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Chapter 1

263

1.1 263.guide

Texified version of data for Zaire.

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Zaire

1.2 263.guide/Zaire

Zaire

Geography (Zaire)
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1.3 263.guide/Geography (Zaire)

Geography (Zaire)

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Location:

Central Africa, between Congo and Zambia

Map references:

Africa, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

2,345,410 km²

land area:

2,267,600 km²

comparative area:

slightly more than one-quarter the size of US

Land boundaries:

total 10,271 km, Angola 2,511 km, Burundi 233 km, Central African Republic

1,577 km, Congo 2,410 km, Rwanda 217 km, Sudan 628 km, Uganda 765 km, ←

Zambia

1,930 km

Coastline:

37 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive fishing zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

Tanzania-Zaire-Zambia tripoint in Lake Tanganyika may no longer be indefinite since it is reported that the indefinite section of the Zaire-Zambia boundary has been settled; long section with Congo along the Congo River is indefinite (no division of the river or its islands has been made)

Climate:

tropical; hot and humid in equatorial river basin; cooler and drier in southern highlands; cooler and wetter in eastern highlands; north of ← Equator

- wet season April to October, dry season December to February; south of Equator - wet season November to March, dry season April to October

Terrain:

vast central basin is a low-lying plateau; mountains in east

Natural resources:

cobalt, copper, cadmium, petroleum, industrial and gem diamonds, gold,
silver, zinc, manganese, tin, germanium, uranium, radium, bauxite, iron ore ←
/
coal, hydropower potential

Land use:

arable land:
3%
permanent crops:
0%
meadows and pastures:
4%
forest and woodland:
78%
other:
15%

Irrigated land:

100 km² (1989 est.)

Environment: dense tropical rain forest in central river basin and eastern ←
highlands;
periodic droughts in south

Note:

straddles Equator; very narrow strip of land that controls the lower Congo
River and is only outlet to South Atlantic Ocean

1.4 263.guide/People (Zaire)

People (Zaire)

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Population:

41,345,738 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:

3.2% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:

48.43 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Death rate:

16.91 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Net migration rate:

0.52 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Infant mortality rate:

113.2 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population:

47.26 years

male:

45.45 years

female:

49.12 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:

6.7 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality:

noun:

Zairian(s)
 adjective:
 Zairian
 Ethnic divisions:
 over 200 African ethnic groups, the majority are Bantu; four largest tribes
 – Mongo, Luba, Kongo (all Bantu), and the Mangbetu-Azande (Hamitic) make up
 about 45% of the population
 Religions:
 Roman Catholic 50%, Protestant 20%, Kimbanguist 10%, Muslim 10%, other
 syncretic sects and traditional beliefs 10%
 Languages:
 French, Lingala, Swahili, Kingwana, Kikongo, Tshiluba
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1990)
 total population:
 72%
 male:
 84%
 female:
 61%
 Labor force:
 15 million (13% of the labor force is wage earners; 51% of the population ←
 is
 of working age)
 by occupation:
 agriculture 75%, industry 13%, services 12% (1985)

1.5 263.guide/Government (Zaire)

Government (Zaire)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Republic of Zaire
 conventional short form:
 Zaire
 local long form:
 Republique du Zaire
 local short form:
 Zaire
 former:
 Belgian Congo Congo/Leopoldville Congo/Kinshasa
 Digraph:
 CG
 Type:
 republic with a strong presidential system
 Capital:
 Kinshasa
 Administrative divisions:
 10 regions (regions, singular – region) and 1 town* (ville); Bandundu,, ←
 Bas-Zaire, Equateur,
 Haut-Zaire, Kasai-Occidental, Kasai-Oriental,

Kinshasa*, Maniema, Nord-Kivu, Shaba, Sud-Kivu, Independence:
 30 June 1960 (from Belgium)

Constitution:
 24 June 1967, amended August 1974, revised 15 February 1978; amended April 1990; new constitution to be put to referendum in 1993

Legal system:
 based on Belgian civil law system and tribal law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

National holiday:
 Anniversary of the Regime (Second Republic), 24 November (1965)

Political parties and leaders:
 sole legal party until January 1991 – Popular Movement of the Revolution (MPR); other parties include Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS) ↔

Etienne TSHISEKEDI wa Mulumba; Democratic Social Christian Party (PDSC), Joseph ILEO; Union of Federalists and Independent Republicans (UFERI), NGUZ a Karl-I-Bond; Unified Lumumbast Party (PALU), leader NA

Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal and compulsory

Elections:
 President:
 last held 29 July 1984 (next to be scheduled by High Council, the opposition-controlled transition legislature); results – President MOBUTU was reelected without opposition

Legislative Council:
 last held 6 September 1987 (next to be scheduled by High Council); results ↔

–

MPR was the only party; seats – (210 total) MPR 210; note – MPR still holds majority of seats but some deputies have joined other parties

Executive branch: president, prime minister, Executive Council (cabinet)

Legislative branch:
 unicameral National Parliament; anti-Mobutu opposition claims National Parliament replaced by High Council

Judicial branch:
 Supreme Court (Cour Supreme)

Leaders:
 Chief of State:
 President Marshal MOBUTU Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu wa Za Banga (since 24 November 1965)

