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# Chapter 1

## 149

### 1.1 149.guide

Texified version of data for Maldives.

Texified using wfact from

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Maldives

### 1.2 149.guide/Maldives

Maldives

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

### 1.3 149.guide/Geography (Maldives)

Geography (Maldives)

=====

Location:

South Asia, in the Indian Ocean off the southwest coast of India

Map references:

Asia, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

300 km<sup>2</sup>

land area:

300 km<sup>2</sup>

comparative area:

slightly more than 1.5 times the size of Washington, DC

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

644 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone:

35-310 nm as defined by geographic coordinates; segment of zone coincides with maritime boundary with India

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

none

Climate:

tropical; hot, humid; dry, northeast monsoon (November to March); rainy, southwest monsoon (June to August)

Terrain: flat with elevations only as high as 2.5 meters

Natural resources:

fish

Land use:

arable land:

10%

permanent crops:

0%

meadows and pastures:

3%

forest and woodland:

3%

other:  
 84%  
 Irrigated land:  
 NA km2  
 Environment:  
 1,200 coral islands grouped into 19 atolls  
 Note:  
 archipelago of strategic location astride and along major sea lanes in  
 Indian Ocean

## 1.4 149.guide/People (Maldives)

People (Maldives)

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Population:  
 243,094 (July 1993 est.)  
 Population growth rate:  
 3.64% (1993 est.)  
 Birth rate:  
 44.34 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Death rate:  
 7.91 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Net migration rate:  
 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Infant mortality rate:  
 57.6 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)  
 Life expectancy at birth:  
 total population:  
 63.86 years  
 male:  
 62.5 years  
 female:  
 65.28 years (1993 est.)  
 Total fertility rate:  
 6.36 children born/woman (1993 est.)  
 Nationality:  
 noun:  
 Maldivian(s)  
 adjective:  
 Maldivian  
 Ethnic divisions:  
 Sinhalese, Dravidian, Arab, African  
 Religions:  
 Sunni Muslim  
 Languages:  
 Divehi (dialect of Sinhala; script derived from Arabic), English spoken by  
 most government officials  
 Literacy:  
 age 15 and over can read and write (1985)  
 total population:  
 92%  
 male:

92%  
 female:  
 92%  
 Labor force:  
 66,000 (est.)  
 by occupation:  
 fishing industry 25%

## 1.5 149.guide/Government (Maldives)

Government (Maldives)

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Names:  
 conventional long form:  
 Republic of Maldives  
 conventional short form:  
 Maldives  
 Digraph:  
 MV  
 Type:  
 republic  
 Capital:  
 Male  
 Administrative divisions:  
 19 districts (atolls); Aliff, Baa, Daalu, Faafu, Gaafu Aliff, Gaafu Daalu,  
 Haa Aliff, Haa Daalu, Kaafu, Laamu, Laviyani, Meemu, Naviyani, Noonu, Raa,  
 Seenu, Shaviyani, Thaa, Waavu  
 Independence:  
 26 July 1965 (from UK)  
 Constitution:  
 4 June 1964  
 Legal system:  
 based on Islamic law with admixtures of English common law primarily in  
 commercial matters; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction  
 National holiday:  
 Independence Day, 26 July (1965)  
 Political parties and leaders:  
 no organized political parties; country governed by the Didi clan for the  
 past eight centuries  
 Suffrage:  
 21 years of age; universal  
 Elections:  
 President:  
 last held 23 September 1988 (next to be held September 1993); results -  
 President Maumoon Abdul GAYOOM reelected  
 Citizens' Council:  
 last held on 7 December 1989 (next to be held 7 December 1994); results -  
 percent of vote NA; seats - (48 total, 40 elected)  
 Executive branch:  
 president, Cabinet  
 Legislative branch:  
 unicameral Citizens' Council (Majlis)

Judicial branch:

High Court

Leaders:

Chief of State and Head of Government:

