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	TITLE : 54		
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WRITTEN BY		August 10, 2024	

<b>REVISION HISTORY</b>
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NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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# Chapter 1

## 54

### 1.1 54.guide

Texified version of data for Colombia.

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Colombia

### 1.2 54.guide/Colombia

Colombia

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

### 1.3 54.guide/Geography (Colombia)

Geography (Colombia)

=====

Location:

Northern South America, between Panama and Venezuela

Map references:

Central America and the Caribbean, South America, Standard Time Zones of the World ←

Area:

total area:

1,138,910 km<sup>2</sup>

land area:

1,038,700 km<sup>2</sup>

comparative area:

slightly less than three times the size of Montana

note:

includes Isla de Malpelo, Roncador Cay, Serrana Bank, and Serranilla Bank

Land boundaries:

total 7,408 km, Brazil 1,643 km, Ecuador 590 km, Panama 225 km, Peru 2,900 km, Venezuela 2,050 km

Coastline:

3,208 km (Caribbean Sea 1,760 km, North Pacific Ocean 1,448 km)

Maritime claims:

continental shelf:

not specified

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

maritime boundary dispute with Venezuela in the Gulf of Venezuela;

territorial dispute with Nicaragua over Archipelago de San Andres y

Providencia and Quita Sueno Bank

Climate:

tropical along coast and eastern plains; cooler in highlands

Terrain:

flat coastal lowlands, central highlands, high Andes mountains, eastern

lowland plains

Natural resources:

petroleum, natural gas, coal, iron ore, nickel, gold, copper, emeralds

Land use:

arable land:

4%

permanent crops:

2%

meadows and pastures:

29%

forest and woodland:

49%

other:

16%

Irrigated land:

5,150 km<sup>2</sup> (1989 est.)

Environment:

highlands subject to volcanic eruptions; deforestation; soil damage from overuse of pesticides; periodic droughts

Note:

only South American country with coastlines on both North Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea

## 1.4 54.guide/People (Colombia)

People (Colombia)

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Population:

34,942,767 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:

1.83% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:

23.4 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Death rate:

4.82 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Net migration rate:

-0.25 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Infant mortality rate:

29.7 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population:

71.72 years

male:

68.99 years

female:

74.53 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:

2.54 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality:

noun:

Colombian(s)

adjective:

Colombian

Ethnic divisions:

mestizo 58%, white 20%, mulatto 14%, black 4%, mixed black-Indian 3%, ←  
 Indian  
 1%  
 Religions:  
 Roman Catholic 95%  
 Languages:  
 Spanish  
 Literacy:  
 age 15 and over can read and write (1990)  
 total population:  
 87%  
 male:  
 88%  
 female:  
 86%  
 Labor force:  
 12 million (1990)  
 by occupation:  
 services 46%, agriculture 30%, industry 24% (1990)

## 1.5 54.guide/Government (Colombia)

Government (Colombia)

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Names:  
 conventional long form:  
 Republic of Colombia  
 conventional short form:  
 Colombia local long form:  
 Republica de Colombia  
 local short form:  
 Colombia  
 Digraph:  
 CO  
 Type:  
 republic; executive branch dominates government structure  
 Capital:  
 Bogota  
 Administrative divisions:  
 23 departments (departamentos, singular - departamento), 5 commissariats\*, ←  
 (comisarias, singular  
 - comisaria), 4 intendancies\*\* (intendencias, singular, - intendencia), and ←  
 1 special district\*\*\*,  
 (distrito especial); Amazonas\*, Antioquia, Arauca\*\*, Atlantico, Bogota\*\*\*, ←  
 Bolivar, Boyaca,,  
 Caldas, Caqueta,  
 Casanare\*\*, Cauca, Cesar, Choco, Cordoba, Cundinamarca, Guainia\*, Guaviare ←  
 \*, Huila, La Guajira,  
 Magdalena, Meta, Narino, Norte de Santander, Putumayo\*\*,, Quindio, ←  
 Risaralda, San Andres y  
 Providencia\*\*, Santander, Sucre, Tolima,, Valle del Cauca, Vaupes\*, Vichada ←  
 \*, note:

the Constitution of 5 July 1991 states that the commissariats and intendancies are to become full departments and a capital district ( ← distrito capital) of Santa Fe de Bogota is to be established by 1997

