaths.

### Shipping

In 2008, 0.11 m. passengers and 0.20 m. tonnes of freight were carried on inland waterways. In Jan. 2009 there were 63 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 170,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

2007: births, 37,973; deaths, 43,050. Rates, 2007 (per 1,000 population): births, 10.6; deaths, 12.0. In 2006 the most popular age at first marriage was 20–24 for both males and females. Life expectancy at birth in 2007 was 65.0 years for males and 72.6 years for females. Annual population growth rate, 2000–05,  $-0.2\%$ . Infant mortality, 2010, 16 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 1.3 births per woman (one of the lowest rates in the world). In the period 2000–06, 48.5% of the population were classified as living below the national poverty line.

### Telecommunications

There were 2,785,000 mobile phone subscriptions (772.8 per 1,000 inhabitants) in 2009 and 1,139,000 fixed telephone lines. In the same year there were 187,000 fixed broadband internet subscriptions and 80,000 mobile broadband subscriptions. In March 2012 there were 221,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Moldova is bounded in the east and south by Ukraine and on the west by Romania. The area is 33,848 km<sup>2</sup> (13,067 sq. miles). At the last census, in 2004, the population was 3,938,679 (52.2% female). Population estimate, Jan. 2012: 4,077,000; density, 120 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 47.7% of the population lived in urban areas. Ethnicity (2004): Moldovans accounted for 69.6%, Ukrainians 11.3%, Russians 9.3%, Gagauz 3.9%, Bulgarians 2.0%, Roma (Gypsy) 1.9% and others 2.0%. Apart from Chişinău, the capital (population estimate of 667,600 in 2012), major towns are Tiraspol (147,800 in 2012), Bălţi (144,300 in 2012) and Tighina (93,300 in 2012). The official Moldovan language (i.e. Romanian) was written in Cyrillic prior to the restoration of the Roman alphabet in 1989. It is spoken by 62% of the population; the use of other languages (Russian, Gagauz) is safeguarded by the Constitution.

### Tourism

In 2010, 64,000 non-resident tourists stayed in holiday accommodation; 24% of tourists in 2010 were from Romania, 10% from Russia and 10% from Ukraine.

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## Monaco

### *Principauté de Monaco (Principality of Monaco)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Monaco  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 38,000  
*GDP per capita, 2014:* US\$187,650  
*Internet domain extension:* .mc

#### Civil Aviation

There are helicopter flights to Nice with Heli Air Monaco and Heli Inter. Helicopter movements (2004) at the Heliport of Monaco (Fontvieille), 37,521; the number of passengers carried was 112,379. The nearest airport is at Nice in France.

#### Climate

A Mediterranean climate, with mild moist winters and hot dry summers. Monaco, Jan.  $50^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $10^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), July  $74^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $23.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). Annual rainfall 30" (758 mm).

## Constitution and Government

On 17 Dec. 1962 a new constitution was promulgated which maintains the hereditary monarchy. The reigning Prince is **Albert II**, b. 14 March 1958, son of Prince Rainier III, 1923–2005, and Grace Kelly, 1929–1982; married Charlene Wittstock on 1 and 2 July 2011. Prince Albert succeeded his father Rainier III, who died on 6 April 2005. Executive power is exercised jointly by the Prince and a five-member *Council of government*, headed by a Minister of State (a French citizen). A 24-member *National Council* is elected for 5-year terms. The constitution can be modified only with the approval of the National Council. Laws of 1992, 2003 and 2005 permit Monegasque women to give their nationality to their children.

## Currency

On 1 Jan. 1999 the euro (EUR) replaced the French franc as the legal currency in Monaco at the irrevocable conversion rate of 6.55957 French francs to one euro. The euro, which consists of 100 cents, has been in circulation since 1 Jan. 2002. On the introduction of the euro there was a 'dual circulation' period before the franc ceased to be legal tender on 17 Feb. 2002.

## Labour

There were 49,610 persons employed in Jan. 2012. 45,442 worked in the private sector; 4,168 in the public sector. 32,401 French citizens worked in Monaco in 2012 (of which 29,778 in the private sector and 2,623 in the public sector).

## Press

Monaco has no domestically-published daily newspaper. In 2008 there were two state weeklies: *Journal de Monaco* (published by the government) and *Monaco Hebdo*.

## Rail

The 1.7 km of main line passing through the country are operated by the French National Railways (SNCF). In 2011, 5.45 m. people arrived at or departed from Monaco railway station.

## Religion

Around three-quarters of the resident population are Roman Catholic. Much of the rest of the population does not have any religious affiliation. There is a Roman Catholic archbishop.

## Roads

There were 77 km of roads in 2007. In 2004 there were 33,275 vehicles. Monaco has the densest network of roads of any country in the world. In 2004, 5,141,964 people travelled by bus.

## Shipping

In 2004 there were 3,829 vessels registered, of which 12 were over 100 tonnes. 2,636 yachts put in to the port of Monaco and 1,193 at Fontvieille in 2004. 178 liners put in to port in Monaco; 10,581 people embarked, 10,195 disembarked and 104,202 were in transit.

## Social Statistics

2008: births, 970; deaths, 545. 2005 marriages, 161; divorces, 69. Rates per 1,000 population, 2008: birth, 31.2; death, 17.5; marriage (2005), 5.0; divorce (2005), 2.1. Annual population growth rate, 1998–2008, 0.4%; fertility rate, 2008, 1.5 births per woman. Infant mortality per 1,000 live births (2010), 3.

## Telecommunications

There were 46,850 fixed telephone lines in 2013 (1,238.4 per 1,000 inhabitants). Mobile phone subscriptions numbered 35,464 in 2013. An estimated 90.7% of the population were internet users in 2013.

## Territory and Population

Monaco is bounded in the south by the Mediterranean and elsewhere by France (Department of Alpes Maritimes). The area is 1.97 km<sup>2</sup> (0.8 sq. miles), making it the second smallest sovereign country—only the Vatican City is smaller. The Principality is divided into four districts: Monaco-Ville, la

Condamine, Monte-Carlo and Fontvieille. Population (2008 census), 31,109; there were 6,687 Monegasques (22%), 8,785 French (28%) and 5,778 Italian (19%). In Dec. 2011 the population was estimated at 36,371. The population is 100% urban. The official language is French.

## Tourism

In 2009, 264,540 foreign visitors (212,966 leisure and 51,574 business) spent a total of 778,451 nights in Monaco; the main visitors were French, followed by Italians and British. There were also 235,904 cruise ship passengers in 2009. There are three casinos run by the state, including the one at Monte Carlo.

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# Mongolia

## Mongol Uls

## Factsheet

*Capital:* Ulaanbaatar

*Population estimate, 2015:* 2.96 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 10,729

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.727/90=

*Internet domain extension:* .mn

## Civil Aviation

MIAT Mongolian Airlines operates internal services, and in 2010 flew from Ulaanbaatar to Beijing, Berlin, Moscow, Seoul and Tokyo. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Mongolian-based carriers flew 7.4 m. km; passenger-km totalled 861.0 m. in the same year. In 2012 Ulaanbaatar handled 1,096,649 passengers and 6,143 tonnes of freight.

## Climate

A very extreme climate, with 6 months of mean temperatures below freezing, but much higher temperatures occur for a month or two in summer. Rainfall is very low and limited to the months from mid-May to mid-Sept. Ulaanbaatar, Jan. −14 °F (−25.6 °C), July 61 °F (16.1 °C). Annual rainfall 8" (208 mm).

## Constitution and Government

The constitution of 12 Feb. 1992 abolished the 'People's Democracy', introduced democratic institutions and a market economy and guarantees freedom of speech. The *President* is directly elected for renewable 4-year terms. Since June 1992 the legislature has consisted of a single-chamber 76-seat parliament, the *Great Hural (Ulsyn Ich-Chural)*, which elects the Prime Minister.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *tugrik* (MNT) of 100 *möngö*.

## Defence

Conscription is for 1 year for males aged 18–25 years. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$133 m. (US\$41 per capita), representing 1.1% of GDP.

## Economy

In 2009 agriculture accounted for 19.6% of GDP, industry 33.0% and services 47.4%.

## Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 1,302,000 (1,024,000 in 2003). 65.6% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 5.0% of the population was unemployed.

## Press

In 2008 there were 15 paid-for daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 61,000 and 115 paid-for non-dailies with a circulation of 197,000. The leading paid-for dailies are *Udriin Sonin* (Daily News) and *Onoodor*.

## Rail

The Trans-Mongolian Railway (1,815 km of 1,520 mm gauge in 2011) connects Ulaanbaatar with the Russian Federation and China. There are spur lines to Erdenet and to the coal mines at Baganuur, Nalayh and Sharyn Gol and the fluorspar mine at Bor-Öndör. A separate line connects Choybalsan in the east with Borzaya on the Trans-Siberian Railway. In 2011, 3.8 m. passengers and 18.4 m. tonnes of freight were carried.

## Religion

Tibetan Buddhist Lamaism is the prevalent religion; the Dalai Lama is its spiritual head. In 2009 there were 457 registered places of worship; 239 of these were Buddhist, 161 Christian and 44 Muslim.

## Roads

The total road network covers around 49,200 km, of which about 2,400 km are paved. There are 1,185 km of surfaced roads running around Ulaanbaatar, from Ulaanbaatar to Darhan, at points on the frontier with the Russian Federation and towards the south. Truck services run where there are no surfaced roads. Vehicles in use in 2007 included 110,200 passenger cars and 37,300 lorries and vans. In 2008 passenger transport totalled 1,215 m. passenger-km and freight 782 m. tonne-km. In 2007 there were 562 fatalities as a result of road accidents.

## Shipping

There is a steamer service on the Selenge River and a tug and barge service on Hövsgöl Lake.

## Social Statistics

Births, 2005, 45,326; deaths, 16,480. 2001 rates: birth, 17.8 per 1,000 population; death, 6.5 per 1,000; marriage, 5.9 per 1,000; divorce, 0.6 per 1,000. Annual population growth rate, 2000–05, 1.3%. Infant mortality rate, 2010, 26 per 1,000 live births. Expectation of life in 2007 was 63.0 years for males and 69.6 for females. Fertility rate, 2008, 2.0 births per woman. Mongolia has had one of the most impressive reductions in its fertility rate of any country in the world over the past quarter of a century, having had a rate of 4.2 births per woman in 1990.

## Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 175,698 main (fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscribers numbered 3,526,000 in 2013 (124.2 per 100 persons). An estimated 17.7% of the population were internet users in 2013. In March 2012 there were 459,000 Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Mongolia is bounded in the north by the Russian Federation, and in the east and south and west by China. Area, 1,564,100 km<sup>2</sup> (603,900 sq. miles). Population (2010 census), 2,647,545. Density in 2010 was 1.7 per km<sup>2</sup>, making Mongolia the most sparsely populated country in the world. In 2011, 62.5% of the population were urban. More Mongols live in China than in Mongolia (5.8 m. according to China's 2010 census). The population is predominantly made up of Mongolian peoples (78.8% Khalkh). There is a Turkic Kazakh minority (3.7% of the population) and 21 Mongol minorities. The official language is Khalkh Mongol, which uses a modified Cyrillic alphabet. The republic is administratively divided into 21 provinces (*aimag*) and the capital, Ulaanbaatar. The provinces are sub-divided into 334 districts or counties (*suums*).

## Tourism

In 2011 there were 458,000 non-resident visitors to Mongolia; visitor numbers have doubled since 2003 and trebled since 2000.

# Montenegro

## Republika Crna Gora (Republic of Montenegro)

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Podgorica

*Population estimate, 2015:* 626,000

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 14,558

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.802/49

*Internet domain extension:* .me

### Civil Aviation

The national carrier is Montenegro Airlines, which has flights to a number of cities throughout Europe. There are airports at Podgorica and Tivat, which handled 450,504 and 532,148 passengers in 2009 respectively.

### Climate

Mostly a central European type of climate, with cold winters and hot summers. Podgorica, Jan. 2.8 °C, July 26.5 °C. Annual rainfall 1,499 mm.

### Constitution and Government

*The President* is elected by direct vote to serve a 5-year term. There is an 81-member single-chamber *National Assembly*, elected through a party list proportional representation system to serve 4-year terms. *The Prime Minister* is nominated by the President and has to be approved by the National Assembly. Montenegro held a referendum on 21 May 2006 in which 55.5% voted for independence. The margin required for victory was 55.0%. Turnout was 86.6%.

### Currency

On 2 Nov. 1999 the pro-Western government decided to make the Deutsche Mark legal tender alongside the dinar. Subsequently it was made the sole official currency, and consequently the euro (EUR) became the currency of Montenegro on 1 Jan. 2002.

### Defence

The all-professional Military of Montenegro was formed from part of the Armed Forces of Serbia and Montenegro when the two countries became independent in 2006. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$54 m. (US\$82 per capita), representing 1.2% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2009 agriculture accounted for 10.0% of GDP, industry 20.1% and services 69.9%.

### Labour

In 2011 there were 163,082 people in employment, including 37,820 in wholesale and retail trade, repair of vehicles, personal and household goods; 19,195 in public administration and defence, and compulsory social security; 14,368 in manufacturing; 12,429 in accommodation and food service activities; 12,223 in education; 10,565 in health and social work; 9,188 in transport, storage and communications. Average gross monthly wages for 2011 were €722 and average net wages €484. Unemployment rate in 2011 was 19.7%.

### Press

In 2008 there were four daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 46,000.

### Rail

In 2009 there were 249 km of railway. 1.1 m. passengers and 2 m. tonnes of freight were carried in 2009.



## Religion

The Serbian Orthodox Church is the official church in Montenegro. The Montenegrin church was banned in 1922, but in Oct. 1993 a breakaway Montenegrin church was set up under its own patriarch.

## Roads

In 2013 there were 7,965 km of roads. Passenger-km in 2013 were 109 m.; tonne-km of freight carried, 67 m.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were seven ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 13,000 GT.

## Social Statistics

2008 live births, 8,258; deaths, 5,708; marriages, 3,445; divorces, 460. Life expectancy, 2013, 72.5 years for men and 77.2 years for women. Infant mortality per 1,000 births (2010), 7.

## Telecommunications

There were 1,159,000 mobile phone subscriptions in 2011 and an estimated 171,000 landline telephone subscriptions. In 2012, 55.0% of households had internet access. In March 2012 there were 293,000 Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Montenegro is a mountainous country which opens to the Adriatic in the southwest. It is bounded in the west by Croatia, northwest by Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the northeast by Serbia and in the southeast by Albania. The capital is Podgorica (2011 census population, 150,977), although some capital functions have been transferred to Cetinje, the historic capital of the former kingdom of Montenegro. Its area is 13,812 km<sup>2</sup>. Population at the 2011 census was 620,029; population density per sq. km, 44.9. The main ethnic groups in 2011 were: Montenegrins (44.98%); Serbs (28.73%); Bosniaks (8.65%); Albanians (4.91%). 61.5% of the population lived in urban areas in 2011. The official language is the Serbian language of the Iekavian dialect. The Roman and Cyrillic alphabets have equal status.

## Tourism

In 2010 there were 1,087,794 non-resident overnight tourist arrivals. The main countries of origin were: Serbia (314,836); Russia (150,194); Bosnia and Herzegovina (103,025); France (42,099).

# Morocco

## *Mamlaka al-Maghrebia (Kingdom of Morocco)*

### Factsheet

Capital: Rabat

Population estimate, 2015: 34.38 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 6,850

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.628/126=

Internet domain extension: .ma

### Civil Aviation

The national carrier is Royal Air Maroc, which in 2013 carried 5,856,000 passengers (5,170,000 on international flights). The major international airport is Mohammed V at Casablanca; there are eight other airports. Casablanca handled 7,186,331 passengers in 2012 (6,551,781 on international flights) and 50,567 tonnes of freight. Marrakesh (Menara) handled 3,373,475 passengers in 2012 and Agadir (Al Massira) 1,384,931.

## Climate

Morocco is dominated by the Mediterranean climate which is made temperate by the influence of the Atlantic Ocean in the northern and southern parts of the country. Central Morocco is continental while the south is desert. Rabat, Jan. 55 °F (12.9 °C), July 72 °F (22.2 °C). Annual rainfall 23" (564 mm). Agadir, Jan. 57 °F (13.9 °C), July 72 °F (22.2 °C). Annual rainfall 9" (224 mm). Casablanca, Jan. 54 °F (12.2 °C), July 72 °F (22.2 °C). Annual rainfall 16" (404 mm). Marrakesh, Jan. 52 °F (11.1 °C), July 84 °F (28.9 °C). Annual rainfall 10" (239 mm). Tangier, Jan. 53 °F (11.7 °C), July 72 °F (22.2 °C). Annual rainfall 36" (897 mm).

## Constitution and Government

The ruling King is **Mohammed VI**, born on 21 Aug. 1963, married to Salma Bennani on 21 March 2002; succeeded on 23 July 1999, on the death of his father Hassan II, who reigned 1961–99. The King holds supreme civil and religious authority, the latter in his capacity of Emir-el-Muminin or Commander of the Faithful. He resides usually at Rabat, but occasionally in one of the other traditional capitals, Fez (founded in 808), Marrakesh (founded in 1062), or at Skhirat. In Feb. and March 2011, Morocco experienced popular protests echoing those occurring in other North African states. In response King Mohammed established a commission to bring about 'comprehensive constitutional reform'. The new constitution came into effect on 29 July 2011, ahead of the parliamentary elections 4 months later. The Kingdom of Morocco is a constitutional monarchy. Parliament consists of a Chamber of Representatives composed of 395 deputies (up from 325 for the 2007 elections) directly elected for 5-year terms. A referendum on 13 Sept. 1996 established a second Chamber of Counsellors, composed of 270 members serving 9-year terms, of whom 162 are elected by local councils, 81 by chambers of commerce and 27 by trade unions.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *dirham* (MAD) of 100 *centimes*, introduced in 1959.

## Defence

Compulsory national military service was abolished in 2006. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$3,730 m. (US\$114 per capita), representing 3.5% of GDP.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 16.4% of GDP in 2009, industry 28.6% and services 55.0%.

## Labour

Of 9,927,728 persons in employment in 2006, 43.3% were engaged in agriculture, fishing and forestry, 12.4% in commerce, 12.3% in industry (including handicrafts), 8.0% in construction and public works, 5.4% in general administration and public services, 4.0% in transport and communication and 14.5% in other services. The unemployment rate in 2006 was 9.7%. In Nov. 2006 the minimum hourly wage for non-agricultural workers was DH9.66. The minimum wage for agricultural workers is set at DH50 per day. Morocco had 51,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

In 2008 there were 33 paid-for daily newspapers. The leading dailies are the Arabic-language *Al-Massae*, *Assabah* and *Al-Ahdath al-Maghrebia* and the French-language *Le Matin du Sahara et du Maghreb*.

## Rail

In 2010 there were 2,109 km of railways, of which 1,284 km were electrified. Passenger-km travelled in 2009 came to 4.19 bn. and freight tonne-km to 4.11 bn. In 2003 the construction of two 38 km-long rail tunnels under the Straits of Gibraltar was agreed with Spain although there are ongoing talks as to the project's feasibility.

## Religion

Islam is the established state religion. 99% of the population are Sunni Muslims. There is also a small Catholic minority.

## Roads

In 2007 there were 57,799 km of classified roads, including 813 km of motorways and 11,251 km of main roads. By 2010 the motorway network had been extended to 1,042 km. In 2007 freight transport totalled 697 m. tonne-km. In 2007 there were 1,644,500 passenger cars in use, 525,300 lorries and vans and 22,800 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 58,924 road accidents in 2007 (3,838 fatalities).

## Shipping

The busiest ports are Casablanca (which handled 26,572,000 tonnes of foreign cargo in 2008), Mohammedia, Nador, Tanger Med and Tangier. In Jan. 2009 there were 37 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 341,000 GT.

## Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 645,000; deaths, 184,000. Estimated rates, 2008 (per 1,000 population): birth, 20.4; death, 5.8. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 1.2%. Life expectancy at birth in 2013 was 69.1 years for males and 72.7 years for females. Infant mortality, 2010, 30 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 2.4 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 2,925,000 main (fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscribers numbered 42,424,000 in 2013 (128.5 per 100 persons). The main telecommunication company is Maroc Telecom, which was privatized in 2001. Maroc Telecom's principal competitor is Méditel. 56.0% of the population were internet users in 2013. In June 2012 there were 4.6 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Morocco is bounded by Algeria to the east and southeast, Mauritania to the south, the Atlantic Ocean to the northwest and the Mediterranean to the north. Excluding the Western Saharan territory claimed and retrieved since 1976 by Morocco, the area is 458,730 km<sup>2</sup>. The population at the 2004 census (including Western Sahara) was 29,891,708; density (including Western Sahara), 42.1 per km<sup>2</sup>. At the 2004 census Western Sahara had an area of 252,120 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of about 356,000. The Moroccan superficie is 710,850 km<sup>2</sup>. The population was 58.8% urban in 2011. Morocco has 16 states (*wilaya'at*) divided further into 71 prefectures and provincial units. The chief cities (with populations in 1,000, 2004) are as follows: Casablanca, 2,934; Rabat, 1,623; Fez, 947; Marrakesh, 823; Agadir, 679; Tangier, 670; Meknès, 536; Oujda, 401; Kénitra, 359; Tétouan, 321; Safi, 285; Mohammedia, 189; Khouribga, 166; Béni Mellal, 163. The official language are Arabic, spoken by 65% of the population, and Berber (since July 2011).

## Tourism

In 2010 there were a record 9,288,000 non-resident tourists (excluding same-day visitors), up from 8,341,000 in 2009 and 8,209,000 in 2008.

# Mozambique

*República de Moçambique (Republic of Mozambique)*

## Factsheet

Capital: Maputo

Population estimate, 2015: 27.98 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 1,123

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.416/180

Internet domain extension: .mz

## Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Maputo and Beira. The national carrier is the state-owned Linhas Aéreas de Moçambique (LAM), which in 2013 carried 684,000 passengers (462,000 on domestic flights). In the same year it served ten domestic and five international destinations. In 2012 Maputo handled 839,390 passengers (454,236 on international flights) and Beira 164,324 (105,467 on domestic flights).

## Climate

A humid tropical climate, with a dry season from June to Sept. In general, temperatures and rainfall decrease from north to south. Maputo, Jan. 78 °F (25.6 °C), July 65 °F (18.3 °C). Annual rainfall 30" (760 mm). Beira, Jan. 82 °F (27.8 °C), July 69 °F (20.6 °C). Annual rainfall 60" (1,522 mm).

## Constitution and Government

On 2 Nov. 1990 the People's Assembly unanimously voted in favour of a new constitution, which came into force on 30 Nov. This changed the name of the state to 'Republic of Mozambique', legalized opposition parties, provided for universal secret elections and introduced a bill of rights including the right to strike, press freedoms and *habeas corpus*. The head of state is the *President*, directly elected for a 5-year term. Parliament is a 250-member *Assembly of the Republic*, elected for a 5-year term by proportional representation.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *new metical* (MZN) of 100 *centavos*, which replaced the *metical* (MZM) in July 2006. The currency was revalued at a rate of 1 new metical = 1,000 meticals.

## Defence

The President of the Republic is C-in-C. of the armed forces. Defence expenditure totalled US\$75 m. in 2013 (US\$3 per capita), representing 0.5% of GDP. Conscription for both men and women is for 2 years.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 31.5% of GDP in 2009, industry 23.6% and services 44.9%.

## Labour

The economically active population in 2010 totalled an estimated 11,261,000 (52% females). In 2007, 75% of the employed workforce were engaged in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The leading occupations in non-agricultural sectors were commerce and services. Mozambique had 0.17 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

There were two well-established daily newspapers in 2008 (*Notícias* and *Diário* in Maputo and Beira respectively) with a combined circulation of 13,000.

## Rail

The railway system consists of three separate networks, with principal routes on 1,067 mm gauge radiating from the ports of Maputo, Beira and Nacala. Total length in 2009 was 3,116 km, mainly on 1,067 mm gauge with some 762 mm gauge lines, but only 1,929 km was operational. In 2009 passenger-km travelled on the Mozambique Ports and Railways network came to 164 m. and freight tonne-km to 2,078 m.

## Religion

According to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 the population was 56.7% Christian and 18.0% Muslim; 7.4% were folk religionists and 17.9% religiously unaffiliated. Of the Christians in 2010, an estimated 51% were Catholics and 48% Protestants. In Feb. 2016 there were two cardinals.

## Roads

In 2008 there were 29,323 km of roads, of which 17.9% were paved. There were 290,600 vehicles in 2008. There were 5,438 road accidents in 2008, with 1,529 fatalities. The flooding of early 2000 washed away at least one fifth of the country's main road linking the north and the south.

## Shipping

The principal ports are Maputo, Beira, Nacala and Quelimane. In Jan. 2009 there were six ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 5,000 GT.

## Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 877,000; deaths, 357,000. Estimated rates per 1,000 population, 2008: births, 39.2; deaths, 15.9. Infant mortality per 1,000 live births, 2010, 92. Life expectancy at birth, 2013, was 49.3 years for males and 51.0 years for females. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.6%; fertility rate, 2008, 5.1 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

There were 5,971,000 mobile phone subscribers in 2009 (260.8 per 1,000 inhabitants), up from just 51,000 in 2000. Fixed telephone lines numbered 82,400 in 2009, down from 87,400 in 2002. In 2009 there were 92,000 mobile broadband subscriptions and 12,500 fixed broadband internet subscriptions. There were 248,000 Facebook users in June 2012.

## Territory and Population

Mozambique is bounded east by the Indian Ocean, south by South Africa, southwest by Swaziland, west by South Africa and Zimbabwe and north by Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania. It has an area of 799,380 km<sup>2</sup> (308,642 sq. miles) and a population, according to the 2007 census, of 20,252,223 (10,505,533 females), giving a density of 25.3 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 39.2% of the population were urban. The capital is Maputo (2007 population, 1,094,628). Other large cities (with 2007 populations) are Matola (671,556), Nampula (471,717) and Beira (431,583). The main ethnolinguistic groups are the Makua/Lomwe (52% of the population), the Tsonga/Ronga (24%), the Nyanja/Sena (12%) and Shona (6%). Portuguese remains the official language, but vernaculars are widely spoken throughout the country. English is also widely spoken.

## Tourism

Tourism is a potential growth area for the country. There were 3,110,000 non-resident visitors in 2009 (2,617,000 in 2008).

# Myanmar

*Pyidaunzu Thanmăda Myăma Nainngandaw (Republic of the Union of Myanmar)*

## Factsheet

*Capitals:* Naypyidaw/Pyinmana (Administrative and Legislative), Yangon/Rangoon (Commercial)

*Population estimate, 2015:* 53.90 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 3,998

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.536/148

*Internet domain extension:* .mm

## Civil Aviation

The flag carrier is Myanmar National Airlines (Myanma Airways until 2014). The main airport is Yangon International Airport. In 2010 there were international flights to Bangkok, Beijing, Guangzhou, Hanoi, Kolkata, Kuala Lumpur, Kunming, Singapore and Taipei. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Myanmar-based carriers flew 1.0 m. km; passenger-km totalled 117.1 m. in the same year.

## Climate

The climate is equatorial in coastal areas, changing to tropical monsoon over most of the interior, but humid temperate in the extreme north, where there is a more significant range of temperature and a dry season lasting from Nov. to April. In coastal parts, the dry season is shorter. Very heavy rains occur in the monsoon months May to Sept. Yangon, Jan. 77 °F (25 °C), July 80 °F (26.7 °C). Annual rainfall 104" (2,616 mm). Sittwe, Jan. 70 °F (21.1 °C), July 81 °F (27.2 °C). Annual rainfall 206" (5,154 mm). Mandalay, Jan. 68 °F (20 °C), July 85 °F (29.4 °C). Annual rainfall 33" (828 mm).

## Constitution and Government

In Nov. 1997 the country's ruling generals changed the name of the government to the *State Peace and Development Council* (SPDC). It nominally ceded power to an elected president in Feb. 2011 and was abolished a month later. In May 2008 an army-drafted constitution won 92.5% support in a referendum. The constitution specified that multi-party elections should be scheduled for 2010; 25% of parliamentary seats were automatically allocated to the military. It called for the creation of a National Defence and Security Council, dominated by military appointments, with the power to suspend the constitution under certain circumstances. It also laid out rules that would ban opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi from holding public office. The constitution was formally adopted on 30 May 2008. The previous constitution, dating from 3 Jan. 1974, had been suspended since 1988. Amendments to the Political Party Registration law in Oct. 2011 now allow Aung San Suu Kyi to hold public office, although under the current constitution she is not eligible to stand in the presidential elections expected to take place in Oct. or Nov. 2015. The 440-member lower chamber, the House of Representatives (*Pythu Hluttaw*), has 330 elected seats with 110 appointed and the 224-member upper chamber, the House of Nationalities (*Amyotha Hluttaw*), has 168 elected seats with 56 appointed. Parliament convened in Jan. 2011 for the first time since 1988.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *kyat* (MMK) of 100 *pyas*.

## Defence

The President of the Republic is C.-in-C. of the armed forces. Defence expenditure totalled US\$75 m. in 2013 (US\$3 per capita), representing 0.5% of GDP. Conscription for both men and women is for 2 years.

## Economy

In 2009 agriculture accounted for 38.1% of GDP, industry 24.5% and services 37.4%.

## Labour

The estimated labour force in 2013 was 31,670,000. Agriculture provides employment to two-thirds of the population. In 2001 there were 398,300 persons aged 18 years and over registered as unemployed. Myanmar had 0.38 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*, the ninth highest total of any country.

## Press

There were six daily newspapers in 2008, with a combined circulation of 420,000. In 2013 the publication of private daily papers was permitted for the first time in nearly 50 years.

## Rail

In 2005 there were 4,809 km of route on metre gauge. Passenger-km travelled in 2006–07 came to 5,307 m. and freight tonne-km to 887 m.

## Religion

In 2010 an estimated 80.1% of the population—mainly Barmars, Shans, Mons, Rakhines and some Kayins—were Buddhists according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. The Pew Research Center estimated that a further 7.8% were Christians (mainly Protestants), 5.8% were folk religionists, 4.0% Muslims and 1.7% Hindus (the last two being mainly people of Indian origin). In Feb. 2016 the Roman Catholic church had one cardinal.

## Roads

There were 27,000 km of roads in 2005, of which 11.9% were surfaced. In 2005 there were 194,411 passenger cars, 54,482 vans and lorries, 17,985 buses and coaches, and 640,313 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 1,638 deaths as a result of road accidents in 2007.

## Shipping

There are nearly 100 km of navigable canals. The Irrawaddy is navigable up to Myitkyina, 1,450 km from the sea, and its tributary, the Chindwin, is navigable for 630 km. The Irrawaddy delta has approximately 3,000 km of navigable water. The Salween, the Attaran and the G'yne provide about 400 km of navigable waters around Moulmein. In Jan. 2009 merchant shipping totalled 140,000 GT (vessels of 300 GT and over). In 2006–07, 26.33 m. passengers and 4.28 m. tonnes of freight were carried on inland waterways. The ocean-going fleet of the state-owned Myanma Five Star Line in 2006–07 comprised 26 vessels; in addition there were eight chartered vessels. In 2006–07, 51,373 passengers and 10,954,800 tonnes of seaborne cargo were transported coastally and overseas. Myanmar's main port is Yangon, which handles about 90% of the country's imports and exports.

## Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 1,020,000; deaths, 496,000. Estimated birth rate in 2008 was 21 per 1,000 population; estimated death rate, 10. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 0.8%. Life expectancy at birth, 2013, was 63.1 years for males and 67.2 years for females. Infant mortality, 2010, 50 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 2.3 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 521,100 landline telephone subscriptions (equivalent to 10.8 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 1,243,600 mobile phone subscriptions (or 25.7 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2011, 1.0% of the population were internet users. Following decades of military rule, Myanmar has one of Asia's lowest phone penetration rates.

## Territory and Population

Myanmar is bounded in the east by China, Laos and Thailand, and west by the Indian Ocean, Bangladesh and India. Three parallel mountain ranges run from north to south; the Western Yama or Rakhine Yama, the Bagu Yama and the Shaun Plateau. The total area of the Union is 676,590 km<sup>2</sup> (261,230 sq. miles), including 23,070 km<sup>2</sup> (8,910 sq. miles) of inland water. In 2014 the census population (provisional) was 51,419,420; density, 78.7 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 34.3% of the population lived in urban areas. The administrative capital is Naypyidaw (Pyinmana); its provisional census population was 1,158,367 in 2014. The largest city is Yangon (Rangoon), with a provisional population of 5,209,541 in 2014. Other leading towns are Mandalay (2014 provisional population of 1,225,133), Bago (Pegu), Hpa-an (Pha-an), Taunggyi, Monywa and Myitkyina.

## Tourism

In 2011 there were 391,000 non-resident tourists (193,000 in 2008); spending by tourists totalled US\$293 m. in 2011.

# Namibia

## Republic of Namibia

### Factsheet

Capital: Windhoek

Population estimate, 2015: 2.46 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 9,418

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.628/126=

Internet domain extension: .na

## Civil Aviation

The national carrier is the state-owned Air Namibia, which in 2013 carried 458,000 passengers (381,000 on international flights). In the same year it served six domestic and nine international destinations. In 2012 the major airport, Windhoek's Hosea Kutako International, handled 814,890 passengers (764,384 on international flights). Eros is used mainly for domestic flights.

## Climate

The rainfall increases steadily from less than 50 mm in the west and southwest up to 600 mm in the Caprivi Strip. The main rainy season is from Jan. to March, with lesser showers from Sept. to Dec. Namibia is the driest African country south of the Sahara.

## Constitution and Government

On 9 Feb. 1990 with a unanimous vote the Constituent Assembly approved the Constitution which stipulated a multi-party republic, an independent judiciary and an executive *President* who may serve a maximum of two 5-year terms. The constitution became effective on 12 March 1990 and was amended in 1999 to allow President Sam Nujoma to stand for a third term in office. The bicameral legislature consists of a 104-seat *National Assembly*, 96 members of which are elected for 5-year terms by proportional representation and up to eight appointed by the president by virtue of position or special expertise, and a 26-seat *National Council* consisting of two members from each Regional Council elected for 6-year terms.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *Namibia dollar* (NAD) of 100 cents, introduced on 14 Sept. 1993 and pegged to the South African rand. The rand is also legal tender at parity.

## Defence

In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$458 m. (US\$210 per capita), representing 3.6% of GDP.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 8.0% of GDP in 2010, industry 30.0% and services 62.0%.

## Labour

Of 690,019 people in employment in 2013, 215,311 were engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing; 79,391 in wholesale and retail trade; 57,668 in private households; 47,859 in construction; 41,797 in education; 36,767 in accommodation and food service activities; and 35,160 in administrative and support service activities. The unemployment rate in 2013 was 29.6%. Namibia had 16,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

There were four daily newspapers in 2008 with a combined circulation of 55,000.

## Rail

The Namibia system connects with the main system of the South African railways at Ariamsvlei. The total length of the line inside Namibia was 2,628 km of 1,065 mm gauge in 2005.

## Religion

According to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 the population was 97.5% Christian (mainly Protestants) with 1.9% not having any religious affiliation.

## Roads

In 2011 the road network covered 45,645 km. In 2008 there were 107,800 passenger cars in use and 117,400 lorries and vans. There were 368 deaths as a result of road accidents in 2007.

### Shipping

Walvis Bay, the busiest port, handled 4,960,000 tonnes of cargo in 2007–08. There is a harbour at !Nami = Nüs (formerly Lüderitz) which handles mainly fishing vessels. Merchant shipping totalled 3,000 GT in Jan. 2009.

### Social Statistics

Estimates, 2008: births, 59,000; deaths, 18,000. Estimated birth rate in 2008 was 27.6 per 1,000 population; estimated death rate, 8.6. Expectation of life, 2013: males, 61.7 years; females, 67.1. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 1.9%; infant mortality, 2010, 29 per 1,000 live births. The fertility rate dropped from 5.5 births per woman in 1994 to 3.4 births per woman in 2008.

### Telecommunications

Telecom Namibia is the responsible corporation. In 2013 there were 183,000 main (fixed) telephone lines and 2,728,000 mobile phone subscribers (118.4 per 100 persons). An estimated 13.9% of the population were internet users in 2013. In June 2012 there were 172,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Namibia is bounded in the north by Angola and Zambia, west by the Atlantic Ocean, south and southeast by South Africa and east by Botswana. The Caprivi Strip (Caprivi Region), about 300 km long, extends eastwards up to the Zambezi river, projecting into Zambia and Botswana and touching Zimbabwe. The area, including the Caprivi Strip and Walvis Bay, is 825,615 km<sup>2</sup>. South Africa transferred Walvis Bay to Namibian jurisdiction on 1 March 1994. 2011 census population, 2,113,077 (1,091,165 females); density 2.6 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 38.6% of the population were urban. The largest ethnic group is the Ovambo (about half the population), followed by the Kavango, Damara and Herero. Namibia is administratively divided into 14 regions. Towns with populations over 10,000 (2011): Windhoek, 325,858; Rundu, 63,431; Walvis Bay, 62,096; Swakopmund, 44,725; Oshakati, 36,541; Rehoboth, 28,843; Katima Mulilo, 28,362; Otjiwarongo, 28,249; Ondangwa, 22,822; Okahandja, 22,639; Keetmanshoop, 20,977; Ongwediva, 20,260; Helao Nafidi, 19,375; Tsumeb, 19,275; Gobabis, 19,101; Grootfontein, 16,632; Lüderitz (renamed !Nami=Nüs in 2013), 12,537; Mariental, 12,478. English is the official language. Afrikaans and German are also spoken.

### Tourism

In 2011 there were 1,027,000 non-resident tourists who spent US\$645 m. Tourist numbers rose every year from 2003 to 2011.

## Nauru

### *Ripublik Naoero (Republic of Nauru)*

#### Factsheet

Population estimate, 2015: 10,000  
GDP per capita, 2014: US\$17,857  
Internet domain extension: .nr

#### Civil Aviation

The only airport is Nauru International Airport. The national carrier, Nauru Airlines, is a wholly-owned government subsidiary. In 2017 it flew to Brisbane, Honiara, Majuro, Nadi, Pohnpei and Tarawa.

#### Climate

A tropical climate, tempered by sea breezes, but with a high and irregular rainfall, averaging 82" (2,060 mm). Average temperature, Jan. 81 °F (27.2 °C), July 82 °F (27.8 °C). Annual rainfall 75" (1,862 mm).

### Constitution and Government

A Legislative Council was inaugurated on 31 Jan. 1966. The constitution was promulgated on 29 Jan. 1968 and was amended on 17 May 1968. A 19-member Parliament (18 prior to the June 2013 election) is elected on a 3-yearly basis.

### Currency

The Australian dollar is in use.

### Religion

In 2010 an estimated 79.0% of the population were Christians according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, 8.1% folk religionists and 4.5% religiously unaffiliated.

### Roads

There is a sealed road circling the island 19 km long, plus other roads running inland.

### Shipping

Deep offshore moorings can accommodate medium-size vessels. Shipping coming to the island consists of vessels under charter to the phosphate industry or general purpose vessels bringing cargo by way of imports.

### Social Statistics

2011 births, 370; deaths, 75. Infant deaths (2007), 12. Annual population growth rate, 1998–2008, 0.1%; fertility rate, 2008, 2.9 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

There were 6,800 main telephone lines in operation in 2012.

### Territory and Population

Nauru is a coral island surrounded by a reef situated 0.32' S. lat. and 166° 56' E. long. Area, 21.2 km<sup>2</sup> (8.2 sq. miles). At the 2011 census the population (provisional) totalled 10,084 (5,105 males). Population density, 476 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 94% of the population were indigenous Nauruans. The *de facto* capital is Yaren.

## Nepal

### *Sanghiya Loktantrik Ganatantra Nepal (Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal)*

#### Factsheet

Capital: Kathmandu  
Population estimate, 2015: 28.51 m.  
GNI per capita, 2014: (PPP\$) 2,311  
HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.548/145=  
Internet domain extension: .np

#### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport (Tribhuvan) at Kathmandu. The national carrier is the state-owned Nepal Airlines (formerly known as Royal Nepal Airlines). In 2012 Kathmandu handled 4,444,529 passengers (2,854,933 on international flights) and 13,198 tonnes of freight. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Nepali-based carriers flew 6.4 m. km; passenger-km totalled 608.1 m. in the same year.

#### Climate

Varies from cool summers and severe winters in the north to sub-tropical summers and mild winters in the south. The rainfall is high, with maximum

amounts from June to Sept., but conditions are very dry from Nov. to Jan. Kathmandu, Jan. 10 °C, July, 25 °C. Average annual rainfall, 1,424 mm.

### Constitution and Government

Following years of political turbulence an interim constitution was approved in Dec. 2006, effectively removing King Gyanendra as the head of the state. On 23 Dec. 2007 the interim government declared the establishment of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, with the abolition of the monarchy approved by parliament 5 days later. This change entered into force on 28 May 2008 at the first meeting of a 601-member *Constituent Assembly* (with 240 seats filled on a first-past-the-post system, 335 filled through proportional representation and 26 nominated by the cabinet). The Constituent Assembly was charged with drafting a new constitution but failed to do so even though its deadline was extended several times. Elections to a new Constituent Assembly were held in Nov. 2013. The deadline for promulgation of a new constitution in Jan. 2015 was also missed owing to more delays in the drafting process.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Nepalese rupee* (NPR) of 100 *paisas*. 50 *paisas* = 1 *mohur*.

### Defence

The then King was formerly commander-in-chief of the armed forces, but he was stripped of the position in May 2006. The cabinet now has the power to appoint the army chief. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$238 m. (US\$8 per capita), representing 1.2% of GDP. As at 31 Jan. 2013, 4,462 personnel (including 3,677 troops) were deployed in UN peacekeeping operations.

### Economy

Agriculture, forestry and fishing contributed 31.5% to GDP in 2009–10; followed by trade, restaurants and hotels, 14.7%; finance and real estate, 11.6%; and services, 11.1%.

### Labour

The estimated labour force in 2008 totalled 12,032,000 (47% males). Nepal had 0.26 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2008 there were 298 daily newspapers, including the official English-language *Rising Nepal*, 25 bi-weeklies, 1,442 weeklies and 273 fortnightlies. Press censorship was relaxed in 1991, but following the imposition of a state of emergency in 2005 the press was subjected to total censorship.

### Rail

51 km (762 mm gauge) connected Jayanagar on the North Eastern Indian Railway with Janakpur and Bijalpura. It shut down in 2014 but is expected to reopen during 2018 after conversion to 1,676 mm gauge. Proposals for a 77-km long metro system in Kathmandu were submitted in 2012.

### Religion

Nepal is a Hindu state. Hinduism was the religion of 80.7% of the people in 2010 according to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, with Buddhists comprising 10.3% and Muslims 4.6%. An estimated 3.7% of the population in 2010 were folk religionists. There is also a small Christian minority.

### Roads

In 2006 there were 16,834 km of roads, of which 17% were paved.

### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 731,000; deaths, 185,000. Estimated rates per 1,000 population, 2008: births, 25.4; deaths, 6.4. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.1%. Expectation of life was 67.3 years for males and 69.6 years for females in 2013. Infant mortality, 2010, 41 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 2.9 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In Dec. 2011 there were 845,542 main (fixed) telephone lines in Nepal and mobile phone subscribers numbered 13,354,000 (49.2 per 100 persons). An estimated 13.3% of the population were internet users in 2013. In March 2012 there were 1.4 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Nepal is bounded in the north by China (Tibet) and the east, south and west by India. Area 147,181 km<sup>2</sup>; 2011 census population, 26,494,504 (13,645,463 females); density 180.0 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 19.2% of the population were urban. The country is divided into five developmental regions and 75 administrative districts. Capital, Kathmandu; population (2011) 1,003,285. Other towns include (2011 census population): Pokhara, 264,991; Lalitpur, 226,728; Biratnagar, 204,949; Bharatpur, 147,777. The indigenous people are of Tibetan origin with a considerable Hindu admixture. The Gurkha clan became predominant in 1559 and has given its name to men from all parts of Nepal. There are 18 ethnic groups, the largest being: Newars, Indians, Tibetans, Gurungs, Mogars, Tamangs, Bhotias, Rais, Limbus and Sherpas. The official language is Nepalese but there are 20 new languages divided into numerous dialects.

### Tourism

In 2012 there were a record 803,000 non-resident tourists (up from 736,000 in 2010 and 527,000 in 2007). In 2011, 32% of tourists came from South Asia, 29% from Europe and 27% from East Asia and the Pacific. Tourist receipts amounted to US\$379 m. in 2012.

## Netherlands

*Koninkrijk der Nederlanden (Kingdom of the Netherlands)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Amsterdam

*Seat of government:* The Hague

*Population estimate, 2015:* 16.93 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 45,435

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.922/5

*Internet domain extension:* .nl

### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Amsterdam (Schiphol), Rotterdam, Maastricht and Eindhoven. The Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM) was founded on 7 Oct. 1919. In Oct. 2003 it merged with Air France to form Air France-KLM, in which the French state owns a 15.7% stake. Airport passenger traffic reached 53.9 m. in 2011: Amsterdam handled 49.8 m. passengers, Eindhoven 2.6 m. and Rotterdam 1.1 m.

### Climate

A cool temperate maritime climate, marked by mild winters and cool summers, but with occasional continental influences. Coastal temperatures vary from 37 °F (3 °C) in winter to 61 °F (16 °C) in summer, but inland the winters are slightly colder and the summers slightly warmer. Rainfall is least in the months Feb. to May, but inland there is a well-defined summer maximum in July and Aug. The Hague, Jan. 37 °F (2.7 °C), July 61 °F (16.3 °C). Annual rainfall 32.8" (820 mm). Amsterdam, Jan. 36 °F (2.3 °C), July 62 °F (16.5 °C). Annual rainfall 34" (850 mm). Rotterdam, Jan. 36.5 °F (2.6 °C), July 62 °F (16.6 °C). Annual rainfall 32" (800 mm).

### Constitution and Government

According to the Constitution (promulgated 1815; last revision, 2005), the Kingdom consists of the Netherlands and its overseas countries and territories. Their relations are regulated by the 'Statute' for the Kingdom, which came into force on 29 Dec. 1954 and was revised on 10 Oct. 2010. The Netherlands is a constitutional and hereditary monarchy. The royal succession

is in the direct female or male line in order of birth. The reigning King is **Willem-Alexander**, succeeded to the crown on 30 April 2013, on the abdication of his mother. The monarch receives an allowance from the civil list. The central executive power of the State rests with the Crown, while the central legislative power is vested in the Crown and Parliament (the *States-General*), consisting of two Chambers. The upper *First Chamber* is composed of 75 members, elected by the members of the Provincial States. The 150-member *Second Chamber* is directly elected by proportional representation for 4-year terms. Members of the States-General must be Netherlands subjects of 18 years of age or over. The Hague is the seat of the Court, government and Parliament; Amsterdam is the capital. The *Council of State*, appointed by the Crown, is composed of a vice-president and not more than 28 members.

### Currency

On 1 Jan. 1999 the euro (EUR) became the legal currency in the Netherlands at the irrevocable conversion rate of 2.20371 guilders to 1 euro. The euro, which consists of 100 cents, has been in circulation since 1 Jan. 2002. On the introduction of the euro there was a 'dual circulation' period before the guilder ceased to be legal tender on 28 Jan. 2002.

### Defence

Conscription ended on 30 Aug. 1996. The total strength of the armed forces in 2011 was 37,368. Reserves: 3,189. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$10,350 m. (US\$616 per capita), representing 1.3% of GDP.

### Economy

Services accounted for 76% of GDP in 2012, industry 22% and agriculture 2%.

### Labour

The total labour force (15–65 years) in 2011 was 7,811,000 persons (3,492,000 women) of whom 419,000 (195,000 women) unemployed. Of the 7,392,000 employed persons, 5,709,000 were in permanent employment, 606,000 were in flexible employment and 1,077,000 were self-employed. Nearly a third of all 15–65-year-old women were working between 20 and 35 h per week. By education level, the 2011 employed labour force included (in 1,000): primary education, 361; junior secondary education, 1,309; senior secondary education, 3,130; university education, 2,524 (bachelor, 1,639; masters or PhD, 885). The unemployment rate was 6.7% in Dec. 2014 (unchanged since 2013 as a whole but up from 5.3% in 2012).

### Press

In 2008 there were 35 daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 5,309,000. The most widely read daily is *De Telegraaf*, with an average daily circulation of 670,000 copies in 2008. In the 2013 *World Press Freedom Index* compiled by Reporters Without Borders, the Netherlands was ranked second out of 179 countries.

### Rail

All railways are run by the mixed company 'N.V. Nederlandse Spoorwegen'. Route length in 2011 was 3,013 km. Passenger-km travelled in 2009 came to 16.32 bn. Goods transported in 2010 totalled 36 m. tonnes. There is a metro (44 km) and tram/light rail network (154 km) in Amsterdam and in Rotterdam (76 km and 67 km). Tram/light rail networks operate in The Hague (128 km) and Utrecht (22 km). A tram link between Maastricht and Hasselt in Belgium is currently under construction; it is expected to open in 2017.

### Religion

Population aged 12 years and over in 2009 was: Roman Catholics, 27%; Protestant Church in the Netherlands, 9%; Calvinist, 3%; other creeds, 10%; no religion, 44%. The Dutch Reformed Church merged with the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Kingdom of the Netherlands in May 2004 to form the Protestant Church in the Netherlands—now the second largest church body in the country. The Roman Catholic Church has one archdiocese (of Utrecht) and six dioceses. In Feb. 2016 there were two Roman Catholic cardinals. The Old Catholic Church of the Netherlands has one Archbishop (of Utrecht), one Bishop (of Haarlem)

and 26 parishes. There were 1.0 m. Muslims in 2010 according to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life; there were also small numbers of Hindus, Buddhists and Jews.

### Roads

In 2008 the total length of the Netherlands road network was 136,135 km (including 2,637 km of motorways). Number of vehicles (2008): private cars, 7.39 m.; trucks and vans, 1.07 m.; motorcycles and mopeds, 1.37 m. There were 750 fatalities as a result of road accidents in 2008, equivalent to 4.6 fatalities per 100,000 population (one of the lowest death rates in road accidents of any industrialized country).

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 810 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 7,428,000 GT. Of the 810 vessels registered, 593 were general cargo ships, 83 container ships, 47 passenger ships, 43 oil tankers, 20 chemical tankers, 18 liquid gas tankers and six bulk carriers. The Dutch-controlled fleet comprised 578 vessels of 1,000 GT or over in Jan. 2009, of which 426 were under the Dutch flag and 152 under foreign flags. Total throughput at Rotterdam, the busiest port in the Netherlands and Europe and the third busiest in the world, was 386,957,000 tonnes in 2009 (down from a record 421,136,000 tonnes in 2008).

### Social Statistics

Births, 2012: 175,959; deaths, 140,813. 2012 rates per 1,000 population: birth, 10.8; death, 8.4. Annual population growth rate, 2007–12, 0.5%. In 2009 the suicide rate per 100,000 population was 9.3 (men, 13.1; women, 5.5). In 2012 the average age for marrying was 37.0 years for males and 33.8 for females. Expectation of life, 2012, was 79.2 years for males and 82.9 for females. Infant mortality, 2012, 3.7 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2012, 1.8 births per woman. Percentage of population by age in 2010: 0–14 years, 17.7%; 15–64, 67.0%; 65 and over, 15.3%. The Netherlands received 11,590 asylum applications in 2011, down from 13,333 in 2010. In 2001 the Netherlands became the first country to legalize same-sex marriage.

### Telecommunications

In 2008 there were 7,317,000 main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscribers numbered 20,627,000 (1,248.0 per 1,000 persons). There were 14.3 m. internet users in 2008. The Netherlands has one of the highest fixed broadband penetration rates, at 38.1 subscribers per 100 inhabitants in Dec. 2010. In March 2012 there were 5.8 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

The Netherlands is bounded in the north and west by the North Sea, south by Belgium and east by Germany. The area is 41,543 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 33,756 km<sup>2</sup> is land. Projects of sea-flood control and land reclamation (polders) by the construction of dams and drainage schemes have continued since 1920. More than a quarter of the country is below sea level. The population was 13,060,115 at the census of 1971 and 16,829,289 on 1 Jan. 2014. Population growth in 2013, 0.3%. Ongoing 'rolling' censuses have replaced the former decennial counts. In 2011, 83.3% of the population lived in urban areas. Urban agglomerations as at 1 Jan. 2010: Amsterdam, 1,053,413; Rotterdam, 996,183; The Hague, 633,201; Utrecht, 441,866; Eindhoven, 327,245; Leiden, 251,436; Dordrecht, 236,285; Tilburg, 227,614; Groningen, 205,814; Heerlen, 204,825; Haarlem, 197,660; Amersfoort, 173,674; Breda, 173,299; 's-Hertogenbosch, 165,007; Nijmegen, 162,963; Enschede, 157,052; Apeldoorn, 155,726; Arnhem, 148,513; Sittard-Geleen, 137,495; Zwolle, 119,030; Maastricht, 118,533; Leeuwarden, 94,073. Dutch is the official language. Frisian, spoken as a first language by 2.2% of the population, is also recognized as an official language in the northern province of Friesland.

### Tourism

Tourism is a major sector of the economy. In 2011 international tourist spending totalled €10,400 m. A total of 11,299,000 non-resident tourists stayed in holiday accommodation in 2011 (up from 10,883,000 in 2010 and 9,921,000 in 2009).

## New Zealand

### Aotearoa

#### Factsheet

Capital: Wellington

Population estimate, 2015: 4.53 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPP\$) 32,689

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.913/9=

Internet domain extension: .nz

#### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch, with Auckland International being the main airport. The national carrier is Air New Zealand, which was privatized in 1989 but then renationalized in 2001, although in Nov. 2013 the government reduced its stake from 73% to 53%. There were 4,499 aircraft registered in Dec. 2011. In 2011 there were 1,019,685 domestic and international aircraft movements. A total of 21,852,000 passenger-km were flown in 2010 by New Zealand-based carriers on scheduled services.

#### Climate

Lying in the cool temperate zone, New Zealand enjoys very mild winters for its latitude owing to its oceanic situation, and only the extreme south has cold winters. The situation of the mountain chain produces much sharper climatic contrasts between east and west than in a north-south direction. The highest extreme temperature recorded in 2011 was 41.3 °C, at Timaru on 6 Feb., and the lowest -10.2 °C, at Manapouri on 26 July.

#### Constitution and Government

Definition was given to the status of New Zealand by the (Imperial) Statute of Westminster of Dec. 1931, which had received the antecedent approval of the New Zealand Parliament in July 1931. The Governor-General's assent was given to the Statute of Westminster Adoption Bill on 25 Nov. 1947. The powers, duties and responsibilities of the *Governor-General* and the *Executive Council* are set out in Royal Letters Patent and Instructions thereunder of 11 May 1917. In the execution of the powers vested in him the Governor-General must be guided by the advice of the Executive Council. Parliament is the *House of Representatives*, consisting of 121 members, elected by universal adult suffrage on the mixed-member-proportional system (MMP) for 3-year terms.

#### Currency

The monetary unit is the *New Zealand dollar* (NZD), of 100 cents.

