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Chapter 1

213

1.1 213.guide

Texified version of data for Sierra Leone.

Texified using wfact from

Gerhard Leibrock
Neuhäuselerstr. 12
D-66459 Kirkel
Germany

Tel.: 06849 / 6134
INTERNET: leibrock@fsinfo.cs.uni-sb.de
fach5@cipsol.cs.uni-sb.de

Project Gutenberg

P. O. Box 2782

Champaign, IL 61825

When all other email fails try our Michael S. Hart, Executive Director:

hart@vmd.cso.uiuc.edu (internet) hart@uiucvmd (bitnet)

We would prefer to send you this information by email (Internet, Bitnet, Compuserve, ATTMAIL or MCImail).

Sierra Leone

1.2 213.guide/Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone

Geography (Sierra Leone)
 People (Sierra Leone)
 Government (Sierra Leone)
 Government (Sierra Leone 2. usage)
 Economy (Sierra Leone)
 Economy (Sierra Leone 2. usage)
 Communications (Sierra Leone)
 Defense Forces (Sierra Leone)

1.3 213.guide/Geography (Sierra Leone)

Geography (Sierra Leone)
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Location:
 Western Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean between Guinea and Liberia
 Map references:
 Africa, Standard Time Zones of the World
 Area:
 total area:
 71,740 km2
 land area:
 71,620 km2
 comparative area:
 slightly smaller than South Carolina
 Land boundaries:
 total 958 km, Guinea 652 km, Liberia 306 km
 Coastline:
 402 km
 Maritime claims:
 territorial sea:
 200 nm
 International disputes:
 none
 Climate: tropical; hot, humid; summer rainy season (May to December); ↵
 winter dry
 season (December to April)
 Terrain:
 coastal belt of mangrove swamps, wooded hill country, upland plateau, mountains in east
 Natural resources:
 diamonds, titanium ore, bauxite, iron ore, gold, chromite
 Land use:
 arable land:
 25%
 permanent crops:
 2%
 meadows and pastures:
 31%
 forest and woodland:

29%
 other:
 13%
 Irrigated land:
 340 km2 (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 extensive mangrove swamps hinder access to sea; deforestation; soil
 degradation

1.4 213.guide/People (Sierra Leone)

People (Sierra Leone)

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Population:
 4,510,571 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 2.61% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 45.47 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 19.39 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 145 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 45.87 years
 male:
 43.1 years
 female:
 48.71 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 6.01 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Sierra Leonean(s)
 adjective:
 Sierra Leonean
 Ethnic divisions:
 13 native African tribes 99% (Temne 30%, Mende 30%, other 39%), Creole,
 European, Lebanese, and Asian 1%
 Religions:
 Muslim 30%, indigenous beliefs 30%, Christian 10%, other or none 30%
 Languages:
 English (official; regular use limited to literate minority), Mende
 principal vernacular in the south, Temne principal vernacular in the north,
 Krio the language of the re-settled ex-slave population of the Freetown ↔
 area
 and is lingua franca
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write English, Merde, Temne, or Arabic (1990)

total population:
 21%
 male:
 31%
 female:
 11%
 Labor force:
 1.369 million (1981 est.)
 by occupation:
 agriculture 65%, industry 19%, services 16% (1981 est.)
 note:
 only about 65,000 wage earners (1985); 55% of population of working age

1.5 213.guide/Government (Sierra Leone)

Government (Sierra Leone)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Republic of Sierra Leone
 conventional short form:
 Sierra Leone
 Digraph:
 SL
 Type:
 military government
 Capital:
 Freetown
 Administrative divisions:
 3 provinces and 1 area*; Eastern, Northern, Southern, Western*, ←
 Independence:
 27 April 1961 (from UK)
 Constitution:
 1 October 1991; amended September 1991
 Legal system:
 based on English law and customary laws indigenous to local tribes; has not
 accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
 National holiday:
 Republic Day, 27 April (1961)
 Political parties and leaders:
 status of existing political parties is unknown following 29 April 1992 ←
 coup
 Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal
 Elections:
 suspended after 29 April 1992 coup; Chairman STRASSER promises multi-party
 elections sometime within three years
 Executive branch:
 National Provisional Ruling Council
 Legislative branch:
 unicameral House of Representatives (suspended after coup of 29 April 1992)
 Judicial branch:

Supreme Court (suspended after coup of 29 April 1992)

Leaders:

Chief of State and Head of Government:

