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Chapter 1

51

1.1 51.guide

Texified version of data for Christmas Island.

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Christmas Island

1.2 51.guide/Christmas Island

Christmas Island

Header (Christmas Island)
Geography (Christmas Island)
People (Christmas Island)
Government (Christmas Island)
Economy (Christmas Island)
Communications (Christmas Island)
Defense Forces (Christmas Island)

1.3 51.guide/Header (Christmas Island)

Header (Christmas Island)
=====

Affiliation:
 (territory of Australia)

1.4 51.guide/Geography (Christmas Island)

Geography (Christmas Island)
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Location:
 in the Indian Ocean, between Australia and Indonesia
Map references:
 Southeast Asia
Area:
 total area:
 135 km2
 land area:
 135 km2
 comparative area:
 about 0.8 times the size of Washington, DC
Land boundaries:
 0 km
Coastline:
 138.9 km
Maritime claims:
 contiguous zone:
 12 nm
 exclusive fishing zone:
 200 nm
 territorial sea:
 3 nm
International disputes:
 none
Climate:

tropical; heat and humidity moderated by trade winds
Terrain:
steep cliffs along coast rise abruptly to central plateau
Natural resources:
phosphate
Land use:
arable land:
0%
permanent crops:
0%
meadows and pastures:
0%
forest and woodland:
0%
other:
100%
Irrigated land:
NA km2
Environment:
almost completely surrounded by a reef
Note:
located along major sea lanes of Indian Ocean

1.5 51.guide/People (Christmas Island)

People (Christmas Island)
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Population:
1,685 (July 1993 est.)
Population growth rate:
-2.44% (1993 est.)
Birth rate:
NA births/1,000 population
Death rate:
NA deaths/1,000 population
Net migration rate:
NA migrant(s)/1,000 population
Infant mortality rate:
NA deaths/1,000 live births
Life expectancy at birth:
total population:
NA years
male:
NA years
female:
NA years
Total fertility rate:
NA children born/woman
Nationality:
noun:
Christmas Islander(s)
adjective:

Christmas Island

Ethnic divisions:
Chinese 61%, Malay 25%, European 11%, other 3%, no indigenous population

Religions:
Buddhist 36.1%, Muslim 25.4%, Christian 17.7% (Roman Catholic 8.2%, Church of England 3.2%, Presbyterian 0.9%, Uniting Church 0.4%, Methodist 0.2%, Baptist 0.1%, and other 4.7%), none 12.7%, unknown 4.6%, other 3.5% (1981)

Languages:
English

Literacy:
total population:
NA%
male:
NA%
female:
NA%

Labor force:
NA
by occupation:
all workers are employees of the Phosphate Mining Company of Christmas Island, Ltd.

1.6 51.guide/Government (Christmas Island)

Government (Christmas Island)

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Names:
conventional long form:
Territory of Christmas Island
conventional short form:
Christmas Island

Digraph:
KT

Type:
territory of Australia

Capital:
The Settlement

Administrative divisions:
none (territory of Australia)

Independence:
none (territory of Australia)

Constitution:
Christmas Island Act of 1958

Legal system:
under the authority of the governor general of Australia

National holiday:
NA

Political parties and leaders:
none

Executive branch:
British monarch, governor general of Australia, administrator, Advisory Council (cabinet)

Legislative branch:
 none
 Judicial branch:
 none
 Leaders:
 Chief of State:
 Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952)
 Head of Government:
 Administrator M. J. GRIMES (since NA)
 Member of:
 none
 Diplomatic representation in US:
 none (territory of Australia)
 US diplomatic representation:
 none (territory of Australia)
 Flag:
 the flag of Australia is used

1.7 51.guide/Economy (Christmas Island)

Economy (Christmas Island)

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Overview:
 Phosphate mining had been the only significant economic activity, but in December 1987 the Australian Government closed the mine as no longer economically viable. Plans have been under way to reopen the mine and also to build a casino and hotel to develop tourism, with a possible opening ↵
 date
 during the first half of 1992.
 National product:
 GDP \$NA
 National product real growth rate:
 NA%
 National product per capita:
 \$NA
 Inflation rate (consumer prices):
 NA%
 Unemployment rate:
 NA%
 Budget:
 revenues \$NA; expenditures \$NA, including capital expenditures of \$NA
 Exports:
 \$NA
 commodities:
 phosphate
 partners:
 Australia, NZ
 Imports:
 \$NA
 commodities:
 consumer goods
 partners:

principally Australia
 External debt:
 \$NA
 Industrial production:
 growth rate NA%
 Electricity:
 11,000 kW capacity; 30 million kWh produced, 17,800 kWh per capita (1990)
 Industries:
 phosphate extraction (near depletion)
 Agriculture:
 NA
 Economic aid:
 none
 Currency:
 1 Australian dollar (\$A) = 100 cents
 Exchange rates:
 Australian dollars (\$A) per US\$1 - 1.4837 (January 1993), 1.3600 (1992),
 1.2836 (1991), 1.2799 (1990), 1.2618 (1989), 1.2752 (1988)
 Fiscal year:
 1 July - 30 June

1.8 51.guide/Communications (Christmas Island)

Communications (Christmas Island)

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Highways:
 adequate road system
 Ports:
 Flying Fish Cove
 Airports:
 total:
 1
 useable:
 1
 with permanent-surface runways:
 1
 with runways over 3,659 m:
 0
 with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
 0
 with runways 1,220-2,439:
 1
 Telecommunications:
 4,000 radios (1982); broadcasting stations - 1 AM, 1 TV

1.9 51.guide/Defense Forces (Christmas Island)

Defense Forces (Christmas Island)

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Note:

defense is the responsibility of Australia