#### Defence

The New Zealand Defence Force consists of three services: the Royal New Zealand Navy, the New Zealand Army and the Royal New Zealand Air Force. New Zealand forces serve abroad in Australia, Iraq and Singapore, and with UN peacekeeping missions. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$2,715 m. (US\$622 per capita), representing 1.5% of GDP.

#### Economy

Finance and real estate contributed 27.6% to GDP in 2008–09; followed by trade and hotels, 15.0%; manufacturing, 13.2%; services, 11.9%; transport and communications, 10.7%; and agriculture, forestry and mining, 7.2%. According to the anti-corruption organization *Transparency International*, New Zealand ranked equal first in a 2013 survey of the countries with the least corruption in business and government. It received 91 out of 100 in the annual index. New Zealand gave US\$457 m. in international aid in 2013, equivalent to 0.26% of GNI (compared to the UN target of 0.7%).

#### Labour

There were 2,142,500 persons employed in the year ending Sept. 2007 (1,664,000 full-time and 478,500 part-time). The largest number of employed people worked in the education, health and community, and other services area (27.7%); followed by wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels (22.4%); and finance and insurance, property and business services (14.7%). Average unemployment total for the year ending Sept. 2007 was 81,400. The unemployment rate in 2014 was 5.7%.

#### Press

In 2008 there were 22 paid-for daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 653,000. The *New Zealand Herald*, published in Auckland, had the largest daily circulation in 2008, with an average of 187,000 copies. Other major dailies are *The Dominion Post* and *The Press*, with circulations of 94,000 and 87,000 copies respectively. In 2008 there were also three Sunday newspapers. There were four paid-for non-dailies and 109 free non-dailies in 2007.

#### Rail

The national rail operator is Kiwi Rail. In 2008–09 KiwiRail rolling stock included 231 diesel, electric and shunting locomotives, 4,215 freight wagons, 50 passenger carriages and 16 non-passenger coaches. In 1994 a 24-h freight link was introduced between Auckland and Christchurch. In 2011, 4,128 km of 1,067 mm gauge railway was open for traffic (504 km electrified). In 2008–09 KiwiRail carried 4.0 m. tonnes of freight and 12.4 m. passengers. Total income in the financial year 2008–09 was NZ\$636.6 m. and total expense NZ\$573.3 m.

#### Religion

No direct state aid is given to any form of religion. According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 the population was an estimated 57.0% Christian with a further 36.6% being religiously unaffiliated and 2.1% Hindu. Of the Christians in 2010, an estimated 70% were Protestants and 25% Catholics. Anglicans are the largest denomination, with Roman Catholics second and Presbyterians third. For the Church of England the country is divided into seven dioceses, with a separate bishopric (Aotearoa) for the Maori. The Roman Catholic Church is divided into one Archdiocese (Wellington) and five suffragan dioceses. In Feb. 2016 there were two cardinals.

#### Roads

Total length of roads in 2007 was 93,748 km (65.4% paved), including 172 km of motorways. There were 10,893 km of highways, main or national roads. At 30 June 2008 motor vehicles licensed numbered 4,125,932, of which 2,788,938 were passenger cars and vans. In addition there were 577,684 trailers and caravans, 519,992 commercial vehicles, and 130,213 motorcycles and mopeds. In 2007 there were 422 deaths in road accidents.

#### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 29 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 150,000 GT. The busiest port is Tauranga, which handled a record 13,748,000 tonnes of cargo in 2009–10 (up from 13,458,000 tonnes in 2008–09).

#### Social Statistics

Live births in 2013: 58,717; deaths, 29,568. Birth rate, 2013, 13.1 per 1,000 population; death rate, 6.6 per 1,000 population; infant mortality rate, 4.4 per 1,000 live births. Annual population growth rate, 2011, 0.7%. In 2010 there were 522 suicides (380 males). Expectation of life, 2010–12: males, 79.3 years; females, 83.0. Fertility rate, 2013, 2.0 births per woman. New Zealand legalized same-sex marriage in Aug. 2013. In 2013 there were 88,235 permanent and long-term immigrants (84,402 in 2012) and 80,328 permanent and long-term emigrants (87,593 in 2012).

#### Telecommunications

The predominant telecommunications service provider is Spark New Zealand (or 'Spark'), known as Telecom New Zealand until Aug. 2014. Telecom New Zealand had been formed in 1987 and privatized in 1990. The largest mobile phone operators are Vodafone New Zealand and Spark. In 2013 there were 1,850,000 main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year active mobile phone



subscriptions numbered 4,766,000 (1,057.8 per 1,000 persons). An estimated 82.8% of the population were internet users in 2013. The fixed broadband penetration rate was 24.9 subscribers per 100 inhabitants in Dec. 2010. In Dec. 2011 there were 2.1 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

New Zealand lies southeast of Australia in the south Pacific, Wellington being 1,983 km from Sydney. There are two principal islands, the North and South Islands, besides Stewart Island, Chatham Islands and small outlying islands, as well as the territories overseas. New Zealand (i.e. North, South and Stewart Islands) extends over 1,750 km from north to south. Area, excluding territories overseas, 267,707 km<sup>2</sup>. The main islands are: North Island, 114,154 km<sup>2</sup>; South Island, 150,416 km<sup>2</sup>; Stewart Island, 1,681 km<sup>2</sup>; Chatham Islands, 963 km<sup>2</sup>. The latest census took place on 5 March 2013. Of the 4,353,198 people counted, 4,242,048 were usually resident in the country and 111,150 were overseas visitors. In 2011, 86.2% of the population lived in urban areas. Density, 16 per km<sup>2</sup> (2013). English and Maori are the official languages.

### Tourism

There were a record 2,617,930 tourists in the year to March 2012 of whom 1,168,316 were from Australia, 222,152 were from the UK, 184,056 were from the USA and 160,268 were from China. Tourism receipts totalled NZ\$22,848 m. in 2010–11. Employment in tourism in 2010–11 totalled 188,100 (full-time equivalents), of whom 120,700 were directly employed in tourism and 67,400 indirectly.

## Nicaragua

### *República de Nicaragua (Republic of Nicaragua)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Managua

*Population estimate, 2015:* 6.08 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 4,457

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.631/125

*Internet domain extension:* .ni

#### Civil Aviation

In 2013 airports in Nicaragua handled 1,206,172 passengers. The main airport, Augusto C. Sandino International Airport at Managua, handled 1,108,933 passengers in 2009 (of which 963,715 on international flights).

#### Climate

The climate is tropical, with a wet season from May to Jan. Temperatures vary with altitude. Managua, Jan. 81 °F (27 °C), July 81 °F (27 °C). Annual rainfall 38" (976 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was promulgated on 9 Jan. 1987 and underwent reforms in 1995, 2000 and 2014. It provides for a unicameral 92-seat *National Assembly* comprising 90 members directly elected by proportional representation for a 5-year term, together with one seat for the previous president and one seat for the runner-up in the previous presidential election. Citizens are entitled to vote at the age of 16. The *President* and *Vice-President* are directly elected for a 5-year term commencing on 10 Jan. following their date of election. Amendments that came into force in Feb. 2014 ended restrictions on presidential re-election. Previously, the president could stand for a second term in office but not consecutively (although in Oct. 2009 the Supreme Court ruled in favour of a petition brought by President Daniel Ortega to remove the barrier against consecutive terms). Also abolished was the need for a minimum required vote to avoid a presidential run-off. Candidates leading after the first round of voting had previously required at least 40% of the vote (or 35% and a 5% margin over the second-placed candidate) to claim outright

victory. Other changes saw police and military figures permitted to serve in posts hitherto reserved for civilians, while the president was granted the power to issue decree-laws.

#### Currency

The monetary unit is the *córdoba* (NIO), of 100 *centavos*, which replaced the *córdoba oro* in 1991 at par.

#### Defence

In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$85 m. (US\$15 per capita), representing 0.8% of GDP.

#### Economy

In 2012 agriculture accounted for 20.0% of GDP, industry 26.7% and services 53.3%.

#### Labour

The workforce in 2001 was 1,900,400 (1,315,000 males). In 2001, 1,701,700 persons were in employment, of whom 739,000 were engaged in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing; 294,300 in community, social and personal services; 279,800 in wholesale and retail trade, and restaurants and hotels; and 131,600 in manufacturing. There were 159,500 unemployed in 2005, a rate of 7.2%.

#### Press

In 2008 there were seven paid-for daily newspapers in Nicaragua, with a total circulation of 175,000.

#### Religion

The prevailing form of religion is Roman Catholicism (3.38 m. adherents in 2010 according to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life), but religious liberty is guaranteed by the Constitution. The Pew Research Center estimated that there were also 1.53 m. Protestants in 2010 and 730,000 people with no religious affiliation. In Feb. 2016 the Roman Catholic church had two cardinals.

#### Roads

Road length in 2007 was 20,333 km, of which 1,081 km were main roads. In 2007 there were 101,900 passenger cars (18 per 1,000 inhabitants), 7,700 buses and coaches, 179,900 lorries and vans and 61,200 motorcycles and mopeds. 522 fatalities were caused by road accidents in 2007.

#### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were two ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 1,000 GT. The Pacific ports are Corinto (the largest), San Juan del Sur and Puerto Sandino through which pass most of the external trade. The chief eastern ports are El Bluff (for Bluefields) and Puerto Cabezas. Construction of a Chinese-backed 278-km canal known as the Nicaragua Canal, linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, began in Dec. 2014. The canal, which is set to be about four times the length of the Panama Canal, is expected to cost US\$50 bn. and be completed in 2019.

#### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 140,000; deaths, 27,000. Estimated rates (per 1,000 population), 2008: births, 24.6; deaths, 4.7. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 1.3%. 2013 life expectancy: male 71.8 years; female 77.9. Infant mortality, 2010, 23 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 2.7 births per woman. A law prohibiting abortion was passed in Nov. 2006.

#### Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 288,000 fixed telephone lines; mobile phone subscriptions numbered 4,824,000 in 2011 (81.7 per 100 persons). In 2011, 10.6% of the population were internet users. In Dec. 2011 there were 664,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Nicaragua is bounded in the north by Honduras, east by the Caribbean, south by Costa Rica and west by the Pacific. Area, 131,812 km<sup>2</sup> (121,428 km<sup>2</sup> dry land). The coastline runs 450 km on the Atlantic and 305 km on the Pacific. The census population in May 2005 was 5,142,098 (density, 39.0 per km<sup>2</sup>). Estimate, June 2012: 6,071,000. 57.6% of the population were urban in 2011. 15 administrative departments and two autonomous regions are grouped in three zones. The capital is Managua with (2005 census population) 908,892 inhabitants. Other cities (2005 populations): León, 139,433; Chinandega, 95,614; Masaya, 92,598; Estelí, 90,294; Tipitapa, 85,948; Matagalpa, 80,228; Granada, 79,418; Ciudad Sandino, 72,501; Juigalpa, 42,763. The population is of Spanish and Amerindian origins with an admixture of Afro-Americans on the Caribbean coast. The majority of the population is mestizo (mixed Amerindian and white) and white. There are also Blacks and Amerindians. The official language is Spanish.

### Tourism

In 2011 there were 1,060,000 non-resident tourists, spending US\$378 m.

## Niger

### *République du Niger (Republic of Niger)*

#### Factsheet

Capital: Niamey

Population estimate, 2015: 19.90 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 908

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.348/188

Internet domain extension: .ne

#### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Niamey (Diori Hamani Airport), which handled 154,460 passengers in 2009 and 3,327 tonnes of freight. In 2010 there were international flights to Abidjan, Abuja, Accra, Algiers, Bamako, Casablanca, Cotonou, Dakar, Nouakchott, Ouagadougou, Paris and Tripoli as well as domestic flights; nine airlines flew to Niamey in 2010.

#### Climate

Precipitation determines the geographical division into a southern zone of agriculture, a central zone of pasturage and a desert-like northern zone. The country lacks water, with the exception of the southwestern districts, which are watered by the Niger and its tributaries, and the southern zone, where there are a number of wells. Niamey, 95 °F (35 °C). Annual rainfall varies from 22" (560 mm) in the south to 7" (180 mm) in the Sahara zone. The rainy season lasts from May until Sept., but there are periodic droughts.

#### Constitution and Government

Following a coup in Feb. 2010 a military junta suspended the constitution and dissolved the cabinet. In March 2010 the military leadership announced it had formed a transitional government and promised to return Niger to democracy. In Oct. 2010 a new constitution received 90.2% support in a referendum; turnout was 52.7%. Establishing Niger as a secular state, it reimposes a limit of two 5-year terms on the presidency (a provision abandoned in the constitution promulgated the previous year), prohibits members of the military from running for office and guarantees that the government will release data on national oil and mining revenues.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *franc CFA* (XOF) with a parity of 655.957 francs CFA to one euro.

#### Defence

Selective conscription for 2 years operates. Defence expenditure totalled US\$70 m. in 2012 (US\$4 per capita), representing 1.1% of GDP.

#### Economy

Agriculture, forestry and fishing contributed 43.3% of GDP in 2008; followed by trade and hotels, 13.8%; public administration and defence, 8.8%; and services, 8.8%.

#### Labour

The estimated economically active population in 2009 totalled 4,803,000 (68% males). Agriculture, fisheries and forestry remains the largest sector of employment. Niger had 0.12 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

#### Press

In 2008 there was one government-owned daily newspaper and 45 private non-daily newspapers.

#### Religion

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 the population was an estimated 98.4% Muslim (nearly all Sunnis). There are also small numbers of Protestants and people with no religious affiliation.

#### Roads

In 2007 there were 18,949 km of roads including 3,912 km of paved roads. Niamey and Zinder are the termini of two trans-Sahara motor routes; the Hoggar–Aïr–Zinder road extends to Kano and the Tanezrouft–Gao–Niamey road to Benin. A 648-km 'uranium road' runs from Arlit to Tahoua. There were, in 2005, 57,732 passenger cars, 11,261 vans, 2,613 buses and 1,035 lorries. In 2007 there were 676 road accidents resulting in 265 fatalities.

#### Shipping

Sea-going vessels can reach Niamey (300 km inside the country) between Sept. and March.

#### Social Statistics

Estimates, 2008: births, 787,000; deaths, 219,000. Estimated birth rate in 2008 was 53.5 per 1,000 population (the highest in the world); estimated death rate, 14.9. Niger has one of the youngest populations of any country, with 73% of the population under the age of 30 and 49% under 15. Infant mortality, 2010, 73 per 1,000 live births. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 3.6%. Expectation of life at birth, 2013, 58.3 years for males and 58.6 for females. Fertility rate, 2012, 7.6 children per woman (the highest anywhere in the world). A UNICEF report published in 2014 revealed that 77% of women aged 20–49 had been married or in union before the age of 18, the highest percentage of any country.

#### Telecommunications

There were 83,600 landline telephone subscriptions in 2010 (equivalent to 5.4 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 4,339,900 mobile phone subscriptions in 2011 (or 270.1 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2011, 1.3% of the population were internet users.

#### Territory and Population

Niger is bounded in the north by Algeria and Libya, east by Chad, south by Nigeria, southwest by Benin and Burkina Faso, and west by Mali. Area, 1,186,408 km<sup>2</sup>, with a population at the 2012 census of 17,138,707; density, 14.4 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 17.2% of the population were urban. The country is divided into the capital, Niamey, an autonomous district, and seven departments. The population is composed chiefly of Hausa (53%), Djerma-Songhai (21%), Fulani (10%), Tuareg (10%) and Kanuri-Manga (4%). The official language is French. Hausa, Djerma and Fulani are national languages.

## Tourism

In 2012 there were 94,000 non-resident tourists; spending by tourists totalled US\$86 m. in 2011.

# Nigeria

## Federal Republic of Nigeria

### Factsheet

Capital: Abuja  
 Population estimate, 2015: 182.20 m.  
 GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 5,341  
 HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.514/152  
 Internet domain extension: .ng

### Civil Aviation

Lagos (Murtala Muhammed) is the major airport, and there are also international airports at Abuja, Kano and Port Harcourt. After the former national carrier, Air Nigeria, ceased operations in 2012, the country's largest airline is now Arik Air. In 2012 Murtala Muhammed International Airport handled 7,186,595 passengers and 167,702 tonnes of freight.

### Climate

Lying wholly within the tropics, temperatures everywhere are high. Rainfall varies greatly, but decreases from the coast to the interior. The main rains occur from April to Oct. Lagos, Jan. 81 °F (27.2 °C), July 78 °F (25.6 °C). Annual rainfall 72" (1,836 mm). Ibadan, Jan. 80 °F (26.7 °C), July 76 °F (24.4 °C). Annual rainfall 45" (1,120 mm). Kano, Jan. 70 °F (21.1 °C), July 79 °F (26.1 °C). Annual rainfall 35" (869 mm). Port Harcourt, Jan. 79 °F (26 °C), July 77 °F (25 °C). Annual rainfall 100" (2,497 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The constitution was promulgated on 5 May 1999, and entered into force on 29 May. Nigeria is a federation, comprising 36 states and a federal capital territory. The constitution includes provisions for the creation of new states and for boundary adjustments of existing states. The legislative powers are vested in a *National Assembly*, comprising a *Senate* and a *House of Representatives*. The 109-member Senate consists of three senators from each state and one from the federal capital territory, who are elected for a term of 4 years. The House of Representatives comprises 360 members, representing constituencies of nearly equal population as far as possible, who are elected for a 4-year term. The *President* is elected for a term of 4 years and must receive not less than one-quarter of the votes cast at the federal capital territory. A president may not serve more than two consecutive 4-year terms. In 2006 Olusegun Obasanjo sought to alter the constitution to allow him to run for a third term, but he failed to win backing for the amendment.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *naira* (NGN) of 100 *kobo*.

### Defence

In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$2,143 m., equivalent to US\$12 per capita and representing 0.8% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture and fishing contributed 35.5% to GDP in 2009; followed by crude petroleum and mining, 28.5%; trade and hotels, 16.2%; and finance and real estate, 6.1%.

## Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 54,199,000 (41,222,000 in 2003). 56.2% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 7.5% of the population was unemployed. Nigeria had 0.70 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*, the fourth highest total of any country.

## Press

In 2008 there were 28 paid-for daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 510,000 and 61 paid-for weeklies. The dailies with the highest circulation figures are *The Sun* and *ThisDay*.

## Rail

In 2005 there were 3,505 route-km of track (1,067 mm gauge). There are plans to convert the entire network to 1,435 mm gauge. Passenger-km travelled in 2008 came to 773 m. and freight tonne-km to 41 m.

## Religion

Muslims and Christians both constitute about 49% of the population; traditional animist beliefs are also widespread. Northern Nigeria is mainly Muslim; southern Nigeria is predominantly Christian and western Nigeria is evenly divided between Christians, Muslims and animists. Far more Nigerians consider their religion to be of prime importance rather than their nationality. In Feb. 2016 the Roman Catholic church had three cardinals.

## Roads

The road network covered 193,200 km in 2004, including 15,688 km of main roads. In 2007 there were 4,560,000 passenger cars in use and 3,040,000 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 17,797 road accidents with 9,390 fatalities in 2007.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 107 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 427,000 GT. The principal ports are Lagos and Port Harcourt. There is an extensive network of inland waterways.

## Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 6,050,000; deaths, 2,420,000. Rates, 2008 estimates (per 1,000 population): births, 40; deaths, 16. Infant mortality, 2010, 88 (per 1,000 live births). Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 2.7%. Life expectancy at birth, 2013, was 52.2 years for males and 52.8 years for females. Fertility rate, 2008, 5.3 children per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2010 there were 1,050,000 main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscribers numbered 87,298,000 (551.0 per 1,000 persons), up from 18,587,000 in 2005. Nigeria has now surpassed South Africa as the continent's largest mobile phone market. The largest mobile phone company is MTN Nigeria Communications. In 2012, 32.8% of the population were internet users. In June 2012 there were 5.1 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Nigeria is bounded in the north by Niger, east by Chad and Cameroon, south by the Gulf of Guinea and west by Benin. It has an area of 923,768 km<sup>2</sup> (356,667 sq. miles). Census population, 2006, 140,431,790 (69,086,302 females); population density, 152.0 per km<sup>2</sup>. Nigeria is Africa's most populous country. In 2011, 50.5% of the population were urban.

## Tourism

In 2010 there were 1,555,000 international tourist arrivals, excluding same-day visitors (up from 1,414,000 in 2009); spending by tourists in 2010 totalled US\$576 m.

## Norway

*Kongeriket Norge (Kingdom of Norway)*

### Factsheet

Capital: Oslo

Population estimate, 2015: 5.21 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPP\$) 64,992

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.944/1

Internet domain extension: .no

### Civil Aviation

The main international airports are at Oslo (Gardermoen), Bergen (Flesland), Stavanger (Sola), Sandefjord (Torp) and Moss (Rygge). Norway's largest airline is SAS Norge, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) Group. In 2010 Oslo (Gardermoen) handled 19,140,384 passengers (10,123,605 on international flights). Bergen is the second busiest airport for passenger traffic, with 5,189,714 passengers in 2010 (3,604,882 on domestic flights).

### Climate

There is considerable variation in the climate because of the extent of latitude, the topography and the varying effectiveness of prevailing westerly winds and the Gulf Stream. Winters along the whole west coast are exceptionally mild but precipitation is considerable. Oslo, Jan. 24.3 °F (−4.3 °C), July 61.5 °F (16.4 °C). Annual rainfall 30.0" (763 mm). Bergen, Jan. 34.3 °F (1.3 °C), July 57.7 °F (14.3 °C). Annual rainfall 88.6" (2,250 mm). Trondheim, Jan. 26 °F (−3.5 °C), July 57 °F (14 °C). Annual rainfall 32.1" (870 mm). Bergen has one of the highest rainfall figures of any European city. The sun never fully sets in the northern area of the country in the summer and even in the south the sun rises at around 3 a.m. and sets at around 11 p.m.

### Constitution and Government

Norway is a constitutional and hereditary monarchy. The reigning King is **Harald V**, born 21 Feb. 1937, married on 29 Aug. 1968 to Sonja Haraldsen. He succeeded on the death of his father, King Olav V, on 21 Jan. 1991. The king and queen together receive an annual personal allowance of 10.8 m. kroner from the civil list, and the Crown Prince and Crown Princess together 9.0 m. kroner. The Constitution, voted by a constituent assembly on 17 May 1814 and modified at various times, vests the legislative power of the realm in the *Storting* (Parliament). The King has the command of the land, sea and air forces, and makes all appointments. The 169-member *Storting* (increased from 165 for the 2005 election) is directly elected by proportional representation. The country is divided into 19 districts, each electing from 4 to 15 representatives. The *Storting*, when assembled, divides itself by election into the *Lagting* and the *Odelsting*. The *Storting* elects five delegates, whose duty it is to revise the public accounts. The *Lagting* and the ordinary members of the Supreme Court of Justice (the *Høyesterett*) form a High Court of the Realm (the *Rikssting*) for the trial of ministers, members of the *Høyesterett* and members of the *Storting*. The impeachment before the *Rikssting* can only be decided by the *Odelsting*. The executive is represented by the King, who exercises his authority through the Cabinet. Cabinet ministers are entitled to be present in the *Storting* and to take part in the discussions, but without a vote.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Norwegian krone* (NOK) of 100 *øre*.

### Defence

In 2013 defence spending totalled US\$7,523 m. (US\$1,593 per capita), representing 1.4% of GDP. Expenditure per capita was the highest of any European country in 2013.

### Economy

Services accounted for 57% of GDP in 2012, industry 42% and agriculture 1%.

### Labour

The labour force averaged 2,602,000 in 2010 (1,224,000 females). The total number of employed persons in 2010 averaged 2,508,000 (1,187,000 females), of whom 1,835,000 were in full-time employment, 667,000 in part-time employment and 6,000 working unspecified hours. Distribution of employed persons by occupation in 2007 showed 492,700 in health and social work; 364,000 in trade; 300,200 in business services; 286,200 in manufacturing; 185,500 in education; 184,200 in construction; 167,300 in transport; 156,600 in public administration and defence; 78,800 in hotels and restaurants; 60,100 in agriculture. The unemployment rate in Nov. 2014 was 3.7% (one of the lowest in the industrialized world).

### Press

There were 74 paid-for daily newspapers with a combined average net circulation of 2.19 m. in 2008, and in 2007 there were 151 non-dailies with a circulation of 623,000. Norway has among the highest circulation rates of daily newspapers in the world, at 580 per 1,000 adult inhabitants in 2007. In the 2013 *World Press Freedom Index* compiled by Reporters Without Borders, Norway was ranked third out of 179 countries. In 2007 a total of 7,074 book titles were published.

### Rail

The length of state railways in 2010 was 4,169 km (2,566 km electrified). In 2009 passenger-km travelled came to 2,669 m. and freight tonne-km to 2,804 m. Sales and other operating income totalled 11,179 m. kroner in 2010. There is a metro (104 km) and a tram network (146 km) in Oslo.

### Religion

There is freedom of religion, the Church of Norway (Evangelical Lutheran), however, being the national church. Its clergy are nominated by the King. Ecclesiastically Norway is divided into 11 dioceses, 100 deaneries and 1,298 parishes. About 80% of Norwegians belong to the Church of Norway (which had 3,848,841 members in 2009) and approximately 68% of infants were baptised in the Church in 2009. There were 431,287 members of registered and unregistered religious and philosophical communities outside the Church of Norway in 2009, subsidized by central government and local authorities, including 234,772 Christians and 92,744 Muslims. The Roman Catholics are under a Bishop at Oslo, and Prelates at Tromsø and Trondheim.

### Roads

In Jan. 2011 the length of public roads (including roads in towns) totalled 93,509 km. Total road length in Jan. 2011 included: national roads, 10,496 km; provincial roads, 44,281 km; local roads, 38,732 km. Number of registered motor vehicles, 2010, included: 2,308,548 passenger cars (including station wagons and ambulances), 397,279 vans, 254,674 tractors and special purpose vehicles, 168,904 mopeds, 146,592 motorcycles, 81,330 goods vehicles (including lorries), 48,432 combined vehicles and 20,348 buses. In 2010, 9,130 injuries were sustained in road accidents, with 208 fatalities. Norway has one of the lowest death rates in road accidents of any industrialized country, at 4.3 deaths per 100,000 people in 2010.

### Shipping

The Norwegian International Ship Register was set up in 1987. In 2010, 525 ships were registered (400 Norwegian) totalling 13,792,000 GT. 218 tankers accounted for 6,948,000 GT. There were also 882 vessels totalling 1,917,000 GT on the Norwegian Ordinary Register. These figures do not include fishing boats, tugs, salvage vessels, icebreakers and similar special types of vessels.

### Social Statistics

2010 births, 61,442; deaths, 41,499. Rates per 1,000 population, 2010, birth, 12.6; death, 8.5; marriage, 4.8; divorce, 2.1. Average annual population growth rate, 2000–10, 0.86% (2010, 1.28%). In 2009 there were 573 suicides, giving a rate of 11.9 per 100,000 population (men, 17.3 per 100,000; women, 6.5). Expectation of life at birth, 2010, was 78.9 years for males and

83.2 years for females. Infant mortality, 2010, 2.8 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2010, 1.95 births per woman. 55% of births are to unmarried mothers. In 2009 the average age at marriage was 37.3 years for males and 33.8 years for females (33.8 years and 31.0 years respectively for first marriages).

### Telecommunications

At 31 Dec. 2010 there were 1,648,927 main (fixed) telephone lines and 5,648,673 mobile phone subscribers (1,148.0 per 1,000 persons). In 2013, 66.5% of the population aged 16–74 were internet users. In March 2012 there were 2.6 m. Facebook users. Since 2000 the government has been reducing its interest in Telenor, the country's largest telecommunications operator, and in March 2004 lowered its stake to 54.0%.

### Territory and Population

Norway is bounded in the north by the Arctic Ocean, east by Russia, Finland and Sweden, south by the Skagerrak Straits and west by the Norwegian Sea. The total area of mainland Norway is 323,787 km<sup>2</sup>, including 19,539 km<sup>2</sup> of fresh water. Total coastline, including fjords, 25,148 km. There are more than 50,000 islands along the coastline. Exposed mountain (either bare rock or thin vegetation) makes up over 70% of the country. 25% of the land area is woodland and 4% tilled land. Population (2001 census) was 4,520,947 (2,240,281 males; 2,280,666 females); population density per km<sup>2</sup>, 14.8. Estimated population, 1 Jan. 2014, 5,109,056; population density, 16.8. With the exception of Iceland, Norway is the most sparsely populated country in Europe. The Arctic territories of Svalbard and Jan Mayen have an area of 61,397 km<sup>2</sup>. Persons staying on Svalbard and Jan Mayen are registered as residents of their home Norwegian municipality. At Jan. 2011, 79.2% of the population lived in urban areas. Population of the principal urban settlements on 1 Jan. 2013: Oslo, 925,228; Bergen, 247,731; Stavanger/Sandnes, 203,771; Trondheim, 169,972; Drammen, 110,503; Fredrikstad/Sarpsborg, 106,758; Porsgrunn/Skien, 90,621; Kristiansand, 58,662. The official language is Norwegian, which has two versions: Bokmål (or Riksmål) and Nynorsk (or Landsmål).

### Tourism

In 2007 there were 3,260,000 foreign holiday and leisure visitors (excluding same-day visitors) who stayed an average of 7.4 nights each, totalling 24,252,000 nights. The main countries of origin were Sweden (761,000), Germany (548,000), Denmark (431,000) and the UK (246,000). In 2010 there were 1,128 hotels and 782 camping sites. Spending by foreign tourists totalled 30.8 bn. kroner in 2007.

## Oman

### *Saltanat 'Uman (Sultanate of Oman)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Muscat

*Population estimate, 2015:* 4.49 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 34,858

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.793/52=

*Internet domain extension:* .om

#### Civil Aviation

The national airline is Oman Air, which in 2007 had 15 aircraft and served 26 destinations. Oman formerly had a 50% share in Gulf Air with Bahrain, but withdrew in May 2007. In 2009 Seeb International Airport (Muscat) handled 4,556,502 passengers (3,983,413 international) and 64,418 tonnes of freight.

#### Climate

Oman has a desert climate, with exceptionally hot and humid months from April to Oct., when temperatures may reach 47 °C. Light monsoon rains fall in the south from June to Sept., with highest amounts in the western highland

region. Muscat, Jan. 28 °C, July 46 °C. Annual rainfall 101 mm. Salalah, Jan. 29 °C, July 32 °C. Annual rainfall 98 mm.

### Constitution and Government

Oman is a hereditary absolute monarchy. The Sultan legislates by decree and appoints a Cabinet to assist him. The Basic Statute of the State was promulgated on 6 Nov. 1996. The present Sultan is **Qaboos bin Said Al Said** (b. Nov. 1940). He does not have any children and has not publicly named an heir or a designated successor. In 1991 a new consultative assembly, the *Majlis al-Shura*, replaced the former State Consultative Chamber. The Majlis consists of 84 elected members. It debates domestic issues, but has no legislative or veto powers. There is also an upper house, the *Majlis al-Dawla*, which consists of 83 appointed members; it too has advisory powers only. In Dec. 2002 the Sultan of Oman extended voting rights to all citizens over the age of 21.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Rial Omani* (OMR). It is divided into 1,000 *baiza*.

### Defence

Military expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$9,246 m. (US\$2,931 per capita), representing 11.7% of GDP.

### Economy

Oil and natural gas (excluding petroleum products) contributed 41.0% to GDP in 2009; followed by manufacturing (including petroleum products) 10.3%; trade, restaurants and hotels, 10.2%; and finance and real estate, 9.9%.

### Labour

In 2013 the labour force totalled 1,985,000 with the unemployment rate standing at 7.9%. Males constituted 85.9% of the workforce in 2013. In 2014 there were 232,980 persons in government service and 197,510 Omanis in the private sector. The employment of foreign labour is being discouraged following 'Omanization' regulations of 1994. More than a quarter of the total population are foreign workers. Following the unrest of early 2011 the private sector monthly minimum wage for national workers was increased in Feb. 2011 from RO 140 to RO 200. There is no minimum wage for foreign workers.

### Press

In 2008 there were seven daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 239,000.

### Religion

In 2010, 85.9% of the population were Muslims according to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. Most Omanis are Ibadhis, a distinct branch of Islam that is neither Sunni nor Shia. The Pew Research Center estimated that 6.5% of the population were Christians in 2010 and 5.5% Hindus.

### Roads

A network of adequate graded roads links all the main sectors of population, and only a few mountain villages are not accessible by motor vehicles. In 2005 there were about 42,300 km of roads (16,500 km paved) including 953 km of dual carriageway. In 2007 there were 453,400 passenger cars in use (174 per 1,000 inhabitants), 113,300 vans and lorries, and 26,400 buses and coaches. In 2007 there were 8,816 road accidents and 798 deaths.

### Shipping

In Mutrah a deep-water port (named Mina Qaboos) was completed in 1974. In 2008 it handled 6.3 m. tonnes of foreign cargo. In Jan. 2009 there were seven ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 17,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 61,000; deaths, 8,000. Estimated rates, 2008 (per 1,000 population): births, 22.0; deaths, 2.7. Expectation of life at birth, 2013, was 74.8 years for males and 79.0 years for females. Average annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 1.8%. Fertility rate, 2008, 3.0 births per

woman, down from 7.8 in 1988. Oman has achieved some of the most rapid advances ever recorded. Infant mortality declined from 200 per 1,000 live births in 1960 to eight per 1,000 live births in 2010, and as recently as 1970 life expectancy was just 40.

### Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 351,000 main (fixed) telephone lines in Oman; mobile phone subscriptions numbered 5,617,000 in 2013 (1,546.5 per 1,000 persons). An estimated 60% of the population were internet users in 2012. In March 2012 there were 422,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Situated at the southeast corner of the Arabian peninsula, Oman is bounded in the northeast by the Gulf of Oman and southeast by the Arabian Sea, southwest by Yemen and northwest by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. There is an enclave at the northern tip of the Musandam Peninsula. The Sultanate of Oman occupies a total area of 309,500 km<sup>2</sup> and includes different terrains that vary from plain to highlands and mountains. Population at the census of Dec. 2010, 2,773,479 (1,612,411 males); density 9.0 per km<sup>2</sup>. The population comprised 1,957,336 Omanis and 816,143 expatriates. In 2011, 73.3% of the population lived in urban areas. The census population of the capital, Muscat, in 2010 was 775,878. The official language is Arabic; English is in commercial use.

### Tourism

Non-resident tourists staying at hotels and similar establishments numbered 1,276,000 in 2009 (down from 1,378,000 in 2008 although up from 1,182,000 in 2007).

## Pakistan

*Islami Jamhuriya e Pakistan (Islamic Republic of Pakistan)*

### Factsheet

Capital: Islamabad  
 Population estimate, 2015: 188.93 m.  
 GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 4,866  
 HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.538/147  
 Internet domain extension: .pk

### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta. The national carrier is the state-owned Pakistan International Airlines, or PIA. It operates scheduled services to 46 international and 24 domestic destinations. In 2006, 88,302,000 revenue-km were flown. The revenue passengers carried totalled 5.73 m. in 2006 and revenue tonne-km came to 1,801 m. Operating revenues of the corporation stood at Rs70,587 m. in 2006 and operating expenditure at Rs79,164 m.

### Climate

A weak form of tropical monsoon climate occurs over much of the country, with arid conditions in the north and west, where the wet season is only from Dec. to March. Elsewhere, rain comes mainly in the summer. Summer temperatures are high everywhere, but winters can be cold in the mountainous north. Islamabad, Jan. 50 °F (10 °C), July 90 °F (32.2 °C). Annual rainfall 36" (900 mm). Karachi, Jan. 61 °F (16.1 °C), July 86 °F (30 °C). Annual rainfall 8" (196 mm). Lahore, Jan. 53 °F (11.7 °C), July 89 °F (31.7 °C). Annual rainfall 18" (452 mm). Multan, Jan. 51 °F (10.6 °C), July 93 °F (33.9 °C). Annual rainfall 7" (170 mm). Quetta, Jan. 38 °F (3.3 °C), July 80 °F (26.7 °C). Annual rainfall 10" (239 mm).

### Constitution and Government

Following the 1999 coup Gen. Musharraf announced that the Constitution was to be held 'in abeyance' and issued a 'Provisional Constitution Order

No. 1' in its place. In Aug. 2002 he unilaterally amended the constitution to grant himself the right to dissolve parliament. Gen. Pervez Musharraf, Chief of the Army Staff, assumed the responsibilities of the chief executive of the country following the removal of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on 12 Oct. 1999. He formed a National Security Council consisting of six members belonging to the armed forces and a number of civilians with expertise in various fields. A Federal Cabinet of Ministers was also installed working under the guidance of the National Security Council. Also formed was the National Reconstruction Bureau, a think tank providing institutional advice and input on economic, social and institutional matters. Following Musharraf's resignation in Aug. 2008, ousted Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudry was reinstated in March 2009. The 2007 amendments to the constitution were subsequently revoked in July 2009 and in Aug. the Supreme Court ruled that Musharraf's actions had been illegal.

### Currency

The monetary unit is the *Pakistan rupee* (PKR) of 100 *paisas*.

### Defence

Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$5,890 m. (US\$30 per capita), representing 2.5% of GDP. According to *Deadly Arsenals*, published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Pakistan has both chemical and biological weapon research programmes. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute estimates that Pakistan possesses 100–120 nuclear warheads.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 21.2% of GDP in 2010, industry 25.4% and services 53.4%.

### Labour

Out of 45.29 m. economically active people in 2005, 37.81 m. were males. The rate of unemployment in 2005 was 6.8%. In 2005 a total of 17.18 m. persons were engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing, 6.67 m. in manufacturing, 6.50 m. in community, social and personal services and 6.29 m. in wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels. In 2001 there were four industrial disputes and 7,078 working days were lost. Pakistan had 2.13 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*, the third highest total of any country.

### Press

In 2007 there were 400 paid-for dailies and 1,200 paid-for non-daily periodicals. Average combined circulation of all dailies in 2007 was 9,935,000. The most popular daily papers in 2008 were *Jang*, with a circulation of 450,000, and *Express*, with a circulation of 375,000. The most widely read English-language paper is *Dawn*, with an average daily circulation of 225,000 copies in 2008.

### Rail

In 2011 Pakistan Railways had a route length of 7,791 km (of which 293 km electrified) mainly on 1,676 mm gauge, with some metre gauge line. Passenger-km travelled in 2011 came to 20.6 bn. and freight tonne-km to 1.8 bn.

### Religion

Pakistan was created as a Muslim state. Around 85–90% of Muslims are Sunni and 10–15% Shia according to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. Religious groups: Muslims, 93%; Christians, 2%; Hindus, Parsees, Buddhists, Qadianis and others. Pakistan has the second highest number of Muslims, after Indonesia. There is a Minorities Wing at the Religious Affairs Ministry to safeguard the constitutional rights of religious minorities.

### Roads

In 2006 there were 260,420 km of roads, of which 65.4% were paved. There are ten motorways providing links between Pakistan's major cities. These include the M-1 from Islamabad to Peshawar, the M-2 from Islamabad to Lahore, the M-4 from Faisalabad to Multan and the M-9 from Karachi to Hyderabad. In 2007 there were 1,440,100 passenger cars in use, 187,100 vans

and lorries, 170,400 buses and coaches and 2,684,300 motorcycles. There were 10,466 road accidents involving injury in 2007, with 5,465 fatalities. All traffic in Pakistan drives on the left. All cars must be insured and registered. Minimum age for driving: 18 years.

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 16 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 384,000 GT. The busiest port is Karachi. In 2008–09 cargo traffic totalled a record 38,732,000 tonnes (13,364,000 tonnes loaded and 25,368,000 tonnes discharged). In 2008–09, 2,386 vessels were handled at the port of Karachi. There are also ports at Port Qasim, which handled 25,023,000 tonnes in 2008–09, and Gwadar.

### Social Statistics

Estimates, 2008: births, 5,324,000; deaths, 1,224,000. Estimated birth rate in 2008 was 30.1 per 1,000 population; estimated death rate, 6.9. Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births), 70 (2010). Formal registration of marriages and divorces has not been required since 1992. Expectation of life in 2013 was 65.7 years for men and 67.5 years for women. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.2%. Fertility rate, 2008, 4.0 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

Telecommunications The telephone system is government-owned. In 2013 there were an estimated 6.4 m. main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscriptions numbered an estimated 127.7 m. An estimated 10.9% of the population were internet users in 2013. In March 2012 there were 6.4 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Pakistan is bounded in the west by Iran, northwest by Afghanistan, north by China, east by India and south by the Arabian Sea. The area (excluding the disputed area of Kashmir) is 796,100 km<sup>2</sup> (307,380 sq. miles), including 25,220 km<sup>2</sup> (9,740 sq. miles) of inland water. 2011 provisional census population (excluding three districts of Balochistan, the agency of South Waziristan in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, and the autonomous states Azad-Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan), 192,288,944. In 2011, 36.2% lived in urban areas. There were 1.6 m. refugees in 2012, mostly from Afghanistan, the highest number in any country and 17% of the global total. English, the official language, is used in business, higher education and in central government; Urdu is the national language and the *lingua franca*, although only spoken as a first language by about 8% of the population. Around 48% of the population speak Punjabi.

### Tourism

In 2010 there were 906,800 non-resident tourists including 288,200 from the UK, 120,400 from the USA, 110,900 from Afghanistan, 46,200 from Canada and 43,700 from India. 54% of tourists in 2010 visited Punjab and 29% Sindh.

## Palau

*Beluu er a Belau (Republic of Palau)*

### Factsheet

Capital: Melekeok  
Population estimate, 2015: 21,000  
GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 13,496  
HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.780/60=  
Internet domain extension: .pw

### Civil Aviation

The main airport is on Koror (Roman Tmetuchl International Airport, near Airai). In 2010 there were scheduled flights to Guam, Manila, Seoul, Taipei and Yap (Micronesia). A new Palau-based carrier, Palau Airways, was

founded in 2011 and launched scheduled passenger services between Koror and Taipei in May 2012, but it halted its operations in April 2013.

### Climate

Palau has a pleasantly warm climate throughout the year with temperatures averaging 81 °F (27 °C). The heaviest rainfall is between July and Oct.

### Constitution and Government

The Constitution was adopted on 2 April 1979 and took effect from 1 Jan. 1981. The Republic has a bicameral legislature, the *Olbiil Era Kelulau* (National Congress), comprising a 13-member *Senate* and a 16-member *House of Delegates* (one from each of the Republic's 16 states), both elected for a term of 4 years as are the *President* and *Vice-President*. Customary social roles and land and sea rights are allocated by a matriarchal 16-clan system.

### Currency

US currency is used.

### Labour

In 2005 the total labour force numbered 10,203 (6,214 males and 3,989 females), of whom 9,777 were employed (5,982 males and 3,795 females).

### Press

There are three local newspapers—*Island Times*, *Tia Belau* and *Palau Horizon*—although none are published daily.

### Religion

The majority of the population is Roman Catholic.

### Roads

There were 146 km of roads in 2007 including the 85-km US-funded two-lane highway around Babelthuap, providing a link between the old capital of Koror and the new capital of Melekeok.

### Shipping

There is a port at Malakal.

### Social Statistics

2012 births, 268; deaths, 164. Rates, 2012 (per 1,000 population): births, 12.7; deaths, 7.8; infant mortality (2012), 12 per 1,000 live births. Annual population growth rate, 1998–2008, 1.0%. Expectation of life at birth, 2010: males, 61 years; females, 68. Fertility rate, 2008, 1.9 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2008 there were 7,400 main (fixed) telephone lines and 12,200 mobile phone subscribers.

### Territory and Population

The archipelago lies in the western Pacific and has a total land area of 488 km<sup>2</sup> (188 sq. miles). It comprises 26 islands and over 300 islets. Only nine of the islands are inhabited, the largest being Babelthuap (396 km<sup>2</sup>), but most inhabitants live on the small island of Koror (18 km<sup>2</sup>) to the south. In Oct. 2006 the capital moved from Koror to Melekeok, a newly-built town in eastern Babelthuap. The total population of Palau at the time of the 2012 census was 17,501 (9,217 males and 8,284 females), giving a density of 35.9 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2005 approximately 73% of the population were Palauans and 16% Filipinos. In 2011, 84.3% of the population lived in urban areas. Some 6,000 Palauans live abroad. The local language is Palauan; both Palauan and English are official languages.

### Tourism

Tourism is a major industry, particularly marine-based. There were 83,795 visitor arrivals in 2009 (down from a record 94,895 in 2004). Of the visitor arrivals in 2009, 68,329 were for tourist purposes. Visitors to Palau in 2009 included: 27,180 from Japan; 16,571 from the Republic of China; 13,193 from the Republic of Korea.

## Panama

*República de Panamá (Republic of Panama)*

### Factsheet

Capital: Panama City  
 Population estimate, 2015: 3.93 m.  
 GNI per capita, 2014: (PPP\$) 18,192  
 HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.780/60=  
 Internet domain extension: .pa

### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Panama City (Tocumén International). The national carrier is COPA, which flew to nearly 50 different destinations in 2010. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Panama-based carriers flew 134.8 m. km; passenger-km totalled 14.5 bn. in the same year. In 2005 Tocumén International handled 2,710,857 passengers and 100,063 tonnes of freight.

### Climate

Panama has a tropical climate, unvaryingly with high temperatures and only a short dry season from Jan. to April. Rainfall amounts are much higher on the north side of the isthmus. Panama City, Jan. 79 °F (26.1 °C), July 81 °F (27.2 °C). Annual rainfall 70" (1,770 mm). Colón, Jan. 80 °F (26.7 °C), July 80 °F (26.7 °C). Annual rainfall 127" (3,175 mm). Balboa Heights, Jan. 80 °F (26.7 °C), July 81 °F (27.2 °C). Annual rainfall 70" (1,759 mm). Cristóbal, Jan. 80 °F (26.7 °C), July 81 °F (27.2 °C). Annual rainfall 130" (3,255 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The 1972 constitution, as amended in 1978, 1983, 1994 and 2004, provides for a *President*, elected for 5 years, two *Vice-Presidents* and a 72-seat *Legislative Assembly* (since reduced to 71 seats) to be elected for 5-year terms by a direct vote. As a result of the amendment of 2004 there has only been one *Vice-President* since the election of May 2009. To remain registered, parties must have attained at least 50,000 votes at the last election. A referendum held on 15 Nov. 1992 rejected constitutional reforms by 64% of votes cast. Turnout was 40%. In a referendum on 30 Aug. 1998 voters rejected proposed changes to the constitution which would allow for a President to serve a second consecutive term.

### Currency

The monetary unit is the *balboa* (PAB) of 100 *centésimos*, at parity with the US dollar. The only paper currency used is that of the USA. US coinage is also legal tender.

### Defence

The armed forces were disbanded in 1990 and constitutionally abolished in 1994. Divided between both coasts, the National Maritime Service, a coast guard rather than a navy, numbered around 600 personnel in 2011. In addition there is a paramilitary police force of 11,000 and a paramilitary national air service of 400 with no combat capable aircraft. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$637 m. (US\$179 per capita), representing 1.5% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 5.3% of GDP in 2010, industry 16.8% and services 77.9%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 1,799,000 (1,414,000 in 2003). 69.9% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 4.1% of the population was unemployed.

### Press

In 2008 there were seven dailies with a combined circulation of 233,000.

### Rail

The 1,435 mm gauge Ferrocarril de Panama, which connects Ancón on the Pacific with Cristóbal on the Atlantic along the bank of the Panama Canal, is the principal railway. Traffic in 2004 amounted to 77,000 passengers and 700,000 tonnes of freight. The United Brands Company runs 376 km of railway, and the Chiriquí National Railroad 171 km.

### Religion

80% of the population is Roman Catholic and 14% Protestant. The remainder of the population follow other religions (notably Islam). There is freedom of religious worship and separation of Church and State. Clergymen may teach in schools but may not hold public office. In Feb. 2016 there was one Roman Catholic cardinal.

### Roads

In 2006 there were 13,365 km of roads, of which 34.1% were paved. The road from Panama City westward to the cities of David and Concepción and to the Costa Rican frontier, with several branches, is part of the Pan-American Highway. The Trans-Isthmian Highway connects Panama City and Colón. In 2007 there were 436,200 passenger cars, 174,500 lorries and vans and 20,100 buses and coaches. There were 425 road accident fatalities in 2007.

### Shipping

Panama, a nation with a transcendental maritime career and a strategic geographic position, is the shipping world's preferred flag for ship registry. The Ship Registry System equally accepts vessels of local or international ownership, as long as they comply with all legal parameters. Ship owners also favour Panamanian registry because fees are low. The Panamanian merchant fleet is the largest in the world. In Jan. 2009 there were 6,842 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 180.87 m. GT (representing 22.9% of the world total). Of the 6,842 vessels registered, 2,198 were bulk carriers, 2,174 general cargo ships, 1,078 oil tankers, 798 container ships, 221 chemical tankers, 201 liquid gas tankers and 172 passenger ships.

### Social Statistics

2006 births, 65,764; deaths, 14,358; marriages, 10,747; divorces, 2,866. Birth rate, 2006 (per 1,000 population), 20.0; death rate, 4.4. Annual population growth rate, 2000–05, 2.5%. Expectation of life at birth, 2007, was 73.0 years for males and 78.2 years for females. In 2006 the most popular age range for marrying was 25–29 for both males and females. Infant mortality, 2010, 17 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2006, 2.4 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

Panama had 5,677,000 mobile phone subscriptions in 2009 (1,643.7 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 537,100 fixed telephone lines. There were 277.9 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants in 2009. In Dec. 2011 there were 896,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Panama is bounded in the north by the Caribbean Sea, east by Colombia, south by the Pacific Ocean and west by Costa Rica. The area is 75,001 km<sup>0</sup>. Population at the census of 2010 was 3,405,813 (1,693,229 females); density, 44.9 per km<sup>2</sup>. The population was 75.5% urban in 2011. The largest towns (2010) are Panama City, the capital, on the Pacific coast (430,299) and its suburb San Miguelito (315,019). Other large towns are Las Cumbres, Tocumén, David, Arraiján and Colón. The population is a mix of African, American, Arab, Chinese, European and Indian immigrants. The official language is Spanish.

### Tourism

In 2011 there were 1,473,000 non-resident tourists (1,324,000 in 2010); spending by tourists totalled US\$2,925 m. in 2011 (US\$2,552 m. in 2010).



## Papua New Guinea

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Port Moresby  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 7.62 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 2,463  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.505/158  
*Internet domain extension:* .pg

### Civil Aviation

Jacksons International Airport is at Port Moresby. The state-owned national carrier is Air Niugini, which carried 1.5 m. passengers in 2013 (1.1 m. on domestic flights). In 2010 there were scheduled international flights to Brisbane, Cairns, Hong Kong, Honiara, Manila, Nadi, Singapore, Sydney and Tokyo.

### Climate

There is a monsoon climate, with high temperatures and humidity the year round. Port Moresby is in a rain shadow and is not typical of the rest of Papua New Guinea. Jan. 82 °F (27.8 °C), July 78 °F (25.6 °C). Annual rainfall 40" (1,011 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The constitution took effect on 16 Sept. 1975. The head of state is the British sovereign, who is represented by a *Governor-General*, nominated by parliament for 6-year terms. A single legislative house, known as the *National Parliament*, is made up of 111 members: 89 district representatives and 22 provincial representatives (MPs). The members are elected by universal suffrage; elections are held every 5 years. All citizens over the age of 18 are eligible to vote and stand for election. Voting is by secret ballot and follows the limited preferential system. The *Prime Minister*, nominated by parliament and appointed by the Governor-General, selects ministers for the National Executive Council. The government cannot be subjected to a vote of no confidence in the first 18 months of office. The 20 provincial assemblies, comprising elected national MPs, appointed members and elected local government representatives, are headed by a Governor, normally the provincial representative in the National Parliament.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Nepalese rupee* (NPR) of 100 *paisas*. 50 *paisas* = 1 *mohur*.

### Defence

The Papua New Guinea Defence Force had a total estimated strength of 3,100 in 2011 consisting of land, maritime and air elements. The Land Element, the senior of the three services, had around 2,500 personnel in 2011. The Maritime Operations Element, with around 400 personnel in 2011, has four patrol boats and two landing craft. There is an Air Operations Element, 200 strong in 2011, but it does not possess any combat capable aircraft. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$84 m. (US\$13 per capita), representing 0.5% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture, forestry and fishing contributed 34.8% to GDP in 2008; followed by mining and quarrying, 25.1%; construction, 10.4%; and public administration, defence and services, 8.4%.

### Labour

In 2012 the economically active population numbered 3.19 m. persons. The rate of unemployment was 2.3%.

### Press

In 2008 there were two daily newspapers (the *Papua New Guinea Post-Courier* and the *National*) and a number of weeklies and monthlies. The

*Papua New Guinea Post-Courier* is the oldest (1969) and most widely read, with a daily circulation of 30,000 (2007).

### Religion

The Constitution provides for freedom of religion. In 2010 there were an estimated 4.69 m. Protestants and 2.06 m. Catholics according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life.

### Roads

The national road system comprises some 8,800 km and there are about 8,100 km of provincial roads, as well as district, local and other roads. However, much of the network is in poor condition. There were 38,200 passenger cars in use in 2007 and 11,300 lorries and vans.

### Shipping

There are 12 entry and four other main ports served by five major shipping lines; the Papua New Guinea Shipping Corporation is state-owned. In Jan. 2009 there were 55 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 44,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

Estimates, 2008: births, 207,000; deaths, 52,000. Rates, 2008 estimates (per 1,000 population): births, 31.4; deaths, 7.9. Expectation of life at birth in 2013 was 60.4 years for males and 64.6 years for females. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.5%. Infant mortality, 2010, 47 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 4.1 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2009 there were 133.7 mobile phone subscriptions for every 1,000 inhabitants and 8.9 fixed telephone lines per 1,000 inhabitants. In the same year there were an estimated 18.6 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants. In 2004 the government rejected a bid by a South African joint venture to acquire a 51% stake in the state-owned telecommunications company Telikom PNG.

### Territory and Population

Papua New Guinea extends from the equator to Cape Baganowa in the Louisiade Archipelago to 11.40' S. lat. and from the border of West Irian to 160° E. long. with a total area of 462,840 km<sup>2</sup>. According to the 2011 census the population was 7,275,324 (3,772,864 males); density, 15.7 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 12.6% of the population lived in urban areas (the second lowest percentage in the world). In 2011 population of Port Moresby (National Capital District) was 364,125. Other main towns are Lae, Madang, Mount Hagen, Wewak, Goroka and Kimbe. Tok Pisin (or Pidgin, a creole of English), Hiri Motu and English are all official languages.

### Tourism

In 2008 there were 114,000 non-resident tourists (excluding same-day visitors), up from 104,000 in 2007 and 78,000 in 2006.

## Paraguay

*República del Paraguay (Republic of Paraguay)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Asunción  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 6.64 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 7,643  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.679/112  
*Internet domain extension:* .py

### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Asunción (Silvio Pettrossi). The main Paraguay-based carrier is TAM Airlines (formerly TAM Mercosur). In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Paraguayan-based carriers flew 4.2 m. km;

passenger-km totalled 720.8 m. in the same year. In 2014 Asunción (Silvio Pettrossi) handled 915,425 passengers (840,459 on international flights) and 10,954 tonnes of freight.

