

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Geography

Location: Southeastern Europe, bordering the Adriatic Sea and Croatia

Map references: Ethnic Groups in Eastern Europe, Europe

Area:

total area: 51,233 sq km

land area: 51,233 sq km

comparative area: slightly larger than Tennessee

Land boundaries: total 1,459 km, Croatia 932 km, Serbia and Montenegro 527 km (312 km with Serbia; 215 km with Montenegro)

Coastline: 20 km

Climate: hot summers and cold winters; areas of high elevation have short, cool summers and long, severe winters; mild, rainy winters along coast

Terrain: mountains and valleys

Natural resources: coal, iron, bauxite, manganese, timber, wood products, copper, chromium, lead, zinc

Land use:

arable land: 20%

permanent crops: 2%

meadows and pastures: 25%

forest and woodland: 36%

other: 17%

Environment:

current issues: air pollution from metallurgical plants; sites for disposing of urban waste are limited; widespread casualties, water shortages, and destruction of infrastructure because of civil strife
natural hazards: frequent and destructive earthquakes

People

Population: 3,201,823 (July 1995 est.)

note: all data dealing with population is subject to considerable error because of the dislocations caused by military action and ethnic cleansing

Age structure:

0-14 years: 22% (female 337,787; male 370,966)

15-64 years: 68% (female 1,082,357; male 1,085,610)

65 years and over: 10% (female 190,992; male 134,111) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.65% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 11.29 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 7.51 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 2.72 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 11.6 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 75.47 years

male: 72.75 years

female: 78.37 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.65 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Bosnian(s), Herzegovinian(s)
adjective: Bosnian, Herzegovinian

Ethnic divisions: Muslim 38%, Serb 40%, Croat 22% (est.)

Religions: Muslim 40%, Orthodox 31%, Catholic 15%, Protestant 4%, other 10%

Languages: Serbo-Croatian 99%

Capital: Sarajevo

Legal system: based on civil law system

Suffrage: 16 years of age, if employed; 18 years of age, universal

Flag: white with a large blue shield; the shield contains white Roman crosses with a white diagonal band running from the upper hoist corner to the lower fly side

Economy

Overview: Bosnia and Herzegovina ranked next to The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as the poorest republic in the old

Yugoslav federation. Although agriculture has been almost all in private hands, farms have been small and inefficient, and the republic traditionally has been a net importer of food. Industry has been greatly overstaffed, one reflection of the rigidities of Communist central planning and management. The country receives substantial amounts of humanitarian aid from the international community.

Industries: steel production, mining (coal, iron ore, lead, zinc, manganese, and bauxite), manufacturing (vehicle assembly, textiles, tobacco products, wooden furniture, 40% of former Yugoslavia's armaments including tank and aircraft assembly, domestic appliances), oil refining

Agriculture: regularly produces less than 50% of food needs; the foothills of northern Bosnia support orchards, vineyards, livestock, and some wheat and corn; long winters and heavy precipitation leach soil fertility reducing agricultural output in the mountains; farms are mostly privately held, small, and not very productive

Transportation

Railroads:

total: 1,021 km (electrified 795 km)

Highways:

total: 21,168 km

Inland waterways: NA km

Pipelines: crude oil 174 km; natural gas 90 km (1992); note -
pipelines now disrupted

Ports: Bosanski Brod

Airports:

total: 27

Defence Forces

Branches: Army