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Contents

1	39	1
1.1	39.guide	1
1.2	39.guide/Burkina	1
1.3	39.guide/Geography (Burkina)	2
1.4	39.guide/People (Burkina)	3
1.5	39.guide/Government (Burkina)	4
1.6	39.guide/Government (Burkina 2. usage)	5
1.7	39.guide/Economy (Burkina)	6
1.8	39.guide/Communications (Burkina)	7
1.9	39.guide/Defense Forces (Burkina)	7

Chapter 1

39

1.1 39.guide

Texified version of data for Burkina.

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 MCI mail).

Burkina

1.2 39.guide/Burkina

Burkina

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

1.3 39.guide/Geography (Burkina)

Geography (Burkina)

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Location:

Western Africa, between Ghana and Mali

Map references:

Africa, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

274,200 km²

land area:

273,800 km²

comparative area:

slightly larger than Colorado

Land boundaries:

total 3,192 km, Benin 306 km, Ghana 548 km, Cote d'Ivoire 584 km, Mali ←
1,000

km, Niger 628 km, Togo 126 km

Coastline:

0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims: none; landlocked

International disputes:

the disputed international boundary between Burkina and Mali was submitted to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in October 1983 and the ICJ issued its final ruling in December 1986, which both sides agreed to accept ←

;

Burkina and Mali are proceeding with boundary demarcation, including the tripoint with Niger

Climate:

tropical; warm, dry winters; hot, wet summers

Terrain:

mostly flat to dissected, undulating plains; hills in west and southeast

Natural resources:

manganese, limestone, marble; small deposits of gold, antimony, copper, nickel, bauxite, lead, phosphates, zinc, silver

Land use:

arable land:

10%

permanent crops:

0%

meadows and pastures:

37%
 forest and woodland:
 26%
 other:
 27%
 Irrigated land:
 160 km² (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 recent droughts and desertification severely affecting marginal ←
 agricultural
 activities, population distribution, economy; overgrazing; deforestation
 Note:
 landlocked

1.4 39.guide/People (Burkina)

People (Burkina)

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Population:
 9,852,529 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 2.83% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 48.8 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 18.19 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -2.28 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 119.8 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 47.47 years
 male:
 46.66 years
 female:
 48.3 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 7 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Burkinabe (singular and plural)
 adjective:
 Burkinabe
 Ethnic divisions:
 Mossi (about 2.5 million), Gurunsi, Senufo, Lobi, Bobo, Mande, Fulani
 Religions:
 indigenous beliefs 65%, Muslim 25%, Christian (mainly Roman Catholic) 10%
 Languages:
 French (official), tribal languages belong to Sudanic family, spoken by 90%
 of the population
 Literacy:

age 15 and over can read and write (1990)
 total population:
 18%
 male:
 28%
 female:
 9%
 Labor force:
 3.3 million residents; 30,000 are wage earners
 by occupation:
 agriculture 82%, industry 13%, commerce, services, and government 5%
 note:
 20% of male labor force migrates annually to neighboring countries for
 seasonal employment (1984); 44% of population of working age (1985)

1.5 39.guide/Government (Burkina)

Government (Burkina)

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Names:

conventional long form:

Burkina Faso

conventional short form:

Burkina

former:

Upper Volta

Digraph:

UV

Type:

parliamentary

Capital:

Ouagadougou

Administrative divisions:

30 provinces; Bam, Bazega, Bougouriba, Boulgou, Boulkiemde, Ganzourgou, Gnagna, Gourma, Houet, Kadiogo, Kenedougou, Komoe, Kossi, Kouritenga, Mouhoun, Namentenga, Naouri, Oubritenga, Oudalan, Passore, Poni, Sanguie, Sanmatenga, Seno, Sissili, Soum, Sourou, Tapoa, Yatenga, Zoundweogo

Independence:

5 August 1960 (from France)

Constitution:

June 1991

Legal system:

based on French civil law system and customary law

National holiday:

Anniversary of the Revolution, 4 August (1983)

Political parties and leaders:

Organization for People's Democracy-Labor Movement (ODP-MT), ruling party, Marc Christian Roch KABORE; National Convention of Progressive Patriots-Social Democratic Party (CNPP-PSD), Pierre TAPSOBA; African Democratic Assembly (RDA), Gerard Kango OUEDRAOGO; Alliance for Democracy and Federation (ADF), Herman YAMEOGO

