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Chapter 1

254

1.1 254.guide

Texified version of data for Vietnam.

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Vietnam

1.2 254.guide/Vietnam

Vietnam

Geography (Vietnam)
 People (Vietnam)
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1.3 254.guide/Geography (Vietnam)

Geography (Vietnam)

=====

Location:

Southeast Asia, bordering the South China Sea, between Laos and the Philippines

Map references:

Asia, Southeast Asia, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

329,560 km²

land area:

325,360 km²

comparative area:

slightly larger than New Mexico

Land boundaries:

total 3,818 km, Cambodia 982 km, China 1,281 km, Laos 1,555 km

Coastline:

3,444 km (excludes islands)

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

24 nm

continental shelf:

200 nm or the edge of continental margin

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

maritime boundary with Cambodia not defined; involved in a complex dispute over the Spratly Islands with China, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan, and possibly Brunei; unresolved maritime boundary with Thailand; maritime boundary dispute with China in the Gulf of Tonkin; Paracel Islands occupied by China but claimed by Vietnam and Taiwan

Climate:

tropical in south; monsoonal in north with hot, rainy season (mid-May to mid-September) and warm, dry season (mid-October to mid-March)

Terrain:

low, flat delta in south and north; central highlands; hilly, mountainous ↔
in

far north and northwest
 Natural resources:
 phosphates, coal, manganese, bauxite, chromate, offshore oil deposits,
 forests
 Land use:
 arable land:
 22%
 permanent crops:
 2%
 meadows and pastures:
 1%
 forest and woodland:
 40%
 other:
 35%
 Irrigated land:
 18,300 km² (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 occasional typhoons (May to January) with extensive flooding

1.4 254.guide/People (Vietnam)

People (Vietnam)

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Population:
 71,787,608 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 1.85% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 27.99 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 7.92 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -1.56 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 46.4 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 65.1 years
 male:
 63.08 years
 female:
 67.25 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 3.45 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Vietnamese (singular and plural)
 adjective:
 Vietnamese
 Ethnic divisions:
 Vietnamese 85-90%, Chinese 3%, Muong, Thai, Meo, Khmer, Man, Cham

Religions:

Buddhist, Taoist, Roman Catholic, indigenous beliefs, Islamic, Protestant

Languages:

Vietnamese (official), French, Chinese, English, Khmer, tribal languages
(Mon-Khmer and Malayo-Polynesian)

Literacy:

age 15 and over can read and write (1990)

total population:

88%

male:

92%

female:

84%

Labor force:

32.7 million

by occupation:

agricultural 65%, industrial and service 35% (1990 est.)

1.5 254.guide/Government (Vietnam)

Government (Vietnam)

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Names:

conventional long form:

Socialist Republic of Vietnam

conventional short form:

Vietnam local long form:

Cong Hoa Chu Nghia Viet Nam

local short form:

Viet Nam

Abbreviation:

SRV

Digraph:

VM

Type:

Communist state

Capital:

Hanoi

Administrative divisions:

50 provinces (tinh, singular and plural), 3 municipalities* (thanh pho,, ←
singular and plural);

An Giang, Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Bac Thai, Ben Tre, Binh

Dinh, Binh Thuan, Can Tho, Cao Bang, Dac Lac, Dong Nai, Dong Thap, Gia Lai,

Ha Bac, Ha Giang, Ha Noi*, Ha Tay, Ha Tinh, Hai Hung, Hai Phong*, Ho Chi, ←
Minh*, Hoa Binh,

Khanh, Hoa, Kien Giang, Kon Tum, Lai Chau, Lam Dong, Lang

Son, Lao Cai, Long An, Minh Hai, Nam Ha, Nghe An, Ninh Binh, Ninh Thuan, ←
Phu

Yen, Quang Binh, Quang Nam-Da Nang, Quang Ngai, Quang Ninh, Quang Tri, Soc

Trang, Son La, Song Be, Tay Ninh, Thai Binh, Thanh Hoa, Thua Thien, Tien

Giang, Tra Vinh, Tuyen Quang, Vinh Long, Vinh Phu, Yen Bai

Independence:

2 September 1945 (from France)
 Constitution:
 NA April 1992
 Legal system:
 based on Communist legal theory and French civil law system
 National holiday:
 Independence Day, 2 September (1945)
 Political parties and leaders:
 only party - Vietnam Communist Party (VCP), DO MUOI, general secretary
 Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal
 Elections:
 National Assembly:
 last held 19 July 1992 (next to be held NA July 1997); results - VCP is the
 only party; seats - (395 total) VCP or VCP-approved 395
 Executive branch:
 president, prime minister, three deputy prime ministers
 Legislative branch:
 unicameral National Assembly (Quoc-Hoi)
 Judicial branch:
 Supreme People's Court
 Leaders:
 Chief of State:
 President Le Duc ANH (since 23 September 1992)
 Head of Government:
 Prime Minister Vo Van KIET (since 9 August 1991); First Deputy Prime
 Minister Phan Van KHAI (since 10 August 1991); Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen
 KHANH (since NA February 1987); Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc LUONG (since
 NA February 1987)

