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Contents

1	19	1
1.1	19.guide	1
1.2	19.guide/Bahrain	1
1.3	19.guide/Geography (Bahrain)	2
1.4	19.guide/People (Bahrain)	3
1.5	19.guide/Government (Bahrain)	4
1.6	19.guide/Government (Bahrain 2. usage)	5
1.7	19.guide/Economy (Bahrain)	6
1.8	19.guide/Communications (Bahrain)	7
1.9	19.guide/Defense Forces (Bahrain)	7

Chapter 1

19

1.1 19.guide

Texified version of data for Bahrain.

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Bahrain

1.2 19.guide/Bahrain

Bahrain

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

1.3 19.guide/Geography (Bahrain)

Geography (Bahrain)

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Location: Middle East, in the central Persian Gulf, between Saudi Arabia ↔
and Qatar

Map references:
Africa, Middle East, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:
total area:
620 km²
land area:
620 km²
comparative area:
slightly less than 3.5 times the size of Washington, DC

Land boundaries:
0 km

Coastline:
161 km

Maritime claims:
contiguous zone:
24 nm
continental shelf:
not specified
territorial sea:
12 nm

International disputes:
territorial dispute with Qatar over the Hawar Islands; maritime boundary
with Qatar

Climate:
arid; mild, pleasant winters; very hot, humid summers

Terrain:
mostly low desert plain rising gently to low central escarpment

Natural resources:
oil, associated and nonassociated natural gas, fish

Land use:
arable land:
2%
permanent crops:
2%
meadows and pastures:
6%

forest and woodland:
 0%
 other:
 90%
 Irrigated land:
 10 km2 (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 subsurface water sources being rapidly depleted (requires development of
 desalination facilities); dust storms; desertification
 Note:
 close to primary Middle Eastern petroleum sources; strategic location in
 Persian Gulf through which much of Western world's petroleum must transit ←
 to
 reach open ocean

1.4 19.guide/People (Bahrain)

People (Bahrain)

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Population: 568,471 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 3.01% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 26.89 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 3.87 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 7.04 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 20.1 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 73.12 years
 male:
 70.72 years
 female:
 75.63 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 3.99 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Bahraini(s)
 adjective:
 Bahraini
 Ethnic divisions:
 Bahraini 63%, Asian 13%, other Arab 10%, Iranian 8%, other 6%
 Religions:
 Shi'a Muslim 70%, Sunni Muslim 30%
 Languages:
 Arabic, English, Farsi, Urdu
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1990)

total population:
 77%
 male:
 82%
 female:
 69%
 Labor force:
 140,000
 by occupation:
 industry and commerce 85%, agriculture 5%, services 5%, government 3% ←
 (1982)
 note:
 42% of labor force is Bahraini

1.5 19.guide/Government (Bahrain)

Government (Bahrain)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 State of Bahrain
 conventional short form:
 Bahrain
 local long form: Dawlat al Bahrayn
 local short form:
 Al Bahrayn
 Digraph:
 BA
 Type:
 traditional monarchy
 Capital:
 Manama
 Administrative divisions:
 12 districts (manatiq, singular - mintaqah); Al Hadd, Al Manamah, Al
 Mintaqah al Gharbiyah, Al Mintaqah al Wusta, Al Mintaqah ash Shamaliyah, Al
 Muharraq, Ar Rifa'wa al Mintaqah al Janubiyah, Jidd Hafs, Madinat Hamad,
 Madinat 'Isa, Mintaqat Juzur Hawar, Sitrah
 Independence:
 15 August 1971 (from UK)
 Constitution:
 26 May 1973, effective 6 December 1973
 Legal system:
 based on Islamic law and English common law
 National holiday:
 Independence Day, 16 December
 Political parties and leaders:
 political parties prohibited; several small, clandestine leftist and ←
 Islamic
 fundamentalist groups are active
 Suffrage:
 none
 Elections:

none

Executive branch:
 amir, crown prince and heir apparent, prime minister, Cabinet

Legislative branch:
 unicameral National Assembly was dissolved 26 August 1975 and legislative powers were assumed by the Cabinet; appointed Advisory Council established 16 December 1992

Judicial branch:
 High Civil Appeals Court

Leaders:
 Chief of State:
 Amir 'ISA bin Salman Al Khalifa (since 2 November 1961); Heir Apparent ← HAMAD bin 'Isa Al Khalifa (son of Amir; born 28 January 1950)

