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Chapter 1

70

1.1 70.guide

Texified version of data for Egypt.

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Egypt

1.2 70.guide/Egypt

Egypt

Geography (Egypt)
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1.3 70.guide/Geography (Egypt)

Geography (Egypt)

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Location:

Northern Africa, bordering the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea, between Sudan and Libya

Map references:

Africa, Middle East, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

1,001,450 km²

land area:

995,450 km²

comparative area:

slightly more than three times the size of New Mexico

Land boundaries:

total 2,689 km, Gaza Strip 11 km, Israel 255 km, Libya 1,150 km, Sudan 1,273

km

Coastline:

2,450 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

24 nm

continental shelf:

200 m depth or to depth of exploitation

exclusive economic zone:

not specified

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

administrative boundary with Sudan does not coincide with international boundary creating the "Hala'ib Triangle," a barren area of 20,580 km², the dispute over this area escalated in 1993

Climate:

desert; hot, dry summers with moderate winters

Terrain:

vast desert plateau interrupted by Nile valley and delta

Natural resources:

petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, phosphates, manganese, limestone, gypsum,

talc, asbestos, lead, zinc

Land use:

arable land:

3%

permanent crops:

2%

meadows and pastures:

0%

forest and woodland:

0%

other:

95%

Irrigated land:

25,850 km² (1989 est.)

Environment:

Nile is only perennial water source; increasing soil salinization below Aswan High Dam; hot, driving windstorm called khamsin occurs in spring; water pollution; desertification

Note:

controls Sinai Peninsula, only land bridge between Africa and remainder of Eastern Hemisphere; controls Suez Canal, shortest sea link between Indian Ocean and Mediterranean; size and juxtaposition to Israel establish its major role in Middle Eastern geopolitics

1.4 70.guide/People (Egypt)

People (Egypt)

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Population:

59,585,529 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:

2.3% (1993 est.)

note:

the US Bureau of the Census has lowered its 1993 estimate of growth to 2.0% on the basis of a 1992 Egyptian government survey, whereas estimates of other observers go as high as 2.9%

Birth rate:

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

Death rate:

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

Net migration rate:

NEGL

Infant mortality rate:

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

Life expectancy at birth:

total population:

60.46 years

male:

58.61 years

female:

62.41 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:

4.35 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality:

noun:

Egyptian(s)

adjective:

Egyptian

Ethnic divisions:

Eastern Hamitic stock 90%, Greek, Italian, Syro-Lebanese 10%

Religions:

Muslim (mostly Sunni) 94% (official estimate), Coptic Christian and other 6% ←

(official estimate)

Languages:

Arabic (official), English and French widely understood by educated classes

Literacy:

age 15 and over can read and write (1990)

total population:

48%

male:

63%

female:

34%

Labor force:

15 million (1989 est.)

by occupation:

government, public sector enterprises, and armed forces 36%, agriculture 34%, privately owned service and manufacturing enterprises 20% (1984)

note: shortage of skilled labor; 2,500,000 Egyptians work abroad, mostly ←

in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Arab states (1988 est.)

1.5 70.guide/Government (Egypt)

Government (Egypt)

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Names:

conventional long form:

Arab Republic of Egypt

conventional short form:

Egypt

local long form:

Jumhuriyat Misr al-Arabiya

local short form:

none

former:

United Arab Republic (with Syria)

Digraph:

EG

Type:

republic

Capital:

Cairo

Administrative divisions:

26 governorates (muhafazat, singular - muhafazah); Ad Daqahliyah, Al Bahr ←
al

Ahmar, Al Buhayrah, Al Fayyum, Al Gharbiyah, Al Iskandariyah, Al
Isma'iliyah, Al Jizah, Al Minufiyah, Al Minya, Al Qahirah, Al Qalyubiyah, ←
Al

Wadi al Jadid, Ash Sharqiyah, As Suways, Aswan, Asyu't, Bani Suwayf, Bur
Sa'id, Dumyat, Janub Sina, Kafr ash Shaykh, Matruh, Qina, Shamal Sina, ←
Suhaj

Independence:

28 February 1922 (from UK)

Constitution:

11 September 1971

Legal system:

based on English common law, Islamic law, and Napoleonic codes; judicial
review by Supreme Court and Council of State (oversees validity of
administrative decisions); accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with
reservations

National holiday:

Anniversary of the Revolution, 23 July (1952)

Political parties and leaders:

National Democratic Party (NDP), President Mohammed Hosni MUBARAK, leader,
is the dominant party; legal opposition parties are Socialist Liberal Party
(SLP), Kamal MURAD; Socialist Labor Party, Ibrahim SHUKRI; National
Progressive Unionist Grouping (NPUG), Khalid MUHYI-AL-DIN; Umma Party, ←
Ahmad

al-SABAHI; New Wafd Party (NWP), Fu'ad SIRAJ AL-DIN; Misr al-Fatah Party
(Young Egypt Party), Ali al-Din SALIH; The Greens Party, Hasan RAJABD;
Nasserist Arab Democratic Party, Muhammad Rif'at al-MUHAMI; Democratic
Unionist Party, Mohammed 'Abd-al-Mun'im TURK; Democratic Peoples' Party,
Anwar AFISI

note:

formation of political parties must be approved by government

Other political or pressure groups:

Islamic groups are illegal, but the largest one, the Muslim Brotherhood, is
tolerated by the government; trade unions and professional associations are
officially sanctioned

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal and compulsory

Elections:

Advisory Council:

last held 8 June 1989 (next to be held June 1995); results - NDP 100%; ←
seats
- (258 total, 172 elected) NDP 172

1.6 70.guide/Government (Egypt 2. usage)

Government (Egypt 2. usage)

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People's Assembly:

last held 29 November 1990 (next to be held November 1995); results - NDP
78.4%, NPUG 1.4%, independents 18.7%; seats - (437 total, 444 elected) NDP

348, NPUG 6, independents 83; note - most opposition parties boycotted President:

last held 5 October 1987 (next to be held October 1993); results - ←
President

Hosni MUBARAK was reelected

Executive branch:

president, prime minister, Cabinet

Legislative branch:

unicameral People's Assembly (Majlis al-Cha'b); note - there is an Advisory Council (Majlis al-Shura) that functions in a consultative role

Judicial branch:

Supreme Constitutional Court

Leaders:

Chief of State:

President Mohammed Hosni MUBARAK (was made acting President on 6 October 1981 upon the assassination of President SADAT and sworn in as president on 14 October 1981)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister Atef Mohammed Najib SEDKY (since 12 November 1986)

Member of:

ABEDA, ACC, ACCT (associate), AfDB, AFESD, AG (observer), AL, AMF, CAEU, CCC, EBRD, ECA, ESCWA, FAO, G-15, G-19, G-24, G-77, GATT, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM, ISO, ITU, LORCS, MINURSO, NAM, OAPEC, OAS (observer), OAU, OIC, PCA, UN, UNAVEM II, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNOMOZ, UNOSOM, UNPROFOR, UPU, UNRWA, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

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Flag:

three equal horizontal bands of red (top), white, and black with the national emblem (a shield superimposed on a golden eagle facing the hoist side above a scroll bearing the name of the country in Arabic) centered in the white band; similar to the flag of Yemen, which has a plain white band; also similar to the flag of Syria that has two green stars and to the flag of Iraq, which has three green stars (plus an Arabic inscription) in a horizontal line centered in the white band

1.7 70.guide/Economy (Egypt)

Economy (Egypt)

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Overview:

Egypt has one of the largest public sectors of all the Third World economies, most industrial plants being owned by the government. Overregulation holds back technical modernization and foreign investment. Even so, the economy grew rapidly during the late 1970s and early 1980s, ← but in 1986 the collapse of world oil prices and an increasingly heavy burden ← of debt servicing led Egypt to begin negotiations with the IMF for balance-of-payments support. Egypt's first IMF standby arrangement ← concluded in mid-1987 was suspended in early 1988 because of the government's failure to adopt promised reforms. Egypt signed a follow-on program with the IMF ← and also negotiated a structural adjustment loan with the World Bank in 1991. ← In 1991-92 the government made solid progress on administrative reforms such ← as liberalizing exchange and interest rates but resisted implementing major structural reforms like streamlining the public sector. As a result, the economy has not gained momentum and unemployment has become a growing problem. In 1992-93 tourism has plunged 20% or so because of sporadic attacks by Islamic extremists on tourist groups. President MUBARAK has ← cited population growth as the main cause of the country's economic troubles. The addition of about 1.4 million people a year to the already huge population of 60 million exerts enormous pressure on the 5% of the land area available for agriculture.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$41.2 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

2.1% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$730 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

21% (1992 est.)

Unemployment rate:

20% (1992 est.)

