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Chapter 1

68

1.1 68.guide

Texified version of data for Dominican Republic.

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Dominican Republic

1.2 68.guide/Dominican Republic

Dominican Republic

Geography (Dominican Republic)
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 Economy (Dominican Republic)
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1.3 68.guide/Geography (Dominican Republic)

Geography (Dominican Republic)

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Location:

in the northern Caribbean Sea, about halfway between Cuba and Puerto Rico

Map references:

Central America and the Caribbean, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

48,730 km²

land area:

48,380 km²

comparative area:

slightly more than twice the size of New Hampshire

Land boundaries:

total 275 km, Haiti 275 km

Coastline:

1,288 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

24 nm

continental shelf:

200 nm or the outer edge of continental margin

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

6 nm

International disputes:

none

Climate:

tropical maritime; little seasonal temperature variation

Terrain:

rugged highlands and mountains with fertile valleys interspersed

Natural resources:

nickel, bauxite, gold, silver

Land use:

arable land:

23%

permanent crops:

7%

meadows and pastures:
 43%
 forest and woodland:
 13%
 other:
 14%
 Irrigated land:
 2,250 km² (1989)
 Environment:
 subject to occasional hurricanes (July to October); deforestation
 Note:
 shares island of Hispaniola with Haiti (western one-third is Haiti, eastern two-thirds is the Dominican Republic)

1.4 68.guide/People (Dominican Republic)

People (Dominican Republic)

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Population:
 7,683,940 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 1.86% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 25.68 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 6.38 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -0.68 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 53.6 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 67.98 years
 male:
 65.87 years
 female:
 70.21 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 2.89 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Dominican(s)
 adjective:
 Dominican
 Ethnic divisions:
 mixed 73%, white 16%, black 11%
 Religions:
 Roman Catholic 95%
 Languages:
 Spanish
 Literacy: age 15 and over can read and write (1990)
 total population:

83%
 male:
 85%
 female:
 82%
 Labor force:
 2,300,000 to 2,600,000
 by occupation:
 agriculture 49%, services 33%, industry 18% (1986)

1.5 68.guide/Government (Dominican Republic)

Government (Dominican Republic)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Dominican Republic
 conventional short form:
 none
 local long form:
 Republica Dominicana
 local short form:
 none
 Digraph:
 DR
 Type:
 republic
 Capital:
 Santo Domingo
 Administrative divisions:
 29 provinces (provincias, singular - provincia) and 1 district* (distrito) ↔
 ;, Azua, Baoruco,
 Barahona, Dajabon, Distrito Nacional*, Duarte, Elias Pina, El, Seibo, ↔
 Espaillat, Hato Mayor,
 Independencia, La Altagracia, La Romana, La
 Vega, Maria Trinidad Sanchez, Monsenor Nouel, Monte Cristi, Monte Plata,
 Pedernales, Peravia, Puerto Plata, Salcedo, Samana, Sanchez Ramirez, San
 Cristobal, San Juan, San Pedro De Macoris, Santiago, Santiago Rodriguez,
 Valverde
 Independence:
 27 February 1844 (from Haiti)
 Constitution:
 28 November 1966
 Legal system:
 based on French civil codes
 National holiday:
 Independence Day, 27 February (1844)
 Political parties and leaders:
 Major parties:
 Social Christian Reformist Party (PRSC), Joaquin BALAGUER Ricardo; ↔
 Dominican
 Liberation Party (PLD), Juan BOSCH Gavino; Dominican Revolutionary Party

(PRD), Jose Franciso PENA Gomez; Independent Revolutionary Party (PRI), Jacobo MAJLUTA

Minor parties:

National Veterans and Civilian Party (PNVC), Juan Rene BEAUCHAMPS Javier; Liberal Party of the Dominican Republic (PLRD), Andres Van Der HORST; Democratic Quisqueyan Party (PQD), Elias WESSIN Chavez; National ← Progressive Force (FNP), Marino VINICIO Castillo; Popular Christian Party (PPC), ← Rogelio DELGADO Bogaert; Dominican Communist Party (PCD), Narciso ISA Conde; Dominican Workers' Party (PTD), Ivan RODRIGUEZ; Anti-Imperialist Patriotic Union (UPA), Ignacio RODRIGUEZ Chiappini; Alliance for Democracy Party (APD), Maximilano Rabelais PUIG Miller, Nelsida MARMOLEJOS, Vicente BENGEOA

note:

in 1983 several leftist parties, including the PCD, joined to form the Dominican Leftist Front (FID); however, they still retain individual party structures

Other political or pressure groups:

Collective of Popular Organzations (COP), leader NA

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal and compulsory or married persons regardless of age

note:

members of the armed forces and police cannot vote

1.6 68.guide/Government (Dominican Republic 2. usage)

Government (Dominican Republic 2. usage)

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Elections:

Chamber of Deputies:

last held 16 May 1990 (next to be held May 1994); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (120 total) PLD 44, PRSC 41, PRD 33, PRI 2

President:

last held 16 May 1990 (next to be held May 1994); results - Joaquin ← BALAGUER (PRSC) 35.7%, Juan BOSCH Gavino (PLD) 34.4%

Senate:

last held 16 May 1990 (next to be held May 1994); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (30 total) PRSC 16, PLD 12, PRD 2

