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Chapter 1

66

1.1 66.guide

Texified version of data for Djibouti.

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Djibouti

1.2 66.guide/Djibouti

Djibouti

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

1.3 66.guide/Geography (Djibouti)

Geography (Djibouti)

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Location:

Eastern Africa, at the entrance to the Red Sea between Ethiopia and Somalia

Map references:

Africa, Middle East, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

22,000 km²

land area:

21,980 km²

comparative area:

slightly larger than Massachusetts

Land boundaries:

total 508 km, Erithea 113 km, Ethiopia 337 km, Somalia 58 km

Coastline:

314 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

24 nm

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

possible claim by Somalia based on unification of ethnic Somalis

Climate:

desert; torrid, dry

Terrain:

coastal plain and plateau separated by central mountains

Natural resources:

geothermal areas

Land use:

arable land:

0%

permanent crops:

0%

meadows and pastures:

9%

forest and woodland:
 0%
 other:
 91%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km2
 Environment:
 vast wasteland
 Note:
 strategic location near world's busiest shipping lanes and close to Arabian
 oilfields; terminus of rail traffic into Ethiopia

1.4 66.guide/People (Djibouti)

People (Djibouti)

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Population:
 401,579 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 2.7% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 43.05 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 16.06 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 113.2 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 48.78 years
 male:
 47.01 years
 female:
 50.59 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 6.27 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Djiboutian(s)
 adjective:
 Djiboutian
 Ethnic divisions:
 Somali 60%, Afar 35%, French, Arab, Ethiopian, and Italian 5%
 Religions:
 Muslim 94%, Christian 6%
 Languages:
 French (official), Arabic (official), Somali, Afar
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1990)
 total population:
 48%

male:
63%

female:
34%

Labor force:
NA

by occupation:
a small number of semiskilled laborers at the port and 3,000 railway workers ←

note:
52% of population of working age (1983)

1.5 66.guide/Government (Djibouti)

Government (Djibouti)

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Names:
conventional long form:
Republic of Djibouti
conventional short form: Djibouti
former:
French Territory of the Afars and Issas French Somaliland

Digraph:
DJ

Type:
republic

Capital:
Djibouti

Administrative divisions:
5 districts (cercles, singular - cercle); 'Ali Sabih, Dikhil, Djibouti, Obock, Tadjoura

Independence:
27 June 1977 (from France)

Constitution:
multiparty constitution approved in referendum September 1992

Legal system:
based on French civil law system, traditional practices, and Islamic law

National holiday:
Independence Day, 27 June (1977)

Political parties and leaders:
ruling party:
People's Progress Assembly (RPP), Hassan GOULED Aptidon
other parties:
Democratic Renewal Party (PRD), Mohamed Jama ELABE; Democratic National Party (PND), ADEN Robleh Awaleh

Other political or pressure groups:
Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy (FRUD) and affiliates;
Movement for Unity and Democracy (MUD)

Suffrage:
universal adult at age NA

Elections:
National Assembly:

last held 18 December 1992; results - RPP is the only party; seats - (65 total) RPP 65

President:
last held 24 April 1987 (next to be held April 1993); results - President Hassan GOULED Aptidon was reelected without opposition

Executive branch:
president, prime minister, Council of Ministers

Legislative branch:
unicameral Chamber of Deputies (Chambre des Deputes)

Judicial branch:
Supreme Court (Cour Supreme)

Leaders:
Chief of State:
President HASSAN GOULED Aptidon (since 24 June 1977)

Head of Government:
Prime Minister BARKAT Gourad Hamadou (since 30 September 1978)

Member of:
ACCT, ACP, AfDB, AFESD, AL, ECA, FAO, G-77, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC ↔
,
IGADD, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, LORCS, NAM, OAU, OIC, UN, UNESCO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, UPU, WHO, WMO

1.6 66.guide/Government (Djibouti 2. usage)

Government (Djibouti 2. usage)

