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Chapter 1

170

1.1 170.guide

Texified version of data for Nepal.

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Nepal

1.2 170.guide/Nepal

Nepal

Geography (Nepal)
 People (Nepal)
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 Economy (Nepal)
 Economy (Nepal 2. usage)
 Communications (Nepal)
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1.3 170.guide/Geography (Nepal)

Geography (Nepal)

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Location:

South Asia, in the Himalayas, between China and India

Map references:

Asia, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

140,800 km²

land area:

136,800 km²

comparative area: slightly larger than Arkansas

Land boundaries:

total 2,926 km, China 1,236 km, India 1,690 km

Coastline:

0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims:

none; landlocked

International disputes:

none

Climate:

varies from cool summers and severe winters in north to subtropical summers and mild winters in south

Terrain:

Terai or flat river plain of the Ganges in south, central hill region, rugged Himalayas in north

Natural resources:

quartz, water, timber, hydroelectric potential, scenic beauty, small deposits of lignite, copper, cobalt, iron ore

Land use:

arable land:

17%

permanent crops:

0%

meadows and pastures:

13%

forest and woodland:

33%

other:

37%

Irrigated land:
9,430 km² (1989)

Environment:
contains eight of world's 10 highest peaks; deforestation; soil erosion;
water pollution

Note:
landlocked; strategic location between China and India

1.4 170.guide/People (Nepal)

People (Nepal)

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Population:
20,535,466 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:
2.43% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:
37.99 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Death rate:
13.66 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Net migration rate:
0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Infant mortality rate:
85.8 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:
total population:
51.98 years male:
51.84 years
female:
52.12 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:
5.33 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality:
noun:
Nepalese (singular and plural)
adjective:
Nepalese

Ethnic divisions:
Newars, Indians, Tibetans, Gurungs, Magars, Tamangs, Bhotias, Rais, Limbus,
Sherpas

Religions:
Hindu 90%, Buddhist 5%, Muslim 3%, other 2% (1981)
note:
only official Hindu state in world, although no sharp distinction between
many Hindu and Buddhist groups

Languages:
Nepali (official), 20 languages divided into numerous dialects

Literacy:
age 15 and over can read and write (1990)
total population:
26%

male:
 38%
 female:
 13%
 Labor force:
 8.5 million (1991 est.)
 by occupation:
 agriculture 93%, services 5%, industry 2%
 note:
 severe lack of skilled labor

1.5 170.guide/Government (Nepal)

Government (Nepal)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Kingdom of Nepal
 conventional short form:
 Nepal
 Digraph:
 NP
 Type:
 parliamentary democracy as of 12 May 1991
 Capital:
 Kathmandu
 Administrative divisions:
 14 zones (anchal, singular and plural); Bagmati, Bheri, Dhawalagiri,
 Gandaki, Janakpur, Karnali, Kosi, Lumbini, Mahakali, Mechi, Narayani, Rapti ↔
 ,
 Sagarmatha, Seti
 Independence: 1768 (unified by Prithvi Narayan Shah)
 Constitution:
 9 November 1990
 Legal system:
 based on Hindu legal concepts and English common law; has not accepted
 compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
 National holiday:
 Birthday of His Majesty the King, 28 December (1945)
 Political parties and leaders:
 ruling party:
 Nepali Congress Party (NCP), Party president Krishna Prasad BHATTARAI, ↔
 Prime
 Minister Girija Prasad KOIRALA, Ganesh Man SINGH
 center:
 the NDP has two factions: National Democratic Party/Chand (NDP/Chand),
 Lokendra Bahadur CHAND; and National Democratic Party/Thapa (NDP/Thapa),
 Surya Bahadur THAPA; Terai Rights Sadbhavana (Goodwill) Party, Gayendra
 Narayan SINGH
 Communist:
 Communist Party of Nepal/United Marxist and Leninist (CPN/UML), Man Mohan
 ADIKHARY; United People's Front (UPF), N. K. PRASAI, Lila Mani POKHAREL;

Nepal Workers and Peasants Party, leader NA; Rohit Party, N. M. BIJUKCHHE;
 Democratic Party, leader NA
 note:
 the two factions of the NDP announced a merger in late 1991
 Other political or pressure groups:
 numerous small, left-leaning student groups in the capital; several small,
 radical Nepalese antimonarchist groups
 Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal
 Elections:
 House of Representatives:
 last held on 12 May 1991 (next to be held May 1996); results - NCP 38%,
 CPN/UML 28%, NDP/Chand 6%, UPF 5%, NDP/Thapa 5%, Terai Rights Sadbhavana
 Party 4%, Rohit 2%, CPN (Democratic) 1%, independents 4%, other 7%; seats -
 (205 total) NCP 110, CPN/UML 69, UPF 9, Terai Rights Sadbhavana Party 6,
 NDP/Chand 3, Rohit 2, CPN (Democratic) 2, NDP/Thapa 1, independents 3; note
 - the new Constitution of 9 November 1990 gave Nepal a multiparty democracy
 system for the first time in 32 years
 Executive branch:
 monarch, prime minister, Council of Ministers
 Legislative branch:
 bicameral Parliament consists of an upper house or National Council and a
 lower house or House of Representatives

1.6 170.guide/Government (Nepal 2. usage)

Government (Nepal 2. usage)

