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Chapter 1

101

1.1 101.guide

Texified version of data for Guinea-Bissau.

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Guinea-Bissau

1.2 101.guide/Guinea-Bissau

Guinea-Bissau

Geography (Guinea-Bissau)
People (Guinea-Bissau)
Government (Guinea-Bissau)
Government (Guinea-Bissau 2. usage)
Economy (Guinea-Bissau)
Communications (Guinea-Bissau)
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1.3 101.guide/Geography (Guinea-Bissau)

Geography (Guinea-Bissau)
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Location:

Western Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean between Guinea and Senegal

Map references:

Africa, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

36,120 km²

land area:

28,000 km²

comparative area:

slightly less than three times the size of Connecticut

Land boundaries:

total 724 km, Guinea 386 km, Senegal 338 km

Coastline:

350 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 12 November 1991 rendered its decision on the Guinea-Bissau/Senegal maritime boundary in favor of Senegal

Climate:

tropical; generally hot and humid; monsoonal-type rainy season (June to November) with southwesterly winds; dry season (December to May) with northeasterly harmattan winds

Terrain:

mostly low coastal plain rising to savanna in east

Natural resources:

unexploited deposits of petroleum, bauxite, phosphates, fish, timber

Land use:

arable land:

11%

permanent crops:

1%

meadows and pastures:

43%
 forest and woodland:
 38%
 other:
 7%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km2
 Environment:
 hot, dry, dusty harmattan haze may reduce visibility during dry season

1.4 101.guide/People (Guinea-Bissau)

People (Guinea-Bissau)

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Population:
 1,072,439 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 2.38% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 41.26 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 17.45 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 122.1 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 47.03 years
 male:
 45.38 years
 female:
 48.73 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 5.6 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Guinea-Bissauan(s)
 adjective:
 Guinea-Bissauan
 Ethnic divisions:
 African 99% (Balanta 30%, Fula 20%, Manjaca 14%, Mandinga 13%, Papel 7%),
 European and mulatto less than 1%
 Religions:
 indigenous beliefs 65%, Muslim 30%, Christian 5%
 Languages:
 Portuguese (official), Criolo, African languages
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1990)
 total population:
 36%
 male:

50%
 female:
 24%
 Labor force:
 403,000 (est.)
 by occupation:
 agriculture 90%, industry, services, and commerce 5%, government 5%
 note:
 population of working age 53% (1983)

1.5 101.guide/Government (Guinea-Bissau)

Government (Guinea-Bissau)

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Names:

conventional long form:
 Republic of Guinea-Bissau
 conventional short form:
 Guinea-Bissau
 local long form:
 Republica de Guine-Bissau
 local short form:
 Guine-Bissau

former:

Portuguese Guinea

Digraph:

PU

Type:

republic highly centralized multiparty since mid-1991; the African Party ↔
 for
 the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde (PAIGC) held an
 extraordinary party congress in December 1990 and established a two-year
 transition program during which the constitution will be revised, allowing
 for multiple political parties and a presidential election in 1993

Capital:

Bissau

Administrative divisions:

9 regions (regioes, singular - regio); Bafata, Biombo, Bissau, Bolama,
 Cacheu, Gabu, Oio, Quinara, Tombali

Independence:

10 September 1974 (from Portugal)

Constitution:

16 May 1984

Legal system:

NA

National holiday:

Independence Day, 10 September (1974)

Political parties and leaders:

African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde (PAIGC),
 President Joao Bernardo VIEIRA, leader; Democratic Social Front (FDS),
 Rafael BARBOSA, leader; Bafata Movement, Domingos Fernandes GARNER, leader;
 Democratic Front, Aristides MENEZES, leader

note:
 PAIGC is still the major party (of 10 parties) and controls all aspects of the government

Suffrage:
 15 years of age; universal

Elections:
 National People's Assembly:
 last held 15 June 1989 (next to be held 15 June 1994); results - PAIGC is the only party; seats - (150 total) PAIGC 150, appointed by Regional Councils

President of Council of State:
 last held 19 June 1989 (next to be held NA 1993); results - Gen. Joao Bernardo VIEIRA was reelected without opposition by the National People's Assembly

