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Chapter 1

187

1.1 187.guide

Texified version of data for Panama.

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Panama

1.2 187.guide/Panama

Panama

Geography (Panama)
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 Economy (Panama)
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1.3 187.guide/Geography (Panama)

Geography (Panama)

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Location:

extreme southern Central America, between Colombia and Costa Rica

Map references:

Central America and the Caribbean, South America, Standard Time Zones of
 the
 World ←

Area:

total area:

78,200 km²

land area:

75,990 km²

comparative area:

slightly smaller than South Carolina

Land boundaries:

total 555 km, Colombia 225 km, Costa Rica 330 km

Coastline:

2,490 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea:

200 nm

International disputes:

none

Climate:

tropical; hot, humid, cloudy; prolonged rainy season (May to January), ←
 short

dry season (January to May)

Terrain:

interior mostly steep, rugged mountains and dissected, upland plains;

coastal areas largely plains and rolling hills

Natural resources:

copper, mahogany forests, shrimp

Land use: arable land:

6%

permanent crops:

2%

meadows and pastures:

15%

forest and woodland:
 54%
 other:
 23%
 Irrigated land:
 320 km2 (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 dense tropical forest in east and northwest
 Note:
 strategic location on eastern end of isthmus forming land bridge connecting
 North and South America; controls Panama Canal that links North Atlantic
 Ocean via Caribbean Sea with North Pacific Ocean

1.4 187.guide/People (Panama)

People (Panama)

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Population:
 2,579,047 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 1.98% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 25.08 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 4.94 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -0.38 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 17.2 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 74.56 years
 male:
 71.99 years
 female:
 77.27 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 2.9 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Panamanian(s)
 adjective:
 Panamanian
 Ethnic divisions:
 mestizo (mixed Indian and European ancestry) 70%, West Indian 14%, white
 10%, Indian 6%
 Religions:
 Roman Catholic 85%, Protestant 15%
 Languages:
 Spanish (official), English 14% note:
 many Panamanians bilingual
 Literacy:

age 15 and over can read and write (1990)
 total population:
 88%
 male:
 88%
 female:
 88%
 Labor force:
 921,000 (1992 est.)
 by occupation:
 government and community services 31.8%, agriculture, hunting, and fishing
 26.8%, commerce, restaurants, and hotels 16.4%, manufacturing and mining
 9.4%, construction 3.2%, transportation and communications 6.2%, finance,
 insurance, and real estate 4.3%
 note:
 shortage of skilled labor, but an oversupply of unskilled labor

1.5 187.guide/Government (Panama)

Government (Panama)

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Names:

conventional long form:

Republic of Panama

conventional short form:

Panama

local long form:

Republica de Panama

local short form:

Panama

Digraph:

PM

Type:

centralized republic

Capital:

Panama

Administrative divisions:

9 provinces (provincias, singular - provincia) and 1 territory* (comarca);, ←
 Bocas del Toro,

Chiriqui, Cocolé, Colon, Darien, Herrera, Los Santos, Panama,

San Blas*, Veraguas, Independence:

3 November 1903 (from Colombia; became independent from Spain 28 November
 1821)

Constitution:

11 October 1972; major reforms adopted April 1983

Legal system:

based on civil law system; judicial review of legislative acts in the
 Supreme Court of Justice; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with
 reservations

National holiday:

Independence Day, 3 November (1903)

Political parties and leaders:

government alliance: Nationalist Republican Liberal Movement (MOLIRENA), ←
 Alfredo RAMIREZ;
 Authentic Liberal Party (PLA), Arnulfo ESCALONA; Arnulfista Party (PA),
 Mireya MOSCOSO DE GRUBER

other parties:
 Christian Democratic Party (PDC), Ricardo ARIAS Calderon; Democratic
 Revolutionary Party (PRD), Gerardo GONZALEZ; Agrarian Labor Party (PALA),
 Nestor Tomas GUERRA; Liberal Party (PL), Roberto ALEMAN Zubieta; ←
 Doctrinaire
 Panamenista Party (PPD), Jose Salvador MUNOZ; Papa Egoro Movement, Ruben
 BLADES; Renovacion Civilista, Manuel BURGOS; Civic Renewal Party (PRC),
 Tomas HERRERA; National Integration Movement (MINA), Arrigo GUARDIA;
 National Unity Mission Party (MUN), Jose Manuel PAREDES; Independent
 Democratic Union Party (UDI), leader NA; Popular Nationalist Party (PNP),
 leader NA

