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	TITLE :  78		
ACTION	NAME	DATE	SIGNATURE
WRITTEN BY		August 10, 2024	

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

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# Chapter 1

## 78

### 1.1 78.guide

Texified version of data for Faroe Islands.

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Faroe Islands

### 1.2 78.guide/Faroe Islands

Faroe Islands  
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Header (Faroe Islands)  
Geography (Faroe Islands)  
People (Faroe Islands)  
Government (Faroe Islands)  
Government (Faroe Islands 2. usage)  
Economy (Faroe Islands)  
Economy (Faroe Islands 2. usage)  
Communications (Faroe Islands)  
Defense Forces (Faroe Islands)

### 1.3 78.guide/Header (Faroe Islands)

Header (Faroe Islands)  
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Affiliation:  
    (part of the Danish realm)

### 1.4 78.guide/Geography (Faroe Islands)

Geography (Faroe Islands)  
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Location:  
    in the north Atlantic Ocean, located half way between Norway and Iceland  
Map references:  
    Arctic Region  
Area:  
    total area:  
        1,400 km2  
    land area:  
        1,400 km2  
    comparative area:  
        slightly less than eight times the size of Washington, DC  
Land boundaries:  
    0 km  
Coastline:  
    764 km  
Maritime claims:  
    exclusive fishing zone:  
        200 nm  
    territorial sea:  
        3 nm  
International disputes:  
    none  
Climate:

---

mild winters, cool summers; usually overcast; foggy, windy  
Terrain:  
rugged, rocky, some low peaks; cliffs along most of coast  
Natural resources:  
fish  
Land use:  
arable land:  
2%  
permanent crops:  
0%  
meadows and pastures:  
0%  
forest and woodland:  
0%  
other:  
98%  
Irrigated land:  
NA km2  
Environment:  
precipitous terrain limits habitation to small coastal lowlands; ↔  
archipelago  
of 18 inhabited islands and a few uninhabited islets  
Note:  
strategically located along important sea lanes in northeastern Atlantic

## 1.5 78.guide/People (Faroe Islands)

People (Faroe Islands)  
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Population:  
48,065 (July 1993 est.)  
Population growth rate:  
0.67% (1993 est.)  
Birth rate:  
18.45 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
Death rate:  
7.57 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
Net migration rate:  
-4.2 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
Infant mortality rate:  
8.3 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)  
Life expectancy at birth:  
total population:  
77.92 years  
male:  
74.51 years  
female:  
81.45 years (1993 est.)  
Total fertility rate:  
2.52 children born/woman (1993 est.)  
Nationality:  
noun:

Faroese (singular and plural)  
 adjective:  
 Faroese  
 Ethnic divisions:  
 Scandinavian  
 Religions:  
 Evangelical Lutheran  
 Languages:  
 Faroese (derived from Old Norse), Danish  
 Literacy:  
 total population:  
 NA%  
 male:  
 NA%  
 female:  
 NA%  
 Labor force:  
 17,585  
 by occupation:  
 largely engaged in fishing, manufacturing, transportation, and commerce

## 1.6 78.guide/Government (Faroe Islands)

Government (Faroe Islands)

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Names:  
 conventional long form:  
 none  
 conventional short form:  
 Faroe Islands local long form:  
 none  
 local short form:  
 Foroyar  
 Digraph:  
 FO  
 Type:  
 part of the Danish realm; self-governing overseas administrative division ↵  
 of  
 Denmark  
 Capital:  
 Torshavn  
 Administrative divisions:  
 none (self-governing overseas administrative division of Denmark)  
 Independence:  
 none (part of the Danish realm; self-governing overseas administrative  
 division of Denmark)  
 Constitution:  
 Danish  
 Legal system:  
 Danish  
 National holiday:  
 Birthday of the Queen, 16 April (1940)

Political parties and leaders:  
 three-party ruling coalition:  
 Social Democratic Party, Marita PETERSEN; Republican Party, Signer HANSEN;  
 Home Rule Party, Hilmar KASS  
 opposition:  
 Cooperation Coalition Party, Pauli ELLEFSEN; Progressive and Fishing  
 Industry Party-Christian People's Party (PFIP-CPP), leader NA; Progress  
 Party, leader NA; People's Party, Jogvan SUND-STEIN  
 Suffrage:  
 20 years of age; universal  
 Elections:  
 Danish Parliament:  
 last held on 12 December 1990 (next to be held by December 1994); results -  
 percent of vote by party NA; seats - (2 total) Social Democratic 1, People' ←  
 s  
 Party 1; note - the Faroe Islands elects two representatives to the Danish  
 Parliament  
 Faroese Parliament:  
 last held 17 November 1990 (next to be held November 1994); results - ←  
 Social  
 Democratic 27.4%, People's Party 21.9%, Cooperation Coalition Party 18.9%,  
 Republican Party 14.7%, Home Rule 8.8%, PFIP-CPP 5.9%, other 2.4%; seats -  
 (32 total) two-party coalition 17 (Social Democratic 10, People's Party 7),  
 Cooperation Coalition Party 6, Republican Party 4, Home Rule 3, PFIP-CPP 2  
 Executive branch:  
 Danish monarch, high commissioner, prime minister, deputy prime minister,  
 Cabinet (Landsstyri)  
 Legislative branch:  
 unicameral Parliament (Lgting)  
 Judicial branch:  
 none

