

# Togo

## Geography

Location: Western Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean, between Benin and Ghana

Area:

total area: 56,790 sq km

land area: 54,390 sq km

Land boundaries: total 1,647 km, Benin 644 km, Burkina 126 km, Ghana 877 km

Coastline: 56 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: 30 nm

Climate: tropical; hot, humid in south; semiarid in north

Terrain: gently rolling savanna in north; central hills; southern plateau; low coastal plain with extensive lagoons and marshes

Natural resources: phosphates, limestone, marble

Land use:

arable land: 25%

permanent crops: 1%

meadows and pastures: 4%

forest and woodland: 28%

other: 42%

Irrigated land: 70 sq km (1989 est.)

Environment:

current issues: deforestation attributable to slash-and-burn agriculture and the use of wood for fuel; recent droughts affecting agriculture

natural hazards: hot, dry harmattan wind can reduce visibility in north during winter; periodic droughts

# People

Population: 4,410,370 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 49% (female 1,069,171; male 1,079,999)

15-64 years: 49% (female 1,121,685; male 1,043,000)

65 years and over: 2% (female 51,392; male 45,123) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 3.58% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 46.78 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 11.01 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

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

Infant mortality rate: 86.5 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 57.42 years

male: 55.29 years

female: 59.6 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 6.83 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Togolese (singular and plural)

adjective: Togolese

Ethnic divisions: 37 tribes; largest and most important are Ewe, Mina, and Kabye, European and Syrian-Lebanese under 1%

Religions: indigenous beliefs 70%, Christian 20%, Muslim 10%

Languages: French (official and the language of commerce), Ewe and Mina (the two major African languages in the south), Dagomba and Kabye (the two major African languages in the north)

Literacy:

total population: 43%

male: 56%

female: 31%

# Government

## Names:

conventional long form: Republic of Togo

conventional short form: Togo

local long form: Republique Togolaise

local short form: none

former: French Togo

Capital: Lome

Independence: 27 April 1960 (from French-administered UN trusteeship)

National holiday: Independence Day, 27 April (1960)

Constitution: multiparty draft constitution approved by High Council of the Republic 1 July 1992; adopted by public referendum 27 September 1992

Suffrage: NA years of age; universal adult

Flag: five equal horizontal bands of green (top and bottom) alternating with yellow; there is a white five-pointed star on a red

square in the upper hoist-side corner; uses the popular pan-African colors of Ethiopia

## Economy

Overview: The economy is heavily dependent on subsistence agriculture. Primary agricultural exports are cocoa, coffee, and cotton. Togo is self-sufficient in basic foodstuffs when harvests are normal. In the industrial sector phosphate mining is by far the most important activity.

Industries: phosphate mining, agricultural processing, cement, handicrafts, textiles, beverages

Agriculture: accounts for 49% of GDP; cash crops - coffee, cocoa, cotton; food crops - yams, cassava, corn, beans, rice, millet, sorghum; livestock production not significant; annual fish catch of 10,000-14,000 tons

## Transportation

Railroads:

total: 532 km

Highways:

total: 6,462 km

Inland waterways: 50 km Mono River

Ports: Kpeme, Lome

Airports:

total: 9

## Defence Forces

Branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Gendarmerie