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# Chapter 1

## 172

### 1.1 172.guide

Texified version of data for Netherlands Antilles.

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Netherlands Antilles

### 1.2 172.guide/Netherlands Antilles

Netherlands Antilles

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Header (Netherlands Antilles)  
 Geography (Netherlands Antilles)  
 People (Netherlands Antilles)  
 Government (Netherlands Antilles)  
 Government (Netherlands Antilles 2. usage)  
 Economy (Netherlands Antilles)  
 Communications (Netherlands Antilles)  
 Defense Forces (Netherlands Antilles)

### 1.3 172.guide/Header (Netherlands Antilles)

Header (Netherlands Antilles)  
 =====

Affiliation:  
 (part of the Dutch realm)

### 1.4 172.guide/Geography (Netherlands Antilles)

Geography (Netherlands Antilles)  
 =====

Location:  
 two island groups - Curacas and Bonaire in the southern Caribbean Sea are about 70 km north of Venezuela near Aruba and the rest of the country is about 800 km to the northeast about one-third of the way between Antigua ↔ and Barbuda and Puerto Rico

Map references:  
 Central America and the Caribbean

Area:  
 total area:  
 960 km<sup>2</sup>  
 land area:  
 960 km<sup>2</sup>  
 comparative area:  
 slightly less than 5.5 times the size of Washington, DC

note:  
 includes Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, and Sint Maarten (Dutch part of the island of Saint Martin)

Land boundaries:  
 0 km

Coastline:  
 364 km

Maritime claims:  
 exclusive fishing zone:

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12 nm  
 territorial sea:  
 12 nm  
 International disputes:  
 none  
 Climate:  
 tropical; ameliorated by northeast trade winds  
 Terrain:  
 generally hilly, volcanic interiors  
 Natural resources:  
 phosphates (Curacao only), salt (Bonaire only)  
 Land use:  
 arable land:  
 8%  
 permanent crops:  
 0%  
 meadows and pastures:  
 0% forest and woodland:  
 0%  
 other:  
 92%  
 Irrigated land:  
 NA km2  
 Environment:  
 Curacao and Bonaire are south of Caribbean hurricane belt, so rarely  
 threatened; Sint Maarten, Saba, and Sint Eustatius are subject to ←  
 hurricanes  
 from July to October

## 1.5 172.guide/People (Netherlands Antilles)

People (Netherlands Antilles)

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Population:  
 184,990 (July 1993 est.)  
 Population growth rate:  
 0.4% (1993 est.)  
 Birth rate:  
 17.23 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Death rate:  
 5.69 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Net migration rate:  
 -7.57 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Infant mortality rate:  
 10.4 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)  
 Life expectancy at birth:  
 total population:  
 75.73 years  
 male:  
 73.55 years  
 female:  
 78.03 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:  
 1.99 children born/woman (1993 est.)  
 Nationality:  
 noun:  
 Netherlands Antillean(s)  
 adjective:  
 Netherlands Antillean  
 Ethnic divisions:  
 mixed African 85%, Carib Indian, European, Latin, Oriental  
 Religions:  
 Roman Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Seventh-Day Adventist  
 Languages:  
 Dutch (official), Papiamentu a Spanish-Portuguese-Dutch-English dialect  
 predominates, English widely spoken, Spanish  
 Literacy:  
 age 15 and over can read and write (1981)  
 total population:  
 94%  
 male:  
 94%  
 female:  
 93%  
 Labor force:  
 89,000  
 by occupation:  
 government 65%, industry and commerce 28% (1983)

## 1.6 172.guide/Government (Netherlands Antilles)

Government (Netherlands Antilles)

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Names:  
 conventional long form:  
 none  
 conventional short form:  
 Netherlands Antilles  
 local long form:  
 none  
 local short form:  
 Nederlandse Antillen  
 Digraph:  
 NA  
 Type:  
 part of the Dutch realm; full autonomy in internal affairs granted in 1954  
 Capital:  
 Willemstad  
 Administrative divisions:  
 none (part of the Dutch realm)  
 Independence:  
 none (part of the Dutch realm)  
 Constitution:  
 29 December 1954, Statute of the Realm of the Netherlands, as amended

**Legal system:**

based on Dutch civil law system, with some English common law influence

**National holiday:**

Queen's Day, 30 April (1938)

**Political parties and leaders:**

political parties are indigenous to each island

**Bonaire:**

Patriotic Union of Bonaire (UPB), Rudy ELLIS; Democratic Party of Bonaire (PDB), Franklin CRESTIAN

**Curacao:**

National People's Party (PNP), Maria LIBERIA-PETERS; New Antilles Movement (MAN), Domenico Felip Don MARTINA; Workers' Liberation Front (FOL), Wilson (Papa) GODETT; Socialist Independent (SI), George HUECK and Nelson MONTE; Democratic Party of Curacao (DP), Augustin DIAZ; Nos Patria, Chin BEHILIA

**Saba:**

Windward Islands People's Movement (WIPM Saba), Will JOHNSON; Saba Democratic Labor Movement, Vernon HASSELL; Saba Unity Party, Carmen ← SIMMONDS

**Sint Eustatius:**

Democratic Party of Sint Eustatius (DP-St.E), K. Van PUTTEN; Windward Islands People's Movement (WIPM); St. Eustatius Alliance (SEA), Ralph ← BERKEL

**Sint Maarten:**

Democratic Party of Sint Maarten (DP-St.M), Claude WATHEY; Patriotic Movement of Sint Maarten (SPA), Vance JAMES

