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Chapter 1

262

1.1 262.guide

Texified version of data for Yemen.

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Yemen

1.2 262.guide/Yemen

Yemen

Geography (Yemen)
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 People (Yemen)
 Government (Yemen)
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 Economy (Yemen)
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 Communications (Yemen)
 Defense Forces (Yemen)

1.3 262.guide/Geography (Yemen)

Geography (Yemen)

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Location:

Middle East, along the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea, south of Saudi Arabia

Map references:

Africa, Middle East, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

527,970 km²

land area:

527,970 km²

comparative area:

slightly larger than twice the size of Wyoming

note:

includes Perim, Socotra, the former Yemen Arab Republic (YAR or North Yemen), and the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDY or South Yemen)

Land boundaries:

total 1,746 km, Oman 288 km, Saudi Arabia 1,458 km

Coastline:

1,906 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

18 nm in the North

24 nm in the South

continental shelf:

200 m depth in the North

200 nm in the South or to the edge of the continental margin

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

undefined section of boundary with Saudi Arabia; Administrative Line with Oman; a treaty with Oman to settle the Yemeni-Omani boundary was ratified ↩
in

December 1992

Climate:

mostly desert; hot and humid along west coast; temperate in western mountains affected by seasonal monsoon; extraordinarily hot, dry, harsh desert in east

Terrain:

narrow coastal plain backed by flat-topped hills and rugged mountains; dissected upland desert plains in center slope into the desert interior of the Arabian Peninsula

Natural resources:

petroleum, fish, rock salt, marble, small deposits of coal, gold, lead, nickel, and copper, fertile soil in west

Land use:

arable land:

6%

permanent crops:

0%

meadows and pastures:

30%

forest and woodland:

7%

other:

57%

Irrigated land:

3,100 km² (1989 est.)

1.4 262.guide/Geography (Yemen 2. usage)

Geography (Yemen 2. usage)

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Environment:

subject to sand and dust storms in summer; scarcity of natural freshwater resources; overgrazing; soil erosion; desertification

Note:

controls Bab el Mandeb, the strait linking the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden ↔
,
one of world's most active shipping lanes

1.5 262.guide/People (Yemen)

People (Yemen)

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Population:

10,742,395 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:

3.31% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:

51 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Death rate:
 15.37 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -2.56 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 115.6 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 50.94 years
 male:
 49.83 years
 female:
 52.11 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate: 7.27 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Yemeni(s)
 adjective:
 Yemeni
 Ethnic divisions:
 predominantly Arab; Afro-Arab concentrations in coastal locations; South Asians in southern regions; small European communities in major metropolitan areas; 60,000 (est.) Somali refugees encamped near Aden
 Religions:
 Muslim (including Sha'fi, Sunni, and Zaydi Shi'a), Jewish, Christian, Hindu
 Languages:
 Arabic
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1990)
 total population:
 38%
 male:
 53%
 female:
 26%
 Labor force:
 North:
 NA
 by occupation:
 agriculture and herding 70%, expatriate laborers 30% (est.)
 South:
 477,000
 by occupation:
 agriculture 45.2%, services 21.2%, construction 13.4%, industry 10.6%, commerce and other 9.6% (1983)

1.6 262.guide/Government (Yemen)

Government (Yemen)

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Names:

conventional long form:
 Republic of Yemen
 conventional short form:
 Yemen
 local long form:
 Al Jumhuriyah al Yamaniyah
 local short form:
 Al Yaman
 Digraph:
 YM
 Type:
 republic
 Capital:
 Sanaa
 Administrative divisions:
 17 governorates (muhafazat, singular - muhafazah); Abyan, 'Adan, Al Bayda', Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf, Al Mahrah, Al Mahwit, Dhamar, Hadramawt, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahij, Ma'rib, Sa'dah, San'a', Shabwah, Ta'izz
 note:
 there may be a new capital district of San'a'
 Independence:
 22 May 1990 Republic of Yemen was established on 22 May 1990 with the ← merger of the Yemen Arab Republic {Yemen (Sanaa) or North Yemen} and the Marxist-dominated People's Democratic Republic of Yemen {Yemen (Aden) or South Yemen}; previously North Yemen had become independent on 11 November 1918 (from the Ottoman Empire) and South Yemen had become independent on 30 November 1967 (from the UK)
 Constitution:
 16 April 1991
 Legal system:
 based on Islamic law, Turkish law, English common law, and local customary law; does not accept compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
 National holiday:
 Proclamation of the Republic, 22 May (1990)
 Political parties and leaders:
 General People's Congress, 'Ali 'Abdallah SALIH; Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP; formerly South Yemen's ruling party - a coalition of National Front, Ba'th, and Communist Parties), Ali Salim al-BIDH; Yemen Grouping for Reform or Islaah, Abdallah Husayn AHMAR
 Other political or pressure groups:
 conservative tribal groups; Muslim Brotherhood; Islamist parties; pro-Iraqi Ba'thists; Nasirists
 Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal
 Elections:
 House of Representatives:
 last held NA (next to be held 27 April 1993); results - percent of vote NA; seats - (301); number of seats by party NA; note - the 301 members of the new House of Representatives come from North Yemen's Consultative Assembly (159 members), South Yemen's Supreme People's Council (111 members), and appointments by the New Presidential Council (31 members)
 Executive branch:
 five-member Presidential Council (president, vice president, two members from northern Yemen and one member from southern Yemen), prime minister
 Legislative branch:
 unicameral House of Representatives

Judicial branch:
Supreme Court

1.7 262.guide/Government (Yemen 2. usage)

Government (Yemen 2. usage)
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Leaders:

