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# Chapter 1

## 43

### 1.1 43.guide

Texified version of data for Cameroon.

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Cameroon

### 1.2 43.guide/Cameroon

Cameroon

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

### 1.3 43.guide/Geography (Cameroon)

Geography (Cameroon)

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Location:

Western Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean between Equatorial Guinea and Nigeria ↔

Map references:

Africa, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

475,440 km<sup>2</sup>

land area:

469,440 km<sup>2</sup>

comparative area:

slightly larger than California

Land boundaries: total 4,591 km, Central African Republic 797 km, Chad 1,094 km, Congo 523

km, Equatorial Guinea 189 km, Gabon 298 km, Nigeria 1,690 km

Coastline:

402 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea:

50 nm

International disputes:

demarcation of international boundaries in Lake Chad, the lack of which has led to border incidents in the past, is completed and awaiting ratification by Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria; boundary commission, created with Nigeria to discuss unresolved land and maritime boundaries, has not yet convened

Climate:

varies with terrain from tropical along coast to semiarid and hot in north

Terrain:

diverse, with coastal plain in southwest, dissected plateau in center, mountains in west, plains in north

Natural resources:

petroleum, bauxite, iron ore, timber, hydropower potential

Land use:

arable land:

13%

permanent crops:  
   2%  
 meadows and pastures:  
   18%  
 forest and woodland:  
   54%  
 other:  
   13%  
 Irrigated land:  
   280 km2 (1989 est.)  
 Environment:  
   recent volcanic activity with release of poisonous gases; deforestation;  
   overgrazing; desertification  
 Note:  
   sometimes referred to as the hinge of Africa

## 1.4 43.guide/People (Cameroon)

People (Cameroon)

=====

Population:  
   12,755,873 (July 1993 est.)  
 Population growth rate:  
   2.9% (1993 est.)  
 Birth rate:  
   40.66 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Death rate:  
   11.63 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Net migration rate:  
   0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Infant mortality rate:  
   78.8 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)  
 Life expectancy at birth: total population:  
   56.66 years  
   male:  
     54.65 years  
   female:  
     58.74 years (1993 est.)  
 Total fertility rate:  
   5.88 children born/woman (1993 est.)  
 Nationality:  
   noun:  
     Cameroonian(s)  
   adjective:  
     Cameroonian  
 Ethnic divisions:  
   Cameroon Highlanders 31%, Equatorial Bantu 19%, Kirdi 11%, Fulani 10%,  
   Northwestern Bantu 8%, Eastern Nigritic 7%, other African 13%, non-African  
   less than 1%  
 Religions:  
   indigenous beliefs 51%, Christian 33%, Muslim 16%  
 Languages:

---

24 major African language groups, English (official), French (official)  
 Literacy:  
   age 15 and over can read and write (1990)  
   total population:  
     54%  
   male:  
     66%  
   female:  
     43%  
 Labor force:  
   NA  
 by occupation:  
   agriculture 74.4%, industry and transport 11.4%, other services 14.2% ←  
     (1983)  
 note:  
   50% of population of working age (15-64 years) (1985)

## 1.5 43.guide/Government (Cameroon)

Government (Cameroon)

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Names:  
   conventional long form:  
     Republic of Cameroon  
   conventional short form:  
     Cameroon  
   former:  
     French Cameroon  
 Digraph:  
   CM  
 Type:  
   unitary republic; multiparty presidential regime (opposition parties  
     legalized 1990)  
 Capital:  
   Yaounde  
 Administrative divisions:  
   10 provinces; Adamaoua, Centre, Est, Extreme-Nord, Littoral, Nord,  
   Nord-Ouest, Ouest, Sud, Sud-Ouest  
 Independence:  
   1 January 1960 (from UN trusteeship under French administration)  
 Constitution:  
   20 May 1972  
 Legal system:  
   based on French civil law system, with common law influence; has not  
   accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction  
 National holiday:  
   National Day, 20 May (1972)  
 Political parties and leaders:  
   Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM), Paul BIYA, president, is  
   government-controlled and was formerly the only party, but opposition  
   parties were legalized in 1990  
   major opposition parties:

National Union for Democracy and Progress (UNDP)  
 major oppositon parties:  
 Social Democratic Front (SDF)  
 major opposition parties:  
 Cameroonian Democratic Union (UDC); Union of Cameroonian Populations (UPC)  
 Other political or pressure groups:  
 NA  
 Suffrage:  
 20 years of age; universal  
 Elections:  
 National Assembly:  
 last held 1 March 1992 (next scheduled for March 1997); results - (180  
 seats) CPDM 88, UNDP 68, UPC 18, MDR 6  
 President:  
 last held 11 October 1992; results - President Paul BIYA reelected with  
 about 40% of the vote amid widespread allegations of fraud; SDF candidate  
 John FRU NDI got 36% of the vote; UNDP candidate Bello Bouba MAIGARI got ←  
 19%  
 of the vote  
 Executive branch:  
 president, Cabinet  
 Legislative branch:  
 unicameral National Assembly (Assemblée Nationale)  
 Judicial branch:  
 Supreme Court  
 Leaders:  
 Chief of State:  
 President Paul BIYA (since 6 November 1982)

## 1.6 43.guide/Government (Cameroon 2. usage)

Government (Cameroon 2. usage)

