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Chapter 1

249

1.1 249.guide

Texified version of data for United States.

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United States

1.2 249.guide/United States

United States

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

1.3 249.guide/Geography (United States)

Geography (United States)

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Location:

North America, between Canada and Mexico

Map references:

North America, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

9,372,610 km²

land area:

9,166,600 km²

comparative area:

about half the size of Russia; about three-tenths the size of Africa; about one-half the size of South America (or slightly larger than Brazil); slightly smaller than China; about two and one-half times the size of Western Europe

note:

includes only the 50 states and District of Columbia

Land boundaries:

total 12,248 km, Canada 8,893 km (including 2,477 km with Alaska), Cuba 29 km (US naval base at Guantanamo), Mexico 3,326 km

Coastline:

19,924 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

24 nm

continental shelf:

200 m or depth of exploitation

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

maritime boundary disputes with Canada (Dixon Entrance, Beaufort Sea, ↔ Strait

of Juan de Fuca); US Naval Base at Guantanamo is leased from Cuba and only mutual agreement or US abandonment of the area can terminate the lease;

Haiti claims Navassa Island; US has made no territorial claim in Antarctica

(but has reserved the right to do so) and does not recognize the claims of any other nation; Republic of Marshall Islands claims Wake Island

Climate:

mostly temperate, but tropical in Hawaii and Florida and arctic in Alaska, semiarid in the great plains west of the Mississippi River and arid in the Great Basin of the southwest; low winter temperatures in the northwest are ameliorated occasionally in January and February by warm chinook winds from the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains

Terrain:

vast central plain, mountains in west, hills and low mountains in east; rugged mountains and broad river valleys in Alaska; rugged, volcanic topography in Hawaii

Natural resources:

coal, copper, lead, molybdenum, phosphates, uranium, bauxite, gold, iron, mercury, nickel, potash, silver, tungsten, zinc, petroleum, natural gas, timber

Land use:

arable land:

20%

permanent crops:

0%

meadows and pastures:

26%

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Geography (United States 2. usage)

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forest and woodland:

29%

other:

25%

Irrigated land:

181,020 km2 (1989 est.)

Environment:

pollution control measures improving air and water quality; agricultural fertilizer and pesticide pollution; management of sparse natural water resources in west; desertification; tsunamis, volcanoes, and earthquake activity around Pacific Basin; permafrost in northern Alaska is a major impediment to development

Note:

world's fourth-largest country (after Russia, Canada, and China)

1.5 249.guide/People (United States)

People (United States)

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Population:
 258,103,721 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 1.02% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 15.48 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 8.67 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 3.41 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 8.36 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 75.8 years
 male:
 72.49 years
 female:
 79.29 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 2.05 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 American(s)
 adjective:
 American
 Ethnic divisions:
 white 83.4%, black 12.4%, asian 3.3%, native american 0.8% (1992)
 Religions:
 Protestant 56%, Roman Catholic 28%, Jewish 2%, other 4%, none 10% (1989)
 Languages:
 English, Spanish (spoken by a sizable minority)
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over having completed 5 or more years of schooling (1991)
 total population:
 97.9%
 male:
 97.9%
 female:
 97.9%
 Labor force:
 128.548 million (includes armed forces and unemployed; civilian labor force
 126.982 million) (1992)
 by occupation:
 NA

1.6 249.guide/Government (United States)

Government (United States)

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Names:

conventional long form:
 United States of America
 conventional short form:
 United States
 Abbreviation:
 US or USA
 Digraph:
 US
 Type:
 federal republic; strong democratic tradition
 Capital:
 Washington, DC
 Administrative divisions:
 50 states and 1 district*; Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California,, ↔
 Colorado,
 Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia*, Florida, Georgia,, Hawaii, ↔
 Idaho, Illinois, Indiana,
 Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine,
 Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri,
 Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York,
 North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode
 Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont,
 Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
 Dependent areas:
 American Samoa, Baker Island, Guam, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Johnston
 Atoll, Kingman Reef, Midway Islands, Navassa Island, Northern Mariana
 Islands, Palmyra Atoll, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Wake Island
 note:
 since 18 July 1947, the US has administered the Trust Territory of the
 Pacific Islands, but recently entered into a new political relationship ↔
 with
 three of the four political units; the Northern Mariana Islands is a
 Commonwealth in political union with the US (effective 3 November 1986);
 Palau concluded a Compact of Free Association with the US that was approved
 by the US Congress but to date the Compact process has not been completed ↔
 in
 Palau, which continues to be administered by the US as the Trust Territory
 of the Pacific Islands; the Federated States of Micronesia signed a Compact
 of Free Association with the US (effective 3 November 1986); the Republic ↔
 of
 the Marshall Islands signed a Compact of Free Association with the US
 (effective 21 October 1986)
 Independence:
 4 July 1776 (from England)
 Constitution:
 17 September 1787, effective 4 June 1789
 Legal system:
 based on English common law; judicial review of legislative acts; accepts
 compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations
 National holiday:
 Independence Day, 4 July (1776)
 Political parties and leaders:
 Republican Party, Haley BARBOUR, national committee chairman; Jeanie AUSTIN ↔
 ,
 co-chairman; Democratic Party, David C. WILHELM, national committee
 chairman; several other groups or parties of minor political significance
 Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal
 Elections:
 President:
 last held 3 November 1992 (next to be held 5 November 1996); results -
 William Jefferson CLINTON (Democratic Party) 43.2%, George BUSH (Republican
 Party) 37.7%, Ross PEROT (Independent) 19.0%, other 0.1%

