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# Chapter 1

## 47

### 1.1 47.guide

Texified version of data for Central African Republic.

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Central African Republic

### 1.2 47.guide/Central African Republic

Central African Republic

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Geography (Central African Republic)  
 People (Central African Republic)  
 Government (Central African Republic)  
 Government (Central African Republic 2. usage)  
 Economy (Central African Republic)  
 Economy (Central African Republic 2. usage)  
 Communications (Central African Republic)  
 Defense Forces (Central African Republic)

### 1.3 47.guide/Geography (Central African Republic)

Geography (Central African Republic)

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Location:

Central Africa, between Chad and Zaire

Map references:

Africa, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

622,980 km<sup>2</sup>

land area:

622,980 km<sup>2</sup>

comparative area:

slightly smaller than Texas

Land boundaries:

total 5,203 km, Cameroon 797 km, Chad 1,197 km, Congo 467 km, Sudan 1,165 km, Zaire 1,577 km

Coastline:

0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims:

none; landlocked

International disputes:

none

Climate:

tropical; hot, dry winters; mild to hot, wet summers

Terrain:

vast, flat to rolling, monotonous plateau; scattered hills in northeast and southwest

Natural resources:

diamonds, uranium, timber, gold, oil

Land use:

arable land:

3%

permanent crops:

0%

meadows and pastures:

5%

forest and woodland:

64%

other:

28%  
 Irrigated land:  
 NA km2  
 Environment:  
 hot, dry, dusty harmattan winds affect northern areas; poaching has  
 diminished reputation as one of last great wildlife refuges; ↔  
 desertification  
 Note:  
 landlocked; almost the precise center of Africa

## 1.4 47.guide/People (Central African Republic)

People (Central African Republic)  
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Population:  
 3,073,979 (July 1993 est.)  
 Population growth rate:  
 2.23% (1993 est.)  
 Birth rate:  
 42.77 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Death rate:  
 20.49 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Net migration rate:  
 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Infant mortality rate:  
 138.7 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)  
 Life expectancy at birth:  
 total population:  
 42.94 years  
 male:  
 41.46 years  
 female:  
 44.45 years (1993 est.)  
 Total fertility rate:  
 5.47 children born/woman (1993 est.)  
 Nationality:  
 noun:  
 Central African(s)  
 adjective:  
 Central African  
 Ethnic divisions:  
 Baya 34%, Banda 27%, Sara 10%, Mandjia 21%, Mboum 4%, M'Baka 4%, Europeans  
 6,500 (including 3,600 French)  
 Religions:  
 indigenous beliefs 24%, Protestant 25%, Roman Catholic 25%, Muslim 15%,  
 other 11%  
 note:  
 animistic beliefs and practices strongly influence the Christian majority  
 Languages:  
 French (official), Sangho (lingua franca and national language), Arabic,  
 Hunsu, Swahili  
 Literacy:

age 15 and over can read and write (1990)  
 total population:  
 27%  
 male:  
 33%  
 female:  
 15%  
 Labor force:  
 775,413 (1986 est.)  
 by occupation:  
 agriculture 85%, commerce and services 9%, industry 3%, government 3%  
 note:  
 about 64,000 salaried workers; 55% of population of working age (1985)

## 1.5 47.guide/Government (Central African Republic)

Government (Central African Republic)

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### Names:

conventional long form:  
 Central African Republic  
 conventional short form:  
 none  
 local long form:  
 Republique Centrafricaine  
 local short form:  
 none  
 former:  
 Central African Empire

### Abbreviation:

CAR

### Digraph:

CT

### Type:

republic; one-party presidential regime since 1986

### Capital:

Bangui

### Administrative divisions:

14 prefectures (prefectures, singular - prefecture), 2 economic prefectures ←  
 \*, (prefectures  
 economiques, singular - prefecture economique), and 1  
 commune\*\*; Bamingui-Bangoran, Bangui\*\* Basse-Kotto, Gribingui\*, Haute-Kotto ←  
 ,, Haute-Sangha,  
 Haut-Mbomou, Kemo-Gribingui, Lobaye, Mbomou, Nana-Mambere,  
 Ombella-Mpoko, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Pende, Sangha\*, Vakaga, Independence:  
 13 August 1960 (from France)

### Constitution:

21 November 1986

### Legal system:

based on French law

### National holiday:

National Day, 1 December (1958) (proclamation of the republic)

Political parties and leaders:

Central African Democratic Party (RDC), the government party, Laurent GOMINA-PAMPALI; Council of Moderates Coalition includes; Union of the People for Economic and Social Development (UPDS), Katossy SIMANI; Liberal Republican Party (PARELI), Augustin M'BOE; Central African Socialist Movement (MSCA), Michel BENGUE; Concerted Democratic Forces (CFD), a coalition of 13 parties, including; Alliance for Democracy and Progress (ADP), Francois PEHOUA; Central African Republican party (PRC), Ruth ROLLAND; Social Democratic Party (PSD), Enoch DERANT-LAKOUE; Civic Forum (FC), Gen. Timothee MALENDOMA; Liberal Democratic Party (PLD), Nestor KOMBOT-NAGUEMON

