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Chapter 1

225

1.1 225.guide

Texified version of data for Suriname.

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Suriname

1.2 225.guide/Suriname

Suriname

Geography (Suriname)
 People (Suriname)
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 Economy (Suriname)
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 Defense Forces (Suriname)

1.3 225.guide/Geography (Suriname)

Geography (Suriname)

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Location:

Northern South America, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean between French Guiana and Guyana

Map references:

South America, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

163,270 km²

land area:

161,470 km²

comparative area:

slightly larger than Georgia

Land boundaries:

total 1,707 km, Brazil 597 km, French Guiana 510 km, Guyana 600 km

Coastline:

386 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

claims area in French Guiana between Litani Rivier and Riviere Marouini (both headwaters of the Lawa); claims area in Guyana between New (Upper Courantyne) and Courantyne/Koetari Rivers (all headwaters of the Courantyne ←)

Climate:

tropical; moderated by trade winds

Terrain:

mostly rolling hills; narrow coastal plain with swamps

Natural resources:

timber, hydropower potential, fish, shrimp, bauxite, iron ore, and small amounts of nickel, copper, platinum, gold

Land use:

arable land:

0%

permanent crops:

0%
 meadows and pastures:
 0%
 forest and woodland:
 97%
 other:
 3%
 Irrigated land:
 590 km2 (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 mostly tropical rain forest

1.4 225.guide/People (Suriname)

People (Suriname)

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Population:
 416,321 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 1.54% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 25.85 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 6.1 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate: -4.33 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 32.4 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 69.14 years
 male:
 66.65 years
 female:
 71.76 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 2.85 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Surinamer(s)
 adjective:
 Surinamese
 Ethnic divisions:
 Hindustani (East Indian) 37%, Creole (black and mixed) 31%, Javanese 15.3%,
 Bush black 10.3%, Amerindian 2.6%, Chinese 1.7%, Europeans 1%, other 1.1%
 Religions:
 Hindu 27.4%, Muslim 19.6%, Roman Catholic 22.8%, Protestant 25.2%
 (predominantly Moravian), indigenous beliefs 5%
 Languages:
 Dutch (official), English widely spoken, Sranan Tongo (Surinamese, ←
 sometimes
 called Taki-Taki) is native language of Creoles and much of the younger
 population and is lingua franca among others, Hindi Suriname Hindustani (a

variant of Bhojpuri), Javanese
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1990)
 total population:
 95%
 male:
 95%
 female:
 95%
 Labor force:
 104,000 (1984)
 by occupation:
 NA

1.5 225.guide/Government (Suriname)

Government (Suriname)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Republic of Suriname
 conventional short form:
 Suriname
 local long form:
 Republiek Suriname
 local short form:
 Suriname
 former:
 Netherlands Guiana Dutch Guiana
 Digraph:
 NS
 Type:
 republic
 Capital:
 Paramaribo
 Administrative divisions:
 10 districts (distrikten, singular - distrikt); Brokopondo, Commewijne,
 Coronie, Marowijne, Nickerie, Para, Paramaribo, Saramacca, Sipaliwini,
 Wanica
 Independence:
 25 November 1975 (from Netherlands)
 Constitution:
 ratified 30 September 1987
 Legal system:
 NA
 National holiday:
 Independence Day, 25 November (1975)
 Political parties and leaders:
 The New Front (NF), leader NA, a coalition of four parties (NPS, VHP, KTPI,
 SPA); Progressive Reform Party (VHP), Jaggernath LACHMON; National Party of
 Suriname (NPS), Ronald VENETIAAN; Party of National Unity and Solidarity
 (KTPI), Willy SOEMITA; Suriname Labor Party (SPA) Fred DARBY; Democratic

Alternative '91 (DA '91), Winston JESSURUN, a coalition of four parties (AF ←
 HPP, Pendawa Lima, BEP) formed in January 1991; Alternative Forum (AF),
 Gerard BRUNINGS, Winston JESSURUN; Reformed Progressive Party (HPP), ←
 Panalal
 PARMESSAR; Party for Brotherhood and Unity in Politics (BEP), Cipriano
 ALLENDY; Pendawa Lima, Marsha JAMIN; National Democratic Party (NDP), ←
 Desire
 BOUTERSE; Progressive Workers' and Farm Laborers' Union (PALU), Ir Iwan
 KROLIS, chairman; National Republic Party (PNR), Robin RAVALES

Other political or pressure groups:
 Surinamese Liberation Army (SLA), Ronnie BRUNSWIJK, Johan "Castro" WALLY;
 Union for Liberation and Democracy, Kofi AFONGPONG; Saramaccaner Bosneger
 Angula Movement, Carlos MAASSI; Mandela Bushnegro Liberation Movement,
 Leendert ADAMS; Tucayana Amazonica, Alex JUBITANA, Thomas SABAJO

Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal

Elections:
 President:
 last held 6 September 1991 (next to be held NA May 1996); results - elected
 by the National Assembly - Ronald VENETIAAN (NF) 80% (645 votes), Jules
 WIJDENBOSCH (NDP) 14% (115 votes), Hans PRADE (DA '91) 6% (49 votes)

National Assembly:
 last held 25 May 1991 (next to be held NA May 1996); results - percent of
 vote NA; seats - (51 total) NF 30, NDP 10, DA '91 9, Independent 2