### Climate

A tropical climate, with abundant rainfall and only a short dry season from July to Sept., when temperatures are lowest. Asunción, Jbbb ggg jjjan. 81 °F (27 °C), July 64 °F (17.8 °C). Annual rainfall 53" (1,316 mm).

### Constitution and Government

On 18 June 1992 a Constituent Assembly approved a new constitution. The head of state is the *President*, elected for a non-renewable 5-year term. Parliament consists of an 80-member *Chamber of Deputies*, elected from departmental constituencies, and a 45-member *Senate*, elected from a single national constituency.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *guaraní* (PYG), notionally divided into 100 *céntimos*.

### Defence

The army, navy and air forces are separate services under a single command. The President of the Republic is the active C.-in-C. Conscriptioin is for 12 months (2 years in the navy). In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$364 m. (US\$55 per capita), representing 1.2% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2012 agriculture accounted for 17.4% of GDP, industry 28.1% and services 54.5%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 3,132,000 (2,485,000 in 2003). 73.4% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 5.0% of the population was unemployed. Paraguay had 20,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2008 there were eight daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 135,000.

### Rail

The President Carlos Antonio López (formerly Paraguay Central) Railway used to run from Asunción to Encarnación, on the Río Alto Paraná, with a length of 441 km (1,435 mm gauge), and connected with Argentine Railways over the Encarnación-Posadas bridge. However, most commercial operations ended in 1999.

### Religion

Religious liberty was guaranteed by the 1967 constitution. Article 6 recognized Roman Catholicism as the official religion of the country. In 2010 there were 6.25 m. Christians (of which about 92% Catholics and 7% Protestants) according to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life and 110,000 folk religionists.

### Roads

In 2012 there were 30,401 km of roads, of which 17.0% were paved. Passenger cars numbered 240,700 in 2007, there were 248,100 lorries and vans, 12,800 buses and coaches, and 134,900 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 845 fatalities as a result of road accidents in 2007.

### Shipping

Asunción, the chief port, is 1,500 km from the sea. In Jan. 2009 there were 32 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 44,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

2006 births, 112,659; deaths, 19,298. Rates, 2006 (per 1,000 population): birth, 18.7; death, 3.2. Annual population growth rate, 2000–05, 2.0%. Expectation of life, 2007: 69.6 years for males and 73.8 for females. Infant mortality, 2010, 21 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 3.0 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 437,643 main (fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscribers numbered 7,053,000 in 2013 (103.7 per 100 persons). In the same year there were 115,772 fixed broadband subscriptions and 374 wireless broadband subscriptions. In March 2012 there were 1.0 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Paraguay is bounded in the northwest by Bolivia, northeast and east by Brazil and southeast, south and southwest by Argentina. The area is 406,752 km<sup>2</sup> (157,042 sq. miles). The 2002 census population was 5,163,198. Although a census was held in 2012 only 76% of the population was covered. According to international standards, the population census of a country should have a coverage of at least 90% for it to be valid. Population estimate 2014: 6,657,000 (3,360,000 males), giving a density of 16 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 62.1% lived in urban areas. In 2014 the capital, Asunción, had an estimated population of 2,307,000. Other major cities are Ciudad del Este, San Lorenzo and Luque. There are 17 departments and the capital city. The population is mixed Spanish and Guaraní Indian. There are 89,000 unassimilated Indians of other tribal origin, in the Chaco and the forests of eastern Paraguay. The official languages are Spanish and Guaraní: 24.8% of the population speak only Guaraní; 51.5% are bilingual (Spanish/Guaraní); and 7.6% speak only Spanish.

### Tourism

In 2011 there were 524,000 foreign tourists, spending US\$281 m.

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## Peru

### *República del Perú (Republic of Peru)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Lima

*Population estimate, 2015:* 31.38 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 11,015

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.734/84

*Internet domain extension:* .pe

#### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Lima (Jorge Chávez International). The main airline is the Chilean-owned Lan Perú. The main airline is LATAM Perú, which was founded in 1998 as LAN Perú. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Peruvian-based carriers flew 108.4 m. km; passenger-km totalled 13.1 bn. in the same year. In 2012 Jorge Chávez International handled 13,330,290 passengers (6,901,988 on international flights) and 293,675 tonnes of freight.

#### Climate

There is a very wide variety of climates, ranging from tropical in the east to desert in the west, with perpetual snow in the Andes. In coastal areas, temperatures vary very little, either daily or annually, though humidity and cloudiness show considerable variation, with highest humidity from May to Sept. Little rain is experienced in that period. In the Sierra, temperatures remain fairly constant over the year, but the daily range is considerable. There the dry season is from April to Nov. Desert conditions occur in the extreme south, where the climate is uniformly dry, with a few heavy showers falling between Jan. and March. Lima, Jan. 74 °F (23.3 °C), July 62 °F (16.7 °C). Annual rainfall 2" (48 mm). Cusco, Jan. 56 °F (13.3 °C), July 50 °F (10 °C).

Annual rainfall 32" (804 mm). El Niño is the annual warm Pacific current that develops along the coasts of Peru and Ecuador.

### Constitution and Government

The 1980 constitution provided for a legislative *Congress* consisting of a *Senate* and a *Chamber of Deputies*, and an Executive formed of the President and a Council of Ministers appointed by him. Elections were to be every 5 years with the President and Congress elected, at the same time, by separate ballots. On 5 April 1992 President Fujimori suspended the 1980 constitution and dissolved Congress. A referendum was held on 31 Oct. 1993 to approve the twelfth constitution, including a provision for the president to serve a consecutive second term. 52.2% of votes cast were in favour. The constitution was promulgated on 29 Dec. 1993. In Aug. 1996 Congress voted for the eligibility of the President to serve a third consecutive term of office. Congress has 130 members, elected for a 5-year term by proportional representation. All citizens over the age of 18 are eligible to vote. Voting is compulsory.

### Currency

The monetary unit is the *nuevo sol* (PEN), of 100 *céntimos*, which replaced the *inti* in 1991 at a rate of 1 m. intis = 1 nuevo sol.

### Defence

Conscription was abolished in 1999. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$2,844 m. (US\$95 per capita), representing 1.3% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture produced 6.8% of GDP in 2010, industry 35.9% and services 57.3%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2014 totalled 16,396,400 (56% males). In 2014, 37.3% of those in employment were engaged in services, 24.9% in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and 18.0% in commerce. In the same year 3.7% of the workforce was unemployed, down from 5.3% in 2004. Peru had 82,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2008 there were 89 paid-for daily newspapers, of which 23 were national and 66 regional and local. The leading dailies are *Libero* (with an average daily circulation in 2008 of 214,000), *Trome* (average daily circulation in 2008 of 213,000) and *El Comercio* (average daily circulation in 2008 of 199,000).

### Rail

Total length (2008), 1,884 km on 1,435- and 914-mm gauges. Passenger-km travelled in 2005 came to 126 m. and freight tonne-km to 1,101 m. A mass transit system opened in Lima in 2003. Peru's first metro, also in Lima, opened in Jan. 2012.

### Religion

Religious liberty exists, but the Roman Catholic religion is protected by the State, and since 1929 only Roman Catholic religious instruction is permitted in schools, state or private. In 2010 an estimated 95.5% of the population were Christians according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, with 3.0% having no religious affiliation. Of the Christians, 85% were Catholics and 13% Protestants. In Feb. 2016 there was one cardinal.

### Roads

In 2006 there were 78,986 km of roads, of which 13.9% were paved. In 2007 there were 917,100 passenger cars, 480,900 lorries and vans and 44,400 buses and coaches. There were 67,155 road accidents involving injury in 2006 with 3,481 fatalities.

### Shipping

In 2004 there were 46 sea-going vessels and 651 lake and river craft. In Jan. 2009 there were nine ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 87,000

GT. Callao is the busiest port, handling 18,191,000 tonnes of cargo in 2008. There are also ports at Chimbote, Paita and Talara.

### Social Statistics

2009 births (estimate), 604,000; 2009 deaths (estimate), 144,000. Rates per 1,000 population (2009): birth, 21; death, 5. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 1.1%; infant mortality, 2010, 15 per 1,000 live births. Life expectancy, 2013: males, 72.2 years; females, 77.6. Fertility rate, 2008, 2.6 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2010 there were 3,160,000 main (fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscriptions numbered 29,115,000 in 2010 (99.5 per 100 persons). In 2013, 39.2% of the population aged six and over were internet users. In March 2012 there were 8.2 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Peru is bounded in the north by Ecuador and Colombia, east by Brazil and Bolivia, south by Chile and west by the Pacific Ocean. Area, 1,285,216 km<sup>2</sup> (including the area of the Peruvian part of Lake Titicaca). Census population, 2007, 27,412,157; density, 21.3 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011 the population was 77.3% urban. The country is administratively divided into 25 regions and an autonomous province of Lima. The largest cities (with 2007 census populations) are: Lima, 8,472,935; Arequipa, 784,651; Trujillo, 682,834; Chiclayo, 524,442; Piura, 377,496; Iquitos, 370,962. In 1991 there were some 100,000 Peruvians of Japanese origin. Indigenous peoples account for 47% of the population. The official languages are Spanish (spoken by 83.9% of the population in 2007), Quechua (13.2%) and Aymara (1.8%).

### Tourism

There were 2,846,000 non-resident tourists in 2012, up from 1,916,000 in 2007; tourist spending in 2012 totalled US\$3,074 m., compared to US\$2,007 m. in 2007.

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## Philippines

*Republika ng Pilipinas (Republic of the Philippines)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Manila  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 100.70 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 7,915  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.668/115  
*Internet domain extension:* .ph

### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Manila (Ninoy Aquino) and Cebu (Mactan International). In Sept. 1998 the Asian economic crisis that had started more than a year earlier forced the closure of the national carrier, Philippine Airlines, after it had suffered huge losses. However, it has since resumed its operations both internally and externally. In 2005 scheduled airline traffic of Philippine-based carriers flew 28.4 m. km, carrying 6,610,400 passengers. In 2012 Manila handled 31,878,935 passengers (17,739,000 on domestic flights) and 460,135 tonnes of freight.

### Climate

Some areas have an equatorial climate while others experience tropical monsoon conditions, with a wet season extending from June to Nov. Mean temperatures are high all year, with very little variation. Manila, Jan. 77 °F (25 °C), July 82 °F (27.8 °C). Annual rainfall 83.3" (2,115.9 mm).

## Constitution and Government

A new constitution was ratified by referendum in Feb. 1987 with the approval of 78.5% of voters. The head of state is the *President*, directly elected for a non-renewable 6-year term. Congress consists of a 24-member upper house, the *Senate* (elected for a 6-year term from 'at large' seats covering the country as a whole, half of them renewed every 3 years), and a *House of Representatives* of 291 members. In the *House of Representatives* 233 members are directly elected for a 3-year term and the rest are chosen from party and minority-group lists. A campaign led by the president at the time, Fidel Ramos, to amend the constitution to allow him to stand for a second term was voted down by the Senate by 23 to one in Dec. 1996.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *peso* (PHP) of 100 *centavos*.

## Defence

An agreement of Dec. 1994 authorizes US naval vessels to be repaired in Philippine ports. The Philippines is a signatory of the South-East Asia Collective Defence Treaty. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$2,205 m. (US\$21 per capita), representing 0.8% of GDP.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 12.3% of GDP in 2010, industry 32.6% and services 55.1%.

## Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 42,923,000 (34,721,000 in 2003). 67.0% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. The unemployment rate in Oct. 2013 was 6.5%. Philippines had 0.15 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

There were 28 daily newspapers in 2008, with a combined circulation of 3,870,000. The leading daily is *Remate*, with an average daily circulation of 620,000 in 2008.

## Rail

In 2005 the National Railways totalled 419 km (1,067 mm gauge). In 2008 passenger-km totalled 16 m. There is a light metro railway in Manila.

## Religion

In 2010 an estimated 92.6% of the population were Christians according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, with 5.5% Muslims and 1.5% folk religionists. Of the Christians, 87% were Catholics and 12% Protestants. The Roman Catholic Church had four cardinals in Feb. 2016. There are 16 ecclesiastical provinces, each of which consists of an archdiocese and a number of suffragan dioceses and is overseen by an archbishop.

## Roads

In 2013 roads totalled 216,612 km, including 32,227 km of national roads. In 2007 there were 937,600 passenger cars in use, 55,200 buses and coaches, 1,875,300 vans and lorries, and 2,647,500 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 6,240 road accidents involving injury in 2006 with 961 fatalities.

## Shipping

The main ports are Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Manila and Zamboanga. Manila, the leading port, handled 45,230,000 tonnes of cargo in 2008. In Jan. 2009 there were 838 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 4,771,000 GT. Of the 838 vessels registered, 415 were general cargo ships, 168 passenger ships, 128 oil tankers, 83 bulk carriers, 21 chemical tankers, 15 liquid gas tankers and eight container ships.

## Social Statistics

Births, 2007, 1,749,878; deaths, 2007, 441,956. Divorce is illegal. Birth rate per 1,000 population (2007), 19.7; death rate (2007), 5.1. Expectation of life at birth, 2007, was 69.4 years for males and 73.9 years for females. Annual

population growth rate, 2000–05, 2.2%. Infant mortality, 2010, 23 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 3.1 births per woman. Abortion is illegal.

## Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 3,149,000 main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscriptions numbered 102,824,000 (1,045.0 per 1,000 persons). An estimated 36.2% of the population were internet users in 2012. In March 2012 there were 27.7 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

The Philippines is situated between 21.25' and 4.23' N. lat. and between 116° and 127° E. long. It is composed of 7,100 islands and islets, 3,144 of which are named. Approximate land area, 300,076 km<sup>2</sup> (115,859 sq. miles). The largest islands (in km<sup>2</sup>) are Luzon (104,688), Mindanao (94,630), Samar (13,080), Negros (12,710), Palawan (11,785), Panay (11,515), Mindoro (9,735), Leyte (7,214), Cebu (4,422), Bohol (3,865) and Masbate (3,269). The census population in May 2010 was 92,337,852; density, 307.7 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 49.1% of the population lived in urban areas. Population of Metro Manila in 2007, 11,553,427. Filipino (based on Tagalog) is spoken as a mother tongue by only 29.3%; among the 76 other indigenous languages spoken, Cebuano is spoken as a mother tongue by 23.3% and Ilocano by 9.3%. English, which along with Filipino is one of the official languages, is widely spoken.

## Tourism

In 2012, 4,273,000 non-resident tourists brought revenue of US\$4,963 m.

# Poland

## *Rzeczpospolita Polska (Polish Republic)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Warsaw  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 38.61 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 23,177  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.843/36  
*Internet domain extension:* .pl

### Civil Aviation

The main international airport is at Warsaw (Frederic Chopin), with some international flights from Kraków (John Paul II Balice International), Bydgoszcz, Gdansk, Katowice, Łódź, Poznan, Rzeszów, Szczecin and Wrocław. The national carrier is LOT-Polish Airlines (99.8% state-owned). It flew 107.7 m. km in 2011, carrying 6,491,199 passengers (5,377,869 on international flights). In 2011 Warsaw handled 9,324,635 passengers (8,253,153 on international flights) and 60,625 tonnes of freight.

### Climate

Climate is continental, marked by long and severe winters. Rainfall amounts are moderate, with a marked summer maximum. Warsaw, Jan. 24 °F (−4.3 °C), July 64 °F (17.9 °C). Annual rainfall 18.3" (465 mm). Gdansk, Jan. 29 °F (−1.7 °C), July 63 °F (17.2 °C). Annual rainfall 22.0" (559 mm). Kraków, Jan. 27 °F (−2.8 °C), July 67 °F (19.4 °C). Annual rainfall 28.7" (729 mm). Poznan, Jan. 26 °F (−3.3 °C), July 64 °F (17.9 °C). Annual rainfall 21.0" (534 mm). Szczecin, Jan. 27 °F (−3.0 °C), July 64 °F (17.7 °C). Annual rainfall 18.4" (467 mm). Wrocław, Jan. 24 °F (−4.3 °C), July 64 °F (17.9 °C). Annual rainfall 20.7" (525 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The present Constitution was passed by national referendum on 25 May 1997 and became effective on 17 Oct. 1997. The head of state is the *President*, who is directly elected for a 5-year term (renewable once). The President may appoint, but may not dismiss, cabinets. The authority of the republic is vested in the *Sejm* (Parliament of 460 members), elected by proportional

representation for 4 years by all citizens over 18. There is a 5% threshold for parties and 8% for coalitions, but seats are reserved for representatives of ethnic minorities even if their vote falls below 5%. 69 of the Sejm seats are awarded from the national lists of parties polling more than 7% of the vote. The Sejm elects a *Council of State* and a *Council of Ministers*. There is also an elected 100-member upper house, the *Senate*. The President and the Senate each has a power of veto which only a two-thirds majority of the Sejm can override. The President does not, however, have a veto over the annual budget. The *Prime Minister* is chosen by the President with the approval of the Sejm. A *Political Council* consultative to the presidency consisting of representatives of all the major political tendencies was set up in Jan. 1991.

### Currency

The currency unit is the *zloty* (PLN) of 100 *groszy*. A new zloty was introduced on 1 Jan. 1995 at 1 new zloty = 10,000 old zlotys.

### Defence

Poland is divided into two military districts: Pomeranian (North) and Silesian (South). In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$9,829 m. (US\$256 per capita), representing 1.9% of GDP. Conscription ended on 1 Jan. 2010.

### Economy

In 2011 trade, restaurants and hotels contributed 17.1% to GDP; followed by finance and real estate, 16.6%; manufacturing, 16.6%; services, 11.1%; construction, 6.2%; and transport and communications, 6.1%.

### Labour

In 2008 a total of 14,037,000 persons were in employment. In Dec. 2008, 3,103,000 persons worked in industry, 2,269,000 in trade and repairs, 1,133,000 in property, renting and business activities, 1,039,000 in education, 840,000 in construction, 809,000 in transport, storage and communications, and 748,000 in health and social services. The unemployment rate increased steadily for several years peaking at 20.3% in the period Aug.–Oct. 2002 (more than double the EU average at the time). It has declined considerably since then, and in Dec. 2014 stood at 8.0%. Poland had 0.14 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2011 there were 32 daily newspapers with a combined daily circulation of 3,108,400 (81 per 1,000 inhabitants). The most popular newspapers are *Fakt*, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, *Super Express* and *Rzeczpospolita*. 7,713 magazine titles were published in 2011 with a combined total of 1,437 m. copies. In 2011, 31,515 book titles were published.

### Rail

In 2011 there were 19,725 km of railways in use managed by Polish State Railways (11,817 km electrified). Over 98% is standard 1,435 mm gauge with the rest broad gauge (1,520 mm). In 2011 railways carried 184.6 m. passengers and 140.5 m. tonnes of freight. Passenger-km travelled in 2011 came to 15.7 bn. and freight tonne-km to 37.2 bn. Some regional railways are operated by local authorities. An 11.1-km metro opened in Warsaw in 1995, extended by 2008 to 22.7 km. A second 32-km line is currently under construction. The initial 6.3 km of the line were opened in March 2015. The second phase of the project is due to be completed in 2019. There are also 14 tram/light rail networks with a total length of 930 km.

### Religion

State relations are regulated by laws of 1989 which guarantee religious freedom, grant the Church radio and TV programmes and permit it to run schools, hospitals and old age homes. The Church has a university (Lublin) and seminaries. On 28 July 1993 the government signed a Concordat with the Vatican regulating mutual relations. The religious capital is Gniezno. Its archbishop, Henryk Muszynski (b. 1933) is the primate of Poland. Kazimierz Nycz was appointed archbishop of Warsaw on 1 April 2007. In Oct. 1978 Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, archbishop of Kraków, was elected Pope as John Paul II. In Feb. 2016 there were six cardinals.

### Roads

The total length of public roads at the end of 2012 amounted to 412,000 km of which hard surface roads accounted for 68% and motorways amounted to 1,365 km. The total number of registered motor road vehicles and road tractors amounted to 24.9 m. as of 31 Dec. 2012, of which 18,744,000 passenger cars, 3,178,000 lorries, vans and road tractors, 99,900 buses, and 2,208 motorcycles and mopeds. In 2012 road transport totalled 20,012 m. passenger-km and freight 233,310 m. tonne-km. The number of persons killed in road accidents amounted to 3,577 in 2012, representing 9.3 deaths per 100,000 population. Poland has one of the highest death rates in road accidents in the European Union.

### Shipping

The principal ports are Gdansk, Szczecin, Swinoujscie and Gdynia. The total volume of cargo traffic at all Polish seaports amounted to 58.8 m. tonnes in 2012, including 24.4 m. tonnes at Gdansk and 13.2 m. tonnes at Gdynia. The Polish maritime transport fleet carried 7.5 m. tonnes of cargo and 642,200 passengers in 2012. At the end of 2012 the Polish maritime fleet comprised 110 ships totalling 3,045,000 DWT. The total length of inland waterways at the end of 2012 was 3,659 km. In 2012 inland waterway transport totalled 24 m. passenger-km and 815 m. freight tonne-km.

### Social Statistics

2010 (in 1,000): births, 415.0; deaths, 378.5; marriages, 228.3; divorces, 61.3; infant deaths, 2.1. Rates (per 1,000 population): birth, 10.8; death, 9.9; marriage, 6.0; divorce, 1.6; infant mortality (per 1,000 live births), 5.0. A law prohibiting abortion was passed in 1993, but an amendment of Aug. 1996 permits it in cases of hardship or difficult personal situation. The most popular age range for marrying in 2010 was 25-29 for both males and females. Expectation of life at birth, 2013, was 72.3 years for males and 80.5 years for females. In 2010 there were 17,360 emigrants (including 6,818 to Germany) and 15,246 immigrants. Number of suicides, 2008, 5,681; the suicide rate per 100,000 population was 26.4 among males and 4.1 among females in 2008. Population growth rate, 2010, 0.1%; fertility rate, 2008, 1.3 births per woman (one of the lowest rates in the world).

### Telecommunications

In 2014 mobile phone subscribers numbered 56,905,306 (1,488.9 per 1,000 persons). In the same year there were 4,822,233 main (fixed) telephone lines. The privatization of Telekomunikacja Polska (TP SA), the former state telecom operator, was completed in 2001 with France Télécom (now Orange S.A.) purchasing a 49.8% stake in the company. This rose to 50.67% in June 2013. In April 2012 Telekomunikacja Polska was renamed Orange Polska in line with France Télécom's international branding. 66.6% of the population were internet users in 2014. In March 2012 there were 7.5 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Poland is bounded in the north by the Baltic Sea and Russia, east by Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine, south by the Czech Republic and Slovakia and west by Germany. Poland comprises an area of 312,685 km<sup>2</sup> (120,728 sq. miles). At the census of 31 March 2011 the population was 38,511,824, giving a density of 123.2 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2009, 61.0% of the population lived in urban areas. The country is divided into 16 regions or voivodships (*województwo*), created from the previous 49 on 1 Jan. 1999 following administrative reform. Population (in 1,000) of the largest towns and cities (2011 census): Warsaw (Warszawa), 1,700.6; Cracow (Kraków), 757.6; Łódź, 728.9; Wrocław, 630.1; Poznan, 554.7; Gdansk, 460.3; Szczecin, 410.1; Bydgoszcz, 363.9; Lublin, 349.1; Katowice, 310.8; Białystok, 294.0. The population is 96.7% Polish. Minorities at the 2011 census included 418,000 who stated that they were Silesians as a national-ethnic identification, 49,000 Germans, 37,000 Belarusians and 36,000 Ukrainians. There are an estimated 230,000 people in Poland of Kashubian ethnicity (direct descendants of an early Slavic tribe of Pomeranians). They generally declare Polish nationality and consider themselves both Poles and Kashubians. The official language is Polish.

### Tourism

In 2011 there were 13,350,000 tourist arrivals, up from 12,470,000 in 2010 and 11,890,000 in 2009. The main countries of origin of non-resident tourists in 2011 were Germany (4,590,000), Ukraine (1,580,000), Belarus (1,220,000) and Lithuania (630,000).

## Portugal

### *República Portuguesa (Republic of Portugal)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Lisbon  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 10.35 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 25,757  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.830/43  
*Internet domain extension:* .pt

#### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Portela (Lisbon), Pedras Rubras (Porto), Faro (Algarve) and Funchal (Madeira). The national carrier is the state-owned TAP-Air Portugal, with some domestic and international flights being provided by Portugália. In 2006 scheduled airline traffic of Portuguese-based carriers flew 171 m. km, carrying 9,449,000 passengers (6,449,000 on international flights). In 2007 Lisbon handled 13,393,000 passengers (11,249,000 on international flights) and 82,645 tonnes of freight. Faro was the second busiest in terms of passenger traffic, with 5,471,000 passengers, and Porto was the second busiest for freight, with 31,991 tonnes.

#### Climate

Because of westerly winds and the effect of the Gulf Stream, the climate ranges from the cool, damp Atlantic type in the north to a warmer and drier Mediterranean type in the south. July and Aug. are virtually rainless everywhere. Inland areas in the north have greater temperature variation, with continental winds blowing from the interior. Lisbon, Jan. 52 °F (11 °C), July 72 °F (22 °C). Annual rainfall 27.4" (686 mm). Porto, Jan. 48 °F (8.9 °C), July 67 °F (19.4 °C). Annual rainfall 46" (1,151 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

Portugal is governed under the constitution of April 1976, amended in 1982, 1989, 1992, 1997, 2001, 2004 and 2005. The 1982 revision abolished the (military) Council of the Revolution and reduced the role of the President under it. Portugal is a sovereign, unitary republic. Executive power is vested in the *President*, directly elected for a 5-year term (for a maximum of two consecutive terms). Political parties may support a candidate in presidential elections but not actually field a candidate. The President appoints a Prime Minister and, upon the latter's nomination, other members of the Council of Ministers. The 230-member *National Assembly* is a unicameral legislature elected for 4-year terms by universal adult suffrage under a system of proportional representation. Women did not have the vote until 1976.

#### Currency

On 1 Jan. 1999 the euro (EUR) became the legal currency in Portugal at the irrevocable conversion rate of 200-482 escudos to 1 euro. The euro, which consists of 100 cents, has been in circulation since 1 Jan. 2002. On the introduction of the euro there was a 'dual circulation' period before the escudo ceased to be legal tender on 28 Feb. 2002.

#### Defence

Conscription was abolished in Nov. 2004. Portugal now has a purely professional army. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$2,773 m. (US\$257 per capita), representing 1.3% of GDP.

#### Economy

Services accounted for about 76% of GDP in 2012, industry 22% and agriculture 2%.

#### Labour

The maximum working week was reduced from 44 h to 40 in 1997. A minimum wage is fixed by the government. In 2011 the minimum wage was €485

a month. Retirement is at 65 years for men and 62 for women. The labour force in 2013 was 5,397,000 (5,463,000 in 2003). In Dec. 2014 the unemployment rate was 13.4% (down from 16.5% in 2013 as a whole). Of those in employment in 2013, 68.5% worked in services, 24.9% in industry and 6.6% in agriculture. The immigrant population makes up 10% of the labour force.

#### Press

There were 24 daily papers in 2008 (of which 19 were paid-for and five free), with a combined circulation of 1,170,000. There were ten national dailies in 2008 and 14 regional and local dailies. The most widely read newspapers are *Correio da Manhã* and *Jornal de Notícias*.

#### Rail

In 2011 total railway length was 2,794 km. Passenger-km travelled in 2011 came to 3.75 bn. and freight tonne-km to 2.06 bn. There is a metro (19 km) and tramway (94 km) in Lisbon. New light rail systems were opened in Porto in 2002 and Almada in 2007.

#### Religion

There is freedom of worship, both in public and private, with the exception of creeds incompatible with morals and the life and physical integrity of the people. A study by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life estimated that there were 10.01 m. Christians in 2010 (98% of which were Catholics) and 470,000 people with no religious affiliation. In Feb. 2016 there were three cardinals.

#### Roads

In 2005 there were 2,613 km of motorways, 5,883 km of national roads, 4,406 km of secondary roads and 63,900 km of other roads. In 2006 the number of vehicles registered included 5,234,500 passenger cars, 535,300 motorcycles and mopeds, 119,000 lorries and vans and 29,700 buses and coaches. In 2007 there were 854 deaths in road accidents.

#### Shipping

In 2007, 15,226 vessels of 151.82 m. tonnes entered all Portuguese ports; 367,391 passengers embarked and 368,095 disembarked during 2007. 21.17 m. tonnes of cargo were loaded in 2007 and 47.05 m. tonnes unloaded. In Jan. 2009 there were 154 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 981,000 GT.

#### Social Statistics

2012: births, 89,841; deaths, 107,612; marriages, 34,423; divorces, 25,380. Rates per 1,000 population in 2012: birth, 8.5; death, 10.2; marriage, 3.3; divorce, 2.4. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 0.2%. Expectation of life at birth, 2013, was 76.9 years for males and 82.9 years for females. Infant mortality in 2010 was three per 1,000 live births, down from 77 per 1,000 live births in 1960, representing the greatest reduction in infant mortality rates in Europe over the past half century. Fertility rate, 2008, 1.4 births per woman.

#### Telecommunications

Portugal Telecom (PT) was formed from a merger of three state-owned utilities in 1994. It is now fully privatized. In 2013 there were 4,530,000 main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscribers numbered 11,991,000 excluding machine-to-machine subscriptions. 62.1% of the population aged 16–74 were internet users in 2013. There were 19.8 broadband subscribers per 100 inhabitants in Dec. 2010. In March 2012 there were 4.2 m. Facebook users.

#### Territory and Population

Mainland Portugal is bounded in the north and east by Spain and south and west by the Atlantic Ocean. The Atlantic archipelagoes of the Azores and Madeira form autonomous but integral parts of the republic, which has a total area of 92,207 km<sup>2</sup>. Population (2011 census), 10,562,178 (5,515,578 females). Mainland Portugal is divided into five regions. In 2011, 61.3% of the population lived in urban areas. The capital is Lisbon (Lisboa), with a population of 547,733 in 2011 (metropolitan area population, 2,821,876 in 2011). Other major cities are Porto, 237,591 in 2011 (metropolitan area population, 1,672,670 in 2011), Almada, Amadora, Braga, Funchal (in Madeira) and Vila Nova de Gaia. The official language is Portuguese.

The Azores islands lie in the mid-Atlantic Ocean, between 1,200 and 1,600 km west of Lisbon. They are divided into three widely separated groups with clear channels between, São Miguel (759 km<sup>2</sup>) together with Santa Maria (97 km<sup>2</sup>) being the most easterly; about 160 km northwest of them lies the central cluster of Terceira (382 km<sup>2</sup>), Graciosa (62 km<sup>2</sup>), São Jorge (246 km<sup>2</sup>), Pico (446 km<sup>2</sup>) and Faial (173 km<sup>2</sup>); still another 240 km to the northwest are Flores (143 km<sup>2</sup>) and Corvo (17 km<sup>2</sup>), the latter being the most isolated and undeveloped of the islands.

### Tourism

In 2010, 6,831,600 non-resident tourists stayed in holiday accommodation (6,478,700 in 2009) including: 1,375,800 from Spain; 1,111,200 from the UK; 728,800 from Germany; 574,800 from France. There were 2,011 hotel establishments with 279,506 beds in 2010.

## Qatar

### *Dawlat Qatar (State of Qatar)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Doha

*Population estimate, 2015:* 2.24 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 123,124

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.850/32=

*Internet domain extension:* .qa

#### Civil Aviation

The flag carrier is Qatar Airways, which is state-owned and carried 18 m. passengers in 2012–13. Qatar's airport is Hamad International Airport, which opened in April 2014 to replace the old Doha International Airport (where passenger numbers had quadrupled between 2003 and 2013).

#### Climate

The climate is hot and humid. Doha, Jan. 62 °F (16.7 °C), July 98 °F (36.7 °C). Annual rainfall 2.5" (62 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

Qatar is ruled by an *Amir*. HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani (b. 1980) assumed power after his father, HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, KCMG, abdicated on 25 June 2013. The heir apparent was Sheikh Hamad's third son, Sheikh Jasim bin Hamad Al Thani (b. 1978), but in Aug. 2003 he named his fourth son, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, as heir apparent instead. Qatar's first written constitution was approved in June 2004 and came into force on 9 June 2005. It allows for a 45-member *Consultative Assembly* or *Majlis al-Shura*, with 30 members directly elected and 15 appointed by the Amir. A *Council of Ministers* is assisted by a 35-member nominated Advisory Council.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Qatari riyal* (QAR) of 100 *dirhams*, introduced in 1973.

#### Defence

Defence expenditure in 2011 totalled an estimated US\$3,476 m. (approximately US\$1,880 per capita), representing around 2% of GDP.

#### Economy

Oil, natural gas and other mining contributed 51.7% to GDP in 2010; followed by finance and real estate, 13.4%; manufacturing (excluding oil- and natural gas-related manufacturing), 10.6%; and public administration and defence, 7.7%.

#### Labour

In 2011 the economically active population totalled 1,271,100. Males constituted 88% of the labour force in 2011; foreigners make up 94% of the workforce. Qatar has the lowest percentages of females in the workforce of any country.

#### Press

There are four Arabic language daily newspapers—*Al-Rayah*, *Al-Sharq*, *Al-Watan* and *Al-Arab*. *The Gulf Times*, *The Peninsula* and *Qatar Tribune* are English dailies. In 2008 the combined circulation was 115,000. *Qatar Chronicle*, launched in 2012, is an online news portal published on a daily basis in English and Arabic.

#### Religion

The population is predominantly Muslim, although there is a small Christian minority among expatriates.

#### Roads

In 2007 there were about 7,790 km of roads. Vehicles in use in 2007 totalled 605,700. In 2007 there were 199 fatalities as a result of road accidents.

#### Social Statistics

Births, 2008, 17,210; deaths, 1,942; marriages, 3,235; divorces, 939. 2008 rates per 1,000 population: births, 11.9; deaths, 1.3. Qatar's 2008 death rate was among the lowest in the world. Infant mortality, 2010 (per 1,000 live births), 7. Expectation of life in 2013 was 77.8 years for males and 79.5 for females. Annual population growth rate, 200–08, 9.1% (the highest in the world). Fertility rate, 2008, 2.4 births per woman.

#### Telecommunications

In 2013 there were an estimated 413,000 main (fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscribers numbered an estimated 3,310,000 in the same year. 69.3% of the population were internet users in 2012. In March 2012 there were 481,000 Facebook users.

#### Territory and Population

Qatar is a peninsula running north into the Persian Gulf. It is bounded in the south by Saudi Arabia. The territory includes a number of islands in the coastal waters of the peninsula, the most important of which is Halul, the storage and export terminal for the offshore oilfields. The area of Qatar is 11,571 km<sup>2</sup>. Population at the census of April 2010, 1,699,435; density 146.9 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 95.9% of the population lived in urban areas. The capital is Doha, which is the main port, and had a census population in 2010 of 521,283. Other towns are Dukhan (the centre of oil production), Umm Said (the oil terminal of Qatar), Ruwais, Wakra, Al Khour, Umm Salal Mohammad and Umm Bab. About 40% of the population are Arabs, 18% Indian, 18% Pakistani and 10% Iranian. Other nationalities make up the remaining 14%. Only about 10% of the population are Qatari citizens. The official language is Arabic.

#### Tourism

In 2008, 1,405,000 non-resident tourists stayed in hotels (964,000 in 2007).

## Romania

### *România*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Bucharest

*Population estimate, 2015:* 19.51 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 18,108

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.793/52=

*Internet domain extension:* .ro

### Civil Aviation

Tarom (*Transporturi Aeriene Române*) is the 97.2% state-owned airline. In 2010 it provided domestic services and international flights to over 40 cities. The largest Romanian airline is Blue Air, a low-cost carrier founded in 2004. In 2016 it carried a record 3,590,129 passengers. Bucharest's main airport is Henri Coandă International Airport, generally known by its former official name of Bucharest Otopeni International Airport. A second Bucharest airport, Aurel Vlaicu International, used to be the country's second busiest airport but since early 2012 caters exclusively for business air traffic. Henri Coandă International handled 7,120,024 passengers in 2012 and 26,494 tonnes of freight.

### Climate

A continental climate with an annual average temperature varying between 8 °C in the north and 11 °C in the south. Bucharest, Jan. 27 °F (−2.7 °C), July 74 °F (23.5 °C). Annual rainfall 23.1" (579 mm). Constanța, Jan. 31 °F (−0.6 °C), July 71 °F (21.7 °C). Annual rainfall 15" (371 mm).

### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was approved by a referendum on 18–19 Oct. 2003. Turnout was 55.7%, and 89.7% of votes cast were in favour. The Constitution, which replaces the previous one from 1991, defines Romania as a republic where the rule of law prevails in a social and democratic state. Private property rights and a market economy are guaranteed. The new pro-European constitution was aimed at helping Romania achieve EU membership. The head of state is the *President*, elected by direct vote for a maximum of two 5-year terms. The president is not allowed to be affiliated with any political party while in office. The President appoints the *Prime Minister*, who then has to be approved by a vote in parliament. The President is empowered to veto legislation unless it is upheld by a two-thirds parliamentary majority. The National Assembly consists of a 412-member *Chamber of Deputies* and a 176-member *Senate*; both are elected for 4-year terms from 43 constituencies through a proportional mixed member system. 18 seats in the Chamber of Deputies are reserved for ethnic minorities. There is a 3% threshold for admission to either house. Votes for parties not reaching this threshold are redistributed. There is a *Constitutional Court*.

### Currency

The monetary unit has since 1 July 2005 been the *new leu*, pl. *new lei* (RON) notionally of 100 *bani*, which replaced the *leu* (ROL) at a rate of one new leu = 10,000 lei.

### Defence

Compulsory national military service was abolished in 2006. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$2,475 m. (US\$114 per capita), representing 1.3% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2008 transport, communications, trade and hotels contributed 23.3% to GDP; followed by mining, quarrying, public utilities and manufacturing, 22.9%; public administration and services, 13.5%; and finance and real estate, 12.6%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2006 totalled 10.04 m.; the employed population was 9.31 m. In the civilian labour force 29.7% worked in agriculture and 26.7% in manufacturing and construction. In 2006, 46% of the employed workforce were women. The standard retirement age is 65 years for men and 60 for women. A minimum monthly wage was set in 1993; it is 670 new lei for full-time adult employees from 1 Jan. 2011. The average gross monthly wage was 1,845 new lei in 2009. Unemployment was 7.2% in Jan. 2012 (7.3% in Jan. 2011). Romania had 24,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2008 there were 80 daily papers (75 paid-for and five free) with a combined circulation of 1,634,000. The newspapers with the highest circulation in 2008 were *Libertatea*, *Click!* and *Cancan*.

### Rail

Length of standard-gauge route in 2011 was 10,638 km, of which 4,031 km were electrified; there were 135 km of 1,524 mm gauge lines and four km of narrow-gauge. Freight carried in 2011, 54.8 m. tonnes; passengers, 53.5 m. There is a metro (62.4 km) and tram/light rail network (338 km) in Bucharest, and tramways in 13 other cities.

### Religion

The government officially recognizes 17 religions (which receive various forms of state support); the predominant one is the Romanian Orthodox Church. It is autocephalous, but retains dogmatic unity with the Eastern Orthodox Church. Its *Patriarch* is Daniel (enthroned 30 Sept. 2007). There are six metropolitanates, made up of archdioceses and dioceses, with a total of 13,527 parishes. In Feb. 2016 there was one cardinal. Religious affiliation at the 2011 census included: Romanian Orthodox, 16,307,004 (about 81% of the population); Roman Catholic, 870,774; Protestant Reformed Church, 600,932; Pentecostal, 362,314; Greek Catholics, 150,593; Baptist, 112,850.

### Roads

There were 81,693 km of roads in 2008, of which 281 km were motorways, 16,318 km main and national roads and 65,094 km secondary and other roads. Passenger cars in 2005 numbered 3,363,800 (156 per 1,000 inhabitants). In 2007 there were 2,712 fatalities as a result of road accidents.

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 35 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 150,000 GT. The Romanian-controlled fleet comprised 57 vessels of 1,000 GT or over in Jan. 2009, of which 11 were under the Romanian flag and 46 under foreign flags. The main ports are Constanța and Constanța South Agigea on the Black Sea and Galați, Brăila and Tulcea on the Danube. In 2009 the length of navigable inland waterways was around 1,730 km including 1,075 km on the Danube River.

### Social Statistics

2010 (in 1,000): births, 212.2; deaths, 259.7; marriages, 115.8; divorces, 32.6. Rates, 2010 (per 1,000 population): live births, 9.9; deaths, 12.1; marriages, 5.4; divorces, 1.5. Infant mortality, 2010 (per 1,000 live births), 9.8. Expectation of life at birth, 2013, was 70.3 years for males and 77.5 years for females. In 2010 the most popular age range for marrying was 25–29 for males and 20–24 for females. Measures designed to raise the birth rate were abolished in 1990, and abortion and contraception legalized. The annual abortion rate, at approximately 41 per 1,000 women, ranks among the highest in the world. Population growth rate, 2010, −0.2%; fertility rate, 2008, 1.3 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 4,720,000 main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscribers numbered 22,910,000. The telecommunications sector was fully liberalized on 1 Jan. 2003, ending the monopoly of the Greek-controlled operator Romtelecom (now Telekom Romania). In 2013, 49.8% of the population aged 16–74 were internet users. In March 2012 there were 4.2 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Romania is bounded in the north by Ukraine, in the east by Moldova, Ukraine and the Black Sea, south by Bulgaria, southwest by Serbia and northwest by Hungary. The area is 238,391 km<sup>2</sup>. Population (2011 census), 20,121,641; density, 84.4 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 58.0% of the population lived in urban areas. Romania's population has been falling at such a steady rate since 1990 that its population at the time of the 2011 census was the same as that in the late 1970s. At the 2011 census the following ethnic minorities numbered over 25,000: Hungarians, 1,227,600 (mainly in Transylvania); Roma (Gypsies), 621,600; Ukrainians, 50,900; Germans, 36,000; Turks, 27,700. The actual number of Roma is estimated to be nearer 2 m. Romania has one of the largest Roma populations of any country. The official language is Romanian.



## Tourism

In 2009, 1,275,600 non-resident tourists stayed in holiday accommodation (down from 1,465,900 in 2008) including: 181,100 from Germany; 141,600 from Italy; 100,300 from France; 76,900 from Hungary.

# Russia

## Rossiiskaya Federatsiya (Russian Federation)

### Factsheet

Capital: Moscow

Population estimate, 2015: 143.46 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 22,352

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.798/50=

Internet domain extension: .ru

### Civil Aviation

The main international airports are at Moscow (Domodedovo, Sheremetyevo and Vnukovo) and St Petersburg (Pulkovo). The national carrier is Aeroflot International Russian Airlines (51% state-owned), which carried 11.3 m. scheduled passengers in 2010. Rossiya, S7 Airlines, Transaero and UTair also operate internationally. In 2009 scheduled airline traffic of Russian-based carriers flew 836 m. km, carrying 34,403,000 passengers (11,992,000 on international flights). The three busiest airports all serve Moscow. Domodedovo is Russia's busiest airport in terms of passenger traffic (22,255,000 in 2010, a 19% increase on 2009).

### Climate

Moscow, Jan. -9.4 °C, July 18.3 °C. Annual rainfall 630 mm. Arkhangelsk, Jan. -15 °C, July 13.9 °C. Annual rainfall 503 mm. St Petersburg, Jan. -8.3 °C, July 17.8 °C. Annual rainfall 488 mm. Vladivostok, Jan. -14.4 °C, July 18.3 °C. Annual rainfall 599 mm.

### Constitution and Government

According to the 1993 constitution the Russian Federation is a 'democratic federal legally-based state with a republican form of government'. The Federation consists of 85 federal subjects (administrative units). This includes Crimea (a republic) and Sevastopol (a federal city), which acceded to Russia in March 2014. However, most of the international community still considers them to be officially part of Ukraine. The state is secular. The state itself is based upon a separation of powers and upon federal principles, including a Constitutional Court. A central role is accorded to the *President*, who defines the 'basic directions of domestic and foreign policy' and represents the state internationally. Parliament is known as the *Federal Assembly* (Federalnoe Sobranie). The 'representative and legislative organ of the Russian Federation', it consists of two chambers: the *Federation Council* (Sovet Federatsii) and the *State Duma* (Gosudarstvennaya Duma). The Federation Council considers all matters that apply to the Federation as a whole, including state boundaries, martial law, and the deployment of Russian forces elsewhere. The Duma approves nominations for Prime Minister, and adopts federal laws. A law was approved in June 2001 to reduce the proliferation of political parties (numbering some 200 in 2001). It took effect in July 2003. There is a 19-member *Constitutional Court*, whose functions under the 1993 constitution include making decisions on the constitutionality of federal laws, presidential and government decrees, and the constitutions and laws of the subjects of the Federation.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *rouble* (RUB), of 100 *kopeks*.

### Defence

The President of the Republic is C.-in-C. of the armed forces. Conscription was reduced to 18 months for those drafted in 2007 and was further reduced to 1 year for those drafted from 1 Jan. 2008. A presidential decree of 1997 ordered a cut in the armed forces of 200,000 men, reducing them to an

authorized strength of 1,004,000 in 1999. In 2011 active armed forces totalled 956,000, plus 474,000 personnel in paramilitary forces. There were estimated to be around 20 m. reserves (all armed forces) in 2011 of whom 2 m. had seen service within the previous 5 years. Defence expenditure totalled US\$68,163 m. in 2013 (just over a tenth of that of the USA), equivalent to US\$478 per capita and representing 3.1% of GDP. Russia was the world's third biggest military spender in 2013. Russia's strategic warhead count is now shrinking and stood at an estimated 1,780 in Jan. 2015 according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. There are about a further 5,720 warheads held in reserve or scheduled to be dismantled, giving a total stockpile of around 7,500 warheads. Shortfalls in planned investments to replace current systems as they reach the end of their service lives means the number of strategic warheads will continue to decline. At the height of the Cold War each side possessed over 10,000 nuclear warheads.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 4.0% of GDP in 2010, industry 35.4% and services 60.6%. The Ministry of Property Relations was established in 2000 with the mandate of overall federal policies on property issues and the management of state property, and in Dec. 2001 a new Federal Law on Privatization of State and Municipal Property was adopted. By that time a total of 129,811 enterprises had been sold. In 2010 only 30.9% of total employment was still in the public sector, down from 69.1% in 1992 and 37.8% in 2000.

### Labour

In 2010 the economically active population numbered 75.45 m. (38.58 m. males and 36.87 m. females). Of those in employment in 2010, 18.1% worked in wholesale and retail trade/repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods, 15.4% in manufacturing, 9.6% in agriculture and forestry, 8.8% in education, 7.9% in transport, 7.8% in construction and 7.0% in health and social work. The unemployment rate was 9.9% in May 2009—with 7.5 m. people unemployed using ILO methodology—down from 10.2% in April 2009 although up from 6.1% in Oct. 2008. Russia had 0.52 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*, the sixth highest total of any country.

### Press

In 2008 there were 533 daily newspapers. There were 27,510 non-daily newspapers in 2008. The most popular daily newspaper in 2008 was *Moskovsky Komsomolets*, with an average daily circulation of 750,000, followed by *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, with a circulation of 716,000. A presidential decree of 22 Dec. 1993 brought the press agencies ITAR-TASS and RIA-Novosti under state control. In 2008, 123,336 new or revised books were published, a figure exceeded only by China, the UK and the USA.

### Rail

Length of railways in 2010 was 86,000 km, of which about half is electrified. In 2008, 1,295.6 m. passengers and 1,304.7 m. tonnes of freight were carried by rail; passenger-km travelled came to 176 bn. and freight tonne-km to 2,116 bn. There are metro services in Moscow (309 km), St Petersburg (105 km), Nizhny Novgorod (15 km), Novosibirsk (14 km), Samara (10 km), Ekaterinburg (9 km) and Kazan (7 km).

### Religion

The Russian Orthodox Church is the largest religious association in the country. In early 2010 it had 160 dioceses with over 30,000 parishes, more than 200 bishops and 28,000 priests and about 790 monasteries. A survey conducted in 2012 by the Levada-Center (an independent, non-governmental polling and sociological research organization) estimated that some 74% of the population are Orthodox believers and 7% Muslims; 76% of Russians who described themselves as Orthodox believers were church-goers. There are still many Old Believers, whose schism from the Orthodox Church dates from the seventeenth century. The Russian Church is headed by the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus' (Patriarch Kirill I—Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kalininograd, b. 1946; elected Jan. 2009). Muslims represent the second largest religious community in Russia. In Feb. 2010 the Supreme Co-ordinating Council of Russian Muslims was established to be co-chaired by the heads of the three major organizations—Talgat Tadzhuiddin of the Central Spiritual Board of Muslims, Rawil Gaynetdin of the Council of Muftis of Russia and Ismail Berdiyev of the Co-ordinating Muslim Council of the North Caucasus.

## Roads

There were 933,000 km of roads in 2006, of which 80.9% were hard surfaced. In 2007, 78 bn. passenger-km were travelled by road. There were 29,249,000 passenger cars in use in 2007 plus 4,730,000 lorries and vans and 861,000 buses and coaches. In 2013 there were 27,000 road deaths.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 1,272 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 4.90 m. GT. Of the 1,272 vessels registered, 857 were general cargo ships, 296 oil tankers, 58 bulk carriers, 24 chemical tankers, 24 passenger ships, 12 container ships and one liquid gas tanker. The Russian-controlled fleet comprised 1,418 vessels of 1,000 GT or over in Jan. 2009, of which 945 were under the Russian flag and 473 under foreign flags. In 2010, 16 m. passengers and 102 m. tonnes of freight were carried on 101,000 km of inland waterways. The busiest ports are Novorossiisk (which handled 81,633,000 tonnes in 2008), Primorsk (75,582,000 tonnes in 2008) and St Petersburg (59,945,000 tonnes in 2008).

## Social Statistics

2008 births, 1,717,500; deaths, 2,081,000; marriages, 1,178,700; divorces, 703,400. Rates, 2008 (per 1,000 population): birth, 12.1; death, 14.7; marriage, 8.3; divorce, 5.0. At the beginning of the 1970s the death rate had been just 9.4 per 1,000 population. Death rates caused by alcohol abuse in 2009 were 77.0 males and 23.8 females per 100,000 population. Infant mortality, 2010 (per 1,000 live births), 9. There were 1,292,400 legal abortions in 2009. The annual abortion rate (34.2 per 1,000 women aged 15–49 in 2009) ranks among the highest in the world. The divorce rate is also among the highest in the world. The most popular age range for marrying in 2008 was 25–34 for males and 18–24 for females. Expectation of life at birth, 2012, was 64.6 years for males and 75.9 years for females. In 2012, 11% of Russians were living below the national poverty line. Annual population growth rate, 2000–10, –0.3%; fertility rate, 2008, 1.4 births per woman. The suicide rate in 2013 was 20 per 100,000 population, down from 39 per 100,000 in 2000.

## Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 40,473,000 main (fixed) telephone lines. Active mobile phone subscriptions numbered 208,065,000 in 2012 (1,453.3 per 1,000 persons). There were 61.5 m. internet users in 2011. In March 2012 there were 5.2 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Russia is bounded in the north by various seas (Barents, Kara, Laptev, East Siberian) which join the Arctic Ocean, and in which is a fringe of islands, some of them large. In the east Russia is separated from the USA (Alaska) by the Bering Strait; the Kamchatka peninsula separates the coastal Bering and Okhotsk Seas. Sakhalin Island, north of Japan, is Russian territory. Russia is bounded in the south by North Korea, China, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, the Caspian Sea, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Black Sea and Ukraine, and in the west by Belarus, Latvia, Estonia, the Baltic Sea and Finland. Kaliningrad (the former East Prussia) is an exclave on the Baltic Sea between Lithuania and Poland in the west. Russia's area is 17,075,400 km<sup>2</sup> and it has nine time zones (11 until March 2010). The 2010 census population was 142,856,536 density, 8.4 per km<sup>2</sup>. Ethnicity in 2010 showed 80.9% were Russians, 3.9% Tatars, 1.4% Ukrainians, 1.2% Bashkir, 1.0% Chechens and 1.0% Chuvash. In 2011, 73.2% of the population lived in urban areas. The two principal cities are Moscow (Moskva), the capital, with a 2010 census population of 11.50 m. and St Petersburg (formerly Leningrad), with 4.88 m. Other major cities (with 2010 populations) are: Novosibirsk (1.47 m.), Ekaterinburg (1.35 m.), Nizhny Novgorod (1.25 m.), Samara (1.16 m.) and Omsk (1.15 m.). In May 2000 President Putin signed a decree dividing Russia into seven federal districts (*okrug*), in the process creating a layer above the various federal subjects. The official federal language is Russian, although there are several other officially-recognized languages within individual administrative units.

## Tourism

In 2011 arrivals of non-resident visitors—including Russians living abroad—totalled 24,932,000 (22,281,000 in 2010), of which 2,336,000 were tourists (2,134,000 in 2010). There were 7,866 hotels and similar establishments in 2011, with 537,000 beds.

# Rwanda

*Republika y'u Rwanda (Republic of Rwanda)*

## Factsheet

*Capital:* Kigali

*Population estimate, 2015:* 11.61 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 1,458*

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.483/163=

*Internet domain extension:* .rw

## Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Kigali (Grégoire Kayibanda), which handled 458,807 passengers (382,766 on international flights) in 2012. A national carrier, Rwandair Express (since renamed RwandAir), began operations in 2003. In 2013 RwandAir served 16 destinations and carried 408,000 passengers (385,000 on international flights).

## Climate

Despite the equatorial situation, there is a highland tropical climate. The wet seasons are from Oct. to Dec. and March to May. Highest rainfall occurs in the west, at around 70" (1,770 mm), decreasing to 40–55" (1,020–1,400 mm) in the central uplands and to 30" (760 mm) in the north and east. Kigali, Jan. 67 °F (19.4 °C), July 70 °F (21.1 °C). Annual rainfall 40" (1,000 mm).

## Constitution and Government

Under the 1978 constitution the MRND was the sole political organization. A new constitution was promulgated in June 1991 permitting multi-party democracy. The Arusha Agreement of Aug. 1994 provided for a transitional 70-member National Assembly, which began functioning in Nov. 1994. The seats won by the MRNDD (formerly MRND) were taken over by other parties on the grounds that the MRNDD was culpable of genocide. A referendum was held on 26 May 2003 which approved a draft constitution by 93.4% (turnout was 87%). The new constitution, subsequently approved by the Supreme Court, provides for an 80-member *Chamber of Deputies* and a 26-member *Senate*, with the provision that no party may hold more than half of cabinet positions. 53 members of the Chamber of Deputies are directly elected, 24 women are elected by provincial councils, two members are elected by the National Youth Council and one is elected by a disabilities organization.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *Rwanda franc* (RWF) notionally of 100 *centimes*.

## Defence

In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$82 m. (US\$7 per capita), representing 1.1% of GDP.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 32.2% of GDP in 2010, industry 15.0% and services 52.8%.

## Labour

In 2005–06 there were 4,377,000 employed persons, with 79% of the economically active population engaged in agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Rwanda had 80,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

The English-language *New Times* is published 6 days a week, with its sister publication the *Sunday Times* appearing on Sundays.