Executive branch:

president, vice president, Cabinet

Legislative branch:

bicameral National Congress (Congreso Nacional) consists of an upper ← chamber or Senate (Senado) and lower chamber or Chamber of Deputies (Camara de Diputados)

Judicial branch:

Supreme Court (Corte Suprema)

Leaders:

Chief of State and Head of Government:

President Joaquin BALAGUER Ricardo (since 16 August 1986, fifth elected term ↵
 began 16 August 1990); Vice President Carlos A. MORALES Troncoso (since 16 August 1986)

Member of:
 ACP, CARICOM (observer), ECLAC, FAO, G-11, G-77, GATT, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTELSTAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM, ITU, LAES, LAIA (observer), LORCS, NAM (guest), OAS, OPANAL, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in US:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador Jose del Carmen ARIZA Gomez
 chancery:
 1715 22nd Street NW, Washington, DC 20008
 telephone: (202) 332-6280
 consulates general:
 Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Mayaguez (Puerto Rico), Miami, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, San Juan (Puerto Rico)
 consulates:
 Charlotte Amalie (Virgin Islands), Detroit, Houston, Jacksonville, Minneapolis, Mobile, Ponce (Puerto Rico), and San Francisco

US diplomatic representation:
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 Ambassador Robert S. PASTORINO
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 corner of Calle Cesar Nicolas Penson and Calle Leopoldo Navarro, Santo Domingo
 mailing address:
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 FAX:
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Flag:
 a centered white cross that extends to the edges, divides the flag into ↵
 four
 rectangles - the top ones are blue (hoist side) and red, the bottom ones ↵
 are
 red (hoist side) and blue; a small coat of arms is at the center of the cross

1.7 68.guide/Economy (Dominican Republic)

Economy (Dominican Republic)

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Overview:

The economy is largely dependent on trade; imported components average 60% of the value of goods consumed in the domestic market. Rapid growth of free trade zones has established a significant expansion of manufacturing for export, especially wearing apparel. Over the past decade, tourism has also increased in importance and is a major earner of foreign exchange and a source of new jobs. Agriculture remains a key sector of the economy. The

principal commercial crop is sugarcane, followed by coffee, cotton, cocoa, and tobacco. Domestic industry is based on the processing of agricultural products, oil refining, minerals, and chemicals. Unemployment is officially reported at about 30%, but there is considerable underemployment.

National product:
 GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$8.4 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:
 5% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:
 \$1,120 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):
 6% (1992 est.)

Unemployment rate:
 30% (1992 est.)

Budget:
 revenues \$1.4 billion; expenditures \$1.8 billion, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1993 est.)

Exports:
 \$600 million (f.o.b., 1992)
 commodities: ferronickel, sugar, gold, coffee, cocoa
 partners:
 US 60%, EC 19%, Puerto Rico 8% (1990)

Imports:
 \$2 billion (c.i.f., 1992 est.)
 commodities:
 foodstuffs, petroleum, cotton and fabrics, chemicals and pharmaceuticals
 partners:
 US 50%

External debt:
 \$4.7 billion (1992 est.)

Industrial production:
 growth rate -1.5% (1991); accounts for 20% of GDP

Electricity:
 2,283,000 kW capacity; 5,000 million kWh produced, 660 kWh per capita ←
 (1992)

Industries:
 tourism, sugar processing, ferronickel and gold mining, textiles, cement, tobacco

Agriculture:
 accounts for 15% of GDP and employs 49% of labor force; sugarcane is the most important commercial crop, followed by coffee, cotton, cocoa, and tobacco; food crops - rice, beans, potatoes, corn, bananas; animal output - cattle, hogs, dairy products, meat, eggs; not self-sufficient in food

Illicit drugs:
 transshipment point for South American drugs destined for the US

Economic aid:
 US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY85-89), \$575 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$655 million

Currency:
 1 Dominican peso (RD\$) = 100 centavos

1.8 68.guide/Economy (Dominican Republic 2. usage)

Economy (Dominican Republic 2. usage)

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Exchange rates:

Dominican pesos (RD\$) per US\$1 - 12.7 (1992), 12.692 (1991), 8.525 (1990),
6.340 (1989), 6.113 (1988)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

1.9 68.guide/Communications (Dominican Republic)

Communications (Dominican Republic)

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Railroads:

1,655 km total in numerous segments; 4 different gauges from 0.558 m to
1.435 m

Highways:

12,000 km total; 5,800 km paved, 5,600 km gravel and improved earth, 600 km
unimproved

Pipelines:

crude oil 96 km; petroleum products 8 km

Ports:

Santo Domingo, Haina, San Pedro de Macoris, Puerto Plata

Merchant marine: 1 cargo ship (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 1,587 GRT/1,165 ←
DWT

Airports:

total:

36

usable:

30

with permanent-surface runways:

12

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

4

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

8

Telecommunications:

relatively efficient domestic system based on islandwide microwave relay
network; 190,000 telephones; broadcast stations - 120 AM, no FM, 18 TV, 6
shortwave; 1 coaxial submarine cable; 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth
station

1.10 68.guide/Defense Forces (Dominican Republic)

Defense Forces (Dominican Republic)

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Branches:

Army, Navy, Air Force, National Police

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 2,064,244; fit for military service 1,302,644; reach
military age (18) annually 80,991 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$110 million, 0.7% of GDP (1993 est.)