Other political or pressure groups:

committees for the defense of the revolution; watchdog/political action groups throughout the country in both organizations and communities

Suffrage:
none

Elections:
President:
last held December 1991

Assembly of People's Deputies:
last held 24 May 1992 (next to be held NA); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (107 total), ODP-MT 78, CNPP-PSD 12, RDA 6, ADF 4, other ←
7

Executive branch:
president, Council of Ministers

Legislative branch:
Assembly of People's Deputies

note:
the current law also provides for a second consultative chamber, which had not been formally constituted as of 1 July 1992

Judicial branch:
Appeals Court

Leaders:
Chief of State and Head of Government:
President Captain Blaise COMPAORE (since 15 October 1987)

1.6 39.guide/Government (Burkina 2. usage)

Government (Burkina 2. usage)

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Member of:
ACCT, ACP, AfDB, CCC, CEAO, ECA, ECOWAS, Entente, FAO, FZ, G-77, GATT, IBRD ←
,
ICAO, ICC, ICFTU, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, LORCS, NAM, OAU, OIC, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WADB, WCL, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in US:
chief of mission:
(vacant)
chancery:
2340 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008
telephone:
(202) 332-5577 or 6895

US diplomatic representation:
chief of mission:
Ambassador Edward P. BYRNN
embassy:
Avenue Raoul Follerau, Ouagadougou
mailing address: 01 B. P. 35, Ouagadougou
telephone:
[226] 30-67- 23 through 25
FAX:
[226] 31-23-68
Flag:

two equal horizontal bands of red (top) and green with a yellow five-pointed star in the center; uses the popular pan-African colors of Ethiopia

1.7 39.guide/Economy (Burkina)

Economy (Burkina)

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Overview:

One of the poorest countries in the world, Burkina has a high population density, few natural resources, and relatively infertile soil. Economic development is hindered by a poor communications network within a landlocked

country. Agriculture provides about 40% of GDP and is entirely of a subsistence nature. Industry, dominated by unprofitable government-controlled corporations, accounts for about 15% of GDP.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$3.3 billion (1991)

National product real growth rate:

1.3% (1990 est.)

National product per capita:

\$350 (1991)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

-1% (1990)

Unemployment rate:

NA%

Budget:

revenues \$495 million; expenditures \$786 million, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1991)

Exports:

\$304.8 million (f.o.b., 1990)

commodities:

cotton, gold, animal products

partners:

EC 45%, Taiwan 15%, Cote d'Ivoire 15% (1987)

Imports:

\$593 million (f.o.b., 1990)

commodities:

machinery, food products, petroleum

partners:

EC 51%, Africa 25%, US 6% (1987)

External debt:

\$865 million (December 1991 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate 5.7% (1990 est.), accounts for about 23% of GDP (1989)

Electricity:

120,000 kW capacity; 320 million kWh produced, 40 kWh per capita (1991)

Industries:

cotton lint, beverages, agricultural processing, soap, cigarettes, textiles

gold mining and extraction

Agriculture:

accounts for about 30% of GDP; cash crops - peanuts, shea nuts, sesame, cotton; food crops - sorghum, millet, corn, rice; livestock; not self-sufficient in food grains

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$294 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$2.9 billion; Communist countries (1970-89), \$113 million

Currency:

1 CFA franc (CFAF) = 100 centimes

Exchange rates:

CFA 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:

calendar year

1.8 39.guide/Communications (Burkina)

Communications (Burkina)

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Railroads:

620 km total; 520 km Ouagadougou to Cote d'Ivoire border and 100 km Ouagadougou to Kaya; all 1.00-meter gauge and single track

Highways:

16,500 km total; 1,300 km paved, 7,400 km improved, 7,800 km unimproved (1985)

Airports:

total:

48

usable:

38

with permanent-surface runways:

2

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

2

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

8

Telecommunications:

all services only fair; microwave radio relay, wire, and radio ↔ communication

stations in use; broadcast stations - 2 AM, 1 FM, 2 TV; 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.9 39.guide/Defense Forces (Burkina)

Defense Forces (Burkina)

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Branches:

Army, Air Force, National Gendarmerie, National Police, People's Militia

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 1,947,935; fit for military service 995,532 (1993 est.); no
conscription

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$NA, NA% of GDP