## Religion

In 2010 an estimated 93.4% of the population was Christian according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, with 3.6% having no religious affiliation. Of the Christians in 2010, an estimated 53% were Catholics and 46% Protestants. Before the civil war of the early 1990s there were nine Roman Catholic bishops and 370 priests. By the end of 1994, three bishops had been killed and three reached retiring age; 106 priests had been killed and 130 had sought refuge abroad.

## Roads

Rwanda has some 14,000 km of roads. There are road links with Burundi, Uganda, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In 2006 there were 4,130 motorcycles, 1,813 cars and jeeps, and 1,270 trucks and pick-ups. There were 308 road deaths in 2007.

## Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 400,000; deaths, 141,000. Estimated birth rate in 2008 was 41.1 per 1,000 population; estimated death rate, 14.5. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 2.8%. Life expectancy at birth during the period 2005–10 was 61.1 years for females and 58.5 for males, up from 24.8 years for females and 21.4 years for males in 1990–95 (at the height of the civil war). Infant mortality, 2010, 44 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 5.4 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

Rwanda had 45,338 fixed telephone lines in 2013 and 6,689,000 mobile phone subscriptions. An estimated 8.7% of the population were internet users in 2013. In June 2012 there were 144,000 Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Rwanda is bounded south by Burundi, west by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, north by Uganda and east by Tanzania. A mountainous state of 25,314 km<sup>2</sup> (9,774 sq. miles), its western third drains to Lake Kivu on the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo and thence to the Congo river, while the rest is drained by the Kagera river into the Nile system. The population was 7,164,994 at the 1991 census, of whom over 90% were Hutu, 9% Tutsi and 1% Twa (pygmy). Following the genocide of 1994 ethnicity was not enumerated at the 2002 census, when the population was 8,128,553. Population at the 2012 census, 10,515,973; density, 415.4 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011 the population was 19.2% urban. Since Jan. 2006 Rwanda has been reorganized into five provinces (*intara*) as follows (with 2012 census populations): Eastern (2,595,703), Northern (1,726,370), Southern (2,589,975), Western (2,471,239) and Kigali City (1,132,686). Among the reasons given for the change were the reduction of ethnic divisions and the suppression of reminders of the 1994 genocide. Kigali, the capital, had a population of 1,132,686 in 2012. Kinyarwanda, which is the language of the entire population, along with English and French are the official languages. In 2008 English replaced French as the language of instruction in schools. Swahili is spoken in the commercial centres.

## Tourism

In 2012 there were 815,000 international tourist arrivals (excluding same-day visitors), up from 688,000 in 2011.

# St Kitts and Nevis

## *Federation of St Kitts and Nevis*

### Factsheet

Capital: Basseterre

Population estimate, 2015: 56,000

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 20,805

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.752/77

Internet domain extension: .kn

## Civil Aviation

The main airport is the Robert Llewelyn Bradshaw International Airport (just over 3 km from Basseterre). In 2010 there were flights to Antigua, Atlanta, British Virgin Islands, Charlotte, London, Miami, Nevis (Newcastle), New York, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten and the US Virgin Islands.

## Climate

Temperature varies between 21.4–30.7 °C, with a sea breeze throughout the year and low humidity. Average annual rainfall is between 1,270 mm and 1,905 mm.

## Constitution and Government

The British sovereign is the head of state, represented by a Governor-General. The 1983 constitution described the country as 'a sovereign democratic federal state'. It allowed for a unicameral Parliament consisting of 11 elected Members (eight from St Kitts and three from Nevis), three appointed Senators and one *ex officio* member. Nevis was given its own Island Assembly and the right to secession from St Kitts.

## Currency

The *East Caribbean dollar* (XCD) (of 100 cents) is in use.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 1.5% of GDP in 2009, industry 20.0% and services 78.5%.

## Labour

Of 24,778 persons on St Kitts aged 15 or over in 2001, 17,044 were economically active of whom 16,171 were employed and 873 were unemployed. The country has a phenomenon of the working poor—the unemployment rate among the poor in 2001 was very low at 5.3% on St Kitts and 5.0% on Nevis.

## Press

In 2008 there was one daily newspaper with a circulation of 2,000. There were also four non-dailies.

## Rail

In 2005 there were 50 km of railway, formerly operated by the sugar industry but now used for tourist purposes.

## Religion

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, an estimated 94.6% of the population were Christians in 2010 with 1.6% religiously unaffiliated. Anglicans are the largest denomination.

## Roads

There are about 380 km of roads.

## Shipping

There is a deep-water port at Bird Rock (Basseterre). In Jan. 2009 there were 200 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 892,000 GT. Among the 200 vessels registered were 132 general cargo ships and 47 oil tankers. The government maintains a commercial motor boat service between the islands.

## Social Statistics

Births, 2008, 709; deaths, 357. Rates, 2008 (per 1,000 population): births, 13.8; deaths, 7.0. Infant mortality, 2010 (per 1,000 live births), 7. Life expectancy in 2012 was 73.3 years. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 1.3%; fertility rate, 2008, 1.8 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In March 2013 there were an estimated 77,000 mobile phone subscriptions and an estimated 19,200 main (fixed) telephone lines. In 2010, 56.5% of households had internet access.

### Territory and Population

The two islands of St Kitts and Nevis are situated at the northern end of the Leeward Islands in the eastern Caribbean. Nevis lies 3 km to the southeast of St Kitts. Population, 2001 census, 46,325. In 2011, 32.6% of the population were urban. In 2001, 92.4% of the population were of African origin. English is the official and spoken language.

### Tourism

In 2008 there were 533,353 visitors in total including 400,916 cruise ship passengers and 127,705 staying visitors.

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## St Lucia

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Castries

*Population estimate, 2015:* 185,000

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 9,765

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.729/89

*Internet domain extension:* .lc

### Civil Aviation

There are two international airports: Hewanorra International (near Vieux-Fort) and George F. L. Charles (near Castries). In 2009 Hewanorra handled 513,959 passengers (483,632 in 2008) and George F. L. Charles—which handles inter-Caribbean flights—309,132 passengers (358,313 in 2008).

### Climate

The climate is tropical, with a dry season from Jan. to April. Most rain falls in Nov.–Dec.; annual amount varies from 60" (1,500 mm) to 138" (3,450 mm). The average annual temperature is about 80 °F (26.7 °C).

### Constitution and Government

The head of state is the British sovereign, represented by an appointed Governor-General. There is a 18-seat *House of Assembly* (17 members elected for 5 years plus the speaker) and an 11-seat *Senate* appointed by the Governor-General.

### Currency

The *East Caribbean dollar* (XCD) (of 100 cents) is in use. US dollars are also normally accepted.

### Economy

In 2010 agriculture contributed 3.5% of GDP, industry 16.6% and services 79.9%.

### Labour

In the period April–June 2004 the labour force totalled 78,210. The unemployment rate was 21.0% in 2004.

### Press

There are no daily newspapers. In 2008 there were six paid-for non-daily newspapers: the thrice-weekly *The Voice* and *The Star*; and the weekly *The Mirror*, *The Crusader*, *The Vanguard* and *One Caribbean*.

### Religion

According to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, 91.1% of the population in 2010 was Christian and 6.0% had no religious affiliation. In Feb. 2016 there was one cardinal.

### Roads

The island has about 1,200 km of roads, mainly unpaved.

### Shipping

There are two ports, Castries and Vieux Fort.

### Social Statistics

2011: births, 2,009; deaths, 983. Rates, 2011 (per 1,000 population): births, 12.0; deaths, 5.9. Infant mortality, 2010 (per 1,000 live births), 14. Expectation of life in 2013 was 72.2 years for males and 77.5 for females. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 1.4%; fertility rate, 2008, 2.0 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In March 2013 there were an estimated 77,000 mobile phone subscriptions and an estimated 19,200 main (fixed) telephone lines. In 2010, 56.5% of households had internet access.

### Territory and Population

St Lucia is an island of the Lesser Antilles in the eastern Caribbean between Martinique and St Vincent, with an area of 617 km<sup>2</sup> (238 sq. miles). Population (2010 census, provisional) 165,595; density, 268.4 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011 the population was 28.1% urban. The official language is English, but 80% of the population speak a French Creole. In 2010, 85% of the population was African/Black, 11% were of mixed race and 2% of East Indian ethnic origin. The capital is Castries (population, 1999, 57,000).

### Tourism

In 2010 there were 305,937 tourist arrivals by air, up from 278,491 in 2009. St Lucia received 670,043 cruise ship visitors in 2010 (when there were 380 cruise ship calls), down from 699,306 in 2009. There were 7,613 other same-day visitors in 2010.

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## St Vincent and the Grenadines

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Kingstown

*Population estimate, 2015:* 109,000

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 9,937

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.720/97=

*Internet domain extension:* .vc

### Civil Aviation

Argyle International Airport on mainland St Vincent—the country's first international airport—was inaugurated in Feb. 2017. There are regional airports on Bequia, Canouan, Mustique and Union Island in the Grenadines.

### Climate

The climate is tropical marine, with northeast trades predominating and rainfall ranging from 150" (3,750 mm) a year in the mountains to 60" (1,500 mm) on the southeast coast. The rainy season is from June to Dec., and temperatures are equable throughout the year.

### Constitution and Government

The head of state is Queen Elizabeth II, represented by a Governor-General. Parliament is unicameral with a 23-member *House of Assembly* consisting of 15 members directly elected for a 5-year term from single-member constituencies, six senators appointed by the Governor-General (four on the advice of the Prime Minister and two on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition) and two *ex officio* members.

### Currency

The currency in use is the *East Caribbean dollar* (XCD).

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 6.9% of GDP in 2009, industry 18.9% and services 74.2%.

## Labour

The Department of Labour is charged with looking after the interest and welfare of all categories of workers, including providing advice and guidance to employers and employees and their organizations and enforcing the labour laws. In 2001 the total labour force was 43,779, of whom 34,521 (21,274 males and 13,247 females) were employed.

## Press

In 2008 there was one daily newspaper, *The Herald*. There were also nine weekly papers.

## Religion

In 2010 an estimated 88.7% of the population were Christians according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life and 3.4% Hindus, with a further 2.5% religiously unaffiliated.

## Roads

There are more than 800 km of roads, around half of which are paved. Vehicles in use (2008): 9,250 passenger cars, 12,900 vans and lorries, and 1,220 motorcycles and mopeds.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 580 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 5.10 m. GT. Among the 580 vessels registered were 413 general cargo ships, 80 bulk carriers and 31 passenger ships.

## Social Statistics

Births, 2008 estimate, 1,900; deaths, 800. 2008 estimated rates (per 1,000 population): births, 17.6; deaths, 7.5. Infant mortality, 2010, 19 per 1,000 live births. Life expectancy, 2013, was 70.4 years for males and 74.7 years for females. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 0.1%; fertility rate, 2008, 2.1 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 125,400 mobile phone subscriptions (1,146.3 for every 1,000 inhabitants) and 19,100 fixed telephone lines. In the same year an estimated 52.0% of the population were internet users.

## Territory and Population

St Vincent is an island of the Lesser Antilles, situated in the eastern Caribbean between St Lucia and Grenada, from which latter it is separated by a chain of small islands known as the Grenadines. The total area of 389 km<sup>2</sup> (150 sq. miles) comprises the island of St Vincent itself (345 km<sup>2</sup>) and those of the Grenadines attached to it, of which the largest are Bequia, Mustique, Canouan, Mayreau and Union. The population at the 2012 census was 109,991 (provisional), of whom 99,757 lived on St Vincent; density, 283 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 49.8% of the population lived in urban areas. The capital, Kingstown, had 26,721 inhabitants in June 2012 (provisional, including suburbs). The population is mainly of Black (72.8% in 2001) and mixed (20.0%) origin, with small White, Asian and American minorities. English is the official language, although French patois is widely spoken.

## Tourism

There were 72,478 tourist arrivals by air in 2010, down from 97,432 in 2006. Cruise passenger arrivals numbered 110,954 in 2010 and there were also 42,603 yacht passengers.

# Samoa

## *O le Malo Tutoatasi o Samoa (Independent State of Samoa)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Apia

*Population estimate, 2015:* 193,000

*GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS)* 5,327

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.702/105

*Internet domain extension:* .ws

### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Apia (Faleolo), which handled 321,973 passengers and 1,175 tonnes of freight in 2009. The national carrier is Virgin Samoa, known until 2011 as Polynesian Blue. In 2007 it operated domestic services and international flights to Auckland, Brisbane and Sydney.

### Climate

A tropical marine climate, with cooler conditions from May to Nov. and a rainy season from Dec. to April. The rainfall is unevenly distributed, with south and east coasts having the greater quantities. Average annual rainfall is about 100" (2,500 mm) in the drier areas. Apia, Jan. 80 °F (26.7 °C), July 78 °F (25.6 °C). Annual rainfall 112" (2,800 mm).

### Constitution and Government

HH Malietoa Tanumafili II, who was Head of State for life, died on 11 May 2007. The Head of State is henceforth elected by the Legislative Assembly and holds office for 5-year terms. The executive power is vested in the *Head of State*, who swears in the *Prime Minister* (who is elected by the Legislative Assembly) and, on the Prime Minister's advice, the Ministers to form the Cabinet. The Constitution also provides for a *Council of Deputies* of three members, of whom the chairman is the Deputy Head of State. The *Legislative Assembly* contains 49 members serving 5-year terms. 47 are elected exclusively by *matai* (customary family heads) and the other two by non-Samoans on separate electoral rolls.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *tala* (WST) of 100 *sene*.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 9.7% of GDP in 2010, industry 28.1% and services 62.2%.

### Labour

In 2001 the total labour force numbered 52,945 (36,739 males).

### Press

There are two dailies, plus a weekly, a fortnightly and a monthly. The most widely read newspaper is the independent *Samoa Observer*.

### Religion

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, an estimated 96.8% of the population were Christians in 2010 with 2.5% having no religious affiliation.

### Roads

The road network covers around 1,150 km. In 2005 there were 5,920 passenger cars plus 4,600 lorries and vans in use.

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were four ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 9,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

2006: births, 4,935; deaths, 728. Rates, 2006 (per 1,000 population): births, 27.3; deaths, 4.0. Expectation of life in 2007 was 68.4 years for males and 74.7 for females. Annual population growth rate, 2001–06, was 0.5%. Infant mortality, 2010, 17 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2006, 4.2 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

There are three radio communication stations at Apia. Radio telephone service connects Samoa with American Samoa, the Fiji Islands, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, USA and UK. In 2008 there were 28,800 main (fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscribers numbered 124,000 in 2008 (69.3 per 100 persons). There were 9,000 internet users in 2008.

### Territory and Population

Samoa lies between 13° and 15° S. lat. and 171° and 173° W. long. It comprises the two large islands of Savai'i and Upolu, the small islands of Manono and Apolima, and several uninhabited islets lying off the coast. The total land area is 2,785 km<sup>2</sup> (1,075 sq. miles), of which 1,694 km<sup>2</sup> (654 sq. miles) are in Savai'i and 1,091 km<sup>2</sup> (421 sq. miles) in Upolu (including Manono and Apolima). The population was 187,820 at the 2011 census; density, 67 per km<sup>2</sup>. The population at the 2011 census was 143,418 in Upolu (including Manono and Apolima) and 44,402 in Savai'i. The capital and chief port is Apia in Upolu (population 36,735 in 2011). In 2011, 20.1% of the population lived in urban areas. The official languages are Samoan and English.

### Tourism

In 2008 there were 122,163 foreign tourists.

## San Marino

*Repubblica di San Marino (Republic of San Marino)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* San Marino  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 32,000  
*GDP per capita, 2014:* US\$58,393  
*Internet domain extension:* .sm

### Civil Aviation

The nearest airport is Rimini, 10 km to the east in Italy, which had scheduled flights in 2010 to Cologne-Bonn, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Karlsruhe, Liverpool, London Stansted, Luxembourg, Münster, Munich, Nuremberg, Stuttgart, Tirana and Vienna.

### Climate

Temperate climate with cold, dry winters and warm summers.

### Constitution and Government

The legislative power is vested in the *Great and General Council* of 60 members elected every 5 years by popular vote, two of whom are appointed every 6 months to act as *Captains Regent*, who are the heads of state. Executive power is exercised by the ten-member *Congress of State*, presided over by the Captains Regent. The *Council of Twelve*, also presided over by the Captains Regent, is appointed by the Great and General Council to perform administrative functions.

### Currency

Since 1 Jan. 2002 San Marino has been using the euro (EUR). Italy has agreed that San Marino may mint a small part of the total Italian euro coin contingent with their own motifs.

### Defence

Military service is not obligatory, but all citizens between the ages of 16 and 55 can be called upon to defend the State. They may also serve as volunteers in the Military Corps. There is a military Gendarmerie.

### Labour

Out of 20,530 people in employment in 2006, 6,247 worked in manufacturing and 2,901 in wholesale and retail trade. In 2006 there were 473 registered unemployed persons.

### Press

San Marino had four paid-for daily newspapers in 2008 (including one sports paper). There are also three dailies published in Italy that include pages on San Marino.

### Religion

A 2010 study by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life estimated that 91.6% of the population were Roman Catholics, with 7.2% religiously unaffiliated.

### Social Statistics

Births registered in 2009, 306; deaths, 233; marriages, 238; divorces, 63. Birth rate, 2009 (per 1,000 population), 9.3; death rate, 6.9. Annual population growth rate, 2000–05, 2.7%; fertility rate, 2008, 1.5 births per woman; infant mortality rate, 2010, two per 1,000 live births (one of the lowest rates in the world).

### Telecommunications

San Marino had 18,800 fixed telephone subscriptions in 2013 and 36,800 mobile phone subscriptions. In the same year an estimated 50.8% of the population were internet users.

### Territory and Population

San Marino is a land-locked state in central Italy, 20 km from the Adriatic. Area is 61.19 km<sup>2</sup> (23.6 sq. miles) and the population (June 2012), 32,368; population density, 529.0 per km<sup>2</sup>. At July 2010, 12,722 citizens lived abroad. In 2010, 94.1% of the population were urban. The capital, San Marino, has 4,236 inhabitants (June 2012); the largest town is Serravalle (10,540 in June 2012), an industrial centre in the north. The official language is Italian.

### Tourism

In 2007, 2.16 m. tourists visited San Marino (1.47 m. Italians and 696,000 other foreigners).

## São Tomé and Príncipe

*República Democrática de São Tomé e Príncipe (Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* São Tomé  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 190,000  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 2,918  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.555/143=  
*Internet domain extension:* .st

### Civil Aviation

São Tomé airport had flights in 2010 to Cape Verde, Libreville, Lisbon, Luanda and Port-Gentil. In 2007 São Tomé handled 50,625 passengers. There is a light aircraft service to Príncipe.

### Climate

The tropical climate is modified by altitude and the effect of the cool Benguela current. The wet season is generally from Oct. to May, but rainfall varies considerably, from 40" (1,000 mm) in the hot and humid northeast to 150–200" (3,800–5,000 mm) on the plateau. São Tomé, Jan. 79 °F (26.1 °C), July 75 °F (23.9 °C). Annual rainfall 38" (951 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The 1990 constitution was approved by 72% of votes at a referendum of March 1990 and became effective in Sept. 1990. It abolished the monopoly of the Movement for the Liberation of São Tomé e Príncipe (MLSTP). The *President* must be over 34 years old, and is elected by universal suffrage for one or two (maximum) 5-year terms. He or she is also head of government and appoints a Council of Ministers. The 55-member *National Assembly* is elected for 4 years. Since April 1995 Príncipe has enjoyed internal self-government, with a five-member regional government and an elected assembly.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *dobra* (STD) of 100 *centimos*.

### Economy

In 2010 wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants were estimated to have contributed 28% to GDP; followed by agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, 19%; transport, storage and communication, 15%; and construction, 10%.

### Labour

In 2001 the economically active population was 52,150. The unemployment rate was 15.7% in 2001.

### Press

In 2008 there was one daily newspaper. Two government-owned and six independent papers were also published irregularly.

### Religion

In 2010 an estimated 82.2% of the population were Christians according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, with 12.6% religiously unaffiliated. Of the Christians in 2010, an estimated 86% were Catholics and 14% Protestants.

### Roads

There were 500 km of roads in 2009, 375 km of which were paved. Approximately 4,500 passenger cars, 2,183 motorcycles and over 1,800 trucks and vans were in use in 2008.

### Shipping

São Tomé is the main port, but it lacks a deep water harbour. Neves handles oil imports and is the main fishing port. In Jan. 2009 there were 14 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 19,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

2006: births, 5,072; deaths, 1,111. Rates, 2006 (per 1,000 population): birth, 33.4; death, 7.3; infant mortality (2010), 53 per 1,000 live births. Expectation of life, 2006, 63.5 years for males and 68.5 years for females. Annual population growth rate, 2000–05, 1.9%; fertility rate, 2008, 3.8 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 7,000 fixed telephone subscriptions; mobile phone subscriptions numbered 125,300 that year (64.9 per 100 persons). In 2013 an estimated 23.0% of the population were internet users.

### Territory and Population

The republic, which lies about 200 km off the west coast of Gabon, in the Gulf of Guinea, comprises the main islands of São Tomé (845 km<sup>2</sup>) and Príncipe and several smaller islets including Pedras Tinhosas and Rolas. It has a total

area of 1,001 km<sup>2</sup> (387 sq. miles). Population (census, 2012) 179,200; density, 179 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 63.0% of the population were urban. The official language is Portuguese. Lungwa São Tomé, a Portuguese Creole, and Fang, a Bantu language, are the spoken languages.

### Tourism

In 2011 there were 12,000 non-resident tourists.

## Saudi Arabia

*Al-Mamlaka al-Arabiya as-Saudiya (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Riyadh

*Population estimate, 2015:* 31.54 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 52,821

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.837/39

*Internet domain extension:* .sa

### Civil Aviation

The national carrier is the part-privatized Saudi Arabian Airlines, which in 2006 owned 139 aircraft and served 76 destinations. In 2005 scheduled airline traffic of Saudi-based carriers flew 117.1 m. km and carried 11,126,300 passengers. There are four major international airports, at Jeddah (King Abdulaziz), Dhahran, Riyadh (King Khaled) and Dammam (King Fahd). There are also 23 domestic airports. Jeddah handled 25,785,463 passengers in 2012 (17,547,530 on international flights) and 265,629 tonnes of freight in 2011. Riyadh was the second busiest airport in 2012, handling 17,690,764 passengers (8,720,576 on domestic flights) and 305,943 tonnes of freight.

### Climate

A desert climate, with very little rain and none at all from June to Dec. The months May to Sept. are very hot and humid, but winter temperatures are quite pleasant. Riyadh, Jan. 58 °F (14.4 °C), July 108 °F (42 °C). Annual rainfall 4" (100 mm). Jeddah, Jan. 73 °F (22.8 °C), July 87 °F (30.6 °C). Annual rainfall 3" (81 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The reigning King, **Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud** (b. 1935), Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, succeeded in Jan. 2015, after King Abdullah's death. *Crown Prince:* Prince Mohammad bin Naif bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud (b. 1959). There is no formal constitution, but three royal decrees of 1 March 1992 established a Basic Law which defines the systems of central and municipal government, and set up a 60-man Consultative Council (*Majlis Al-Shura*) of royal nominees in Aug. 1993. Saudi Arabia is an absolute monarchy; executive power is discharged through a *Council of Ministers*, consisting of the King, Deputy Prime Minister, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers. The King has the post of *Prime Minister* and can veto any decision of the Council of Ministers within 30 days. In Oct. 2003 the government announced that municipal elections would be held in 2004 for the first time (although they were subsequently postponed until 2005), followed by city elections and partial elections to the *Majlis Al-Shura* in the following years. In March 2011 the government announced that the second municipal elections, previously scheduled for 2009, would be held on 22 Sept. 2011 (later delayed to 29 Sept.). Women were not eligible to vote, but they will be at the next elections set to take place during 2015.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *rial* (SAR) of 100 *halalah*.

## Defence

In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$59,560 m. (up from US\$48,531 m. in 2011), with spending per capita US\$2,211. The 2013 expenditure represented 8.0% of GDP. 5,000 US troops were stationed in Saudi Arabia after the 1991 Gulf War and were joined by a further 20,000 during the 2003 conflict. However, virtually all US troops have now been withdrawn. In March 2011 the Gulf Co-operation Council's Peninsula Shield Force, which is based in Saudi Arabia and whose mission is to protect the security of member states from any external aggression, consisted of approximately 40,000 troops.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 2% of GDP in 2008, industry 70% and services 27%.

## Labour

The labour force in the first half of 2015 totalled 11,912,200. In 2015 females constituted 15.8% of the labour force—one of the lowest percentages of females in the workforce of any country. In the first half of 2015, 15.7% of the employed population were engaged in public administration and defence/compulsory social security, 13.0% in construction, 12.5% in wholesale and retail trade/repair of motor vehicles, and 12.3% education. There are 9 m. foreign workers, including over 1 m. Egyptians and over 1 m. Indians. In the period Jan.–June 2015 unemployment was 5.7% overall but 11.6% for Saudis. Saudi Arabia had 58,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

In 2008 there were 16 daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 1,420,000. The most widely read newspapers are the Saudi-owned London-based *Asharq Al-Awsat* ('The Middle East'), *Al-Riyadh* and *Al-Watan*.

## Rail

In 2012, 1,412 km of 1,435 mm gauge lines linked Riyadh and Dammam with stops at Hofuf and Abqaiq. The network is being extended, consisting of links to Jeddah, the Jordanian border, and Makkah and Madinah. The line under construction from Makkah to Madinah via Jeddah will be Saudi Arabia's first high-speed rail link. It is expected to open in late 2016 or early 2017. In 2008 railways carried 1.1 m. passengers and 4.6 m. tonnes of freight. The first line of a metro system in Makkah opened in 2010, covering 18.1 km.

## Religion

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 an estimated 78–83% of the total population were Sunni Muslims, 10–15% Shias, 4% Christians and 1% Hindus. The *Grand Mufti*, Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al-Sheikh, has cabinet rank. A special police force, the Mutaween, exists to enforce religious norms. The annual *Hajj*, the pilgrimage to Makkah, takes place from the 8th to the 13th day of Dhu al Hijjah, the last month of the Islamic year. It attracts more than 1.8 m. pilgrims annually.

## Roads

In 2005 there was a total road network of 221,372 km (21.5% paved), including 3,891 km of motorway. A causeway links Saudi Arabia with Bahrain. Passenger cars in use in 2005 numbered 3,206,000 (415 per 1,000 inhabitants in 2004) and there were 1,127,900 lorries and vans. Women are not allowed to drive. In 2004–05 there were 293,281 road accidents resulting in 5,168 deaths.

## Shipping

The ports of Dammam and Jubail are on the Persian Gulf and Jeddah, Yanbu and Jizan on the Red Sea. There is a deepwater oil terminal at Ras Tanura. In 2009 the major ports handled 142.3 m. tonnes of cargo (84.1 m. tonnes loaded and 58.2 m. tonnes discharged). In Jan. 2009 there were 83 ships of 300 GT or over registered (including 38 oil tankers, 18 general cargo ships and 14 passenger ships), totalling 1.25 m. GT.

## Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 590,000; deaths, 92,000. Birth rate (2008 estimate) was 23.4 per 1,000 population; death rate, 3.6. 75% of the population is under the age of 30. Expectation of life at birth, 2013, was 73.9 years for males and 77.6 years for females. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.4%. Infant mortality, 2010, was 15 per 1,000 live births, down from 58 in the years 1980–85. Fertility rate, 2008, 3.1 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 4.9 m. main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscriptions numbered 53.1 m. (1,842.0 per 1,000 persons). The government sold a 30% stake in Saudi Telecom Company (STC) in Dec. 2002. STC lost its monopoly in the mobile phone market in 2005 and in landline services in 2007. In 2013 an estimated 60.5% of the population were internet users. In March 2012 there were 5.1 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Saudi Arabia, which occupies nearly 80% of the Arabian peninsula, is bounded in the west by the Red Sea, east by the Persian Gulf, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, north by Jordan, Iraq and Kuwait and south by Yemen and Oman. The total area is 2,149,690 km<sup>2</sup> (829,995 sq. miles). Riyadh is the political, and Makkah (Mecca) the religious, capital. Population at the census of April 2010 (provisional), 27,136,977; density, 12.6 per km<sup>2</sup>. Approximately 32% of the population are foreigners. In 2011, 82.3% of the population lived in urban areas. Principal cities (with 2010 provisional census populations in 1 m.): Riyadh, 5.19; Jeddah, 3.43; Makkah, 1.53; Madinah, 1.10; Dammam, 0.90; Hofuf, 0.66. The Neutral Zone (5,700 km<sup>2</sup>, 3,560 sq. miles), jointly owned and administered by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia from 1922 to 1966, was partitioned between the two countries in 1966, but the exploitation of the oil and other natural resources continues to be shared. The official language is Arabic.

## Tourism

There were 14,276,000 international tourists in 2012; spending by tourists in 2012 totalled US\$8.4 bn.

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# Senegal

## *République du Sénégal (Republic of Senegal)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Dakar  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 15.13 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 2,188  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.466/170  
*Internet domain extension:* .sn

### Civil Aviation

The international airport is at Dakar/Yoff (Léopold Sédar Senghor), which handled 1,882,242 passengers and 21,816 tonnes of freight in 2008. Air Sénégal International was 49% state-owned and 51% owned by Royal Air Maroc (RAM). Sénégal Airlines was launched as a replacement national carrier in Oct. 2009 although it is 64% privately-controlled. Flights, initially only within Africa, commenced in Jan. 2011.

### Climate

A tropical climate with wet and dry seasons. The rains fall almost exclusively in the hot season, from June to Oct., with high humidity. Dakar, Jan. 72 °F (22.2 °C), July 82 °F (27.8 °C). Annual rainfall 22" (541 mm).

### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was approved by a referendum held on 7 Jan. 2001. The head of state is the *President*, elected by universal suffrage for not more than



two 5-year terms (previously two 7-year terms). However, in Jan. 2012 the incumbent, Abdoulaye Wade won a court ruling allowing him to run for a third term on the grounds that the constitutional provision was not enacted until a year after his first term of office had begun. The *President* has the power to dissolve the National Assembly, without the agreement, as had been the case, of a two-thirds majority. The new constitution also abolished the upper house (the Senate), confirmed the status of the prime minister and for the first time gave women the right to own land. Senegal has a bicameral legislature. For the 150-member *National Assembly*, 90 members are elected by simple majority vote in single or multi-member constituencies for 5 years with 60 elected by a system of party-list proportional representation. The Senate was re-established in Jan. 2007 6 years after being dissolved. In Sept. 2012 parliament voted to abolish it after severe floods hit Senegal, with the money that would be saved going towards improving the country's flood defences and aid for flood victims.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *franc CFA* (XOF) with a parity of 655.957 francs CFA to one euro.

### Defence

There is selective conscription for 2 years. Defence expenditure totalled US\$231 m. in 2013 (US\$17 per capita), representing 1.6% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 17% of GDP in 2012, industry 24% and services 59%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 6,118,000 (4,484,000 in 2003). 78.0% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 10.3% of the population was unemployed. Senegal had 0.10 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2008 there were 26 daily newspapers with a total average circulation of 123,000 copies and 30 non-dailies.

### Rail

There were previously four railway lines but the total length of the track fell from 1,034 km (metre gauge) in 1986 to 645 km in 2005. There is also a suburban rail service linking Dakar and Rufisque, which carried 4.9 m. passengers in 2009. In 2009, 364,000 tonnes of freight were carried.

### Religion

According to a study by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 there were an estimated 11.98 m. Muslims (equivalent to 96.4% of the population). Most Muslims in Senegal are members of Sufi brotherhoods—Sufis are often described as being 'mystic' Sunnis. There were also an estimated 450,000 Christians in 2010, around 93% of whom were Catholics. There was one Roman Catholic cardinal in Feb. 2016.

### Roads

The length of roads in 2006 was 14,805 km, of which 29.3% were paved. In 2008 there were 205,704 passenger cars, 56,795 trucks and vans and 15,982 coaches. There were 320 deaths as a result of road accidents in 2007.

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were three ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 5,000 GT. 10.6 m. tonnes of freight were handled in the port of Dakar in 2008. The Senegal River is closed to foreign flags. The Saloum River is navigable as far as Kaolack, the Casamance River as far as Ziguinchor.

### Social Statistics

2005 estimates: births, 430,000; deaths, 132,000. Rates, 2005 estimates (per 1,000 population): births, 39.4; deaths, 12.1. Annual population growth rate, 2000–05, 2.8%; infant mortality, 2010, 50 per 1,000 live births. Life

expectancy in 2007 was 53.9 years for men and 56.9 for women. Fertility rate, 2008, 5.0 births per woman. 51% of the population were living in poverty in 2005.

### Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 343,700 main (fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscriptions numbered 13,134,000 that year (92.9 per 100 persons). In 2013 an estimated 20.9% of the population were internet users. In June 2012 there were 666,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Senegal is bounded by Mauritania to the north and northeast, Mali to the east, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau to the south and the Atlantic to the west with The Gambia forming an enclave along that shore. A short section of the boundary with The Gambia is undefined. Area, 196,720 km<sup>2</sup>, including 4,190 km<sup>2</sup> of inland water. Population (2013 census), 13,508,715 (50.1% female). Density, 70.2 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011 the population was 42.7% urban. Dakar, the capital, had an estimated population in 2010 of 2,396,800. Other large cities (with 2010 population estimates) are: Touba Mosquée (620,500), Thiès (278,200), Mbour (199,400), Kaolack (193,400), Saint-Louis (180,900) and Rufisque (173,100). Ethnic groups are the Wolof (36% of the population), Fulani (16%), Serer (16%), Diola (9%), Tukolor (9%), Bambara (6%), Malinké (6%) and Sarakole (2%). The official language is French; Wolof is widely spoken.

### Tourism

In 2011 there were 968,000 international tourist arrivals (excluding same-day visitors), up from 900,000 in 2010.

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## Serbia

### *Republika Srbija (Republic of Serbia)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Belgrade  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 8.85 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 12,190  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.771/66  
*Internet domain extension:* .rs

#### Civil Aviation

The national airline (and the former national carrier of Yugoslavia) is Air Serbia, known as Jat Airways until Oct. 2013. In Jan. 2010 it flew to 30 destinations in 23 countries. The main airport is Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport, which handled 2,386,402 passengers and 7,690 tonnes of cargo in 2009.

#### Climate

Most parts have a central European type of climate, with cold winters and hot summers. Belgrade, Jan. 1.4 °C, July 23.0 °C. Annual rainfall 687 mm.

#### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was approved in a referendum held on 28–29 Oct. 2006, with 53.0% of the electorate (and 96.6% of those voting) supporting the proposed constitution. It declares the province of Kosovo and Metohija an integral part of Serbia and grants Vojvodina financial autonomy. Kosovo Albanians were not able to vote. Turnout was 54.9%. The *President* is elected by universal suffrage for not more than two 2-year terms. There is a 250-member single-chamber *National Assembly*.

#### Currency

The unit of currency of Serbia is the *dinar* (RSD) of 100 *paras*.

## Defence

Conscription was abolished with effect from 1 Jan. 2011. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$681 m. (US\$94 per capita), representing 1.6% of GDP.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 9% of GDP in 2012, industry 30% and services 61%.

## Labour

In April 2010 there were 2,412,106 workers employed (without Kosovo and Metohija), including 549,816 in agriculture, forestry and water management; 405,485 in manufacturing; 346,038 in wholesale and retail trade and repair; 170,146 in health and social work; 148,943 in education; and 142,514 in transport, storage and communications. In April 2010 there were 1,582,455 employees and 641,712 self-employed persons. Average annual salary in 2009 (without Kosovo and Metohija) was 31,733 dinars. Unemployment in April 2010 (without Kosovo and Metohija) was running at 19.2%. Serbia had 26,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

In 2008 there were 19 daily newspapers (18 paid-for and one free). The two largest newspapers are *Blic* (readership of 836,000 in 2008) and *Večernje novosti* (553,000).

## Rail

Railways are operated by *eleznice Srbije*; total length of network in 2011 (excluding Kosovo and Metohija) was 3,809 km. In 2009, 8.4 m. passengers and 10.4 m. tonnes of freight were carried (without Kosovo and Metohija). In Sept. 2010 the state-owned railway companies of Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia announced the creation of a joint venture called Cargo 10 to improve the management of freight trains along the route known as Corridor 10 that passes through all three countries.

## Religion

Serbia has been traditionally Orthodox. Muslims are found in the south as a result of the centuries-long Turkish occupation. The Serbian Orthodox Church with its seat in Belgrade has five metropolitanates (including one covering Australia and New Zealand), 34 eparchies (dioceses) and one autonomous archeparchy. Its *Patriarch* is Irinej (enthroned 23 Jan. 2010).

## Roads

The length of roads in 2007 was 39,184 km, including 374 km of motorway and 5,133 km of main roads. In 2007 there were 1,476,600 passenger cars in use, 162,900 lorries and vans, 24,900 motorcycles and mopeds, and 8,900 buses and coaches. There were 962 deaths as a result of road accidents in 2007.

## Social Statistics

In 2008 there were a total of 69,083 live births in Serbia (without Kosovo and Metohija), a rate of 9.4 per 1,000 inhabitants. There were 102,711 deaths (14.0 per 1,000) and 38,285 marriages (5.2 per 1,000). Population growth rate, 2005–10, –0.6%. Life expectancy in 2013 was 71.3 years for men and 76.9 for women. Infant mortality was 6 per 1,000 live births in 2010.

## Telecommunications

There were 3,110,300 landline telephone subscriptions in 2010 (383.0 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 9,915,300 mobile phone subscriptions (1,220.8 per 1,000 inhabitants). An estimated 40.2% of households had a computer in 2010 and 51.5% of the population were internet users in 2013. In March 2012 there were 3.2 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Serbia is bounded in the northwest by Croatia, in the north by Hungary, in the northeast by Romania, in the east by Bulgaria, in the south by Macedonia and in the west by Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to the constitution it includes the two provinces of Kosovo and Metohija in the

south and Vojvodina in the north. With these Serbia's area is 88,361 km<sup>2</sup>; without, 55,968 km<sup>2</sup>. Population at the 2011 census was (with Vojvodina but without Kosovo and Metohija) 7,186,862; population density per km<sup>2</sup>, 92.8. Population at the 2011 census without both Vojvodina and Kosovo and Metohija was 5,255,053. The population was 56.4% urban in 2011. The capital is Belgrade (2011 census population, 1,166,763). The official language is Serbian.

## Tourism

In 2011, 764,000 non-resident tourists stayed in holiday accommodation (up from 682,000 in 2010 and 645,000 in 2009). There were 280 hotels in 2011, with 16,034 rooms and 25,841 beds.

# Seychelles

## Republic of Seychelles

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Victoria  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 96,000  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 23,300  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.772/64  
*Internet domain extension:* .sc

### Civil Aviation

Seychelles International airport is on Mahé. In 2010 Air Seychelles flew on domestic routes and to Cape Town, Doha, Dubai, Frankfurt, Johannesburg, London, Mauritius, Milan, Nairobi, Paris, Réunion, Rome, Singapore and Zürich. In 2013 it carried 356,000 passengers (188,000 on international flights). Seychelles International handled 650,928 passengers (517,542 on international flights) in 2012 and 4,500 tonnes of freight.

### Climate

Though close to the equator, the climate is tropical. The hot, wet season is from Dec. to May, when conditions are humid, but southeast trades bring cooler conditions from June to Nov. Temperatures are high throughout the year, but the islands lie outside the cyclone belt. Victoria, Jan. 80 °F (26.7 °C), July 78 °F (25.6 °C). Annual rainfall 95" (2,287 mm).

### Constitution and Government

Under the 1979 constitution the Seychelles People's Progressive Front (SPPF) was the sole legal Party. There is a unicameral People's Assembly consisting of 34 seats, of which 25 are directly elected and nine are allocated on a proportional basis, and an executive *President* directly elected for a 5-year term (with a maximum of three successive terms). A constitutional amendment of Dec. 1991 legalized other parties. A commission was elected in July 1992 to draft a new constitution. The electorate was some 50,000; turnout was 90%. The SPPF gained 14 seats on the commission, the Democratic Party, eight; the latter, however, eventually withdrew. At a referendum in Nov. 1992 the new draft constitution failed to obtain the necessary 60% approval votes. The commission was reconvened in Jan. 1993. At a further referendum on 18 June 1993 the constitution was approved by 73.6% of votes cast. The elections of 1993 were the first multiparty ones since 1974.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Seychelles rupee* (SCR) divided into 100 *cents*.

### Defence

The Seychelles People's Defence Force comprises all services. Personnel (2011) Army, 200; paramilitary national guard, 250; paramilitary coastguard, 200 including 80 marines. Defence expenditure totalled US\$12 m. in 2013 (US\$127 per capita), representing 1.0% of GDP.

## Economy

Trade and hotels contributed 24.6% to GDP in 2008; followed by transport and communications, 16.7%; finance and real estate, 12.0%; public administration and defence, 9.7%; and manufacturing, 8.6%.

## Labour

Some 76% of employed persons work in the services sector. In 2015, 9,093 people worked in accommodation and food service activities. In 2015, 33,344 were formally employed in the private sector, 9,317 in the public sector and 5,762 in the parastatal sector.

## Press

In 2008 there was one daily newspaper (circulation of 3,000), as well as three weekly papers.

## Rail

There are no railways in the Seychelles.

## Religion

82% of the inhabitants are Roman Catholic, the remainder of the population being followers of other religions (mainly Anglicans, with some Seventh-day Adventists, Bahá'ís, Muslims, Hindus, Pentecostals and Jehovah's Witnesses) or religiously unaffiliated.

## Roads

In 2006 there were 502 km of roads, of which 96.0% were surfaced. There were 6,800 private cars in 2006 (80 per 1,000 inhabitants), 2,600 commercial vehicles, 300 taxis and 215 buses.

## Shipping

The main port is Victoria, which is also a tuna-fishing and fuel and services supply centre. In Jan. 2009 there were 12 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 165,000 GT. Sea freight (2006) comprised: imports, 534,000 tonnes; exports, 4,604,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units); transshipments (fish), 74,000 tonnes.

## Social Statistics

2012 births, 1,645; deaths, 651. 2012 rates per 1,000 population, birth, 18.6; death, 7.4; infant mortality (2010), 12 per 1,000 births. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 0.9%. Life expectancy at birth in 2008 was estimated to be 68 years for males and 79 for females. Fertility rate, 2008, 1.9 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

There were 110,700 mobile phone subscriptions (equivalent to 1,313.6 per 1,000 inhabitants) in Jan. 2010 and 26,100 fixed telephone lines. In 2013 an estimated 50.4% of the population were internet users.

## Territory and Population

The Seychelles consist of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean, north of Madagascar, with a combined area of 455 km<sup>2</sup> (175 sq. miles) in two distinct groups and a 2010 census population of 90,945. The Granitic group of 40 islands cover 244 km<sup>2</sup> (94 sq. miles); the principal island is Mahé, with 160 km<sup>2</sup> (62 sq. miles) and 78,539 inhabitants (2010 census), the other inhabited islands of the group being Praslin, La Digue, Silhouette, Fregate, North and Denis, which together had 12,406 inhabitants in 2010. The Outer or Coralline group comprises 75 islands spread over a wide area of ocean between the Mahé group and Madagascar, with a total land area of 211 km<sup>2</sup> (81 sq. miles). Victoria, the chief town, had a census population of 26,450 in 2010. In 2011, 55.9% of the population were urban. The official languages are Creole, English and French but 91% of the population speak Creole.

## Tourism

Tourism is the main foreign exchange earner. Visitor numbers were a record 208,034 in 2012, up from 194,753 in 2011.

# Sierra Leone

## Republic of Sierra Leone

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Freetown

*Population estimate, 2015:* 6.45 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 1,780

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.413/181

*Internet domain extension:* .sl

### Civil Aviation

Freetown Airport (Lungi) is the international airport. The national carrier is Leone Airways, operated by Arik Air (a Nigerian airline) under a joint venture agreement. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Sierra Leone-based carriers flew 2.6 m. km; passenger-km totalled 153.7 m. in the same year.

### Climate

A tropical climate, with marked wet and dry seasons and high temperatures throughout the year. The rainy season lasts from about April to Nov., when humidity can be very high. Thunderstorms are common from April to June and in Sept. and Oct. Rainfall is particularly heavy in Freetown because of the effect of neighbouring relief. Freetown, Jan. 80 °F (26.7 °C), July 78 °F (25.6 °C). Annual rainfall 135" (3,434 mm).

### Constitution and Government

In a referendum in Sept. 1991 some 60% of the 2.5 m. electorate voted for the introduction of a new constitution instituting multi-party democracy. The constitution has been amended several times since. The president, who is both head of state and head of government, is elected by popular vote for not more than two terms of 5 years. There is a 124-seat *National Assembly* (112 members elected by popular vote and 12 filled by paramount chiefs). There is a *Supreme Council of State (SCS)* and a *Council of State Secretaries*.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *leone* (SLL) of 100 *cents*.

### Defence

In 2013 military expenditure totalled US\$14 m. (US\$3 per capita), representing 0.3% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture, forestry and fishing contributed 57.4% to GDP in 2010; followed by services, 10.1%; trade and hotels, 8.0%; and transport and communications, 6.6%.

### Labour

The economically active workforce was 1,935,000 in 2004 (51% males). In 2004 around two-thirds of the economically active population were engaged in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and hunting. 68,250 persons were registered unemployed in 2004. Sierra Leone had 45,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2008 there were ten paid-for dailies with an average circulation of 22,000, plus 40 non-dailies.

### Religion

According to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, 78.0% of the population in 2010 were Muslims (mostly Sunnis) and 20.9% were Christians (mainly Protestants).

## Roads

There were 11,300 km of roads in 2007 (8% paved). Much of the damage to the road network as a result of the civil war has now been repaired. In 2007 there were 16,400 passenger cars in use and 14,100 vans and lorries. There were 71 deaths as a result of road accidents in 2007.

## Shipping

The port of Freetown has one of the largest natural harbours in the world. Iron ore is exported through Pepel, and there is a small port at Bonthe. In Jan. 2009 there were 248 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 547,000 GT.

## Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 224,000; deaths, 88,000. Estimated birth rate in 2008 was 40.3 per 1,000 population; estimated death rate, 15.8. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 3.4%. Expectation of life at birth in 2013 was 45.8 years for females and 45.3 years for males (giving Sierra Leone the lowest life expectancy for females, for males and overall). The World Health Organization's *World Health Statistics 2009* ranked Sierra Leone in last place in a 'healthy life expectancy' list, with an expected 35 years of healthy life for babies born in 2007. Infant mortality was 114 per 1,000 live births in 2010 (the highest in the world). Fertility rate, 2008, 5.2 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2009 Sierra Leone had an estimated 1,160,000 mobile phone subscriptions and 32,800 main (fixed) telephone lines. The country's telecommunications network was virtually destroyed during the civil war, but since then the sector has been one of Sierra Leone's main successes. In 2009 there were an estimated 2.6 internet users per 1,000 inhabitants.

## Territory and Population

Sierra Leone is bounded on the northwest, north and northeast by Guinea, on the southeast by Liberia and on the southwest by the Atlantic Ocean. The area is 71,740 km<sup>2</sup> (27,699 sq. miles). Population (census 2004), 4,976,871; density, 69.4 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 38.8% of the population were urban. The capital is Freetown, with a 2004 census population of 772,873. Sierra Leone is divided into three provinces and one area (Western Area, of which Freetown is the capital). The provinces are divided into districts as follows: Bo, Bonthe, Moyamba, Pujehun (Southern Province); Kailahun, Kenema, Kono (Eastern Province); Bombali, Kambia, Koinaduga, Port Loko, Toukolili (Northern Province). The principal peoples are the Mendes (26% of the total) in the south, the Temnes (25%) in the north and centre, the Konos, Fulanis, Bulloms, Korankos, Limbas and Kissis. English is the official language; a Creole (Krio) is spoken.

## Tourism

Tourism is in the initial stages of development. In 2012 there were 60,000 non-resident tourist arrivals by air (32,000 in 2007).

# Singapore

## Republik Singapura (Republic of Singapore)

### Factsheet

*Population estimate, 2015:* 5.60 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 76,628  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.912/11  
*Internet domain extension:* .sg

### Civil Aviation

As of Sept. 2010, Singapore Changi Airport was served by 96 airlines with more than 5,100 weekly flights to and from some 200 cities in 60 countries and territories worldwide. A total of 37,203,978 passengers and 1,633,791

tonnes of freight were handled in 2009. The national airline is Singapore Airlines, which carried 16,480,000 passengers in 2009–10.

## Climate

The climate is equatorial, with relatively uniform temperature, abundant rainfall and high humidity. Rain falls throughout the year but tends to be heaviest from Nov. to Jan. Average daily temperature is 26.8 °C with a maximum daily average of 30.9 °C and a minimum daily average of 23.9 °C. Mean annual rainfall is 2,345 mm.

## Constitution and Government

Singapore is a republic with a parliamentary system of government. The organs of state—the executive, the legislature and the judiciary—are provided for by a written constitution. The present constitution came into force on 3 June 1959 and was amended in 1965. The Head of State is the *President*. The administration of the government is vested in the Cabinet headed by the *Prime Minister*. The Prime Minister and the other Cabinet Members are appointed by the President from among the Members of Parliament (MPs). The Cabinet is collectively responsible to Parliament. *Parliament* is unicameral consisting of 87 elected members and three Non-Constituency MPs (NCMPs), elected by secret ballot from single-member and group representation constituencies, as well as nine Nominated Members of Parliament (NMPs) who are appointed for a term of two and a half years on the recommendation of a Special Select Committee of Parliament. A Presidential Council to consider and report on minorities' rights was established in 1970.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *Singapore dollar* (SGD) of 100 *cents*.

## Defence

Compulsory military service in peacetime for all male citizens and permanent residents was introduced in 1967. The period of service is 24 months. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$9,864 m. (US\$1,807 per capita—the highest of any Asian country), representing 3.4% of GDP.

## Economy

Services accounted for 73% of GDP in 2012 and industry 27%.

## Labour

In June 2004 Singapore's labour force comprised 2,183,300 people, of whom 2,066,900 were employed. The principal areas of employment in June 2004 were manufacturing (356,700 people), wholesale and retail trade (319,700), business services (254,000), transport, storage and communications (212,500) and hotels and restaurants (129,300). The unemployment rate averaged 3.4% throughout 2004 (4.0% in 2003). The average worker put in 46.3 h a week in 2004; average monthly earnings in 2004 were S\$3,329.

## Press

In 2008 there were 11 daily newspapers, with a total daily circulation of 1,725,000 copies. The most popular paid-for daily is *The Straits Times*, with an average daily circulation of 389,000 in 2008.

## Rail

Woodlands Train Checkpoint is the southern terminus of the Malaysian Keretapi Tanah Melayu (KTM) rail network. A main line used to run on through Singapore but ceased operating in 2011. Branch lines serve the port of Singapore and the industrial estates at Jurong. The total rail length of the Mass Rapid Transit (SMRT) metro is 93.2 km. The 20 km North-East Line (operated by SBS Transit), the world's first fully automated heavy metro, became operational in 2003.

## Religion

According to the 2010 census, 33.3% of the population were Buddhists, 18.3% Christians, 14.7% Muslims, 10.9% Taoists and 5.1% Hindus; 0.7% belonged to other religions and 17.0% had no religion.

## Roads

In 2007 there were 3,297 km of public roads (100% asphalt-paved). Singapore has one of the densest road networks in the world. In 2007 there were 517,000 passenger cars, 14,500 buses and coaches, 151,000 vans and lorries, and 144,300 motorcycles and scooters.

## Shipping

Singapore has a large container port, the world's second busiest in terms of containers handled and shipping tonnage in 2012, second only to Shanghai. The economy is dependent on shipping and entrepôt trade. A total of 134,883 vessels of 2.4 bn. gross tonnes (GT) entered Singapore during 2014. In 2014, 4,595 vessels with a total of 82.2 m. GT were registered in Singapore. The Singapore merchant fleet ranked fifth among the principal merchant fleets of the world in 2014. Total cargo handled in 2014 was 581.3 m. freight tons, and total container throughput was 33,869,300 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units). Singapore was ranked first in the World Economic Forum's *Global Competitiveness Report 2009–2010* for the quality of its port facilities.

## Social Statistics

2013 births, 39,720; deaths, 18,938. Birth rate per 1,000 resident population, 2013, 9.3; death rate per 1,000 resident population, 4.6. Population growth rate in the year ended 30 June 2014, 1.3%; infant mortality, 2010, two per 1,000 live births (one of the lowest in the world); life expectancy, 2013, 79.8 years for males and 84.7 years for females. Fertility rate, 2008, 1.3 births per woman. In 2010 the most popular age range for marrying was 25–29 years for both males and females.

## Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 1,967,000 main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscriptions numbered 8,438,000 (1,559.2 per 1,000 persons). In 1997 Singapore Telecom, one of the largest companies in Asia, lost its monopoly with the entry of a new mobile phone operator. Singapore had three mobile phone operators in 2009—SingTel Mobile (owned by Singapore Telecom), M1 and StarHub Mobile. In 2013 there were 1,493.3 mobile broadband subscriptions per 1,000 inhabitants and 260.3 fixed broadband subscriptions for every 1,000 inhabitants. In March 2012 there were 2.6 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

The Republic of Singapore consists of Singapore Island and some 63 smaller islands. Singapore Island is situated off the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula, to which it is joined by a 1.1 km causeway carrying a road, railway and water pipeline across the Strait of Johor and by a 1.9 km bridge at Tuas, opened on 2 Jan. 1998. The Straits of Johor between the island and the mainland are 914 m wide. The island is 716.1 km<sup>2</sup> in area, including the offshore islands. Census of population (2010): Chinese residents 2,793,980 (74.1%), Malays 503,868 (13.4%), Indians 348,119 (9.2%) and others 125,754 (3.3%); resident population, 3,771,721. Estimated total population in June 2014 was 5,469,724. The population is 100% urban. Population density, 7,540 per km<sup>2</sup>. Malay, Chinese (Mandarin), Tamil and English are the official languages; Malay is the national language and English is the language of administration.

## Tourism

International visitor arrivals totalled 15.6 m. in 2013, up from 14.5 m. in 2012. Tourism receipts rose from S\$23.1 bn. in 2012 to S\$23.5 bn. in 2013. In Dec. 2013 there were 196 gazetted hotels, providing 47,113 rooms.

# Slovakia

## *Slovenská Republika (Slovak Republic)*

### Factsheet

Capital: Bratislava

Population estimate, 2015: 5.43 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 25,845

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.844/35

Internet domain extension: .sk

## Civil Aviation

The main international airport is at Bratislava (M. R. Stefanik), which handled 1,413,193 passengers in 2012 and 22,565 tonnes of freight. There are also some international flights from Košice. Slovak Airlines (formerly the Slovak flag carrier) ceased operations in Feb. 2007, as did Air Slovakia in March 2010. SkyEurope (central Europe's first low-cost airline), which operated domestic services and also flew to a number of destinations in Europe, ceased operations in Sept. 2009. Danube Wings, launched in 2008, ceased operations in Dec. 2013.

## Climate

A humid continental climate, with warm summers and cold winters. Precipitation is generally greater in summer, with thunderstorms. Autumn, with dry, clear weather and spring, which is damp, are each of short duration. Bratislava, Jan. –0.7 °C. June 19.1 °C. Annual rainfall 649 mm.

