

Armenia

Geography

Location: Southwestern Asia, east of Turkey.

Map references: Commonwealth of Independent States - European States.

Area:

total area: 29,800 sq km.

land area: 28,400 sq km.

Land boundaries: total 1,254 km, Azerbaijan (east) 566 km, Azerbaijan (south) 221 km, Georgia 164 km, Iran 35 km, Turkey 268 km.

Coastline: 0 km (landlocked).

Climate: highland continental, hot summers, cold winters.

Terrain: high Armenian Plateau with mountains; little forest land; fast flowing rivers; good soil in Aras River valley.

Natural resources: small deposits of gold, copper, molybdenum, zinc, alumina.

Land use:

arable land: 17%.

permanent crops: 3%.

meadows and pastures: 20%.

forest and woodland: 0%.

other: 60%.

Irrigated land: 3,050 sq km (1990).

Environment:

current issues: soil pollution from toxic chemicals such as DDT; energy blockade, the result of conflict with Azerbaijan, has led to deforestation as citizens scavenge for firewood; pollution of Hrazdan (Razdan) and Aras Rivers; the draining of Sevana Lich, a result of its use as a source for hydropower, threatens drinking water supplies.

natural hazards: occasionally severe earthquakes; droughts.

People

Population: 3,557,284 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 31% (female 542,664; male 570,998).

15-64 years: 61% (female 1,103,171; male 1,076,226).

65 years and over: 8% (female 154,784; male 109,441) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.94% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 22.79 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 6.66 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: -6.68 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 26 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 72.36 years.

male: 68.94 years.

female: 75.95 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 3.06 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Armenian(s).

adjective: Armenian.

Ethnic divisions: Armenian 93%, Azeri 3%, Russian 2%, other (mostly Yezidi Kurds) 2% (1989).

note: as of the end of 1994, most Azeris had emigrated from Armenia.

Religions: Armenian Orthodox 94%.

Languages: Armenian 96%, Russian 2%, other 2%.

Literacy: age 15 and over can read and write (1989).

total population: 99%.

male: 99%.

female: 98%.

Labor force: 1.578 million.

by occupation: industry and construction 34%, agriculture and forestry 31%, other 35% (1992).

Government

Names:

conventional long form: Republic of Armenia.

conventional short form: Armenia.

local long form: Hayastani Hanrapetut'yun.

local short form: Hayastan.

former: Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic; Armenian Republic.

Type: republic.

Capital: Yerevan.

Administrative divisions: 37 regions (shrjanner, singular - shrjan) and 23 cities* (kaghakner, singular - kaghak); Abovyan*, Akhuryani Shrjan, Alaverdi*, Amasiayi Shrjan, Anii Shrjan, Aparani Shrjan, Aragatsi Shrjan, Ararat*, Ararati Shrjan, Armaviri Shrjan, Artashat*, Artashati Shrjan, Art'ik*, Art'iki Shrjan, Ashots'k'i Shrjan, Ashtarak*, Ashtaraki Shrjan, Baghramyani Shrjan, Ch'arents'avan*, Dilijan*, Ejmiatsin*, Ejmiatsni Shrjan, Goris*, Gorisi Shrjan, Gugark'i Shrjan, Gyumri*, Hoktemberyan*, Hrazdan*, Hrazdani Shrjan, Ijevan*, Ijevani Shrjan, Jermuk*, Kamo*, Kamoyi Shrjan, Kapan*, Kapani Shrjan, Kotayk'i Shrjan, Krasnoselski Shrjan, Martunu Shrjan, Masisi Shrjan, Meghru Shrjan, Metsamor*, Nairii Shrjan, Noyemberyani Shrjan, Sevan*, Sevani Shrjan, Sisiani Shrjan, Spitak*, Spitaki Shrjan, Step'anavan*, Step'anavani Shrjan, T'alini Shrjan, Tashiri Shrjan, Taushi Shrjan, T'umanyani Shrjan,

Vanadzor*, Vardenisi Shrjan, Vayk'i Shrjan, Yeghegnadzori Shrjan, Yerevan*.

Independence: 28 May 1918 (First Armenian Republic); 23 September 1991 (from Soviet Union).

National holiday: Referendum Day, 21 September.

Legal system: based on civil law system.

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal.

Flag: three equal horizontal bands of red (top), blue, and gold.

Economy

Overview: Under the old Soviet central planning system, Armenia had developed a more modern industrial sector, supplying machine building equipment, textiles, and other manufactured goods to sister republics in exchange for raw materials and energy resources. Armenia is a large food importer and its mineral deposits (gold, bauxite) are small.

Transportation

Railroads:

total: 840 km in common carrier service; does not include industrial lines.

Highways:

total: 11,300 km.

Pipelines: natural gas 900 km.

Airports:

total: 11.

Defence Forces

Branches: Army, Air and Air Defense Forces, National Guard, Security Forces (internal and border troops).