1.6 254.guide/Government (Vietnam 2. usage)

Government (Vietnam 2. usage)

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Member of:
 ACCT, AsDB, ESCAP, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF,
 IMO, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM (observer), ISO, ITU, LORCS, NAM, UN,
 UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO
 Diplomatic representation in US:
 none
 US diplomatic representation:
 none
 Flag:
 red with a large yellow five-pointed star in the center

1.7 254.guide/Economy (Vietnam)

Economy (Vietnam)

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Overview:

Vietnam has made significant progress in recent years moving away from the planned economic model and toward a more effective market-based economic system. Most prices are now fully decontrolled and the Vietnamese currency has been effectively devalued and floated at world market rates. In addition, the scope for private sector activity has been expanded, ↔
 primarily

through decollectivization of the agricultural sector and introduction of laws giving legal recognition to private business. Despite such positive indicators, the country's economic turnaround remains tenuous. Nearly three-quarters of export earnings are generated by only two commodities, rice and crude oil. Meanwhile, industrial production stagnates, burdened by uncompetitive state-owned enterprises the government is unwilling or unable to privatize. Unemployment looms as the most serious problem with over 25% of the workforce without jobs and population growth swelling the ranks of the unemployed yearly.

National product:

GNP - exchange rate conversion - \$16 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

7.4% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$230 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

15%-20% (1992 est.)

Unemployment rate:

25% (1992 est.)

Budget:

revenues \$1.7 billion; expenditures \$1.9 billion, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1990)

Exports:

\$2.3 billion (f.o.b., 1992)

commodities:

agricultural and handicraft products, coal, minerals, crude oil, ores, seafood

partners:

Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan

Imports:

\$1.9 billion (c.i.f., 1992)

commodities:

petroleum products, steel products, railroad equipment, chemicals, medicines, raw cotton, fertilizer, grain

partners:

Japan, Singapore, Thailand

External debt:

\$16.8 billion (1990 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate 15% (1992); accounts for 30% of GNP

Electricity:

3,300,000 kW capacity; 9,000 million kWh produced, 130 kWh per capita ↔
 (1992)

Industries:

food processing, textiles, machine building, mining, cement, chemical

fertilizer, glass, tires, oil

Agriculture:

accounts for half of GNP; paddy rice, corn, potatoes make up 50% of farm output; commercial crops (rubber, soybeans, coffee, tea, bananas) and ← animal

products 50%; since 1989 self-sufficient in food staple rice; fish catch of 943,100 metric tons (1989 est.)

1.8 254.guide/Economy (Vietnam 2. usage)

Economy (Vietnam 2. usage)

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Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-74), \$3.1 billion; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$2.9 billion; OPEC bilateral aid (1979-89), \$61 million; Communist countries (1970-89), \$12.0 billion

Currency:

1 new dong (D) = 100 xu

Exchange rates:

new dong (D) per US\$1 - 10,800 (November 1992), 8,100 (July 1991), 7,280 (December 1990), 3,996 (March 1990), 2,047 (1988), 225 (1987); note - 1985-89 figures are end of year

Fiscal year:

calendar year

1.9 254.guide/Communications (Vietnam)

Communications (Vietnam)

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Railroads:

3,059 km total; 2,454 1.000-meter gauge, 151 km 1.435-meter (standard) gauge, 230 km dual gauge (three rails), and 224 km not restored to service after war damage

Highways:

85,000 km total; 9,400 km paved, 48,700 km gravel or improved earth, 26,900 km unimproved earth (est.)

Inland waterways:

17,702 km navigable; more than 5,149 km navigable at all times by vessels ← up

to 1.8 meter draft

Pipelines:

petroleum products 150 km

Ports:

Da Nang, Haiphong, Ho Chi Minh City

Merchant marine:

99 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 460,712 GRT/739,246 DWT; includes 84 cargo, 3 refrigerated cargo, 1 roll-on/roll-off, 8 oil tanker, 3 bulk

Airports:

total:
100
usable:
100
with permanent-surface runways:
50
with runways over 3,659 m:
0
with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
10
with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
20

Telecommunications:

the inadequacies of the obsolete switching equipment and cable system is a serious constraint on the business sector and on economic growth, and restricts access to the international links that Vietnam has established with most major countries; the telephone system is not generally available for private use (25 telephones for each 10,000 persons); 3 satellite earth stations; broadcast stations - NA AM, 288 FM; 36 (77 repeaters) TV; about 2,500,000 TV receivers and 7,000,000 radio receivers in use (1991)

1.10 254.guide/Defense Forces (Vietnam)

Defense Forces (Vietnam)

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Branches:

Ground, Navy (including Naval Infantry), Air Force

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 17,835,536; fit for military service 11,338,880; reach military age (17) annually 771,792 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

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