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Chapter 1

98

1.1 98.guide

Texified version of data for Guatemala.

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Guatemala

1.2 98.guide/Guatemala

Guatemala

Geography (Guatemala)
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 Economy (Guatemala)
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 Communications (Guatemala)
 Defense Forces (Guatemala)

1.3 98.guide/Geography (Guatemala)

Geography (Guatemala)

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Location:

Central America, between Honduras and Mexico

Map references:

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

Area:

total area:

108,890 km²

land area:

108,430 km²

comparative area:

slightly smaller than Tennessee

Land boundaries:

total 1,687 km, Belize 266 km, El Salvador 203 km, Honduras 256 km, Mexico 962 km

Coastline:

400 km

Maritime claims:

continental shelf:

the outer edge of the continental shelf

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

border with Belize in dispute; negotiations to resolve the dispute have begun

Climate:

tropical; hot, humid in lowlands; cooler in highlands

Terrain:

mostly mountains with narrow coastal plains and rolling limestone plateau (Peten)

Natural resources:

petroleum, nickel, rare woods, fish, chicle

Land use:

arable land:

12%
 permanent crops:
 4%
 meadows and pastures:
 12%
 forest and woodland:
 40%
 other:
 32%
 Irrigated land:
 780 km2 (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 numerous volcanoes in mountains, with frequent violent earthquakes;
 Caribbean coast subject to hurricanes and other tropical storms;
 deforestation; soil erosion; water pollution
 Note:
 no natural harbors on west coast

1.4 98.guide/People (Guatemala)

People (Guatemala)

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Population:
 10,446,015 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 2.63% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 36.19 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 7.74 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -2.18 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 55.6 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 63.99 years
 male:
 61.46 years
 female:
 66.65 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 4.9 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Guatemalan(s)
 adjective:
 Guatemalan
 Ethnic divisions:
 Ladino 56% (mestizo - mixed Indian and European ancestry), Indian 44%
 Religions:
 Roman Catholic, Protestant, traditional Mayan

Languages:

Spanish 60%, Indian language 40% (18 Indian dialects, including Quiche, Cakchiquel, Kekchi)

Literacy:

age 15 and over can read and write (1990)

total population:

55%

male:

63%

female:

47%

Labor force:

2.5 million

by occupation:

agriculture 60%, services 13%, manufacturing 12%, commerce 7%, construction 4%, transport 3%, utilities 0.8%, mining 0.4% (1985)

1.5 98.guide/Government (Guatemala)

Government (Guatemala)

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Names:

conventional long form:

Republic of Guatemala

conventional short form:

Guatemala

local long form:

Republica de Guatemala

local short form:

Guatemala

Digraph:

GT

Type:

republic

Capital:

Guatemala

Administrative divisions:

22 departments (departamentos, singular - departamento); Alta Verapaz, Baja Verapaz, Chimaltenango, Chiquimula, El Progreso, Escuintla, Guatemala, Huehuetenango, Izabal, Jalapa, Jutiapa, Peten, Quetzaltenango, Quiche, Retalhuleu, Sacatepequez, San Marcos, Santa Rosa, Solola, Suchitepequez, Totonicapan, Zacapa

Independence:

15 September 1821 (from Spain)

Constitution:

31 May 1985, effective 14 January 1986

note:

suspended on 25 May 1993 by President SERRANO; reinstated on 5 June 1993 following ouster of president

Legal system:

civil law system; judicial review of legislative acts; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

National holiday:

Independence Day, 15 September (1821)

Political parties and leaders:

National Centrist Union (UCN), Jorge CARPIO Nicolle; Solidarity Action Movement (MAS), Jorge SERRANO Elias; Christian Democratic Party (DCG), Alfonso CABRERA Hidalgo; National Advancement Party (PAN), Alvaro ARZU Irigoyen; National Liberation Movement (MLN), Mario SANDOVAL Alarcon; ←
Social

Democratic Party (PSD), Mario SOLARZANO Martinez; Popular Alliance 5 (AP-5) ←

Max ORLANDO Molina; Revolutionary Party (PR), Carlos CHAVARRIA; National Authentic Center (CAN), Hector MAYORA Dawe; Democratic Institutional Party (PID), Oscar RIVAS; Nationalist United Front (FUN), Gabriel GIRON; Guatemalan Republican Front (FRG), Efrain RIOS Montt

Other political or pressure groups:

Federated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACIF); Mutual Support Group (GAM); Agrarian Owners Group (UNAGRO); Committee for Campesino Unity (CUC); leftist guerrilla movement known as Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union (URNG) has four main factions - Guerrilla army of the Poor (EGP); Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA); Rebel Armed Forces (FAR); Guatemalan Labor Party (PGT/O)

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Elections:

Congress:

last held on 11 November 1990 (next to be held 11 November 1995); results - UCN 25.6%, MAS 24.3%, DCG 17.5%, PAN 17.3%, MLN 4.8%, PSD/AP-5 3.6%, PR 2.1%; seats - (116 total) UCN 38, DCG 27, MAS 18, PAN 12, Pro - Rios Montt 10, MLN 4, PR 1, PSD/AP-5 1, independent 5