## Constitution and Government

The constitution became effective on 1 Jan. 1993, creating a parliamentary democracy with universal suffrage from the age of 18. Parliament is the unicameral *National Council*. It has 150 members elected by proportional representation to serve 4-year terms. The constitution was amended in Sept. 1998 to allow for the direct election of the *President*, who serves for a 5-year term. The President may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. The Judicial Branch consists of a *Supreme Court*, whose judges are elected by the National Council, and a *Constitutional Court*, whose judges are appointed by the President from a group of nominees approved by the National Council. Citizenship belongs to all citizens of the former federal Slovak Republic; other residents of 5 years standing may apply for citizenship. Slovakia grants dual citizenship.

## Currency

On 1 Jan. 2009 the euro (EUR) replaced the *Slovak koruna* (SKK) as the legal currency of Slovakia at the irrevocable conversion rate of 30.126 koruny to one euro.

## Defence

Since 1 Jan. 2006 Slovakia has had an all-volunteer professional army. In 2013 defence spending totalled US\$995 m. (US\$181 per capita), representing 1.0% of GDP.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 3% of GDP in 2008, industry 38% and services 59%.

## Labour

Out of 2,351,400 people in employment in 2011, 568,000 were in manufacturing, 304,000 in wholesale and retail trade/repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods, 243,700 in construction and 164,200 in education. The average monthly salary in 2011 was €855. Unemployment stood at 19.2% in 2001, but then fell to 16.2% in 2005 and still further to 9.6% in 2008. It rose again to 14.5% in 2010 and was 14.7% in Dec. 2012. Slovakia had 19,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

Slovakia had ten daily newspapers in 2008 (nine paid-for and one free) with a combined average daily circulation of 508,000.

## Rail

In 2011 the length of railway routes was 3,624 km. Most of the network is 1,435 mm gauge with short sections on three other gauges. In 2011, 47.5 m. passengers were carried and 43.7 m. tonnes of freight. There are tram/light rail networks in Bratislava, Košice and Trenčianske Teplice.

## Religion

A federal Czechoslovakian law of July 1991 provides the basis for church-state relations and guarantees the religious and civic rights of citizens and churches. Churches must register to become legal entities but operate independently of the state. In 2011, 62.0% of the population were Roman Catholic, 5.9% members of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession, 5.8% Greek Catholic and 1.8% Calvinist. In Feb. 2016 there was one cardinal.

## Roads

In 2014 there were 54,801 km of roads, including 420 km of motorways. There were 1,949,055 passenger cars in use in 2014, plus 265,424 vans and lorries, 8,876 buses and coaches and 80,791 motorcycles and mopeds. In 2014 there were 13,307 road accidents resulting in 229 fatalities.

## Shipping

In 2012 vessels registered by Slovak enterprises numbered 218. Transport of goods on inland waterways in 2012 totalled 8.2 m. tonnes, of which 5.3 m. tonnes were transit goods and 2.9 m. tonnes international.

## Social Statistics

Births, 2007, 54,424; deaths, 53,856; marriages, 27,437; divorces, 12,174. Rates (per 1,000 population), 2007: birth, 10.1; death, 10.0; marriage, 5.1; divorce, 2.3. Expectation of life, 2006, was 70.4 years for males and 78.2 for females. In 2006 the most popular age range for marrying was 25–29 for both males and females. Annual population growth rate, 1996–2006, 0.3%. Infant mortality, 2010 (per 1,000 live births), 7. Fertility rate, 2006, 1.2 births per woman (one of the lowest rates in the world).

## Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 6,208,000 mobile phone subscriptions (1,139.1 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 967,000 fixed telephone lines. In 2000 Deutsche Telekom bought a 51% stake in the state-owned Slovak Telekom, with the Slovakian government retaining 49% of shares in the company. In 2015 Deutsche Telekom acquired these shares, resulting in Slovak Telekom now being fully owned by Deutsche Telekom. In 2013 an estimated 77.9% of the population aged 16–74 were internet users. In March 2012 there were 1.9 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Slovakia is bounded in the northwest by the Czech Republic, north by Poland, east by Ukraine, south by Hungary and southwest by Austria. Its area is 49,034 km<sup>2</sup> (18,932 sq. miles). Census population in 2011 was 5,397,036 (2,769,264 females and 2,627,772 males); density, 110.1 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 54.9% of the population lived in urban areas. There are eight administrative regions (*Kraj*), one of which is the capital, Bratislava. The capital, Bratislava, had a population in 2011 of 411,228. The population of other principal towns (2011, in 1,000): Košice, 240; Prešov, 92; Žilina, 81; Banská Bystrica, 80; Nitra, 79; Trnava, 66; Martin, 57; Trenčín, 56. The population is 80.7% Slovak, 8.5% Hungarian, 2.0% Roma, 0.6% Czech and 0.6% Ruthenian, with some Germans, Moravians, Poles and Ukrainians. A law of Nov. 1995 makes Slovak the sole official language.

## Tourism

In 2010, 1,327,000 non-resident tourists stayed in holiday accommodation (1,298,000 in 2009); there were 3,126 accommodation establishments in 2010 with 57,406 rooms and 147,492 beds.

# Slovenia

*Republika Slovenija (Republic of Slovenia)*

## Factsheet

Capital: Ljubljana

Population estimate, 2015: 2.07 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 27,852

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.880/25

Internet domain extension: .si

## Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Ljubljana (Brnik), which handled 1,433,855 passengers (all on international flights) and 14,333 tonnes of freight in 2009. The national carrier, Adria Airways, has flights to most major European cities and Tel Aviv. In 2006 scheduled airline traffic of Slovenia-based carriers flew 15 m. km, carrying 850,000 passengers.

## Climate

Summers are warm, winters are cold with frequent snow. Ljubljana, Jan. –4 °C, July 22 °C. Annual rainfall 1,383 mm.

## Constitution and Government

The constitution became effective on 23 Dec. 1991. Slovenia is a parliamentary democratic republic with an executive that consists of a directly-elected president and a prime minister, aided by a council of ministers. It has a bicameral parliament (*Skupščina Slovenije*), consisting of a 90-member National Assembly (*Dravni Zbor*), 88 members elected for 4 year terms by proportional representation with a 4% threshold and two members elected by ethnic minorities; and a 40-member, advisory *State Council (Dravni Svet)*, elected for 5 year terms by interest groups and regions. It has veto powers over the National Assembly. Administratively the country is divided into 199 municipalities and 11 urban municipalities. The Judicial branch consists of a *Supreme Court*, whose judges are elected by the National Assembly, and a *Constitutional Court*, whose judges are elected for 9 year terms by the National Assembly and nominated by the president.

## Currency

On 1 Jan. 2007 the euro (EUR) replaced the *tolar* (SLT) as the legal currency of Slovenia at the irrevocable conversion rate of 239.64 tolar to one euro.

## Defence

Compulsory military service for 7 months ended in Sept. 2003. The army became fully professional in 2010 when the compulsory reserve was replaced by a new system of voluntary reserve service. In 2013 defence spending totalled US\$474 m. (US\$238 per capita), representing 1.0% of GDP.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 2% of GDP in 2012, industry 32% and services 66%.

## Labour

Registered labour force was 920,184 in 2012, with 110,183 registered unemployed. The unemployment rate in Dec. 2014 was 9.7% (compared to 10.1% in 2013 as a whole). In 2012 the average monthly gross wage per employee was €1,525.47.

## Press

In 2008 there were eight daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 380,000 and 253 non-dailies. The most popular paid-for daily is *Slovenske novice*, with an average daily circulation in 2008 of 88,000.

## Rail

There were 1,228 km of 1,435 mm gauge in 2008, of which 503 km were electrified. In 2008, 16.7 m. passengers and 17.3 m. tonnes of freight were carried. In Sept. 2010 the state-owned railway companies of Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia announced the creation of a joint venture called Cargo 10 to improve the management of freight trains along the route known as Corridor 10 that passes through all three countries.

## Religion

A study by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life estimated that 78.4% of the population in 2010 were Christians and 3.6% Muslims, with 18.0% having no religious affiliation. Of the Christians in 2010, 94% were Catholics. In Feb. 2016 there was one cardinal.

## Roads

In 2012 there were 38,985 km of road including 676 km of motorways. There were in Dec. 2013: 1,063,795 passenger cars; 2,465 buses; 90,560 goods motor vehicles; and 92,986 motorcycles and mopeds. 533 m. passenger-km were travelled by road in 2012. There were 18,904 road traffic accidents with material damage in 2013 in which 125 persons were killed. In 2013 there were 6.1 road deaths per 100,000 population.

## Shipping

A total of 5,433 vessels arrived at or departed from Slovenia's ports in 2008 (4,447 cargo-carrying vessels and 986 passenger ships), including 4,474 at Koper. Goods traffic totalled 16.6 m. tonnes in 2008 (Koper, 16.5 m. tonnes).

## Social Statistics

Live births, 2008, 21,817; deaths, 18,308. Rates, 2008 (per 1,000 population): birth, 10.8; death, 9.1. Infant mortality, 2010: two per 1,000 live births (one of the lowest rates in the world). There were 529 suicides in 2006 (22.8 per 100,000 population). In 2011 the most popular age range for marrying was 25–29 years for females and 30–34 years for males. Expectation of life, 2007, was 74.4 years for males and 81.7 for females. Annual population growth rate, 2000–05, 0.1%. Fertility rate, 2008, 1.4 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2009 there were 2,100,000 mobile phone subscriptions (1,039.8 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 1,034,000 fixed telephone lines. The leading telecommunications operator is the state-owned Telekom Slovenije. In 2009 there were 577,000 mobile broadband subscriptions and 479,000 fixed broadband internet subscriptions. In March 2012 there were 671,000 Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Slovenia is bounded in the north by Austria, in the northeast by Hungary, in the southeast and south by Croatia and in the west by Italy. The length of coastline is 47 km. Its area is 20,273 km<sup>2</sup>. In Jan. 2011 the population at the register-based census was 2,050,189 (1,035,626 females); density per km<sup>2</sup>, 101.1. The capital is Ljubljana: 2011 census population, 272,220. Maribor (population of 95,171 in 2011) is the other major city. In 2011, 49.5% of the population lived in urban areas. The official language is Slovene.

## Tourism

In 2010, 1,869,000 non-resident tourists stayed in holiday accommodation (1,824,000 in 2009) including: 412,000 from Italy; 202,000 from Austria; 194,000 from Germany; 103,000 from Croatia.

# Solomon Islands

## Factsheet

*Capital:* Honiara

*Population estimate, 2015:* 584,000

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 1,540

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.506/156=

*Internet domain extension:* .sb

## Civil Aviation

A new terminal has been opened at Henderson International Airport in Honiara. The national carrier is Solomon Airlines. In 2006 scheduled airline traffic of Solomon Islands-based carriers flew 3 m. km, carrying 101,000 passengers (32,000 on international flights).

## Climate

An equatorial climate with only small seasonal variations. Southeast winds cause cooler conditions from April to Nov., but northwest winds for the rest of the year bring higher temperatures and greater rainfall, with annual totals ranging between 80" (2,000 mm) and 120" (3,000 mm).

## Constitution and Government

The Solomon Islands are a constitutional monarchy with the British Sovereign (represented locally by a Governor-General, who must be a Solomon Island citizen) as Head of State. Legislative power is vested in the single-chamber *National Parliament* composed of 50 members, elected by universal adult suffrage for 4 years. Parliamentary democracy is based on a multi-party system. Executive authority is effectively held by the Cabinet, led by the Prime Minister. The *Governor-General* is appointed for up to 5 years, on the advice of Parliament, and acts in almost all matters on the advice of the Cabinet. The Prime Minister is elected by and from members of Parliament. Other Ministers are appointed by the Governor-General on the Prime Minister's recommendation, from members of Parliament. The Cabinet is responsible to Parliament. Emphasis is laid on the devolution of power to provincial governments, and traditional chiefs and leaders have a special role within the arrangement.

## Currency

The *Solomon Island dollar* (SBD) of 100 *cents* was introduced in 1977.

## Defence

The marine wing of the Royal Solomon Islands Police operates three patrol boats and a number of fast crafts for surveillance of fisheries and maritime boundaries.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 39% of GDP in 2009, industry 6% and services 55%.

## Labour

The estimated economically active population in 2010 was 123,000 (69% males), up from 105,000 in 2005.

## Press

There are three main newspapers in circulation. *The Solomon Star* (circulation: 5,000) is daily and the *Solomon Express* and *The Island Sun* are weekly. The Government Information Service publishes a monthly issue of the *Solomon Nius* that exclusively disseminates news of government activities. Non-government organizations such as the Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT) also publish monthly papers on environmental issues.

## Religion

According to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, 97.4% of the population in 2010 were Christians (mainly Protestants).

## Roads

In 2010 there was estimated to be a total of 1,875 km of roads, of which 104 km were paved. The rest of the network is surfaced with gravel, coral or earth.

## Shipping

There are international ports at Honiara, Yandina in the Russell Islands and Noro in New Georgia, Western Province. In Jan. 2009 there were three ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 2,000 GT.

## Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 16,000; deaths, 3,000. Estimated birth rate in 2008 was 30.4 per 1,000 population; estimated death rate, 6.2. Life expectancy, 2013, 69.2 years for women and 66.3 for men. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.6%. Infant mortality, 2010, 23 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 3.9 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

Telecommunications are operated by Solomon Telekom, a joint venture between the government of Solomon Islands and Cable & Wireless (UK). Telecommunications between Honiara and provincial centres are facilitated by modern satellite communication systems. In 2014 there were 7,500 main

(fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscriptions numbered 376,700 (658 per 1,000 persons). In 2011 an estimated 6% of the population were internet users.

### Territory and Population

The Solomon Islands lie within the area 5° to 12° 30' S. lat. and 155° 30' to 169° 45' E. long. The group includes the main islands of Guadalcanal, Malaita, New Georgia, San Cristobal (now Makira), Santa Isabel and Choiseul. The land area is estimated at 28,370 km<sup>2</sup> (10,954 sq. miles). The larger islands are mountainous and forest clad, with flood-prone rivers of considerable energy potential. Guadalcanal has the largest land area and the greatest amount of flat coastal plain. Population at the census of Nov. 2009, 515,870 (251,415 females); density, 18.2 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 18.9% of the population lived in urban areas. The islands are administratively divided into nine provinces plus a Capital Territory. The capital, Honiara, on Guadalcanal, is the largest urban area, with a population in 2009 of 64,602. 93% of the population are Melanesian; other ethnic groups include Polynesian, Micronesian, European and Chinese. English is the official language, and is spoken by 1–2% of the population. In all 120 indigenous languages are spoken; Melanesian languages are spoken by 85% of the population.

### Tourism

Tourism in the Solomon Islands is still in a development stage. The emphasis is on establishing major hotels in the capital and provincial centres, to be supplemented by satellite eco-tourism projects in the rural areas. In 2011 there were 22,941 foreign tourists.

## Somalia

### *Jamhuuriyadda Federaalka Soomaaliya (Federal Republic of Somalia)*

#### Factsheet

Capital: Mogadishu  
Population estimate, 2015: 10.79 m.  
GDP per capita, 2014: US\$131  
Internet domain extension: .so

#### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Mogadishu and Hargeisa. In 2010 there were flights to Aden, Djibouti, Dubai, Jeddah, Nairobi, Sharjah and Wajir in addition to internal services.

#### Climate

Much of the country is arid, although rainfall is more adequate towards the south. Temperatures are very high on the northern coasts. Mogadishu, Jan. 79 °F (26.1 °C), July 78 °F (25.6 °C). Annual rainfall 17" (429 mm). Berbera, Jan. 76 °F (24.4 °C), July 97 °F (36.1 °C). Annual rainfall 2" (51 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was promulgated on 1 Aug. 2012 after over 20 years of non-functioning government. It replaced the constitution of 1979 that itself had lost authority after the ousting of President Siyad Barre in 1991. The 2012 constitution was adopted by the National Constitutional Assembly with 96% backing from the 645 community leaders present at the vote (from a total of 825). The constitution includes a bill of rights enshrining the equality of all citizens regardless of clan or religion. Islam is the single recognized state religion, with Sharia law serving as the foundation of the legal system. The right to education up to the secondary level is guaranteed for all, while female circumcision and the deployment of children in armed conflict are proscribed. Provision is included for the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission and for the implementation of a federal system of government (although details of how power and resources are to be split remains to be decided). There is currently a unicameral parliament with 275 members but

there are plans for a 54-member senate. Parliament elects the *President*, who in turn appoints a *Prime Minister*.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Somali shilling* (SOS) of 100 cents.

#### Defence

Following the 1991 revolution there were no national armed forces for many years. However, in 2013 a first national army division was reinstated in a major step towards reviving the Somali Armed Forces. The Somali National Army reportedly comprised an estimated 20,000 personnel in mid-2014.

#### Economy

Agriculture accounts for approximately 59% of GDP, industry 10% and services 31%.

#### Labour

The estimated economically active population in 2010 was 3,627,000 (59% males), up from 3,267,000 in 2005. Somalia had 73,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

#### Press

The Somali press collapsed in 1991, with most of its facilities destroyed. Since 2000 several independent newspapers have emerged, including the daily *Wartire in Hargeisa* (Somaliland) and the weeklies *Yamayska* and *Bulsho* in Puntland. There were seven daily newspapers in 2008. Average daily circulation of newspapers in 2008 totalled 21,000. In the 2013 *World Press Freedom Index* compiled by Reporters Without Borders, Somalia was ranked 175th out of 179 countries.

#### Religion

The population is almost entirely Sunni Muslims.

#### Roads

Before the start of the Somali Civil War in the mid-1980s the network had a total length of more than 21,000 km. In 2006, 90% of the road network was considered to be in a poor or a very poor state of repair. As the country begins to recover after years of conflict main roads are being repaired in order to facilitate the movement of goods and people.

#### Shipping

The main ports are at Berbera, Bosaso, Kismayo, Marka and Mogadishu. In Jan. 2009 there were three ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 2,000 GT. Piracy off the coast of Somalia was intensifying for several years with 215 attacks in the waters off Somalia recorded in 2009, 219 in 2010 and 236 in 2011. In 2012 there were only 75 recorded attacks, largely thanks to more patrolling of the waters off East Africa by international navies. In 2013 this fell to 15 attacks, and in 2014 further to 11. There were 14 actual hijacks in 2012, down from 28 in 2011 and 49 in 2010. In 2013 there were then only two hijacks, with both ships being released within a day as a result of naval intervention, and in 2014 and 2015 there were none at all.

#### Social Statistics

Births, 2008 estimate, 394,000; deaths, 140,000. Rates, 2008 estimate (per 1,000 population): birth, 44.1; death, 15.7. Infant mortality, 2010, 108 per 1,000 live births. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.4%. Life expectancy at birth, 2013, was 53.4 years for men and 56.7 years for women. Fertility rate, 2008, 6.4 births per woman.

#### Telecommunications

Somalia had 70,000 fixed telephone lines in 2012 (6.9 per 1,000 persons); mobile phone subscriptions numbered 1.8 m. in 2011 (181.7 per 1,000 persons). In 2013 an estimated 1.5% of the population were internet users.

#### Territory and Population

Somalia is bounded north by the Gulf of Aden, east and south by the Indian ocean, and west by Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti. Total area 637,657 km<sup>2</sup>



(246,201 sq. miles). A census has not been held since 1987, when the population was 7,114,431. The United Nations gave an estimated population for 2012 of 9.80 m.; density, 15 per km<sup>2</sup>. Population counting is complicated owing to large numbers of nomads and refugee movements as a result of famine and clan warfare. In 2011, 37.9% of the population were urban. The country is administratively divided into 18 regions. The capital is Mogadishu (2010 population estimate, 1,426,000). Other large towns are Baidoa, Bosaso, Gaalkacyo and Hargeisa. The official language is Somali. Arabic, English and Italian are widely spoken.

### Tourism

Tourism was unknown for many years during the worst of the civil war, but visitor numbers have been increasing slowly as some sense of normality returns to the country. Somaliland's relative safety compared to the rest of Somalia has allowed a slightly more advanced tourism industry to develop there.

## South Africa

### Republic of South Africa

#### Factsheet

*Capitals:* Pretoria/Tshwane (Administrative), Cape Town (Legislative), Bloemfontein (Judicial)

*Seat of parliament:* Cape Town

*Seats of government:* Cape Town, Pretoria

*Population estimate, 2015:* 54.49 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 12,122

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.666/116=

*Internet domain extension:* .za

#### Civil Aviation

Responsibility for civil aviation safety and security lies with the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA). The Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) owns and operates South Africa's principal airports. The main international airports are: Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, Bloemfontein, Port Elizabeth, Pilanesberg, Lanseria and Upington. The flag carrier South African Airways (SAA), along with Airlink, Comair, Interair and SA Express, operate scheduled international air services. In 2010–11 O. R. Tambo International Airport (formerly Johannesburg International) handled 18,643,145 passengers (9,732,250 on domestic flights), Cape Town handled 8,200,547 passengers (6,781,143 on domestic flights) and Durban (King Shaka) handled 4,873,571 passengers (4,672,960 on domestic flights). O. R. Tambo Airport is also the busiest airport for freight, handling 252,063 tonnes of cargo in 2009.

#### Climate

There is abundant sunshine and relatively low rainfall. The southwest has a Mediterranean climate, with rain mainly in winter, but most of the country has a summer maximum, although quantities show a decrease from east to west. Pretoria, Jan. 73.4 °F (23.0 °C), July 53.6 °F (12.0 °C). Annual rainfall 26.5" (674 mm). Bloemfontein, Jan. 73.4 °F (23.0 °C), July 45.9 °F (7.7 °C). Annual rainfall 22" (559 mm). Cape Town, Jan. 69.6 °F (20.9 °C), July 54.0 °F (12.2 °C). Annual rainfall 20.3" (515 mm). Johannesburg, Jan. 68.2 °F (20.1 °C), July 50.7 °F (10.4 °C). Annual rainfall 28.1" (713 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

An Interim *Constitution* came into effect on 27 April 1994 and was in force until 3 Feb. 1997. Under it, the National Assembly and Senate formed a Constitutional Assembly, which had the task of drafting a definitive constitution. This was signed into law in Dec. 1996 and took effect on 4 Feb. 1997. The 1996 constitution defines the powers of the President, Parliament (consisting of the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces—NCOP), the national executive, the judiciary, public administration, the security services and the relationship between the three spheres of government. A *Constitutional Court*, consisting of a president, a deputy president

and nine other judges, was inaugurated in Feb. 1995. *Parliament* is the legislative authority and has the power to make laws for the country in accordance with the Constitution. It consists of the National Assembly and the NCOP. The *National Assembly* consists of no fewer than 350 and no more than 400 members directly elected for 5 years. The *National Council of Provinces* (NCOP) consists of 54 permanent members and 36 special delegates and aims to represent provincial interests in the national sphere of government.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *rand* (ZAR) of 100 cents.

#### Defence

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) comprises four services, namely the SA Army, the SA Air Force, the SA Navy and the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS). In 2012 the SANDF consisted of 62,082 active members (excluding 12,382 civilian employees). SAMHS personnel totalled 9,159 (including around 1,115 reservists) in 2011. South Africa ended conscription in 1994. Defence expenditure totalled US\$4,848 m. in 2013 (equivalent to US\$100 per capita), and represented 1.3% of GDP. Defence expenditure in 1985 had represented 3.8% of GDP. In 2013 South Africa was responsible for 21% of Africa's total defence expenditure.

#### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 3.0% of GDP in 2009, industry 31.1% and services 65.8%.

#### Labour

The labour force in South Africa numbered 17.1 m. in the fourth quarter of 2009, of which 4.2 m. were unemployed. In the fourth quarter of 2009 the unemployment rate was 24.3%, up from 21.9% in the fourth quarter of 2008. The Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) provides benefits to workers who become unemployed. All employees who work for more than 24 h a month contribute to the Fund. In the year ending March 2009 there were 7.6 m. contributors (7.3 m. in 2008). In the same period the UIF paid benefits to 627,244 beneficiaries, a total amount of R3.8 bn. South Africa had 45,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

#### Press

The major press groups are Independent Newspapers (Pty) Ltd, Media24 Ltd, CTP/Caxton Publishers and Printers Ltd, and Johnnic Publishing Ltd. Other important media players include Primedia, Nail (New Africa Investments Limited) and Kagiso Media. Nail has unbundled into a commercial company (New Africa Capital) and a media company (New Africa Media). In 2008 there were 22 paid-for dailies, 12 paid-for Sunday newspapers and 100 paid-for non-daily newspapers plus one free daily and 167 free non-dailies. Newspapers with the highest circulations (Jan.–March 2008): *Sunday Times* (504,193); *Daily Sun* (499,436); *Rapport* (301,827); *Soccer-Laduma* (292,701); *Sunday World* (203,460); *Sunday Sun* (202,524); *City Press* (201,790); *Sowetan* (145,173). *Beeld* is the largest Afrikaans daily (105,149) and *Isolezwe* the largest isiZulu daily (99,098).

#### Rail

The Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) was formed in March 2009 as an umbrella organization to oversee the day-to-day running of rail services in South Africa. PRASA operates Metrorail, offering commuter rail services in urban areas and transporting 1.7 m. passengers on weekdays to 478 stations over 2,400 km of track; and Shosholoz Meyl, providing regional and long-distance rail transport.

#### Religion

South Africa is a secular state and freedom of worship is guaranteed by the Constitution. According to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, 81.2% of the population in 2010 were Christians but 14.9% did not have any religious affiliation. There are small numbers of Hindus and Muslims. Among the Christians, 90% in 2010 were Protestants and 9% Catholics. In 1992 the Anglican Church of Southern Africa voted by 79% of votes cast for the ordination of women. In Feb. 2016 there was one cardinal.

## Roads

In 2011 the South African road network comprised some 747,000 km of roads and streets. Toll roads cover around 3,120 km of the national network. South Africa has the longest road network in Africa. As at 31 Oct. 2010 there were 9,797,413 registered motor vehicles. In 2009 a total of 13,768 people were killed in traffic accidents (14,920 in 2007 and 13,875 in 2008).

## Shipping

South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) was established on 1 April 1998 as the authority responsible for ensuring the safety of life at sea and the prevention of sea pollution from ships. Approximately 98% of South Africa's exports are conveyed by sea. The largest ports include the deep water ports of Richards Bay, Durban, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth provide large container terminals for deep-sea and coastal container traffic. The Port of Durban handles 2.5 m. containers per annum. East London, the only river port, has a multi-purpose terminal and dry dock facilities. During 2008–09 the seven major ports handled a total of 184,628,480 tonnes of cargo (Richards Bay, 82,621,766 tonnes; Saldanha, 50,282,909 tonnes; Durban, 40,118,656 tonnes). In Jan. 2009 there were four ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 32,000 GT.

## Social Statistics

Births: total number of registered live births in 2010 was 1,294,694 (down from a high of 1,677,415 in 2003). Deaths: the number of registered deaths increased from 317,236 in 1997 to 613,198 in 2006, with AIDS as the factor underlying much of the increase. Since then the increasing use of antiretroviral drugs has caused the number of registered deaths to fall to 480,476 in 2012. In 2012, 17.9% of all adults between 15 and 64 were infected with HIV. Estimated population growth rate, 2011–12, 1.3%. Fertility rate, 2009, 2.5 births per woman. Life expectancy at birth in 2013 was 58.2 years for males and 62.1 for females. It had been 59 years for males and 66 for females in the early 1990s but fell in the late 1990s and in the early part of the twenty-first century as a consequence of the AIDS epidemic. It was just 50.2 years for males and 53.9 for females in 2005 but has now risen again thanks to the development and improved availability of medical treatments for HIV. Infant mortality, 2010, 41 per 1,000 live births.

## Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 3.9 m. main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscriptions numbered 76.9 m. (1,456.4 per 1,000 persons). The largest mobile phone networks are Vodacom and MTN. In 2011, 88.9% of households had a mobile phone; landline telephone, 14.5%. A new 14,000-km submarine cable, the West Africa Cable System, became operational in May 2012, allowing South Africa to greatly increase the capacity of its mobile phone and internet networks. In 2013 an estimated 48.9% of the population were internet users. In June 2012 there were 5.0 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

South Africa is bounded in the north by Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe, northeast by Mozambique and Swaziland, east by the Indian Ocean, and south and west by the South Atlantic, with Lesotho forming an enclave. Area: 1,219,090 km<sup>2</sup>. This area includes the uninhabited Prince Edward Island (41 km<sup>2</sup>) and Marion Island (388 km<sup>2</sup>), lying 1,900 km southeast of Cape Town. At the census of 2011 the population was 51,770,560 (26,581,769 females), consisting of: Black African, 41,000,938 (79.2% of total population); Coloured, 4,615,401 (8.9%); White, 4,586,838 (8.9%); Indian/Asian, 1,286,930 (2.5%). 62.2% of the population were urban in 2011. In 2010 cities with the largest populations were (estimate in 1,000): Johannesburg (Gauteng), 3,763; Cape Town (Western Cape), 3,492; Durban (KwaZulu-Natal), 2,954; Pretoria/Tshwane (Gauteng), 1,468; Vereeniging (Gauteng), 1,174; Port Elizabeth (Eastern Cape), 1,097. Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality had an estimated population of 3,284,000 in 2010. There are 11 official languages. English is the sole language of command and instruction in the armed forces.

## Tourism

In 2012 there were 9.19 m. international tourist arrivals (excluding same-day visitors), up from 8.34 m. in 2011. Most visitors in 2012 came from Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland and Botswana. International tourist receipts in 2012 totalled US\$10.0 bn., up from US\$9.5 bn. in 2011. The number of people employed directly in tourism rose to 598,000 in 2011 from 567,000 in 2010.

# South Sudan

(Republic of South Sudan)

## Factsheet

Capital: Juba  
Population estimate, 2015: 12.34 m.  
GNI per capita, 2014: (PPP) \$2,332  
HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.467/169  
Internet domain extension: .ss

## Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Juba with connections to Addis Ababa, Cairo, Entebbe, Khartoum and Nairobi. Other major airports include those at Malakal, Rumbek and Wau. South Supreme Airlines operates both domestic and international flights.

## Climate

South Sudan's climate is tropical with wet and dry seasons. The winter is relatively cool and dry while the rainy season usually takes place from April to Dec. with most rain falling in the summer months. Juba, Jan. 81 °F (27.3 °C), July 76 °F (24.5 °C). Annual rainfall 38" (965 mm). Wau, Jan. 79 °F (25.9 °C), July 78 °F (25.3 °C). Annual rainfall 44" (1,118 mm).

## Constitution and Government

An interim constitution was ratified shortly before independence and came into force on 7 July 2011. Under the constitution the *President* is the Head of State, Head of Government and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces and serves a four-year term. The National Legislature consists of two Houses: the *National Legislative Assembly*, comprising members of the former Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly and all South Sudanese who were members of the National Assembly of Sudan; and the *Council of States*, which consists of South Sudanese who had seats in the Council of States of Sudan plus 20 members appointed by the President. Members of both houses serve four-year terms.

## Currency

The official unit of currency is the *South Sudan pound* (SSP) of 100 *piastres*, introduced on 18 July 2011.

## Defence

On independence the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army changed its name to the South Sudan Armed Forces. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$714 m. (US\$64 per capita), representing 5.3% of GDP.

## Rail

Total length of railway is 248 km, running from the Sudanese border to Wau.

## Religion

A large percentage of South Sudan's population are Christian—primarily Roman Catholic, Anglican and Presbyterian. There are also followers of African traditional animist religions as well as Muslims.

## Roads

Only a small proportion of South Sudan's road network is paved, but in Sept. 2012 a 192-km highway linking Juba, the capital, with Nimule, on the Ugandan border, was inaugurated.

## Territory and Population

South Sudan is bounded in the north by Sudan, east by Ethiopia, southeast by Kenya, south by Uganda, southwest by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and west by the Central African Republic. Its area is 644,329 km<sup>2</sup>. In 2008 the census population was 8.26 m. (disputed). More than half (51%)

of the population is below the age of 18. 83% of the population is rural. The country is composed of ten states. The capital, Juba, had a population of 230,000 in 2008. Other major cities are Wau (118,000), Malakal (115,000), Yei (111,000) and Yambio (106,000). The official language is English.

## Spain

*Reino de España (Kingdom of Spain)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Madrid

*Population estimate, 2015:* 46.12 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 32,045

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.876/26

*Internet domain extension:* .es

### Civil Aviation

Spain's 15 busiest airports by passenger traffic in 2013 were: Madrid (Barajas), Barcelona (El Prat), Palma de Mallorca, Málaga, Gran Canaria, Alicante, Tenerife (South), Ibiza, Lanzarote, Valencia, Fuerteventura, Bilbao, Seville, Tenerife (North) and Girona. A small airport in Seo de Urgel serves Andorra and is 12 km from the border. Madrid (Barajas) handled 39,735,618 passengers in 2013, Barcelona (El Prat) 35,216,828 and Palma de Mallorca 22,768,032. Madrid (Barajas) is the busiest airport by cargo traffic, handling 366,969 tonnes of freight and mail in 2013, ahead of Barcelona (El Prat) with 98,087 tonnes and Zaragoza with 71,565 tonnes. The former national carrier Iberia Airlines completed its privatization process in April 2001, when shares were listed for the first time on the stock exchange. In April 2010 it signed a deal with British Airways to merge and create a new company called International Airlines Group, which was founded in Jan. 2011. However, both carriers still operate under their own brands. Of other airlines, the largest are the low-cost carrier Vueling Airlines and Air Europa. Services are also provided by about 70 foreign airlines. In 2005 Iberia carried 27.4 m. passengers (12.0 m. on international flights); passenger-km totalled 49.0 bn.

### Climate

Most of Spain has a form of Mediterranean climate with mild, moist winters and hot, dry summers, but the northern coastal region has a moist, equable climate, with rainfall well distributed throughout the year, mild winters and warm summers, and less sunshine than the rest of Spain. The south, in particular Andalusia, is dry and prone to drought. Madrid, Jan. 41 °F (5 °C), July 77 °F (25 °C). Annual rainfall 16.8" (419 mm). Barcelona, Jan. 46 °F (8 °C), July 74 °F (23.5 °C). Annual rainfall 21" (525 mm).

### Constitution and Government

Following the death of General Franco in 1975 and the transition to a democracy, the first democratic elections were held on 15 June 1977. A new constitution was approved by referendum on 6 Dec. 1978, and came into force 29 Dec. 1978. It has been amended twice since, in 1992 and 2011. It established a parliamentary monarchy. The reigning king is **Felipe VI** (Don Felipe de Borbón y Grecia), born 30 Jan. 1968. The King receives an allowance, part of which is taxable, approved by parliament each year. For 2014 this is €7.8 m. There is no formal court; the (private) *Diputación de la Grandeza* represents the interests of the aristocracy. Legislative power is vested in the *Cortes Generales*, a bicameral parliament composed of the Congress of Deputies (lower house) and the Senate (upper house). The *Congress of Deputies* has not less than 300 nor more than 400 members (350 in the general election of 2011) elected in a proportional system under which electors choose between party lists of candidates in multi-member constituencies. The *Senate* has 264 members of whom 208 are elected by a majority system. The *Constitutional Court* is empowered to solve conflicts between the State and the Autonomous Communities; to determine if legislation passed by the Cortes is contrary to the Constitution; and to protect the constitutional rights of individuals violated by any authority. Its 12 members are appointed by the monarch.

### Currency

On 1 Jan. 1999 the euro (EUR) became the legal currency in Spain at the irrevocable conversion rate of 166.386 pesetas to one euro. The euro, which consists of 100 cents, has been in circulation since 1 Jan. 2002. On the introduction of the euro there was a 'dual circulation' period before the peseta ceased to be legal tender on 28 Feb. 2002.

### Defence

Conscription was abolished in 2001. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$11,593 m. (US\$245 per capita), representing 0.8% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 2% of GDP in 2012, industry 24% and services 74%. Spain's 'shadow' (black market) economy is estimated to constitute approximately 22% of the country's official GDP. In 2013 Spain gave US\$2.4 bn. in international aid, compared to US\$4.2 bn. in 2011. This represented 0.17% of GNI (compared to the UN target of 0.7%).

### Labour

Out of 18,973,200 people in employment in 2005, 3,113,000 worked in manufacturing; 2,886,800 in wholesale and retail trade/repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods; 2,357,200 in construction; 1,678,400 in real estate, renting and business activities; 1,291,100 in hotels and restaurants; and 1,196,700 in public administration and defence/compulsory social security. Spain's unemployment rate reached nearly 25% in 1994 but then fell steadily, declining to 8.3% in 2007. In Dec. 2014 the rate stood at 23.7%, down from 26.3% for three consecutive months from Feb. to April 2013, giving Spain the second highest unemployment rate in the EU (just below that of Greece). Spain had 6,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2008 there were 161 daily newspapers (140 paid-for and 21 free) with a total daily circulation of 8.21 m. copies. The main paid-for titles are: *El País* (average daily circulation 435,000), *El Mundo* (336,000) and *As* (234,000), along with the dedicated sports paper, *Marca* (315,000). The leading free papers, notably *20 Minutos*, *Que!* and *ADN*, now have wider circulations than the paid-for dailies. In 2009, 96,955 printed books were published.

### Rail

The total length of the state railways in 2011 was 15,680 km, mostly broad (1,668-mm) gauge (9,488 km electrified). The state railway system was divided in two in 2005; Administrador de Infraestructuras Ferroviarias (ADIF) now manages the infrastructure and Renfe Operadora runs train operations. There is an ever-expanding high-speed standard-gauge (1,435-mm) network, totalling 3,100 km in 2013. Only China has a longer high-speed rail network. The first high-speed line, from Madrid to Seville, opened in 1992. It was extended northwards from Madrid initially to Lleida, with passenger services beginning in 2003, and further to Tarragona (2006), Barcelona (2008) and the border with France (2013).

### Religion

There is no official religion. In 2010 Roman Catholicism was the religion of 75.2% of the population according to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. In Feb. 2016 there were 11 cardinals. There are 70 dioceses and archdioceses including the archdiocese of Toledo, where the Primate resides. The Pew Research Center estimated that 2.1% of the population were Muslims, 2.0% were Orthodox Christians and 19.0% did not have any religious affiliation. While Spain is not traditionally an Orthodox country, numbers began to grow in the early 1990s when there was an influx of migrant workers from Eastern Europe (particularly from Romania).

### Roads

In 2007 the total length of roads was 667,064; the network included 13,014 km of motorways, 12,832 km of highways/national roads and

140,165 km of secondary roads. In 2015 road transport totalled 363,942 m. passenger-km; freight transport totalled 209,387 m. tonne-km in 2015. Number of passenger cars in use (2007), 21,760,200; lorries and vans, 5,140,600; buses and coaches, 61,000; motorcycles and mopeds, 2,311,300. In 2007, 3,823 persons were killed in road accidents (5,604 in 1997).

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 184 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 2.39 m. GT. Of the 184 vessels registered, 63 were passenger ships, 49 general cargo ships, 29 oil tankers, 20 container ships, 11 liquid gas tankers, nine bulk carriers and three chemical tankers. The Spanish-controlled fleet comprised 259 vessels of 1,000 GT or over in Jan. 2009, of which 128 were under the Spanish flag and 131 under foreign flags. The leading ports are Algeciras-La Linea (74,845,000 tonnes of cargo in 2008), Barcelona, Bilbao, Cartagena, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Tarragona and Valencia.

### Social Statistics

2008 births, 518,967; deaths, 385,954. Rate per 1,000 population, 2008: births, 11.7; deaths, 8.7; marriages, 4.3; divorces, 2.5. In 2005 the most popular age range for marrying was 25–29 for both males and females. Annual population growth rate, 2000–05, 1.5%. Suicide rate (per 100,000 population), 2005: 7.8. Expectation of life, 2007, was 77.5 years for males and 84.0 for females. Infant mortality, 2010, four per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 1.4 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 19,384,000 main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscriptions numbered 50,159,000 (1,068.9 per 1,000 persons). That same year, an estimated 76.2% of the population were internet users. The fixed broadband penetration rate stood at 23.4 subscribers per 100 inhabitants in Dec. 2010. In March 2012 there were 15.7 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Spain is bounded in the north by the Bay of Biscay, France and Andorra, east and south by the Mediterranean and the Straits of Gibraltar, southwest by the Atlantic and west by Portugal and the Atlantic. Continental Spain has an area of 493,491 km<sup>2</sup>, and including the Balearic and Canary Islands and the towns of Ceuta and Melilla on the northern coast of Africa, 505,693 km<sup>2</sup> (195,249 sq. miles). Population (census, 2011), 46,815,916 (23,711,613 females). In 2011, 77.6% of the population lived in urban areas; population density in 2011 was 93 per km<sup>2</sup>. At the last linguistic census (2011) Catalan (an official EU language since 1990) was spoken in Catalonia by 73.2% of people and understood by 95.1%. It is also spoken in Balears, Valencian Community (where it is frequently called Valencian) and in parts of Aragón, a narrow strip close to the Catalanian and Valencian Community boundaries, and Murcia, to the south of the Valencian Community. Galician, a language very close to Portuguese, was understood in 2007 by 98.0% of people in Galicia aged 15 and over and spoken to a high or moderate standard by 89.4%; Basque by a significant and increasing minority in the Basque Country, and by a small minority in northwest Navarra. It is estimated that one-third of all Spaniards speaks one of the other three official languages as well as standard Castilian. In bilingual communities, both Castilian and the regional language are taught in schools and universities.

### Tourism

In 2010 Spain was behind only France, the USA and China in the number of foreign visitor arrivals, and behind only the USA for tourism receipts. In 2010, 52.7 m. tourists visited Spain; receipts for 2010 amounted to US\$52.5 bn. In 2008 most tourists were from the UK (27.6%), followed by Germany (17.6%), France (14.2%), Italy (5.9%) and the Netherlands (4.3%). Of 268,552,000 overnight stays at hotels and inns in 2008, 49,633,000 were in the Balearics, 49,400,000 in the Canary Islands and 44,172,000 in Andalusia; overnight stays by visitors from abroad numbered 155,364,000 and by residents of Spain 113,118,000.

## Sri Lanka

*Sri Lanka Prajathanthrika Samajavadi Janarajaya*  
(Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka)

### Factsheet

*Capitals:* Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte (Administrative and Legislative), Colombo (Commercial)

*Population estimate, 2015:* 20.72 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 9,779

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.757/73

*Internet domain extension:* .lk

### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Colombo (Bandaranaike). The national carrier is SriLankan Airlines, which has been part-owned and managed by Emirates since 1998. Mihin Lanka, a low-cost airline fully owned and funded by the government, was launched in 2007. In 2006 SriLankan Airlines carried 2,900,068 passengers (all on international flights). Colombo handled 4,740,187 passengers and 169,038 tonnes of freight in 2006.

### Climate

Sri Lanka, which has an equatorial climate, is affected by the North-east Monsoon (Dec. to Feb.), the South-west Monsoon (May to July) and two inter-monsoons (March to April and Aug. to Nov.). Rainfall is heaviest in the southwest highlands while the northwest and southeast are relatively dry. Colombo, Jan. 79.9 °F (26.6 °C), July 81.7 °F (27.6 °C). Annual rainfall 95.4" (2,424 mm). Trincomalee, Jan. 78.8 °F (26 °C), July 86.2 °F (30.1 °C). Annual rainfall 62.2" (1,580 mm). Kandy, Jan. 73.9 °F (23.3 °C), July 76.1 °F (24.5 °C). Annual rainfall 72.4" (1,840 mm). Nuwara Eliya, Jan. 58.5 °F (14.7 °C), July 60.3 °F (15.7 °C). Annual rainfall 75" (1,905 mm).

### Constitution and Government

A new constitution for the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka was promulgated on 7 Sept. 1978. The executive *President* is directly elected for a six-year term. Under the terms of an amendment introduced in Sept. 2010, the previous bar on a president serving more than two terms was removed. Parliament consists of one chamber, composed of 225 members (196 elected and 29 from the National List). Election is by proportional representation by universal suffrage at 18 years. The term of Parliament is six years. The Prime Minister and other Ministers, who must be members of Parliament, are appointed by the President.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Sri Lankan rupee* (LKR) of 100 cents.

### Defence

Defence expenditure totalled US\$1,793 m. in 2013 (US\$83 per capita), representing 2.8% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 12.8% of GDP in 2010, industry 29.4% and services 57.8%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 8,451,000 (7,914,000 in 2003). 59.4% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year

4.4% of the population was unemployed. Sri Lanka had 19,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

#### Press

In 2008 there were 18 paid-for daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 588,000. The papers with the highest circulation are *Lankadeepa* and *Divaina*, and the English-language *Daily News*.

#### Rail

In 2007 there were 1,463 km of railway (1,676 mm gauge). Passenger-km travelled in 2007 came to 4.77 bn. and freight tonne-km to 135 m.

#### Religion

In 2012 the population was 70% Buddhist, 13% Hindu, 10% Muslim and 6% Roman Catholic. In Feb. 2016 there was one Roman Catholic cardinal.

#### Roads

In 2006 the road network totalled 91,907 km in length, including 11,716 km of national roads and 15,532 km of secondary roads. Number of motor vehicles, 2006, 2,269,575, comprising 338,608 passenger cars, 77,233 buses and coaches, 431,594 trucks and vans and 1,422,140 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 2,239 fatalities in road accidents in 2006.

#### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 36 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 143,000 GT. Colombo is a modern container port; Galle and Trincomalee are natural harbours. The first of three phases of a new port at Hambantota was inaugurated in Nov. 2010. On completion it is set to be Sri Lanka's largest port.

#### Social Statistics

Statistics for 2008: births, 373,575; deaths, 123,814. 2008 rates per 1,000 population: birth, 18.5; death, 6.1; infant mortality rate, 2010 (per 1,000 live births), 14. Life expectancy, 2013, 77.4 years for females and 71.2 for males. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 0.8%. Fertility rate, 2008, 2.3 births per woman. Sri Lanka has the third oldest population in Asia, after Japan and Singapore, thanks largely to relatively good health and a low fertility rate.

#### Telecommunications

In Dec. 2012 there were 3,449,000 main (fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscriptions numbered 20,315,000 in 2013 (95.5 per 100 persons). In 2013 an estimated 21.9% of the population were internet users. In March 2012 there were 1.2 m. Facebook users.

#### Territory and Population

Sri Lanka is an island in the Indian Ocean, south of the Indian peninsula from which it is separated by the Palk Strait. On 28 June 1974 the frontier between India and Sri Lanka in the Palk Strait was redefined, giving to Sri Lanka the island of Kachchativu. 2012 census population: 20,359,439. Population (in 1,000) according to ethnic group and nationality in 2012 included: 15,173.8 Sinhalese, 2,270.9 Sri Lanka Tamils, 1,869.8 Sri Lanka Moors, 842.3 Indian Tamils, 40.2 Malays, 37.1 Burghers. Of the population of 20,359,439 in 2012, 10,502,805 were females. Density, 310 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 14.3% of the population lived in urban areas. Colombo (the largest city) had an estimated 673,000 inhabitants in 2007. Sinhala and Tamil are the official languages; English is in use.

#### Tourism

In 2010 there were a record 654,000 foreign tourists, bringing revenue of US\$1,044 m. The previous best year for tourist arrivals was 2004, the year of the Asian tsunami.

## Sudan

### *Jamhuryat es-Sudan (The Republic of The Sudan)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Khartoum

*Population estimate, 2015:* 40.25 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 3,809

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.479/167

*Internet domain extension:* .sd

#### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Khartoum, which handled 2,178,097 passengers and 59,299 tonnes of freight in 2009. The national carrier is the government-owned Sudan Airways, which operates domestic and international services. In 2006 scheduled airline traffic of Sudan-based carriers flew 9 m. km, carrying 563,000 passengers (365,000 on international flights).

#### Climate

Lying wholly within the tropics, the country has a continental climate and only the Red Sea coast experiences maritime influences. Temperatures are generally high for most of the year, with May and June the hottest months. On the Red Sea coast, most rain falls in winter. Khartoum, Jan. 64 °F (18.0 °C), July 89 °F (31.7 °C). Annual rainfall 6" (157 mm). Annual rainfall 39" (968 mm). Port Sudan, Jan. 74 °F (23.3 °C), July 94 °F (34.4 °C). Annual rainfall 4" (94 mm). Wadi Halfa, Jan. 50 °F (10.0 °C), July 90 °F (32.2 °C). Annual rainfall 0.1" (2.5 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

On 26 May 1998 President Omar Hassan Ahmed al-Bashir approved a new constitution. Notably this lifted the ban on opposition political parties, although the government continued to monitor and control criticism until the constitution came legally into effect. In accordance with the peace deal agreed in Dec. 2004 to bring an end to the civil war and signed in Jan. 2005 there is a lower house, the 354-seat *National Assembly* (reduced from 450 following the independence of South Sudan), with members appointed by decree by the president, and an upper house, the *Council of States*, consisting of a maximum of 32 members (reduced from 52), of whom 30 are indirectly elected. A new interim power-sharing constitution was adopted on 6 July 2005 giving the south some autonomy and allowing former rebels to take up seats in the country's government.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Sudanese pound* (SDG) of 100 *piastres*, introduced in Jan. 2007 to replace the *Sudanese dinar* (SDD) at a rate of 1 Sudanese pound = 100 Sudanese dinars.

#### Defence

There is conscription for one to 2 years. Defence expenditure totalled US\$1,516 m. in 2013 (US\$43 per capita), representing 3.0% of GDP.

#### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 24.9% of GDP, industry 28.3% and services 46.8% in 2010.

#### Labour

The estimated total workforce in 2010 was 13,885,000 (70% males), up from 11,997,000 in 2005. Sudan had 0.26 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

#### Press

In 2008 there were 29 paid-for daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 90,000. Opposition newspapers are permitted although they are vetted by an official censor.

## Rail

Total length in 2005 was 4,578 km. In 2008 the railways carried 100,000 passengers and 1.1 m. tonnes of freight.

## Religion

Islam is the state religion. A study by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life estimated that there were 30.49 m. Muslims in 2010 (mostly Sunnis), 1.81 m. Christians and 950,000 followers of folk religions. A further 350,000 people had no religious affiliation. Catholics account for around 55% of Christians and Protestants 40%. In Feb. 2016 the Roman Catholic church had one cardinal.

## Roads

The road network covers around 32,400 km. There were an estimated 768,000 passenger cars and 300,000 trucks and vans in 2007.

## Shipping

Supplementing the railways are regular steamer services of the Sudan Railways. Port Sudan is the major seaport; Suakin port opened in 1991. In Jan. 2009 there were five ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 23,000 GT.

## Social Statistics

2009 estimates: births, 1,402,000; deaths, 382,000. Rates, 2009 estimates (per 1,000 population): birth, 9; death, 33. Infant mortality, 2010 (per 1,000 live births), 66. Expectation of life in 2013 was 63.9 years for females and 60.3 for males. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 2.4%. Fertility rate, 2008, 4.2 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 416,000 fixed telephone subscriptions; mobile phone subscriptions numbered 27,658,000 that year (728.5 per 1,000 persons). There were 34,200 fixed broadband subscriptions in 2012 and 10.2 m. wireless broadband subscriptions in 2013. 21.0% of the population aged 15 and over were internet users in 2012.

## Territory and Population

Sudan is bounded in the north by Egypt, northeast by the Red Sea, east by Eritrea and Ethiopia, south by South Sudan, southwest by the Central African Republic, west by Chad and northwest by Libya. Its area is 1,881,000 km<sup>2</sup>. In 2008—when present-day South Sudan was still part of Sudan—the census population was 39,154,490. In 2011, 40.8% of the population were urban. The country is administratively divided into 17 states. The capital, Khartoum, had a provisional census population of 1,410,858 in 2008. Other major cities, with 2008 provisional population, are Omdurman (1,849,659), Khartoum North (1,012,211), Nyala (492,984), Port Sudan (394,561), Al Obeid (345,126), Kassala (298,529), Wadi Medani (289,482) and Al Qadarif (269,395). The country is mainly populated by Arab and Nubian peoples. Arabic and English are both official languages.

## Tourism

In 2011 there were 536,000 international tourist arrivals (excluding same-day visitors), spending a total of US\$185 m.

# Suriname

*Republiek Suriname (Republic of Suriname)*

## Factsheet

Capital: Paramaribo  
 Population estimate, 2015: 543,000  
 GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 15,617  
 HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.714/103  
 Internet domain extension: .sr

## Civil Aviation

There are two international airports. The larger airport (Johan Adolf Pengel) is 45 km south of Paramaribo while the smaller Zog en Hoop is 5 km west of Paramaribo. The national carrier is Surinam Airways, which in 2010 had flights to Amsterdam, Aruba, Curaçao, Miami and Port of Spain. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Suriname-based carriers flew 1.9 m. km; passenger-km totalled 1.3 bn. in the same year.

## Climate

The climate is equatorial, with uniformly high temperatures and rainfall. The temperature is an average of 27 °C throughout the year; there are two rainy seasons (May–July and Nov.–Jan.) and two dry seasons (Aug.–Oct. and Feb.–April). Paramaribo, Jan. 21 °C, July 32.4 °C. Average rainfall 182.3 mm.

## Constitution and Government

The current constitution was ratified on 30 Sept. 1987. Parliament is a 51-member *National Assembly*. The head of state is the *President*, elected for a five-year term by a two-thirds majority by the National Assembly, or, failing that, by an electoral college, the United People's Assembly, enlarged by the inclusion of regional and local councillors, by a simple majority.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *Suriname dollar* (SRD) of 100 cents, introduced on 1 Jan. 2004 to replace the *Suriname guilder* (SRG) at a rate of one Suriname dollar = 1,000 Suriname guilders.

## Defence

In 2011 defence expenditure totalled an estimated US\$55 m. (approximately US\$100 per capita), representing 1% of GDP.

## Economy

In 2011 agriculture contributed 10% of GDP, industry 38% and services 52%.

## Labour

Out of 156,705 people in employment in 2004, 27,995 were in public administration and defence; 25,012 in wholesale and retail trade; 14,031 in construction; 12,593 in agriculture, fishing, hunting and forestry; and 10,971 in manufacturing. In 2004 there were 16,425 unemployed persons, or 9.5% of the workforce.

## Press

There were four daily newspapers in 2008 with a combined circulation of 55,000.

## Rail

There are two single-track railways.

## Religion

A study by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life estimated that in 2010 there were 270,000 Christians (including 150,000 Roman Catholics and 110,000 Protestants), 100,000 Hindus, 80,000 Muslims and 30,000 folk religionists. People with no religious affiliation also numbered 30,000 in 2010.

## Roads

The road network covers some 4,000 km. In 2006 there were 81,778 passenger cars, 25,745 trucks and vans, 3,029 buses and coaches and 40,889 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 69 fatalities in road accidents in 2004.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were four ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 4,000 GT. In 2004 vessels totalling 1,518,000 NRT entered ports and vessels totalling 2,142,000 NRT cleared.

### Social Statistics

2007: births, 9,769; deaths, 3,374. Rates per 1,000 population: birth rate, 19.2; death rate, 6.6. Expectation of life, 2007, was 65.3 years for males and 72.5 for females. Annual population growth rate, 2000–05, 1.5%. Infant mortality, 2010, 27 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 2.4 births per woman. Abortion is illegal.

### Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 868,600 mobile phone subscriptions (1,610.7 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 84,900 fixed telephone lines. In the same year an estimated 37.4% of the population were internet users.

### Territory and Population

Suriname is located on the northern coast of South America between 2–6° North latitude and 54–59° West longitude. It is bounded in the north by the Atlantic Ocean, east by French Guiana, west by Guyana, and south by Brazil. Area, 163,820 km<sup>2</sup>. Census population, 2012, 541,638; density, 3.3 per km<sup>2</sup>. The capital, Paramaribo, had (2012 census) 240,924 inhabitants. Suriname is divided into ten districts. Major ethnic groups in percentages of the population in 2004: Indo-Pakistani, 26%; Creole, 18%; Javanese, 15%; Bushnegroes (Blacks), 15%; Amerindian, 4%. 69.8% of the population lived in urban areas in 2011. The official language is Dutch. English is widely spoken next to Hindi, Javanese and Chinese as inter-group communication. A vernacular, called ‘Sranan’ or ‘Surinamese’, is used as a *lingua franca*.

### Tourism

In 2010 there were 204,000 international tourist arrivals (excluding same-day visitors), spending a total of US\$61 m.

## Swaziland

### *Umbuso weSwatini (Kingdom of Swaziland)*

#### Factsheet

*Capitals:* Mbabane (Administrative), Lobamba (Legislative)  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 1.29 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 5,542  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.531/150  
*Internet domain extension:* .sz

#### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Manzini (Matsapha). A new airport, King Mswati III International Airport—also at Manzini—was inaugurated in March 2014 and received its first flights in Oct. 2014. The national carrier is Swaziland Airlink, which had direct flights from Manzini to Johannesburg in 2012. The unrelated Airlink also operated on the same route in 2012.

#### Climate

A temperate climate with two seasons. Nov. to March is the wet season, when temperatures range from mild to hot, with frequent thunderstorms. The cool, dry season from May to Sept. is characterized by clear, bright sunny days. Mbabane, Jan. 68 °F (20 °C), July 54 °F (12.2 °C). Annual rainfall 56" (1402 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

The reigning King is **Mswati III** (b. 1968; crowned 25 April 1986), who succeeded his father, King Sobhuza II (reigned 1921–82). The King rules in conjunction with the Queen Mother (his mother, or a senior wife). Critics of the King or his mother run the risk of arrest. Political parties are banned. A new constitution was signed into law on 26 July 2005 and came into force in Jan. 2006. There is a *House of Assembly* of 65 members, 55 of whom are elected each from one constituency (*inkhundla*) and ten appointed by the King; and a *House of Senators* of 30 members, ten of whom are elected by the

House of Assembly and 20 appointed by the King. Elections are held in two rounds, the second being a run-off between the five candidates who come first in each constituency. There is also a traditional *Swazi National Council* headed by the King and Queen Mother at which all Swazi men are entitled to be heard.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *lilangeni* (plural *emalangeni*) (SZL) of 100 *cents* but Swaziland remains in the Common Monetary Area and the South African rand is legal tender.

#### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 7.4% of GDP in 2010, industry 46.5% and services 46.1%.

#### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 446,000 (349,000 in 2003). 58.9% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 22.3% of the population was unemployed.

#### Press

In 2008 there were two daily newspapers: *The Times of Swaziland* (English-language with a circulation of 22,000 in 2008), founded in 1897, and *The Swazi Observer* (English, 15,000).

#### Rail

In 2005 the system comprised 301 km of route (1,067 mm gauge). There are north and south connections to South Africa's rail system, and a link in the northeast with Mozambique and the port of Maputo. In 2009, 4 m. tonnes of freight were transported.

#### Religion

In 2010 the population was an estimated 88.1% Christian (mainly Protestant) according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. Most of the remainder of the population is religiously unaffiliated.

#### Roads

The road network covers around 8,300 km. There were 52,200 passenger cars in use in 2007 plus 41,800 lorries and vans and 8,100 buses and coaches. There were 235 fatalities in road accidents in 2007.

#### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 35,000; deaths, 18,000. Estimated rates, 2008 (per 1,000 population): births, 29.9; deaths, 15.6. As a result of the impact of AIDS, expectation of life declined sharply. It was 59 years in 1990–95, but by 2000–05 was down to 45.9 years for females and 45.6 years for males. However, it has now started to rise again and in 2013 was 48.3 years for females and 49.6 years for males. Swaziland was one of only two countries where life expectancy at birth for males in 2013 was higher than for females (the other being Mali). In 2011, 26.0% of all adults between 15 and 49 were infected with HIV—the highest rate in any country. In 2010, 23% of Swazi children were orphans. In Sept. 2001 King Mswati III told the teenage girls of the country to stop having sex for 5 years as part of the country's drive to reduce the spread of HIV. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 1.0%. Infant mortality, 2010, 55 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 3.5 births per woman.

#### Telecommunications

In 2013 there were an estimated 46,000 main (fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscriptions numbered 805,000 in 2012 (65.4 per 100 persons). In 2013 an estimated 24.7% of the population were internet users.

#### Territory and Population

Swaziland is bounded in the north, west and south by South Africa, and in the east by Mozambique. The area is 17,364 km<sup>2</sup> (6,704 sq. miles). Population (2007 census), 1,018,449 (537,021 females); density, 58.7 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 21.3% of the population were urban. The country is divided into four regions: Hhohho, Lubombo, Manzini and Shiselweni. Main urban areas: Mbabane,

the administrative capital (60,281 inhabitants in 2007); Manzini; Big Bend; Mhlume; Nhlngano. The population is 84% Swazi and 10% Zulu. The official languages are Swazi and English.

### Tourism

In 2011 there were 1,328,000 non-resident visitor arrivals (including tourists and same-day visitors), down slightly from 1,343,000 in 2010.

## Sweden

### *Konungariket Sverige (Kingdom of Sweden)*

#### Factsheet

Capital: Stockholm

Population estimate, 2015: 9.78 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPP\$) 45,636

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.907/14=

Internet domain extension: .se

#### Civil Aviation

The main international airports are at Stockholm (Arlanda), Gothenburg (Landvetter), Stockholm (Skavsta) and Malmö (Sturup). The principal carrier is Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS), which resulted from the 1950 merger of the three former Scandinavian airlines. In 2008 Stockholm (Arlanda) handled 18,136,165 passengers (13,281,466 on international flights) and 187,000 tonnes of freight. Gothenburg (Landvetter) was the second busiest airport, handling 4,303,722 passengers (3,158,822 on international flights) and 100,000 tonnes of freight. Malmö handled 1,882,428 passengers in 2006 (1,181,970 on domestic flights).

#### Climate

The north has severe winters, with snow lying for 4–7 months. Summers are fine but cool, with long daylight hours. Further south, winters are less cold, summers are warm and rainfall well distributed throughout the year, although slightly higher in the summer. Stockholm, Jan. –2.8 °C, July 17.2 °C. Annual rainfall 385 mm.

#### Constitution and Government

The reigning King is **Carl XVI Gustaf**, b. 30 April 1946, succeeded on the death of his grandfather Gustaf VI Adolf, 15 Sept. 1973, married 19 June 1976 to Silvia Renate Sommerlath, b. 23 Dec. 1943 (Queen of Sweden). Under the 1975 constitution Sweden is a representative and parliamentary democracy. The King is Head of State, but does not participate in government. Parliament is the single-chamber *Riksdag* of 349 members elected for a period of 4 years in direct, general elections. The manner of election to the *Riksdag* is proportional. A parliament, the *Sameting*, was instituted for the Sami (Lapps) in 1993.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *krona* (SEK), of 100 *öre*.

#### Defence

In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$6,633 m., with spending per capita US\$727. The 2013 expenditure represented 1.2% of GDP.

#### Economy

Services accounted for 72% of GDP in 2012, industry 27% and agriculture 1%.

#### Labour

In 2008 there were 4,898,000 persons in the labour force, of which 93.8% were employed. The main areas of employment were as follows: trade and communication (838,000); financial services and business activities

(739,000); health and social work (721,000); manufacturing, mining, quarrying, electricity and water supply (689,000); education, research and development (537,000); personal services and cultural activities, and sanitation (397,000); construction (306,000); public administration (261,000); agriculture, forestry and fishing (101,000). The unemployment rate in Dec. 2014 was 7.6%; youth unemployment was 24.0% in the third quarter of 2012. In 2008, 69.6% of men and 63.8% of women were in employment. The average monthly salary in 2008 was 27,100 kr. (29,400 kr. for men and 24,700 kr. for women). In 2008 a total of 106,801 working days were lost through strikes, compared to 1,971 in 2006.

#### Press

In 2008 there were 168 daily newspapers with an average weekday net circulation of 3.7 m. The leading papers in terms of circulation in 2008 were the free *Metro*, with an average daily circulation of 634,000 copies; the Social Democratic *Aftonbladet*, with an average daily circulation of 378,000; the independent *Dagens Nyheter*, with an average daily circulation of 340,000; and the liberal tabloid *Expressen*, with an average daily circulation of 304,000. In 2008 a total of 26,182 book titles were published.

#### Rail

Total length of railways at 31 Dec. 2012 was 11,136 km (8,194 km electrified). In 2012, 193 m. passengers and 66 m. tonnes of freight were carried. There is a metro in Stockholm (110 km), and tram/light rail networks in Stockholm (8 km), Gothenburg (118 km) and Norrköping (13 km).

#### Religion

The Swedish Lutheran Church was disestablished in 2000. It is headed by Archbishop Antje Jackelén (b. 1955) and has its metropolitan see at Uppsala. In 2008 there were 13 bishoprics and 1,802 parishes. The clergy are chiefly supported from the parishes and the proceeds of the church lands. Around 70% of the population, equivalent to 6.6 m. people, belong to the Church of Sweden. Other denominations, in 2010: Pentecostal Movement, 82,769 members; The Mission Covenant Church of Sweden, 60,445; InterAct, 32,138; Salvation Army, 5,159 soldiers; The Baptist Union of Sweden, 17,441; Swedish Alliance Mission, 13,687. There were also 96,950 Roman Catholics (under a Bishop resident at Stockholm). The Orthodox and Oriental churches number around 120,000 members. Although there are no official statistics on the number of Muslims, their numbers were estimated at 450,000–500,000 in 2010. An estimated 20,000 Jews lived in Sweden in 2010.

#### Roads

In 2009 there were 215,597 km of roads open to the public of which 98,467 km were state-administered roads (main roads, 15,329 km; secondary roads, 83,138 km). There were also 1,855 km of motorway. 79% of all roads in 2005 were surfaced. Motor vehicles in 2008 included 4,279,000 passenger cars, 510,000 lorries, 13,000 buses and 489,000 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 1,015,997 Volvos, 434,757 Saabs, 343,060 Fords and 327,379 Volkswagens registered in 2006. Sweden has the lowest death rate in road accidents of any industrialized country, at 2.7 deaths per 100,000 people in 2013. 260 people were killed in traffic accidents in 2013.

#### Shipping

The mercantile marine consisted on 31 Dec. 2008 of 1,036 vessels of 4.53 m. GT. Cargo vessels entering Swedish ports in 2008 numbered 19,396 (125.74 m. GT) while there were 75,343 passenger ferries (1,011.83 m. GT). The number of cargo vessels leaving Swedish ports in 2008 totalled 19,389 (125.47 m. GT) and the number of passenger ferries leaving was 75,636 (1,015.82 m. GT). The busiest port is Gothenburg. In 2007 a total of 42.33 m. tonnes of goods were loaded and unloaded there (39.46 m. tonnes unloaded from and loaded to foreign ports). Other major ports are Brofjorden, Trelleborg, Malmö and Luleå.

#### Social Statistics

Live births, 2008, 109,301; deaths, 91,449. Rates, 2008, per 1,000 population: births, 11.9; deaths, 9.9; marriages, 5.4; divorces, 2.3. Sweden has one of the highest rates of births outside marriage in Europe, at 55% in 2008. In 2008 the average age at first marriage was 35.1 years for males and 32.5 years for females. Expectation of life in 2013: males, 79.7 years; females, 83.9. Annual



population growth rate, 2005–10, 0.8%. Infant mortality, 2010, two per 1,000 live births (one of the lowest rates in the world). Fertility rate, 2008, 1.9 births per woman. Sweden legalized same-sex marriage in May 2009. In 2008 Sweden received 24,353 asylum applications, equivalent to 2.6 per 1,000 inhabitants.

### Telecommunications

In 2012 there were 4,169,000 main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscriptions numbered 11,848,000 (1,254.7 per 1,000 persons). In 2013, 94.8% of the population aged 16–74 were internet users. In the same year there were 110.3 wireless broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants and 32.6 fixed broadband subscriptions per 100. In March 2012 there were 4.5 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Sweden is bounded in the west and northwest by Norway, east by Finland and the Gulf of Bothnia, southeast by the Baltic Sea and southwest by the Kattegat. The area is 450,295 km<sup>2</sup>, including water (96,000 lakes) totalling 39,960 km<sup>2</sup>. At the last census, in 1990, the population was 8,587,353. Parliament decided in 1995 to change to a register-based method of calculating the population. The recorded population at 31 Dec. 2012 was 9,555,893; density 23 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 84.8% of the population lived in urban areas. There are some 17,000 Sami (Lapps). A 16-km long fixed link with Denmark was opened in July 2000 when the Öresund motorway and railway bridge between Malmö and Copenhagen was completed. The *de facto* official language is Swedish.

### Tourism

In 2013 Swedes stayed 22,557,815 nights in hotels in Sweden and 11,223,586 at campsites; and foreign visitors stayed 6,874,759 nights in hotels and 3,273,264 at campsites. The leading countries of residence of the foreign visitors in 2013 were Norway (2,961,772 nights in hotels and at campsites), Germany, Denmark and the United Kingdom.

## Switzerland

*Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft—Confédération Suisse—Confederazione Svizzera (Swiss Confederation)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Berne

*Population estimate, 2015:* 8.30 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 56,431

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.930/3

*Internet domain extension:* .ch

### Civil Aviation

Switzerland owns seven airports with international scheduled and charter traffic: Basle (the binational Euroairport, which also serves Mulhouse in France), Berne (Belp), Geneva (Cointrin), Lugano (Agno), Sion, St Gallen (Altenrhein) and Zürich (Kloten). In 2013 these airports handled 45,501,533 passengers and 403,250 tonnes of freight and mail. Swissair, the former national carrier, faced collapse and grounded flights in Oct. 2001. In April 2002 a successor airline, Swiss International Air Lines (Swiss), took over as the national carrier. Services were also provided in 2013 by over 80 foreign airlines. Zürich is the busiest airport, handling 24,853,679 passengers in 2013 and 327,055 tonnes of freight. Geneva handled 14,328,107 passengers and 36,276 tonnes of freight in 2013. Together these two airports accounted for 86% of Swiss passenger traffic in 2013.

### Climate

The climate is largely dictated by relief and altitude, and includes continental and mountain types. Summers are generally warm, with quite considerable

rainfall; winters are fine, with clear, cold air. Berne, Jan. 32 °F (0 °C), July, 65 °F (18.5 °C). Annual rainfall 39.4" (986 mm).

### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was accepted on 18 April 1999 in a popular vote and came into effect on 1 Jan. 2000, replacing the constitution dating from 1874. Switzerland is a republic. The highest authority is vested in the electorate, i.e. all Swiss citizens over 18. The Swiss vote in more referendums—three or four a year—than any other nation. The Federal government is responsible for legislating matters of foreign relations, defence (within the framework of its powers), professional education and technical universities, protection of the environment, water, public works, road traffic, nuclear energy, foreign trade, social security, residence and domicile of foreigners, civil law, banking and insurance, monetary policy and economic development. The legislative authority is vested in a parliament of two chambers: the Council of States (*Ständerat/Conseil des États*) and the National Council (*Nationalrat/Conseil National*). The chief executive authority is deputed to the *Bundesrat*, or Federal Council, consisting of seven members, elected for four years by the *United Federal Assembly*, i.e. joint sessions of both chambers, such as to represent both the different geographical regions and language communities. The *President* of the Federal Council (called *President of the Confederation*) and the *Vice-President* are the first magistrates of the Confederation.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Swiss franc* (CHF) of 100 *centimes* or *Rappen*.

### Defence

There are fortifications in all entrances to the Alps and on the important passes crossing the Alps and the Jura. Large-scale destruction of bridges, tunnels and defiles are prepared for an emergency. Conscripts complete 18–21 weeks of basic training and then regular annual refresher training up to a set number of service days. In 2013 defence spending totalled US\$5,038 m. (US\$630 per capita), representing 0.8% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2008 finance and insurance contributed 22.3% to GDP; followed by manufacturing, 19.0%; services, 14.1%; trade and restaurants, 13.6%; public administration and defence, 9.7%; and transport and communications, 7.3%.

### Labour

In 2011 the total working population was 4,366,000, of whom 670,000 people were in manufacturing, 615,000 in trade and 566,000 in health. The unemployment rate in the third quarter of 2013 was 4.7%. In 2011, 85.4% of men and 73.3% of women between the ages of 15 and 64 were in employment. The percentage of men in employment is one of the highest among the major industrialized nations. The foreign labour force was 1,014,000 in 2011 (410,000 women). Of these 187,000 were German, 158,000 Italian, 143,000 Portuguese and 60,000 French. In 2011 approximately 698,000 EU citizens worked in Switzerland.

### Press

There were 95 daily newspapers in 2008 (87 paid-for) and 101 paid-for non-daily papers; the combined circulation of paid-for papers was 2,650,000 in 2008. The average circulation of free dailies rose from 619,000 in 2004 to 1,886,000 in 2008.

### Rail

In 2010 the length of the general traffic railways was 5,105 km. In 2013 Swiss and foreign railway companies carried 477 m. passengers and 65 m. tonnes of freight. In Oct. 2010 the final breakthrough of the world's longest rail tunnel took place—the 57-km long tunnel under the Gotthard mountain range in the Alps linking Erstfeld and Bodio. The tunnel was officially opened in June 2016. There are a number of tram/light rail networks, notably in Basle, Berne, Geneva, Lausanne, Neuchâtel and Zürich. There are many other railway networks, the most important of which are the BLS (436 km) and Rhaetian (384 km) networks. Switzerland was ranked first for rail infrastructure in the World Economic Forum's *Global Competitiveness Report 2009–2010*.

## Religion

There is liberty of conscience and of creed. The leading religion confessions in 2010 were the Roman Catholic Church (38.6% of the population) and the Swiss Reformed Church (28.0%). Other Christians accounted for 5.5% of the population in 2010 and Muslims 4.5%, while 20.1% did not have any religious affiliation. In Feb. 2016 the Roman Catholic church had four cardinals with Swiss nationality.

## Roads

In 2011 there were 71,452 km of roads, comprising 1,415 km of motorways, 18,411 km of highways and national roads and 51,638 km of secondary and local roads. Motor vehicles in 2011 (in 1,000): passenger cars, 4,163; motorcycles and mopeds, 834; vans and lorries, 349; buses and coaches, 16. Freight transported by road in 2010 totalled 17.1 bn. tonne-km. Switzerland has one of the lowest death rates in road accidents of any industrialized country, at 4.1 deaths per 100,000 people in 2011. Road accidents injured 23,242 people in 2011 and killed 320 (down from 954 in 1990).

## Shipping

In 2010 there were 1,226 km of navigable waterways. 6.0 m. tonnes of freight were transported on the Rhine in 2014. A merchant marine was created in 1941, the place of registry of its vessels being Basle. In 2007 it totalled 581,683 GRT.

## Social Statistics

2008 live births, 76,691; deaths, 61,233. Rates (2008, per 1,000 population): birth, 10.0; death, 8.0; marriage, 5.4; divorce, 2.6. In 2011 the most popular age range for marrying was 30–34 for males and 25–29 for females. Expectation of life, 2008: males, 79.7 years; females, 84.4. In 2007 the suicide rate per 100,000 population was 15.1 (males, 21.9; females, 9.1). Annual population growth rate, 2000–05, 0.7%. Infant mortality, 2008, four per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 1.5 births per woman. In 2008 Switzerland received 16,606 asylum applications, up from 10,844 in 2007.

## Telecommunications

In 2012 there were 4.7 m. main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscriptions numbered 10.6 m. (1,320.6 per 1,000 persons). In 2010, 80.7% of households had internet access. The fixed broadband penetration rate in 2013 was 42.5 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants. In March 2012 there were 2.7 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Switzerland is bounded in the west and northwest by France, north by Germany, east by Austria and Liechtenstein and south by Italy. In 2011, 73.7% of the population lived in urban areas. In Dec. 2013 the population was estimated at 8,139,631. Population density in 2010 was 189 per km<sup>2</sup>. German, French, Italian and Romansch (which is spoken mostly in Graubünden) are the official languages. German is spoken by the majority of inhabitants in 19 of the 26 cantons, French in Fribourg, Vaud, Valais, Neuchâtel, Jura and Geneva, and Italian in Ticino. In 2013, 64.5% of the population aged over 15 gave German as their main language, 22.6% French, 8.3% Italian and 0.5% Romansch. At the end of 2011 the five largest cities were Zürich (377,000); Geneva (188,200); Basle (164,500); Lausanne (129,400); Berne (125,700).

## Tourism

Tourism is an important industry. In 2013 there were 8.97 m. non-resident tourists staying at hotels and similar establishments, bringing revenue of US\$20,440 m. Overnight stays by tourists in hotels and health establishments totalled 35,624,000 in 2013 (19,735,000 by foreigners). The main countries of origin of foreign tourists were Germany (4,573,000 overnight stays in 2013), the UK (1,640,000) and the USA (1,585,000). 13.60 m. Swiss citizens travelled abroad in 2013.

# Syria

## *Jumhuriya al-Arabya as-Suriya (Syrian Arab Republic)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Damascus

*Population estimate, 2015:* 18.50 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 5,771

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.594/134=

*Internet domain extension:* .sy

### Civil Aviation

Damascus airport has ceased operations on several occasions amid fierce fighting since the outbreak of the civil war in 2011. No major international air carriers currently fly to Damascus.

### Climate

The climate is Mediterranean in type, with mild wet winters and dry, hot summers, though there are variations in temperatures and rainfall between the coastal regions and the interior, which even includes desert conditions. The more mountainous parts are subject to snowfall. Damascus, Jan. 38.1 °F (3.4 °C), July 77.4 °F (25.2 °C). Annual rainfall 8.8" (217 mm). Aleppo, Jan. 36.7 °F (2.6 °C), July 80.4 °F (26.9 °C). Annual rainfall 10.2" (258 mm). Homs, Jan. 38.7 °F (3.7 °C), July 82.4 °F (28 °C). Annual rainfall 3.4" (86.7 mm).

### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was adopted on 27 Feb. 2012, after receiving 89.4% support in a referendum with a turnout of 57.4%. It replaced the previous constitution promulgated in 1973. Among the new constitution's provisions is the removal of a previous clause confirming the Arab Socialist Renaissance (*Ba'ath*) Party, in power since 1963, as the 'leading party in the State and society'. The constitution proceeds to outlaw parties established on a 'religious, sectarian, tribal [or] regional' basis. The *President* is limited to two 7 year terms, although this clause may not be retroactively applied, allowing the incumbent, President Bashar al-Assad, to remain in office for potentially four terms. At a referendum on 27 May 2007 Bashar al-Assad (b. 1965) was confirmed as *President* for a second term, receiving 97.6% of the vote. Presidential elections may be contested, though any candidate must be a Muslim. The description of Syria as a 'planned socialist economy' in the 1973 constitution has been replaced by an assertion that the economy 'shall be based on the principle of developing public and private economic activity through economic and social plans'. The amended constitution was widely perceived as an attempt by President al-Assad to appease the opposition movement that emerged during the 2011 Arab Spring and placate international opinion against him. Nonetheless, the referendum was boycotted by leading opposition groups and received little support from the international community. Legislative power is held by a 250-member People's Assembly (*Majlis al-Sha'ab*), renewed every 4 years in 15 multi-seat constituencies.

### Currency

The monetary unit is the *Syrian pound* (SYP) of 100 *piastres*.

### Defence

Military service is compulsory for a period of 18 months. Defence expenditure in 2010 totalled US\$2,296 m. (US\$103 per capita), representing 3.9% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2009 manufacturing, mining and public utilities contributed 31.4% to GDP; followed by agriculture, 21.1%; trade, restaurants and hotels, 17.0%; transport and communications, 10.1%; and public administration, 9.8%.

## Labour

In 2005 the labour force totalled 5,312,000. Unemployment was 11.5% in 2005. Syria had 19,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

In 2008 there were four national daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 130,000 plus five regional and local dailies. In the 2013 *World Press Freedom Index* compiled by Reporters Without Borders, Syria ranked 176th out of 179 countries.

## Rail

In 2008 the Syrian Railways operated 1,801 km of 1,435 mm gauge; in 2005 the smaller Hedjaz-Syrian Railway operated 338 km of 1,050 mm gauge. Passenger-km travelled on the Syrian Railways in 2008 came to 1.1 bn. and freight tonne-km to 2.4 bn.; passenger-km travelled on the Hedjaz-Syrian Railway in 2005 came to 412,000 and freight tonne-km to 1.4 m.

## Religion

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 the population was an estimated 92.8% Muslim and 5.2% Christian. Most Muslims in 2010 were Sunnis but there were also significant numbers of Shias.

## Roads

In 2006 there were 40,032 km of roads, including 1,103 km of motorways, 5,971 km of main roads and 31,849 km of secondary roads; 95.8% of roads were paved. There were in 2007 a total of 446,100 passenger cars in use (22 per 1,000 inhabitants), 50,800 buses and coaches and 528,300 vans and lorries. In 2007 there were 13,465 road accidents involving injury resulting in 2,818 deaths.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 102 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 314,000 GT. The main port is Lattakia.

## Social Statistics

2008 births, estimate, 594,000; deaths, 72,000. Rates, 2008 estimate (per 1,000 population): birth, 28.0; death, 3.4. Infant mortality, 2010 (per 1,000 live births), 14. Expectation of life, 2013, was 71.8 years for males and 77.8 for females. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 3.1%. Fertility rate, 2008, 3.2 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2014 there were 14,039,000 mobile phone subscriptions (638.6 per 1,000 inhabitants). Syria had 3,629,000 fixed telephone lines in 2014. In the same year 28.1% of the population were internet users.

## Territory and Population

Syria is bounded by the Mediterranean and Lebanon in the west, by Israel and Jordan in the south, by Iraq in the east and by Turkey in the north. The census of 2004 gave a population of 17,921,000; density, 97 per km<sup>2</sup>. Estimate, 2011, 21,377,000. An estimated 7.6 m. Syrians are displaced within the country as a consequence of the civil conflict that began in 2011. There were an estimated 149,000 refugees in Syria in 2015, down from 755,000 in 2011, with most having left in the wake of the civil war. In 2011, 56.2% of the population lived in urban areas. The capital is Damascus (Dimashq), with a 2004 population of 1,414,913. Other principal towns are Aleppo, Homs, Lattakia, Hamah, Raqqah, Deir Ez-Zor, Hasakah and Al-Kamishli. Arabic is the official language, spoken by 90% of the population.

## Tourism

In 2010 there were a record 8,546,000 international tourist arrivals (excluding same-day visitors), spending a total of US\$6.19 bn. Tourist numbers have, however, declined considerably since 2010 as a result of the civil war.

# Tajikistan

## *Jumkhurii Tojikiston (Republic of Tajikistan)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Dushanbe

*Population estimate, 2015:* 8.48 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 2,517

*HDI/world rank, 20,134:* 0.624/129

*Internet domain extension:* .tj

### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Dushanbe and Khujand. The national carrier is Tajik Air, which has flights to 11 international destinations as well as operating domestic services. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Tajik-based carriers flew 10.4 m. km; passenger-km totalled 2.9 bn. in the same year.

### Climate

Considering its altitude, Tajikistan is a comparatively dry country. July to Sept. are particularly dry months. Winters are cold but spring comes earlier than farther north. Dushanbe, Jan. –10 °C, July 25 °C. Annual rainfall 375 mm.

### Constitution and Government

In Nov. 1994 a new constitution was approved by a 90% favourable vote by the electorate, which enhanced the President's powers. The head of state is the *President*, elected by universal suffrage. When the 1994 constitution took effect the term of office was 5 years. However, an amendment to the Constitution prior to the 1999 election extended the presidential term to 7 years, although a president could only serve one term. A further referendum approved in June 2003 allowed President Rakhmonov (now Rakhmon) to serve two additional terms after the expiry of the one that he was serving at the time, in Nov. 2006, theoretically enabling him to remain in office until 2020. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the USA expressed concerns at the result. Tajikistan has a bicameral legislature. The lower chamber is the 63-seat *Majlisi Namoyandagon (Assembly of Representatives)*, with 41 members elected in single-seat constituencies and 22 by proportional representation for 5 year terms. The upper chamber is the 34-seat *Majlisi Milliy (National Assembly)*, with 25 members chosen for 5 year terms by local deputies, eight appointed by the president and one seat reserved for the former president.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *somoni* (TJS) of 100 *dirams*, which replaced the Tajik rouble on 30 Oct. 2000 at 1 somoni = 1,000 Tajik roubles.

### Defence

Conscription is compulsory for 2 years. In 2011 the active armed forces had a strength of 8,800. Paramilitary forces totalled 7,500 including 3,800 interior troops and 2,500 emergencies ministry troops. 5,000 Russian Army personnel were stationed in the country in 2011. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$189 m. (US\$24 per capita), representing 2.2% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 26.6% of GDP in 2012, industry 22.5% and services 50.9%.

### Labour

The economically active force in 2005 totalled 2,154,000. The principal areas of activity were: agriculture, 1,424,000; education, 186,000; industry, 121,000. In 2005 the unemployment rate was 3.8%. Tajikistan had 24,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

Media freedom suffered during the civil war between 1992 and 1997 when around 60 journalists were killed and many others fled the country. *Imruz News*, the first daily newspaper since 1992, was launched in Aug. 2010.

### Rail

Length of railways, 2011, 621 km. Passenger-km travelled in 2011 came to 32 m. and freight tonne-km in 2009 to 1.3 bn.

### Religion

The Tajiks are predominantly Sunni Muslims (80%); Shia Muslims, 5%.

### Roads

The road network covers an estimated 30,000 km, nearly all of which was built in the Soviet era. There were 357,869 registered vehicles in use in 2010 (297,341 cars, 37,395 heavy trucks, 14,653 buses, and 8,480 motorcycles and mopeds). In 2010 there were 411 fatalities as a result of road accidents.

### Social Statistics

Estimates, 2008: births, 192,000; deaths, 44,000. Rates, 2008 estimate (per 1,000 population): births, 28.1; deaths, 6.4. Life expectancy, 2013, 64.1 years for men and 70.8 for women. Annual growth, 2000–08, 1.3%. Infant mortality, 2010, 52 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 3.4 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2013 there were an estimated 6,125,000 mobile phone subscriptions (1,168.9 per 1,000 inhabitants) and an estimated 602,000 fixed telephone lines. There were an estimated 9.6 internet users for every 100 inhabitants in 2013. The internet was banned under the former president, Saparmurad Niyazov, and has only been available since 2007.

### Territory and Population

Tajikistan is bordered in the north and west by Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, in the east by China and in the south by Afghanistan. Area, 143,100 km<sup>2</sup> (55,200 sq. miles). It includes two regions (Sughd and Khatlon), one autonomous region (Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region), the city of Dushanbe and regions of republican subordination. 2010 census population, 7,564,502; density, 53 per km<sup>2</sup>. 84.3% of the population in 2010 were Tajiks, 12.2% Uzbeks, 0.8% Kyrgyz and 0.5% Russians. In 2011 only 26.4% of the population lived in urban areas, making it the most rural of the former Soviet republics. The capital is Dushanbe (2010 population, 724,844). Other large towns are Khujand (formerly Leninabad), Kulyab (Kulob) and Kurgan-Tyube. The official language is Tajik, written in Arabic script until 1930 and after 1992 (the Roman alphabet was used 1930–40; the Cyrillic, 1940–92).

### Tourism

There were 450,000 foreign visitors in 2008.

## Tanzania

*Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania (United Republic of Tanzania)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Dodoma  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 53.47 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 2,411  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.521/151  
*Internet domain extension:* .tz

### Civil Aviation

There are three international airports: Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar and Kilimanjaro (Moshi/Arusha). Although Air Tanzania is the national carrier, Precision Air carries far more passengers (743,000 in 2013) and serves more destinations (ten in 2013). Dar es Salaam is the busiest airport, handling 2,088,282 passengers in 2012 (1,100,666 on international flights), followed by Zanzibar with 787,813 (388,231 on domestic flights).

### Climate

The climate is very varied and is controlled largely by altitude and distance from the sea. There are three climatic zones: the hot and humid coast, the drier central plateau with seasonal variations of temperature, and the semi-temperate mountains. Dodoma, Jan. 75 °F (23.9 °C), July 67 °F (19.4 °C). Annual rainfall 23" (572 mm). Dar es Salaam, Jan. 82 °F (27.8 °C), July 74 °F (23.3 °C). Annual rainfall 43" (1,064 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The current constitution dates from 25 April 1977 but underwent major revisions in Oct. 1984. The *President* is head of state, chairman of the party and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. The *Prime Minister* is also the leader of government business in the National Assembly. The 357-member *Bunge (National Assembly)* is composed of 239 constituency representatives, 102 appointed women, ten Union presidential nominees (five of whom must be women), five representatives of the Zanzibar House of Representatives (two women), and one *ex officio* member (the Attorney General). In Dec. 1979 a separate constitution for Zanzibar was approved. Although at present under the same Constitution as Tanzania, Zanzibar has, in fact, been ruled by decree since 1964. The formation of a government of national unity was approved by 66.4% of voters in a referendum in July 2010. Following elections on 21 Oct. 2010 the new government was inaugurated in Nov. 2010.

### Currency

The monetary unit is the *Tanzanian shilling* (TZS) of 100 cents.

### Defence

Defence expenditure totalled US\$327 m. in 2013 (US\$7 per capita), representing 1.0% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 28.8% of GDP in 2009, industry 24.3% and services 46.9%.

### Press

In 2008 there were 14 dailies with a combined circulation of 125,000.

### Rail

In 1977 the independent Tanzanian Railway Corporation was formed. The network totalled 2,707 km (metre-gauge) in 2005, excluding the joint Tanzania-Zambia (Tazara) railway's 961 km in Tanzania (1,067 mm gauge) operated by a separate administration. In 2008 the state railway carried 0.5 m. passengers and 0.5 m. tonnes of freight, and in 2005 the Tazara carried 0.9 m. passengers and 0.6 m. tonnes of freight.

### Religion

In 2010 an estimated 61.4% of the population was Christian and 35.2% Muslim according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. Of the Christians in 2010, an estimated 53% were Catholics and 46% Protestants. Most Muslims are Sunnis but there are significant Shia and Ahmadi minorities. In Feb. 2016 the Roman Catholic church had one cardinal.

### Roads

In 2008 there were 87,524 km of roads, including 10,042 km of highways or national roads. Passenger cars in use in 2007 numbered 80,900; there were also 369,900 lorries and vans, 23,100 buses and coaches, and 52,000 motorcycles and mopeds.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 20 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 31,000 GT. The main seaports are Dar es Salaam, Mtwara, Tanga and Zanzibar. There are also ports on the lakes.

## Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 1,765,000; deaths, 482,000. Rates, 2008 estimates (per 1,000 population): births, 41.5; deaths, 11.4. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.7%. Life expectancy in 2013 was 60.2 years for men and 62.9 for women. 45% of the population was below 15 years old in 2008. Infant mortality, 2010, 50 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 5.6 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 165,000 main (fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscriptions numbered 27,443,000 that year (557.2 per 1,000 persons). In 2013 an estimated 4.4% of the population were internet users. In June 2012 there were 518,000 Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Tanzania is bounded in the northeast by Kenya, north by Lake Victoria and Uganda, northwest by Rwanda and Burundi, west by Lake Tanganyika, southwest by Zambia and Malaŵi, and south by Mozambique. Total area 942,799 km<sup>2</sup> (364,881 sq. miles), including the offshore islands of Zanzibar (1,554 km<sup>2</sup>) and Pemba (906 km<sup>2</sup>) and inland water surfaces (59,050 km<sup>2</sup>). 2012 census population, 44,928,923, giving a density of 50.8 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 26.9% of the population lived in urban areas. The chief towns (2012 census populations) are Dar es Salaam, the chief port and former capital (4,364,541), Mwanza (706,453), Zanzibar (501,459), Arusha (416,442), Mbeya (385,279). Dodoma, the capital, had a population of 213,636 in 2012. The United Republic is divided into 30 administrative regions of which 25 are in mainland Tanzania, three in Zanzibar and two in Pemba. The official languages are Swahili (spoken as a mother tongue by only 8.8% of the population, but used as a *lingua franca* by 91%) and English.

## Tourism

There were 15 national parks in Tanzania in 2008. In 2010 there were 754,000 international tourist arrivals (excluding same-day visitors), bringing revenue of US\$1,255 m. Tourism is the country's second largest foreign exchange earner after agriculture.

# Thailand

*Prathet Thai (Kingdom of Thailand)*

## Factsheet

*Capital:* Bangkok

*Population estimate, 2015:* 67.96 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 13,323

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.726/93

*Internet domain extension:* .th

## Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Bangkok (Suvarnabhumi), Chiang Mai, Phuket and Hat Yai. The national carrier, Thai Airways International, is 51.03% state-owned. In 2005 scheduled airline traffic of Thai-based carriers flew 213.8 m. km, carrying 21,507,900 passengers. Suvarnabhumi, which only opened in 2006, handled 53,002,328 passengers in 2012 (39,358,339 on international flights) and 1,345,490 tonnes of freight.

## Climate

The climate is tropical, with high temperatures and humidity. Over most of the country, three seasons may be recognized. The rainy season is June to Oct.,

the cool season from Nov. to Feb. and the hot season is March to May. Rainfall is generally heaviest in the south and lightest in the northeast. Bangkok, Jan. 78 °F (25.6 °C), July 83 °F (28.3 °C). Annual rainfall 56" (1,400 mm).

## Constitution and Government

Bhumibol Adulyadej, who was born 5 Dec. 1927, died on 13 Oct. 2016, having reigned as king for 70 years and 126 days. His son and heir apparent, Crown Prince **Vajiralongkorn**, ascended to the throne on 1 Dec. as King Rama X. Following the coup of May 2014, the existing constitution was superseded on 22 July by an interim replacement drafted by the military junta and signed into law by the King without public consultation. The interim constitution recognizes the status of the junta—the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO)—as Thailand's legitimate executive authority, whilst granting it powers to recommend appointments to a new committee drafting a permanent constitution. A new parliament, a *National Legislative Assembly* of 200 members appointed by the NCPO, was established to replace the previous 150-seat Senate and 500-seat House of Representatives.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *baht* (THB) of 100 *satang*.

## Defence

Conscription is for 2 years; if there are not enough volunteers a conscription lottery is held to fill the quota. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$6,213 m. (US\$92 per capita), representing 1.5% of GDP.

## Economy

In 2008 manufacturing contributed 34.9% to GDP; followed by trade and hotels, 19.0%; agriculture, forestry and fishing, 11.6%; and services, 7.5%. Thailand's 'shadow' (black market) economy is estimated to constitute approximately 48% of the country's official GDP.

## Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 39,873,000 (36,471,000 in 2003). 78.3% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 0.7% of the population was unemployed. There is no nationwide minimum wage but a minimum wage is set at different levels at the provincial level. It varied between 159 baht and 221 baht per day in July 2011. Thailand had 0.47 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*, the seventh highest total of any country.

## Press

In 2008 there were 46 daily newspapers (45 paid-for and one free), with a combined circulation of 7.4 m. The newspapers with the highest circulation figures are *Thai Rath*, *Daily News* and *Kom Chad Luek*.

## Rail

The State Railway totalled 4,041 km in 2012. Passenger-km travelled in 2011 came to 7.5 bn.; freight tonne-km transported in 2011 totalled 2.5 bn. A metro ('Skytrain'), or elevated transit system, was opened in Bangkok in 1999. A second (underground) mass transit system in Bangkok, the Bangkok Subway, was opened in 2004.

## Religion

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, 93.2% of the population in 2010 was Buddhist, 5.5% Muslim and 0.9% Christian. Only Cambodia has a higher percentage of Buddhists in its population, and only China has more Buddhists. Most Muslims are Sunnis and among Christians there are more Protestants than Catholics. In Feb. 2016 the Roman Catholic church had two cardinals.

## Roads

In 2006 there were 180,053 km of roads, of which 450 km were motorways. Vehicles in use in 2006 included: 3.80 m. passenger cars, 4.99 m. lorries and vans and 15.67 m. motorcycles and mopeds.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 612 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 2,738,000 GT. Of the 612 vessels registered, 209 were oil tankers, 205 general cargo ships, 72 liquid gas tankers, 52 bulk carriers, 26 chemical tankers, 26 passenger ships and 22 container ships. The busiest ports are Laem Chabang and Bangkok.

## Social Statistics

2005–06 births, 705,639; deaths, 440,024; marriages (2005), 345,234; divorces (2005), 90,688. Rates (per 1,000 population, 2005–06): birth, 10.9; death, 6.8; marriage (2005), 5.2; divorce (2005), 1.4. Annual population growth rate, 2000–05, 1.0%. Expectation of life (2007): 65.4 years for men; 72.1 years for women. Infant mortality, 2010, 11 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 1.8 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 6.1 m. main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscriptions numbered 93.8 m. (1,400.5 per 1,000 persons). In 2013 an estimated 28.9% of the population aged 6 years and over were internet users. In March 2012 there were 14.2 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Thailand is bounded in the west by Myanmar, north and east by Laos and southeast by Cambodia. In the south it becomes a peninsula bounded in the west by the Indian Ocean, south by Malaysia and east by the Gulf of Thailand. The area is 513,120 km<sup>2</sup> (198,117 sq. miles). At the 2010 census the population was 65,479,453; density, 127.6 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 34.4% of the population lived in urban areas. Thailand is divided into six regions, 76 provinces and Bangkok, the capital. Population of Bangkok (2010 estimate), 8,213,000. Other towns (2010 estimates): Samut Prakan (1,093,000), Udon Thani (399,000), Chonburi (371,000), Nonthaburi (368,000), Nakhon Ratchasima (305,000), Lampang (282,000), Hat Yai (269,000), Rayong (230,000). Thai is the official language, spoken by 53% of the population as their mother tongue. 27% speak Lao (mainly in the northeast), 12% Chinese (mainly in urban areas), 3.7% Malay (mainly in the south) and 2.7% Khmer (along the Cambodian border).

## Tourism

In 2010 there were 15,936,000 tourist arrivals, up from 14,150,000 in 2009. Tourist numbers have doubled since 1998. The leading nationalities of tourists in 2010 were Malaysia (2,059,000), China (1,122,000), Japan (994,000) and the United Kingdom (811,000).

# Timor Leste

*República Democrática de Timor-Leste (Democratic Republic of East Timor)*

## Factsheet

Capital: Dili  
Population estimate, 2015: 1.19 m.  
GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 5,363  
HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.595/133  
Internet domain extension: .tl

## Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Dili (Presidente Nicolau Lobato International Airport).

## Climate

In the north there is an average annual temperature of over 24 °C (75 °F), weak precipitation—below 1,500 mm (59") annually—and a dry period lasting 5 months. The mountainous zone, between the northern and southern

parts of the island, has high precipitation—above 1,500 mm (59")—and a dry period of 4 months. The southern zone has precipitation reaching 2,000 mm (79") and is permanently humid. The monsoon season extends from Nov. to May.

## Constitution and Government

The constitution promulgated in 2002 created a unicameral system with a *National Parliament* with a minimum requirement of 52 directly-elected seats and a maximum of 65. For the first term after independence the parliament had 88 members but this was reduced after the June 2007 legislative elections. The *President* is directly elected for a period of 5 years and may not serve more than two terms.

## Currency

The official currency is the US dollar.

## Defence

The Timor-Leste Defence Force comprises an army and a small naval element. In 2013 the army had 1,250 personnel and the naval element around 80. Defence spending totalled US\$67 m. in 2013 (US\$57 per capita), representing 1.6% of GDP.

## Labour

In 2010 unemployment was officially 9.8% of the labour force between 15 and 64.

## Press

In 2007 there were three daily newspapers: *Suara Timor Lorosae*, *Timor Post* and *Jornal Nacional Diario*. There were also three non-dailies in 2007.

## Religion

Over 90% of Timor-Leste's population are Roman Catholic, with Protestants, Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists accounting for the remainder.

## Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 44,000; deaths, 9,500. Rates, 2008 estimates (per 1,000 population): births, 40.0; deaths, 8.7. Annual population growth rate in 2000–08, 3.7%. Fertility rate, 2008, 6.5 children per woman. In 2013 life expectancy at birth was 66.0 years for males and 69.1 years for females. From having the world's highest rate of infant mortality in the early 1980s, Timor-Leste's infant mortality rate dropped to 46 per 1,000 live births in 2010, although the figure varies widely between urban and rural areas.

## Telecommunications

In 2010 there were 2,907 landline telephone subscriptions (2,334 in 2005) and 350,891 mobile phone subscriptions (33,072 in 2005).

## Territory and Population

Timor-Leste (East Timor) has a total land area of 14,954 km<sup>2</sup> (5,774 sq. miles), consisting of the mainland (13,987 km<sup>2</sup>), the enclave of Oecussi-Ambeno in West Timor (817 km<sup>2</sup>), and the islands of Ataúro to the north (140 km<sup>2</sup>) and Jaco to the east (10 km<sup>2</sup>). The mainland area incorporates the eastern half of the island of Timor. Oecussi-Ambeno lies westwards, separated from the main portion of Timor-Leste by a distance of some 100 km. The island is bound to the south by the Timor Sea and lies approximately 500 km from the Australian coast. Population at the census of July 2010, 1,066,409 (544,198 males); density, 71 per km<sup>2</sup>. The largest city is Dili, Timor-Leste's capital. In 2010 its population was 192,652. In 2011, 28.6% of the population were urban. The ethnic East Timorese form the majority of the population. Timor-Leste's constitution designates Portuguese and Tetum (an Austronesian language influenced by Portuguese) as the official languages, and English and Bahasa Indonesia as working languages.

## Tourism

In 2009, 44,131 non-resident tourists—excluding same-day visitors—arrived by air (up from 35,999 in 2008 and 22,254 in 2007).

## Togo

*République Togolaise (Togolese Republic)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Lomé

*Population estimate, 2015:* 7.31 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 1,228

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.484/162

*Internet domain extension:* .tg

### Civil Aviation

In 2010 ASKY Airlines (a pan-African airline with its hub in Lomé) flew from Lomé-Tokoin airport to Abidjan, Accra, Bamako, Banjul, Brazzaville, Cotonou, Dakar, Douala, Kinshasa, Lagos, Libreville and Ouagadougou. There were international flights in 2010 with other airlines to Abidjan, Accra, Addis Ababa, Bamako, Casablanca, Cotonou, Dakar, Libreville, Ouagadougou, Paris and Tripoli (Libya). In 2012 Tokoin handled 472,313 passengers (417,672 on international flights) and 7,256 tonnes of freight.

### Climate

The tropical climate produces wet seasons from March to July and from Oct. to Nov. in the south. The north has one wet season, from April to July. The heaviest rainfall occurs in the mountains of the west, southwest and centre. Lomé, Jan. 81 °F (27.2 °C), July 76 °F (24.4 °C). Annual rainfall 35" (875 mm).

### Constitution and Government

A referendum on 27 Sept. 1992 approved a new constitution by 98.1% of votes cast. Under this the *President* and the *National Assembly* were directly elected for 5-year terms. Initially the president was allowed to be re-elected only once. However, on 30 Dec. 2002 parliament approved an amendment to the constitution lifting the restriction on the number of times that the president may be re-elected. The National Assembly has 91 seats and is elected for a 5-year term.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *franc CFA* (XOF) with a parity of 655.957 francs CFA to one euro.

### Defence

There is selective conscription that lasts for 2 years. Defence expenditure totalled US\$72 m. in 2013 (US\$10 per capita), representing 1.8% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture contributed 31% of GDP in 2011, industry 16% and services 53%.

### Labour

In 2010 the estimated labour force was 3,059,000 (56% males), up from 2,182,000 in 2000. In Aug. 2008 the statutory monthly minimum wage was raised to 28,000 francs CFA. Togo had 49,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

There is one government-controlled daily newspaper, *Togo-Presse* (circulation of 5,000 in 2008).

### Rail

There are four railways (metre gauge) connecting Lomé, with Aného (continuing to Cotonou in Benin), Kpalimé, Tabligbo and (via Atakpamé) Blitta; total length in 2005, 532 km. In 2005 the railways carried 1.1 m. tonnes of freight. There has been no passenger rail service since 1996.

### Religion

A study by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life estimated that there were 2.64 m. Christians in 2010, 2.15 m. folk religionists and 840,000 Muslims. A further 370,000 people had no religious affiliation. Of the Christians in 2010, an estimated 60% were Catholics and 39% Protestants.

### Roads

There were 11,652 km of roads in 2007, including 3,067 km of highways or national roads. In 2007 there were 10,600 passenger cars in use, 2,200 lorries and vans and 34,200 motorcycles and mopeds.

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 18 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 33,000 GT.

### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 212,000; deaths, 53,000. Estimated rates, 2008 (per 1,000 population): births, 32.9; deaths, 8.2. Expectation of life (2013) was 55.6 years for males and 57.4 for females. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 2.6%. Infant mortality, 2010, 66 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 4.3 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 62,500 main (fixed) telephone lines in Togo; mobile phone subscriptions numbered 4,263,000 that year (625.3 per 1,000 persons). In 2013 an estimated 4.5% of the population were internet users.

### Territory and Population

Togo is bounded in the west by Ghana, north by Burkina Faso, east by Benin and south by the Gulf of Guinea. The area is 56,600 km<sup>2</sup>. 2010 census population, 6,191,155 (3,182,060 females); density, 109 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 44.1% of the population lived in urban areas. In 2010, 42% were below the age of 15. The capital is Lomé (2010 census population, 837,437), other towns being Sokodé (95,070), Kara (94,878), Kpalimé (75,084), Atakpamé (69,261), Dapaong (58,071) and Tsévié (54,474). There are 37 ethnic groups. The south is largely populated by Ewe-speaking peoples (forming 23% of the population), Watyi (10%) and other related groups, while the north is mainly inhabited by Hamitic groups speaking Kabre (14%), Tem (6%) and Gurma (3%). The official language is French but Ewe and Kabre are also taught in schools.

### Tourism

In 2010 there were 202,000 international tourists staying at hotels and similar establishments; spending by tourists totalled US\$66 m. in the same year.

## Tonga

*Pule'anga Fakatu'i 'o Tonga (Kingdom of Tonga)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Nuku'alofa

*Population estimate, 2015:* 106,000

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 5,069

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.717/100

*Internet domain extension:* .to

### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Nuku'alofa on Tongatapu. The national carrier was the state-owned Royal Tongan Airlines, but it ceased operations in May 2004 owing to financial difficulties. In 2009 Nuku'alofa (Fua'Amotu International) handled 222,612 passengers and 1,417 tonnes of freight.

## Climate

Generally a healthy climate, although Jan. to March hot and humid, with temperatures of 90 °F (32.2 °C). Rainfall amounts are comparatively high, being greatest from Dec. to March. Nuku'alofa, Jan. 25.8 °C, July 21.3 °C. Annual rainfall 1,643 mm. Vava'u, Jan. 27.3 °C, July 23.4 °C. Annual rainfall 2,034 mm.

## Constitution and Government

The reigning King is **Tupou VI** (**'Aho'eitu 'Unuaki'otonga Tuku'aho Tupou VI**), born 12 July 1959, succeeded on 18 March 2012 on the death of his brother, George Tupou V. The current Constitution is based on the one granted in 1875. It was last amended in 2003 to increase the constitutional powers of the King and restrict media freedom. There is a Privy Council, Cabinet, Legislative Assembly and Judiciary. The 28-member *Legislative Assembly* is composed of 17 elected representatives of the people, nine nobles elected by their peers and two *ex officio* members. Prior to the Nov. 2010 election there were 32 members, of which only nine were elected representatives of the people (plus the nine nobles elected by their peers and also 14 appointed ministers).

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *pa'anga* (TOP) of 100 *seniti*.

## Economy

In 2010 agriculture accounted for 19% of GDP, industry 20% and services 61%.

## Press

There are no daily newspapers. There were three paid-for non-daily newspapers in 2008: the *Tonga Chronicle* (a government-owned weekly), the *Times of Tonga* and *Matangi Tonga*.

## Religion

Christianity is the main religion, with the Free Wesleyan Church being the largest denomination. There are also significant numbers of Later-day Saints and Catholics as well as followers of other religions. In Feb. 2016 there was one Roman Catholic cardinal.

## Roads

There are about 680 km of roads. Registered vehicles in 2010 numbered 5,806, including 4,411 cars and four-wheeled light vehicles, 1,285 heavy trucks and 62 motorized two- and three-wheelers.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 29 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 62,000 GT. The main port is Nuku'alofa.

## Social Statistics

Births, 2008 estimates, 2,900; deaths, 600; marriages (Tongatapu only), 892; divorces, 95. Expectation of life, 2013: males, 69.8 years; females, 75.7. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 0.6%. Infant mortality, 2010, 13 per 1,000 live births. Fertility rate, 2008, 4.0 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

The operation of the National Telecommunication Network and Services is the responsibility of the Tonga Telecommunication Commission (TCC). In 2011 there were 30,000 main (fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscriptions numbered 55,000 that year (52.6 per 100 persons). In 2013 an estimated 35.0% of the population were internet users. Ucall mobile GSM digital has been in operation in Tonga since Dec. 2001.

## Territory and Population

The Kingdom consists of some 169 islands and islets with a total area, including 30 km<sup>2</sup> of inland waters plus uninhabited islands, of 748 km<sup>2</sup> (289 sq. miles), and lies between 15° and 23° 30' S. lat and 173° and 177° W. long, its western boundary being the eastern boundary of the Fiji Islands. The islands are split up into the following groups (reading from north to

south): the Niuaas, Vava'u, Ha'apai, Tongatapu and 'Eua. The three main groups, both from historical and administrative significance, are Tongatapu in the south, Ha'apai in the centre and Vava'u in the north. Census population (2011) 103,252; density, 138 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 23.5% of the population lived in urban areas. The capital is Nuku'alofa on Tongatapu; population (2011), 36,045 (urban population, 24,229). There are five divisions comprising 23 districts. Both Tongan and English are recognized as official languages.

## Tourism

There were 46,040 tourist arrivals by air in 2011. Tourism receipts in 2011 totalled US\$32 m.

# Trinidad and Tobago

## Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

## Factsheet

*Capital:* Port of Spain

*Population estimate, 2015:* 1.36 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 26,090

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.772/64=

*Internet domain extension:* .tt

## Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Port of Spain (Piarco) and in Tobago (A. N. R. Robinson International Airport). In 2012 Piarco handled 2,724,888 passengers (1,723,835 on international flights) and 53,935 tonnes of freight. The national carrier is Caribbean Airlines, which has flights to 11 international destinations as well as operating domestic services. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Trinidad and Tobago-based carriers flew 52.8 m. km; passenger-km totalled 9.2 bn. in the same year.

