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Chapter 1

110

1.1 110.guide

Texified version of data for Iceland.

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Iceland

1.2 110.guide/Iceland

Iceland

Geography (Iceland)
 People (Iceland)
 Government (Iceland)
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1.3 110.guide/Geography (Iceland)

Geography (Iceland)

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Location:

in the North Atlantic Ocean, between Greenland and Norway

Map references:

Arctic Region, Europe, North America, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

103,000 km²

land area:

100,250 km²

comparative area:

slightly smaller than Kentucky

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

4,988 km

Maritime claims:

continental shelf:

200 nm or the edge of continental margin

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

Rockall continental shelf dispute involving Denmark, Ireland, and the UK
 (Ireland and the UK have signed a boundary agreement in the Rockall area)

Climate:

temperate; moderated by North Atlantic Current; mild, windy winters; damp,
 cool summers

Terrain:

mostly plateau interspersed with mountain peaks, icefields; coast deeply
 indented by bays and fiords

Natural resources:

fish, hydropower, geothermal power, diatomite

Land use:

arable land:

1% permanent crops:

0%

meadows and pastures:
 20%
 forest and woodland:
 1%
 other:
 78%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km2
 Environment:
 subject to earthquakes and volcanic activity
 Note:
 strategic location between Greenland and Europe; westernmost European
 country; more land covered by glaciers than in all of continental Europe

1.4 110.guide/People (Iceland)

People (Iceland)

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Population:
 261,270 (July 1993 est.)
 note:
 population data estimates based on average growth rate may differ slightly
 from official population data because of volatile migration rates
 Population growth rate:
 0.88% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 16.99 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 6.74 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -1.47 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 4 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 78.69 years
 male:
 76.45 years
 female:
 81.04 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 2.16 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Icelander(s)
 adjective:
 Icelandic
 Ethnic divisions:
 homogeneous mixture of descendants of Norwegians and Celts
 Religions:
 Evangelical Lutheran 96%, other Protestant and Roman Catholic 3%, none 1%
 (1988)

Languages:
 Icelandic
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1976)
 total population:
 100%
 male:
 NA%
 female:
 NA%
 Labor force:
 127,900
 by occupation:
 commerce, transportation, and services 60.0%, manufacturing 12.5%, fishing
 and fish processing 11.8%, construction 10.8%, agriculture 4.0% (1990)

1.5 110.guide/Government (Iceland)

Government (Iceland)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Republic of Iceland
 conventional short form:
 Iceland
 local long form:
 Lyoveldio Island
 local short form:
 Island
 Digraph:
 IC
 Type:
 republic
 Capital:
 Reykjavik
 Administrative divisions:
 23 counties (syslar, singular - sysla) and 14 independent towns*, (←
 kaupstadhir, singular -
 kaupstadhur); Akranes*, Akureyri*, Arnessysla,, Austur-Bardhastrandarsysla, ←
 Austur-Hunavatnssysla,
 Austur-Skaftafellssysla,
 Borgarfjardharsysla, Dalasysla, Eyjafjardharsysla, Gullbringusysla,
 Hafnarfjordhur*, Husavik*, Isafjordhur*, Keflavik*, Kjosarsysla, Kopavogur ←
 *,, Myrasysla,
 Neskaupstadhur*, Nordhur-Isafjardharsysla, Nordhur-Mulasys-la,, Nordhur- ←
 Thingeyjarsysla,
 Olafsfjordhur*, Rangarvallasysla, Reykjavik*,, Saudharkrokur*, ←
 Seydhisfjordhur*, Siglufjordhur*,,
 Skagafjardharsysla,
 Snaefellsnes-og Hnappadalssysla, Strandasysla, Sudhur-Mulasysla,
 Sudhur-Thingeyjarsysla, Vesttmannaeyjar*, Vestur-Bardhastrandarsysla,, ←
 Vestur-Hunavatnssysla,

Vestur-Isafjardharsysla, Vestur-Skaftafellssysla

Independence:

17 June 1944 (from Denmark)

Constitution:

16 June 1944, effective 17 June 1944

Legal system:

civil law system based on Danish law; does not accept compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

National holiday:

Anniversary of the Establishment of the Republic, 17 June (1944)

Political parties and leaders:

Independence Party (conservative), David ODDSSON; Progressive Party, Steingrimur HERMANNSSON; Social Democratic Party, Jon Baldvin HANNIBALSSON; People's Alliance (left socialist), Olafur Ragnar GRIMSSON; Women's List

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Elections:

President:

last held on 29 June 1988 (next scheduled for June 1996); results - there was no election in 1992 as President Vigdis FINNBOGADOTTIR was unopposed

Althing:

last held on 20 April 1991 (next to be held by April 1995); results - Independence Party 38.6%, Progressive Party 18.9%, Social Democratic Party 15.5%, People's Alliance 14.4%, Womens List 8.3%, Liberals 1.2%, other ← 3.1%;

seats - (63 total) Independence 26, Progressive 13, Social Democratic 10, People's Alliance 9, Womens List 5

Executive branch:

president, prime minister, Cabinet

Legislative branch:

unicameral Parliament (Althing)

Judicial branch:

Supreme Court (Haestirettur)

1.6 110.guide/Government (Iceland 2. usage)

Government (Iceland 2. usage)

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Leaders:

Chief of State:

President Vigdis FINNBOGADOTTIR (since 1 August 1980)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister David ODDSSON (since 30 April 1991)

Member of:

