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Chapter 1

86

1.1 86.guide

Texified version of data for The Gambia.

Texified using wfact from

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The Gambia

1.2 86.guide/The Gambia

The Gambia

Geography (The Gambia)
 People (The Gambia)
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 Economy (The Gambia)
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1.3 86.guide/Geography (The Gambia)

Geography (The Gambia)

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Location:

Western Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean almost completely surrounded by Senegal

Map references:

Africa, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

11,300 km²

land area:

10,000 km²

comparative area:

slightly more than twice the size of Delaware

Land boundaries:

total 740 km, Senegal 740 km

Coastline:

80 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

18 nm

continental shelf:

not specified

exclusive fishing zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

short section of boundary with Senegal is indefinite

Climate:

tropical; hot, rainy season (June to November); cooler, dry season (←
 November
 to May)

Terrain:

flood plain of the Gambia River flanked by some low hills

Natural resources:

fish

Land use:

arable land:

16%
 permanent crops:
 0%
 meadows and pastures:
 9%
 forest and woodland:
 20%
 other:
 55%
 Irrigated land:
 120 km2 (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 deforestation
 Note:
 almost an enclave of Senegal; smallest country on the continent of Africa

1.4 86.guide/People (The Gambia)

People (The Gambia)
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Population:
 930,249 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 3.07% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 46.85 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 16.1 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 126.3 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 49.61 years
 male:
 47.41 years
 female:
 51.87 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 6.35 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Gambian(s)
 adjective:
 Gambian
 Ethnic divisions:
 African 99% (Mandinka 42%, Fula 18%, Wolof 16%, Jola 10%, Serahuli 9%,
 other
 4%), non-Gambian 1%
 Religions:
 Muslim 90%, Christian 9%, indigenous beliefs 1%

Languages:

English (official), Mandinka, Wolof, Fula, other indigenous vernaculars

Literacy:

age 15 and over can read and write (1990)

total population:

27%

male:

39%

female:

16%

Labor force:

400,000 (1986 est.)

by occupation:

agriculture 75.0%, industry, commerce, and services 18.9%, government 6.1%

note:

55% population of working age (1983)

1.5 86.guide/Government (The Gambia)

Government (The Gambia)

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Names:

conventional long form:

Republic of The Gambia

conventional short form:

The Gambia

Digraph:

GA

Type:

republic under multiparty democratic rule

Capital:

Banjul

Administrative divisions:

5 divisions and 1 city*; Banjul*, Lower River, MacCarthy Island, North Bank ←
,, Upper River,

Western

Independence:

18 February 1965 (from UK; The Gambia and Senegal signed an agreement on 12 December 1981 that called for the creation of a loose confederation to be known as Senegambia, but the agreement was dissolved on 30 September 1989)

Constitution:

24 April 1970

Legal system:

based on a composite of English common law, Koranic law, and customary law; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations

National holiday:

Independence Day, 18 February (1965)

Political parties and leaders:

People's Progressive Party (PPP), Dawda K. JAWARA, secretary general;
National Convention Party (NCP), Sheriff DIBBA; Gambian People's Party
(GPP), Hassan Musa CAMARA; United Party (UP), leader NA; People's ←
Democratic

Organization of Independence and Socialism (PDOIS), leader NA; People's Democratic Party (PDP), Jabel SALLAH

Suffrage:
21 years of age; universal

Elections:
House of Representatives:
last held on 11 March 1987 (next to be held by March 1992); results - PPP 56.6%, NCP 27.6%, GPP 14.7%, PDOIS 1%; seats - (43 total, 36 elected) PPP 31, NCP 5

President:
last held on 11 March 1987 (next to be held March 1992); results - Sir ← Dawda JAWARA (PPP) 61.1%, Sherif Mustapha DIBBA (NCP) 25.2%, Assan Musa CAMARA (GPP) 13.7%

Executive branch:
president, vice president, Cabinet

Legislative branch:
unicameral House of Representatives

Judicial branch:
Supreme Court

Leaders:
Chief of State and Head of Government:
President Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba JAWARA (since 24 April 1970); Vice President Saihou SABALLY (since NA)

