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# Chapter 1

## 82

### 1.1 82.guide

Texified version of data for French Guiana.

Texified using wfact from

Gerhard Leibrock  
Neuhäuselerstr. 12  
D-66459 Kirkel  
Germany

Tel.: 06849 / 6134  
INTERNET: leibrock@fsinfo.cs.uni-sb.de  
fach5@cipsol.cs.uni-sb.de

Project Gutenberg

P. O. Box 2782

Champaign, IL 61825

When all other email fails try our Michael S. Hart, Executive Director:

hart@vmd.cso.uiuc.edu (internet)    hart@uiucvmd (bitnet)

We would prefer to send you this information by email (Internet, Bitnet, Compuserve, ATTMAIL or MCImail).

French Guiana

### 1.2 82.guide/French Guiana

French Guiana  
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Header (French Guiana)  
 Geography (French Guiana)  
 People (French Guiana)  
 Government (French Guiana)  
 Government (French Guiana 2. usage)  
 Economy (French Guiana)  
 Communications (French Guiana)  
 Defense Forces (French Guiana)

### 1.3 82.guide/Header (French Guiana)

Header (French Guiana)  
 =====

Affiliation:  
     (overseas department of France)

### 1.4 82.guide/Geography (French Guiana)

Geography (French Guiana)  
 =====

Location:  
     northern South America, bordering on the North Atlantic Ocean between  
     Suriname and Brazil  
 Map references:  
     South America, Standard Time Zones of the World  
 Area:  
     total area:  
         91,000 km2  
     land area:  
         89,150 km2  
     comparative area:  
         slightly smaller than Indiana  
 Land boundaries:  
     total 1,183 km, Brazil 673 km, Suriname 510 km  
 Coastline:  
     378 km  
 Maritime claims:  
     exclusive economic zone:  
         200 nm  
     territorial sea:  
         12 nm  
 International disputes:  
     Suriname claims area between Riviere Litani and Riviere Marouini (both  
     headwaters of the Lawa)

Climate:  
 tropical; hot, humid; little seasonal temperature variation

Terrain:  
 low-lying coastal plains rising to hills and small mountains

Natural resources:  
 bauxite, timber, gold (widely scattered), cinnabar, kaolin, fish

Land use:  
 arable land:  
 0%  
 permanent crops:  
 0%  
 meadows and pastures:  
 0%  
 forest and woodland:  
 82%  
 other:  
 18%

Irrigated land:  
 NA km<sup>2</sup>

Environment:  
 mostly an unsettled wilderness

## 1.5 82.guide/People (French Guiana)

People (French Guiana)

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Population:  
 133,376 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:  
 4.42% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:  
 26.46 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Death rate:  
 4.72 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Net migration rate:  
 22.49 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Infant mortality rate:  
 16.6 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:  
 total population:  
 74.87 years  
 male:  
 71.59 years  
 female:  
 78.32 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:  
 3.54 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality:  
 noun:  
 French Guianese (singular and plural)  
 adjective:  
 French Guianese

Ethnic divisions:  
 black or mulatto 66%, Caucasian 12%, East Indian, Chinese, Amerindian 12%,  
 other 10%

Religions:  
 Roman Catholic

Languages:  
 French

Literacy:  
 age 15 and over can read and write (1982)  
 total population:  
 82%  
 male:  
 81%  
 female:  
 83%

Labor force:  
 23,265  
 by occupation:  
 services, government, and commerce 60.6%, industry 21.2%, agriculture 18.2%  
 (1980)

## 1.6 82.guide/Government (French Guiana)

Government (French Guiana)

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Names:  
 conventional long form:  
 Department of Guiana  
 conventional short form:  
 French Guiana  
 local long form:  
 none  
 local short form:  
 Guyane

Digraph:  
 FG

Type:  
 overseas department of France

Capital:  
 Cayenne

Administrative divisions:  
 none (overseas department of France)

Independence:  
 none (overseas department of France)

Constitution:  
 28 September 1958 (French Constitution)

Legal system:  
 French legal system

National holiday:  
 National Day, Taking of the Bastille, 14 July (1789)

Political parties and leaders:

Guianese Socialist Party (PSG), Gerard HOLDER; Rally for the Republic (RPR) ↔  
 ,  
 Paulin BRUNE; Union of the Center Rally (URC); Union for French Democracy  
 (UDF), Claude Ho A CHUCK; Guyana Democratic Front (FDG), Georges OTHILY

