

# Cyprus

## Geography

Location: Middle East, island in the Mediterranean Sea, south of Turkey

Area:

total area: 9,250 sq km (note - 3,355 sq km are in the Turkish area)

land area: 9,240 sq km

Land boundaries: 0 km

Coastline: 648 km

Maritime claims:

continental shelf: 200-m depth or to the depth of exploitation

territorial sea: 12 nm

Climate: temperate, Mediterranean with hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters

Terrain: central plain with mountains to north and south; scattered but significant plains along southern coast

Natural resources: copper, pyrites, asbestos, gypsum, timber, salt, marble, clay earth pigment

Land use:

arable land: 40%

permanent crops: 7%

meadows and pastures: 10%

forest and woodland: 18%

other: 25%

Irrigated land: 350 sq km (1989)

Environment:

current issues: water resource problems (no natural reservoir catchments, seasonal disparity in rainfall, and most potable resources concentrated in the Turkish Cypriot area); water pollution from sewage and industrial wastes; coastal degradation; loss of wildlife habitats from urbanization

natural hazards: moderate earthquake activity

# People

## Population:

total: 736,636 (July 1995 est.) (78% Greek, 18% Turk, 4% other)

Greek area: 602,656 (July 1995 est.) (94.9% Greek, 0.3% Turk, 4.8% other)

Turkish area: 133,980 (July 1995 est.) (2.1% Greek, 97.7% Turk, 0.2% other)

## Age structure:

0-14 years: 26% (female 92,179; male 97,723)

15-64 years: 64% (female 234,929; male 236,693)

65 years and over: 10% (female 42,190; male 32,922) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.88% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 16.27 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 7.48 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

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

Infant mortality rate: 8.6 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:  
total population: 76.47 years  
male: 74.19 years  
female: 78.85 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 2.3 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:  
noun: Cypriot(s)  
adjective: Cypriot

Ethnic divisions:  
total: Greek 78% (99.5% of the Greeks live in the Greek area; 0.5% of the Greeks live in the Turkish area), Turkish 18% (1.3% of the Turks live in the Greek area; 98.7% of the Turks live in the Turkish area), other 4% (99.2% of the other ethnic groups live in the Greek area; 0.8% of the other ethnic groups live in the Turkish area)

Religions: Greek Orthodox 78%, Muslim 18%, Maronite, Armenian Apostolic, and other 4%

Languages: Greek, Turkish, English

Literacy: age 15 and over can read and write (1987 est.)

total population: 94%  
male: 98%  
female: 91%

## Government

Names:

conventional long form: Republic of Cyprus

conventional short form: Cyprus

note: the Turkish area refers to itself as the "Turkish Republic" or the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus"

Capital: Nicosia

note: the Turkish area's capital is Lefkosa (Nicosia)

Administrative divisions: 6 districts; Famagusta, Kyrenia, Larnaca, Limassol, Nicosia, Paphos; note - Turkish area administrative divisions include Kyrenia, all but a small part of Famagusta, and small parts of Nicosia and Larnaca

Independence: 16 August 1960 (from UK)

note: Turkish area proclaimed self-rule on NA February 1975 from Republic of Cyprus

National holiday: Independence Day, 1 October

note: Turkish area celebrates 15 November as Independence Day

Legal system: based on common law, with civil law modifications

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Flag: white with a copper-colored silhouette of the island (the name Cyprus is derived from the Greek word for copper) above two green crossed olive branches in the center of the flag; the branches symbolize the hope for peace and reconciliation between the Greek and Turkish communities

note: the Turkish Cypriot flag has a horizontal red stripe at the top and bottom between which is a red crescent and red star on a white field

## Economy

Industries: food, beverages, textiles, chemicals, metal products, tourism, wood products

Agriculture: contributes 6% to GDP and employs 25% of labor force in the south; major crops - potatoes, vegetables, barley, grapes, olives, citrus fruits; vegetables and fruit provide 25% of export revenues

Illicit drugs: transit point for heroin via air routes and container traffic to Europe, especially from Lebanon and Turkey

## Transportation

Railroads: 0 km

Highways:  
total: 10,448 km

Ports: Famagusta, Kyrenia, Larnaca, Limassol, Vasilikos Bay

Airports:  
total: 15

## Defence Forces

### Branches:

Greek area: Greek Cypriot National Guard (GCNG; includes air and naval elements), Greek Cypriot Police

Turkish area: Turkish Cypriot Security Force