Member of:
ACP, AfDB, C, CCC, ECA, ECOWAS, FAO, G-77, GATT, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IMF, IMO, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, LORCS, NAM, OAU, OIC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in US:
chief of mission:
Ambassador Ousman A. SALLAH

1.6 86.guide/Government (The Gambia 2. usage)

Government (The Gambia 2. usage)

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chancery:
Suite 720, 1030 15th Street NW, Washington, DC 20005

telephone:
(202) 842-1356 or 842-1359

US diplomatic representation:
chief of mission:
Ambassador Arlene RENDER

embassy:
Pipeline Road (Kairaba Avenue), Fajara, Banjul

mailing address:
P. M. B. No. 19, Banjul

telephone:
[220] 92856 or 92858, 91970, 91971

FAX:
(220) 92475

Flag:

three equal horizontal bands of red (top), blue with white edges, and green

1.7 86.guide/Economy (The Gambia)

Economy (The Gambia)

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Overview:

The Gambia has no important mineral or other natural resources and has a limited agricultural base. It is one of the world's poorest countries with a

per capita income of about \$325. About 75% of the population is engaged in crop production and livestock raising, which contribute 30% to GDP.

Small-scale manufacturing activity - processing peanuts, fish, and hides - accounts for less than 10% of GDP. Tourism is a growing industry. The

Gambia

imports one-third of its food, all fuel, and most manufactured goods.

Exports are concentrated on peanut products (about 75% of total value).

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$292 million (1991 est.)

National product real growth rate:

3% (1991)

National product per capita:

\$325 (1991 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

12% (1992 est.)

Unemployment rate:

NA%

Budget:

revenues \$94 million; expenditures \$80 million, including capital expenditures of \$25 million (FY91 est.)

Exports:

\$133 million (f.o.b., FY91 est.)

commodities:

peanuts and peanut products, fish, cotton lint, palm kernels

partners:

Japan 60%, Europe 29%, Africa 5%, US 1%, other 5% (1989)

Imports:

\$174 million (f.o.b., FY91 est.)

commodities:

foodstuffs, manufactures, raw materials, fuel, machinery and transport equipment

partners:

Europe 57%, Asia 25%, USSR and Eastern Europe 9%, US 6%, other 3% (1989)

External debt:

\$336 million (December 1990 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate 6.7%; accounts for 5.8% of GDP (FY90)

Electricity:

30,000 kW capacity; 65 million kWh produced, 75 kWh per capita (1991)

Industries:

peanut processing, tourism, beverages, agricultural machinery assembly, woodworking, metalworking, clothing

Agriculture:

accounts for 30% of GDP and employs about 75% of the population; imports one-third of food requirements; major export crop is peanuts; other principal crops - millet, sorghum, rice, corn, cassava, palm kernels; livestock - cattle, sheep, goats; forestry and fishing resources not fully exploited

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$93 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$535 million; Communist countries (1970-89), \$39 million

Currency:

1 dalasi (D) = 100 bututs

Exchange rates:

dalasi (D) per US\$1 - 8.673 (October 1992), 8.803 (1991), 7.883 (1990), 7.5846 (1989), 6.7086 (1988), 7.0744 (1987)

1.8 86.guide/Economy (The Gambia 2. usage)

Economy (The Gambia 2. usage)

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Fiscal year:

1 July - 30 June

1.9 86.guide/Communications (The Gambia)

Communications (The Gambia)

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Highways:

3,083 km total; 431 km paved, 501 km gravel/laterite, and 2,151 km unimproved earth

Inland waterways:

400 km

Ports:

Banjul

Airports:

total:

1

usable:

1

with permanent-surface runways:

1

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

1

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

0

Telecommunications:

adequate network of radio relay and wire; 3,500 telephones; broadcast stations - 3 AM, 2 FM; 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.10 86.guide/Defense Forces (The Gambia)

Defense Forces (The Gambia)

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Branches:

Army, Navy, National Gendarmerie, National Police

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 201,026; fit for military service 101,642 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$NA, NA% of GDP