

# Chad

## Geography

Location: Central Africa, south of Libya

Map references: Africa

Area:

total area: 1.284 million sq km

land area: 1,259,200 sq km

Land boundaries: total 5,968 km, Cameroon 1,094 km, Central African Republic 1,197 km, Libya 1,055 km, Niger 1,175 km, Nigeria 87 km, Sudan 1,360 km

Coastline: 0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims: none; landlocked

Climate: tropical in south, desert in north

Terrain: broad, arid plains in center, desert in north, mountains in northwest, lowlands in south

Natural resources: petroleum (unexploited but exploration under way), uranium, natron, kaolin, fish (Lake Chad)

Land use:

arable land: 2%

permanent crops: 0%

meadows and pastures: 36%

forest and woodland: 11%

other: 51%

Irrigated land: 100 sq km (1989 est.)

Environment:

current issues: inadequate supplies of potable water; improper waste disposal in rural areas contributes to soil and water pollution; desertification

natural hazards: hot, dry, dusty harmattan winds occur in north; periodic droughts; locust plagues

international agreements: party to - Biodiversity, Climate Change, Endangered Species, Nuclear Test Ban, Ozone Layer Protection,

Wetlands; signed, but not ratified - Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping

Note: landlocked; Lake Chad is the most significant water body in the Sahel

## People

Population: 5,586,505 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 44% (female 1,198,619; male 1,267,470)

15-64 years: 54% (female 1,563,678; male 1,456,481)

65 years and over: 2% (female 71,971; male 28,286) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 2.18% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 42.05 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 20.26 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

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

Infant mortality rate: 129.7 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 41.19 years

male: 40.04 years

female: 42.38 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 5.33 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Chadian(s)

adjective: Chadian

Ethnic divisions:

north and center: Muslims (Arabs, Toubou, Hadjerai, Fulbe, Kotoko, Kanembou, Baguirmi, Boulala, Zaghawa, and Maba)

south: non-Muslims (Sara, Ngambaye, Mbaye, Goulaye, Moundang, Moussei, Massa) nonindigenous 150,000, of whom 1,000 are French

Religions: Muslim 50%, Christian 25%, indigenous beliefs, animism 25%

Languages: French (official), Arabic (official), Sara (in south), Sango (in south), more than 100 different languages and dialects are spoken

Literacy: age 15 and over has the ability to read and write in French and Arabic (1990 est.)

total population: 30%

male: 42%

female: 18%

## Government

Names:

conventional long form: Republic of Chad

conventional short form: Chad

local long form: Republique du Tchad

local short form: Tchad

Capital: N'Djamena

Independence: 11 August 1960 (from France)

National holiday: Independence Day 11 August (1960)

Flag: three equal vertical bands of blue (hoist side), yellow, and red; similar to the flag of Romania; also similar to the flag of Andorra, which has a national coat of arms featuring a quartered shield centered in the yellow band; design was based on the flag of France

## Economy

Industries: cotton textile mills, slaughterhouses, brewery, natron (sodium carbonate), soap, cigarettes

Agriculture: accounts for about 45% of GDP; largely subsistence farming; cotton most important cash crop; food crops include sorghum, millet, peanuts, rice, potatoes, manioc; livestock - cattle, sheep, goats, camels; self-sufficient in food in years of adequate rainfall

Transportation

Railroads: 0 km

Highways:  
total: 31,322 km

Inland waterways: 2,000 km navigable

Ports: none

Airports:  
total: 66

Defence Forces

Branches: Armed Forces (includes Ground Force, Air Force, and Gendarmerie), Republican Guard, Police