**Suffrage:**

18 years of age; universal

**Elections: Staten:**

last held on 16 March 1990 (next to be held March 1994); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (22 total) PNP 7, FOL-SI 3, UPB 3, MAN 2, DP-St. M 2, DP 1, SPM 1, WIPM 1, DP-St. E 1, Nos Patria 1; note - the government of Prime Minister Maria LIBERIA-PETERS is a coalition of several parties

**Executive branch:**

Dutch monarch, governor, prime minister, vice prime minister, Council of Ministers (cabinet)

**Legislative branch:**

unicameral legislature (Staten)

## 1.7 172.guide/Government (Netherlands Antilles 2. usage)

Government (Netherlands Antilles 2. usage)

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**Judicial branch:**

Joint High Court of Justice

**Leaders:****Chief of State:**

Queen BEATRIX Wilhelmina Armgard (since 30 April 1980), represented by Governor General Jaime SALEH (since NA October 1989)

**Head of Government:**

Prime Minister Maria LIBERIA-PETERS (since 17 May 1988, previously served from September 1984 to November 1985)

## Member of:

CARICOM (observer), ECLAC (associate), ICFTU, INTERPOL, IOC, UNESCO (associate), UPU, WMO, WTO (associate)

## Diplomatic representation in US:

as an autonomous part of the Netherlands, Netherlands Antillean interests ←  
in  
the US are represented by the Netherlands

## US diplomatic representation:

## chief of mission:

Consul General Bernard J. WOERZ

## consulate general:

Saint Anna Boulevard 19, Willemstad, Curacao

## mailing address:

P. O. Box 158, Willemstad, Curacao

## telephone:

[599] (9) 613066

## FAX:

[599] (9) 616489

## Flag:

white with a horizontal blue stripe in the center superimposed on a ←  
vertical

red band also centered; five white five-pointed stars are arranged in an oval pattern in the center of the blue band; the five stars represent the five main islands of Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, and Sint Maarten

## 1.8 172.guide/Economy (Netherlands Antilles)

### Economy (Netherlands Antilles)

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## Overview:

Tourism, petroleum refining, and offshore finance are the mainstays of the economy. The islands enjoy a high per capita income and a well-developed infrastructure as compared with other countries in the region. Unlike many Latin American countries, the Netherlands Antilles has avoided large international debt. Almost all consumer and capital goods are imported, ←  
with

the US being the major supplier.

## National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$1.6 billion (1991 est.)

## National product real growth rate:

4% (1991 est.)

## National product per capita:

\$8,700 (1991 est.)

## Inflation rate (consumer prices):

4% (1992 est.)

## Unemployment rate:

16.4% (1991 est.)

## Budget:

revenues \$209 million; expenditures \$232 million, including capital expenditures of \$8 million (1992 est.)

## Exports:

\$200 million (f.o.b., 1991)  
 commodities:  
 petroleum products 98%  
 partners:  
 US 40%, UK 7%, Guadeloupe 5%

Imports:  
 \$1.2 billion (f.o.b., 1991)  
 commodities:  
 crude petroleum 64%, food, manufactures  
 partners:  
 Venezuela 42%, US 21%, Netherlands 8%

External debt:  
 \$701 million (December 1987)

Industrial production:  
 growth rate NA%

Electricity:  
 125,000 kW capacity; 365 million kWh produced, 1,980 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:  
 tourism (Curacao and Sint Maarten), petroleum refining (Curacao), petroleum  
 transshipment facilities (Curacao and Bonaire), light manufacturing  
 (Curacao)

Agriculture:  
 hampered by poor soils and scarcity of water; chief products - aloes,  
 sorghum, peanuts, fresh vegetables, tropical fruit; not self-sufficient in  
 food

Economic aid:  
 Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89),  
 \$513 million

Currency:  
 1 Netherlands Antillean guilder, gulden, or florin (NAf.) = 100 cents

Exchange rates:  
 Netherlands Antillean guilders, gulden, or florins (NAf.) per US\$1 - 1.79  
 (fixed rate since 1989; 1.80 fixed rate 1971-88)

Fiscal year:  
 calendar year

## 1.9 172.guide/Communications (Netherlands Antilles)

Communications (Netherlands Antilles)

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Highways:  
 950 km total; 300 km paved, 650 km gravel and earth

Ports:  
 Willemstad, Philipsburg, Kralendijk

Merchant marine:  
 89 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 781,646 GRT/962,138 DWT; includes 4  
 passenger, 29 cargo, 14 refrigerated cargo, 7 container, 7 roll-on/roll-off ↔  
 ,  
 12 multifunction large-load carrier, 5 chemical tanker, 6 liquefied gas, 2  
 bulk, 1 oil tanker, 1 railcar carrier, 1 combination ore/oil; note - all ↔  
 but  
 a few are foreign owned, mostly in the Netherlands

**Airports:**

total:

5

usable:

4

with permanent-surface runways:

4

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

1

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

3

**Telecommunications:**

generally adequate facilities; extensive interisland microwave radio relay links; broadcast stations - 9 AM, 4 FM, 1 TV; 2 submarine cables; 2 ↔

Atlantic

Ocean INTELSAT earth stations

## 1.10 172.guide/Defense Forces (Netherlands Antilles)

Defense Forces (Netherlands Antilles)

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**Branches:**

Royal Netherlands Navy, Marine Corps, Royal Netherlands Air Force, National Guard, Police Force

**Manpower availability:**

males age 15-49 48,965; fit for military service 27,531; reach military age (20) annually 1,638 (1993 est.)

**Note:**

defense is responsibility of the Netherlands