## Climate

A tropical climate cooled by the northeast trade winds. The dry season runs from Jan. to June, with a wet season for the rest of the year. Temperatures are uniformly high the year round. Port of Spain, Jan. 76.3 °F (24.6 °C), July 79.2 °F (26.2 °C). Annual rainfall 1,870 mm.

## Constitution and Government

The 1976 constitution provides for a bicameral legislature of a *Senate* and a *House of Representatives*, who elect the *President*, who is head of state. The *Senate* consists of 31 members, 16 being appointed by the President on the advice of the *Prime Minister*, six on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition and nine at the discretion of the President. The *House of Representatives* consists of 41 (39 for Trinidad and two for Tobago) elected members and a Speaker elected from within or outside the House. Executive power is vested in the Prime Minister, who is appointed by the President, and the Cabinet.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *Trinidad and Tobago dollar* (TTD) of 100 *cents*.

## Defence

The Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force consists of the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment, the Coast Guard, the Air Guard and the Defence Force Reserves. Personnel in 2011 totalled around 4,100. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$400 m. (US\$326 per capita), representing 1.5% of GDP.

## Economy

Industry accounted for 57% of GDP in 2012, services 42% and agriculture 1%.



## Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 685,000 (617,000 in 2003). 71.0% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 3.6% of the population was unemployed. 71.0% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. The unemployment rate in the fourth quarter of 2005 was a record low 6.7%.

## Press

There were three daily newspapers in 2008—*Trinidad and Tobago Express*, *Trinidad and Tobago Guardian* and *Trinidad and Tobago Newsday*—with a total circulation of 140,000. There were also nine paid-for non-dailies in 2008.

## Religion

An estimated 65.9% of the population in 2010 were Christians (mainly Protestants), 22.7% Hindus and 5.5% Muslims according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life.

## Roads

In 2010 there were 8,320 km of roads, of which 51.1% were paved. There were 468,255 vehicles in use in 2007.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 11 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 29,000 GT. The largest port is Port of Spain. The other main harbour is Point Lisas. There is a deep-water harbour at Scarborough (Tobago). A ferry service links Port of Spain with Scarborough.

## Social Statistics

2008 births, 19,888; deaths, 10,463. 2008 birth rate (per 1,000 population), 15.2; death rate, 8.0. Expectation of life, 2013, was 66.4 years for males and 73.6 for females. Annual population growth rate, 1998–2008, 0.4%. Infant mortality, 2010, 24 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 1.6 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

International and domestic communications are provided by Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago (TSTT). In 2013 there were 291,300 main (fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscriptions numbered 1,944,000 that year (1,449.4 per 1,000 persons). In 2013 an estimated 63.8% of the population were internet users. In Dec. 2011 there were 441,000 Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

The island of Trinidad is situated in the Caribbean Sea, about 12 km off the northeast coast of Venezuela; several islets, the largest being Chacachacare, Huevos, Monos and Gaspar Grande, lie in the Gulf of Paria which separates Trinidad from Venezuela. The smaller island of Tobago lies 30.7 km further to the northeast. Altogether, the islands cover 5,128 km<sup>2</sup> (1,980 sq. miles), of which Trinidad (including the islets) has 4,828 km<sup>2</sup> (1,864 sq. miles) and Tobago 300 km<sup>2</sup> (116 sq. miles). In 2011 the census population was 1,328,019 (Trinidad, 1,267,145; Tobago, 60,874); density, 259 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 14.2% of the population lived in urban areas. Capital, Port of Spain (2011 census, 37,074); other important towns, Chaguanas (83,516), San Fernando (48,838), Arima (33,606) and Point Fortin (20,235). The main towns on Tobago are Scarborough and Plymouth. Distribution of population by ethnic group (2011): East Indian, 35.4%; African, 34.2%; mixed races, 22.8%; others, 7.6%. The official language is English.

## Tourism

In 2008 there were 432,551 tourist arrivals by air (of which 187,515 were from the USA), down from 449,453 in 2007. There were a record 119,600 cruise passenger arrivals in 2009.

# Tunisia

## *Jumhuriya at-Tunisiya (Republic of Tunisia)*

## Factsheet

Capital: Tunis  
Population estimate, 2015: 11.25 m.  
GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 10,404  
HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.721/96  
Internet domain extension: .tn

## Civil Aviation

The national carrier, Tunisair, is 64.9% state-owned and in 2013 carried 3,710,000 passengers. There are eight international airports. In 2012 Tunis-Carthage handled 5,249,411 passengers (4,903,506 on international flights) and 16,666 tonnes of freight. Enfidha-Hammamet, which opened in 2009, handled 2,087,122 passengers in 2012 and Djerba 1,969,043.

## Climate

The climate ranges from warm temperate in the north, where winters are mild and wet and the summers hot and dry, to desert in the south. Tunis, Jan. 48 °F (8.9 °C), July 78 °F (25.6 °C). Annual rainfall 16" (400 mm). Bizerta, Jan. 52 °F (11.1 °C), July 77 °F (25 °C). Annual rainfall 25" (622 mm). Sfax, Jan. 52 °F (11.1 °C), July 78 °F (25.6 °C). Annual rainfall 8" (196 mm).

## Constitution and Government

Following the revolution of Jan. 2011 and the ousting of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, elections were held in Oct. that year for a Constituent Assembly with a mandate to draft and approve a new constitution. On 26 Jan. 2014 parliament approved the new constitution, achieving the required majority of two-thirds support from the Assembly with 200 of 216 votes cast. The constitution states that elections are to be held every 5 years. While Islam is acknowledged as the state religion, there is no reference to Islamic law as a source of legislation. Freedom of worship is guaranteed, as are the equal rights of men and women before the law. Executive power is divided between the *Prime Minister* and the *President*.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the *Tunisian dinar* (TND) of 1,000 *millimes*.

## Defence

Selective conscription is for 1 year. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$769 m. (US\$71 per capita), representing 1.6% of GDP.

## Economy

In 2011 services accounted for 59.8% of GDP, industry 31.3% and agriculture 8.9%.

## Labour

The economically active population totalled 3,593,200 in 2007. Out of 3,085,100 in employment, 48.6% were engaged in commerce and services, 32.1% in industry, mining, energy and construction, and 19.3% in agriculture and fisheries. Unemployment was 16.7% in 2012, with the rate among graduates being particularly high at over 25%.

## Press

In 2009 there were nine paid-for daily newspapers (four in Arabic and five in French).

## Rail

In 2007 there were 2,165 km of railways on metre and 1,435 mm gauge track. Passenger-km travelled in 2007 came to 1,487 m. and freight tonne-km to 2,197 m. There is a tramway in Tunis (32 km).

## Religion

The constitution recognizes Islam as the state religion. According to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, more than 99% of the population are Muslims (mostly Sunnis).

## Roads

The road network covered 19,371 km in 2008, including 359 km of motorways and 4,738 km of national roads. In 2007 there were 746,700 passenger cars, 300,500 lorries and vans, 10,100 buses and coaches, and 5,300 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 10,681 road accidents in 2007 resulting in 1,497 fatalities.

## Shipping

There are ports at Tunis, its outer port Tunis-Goulette, Sfax, Sousse and Bizerte, all of which are directly accessible to ocean-going vessels. The ports of La Skhirra and Gabès are used for the shipping of Algerian and Tunisian oil. In Jan. 2009 there were 17 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 125,000 GT.

## Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 183,000; deaths, 61,000; marriages (2005), 74,000. Rates (2008 estimates): birth, 18 per 1,000 population; death, 6. Annual population growth rate, 2000–05, 1.0%. In 2005 the most popular age range for marrying was 30–34 for males and 25–29 for females. Expectation of life, 2007, was 71.8 years for males and 76.0 for females. Infant mortality, 2010, 14 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 1.8 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2009 there were 9,797,000 mobile phone subscriptions (953.8 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 1,279,000 fixed telephone lines. There were 340.7 internet users for every 1,000 inhabitants in 2009. In June 2012 there were 3.1 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Tunisia is bounded in the north and east by the Mediterranean Sea, west by Algeria and south by Libya. The area is 163,610 km<sup>2</sup>, including 9,080 km<sup>2</sup> of inland waters. Provisional census population, 2014: 10,982,754, giving a density of 70.7 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 67.7% of the population were urban. Tunis, the capital, had 747,240 inhabitants (provisional) at the 2014 census. Other main cities (2014 census in 1,000, provisional): Sfax, 280.7 (estimate); Sousse, 230.3 (estimate); Ettadhamen, 143.0; Kairouan, a holy city of the Muslims, 139.5; Bizerte, 138.6; Gabès, 130.0 (estimate); La Soukra, 129.7. The official language is Arabic but French is the main language in the media, commercial enterprise and government departments. Berber-speaking people form less than 1% of the population.

## Tourism

In 2011 there were 4,782,000 international tourist arrivals, excluding same-day visitors (down from 6,902,000 in 2010 in the wake of the revolution of early 2011); spending by tourists in 2011 totalled US\$1,914 m.

# Turkey

*Türkiye Cumhuriyeti (Republic of Turkey)*

## Factsheet

Capital: Ankara

Population estimate, 2015: 78.67 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 18,677

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.761/72

Internet domain extension: .tr

## Civil Aviation

There are international airports at İstanbul (Atatürk and Sabiha Gökçen), Dalaman (Muğla), Ankara (Esenboga), İzmir (Adnan Menderes), Adana and Antalya. The national carrier is Turkish Airlines, which is 49.1% state-owned. In 2014 it carried 54,675,000 passengers (31,967,000 on international flights) and flew 106,787 m. revenue passenger-km. In 2009 İstanbul's Atatürk Airport handled 29,854,119 passengers (18,396,050 on international flights) and 381,174 tonnes of freight.

## Climate

Coastal regions have a Mediterranean climate, with mild, moist winters and hot, dry summers. The interior plateau has more extreme conditions, with low and irregular rainfall, cold and snowy winters, and hot, almost rainless summers. Ankara, Jan. 32.5 °F (0.3 °C), July 73 °F (23 °C). Annual rainfall 14.7" (367 mm). İstanbul, Jan. 41 °F (5 °C), July 73 °F (23 °C). Annual rainfall 28.9" (723 mm). İzmir, Jan. 46 °F (8 °C), July 81 °F (27 °C). Annual rainfall 28" (700 mm).

## Constitution and Government

On 7 Nov. 1982 a new constitution was adopted, which has subsequently undergone several revisions. Following a referendum on 21 Oct. 2007, it was amended so that the *President* will be directly elected by the people, rather than by *Parliament*, as is currently the case. Furthermore, the President will be able to serve for up to two 5 year terms, rather than being limited to a single 7 year term. This reform came into force at the presidential election of Aug. 2014. Further amendments were introduced after acceptance in a referendum on 12 Sept. 2010. Under their terms, military officers accused of crimes against the state may be tried in civilian courts. Legal protection previously granted to participants in the 1980 coup was removed. Government workers are granted the right to collective bargaining and restrictions on striking were loosened. The *Constitutional Court* was expanded, with the president and parliament having a greater say in judicial appointments. The Presidency is not an executive position; the President may not be linked to a political party but can veto laws and official appointments. There is a 550-member Turkish Grand National Assembly, elected by universal suffrage (at 18 years and over) for 4 year terms by proportional representation.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the Turkish *lira* (TRY) of 100 *kuruş*.

## Defence

The President of the Republic is C.-in-C. of the armed forces. Conscription is 15 months for privates, 12 months for reserve officers and 6 months for privates who have completed a university degree. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$10,742 m., with spending per capita US\$133. The 2013 expenditure represented 1.3% of GDP.

## Economy

In 2009 finance and real estate contributed 22.0% to GDP; followed by manufacturing, 15.0%; transport and communications, 13.3%; and trade and hotels, 13.2%.

## Labour

Out of 22,047,000 people in employment in 2005 (16,346,000 men), 6,493,000 were engaged in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fisheries, 4,083,000 in manufacturing, 3,610,000 in wholesale and retail trade/repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods and 1,246,000 in public administration and defence/compulsory social security. The unemployment rate in Oct. 2014 was 10.6%. Turkey had 0.12 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

In 2008 there were 81 daily newspapers with a combined average daily circulation of 5.6 m. The best-selling newspapers are *Zaman* and *Posta*, with average daily circulations of 756,000 and 632,000 respectively. In the 2013 *World Press Freedom Index* compiled by Reporters Without Borders, Turkey ranked 154th out of 179 countries. In March 2011, 57 journalists were in prison—more than in any other country.

## Rail

Total length of railway lines in 2011 was 9,642 km (1,435 mm gauge), of which 2,789 km were electrified. Turkey's first high-speed line was opened in 2009 between Ankara and Eskişehir. Passenger-km travelled in 2011 came to 5.82 bn. and freight tonne-km to 11.30 bn. There are metro systems operating in Adana, Ankara, Bursa, İstanbul and İzmir.

## Religion

Islam ceased to be the official religion in 1928. The Constitution guarantees freedom of religion but forbids its political exploitation or any impairment of the secular character of the republic. In 2010 the population was an estimated 98.0% Muslim (around 85–90% Sunni and 10–15% Shia) according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. There are small numbers of Orthodox Christians and other Christians.

## Roads

In 2006 there were 427,099 km of roads, including 1,987 km of motorway. In 2007 road vehicles in use included 6,472,200 passenger cars, 2,619,700 lorries and vans, 561,700 buses and coaches and 2,003,500 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 5,002 fatalities from road accidents in 2007.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 912 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 5.05 m. GT. Of the 912 vessels registered, 469 were general cargo ships, 148 passenger ships, 123 oil tankers, 100 bulk carriers, 37 container ships, 27 chemical tankers and eight liquid gas tankers. The Turkish-controlled fleet comprised 1,156 vessels of 1,000 GT or over in Jan. 2009, of which 520 were under the Turkish flag and 636 under foreign flags. In 2007 Turkish ports handled 288.1 m. tonnes of cargo (114.6 m. tonnes loaded and 173.5 m. tonnes unloaded), more than double the 140.2 m. tonnes handled in 2003.

## Social Statistics

Births, 2009, 1,241,617; deaths, 367,971. 2009 birth rate per 1,000 population, 17.3; death rate, 5.1. 2009 marriages, 591,472 (rate of 8.2 per 1,000 population); divorces, 114,162 (rate of 1.6 per 1,000 population). Population growth rate, 2009, 1.3%. Expectation of life, 2013, was 71.8 years for males and 78.7 for females. Infant mortality, 2010, 12 per 1,000 live births, declining significantly from 66 per 1,000 live births in 1990. Fertility rate, 2008, 2.1 births per woman. In 2009 the most popular age for marrying was 25–29 for males and 20–24 for females.

## Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 13,552,000 main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year mobile phone subscriptions numbered 69,661,000 (929.6 per 1,000 persons). In Nov. 2005 the government sold a 55% stake in Türk Telekom to a consortium led by Saudi Arabia's Oger Telecom and Telecom Italia. The government's stake fell to 30% in May 2008 through a public offering. In 2013 an estimated 46.3% of the population aged 16–74 were internet users. In March 2012 there were 31.0 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Turkey is bounded in the west by the Aegean Sea and Greece, north by Bulgaria and the Black Sea, east by Georgia, Armenia and Iran, and south by Iraq, Syria and the Mediterranean. The area (including lakes) is 783,562 km<sup>2</sup> (302,535 sq. miles). The last traditional census was in 2000. In 2007 an address-based population registration system was established to replace ten-yearly censuses. The population at the census of 31 Dec. 2012 using this method was 75,627,384, giving a density of 98.3 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 70.1% of the population lived in urban areas. Turkish is the official language. Population of cities of over 1,000,000 inhabitants in 2012: İstanbul, 13,522,528; Ankara, 4,417,522; İzmir, 2,803,418; Bursa, 1,734,705; Adana, 1,628,725; Gaziantep, 1,421,359; Konya, 1,107,886.

## Tourism

In 2009, 25.5 m. international tourists visited Turkey, making it the seventh most popular tourist destination; receipts from tourism in 2009 totalled US\$21.3 bn.

# Turkmenistan

## Türkmenistan

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Ashgabat  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 5.37 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 13,066  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.688/109  
*Internet domain extension:* .tm

### Civil Aviation

Turkmenistan Airlines, founded in 1992, is the flag carrier. In 2005 scheduled airline traffic of Turkmenistan-based carriers flew 9.5 m. km, carrying 1,899,800 passengers.

### Climate

The summers are warm to hot but the humidity is relatively low. The winters are cold but generally dry and sunny over most of the country. Ashgabat, Jan. –1 °C, July 25 °C. Annual rainfall 375 mm.

### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was adopted on 26 Sept. 2008. It provided for a head of state who is elected by popular vote for a 5 year term and abolished the 2,500-member *Khalk Maslakhaty* (People's Council), formerly the highest representative body. The *Majlis* (Assembly), which now serves as the sole legislative body, was increased from 65 to 125 members. The constitution also allows for a multiparty system. At a referendum on 16 Jan. 1994, 99.99% of votes cast were in favour of prolonging President Niyazov's term of office to 2002. In 1999 the *Khalk Maslakhaty* declared him president for life.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *newmanat* (TMT) of 100 *tenge*, introduced on 1 Jan. 2009 to replace the *manat* (TMM) at a rate of 1 TMT = 5,000 TMM.

### Defence

Conscription is compulsory for 2 years. Defence expenditure in 2012 totalled US\$539 m. (US\$107 per capita), representing 1.6% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2008 agriculture accounted for 12.3% of GDP, industry 53.7% and services 34.0%.

### Labour

The estimated labour force in 2010 totalled 2,509,000 (53% males), up from 1,826,000 in 2000. Turkmenistan had 15,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2008 there were two daily newspapers with a combined average circulation of 56,000. Approval is required from the president's office before publication. In the 2013 *World Press Freedom Index* compiled by Reporters Without Borders, Turkmenistan ranked 177th out of 179 countries.

### Rail

Length of railways in 2011, 3,115 km of 1,520 mm gauge. A rail link to Iran was opened in 1996. In 2008, 6.2 m. passengers and 25.4 m. tonnes of freight were carried.

### Religion

In 2010 an estimated 93.0% of the population were Muslims (mainly Sunnis) according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, with 6.4% Christians (mainly Orthodox).

## Roads

The total road network covers around 14,000 km. In 2006 there were 650 fatalities as a result of road accidents.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were ten ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 23,000 GT. The main port is Turkmenbashi, on the Caspian Sea.

## Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 111,000; deaths, 39,000. Estimated rates, 2008 (per 1,000 population): births, 21.9; deaths, 7.7. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 1.4%. Life expectancy, 2013: 61.4 years for males and 69.8 for females. Infant mortality, 2010, 47 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 2.5 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2013 there were an estimated 6,125,000 mobile phone subscriptions (1,168.9 per 1,000 inhabitants) and an estimated 602,000 fixed telephone lines. There were an estimated 9.6 internet users for every 100 inhabitants in 2013. Internet usage was banned under the former president, Saparmurad Niyazov, and has only been available since 2007.

## Territory and Population

Turkmenistan is bounded in the north by Kazakhstan, in the north and northeast by Uzbekistan, in the southeast by Afghanistan, in the southwest by Iran and in the west by the Caspian Sea. Area, 448,100 km<sup>2</sup> (186,400 sq. miles). The 1995 census population was 4,483,251; density 10.0 per km<sup>2</sup>. Estimate, 2010, 5.04 m.; density, 11 per km<sup>2</sup>. The vast majority of citizens are Turkmen, but there are some Russians and Uzbeks. A dual-citizenship treaty between Turkmenistan and Russia has been rescinded. In 2011, 50.0% of the population lived in rural areas. There are five administrative regions (*velayaty*): Ahal, Balkan, Dashoguz, Lebap and Mary, comprising 42 rural districts, 15 towns and 74 urban settlements. The capital is Ashgabat (formerly Ashkhabad; 2004 estimated population, 827,500); other large towns are Turkmenabat (formerly Chardzhou), Mary (Merv), Balkanabad (Nebit-Dag) and Dashoguz. The official language is Turkmen, spoken by 77% of the population; Uzbek is spoken by 9% and Russian by 7%.

## Tourism

In 2005 there were 12,000 non-resident tourists.

# Tuvalu

## Factsheet

*Capital:* Fongafale

*Population estimate, 2015:* 10,000

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 5,278

*Internet domain extension:* .tv

## Civil Aviation

In 2010 Air Pacific operated two flights a week from Funafuti International to Suva in the Fiji Islands.

## Climate

A pleasant but monotonous climate with temperatures averaging 86 °F (30 °C), though trade winds from the east moderate conditions for much of the year. Rainfall ranges from 120" (3,000 mm) to over 160" (4,000 mm). Funafuti, Jan. 84 °F (28.9 °C), July 81 °F (27.2 °C). Annual rainfall 160" (4,003 mm). Although the islands are north of the recognized hurricane belt

they were badly hit by hurricanes in the 1990s, raising fears for the long-term future of Tuvalu as the sea level continues to rise.

## Constitution and Government

The Head of State is the British sovereign, represented by an appointed Governor-General. The Constitution provides for a Prime Minister and the cabinet ministers to be elected from among the 15 members of the *Fale I Fono* (*Parliament*).

## Currency

The unit of currency is the Australian *dollar* although Tuvaluan coins up to \$A1 are in local circulation.

## Economy

Finance, real estate, public administration, defence and services accounted for 50.5% of GDP in 2008; agriculture and fishing, 18.2%; trade, hotels and restaurants, 13.9%; transport and communications, 12.2%.

## Press

The Government Broadcasting and Information Division produces *Tuvalu Echoes*, a fortnightly publication, and *Te Lama*, a monthly religious publication.

## Religion

The majority of the population are Protestants who are members of the Congregational Christian Church of Tuvalu (also known as the Church of Tuvalu). There are also small numbers of Roman Catholics, Seventh-day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Bahá'is, Muslims and Latter-day Saints (Mormons).

## Roads

In 2013 there were just 8 km of roads.

## Shipping

Funafuti is the only port and a deep-water wharf was opened in 1980. In Jan. 2009 there were 96 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 1.03 m. GT. Of the 96 vessels registered, 40 were oil tankers, 36 general cargo ships, nine chemical tankers, five bulk carriers, four passenger ships and two container ships. Tuvalu is a 'flag of convenience' country.

## Social Statistics

2005 births (est.), 230; deaths (est.), 60. Infant mortality, 2010, 27 per 1,000 live births. Expectation of life, 2008: males, 64 years; females, 63. Annual population growth rate, 1998–2008, 0.5%; fertility rate, 2008, 3.2 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2013 there were approximately 1,450 main telephone lines in operation. There were an estimated 3,400 mobile phone subscriptions, and some 37.0% of the population used the internet that year.

## Territory and Population

Tuvalu lies between 5. 30' and 11° S. lat. and 176° and 180° E. long. and comprises Nanumea, Nanumaga, Niutao, Nui, Vaitupu, Nukufetau, Funafuti (administrative centre; 2012 census population, 5,879), Nukulaelae and Niulakita. Population (census 2012) 10,640, excluding an estimated 1,500 who were working abroad, mainly in Nauru and Kiribati. Area approximately 26 km<sup>2</sup> (10 sq. miles). Density, 2012, 409 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 50.9% of the population lived in urban areas. The population is of a Polynesian race. The official languages are Tuvaluan and English.

## Tourism

There were 1,232 visitor arrivals in 2011, down from a record 1,665 in 2008.

## Uganda

*Jamhuri ya Uganda (Republic of Uganda)*

### Factsheet

Capital: Kampala  
 Population estimate, 2015: 39.03 m.  
 GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 1,613  
 HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.483/163=  
 Internet domain extension: .ug

### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Entebbe, 40 km from Kampala. Air Uganda, formed in 2007, was the national airline until July 2014. It ceased operations when the issuer of its air operator's certificate, the Ugandan Civil Aviation Authority, failed an audit carried out by the International Civil Aviation Organization. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Uganda-based carriers flew 3.8 m. km; passenger-km totalled 444.9 m. in the same year. In 2012 Entebbe handled 1,342,134 passengers (1,238,466 on international flights) and 56,519 tonnes of freight.

### Climate

Although in equatorial latitudes, the climate is more tropical because of its elevation, and is characterized by two distinct rainy seasons, March–May and Sept.–Nov. In comparison, June–Aug. and Dec.–Feb. are relatively dry. Temperatures vary little over the year. Kampala, Jan. 74 °F (23.3 °C), July 70 °F (21.1 °C). Annual rainfall 46.5" (1,180 mm). Entebbe, Jan. 72 °F (22.2 °C), July 69 °F (20.6 °C). Annual rainfall 63.9" (1,624 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The *President* is head of state and head of government, and is elected for a five-year term by adult suffrage. In Aug. 2005 Parliament amended the constitution to allow an incumbent to hold office for more than two terms, thus enabling President Museveni to serve another term in office. Having lapsed in 1966, the kabakaship was revived as a ceremonial office in 1993. Ronald Muwenda Mutebi (b. 13 April 1955) was crowned Mutebi II, 36th Kabaka, on 31 July 1993. Until 1994 the national legislature was the 278-member National Resistance Council, but this was replaced by a 284-member *Constituent Assembly* in March 1994. A new constitution was adopted on 8 Oct. 1995 and the Constituent Assembly dissolved. Uganda's parliament is now the 386-member *National Assembly* (238 members elected by popular vote, 137 indirectly elected from special interest groups—including women and the army—and 11 *ex officio* members). A referendum on the return of multi-party democracy was held on 29 June 2000, but 88% of voters supported President Museveni's 'no-party' Movement system of government. Turnout was 51%. In Feb. 2003 President Museveni pledged to lift the ban on political parties. In a referendum held on 28 July 2005, 92.4% of voters backed the restoration of a multi-party political system, although the opposition called for a boycott.

### Currency

The monetary unit is the *Uganda shilling* (UGX) notionally divided into 100 cents.

### Defence

Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$342 m. (US\$10 per capita), representing 1.6% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2010 agriculture accounted for 24.2% of GDP, industry 25.5% and services 50.3%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 14,589,000 (10,709,000 in 2003). 78.1% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 4.2% of the population was unemployed. Uganda had 0.25 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

There were five daily newspapers in 2008 with a combined average daily circulation of 110,000.

### Rail

In 2005 the Uganda Railways network totalled 1,241 km (metre gauge). In 1996 passenger services were suspended and have not been reinstated in the meantime. Freight tonne-km in 2015 came to 189 m.

### Religion

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life the population was 86.7% Christian in 2010, with Muslims accounting for 9.1%. Of the Christians, 51% in 2010 were Protestants and 49% Catholics. In Feb. 2016 there was one Roman Catholic cardinal.

### Roads

The road network totals around 140,000 km (4% paved). In 2014 Uganda had 20,544 km of national roads. There were 81,300 passenger cars in use in 2007, 79,300 lorries and vans, 40,500 buses and coaches, and 176,500 motorcycles and mopeds. In 2007 there were 17,428 road accidents resulting in 2,779 deaths.

### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 1,461,000; deaths, 401,000. Rates, 2008 estimates (per 1,000 population): births, 46.2; deaths, 12.7. Uganda has one of the youngest populations of any country, with 76% of the population under the age of 30 and 48% under 15. Uganda's life expectancy at birth in 2013 was 58.0 years for males and 60.4 years for females. Life expectancy declined dramatically until the late 1990s, largely owing to the huge number of people in the country with HIV. However, for both males and females expectation of life is now starting to rise again. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 3.2%. Infant mortality, 2010, 63 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 6.3 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In June 2013 there were 207,500 main (fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscriptions numbered 16,569,000 in June 2013 (44.1 per 100 persons). In 2013 an estimated 16.2% of the population were internet users. In June 2012 there were 415,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Uganda is bounded in the north by South Sudan, in the east by Kenya, in the south by Tanzania and Rwanda, and the west by the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Total area 241,550 km<sup>2</sup>, including 41,740 km<sup>2</sup> of inland waters. The 2014 provisional census population was 34,856,813 (16,935,456 males, 17,921,357 females); density, 174 per km<sup>2</sup>. The largest city is Kampala, the capital (provisional census population of 1,516,210 in 2014). Other major towns are Kira, Mbarara, Mukono, Gulu, Nansana, Masaka and Kasese. In 2011, 13.5% of the population lived in urban areas. The country is administratively divided into one city and 111 districts, which are grouped in four geographical regions (which do not have administrative status). The official languages are English and (since 2005) Kiswahili. About 70% of the population speak Bantu languages; Nilotic languages are spoken in the north and east.

### Tourism

In 2011 there were 1,151,000 international tourist arrivals (excluding day-visitors); spending by tourists totalled US\$950 m.

## Ukraine

### Ukraina

#### Factsheet

Capital: Kyiv (formerly Kiev)  
 Population estimate, 2015: 44.82 m.  
 GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 8,178  
 HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.747/81=  
 Internet domain extension: .ua

#### Civil Aviation

The main international airport is Kyiv (Boryspil), and there are international flights from seven other airports. There are two major Ukrainian carriers. In 2012 Kyiv handled 8,478,091 passengers (7,432,008 on international flights) and 38,642 tonnes of freight. In the same year Simferopol (under Russian control since the annexation of Crimea in 2014) handled 1,113,900 passengers and Odesa 907,600 passengers.

#### Climate

Temperate continental with a subtropical Mediterranean climate prevalent on the southern portions of the Crimean Peninsula. The average monthly temperature in winter ranges from 17.6 °F to 35.6 °F (−8 °C to 2 °C), while summer temperatures average 62.6 °F to 77 °F (17 °C to 25 °C). The Black Sea coast is subject to freezing, and no Ukrainian port is permanently ice-free. Precipitation generally decreases from north to south; it is greatest in the Carpathians where it exceeds more than 58.5" (1,500 mm) per year, and least in the coastal lowlands of the Black Sea where it averages less than 11.7" (300 mm) per year.

#### Constitution and Government

A new constitution was adopted on 28 June 1996. It defines Ukraine as a sovereign, democratic, unitary state governed by the rule of law and guaranteeing civil rights. The head of state is the *President*, elected directly by the people for a 5 year term. Parliament is the 450-member unicameral *Verkhovna Rada (Supreme Council)*, elected for 4 year terms. There is an 18-member *Constitutional Court*, six members being appointed by the President, six by parliament and six by a panel of judges. Constitutional amendments may be initiated at the President's request to parliament, or by at least one-third of parliamentary deputies. The Communist Party was officially banned in the country in 1991, but was renamed the Socialist Party of Ukraine. Hard-line Communists protested against the ban, which was rescinded by the Supreme Council in May 1993.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *hryvnia* (UAH) of 100 *kopiykas*, which replaced karbovanets on 2 Sept. 1996 at 100,000 karbovanets = 1 hryvnia.

#### Defence

In 2011 the armed forces numbered 129,925 personnel, with 1 m. reserves. Conscription was abolished in Oct. 2013, with Ukraine hoping to develop an all-professional military. However, it was reintroduced on 1 May 2014 in response to the escalating conflict with the pro-Russian insurgency in eastern Ukraine. Military expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$2,418 m. (US\$54 per capita), representing 1.3% of GDP.

#### Economy

In 2010 agriculture accounted for 8.3% of GDP, industry 31.3% and services 60.4%.

#### Labour

In 2011 a total of 20,324,000 persons aged 15 to 70 were in employment. The principal areas of activity were (in 1,000): wholesale and retail trade, and restaurants and hotels, 4,865; agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing, 3,394;

manufacturing, 3,353. In 2011 there were 1,733,000 unemployed and the level of unemployment was 7.9%. Ukraine had 0.11 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

#### Press

In 2008 there were 56 daily newspapers with an average combined circulation of 4.5 m. The newspapers with the highest circulation figures are *Fakty i Kommentarii*, *Komsomolskaja Pravda v Ukraine* and *Segodnja*.

#### Rail

Total length was 22,302 km in 2009. Passenger-km travelled in 2009 came to 48.3 bn. and freight tonne-km to 196.2 bn. There are metros in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Kryvy Rih and Dnipropetrovsk.

#### Religion

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life an estimated 83.8% of the population in 2010 were Christians (over 90% of which were Orthodox), with 147% religiously unaffiliated. The Pew Research Center's study estimated that there were 34.9 m. Orthodox Christians in 2010. The Orthodox Church is split into three factions. The largest is the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Moscow Patriarchate. The hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church was restored by the Pope John Paul II's confirmation of ten bishops in 1991. In Feb. 2016 there were two cardinals. The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church is a Church of the Byzantine rite, which is in full communion with the Roman Church. Catholicism is strong in the western half of the country.

#### Roads

In 2007 there were 169,422 km of roads, including 20,497 km of national roads. There were 5,939,600 passenger cars in use in 2007 and 714,300 motorcycles and mopeds. There were 63,554 road accidents involving injury in 2007 (9,574 fatalities).

#### Shipping

In 2007, 2 m. passengers and 15 m. tonnes of freight were carried by inland waterways. In Jan. 2009 there were 224 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 770,000 GT. The main seaports are Illichivsk, Izmail, Mariupol, Mykolaiv, Odesa and Yuzhny. Odesa is the leading port, in 2008 handling 34,562,000 tonnes of freight.

#### Social Statistics

2009 births, 512,525; deaths, 706,739; marriages, 318,198; divorces, 145,439. Rates (per 1,000 population), 2009: births, 11.1; deaths, 15.3. Annual population growth rate, 2000–05, −0.9%. Life expectancy, 2007: males, 62.7 years, females, 73.8. In 2006 the most popular age range for marrying was 20–24 for both males and females. Infant mortality, 2010, 11 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 1.3 births per woman (one of the lowest rates of any country).

#### Telecommunications

In 2009 there were 55,333,000 mobile phone subscriptions (1,210.6 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 13,026,000 fixed telephone lines. There were 2,649,000 fixed internet subscriptions in 2009 and 1,733,000 mobile broadband subscriptions. In March 2012 there were 1.7 m. Facebook users.

#### Territory and Population

Ukraine is bounded in the east by the Russian Federation, north by Belarus, west by Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova, and south by the Black Sea and Sea of Azov. Area, 603,628 km<sup>2</sup> (233,062 sq. miles). At the last census, in 2001, the census population was 48,457,102, of whom 26,015,758 were female; Jan. 2014 estimate, 45,426,249, giving a density of 75 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2001, 78% of the population were Ukrainians, 17% Russians and 5% others. Ukraine's population is projected to drop to 42.37 m. by 2025 (the same population as in the late 1950s). In 2011, 69.1% of the population lived in urban areas. As of 1 Jan. 2014 Ukraine was divided into 24 provinces, two municipalities (Kyiv and Sevastopol) and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. In March 2014 Crimea was annexed by Russia in a move lacking international recognition. In May 2014 separatists in Donetsk and Luhansk provinces unilaterally declared independence but the

Ukrainian government and the wider international community have rejected the legitimacy of these declarations. The capital is Kyiv (estimated population 2,814,258 in Jan. 2012). The 1996 constitution made Ukrainian the sole official language. Russian (the language of 33% of the population), Romanian, Polish and Hungarian are also spoken.

### Tourism

There were 23,013,000 non-resident tourists in 2012; total receipts were US\$5,988 m.

## United Arab Emirates

### *Imarat al-Arabiya al-Muttahida*

#### Factsheet

Capital: Abu Dhabi  
 Population estimate, 2015: 9.16 m.  
 GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 60,868  
 HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.835/41  
 Internet domain extension: .ae

#### Civil Aviation

Dubai is the busiest airport, handling 66,431,533 passengers and 2,435,567 tonnes of freight in 2013 (up from 37,441,440 passengers and 1,824,992 tonnes of freight in 2008). Dubai was the seventh busiest airport in the world overall and the second busiest for international passenger traffic in 2013. However, in 2014 it overtook London Heathrow as the world's busiest airport for international traffic. As recently as 2006 it did not even rank among the 30 busiest airports in the world. Dubai set up its own airline, Emirates, in 1985. In 2013–14 it flew 215,353 m. international scheduled passenger-km, the most of any airline; it carried 44.5 m. passengers in 2013–14. Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, began operations in Nov. 2003.

#### Climate

The country experiences desert conditions, with rainfall both limited and erratic. The period May to Sept. is generally rainless. Abu Dhabi, Jan. 65 °F (18.3 °C), July 95 °F (35.0 °C). Annual rainfall 3.5" (89 mm). Dubai, Jan. 66 °F (18.9 °C), July 94 °F (34.4 °C). Annual rainfall 3.7" (94 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

The Emirates is a federation, headed by a *Supreme Council of Rulers* which is composed of the seven rulers which elects from among its members a *President* and *Vice-President* for 5 year terms, and appoints a *Council of Ministers*. The Council of Ministers drafts legislation and a federal budget; its proposals are submitted to a *Federal National Council* of 40 appointed members which may propose amendments but has no executive power. It was announced in Dec. 2005 that 20 of the 40 members would in future be elected through councils for each of the seven Emirates. There is a *National Consultative Council* made up of citizens. The current constitution came into force on 2 Dec. 1971 and was made permanent in 1996.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *dirham* (AED) of 100 *fil*s.

#### Defence

Conscription was introduced in June 2014, and required all male high-school graduates aged 18 to 30 to serve in the armed forces for 9 months. Those who have not completed secondary school serve for 2 years. In 2011 defence expenditure totalled US\$9,320 m. (US\$1,810 per capita), representing 2.7% of GDP.

#### Economy

Crude petroleum and natural gas accounted for 36.8% of GDP in 2008; trade and hotels, 17.4%; finance and real estate, 15.1%; construction, 7.4%.

#### Labour

Males constituted 85% of the economically active labour force in 2005 (one of the highest percentages of any country in the world). Foreign workers make up over 90% of the workforce in the private sector. A total of 2,660,000 persons were in employment in 2005, with the leading areas of activity as follows: community, social and personal services, 587,900; construction, 502,700; wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels, 460,200; manufacturing, 292,600. In 2005 the unemployment rate was 1.9%. The United Arab Emirates had 19,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

#### Press

In 2008 there were 13 daily newspapers (12 paid-for and one free) with a combined circulation of 943,000.

#### Rail

Etihad Rail, a rail network linking the seven Emirates, is under construction and is expected to become operational by 2018. Commercial operations on the first of three phases began in Dec. 2015.

#### Religion

Most inhabitants are Sunni Muslims, with a small Shia minority.

#### Roads

In 2008 there were 4,080 km of roads. There were 1,279,100 passenger cars (293 per 1,000 inhabitants), 48,200 buses and coaches and 39,400 lorries and vans in 2007.

#### Shipping

There are 15 commercial seaports, of which five major ports are on the Persian Gulf (Zayed in Abu Dhabi, Rashid and Jebel Ali in Dubai, Khalid in Sharjah, and Saqr in Ras al-Khaimah) and two on the Gulf of Oman: Fujairah and Khor Fakkan. Rashid and Fujairah are important container terminals. In Jan. 2009 there were 124 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 913,000 GT.

#### Social Statistics

2008 births, 68,779; deaths, 9,775. 2008 birth rate (per 1,000 population), 14.4; death rate, 1.6; infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births), 6 (2010). Life expectancy, 2013, 76.1 years for men and 78.2 years for women. Annual population growth rate, 1998–2008, 4.4%; fertility rate, 2008, 1.9 births per woman. The UAE has had one of the largest reductions in its fertility rate of any country in the world over the past quarter of a century, having had a rate of 4.4 births per woman in 1990.

#### Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 2.1 m. main (fixed) telephone lines. In the same year active mobile phone subscriptions numbered 16.1 m. (1,718.7 per 1,000 persons). In 2013 an estimated 88.0% of the population were internet users. In March 2012 there were 2.9 m. Facebook users.

#### Territory and Population

The Emirates are bounded in the north by the Persian Gulf, northeast by Oman, east by the Gulf of Oman and Oman, south and west by Saudi Arabia. Their area is approximately 83,600 km<sup>2</sup> (32,300 sq. miles), excluding over 100 offshore islands. The total population at the last census in 2005 was 4,106,427 (68.3% male); density, 49 per km<sup>2</sup>. Estimate, 1 July 2008, 4,765,000. The United Nations population estimate for 2008 was 6,799,000. About one-tenth are nomads. In 2011, 84.4% of the population lived in urban areas. Approximately 80% of the population are foreigners, the highest percentage of any country. The population of the United Arab Emirates has trebled since 2000. Populations of the seven Emirates, 2010 estimates unless otherwise indicated (in 1,000): Abu Dhabi, 1,968; Ajman, 263; Dubai, 1,836; Fujairah, 164; Ras al-Khaimah, 231 (2008 estimate); Sharjah, 830;

Umm al Qaiwain, 53 (2008 estimate). The chief cities are Dubai (2012 estimated census population of 2,067,291), Abu Dhabi, the federal capital (estimated census population of 975,735 in 2012), Sharjah and Al Ain. In addition to being the most populous Emirate, Abu Dhabi is also the wealthiest, ahead of Dubai. The official language is Arabic; English is widely spoken.

### Tourism

In 2005, 7,126,000 tourists stayed in hotels and similar accommodation; spending by tourists in 2005 totalled US\$3.218 m.

## United Kingdom

### Factsheet

*Capital:* London

*Population estimate, 2015:* 64.72 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 39,267

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.907/14=

*Internet domain extension:* .uk

### Civil Aviation

All UK airports handled a total of 251.7 m. passengers in 2015 (238.6 m. in 2014). London area airports (Heathrow, Gatwick, London City, Luton, Southend and Stansted) handled 155.3 m. passengers in 2015. Heathrow handled 75.0 m. passengers and 1.5 m. tonnes of freight in 2015. Heathrow was the world's third busiest airport for passenger traffic in 2013 and Europe's busiest. For many years more international passengers used Heathrow than any other airport in the world, but in 2014 it lost this status to Dubai.

### Climate

The climate is cool temperate oceanic, with mild conditions and rainfall evenly distributed over the year, though the weather is very changeable because of cyclonic influences. In general, temperatures are higher in the west and lower in the east in winter and rather the reverse in summer. Rainfall amounts are greatest in the west, where most of the high ground occurs. London, Jan. 39 °F (3.9 °C), July 64 °F (17.8 °C). Annual rainfall 25" (635 mm). Aberdeen, Jan. 38 °F (3.3 °C), July 57 °F (13.9 °C). Annual rainfall 32" (813 mm). Belfast, Jan. 40 °F (4.5 °C), July 59 °F (15.0 °C). Annual rainfall 37.4" (950 mm). Birmingham, Jan. 38 °F (3.3 °C), July 61 °F (16.1 °C). Annual rainfall 30" (749 mm). Cardiff, Jan. 40 °F (4.4 °C), July 61 °F (16.1 °C). Annual rainfall 42.6" (1,065 mm). Edinburgh, Jan. 38 °F (3.3 °C), July 58 °F (14.5 °C). Annual rainfall 27" (686 mm). Glasgow, Jan. 39 °F (3.9 °C), July 59 °F (15.0 °C). Annual rainfall 38" (965 mm). Manchester, Jan. 39 °F (3.9 °C), July 61 °F (16.1 °C). Annual rainfall 34.5" (876 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The reigning Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, is **Elizabeth II** Alexandra Mary, b. 21 April 1926, daughter of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth; married on 20 Nov. 1947 Lieut. Philip Mountbatten (formerly Prince Philip of Greece), created Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merioneth and Baron Greenwich on the same day and created Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, 22 Feb. 1957; succeeded to the crown on the death of her father, on 6 Feb. 1952. The supreme legislative power is vested in Parliament, which consists of the Crown, the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The executive government is vested nominally in the Crown, but practically in a committee of Ministers, called the Cabinet, which is dependent on the support of a majority in the House of Commons. The head of the Cabinet is the *Prime Minister* (currently Theresa May, b. 1956 and assumed office in July 2016).

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *pound sterling* (£; GBP) of 100 *pence* (p).

### Defence

In accordance with the 2016 Budget the planned defence budget for 2016–17 is 35.0 bn. (27.7 bn. resource budget). Defence spending in 2013 represented 2.4% of GDP, down from 5.2% in 1985. Per capita defence expenditure in 2013 totalled 551 (US\$900). Total number of the UK forces services personnel at 1 Jan. 2015 was 194,600 (down from 199,600 on 1 Jan. 2014), of which 154,200 were UK regular forces. There were an estimated 30,000 volunteer reservists. The nuclear arsenal consisted of about 150 Trident submarine-launched ballistic missile warheads in Jan. 2015 according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. In addition there were some 65 non-deployed weapons in the nuclear stockpile.

### Economy

In 2013 services accounted for 78% of GDP, industry 21% and agriculture 1% (63%, 35% and 2% respectively in 1989). In 2014 the British economy was the fifth largest in the world. Imports of goods in 2014 totalled 419,104 m. and exports 295,432 m.

### Labour

In 2009 the UK's total economically active population (i.e. all persons in employment plus the claimant unemployed) was (in 1,000) 31,374 (13,452 females), of whom 28,979 (12,542 females) were in employment, including 24,937 (12,280 females) as employees and 3,850 (1,103 females) as self-employed. In 1999 only 27,167,000 people had been in employment, representing an increase of 1,812,000 in 10 years. However, the recession of 2008–09 resulted in the number of employees in 2009 being the lowest since 2005. The number of jobless people was 1,685,000 in the period Nov. 2015–Jan. 2016 (down from both 1,713,000 in the 3 months from Aug.–Oct. 2015 and 2,335,000 in the period Nov. 2013–Jan. 2014). The unemployment rate on the International Labour Organization (ILO) definition, which includes all those who are looking for work whether or not claiming unemployment benefits, was 5.1% in the period Nov. 2015–Jan. 2016 (down from 5.7% for the same period the previous year). The UK had 4,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In Feb. 2016 there were 11 national dailies with a combined average daily circulation of 6,538,217 and ten national Sunday newspapers (5,870,963). In Jan. 2014 there were also 114 morning, evening and Sunday regional newspapers and 929 weeklies (345 of these for free distribution). The most widely read daily is the tabloid *The Sun*, with an average daily circulation of 1,787,096 in Feb. 2016. The most widely read Sunday paper is *The Sun on Sunday*, with an average circulation of 1,412,453 in Feb. 2016.

### Rail

The rail network comprises 15,754 route km (around a third electrified). Annual passenger-km were a record 59.2 bn. in 2013. There were a record 1.59 bn. passenger journeys in 2013–14 on franchised operated services (more than double the 735.1 m. of 1994–95). The amount of freight moved declined gradually over many years to 13.0 bn. tonne-km in 1994–95 but has generally since risen and totalled 22.7 bn. tonne-km in 2013–14, the highest total since the early 1970s. In 2013–14 a total of seven people (excluding trespassers) were fatally injured on the railways and nine people on level crossings (compared to 1,713 deaths in road accidents in 2013).

### Religion

Religious affiliation figures for England and Wales according to the 2011 census was: Christian, 59.3% of the population; no religion, 25.1%; Muslim, 4.8%; Hindu, 1.5%; Sikh, 0.8%; Jewish, 0.5%; Buddhist, 0.4%; other religion, 0.4%; not stated, 7.2%.

### Roads

In 2009 there were 394,428 km of public roads in Great Britain, classified as: motorways, 3,560 km; trunk roads, 8,596 km; other major roads, 38,173 km; minor roads, 344,099 km. In 2013 journeys by car, vans and taxis totalled 641 bn. passenger km (less than 60 bn. in the early 1950s). Even in the mid-1950s passenger km in cars, vans and taxis exceeded the annual total in 2013 by rail. Licensed motor vehicles in 2014 included 28,183,000 private cars,



1,067,000 mopeds, scooters and motorcycles, 109,000 buses and 3,890,000 other private and light goods vehicles.

### Shipping

The UK-owned merchant fleet (trading vessels over 100 GT) in Dec. 2012 totalled 675 ships of 21.6 m. DWT and 20.4 m. GT. These included 109 fully cellular container vessels, 107 general cargo vessels, 92 bulk carriers and 56 oil tankers. The UK-owned and registered fleet totalled 331 ships of 6.8 m. DWT. There are approximately 3,500 miles (5,630 km) of navigable canals and river navigations in Great Britain. In July 2012 a new waterways charity, the Canal & River Trust (CRT), took over the management of the network of waterways in England and Wales from British Waterways. In Scotland the 137 miles (220 km) of inland waterways remain under the control of British Waterways (operating as Scottish Canals), which is a stand-alone public body of the Scottish government.

### Social Statistics

UK statistics, 2014 (provisional): births, 776,352; deaths, 570,341; marriages (2012, provisional), 301,254; divorces (2013), 126,716. UK rates (per 1,000 population), 2014: birth, 12.0; death, 8.8; marriage (2012, provisional), 4.7; divorce (2013), 2.0. The number of births in the UK in 2012 was the highest since 1972; the number of deaths in 2011 (552,232) was the lowest since 1930. The divorce rate in 2013 was at its lowest since the early 1970s. In 1976, for the only time in the twentieth century, deaths in the UK (680,800) exceeded births (675,500). In 2012 cancer caused 166,000 deaths (29% of all deaths in the UK), making it the biggest killer, ahead of respiratory diseases at 80,000 (14%), and coronary heart disease at 74,000 (13%). UK life expectancy, 2008–10: males, 78.2 years; females, 82.3. The World Health Organization's *World Health Statistics 2014* put the UK in joint 19th place in a 'healthy life expectancy' list, with an expected 71 years of healthy life for babies born in 2012. Annual population growth rate, 2001–10, 0.6%. In 2011, 16.8% of the total population was over 65, up from 14.2% in 1971. In 2014 there were 6,122 suicides (4,652 of whom were men), giving a suicide rate of 10.8 per 100,000 population. Infant mortality, 2014, 3.9 per 1,000 live births. Fertility rate, 2014, 1.8 births per woman. Of the 776,352 live births in the UK in 2014, 47.6% were to unmarried women, up from 6% in 1961 and 20% in 1986. In 1999 for the first time there were more births to women in the 30–34 age group in the UK than in the 25–29 bracket. 63% of dependent children lived in married couple families in the UK in 2010 and 23% in single-parent families.

### Telecommunications

In 2015 there were four main mobile networks—EE, O2, Vodafone and Three. BT (then British Telecom) was established in 1981 to take over the management of telecommunications from the Post Office. In 1984 it was privatized as British Telecommunications plc, changing its trading name from British Telecom to BT in 1991. For many years it was the only fixed line provider, but there are now a large number of other providers with increased choice for consumers and a wide range of packages and deals. In 2013 there were 82.7 m. mobile telephone subscriptions in the UK, up from 43.5 m. in 2000 and 1.1 m. in 1990. 15% of people lived in a mobile-only household in 2013. In 2012 each mobile subscriber sent on average 153 text messages per month. However, the volume of mobile originated calls fell by 1% year-on-year to 122 bn. minutes.

### Territory and Population

The land area of the United Kingdom in 2011 was 242,509 km<sup>2</sup>. Census population, 2011, 63,182,178 (32,154,035 females); density, 261 per km<sup>2</sup>. England had a population of 53,012,456 in 2011, Scotland 5,295,403, Wales 3,063,456 and Northern Ireland 1,810,863. 79.8% of the population lived in urban areas in 2011. London had a 2011 population of 8,174,000. In 2011, 17.6% of the population of the UK were under the age of 15, 66.0% between 15 and 64 and 16.4% aged 65 and over. In 1911 only 5.3% of the population had been 65 and over. Total international migration estimates for 2014 were: immigration, 632,000 (551,000 non-British); emigration, 320,000 (182,000 non-British). The number of immigrants into the UK in 2014, at 632,000, was the highest on record for a calendar year. 2008 saw the record number of emigrants from the UK, at 427,000.

### Tourism

In 2010 UK residents made 119.4 m. trips within the UK, passing 373.3 m. nights in accommodation and spending 20,835 m. Of these, 78.7 m. were holidaymakers. Visits from foreign tourists to the UK totalled 29.8 m. in 2010 (down from a record 32.8 m. in 2007). Spending was 16.9 bn. in 2010. In 2010 the UK ranked sixth for international tourism arrivals behind the USA, Spain, France, Italy and China. The main countries of origin for foreign visitors in 2010 were: France (3.6 m.), Germany (3.0 m.), USA (2.7 m.), Ireland (2.6 m.) and Spain (1.8 m.).

## United States of America

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Washington, D.C.

*Population estimate, 2015:* 321.77 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 52,947

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.915/8

*Internet domain extension:* .us

### Civil Aviation

The busiest airport in 2011 was Atlanta (Hartsfield–Jackson), which handled 92,389,023 passengers. There were 23 airports with more than 10 m. enplanements in 2013. The leading airports in 2010 on the basis of aircraft departures completed were Atlanta Hartsfield–Jackson (465,000); Chicago O'Hare (426,600); Dallas/Fort Worth (315,100). In 2011 Delta Air Lines carried the most scheduled passengers of any airline in the world with 163,838,000, ahead of United Airlines, with 141,799,000, and the low-cost carrier Southwest Airlines, with 135,274,000. Delta Airlines carried the most international passengers of any US carrier in 2010, with 21,029,000 (ranking it eighth in the world for international passengers carried). In 2015 US flag carriers in scheduled service enplaned 798.4 m. revenue passengers.

### Climate

*Pacific Coast:* the climate varies with latitude, distance from the sea and the effect of relief, ranging from polar conditions in North Alaska through cool to warm temperate climates further south. *Mountain States:* varied, with relief exerting the main control; very cold in the north in winter, with considerable snowfall. In the south, much higher temperatures and aridity produce desert conditions. *High Plains:* continental climate with a large annual range of temperature and moderate rainfall, mainly in summer, although unreliable. *Central Plains:* temperate continental climate, with hot summers and cold winters, except in the extreme south. Rainfall is plentiful and comes at all seasons, but there is a summer maximum in western parts. *Mid-West:* continental, with hot summers and cold winters. *Great Lakes:* continental, resembling that of the Central Plains, with hot summers but very cold winters because of the freezing of the lakes. *Appalachian Mountains:* the north is cool temperate with cold winters, the south warm temperate with milder winters. Precipitation is heavy, increasing to the south but evenly distributed over the year. *Gulf Coast:* conditions vary from warm temperate to subtropical, with plentiful rainfall, decreasing towards the west but evenly distributed over the year. *Atlantic Coast:* temperate maritime climate but with great differences in temperature according to latitude. Rainfall is ample at all seasons; snowfall in the north can be heavy. *New England:* cool temperate, with severe winters and warm summers. Precipitation is well distributed with a slight winter maximum. Snowfall is heavy in winter.

### Constitution and Government

The form of government of the USA is based on the constitution adopted on 17 Sept. 1787 and effective from 4 March 1789. By the constitution the government of the nation is composed of three co-ordinate branches, the executive, the legislative and the judicial. The executive power is vested in a president (currently Donald Trump, b. 1946 and assumed office in Jan. 2017), who holds office for 4 years, and is elected, together with a vice-president chosen for the same term, by electors from each state, equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the state may be entitled in the Congress. The President must be a natural-born citizen, resident in the

country for 14 years, and at least 35 years old. The presidential election is held every fourth (leap) year on the Tuesday after the first Monday in Nov. The legislative power is vested by the Constitution in a Congress, consisting of a Senate and House of Representatives. The 5th article of the constitution provides that Congress may, on a two-thirds vote of both houses, propose amendments to the constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of all the states, call a convention for proposing amendments, which in either case shall be valid as part of the constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, whichever mode of ratification may be proposed by Congress. Ten amendments (called collectively 'the Bill of Rights') to the constitution were added 15 Dec. 1791. The most recent amendment, the 27th, dates from 7 May 1992 and provides that no law varying the compensation of Senators or Representatives shall take effect until an election has taken place.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *dollar* (USD) of 100 *cents*.