Other political or pressure groups:
 National Council of Organized Workers (CONATO); National Council of Private
 Enterprise (CONEP); Panamanian Association of Business Executives (APEDE);
 National Civic Crusade; National Committee for the Right to Life; Chamber ←
 of
 Commerce; Panamanian Industrialists Society (SIP); Workers Confederation of
 the Republic of Panama (CTRP)

Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal and compulsory

Elections:
 President:
 last held on 7 May 1989, annulled but later upheld (next to be held May
 1994); results - anti-NORIEGA coalition believed to have won about 75% of
 the total votes cast

1.6 187.guide/Government (Panama 2. usage)

Government (Panama 2. usage)

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Legislative Assembly:
 last held on 27 January 1991 (next to be held NA May 1994); results -
 percent of vote by party NA; seats - (67 total)

progovernment parties:
 PDC 28, MOLIRENA 15, PA 8, PLA 4

opposition parties:
 PRD 10, PALA 1, PL 1; note - the PDC went into opposition after President
 Guillermo ENDARA ousted the PDC from the coalition government in April 1991

Executive branch:
 president, two vice presidents, Cabinet

Legislative branch:
 unicameral Legislative Assembly (Asamblea Legislativa)

Judicial branch:
 Supreme Court of Justice (Corte Suprema de Justicia), 5 superior courts, 3
 courts of appeal

Leaders:
 Chief of State and Head of Government:
 President Guillermo ENDARA (since 20 December 1989, elected 7 May 1989);

First Vice President Guillermo FORD Boyd (since 24 December 1992); Second Vice President (vacant)

Member of:

AG (associate), CG, ECLAC, FAO, G-77, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM, ITU, LAES ←

LAIA (observer), LORCS, NAM, OAS, OPANAL, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in US:

chief of mission:

Ambassador Jaime FORD

chancery:

2862 McGill Terrace NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone:

(202) 483-1407;

note:

the status of the consulates general and consulates has not yet been determined

US diplomatic representation:

chief of mission:

Ambassador Deane R. HINTON

embassy:

Avenida Balboa and Calle 38, Apartado 6959, Panama City 5

mailing address:

Box E, APO AA 34002

telephone:

(507) 27-1777

FAX:

(507) 27-1713

Flag:

divided into four, equal rectangles; the top quadrants are white with a blue ←

five-pointed star in the center (hoist side) and plain red, the bottom quadrants are plain blue (hoist side) and white with a red five-pointed ←

star in the center

1.7 187.guide/Economy (Panama)

Economy (Panama)

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Overview:

GDP expanded by roughly 8% in 1992, following growth of 9.3% in 1991. The economy thus continues to recover from the crisis that preceded the ouster of Manuel NORIEGA, even though the government's structural adjustment program has been hampered by a lack of popular support and a passive administration. Public investment has been limited as the administration ←

has kept the fiscal deficit below 3% of GDP. Unemployment and economic reform are the two major issues the government must face in 1993-94.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$6 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:
 8% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:
 \$2,400 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):
 1.8% (1992 est.)

Unemployment rate:
 15% (1992 est.)

Budget:
 revenues \$1.8 billion; expenditures \$1.9 billion, including capital expenditures of \$200 million (1992 est.)

Exports:
 \$486 million (f.o.b., 1992 est.)
 commodities:
 bananas 43%, shrimp 11%, sugar 4%, clothing 5%, coffee 2%
 partners:
 US 38%, Central America and Caribbean, EC (1992 est.)

