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Chapter 1

243

1.1 243.guide

Texified version of data for Turks and Caicos Islands.

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Turks and Caicos Islands

1.2 243.guide/Turks and Caicos Islands

Turks and Caicos Islands

Header (Turks and Caicos Islands)
Geography (Turks and Caicos Islands)
People (Turks and Caicos Islands)
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Communications (Turks and Caicos Islands)
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1.3 243.guide/Header (Turks and Caicos Islands)

Header (Turks and Caicos Islands)
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Affiliation:
(dependent territory of the UK)

1.4 243.guide/Geography (Turks and Caicos Islands)

Geography (Turks and Caicos Islands)
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Location:
in the western North Atlantic Ocean, 190 km north of the Dominican Republic
and southeast of The Bahamas

Map references:
Central America and the Caribbean

Area:
total area:
430 km²
land area:
430 km²
comparative area:
slightly less than 2.5 times the size of Washington, DC

Land boundaries:
0 km

Coastline:
389 km

Maritime claims:
exclusive fishing zone:
200 nm
territorial sea:
12 nm

International disputes:
none

Climate:
tropical; marine; moderated by trade winds; sunny and relatively dry

Terrain:
low, flat limestone; extensive marshes and mangrove swamps
Natural resources:
spiny lobster, conch
Land use:
arable land:
2%
permanent crops:
0%
meadows and pastures:
0%
forest and woodland:
0%
other:
98%
Irrigated land:
NA km2
Environment:
30 islands (eight inhabited); subject to frequent hurricanes

1.5 243.guide/People (Turks and Caicos Islands)

People (Turks and Caicos Islands)

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Population:
13,137 (July 1993 est.)
Population growth rate:
2.97% (1993 est.)
Birth rate: 14.88 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
Death rate:
5.17 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
Net migration rate:
20.01 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
Infant mortality rate:
12.7 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
Life expectancy at birth:
total population:
75.34 years
male:
73.41 years
female:
77.02 years (1993 est.)
Total fertility rate:
2.17 children born/woman (1993 est.)
Nationality:
noun:
none
adjective:
none
Ethnic divisions:
African
Religions:

Baptist 41.2%, Methodist 18.9%, Anglican 18.3%, Seventh-Day Adventist 1.7%, other 19.9% (1980)

Languages:
English (official)

Literacy:
age 15 and over can read and write (1970)
total population:
98%
male:
99%
female:
98%

Labor force:
NA

by occupation:
majority engaged in fishing and tourist industries; some subsistence agriculture

1.6 243.guide/Government (Turks and Caicos Islands)

Government (Turks and Caicos Islands)

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Names:
conventional long form:
none
conventional short form:
Turks and Caicos Islands

Digraph:
TK

Type:
dependent territory of the UK

Capital: Grand Turk

Administrative divisions:
none (dependent territory of the UK)

Independence:
none (dependent territory of the UK)

Constitution:
introduced 30 August 1976, suspended in 1986, and a Constitutional Commission is currently reviewing its contents

Legal system:
based on laws of England and Wales with a small number adopted from Jamaica and The Bahamas

National holiday:
Constitution Day, 30 August (1976)

Political parties and leaders:
Progressive National Party (PNP), Washington MISSIC; People's Democratic Movement (PDM), Oswald SKIPPINGS; National Democratic Alliance (NDA), Ariel MISSICK

Suffrage:
18 years of age; universal

Elections:
Legislative Council:

last held on 3 April 1991 (next to be held NA); results - percent of vote ←
 by
 party NA; seats - (20 total, 13 elected) PNP 8, PDM 5
 Executive branch:
 British monarch, governor, Executive Council, chief minister
 Legislative branch:
 unicameral Legislative Council
 Judicial branch:
 Supreme Court
 Leaders:
 Chief of State:
 Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1953), represented by Governor Michael
 J. BRADLEY (since NA 1987)
 Head of Government:
 Chief Minister Washington MISSIC (since NA 1991)
 Member of:
 CARICOM (associate), CDB
 Diplomatic representation in US:
 as a dependent territory of the UK, the interests of the Turks and Caicos
 Islands are represented in the US by the UK
 US diplomatic representation:
 none
 Flag:
 blue with the flag of the UK in the upper hoist-side quadrant and the
 colonial shield centered on the outer half of the flag; the shield is ←
 yellow
 and contains a conch shell, lobster, and cactus

1.7 243.guide/Economy (Turks and Caicos Islands)

Economy (Turks and Caicos Islands)

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Overview:

The economy is based on fishing, tourism, and offshore banking. Only subsistence farming - corn, cassava, citrus, and beans - exists on the Caicos Islands, so that most foods, as well as nonfood products, must be imported.

National product:

GDP - purchasing power equivalent - \$68.5 million (1989 est.)

National product real growth rate:

NA%

National product per capita:

\$5,000 (1989 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

NA%

Unemployment rate:

12% (1992)

Budget:

revenues \$20.3 million; expenditures \$44.0 million, including capital expenditures of \$23.9 million (1989)

Exports:

\$4.1 million (f.o.b., 1987)

commodities:
 lobster, dried and fresh conch, conch shells
 partners:
 US, UK
 Imports:
 \$33.2 million (c.i.f., FY84)
 commodities:
 foodstuffs, drink, tobacco, clothing, manufactures, construction materials
 partners:
 US, UK
 External debt:
 \$NA
 Industrial production:
 growth rate NA%
 Electricity:
 9,050 kW capacity; 11.1 million kWh produced, 860 kWh per capita (1992)
 Industries:
 fishing, tourism, offshore financial services
 Agriculture:
 subsistence farming prevails, based on corn and beans; fishing more
 important than farming; not self-sufficient in food
 Economic aid:
 Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89),
 \$110 million
 Currency:
 US currency is used
 Exchange rates:
 US currency is used
 Fiscal year:
 calendar year

1.8 243.guide/Communications (Turks and Caicos Islands)

Communications (Turks and Caicos Islands)

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Highways:
 121 km, including 24 km tarmac
 Ports:
 Grand Turk, Salt Cay, Providenciales, Cockburn Harbour
 Airports:
 total: 7
 usable:
 7
 with permanent-surface runways:
 4
 with runways over 3,659 m:
 0
 with runways 2,440-3,659:
 0
 with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
 4
 Telecommunications:

fair cable and radio services; 1,446 telephones; broadcast stations - 3 AM, no FM, several TV; 2 submarine cables; 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.9 243.guide/Defense Forces (Turks and Caicos Islands)

Defense Forces (Turks and Caicos Islands)
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Note:
defense is the responsibility of the UK