

# Georgia

## Geography

Location: Southwestern Asia, bordering the Black Sea, between Turkey and Russia

Area:

total area: 69,700 sq km

land area: 69,700 sq km

Land boundaries: total 1,461 km, Armenia 164 km, Azerbaijan 322 km, Russia 723 km, Turkey 252 km

Coastline: 310 km

Maritime claims: NA

International disputes: none

Climate: warm and pleasant; Mediterranean-like on Black Sea coast

Terrain: largely mountainous with Great Caucasus Mountains in the north and Lesser Caucasus Mountains in the south; Kolkhida Lowland opens to the Black Sea in the west; Mtkvari River Basin in the east; good soils in river valley flood plains, foothills of Kolkhida Lowland

Natural resources: forest lands, hydropower, manganese deposits, iron ores, copper, minor coal and oil deposits; coastal climate and soils allow for important tea and citrus growth

Land use:

arable land: 11%

permanent crops: 4%

meadows and pastures: 29%

forest and woodland: 38%

other: 18%

Irrigated land: 4,660 sq km (1990)

Environment:

current issues: air pollution, particularly in Rust'avi; heavy pollution of Mtkvari River and the Black Sea; inadequate supplies of potable water; soil pollution from toxic chemicals

# People

Population: 5,725,972 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 24% (female 674,331; male 707,355)

15-64 years: 64% (female 1,894,681; male 1,791,847)

65 years and over: 12% (female 410,703; male 247,055) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.77% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 15.77 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 8.73 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 0.66 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 22.6 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 73.1 years

male: 69.43 years  
female: 76.95 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 2.16 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:  
noun: Georgian(s)  
adjective: Georgian

Ethnic divisions: Georgian 70.1%, Armenian 8.1%, Russian 6.3%, Azeri 5.7%, Ossetian 3%, Abkhaz 1.8%, other 5%

Religions: Georgian Orthodox 65%, Russian Orthodox 10%, Muslim 11%, Armenian Orthodox 8%, unknown 6%

Languages: Armenian 7%, Azeri 6%, Georgian 71% (official), Russian 9%, other 7%

Literacy: age 15 and over can read and write (1989)  
total population: 99%  
male: 100%  
female: 98%

# Government

## Names:

conventional long form: Republic of Georgia

conventional short form: Georgia

local long form: Sak'art'velos Respublika

local short form: Sak'art'velo

former: Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic

Capital: T'bilisi

Independence: 9 April 1991 (from Soviet Union)

National holiday: Independence Day, 26 May (1991)

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Flag: maroon field with small rectangle in upper hoist side corner;  
rectangle divided horizontally with black on top, white below

# Economy

Overview: Georgia's economy has traditionally revolved around Black Sea tourism; cultivation of citrus fruits, tea, and grapes; mining of manganese and copper; and a small industrial sector producing wine, metals, machinery, chemicals, and textiles. The country imports the bulk of its energy needs, including natural gas and oil products. Its only sizable domestic energy resource is hydropower.

Industries: heavy industrial products include raw steel, rolled steel, airplanes; machine tools, foundry equipment, electric locomotives, tower cranes, electric welding equipment, machinery for food preparation and meat packing, electric motors, process control equipment, instruments; trucks, tractors, and other farm machinery; light industrial products, including cloth, hosiery, and shoes; chemicals; wood-working industries; the most important food industry is wine

Agriculture: accounted for 97% of former USSR citrus fruits and 93% of former USSR tea; important producer of grapes; also cultivates vegetables and potatoes; dependent on imports for grain, dairy products, sugar; small livestock sector

Illicit drugs: illicit cultivator of cannabis and opium poppy; mostly for domestic consumption; used as transshipment point for illicit drugs to Western Europe

## Transportation

### Railroads:

total: 1,570 km in common carrier service; does not include industrial lines

### Highways:

total: 33,900 km

Pipelines: crude oil 370 km; refined products 300 km; natural gas 440 km (1992)

Ports: Bat'umi, P'ot'i, Sokhumi

### Airports:

total: 28

Note: transportation network is in poor condition and disrupted by ethnic conflict, criminal activities, and fuel shortages; network lacks maintenance and repair

## Defence Forces

Branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Interior Ministry Troops, Border Guards/National Guard

Note: Georgian forces are poorly organized and not fully under the government's control