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	TITLE : 73		
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WRITTEN BY		August 10, 2024	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

73

1.1 73.guide

Texified version of data for Eritrea.

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Eritrea

1.2 73.guide/Eritrea

Eritrea

Geography (Eritrea)
 People (Eritrea)
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 Government (Eritrea 2. usage)
 Economy (Eritrea)
 Communications (Eritrea)
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1.3 73.guide/Geography (Eritrea)

Geography (Eritrea)

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Location:

Eastern Africa, bordering the Red Sea between Djibouti and Sudan

Map references:

Africa, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

121,320 km²

land area:

121,320 km²

comparative area:

slightly larger than Pennsylvania

Land boundaries:

total 1,630 km, Djibouti 113 km, Ethiopia 912 km, Sudan 605 km

Coastline:

1,151 km (land and island coastline is 2,234 km)

Maritime claims:

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

none

Climate:

hot, dry desert strip along Red Sea coast; cooler and wetter in the central highlands (up to 61 cm of rainfall annually); semiarid in western hills and lowlands; rainfall heaviest during June–September except on coast desert

Terrain:

dominated by extension of Ethiopian north-south trending highlands, descending on the east to a coastal desert plan, on the northwest to hilly terrain and on the southwest to flat-to-rolling plains

Natural resources:

gold, potash, zinc, copper, salt, probably oil, fish

Land use:

arable land:

3%

permanent crops:

2% (coffee)

meadows and pastures:

40%

forest and woodland:

5% other:
 50%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km2
 Environment:
 frequent droughts, famine; deforestation; soil eroision; overgrazing; loss
 of infrastructure from civil warfare
 Note:
 strategic geopolitical position along world's busiest shipping lanes and
 close to Arabian oilfields, Eritrea retained the entire coastline of
 Ethiopia along the Red Sea upon de jure independence from Ethiopia on 27
 April 1993

1.4 73.guide/People (Eritrea)

People (Eritrea)

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Population:
 3,467,087 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 3.46% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 NA births/1,000 population
 Death rate:
 NA deaths/1,000 population
 Net migration rate:
 NA migrant(s)/1,000 population
 Infant mortality rate:
 NA deaths/1,000 live births
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 NA years
 male:
 NA years
 female:
 NA years
 Total fertility rate:
 NA children born/woman
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Eritrean(s)
 adjective:
 Eritrean
 Ethnic divisions:
 ethnic Tigrays 50%, Tigre and Kunama 40%, Afar 4%, Saho (Red Sea coast
 dwellers) 3%
 Religions:
 Muslim, Coptic Christian, Roman Catholic, Protestant
 Languages:
 Tigre and Kunama, Cushitic dialects, Tigre, Nora Bana, Arabic
 Literacy:
 NA%

Labor force:
NA

1.5 73.guide/Government (Eritrea)

Government (Eritrea)
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Names:
conventional long form:
none
conventional short form:
Eritrea
local long form:
none
local short form:
none
former:
Eritrea Autonomous Region in Ethiopia
Digraph:
ER
Type:
transitional government
note:
on 29 May 1991 ISSAIAS Afeworke, secretary general of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), announced the formation of the Provisional Government in Eritrea (PGE), in preparation for the 23-25 April 1993 referendum on independence for the autonomous region of Eritrea; the result was a landslide vote for independence that was announced on 27 April 1993
Capital:
Asmara (formerly Asmera)
Administrative divisions:
NA
Independence:
27 April 1993 (from Ethiopia; formerly the Eritrea Autonomous Region)
Constitution:
transitional "constitution" decreed 19 May 1993
Legal system:
NA
National holiday:
National Day (independence from Ethiopia), 24 May (1993)
Political parties and leaders:
Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) (Christian Muslim), ISSAIAS Aferworke, PETROS Soloman; Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) (Muslim), ABDULLAH Muhammed; Eritrean Liberation Front - United Organization (ELF-UO) ↔
,
leader NA
Other political or pressure groups:
Oromo Liberation Front (OLF); Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP) ↔
;
numerous small, ethnic-based groups have formed since Mengistu's resignation, including several Islamic militant groups
Suffrage:

NA
 Elections:
 multinational election before 20 May 1997
 Executive branch:
 president, Eritrean National Council
 Legislative branch:
 National Assembly
 Judicial branch:
 Judiciary
 Leaders: Chief of State and Head of Government:
 President ISSAIAS Aferworke
 Member of:
 OAU, UN, UNCTAD

1.6 73.guide/Government (Eritrea 2. usage)

Government (Eritrea 2. usage)

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Diplomatic representation in US:
 chief of mission:
 NA
 chancery:
 NA
 telephone:
 NA
 US diplomatic representation:
 chief of mission:
 Joseph P. O'NEILL
 embassy:
 NA
 mailing address:
 NA
 telephone:
 251-4-113-720
 FAX:
 NA
 Flag:
 red isosceles triangle (based on the hoist side) dividing the flag into two
 right triangles; the upper triangle is green, the lower one is blue; a gold
 wreath encircling a gold olive branch is centered on the hoist side of the
 red triangle

1.7 73.guide/Economy (Eritrea)

Economy (Eritrea)

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Overview:

With independence from Ethiopia on 27 April 1993, Eritrea faces the bitter economic problems of a small, desperately poor African country. Most of the population will continue to depend on subsistence farming. Domestic output is substantially augmented by worker remittances from abroad. Government revenues come from custom duties and income and sales taxes. Eritrea has inherited the entire coastline of Ethiopia and has long-term prospects for revenues from the development of offshore oil, offshore fishing and tourist development. For the time being, Ethiopia will be largely dependent on Eritrean ports for its foreign trade.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$400 million (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

NA%

National product per capita:

\$115 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

NA%

Unemployment rate: NA%**Budget:**

revenues \$NA; expenditures \$NA, including capital expenditures of \$NA

Exports:

\$NA

commodities:

NA

partners:

NA

Imports:

\$NA

commodities:

NA

partners:

NA

External debt:

\$NA

Industrial production:

growth rate NA%

Electricity:

NA kW capacity; NA kWh produced, NA kWh per capita

Industries:

food processing, beverages, clothing and textiles

Agriculture:

NA

Economic aid:

NA

Currency:

NA

Exchange rates:

NA

Fiscal year:

NA

1.8 73.guide/Communications (Eritrea)

Communications (Eritrea)

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Railroads:

307 km total; 307 km 1.000-meter gauge; 307 km 0.950-meter gauge
(nonoperational) linking Ak'ordat and Asmera with the port of Mits'iwe ↔
(1993
est.)

Highways:

3,845 km total; 807 km paved, 840 km gravel, 402 km improved earth, 1,796 ↔
km
unimproved earth

Ports:

Assab (formerly Aseb), Massawa (formerly Mits'iwa)

Merchant marine:

14 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 71,837 GRT/90,492 DWT; includes 9
cargo, 1 roll-on/roll off, 1 livestock carrier, 2 oil tanker, 1 ↔
refrigerated
cargo

Airports:

total:

5

usable:

5 with permanent-surface runways:

2

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

2

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

2

Telecommunications:

NA

1.9 73.guide/Defense Forces (Eritrea)

Defense Forces (Eritrea)

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Branches:

Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF)

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 NA; fit for military service NA; reach military age (18)
annually NA

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$NA, NA% of GDP