1.6 263.guide/Government (Zaire 2. usage)

Government (Zaire 2. usage)

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Head of Government:
 Interim Prime Minister Faustin BIRINDWA (since 18 March 1993)

Member of:
 ACCT, ACP, AfDB, CCC, CEEAC, CEPGL, ECA, FAO, G-19, G-24, G-77, GATT, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTELSTAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, LORCS, NAM, OAU, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WFTU ↔

WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

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chief of mission:

Ambassador TATANENE Manata

chancery:

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(202) 234-7690 or 7691

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chief of mission:

Deputy Chief of Mission John YATES

embassy:

310 Avenue des Aviateurs, Kinshasa

mailing address:

APO AE 09828

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[243] (12) 21532, 21628

FAX:

[243] (12) 21232

consulate general:

Lubumbashi (closed and evacuated in October 1991 because of the poor security situation)

Flag:

light green with a yellow disk in the center bearing a black arm holding a red flaming torch; the flames of the torch are blowing away from the hoist side; uses the popular pan-African colors of Ethiopia

1.7 263.guide/Economy (Zaire)

Economy (Zaire)

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Overview:

In 1992, Zaire's formal economy continued to disintegrate. While meaningful economic figures are difficult to come by, Zaire's hyperinflation, the largest government deficit ever, and plunging mineral production have made the country one of the world's poorest. Most formal transactions are conducted in hard currency as indigenous banknotes have lost almost all value, and a barter economy now flourishes in all but the largest cities. Most individuals and families hang on grimly through subsistence farming ← and

petty trade. The government has not been able to meet its financial obligations to the International Monetary Fund or put in place the financial measures advocated by the IMF. Although short-term prospects for improvement are dim, improved political stability would boost Zaire's long-term potential to effectively exploit its vast wealth of mineral and agricultural resources.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$9.2 billion (1992, at 1990 exchange rate)

National product real growth rate:

-6% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$235 (1992, at 1990 exchange rate)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

35-40% per month (1992 est.)
 Unemployment rate:
 NA%
 Budget:
 revenues \$NA, expenditures \$NA, including capital expenditures of \$NA
 Exports:
 \$1.5 billion (f.o.b., 1992 est.)
 commodities:
 copper, coffee, diamonds, cobalt, crude oil
 partners:
 US, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, South Africa
 Imports:
 \$1.2 billion (f.o.b., 1992 est.)
 commodities:
 consumer goods, foodstuffs, mining and other machinery, transport equipment ↔
 ,
 fuels
 partners:
 South Africa, US, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK
 External debt:
 \$9.2 billion (May 1992 est.)
 Industrial production:
 growth rate NA%
 Electricity:
 2,580,000 kW capacity; 6,000 million kWh produced, 160 kWh per capita ↔
 (1991)
 Industries:
 mining, mineral processing, consumer products (including textiles, footwear ↔
 ,
 and cigarettes), processed foods and beverages, cement, diamonds
 Agriculture:
 cash crops - coffee, palm oil, rubber, quinine; food crops - cassava,
 bananas, root crops, corn
 Illicit drugs:
 illicit producer of cannabis, mostly for domestic consumption
 Economic aid:
 US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$1.1 billion; Western (non-US)
 countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$6.9 billion; OPEC
 bilateral aid (1979-89), \$35 million; Communist countries (1970-89), \$263
 million; except for humanitarian aid to private organizations, no US
 assistance was given to Zaire in 1992

1.8 263.guide/Economy (Zaire 2. usage)

Economy (Zaire 2. usage)

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Currency:
 1 zaire (Z) = 100 makuta
 Exchange rates:
 zaire (Z) per US\$1 - 2,000,000 (January 1993), 15,587 (1991), 719 (1990), ↔
 381
 (1989), 187 (1988), 112 (1987)

Fiscal year:
calendar year

1.9 263.guide/Communications (Zaire)

Communications (Zaire)

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Railroads:

5,254 km total; 3,968 km 1.067-meter gauge (851 km electrified); 125 km 1.000-meter gauge; 136 km 0.615-meter gauge; 1,025 km 0.600-meter gauge; limited trackage in use because of civil strife

Highways:

146,500 km total; 2,800 km paved, 46,200 km gravel and improved earth; 97,500 unimproved earth

Inland waterways:

15,000 km including the Congo, its tributaries, and unconnected lakes

Pipelines:

petroleum products 390 km

Ports:

Matadi, Boma, Banana

Merchant marine:

1 passenger cargo ship (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 15,489 GRT/13,481 DWT

Airports:

total:

281

usable:

235

with permanent-surface runways:

25

with runways over 3,659 m:

1

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

6

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

73

Telecommunications:

barely adequate wire and microwave service; broadcast stations - 10 AM, 4 FM, 18 TV; satellite earth stations - 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT, 14 ↔ domestic

1.10 263.guide/Defense Forces (Zaire)

Defense Forces (Zaire)

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Branches:

Army, Navy, Air Force, paramilitary National Gendarmerie, Civil Guard,

Special Presidential Division

Manpower availability: males age 15-49 8,879,731; fit for military service ↔
4,521,768 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$49 million, 0.8% of GDP (1988)