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Government (United States 2. usage)

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Senate:
 last held 3 November 1992 (next to be held 8 November 1994); results -
 Democratic Party 53%, Republican Party 47%, other NEGL%; seats - (100 total ←
)
 Democratic Party 57, Republican Party 43
 House of Representatives:
 last held 3 November 1992 (next to be held 8 November 1994); results -
 Democratic Party 52%, Republican Party 46%, other 2%; seats - (435 total)
 Democratic Party 258, Republican Party 176, Independent 1
 Executive branch:
 president, vice president, Cabinet
 Legislative branch:
 bicameral Congress consists of an upper house or Senate and a lower house ←
 or
 House of Representatives
 Judicial branch:
 Supreme Court
 Leaders:
 Chief of State and Head of Government:
 President William Jefferson CLINTON (since 20 January 1993); Vice President
 Albert GORE, Jr. (since 20 January 1993)
 Member of:
 AfDB, AG (observer), ANZUS, APEC, AsDB, Australian Group, BIS, CCC, COCOM,
 CP, CSCE, EBRD, ECE, ECLAC, FAO, ESCAP, G-2, G-5, G-7, G-8, G-10, GATT,
 IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICFTU, IDA, IEA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO,
 INMARSAT, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM, ISO, ITU, LORCS, MINURSO, MTCR,
 NACC, NATO, NEA, NSG, OAS, OECD, PCA, SPC, UN, UNCTAD, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNIKOM ←
 ,
 UNRWA, UN Security Council, UNTAC, UN Trusteeship Council, UNTSO, UPU, WCL,
 WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC
 Flag:
 thirteen equal horizontal stripes of red (top and bottom) alternating with
 white; there is a blue rectangle in the upper hoist-side corner bearing 50
 small white five-pointed stars arranged in nine offset horizontal rows of
 six stars (top and bottom) alternating with rows of five stars; the 50 ←
 stars
 represent the 50 states, the 13 stripes represent the 13 original colonies;
 known as Old Glory; the design and colors have been the basis for a number
 of other flags including Chile, Liberia, Malaysia, and Puerto Rico

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Economy (United States)

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Overview:

The US has the most powerful, diverse, and technologically advanced economy in the world, with a per capita GDP of \$23,400, the largest among major industrial nations. The economy is market oriented with most decisions made by private individuals and business firms and with government purchases of goods and services made predominantly in the marketplace. In 1989 the economy enjoyed its seventh successive year of substantial growth, the longest in peacetime history. The expansion featured moderation in wage and consumer price increases and a steady reduction in unemployment to 5.2% of the labor force. In 1990, however, growth slowed to 1% because of a combination of factors, such as the worldwide increase in interest rates, Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August, the subsequent spurt in oil prices, ← and

a general decline in business and consumer confidence. In 1991 output fell by 1%, unemployment grew, and signs of recovery proved premature. Growth picked up to 2.1% in 1992. Unemployment, however, remained at nine million, the increase in GDP being mainly attributable to gains in output per worker ←

Ongoing problems for the 1990s include inadequate investment in economic infrastructure, rapidly rising medical costs, and sizable budget and trade deficits.

