

Mongolia

Geography

Location: Northern Asia, north of China

Area:

total area: 1.565 million sq km

land area: 1.565 million sq km

Land boundaries: total 8,114 km, China 4,673 km, Russia 3,441 km

Coastline: 0 km (landlocked)

Climate: desert; continental (large daily and seasonal temperature ranges)

Terrain: vast semidesert and desert plains; mountains in west and southwest; Gobi Desert in southeast

Natural resources: oil, coal, copper, molybdenum, tungsten, phosphates, tin, nickel, zinc, wolfram, fluorspar, gold

Land use:

arable land: 1%

permanent crops: 0%

meadows and pastures: 79%

forest and woodland: 10%

other: 10%

Irrigated land: 770 sq km (1989)

Environment:

current issues: limited natural fresh water resources; policies of the former communist regime promoting rapid urbanization and industrial growth have raised concerns about their negative effects on the environment; the burning of soft coal and the concentration of factories in Ulaanbaatar have severely polluted the air; deforestation, overgrazing, the converting of virgin land to agricultural production have increased soil erosion from wind and rain; desertification

natural hazards: duststorms can occur in the spring

Note: landlocked; strategic location between China and Russia

People

Population: 2,493,615 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 40% (female 495,919; male 511,464)

15-64 years: 56% (female 693,037; male 693,776)

65 years and over: 4% (female 54,991; male 44,428) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 2.58% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 32.65 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 6.82 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

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

Infant mortality rate: 41.8 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 66.54 years
male: 64.28 years
female: 68.92 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 4.26 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Mongolian(s)

adjective: Mongolian

Ethnic divisions: Mongol 90%, Kazakh 4%, Chinese 2%, Russian 2%, other 2%

Religions: predominantly Tibetan Buddhist, Muslim 4%

note: previously limited religious activity because of Communist regime

Languages: Khalkha Mongol 90%, Turkic, Russian, Chinese

Government

Names:

conventional short form: Mongolia
local short form: Mongol Uls
former: Outer Mongolia

Capital: Ulaanbaatar

Independence: 13 March 1921 (from China)

National holiday: National Day, 11 July (1921)

Constitution: adopted 13 January 1992

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Flag: three equal, vertical bands of red (hoist side), blue, and red, centered on the hoist-side red band in yellow is the national emblem ("soyombo" - a columnar arrangement of abstract and geometric representation for fire, sun, moon, earth, water, and the yin-yang symbol)

Economy

Overview: Mongolia's severe climate, scattered population, and wide expanses of unproductive land have constrained economic development. Economic activity traditionally has been based on agriculture and the breeding of livestock. The mining and processing of coal, copper, molybdenum, tin, tungsten, and gold account for a large part of industrial production. Timber and fishing are also important sectors.

Industries: copper, processing of animal products, building materials, food and beverage, mining (particularly coal)

Agriculture: accounts for about 35% of GDP and provides livelihood for about 50% of the population; livestock raising predominates (primarily sheep and goats, but also cattle, camels, and horses); crops - wheat, barley, potatoes, forage

Transportation

Railroads:
total: 1,750 km

Highways:

total: 46,700 km

Inland waterways: 397 km of principal routes (1988)

Ports: none

Airports:
total: 34

Defence Forces

Branches: Mongolian People's Army (includes Internal Security Forces and Frontier Guards), Air Force