

Guam

(territory of the US)

Geography

Location: Oceania, island in the North Pacific Ocean, about three-quarters of the way from Hawaii to the Philippines

Area:

total area: 541.3 sq km

land area: 541.3 sq km

Land boundaries: 0 km

Coastline: 125.5 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: 12 nm

Climate: tropical marine; generally warm and humid, moderated by northeast trade winds; dry season from January to June, rainy season from July to December; little seasonal temperature variation

Terrain: volcanic origin, surrounded by coral reefs; relatively flat coralline limestone plateau (source of most fresh water) with steep coastal cliffs and narrow coastal plains in north, low-rising hills in center, mountains in south

Natural resources: fishing (largely undeveloped), tourism (especially from Japan)

Land use:

arable land: 11%

permanent crops: 11%

meadows and pastures: 15%

forest and woodland: 18%

other: 45%

Environment:

natural hazards: frequent squalls during rainy season; relatively rare, but potentially very destructive typhoons (especially in August)

Note: largest and southernmost island in the Mariana Islands archipelago; strategic location in western North Pacific Ocean

People

Population: 153,307 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: NA

15-64 years: NA

65 years and over: NA

Population growth rate: 2.42% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 25.01 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 3.86 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 3 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 15.17 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 74.29 years
male: 72.42 years
female: 76.13 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 2.32 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Guamanian(s)

adjective: Guamanian

Ethnic divisions: Chamorro 47%, Filipino 25%, Caucasian 10%,
Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and other 18%

Religions: Roman Catholic 98%, other 2%

Languages: English, Chamorro, Japanese

Literacy: age 15 and over can read and write (1990)

total population: 99%

male: 99%

female: 99%

Labor force: 46,930 (1990)

by occupation: federal and territorial government 40%, private 60%
(trade 18%, services 15.6%, construction 13.8%, other 12.6%)
(1990)

Government

Names:

conventional long form: Territory of Guam

conventional short form: Guam

Capital: Agana

Independence: none (territory of the US)

National holiday: Guam Discovery Day (first Monday in March)
(1521); Liberation Day, 21 July

Legal system: modeled on US; federal laws apply

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal; US citizens, but do not vote in
US presidential elections

Flag: territorial flag is dark blue with a narrow red border on all four sides; centered is a red-bordered, pointed, vertical ellipse containing a beach scene, outrigger canoe with sail, and a palm tree with the word GUAM superimposed in bold red letters; US flag is the national flag

Economy

Overview: The economy depends mainly on US military spending and on revenues from tourism. Over the past 20 years the tourist industry has grown rapidly, creating a construction boom for new hotels and the expansion of older ones. Most food and industrial goods are imported. Guam faces the problem of building up the civilian economic sector to offset the impact of military downsizing.

Industries: US military, tourism, construction, transshipment services, concrete products, printing and publishing, food processing, textiles

Agriculture: relatively undeveloped with most food imported; fruits, vegetables, eggs, pork, poultry, beef, copra

Transportation

Railroads: 0 km

Highways:

total: 674 km (all-weather roads)

Ports: Apra Harbor

Airports:

total: 5

Defence Forces

Note: defence is the responsibility of the US