Chairman of the Supreme Council of State Capt. Valentine E. M. STRASSER
(since 29 April 1992)

Member of:

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

Diplomatic representation in US:

chief of mission:

(vacant)

chancery:

1701 19th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

telephone:

(202) 939-9261

US diplomatic representation:

chief of mission:

Ambassador Lauralee M. PETERS

embassy:

Walpole and Siaka Stevens Street, Freetown

mailing address:

use embassy street address

telephone:

[232] (22) 226-481

1.6 213.guide/Government (Sierra Leone 2. usage)

Government (Sierra Leone 2. usage)

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FAX:

[232] (22) 225-471

Flag:

three equal horizontal bands of light green (top), white, and light blue

1.7 213.guide/Economy (Sierra Leone)

Economy (Sierra Leone)

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Overview:

The economic and social infrastructure is not well developed. Subsistence agriculture dominates the economy, generating about one-third of GDP and employing about two-thirds of the working population. Manufacturing, which accounts for roughly 10% of GDP, consists mainly of the processing of raw materials and of light manufacturing for the domestic market. Diamond ← mining

provides an important source of hard currency. The economy suffers from high ←

unemployment, rising inflation, large trade deficits, and a growing dependency on foreign assistance. The government in 1990 was attempting to get the budget deficit under control and, in general, to bring economic policy in line with the recommendations of the IMF and the World Bank. ←

Since

March 1991, however, military incursions by Liberian rebels in southern and eastern Sierra Leone have severely strained the economy and have undermined efforts to institute economic reforms.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$1.4 billion (FY92 est.)

National product real growth rate:

-1% (FY92 est.)

National product per capita:

\$330 (FY92 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

5% (1992)

Unemployment rate:

NA%

Budget:

revenues \$68 million; expenditures \$118 million, including capital expenditures of \$28 million (FY92 est.)

Exports:

\$75 million (f.o.b., FY92 est.)

commodities:

rutile 50%, bauxite 17%, cocoa 11%, diamonds 3%, coffee 3%

partners:

US, UK, Belgium, Germany, other Western Europe

Imports:

\$62 million (c.i.f., FY92 est.)

commodities:

capital goods 40%, food 32%, petroleum 12%, consumer goods 7%, light industrial goods

partners:

US, EC countries, Japan, China, Nigeria

External debt:

\$633 million (FY92 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate NA%

Electricity:

85,000 kW capacity; 185 million kWh produced, 45 kWh per capita (1991)

Industries:

mining (diamonds, bauxite, rutile), small-scale manufacturing (beverages, textiles, cigarettes, footwear), petroleum refinery

Agriculture:

accounts for over 30% of GDP and two-thirds of the labor force; largely subsistence farming; cash crops - coffee, cocoa, palm kernels; harvests of food staple rice meets 80% of domestic needs; annual fish catch averages 53,000 metric tons

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$161 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$848 million; OPEC bilateral aid (1979-89), \$18 million; Communist countries (1970-89), \$101 million

1.8 213.guide/Economy (Sierra Leone 2. usage)

Economy (Sierra Leone 2. usage)

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Currency:

1 leone (Le) = 100 cents

Exchange rates:

leones (Le) per US\$1 - 552.43 (January 1993), 499.44 (1992), 295.34 (1991),
144.9275 (1990), 58.1395 (1989), 31.2500 (1988)

Fiscal year:

1 July - 30 June

1.9 213.guide/Communications (Sierra Leone)

Communications (Sierra Leone)

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Railroads:

84 km 1.067-meter narrow-gauge mineral line is used on a limited basis
because the mine at Marampa is closed

Highways:

7,400 km total; 1,150 km paved, 490 km laterite (some gravel), 5,760 km
improved earth

Inland waterways:

800 km; 600 km navigable year round

Ports:

Freetown, Pepel, Bonthe

Merchant marine:

1 cargo ship totaling 5,592 GRT/9,107 DWT

Airports:

total:

11

usable:

7

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:

marginal telephone and telegraph service; national microwave radio relay
system unserviceable at present; 23,650 telephones; broadcast stations - 1
AM, 1 FM, 1 TV; 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.10 213.guide/Defense Forces (Sierra Leone)

Defense Forces (Sierra Leone)

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Branches:

Army, Navy, Police, Security Forces

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 983,281; fit for military service 475,855 (1993 est.); no
conscription

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$6 million, 0.7% of GDP (1988 est.)