1.6 98.guide/Government (Guatemala 2. usage)

Government (Guatemala 2. usage)

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President:

runoff held on 11 January 1991 (next to be held 11 November 1995); results ←
-

Jorge SERRANO Elias (MAS) 68.1%, Jorge CARPIO Nicolle (UCN) 31.9%

note:

President SERRANO resigned on 1 June 1993 shortly after dissolving Congress and the judiciary; on 6 June 1993, Ramiro DE LEON Carpio was chosen as the new president by a vote of Congress; he will finish off the remainder of SERRANO's five-year term which expires in 1995

Executive branch:

president, vice president, Council of Ministers (cabinet)

Legislative branch:

unicameral Congress of the Republic (Congreso de la Republica)

Judicial branch:

Supreme Court of Justice (Corte Suprema de Justicia)

Leaders:

Chief of State and Head of Government:

President Ramiro DE LEON Carpio (since 6 June 1993); Vice President Arturo

HERBRUGER (since 18 June 1993)

Member of:

BCIE, CACM, CCC, ECLAC, FAO, G-24, G-77, GATT, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM, ITU, LAES, LAIA (observer), LORCS, NAM, OAS, OPANAL, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO

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Flag: three equal vertical bands of light blue (hoist side), white, and ↵
light blue

with the coat of arms centered in the white band; the coat of arms includes a green and red quetzal (the national bird) and a scroll bearing the inscription LIBERTAD 15 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 1821 (the original date of independence from Spain) all superimposed on a pair of crossed rifles and a pair of crossed swords and framed by a wreath

1.7 98.guide/Economy (Guatemala)

Economy (Guatemala)

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Overview:

The economy is based on family and corporate agriculture, which accounts ↵
for

26% of GDP, employs about 60% of the labor force, and supplies two-thirds ↵
of

exports. Manufacturing, predominantly in private hands, accounts for about 18% of GDP and 12% of the labor force. In both 1990 and 1991, the economy grew by 3%, the fourth and fifth consecutive years of mild growth. In 1992 growth picked up to 4% as government policies favoring competition and foreign trade and investment took stronger hold.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$12.6 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

4.2% (1992)

National product per capita:
\$1,300 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):
14% (1992 est.)

Unemployment rate:
6.5% (1991 est.), with 30-40% underemployment

Budget:
revenues \$604 million; expenditures \$808 million, including capital expenditures of \$134 million (1990 est.)

Exports:
\$1.3 billion (f.o.b., 1992)
commodities:
coffee 26%, sugar 13%, bananas 7%, beef 3%
partners:
US 36%, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Germany, Honduras

Imports:
\$1.8 billion (c.i.f., 1992)
commodities:
fuel and petroleum products, machinery, grain, fertilizers, motor vehicles
partners:
US 40%, Mexico, Venezuela, Japan, Germany

External debt:
\$2.5 billion (December 1992 est.)

Industrial production:
growth rate 1.9% (1991 est.); accounts for 18% of GDP

Electricity:
847,600 kW capacity; 2,500 million kWh produced, 260 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:
sugar, textiles and clothing, furniture, chemicals, petroleum, metals, rubber, tourism

Agriculture:
accounts for 26% of GDP; most important sector of economy; contributes two-thirds of export earnings; principal crops - sugarcane, corn, bananas, coffee, beans, cardamom; livestock - cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens; food importer

Illicit drugs:
illicit producer of opium poppy and cannabis for the international drug trade; the government has an active eradication program for cannabis and opium poppy; transit country for cocaine shipments

Economic aid:
US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-90), \$1.1 billion; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$7.92 billion

Currency:
1 quetzal (Q) = 100 centavos

1.8 98.guide/Economy (Guatemala 2. usage)

Economy (Guatemala 2. usage)

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Exchange rates:
free market quetzales (Q) per US\$1 - 5.2850 (December 1993), 5.1706 (1992),

5.0289 (1991), 2.8161 (1989), 2.6196 (1988); note - black-market rate 2.800 (May 1989)
 Fiscal year:
 calendar year

1.9 98.guide/Communications (Guatemala)

Communications (Guatemala)
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Railroads:

1,019 km 0.914-meter gauge, single track; 917 km government owned, 102 km privately owned

Highways:

26,429 km total; 2,868 km paved, 11,421 km gravel, and 12,140 unimproved

Inland waterways:

260 km navigable year round; additional 730 km navigable during high-water season

Pipelines:

crude oil 275 km

Ports:

Puerto Barrios, Puerto Quetzal, Santo Tomas de Castilla

Merchant marine:

1 cargo ship (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 4,129 GRT/6,450 DWT

Airports:

total:

474

usable:

418

with permanent-surface runways:

11

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

3

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

21

Telecommunications:

fairly modern network centered in Guatemala [city]; 97,670 telephones; broadcast stations - 91 AM, no FM, 25 TV, 15 shortwave; connection into Central American Microwave System; 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.10 98.guide/Defense Forces (Guatemala)

Defense Forces (Guatemala)
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Branches:

Army, Navy, Air Force

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 2,410,760; fit for military service 1,576,569; reach
military age (18) annually 115,178 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$121 million, 1% of GDP (1993)