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Contents

1	71	1
1.1	71.guide	1
1.2	71.guide/El Salvador	1
1.3	71.guide/Geography (El Salvador)	2
1.4	71.guide/People (El Salvador)	3
1.5	71.guide/Government (El Salvador)	4
1.6	71.guide/Government (El Salvador 2. usage)	5
1.7	71.guide/Government (El Salvador 3. usage)	6
1.8	71.guide/Economy (El Salvador)	7
1.9	71.guide/Economy (El Salvador 2. usage)	8
1.10	71.guide/Communications (El Salvador)	8
1.11	71.guide/Defense Forces (El Salvador)	9

Chapter 1

71

1.1 71.guide

Texified version of data for El Salvador.

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El Salvador

1.2 71.guide/El Salvador

El Salvador

Geography (El Salvador)
 People (El Salvador)
 Government (El Salvador)
 Government (El Salvador 2. usage)
 Government (El Salvador 3. usage)
 Economy (El Salvador)
 Economy (El Salvador 2. usage)
 Communications (El Salvador)
 Defense Forces (El Salvador)

1.3 71.guide/Geography (El Salvador)

Geography (El Salvador)

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Location:

Central America, bordering the North Pacific Ocean between Guatemala and Honduras

Map references:

Central America and the Caribbean, North America, Standard Time Zones of the World ↔

Area:

total area:

21,040 km²

land area:

20,720 km²

comparative area:

slightly smaller than Massachusetts

Land boundaries:

total 545 km, Guatemala 203 km, Honduras 342 km

Coastline:

307 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea:

200 nm; overflight and navigation permitted beyond 12 nm

International disputes:

land boundary dispute with Honduras mostly resolved by 11 September 1992

International Court of Justice (ICJ) decision; ICJ referred the maritime boundary in the Golfo de Fonseca to an earlier agreement in this century ↔ and

advised that some tripartite resolution among El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua likely would be required

Climate:

tropical; rainy season (May to October); dry season (November to April)

Terrain:

mostly mountains with narrow coastal belt and central plateau

Natural resources:

hydropower, geothermal power, petroleum

Land use:

arable land:

27%
 permanent crops:
 8%
 meadows and pastures:
 29%
 forest and woodland:
 6%
 other:
 30%
 Irrigated land:
 1,200 km² (1989)
 Environment:
 the Land of Volcanoes; subject to frequent and sometimes very destructive
 earthquakes; deforestation; soil erosion; water pollution
 Note:
 smallest Central American country and only one without a coastline on
 Caribbean Sea

1.4 71.guide/People (El Salvador)

People (El Salvador)

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Population:
 5,636,524 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 2.04% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 33.12 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 6.53 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -6.21 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 42.8 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 66.5 years
 male:
 63.93 years
 female:
 69.2 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 3.87 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Salvadoran(s)
 adjective:
 Salvadoran
 Ethnic divisions:
 mestizo 94%, Indian 5%, white 1%
 Religions:
 Roman Catholic 75%

note:

Roman Catholic about 75%; there is extensive activity by Protestant groups throughout the country; by the end of 1992, there were an estimated 1 million Protestant evangelicals in El Salvador

Languages:

Spanish, Nahua (among some Indians)

Literacy:

age 15 and over can read and write (1990)

total population:

73%

male:

76%

female:

70%

Labor force:

1.7 million (1982 est.)

by occupation:

agriculture 40%, commerce 16%, manufacturing 15%, government 13%, financial services 9%, transportation 6%, other 1%

note:

shortage of skilled labor and a large pool of unskilled labor, but manpower training programs improving situation (1984 est.)

1.5 71.guide/Government (El Salvador)

Government (El Salvador)

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Names:

conventional long form:

Republic of El Salvador

conventional short form:

El Salvador

local long form:

Republica de El Salvador

local short form:

El Salvador

Digraph:

ES

Type:

republic

Capital:

San Salvador

Administrative divisions:

14 departments (departamentos, singular - departamento); Ahuachapan, Cabanas, Chalatenango, Cuscatlan, La Libertad, La Paz, La Union, Morazan, San Miguel, San Salvador, Santa Ana, San Vicente, Sonsonate, Usulután

Independence:

15 September 1821 (from Spain)

Constitution:

20 December 1983

Legal system:

based on civil and Roman law, with traces of common law; judicial review of

legislative acts in the Supreme Court; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations

National holiday:

Independence Day, 15 September (1821)

Political parties and leaders:

National Republican Alliance (Arena), Armando CALDERON Sol, president; Christian Democratic Party (PDC), Fidel CHAVEZ Mena, secretary general; National Conciliation Party (PCN), Ciro CRUZ Zepeda, president; Democratic Convergence (CD) is a coalition of three parties - the Social Democratic Party (PSD), Carlos Diaz BARRERA, secretary general; Democratic Nationalist Union (UDN), Mario AGUINADA Carranza, secretary general; and the Popular Social Christian Movement (MPSC), Dr. Ruben Ignacio ZAMORA Rivas; Authentic Christian Movement (MAC), Guillermo Antonia GUEVARA Lacayo, president; Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLM), Jorge Shafik HANDAL, general coordinator, has five factions - Popular Liberation Forces (FPL), Salvador SANCHEZ Ceren; Armed Forces of National Resistance (FARN), Ferman CIENFUEGOS; People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), Joaquin VILLA LOBOS Huezo; Salvadoran Communist Party/Armed Forces of Liberation (PCES/FAL), Jorge Shafik HANDAL; and

Central American Workers' Revolutionary Party (PRTC)/Popular Liberation Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARLP), Francisco JOVEL

Other political or pressure groups:

FMLN labor front organizations:

National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS), leftist umbrella front group, leads FMLN front network; National Federation of Salvadoran Workers (FENASTRAS), best organized of front groups and controlled by FMLN's National Resistance (RN); Social Security Institute Workers Union (STISSS), one of the most militant fronts, is controlled by FMLN's Armed Forces of National Resistance (FARN) and RN; Association of Telecommunications Workers (ASTTEL); Unitary Federation of Salvadoran Unions (FUSS), leftist; Treasury Ministry Employees (AGEMHA)

1.6 71.guide/Government (El Salvador 2. usage)

Government (El Salvador 2. usage)

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FMLN nonlabor front organizations:

Committee of Mothers and Families of Political Prisoners, Disappeared Persons, and Assassinated of El Salvador (COMADRES); Nongovernmental Human Rights Commission (CDHES); Committee of Dismissed and Unemployed of El Salvador (CODYDES); General Association of Salvadoran University Students (AGEUS); National Association of Salvadoran Educators (ANDES-21 DE JUNIO); Salvadoran Revolutionary Student Front (FERS), associated with the Popular Forces of Liberation (FPL); Association of National University Educators (ADUES); Salvadoran University Students Front (FEUS); Christian Committee for the Displaced of El Salvador (CRIPDES), an FPL front; The Association for Communal Development in El Salvador (PADECOES), controlled by the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP); Confederation of Cooperative ←

Associations

of El Salvador (COACES)

labor organizations:

Federation of Construction and Transport Workers Unions (FESINCONSTRANS), independent; Salvadoran Communal Union (UCS), peasant association; Democratic Workers Central (CTD), moderate; General Confederation of Workers (CGT), moderate; National Union of Workers and Peasants (UNOC), moderate labor coalition of democratic labor organizations; United Workers Front (FUT)

business organizations:
 National Association of Private Enterprise (ANEP), conservative; Productive Alliance (AP), conservative; National Federation of Salvadoran Small Businessmen (FENAPES), conservative

Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal

Elections:
 Legislative Assembly:
 last held 10 March 1991 (next to be held March 1994); results - ARENA ← 44.3%, PDC 27.96%, CD 12.16%, PCN 8.99%, MAC 3.23%, UDN 2.68%; seats - (84 total) ARENA 39, PDC 26, PCN 9, CD 8, UDN 1, MAC 1

President:
 last held 19 March 1989 (next to be held March 1994); results - Alfredo CRISTIANI (ARENA) 53.8%, Fidel CHAVEZ Mena (PDC) 36.6%, other 9.6%

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

Legislative branch:
 unicameral Legislative Assembly (Asamblea Legislativa)

Judicial branch:
 Supreme Court (Corte Suprema)

Leaders:
 Chief of State and Head of Government:
 President (Felix) Alfredo CRISTIANI Buchard (since 1 June 1989); Vice President (Jose) Francisco MERINO Lopez (since 1 June 1989)

Member of:
 BCIE, CACM, ECLAC, FAO, G-77, GATT, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTELSAT, IOC, IOM, ITU, LAES, LAIA (observer), LORCS, NAM (observer), OAS, OPANAL, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO

Diplomatic representation in US: chief of mission:
 Ambassador Miguel Angel SALAVERRIA
 chancery:
 2308 California Street NW, Washington, DC 20008
 telephone:
 (202) 265-9671 through 3482
 consulates general:
 Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, and San Francisco