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Head of Government:  
 Prime Minister Simon ACHIDI ACHU (since 9 April 1992)  
 Member of:  
 ACCT (associate), ACP, AfDB, BDEAC, CCC, CEEAC, ECA, FAO, FZ, G-19, G-77,  
 GATT, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT,  
 INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, LORCS, NAM, OAU, OIC, PCA, UDEAC, UN, UNCTAD,  
 UNESCO, UNIDO, UNTAC, UPU, WCL, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO  
 Diplomatic representation in US:  
 chief of mission: Ambassador Paul PONDI  
 chancery:  
 2349 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008  
 telephone:  
 (202) 265-8790 through 8794  
 US diplomatic representation:  
 chief of mission:  
 Ambassador Harriet ISOM  
 embassy:  
 Rue Nachtigal, Yaounde  
 mailing address:



B. P. 817, Yaounde  
 telephone:  
 [237] 234-014  
 FAX:  
 [237] 230-753  
 consulate:  
 Douala  
 Flag:  
 three equal vertical bands of green (hoist side), red, and yellow with a yellow five-pointed star centered in the red band; uses the popular pan-African colors of Ethiopia

## 1.7 43.guide/Economy (Cameroon)

### Economy (Cameroon)

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#### Overview:

Because of its offshore oil resources, Cameroon has one of the highest incomes per capita in tropical Africa. Still, it faces many of the serious problems facing other underdeveloped countries, such as political instability, a top-heavy civil service, and a generally unfavorable climate for business enterprise. The development of the oil sector led rapid economic growth between 1970 and 1985. Growth came to an abrupt halt in 1986

precipitated by steep declines in the prices of major exports: coffee, cocoa, and petroleum. Export earnings were cut by almost one-third, and inefficiencies in fiscal management were exposed. In 1990-92, with support from the IMF and World Bank, the government has begun to introduce reforms designed to spur business investment, increase efficiency in agriculture, and recapitalize the nation's banks. Nationwide strikes organized by opposition parties in 1991, however, undermined these efforts.

#### National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$11.5 billion (1990 est.)

#### National product real growth rate:

3% (1990 est.)

#### National product per capita:

\$1,040 (1990 est.)

#### Inflation rate (consumer prices):

3% (1990 est.)

#### Unemployment rate:

25% (1990 est.)

#### Budget:

revenues \$1.7 billion; expenditures \$2.4 billion, including capital expenditures of \$422 million (FY90 est.)

#### Exports:

\$1.8 billion (f.o.b., 1991)

#### commodities:

petroleum products 51%, coffee, beans, cocoa, aluminum products, timber

#### partners:

EC (particularly France) about 50%, US, African countries

#### Imports:

\$1.2 billion (c.i.f., 1991)

commodities:  
 machines and electrical equipment, food, consumer goods, transport ←  
 equipment

partners:  
 EC about 60%, France 41%, Germany 9%, African countries, Japan, US 4%

External debt:  
 \$6 billion (1991)

Industrial production:  
 growth rate 6.4% (FY87); accounts for 30% of GDP

Electricity:  
 755,000 kW capacity; 2,190 million kWh produced, 190 kWh per capita (1991)

Industries:  
 petroleum production and refining, food processing, light consumer goods,  
 textiles, sawmills

Agriculture:  
 the agriculture and forestry sectors provide employment for the majority of  
 the population, contributing nearly 25% to GDP and providing a high degree  
 of self-sufficiency in staple foods; commercial and food crops include  
 coffee, cocoa, timber, cotton, rubber, bananas, oilseed, grains, livestock,  
 root starches

Economic aid:  
 US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-90), \$479 million; Western (non-US)  
 countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-90), \$4.75 billion; OPEC  
 bilateral aid (1979-89), \$29 million; Communist countries (1970-89), \$125  
 million

## 1.8 43.guide/Economy (Cameroon 2. usage)

Economy (Cameroon 2. usage)

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Currency:  
 1 CFA franc (CFAF) = 100 centimes

Exchange rates:  
 Communaute Financiere Africaine francs (CFAF) per US\$1 - 274.06 (January  
 1993), 264.69 (1992), 282.11 (1991), 272.26 (1990), 319.01 (1989), 297.85  
 (1988)

Fiscal year:  
 1 July - 30 June

## 1.9 43.guide/Communications (Cameroon)

Communications (Cameroon)

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Railroads:  
 1,003 km total; 858 km 1.000-meter gauge, 145 km 0.600-meter gauge

Highways:

about 65,000 km total; includes 2,682 km paved, 32,318 km gravel and improved earth, and 30,000 km of unimproved earth

Inland waterways:  
2,090 km; of decreasing importance

Ports: Douala

Merchant marine:  
2 cargo ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 24,122 GRT/33,509 DWT

Airports:  
total:  
59  
usable:  
51  
with permanent-surface runways:  
11  
with runways over 3,659 m:  
0  
with runways 2,440-3,659 m:  
6  
with runways 1,220-2,439 m:  
51

Telecommunications:  
good system of open wire, cable, troposcatter, and microwave radio relay;  
26,000 telephones, 2 telephones per 1,000 persons, available only to  
business and government; broadcast stations - 11 AM, 11 FM, 1 TV; 2 ↔  
Atlantic  
Ocean INTELSAT earth stations

## 1.10 43.guide/Defense Forces (Cameroon)

Defense Forces (Cameroon)

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Branches:  
Army, Navy (including Naval Infantry), Air Force, National Gendarmerie,  
Presidential Guard

Manpower availability:  
males age 15-49 2,844,280; fit for military service 1,432,563; reach  
military age (18) annually 125,453 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:  
exchange rate conversion - \$219 million, less than 2% of GDP (1990 est.)