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# Chapter 1

## 133

### 1.1 133.guide

Texified version of data for Kuwait.

Texified using wfact from

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Kuwait

### 1.2 133.guide/Kuwait

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

### 1.3 133.guide/Geography (Kuwait)

Geography (Kuwait)

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Location:

Middle East, at the head of the Persian Gulf, between Iraq and Saudi Arabia

Map references:

Africa, Middle East, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

17,820 km<sup>2</sup>

land area:

17,820 km<sup>2</sup>

comparative area:

slightly smaller than New Jersey

Land boundaries:

total 464 km, Iraq 242 km, Saudi Arabia 222 km

Coastline:

499 km

Maritime claims:

continental shelf: not specified

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

in April 1991 Iraq officially accepted UN Security Council Resolution 687, which demands that Iraq accept the inviolability of the boundary set forth in its 1963 agreement with Kuwait, ending earlier claims to Bubiyan and Warbah Islands, or to all of Kuwait; the 20 May 1993 final report of the UN Iraq/Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission was welcomed by the Security Council in Resolution 833 of 27 May 1993, which also reaffirmed that the decisions of the commission on the boundary were final, bringing to a completion the official demarcation of the Iraq-Kuwait boundary; Iraqi officials still make public statements claiming Kuwait; ownership of Qaruh and Umm al Maradim Islands disputed by Saudi Arabia

Climate:

dry desert; intensely hot summers; short, cool winters

Terrain:

flat to slightly undulating desert plain

Natural resources:

petroleum, fish, shrimp, natural gas

Land use:

arable land:  
   0%  
 permanent crops:  
   0%  
 meadows and pastures:  
   8%  
 forest and woodland:  
   0%  
 other:  
   92%  
 Irrigated land:  
   20 km2 (1989 est.)  
 Environment:  
   some of world's largest and most sophisticated desalination facilities  
   provide most of water; air and water pollution; desertification  
 Note:  
   strategic location at head of Persian Gulf

## 1.4 133.guide/People (Kuwait)

### People (Kuwait)

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Population:  
   1,698,077 (July 1993 est.)  
 Population growth rate:  
   8.67% (1993 est.)  
 Birth rate:  
   30.29 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Death rate:  
   2.39 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Net migration rate:  
   58.74 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Infant mortality rate:  
   13.1 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)  
 Life expectancy at birth: total population:  
   74.62 years  
   male:  
     72.47 years  
   female:  
     76.87 years (1993 est.)  
 Total fertility rate:  
   4.11 children born/woman (1993 est.)  
 Nationality:  
   noun:  
     Kuwaiti(s)  
   adjective:  
     Kuwaiti  
 Ethnic divisions:  
   Kuwaiti 45%, other Arab 35%, South Asian 9%, Iranian 4%, other 7%  
 Religions:  
   Muslim 85% (Shi'a 30%, Sunni 45%, other 10%), Christian, Hindu, Parsi, and  
   other 15%

**Languages:**

Arabic (official), English widely spoken

**Literacy:**

age 15 and over can read and write (1990)

total population:

73%

male:

77%

female:

67%

**Labor force:**

566,000 (1986)

by occupation:

services 45.0%, construction 20.0%, trade 12.0%, manufacturing 8.6%, ←  
finance

and real estate 2.6%, agriculture 1.9%, power and water 1.7%, mining and  
quarrying 1.4%

note:

70% of labor force was non-Kuwaiti (1986)

## 1.5 133.guide/Government (Kuwait)

### Government (Kuwait)

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**Names:**

conventional long form:

State of Kuwait

conventional short form:

Kuwait

local long form:

Dawlat al Kuwayt

local short form:

Al Kuwayt

**Digraph:**

KU

**Type:**

nominal constitutional monarchy

**Capital:**

Kuwait

**Administrative divisions:**

5 governorates (mu'hafaz'at, singular - muh'afaz'ah); Al Ah'madi, Al Jahrah ←

Al Kuwayt, 'Hawalli; Farwaniyah

**Independence:**

19 June 1961 (from UK)

**Constitution:**

16 November 1962 (some provisions suspended since 29 August 1962)

**Legal system:**

civil law system with Islamic law significant in personal matters; has not  
accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

**National holiday:**

National Day, 25 February

Political parties and leaders:

none

Other political or pressure groups:

40,000 Palestinian community; small, clandestine leftist and Shi'a fundamentalist groups are active; several groups critical of government policies are active

Suffrage:

adult males who resided in Kuwait before 1920 and their male descendants at age 21

note:

out of all citizens, only 10% are eligible to vote and only 5% actually vote ←

Elections:

National Assembly:

dissolved 3 July 1986; new elections were held on 5 October 1992 with a second election in the 14th and 16th constituencies scheduled for 15 February 1993

Executive branch:

amir, prime minister, deputy prime minister, Council of Ministers (cabinet)

Legislative branch:

unicameral National Assembly (Majlis al 'umma) dissolved 3 July 1986; elections for new Assembly held 5 October 1992

Judicial branch:

High Court of Appeal

Leaders:

Chief of State:

Amir Shaykh JABIR al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah (since 31 December 1977)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister and Crown Prince SA'D al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah (since ←  
8

February 1978); Deputy Prime Minister SABAH al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah (since 17 October 1992)

## 1.6 133.guide/Government (Kuwait 2. usage)

### Government (Kuwait 2. usage)

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Member of:

ABEDA, AfDB, AFESD, AL, AMF, BDEAC, CAEU, ESCWA, FAO, G-77, GATT, GCC, IAEA ←

IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ISO (correspondent), ITU, LORCS, NAM, OAPEC, OIC, OPEC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WFTU, WHO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in US:

chief of mission:

Ambassador Muhammad al-Sabah al-Salim al-SABAH

chancery: 2940 Tilden Street NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone:

(202) 966-0702

US diplomatic representation:

chief of mission:

Ambassador Edward (Skip) GNEHM, Jr.

