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Chapter 1

1

1.1 1.guide

Texified version of data for Albania.

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Albania

1.2 1.guide/Albania

Albania

Geography (Albania)
People (Albania)
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Government (Albania 2. usage)
Economy (Albania)
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1.3 1.guide/Geography (Albania)

Geography (Albania)
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Location:

Southeastern Europe, on the Balkan Peninsula between Serbia and Montenegro and Greece

Map references:

Africa, Ethnic Groups in Eastern Europe, Europe, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

28,750 km²

land area:

27,400 km²

comparative area:

slightly larger than Maryland

Land boundaries:

total 720 km, Greece 282 km, Macedonia 151 km, Serbia and Montenegro 287 km (114 km with Serbia, 173 km with Montenegro)

Coastline:

362 km

Maritime claims:

continental shelf:

not specified

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

Kosovo question with Serbia and Montenegro; Northern Epirus question with Greece

Climate:

mild temperate; cool, cloudy, wet winters; hot, clear, dry summers; ←
interior

is cooler and wetter

Terrain:

mostly mountains and hills; small plains along coast

Natural resources:

petroleum, natural gas, coal, chromium, copper, timber, nickel

Land use:

arable land:

21%

permanent crops:
 4%
 meadows and pastures: 15%
 forest and woodland:
 38%
 other:
 22%
 Irrigated land:
 4,230 km2 (1989)
 Environment:
 subject to destructive earthquakes; tsunامي occur along southwestern coast
 Note:
 strategic location along Strait of Otranto (links Adriatic Sea to Ionian ←
 Sea
 and Mediterranean Sea)

1.4 1.guide/People (Albania)

People (Albania)
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Population:
 3,333,839 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 1.21% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 23.24 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 5.45 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -5.67 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 31.8 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 73 years
 male:
 70.01 years
 female:
 76.21 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 2.85 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Albanian(s)
 adjective:
 Albanian
 Ethnic divisions:
 Albanian 90%, Greeks 8%, other 2% (Vlachs, Gypsies, Serbs, and Bulgarians)
 (1989 est.)
 Religions:
 Muslim 70%, Greek Orthodox 20%, Roman Catholic 10%
 note:

all mosques and churches were closed in 1967 and religious observances prohibited; in November 1990, Albania began allowing private religious practice

Languages:
Albanian (Tosk is the official dialect), Greek

Literacy:
age 9 and over can read and write (1955)
total population:
72%
male:
80%
female:
63%

Labor force:
1.5 million (1987)
by occupation:
agriculture 60%, industry and commerce 40% (1986)

1.5 1.guide/Government (Albania)

Government (Albania)

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Names:
conventional long form:
Republic of Albania
conventional short form:
Albania
local long form:
Republika e Shqiperise
local short form:
Shqiperia
former:
People's Socialist Republic of Albania

Digraph:
AL

Type:
nascent democracy

Capital:
Tirane

Administrative divisions:
26 districts (rrethe, singular - rreth); Berat, Dibre, Durres, Elbasan, Fier, Gjirokaster, Gramsh, Kolonje, Korce, Kruje, Kukes, Lezhe, Librazhd, Lushnje, Mat, Mirdite, Permet, Pogradec, Puke, Sarande, Shkoder, Skrapar, Tepelene, Tirane, Tropoje, Vlore

Independence:
28 November 1912 (from Ottoman Empire)

Constitution:
an interim basic law was approved by the People's Assembly on 29 April 1991; ↵
a new constitution was to be drafted for adoption in 1992, but is still in process

Legal system:

has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

National holiday:
Liberation Day, 29 November (1944)

Political parties and leaders:
there are at least 18 political parties; most prominent are the Albanian Socialist Party (ASP; formerly the Albania Workers Party), Fatos NANO, ← first secretary; Democratic Party (DP), Eduard SELAMI, chairman; Albanian Republican Party (RP), Sabri GODO; Omonia (Greek minority party), leader NA (ran in 1992 election as Unity for Human Rights Party (UHP)); Social Democratic Party (SDP), Skender GJINUSHI; Democratic Alliance Party (DAP), Spartak NGJELA, chairman

Suffrage:
18 years of age, universal and compulsory

Elections:
People's Assembly:
last held 22 March 1992; results - DP 62.29%, ASP 25.57%, SDP 4.33%, RP 3.15%, UHP 2.92%, other 1.74%; seats - (140 total) DP 92, ASP 38, SDP 7, RP 1, UHP 2

Executive branch:
president, prime minister of the Council of Ministers, two deputy prime ministers of the Council of Ministers

Legislative branch:
unicameral People's Assembly (Kuvendi Popullor)

Judicial branch:
Supreme Court

Leaders:
Chief of State:
President of the Republic Sali BERISHA (since 9 April 1992)

1.6 1.guide/Government (Albania 2. usage)

Government (Albania 2. usage)

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Head of Government:
Prime Minister of the Council of Ministers Aleksander Gabriel MEKSI (since 10 April 1992)

Member of:
BSEC, CSCE, EBRD, ECE, FAO, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IMF, INTERPOL ←
,
IOC, IOM (observer), ISO, ITU, LORCS, NACC, OIC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WHO, WIPO, WMO