President Maumoon Abdul GAYOOM (since 11 November 1978)

Member of:

AsDB, C, CP, ESCAP, FAO, G-77, GATT, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IMF, IMO, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, NAM, OIC, SAARC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WHO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in US:

Maldives does not maintain an embassy in the US, but does have a UN mission in New York

US diplomatic representation:

chief of mission:

the US Ambassador to Sri Lanka is accredited to Maldives and makes periodic visits there

consular agency:

Midhath Hilmy, Male

## 1.6 149.guide/Government (Maldives 2. usage)

Government (Maldives 2. usage)

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telephone:

2581

Flag:

red with a large green rectangle in the center bearing a vertical white crescent; the closed side of the crescent is on the hoist side of the flag

## 1.7 149.guide/Economy (Maldives)

Economy (Maldives)

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Overview:

The economy is based on fishing, tourism, and shipping. Agriculture is limited to the production of a few subsistence crops that provide only 10% of food requirements. Fishing is the largest industry, employing 25% of the work force and accounting for over 60% of exports; it is also an important source of government revenue. During the 1980s tourism became one of the most important and highest growth sectors of the economy. In 1988 industry accounted for about 5% of GDP. Real GDP is officially estimated to have increased by about 10% annually during the period 1974-90.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$140 million (1991 est.)

National product real growth rate:

4.7% (1991 est.)



National product per capita:  
 \$620 (1991 est.)  
 Inflation rate (consumer prices):  
 11.5% (1991 est.)  
 Unemployment rate:  
 NEGL%  
 Budget:  
 revenues \$52 million (excluding foreign transfers); expenditures \$83 million, including capital expenditures of \$39 million (1991 est.)  
 Exports:  
 \$53.7 million (f.o.b., 1991)  
 commodities:  
 fish, clothing  
 partners:  
 US, UK, Sri Lanka  
 Imports:  
 \$150.9 million (c.i.f., 1991)  
 commodities:  
 consumer goods, intermediate and capital goods, petroleum products  
 partners:  
 Singapore, Germany, Sri Lanka, India  
 External debt:  
 \$90 million (1991)  
 Industrial production:  
 growth rate 24.0% (1990); accounts for 6% of GDP  
 Electricity:  
 5,000 kW capacity; 11 million kWh produced, 50 kWh per capita (1990)  
 Industries:  
 fishing and fish processing, tourism, shipping, boat building, some coconut processing, garments, woven mats, coir (rope), handicrafts  
 Agriculture:  
 accounts for almost 25% of GDP (including fishing); fishing more important than farming; limited production of coconuts, corn, sweet potatoes; most staple foods must be imported; fish catch of 67,000 tons (1990 est.)  
 Economic aid:  
 US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-88), \$28 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$125 million; OPEC bilateral aid (1979-89), \$14 million  
 Currency:  
 1 rufiyaa (Rf) = 100 laaris  
 Exchange rates:  
 rufiyaa (Rf) per US\$1 - 10.506 (January 1993), 10.569 (1992), 10.253 (1991) ←  
 9.509 (1990), 9.0408 (1989), 8.7846 (1988)  
 Fiscal year:  
 calendar year

## 1.8 149.guide/Communications (Maldives)

Communications (Maldives)

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Highways:

Male has 9.6 km of coral highways within the city

Ports:

Male, Gan

Merchant marine:

14 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 38,848 GRT/58,496 DWT; includes 12 cargo, 1 container, 1 oil tanker

Airports:

total:

2

useable:

2 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:

0

Telecommunications:

minimal domestic and international facilities; 2,804 telephones; broadcast stations - 2 AM, 1 FM, 1 TV; 1 Indian Ocean INTELSAT earth station

## 1.9 149.guide/Defense Forces (Maldives)

Defense Forces (Maldives)

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Branches:

National Security Service (paramilitary police force)

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 53,730; fit for military service 30,014 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

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