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Chapter 1

198

1.1 198.guide

Texified version of data for Reunion.

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Reunion

1.2 198.guide/Reunion

Reunion

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

1.3 198.guide/Header (Reunion)

Header (Reunion)
=====

Affiliation:
 (overseas department of France)

1.4 198.guide/Geography (Reunion)

Geography (Reunion)
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Location:
 Southern Africa, in the western Indian Ocean, 750 km east of Madagascar
Map references:
 World
Area:
 total area:
 2,510 km2
 land area:
 2,500 km2
 comparative area:
 slightly smaller than Rhode Island
Land boundaries:
 0 km
Coastline:
 201 km
Maritime claims:
 exclusive economic zone:
 200 nm
 territorial sea:
 12 nm
International disputes:
 none
Climate:

tropical, but moderates with elevation; cool and dry from May to November,
hot and rainy from November to April

Terrain:
mostly rugged and mountainous; fertile lowlands along coast

Natural resources:
fish, arable land

Land use:
arable land:
20%
permanent crops:
2%
meadows and pastures:
4%
forest and woodland:
35%
other:
39%

Irrigated land:
60 km2 (1989 est.)

Environment:
periodic devastating cyclones

1.5 198.guide/People (Reunion)

People (Reunion)

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Population:
639,622 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:
2.07% (1993 est.)

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

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

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

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

Life expectancy at birth:
total population:
73.68 years
male:
70.61 years
female:
76.91 years (1993 est.)

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

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

Ethnic divisions:
 French, African, Malagasy, Chinese, Pakistani, Indian
 Religions:
 Roman Catholic 94%
 Languages:
 French (official), Creole widely used
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1982)
 total population:
 69%
 male:
 67%
 female:
 74%
 Labor force:
 NA
 by occupation:
 agriculture 30%, industry 21%, services 49% (1981)
 note:
 63% of population of working age (1983)

1.6 198.guide/Government (Reunion)

Government (Reunion)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Department of Reunion
 conventional short form:
 Reunion
 local long form:
 none
 local short form:
 Ile de la Reunion
 Digraph:
 RE
 Type:
 overseas department of France
 Capital:
 Saint-Denis
 Administrative divisions:
 none (overseas department of France)
 Independence:
 none (overseas department of France)
 Constitution:
 28 September 1958 (French Constitution)
 Legal system:
 French law
 National holiday:
 Taking of the Bastille, 14 July (1789)
 Political parties and leaders:
 Rally for the Republic (RPR), Francois MAS; Union for French Democracy

(UDF), Gilbert GERARD; Communist Party of Reunion (PCR), Paul VERGES; France-Reunion Future (FRA), Andre THIEN AH KOON; Socialist Party (PS), Jean-Claude FRUTEAU; Social Democrats (CDS); other small parties

Suffrage:
18 years of age; universal

Elections:

General Council:
last held 22 March 1991 (next to be held March 1997); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (44 total)

Regional Council:
last held 28 March 1992 (next to be held NA March 1998); results - UDF 25.6%, PRC 17.9%, PS 10.5%, Independent 30.7%, other 15.3%; seats - (45 total) Independent 17, UDF 14, PRC 9, PS 5

French Senate:
last held 24 September 1989 (next to be held NA September 1993); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (3 total) RPR-UDF 1, PS 1, independent 1

French National Assembly:
last held 5 and 12 June 1988 (next to be held NA June 1993); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (5 total) PCR 2, RPR 1, UDF-CDS 1, FRA 1; note - Reunion elects 3 members to the French Senate and 5 members to the French National Assembly who are voting members

Executive branch:
French president, commissioner of the Republic

Legislative branch:
unicameral General Council and unicameral Regional Council

Judicial branch:
Court of Appeals (Cour d'Appel)

Leaders:
Chief of State:
President Francois MITTERRAND (since 21 May 1981)

1.7 198.guide/Government (Reunion 2. usage)

Government (Reunion 2. usage)

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Head of Government:
Commissioner of the Republic Jacques DEWATRE (since NA July 1991)

Member of:
FZ

Diplomatic representation in US:
as an overseas department of France, Reunionese interests are represented in the US by France ↔

Flag:
the flag of France is used

1.8 198.guide/Economy (Reunion)

Economy (Reunion)

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Overview:

The economy has traditionally been based on agriculture. Sugarcane has been the primary crop for more than a century, and in some years it accounts for 85% of exports. The government has been pushing the development of a ←
tourist

industry to relieve high unemployment, which recently amounted to one-third of the labor force. The gap in Reunion between the well-off and the poor is extraordinary and accounts for the persistent social tensions. The white ←
and

Indian communities are substantially better off than other segments of the population, often approaching European standards, whereas indigenous groups suffer the poverty and unemployment typical of the poorer nations of the African continent. The outbreak of severe rioting in February 1991 illustrates the seriousness of socioeconomic tensions. The economic well-being of Reunion depends heavily on continued financial assistance ←
from

France.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$3.37 billion (1987 est.)

National product real growth rate:

9% (1987 est.)

National product per capita:

\$6,000 (1987 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

1.3% (1988)

Unemployment rate:

35% (February 1991)

Budget:

revenues \$358 million; expenditures \$914 million, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1986)

Exports:

\$166 million (f.o.b., 1988)

commodities:

sugar 75%, rum and molasses 4%, perfume essences 4%, lobster 3%, vanilla ←
and
tea 1%

partners:

France, Mauritius, Bahrain, South Africa, Italy

Imports:

\$1.7 billion (c.i.f., 1988)

commodities:

manufactured goods, food, beverages, tobacco, machinery and transportation equipment, raw materials, and petroleum products

partners:

France, Mauritius, Bahrain, South Africa, Italy

External debt:

\$NA

Industrial production: growth rate NA%; about 25% of GDP

Electricity:

245,000 kW capacity; 750 million kWh produced, 1,230 kWh per capita (1991)

Industries:

sugar, rum, cigarettes, several small shops producing handicraft items

Agriculture:

accounts for 30% of labor force; dominant sector of economy; cash crops - sugarcane, vanilla, tobacco; food crops - tropical fruits, vegetables, corn ↔
;
imports large share of food needs

Economic aid:

Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$14.8 billion

Currency:

1 French franc (F) = 100 centimes

1.9 198.guide/Economy (Reunion 2. usage)

Economy (Reunion 2. usage)

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Exchange rates:

French francs (F) per US\$1 - 5.4812 (January 1993), 5.2938 (1992), 5.6421 (1991), 5.4453 (1990), 6.3801 (1989), 5.9569 (1988)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

1.10 198.guide/Communications (Reunion)

Communications (Reunion)

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Highways:

2,800 km total; 2,200 km paved, 600 km gravel, crushed stone, or stabilized earth

Ports:

Pointe des Galets

Airports:

total:

2

usable:

2

with permanent-surface runways:

2

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runway 2,440-3,659 m:

1

with runway 1,220-2,439 m:

1

Telecommunications:

adequate system; modern open-wire and microwave network; principal center Saint-Denis; radiocommunication to Comoros, France, Madagascar; new microwave route to Mauritius; 85,900 telephones; broadcast stations - 3 AM, 13 FM, 1 (18 repeaters) TV; 1 Indian Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.11 198.guide/Defense Forces (Reunion)

Defense Forces (Reunion)
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Branches:

French Forces (including Army, Navy, Air Force, Gendarmerie)

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 167,925; fit for military service 86,764; reach military ←
age

(18) annually 5,975 (1993 est.)

Note:

defense is the responsibility of France