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WRITTEN BY		August 10, 2024	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

102

1.1 102.guide

Texified version of data for Guyana.

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Guyana

1.2 102.guide/Guyana

Guyana

Geography (Guyana)
 People (Guyana)
 Government (Guyana)
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1.3 102.guide/Geography (Guyana)

Geography (Guyana)

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Location:

Northern South America, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean between Suriname and Venezuela

Map references:

South America, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

214,970 km²

land area:

196,850 km²

comparative area:

slightly smaller than Idaho

Land boundaries:

total 2,462 km, Brazil 1,119 km, Suriname 600 km, Venezuela 743 km

Coastline:

459 km

Maritime claims:

continental shelf:

200 nm or the outer edge of continental margin

exclusive fishing zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

all of the area west of the Essequibo River claimed by Venezuela; Suriname claims area between New (Upper Courantyne) and Courantyne/Koetari Rivers (all headwaters of the Courantyne)

Climate:

tropical; hot, humid, moderated by northeast trade winds; two rainy seasons (May to mid-August, mid-November to mid-January)

Terrain:

mostly rolling highlands; low coastal plain; savanna in south

Natural resources:

bauxite, gold, diamonds, hardwood timber, shrimp, fish

Land use:

arable land:

3%

permanent crops:
 0%
 meadows and pastures:
 6%
 forest and woodland:
 83%
 other:
 8%
 Irrigated land:
 1,300 km2 (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 flash floods a constant threat during rainy seasons; water pollution

1.4 102.guide/People (Guyana)

People (Guyana)

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Population:
 734,640 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 -0.68% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 20.47 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 7.39 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -19.89 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 49.3 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 64.7 years
 male:
 61.46 years
 female:
 68.1 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 2.35 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun: Guyanese (singular and plural)
 adjective:
 Guyanese
 Ethnic divisions:
 East Indian 51%, black and mixed 43%, Amerindian 4%, European and Chinese ←
 2%
 Religions:
 Christian 57%, Hindu 33%, Muslim 9%, other 1%
 Languages:
 English, Amerindian dialects
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over having ever attended school (1990)
 total population:

95%
 male:
 98%
 female:
 96%
 Labor force:
 268,000
 by occupation:
 industry and commerce 44.5%, agriculture 33.8%, services 21.7%
 note:
 public-sector employment amounts to 60-80% of the total labor force (1985)

1.5 102.guide/Government (Guyana)

Government (Guyana)

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Names:

conventional long form:
 Co-operative Republic of Guyana
 conventional short form:

Guyana

former:

British Guiana

Digraph:

GY

Type:

republic

Capital:

Georgetown

Administrative divisions:

10 regions; Barima-Waini, Cuyuni-Mazaruni, Demerara-Mahaica, East Berbice-Corentyne, Essequibo Islands-West Demerara, Mahaica-Berbice, Pomeroun-Supenaam, Potaro-Siparuni, Upper Demerara-Berbice, Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo

Independence:

26 May 1966 (from UK)

Constitution:

6 October 1980

Legal system:

based on English common law with certain admixtures of Roman-Dutch law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

National holiday:

Republic Day, 23 February (1970)

Political parties and leaders: People's National Congress (PNC), Hugh ←
 Desmond HOYTE; People's

Progressive

Party (PPP), Cheddi JAGAN; Working People's Alliance (WPA), Eusi KWAYANA, Rupert ROOPNARINE; Democratic Labor Movement (DLM), Paul TENNASSEE; People' ←
 s

Democratic Movement (PDM), Llewellyn JOHN; National Democratic Front (NDF), Joseph BACCHUS; The United Force (TUF), Manzoor NADIR; United Republican Party (URP), Leslie RAMSAMMY; National Republican Party (NRP), Robert

GANGADEEN; Guyana Labor Party (GLP), Nanda GOPAUL
 Other political or pressure groups:
 Trades Union Congress (TUC); Guyana Council of Indian Organizations (GCIO);
 Civil Liberties Action Committee (CLAC)
 note:
 the latter two organizations are small and active but not well organized
 Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal
 Elections:
 Executive President:
 last held on 5 October 1992; results - Cheddi JAGAN was elected president
 since he was leader of the party with the most votes in the National
 Assembly elections
 National Assembly:
 last held on 5 October 1992 (next to be held in 1997); results - PPP 53.4%,
 PNC 42.3%, WPA 2%, TUF 1.2%; seats - (65 total, 53 elected) PPP 36, PNC 26,
 WPA 2, TUF 1
 Executive branch:
 executive president, first vice president, prime minister, first deputy
 prime minister, Cabinet
 Legislative branch:
 unicameral National Assembly
 Judicial branch:
 Supreme Court of Judicature

1.6 102.guide/Government (Guyana 2. usage)

Government (Guyana 2. usage)