National product:

GDP - purchasing power equivalent - \$5.951 trillion (1992)

National product real growth rate:

2.1% (1992)

National product per capita:

\$23,400 (1992)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

3% (1992)

Unemployment rate:

7% (April 1993)

Budget:

revenues \$1,092 billion; expenditures \$1,382 billion, including capital expenditures of \$NA (FY92)

Exports:

\$442.3 billion (f.o.b., 1992)

commodities:

capital goods, automobiles, industrial supplies and raw materials, consumer goods, agricultural products

partners:

Western Europe 27.3%, Canada 22.1%, Japan 12.1% (1989)

Imports:

\$544.1 billion (c.i.f., 1992)

commodities:

crude oil and refined petroleum products, machinery, automobiles, consumer goods, industrial raw materials, food and beverages

partners:

Western Europe 21.5%, Japan 19.7%, Canada 18.8% (1989)

External debt:

\$NA

Industrial production:

growth rate 1.5% (1992 est.); accounts for NA% of GDP

Electricity:

780,000,000 kW capacity; 3,230,000 million kWh produced, 12,690 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

leading industrial power in the world, highly diversified; petroleum, steel ←
 motor vehicles, aerospace, telecommunications, chemicals, electronics, food processing, consumer goods, lumber, mining

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Economy (United States 2. usage)

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Agriculture:

accounts for 2% of GDP and 2.8% of labor force; favorable climate and soils support a wide variety of crops and livestock production; world's second largest producer and number one exporter of grain; surplus food producer; fish catch of 4.4 million metric tons (1990)

Illicit drugs:

illicit producer of cannabis for domestic consumption with 1987 production estimated at 3,500 metric tons or about 25% of the available marijuana; ongoing eradication program aimed at small plots and greenhouses has not reduced production

Economic aid:

donor - commitments, including ODA and OOF, (FY80-89), \$115.7 billion

Currency:

1 United States dollar (US\$) = 100 cents

Exchange rates:**British pounds:**

(#) per US\$ - 0.6527 (January 1993), 0.5664 (1992), 0.5652 (1991), 0.5603 (1990), 0.6099 (1989), 0.5614 (1988)

Canadian dollars:

(Can\$) per US\$ - 1.2776 (January 1993), 1.2087 (1992), 1.1457 (1991), ←
 1.1668 (1990), 1.1840 (1989), 1.2307 (1988)

French francs:

(F) per US\$ - 5.4812 (January 1993), 5.2938 (1992), 5.6421 (1991), 5.4453 (1990), 6.3801 (1989), 5.9569 (1988)

Italian lire:

(Lit) per US\$ - 1,482.5 (January 1993), 1,232.4 (1992), 1,240.6 (1991), 1,198.1 (1990), 1,372.1 (1989), 1,301.6 (1988)

Japanese yen:

(Y) per US\$ - 125.01 (January 1993), 126.65 (1992), 134.71 (1991), 144.79 (1990), 137.96 (1989), 128.15 (1988)

German deutsche marks:

(DM) per US\$ - 1.6158 (January 1993), 1.5617 (1992), 1.6595 (1991), 1.6157 (1990), 1.8800 (1989), 1.7562 (1988)

Fiscal year:

1 October - 30 September

1.10 249.guide/Communications (United States)

Communications (United States)

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Railroads:

240,000 km of mainline routes, all standard 1.435 meter track, no government ownership (1989) ←

Highways:

7,599,250 km total; 6,230,000 km state-financed roads; 1,369,250 km federally-financed roads (including 71,825 km interstate limited access freeways) (1988)

Inland waterways:

41,009 km of navigable inland channels, exclusive of the Great Lakes (est.)

Pipelines:

petroleum 276,000 km (1991), natural gas 331,000 km (1991)

Ports: Anchorage, Baltimore, Beaumont, Boston, Charleston, Chicago, ←
Cleveland,

Duluth, Freeport, Galveston, Hampton Roads, Honolulu, Houston, Jacksonville ←

Long Beach, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Mobile, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, Portland (Oregon), Richmond (California), San Francisco, Savannah, Seattle, Tampa, Wilmington

Merchant marine:

385 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 12,567,000 GRT/19,511,000 DWT; includes 3 passenger-cargo, 36 cargo, 23 bulk, 169 tanker, 13 tanker tug-barge, 13 liquefied gas, 128 intermodal; in addition, there are 219 government-owned vessels

Airports:

total:

14,177

usable:

12,417

with permanent-surface runways:

4,820

with runways over 3,659 m:

63

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

325

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

2,524

Telecommunications:

126,000,000 telephone access lines; 7,557,000 cellular phone subscribers; broadcast stations - 4,987 AM, 4,932 FM, 1,092 TV; about 9,000 TV cable systems; 530,000,000 radio sets and 193,000,000 TV sets in use; 16 satellites and 24 ocean cable systems in use; satellite ground stations - ←
45

Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT and 16 Pacific Ocean INTELSAT (1990)

1.11 249.guide/Defense Forces (United States)

Defense Forces (United States)

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Branches:

Department of the Army, Department of the Navy (including Marine Corps),
Department of the Air Force

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 66.826 million; fit for military service NA (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$315.5 billion, 5.3% of GDP (1992)