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Chapter 1

212

1.1 212.guide

Texified version of data for Seychelles.

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Seychelles

1.2 212.guide/Seychelles

Seychelles

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

1.3 212.guide/Geography (Seychelles)

Geography (Seychelles)

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Location:
in the western Indian Ocean northeast of Madagascar
Map references:
Africa, Standard Time Zones of the World
Area:
total area:
455 km²
land area:
455 km²
comparative area:
slightly more than 2.5 times the size of Washington, DC
Land boundaries:
0 km
Coastline:
491 km
Maritime claims:
continental shelf:
200 nm or the edge of continental margin
exclusive economic zone:
200 nm
territorial sea:
12 nm
International disputes:
claims Tromelin Island
Climate:
tropical marine; humid; cooler season during southeast monsoon (late May to September); warmer season during northwest monsoon (March to May)
Terrain:
Mahe Group is granitic, narrow coastal strip, rocky, hilly; others are coral, flat, elevated reefs
Natural resources:
fish, copra, cinnamon trees
Land use:
arable land:
4%
permanent crops:
18%

meadows and pastures:
 0%
 forest and woodland:
 18%
 other:
 60%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km2
 Environment:
 lies outside the cyclone belt, so severe storms are rare; short droughts
 possible; no fresh water - catchments collect rain; 40 granitic and about 50
 coralline islands ←

1.4 212.guide/People (Seychelles)

People (Seychelles)

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Population:
 71,494 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 0.88% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 22.35 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 7.12 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -6.43 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 12.1 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 69.26 years
 male:
 65.56 years
 female:
 73.07 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 2.3 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Seychellois (singular and plural)
 adjective:
 Seychelles
 Ethnic divisions:
 Seychellois (mixture of Asians, Africans, Europeans)
 Religions:
 Roman Catholic 90%, Anglican 8%, other 2%
 Languages:
 English (official), French (official), Creole
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1971)

total population:
 58%
 male:
 56%
 female:
 60%
 Labor force:
 27,700 (1985)
 by occupation:
 industry and commerce 31%, services 21%, government 20%, agriculture,
 forestry, and fishing 12%, other 16% (1985)
 note:
 57% of population of working age (1983)

1.5 212.guide/Government (Seychelles)

Government (Seychelles)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Republic of Seychelles
 conventional short form:
 Seychelles
 Digraph:
 SE
 Type:
 republic
 Capital:
 Victoria
 Administrative divisions:
 23 administrative districts; Anse aux Pins, Anse Boileau, Anse Etoile, Anse
 Louis, Anse Royale, Baie Lazare, Baie Sainte Anne, Beau Vallon, Bel Air, ↵
 Bel
 Ombre, Cascade, Glacis, Grand' Anse (on Mahe Island), Grand' Anse (on
 Praslin Island), La Digue, La Riviere Anglaise, Mont Buxton, Mont Fleuri,
 Plaisance, Pointe Larue, Port Glaud, Saint Louis, Takamaka
 Independence:
 29 June 1976 (from UK)
 Constitution:
 5 June 1979
 note:
 new constitution now being drafted by multiparty conference, to take effect
 in mid-1993
 Legal system:
 based on English common law, French civil law, and customary law
 National holiday:
 Liberation Day, 5 June (1977) (anniversary of coup)
 Political parties and leaders:
 ruling party - Seychelles People's Progressive Front (SPPF), France Albert
 RENE; Democratic Party (DP), Sir James MANCHAM; Seychelles Party (PS), ↵
 Wavel
 RAMKALAWAN; Seychelles Democratic Movement (MSPD), Jacques HONDOUL;

Seychelles Liberal Party (SLP), Ogilvie BERLOUIS
 Other political or pressure groups:
 trade unions; Roman Catholic Church
 Suffrage:
 17 years of age; universal
 Elections:
 note:
 presidential and legislative elections are scheduled to be held once the
 new, multiparty constitution is ratified later this year
 President:
 last held 9-11 June 1989 (next to be held NA 1993); results - President
 France Albert RENE reelected without opposition
 People's Assembly:
 last held 5 December 1987 (next to be held mid-1993); results - SPPF was ←
 the
 only legal party; seats - (25 total, 23 elected) SPPF 23
 Executive branch:
 president, Council of Ministers
 Legislative branch:
 unicameral People's Assembly (Assemblée du Peuple)
 Judicial branch:
 Court of Appeal, Supreme Court
 Leaders:
 Chief of State and Head of Government:
 President France Albert RENE (since 5 June 1977)

1.6 212.guide/Government (Seychelles 2. usage)

