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Chapter 1

47

1.1 47.guide

Texified version of data for Central African Republic.

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Central African Republic

1.2 47.guide/Central African Republic

Central African Republic

Geography (Central African Republic)
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 Government (Central African Republic)
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 Economy (Central African Republic)
 Economy (Central African Republic 2. usage)
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1.3 47.guide/Geography (Central African Republic)

Geography (Central African Republic)

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Location:

Central Africa, between Chad and Zaire

Map references:

Africa, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

622,980 km²

land area:

622,980 km²

comparative area:

slightly smaller than Texas

Land boundaries:

total 5,203 km, Cameroon 797 km, Chad 1,197 km, Congo 467 km, Sudan 1,165 km, Zaire 1,577 km

Coastline:

0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims:

none; landlocked

International disputes:

none

Climate:

tropical; hot, dry winters; mild to hot, wet summers

Terrain:

vast, flat to rolling, monotonous plateau; scattered hills in northeast and southwest

Natural resources:

diamonds, uranium, timber, gold, oil

Land use:

arable land:

3%

permanent crops:

0%

meadows and pastures:

5%

forest and woodland:

64%

other:

28%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km2
 Environment:
 hot, dry, dusty harmattan winds affect northern areas; poaching has
 diminished reputation as one of last great wildlife refuges; ↔
 desertification
 Note:
 landlocked; almost the precise center of Africa

1.4 47.guide/People (Central African Republic)

People (Central African Republic)

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Population:
 3,073,979 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 2.23% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 42.77 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 20.49 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 138.7 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 42.94 years
 male:
 41.46 years
 female:
 44.45 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 5.47 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Central African(s)
 adjective:
 Central African
 Ethnic divisions:
 Baya 34%, Banda 27%, Sara 10%, Mandjia 21%, Mboum 4%, M'Baka 4%, Europeans
 6,500 (including 3,600 French)
 Religions:
 indigenous beliefs 24%, Protestant 25%, Roman Catholic 25%, Muslim 15%,
 other 11%
 note:
 animistic beliefs and practices strongly influence the Christian majority
 Languages:
 French (official), Sangho (lingua franca and national language), Arabic,
 Hunsu, Swahili
 Literacy:

age 15 and over can read and write (1990)
 total population:
 27%
 male:
 33%
 female:
 15%
 Labor force:
 775,413 (1986 est.)
 by occupation:
 agriculture 85%, commerce and services 9%, industry 3%, government 3%
 note:
 about 64,000 salaried workers; 55% of population of working age (1985)

1.5 47.guide/Government (Central African Republic)

Government (Central African Republic)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Central African Republic
 conventional short form:
 none
 local long form:
 Republique Centrafricaine
 local short form:
 none
 former:
 Central African Empire
 Abbreviation:
 CAR
 Digraph:
 CT
 Type:
 republic; one-party presidential regime since 1986
 Capital:
 Bangui
 Administrative divisions:
 14 prefectures (prefectures, singular - prefecture), 2 economic prefectures ←
 *, (prefectures
 economiques, singular - prefecture economique), and 1
 commune**; Bamingui-Bangoran, Bangui** Basse-Kotto, Gribingui*, Haute-Kotto ←
 ,, Haute-Sangha,
 Haut-Mbomou, Kemo-Gribingui, Lobaye, Mbomou, Nana-Mambere,
 Ombella-Mpoko, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Pende, Sangha*, Vakaga, Independence:
 13 August 1960 (from France)
 Constitution:
 21 November 1986
 Legal system:
 based on French law
 National holiday:
 National Day, 1 December (1958) (proclamation of the republic)

Political parties and leaders:

Central African Democratic Party (RDC), the government party, Laurent GOMINA-PAMPALI; Council of Moderates Coalition includes; Union of the People for Economic and Social Development (UPDS), Katossy SIMANI; Liberal Republican Party (PARELI), Augustin M'BOE; Central African Socialist Movement (MSCA), Michel BENGUE; Concerted Democratic Forces (CFD), a coalition of 13 parties, including; Alliance for Democracy and Progress (ADP), Francois PEHOUA; Central African Republican party (PRC), Ruth ROLLAND; Social Democratic Party (PSD), Enoch DERANT-LAKOUE; Civic Forum (FC), Gen. Timothee MALENDOMA; Liberal Democratic Party (PLD), Nestor KOMBOT-NAGUEMON

Suffrage:

21 years of age; universal

Elections:

President:

last held 25 October 1992; widespread irregularities at some polls led to dismissal of results by Supreme Court; elections are rescheduled for 17 October 1993

