

Andorra

Geography

Location: Southwestern Europe, between France and Spain.

Map references: Europe.

Area:

total area: 450 sq km.

land area: 450 sq km.

Land boundaries: total 125 km, France 60 km, Spain 65 km.

Coastline: 0 km (landlocked).

Climate: temperate; snowy, cold winters and warm, dry summers.

Terrain: rugged mountains dissected by narrow valleys.

Natural resources: hydropower, mineral water, timber, iron ore, lead.

Land use:

arable land: 2%.

permanent crops: 0%.

meadows and pastures: 56%.

forest and woodland: 22%.

other: 20%.

Environment:

current issues: deforestation; overgrazing of mountain meadows
contributes to soil erosion.

natural hazards: snowslides, avalanches.

People

Population: 65,780 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 18% (female 5,503; male 5,985).

15-64 years: 70% (female 21,873; male 24,334).

65 years and over: 12% (female 4,020; male 4,065) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 2.72% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 12.92 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 7.25 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 21.53 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 7.7 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 78.52 years.

male: 75.65 years.

female: 81.66 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.72 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Andorran(s).

adjective: Andorran.

Ethnic divisions: Spanish 61%, Andorran 30%, French 6%, other 3%.

Religions: Roman Catholic (predominant).

Languages: Catalan (official), French, Castilian.

Government

Names:

conventional long form: Principality of Andorra.

conventional short form: Andorra.

local long form: Principat d'Andorra.

local short form: Andorra.

Type: parliamentary democracy (since March 1993) that retains as its heads of state a co-principality; the two princes are the president of France and Spanish bishop of Seo de Urgel, who are represented locally by officials called veguers.

Capital: Andorra la Vella.

Administrative divisions: 7 parishes (parroquies, singular - parroquia); Andorra, Canillo, Encamp, La Massana, Les Escaldes, Ordino, Sant Julia de Loria.

Independence: 1278.

National holiday: Mare de Deu de Meritxell, 8 September.

Constitution: Andorra's first written constitution was drafted in 1991; adopted 14 March 1993

Legal system: based on French and Spanish civil codes; no judicial review of legislative acts; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction.

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal.

Flag: three equal vertical bands of blue (hoist side), yellow, and red with the national coat of arms centered in the yellow band; the coat of arms features a quartered shield; similar to the flags of Chad and Romania that do not have a national coat of arms in the centre.

Economy

Overview: Tourism, the mainstay of Andorra's economy, accounts for roughly 80% of GDP. An estimated 13 million tourists visit annually, attracted by Andorra's duty-free status and by its summer and winter resorts. The banking sector, with its "tax haven" status, also contributes substantially to the economy. Agricultural production is limited by a scarcity of arable land, and most food has to be imported. The principal livestock activity is sheep raising. Manufacturing consists mainly of cigarettes, cigars, and furniture.

Andorra is a member of the EU Customs Union; it is unclear what effect the European Single Market will have on the advantages Andorra obtains from its duty-free status.

Transportation

Railroads: 0 km

Highways:
total: 96 km.

Ports: none

Airports: none

Defence Forces