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Chapter 1

190

1.1 190.guide

Texified version of data for Paraguay.

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).

Paraguay

1.2 190.guide/Paraguay

Paraguay

Geography (Paraguay)
People (Paraguay)
Government (Paraguay)
Government (Paraguay 2. usage)
Economy (Paraguay)
Economy (Paraguay 2. usage)
Communications (Paraguay)
Defense Forces (Paraguay)

1.3 190.guide/Geography (Paraguay)

Geography (Paraguay)

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Location:

Central South America, between Argentina and Brazil

Map references:

South America, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

406,750 km²

land area:

397,300 km²

comparative area:

slightly smaller than California

Land boundaries:

total 3,920 km, Argentina 1,880 km, Bolivia 750 km, Brazil 1,290 km

Coastline:

0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims:

none; landlocked

International disputes:

short section of the boundary with Brazil (just west of Guaira Falls on the Rio Parana) has not been determined

Climate:

varies from temperate in east to semiarid in far west

Terrain:

grassy plains and wooded hills east of Rio Paraguay; Gran Chaco region west of Rio Paraguay mostly low, marshy plain near the river, and dry forest and thorny scrub elsewhere

Natural resources:

hydropower, timber, iron ore, manganese, limestone

Land use:

arable land:

20%

permanent crops:

1%

meadows and pastures:

39%

forest and woodland:

35%

other:
 5%
 Irrigated land:
 670 km2 (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 local flooding in southeast (early September to June); poorly drained ←
 plains
 may become boggy (early October to June)
 Note:
 landlocked; buffer between Argentina and Brazil

1.4 190.guide/People (Paraguay)

People (Paraguay)
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Population:
 5,070,856 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 2.8% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 32.61 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 4.58 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 26.4 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 72.98 years
 male:
 71.42 years
 female:
 74.62 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 4.37 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Paraguayan(s)
 adjective:
 Paraguayan
 Ethnic divisions:
 mestizo (Spanish and Indian) 95%, white and Indian 5%
 Religions:
 Roman Catholic 90%, Mennonite and other Protestant denominations
 Languages:
 Spanish (official), Guarani
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1990)
 total population:
 90%
 male:

92%
 female:
 88%
 Labor force:
 1.641 million (1992 est.)
 by occupation:
 agriculture, industry and commerce, services, government (1986)

1.5 190.guide/Government (Paraguay)

Government (Paraguay)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Republic of Paraguay conventional short form:
 Paraguay
 local long form:
 Republica del Paraguay
 local short form:
 Paraguay
 Digraph:
 PA
 Type:
 republic
 Capital:
 Asuncion
 Administrative divisions:
 19 departments (departamentos, singular - departamento); Alto Paraguay, ←
 Alto
 Parana, Amambay, Boqueron, Caaguazu, Caazapa, Canindeyu, Central, Chaco,
 Concepcion, Cordillera, Guaira, Itapua, Misiones, Neembucu, Nueva Asuncion,
 Paraguari, Presidente Hayes, San Pedro
 Independence:
 14 May 1811 (from Spain)
 Constitution:
 25 August 1967; Constituent Assembly rewrote the Constitution that was
 promulgated on 20 June 1992
 Legal system:
 based on Argentine codes, Roman law, and French codes; judicial review of
 legislative acts in Supreme Court of Justice; does not accept compulsory ←
 ICJ
 jurisdiction
 National holiday:
 Independence Days, 14-15 May (1811)
 Political parties and leaders:
 Colorado Party, Blas N. RIQUELME, president; Authentic Radical Liberal ←
 Party
 (PLRA), Domingo LAINO; Christian Democratic Party (PDC), Jose Angel BURRO;
 Febrerista Revolutionary Party (PRF), Euclides ACEUEDO; Popular Democratic
 Party (PDP), Hugo RICHER; National Encounter (EN), Guillermo Caballero
 VARGAS
 Other political or pressure groups:

Confederation of Workers (CUT); Roman Catholic Church
 Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal and compulsory up to age 60
 Elections:
 President:
 last held 1 May 1989 (next to be held 9 May 1993); results - Gen. RODRIGUEZ 75.8%, Domingo LAINO 19.4%
 Chamber of Senators:
 last held 1 May 1989 (next to be held by 9 May 1993); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (36 total) Colorado Party 24, PLRA 10, PLR 1, PRF 1
 Chamber of Deputies:
 last held on 1 May 1989 (next to be held by 9 May 1993); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (72 total) Colorado Party 48, PLRA 19, PRF 2, PDC 1, other 2
 Executive branch:
 president, Council of Ministers (cabinet), Council of State
 Legislative branch:
 bicameral Congress (Congreso) consists of an upper chamber or Chamber of Senators (Camara de Senadores) and a lower chamber or Chamber of Deputies (Camara de Diputados)

1.6 190.guide/Government (Paraguay 2. usage)

Government (Paraguay 2. usage)

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Judicial branch:
 Supreme Court of Justice (Corte Suprema de Justicia)
 Leaders:
 Chief of State and Head of Government:
 President Gen. Andres RODRIGUEZ Pedotti (since 15 May 1989)
 Member of:
 AG (observer), CCC, ECLAC, FAO, G-77, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, INTELSTAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM, ITU, LAES, LAIA, LORCS, MERCOSUR, OAS, OPANAL, PCA, RG, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO
 Diplomatic representation in US:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador Juan Esteban Aguirre MARTINEZ
 chancery:
 2400 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008
 telephone:
 (202) 483-6960 through 6962
 consulates general:
 New Orleans and New York
 consulate:
 Houston
 US diplomatic representation:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador Jon David GLASSMAN
 embassy:
 1776 Avenida Mariscal Lopez, Asuncion

mailing address:

C. P. 402, Asuncion, or APO AA 34036-0001

telephone:

[595] (21) 213-715

FAX:

[595] (21) 213-728

Flag:

three equal, horizontal bands of red (top), white, and blue with an emblem centered in the white band; unusual flag in that the emblem is different on each side; the obverse (hoist side at the left) bears the national coat of arms (a yellow five-pointed star within a green wreath capped by the words REPUBLICA DEL PARAGUAY, all within two circles); the reverse (hoist side at the right) bears the seal of the treasury (a yellow lion below a red Cap of Liberty and the words Paz y Justicia (Peace and Justice) capped by the ← words

REPUBLICA DEL PARAGUAY, all within two circles)

1.7 190.guide/Economy (Paraguay)

Economy (Paraguay)

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Overview:

Agriculture, including forestry, accounts for about 25% of GDP, employs about 45% of the labor force, and provides the bulk of exports. Paraguay lacks substantial mineral or petroleum resources but does have a large hydropower potential. Since 1981 economic performance has declined compared with the boom period of 1976-81, when real GDP grew at an average annual rate of nearly 11%. During the period 1982-86 real GDP fell in three of ← five

years, inflation jumped to an annual rate of 32%, and foreign debt rose. Factors responsible for the erratic behavior of the economy were the completion of the Itaipu hydroelectric dam, bad weather for crops, and weak international commodity prices for agricultural exports. In 1987 the ← economy

experienced a minor recovery because of improved weather conditions and stronger international prices for key agricultural exports. The recovery continued through 1990, on the strength of bumper crops in 1988-89. In a major step to increase its economic activity in the region, Paraguay in March 1991 joined the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR), which ← includes

Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay. In 1992, the government, through an unorthodox approach, reduced external debt with both commercial and ← official

creditors by purchasing a sizable amount of the delinquent commercial debt in the secondary market at a substantial discount. The government had paid 100% of remaining official debt arrears to the US, Germany, France, and Spain. All commercial debt arrears have been rescheduled. For the long run, the government must press forward with general, market-oriented economic reforms.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$7.3 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

1.7% (1992 est.)
 National product per capita:
 \$1,500 (1992 est.)
 Inflation rate (consumer prices):
 20% (1992 est.)
 Unemployment rate:
 10% (1992 est.)
 Budget:
 revenues \$1.2 billion; expenditures \$1.2 billion, including capital
 expenditures of \$487 million (1991)
 Exports:
 \$719 million (f.o.b., 1992)
 commodities:
 cotton, soybean, timber, vegetable oils, coffee, tung oil, meat products
 partners:
 EC 37%, Brazil 25%, Argentina 10%, Chile 6%, US 6%
 Imports:
 \$1.33 billion (c.i.f., 1992)
 commodities:
 capital goods 35%, consumer goods 20%, fuels and lubricants 19%, raw
 materials 16%, foodstuffs, beverages, and tobacco 10%
 partners:
 Brazil 30%, EC 20%, US 18%, Argentina 8%, Japan 7%
 External debt:
 \$1.2 billion (1992 est.)
 Industrial production:
 growth rate 5.9% (1989 est.); accounts for 17% of GDP
 Electricity:
 5,257,000 kW capacity; 16,200 million kWh produced, 3,280 kWh per capita
 (1992)

1.8 190.guide/Economy (Paraguay 2. usage)

Economy (Paraguay 2. usage)

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Industries:
 meat packing, oilseed crushing, milling, brewing, textiles, other light
 consumer goods, cement, construction
 Agriculture:
 accounts for 25% of GDP and 44% of labor force; cash crops - cotton,
 sugarcane; other crops - corn, wheat, tobacco, soybeans, cassava, fruits,
 vegetables; animal products - beef, pork, eggs, milk; surplus producer of
 timber; self-sufficient in most foods
 Illicit drugs:
 illicit producer of cannabis for the international drug trade; important
 transshipment point for Bolivian cocaine headed for the US and Europe
 Economic aid:
 US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$172 million; Western (non-US)
 countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$1.1 billion
 Currency:
 1 guarani (G) = 100 centimos
 Exchange rates:

guaranies (G) per US\$ - 1,637.6 (January 1993), 1,500.3 (1992), 447.5 (←
 March
 1992), 1,325.2 (1991), 1,229.8 (1990), 1,056.2 (1989), 550.00 (fixed rate
 1986-February 1989)
 Fiscal year:
 calendar year

1.9 190.guide/Communications (Paraguay)

Communications (Paraguay)

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Railroads:

970 km total; 440 km 1.435-meter standard gauge, 60 km 1.000-meter gauge,
 470 km various narrow gauge (privately owned)

Highways:

21,960 km total; 1,788 km paved, 474 km gravel, and 19,698 km earth

Inland waterways:

3,100 km

Ports:

Asuncion, Villeta, Ciudad del Este

Merchant marine:

13 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 16,747 GRT/19,865 DWT; includes 11
 cargo, 2 oil tanker; note - 1 naval cargo ship is sometimes used
 commercially

Airports:

total:

862

usable:

719

with permanent-surface runways:

7

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

4

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

64

Telecommunications:

principal center in Asuncion; fair intercity microwave net; 78,300
 telephones; broadcast stations - 40 AM, no FM, 5 TV, 7 shortwave; 1 ←
 Atlantic
 Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.10 190.guide/Defense Forces (Paraguay)

Defense Forces (Paraguay)

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Branches:

Army, Navy (including Naval Air and Marines), Air Force

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 1,210,171; fit for military service 879,601; reach military age (17) annually 51,361 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$84 million, 1.4% of GDP (1988 est.)