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Chapter 1

252

1.1 252.guide

Texified version of data for Vanuatu.

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Vanuatu

1.2 252.guide/Vanuatu

Vanuatu

Geography (Vanuatu)
People (Vanuatu)
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1.3 252.guide/Geography (Vanuatu)

Geography (Vanuatu)

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Location:

Oceania, 5,750 km southwest of Honolulu in the South Pacific Ocean, about three-quarters of the way between Hawaii and Australia

Map references:

Oceania, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

14,760 km²

land area:

14,760 km²

comparative area:

slightly larger than Connecticut

note:

includes more than 80 islands

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

2,528 km

Maritime claims:

measured from claimed archipelagic baselines

contiguous zone:

24 nm

continental shelf:

200 nm or the edge of continental margin

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

none

Climate:

tropical; moderated by southeast trade winds

Terrain:

mostly mountains of volcanic origin; narrow coastal plains

Natural resources:

manganese, hardwood forests, fish

Land use:

arable land:

1%
 permanent crops:
 5%
 meadows and pastures:
 2%
 forest and woodland:
 1%
 other:
 91%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km2
 Environment:
 subject to tropical cyclones or typhoons (January to April); volcanism
 causes minor earthquakes

1.4 252.guide/People (Vanuatu)

People (Vanuatu)

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Population:
 165,876 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 2.36% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 33.16 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 9.57 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 69.9 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 58.8 years
 male:
 57.11 years
 female:
 60.58 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 4.47 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Ni-Vanuatu (singular and plural)
 adjective: Ni-Vanuatu
 Ethnic divisions:
 indigenous Melanesian 94%, French 4%, Vietnamese, Chinese, Pacific
 Islanders ↵
 Religions:
 Presbyterian 36.7%, Anglican 15%, Catholic 15%, indigenous beliefs 7.6%,
 Seventh-Day Adventist 6.2%, Church of Christ 3.8%, other 15.7%
 Languages:
 English (official), French (official), pidgin (known as Bislama or

Bichelama)
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1979)
 total population:
 53%
 male:
 57%
 female:
 48%
 Labor force:
 NA
 by occupation:
 NA

1.5 252.guide/Government (Vanuatu)

Government (Vanuatu)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Republic of Vanuatu
 conventional short form:
 Vanuatu
 former:
 New Hebrides
 Digraph:
 NH
 Type:
 republic
 Capital:
 Port-Vila
 Administrative divisions:
 11 island councils; Ambrym, Aoba/Maewo, Banks/Torres, Efate, Epi, Malakula, Paama, Pentecote, Santo/Malo, Shepherd, Tafea
 Independence:
 30 July 1980 (from France and UK)
 Constitution:
 30 July 1980
 Legal system:
 unified system being created from former dual French and British systems
 National holiday:
 Independence Day, 30 July (1980)
 Political parties and leaders:
 Vanuatu Party (VP), Donald KALPOKAS; Union of Moderate Parties (UMP), Serge VOHOR; Melanesian Progressive Party (MPP), Barak SOPE; National United Party
 Party
 (NUP), Walter LINI; Tan Union Party (TUP), Vincent BOULEKONE; Nagriamel Party, Jimmy STEVENS; Friend Melanesian Party, leader NA
 Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal
 Elections:
 Parliament:
 last held 2 December 1991 (next to be held by November 1995); note - after

election, a coalition was formed by the Union of Moderate Parties and the National United Party to form new government on 16 December 1991; seats - (46 total) UMP 19; NUP 10; VP 10; MPP 4; TUP 1; Nagriamel 1; Friend 1

Executive branch:
 president, prime minister, deputy prime minister, Council of Ministers (cabinet)

Legislative branch:
 unicameral Parliament; note - the National Council of Chiefs advises on matters of custom and land

Judicial branch:
 Supreme Court

Leaders:
 Chief of State:
 President Frederick TIMAKATA (since 30 January 1989)

Head of Government:
 Prime Minister Maxime CARLOT KORMAN (since 16 December 1991); Deputy Prime Minister Sethy REGENVANU (since 17 December 1991)