Suffrage:

21 years of age; universal

Elections:

President:

last held 25 October 1992; widespread irregularities at some polls led to dismissal of results by Supreme Court; elections are rescheduled for 17 October 1993

National Assembly: last held 25 October 1992; widespread irregularities at some polls led to

dismissal of results by Supreme Court; elections are rescheduled for 17 October 1993

Executive branch:

president, prime minister, Council of Ministers (cabinet)

## 1.6 47.guide/Government (Central African Republic 2. usage)

Government (Central African Republic 2. usage)

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Legislative branch:

unicameral National Assembly (Assemblée Nationale) advised by the Economic and Regional Council (Conseil Economique et Regional); when they sit together this is known as the Congress (Congres)

Judicial branch:

Supreme Court (Cour Supreme)

Leaders:

Chief of State:

President Andre-Dieudonne KOLINGBA (since 1 September 1981)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister Enoch DERANT-LAKOUE (since 2 March 1993)

Member of:

ACCT, ACP, AfDB, BDEAC, CCC, CEEAC, ECA, FAO, FZ, G-77, GATT, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, INTELSTAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, LORCS, NAM, OAU, UDEAC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WHO, WIPO, WMO

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Flag:

four equal horizontal bands of blue (top), white, green, and yellow with a vertical red band in center; there is a yellow five-pointed star on the hoist side of the blue band

## 1.7 47.guide/Economy (Central African Republic)

Economy (Central African Republic)

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Overview:

Subsistence agriculture, including forestry, is the backbone of the CAR economy, with more than 70% of the population living in the countryside. In 1988 the agricultural sector generated about 40% of GDP. Agricultural products accounted for about 60% of export earnings and the diamond ← industry

for 30%. Important constraints to economic development include the CAR's landlocked position, a poor transportation system, and a weak human ← resource

base. Multilateral and bilateral development assistance, particularly from France, plays a major role in providing capital for new investment.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$1.3 billion (1990 est.)

National product real growth rate:

-3% (1990 est.)

National product per capita:

\$440 (1990 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

-3% (1990 est.)

Unemployment rate:

30% (1988 est.) in Bangui

Budget:

revenues \$175 million; expenditures \$312 million, including capital expenditures of \$122 million (1991 est.)

Exports:

\$138 million (1991 est.)

commodities:

diamonds, cotton, coffee, timber, tobacco

partners:

France, Belgium, Italy, Japan, US

Imports:

\$205 million (1991 est.)

commodities:  
 food, textiles, petroleum products, machinery, electrical equipment, motor vehicles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, consumer goods, industrial products

partners:  
 France, other EC countries, Japan, Algeria

External debt:  
 \$859 million (1991)

Industrial production:  
 growth rate 4% (1990 est.); accounts for 14% of GDP

Electricity:  
 40,000 kW capacity; 95 million kWh produced, 30 kWh per capita (1991)

Industries:  
 diamond mining, sawmills, breweries, textiles, footwear, assembly of bicycles and motorcycles

Agriculture:  
 accounts for 40% of GDP; self-sufficient in food production except for grain; commercial crops - cotton, coffee, tobacco, timber; food crops - manioc, yams, millet, corn, bananas

Economic aid:  
 US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-90), \$52 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-90), \$1.6 billion; OPEC bilateral aid (1979-89), \$6 million; Communist countries (1970-89), \$38 million

Currency:  
 1 CFA franc (CFAF) = 100 centimes

Exchange rates:  
 Communauté Financière Africaine francs (CFAF) per US\$1 - 274.06 (January 1993), 264.69 (1992), 282.11 (1991), 272.26 (1990), 319.01 (1989), 297.85 (1988)

## 1.8 47.guide/Economy (Central African Republic 2. usage)

Economy (Central African Republic 2. usage)

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Fiscal year:  
 calendar year

## 1.9 47.guide/Communications (Central African Republic)

Communications (Central African Republic)

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Highways:  
 22,000 km total; 458 km bituminous, 10,542 km improved earth, 11,000 unimproved earth

Inland waterways:  
 800 km; traditional trade carried on by means of shallow-draft dugouts;

Oubangui is the most important river

Airports:

- total:
  - 66
- usable:
  - 51
- with permanent-surface runways:
  - 3
- with runways over 3,659 m:
  - 0
- with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
  - 2
- with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
  - 20

Telecommunications:

fair system; network relies primarily on radio relay links, with low-capacity, low-powered radiocommunication also used; broadcast stations ←

-

1 AM, 1 FM, 1 TV; 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth station

## 1.10 47.guide/Defense Forces (Central African Republic)

Defense Forces (Central African Republic)

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Branches:

- Central African Army (including Republican Guard), Air Force, National Gendarmerie, Police Force

Manpower availability:

- males age 15-49 685,575; fit for military service 358,836 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

- exchange rate conversion - \$23 million, 1.8% of GDP (1989 est.)