Executive branch:
 president of the Council of State, vice presidents of the Council of State, Council of State, Council of Ministers (cabinet)

Legislative branch: unicameral National People's Assembly (Assembleia ← Nacional Popular)

Judicial branch:
 none; there is a Ministry of Justice in the Council of Ministers

1.6 101.guide/Government (Guinea-Bissau 2. usage)

Government (Guinea-Bissau 2. usage)

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Leaders:
 Chief of State and Head of Government:
 President of the Council of State Gen. Joao Bernardo VIEIRA (assumed power 14 November 1980 and elected President of Council of State on 16 May 1984)

Member of:
 ACCT (associate), ACP, AfDB, ECA, ECOWAS, FAO, G-77, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, IOM (observer), ITU, LORCS, NAM, OAU, OIC, UN, UNAVEM II, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNOMOZ, UPU, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

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Flag:

two equal horizontal bands of yellow (top) and green with a vertical red band on the hoist side; there is a black five-pointed star centered in the red band; uses the popular pan-African colors of Ethiopia; similar to the flag of Cape Verde, which has the black star raised above the center of the red band and is framed by two corn stalks and a yellow clam shell

1.7 101.guide/Economy (Guinea-Bissau)

Economy (Guinea-Bissau)

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Overview:

Guinea-Bissau ranks among the poorest countries in the world, with a per capita GDP of roughly \$200. Agriculture and fishing are the main economic activities. Cashew nuts, peanuts, and palm kernels are the primary exports. Exploitation of known mineral deposits is unlikely at present because of a weak infrastructure and the high cost of development. The government's four-year plan (1988-91) targeted agricultural development as the top priority.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$210 million (1991 est.)

National product real growth rate: 2.3% (1991 est.)

National product per capita:

\$210 (1991 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

55% (1991 est.)

Unemployment rate:

NA%

Budget:

revenues \$33.6 million; expenditures \$44.8 million, including capital expenditures of \$.57 million (1991 est.)

Exports:

\$20.4 million (f.o.b., 1991 est.)

commodities:

cashews, fish, peanuts, palm kernels

partners:

Portugal, Senegal, France, The Gambia, Netherlands, Spain

Imports:

\$63.5 million (f.o.b., 1991 est.)

commodities:

capital equipment, consumer goods, semiprocessed goods, foods, petroleum

partners:

Portugal, Netherlands, Senegal, USSR, Germany

External debt:

\$462 million (December 1990 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate 1.0% (1989 est.); accounts for 10% of GDP (1989 est.)

Electricity:

22,000 kW capacity; 30 million kWh produced, 30 kWh per capita (1991)

Industries:

agricultural processing, beer, soft drinks

Agriculture:

accounts for over 50% of GDP, nearly 100% of exports, and 90% of employment ←
;

rice is the staple food; other crops include corn, beans, cassava, cashew nuts, peanuts, palm kernels, and cotton; not self-sufficient in food; fishing and forestry potential not fully exploited

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$49 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$615 million; OPEC bilateral aid (1979-89), \$41 million; Communist countries (1970-89), \$68 million

Currency:

1 Guinea-Bissauan peso (PG) = 100 centavos

Exchange rates:

Guinea-Bissauan pesos (PG) per US\$1 - 1987.2 (1989), 1363.6 (1988), 851.65 (1987), 238.98 (1986)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

1.8 101.guide/Communications (Guinea-Bissau)

Communications (Guinea-Bissau)

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Highways:

3,218 km; 2,698 km bituminous, remainder earth

Inland waterways:

scattered stretches are important to coastal commerce

Ports:

Bissau

Airports:

total:

33

usable:

15

with permanent-surface runways:

4

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

1

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

5

Telecommunications:

poor system of radio relay, open-wire lines, and radiocommunications; 3,000 telephones; broadcast stations - 2 AM, 3 FM, 1 TV

1.9 101.guide/Defense Forces (Guinea-Bissau)

Defense Forces (Guinea-Bissau)

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Branches:

People's Revolutionary Armed Force (FARP; including Army, Navy, Air Force),
paramilitary force

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 235,931; fit for military service 134,675 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$9.3 million, 5%-6% of GDP (1987)