Government (Seychelles 2. usage)

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Member of:
 ACCT, ACP, AfDB, C, ECA, FAO, G-77, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF,
 IMO, INTERPOL, IOC, NAM, OAU, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WHO, WMO ←
 ,
 WTO
 Diplomatic representation in US:
 chief of mission:
 Second Secretary, Charge d'Affaires ad interim Marc R. MARENGO
 chancery:
 (temporary) 820 Second Avenue, Suite 900F, New York, NY 10017
 telephone:
 (212) 687-9766
 US diplomatic representation:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador Matthew F. MATTINGLY
 embassy:
 4th Floor, Victoria House, Victoria
 mailing address:
 Victoria House, Box 251, Victoria, Mahe, or Box 148, Unit 62501, APO AE
 09815-2501
 telephone:
 (248) 25256

FAX:

(248) 25189

Flag:

three horizontal bands of red (top), white (wavy), and green; the white ←
band

is the thinnest, the red band is the thickest

1.7 212.guide/Economy (Seychelles)

Economy (Seychelles)

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Overview:

In this small, open, tropical island economy, the tourist industry employs about 30% of the labor force and provides more than 70% of hard currency earnings. In recent years the government has encouraged foreign investment in order to upgrade hotels and other services. At the same time, the government has moved to reduce the high dependence on tourism by promoting the development of farming, fishing, and small-scale manufacturing.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$350 million (1991 est.)

National product real growth rate:

-4.5% (1991 est.)

National product per capita:

\$5,200 (1991 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

1.8% (1990 est.)

Unemployment rate:

9% (1987)

Budget:

revenues \$180 million; expenditures \$202 million, including capital expenditures of \$32 million (1989)

Exports:

\$40 million (f.o.b., 1990 est.)

commodities:

fish, copra, cinnamon bark, petroleum products (reexports)

partners:

France 63%, Pakistan 12%, Reunion 10%, UK 7% (1987)

Imports:

\$186 million (f.o.b., 1990 est.)

commodities:

manufactured goods, food, tobacco, beverages, machinery and transportation equipment, petroleum products

partners:

UK 20%, France 14%, South Africa 13%, Yemen 13%, Singapore 8%, Japan 6% (1987)

External debt:

\$189 million (1991 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate 7% (1987); accounts for 10% of GDP

Electricity:

30,000 kW capacity; 80 million kWh produced, 1,160 kWh per capita (1991)

Industries:

tourism, processing of coconut and vanilla, fishing, coir rope factory, ←
 boat
 building, printing, furniture, beverage
 Agriculture:
 accounts for 7% of GDP, mostly subsistence farming; cash crops - coconuts,
 cinnamon, vanilla; other products - sweet potatoes, cassava, bananas;
 broiler chickens; large share of food needs imported; expansion of tuna
 fishing under way
 Economic aid:
 US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY78-89), \$26 million; Western (non-US)
 countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1978-89), \$315 million; OPEC
 bilateral aid (1979-89), \$5 million; Communist countries (1970-89), \$60
 million
 Currency:
 1 Seychelles rupee (SRe) = 100 cents
 Exchange rates:
 Seychelles rupees (SRe) per US\$1 - 5.2545 (January 1993), 5.1220 (1992),
 5.2893 (1991), 5.3369 (1990), 5.6457 (1989), 5.3836 (1988)

1.8 212.guide/Economy (Seychelles 2. usage)

Economy (Seychelles 2. usage)

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Fiscal year:
 calendar year

1.9 212.guide/Communications (Seychelles)

Communications (Seychelles)

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Highways:
 260 km total; 160 km paved, 100 km crushed stone or earth
 Ports:
 Victoria
 Merchant marine:
 1 refrigerated cargo totaling 1,827 GRT/2,170 DWT
 Airports:
 total:
 14
 usable:
 14
 with permanent-surface runways:
 8
 with runways over 3,659 m:
 0
 with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

1
with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
1
Telecommunications:
direct radio communications with adjacent islands and African coastal
countries; 13,000 telephones; broadcast stations - 2 AM, no FM, 2 TV; 1
Indian Ocean INTELSAT earth station; USAF tracking station

1.10 212.guide/Defense Forces (Seychelles)

Defense Forces (Seychelles)

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Branches:
Army, National Guard, Marines, Coast Guard, Presidential Protection Unit,
Police Force
Manpower availability:
males age 15-49 18,982; fit for military service 9,710 (1993 est.)
Defense expenditures:
exchange rate conversion - \$12 million, 4% of GDP (1990 est.)