

Greenland

(part of the Danish realm)

Geography

Location: Northern North America, island between the Arctic Ocean and the North Atlantic Ocean, northeast of Canada

Area:

total area: 2,175,600 sq km

land area: 383,600 sq km (ice free)

Land boundaries: 0 km

Coastline: 44,087 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive fishing zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: 3 nm

Climate: arctic to subarctic; cool summers, cold winters

Terrain: flat to gradually sloping icecap covers all but a narrow, mountainous, barren, rocky coast

Natural resources: zinc, lead, iron ore, coal, molybdenum, cryolite, uranium, fish

Land use:

arable land: 0%

permanent crops: 0%

meadows and pastures: 1%

forest and woodland: 0%

other: 99%

Irrigated land: 0 sq km

Environment:

natural hazards: continuous permafrost over northern two-thirds of the island

Note: dominates North Atlantic Ocean between North America and Europe; sparse population confined to small settlements along coast

People

Population: 57,611 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 27% (female 7,664; male 7,881)

15-64 years: 68% (female 17,761; male 21,580)

65 years and over: 5% (female 1,500; male 1,225) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 1.05% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 17.7 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 7.2 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 25.1 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 67.65 years

male: 63.33 years
female: 71.98 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 2.25 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:
noun: Greenlander(s)
adjective: Greenlandic

Ethnic divisions: Greenlander 86% (Eskimos and Greenland-born
Caucasians), Danish 14%

Religions: Evangelical Lutheran

Languages: Eskimo dialects, Danish

Labor force: 22,800
by occupation: largely engaged in fishing, hunting, sheep breeding

Government

Names:

conventional long form: none

conventional short form: Greenland

local long form: none

local short form: Kalaallit Nunaat

Type: part of the Danish realm; self-governing overseas administrative division

Capital: Nuuk (Godthab)

Independence: none (part of the Danish realm; self-governing overseas administrative division)

National holiday: Birthday of the Queen, 16 April (1940)

Constitution: 5 June 1953 (Danish constitution)

Legal system: Danish

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Flag: two equal horizontal bands of white (top) and red with a large disk slightly to the hoist side of center - the top half of the disk is red, the bottom half is white

Economy

Industries: fish processing (mainly shrimp), lead and zinc mining, handicrafts, some small shipyards, potential for platinum and gold mining

Agriculture: sector dominated by fishing and sheep raising; crops limited to forage and small garden

Transportation

Railroads: 0 km

Highways:
total: 150 km

Ports: Faeringehavn, Frederikshaab, Holsteinsborg, Nanortalik, Narsaq, Nuuk (Godthaab), Sondrestrom

Airports:
total: 10

Defence Forces

Note: defence is responsibility of Denmark