

Bermuda

(dependent territory of the UK)

Geography

Location: North America, group of islands in the North Atlantic Ocean, east of North Carolina (US).

Map references: North America.

Area:

total area: 50 sq km.

land area: 50 sq km.

Land boundaries: 0 km.

Coastline: 103 km.

Maritime claims:

exclusive fishing zone: 200 nm.

territorial sea: 12 nm.

Climate: subtropical; mild, humid; gales, strong winds common in winter.

Terrain: low hills separated by fertile depressions.

Natural resources: limestone, pleasant climate fostering tourism.

Land use:

arable land: 0%.

permanent crops: 0%.

meadows and pastures: 0%.

forest and woodland: 20%.

other: 80%.

natural hazards: hurricanes (June to November).

Note: consists of about 360 small coral islands with ample rainfall, but no rivers or freshwater lakes; some reclaimed land leased by US Government.

People

Population: 61,629 (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.76% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 15.07 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 7.3 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: -0.13 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 13.16 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 75.03 years.

male: 73.36 years.

female: 76.97 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.81 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Bermudian(s).

adjective: Bermudian.

Ethnic divisions: black 61%, white and other 39%.

Religions: Anglican 37%, Roman Catholic 14%, African Methodist Episcopal (Zion) 10%, Methodist 6%, Seventh-Day Adventist 5%, other 28%.

Languages: English.

Literacy: age 15 and over can read and write (1970).

total population: 98%.

male: 98%.

female: 99%.

Labor force: 32,000.

by occupation: clerical 25%, services 22%, laborers 21%, professional and technical 13%, administrative and managerial 10%, sales 7%, agriculture and fishing 2% (1984).

Government

Names:

conventional long form: none.

conventional short form: Bermuda.

Type: dependent territory of the UK.

Capital: Hamilton.

Administrative divisions: 9 parishes and 2 municipalities*;
Devonshire, Hamilton, Hamilton*, Paget, Pembroke, Saint George*,
Saint Georges, Sandys, Smiths, Southampton, Warwick.

Independence: none (dependent territory of the UK).

National holiday: Bermuda Day, 24 May.

Constitution: 8 June 1968.

Legal system: English law.

Suffrage: 21 years of age; universal.

Flag: red with the flag of the UK in the upper hoist-side quadrant and the Bermudian coat of arms (white and blue shield with a red lion holding a scrolled shield showing the sinking of the ship Sea Venture off Bermuda in 1609) centered on the outer half of the flag.

Economy

Overview: Bermuda enjoys one of the highest per capita incomes in the world, having successfully exploited its location by providing luxury tourist facilities and financial services. The tourist industry attracts more than 90% of its business from North America. The industrial sector is small, and agriculture is severely limited by a lack of suitable land. About 80% of food needs are imported.

Transportation

Railroads: 0 km.

Highways:

total: 210 km.

note: in addition, there are 400 km of paved and unpaved roads that are privately owned.

Ports: Hamilton, Saint George.

Airports:

total: 1.

Defence Forces

Branches: Bermuda Regiment, Bermuda Police Force, Bermuda Reserve Constabulary.