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Chapter 1

103

1.1 103.guide

Texified version of data for Haiti.

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Haiti

1.2 103.guide/Haiti

Haiti

Geography (Haiti)
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 Economy (Haiti)
 Economy (Haiti 2. usage)
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 Defense Forces (Haiti)

1.3 103.guide/Geography (Haiti)

Geography (Haiti)

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Location:

in the northern Caribbean Sea, about 90 km southeast of Cuba

Map references:

Central America and the Caribbean, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

27,750 km²

land area:

27,560 km²

comparative area:

slightly larger than Maryland

Land boundaries:

total 275 km, Dominican Republic 275 km

Coastline:

1,771 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

24 nm

continental shelf:

to depth of exploitation

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea: 12 nm

International disputes:

claims US-administered Navassa Island

Climate:

tropical; semiarid where mountains in east cut off trade winds

Terrain:

mostly rough and mountainous

Natural resources:
 bauxite

Land use:
 arable land:
 20%

permanent crops:
 13%

meadows and pastures:
 18%

forest and woodland:
 4%

other:
 45%

Irrigated land:
 750 km² (1989 est.)

Environment:
 lies in the middle of the hurricane belt and subject to severe storms from June to October; occasional flooding and earthquakes; deforestation; soil erosion

Note:
 shares island of Hispaniola with Dominican Republic (western one-third is Haiti, eastern two-thirds is the Dominican Republic)

1.4 103.guide/People (Haiti)

People (Haiti)

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Population:
 6,384,877 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:
 1.68% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:
 40.77 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Death rate:
 18.88 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Net migration rate:
 -5.04 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Infant mortality rate:
 109.5 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 45.45 years

male:
 43.88 years

female:
 47.11 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:
 6.05 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality: noun:
 Haitian(s)

adjective:

Haitian

Ethnic divisions:
 black 95%, mulatto and European 5%

Religions:
 Roman Catholic 80% (of which an overwhelming majority also practice Voodoo) ↔
 ,
 Protestant 16% (Baptist 10%, Pentecostal 4%, Adventist 1%, other 1%), none
 1%, other 3% (1982)

Languages:
 French (official) 10%, Creole

Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1990)
 total population:
 53%
 male:
 59%
 female:
 47%

Labor force:
 2.3 million
 by occupation:
 agriculture 66%, services 25%, industry 9%

note:
 shortage of skilled labor, unskilled labor abundant (1982)

1.5 103.guide/Government (Haiti)

Government (Haiti)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Republic of Haiti
 conventional short form:
 Haiti
 local long form:
 Republique d'Haiti
 local short form:
 Haiti

Digraph:
 HA

Type:
 republic

Capital:
 Port-au-Prince

Administrative divisions:
 9 departments, (departements, singular - departement); Artibonite, Centre,
 Grand'Anse, Nord, Nord-Est, Nord-Ouest, Ouest, Sud, Sud-Est

Independence:
 1 January 1804 (from France)

Constitution:
 27 August 1983, suspended February 1986; draft constitution approved March
 1987, suspended June 1988, most articles reinstated March 1989; October

1991, government claims to be observing the Constitution

Legal system: based on Roman civil law system; accepts compulsory ICJ ←
jurisdiction

National holiday:
Independence Day, 1 January (1804)

Political parties and leaders:
National Front for Change and Democracy (FNCD), including National Congress
of Democratic Movements (CONACOM), Victor BENOIT, and National Cooperative
Action Movement (MKN), Volvick Remy JOSEPH; Movement for the Installation ←
of
Democracy in Haiti (MIDH), Marc BAZIN; National Progressive Revolutionary
Party (PANPRA), Serge GILLES; National Patriotic Movement of November 28
(MNP-28), Dejean BELIZAIRE; National Agricultural and Industrial Party
(PAIN), Louis DEJOIE; Movement for National Reconstruction (MRN), Rene
THEODORE; Haitian Christian Democratic Party (PDCH), Joseph DOUZE; Assembly
of Progressive National Democrats (RDNP), Leslie MANIGAT; National Party of
Labor (PNT), Thomas DESULME; Mobilization for National Development (MDN),
Hubert DE RONCERAY; Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Haiti
(MODELH), Francois LATORTUE; Haitian Social Christian Party (PSCH), ←
Gregoire
EUGENE; Movement for the Organization of the Country (MOP), Gesner COMEAU
and Jean MOLIERE

Other political or pressure groups:
Democratic Unity Confederation (KID); Roman Catholic Church; Confederation
of Haitian Workers (CTH); Federation of Workers Trade Unions (FOS);
Autonomous Haitian Workers (CATH); National Popular Assembly (APN)

Suffrage:
18 years of age; universal

Elections:
Chamber of Deputies:
last held 16 December 1990, with runoff held 20 January 1991 (next to be
held by December 1994); results - percent of vote NA; seats - (83 total)
FNCD 27, ANDP 17, PDCH 7, PAIN 6, RDNP 6, MDN 5, PNT 3, MKN 2, MODELH 2, ←
MRN
1, independents 5, other 2