Suffrage:  
 18 years of age; universal

Elections:  
 French National Assembly:  
 last held 24 September 1989 (next to be held March 1993); results - percent  
 of vote by party NA; seats - (2 total) PSG 1, RPR 1

French Senate:  
 last held 24 September 1989 (next to be held September 1998); results -  
 percent of vote by party NA; seats - (1 total) PSG 1

Regional Council:  
 last held 22 March 1992 (next to be held NA); results - percent of vote by  
 party NA; seats - (31 total) PSG 16

Executive branch:  
 French president, commissioner of the republic

Legislative branch:  
 unicameral General Council and a unicameral Regional Council

Judicial branch:  
 Court of Appeals (highest local court based in Martinique with jurisdiction  
 over Martinique, Guadeloupe, and French Guiana)

Leaders:  
 Chief of State:  
 President Francois MITTERRAND (since 21 May 1981)  
 Head of Government: Prefect Jean-Francois CORDET (since NA 1992)

Member of:  
 FZ, WCL

Diplomatic representation in US:  
 as an overseas department of France, the interests of French Guiana are  
 represented in the US by France

## 1.7 82.guide/Government (French Guiana 2. usage)

Government (French Guiana 2. usage)

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US diplomatic representation:  
 none (overseas department of France)

Flag:  
 the flag of France is used

## 1.8 82.guide/Economy (French Guiana)

Economy (French Guiana)

=====



Overview:

The economy is tied closely to that of France through subsidies and imports ←

Besides the French space center at Kourou, fishing and forestry are the ←  
most

important economic activities, with exports of fish and fish products  
(mostly shrimp) accounting for more than 60% of total revenue in 1987. The  
large reserves of tropical hardwoods, not fully exploited, support an  
expanding sawmill industry that provides sawn logs for export. Cultivation  
of crops - rice, cassava, bananas, and sugarcane - is limited to the ←  
coastal

area, where the population is largely concentrated. French Guiana is ←  
heavily

dependent on imports of food and energy. Unemployment is a serious problem,  
particularly among younger workers.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$421 million (1986)

National product real growth rate:

NA%

National product per capita:

\$4,390 (1986)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

4.1% (1987)

Unemployment rate:

13% (1990)

Budget:

revenues \$735 million; expenditures \$735 million, including capital  
expenditures of \$NA (1987)

Exports:

\$64.8 million (f.o.b., 1990)

commodities:

shrimp, timber, rum, rosewood essence

partners:

France 36%, US 14%, Japan 6% (1990)

Imports:

\$435 million (c.i.f., 1990)

commodities:

food (grains, processed meat), other consumer goods, producer goods,  
petroleum

partners: France 62%, Trinidad and Tobago 9%, US 4%, FRG 3% (1987)

External debt:

\$1.2 billion (1988)

Industrial production:

growth rate NA%

Electricity:

92,000 kW capacity; 185 million kWh produced, 1,450 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

construction, shrimp processing, forestry products, rum, gold mining

Agriculture:

some vegetables for local consumption; rice, corn, manioc, cocoa, bananas,  
sugar; livestock - cattle, pigs, poultry

Economic aid:

Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89),  
\$1.51 billion

Currency:

1 French franc (F) = 100 centimes

Exchange rates:

French francs (F) per US\$1 - 5.4812 (January 1993), 5.2938 (1992), 5.6421 (1991), 5.4453 (1990), 6.3801 (1989), 5.9569 (1988)  
 Fiscal year:  
 calendar year

## 1.9 82.guide/Communications (French Guiana)

Communications (French Guiana)

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### Highways:

680 km total; 510 km paved, 170 km improved and unimproved earth

### Inland waterways:

460 km, navigable by small oceangoing vessels and river and coastal steamers; 3,300 km navigable by native craft

### Ports:

Cayenne

### Airports:

total:

10

usable:

10

with permanent-surface runways:

4

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

1

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

1

### Telecommunications:

fair open-wire and microwave radio relay system; 18,100 telephones; broadcast stations - 5 AM, 7 FM, 9 TV; 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth station

## 1.10 82.guide/Defense Forces (French Guiana)

Defense Forces (French Guiana)

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### Branches:

French Forces, Gendarmerie

### Manpower availability:

males 15-49 39,005; fit for military service 25,477 (1993 est.)

### Defense expenditures:

\$NA, NA% of GDP

### Note:

defense is the responsibility of France