### Defence

Defence expenditure in 2012 totalled \$655,388 m. (\$2,088 per capita). Defence spending in 2012 represented 4.2% of GDP (down from 37.8% in 1944, 14.2% in 1953, 9.4% in 1968 and 6.2% of GDP in 1986 although up from the post-war low of 3.0% in 1999). Although conscription is not currently in force the Military Selective Service Act requires all males between the ages of 18 and 26 to register for compulsory military service should the need arise. Active duty military personnel in Sept. 2011 numbered 1,468,364, of which 214,098 were women. The USA is the world's largest exporter of arms, with 31.1% of the global major weapons total over the period 2010–14. The USA's last nuclear test was in 1993. In May 2010 the Obama administration announced that the USA had a total of 5,113 active nuclear warheads, down from a peak of 31,225 in 1967. The number of strategic nuclear warheads (intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and bombers) in Jan. 2015 was approximately 1,900. There were also about 180 non-strategic warheads in Jan. 2015, making a total of around 2,080 deployed warheads. Estimates of the number of firearms in the country are around 310 m., equivalent to 99 firearms for every 100 people, making the USA the world's most heavily armed country.

### Economy

Services accounted for 79% of GDP in 2011, industry 20% and agriculture 1%. *Per capita* personal income in 2014 was \$46,049, more than double the 1994 total of US\$22,538.

### Labour

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics there were 157.1 m. people in the civilian labour force in 2015 (83.6 m. men and 73.5 m. women). There were 26.3 m. foreign-born persons in the labour force in 2015, representing 16.7% of the total. The unemployment rate was 4.9% in Jan. 2016 (its lowest since Feb. 2008), down from 8.0% in Jan. 2013 and 9.8% in Jan. 2010. The USA had 60,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2014 there were 1,355 daily newspapers with a combined daily circulation of 42.7 m., the fourth highest in the world behind India, China and Japan. There were 953 morning papers and 402 evening papers, plus 923 Sunday papers (circulation, 42.8 m.). Unlike China and India, where circulation is rising, in the USA it has fallen since 1985, when daily circulation was 62.8 m. The most widely read newspapers are *USA Today* (average daily circulation in 2014 of 4.1 m.), followed by the *Wall Street Journal* (2.3 m.) and *The New York Times* (2.1 m.). According to research carried out by the Pew Research Centre, in 2008 for the first time more Americans obtained national and international news from the internet than from newspapers. As of Sept. 2014 the USA's three most used online news sites were *The Huffington Post* (68.5 m. unique desktop users per month), CNN (67.7 m.) and *The New York Times* (41.6 m.). In the 2013 *World Press Freedom Index* compiled by Reporters Without Borders, the USA was ranked 32nd out of 179 countries. The number of books published in 2010 reached a record high of 3,092,740 (up from 561,580 in 2008), largely as a result of 2,776,260 self-published

books and print-on-demand works being produced that year. US publishers' net sales revenue rose from \$26.5 bn. in 2008 to \$27.1 bn. in 2009 and \$27.9 bn. in 2010.

### Rail

Freight service is provided by nine major independent railroad companies and several hundred smaller operators. In 2013 the operational Amtrak rail system measured 21,356 miles. Outside the major conurbations, there are almost no regular passenger services other than those of Amtrak, which carried 30.8 m. passengers in fiscal year 2013.

### Religion

The leading religious bodies according to the 2010 *U.S. Religion Census: Religious Congregations & Membership Study* and based on the number of adherents are (in 1,000): Catholic Church, 58,964; Southern Baptist Convention, 19,896; United Methodist Church, 9,861; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 6,145; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 4,181; Assemblies of God, 2,945; Muslims, 2,600 (estimate); Presbyterian Church (USA), 2,452; Jews, 2,257 (estimate); Churches of Christ, 1,584. Based on the number of congregations the largest is the Southern Baptist Convention, with 50,816 in 2010.

### Roads

On 31 Dec. 2012 the total public road mileage was 4,092,730 miles (urban, 1,113,018; rural, 2,979,711). Urban roads in 2012 included 16,910 miles of interstate highways, 11,469 miles of other freeways and expressways, and 791,832 miles of local roads. Rural roads in 2012 included 30,522 miles of interstate highways, 4,395 miles of other freeways and expressways, and 2,036,976 miles of local roads. State highway funds were \$143,797 m. in 2009. Motor vehicles registered in 2012: 245,184,447, of which 111,289,906 automobiles, 764,509 buses and 133,130,032 trucks. There were 211,814,830 licensed drivers in 2012 and 8,429,988 motorcycle registrations. The average distance travelled by a motor vehicle in 2012 was 11,705 miles. There were 33,883 fatalities in road accidents in 2009 and 32,885 in 2010 (the lowest total since 1949).

### Shipping

At the end of 2007 the cargo-carrying US-owned fleet comprised 40,250 vessels, of which 39,695 were US-flag vessels. There were 38,936 US-flag tugs and barges for domestic coastwise, Great Lakes and inland waterway trade, 523 US-flag offshore supply vessels (which service offshore oil exploration and production) and 236 US-flag ocean and Great Lakes self-propelled vessels (10,000 DWT or greater) for US coastwise and international trade (of which 55 tankers, 76 containerships, 37 roll-on/roll-off carriers, 61 dry bulk carriers and seven general cargo carriers). The busiest port is South Louisiana, which handled 212,581,000 tons of cargo in 2009.

### Social Statistics

Live births in 2014 totalled 3,988,076 (a rate of 12.5 per 1,000 population) and deaths 2,626,418 (8.2 per 1,000). Population growth rate, 2003–13, 0.9%. Marriages in 2012 totalled 2,131,000. In 2011 the median age at first marriage was 29 for males and 26 for females. In 2014, 7% of Black men were married to a White woman and 4% of Black women were married to a White man. The number of births to unmarried women in 2009 was 1,693,658 (41% of all births), compared to 666,000 in 1980 and 1,726,566 in 2008. The rate of births to teenagers was 29.4 per 1,000 women in 2012 (the lowest in record). The number of babies born to women aged 15–19 was 305,420 in 2012, down from 409,802 in 2009 and the fewest reported since the end of the Second World War. In 2009, 27.3% of children lived in one-parent households—the highest proportion in the industrialized world. Infant mortality rates, per 1,000 live births: 29.2 in 1950; 12.9 in 1980; 6.0 in 2013. Fertility rate, 2013, 1.9 births per woman (the lowest since the late 1980s). There were a reported 1,058,000 abortions in 2011, down from a peak in 1990 of 1,608,600. Expectation of life, 1970: males, 67.1 years; females, 74.7 years. 2014: males, 76.4 years; females, 81.2 years.

### Telecommunications

In 2012 there were 138.6 m. main telephone lines in operation (436.5 per 1,000 inhabitants), down from 182.9 m. in 2003. There were 304.8 m. cellphone subscriptions in 2012 (960.1 per 1,000 persons), up from

160.6 m. in 2003. The leading cellphone operators are Verizon Wireless (with more than 115 m. subscribers), AT&T Mobility, Sprint Nextel and T-Mobile. In 2013 an estimated 84.2% of the population were internet users. 75.6% of households had a computer in 2011, with 71.7% of households having internet access at home. In 2014 e-commerce amounted to \$304.9 bn. In 2012 there were 89.8 wireless broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants and only 28.4 fixed broadband subscriptions per 100. In Dec. 2011 there were 157.4 m. Facebook users (about three times as many as any other country and 50% the total population of the USA).

### Territory and Population

The United States is bounded in the north by Canada, east by the North Atlantic, south by the Gulf of Mexico and Mexico, and west by the North Pacific Ocean. The area of the 50 states of the USA plus the District of Columbia is 3,796,742 sq. miles (9,833,517 km<sup>2</sup>), of which 3,531,905 sq. miles (9,147,593 km<sup>2</sup>) are land and 264,837 sq. miles (685,924 km<sup>2</sup>) are water (comprising Great Lakes, inland and coastal water). The 2010 census population of 308,745,538 represented an increase of 9.7% since 2000 (the smallest percentage increase between 10-yearly US censuses since the Second World War). Minorities accounted for 92% of the growth. There were 156,964,212 females at the 2010 census, or 50.8% of the total population. 2010 density, 33.8 per km<sup>2</sup> (87.4 per sq. mile). Urban population (persons living in places with at least 2,500 inhabitants) at the 2010 census was 249,253,271 (80.7%); rural, 59,492,267. New York is the USA's largest city, with a 2010 census population of 8,175,133, ahead of Los Angeles (3,792,621), Chicago (2,965,598), Houston (2,099,451) and Philadelphia (1,526,006). The total number of immigrants admitted from 1820 to 2012 was 78,493,018. The number of immigrants admitted for legal permanent residence in the United States in fiscal year 2012 was 1,031,631.

### Tourism

In 2013 the USA received 69,995,000 foreign visitors (66,657,000 in 2012), of whom 23,407,000 were from Canada and 14,547,000 from Mexico. 18% of all tourists were from Europe. Only France received more tourists than the USA in 2013. In 2013 visitors to the USA spent \$172.9 bn., giving the USA by far the highest annual revenue from tourists of any country (Spain, which received the second most, had \$62.6 bn.). Expenditure by US travellers in foreign countries for 2013 was \$104.1 bn., second only to spending by German travellers in foreign countries.

## Uruguay

*República Oriental del Uruguay (Oriental Republic of Uruguay)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Montevideo  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 3.43 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 19,283  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.793/52=  
*Internet domain extension:* .uy

### Civil Aviation

The largest international airport is at Montevideo (Carrasco). There were direct international services in 2010 to Asunción, Barcelona, Buenos Aires, Córdoba (Argentina), Curitiba, Florianópolis, Iguazu Falls, Lima, Madrid, Miami, Panama City, Porto Alegre, Rio de Janeiro, San Salvador, Santiago and São Paulo. Since the demise of Pluna the largest Uruguayan airline is now BQB Líneas Aéreas. There were 11 international airports in 2014. Nine had paved runways, one was semi-paved and one unpaved. In 2010 airports in Uruguay handled 2,195,336 passengers, of which 2,011,601 were at Carrasco. 26,832 tonnes of freight passed through Carrasco in 2010. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Uruguayan-based carriers flew 34.5 m. km; passenger-km totalled 1.5 bn. in the same year.

### Climate

A warm temperate climate, with mild winters and warm summers. The wettest months are March to June, but there is really no dry season. Montevideo, Jan. 72 °F (22.2 °C), July 50 °F (10 °C). Annual rainfall 38" (950 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The Constitution was adopted on 27 Nov. 1966 and became effective in Feb. 1967; it has been amended in 1989, 1994, 1996 and 2004. Congress consists of a *Senate* of 31 members and a *Chamber of Deputies* of 99 members, both elected by proportional representation for 5-year terms although in the case of the Senate only 30 members are elected with one seat reserved for the Vice-President. The electoral system provides that the successful presidential candidate be a member of the party which gains a parliamentary majority. Electors vote for deputies on a first-past-the-post system, and simultaneously vote for a presidential candidate of the same party. The winners of the second vote are credited with the number of votes obtained by their party in the parliamentary elections. Referendums may be called at the instigation of 10,000 signatories. Voting is compulsory.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *Uruguayan peso* (UYU), of 100 *centésimos*, which replaced the *nuevo peso* in March 1993 at 1 Uruguayan peso = 1,000 nuevos pesos.

### Defence

Defence expenditure totalled US\$445 m. in 2013 (US\$134 per capita), representing 0.9% of GDP.

### Economy

Finance and real estate contributed 18.7% to GDP in 2010; followed by trade and hotels, 14.4%; manufacturing, 13.1%; services, 10.7%.

### Labour

In 1996 the retirement age was raised from 55 to 60 for women; it remains 60 for men. The labour force in 2005 totalled 1,269,300 (54% males). In 2001, 22.4% of the urban workforce was engaged in wholesale and retail trade/repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods/hotels and restaurants; 15.5% in manufacturing/electricity, gas and water supply; 9.2% in private households with employed persons; and 9.1% in financial intermediation and real estate, renting and business activities. In 2001 the unemployment rate in urban areas was 15.3%.

### Press

In 2008 there were 34 paid-for dailies with an average circulation of 145,000. The newspaper with the highest circulation is *El País*, which sold a daily average of 46,000 copies in 2008.

### Rail

The total railway system open for traffic in 2005 was 1,508 km of 1,435 mm gauge. Passenger services, which had been abandoned in 1988, were resumed on a limited basis in 1993. In 2007 the railways carried 600,000 passengers and 1.4 m. tonnes of freight.

### Religion

State and Church are separate, and there is complete religious liberty. According to estimates by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, in 2010 the population was 57.9% Christian (mainly Catholics) with 40.7% not having any religious affiliation. In Feb. 2016 there was one cardinal.

### Roads

Uruguay has more than 75,000 km of roads, including 8,776 km of national roads in 2016. Passenger cars in 2007 numbered 553,200 (151 per 1,000 inhabitants in 2005). There were 150 fatalities as a result of road accidents in 2005.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 25 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 53,000 GT. In 2004 vessels totalling 5,067,000 NRT entered ports and vessels totalling 22,262,000 NRT cleared.

## Social Statistics

2009: births, 47,152; deaths, 32,179. Rates (per 1,000 population), 2009: birth, 14.1; death, 9.6. Annual population growth rate, 2005–10, 0.3%. Infant mortality, 2010 (per 1,000 live births), 9. Life expectancy in 2013 was 73.7 years among males and 80.6 years among females. Fertility rate, 2008, 2.1 births per woman. Uruguay legalized same-sex marriage in Aug. 2013. In Oct. 2012 it became the second Latin American country (after Cuba) to legalize abortion for all women.

## Telecommunications

There were 5,268,000 mobile phone subscriptions in 2013 (1,546.2 per 1,000 inhabitants) and 1,048,000 fixed telephone lines in the same year. In 2013 Uruguay had 720,000 fixed broadband internet subscriptions and 1,552,000 mobile broadband subscriptions. In March 2012 there were 1.5 m. Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Uruguay is bounded on the northeast by Brazil, on the southeast by the Atlantic, on the south by the Río de la Plata and on the west by Argentina. The area is 176,215 km<sup>2</sup> (68,037 sq. miles), including 1,199 km<sup>2</sup> (463 sq. miles) of inland waters. The total population at the 2011 census was 3,286,314; density, 18.8 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011 Montevideo (the capital) accounted for 39.7% of the total population. It had a population in 2011 of 1,304,687. Other major cities are Salto (population of 104,011 in 2011) and Ciudad de la Costa (95,176 in 2011). 92.6% of the population lived in urban areas in 2011. 13% of the population are over 65; 24% are under 15; 63% are between 15 and 64. The official language is Spanish.

## Tourism

There were 2,857,000 international tourist arrivals—excluding same-day visitors—in 2011 (2,349,000 in 2010). Receipts from tourism in 2011 totalled US\$2,203 m.

# Uzbekistan

## *Uzbekiston Respublikasy (Republic of Uzbekistan)*

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Tashkent

*Population estimate, 2015:* 29.89 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 5,567

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.675/114

*Internet domain extension:* .uz

### Civil Aviation

The main international airport is in Tashkent (Vostochny). The national carrier is the state-owned Uzbekistan Airways. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Uzbekistan-based carriers flew 44.0 m. km; passenger-km totalled 6.3 bn. in the same year. In 2009 Tashkent handled 1,940,985 passengers and 35,791 tonnes of freight.

### Climate

The summers are warm to hot but the heat is made more bearable by the low humidity. The winters are cold but generally dry and sunny. Tashkent, Jan. –1 °C, July 25 °C. Annual rainfall 14.8" (375 mm).

## Constitution and Government

A new constitution was adopted on 8 Dec. 1992 stating that Uzbekistan is a pluralist democracy. The constitution restricts the president to standing for two 5 year terms. In Jan. 2002 a referendum was held at which 91% of the electorate voted in favour of extending the presidential term from five to 7 years. Voters were also in favour of changing from a single-chamber legislature to a bicameral parliament. Based on the constitution President Karimov's term of office that started in Jan. 2000 ended in Jan. 2007, but according to election law a vote must be held in Dec. of the year in which the president's term expires. Pro-Karimov legislators maintained that he was eligible to stand again in the Dec. 2007 elections as he had only served one 7 year term despite having been president since 1990. Uzbekistan switched to a bicameral legislature in Jan. 2005 with the establishment of the 100-member *Senate* (with 16 members appointed by the president and 84 elected from the ranks of regional, district and city legislative councils). The lower house is the 150-member *Oliy Majlis* (Supreme Assembly). 135 seats are elected by popular vote for 5 year terms and 15 are reserved for the Ecological Movement.

## Currency

A coupon for a new unit of currency, the *soum* (UZS), was introduced alongside the rouble on 15 Nov. 1993. This was replaced by the *soum* proper at 1 soum = 1,000 coupons on 1 July 1994.

## Defence

Conscription is for 12 months. Defence expenditure in 2010 totalled US\$1,422 m. (US\$51 per capita), representing 3.7% of GDP.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 19.5% of GDP in 2010, industry 35.4% and services 45.1%.

## Labour

In 2013 there were 12.52 m. employed persons of whom 81% worked in the non-state sector. Agriculture accounted for 34% of total employment in 2010. The unemployment rate was 4.9% in 2013. Average monthly salary in 2004 was 53,201 soums. A minimum wage of 6,530 soums a month was imposed on 1 Aug. 2004. Uzbekistan had 0.17 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

In 2008 there were four paid-for daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 30,000.

## Rail

The total length of railway in 2011 was 4,258 km of 1,520 mm gauge (727 km electrified). In 2011, 16.0 m. passengers and 80.9 m. tonnes of freight were carried. There is a metro in Tashkent.

## Religion

In 2010 an estimated 96.7% of the population were Muslims (mainly Sunnis) according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, with 2.3% Christians.

## Roads

Length of roads, 2005, was 84,400 km (85% paved).

## Social Statistics

2009 births, 649,700; deaths, 130,700; marriages, 227,600; divorces, 17,200. Rates, 2009: birth (per 1,000 population), 23.3; death, 4.7; marriage, 10.0; divorce, 0.6. Life expectancy, 2013, 65.0 years for men and 71.7 for women. Annual population growth rate, 1998–2008, 1.2%. Infant mortality, 2010, 44 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 2.3 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2012 there were 1,980,000 main (fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscriptions numbered 20,274,000 in the same year (710.3 per 1,000 persons). In 2013 an estimated 38.2% of the population were internet users. In March 2012 there were 129,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Uzbekistan is bordered in the north by Kazakhstan, in the east by Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, in the south by Afghanistan and in the west by Turkmenistan. Area, 447,400 km<sup>2</sup> (172,700 sq. miles), including 22,000 km<sup>2</sup> (8,500 sq. miles) of inland water. A census has not been held since 1989, when the population was 19,810,077. A 'mini-census' based on 10% of the population was conducted in April 2011 but there are no future plans for a full census. Estimate, Jan. 2014, 30,493,000; density, 72 per km<sup>2</sup>. The vast majority of the population are Uzbeks, with small Tajik, Kazakh, Tatar and Russian minorities. In 2008, 63.3% of the population lived in rural areas. The capital is Tashkent (2009 population estimate, 2,220,700); other large towns are Namangan, Samarkand, Andizhan, Nukus, Bukhara, Karshi, Kokand, Ferghana, Margilan, Chirchik and Urgench. The Roman alphabet (in use 1929–40) was reintroduced in 1994. Arabic script was in use prior to 1929, and Cyrillic from 1940–94. The official language is Uzbek. Russian and Tajik are also spoken.

### Tourism

There were 975,000 non-resident tourist arrivals in 2010 (1,215,000 in 2009), excluding same-day visitors.

## Vanuatu

### *Ripablik blong Vanuatu (Republic of Vanuatu)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Port Vila

*Population estimate, 2015:* 265,000

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 2,803

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.594/134=

*Internet domain extension:* .vu

#### Civil Aviation

There is an international airport at Bauerfield Port Vila. In 2010 the state-owned Air Vanuatu flew to Auckland, Brisbane, Honiara, Nadi, Nouméa and Sydney as well as providing services between different parts of Vanuatu. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Vanuatu-based carriers flew 20.6 m. km; passenger-km totalled 863.8 m. in the same year.

#### Climate

The climate is tropical, but moderated by oceanic influences and by trade winds from May to Oct. High humidity occasionally occurs and cyclones are possible. Rainfall ranges from 90" (2,250 mm) in the south to 155" (3,875 mm) in the north. Vila, Jan. 80 °F (26.7 °C), July 72 °F (22.2 °C). Annual rainfall 84" (2,103 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

Legislative power resides in a 52-member unicameral Parliament elected for a term of 4 years. The *President* is elected for a 5 year term by an electoral college comprising Parliament and the presidents of the 11 regional councils. Executive power is vested in a Council of Ministers, responsible to Parliament, and appointed and led by a Prime Minister who is elected from and by Parliament. There is also a *Council of Chiefs*, comprising traditional tribal leaders, to advise on matters of custom.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *vatu* (VUV) with no minor unit.

#### Defence

Vanuatu does not have an army but there is a Vanuatu Police Force and a paramilitary Vanuatu Mobile Force.

#### Economy

In 2011 agriculture accounted for 25.2% of GDP, industry 10.7% and services 64.1%.

#### Press

In 2008 there was one daily newspaper (the *Vanuatu Daily Post*) with a circulation of 3,000.

#### Religion

In 2010 an estimated 93.3% of the population were Christians (mainly Protestants) and 4.1% folk religionists according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life.

#### Roads

There are approximately 1,100 km of largely unpaved roads, mostly on Efate Island and Espiritu Santo. There were around 15,500 vehicles in use in 2008.

#### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 57 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 1.41 m. GT. Vanuatu is a 'flag of convenience' country. The chief ports are Port Vila and Santo.

#### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 7,100; deaths, 1,200. Rates, 2008 estimates (per 1,000 population): births, 30.2; deaths, 5.0. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.6%. Life expectancy, 2013, was 69.7 years for males and 73.8 years for females. Infant mortality, 2010, 12 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 4.0 births per woman.

#### Telecommunications

In 2012 there were 4,800 main (fixed) telephone lines; active mobile phone subscriptions numbered 146,000 in the same year (590.8 per 1,000 persons). In 2013 an estimated 11.3% of the population were internet users.

#### Territory and Population

Vanuatu comprises 83 islands (65 of which are inhabited), which lie roughly 800 km west of the Fiji Islands and 400 km northeast of New Caledonia. The estimated land area is 12,190 km<sup>2</sup> (4,706 sq. miles). The larger islands of the group are: (Espiritu) Santo, Malekula, Epi, Pentecost, Aoba, Maewo, Paama, Ambrym, Efate, Erromanga, Tanna and Aneityum. They also claim Matthew and Hunter islands. Population at the 2009 census, 234,023 giving a density of 19.2 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2009, 75.6% of the population lived in rural areas. Port Vila (the capital) had a 2009 census population of 44,040 and Luganville 13,167. 39% of the population is under 15 years of age, 55% between the ages of 15 and 59 and 6% 60 or over. The national language is Bislama (spoken by 57% of the population): English and French are also official languages; about 30,000 speak French.

#### Tourism

In 2011 there were a record 248,898 non-resident visitor arrivals (154,938 by cruise ship and 93,960 by air), up from 237,648 in 2010 and 225,452 in 2009.

## Vatican City State

*Stato della Città del Vaticano*

### Factsheet

Population estimate, 2011: 800

Internet domain extension: .va

### Civil Aviation

The Vatican launched a charter airline, Mistral Air, in Aug. 2007 to fly pilgrims to holy sites across the world.

### Constitution and Government

Vatican City State is governed by a Commission appointed by the Pope. The reason for its existence is to provide an extra-territorial, independent base for the Holy See, the government of the Roman Catholic Church. The Pope (currently Pope Francis, b. 1936 and elected 13 March 2013) exercises sovereignty and has absolute legislative, executive and judicial powers. The judicial power is delegated to a tribunal in the first instance, to the Sacred Roman Rota in appeal and to the Supreme Tribunal of the Signature in final appeal. A new Fundamental Law was promulgated by Pope John Paul II on 26 Nov. 2000 and became effective on 22 Feb. 2001; this replaced the first Fundamental Law of 1929. The Pope is elected by the College of Cardinals, meeting in secret conclave. The election is by scrutiny and requires a two-thirds majority.

### Currency

Since 1 Jan. 2002 the Vatican City has been using the euro (EUR). Italy has agreed that the Vatican City may mint a small part of the total Italian euro coin contingent with their own motifs.

### Press

In 2008 there was one daily evening paper, *L'Osservatore Romano*.

### Religion

As the Vicar of Christ and the Successor of St Peter, the Pope is held to be by divine right the centre of all Catholic unity and exercises universal governance over the Church. He is also the sovereign ruler of Vatican City State. He has for advisers the Sacred College of Cardinals, consisting in March 2016 of 215 cardinals from 72 countries (one created by Pope Paul VI, 96 created by Pope John Paul II, 79 created by Pope Benedict XVI and 39 created by Pope Francis), of whom 116 are cardinal electors—those under the age of 80 who may enter into conclave to elect a new Pope. Cardinals, addressed by the title of 'Eminence', are appointed by the Pope from senior ecclesiastics who are either the bishops of important Sees or the heads of departments at the Roman Curia. In addition to the College of Cardinals, there is a Synod of Bishops, created by Pope Paul VI and formally instituted on 15 Sept. 1965. This consists of the Patriarchs and certain Metropolitans of the Catholic Church of Oriental Rite, of elected representatives of the national episcopal conferences and religious orders of the world, of the cardinals in charge of the Roman Congregations and of other persons nominated by the Pope. The Synod meets in both general (global) and special (regional) assemblies.

### Territory and Population

The area of the Vatican City is 44 ha. or 0.44 km<sup>2</sup> (108.7 acres or 0.17 sq. miles), making it the smallest independent country in the world. It includes the Piazza di San Pietro (St Peter's Square), which is to remain normally open to the public and subject to the powers of the Italian police. Vatican City had about 800 inhabitants in 2011. It has its own railway station (for freight only), postal facilities, coins and radio. Twelve buildings in and outside Rome enjoy extra-territorial rights, including the Basilicas of St John Lateran, St Mary Major and St Paul without the Walls, the Pope's summer villa at Castel Gandolfo and a further Vatican radio station on Italian soil. *Radio Vaticana* broadcasts an extensive service in 40 languages from the transmitters in Vatican City and in Italy. The Holy See and the Vatican are not synonymous—the Holy See, referring to the primacy of the Pope, is located in Vatican City. The *de facto* official language is Latin.

## Venezuela

*República Bolivariana de Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)*

### Factsheet

Capital: Caracas

Population estimate, 2015: 31.11 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 16,159

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.762/71

Internet domain extension: .ve

### Civil Aviation

The main international airport is at Caracas (Simon Bolívar), with some international flights from Maracaibo. The national carrier is Conviasa, founded in 2004 as the successor to Viasa, which had ceased operations in 1997. In 2005 scheduled airline traffic of Venezuela-based carriers flew 31.0 m. km, carrying 3,240,200 passengers.

### Climate

The climate ranges from warm temperate to tropical. Temperatures vary little throughout the year and rainfall is plentiful. The dry season is from Dec. to April. The hottest months are July and Aug. Caracas, Jan. 65 °F (18.3 °C), July 69 °F (20.6 °C). Annual rainfall 32" (833 mm). Ciudad Bolívar, Jan. 79 °F (26.1 °C), July 81 °F (27.2 °C). Annual rainfall 41" (1,016 mm). Maracaibo, Jan. 81 °F (27.2 °C), July 85 °F (29.4 °C). Annual rainfall 23" (577 mm).

### Constitution and Government

The present constitution was approved in a referendum held on 15 Dec. 1999. Venezuela is a federal republic, comprising 23 states and one federal district, plus 235 islands and 75 islets and cays that constitute the federal dependencies. Executive power is vested in the *President*. The ministers, who together constitute the Council of Ministers, are appointed by the President and head various executive departments. 92% of votes cast in a referendum (the first in Venezuela's history) on 25 April 1999 were in favour of the plan to rewrite the constitution proposed by then President Hugo Chávez. As a result, on 25 July the public was to elect a constitutional assembly to write a new constitution, which was subsequently to be voted on in a national referendum. In Aug. 1999 the constitutional assembly declared a national state of emergency. It subsequently suspended the Supreme Court, turned the elected Congress into little more than a sub-committee, stripping it of all its powers, and assumed many of the responsibilities of government. In Dec. 1999 Chávez's plan to redraft the constitution was approved by over 70% of voters in a referendum. Consequently presidents were able to serve two consecutive 6 year-terms instead of terms of 5 years which could not be consecutive, the senate was abolished and greater powers were given to the state and the armed forces. Chávez effectively took over both the executive and the judiciary. In Aug. 2007 Chávez presented a set of constitutional reforms, including an end to presidential term limits. The proposals were rejected in a national referendum held on 2 Dec. 2007, with 49% of votes cast in favour of the amendments to the constitution and 51% against. However, a referendum on 15 Feb. 2009 to abolish presidential term limits (and those of various other elected officials including National Assembly deputies) was approved with 54% of votes cast in favour and 46% against. Since the senate was dissolved under the constitution adopted in Dec. 1999 Venezuela has become a unicameral legislature, the 165-seat *National Assembly*, with members being elected for 5 year terms.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *bolívar fuerte* (VEF) of 100 *céntimos*. It was introduced on 1 Jan. 2008, replacing the *bolívar* (VEB) at a rate of one bolívar fuerte = 1,000 bolivares.

### Defence

There is a 30 month conscript service obligation. Defence expenditure totalled US\$5,240 m. in 2013 (US\$184 per capita), representing 1.5% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2010 industry accounted for 52% of GDP, services 42% and agriculture 6%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 14,050,000 (11,877,000 in 2003). 68.8% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 7.5% of the population was unemployed. Venezuela had 80,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2008 there were 108 daily newspapers (106 paid-for and two free) with a circulation of 2.53 m.

### Rail

The railway network comprises 742 km of 1,435 gauge track. Freight tonne-km in 2007 came to 81 m. In 2006 Venezuela's first inter-city passenger service in nearly 70 years was opened with the inauguration of a line from Caracas to Cúa. Several other new lines are planned or currently under construction. There are metros in Caracas, Los Teques, Maracaibo and Valencia.

### Religion

In 2010 there were an estimated 22.50 m. Catholics and 2.92 m. Protestants according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, with 2.90 m. people having no religious affiliation. The Roman Catholic Church has nine ecclesiastical provinces, each headed by an archbishop. There was one cardinal in Feb. 2016.

### Roads

The road network covers approximately 96,000 km. There were 2,952,100 passenger cars in use in 2007 (107 per 1,000 inhabitants) plus 84,000 lorries and vans. There were 6,218 fatalities as a result of road accidents in 2006.

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 82 ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 784,000 GT. La Guaira, Maracaibo, Puerto Cabello, Puerto Ordaz and Guanta are the chief ports. The principal navigable rivers are the Orinoco and its tributaries the Apure and Arauca.

### Social Statistics

2008 births, 581,480; deaths, 124,062. 2008 birth rate per 1,000 population, 20.8; death rate, 4.4. Annual population growth rate, 2008–10, 1.6%. Life expectancy, 2013, was 71.7 years for males and 77.7 years for females. Infant mortality, 2010, 16 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 2.5 births per woman. In 2011 the most popular age for marrying was 25–29 for both men and women.

### Telecommunications

In 2012 there were 7,649,000 main (fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscriptions numbered 30,569,000 in the same year (1,020.5 per 1,000 persons). In 2012, 49.1% of the population were internet users. In June 2012 there were 9.7 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Venezuela is bounded to the north by the Caribbean with a 2,813 km coastline, east by the Atlantic and Guyana, south by Brazil, and southwest and west by Colombia. The area is 916,445 km<sup>2</sup> (353,839 sq. miles) including 72 islands in the Caribbean. Population at the 2011 census was 27,227,930 (13,678,178 females and 13,549,752 males); density, 29.7 per km<sup>2</sup>. Venezuela has the highest percentage of urban population in South America, with

93.4% living in urban areas in 2010. The official language is Spanish. English is taught as a mandatory second language in high schools. Caracas, Venezuela's largest city, is the political, financial, commercial, communications and cultural centre of the country. Caracas, Venezuela's largest city, is the political, financial, commercial, communications and cultural centre of the country. Caracas had a population of 1,942,652 in 2011. Maracaibo, the nation's second largest city (2011 population of 1,898,770), is located near Venezuela's most important petroleum fields and richest agricultural areas. Other major cities are Valencia, Barquisimeto and Ciudad Guayana.

### Tourism

In 2009 there were 615,000 non-resident tourists (excluding same-day visitors), down from 771,000 in 2007 and 745,000 in 2008. Of the 615,000 tourists in 2009, 340,000 were from elsewhere in the Americas and 241,000 were from Europe.

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## Vietnam

### *Cộng Hòa Xã Hội Chủ Nghĩa Việt Nam (Socialist Republic of Vietnam)*

#### Factsheet

*Capital:* Hanoi

*Population estimate, 2015:* 93.45 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPP\$) 5,092

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.666/116=

*Internet domain extension:* .vn

#### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Hanoi (Noi Bai) and Ho Chi Minh City (Tan Son Nhat) and 13 domestic airports. The national carrier is Vietnam Airlines. In 2005 scheduled airline traffic of Vietnam-based carriers flew 43.7 m. km, carrying 3,762,200 passengers. The busiest airport is Ho Chi Minh City, which in 2012 handled 17,538,353 passengers and had 131,710 aircraft movements. Hanoi handled 11,341,039 passengers and had 84,304 aircraft movements in 2012.

#### Climate

The humid monsoon climate gives tropical conditions in the south, with a rainy season from May to Oct., and sub-tropical conditions in the north, though real winter conditions can affect the north when polar air blows south over Asia. In general, there is little variation in temperatures over the year. Hanoi, Jan. 62 °F (16.7 °C), July 84 °F (28.9 °C). Annual rainfall 72" (1,830 mm).

#### Constitution and Government

The National Assembly unanimously approved a new constitution on 15 April 1992. Under this the Communist Party retains a monopoly of power and the responsibility for guiding the state according to the tenets of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh, but with certain curbs on its administrative functions. Vietnam is a one-party republic. The powers of the National Assembly are increased. The 500-member *National Assembly* is elected for 5 year terms. Candidates may be proposed by the Communist Party or the Fatherland Front (which groups various social organizations), or they may propose themselves as individual Independents. The Assembly convenes three times a year and appoints a prime minister and cabinet. It elects the *President*, the head of state. The latter heads a *State Council* which issues decrees when the National Assembly is not in session. The ultimate source of political power is the Communist Party of Vietnam, founded in 1930; it had 3.6 m. members in 2011.

#### Currency

The unit of currency is the *dong* (VND).

### Defence

Conscription is for 18 months (army) or 3 years (air force and navy). For specialists it is also 3 years. In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$3,800 m. (US\$41 per capita), representing 2.4% of GDP.

### Economy

Agriculture accounted for 20.6% of GDP in 2010, industry 41.1% and services 38.3%.

### Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 53,444,000 (44,284,000 in 2003). 82.2% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 2.2% of the population was unemployed. Vietnam had 0.25 m. people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2008 there were 55 paid-for daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 2.8 m. The Communist Party controls all print media but some criticism of government policy is allowed.

### Rail

There were 2,347 km of railways in 2011, mostly metre gauge. Rail links with China were reopened in Feb. 1996. In 2011, 12.0 m. passengers and 7.2 m. tonnes of freight were carried.

### Religion

Taoism is the traditional religion but Buddhism is widespread. At the census of 2009 the principal denominations were: Buddhists, 6,802,318; Catholics, 5,677,086; Hoa Hao (a tradition based on Buddhism), 1,433,252; Cao Dai (a synthesis of Christianity, Buddhism and Confucianism), 807,915; Protestants, 734,168; no religion, 70,193,377. In Feb. 2016 there were two cardinals. The Roman Catholic Church has 26 dioceses, including three archdioceses.

### Roads

There were 160,089 km of roads in 2007, of which 47.6% were paved. In 2007 there were 1,146,300 passenger cars in use and around 21.78 m. motorcycles and mopeds. There were 13,200 fatalities in road accidents in 2007.

### Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were 918 ships of 300 GT or over registered (including 769 general cargo ships and 76 oil tankers), totalling 2,683,000 GT. The major ports are Hai Phong, Ho Chi Minh City and Da Nang. There are regular services to Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia and Japan. There are some 19,500 km of navigable waterways.

### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 1,494,000; deaths, 469,000. Estimated birth rate in 2008 was 17.2 per 1,000 population; estimated death rate, 5.4. Life expectancy, 2013, was 71.3 years for males and 80.5 years for females. Annual population growth rate, 2010–15, 1.1%. Infant mortality, 2010, 19 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 2.1 births per woman. Vietnam has had one of the largest reductions in its fertility rate of any country in the world in recent years, having had a rate of 5.8 births per woman in 1975. Sanctions are imposed on couples with more than two children. The rate at which Vietnam has reduced poverty, from 58% of the population in 1993 to 20% in 2004, is among the most dramatic of any country in the world.

### Telecommunications

In 2011 there were 10,175,000 main (fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscriptions numbered 127,318,000 in the same year (1,416.0 per 1,000 persons). In 2011, 35.1% of the population were internet users. In June 2012 there were 9.7 m. Facebook users. In March 2012 there were 3.2 m. Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Vietnam is bounded in the west by Cambodia and Laos, north by China and east and south by the South China Sea. It has a total area of 331,212 km<sup>2</sup> and is divided into eight regions, 58 provinces and five municipalities (Can Tho, Da Nang, Hai Phong, Hanoi and Thanh Pho Ho Chi Minh). At the 2009 census the population was 85,846,997; density, 259 per km<sup>2</sup>. 31.0% of the population live in urban areas (2011). Major cities (with 2009 populations): Ho Chi Minh City (5,880,615), Hanoi (2,316,772), Da Nang (770,911), Hai Phong (769,739), Can Tho (731,545). 86% of the population are Vietnamese (Kinh). There are also 53 minority groups thinly spread in the extensive mountainous regions. The largest minorities are: Tay, Thai, Muong, Khmer, Mong and Nung. The official language is Vietnamese. Chinese, French and Khmer are also spoken.

### Tourism

There were a record 6,014,000 international visitors in 2011 (up from 5,050,000 in 2010). Tourist numbers have doubled since 2003. The main nationalities of tourists in 2010 were China (905,000), South Korea (496,000) and Japan (442,000).

## Yemen

### *Jamhuriya al Yamaniya (Republic of Yemen)*

### Factsheet

*Capitals:* Sana'a (Legislative and Administrative), Aden (Commercial)

*Population estimate, 2015:* 26.83 m.

*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 3,519

*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.498/160

*Internet domain extension:* .ye

### Civil Aviation

There are international airports at Sana'a and Aden. In 2012 Sana'a handled 1,598,661 passengers (1,176,447 on international flights) and 18,119 tonnes of freight. The national carrier is Yemenia. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Yemen-based carriers flew 22.0 m. km; passenger-km totalled 3.7 bn. in the same year.

### Climate

A desert climate, modified by relief. Sana'a, Jan. 57 °F (13.9 °C), July 71 °F (21.7 °C). Aden, Jan. 75 °F (24 °C), July 90 °F (32 °C). Annual rainfall 20" (508 mm) in the north, but very low in coastal areas: 1.8" (46 mm).

### Constitution and Government

Parliament consists of a 301-member *Assembly of Representatives (Majlis al-Nuwaab)*, previously elected for a 6 year term in single-seat constituencies, and a new people's transitional council created in Feb. 2015 when the *Assembly of Representatives* was briefly suspended in the wake of the Houthi rebel uprising. The *Assembly* was reinstated following UN-brokered talks between rival factions. The constitution was adopted in May 1991 but was drastically amended in 1994 following the civil war. After popular protests in 2011 unseated President Saleh, his successor, Abdo Rabu Mansour al-Hadi, was expected to oversee the drafting of a new constitution. However, Hadi was himself the subject of a coup in early 2015 during which the Houthi rebels established a rival administration. Houthi representatives had earlier refused to enter negotiations on ratification of a draft constitution submitted in Jan. 2015.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *riyal* (YER) of 100 *fiils*. During the transitional period to north-south unification the northern *riyal* of 100 *fiils* and the southern *dinar* of 1,000 *fiils* co-existed.



## Defence

Conscription is for 2 years. Defence expenditure in 2013 totalled US\$1,812 m. (US\$71 per capita), representing 4.7% of GDP. Estimates of the number of small arms in the country are around 12 m., equivalent to 61 firearms for every 100 people, making Yemen second only behind the USA as the world's most heavily armed country.

## Economy

Trade, restaurants and hotels accounted for 21.5% of GDP in 2009; crude petroleum and natural gas, 18.5%; transport and communications, 13.1%; and agriculture, forestry and fishing, 12.1%.

## Labour

The labour force in 2013 was 7,343,000 (4,824,000 in 2003). 50.4% of the population aged 15–64 was economically active in 2013. In the same year 17.7% of the population was unemployed. Yemen had 41,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

In 2008 there were five daily newspapers with a combined average daily circulation of 40,000.

## Religion

More than 99% of the population in 2010 was Muslim (60–65% Sunnis and 35–40% Shias) according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, with small Hindu and Christian minorities—an estimated 150,000 and 40,000 respectively.

## Roads

There were 71,300 km of roads in 2005 (8.7% paved). In 2007 there were 777,700 vehicles in use.

## Shipping

In Jan. 2009 there were seven ships of 300 GT or over registered, totalling 17,000 GT. There are ports at Aden, Mokha, Al-Hodeidah, Mukalla and Nashtoon.

## Social Statistics

2009 estimates: births, 886,000; deaths, 163,000. Rates, 2009 estimates (per 1,000 population): birth, 38; death, 7. Yemen has one of the youngest populations of any country, with 75% of the population under the age of 30 and 44% under 15. Life expectancy, 2013, was 61.8 years for males and 64.5 years for females. Infant mortality, 2010, 57 per 1,000 live births. Annual population growth rate, 1998–2008, 2.9%; fertility rate, 2008, 5.2 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2012 there were 1,104,000 main (fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscriptions numbered 13,900,000 in the same year (582.8 per 1,000 persons). In 2013 an estimated 20.0% of the population were internet users. In March 2012 there were 437,000 Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Yemen is bounded in the north by Saudi Arabia, east by Oman, south by the Gulf of Aden and west by the Red Sea. The territory includes 112 islands including Kamaran (181 km<sup>2</sup>) and Perim (300 km<sup>2</sup>) in the Red Sea and Socotra (3,500 km<sup>2</sup>) in the Gulf of Aden. At the last census, in 2004, the population was 19,685,161; density, 35 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 32.4% of the population lived in urban areas. The population of the capital, Sana'a, was 1,707,531 in 2004. The commercial capital is the port of Aden, with a population of (2004) 588,938. Other important towns are Ta'iz, the port of Hodeida, Mukalla, Ibb and Abyan. The official language is Arabic.

## Tourism

There were 829,000 international tourist arrivals—excluding same-day visitors—in 2011 (1,025,000 in 2010). Receipts from tourism in 2011 totalled US\$783 m.

# Zambia

## Republic of Zambia

### Factsheet

*Capital:* Lusaka  
*Population estimate, 2015:* 16.21 m.  
*GNI per capita, 2014:* (PPPS) 3,734  
*HDI/world rank, 2014:* 0.586/139  
*Internet domain extension:* .zm

### Civil Aviation

The former flag carrier, Zambian Airways, operated internal flights and in 2007 flew to Dar es Salaam, Harare and Johannesburg as well as operating domestic services, but ceased flying in Jan. 2009. Lusaka is the principal international airport. In 2012 Lusaka International handled 925,077 passengers (684,548 on international flights) and 5,194 tonnes of freight. Scheduled airline traffic of Zambian-based carriers flew 1.8 m. km in 2012; passenger-km totalled 28.7 m. in the same year.

### Climate

The climate is tropical, but has three seasons. The cool, dry one is from May to Aug., a hot dry one follows until Nov., when the wet season commences. Frosts may occur in some areas in the cool season. Lusaka, Jan. 70 °F (21.1 °C), July 61 °F (16.1 °C). Annual rainfall 33" (836 mm). Livingstone, Jan. 75 °F (23.9 °C), July 61 °F (16.1 °C). Annual rainfall 27" (673 mm). Ndola, Jan. 70 °F (21.1 °C), July 59 °F (15 °C). Annual rainfall 52" (1,293 mm).

### Constitution and Government

Zambia has a unicameral legislature. In 2009 the number of seats in the *National Assembly* was increased from 159 to 280 with effect from the 2011 elections, with 240 members elected for a five-year term in single-member constituencies, 30 members elected by proportional representation and ten members appointed by the president. Candidates for election as president must have both parents born in Zambia (this excludes ex-president Kaunda). The constitution was adopted on 24 Aug. 1991 and was amended in 1996, shortly before the parliamentary and presidential elections. The amendment restricts the president from serving more than two terms of office.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the *kwacha* (ZMK) of 100 *ngwee*.

### Defence

In 2013 defence expenditure totalled US\$390 m. (US\$27 per capita), representing 1.7% of GDP.

### Economy

In 2011 agriculture accounted for 19.5% of GDP, industry 37.4% and services 43.1%.

### Labour

The labour force totalled 3,165,200 in 2000 (59% males). 71.6% of the economically active population in 2000 were engaged in agriculture, 7.5% in community services and 6.8% in trade. Zambia had 96,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

### Press

In 2008 there were three paid-for daily papers, *The Post*, the *Times of Zambia* and the *Zambia Daily Mail*. *The Post* is privately-owned and the *Times of Zambia* and the *Zambia Daily Mail* state-owned.

## Rail

In 2005 there were 1,271 km of the state-owned Zambia Railways (ZR) and 891 km of the Tanzania-Zambia (Tazara) Railway, both on 1,067 mm gauge. A 27-km stretch of railway linking Chipata in the east of the country with Mchinji in Malawi was opened in Aug. 2010. This links with the existing railway to Nacala, one of Mozambique's leading ports.

## Religion

In 1993 the then president declared Zambia to be a Christian nation, but freedom of worship is a constitutional right. In 2010 there were an estimated 8.87 m. Protestants, 2.75 m. Catholics and 1.11 m. other Christians according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life.

## Roads

There were, in 2001, 91,440 km of roads, including 4,222 km of highway. 131,100 passenger cars were in use in 2007 and there were 75,500 trucks and vans.

## Social Statistics

Estimates, 2008: births, 541,000; deaths, 218,000. Estimated birth rate in 2008 was 42.9 per 1,000 population; estimated death rate, 17.3. Zambia's life expectancy at birth in 2013 was 56.3 years for males and 60.0 for females. Life expectancy was declining for many years, largely owing to the huge number of people in the country with HIV, although it has now begun to rise again slowly. In 2009, 13.5% of all adults between 15 and 49 were infected with HIV. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 2.3%. Infant mortality, 2010, 69 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 5.8 births per woman.

## Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 116,000 main (fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscriptions numbered 10,396,000 in the same year (715.0 per 1,000 persons). In 2013 an estimated 15.4% of the population were internet users. In June 2012 there were 236,000 Facebook users.

## Territory and Population

Zambia is bounded by the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the north, Tanzania in the northeast, Malaŵi in the east, Mozambique in the southeast, Zimbabwe and Namibia in the south, and by Angola in the west. The area is 752,612 km<sup>2</sup> (290,584 sq. miles). Population (2010 census), 13,092,666; population density, 17.4 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 35.9% of the population were urban. The republic is divided into ten provinces. The capital is Lusaka, which had a census population in 2010 of 1,747,152. Other major towns (with 2010 census population in 1,000) are: Kitwe, 501; Ndola, 451; Kabwe, 202; Chingola, 185; Mufulira, 151; Livingstone 134; Luanshya, 130. The population consists of over 70 Bantu-speaking ethnic groups, with the main groups being the Bemba (18%), Tonga (10%), Nyanja (8%) and Lozi (6%). The official language is English.

## Tourism

There were a record 906,000 international tourist arrivals—excluding same-day visitors—in 2011 (815,000 in 2010 and 710,000 in 2009). Receipts from tourism in 2011 totalled US\$146 m.

# Zimbabwe

## Republic of Zimbabwe

### Factsheet

Capital: Harare

Population estimate, 2015: 15.60 m.

GNI per capita, 2014: (PPPS) 1,615

HDI/world rank, 2014: 0.509/155

Internet domain extension: .zw

## Civil Aviation

There are three international airports: Harare (the main airport), Bulawayo and Victoria Falls. Air Zimbabwe, the state-owned national carrier, ceased operations in Feb. 2012 but resumed flying on a limited basis in May. After the government took over Air Zimbabwe's debts it began flying on international routes again in Nov. 2012. In 2012 scheduled airline traffic of Zimbabwe-based carriers flew 9.1 m. km; passenger-km totalled 566.6 m. in the same year. In 2009 Harare handled 612,208 passengers (674,281 in 2008).

## Climate

Though situated in the tropics, conditions are remarkably temperate throughout the year because of altitude, and an inland position keeps humidity low. The warmest weather occurs in the 3 months before the main rainy season, which starts in Nov. and lasts until March. The cool season is from mid-May to mid-Aug. and, though days are mild and sunny, nights are chilly. Harare, Jan. 69 °F (20.6 °C), July 57 °F (13.9 °C). Annual rainfall 33" (828 mm). Bulawayo, Jan. 71 °F (21.7 °C), July 57 °F (13.9 °C). Annual rainfall 24" (594 mm). Victoria Falls, Jan. 78 °F (25.6 °C), July 61 °F (16.1 °C). Annual rainfall 28" (710 mm).

## Constitution and Government

In May 2013 a new constitution was signed into law, replacing one that had been in force since 1980. In a referendum on 16 March 2013 it received 92.9% support and won the required two-thirds support in the House of Assembly and the Senate along with presidential approval 2 months later, having been supported by both ZANU-PF and the MDC. Under its terms, the executive *President* is limited to two 5 year terms (not to be implemented retrospectively, ensuring that the incumbent, Robert Mugabe, qualified for up to a further two terms despite having held office since 1980). The *House of Assembly* is elected by universal suffrage for 5 year terms and comprises 210 members elected by secret ballot in 210 constituencies plus, for the first two parliaments, 60 seats for women elected by proportional representation. The *Senate* is made up of 80 members (six each from ten provinces elected by proportional representation, 18 Chiefs and two representatives of disabled persons). The 2013 constitution also provided for a strengthened Bill of Rights, removed immunity for presidents once they have left office, strengthened the powers of the judiciary and established a National Peace and Reconciliation Commission.

## Currency

The use of the Zimbabwean dollar as an official currency was effectively abandoned on 12 April 2009. Currencies such as the South African rand, the Botswana pula, the pound sterling and the US dollar are used instead. The Zimbabwean dollar was officially withdrawn from circulation in Sept. 2015. Until 12 April 2009 the unit of currency was the *Zimbabwe fourth dollar* (ZWL), introduced on 2 Feb. 2009, with 12 zeros being removed to make 1 trn. dollars (ZWR) equal to one new dollar. The *Zimbabwe third dollar* (ZWR) had replaced the *Zimbabwe second dollar* (ZWD) on 1 Aug. 2008, with a conversion rate of 1 revalued dollar = 10 bn. old dollars (ZWD).

## Defence

In 2013 military expenditure totalled US\$356 m. (US\$27 per capita), representing 3.2% of GDP.

## Economy

Agriculture accounted for 13% of GDP in 2012, industry 32% and services 55%. Zimbabwe's 'shadow' (black market) economy is estimated to constitute approximately 63% of the country's official GDP, one of the highest percentages of any country in the world.

## Labour

The labour force in 2011 totalled 6,084,000 (52.4% females). Unemployment in March 2007 was around 80%. Zimbabwe had 94,000 people living in slavery according to the Walk Free Foundation's 2013 *Global Slavery Index*.

## Press

In 2008 there were two daily newspapers, both controlled by the government, with a combined circulation of 28,000. In Jan. 2002 parliament passed an

Access to Information Bill restricting press freedom, making it an offence to report from Zimbabwe unless registered by a state-appointed commission. In Sept. 2003 the independent *Daily News* was shut down for contraventions of the new press law. Zimbabwe's High Court ordered the government to allow its reopening but the order was ignored.

### Rail

In 2005 the National Railways of Zimbabwe had 2,759 km (1,067 mm gauge) of route ways (483 km electrified). In 2005 the railways carried 3 m. passengers and 6.1 m. tonnes of freight (including the Beitbridge-Bulawayo Railway).

### Religion

A study by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life estimated that in 2010 there were 10.93 m. Christians, 990,000 people with no religious affiliation, 480,000 folk religionists and 110,000 Muslims. Of the Christians in 2010, 85% were Protestants and 13% Catholics.

### Roads

The road network covers some 97,000 km but much of it is in poor condition. Number of vehicles in use, 2007: passenger cars, 1,214,100; lorries and vans, 186,800; buses and coaches, 15,600; motorcycles and mopeds, 109,000. There were 1,037 road accident fatalities in 2006.

### Shipping

Zimbabwe's outlets to the sea are Maputo and Beira in Mozambique, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and the South African ports.

### Social Statistics

2008 estimates: births, 373,000; deaths, 199,000. Rates (2008 estimates, per 1,000 population): birth, 29.9; death, 16.0. Annual population growth rate, 2000–08, 0.0%. Zimbabwe's expectation of life at birth in 2013 was

608 years for females and 58.8 for males, up from an average of 42.9 years in 2003 thanks to a sharp decline in the HIV prevalence attributed mainly to changes in sexual behaviour and to some extent to effective preventive programmes. Overall life expectancy had reached 61.4 years in 1985 before Zimbabwe was affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In 2009, 14.3% of all adults between 15 and 49 were infected with HIV. Infant mortality, 2010, 51 per 1,000 live births; fertility rate, 2008, 3.4 births per woman.

### Telecommunications

In 2013 there were 304,000 main (fixed) telephone lines; mobile phone subscriptions numbered 13,633,000 in the same year (963.5 per 1,000 persons). In 2013 an estimated 18.5% of the population were internet users. In June 2012 there were 236,000 Facebook users.

### Territory and Population

Zimbabwe is bounded in the north by Zambia, east by Mozambique, south by South Africa and west by Botswana and the Caprivi Strip of Namibia. The area is 390,757 km<sup>2</sup> (150,871 sq. miles). Population at the 2012 census, 13,061,239 (6,780,700 female); density, 33.4 per km<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, 38.8% of the population were urban. There are eight provinces and two cities, Harare and Bulawayo, with provincial status. Harare, the capital, had a population in 2012 of 1,485,231. Other main cities (with 2012 census populations) were Bulawayo (653,337), Chitungwiza (356,840), Mutare (186,208) and Epworth (167,462). The population is approximately 98% African, 1% mixed and Asian and there are around 70,000 whites. The main ethno-linguistic groups are the Shona (71%), Ndebele (16%), Ndau (3%) and Nyanja (3%). Other smaller ones include Kalanga, Manyika, Tonga and Lozi. The official language is English.

### Tourism

International visitors numbered 2,423,000 in 2011 (2,239,000 in 2010 and 2,017,000 in 2009). Receipts in 2011 totalled US\$664 m.