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Chapter 1

168

1.1 168.guide

Texified version of data for Nauru.

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Nauru

1.2 168.guide/Nauru

Nauru

Geography (Nauru)
People (Nauru)
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1.3 168.guide/Geography (Nauru)

Geography (Nauru)

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Location:
Oceania, 500 km north-northeast of Papua New Guinea
Map references:
Oceania, Standard Time Zones of the World
Area:
total area:
21 km²
land area:
21 km²
comparative area:
about one-tenth the size of Washington, DC
Land boundaries:
0 km
Coastline:
30 km
Maritime claims:
exclusive fishing zone:
200 nm
territorial sea:
12 nm
International disputes:
none
Climate:
tropical; monsoonal; rainy season (November to February)
Terrain:
sandy beach rises to fertile ring around raised coral reefs with phosphate plateau in center
Natural resources:
phosphates
Land use:
arable land:
0%
permanent crops:
0%
meadows and pastures:
0%
forest and woodland:
0%
other:

100%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km2
 Environment:
 only 53 km south of Equator
 Note:
 Nauru is one of the three great phosphate rock islands in the Pacific Ocean
 - the others are Banaba (Ocean Island) in Kiribati and Makatea in French
 Polynesia

1.4 168.guide/People (Nauru)

People (Nauru)

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Population:
 9,882 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 1.42% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 18.92 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 5.1 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 0.4 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 40.6 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 66.68 years
 male:
 64.3 years
 female:
 69.18 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 2.2 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Nauruan(s)
 adjective:
 Nauruan
 Ethnic divisions:
 Nauruan 58%, other Pacific Islander 26%, Chinese 8%, European 8%
 Religions:
 Christian (two-thirds Protestant, one-third Roman Catholic)
 Languages:
 Nauruan (official; a distinct Pacific Island language), English widely
 understood, spoken, and used for most government and commercial purposes
 Literacy:
 total population:
 NA%
 male:
 NA%

female:
 NA%
 Labor force:
 by occupation:
 NA

1.5 168.guide/Government (Nauru)

Government (Nauru)

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Names:
 conventional long form: Republic of Nauru
 conventional short form:
 Nauru
 former:
 Pleasant Island
 Digraph:
 NR
 Type:
 republic
 Capital:
 no official capital; government offices in Yaren
 Administrative divisions:
 14 districts; Aiwo, Anabar, Anetan, Anibare, Baiti, Boe, Buada, Denigomodu,
 Ewa, Ijuw, Meneng, Nibok, Uaboe, Yaren
 Independence:
 31 January 1968 (from UN trusteeship under Australia, New Zealand, and UK)
 Constitution:
 29 January 1968
 Legal system:
 own Acts of Parliament and British common law
 National holiday:
 Independence Day, 31 January (1968)
 Political parties and leaders:
 none
 Suffrage:
 20 years of age; universal and compulsory
 Elections:
 President:
 last held 19 November 1992 (next to be held NA November 1995); results -
 Bernard DOWIYOGO elected by Parliament
 Parliament:
 last held on 14 November 1992 (next to be held NA November 1995); results -
 percent of vote NA; seats - (18 total) independents 18
 Executive branch:
 president, Cabinet
 Legislative branch:
 unicameral Parliament
 Judicial branch:
 Supreme Court
 Leaders:
 Chief of State and Head of Government:

President Bernard DOWIYOGO (since 12 December 1989)
 Member of:
 AsDB, C (special), ESCAP, ICAO, INTERPOL, ITU, SPARTECA, SPC, SPF, UPU
 Diplomatic representation in US:
 there is a Nauruan Consulate in Agana (Guam)
 US diplomatic representation:
 the US Ambassador to Australia is accredited to Nauru
 Flag:
 blue with a narrow, horizontal, yellow stripe across the center and a large white 12-pointed star below the stripe on the hoist side; the star ← indicates
 the country's location in relation to the Equator (the yellow stripe) and the 12 points symbolize the 12 original tribes of Nauru

1.6 168.guide/Economy (Nauru)

Economy (Nauru)

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Overview:

Revenues come from the export of phosphates, the reserves of which are expected to be exhausted by the year 2000. Phosphates have given Nauruans one of the highest per capita incomes in the Third World - \$10,000 annually ←

Few other resources exist, so most necessities must be imported, including fresh water from Australia. The rehabilitation of mined land and the replacement of income from phosphates are serious long-term problems. Substantial amounts of phosphate income are invested in trust funds to help cushion the transition.

National product:

GNP - exchange rate conversion - \$90 million (1989 est.)

National product real growth rate:

NA%

National product per capita:

\$10,000 (1989 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

NA%

Unemployment rate:

0%

Budget:

revenues \$69.7 million; expenditures \$51.5 million, including capital expenditures of \$NA (FY86 est.)

Exports:

\$93 million (f.o.b., 1984)

commodities:

phosphates

partners:

Australia, NZ

Imports:

\$73 million (c.i.f., 1984)

commodities:

food, fuel, manufactures, building materials, machinery

partners:

Australia, UK, NZ, Japan
 External debt:
 \$33.3 million
 Industrial production:
 growth rate NA%
 Electricity:
 14,000 kW capacity; 50 million kWh produced, 5,430 kWh per capita (1990)
 Industries:
 phosphate mining, financial services, coconut products
 Agriculture:
 coconuts; other agricultural activity negligible; almost completely
 dependent on imports for food and water
 Economic aid:
 Western (non-US) countries (1970-89), \$2 million
 Currency:
 1 Australian dollar (\$A) = 100 cents
 Exchange rates:
 Australian dollars (\$A) per US\$1 - 1.4837 (January 1993), 1.3600 (1992),
 1.2834 (1991), 1.2799 (1990), 1.2618 (1989), 1.2752 (1988)
 Fiscal year:
 1 July - 30 June

1.7 168.guide/Communications (Nauru)

Communications (Nauru)

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Railroads:
 3.9 km; used to haul phosphates from the center of the island to processing
 facilities on the southwest coast
 Highways:
 about 27 km total; 21 km paved, 6 km improved earth
 Ports:
 Nauru
 Merchant marine:
 1 bulk ship (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 4,426 GRT/5,750 DWT
 Airports:
 total:
 1
 useable:
 1
 with permanent-surface runways:
 1
 with runways over 3,659 m:
 0
 with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
 0
 with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
 1
 Telecommunications:
 adequate local and international radio communications provided via
 Australian facilities; 1,600 telephones; 4,000 radios; broadcast stations -
 1 AM, no FM, no TV; 1 Pacific Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.8 168.guide/Defense Forces (Nauru)

Defense Forces (Nauru)

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Branches:

Directorate of the Nauru Police Force

note:

no regular armed forces

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 NA; fit for military service NA

Defense expenditures:

\$NA - no formal defense structure