Diplomatic representation in US:
chief of mission:
Ambassador Roland BIMO

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1511 K Street, NW, Washington, DC

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(202) 223-4942

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US diplomatic representation:

chief of mission:
 Ambassador William E. RYERSON
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 Rruga Labinoti 103, room 2921, Tirane
 mailing address:
 PSC 59, Box 100 (A), APO AE 09624
 telephone:
 355-42-32875, 33520
 FAX:
 355-42-32222
 Flag:
 red with a black two-headed eagle in the center

1.7 1.guide/Economy (Albania)

Economy (Albania)

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Overview:

The Albanian economy, already providing the lowest standard of living in Europe, contracted sharply in 1991, with most industries producing at only a fraction of past levels and an unemployment rate estimated at 40%. For over 40 years, the Stalinist-type economy operated on the principle of central planning and state ownership of the means of production. Fitful economic reforms begun during 1991, including the liberalization of prices and trade, the privatization of shops and transport, and land reform, were crippled by widespread civil disorder. Following its overwhelming victory in the 22 March 1992 elections, the new Democratic government announced a program of shock therapy to stabilize the economy and establish a market economy. In an effort to expand international ties, Tirane has reestablished diplomatic relations with the major republics of the former Soviet Union and the US and has joined the IMF and the World Bank. The Albanians have also passed legislation allowing foreign investment, but not foreign ownership of real estate. Albania possesses considerable mineral resources and, until 1990, was largely self-sufficient in food; however, the breakup of cooperative farms in 1991 and general economic decline forced Albania to rely on foreign aid to maintain adequate supplies. In 1992 the government tightened budgetary controls leading to another drop in domestic output. The agricultural sector is steadily gaining from the privatization process. Low domestic output is supplemented by remittances from the 200,000 Albanians working abroad.

National product:

GDP - purchasing power equivalent - \$2.5 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

-10% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$760 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

210% (1992 est.)
 Unemployment rate:
 40% (1992 est.)
 Budget:
 revenues \$1.1 billion; expenditures \$1.4 billion, including capital
 expenditures of \$70 million (1991 est.)
 Exports:
 \$45 million (f.o.b., 1992 est.)
 commodities:
 asphalt, metals and metallic ores, electricity, crude oil, vegetables,
 fruits, tobacco
 partners:
 Italy, Macedonia, Germany, Greece, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania,
 Bulgaria, Hungary
 Imports:
 \$120 million (f.o.b., 1992 est.)
 commodities:
 machinery, consumer goods, grains
 partners:
 Italy, Macedonia, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Poland, Hungary,
 Bulgaria, Greece
 External debt:
 \$500 million (1992 est.)
 Industrial production:
 growth rate -55% (1991 est.)
 Electricity: 1,690,000 kW capacity; 5,000 million kWh produced, 1,520 kWh ←
 per capita
 (1992)

1.8 1.guide/Economy (Albania 2. usage)

Economy (Albania 2. usage)

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Industries:
 food processing, textiles and clothing, lumber, oil, cement, chemicals,
 mining, basic metals, hydropower
 Agriculture:
 arable land per capita among lowest in Europe; over 60% of arable land now
 in private hands; one-half of work force engaged in farming; wide range of
 temperate-zone crops and livestock
 Illicit drugs:
 transshipment point for Southwest Asian heroin transiting the Balkan route
 Economic aid:
 recipient - \$190 million humanitarian aid, \$94 million in
 loans/guarantees/credits
 Currency:
 1 lek (L) = 100 qintars
 Exchange rates:
 leke (L) per US\$1 - 97 (January 1993), 50 (January 1992), 25 (September
 1991)
 Fiscal year:
 calendar year

1.9 1.guide/Communications (Albania)

Communications (Albania)

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Railroads:

543 km total; 509 km 1.435-meter standard gauge, single track and 34 km narrow gauge, single track (1990); line connecting Titograd (Serbia and Montenegro) and Shkoder (Albania) completed August 1986

Highways:

16,700 km total; 6,700 km highways, 10,000 km forest and agricultural cart roads (1990)

Inland waterways:

43 km plus Albanian sections of Lake Scutari, Lake Ohrid, and Lake Prespa (1990)

Pipelines:

crude oil 145 km; petroleum products 55 km; natural gas 64 km (1991)

Ports:

Durres, Sarande, Vlore

Merchant marine:

11 cargo ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 52,967 GRT/76,887 DWT

Airports:

total:

12

usable:

10

with permanent-surface runways:

3

with runways over 3,659 m:

0 with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

6

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

4

Telecommunications:

inadequate service; 15,000 telephones; broadcast stations - 13 AM, 1 TV; 514,000 radios, 255,000 TVs (1987 est.)

1.10 1.guide/Defense Forces (Albania)

Defense Forces (Albania)

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Branches:

Army, Navy, Air and Air Defense Forces, Interior Ministry Troops

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 896,613; fit for military service 739,359; reach military age (19) annually 32,740 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

215 million leke, NA% of GNP (1993 est.); note - conversion of defense expenditures into US dollars using the current exchange rate could produce misleading results