President:
last held 16 December 1990 (next election to be held by December 1995);
results - Rev. Jean-Bertrand ARISTIDE 67.5%, Marc BAZIN 14.2%, Louis DEJOIE
4.9%

1.6 103.guide/Government (Haiti 2. usage)

Government (Haiti 2. usage)

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Senate:
last held 18 January 1993, widely condemned as illegitimate (next to be ←
held
December 1994); results - percent of vote NA; seats - (27 total) FNCD 12,
ANDP 8, PAIN 2, MRN 1, RDNP 1, PNT 1, independent 2

Executive branch:
president, Council of Ministers (cabinet)

Legislative branch:

bicameral National Assembly (Assemblée Nationale) consisting of an upper house or Senate and a lower house or Chamber of Deputies

Judicial branch:
 Court of Appeal (Cour de Cassation)

Leaders:
 Chief of State:
 President Jean-Bertrand ARISTIDE (since 7 February 1991), ousted in a coup in September 1991, but still recognized by international community as Chief of State

Head of Government: de facto Prime Minister Marc BAZIN (since NA June 1992) ←

Member of:
 ACCT, ACP, CARICOM (observer), CCC, ECLAC, FAO, G-77, GATT, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, LAES, LORCS, OAS, OPANAL, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

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Flag:
 two equal horizontal bands of blue (top) and red with a centered white rectangle bearing the coat of arms, which contains a palm tree flanked by flags and two cannons above a scroll bearing the motto L'UNION FAIT LA FORCE ←
 (Union Makes Strength)

1.7 103.guide/Economy (Haiti)

Economy (Haiti)

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Overview:

About 75% of the population live in abject poverty. Agriculture is mainly small-scale subsistence farming and employs nearly three-fourths of the work force. The majority of the population does not have ready access to safe

drinking water, adequate medical care, or sufficient food. Few social assistance programs exist, and the lack of employment opportunities remains one of the most critical problems facing the economy, along with soil erosion and political instability. Trade sanctions applied by the Organization of American States in response to the September 1991 coup against President ARISTIDE have further damaged the economy.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$2.2 billion (1991 est.)

National product real growth rate:

-4% (FY91 est.)

National product per capita:

\$340 (1991 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

20% (FY91 est.)

Unemployment rate:

25-50% (1991)

Budget:

revenues \$300 million; expenditures \$416 million, including capital expenditures of \$145 million (1990 est.)

Exports:

\$146 million (f.o.b., 1991 est.)

commodities:

light manufactures 65%, coffee 19%, other agriculture 8%, other 8%

partners:

US 84%, Italy 4%, France 3%, other industrial countries 6%, less developed countries 3% (1987)

Imports:

\$252 million (f.o.b., 1991 est.)

commodities:

machines and manufactures 34%, food and beverages 22%, petroleum products 14%, chemicals 10%, fats and oils 9%

partners:

US 64%, Netherlands Antilles 5%, Japan 5%, France 4%, Canada 3%, Germany 3% (1987)

External debt:

\$838 million (December 1990)

Industrial production:

growth rate -2.0% (1991 est.); accounts for 15% of GDP

Electricity:

217,000 kW capacity; 480 million kWh produced, 75 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

sugar refining, textiles, flour milling, cement manufacturing, tourism, light assembly industries based on imported parts

Agriculture:

accounts for 28% of GDP and employs around 70% of work force; mostly small-scale subsistence farms; commercial crops - coffee, mangoes, sugarcane, wood; staple crops - rice, corn, sorghum; shortage of wheat ↔ flour

Illicit drugs:

transshipment point for cocaine

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (1970-89), \$700 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$770 million

Currency:

1 gourde (G) = 100 centimes

1.8 103.guide/Economy (Haiti 2. usage)

Economy (Haiti 2. usage)

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Exchange rates:

gourdes (G) per US\$1 - 8.4 (December 1991), fixed rate of 5.000 through second quarter of 1991)

Fiscal year:

1 October - 30 September

1.9 103.guide/Communications (Haiti)

Communications (Haiti)

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Railroads:

40 km 0.760-meter narrow gauge, single-track, privately owned industrial line

Highways:

4,000 km total; 950 km paved, 900 km otherwise improved, 2,150 km ← unimproved

Inland waterways:

negligible; less than 100 km navigable

Ports:

Port-au-Prince, Cap-Haitien

Airports:

total:

13

usable:

10

with permanent-surface runways:

3

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

1

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

3

Telecommunications:

domestic facilities barely adequate, international facilities slightly better; 36,000 telephones; broadcast stations - 33 AM, no FM, 4 TV, 2 shortwave; 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.10 103.guide/Defense Forces (Haiti)

Defense Forces (Haiti)

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Branches:

Army (including Police), Navy, Air Force

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 1,289,310; fit for military service 695,997; reach military age (18) annually 60,588 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$34 million, 1.5% of GDP (1988 est.)