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Chapter 1

149

1.1 149.guide

Texified version of data for Maldives.

Texified using wfact from

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Maldives

1.2 149.guide/Maldives

Maldives

Geography (Maldives)
People (Maldives)
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Economy (Maldives)
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1.3 149.guide/Geography (Maldives)

Geography (Maldives)

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Location:

South Asia, in the Indian Ocean off the southwest coast of India

Map references:

Asia, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

300 km²

land area:

300 km²

comparative area:

slightly more than 1.5 times the size of Washington, DC

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

644 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone:

35-310 nm as defined by geographic coordinates; segment of zone coincides with maritime boundary with India

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

none

Climate:

tropical; hot, humid; dry, northeast monsoon (November to March); rainy, southwest monsoon (June to August)

Terrain: flat with elevations only as high as 2.5 meters

Natural resources:

fish

Land use:

arable land:

10%

permanent crops:

0%

meadows and pastures:

3%

forest and woodland:

3%

other:
 84%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km2
 Environment:
 1,200 coral islands grouped into 19 atolls
 Note:
 archipelago of strategic location astride and along major sea lanes in
 Indian Ocean

1.4 149.guide/People (Maldives)

People (Maldives)

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Population:
 243,094 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 3.64% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 44.34 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 7.91 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 57.6 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 63.86 years
 male:
 62.5 years
 female:
 65.28 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 6.36 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Maldivian(s)
 adjective:
 Maldivian
 Ethnic divisions:
 Sinhalese, Dravidian, Arab, African
 Religions:
 Sunni Muslim
 Languages:
 Divehi (dialect of Sinhala; script derived from Arabic), English spoken by
 most government officials
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1985)
 total population:
 92%
 male:

92%
 female:
 92%
 Labor force:
 66,000 (est.)
 by occupation:
 fishing industry 25%

1.5 149.guide/Government (Maldives)

Government (Maldives)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Republic of Maldives
 conventional short form:
 Maldives
 Digraph:
 MV
 Type:
 republic
 Capital:
 Male
 Administrative divisions:
 19 districts (atolls); Aliff, Baa, Daalu, Faafu, Gaafu Aliff, Gaafu Daalu,
 Haa Aliff, Haa Daalu, Kaafu, Laamu, Laviyani, Meemu, Naviyani, Noonu, Raa,
 Seenu, Shaviyani, Thaa, Waavu
 Independence:
 26 July 1965 (from UK)
 Constitution:
 4 June 1964
 Legal system:
 based on Islamic law with admixtures of English common law primarily in
 commercial matters; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
 National holiday:
 Independence Day, 26 July (1965)
 Political parties and leaders:
 no organized political parties; country governed by the Didi clan for the
 past eight centuries
 Suffrage:
 21 years of age; universal
 Elections:
 President:
 last held 23 September 1988 (next to be held September 1993); results -
 President Maumoon Abdul GAYOOM reelected
 Citizens' Council:
 last held on 7 December 1989 (next to be held 7 December 1994); results -
 percent of vote NA; seats - (48 total, 40 elected)
 Executive branch:
 president, Cabinet
 Legislative branch:
 unicameral Citizens' Council (Majlis)

Judicial branch:

High Court

Leaders:

Chief of State and Head of Government:

President Maumoon Abdul GAYOOM (since 11 November 1978)

Member of:

AsDB, C, CP, ESCAP, FAO, G-77, GATT, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IMF, IMO, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, NAM, OIC, SAARC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WHO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in US:

Maldives does not maintain an embassy in the US, but does have a UN mission in New York

US diplomatic representation:

chief of mission:

the US Ambassador to Sri Lanka is accredited to Maldives and makes periodic visits there

consular agency:

Midhath Hilmy, Male

1.6 149.guide/Government (Maldives 2. usage)

Government (Maldives 2. usage)

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telephone:

2581

Flag:

red with a large green rectangle in the center bearing a vertical white crescent; the closed side of the crescent is on the hoist side of the flag

1.7 149.guide/Economy (Maldives)

Economy (Maldives)

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Overview:

The economy is based on fishing, tourism, and shipping. Agriculture is limited to the production of a few subsistence crops that provide only 10% of food requirements. Fishing is the largest industry, employing 25% of the work force and accounting for over 60% of exports; it is also an important source of government revenue. During the 1980s tourism became one of the most important and highest growth sectors of the economy. In 1988 industry accounted for about 5% of GDP. Real GDP is officially estimated to have increased by about 10% annually during the period 1974-90.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$140 million (1991 est.)

National product real growth rate:

4.7% (1991 est.)

National product per capita:

\$620 (1991 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

11.5% (1991 est.)

Unemployment rate:

NEGL%

Budget:

revenues \$52 million (excluding foreign transfers); expenditures \$83 million, including capital expenditures of \$39 million (1991 est.)

Exports:

\$53.7 million (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:

fish, clothing

partners:

US, UK, Sri Lanka

Imports:

\$150.9 million (c.i.f., 1991)

commodities:

consumer goods, intermediate and capital goods, petroleum products

partners:

Singapore, Germany, Sri Lanka, India

External debt:

\$90 million (1991)

Industrial production:

growth rate 24.0% (1990); accounts for 6% of GDP

Electricity:

5,000 kW capacity; 11 million kWh produced, 50 kWh per capita (1990)

Industries:

fishing and fish processing, tourism, shipping, boat building, some coconut processing, garments, woven mats, coir (rope), handicrafts

Agriculture:

accounts for almost 25% of GDP (including fishing); fishing more important than farming; limited production of coconuts, corn, sweet potatoes; most staple foods must be imported; fish catch of 67,000 tons (1990 est.)

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-88), \$28 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$125 million; OPEC bilateral aid (1979-89), \$14 million

Currency:

1 rufiyaa (Rf) = 100 laaris

Exchange rates:

rufiyaa (Rf) per US\$1 - 10.506 (January 1993), 10.569 (1992), 10.253 (1991) ←

9.509 (1990), 9.0408 (1989), 8.7846 (1988)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

1.8 149.guide/Communications (Maldives)

Communications (Maldives)

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Highways:

Male has 9.6 km of coral highways within the city

Ports:
 Male, Gan

Merchant marine:
 14 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 38,848 GRT/58,496 DWT; includes 12 cargo, 1 container, 1 oil tanker

Airports:
 total:
 2
 useable:
 2 with permanent-surface runways:
 2
 with runways over 3,659 m:
 0
 with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
 2
 with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
 0

Telecommunications:
 minimal domestic and international facilities; 2,804 telephones; broadcast stations - 2 AM, 1 FM, 1 TV; 1 Indian Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.9 149.guide/Defense Forces (Maldives)

Defense Forces (Maldives)
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Branches:
 National Security Service (paramilitary police force)

Manpower availability:
 males age 15-49 53,730; fit for military service 30,014 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:
 exchange rate conversion - \$NA, NA% of GDP