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| NUMBER | DATE | DESCRIPTION | NAME |
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Contents

| | | |
|----------|---|----------|
| 1 | 226 | 1 |
| 1.1 | 226.guide | 1 |
| 1.2 | 226.guide/Svalbard | 1 |
| 1.3 | 226.guide/Header (Svalbard) | 2 |
| 1.4 | 226.guide/Geography (Svalbard) | 2 |
| 1.5 | 226.guide/People (Svalbard) | 3 |
| 1.6 | 226.guide/Government (Svalbard) | 4 |
| 1.7 | 226.guide/Economy (Svalbard) | 5 |
| 1.8 | 226.guide/Communications (Svalbard) | 5 |
| 1.9 | 226.guide/Defense Forces (Svalbard) | 6 |

Chapter 1

226

1.1 226.guide

Texified version of data for Svalbard.

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Svalbard

1.2 226.guide/Svalbard

Svalbard

Header (Svalbard)
Geography (Svalbard)
People (Svalbard)
Government (Svalbard)
Economy (Svalbard)
Communications (Svalbard)
Defense Forces (Svalbard)

1.3 226.guide/Header (Svalbard)

Header (Svalbard)
=====

Affiliation:
 (territory of Norway)

1.4 226.guide/Geography (Svalbard)

Geography (Svalbard)
=====

Location:
 in the Arctic Ocean where the Arctic Ocean, Barents Sea, Greenland Sea, and Norwegian Sea meet, 445 km north of Norway
Map references:
 Arctic Region, Asia, Standard Time Zones of the World
Area:
 total area:
 62,049 km²
 land area:
 62,049 km²
 comparative area:
 slightly smaller than West Virginia
 note:
 includes Spitsbergen and Bjornoya (Bear Island)
Land boundaries:
 0 km
Coastline:
 3,587 km
Maritime claims:
 exclusive fishing zone:
 200 nm unilaterally claimed by Norway but not recognized by Russia
 territorial sea:
 4 nm
International disputes:
 focus of maritime boundary dispute in the Barents Sea between Norway and

Russia

Climate:

arctic, tempered by warm North Atlantic Current; cool summers, cold winters ←
;

North Atlantic Current flows along west and north coasts of Spitsbergen, keeping water open and navigable most of the year

Terrain:

wild, rugged mountains; much of high land ice covered; west coast clear of ice about half the year; fjords along west and north coasts

Natural resources:

coal, copper, iron ore, phosphate, zinc, wildlife, fish

Land use:

arable land:
0%

permanent crops:
0%

meadows and pastures:
0%

forest and woodland:
0%

other:
100% (no trees and the only bushes are crowberry and cloudberry)

Irrigated land:
NA km2

Environment:

great calving glaciers descend to the sea

Note:

northernmost part of the Kingdom of Norway; consists of nine main islands; glaciers and snowfields cover 60% of the total area

1.5 226.guide/People (Svalbard)

People (Svalbard)
=====

Population: 3,209 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:
-2.84% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:
NA births/1,000 population

Death rate:
NA deaths/1,000 population

Net migration rate:
NA migrant(s)/1,000 population

Infant mortality rate:
NA deaths/1,000 live births

Life expectancy at birth:
total population:
NA years

male:
NA years

female:
NA years

Total fertility rate:
NA children born/woman
Ethnic divisions:
Russian 64%, Norwegian 35%, other 1% (1981)
Languages:
Russian, Norwegian
Literacy:
total population:
NA%
male:
NA%
female:
NA%
Labor force:
NA

1.6 226.guide/Government (Svalbard)

Government (Svalbard)
=====

Names:
conventional long form:
none
conventional short form:
Svalbard
Digraph:
SV
Type:
territory of Norway administered by the Ministry of Industry, Oslo, through a governor (sysselman) residing in Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen; by treaty (9 February 1920) sovereignty was given to Norway
Capital:
Longyearbyen
Independence:
none (territory of Norway)
Legal system:
NA
National holiday: NA
Leaders:
Chief of State:
King HARALD V (since 17 January 1991)
Head of Government:
Governor (vacant)
Member of:
none
Flag:
the flag of Norway is used

1.7 226.guide/Economy (Svalbard)

Economy (Svalbard)

=====

Overview:

Coal mining is the major economic activity on Svalbard. By treaty (9 February 1920), the nationals of the treaty powers have equal rights to exploit mineral deposits, subject to Norwegian regulation. Although US, UK, Dutch, and Swedish coal companies have mined in the past, the only ← companies

still mining are Norwegian and Russian. The settlements on Svalbard are essentially company towns. The Norwegian state-owned coal company employs nearly 60% of the Norwegian population on the island, runs many of the ← local

services, and provides most of the local infrastructure. There is also some trapping of seal, polar bear, fox, and walrus.

Budget:

revenues \$13.3 million; expenditures \$13.3 million, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1990)

Electricity:

21,000 kW capacity; 45 million kWh produced, 13,860 kWh per capita (1992)

Currency:

1 Norwegian krone (Nkr) = 100 ore

Exchange rates:

Norwegian kroner (Nkr) per US\$1 - 6.8774 (January 1993), 6.2145 (1992), 6.4829 (1991), 6.2597 (1990), 6.9045 (1989), 6.5170 (1988)

1.8 226.guide/Communications (Svalbard)

Communications (Svalbard)

=====

Ports:

limited facilities - Ny-Alesund, Advent Bay

Airports:

total:

4

usable:

4

with permanent-surface runways:

1

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

0

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

1

Telecommunications: 5 meteorological/radio stations; local telephone ← service; broadcast stations

- 1 AM, 1 (2 repeaters) FM, 1 TV; satellite communication with Norwegian

mainland

1.9 226.guide/Defense Forces (Svalbard)

Defense Forces (Svalbard)
=====

Note:
demilitarized by treaty (9 February 1920)