Imports:
 \$2.0 billion (f.o.b., 1992 est.)
 commodities:
 capital goods 21%, crude oil 11%, foodstuffs 9%, consumer goods, chemicals
 partners:
 US 36%, Japan, EC, Central America and Caribbean, Mexico, Venezuela (1992 est.)

External debt:
 \$5.2 billion (year-end 1992 est.)

Industrial production:
 growth rate 7.6% (1992 est.); accounts for about 9% of GDP

Electricity:
 1,584,000 kW capacity; 4,360 billion kWh produced, 1,720 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:
 manufacturing and construction activities, petroleum refining, brewing, cement and other construction material, sugar milling

Agriculture:
 accounts for 10.5% of GDP (1992 est.), 27% of labor force (1992); crops - bananas, rice, corn, coffee, sugarcane; livestock; fishing; importer of food
 grain, vegetables

Illicit drugs:
 major cocaine transshipment point and drug money laundering center

Economic aid:
 US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$516 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$582 million; Communist countries (1970-89), \$4 million

Currency:
 1 balboa (B) = 100 centesimos

Exchange rates:
 balboas (B) per US\$1 - 1.000 (fixed rate)

1.8 187.guide/Economy (Panama 2. usage)

Economy (Panama 2. usage)

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Fiscal year:
calendar year

1.9 187.guide/Communications (Panama)

Communications (Panama)

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Railroads:

238 km total; 78 km 1.524-meter gauge, 160 km 0.914-meter gauge

Highways:

8,530 km total; 2,745 km paved, 3,270 km gravel or crushed stone, 2,515 km improved and unimproved earth

Inland waterways:

800 km navigable by shallow draft vessels; 82 km Panama Canal

Pipelines:

crude oil 130 km

Ports:

Cristobal, Balboa, Bahia Las Minas

Merchant marine:

3,244 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 51,353,963 GRT/82,138,537 DWT; includes 22 passenger, 26 short-sea passenger, 3 passenger-cargo, 1,091 cargo, 246 refrigerated cargo, 196 container, 63 roll-on/roll-off cargo, ↔
121

vehicle carrier, 9 livestock carrier, 5 multifunction large-load carrier, 403 oil tanker, 180 chemical tanker, 26 combination ore/oil, 121 liquefied gas, 9 specialized tanker, 688 bulk, 34 combination bulk, 1 barge carrier; note - all but 5 are foreign owned and operated; the top 4 foreign owners are Japan 36%, Greece 8%, Hong Kong 8%, and Taiwan 5%; (China owns at least 131 ships, Vietnam 3, Croatia 3, Cuba 4, Cyprus 6, and Russia 16)

Airports:

total:

112

usable:

104

with permanent-surface runways:

39

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

2

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

15

Telecommunications:

domestic and international facilities well developed; connection into Central American Microwave System; 220,000 telephones; broadcast stations - 91 AM, no FM, 23 TV; 1 coaxial submarine cable; satellite ground stations - 2 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT

1.10 187.guide/Defense Forces (Panama)

Defense Forces (Panama)

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Branches:

the Panamanian Defense Forces (PDF) ceased to exist as a military institution shortly after the United States invaded Panama on 20 December 1989; President ENDARA has restructured the forces, under the new name of Panamanian Public Forces (PPF) and worked to assert civilian control over them; the PPF is divided into the National Police, Maritime Service, and National Air Service; the Judicial Technical Police serve under the ←

Attorney

General; the Council of Public Security and National Defense under Menalco SOLIS in the Office of the President is analogous to the US National Security Council; the Institutional Protection Service under Carlos BARES ← is

attached to the presidency

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 671,059; fit for military service 461,471 (1993 est.); no conscription

Defense expenditures:

expenditures for the Panamanian Public Forces for internal security ← amounted

to \$104.7 million, 1.7% of GDP (1993 est.)