## 1.7 78.guide/Government (Faroe Islands 2. usage)

Government (Faroe Islands 2. usage)

=====

Leaders:  
 Chief of State:  
 Queen MARGRETHE II (since 14 January 1972), represented by High ←  
 Commissioner  
 Bent KLINTE (since NA)  
 Head of Government:  
 Prime Minister Marita PETERSEN (since 18 January 1993)  
 Member of:  
 none  
 Diplomatic representation in US:  
 none (self-governing overseas administrative division of Denmark)  
 US diplomatic representation:  
 none (self-governing overseas administrative division of Denmark)  
 Flag:  
 white with a red cross outlined in blue that extends to the edges of the  
 flag; the vertical part of the cross is shifted to the hoist side in the



style of the DANNEBROG (Danish flag)

## 1.8 78.guide/Economy (Faroe Islands)

Economy (Faroe Islands)

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### Overview:

The Faroese, who have long enjoyed the affluent living standards of the Danes and other Scandinavians, now must cope with the decline of the all-important fishing industry and one of the world's heaviest per capita external debts of nearly \$30,000. When the nations of the world extended their fishing zones to 200 nautical miles in the early 1970s, the Faroese no longer could continue their traditional long-distance fishing and subsequently depleted their own nearby fishing areas. The government's tight controls on fish stocks and its austerity measures have caused a recession, and subsidy cuts will force nationalization in the fishing industry, which has already been plagued with bankruptcies. Copenhagen has threatened to withhold its annual subsidy of \$130 million - roughly one-third of the islands' budget revenues - unless the Faroese make significant efforts to balance their budget. To this extent the Faroe government is expected to continue its tough policies, including introducing a 20% VAT in 1993, and has agreed to an IMF economic-political stabilization plan. In addition to its annual subsidy, the Danish government has bailed out the second largest Faroe bank to the tune of \$140 million since October 1992.

### National product:

GDP - purchasing power equivalent - \$662 million (1989 est.)

### National product real growth rate:

3% (1989 est.)

### National product per capita:

\$14,000 (1989 est.)

### Inflation rate (consumer prices):

2% (1988)

### Unemployment rate:

5%-6% (1991 est.)

### Budget:

revenues \$425 million; expenditures \$480 million, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1991 est.)

### Exports:

\$386 million (f.o.b., 1990 est.)

### commodities:

fish and fish products 88%, animal feedstuffs, transport equipment (ships) (1989)

### partners:

Denmark 20%, Germany 18.3%, UK 14.2%, France 11.2%, Spain 7.9%, US 4.5%

### Imports:

\$322 million (c.i.f., 1990 est.)

### commodities:

machinery and transport equipment 24.4%, manufactures 24%, food and livestock 19%, fuels 12%, chemicals 6.5%

### partners:

Denmark 43.8%, Norway 19.8%, Sweden 4.9%, Germany 4.2%, US 1.3%

External debt:  
\$1.3 billion (1991)

Industrial production:  
growth rate NA%

Electricity:  
80,000 kW capacity; 280 million kWh produced, 5,760 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:  
fishing, shipbuilding, handicrafts

Agriculture:  
accounts for 27% of GDP and employs 27% of labor force; principal crops -  
potatoes and vegetables; livestock - sheep; annual fish catch about 360,000  
metric tons

Economic aid:  
receives an annual subsidy from Denmark of about \$130 million

## 1.9 78.guide/Economy (Faroe Islands 2. usage)

Economy (Faroe Islands 2. usage)

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Currency:  
1 Danish krone (DKr) = 100 ore

Exchange rates:  
Danish kroner (DKr) per US\$1 - 6.236 (January 1993), 6.036 (1992), 6.396  
(1991), 6.189 (1990), 7.310 (1989), 6.732 (1988)

Fiscal year:  
1 April - 31 March

## 1.10 78.guide/Communications (Faroe Islands)

Communications (Faroe Islands)

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Highways:  
200 km

Ports:  
Torshavn, Tvoroyri

Merchant marine:  
10 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 22,015 GRT/24,007 DWT; includes 1  
short-sea passenger, 5 cargo, 2 roll-on/roll-off, 2 refrigerated cargo; ↔  
note  
- a subset of the Danish register

Airports:  
total:  
1  
useable:  
1

with permanent-surface runways:  
1 with runways over 3659 m:  
0  
with runways 2440-3659 m:  
0  
with runways 1220-2439 m:  
1  
Telecommunications:  
good international communications; fair domestic facilities; 27,900  
telephones; broadcast stations - 1 AM, 3 (10 repeaters) FM, 3 (29 repeaters ↵  
)  
TV; 3 coaxial submarine cables

## 1.11 78.guide/Defense Forces (Faroe Islands)

Defense Forces (Faroe Islands)

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Branches:

small Police Force, no organized native military forces

Note:

defense is the responsibility of Denmark