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Chapter 1

24

1.1 24.guide

Texified version of data for Belarus.

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Belarus

1.2 24.guide/Belarus

Belarus

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

1.3 24.guide/Geography (Belarus)

Geography (Belarus)
 =====

Location:
 Eastern Europe, between Poland and Russia
 Map references:
 Asia, Commonwealth of Independent States - European States, Europe, ↔
 Standard
 Time Zones of the World
 Area:
 total area:
 207,600 km2
 land area:
 207,600 km2
 comparative area:
 slightly smaller than Kansas
 Land boundaries: total 3,098 km, Latvia 141 km, Lithuania 502 km, Poland ↔
 605 km, Russia 959
 km, Ukraine 891 km
 Coastline:
 0 km (landlocked)
 Maritime claims:
 none; landlocked
 International disputes:
 none
 Climate:
 mild and moist; transitional between continental and maritime
 Terrain:
 generally flat and contains much marshland
 Natural resources:
 forest land, peat deposits
 Land use:
 arable land:
 29%
 permanent crops:
 0%
 meadows and pastures:
 15%
 forest and woodland:
 0%

other:
 56%
 Irrigated land:
 1,490 km2 (1990)
 Environment:
 southern part of Belarus highly contaminated with fallout from 1986 nuclear
 reactor accident at Chornobyl'
 Note:
 landlocked

1.4 24.guide/People (Belarus)

People (Belarus)

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Population:
 10,370,269 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 0.34% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 13.28 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 11.1 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 1.26 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 19.2 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 70.73 years
 male:
 66.04 years
 female:
 75.66 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 1.89 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Belarusian(s)
 adjective:
 Belarusian
 Ethnic divisions:
 Belarusian 77.9%, Russian 13.2%, Polish 4.1%, Ukrainian 2.9%, other 1.9%
 Religions:
 Eastern Orthodox NA%, other NA%
 Languages:
 Byelorussian, Russian, other
 Literacy:
 age 9-49 can read and write (1970)
 total population:
 100%
 male:
 100%

female:
 100%
 Labor force:
 5.418 million
 by occupation:
 industry and construction 42%, agriculture and forestry 20%, other 38%
 (1990)

1.5 24.guide/Government (Belarus)

Government (Belarus)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Republic of Belarus
 conventional short form:
 Belarus
 local long form:
 Respublika Belarus
 local short form:
 none
 former:
 Belorussian (Byelorussian) Soviet Socialist Republic
 Digraph:
 BO
 Type:
 republic
 Capital:
 Minsk
 Administrative divisions:
 6 oblasts (voblastsi, singular - voblasts') and one municipality* (harady,, ←
 singular - horad);
 Brestskaya, Homyel'skaya, Minsk*, Hrodzyenskaya,, Mahilyowskaya, Minskaya, ←
 Vitsyebskaya
 note:
 each voblasts' has the same name as its administrative center
 Independence:
 25 August 1991 (from Soviet Union)
 Constitution:
 adopted NA April 1978
 Legal system:
 based on civil law system
 National holiday:
 24 August (1991)
 Political parties and leaders:
 Belarusian Popular Front (BPF), Zenon PAZNYAK, chairman; United Democratic
 Party of Belarus (UDPB), Aleksandr DOBROVOLSKIY, chairman; Social ←
 Democratic
 Party of Belarus (SDBP), Mikhail TKACHEV, chairman; Belarus Workers Union,
 Mikhail SOBOL, Chairman; Belarus Peasants Party; Party of People's Unity,
 Gennadiy KARPENKO; Communist Party of Belarus
 Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal
 Elections:
 Supreme Soviet:
 last held 4 April 1990 (next to be held NA); results - Communists 87%; ←
 seats
 - (360 total) number of seats by party NA; note - 50 seats are for public
 bodies; the Communist Party obtained an overwhelming majority
 Executive branch:
 chairman of the Supreme Soviet, chairman of the Council of Ministers; note ←
 -
 Belarus has approved a directly elected presidency but so far no elections
 have been scheduled
 Legislative branch:
 unicameral Supreme Soviet
 Judicial branch:
 Supreme Court
 Leaders:
 Chief of State:
 Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Stanislav S. SHUSHKEVICH (since 18 September
 1991)
 Head of Government:
 Prime Minister Vyacheslav F. KEBICH (since NA April 1990), First Deputy
 Prime Minister Mikhail MYASNIKOVICH (since NA 1991)

1.6 24.guide/Government (Belarus 2. usage)

Government (Belarus 2. usage)

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Member of:
 CBSS (observer), CIS, CSCE, ECE, IAEA, IBRD, ILO, IMF, INMARSAT, IOC, ITU,
 NACC, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WHO, WIPO, WMO
 Diplomatic representation in US:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador Designate Sergey Nikolayevich MARTYNOV
 chancery:
 1511 K Street NW, Suite 619, Washington, DC 20036
 telephone:
 (202) 638-2954
 US diplomatic representation:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador David H. SWARTZ
 embassy:
 Starovilenskaya #46, Minsk
 mailing address:
 APO AE 09862 telephone:
 7-0172-34-65-37
 Flag:
 three horizontal bands of white (top), red, and white

1.7 24.guide/Economy (Belarus)

Economy (Belarus)

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Overview:

In many ways Belarus resembles the three Baltic states, for example, in its industrial competence, its higher-than-average standard of living, and its critical dependence on the other former Soviet states for fuels and raw materials. Belarus ranks fourth in gross output among the former Soviet republics, having produced 4% of the total GDP and employing 4% of the labor

force in the old USSR. Once a mainly agricultural area, it now supplies important producer and consumer goods – sometimes as the sole producer – to the other states. Belarus had a significant share of the machine-building capacity of the former USSR. It is especially noted for production of tractors, large trucks, machine tools, and automation equipment. The soil in

Belarus is not as fertile as the black earth of Ukraine, but by emphasizing favorable crops and livestock (especially pigs and chickens), Belarus has become a net exporter to the other former republics of meat, milk, eggs, flour, and potatoes. Belarus produces only small amounts of oil and gas and receives most of its fuel from Russia through the Druzhba oil pipeline and the Northern Lights gas pipeline. These pipelines transit Belarus en route to Eastern Europe. Belarus produces petrochemicals, plastics, synthetic fibers (nearly 30% of former Soviet output), and fertilizer (20% of former Soviet output). Raw material resources are limited to potash and peat deposits. The peat (more than one-third of the total for the former Soviet Union) is used in domestic heating, as boiler fuel for electric power stations, and in the production of chemicals. The potash supports fertilizer

production. In 1992 GDP fell an estimated 13%, largely because the country is highly dependent on the ailing Russian economy for raw materials and parts.

National product:

GDP \$NA

National product real growth rate:

-13% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$NA

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

30% per month (first quarter 1993)

Unemployment rate:

0.5% of officially registered unemployed; large numbers of underemployed workers

Budget:

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

Exports:

\$1.1 billion to outside of the successor states of the former USSR (f.o.b., 1992)

commodities:

machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, foodstuffs

partners:

NA

Imports: \$751 million from outside the successor states of the former USSR ←
 (c.i.f.,
 1992)
 commodities:
 machinery, chemicals, textiles
 partners:
 NA
 External debt:
 \$2.6 billion (end of 1991)
 Industrial production:
 growth rate -9.6%; accounts for about 50% of GDP (1992)

1.8 24.guide/Economy (Belarus 2. usage)

Economy (Belarus 2. usage)

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Electricity:
 8,025,000 kW capacity; 37,600 million kWh produced, 3,626 kWh per capita
 (1992)
 Industries:
 employ about 27% of labor force and produce a wide variety of products
 essential to the other states; products include (in percent share of total
 output of former Soviet Union): tractors (12%); metal-cutting machine tools
 (11%); off-highway dump trucks up to 110-metric-ton load capacity (100%);
 wheel-type earthmovers for construction and mining (100%); eight-
 wheel-drive, high-flotation trucks with cargo capacity of 25 metric tons ←
 for
 use in tundra and roadless areas (100%); equipment for animal husbandry and
 livestock feeding (25%); motorcycles (21.3%); television sets (11%);
 chemical fibers (28%); fertilizer (18%); linen fabric (11%); wool fabric
 (7%); radios; refrigerators; and other consumer goods
 Agriculture:
 accounts for almost 25% of GDP and 5.7% of total agricultural output of
 former Soviet Union; employs 20% of the labor force; in 1988 produced the
 following (in percent of total Soviet production): grain (3.6%), potatoes
 (12.2%), vegetables (3.0%), meat (6.0%), milk (7.0%); net exporter of meat,
 milk, eggs, flour, potatoes
 Illicit drugs:
 illicit producer of opium and cannabis; mostly for the domestic market;
 transshipment point for illicit drugs to Western Europe
 Economic aid:
 NA
 Currency:
 1 rubel (abbreviation NA) = 10 Russian rubles
 note:
 the rubel circulates with the Russian ruble; certain purchase are made only
 with rubels; government has established a different, and varying, exchange
 rate for trade between Belarus and Russia
 Exchange rates:
 NA
 Fiscal year:
 calendar year

1.9 24.guide/Communications (Belarus)

Communications (Belarus)

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Railroads: 5,570 km; does not include industrial lines (1990)
 Highways:
 98,200 km total; 66,100 km hard surfaced, 32,100 km earth (1990)
 Inland waterways:
 NA km
 Pipelines:
 crude oil 1,470 km, refined products 1,100 km, natural gas 1,980 km (1992)
 Ports:
 none; landlocked
 Merchant marine:
 claims 5% of former Soviet fleet
 Airports:
 total:
 124
 useable:
 55
 with permanent-surface runways:
 31
 with runways over 3,659 m:
 1
 with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
 28
 with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
 20
 Telecommunications:
 construction of NMT-450 analog cellular network proceeding in Minsk, in addition to installation of some 300 km of fiber optic cable in the city network; telephone network has 1.7 million lines, 15% of which are switched automatically; Minsk has 450,000 lines; telephone density is approximately 17 per 100 persons; as of 1 December 1991, 721,000 applications from households for telephones were still unsatisfied; international connections to other former Soviet republics are by landline or microwave and to other countries by leased connection through the Moscow international gateway switch; Belarus has not constructed ground stations for international telecommunications via satellite to date

1.10 24.guide/Defense Forces (Belarus)

Defense Forces (Belarus)

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Branches:

Army, Air Forces, Air Defense Forces, Security Forces (internal and border troops)

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 2,491,039; fit for military service 1,964,577; reach military age (18) annually 71,875 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

56.5 billion rubles, NA% of GDP (1993 est.); note - conversion of the military budget into US dollars using the current exchange rate could produce misleading results