Member of:
 ACCT, ACP, AsDB, C, ESCAP, FAO, G-77, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IFC, IMF, IMO, IOC, ITU, NAM, SPARTECA, SPC, SPF, UN, UNCTAD, UNIDO, UPU, WHO, WMO

Diplomatic representation in US:
 Vanuatu does not have a mission in Washington

US diplomatic representation:
 the ambassador to Papua New Guinea is accredited to Vanuatu

1.6 252.guide/Government (Vanuatu 2. usage)

Government (Vanuatu 2. usage)

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Flag:

two equal horizontal bands of red (top) and green with a black isosceles triangle (based on the hoist side) all separated by a black-edged yellow stripe in the shape of a horizontal Y (the two points of the Y face the hoist side and enclose the triangle); centered in the triangle is a boar's tusk encircling two crossed namele leaves, all in yellow

1.7 252.guide/Economy (Vanuatu)

Economy (Vanuatu)

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Overview:

The economy is based primarily on subsistence farming which provides a living for about 80% of the population. Fishing and tourism are the other mainstays of the economy. Mineral deposits are negligible; the country has no known petroleum deposits. A small light industry sector caters to the local market. Tax revenues come mainly from import duties.

National product:
 GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$142 million (1988 est.)
 National product real growth rate:
 6% (1990)
 National product per capita:
 \$900 (1988 est.)
 Inflation rate (consumer prices):
 5% (1990)
 Unemployment rate:
 NA%
 Budget:
 revenues \$90 million; expenditures \$103 million, including capital
 expenditures of \$45 million (1989 est.)
 Exports:
 \$15.6 million (f.o.b., 1990 est.)
 commodities:
 copra 59%, cocoa 11%, meat 9%, fish 8%, timber 4%
 partners:
 Netherlands, Japan, France, New Caledonia, Belgium
 Imports:
 \$60.4 million (f.o.b., 1990 est.)
 commodities:
 machines and vehicles 25%, food and beverages 23%, basic manufactures 18%,
 raw materials and fuels 11%, chemicals 6%
 partners:
 Australia 36%, Japan 13%, NZ 10%, France 8%, Fiji 8%
 External debt:
 \$30 million (1990 est.)
 Industrial production:
 growth rate NA%; accounts for about 10% of GDP
 Electricity:
 17,000 kW capacity; 30 million kWh produced, 180 kWh per capita (1990)
 Industries:
 food and fish freezing, wood processing, meat canning
 Agriculture:
 accounts for 40% of GDP; export crops - coconuts, cocoa, coffee, fish;
 subsistence crops - taro, yams, coconuts, fruits, vegetables
 Economic aid:
 Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89),
 \$606 million
 Currency:
 1 vatu (VT) = 100 centimes
 Exchange rates:
 vatu (VT) per US\$1 - 120.77 (January 1993), 113.39 (1992), 111.68 (1991),
 116.57 (1990), 116.04 (1989), 104.43 (1988)
 Fiscal year:
 calendar year

1.8 252.guide/Communications (Vanuatu)

Communications (Vanuatu)

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Railroads:

none

Highways:

1,027 km total; at least 240 km sealed or all-weather roads

Ports:

Port-Vila, Luganville, Palikoulo, Santu

Merchant marine:

125 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 2,121,819 GRT/3,193,942 DWT; ←
includes23 cargo, 16 refrigerated cargo, 6 container, 11 vehicle carrier, 1
livestock carrier, 6 oil tanker, 2 chemical tanker, 3 liquefied gas, 54
bulk, 1 combination bulk, 1 passenger, 1 short-sea passenger; note - a flag
of convenience registry

Airports:

total:

31

usable:

31

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:

broadcast stations - 2 AM, no FM, no TV; 3,000 telephones; 1 Pacific Ocean
INTELSAT ground station

1.9 252.guide/Defense Forces (Vanuatu)

Defense Forces (Vanuatu)

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Branches:

Vanuatu Police Force (VPF), paramilitary Vanuatu Mobile Force (VMF)

note:

no military forces

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 NA; fit for military service NA

Defense expenditures:

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