National Assembly: last held 25 October 1992; widespread irregularities at some polls led to dismissal of results by Supreme Court; elections are rescheduled for 17 October 1993

Executive branch:

president, prime minister, Council of Ministers (cabinet)

1.6 47.guide/Government (Central African Republic 2. usage)

Government (Central African Republic 2. usage)

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Legislative branch:

unicameral National Assembly (Assemblée Nationale) advised by the Economic and Regional Council (Conseil Economique et Regional); when they sit together this is known as the Congress (Congres)

Judicial branch:

Supreme Court (Cour Supreme)

Leaders:

Chief of State:

President Andre-Dieudonne KOLINGBA (since 1 September 1981)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister Enoch DERANT-LAKOUE (since 2 March 1993)

Member of:

ACCT, ACP, AfDB, BDEAC, CCC, CEEAC, ECA, FAO, FZ, G-77, GATT, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, INTELSTAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, LORCS, NAM, OAU, UDEAC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WHO, WIPO, WMO

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Flag:

four equal horizontal bands of blue (top), white, green, and yellow with a vertical red band in center; there is a yellow five-pointed star on the hoist side of the blue band

1.7 47.guide/Economy (Central African Republic)

Economy (Central African Republic)

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Overview:

Subsistence agriculture, including forestry, is the backbone of the CAR economy, with more than 70% of the population living in the countryside. In 1988 the agricultural sector generated about 40% of GDP. Agricultural products accounted for about 60% of export earnings and the diamond ← industry

for 30%. Important constraints to economic development include the CAR's landlocked position, a poor transportation system, and a weak human ← resource

base. Multilateral and bilateral development assistance, particularly from France, plays a major role in providing capital for new investment.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$1.3 billion (1990 est.)

National product real growth rate:

-3% (1990 est.)

National product per capita:

\$440 (1990 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

-3% (1990 est.)

Unemployment rate:

30% (1988 est.) in Bangui

Budget:

revenues \$175 million; expenditures \$312 million, including capital expenditures of \$122 million (1991 est.)

Exports:

\$138 million (1991 est.)

commodities:

diamonds, cotton, coffee, timber, tobacco

partners:

France, Belgium, Italy, Japan, US

Imports:

\$205 million (1991 est.)

commodities:
 food, textiles, petroleum products, machinery, electrical equipment, motor vehicles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, consumer goods, industrial products

partners:
 France, other EC countries, Japan, Algeria

External debt:
 \$859 million (1991)

Industrial production:
 growth rate 4% (1990 est.); accounts for 14% of GDP

Electricity:
 40,000 kW capacity; 95 million kWh produced, 30 kWh per capita (1991)

Industries:
 diamond mining, sawmills, breweries, textiles, footwear, assembly of bicycles and motorcycles

Agriculture:
 accounts for 40% of GDP; self-sufficient in food production except for grain; commercial crops - cotton, coffee, tobacco, timber; food crops - manioc, yams, millet, corn, bananas

Economic aid:
 US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-90), \$52 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-90), \$1.6 billion; OPEC bilateral aid (1979-89), \$6 million; Communist countries (1970-89), \$38 million

Currency:
 1 CFA franc (CFAF) = 100 centimes

Exchange rates:
 Communauté Financière Africaine francs (CFAF) per US\$1 - 274.06 (January 1993), 264.69 (1992), 282.11 (1991), 272.26 (1990), 319.01 (1989), 297.85 (1988)

1.8 47.guide/Economy (Central African Republic 2. usage)

Economy (Central African Republic 2. usage)

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Fiscal year:
 calendar year

1.9 47.guide/Communications (Central African Republic)

Communications (Central African Republic)

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Highways:
 22,000 km total; 458 km bituminous, 10,542 km improved earth, 11,000 unimproved earth

Inland waterways:
 800 km; traditional trade carried on by means of shallow-draft dugouts;

Oubangui is the most important river

Airports:

- total: 66
- usable: 51
- with permanent-surface runways: 3
- with runways over 3,659 m: 0
- with runways 2,440-3,659 m: 2
- with runways 1,220-2,439 m: 20

Telecommunications:

- fair system; network relies primarily on radio relay links, with low-capacity, low-powered radiocommunication also used; broadcast stations ↔
-
- 1 AM, 1 FM, 1 TV; 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.10 47.guide/Defense Forces (Central African Republic)

Defense Forces (Central African Republic)

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Branches:

- Central African Army (including Republican Guard), Air Force, National Gendarmerie, Police Force

Manpower availability:

- males age 15-49 685,575; fit for military service 358,836 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

- exchange rate conversion - \$23 million, 1.8% of GDP (1989 est.)