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Chapter 1

40

1.1 40.guide

Texified version of data for Burma.

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Burma

1.2 40.guide/Burma

Burma

Geography (Burma)
 People (Burma)
 Government (Burma)
 Government (Burma 2. usage)
 Economy (Burma)
 Economy (Burma 2. usage)
 Communications (Burma)
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1.3 40.guide/Geography (Burma)

Geography (Burma)

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Location:

Southeast Asia, bordering the Bay of Bengal, between Bangladesh and Thailand ←

Map references:

Asia, Southeast Asia, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

678,500 km²

land area:

657,740 km²

comparative area:

slightly smaller than Texas

Land boundaries:

total 5,876 km, Bangladesh 193 km, China 2,185 km, India 1,463 km, Laos 235 km, Thailand 1,800 km

Coastline:

1,930 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

24 nm

continental shelf:

200 nm or to the edge of continental margin

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

none

Climate:

tropical monsoon; cloudy, rainy, hot, humid summers (southwest monsoon, ← June

to September); less cloudy, scant rainfall, mild temperatures, lower humidity during winter (northeast monsoon, December to April)

Terrain:

central lowlands ringed by steep, rugged highlands

Natural resources:

petroleum, timber, tin, antimony, zinc, copper, tungsten, lead, coal, some

marble, limestone, precious stones, natural gas

Land use:

- arable land:
 - 15%
- permanent crops:
 - 1%
- meadows and pastures:
 - 1%
- forest and woodland:
 - 49%
- other:
 - 34%

Irrigated land:

- 10,180 km² (1989)

Environment:

- subject to destructive earthquakes and cyclones; flooding and landslides common during rainy season (June to September); deforestation

Note:

- strategic location near major Indian Ocean shipping lanes

1.4 40.guide/People (Burma)

People (Burma)

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Population:

- 43,455,953 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:

- 1.88% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:

- 28.88 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Death rate:

- 10.05 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Net migration rate:

- 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Infant mortality rate:

- 65.7 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

- total population:
 - 59.5 years
- male:
 - 57.5 years
- female:
 - 61.63 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:

- 3.7 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality:

- noun:
 - Burmese (singular and plural)
- adjective:
 - Burmese

Ethnic divisions:

- Burman 68%, Shan 9%, Karen 7%, Rakhine 4%, Chinese 3%, Mon 2%, Indian 2%,

other 5%

Religions:
 Buddhist 89%, Christian 4% (Baptist 3%, Roman Catholic 1%), Muslim 4%, animist beliefs 1%, other 2%

Languages:
 Burmese; minority ethnic groups have their own languages

Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1990)
 total population:
 81%
 male:
 89%
 female:
 72%

Labor force:
 16.007 million (1992)
 by occupation:
 agriculture 65.2%, industry 14.3%, trade 10.1%, government 6.3%, other 4.1% (FY89 est.)

1.5 40.guide/Government (Burma)

Government (Burma)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Union of Burma
 conventional short form:
 Burma
 local long form:
 Pyidaungzu Myanma Naingngandaw (translated by the US Government as Union of Myanma and by the Burmese as Union of Myanmar)
 local short form:
 Myanma Naingngandaw
 former:
 Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma

Digraph:
 BM

Type:
 military regime

Capital:
 Rangoon (sometimes translated as Yangon)

Administrative divisions:
 7 divisions* (yin-mya, singular - yin) and 7 states (pyine-mya, singular -, ↔ pyine); Chin State,
 Irrawaddy*, Kachin State, Karan State, Kayah State,, Magwe*, Mandalay*, Mon ↔ State, Pegu*, Rakhine,
 State, Rangoon*, Sagaing*, Shan, State, Tenasserim*, Independence:
 4 January 1948 (from UK)

Constitution:
 3 January 1974 (suspended since 18 September 1988); National Convention started on 9 January 1993 to draft chapter headings for a new constitution

Legal system:

has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

National holiday:

Independence Day, 4 January (1948)

Political parties and leaders:

National Unity Party (NUP; proregime), THA KYAW; National League for Democracy (NLD), U AUNG SHWE; National Coalition of Union of Burma (NCGUB), SEIN WIN (which consists of individuals legitimately elected to parliament, but not recognized by military regime) fled to border area and joined with insurgents in December 1990 to form a parallel government

Other political or pressure groups:

Kachin Independence Army (KIA); United Wa State Army (UWSA); Karen National Union (KNU - the only non-drug group); several Shan factions, including the Mong Tai Army (MTA)

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Elections:**People's Assembly:**

last held 27 May 1990, but Assembly never convened; results - NLD 80%; ← seats
- (485 total) NLD 396, the regime-favored NUP 10, other 79

Executive branch:

chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, State Law and Order Restoration Council ←

Legislative branch:

unicameral People's Assembly (Pyithu Hluttaw) was dissolved after the coup of 18 September 1988

Judicial branch: none; Council of People's Justices was abolished after the ← coup of 18 September 1988

1.6 40.guide/Government (Burma 2. usage)

Government (Burma 2. usage)

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Leaders:**Chief of State and Head of Government:**

Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Gen. THAN SHWE (since 23 April 1992)