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Judicial branch:
 Supreme Court (Sarbochha Adalat)
 Leaders:
 Chief of State:
 King BIRENDRA Bir Bikram Shah Dev (since 31 January 1972, crowned King 24
 February 1985); Heir Apparent Crown Prince DIPENDRA Bir Bikram Shah Dev, ←
 son
 of the King (born 21 June 1971)
 Head of Government: Prime Minister Girija Prasad KOIRALA (since 29 May ←
 1991)
 Member of:
 AsDB, CCC, CP, ESCAP, FAO, G-77, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO,
 INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, LORCS, NAM, SAARC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO,
 UNIFIL, UNPROFOR, UPU, WFTU, WHO, WMO, WTO
 Diplomatic representation in US:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador Yog Prasad UPADHYAYA
 chancery:
 2131 Leroy Place NW, Washington, DC 20008
 telephone:
 (202) 667-4550
 consulate general:
 New York
 US diplomatic representation:

chief of mission:

Ambassador Julia Chang BLOCH

embassy:

Pani Pokhari, Kathmandu

mailing address:

use embassy street address

telephone:

[977] (1) 411179 or 412718, 411604, 411613, 413890

FAX:

[977] (1) 419963

Flag:

red with a blue border around the unique shape of two overlapping right triangles; the smaller, upper triangle bears a white stylized moon and the larger, lower triangle bears a white 12-pointed sun

1.7 170.guide/Economy (Nepal)

Economy (Nepal)

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Overview:

Nepal is among the poorest and least developed countries in the world. Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy, providing a livelihood for over 90% of the population and accounting for 60% of GDP. Industrial activity is limited, mainly involving the processing of agricultural produce (jute, sugarcane, tobacco, and grain). Production of textiles and carpets has expanded recently and accounted for 85% of foreign exchange earnings in FY91. Apart from agricultural land and forests, exploitable natural resources are mica, hydropower, and tourism. Agricultural production in the late 1980s grew by about 5%, as compared with annual population growth of 2.6%. More than 40% of the population is undernourished partly because of poor distribution. The top 10% of the population receives 47% of total income, the bottom 20% less than 5% of the total. Since May 1991, the government has been encouraging trade and foreign investment, e.g., by eliminating business licenses and registration requirements in order to simplify domestic and foreign investment. The government also has been cutting public expenditures by reducing subsidies, privatizing state industries, and laying off civil servants. Prospects for foreign trade and investment in the 1990s remain poor, however, because of the small size of the economy, its technological backwardness, and its remoteness.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$3.4 billion (FY92)

National product real growth rate:

3.1% (FY92)

National product per capita:

\$170 (FY92)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

14% (November 1992)

Unemployment rate:

5% (1987); underemployment estimated at 25-40%

Budget:

revenues \$308.0 million; expenditures \$672.0 million, including capital expenditures of \$396 million (FY92 est.)

Exports:

\$313 million (f.o.b., FY92 est.) but does not include unrecorded border trade with India

commodities:

carpets, clothing, leather goods, jute goods, grain

partners:

US, Germany, India, UK

Imports:

\$751 million (c.i.f., FY92 est.)

commodities:

petroleum products 20%, fertilizer 11%, machinery 10%

partners:

India, Singapore, Japan, Germany

External debt:

\$2 billion (FY92 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate 6% (FY91 est.); accounts for 7% of GDP

Electricity:

300,000 kW capacity; 1,000 million kWh produced, 50 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

small rice, jute, sugar, and oilseed mills; cigarette, textile, carpet, cement, and brick production; tourism

Agriculture:

accounts for 60% of GDP and 90% of work force; farm products - rice, corn, wheat, sugarcane, root crops, milk, buffalo meat; not self-sufficient in food, particularly in drought years

1.8 170.guide/Economy (Nepal 2. usage)

Economy (Nepal 2. usage)

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Illicit drugs:

illicit producer of cannabis for the domestic and international drug markets; probable transit point for heroin from Southeast Asia to the West

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$304 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1980-89), \$2,230 million; ← OPEC

bilateral aid (1979-89), \$30 million; Communist countries (1970-89), \$286 million

Currency:

1 Nepalese rupee (NR) = 100 paisa

Exchange rates:

Nepalese rupees (NRs) per US\$1 - 43.200 (January 1993), 42.742 (1992), 37.255 (1991), 29.370 (1990), 27.189 (1989), 23.289 (1988)

Fiscal year: 16 July - 15 July

1.9 170.guide/Communications (Nepal)

Communications (Nepal)

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Railroads:

52 km (1990), all 0.762-meter narrow gauge; all in Terai close to Indian border; 10 km from Raxaul to Birganj is government owned

Highways:

7,080 km total (1990); 2,898 km paved, 1,660 km gravel or crushed stone; also 2,522 km of seasonally motorable tracks

Airports:

total:

37

usable:

37

with permanent-surface runways:

5

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

1

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

8

Telecommunications:

poor telephone and telegraph service; fair radio communication and broadcast

service; international radio communication service is poor; 50,000 telephones (1990); broadcast stations - 88 AM, no FM, 1 TV; 1 Indian Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.10 170.guide/Defense Forces (Nepal)

Defense Forces (Nepal)

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Branches:

Royal Nepalese Army, Royal Nepalese Army Air Service, Nepalese Police Force

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 4,849,109; fit for military service 2,517,385; reach military age (17) annually 234,060 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$34 million, 2% of GDP (FY91/92)