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Chapter 1

173

1.1 173.guide

Texified version of data for New Caledonia.

Texified using wfact from

Gerhard Leibrock
Neuhäuselerstr. 12
D-66459 Kirkel
Germany

Tel.: 06849 / 6134
INTERNET: leibrock@fsinfo.cs.uni-sb.de
fach5@cipsol.cs.uni-sb.de

Project Gutenberg

P. O. Box 2782

Champaign, IL 61825

When all other email fails try our Michael S. Hart, Executive Director:

hart@vmd.cso.uiuc.edu (internet) hart@uiucvmd (bitnet)

We would prefer to send you this information by email (Internet, Bitnet, Compuserve, ATTMAIL or MCImail).

New Caledonia

1.2 173.guide/New Caledonia

New Caledonia

Header (New Caledonia)
Geography (New Caledonia)
People (New Caledonia)
Government (New Caledonia)
Government (New Caledonia 2. usage)
Economy (New Caledonia)
Communications (New Caledonia)
Defense Forces (New Caledonia)

1.3 173.guide/Header (New Caledonia)

Header (New Caledonia)
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Affiliation:
 (overseas territory of France)

1.4 173.guide/Geography (New Caledonia)

Geography (New Caledonia)
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Location:
 in the South Pacific Ocean, 1,750 km east of Australia
Map references:
 Oceania
Area:
 total area:
 19,060 km2
 land area:
 18,760 km2
 comparative area:
 slightly smaller than New Jersey
Land boundaries:
 0 km
Coastline:
 2,254 km
Maritime claims:
 exclusive economic zone:
 200 nm
 territorial sea:
 12 nm
International disputes:
 none
Climate:
 tropical; modified by southeast trade winds; hot, humid

Terrain:
 coastal plains with interior mountains

Natural resources:
 nickel, chrome, iron, cobalt, manganese, silver, gold, lead, copper

Land use:
 arable land:
 0%
 permanent crops:
 0%
 meadows and pastures:
 14%
 forest and woodland:
 51%
 other:
 35%

Irrigated land:
 NA km2

Environment:
 typhoons most frequent from November to March

1.5 173.guide/People (New Caledonia)

People (New Caledonia)

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Population:
 178,056 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:
 1.83% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:
 22.7 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Death rate:
 5.01 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Net migration rate:
 0.58 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Infant mortality rate:
 15.9 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 73.22 years
 male:
 69.92 years
 female:
 76.7 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:
 2.67 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality:
 noun:
 New Caledonian(s)
 adjective:
 New Caledonian

Ethnic divisions:
 Melanesian 42.5%, European 37.1%, Wallisian 8.4%, Polynesian 3.8%,

Indonesian 3.6%, Vietnamese 1.6%, other 3%

Religions:
 Roman Catholic 60%, Protestant 30%, other 10%

Languages:
 French, 28 Melanesian-Polynesian dialects

Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1976)
 total population:
 91%

male:
 91%

female:
 90%

Labor force:
 50,469 foreign workers for plantations and mines from Wallis and Futuna, Vanuatu, and French Polynesia (1980 est.)

by occupation:
 NA

1.6 173.guide/Government (New Caledonia)

Government (New Caledonia)
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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Territory of New Caledonia and Dependencies
 conventional short form:
 New Caledonia
 local long form:
 Territoire des Nouvelle-Caledonie et Dependances
 local short form:
 Nouvelle-Caledonie

Digraph:
 NC

Type:
 overseas territory of France since 1956

Capital:
 Noumea

Administrative divisions:
 none (overseas territory of France); there are no first-order administrative divisions as defined by the US Government, but there are 3 provinces named Iles Loyaute, Nord, and Sud

Independence:
 none (overseas territory of France; a referendum on independence will be held in 1998)

Constitution:
 28 September 1958 (French Constitution)

Legal system:
 the 1988 Matignon Accords grant substantial autonomy to the islands; formerly under French law

National holiday:

National Day, Taking of the Bastille, 14 July (1789)