1.6 225.guide/Government (Suriname 2. usage)

Government (Suriname 2. usage)

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Executive branch:

president, vice president and prime minister, Cabinet of Ministers, Council
 of State; note - Commander in Chief of the National Army maintains
 significant power

Legislative branch:

unicameral National Assembly (Assemblée Nationale)

Judicial branch:

Supreme Court

Leaders:

Chief of State and Head of Government:

President Ronald R. VENETIAAN (since 16 September 1991); Vice President and
 Prime Minister Jules R. AJODHIA (since 16 September 1991)

Member of:

ACP, CARICOM (observer), ECLAC, FAO, GATT, G-77, IADB, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU,
 IFAD, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, LAES, LORCS, NAM, OAS, OPANAL, UN,
 UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WHO, WIPO, WMO

Diplomatic representation in US:

chief of mission:

Ambassador Willem A. UDENHOUT

chancery:

Suite 108, 4301 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone:

(202) 244-7488 or 7490 through 7492
 consulate general:
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 US diplomatic representation:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador John (Jack) P. LEONARD
 embassy:
 Dr. Sophie Redmonstraat 129, Paramaribo
 mailing address:
 P. O. Box 1821, Paramaribo
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 [597] 472900, 477881, or 476459
 FAX:
 [597] 410025
 Flag:
 five horizontal bands of green (top, double width), white, red (quadruple width), white, and green (double width); there is a large yellow five-pointed star centered in the red band

1.7 225.guide/Economy (Suriname)

Economy (Suriname)

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Overview:

The economy is dominated by the bauxite industry, which accounts for 15% of GDP and about 70% of export earnings. The economy has been in trouble since the Dutch ended development aid in 1982. A drop in world bauxite prices which started in the late 1970s and continued until late 1986 was followed by the outbreak of a guerrilla insurgency in the interior that crippled the important bauxite sector. Although the insurgency has since ebbed and the bauxite sector recovered, a military coup in December 1990 reflected continued political instability and deterred investment and economic reform ←

High inflation, high unemployment, widespread black market activity, and hard currency shortfalls continue to mark the economy.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$1.35 billion (1991 est.)

National product real growth rate:

-2.5% (1991 est.)

National product per capita:

\$3,300 (1991 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

26% (1991)

Unemployment rate:

16.5% (1990)

Budget:

revenues \$466 million; expenditures \$716 million, including capital expenditures of \$123 million (1989 est.)

Exports:

\$417 million (f.o.b., 1992 est.)

commodities:

alumina, aluminum, shrimp and fish, rice, bananas

partners:
 Norway 36%, Netherlands 28%, US 11%, Japan 7%, Brazil 5%, UK 5% (1989)

Imports:
 \$514 million (f.o.b., 1992 est.)

commodities:
 capital equipment, petroleum, foodstuffs, cotton, consumer goods

partners:
 US 41%, Netherlands 24%, Trinidad and Tobago 9%, Brazil 4% (1989)

External debt:
 \$138 million (1990 est.)

Industrial production:
 growth rate -5.0% (1991 est.); accounts for 27% of GDP

Electricity:
 458,000 kW capacity; 2,018 million kWh produced, 4,920 kWh per capita ↔
 (1992)

Industries:
 bauxite mining, alumina and aluminum production, lumbering, food processing ↔
 ,
 fishing

Agriculture:
 accounts for 10.4% of GDP and 25% of export earnings; paddy rice planted on
 85% of arable land and represents 60% of total farm output; other products ↔
 -
 bananas, palm kernels, coconuts, plantains, peanuts, beef, chicken; shrimp
 and forestry products of increasing importance; self-sufficient in most
 foods

Economic aid:
 US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-83), \$2.5 million; Western (non-US)
 countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$1.5 billion

Currency:
 1 Surinamese guilder, gulden, or florin (Sf.) = 100 cents

Exchange rates:
 Surinamese guilders, gulden, or florins (Sf.) per US\$1 - 1.7850 (fixed rate
 until October 1992), 25.04 (January 1992)

1.8 225.guide/Economy (Suriname 2. usage)

Economy (Suriname 2. usage)

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Fiscal year:
 calendar year

1.9 225.guide/Communications (Suriname)

Communications (Suriname)

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Railroads:

166 km total; 86 km 1.000-meter gauge, government owned, and 80 km 1.435-meter standard gauge; all single track

Highways:

8,300 km total; 500 km paved; 5,400 km bauxite gravel, crushed stone, or improved earth; 2,400 km sand or clay

Inland waterways:

1,200 km; most important means of transport; oceangoing vessels with drafts ranging up to 7 m can navigate many of the principal waterways

Ports:

Paramaribo, Moengo, Nicuw Nickerie

Merchant marine:

3 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 6,472 GRT/8,914 DWT; includes 2 cargo, 1 container

Airports:

total:

46

usable:

39

with permanent-surface runways:

6

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

1

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

3

Telecommunications:

international facilities good; domestic microwave system; 27,500 telephones ← ;

broadcast stations - 5 AM, 14 FM, 6 TV, 1 shortwave; 2 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth stations

1.10 225.guide/Defense Forces (Suriname)

Defense Forces (Suriname)

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Branches:

National Army (including Navy which is company-size, small Air Force element), Civil Police

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 111,716; fit for military service 66,429 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

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