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Leaders:
 Chief of State:
 Executive President Cheddi JAGAN (since 5 October 1992); First Vice
 President Sam HINDS (since 5 October 1992)
 Head of Government:
 Prime Minister Sam HINDS (since 5 October 1992)
 Member of:
 ACP, C, CARICOM, CCC, CDB, ECLAC, FAO, G-77, GATT, IADB, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU,
 IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, LAES, LORCS, NAM, OAS,
 UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO, WMO
 Diplomatic representation in US:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador Dr. Odeen ISHMAEL
 chancery:
 2490 Tracy Place NW, Washington, DC 20008
 telephone:
 (202) 265-6900
 consulate general:
 New York
 US diplomatic representation:
 chief of mission: Ambassador George Jones
 embassy:
 99-100 Young and Duke Streets, Georgetown

mailing address:

P. O. Box 10507, Georgetown

telephone:

[592] (2) 54900 through 54909 and 57960 through 57969

FAX:

[592] (2) 58497

Flag:

green with a red isosceles triangle (based on the hoist side) superimposed on a long yellow arrowhead; there is a narrow black border between the red and yellow, and a narrow white border between the yellow and the green

1.7 102.guide/Economy (Guyana)

Economy (Guyana)

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Overview:

Guyana is one of the world's poorest countries with a per capita income ←
less

than one-fifth the South American average. After growing on average at less than 1% a year in 1986-87, GDP dropped by 5% a year in 1988-90. The decline resulted from bad weather, labor trouble in the cane fields, and flooding and equipment problems in the bauxite industry. Consumer prices rose about 100% in 1989 and 75% in 1990, and the current account deficit widened substantially as sugar and bauxite exports fell. Moreover, electric power has been in short supply and constitutes a major barrier to future gains in national output. The government, in association with international ←
financial

agencies, seeks to reduce its payment arrears and to raise new funds. The government's stabilization program - aimed at establishing realistic exchange rates, reasonable price stability, and a resumption of growth - requires considerable public administrative abilities and continued ←
patience

by consumers during a long incubation period. Buoyed by a recovery in ←
mining

and agriculture, the economy posted 6% growth in 1991 and 7% growth in ←
1992,

according to official figures. A large volume of illegal and quasi-legal economic activity is not captured in estimates of the country's total output.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$267.5 million (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

7% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$370 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

15% (1992)

Unemployment rate:

12%-15% (1991 est.)

Budget:

revenues \$121 million; expenditures \$225 million, including capital expenditures of \$50 million (1990 est.)

Exports:

\$268 million (f.o.b., 1992 est.)

commodities:

sugar, bauxite/alumina, rice, gold, shrimp, molasses, timber, rum

partners:

UK 28%, US 25%, FRG 8%, Canada 7%, Japan 6% (1989)

Imports:

\$242.4 million (f.o.b., 1990 est.)

commodities:

manufactures, machinery, food, petroleum

partners:

US 40%, Trinidad & Tobago 13%, UK 11%, Japan 5%, Netherland Antilles 3% (1989)

External debt:

\$2 billion including arrears (1990)

Industrial production:

growth rate 12% (1990 est.); accounts for about 24% of GDP

Electricity:

253,500 kW capacity; 276 million kWh produced, 370 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

bauxite mining, sugar, rice milling, timber, fishing (shrimp), textiles, gold mining

Agriculture:

most important sector, accounting for 25% of GDP and about half of exports; sugar and rice are key crops; development potential exists for fishing and forestry; not self-sufficient in food, especially wheat, vegetable oils, ←
and
animal products

1.8 102.guide/Economy (Guyana 2. usage)

Economy (Guyana 2. usage)

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Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$116 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$325 million; Communist countries 1970-89, \$242 million

Currency:

1 Guyanese dollar (G\$) = 100 cents

Exchange rates:

Guyanese dollars (G\$) per US\$1 - 125.8 (January 1993) 125.0 (1992), 111.8 (1991), 39.533 (1990), 27.159 (1989), 10.000 (1988)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

1.9 102.guide/Communications (Guyana)

Communications (Guyana)

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Railroads:

187 km total, all single track 0.914-meter gauge

Highways:

7,665 km total; 550 km paved, 5,000 km gravel, 1,525 km earth, 590 km unimproved

Inland waterways:

6,000 km total of navigable waterways; Berbice, Demerara, and Essequibo Rivers are navigable by oceangoing vessels for 150 km, 100 km, and 80 km, respectively

Ports:

Georgetown, New Amsterdam

Merchant marine:

1 cargo ship (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 1,317 GRT/2,558 DWT

Airports: total:

53

usable:

48

with permanent-surface runways:

5

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

0

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

13

Telecommunications:

fair system with radio relay network; over 27,000 telephones; tropospheric scatter link to Trinidad; broadcast stations - 4 AM, 3 FM, no TV, 1 shortwave; 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.10 102.guide/Defense Forces (Guyana)

Defense Forces (Guyana)

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Branches:

Guyana Defense Force (GDF; including the Ground Forces, Coast Guard and Air Corps), Guyana People's Militia (GPM), Guyana National Service (GNS)

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 196,960; fit for military service 149,583 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

\$NA, NA% of GDP