Political parties and leaders:

white-dominated Rassemblement pour la Caledonie dans la Republique (RPCR), conservative, Jacques LAFLEUR - affiliated to France's Rassemblement pour la Republique (RPR); Melanesian proindependence Kanaka Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), Paul NEAOUTYINE; Melanesian moderate Kanak Socialist Liberation (LKS), Nidoish NAISSELINE; National Front (FN), extreme right, Guy GEORGE; Caledonie Demain (CD), right-wing, Bernard MARANT; Union Oceanienne (UO), conservative, Michel HEMA; Front Uni de Liberation Kanak (FULK), proindependence, UREGEI; Union Caledonian (UC), Francois BURCK

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Elections:

French Senate:

last held 27 September 1992 (next to be held September 2001); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (1 total) RPCR 1

French National Assembly:

last held 5 and 12 June 1988 (next to be held 21 and 28 March 1993); results

- RPR 83.5%, FN 13.5%, other 3%; seats - (2 total) RPCR 2

Territorial Assembly:

last held 11 June 1989 (next to be held 1993); results - RPCR 44.5%, FLNKS 28.5%, FN 7%, CD 5%, UO 4%, other 11%; seats - (54 total) RPCR 27, FLNKS 19, FN 3, other 5; note - election boycotted by FULK

Executive branch:

French president, high commissioner, Consultative Committee (cabinet)

Legislative branch:

unicameral Territorial Assembly

Judicial branch:

Court of Appeal

1.7 173.guide/Government (New Caledonia 2. usage)

Government (New Caledonia 2. usage)

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Leaders:

Chief of State:

President Francois MITTERRAND (since 21 May 1981)

Head of Government:

High Commissioner and President of the Council of Government Alain CHRISTNACHT (since 15 January 1991)

Member of:

ESCAP (associate), FZ, ICFTU, SPC, WMO

Diplomatic representation in US: as an overseas territory of France, New Caledonian interests are represented in the US by France

US diplomatic representation:

none (overseas territory of France)

Flag:
the flag of France is used

1.8 173.guide/Economy (New Caledonia)

Economy (New Caledonia)

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Overview:

New Caledonia has more than 25% of the world's known nickel resources. In recent years the economy has suffered because of depressed international demand for nickel, the principal source of export earnings. Only a negligible amount of the land is suitable for cultivation, and food accounts for about 25% of imports.

National product:

GNP - exchange rate conversion - \$1 billion (1991 est.)

National product real growth rate:

2.4% (1988)

National product per capita:

\$6,000 (1991 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

4.1% (1989)

Unemployment rate:

16% (1989)

Budget:

revenues \$224.0 million; expenditures \$211.0 million, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1985)

Exports:

\$671 million (f.o.b., 1989)

commodities:

nickel metal 87%, nickel ore

partners:

France 52.3%, Japan 15.8%, US 6.4%

Imports:

\$764 million (c.i.f., 1989)

commodities:

foods, fuels, minerals, machines, electrical equipment

partners:

France 44.0%, US 10%, Australia 9%

External debt:

\$NA

Industrial production:

growth rate NA%

Electricity:

400,000 kW capacity; 2,200 million kWh produced, 12,790 kWh per capita (1990)

Industries:

nickel mining and smelting

Agriculture:

large areas devoted to cattle grazing; coffee, corn, wheat, vegetables; 60% self-sufficient in beef

Illicit drugs:

illicit cannabis cultivation is becoming a principal source of income for some families

Economic aid:

Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$4,185 million

Currency:

1 CFP franc (CFPF) = 100 centimes

Exchange rates:

Comptoirs Francais duPacifique francs (CFPF) per US\$1 - 99.65 (January 1993), 96.24 (1992), 102.57 (1991), 99.00 (1990), 115.99 (1989), 108.30 (1988); note - linked at the rate of 18.18 to the French franc

Fiscal year:

calendar year

1.9 173.guide/Communications (New Caledonia)

Communications (New Caledonia)

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Highways:

6,340 km total; only about 10% paved (1987)

Ports:

Noumea, Nepoui, Poro, Thio

Airports:

total:

29

usable:

27

with permanent-surface runways:

2

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

1

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

2

Telecommunications:

32,578 telephones (1987); broadcast stations - 5 AM, 3 FM, 7 TV; 1 Pacific Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.10 173.guide/Defense Forces (New Caledonia)

Defense Forces (New Caledonia)

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Branches:

Gendarmerie, Police Force

Note:

defense is the responsibility of France