Member of:

AsDB, CCC, CP, ESCAP, FAO, G-77, GATT, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, LORCS, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WHO, WMO

Diplomatic representation in US:**chief of mission:**

Ambassador U THAUNG

chancery:

2300 S Street NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone:

(202) 332-9044 through 9046

consulate general:

New York
 US diplomatic representation:
 chief of mission:
 (vacant); Deputy Chief of Mission, Charge d'Affaires Franklin P. HUDDLE, Jr ↔
 .
 embassy:
 581 Merchant Street, Rangoon
 mailing address:
 GPO Box 521, AMEMB Box B, APO AP 96546
 telephone:
 [95] (1) 82055, 82181
 FAX:
 [95] (1) 80409
 Flag:
 red with a blue rectangle in the upper hoist-side corner bearing, all in white, 14 five-pointed stars encircling a cogwheel containing a stalk of rice; the 14 stars represent the 14 administrative divisions

1.7 40.guide/Economy (Burma)

Economy (Burma)

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Overview:

Burma is a poor Asian country, with a per capita GDP of about \$660. The nation has been unable to achieve any substantial improvement in export earnings because of falling prices for many of its major commodity exports. For rice, traditionally the most important export, the drop in world prices has been accompanied by shrinking markets and a smaller volume of sales. In 1985 teak replaced rice as the largest export and continues to hold this position. The economy is heavily dependent on the agricultural sector, ↔ which generates about 40% of GDP and provides employment for 65% of the work force. Burma has been largely isolated from international economic forces and has been trying to encourage foreign investment, so far with little success.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$28 billion (1992)

National product real growth rate:

1.3% (1992)

National product per capita:

\$660 (1992)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

50% (1992)

Unemployment rate:

9.6% (FY89 est.) in urban areas

Budget:

revenues \$8.1 billion; expenditures \$11.6 billion, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1992)

Exports:

\$535.1 million (FY92)

commodities:

teak, rice, oilseed, metals, rubber, gems

partners:
 China, India, Thailand, Singapore

Imports:
 \$907.0 million (FY92)

commodities:
 machinery, transport equipment, chemicals, food products

partners:
 Japan, China, Singapore

External debt:
 \$4 billion (1992)

Industrial production:
 growth rate 2.6% (FY90 est.); accounts for 10% of GDP

Electricity:
 1,100,000 kW capacity; 2,800 million kWh produced, 65 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:
 agricultural processing; textiles and footwear; wood and wood products;
 petroleum refining; mining of copper, tin, tungsten, iron; construction
 materials; pharmaceuticals; fertilizer

Agriculture:
 accounts for 40% of GDP (including fish and forestry); self-sufficient in
 food; principal crops - paddy rice, corn, oilseed, sugarcane, pulses;
 world's largest stand of hardwood trees; rice and teak account for 55% of
 export revenues

Illicit drugs:
 world's largest illicit producer of opium poppy and minor producer of
 cannabis for the international drug trade; opium production has nearly
 doubled since the collapse of Rangoon's antinarcotic programs

1.8 40.guide/Economy (Burma 2. usage)

Economy (Burma 2. usage)

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Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$158 million; Western (non-US)
 countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$3.9 billion;
 Communist countries (1970-89), \$424 million

Currency:

1 kyat (K) = 100 pyas

Exchange rates: kyats (K) per US\$1 - 6.0963 (January 1992), 6.2837 (1991), ↔
 6.3386 (1990),
 6.7049 (1989), 6.46 (1988), 6.6535 (1987); unofficial - 105

Fiscal year:

1 April - 31 March

1.9 40.guide/Communications (Burma)

Communications (Burma)

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Railroads:

3,991 km total, all government owned; 3,878 km 1.000-meter gauge, 113 km narrow-gauge industrial lines; 362 km double track

Highways:

27,000 km total; 3,200 km bituminous, 17,700 km improved earth or gravel, 6,100 km unimproved earth

Inland waterways:

12,800 km; 3,200 km navigable by large commercial vessels

Pipelines:

crude oil 1,343 km; natural gas 330 km

Ports:

Rangoon, Moulmein, Bassein

Merchant marine:

62 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 940,264 GRT/1,315,156 DWT; includes 3 passenger-cargo, 18 cargo, 5 refrigerated cargo, 4 vehicle carrier, 2 container, 2 oil tanker, 3 chemical, 1 combination ore/oil, 23 bulk, 1 combination bulk

Airports:

total:

83

usable:

78

with permanent-surface runways:

26

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

3

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

38

Telecommunications:

meets minimum requirements for local and intercity service for business and government; international service is good; 53,000 telephones (1986); radiobroadcast coverage is limited to the most populous areas; broadcast stations - 2 AM, 1 FM, 1 TV (1985); 1 Indian Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.10 40.guide/Defense Forces (Burma)

Defense Forces (Burma)

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Branches:

Army, Navy, Air Force

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 11,004,419; females age 15-49 10,945,899; males fit for military service 5,894,514; females fit for military service 5,847,958; males reach military age (18) annually 435,030; females reach military age (18) annually 420,487 (1993 est.); both sexes are liable for military service

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$NA, NA% of GDP (1992)