1.7 71.guide/Government (El Salvador 3. usage)

Government (El Salvador 3. usage)

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US diplomatic representation:
 chief of mission:

Charge d'Affaires Peter F. ROMERO
 embassy:
 Final Boulevard, Station Antigua Cuscatlan, San Salvador
 mailing address:
 APO AA 34023
 telephone:
 [503] 78-4444
 FAX:
 [503] 78-6011

Flag:

three equal horizontal bands of blue (top), white, and blue with the national coat of arms centered in the white band; the coat of arms features a round emblem encircled by the words REPUBLICA DE EL SALVADOR EN LA AMERICA

CENTRAL; similar to the flag of Nicaragua, which has a different coat of arms centered in the white band - it features a triangle encircled by the words REPUBLICA DE NICARAGUA on top and AMERICA CENTRAL on the bottom; also similar to the flag of Honduras, which has five blue stars arranged in an X pattern centered in the white band

1.8 71.guide/Economy (El Salvador)

Economy (El Salvador)

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Overview:

The agricultural sector accounts for 24% of GDP, employs about 40% of the labor force, and contributes about 66% to total exports. Coffee is the major

commercial crop, accounting for 45% of export earnings. The manufacturing sector, based largely on food and beverage processing, accounts for 18% of GDP and 15% of employment. Economic losses because of guerrilla sabotage total more than \$2 billion since 1979. The costs of maintaining a large military seriously constrain the government's efforts to provide essential social services. Nevertheless, growth in national output during the period 1990-92 exceeded growth in population for the first time since 1987.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$5.9 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

4.6% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$1,060 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

17% (1992 est.)

Unemployment rate:

7.5% (1991)

Budget:

revenues \$846 million; expenditures \$890 million, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1992 est.)

Exports:

\$693 million (f.o.b., 1992 est.)

commodities:

coffee 45%, sugar, shrimp, cotton

partners:
 US 33%, Guatemala, Germany, Costa Rica

Imports:
 \$1.47 billion (c.i.f., 1992 est.)

commodities:
 raw materials, consumer goods, capital goods

partners:
 US 43%, Guatemala, Mexico, Venezuela, Germany

External debt:
 \$2.6 billion (December 1992)

Industrial production:
 growth rate 4.7% (1991); accounts for 22% of GDP

Electricity:
 713,800 kW capacity; 2,190 million kWh produced, 390 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:
 food processing, beverages, petroleum, nonmetallic products, tobacco, chemicals, textiles, furniture

Agriculture:
 accounts for 24% of GDP and 40% of labor force (including fishing and forestry); coffee most important commercial crop; other products - sugarcane, corn, rice, beans, oilseeds, beef, dairy products, shrimp; not self-sufficient in food

Illicit drugs:
 transshipment point for cocaine

Economic aid:
 US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-90), \$2.95 billion, plus \$250 million for 1992-96; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$525 million

Currency:
 1 Salvadoran colon (C) = 100 centavos

1.9 71.guide/Economy (El Salvador 2. usage)

Economy (El Salvador 2. usage)

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Exchange rates:
 Salvadoran colones (C) per US\$1 - 8.7600 (January 1993), 9.1700 (1992), 8.0300 (1991), fixed rate of 5.000 (1986-1989)

Fiscal year:
 calendar year

1.10 71.guide/Communications (El Salvador)

Communications (El Salvador)

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Railroads:

602 km 0.914-meter gauge, single track; 542 km in use
Highways:
10,000 km total; 1,500 km paved, 4,100 km gravel, 4,400 km improved and unimproved earth
Inland waterways:
Rio Lempa partially navigable
Ports:
Acajutla, Cutuco
Airports:
total:
105
usable:
74
with permanent-surface runways:
5
with runways over 3,659 m:
0
with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
1
with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
5
Telecommunications:
nationwide trunk microwave radio relay system; connection into Central American Microwave System; 116,000 telephones (21 telephones per 1,000 persons); broadcast stations - 77 AM, no FM, 5 TV, 2 shortwave; 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.11 71.guide/Defense Forces (El Salvador)

Defense Forces (El Salvador)

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Branches:
Army, Navy, Air Force
Manpower availability:
males age 15-49 1,305,853; fit for military service 836,192; reach military age (18) annually 71,101 (1993 est.)
Defense expenditures:
exchange rate conversion - \$104 million, 3%-4% of GDP (1993 est.)