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Diplomatic representation in US:
chief of mission:
Ambassador Roble OLHAYE
chancery:
Suite 515, 1156 15th Street NW, Washington, DC 20005
telephone:
(202) 331-0270

US diplomatic representation:
chief of mission:
Ambassador Charles R. BAQUET III
embassy:
Plateau du Serpent, Boulevard Marechal Joffre, Djibouti
mailing address:
B. P. 185, Djibouti
telephone:
[253] 35-39-95
FAX:
[253] 35-39-40

Flag:
two equal horizontal bands of light blue (top) and light green with a white isosceles triangle based on the hoist side bearing a red five-pointed star in the center

1.7 66.guide/Economy (Djibouti)

Economy (Djibouti)

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Overview:

The economy is based on service activities connected with the country's strategic location and status as a free trade zone in northeast Africa. Djibouti provides services as both a transit port for the region and an international transshipment and refueling center. It has few natural resources and little industry. The nation is, therefore, heavily dependent on foreign assistance to help support its balance of payments and to finance development projects. An unemployment rate of over 30% continues to be a major problem. Per capita consumption dropped an estimated 35% over the last five years because of recession and a high population growth rate (including immigrants and refugees).

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$358 million (1990 est.)

National product real growth rate:

1.2% (1990 est.)

National product per capita:

\$1,030 (1990 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

7.7% (1991 est.)

Unemployment rate:

over 30% (1989)

Budget:

revenues \$170 million; expenditures \$203 million, including capital expenditures of \$70 million (1991 est.)

Exports:

\$186 million (f.o.b., 1991 est.)

commodities: hides and skins, coffee (in transit)

partners:

Africa 50%, Middle East 40%, Western Europe 9%

Imports:

\$360 million (f.o.b., 1991 est.)

commodities:

foods, beverages, transport equipment, chemicals, petroleum products

partners:

Western Europe 54%, Middle East 20%, Asia 19%

External debt:

\$355 million (December 1990)

Industrial production:

growth rate 10.0% (1990); manufacturing accounts for 11% of GDP

Electricity:

115,000 kW capacity; 200 million kWh produced, 580 kWh per capita (1991)

Industries:

limited to a few small-scale enterprises, such as dairy products and mineral-water bottling

Agriculture:

accounts for only 3% of GDP; scanty rainfall limits crop production to mostly fruit and vegetables; half of population pastoral nomads herding

goats, sheep, and camels; imports bulk of food needs

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY78-89), \$39 million; Western (non-US) countries, including ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$1.1 billion; OPEC bilateral aid (1979-89), \$149 million; Communist countries (1970-89), \$35 million

Currency:

1 Djiboutian franc (DF) = 100 centimes

Exchange rates:

Djiboutian francs (DF) per US\$1 - 177.721 (fixed rate since 1973)

1.8 66.guide/Economy (Djibouti 2. usage)

Economy (Djibouti 2. usage)

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Fiscal year:

calendar year

1.9 66.guide/Communications (Djibouti)

Communications (Djibouti)

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Railroads:

the Ethiopian-Djibouti railroad extends for 97 km through Djibouti

Highways:

2,900 km total; 280 km paved; 2,620 km improved or unimproved earth (1982)

Ports:

Djibouti

Merchant marine:

1 cargo ship (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 1,369 GRT/3,030 DWT

Airports:

total:

13

usable:

11 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:

5

Telecommunications:

telephone facilities in the city of Djibouti are adequate as are the microwave radio relay connections to outlying areas of the country; international connections via submarine cable to Saudi Arabia and by

satellite to other countries; one ground station each for Indian Ocean
INTELSAT and ARABSAT; broadcast stations - 2 AM, 2 FM, 1 TV

1.10 66.guide/Defense Forces (Djibouti)

Defense Forces (Djibouti)

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Branches:

Djibouti National Army (including Navy and Air Force), National Security
Force (Force Nationale de Securite), National Police Force

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 97,943; fit for military service 57,187 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$26 million, NA% of GDP (1989)