

Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of

Geography

Location: Southeastern Europe, north of Greece

Area:

total area: 25,333 sq km

land area: 24,856 sq km

Land boundaries: total 748 km, Albania 151 km, Bulgaria 148 km, Greece 228 km, Serbia and Montenegro 221 km (all with Serbia)

Coastline: 0 km (landlocked)

Climate: hot, dry summers and autumns and relatively cold winters with heavy snowfall

Terrain: mountainous territory covered with deep basins and valleys; there are three large lakes, each divided by a frontier line; country bisected by the Vardar River

Natural resources: chromium, lead, zinc, manganese, tungsten, nickel, low-grade iron ore, asbestos, sulphur, timber

Land use:

arable land: 5%

permanent crops: 5%

meadows and pastures: 20%

forest and woodland: 30%

other: 40%

Environment:

current issues: air pollution from metallurgical plants

natural hazards: high seismic risks

Note: landlocked; major transportation corridor from Western and Central Europe to Aegean Sea and Southern Europe to Western Europe

People

Population: 2,159,503 (July 1995 est.)

note: the Macedonian government census of July 1994 put the population at 1.94 million, but ethnic allocations were likely undercounted

Age structure:

0-14 years: 25% (female 257,876; male 277,314)

15-64 years: 67% (female 711,810; male 733,903)

65 years and over: 8% (female 97,475; male 81,125) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.9% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 15.82 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 6.7 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: -0.14 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 24.2 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 74 years
male: 71.87 years
female: 76.3 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 2.02 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:
noun: Macedonian(s)
adjective: Macedonian

Ethnic divisions: Macedonian 65%, Albanian 22%, Turkish 4%,
Serb 2%, Gypsies 3%, other 4%

Religions: Eastern Orthodox 67%, Muslim 30%, other 3%

Languages: Macedonian 70%, Albanian 21%, Turkish 3%, Serbo-
Croatian 3%, other 3%

Government

Names:

conventional long form: The Former Yugoslav Republic of
Macedonia

local long form: Republika Makedonija

local short form: Makedonija

Capital: Skopje

Independence: 17 September 1991 (from Yugoslavia)

National holiday: 8 September

Constitution: adopted 17 November 1991, effective 20 November
1991

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Flag: 16-point gold sun (Vergina, Sun) centered on a red field

Economy

Overview: The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, although the poorest republic in the former Yugoslav federation, can meet basic food and energy needs through its own agricultural and coal resources.

Industries: low levels of technology predominate, such as, oil refining by distillation only; produces basic liquid fuels, coal, metallic chromium, lead, zinc, and ferronickel; light industry produces basic textiles, wood products, and tobacco

Agriculture: meets the basic needs for food; principal crops are rice, tobacco, wheat, corn, and millet; also grown are cotton, sesame, mulberry leaves, citrus fruit, and vegetables; agricultural production is highly labor intensive

Illicit drugs: limited illicit opium cultivation; transshipment point for Southwest Asian heroin

Transportation

Railroads:
total: 922 km

Highways:
total: 10,591 km

Inland waterways: none, lake transport only

Pipelines: none

Ports: none

Airports:
total: 16

Defence Forces

Branches: Army, Police Force