Budget:

revenues \$12.6 billion; expenditures \$15.2 billion, including capital expenditures of \$4 billion (FY92 est.)

Exports:

\$3.6 billion (f.o.b., FY92 est.)

commodities: crude oil and petroleum products, cotton yarn, raw cotton, ← textiles, metal products, chemicals

partners:

EC, Eastern Europe, US, Japan

Imports:

\$10.0 billion (c.i.f., FY92 est.)

commodities:
 machinery and equipment, foods, fertilizers, wood products, durable ←
 consumer
 goods, capital goods
 partners:
 EC, US, Japan, Eastern Europe
 External debt:
 \$38 billion (December 1991 est.)
 Industrial production:
 growth rate 7.3% (FY89 est.); accounts for 18% of GDP
 Electricity:
 14,175,000 kW capacity; 47,000 million kWh produced, 830 kWh per capita
 (1992)
 Industries:
 textiles, food processing, tourism, chemicals, petroleum, construction,
 cement, metals

1.8 70.guide/Economy (Egypt 2. usage)

Economy (Egypt 2. usage)

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Agriculture:
 accounts for 20% of GDP and employs more than one-third of labor force;
 dependent on irrigation water from the Nile; world's sixth-largest cotton
 exporter; other crops produced include rice, corn, wheat, beans, fruit,
 vegetables; not self-sufficient in food for a rapidly expanding population;
 livestock - cattle, water buffalo, sheep, goats; annual fish catch about
 140,000 metric tons
 Illicit drugs:
 a transit point for Southwest Asian and Southeast Asian heroin and opium
 moving to Europe and the US; popular transit stop for Nigerian couriers;
 large domestic consumption of hashish and heroin from Lebanon and Syria
 Economic aid:
 US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$15.7 billion; Western (non-US)
 countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-88), \$10.1 billion; OPEC
 bilateral aid (1979-89), \$2.9 billion; Communist countries (1970-89), \$2.4
 billion
 Currency:
 1 Egyptian pound (#E) = 100 piasters
 Exchange rates:
 Egyptian pounds (#E) per US\$1 - 3.345 (November 1992), 2.7072 (1990), ←
 2.5171
 (1989), 2.2233 (1988), 1.5183 (1987)
 Fiscal year:
 1 July - 30 June

1.9 70.guide/Communications (Egypt)

Communications (Egypt)

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Railroads:

5,110 km total; 4,763 km 1,435-meter standard gauge, 347 km 0.750-meter gauge; 951 km double track; 25 km electrified

Highways:

51,925 km total; 17,900 km paved, 2,500 km gravel, 13,500 km improved earth ↔
18,025 km unimproved earth

Inland waterways:

3,500 km (including the Nile, Lake Nasser, Alexandria-Cairo Waterway, and numerous smaller canals in the delta); Suez Canal, 193.5 km long (including approaches), used by oceangoing vessels drawing up to 16.1 meters of water

Pipelines:

crude oil 1,171 km; petroleum products 596 km; natural gas 460 km

Ports:

Alexandria, Port Said, Suez, Bur Safajah, Damietta

Merchant marine:

168 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 1,097,707 GRT/1,592,885 DWT; ↔
includes
25 passenger, 6 short-sea passenger, 2 passenger-cargo, 88 cargo, 3 refrigerated cargo, 14 roll-on/roll-off, 13 oil tanker, 16 bulk, 1 ↔
container

Airports:

total:

92

usable:

82

with permanent-surface runways:

66

with runways over 3,659 m:

2

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

44

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

24

Telecommunications:

large system by Third World standards but inadequate for present requirements and undergoing extensive upgrading; about 600,000 telephones (est.) - 11 telephones per 1,000 persons; principal centers at Alexandria, Cairo, Al Mansurah, Ismailia Suez, and Tanta are connected by coaxial cable and microwave radio relay; international traffic is carried by satellite - one earth station for each of Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT, Indian Ocean INTELSAT, ARABSAT and INMARSAT; by 5 coaxial submarine cables, microwave troposcatter (to Sudan), and microwave radio relay (to Libya, Israel, and Jordan); broadcast stations - 39 AM, 6 FM, and 41 TV

1.10 70.guide/Defense Forces (Egypt)

Defense Forces (Egypt)

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Branches:

Army, Navy, Air Force, Air Defense Command

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 14,513,752; fit for military service 9,434,020; reach
military age (20) annually 581,858 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$2.05 billion, 5% of GDP (FY92/93)