Chief of State and Head of Government:

President 'Ali 'Abdallah SALIH (since 22 May 1990, the former president of North Yemen); Vice President Ali Salim al-BIDH (since 22 May 1990); Presidential Council Member Salim Salih MUHAMMED; Presidential Council Member Kadi Abdul-Karim al-ARASHI; Presidential Council Member Abdul-Aziz ABDUL-GHANI; Prime Minister Haydar Abu Bakr al-'ATTAS (since 22 May 1990, the former president of South Yemen)

Member of:

ACC, AFESD, AL, AMF, CAEU, ESCWA, FAO, G-77, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, LORCS, NAM, OIC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

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Flag:

three equal horizontal bands of red (top), white, and black; similar to the flag of Syria which has two green stars and of Iraq which has three green stars (plus an Arabic inscription) in a horizontal line centered in the white band; also similar to the flag of Egypt which has a symbolic eagle centered in the white band

1.8 262.guide/Economy (Yemen)

Economy (Yemen)

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Overview:

Whereas the northern city Sanaa is the political capital of a united Yemen, the southern city Aden, with its refinery and port facilities, is the economic and commercial capital. Future economic development depends ← heavily

on Western-assisted development of promising oil resources. Former South Yemen's willingness to merge stemmed partly from the steady decline in Soviet economic support. The low level of domestic industry and agriculture have made northern Yemen dependent on imports for virtually all of its essential needs. Large trade deficits have been compensated for by remittances from Yemenis working abroad and by foreign aid. Once self-sufficient in food production, northern Yemen has become a major importer. Land once used for export crops - cotton, fruit, and vegetables - has been turned over to growing qat, a mildly narcotic shrub chewed by Yemenis which has no significant export market. Oil export revenues started flowing in late 1987 and boosted 1988 earnings by about \$800 million. Economic growth in former South Yemen has been constrained by a lack of incentives, partly stemming from centralized control over production decisions, investment allocation, and import choices.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$8 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate: NA%

National product per capita:

\$775 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

100% (December 1992)

Unemployment rate:

30% (December 1992)

Budget:

revenues \$NA, expenditures \$NA, including capital expenditures of \$NA

Exports:

\$908 million (f.o.b., 1990 est.)

commodities:

crude oil, cotton, coffee, hides, vegetables, dried and salted fish

partners:

US, EC countries, South Korea, Saudi Arabia

Imports:

\$2.1 billion (f.o.b., 1990 est.)

commodities:

textiles and other manufactured consumer goods, petroleum products, sugar, grain, flour, other foodstuffs, cement, machinery, chemicals

partners:

Japan, Saudi Arabia, Australia, EC countries, China, Russia, US

External debt:

\$5.75 billion (December 1989 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate NA%, accounts for 18% of GDP

Electricity:

714,000 kW capacity; 1,224 million kWh produced, 120 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

crude oil production and petroleum refining; small-scale production of cotton textiles and leather goods; food processing; handicrafts; small aluminum products factory; cement

Agriculture:

accounted for 26% of GDP; products - grain, fruits, vegetables, qat (mildly narcotic shrub), coffee, cotton, dairy, poultry, meat, fish; not self-sufficient in grain

1.9 262.guide/Economy (Yemen 2. usage)

Economy (Yemen 2. usage)

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Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$389 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$2.0 billion; OPEC bilateral aid (1979-89), \$3.2 billion; Communist countries (1970-89), \$2.4 billion

Currency:

Yemeni rial (new currency); 1 North Yemeni rial (YR) = 100 fils; 1 South Yemeni dinar (YD) = 1,000 fils

note:

following the establishment of the Republic of Yemen on 22 May 1990, the North Yemeni rial and the South Yemeni dinar are to be replaced with a new Yemeni rial

Exchange rates:

Yemeni rials per US\$1 - 12.0 (official); 30-40 (unofficial) (est.); North Yemeni rials (YR) per US\$1 - 12.1000 (June 1992), 12.0000 (1991), 9.7600 (1990), 9.7600 (January 1989), 9.7717 (1988), 10.3417 (1987); South Yemeni dinars (YD) per US\$1 - 0.3454 (fixed rate)

note:

following the establishment of the Republic of Yemen on 22 May 1990, the North Yemeni rial and the South Yemeni dinar are to be replaced with a new Yemeni rial

Fiscal year:

calendar year

1.10 262.guide/Communications (Yemen)

Communications (Yemen)

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Highways:

15,500 km total; 4,000 km paved, 11,500 km natural surface (est.)

Pipelines:

crude oil 644 km, petroleum products 32 km

Ports:

Aden, Al Hudaydah, Al Khalf, Al Mukalla, Mocha, Nishtun, Ra's Kathib, Salif

Merchant marine:

3 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 4,309 GRT/6,568 DWT; includes 2 cargo,
1 oil tanker

Airports:

total:

45

usable:

39

with permanent-surface runways:

10

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

18

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

11

Telecommunications:

since unification in 1990, efforts are still being made to create a ↵
national

domestic civil telecommunications network; the network consists of ↵
microwave

radio relay, cable and troposcatter; 65,000 telephones (est.); broadcast
stations - 4 AM, 1 FM, 10 TV; satellite earth stations - 2 Indian Ocean
INTELSAT, 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT, 1 Intersputnik, 2 ARABSAT; microwave
radio relay to Saudi Arabia, and Djibouti

1.11 262.guide/Defense Forces (Yemen)

Defense Forces (Yemen)

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Branches:

Army, Navy, Air Force, Police

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 2,060,124; fit for military service 1,172,633; reach
military age (14) annually 133,727 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$762 million, 10% of GDP (1992)