Independence:  
20 July 1810 (from Spain)

Constitution:  
5 July 1991

Legal system:  
based on Spanish law; judicial review of executive and legislative acts; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations

National holiday:  
Independence Day, 20 July (1810)

Political parties and leaders:  
Liberal Party (PL), Cesar GAVIRIA Trujillo, president; Social Conservative Party (PCS), Misael PASTRANA Borrero; National Salvation Movement (MSN), Alvaro GOMEZ Hurtado; Democratic Alliance M-19 (AD/M-19) is headed by 19th of April Movement (M-19) leader Antonio NAVARRO Wolf, coalition of small leftist parties and dissident liberals and conservatives; Patriotic Union (UP) is a legal political party formed by Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and Colombian Communist Party (PCC), Carlos ROMERO

Other political or pressure groups:  
three insurgent groups are active in Colombia - Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), Manuel MARULANDA and Alfonso CANO; National Liberation Army (ELN), Manuel PEREZ; and dissidents of the recently demobilized People's Liberation Army (EPL), Francisco CARABALLO

Suffrage:  
18 years of age; universal and compulsory

Elections:  
President:  
last held 27 May 1990 (next to be held May 1994); results - Cesar GAVIRIA Trujillo (Liberal) 47%, Alvaro GOMEZ Hurtado (National Salvation Movement) 24%, Antonio NAVARRO Wolff (M-19) 13%, Rodrigo LLOREDA (Conservative) 12%

## 1.6 54.guide/Government (Colombia 2. usage)

Government (Colombia 2. usage)

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Senate:  
last held 27 October 1991 (next to be held March 1994); results - percent ← of  
vote by party NA; seats - (102 total) Liberal 58, Conservative 22, AD/M-19 9, MSN 5, UP 1, other 7

House of Representatives:  
last held 27 October 1991 (next to be held March 1994); results - percent ← of  
vote by party NA; seats - (161 total) Liberal 87, Conservative 31, AD/M-19 13, MSN 10, UP 3, other 17

Executive branch:  
president, presidential designate, Cabinet

Legislative branch:



bicameral Congress (Congreso) consists of a nationally elected upper ←  
 chamber  
 or Senate (Senado) and a nationally elected lower chamber or House of  
 Representatives (Camara de Representantes)

Judicial branch:  
 Supreme Court of Justice (Corte Suprema de Justical), Constitutional Court,  
 Council of State

Leaders:  
 Chief of State and Head of Government:  
 President Cesar GAVIRIA Trujillo (since 7 August 1990)

Member of:  
 AG, CDB, CG, ECLAC, FAO, G-3, G-11, G-24, G-77, GATT, IADB, IAEA, IBRD,  
 ICAO, ICC, ICFTU, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT,  
 INTERPOL, IOC, IOM, ISO, ITU, LAES, LAIA, LORCS, NAM, OAS, ONUSAL, OPANAL,  
 PCA, RG, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNPROFOR, UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO,  
 WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in US:  
 chief of mission:  
 Ambassador Jaime GARCIA Parra  
 chancery:  
 2118 Leroy Place NW, Washington, DC 20008  
 telephone:  
 (202) 387-8338  
 consulates general:  
 Chicago, Houston, Miami, New Orleans, New York, San Francisco, and San Juan  
 (Puerto Rico)  
 consulates:  
 Atlanta, Boston, Detroit, Los Angeles, and Tampa

US diplomatic representation:  
 chief of mission:  
 Ambassador Morris D. BUSBY  
 embassy:  
 Calle 38, No. 8-61, Bogota  
 mailing address:  
 P. O. Box A. A. 3831, Bogota or APO AA 34038  
 telephone:  
 [57] (1) 285-1300 or 1688  
 FAX:  
 [57] (1) 288-5687  
 consulate:  
 Barranquilla

Flag:  
 three horizontal bands of yellow (top, double-width), blue, and red; ←  
 similar  
 to the flag of Ecuador, which is longer and bears the Ecuadorian coat of  
 arms superimposed in the center

## 1.7 54.guide/Economy (Colombia)

Economy (Colombia)

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Overview:

Economic development has slowed gradually since 1986, but growth rates remain high by Latin American standards. Conservative economic policies have

kept inflation and unemployment near 30% and 10%, respectively. The rapid development of oil, coal, and other nontraditional industries in recent years has helped to offset the decline in coffee prices - Colombia's major export. The collapse of the International Coffee Agreement in the summer of 1989, a troublesome rural insurgency, energy rationing, and drug-related violence have dampened growth. The level of violence, in Bogota in particular, surged to higher levels in the first quarter of 1993, further delaying the economic resurgence expected from government reforms. These reforms center on fiscal restraint, trade and investment liberalization, financial and labor reform, and privatization of state utilities and commercial banks.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$51 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

3.3% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$1,500 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

25% (1992)

Unemployment rate:

10% (1992)

Budget:

revenues \$5.0 billion; current expenditures \$5.1 billion, capital expenditures \$964 million (1991 est.)

Exports:

\$7.4 billion (f.o.b., 1992 est.)

commodities:

petroleum, coffee, coal, bananas, fresh cut flowers

partners:

US 44%, EC 21%, Japan 5%, Netherlands 4%, Sweden 3% (1991)

Imports:

\$5.5 billion (c.i.f., 1992 est.)

commodities:

industrial equipment, transportation equipment, consumer goods, chemicals, paper products

partners:

US 36%, EC 16%, Brazil 4%, Venezuela 3%, Japan 3% (1991)

External debt:

\$17 billion (1992)

Industrial production:

growth rate -0.5% (1991); accounts for 20% of GDP

Electricity:

10,193,000 kW capacity; 36,000 million kWh produced, 1,050 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

textiles, food processing, oil, clothing and footwear, beverages, chemicals  
,  
metal products, cement; mining - gold, coal, emeralds, iron, nickel, silver  
,  
salt

Agriculture:

growth rate 3% (1991 est.) accounts for 22% of GDP; crops make up two-thirds

and livestock one-third of agricultural output; climate and soils permit a

wide variety of crops, such as coffee, rice, tobacco, corn, sugarcane, ←  
 cocoa  
 beans, oilseeds, vegetables; forest products and shrimp farming are ←  
 becoming  
 more important

## 1.8 54.guide/Economy (Colombia 2. usage)

Economy (Colombia 2. usage)

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Illicit drugs:

illicit producer of cannabis, coca, and opium; about 37,500 hectares of ←  
 coca

under cultivation; the world's largest processor of coca derivatives into  
 cocaine; supplier of cocaine to the US and other international drug markets

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$1.6 billion; Western (non-US)  
 countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$3.3 billion,  
 Communist countries (1970-89), \$399 million

Currency:

1 Colombian peso (Col\$) = 100 centavos

Exchange rates:

Colombian pesos (Col\$) per US\$1 - 820.08 (January 1993), 759.28 (1992),  
 633.05 (1991), 502.26 (1990), 382.57 (1989), 299.17 (1988)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

## 1.9 54.guide/Communications (Colombia)

Communications (Colombia)

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Railroads:

3,386 km; 3,236 km 0.914-meter gauge, single track (2,611 km in use), 150 ←  
 km

1.435-meter gauge

Highways:

75,450 km total; 9,350 km paved, 66,100 km earth and gravel surfaces

Inland waterways:

14,300 km, navigable by river boats

Pipelines:

crude oil 3,585 km; petroleum products 1,350 km; natural gas 830 km; ←  
 natural

gas liquids 125 km

Ports:

Barranquilla, Buenaventura, Cartagena, Covenas, San Andres, Santa Marta,  
 Tumaco

Merchant marine:

27 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 227,719 GRT/356,665 DWT; includes 9 cargo, 3 oil tanker, 8 bulk, 7 container

Airports:

total:

1,233

usable:

1,059

with permanent-surface:

69

with runways over 3,659 m:

1 with runways 2,440-2,459 m:

9

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

200

Telecommunications:

nationwide radio relay system; 1,890,000 telephones; broadcast stations - 413 AM, no FM, 33 TV, 28 shortwave; 2 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth ↔ stations

and 11 domestic satellite earth stations

## 1.10 54.guide/Defense Forces (Colombia)

### Defense Forces (Colombia)

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Branches:

Army (Ejercito Nacional), Navy (Armada Nacional, including Marines), Air Force (Fuerza Aerea Colombiana), National Police (Policia Nacional)

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 9,428,358; fit for military service 6,375,944; reach military age (18) annually 356,993 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$630 million, 1.3% of GDP (1993 est.)