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Chapter 1

153

1.1 153.guide

Texified version of data for Marshall Islands.

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Marshall Islands

1.2 153.guide/Marshall Islands

Marshall Islands

Geography (Marshall Islands)
 People (Marshall Islands)
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 Economy (Marshall Islands)
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1.3 153.guide/Geography (Marshall Islands)

Geography (Marshall Islands)

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Location:

Oceania, in the North Pacific Ocean, about two-thirds of the way between Hawaii and Papua New Guinea

Map references:

Oceania, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

181.3 km²

land area:

181.3 km²

comparative area:

slightly larger than Washington, DC

note:

includes the atolls of Bikini, Eniwetok, and Kwajalein

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

370.4 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

24 nm

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

claims US territory of Wake Island

Climate: wet season May to November; hot and humid; islands border typhoon belt ↩

Terrain:

low coral limestone and sand islands

Natural resources:

phosphate deposits, marine products, deep seabed minerals

Land use:

arable land:

0%

permanent crops:

60%

meadows and pastures:
 0%
 forest and woodland:
 0%
 other:
 40%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km2
 Environment:
 occasionally subject to typhoons; two archipelagic island chains of 30
 atolls and 1,152 islands
 Note:
 Bikini and Eniwetok are former US nuclear test sites; Kwajalein, the famous
 World War II battleground, is now used as a US missile test range

1.4 153.guide/People (Marshall Islands)

People (Marshall Islands)
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Population:
 51,982 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 3.87% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 46.65 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:
 50.5 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 62.79 years
 male:
 61.27 years
 female:
 64.38 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 6.99 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Marshallese (singular and plural)
 adjective:
 Marshallese
 Ethnic divisions: Micronesian
 Religions:
 Christian (mostly Protestant)
 Languages:
 English (universally spoken and is the official language), two major
 Marshallese dialects from the Malayo-Polynesian family, Japanese
 Literacy:

age 15 and over can read and write (1980)
 total population:
 93%
 male:
 100%
 female:
 88%
 Labor force:
 4,800 (1986)
 by occupation:
 NA

1.5 153.guide/Government (Marshall Islands)

Government (Marshall Islands)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Republic of the Marshall Islands
 conventional short form:
 Marshall Islands
 former:
 Marshall Islands District (Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands)
 Digraph:
 RM
 Type:
 constitutional government in free association with the US; the Compact of
 Free Association entered into force 21 October 1986
 Capital:
 Majuro
 Administrative divisions:
 none
 Independence:
 21 October 1986 (from the US-administered UN trusteeship)
 Constitution:
 1 May 1979
 Legal system:
 based on adapted Trust Territory laws, acts of the legislature, municipal,
 common, and customary laws
 National holiday:
 Proclamation of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, 1 May (1979)
 Political parties and leaders:
 no formal parties; President KABUA is chief political (and traditional)
 leader
 Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal
 Elections:
 President:
 last held 6 January 1992 (next to be held NA; results - President Amata
 KABUA was reelected
 Parliament:
 last held 18 November 1991 (next to be held November 1995); results -

percent of vote NA; seats - (33 total)

Executive branch:
 president, Cabinet

Legislative branch:
 unicameral Nitijela (parliament)

Judicial branch:
 Supreme Court

Leaders:
 Chief of State and Head of Government:
 President Amata KABUA (since 1979)

Member of:
 AsDB, ESCAP, IBRD, ICAO, IFC, IMF, INTERPOL, SPARTECA, SPC, SPF, UN, UNCTAD ↔
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 WHO

Diplomatic representation in US:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador Wilfred I. KENDALL

chancery:
 2433 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone:
 (202) 234-5414

US diplomatic representation:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador David C. FIELDS

1.6 153.guide/Government (Marshall Islands 2. usage)

Government (Marshall Islands 2. usage)

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embassy:
 NA address, Majuro

mailing address:
 P. O. Box 1379, Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands 96960-1379

telephone:
 (011) 692-4011

FAX:
 (011) 692-4012

Flag:
 blue with two stripes radiating from the lower hoist-side corner - orange
 (top) and white; there is a white star with four large rays and 20 small
 rays on the hoist side above the two stripes

1.7 153.guide/Economy (Marshall Islands)

Economy (Marshall Islands)

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Overview:

Agriculture and tourism are the mainstays of the economy. Agricultural production is concentrated on small farms, and the most important commercial crops are coconuts, tomatoes, melons, and breadfruit. A few cattle ranches supply the domestic meat market. Small-scale industry is limited to handicrafts, fish processing, and copra. The tourist industry is the primary source of foreign exchange and employs about 10% of the labor force. The islands have few natural resources, and imports far exceed exports. In 1987 the US Government provided grants of \$40 million out of the Marshalllese budget of \$55 million.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$63 million (1989 est.)

National product real growth rate:

NA%

National product per capita:

\$1,500 (1989 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

NA%

Unemployment rate:

NA%

Budget:

revenues \$55 million; expenditures \$NA, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1987 est.)

Exports:

\$2.5 million (f.o.b., 1985)

commodities:

copra, copra oil, agricultural products, handicrafts

partners:

NA

Imports:

\$29.2 million (c.i.f., 1985)

commodities:

foodstuffs, beverages, building materials

partners:

NA

External debt:

\$NA

Industrial production:

growth rate NA%

Electricity:

42,000 kW capacity; 80 million kWh produced, 1,840 kWh per capita (1990)

Industries:

copra, fish, tourism; craft items from shell, wood, and pearls; offshore banking (embryonic)

Agriculture:

coconuts, cacao, taro, breadfruit, fruits, pigs, chickens

Economic aid:

under the terms of the Compact of Free Association, the US is to provide approximately \$40 million in aid annually

Currency:

US currency is used

Exchange rates:

US currency is used

Fiscal year:

1 October - 30 September

1.8 153.guide/Communications (Marshall Islands)

Communications (Marshall Islands)

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Highways:

paved roads on major islands (Majuro, Kwajalein), otherwise stone-, coral-, or laterite-surfaced roads and tracks

Ports: Majuro

Merchant marine:

29 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 1,786,070 GRT/3,498,895 DWT; includes 2 cargo, 1 container, 9 oil tanker, 15 bulk carrier, 2 combination ore/oil; note - a flag of convenience registry

Airports:

total:

16

usable:

16

with permanent-surface runways:

4

with runways over 3,659m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

0

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

8

Telecommunications:

telephone network - 570 lines (Majuro) and 186 (Ebeye); telex services; islands interconnected by shortwave radio (used mostly for government purposes); broadcast stations - 1 AM, 2 FM, 1 TV, 1 shortwave; 2 Pacific Ocean INTELSAT earth stations; US Government satellite communications ↔ system on Kwajalein

1.9 153.guide/Defense Forces (Marshall Islands)

Defense Forces (Marshall Islands)

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Note:

defense is the responsibility of the US