Australian Group, BIS, CCC, CE, CSCE, EBRD, ECE, EFTA, FAO, GATT, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICFTU, IDA, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ISO (correspondent), ITU, LORCS, MTCR, NACC, NATO, NC, NEA, NIB, OECD, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UPU, WEU (associate), WHO, WIPO, WMO

Diplomatic representation in US:

chief of mission:

(vacant)

chancery:

2022 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington DC 20008
 telephone:
 (202) 265-6653 through 6655
 FAX:
 (202) 265-6656
 consulate general:
 New York
 US diplomatic representation:
 chief of mission:
 (vacant); Charge d'Affaires Jon GUNDERSEN
 embassy:
 Laufasvegur 21, Box 40, Reykjavik
 mailing address:
 USEMB, PSC 1003, Box 40, FPO AE 09728-0340
 telephone:
 [354] (1) 29100
 FAX: [354] (1) 29139
 Flag:
 blue with a red cross outlined in white 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)

1.7 110.guide/Economy (Iceland)

Economy (Iceland)

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Overview:

Iceland's Scandinavian-type economy is basically capitalistic, but with an extensive welfare system, relatively low unemployment, and comparatively even distribution of income. The economy is heavily dependent on the ← fishing

industry, which provides nearly 75% of export earnings and employs 12% of the workforce. In the absence of other natural resources - except energy - Iceland's economy is vulnerable to changing world fish prices. Iceland's economy has been in recession since 1988. The recession deepened in 1992 ← due

to severe cutbacks in fishing quotas and falling world prices for the country's main exports: fish and fish products, aluminum, and ferrosilicon. Real GDP declined 3.3% in 1992 and is forecast to contract another 1.5% in 1993. The center-right government's economic goals include reducing the budget and current account deficits, limiting foreign borrowing, containing inflation, revising agricultural and fishing policies, diversifying the economy, and privatizing state-owned industries. The recession has led to a wave of bankruptcies and mergers throughout the economy, as well as the highest unemployment of the post-World War II period. The national unemployment rate reached 5% in early 1993, with some parts of the country experiencing unemployment in the 9-10% range. Inflation, previously a serious problem, declined from double digit rates in the 1980s to only 3.7% in 1992.

National product:

GDP - purchasing power equivalent - \$4.5 billion (1992)

National product real growth rate:

-3.3% (1992)
 National product per capita:
 \$17,400 (1992)
 Inflation rate (consumer prices):
 3.7% (1992 est.)
 Unemployment rate:
 5% (first quarter 1993)
 Budget:
 revenues \$1.8 billion; expenditures \$1.9 billion, including capital
 expenditures of \$191 million (1992)
 Exports:
 \$1.5 billion (f.o.b., 1992)
 commodities:
 fish and fish products, animal products, aluminum, ferrosilicon, diatomite
 partners:
 EC 68% (UK 25%, Germany 12%), US 11%, Japan 8% (1992)
 Imports:
 \$1.5 billion (c.i.f., 1992)
 commodities:
 machinery and transportation equipment, petroleum products, foodstuffs,
 textiles
 partners: EC 53% (Germany 14%, Denmark 10%, UK 9%), Norway 14%, US 9% ←
 (1992)
 External debt:
 \$3.9 billion (1992 est.)
 Industrial production:
 growth rate 1.75% (1991 est.)
 Electricity:
 1,063,000 kW capacity; 5,165 million kWh produced, 19,940 kWh per capita
 (1992)
 Industries:
 fish processing, aluminum smelting, ferro-silicon production, geothermal
 power

1.8 110.guide/Economy (Iceland 2. usage)

Economy (Iceland 2. usage)

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Agriculture:
 accounts for about 25% of GDP; fishing is most important economic activity,
 contributing nearly 75% to export earnings; principal crops - potatoes,
 turnips; livestock - cattle, sheep; self-sufficient in crops; fish catch of
 about 1.4 million metric tons in 1989
 Economic aid:
 US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-81), \$19.1 million
 Currency:
 1 Icelandic krona (IKr) = 100 aurar
 Exchange rates:
 Icelandic kronur (IKr) per US\$1 - 63.789 (January 1993), 57.546 (1992),
 58.996 (1991), 58.284 (1990), 57.042 (1989), 43.014 (1988)
 Fiscal year:
 calendar year

1.9 110.guide/Communications (Iceland)

Communications (Iceland)

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Highways:

11,543 km total; 2,690 km hard surfaced, 8,853 km gravel and earth

Ports:

Reykjavik, Akureyri, Hafnarfjordhur, Keflavik, Seydhisfjordhur, Siglufjordhur, Vestmannaeyjar

Merchant marine:

10 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 35,832 GRT/53,037 DWT; includes 3 cargo, 3 refrigerated cargo, 2 roll-on/roll-off cargo, 1 oil tanker, 1 chemical tanker

Airports:

total:

90

usable:

84

with permanent-surface runways:

8

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

1

with runways 1,220-2,439 m: 12

Telecommunications:

adequate domestic service; coaxial and fiber-optical cables and microwave radio relay for trunk network; 140,000 telephones; broadcast stations - 5 AM, 147 (transmitters and repeaters) FM, 202 (transmitters and repeaters) TV; 2 submarine cables; 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth station carries all international traffic; a second INTELSAT earth station is scheduled to be operational in 1993

1.10 110.guide/Defense Forces (Iceland)

Defense Forces (Iceland)

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Branches:

Police, Coast Guard

note:

no armed forces, Iceland's defense is provided by the US-manned Icelandic Defense Force (IDF) headquartered at Keflavik

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 69,499; fit for military service 61,798 (1993 est.); no conscription or compulsory military service

Defense expenditures:
none