## embassy:

Bneid al-Gar (opposite the Kuwait International Hotel), Kuwait City

## mailing address:

P.O. Box 77 SAFAT, 13001 SAFAT, Kuwait; APO AE 09880

## telephone:

[965] 242-4151 through 4159

## FAX:

[956] 244-2855

## Flag:

three equal horizontal bands of green (top), white, and red with a black trapezoid based on the hoist side

## 1.7 133.guide/Economy (Kuwait)

### Economy (Kuwait)

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## Overview:

Kuwait is a small and relatively open economy with proven crude oil reserves of about 94 billion barrels - 10% of world reserves. Kuwait is rebuilding its war-ravaged petroleum sector and the increase in crude oil production to nearly 2.0 million barrels per day by the end of 1992 led to an enormous increase in GDP for the year. The government ran a cumulative fiscal deficit of approximately \$70 billion over its last two fiscal years, reducing its foreign asset position and increasing its public debt to roughly \$40 billion. Petroleum accounts for nearly half of GDP and over 90% of export and government revenue.

## National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$15.3 billion (1992 est.)

## National product real growth rate:

80% (1992 est.)

## National product per capita:

\$11,100 (1992 est.)

## Inflation rate (consumer prices):

5% (1992 est.)

## Unemployment rate:

NEGL% (1992 est.)

## Budget:

revenues \$7.1 billion; expenditures \$10.5 billion, including capital expenditures of \$3.1 billion (FY88)

## Exports:

\$750 million (f.o.b., 1991 est.)

## commodities:

oil

## partners:

France 16%, Italy 15%, Japan 12%, UK 11%

## Imports:

\$4.7 billion (f.o.b., 1991 est.)

## commodities:

food, construction materials, vehicles and parts, clothing

partners: US 35%, Japan 12%, UK 9%, Canada 9%

External debt:  
\$7.2 billion (December 1989 est.)

note:  
external debt has grown substantially in 1991 and 1992 to pay for restoration of war damage

Industrial production:  
growth rate NA%; accounts for NA% of GDP

Electricity:  
6,873,000 kW available out of 7,398,000 kW capacity due to Persian Gulf war ←  
;  
12,264 million kWh produced, 8,890 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:  
petroleum, petrochemicals, desalination, food processing, building materials, salt, construction

Agriculture:  
practically none; dependent on imports for food; about 75% of potable water must be distilled or imported

Economic aid:  
donor - pledged \$18.3 billion in bilateral aid to less developed countries (1979-89)

Currency:  
1 Kuwaiti dinar (KD) = 1,000 fils

Exchange rates:  
Kuwaiti dinars (KD) per US\$1 - 0.3044 (January 1993), 0.2934 (1992), 0.2843 (1991), 0.2915 (1990), 0.2937 (1989), 0.2790 (1988)

## 1.8 133.guide/Economy (Kuwait 2. usage)

Economy (Kuwait 2. usage)

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Fiscal year:  
1 July - 30 June

## 1.9 133.guide/Communications (Kuwait)

Communications (Kuwait)

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Railroads:  
none

Highways:  
3,900 km total; 3,000 km bituminous; 900 km earth, sand, light gravel

Pipelines:  
crude oil 877 km; petroleum products 40 km; natural gas 165 km

Ports:  
Ash Shu'aybah, Ash Shuwaykh, Mina' al 'Ahmadi

## Merchant marine:

42 ships (1,000 GRT or over), totaling 1,996,052 GRT/3,373,088 DWT; ←  
includes

7 cargo, 4 livestock carrier, 24 oil tanker, 4 liquefied gas, 3 container

## Airports:

total:

7

usable:

4

with permanent-surface runways:

4

with runways over 3,659 m: 0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

4

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

0

## Telecommunications:

civil network suffered extensive damage as a result of Desert Storm and reconstruction is still under way with some restored international and domestic capabilities; broadcast stations - 3 AM, 0 FM, 3 TV; satellite earth stations - destroyed during Persian Gulf War and not rebuilt yet; temporary mobile satellite ground stations provide international telecommunications; coaxial cable and microwave radio relay to Saudi Arabia ←

;

service to Iraq is nonoperational

## 1.10 133.guide/Defense Forces (Kuwait)

Defense Forces (Kuwait)

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## Branches:

Army, Navy, Air Force, National Police Force, National Guard

## Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 498,254; fit for military service 298,865; reach military age (18) annually 14,459 (1993 est.)

## Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$2.5 billion, 7.3% of GDP (FY92/93)