Head of Government:
 Prime Minister KHALIFA bin Salman Al Khalifa (since 19 January 1970)

Member of:
 ABEDA, AFESD, AL, AMF, ESCWA, FAO, G-77, GCC, IBRD, ICAO, IDB, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ISO (correspondent), ITU, LORCS, NAM, OAPEC, OIC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WFTU, WHO, WMO

Diplomatic representation in US:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador 'Abd al-Rahman Faris Al KHALIFA

chancery:
 3502 International Drive NW, Washington, DC 20008

1.6 19.guide/Government (Bahrain 2. usage)

Government (Bahrain 2. usage)

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telephone:
 (202) 342-0741 or 342-0742

consulate general:
 New York

US diplomatic representation:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador Dr. Charles W. HOSTLER

embassy:
 Road No. 3119 (next to Alahli Sports Club), Zinj District, Manama

mailing address:
 P. O. 26431, Manama, or FPO AE 09834-6210

telephone:
 [973] 273-300

FAX:
 (973) 272-594

Flag:
 red with a white serrated band (eight white points) on the hoist side

1.7 19.guide/Economy (Bahrain)

Economy (Bahrain)

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Overview:

Petroleum production and processing account for about 80% of export receipts, 60% of government revenues, and 31% of GDP. Economic conditions have fluctuated with the changing fortunes of oil since 1985, for example, during the Gulf crisis of 1990-91. Bahrain with its highly developed communication and transport facilities is home to numerous multinational firms with business in the Gulf. A large share of exports consists of petroleum products made from imported crude.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$4.3 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

3% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$7,800 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

2% (1992 est.)

Unemployment rate:

8%-10% (1989)

Budget:

revenues \$1.2 billion; expenditures \$1.32 billion, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1989)

Exports:

\$3.5 billion (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:

petroleum and petroleum products 80%, aluminum 7%

partners:

Japan 13%, UAE 12%, India 10%, Pakistan 8%

Imports:

\$3.7 billion (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:

nonoil 59%, crude oil 41%

partners:

Saudi Arabia 41%, US 14%, UK 7%, Japan 5%

External debt:

\$1.8 billion (1991 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate 3.8% (1988); accounts for 44% of GDP

Electricity:

1,600,000 kW capacity; 4,700 million kWh produced, 8,500 kWh per capita (1992 est.)

Industries:

petroleum processing and refining, aluminum smelting, offshore banking, ship repairing

Agriculture:

including fishing, accounts for less than 2% of GDP; not self-sufficient in food production; heavily subsidized sector produces fruit, vegetables, poultry, dairy products, shrimp, fish; fish catch 9,000 metric tons in 1987

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-79), \$24 million; Western (non-US)

countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$45 million; OPEC bilateral aid (1979-89), \$9.8 billion

Currency:
 1 Bahraini dinar (BD) = 1,000 fils

Exchange rates:
 Bahraini dinars (BD) per US\$1 - 0.3760 (fixed rate)

Fiscal year:
 calendar year

1.8 19.guide/Communications (Bahrain)

Communications (Bahrain)

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Highways:
 200 km bituminous surfaced, including 25 km bridge-causeway to Saudi Arabia opened in November 1986; NA km natural surface tracks

Pipelines:
 crude oil 56 km; petroleum products 16 km; natural gas 32 km

Ports:
 Mina' Salman, Manama, Sitrah

Merchant marine:
 9 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 186,331 GRT/249,490 DWT; includes 5 cargo, 2 container, 1 liquefied gas, 1 bulk

Airports:
 total:
 3
 usable:
 3
 with permanent-surface runways:
 2
 with runways over 3,659 m:
 2
 with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
 0
 with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
 1

Telecommunications:
 modern system; good domestic services; 98,000 telephones (1 for every 6 persons); excellent international connections; tropospheric scatter to Qatar, UAE; microwave radio relay to Saudi Arabia; submarine cable to Qatar ↔ UAE, and Saudi Arabia; satellite earth stations - 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT ↔ 1 Indian Ocean INTELSAT, 1 ARABSAT; broadcast stations - 2 AM, 3 FM, 2 TV

1.9 19.guide/Defense Forces (Bahrain)

Defense Forces (Bahrain)

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Branches:

Army, Navy, Air Force, Air Defense, Police Force

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 194,770; fit for military service 107,696; reach military age (15) annually 5,043 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$245 million, 6% of GDP (1990)