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# Chapter 1

## 106

### 1.1 106.guide

Texified version of data for Honduras.

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Honduras

### 1.2 106.guide/Honduras

Honduras

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Geography (Honduras)

People (Honduras)

Government (Honduras)

Government (Honduras 2. usage)

Economy (Honduras)

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Economy (Honduras 2. usage)

Communications (Honduras)

Defense Forces (Honduras)

### 1.3 106.guide/Geography (Honduras)

Geography (Honduras)

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Location:

Central America, between Guatemala and Nicaragua

Map references:

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

Area:

total area:

112,090 km<sup>2</sup>

land area:

111,890 km<sup>2</sup>

comparative area:

slightly larger than Tennessee

Land boundaries:

total 1,520 km, Guatemala 256 km, El Salvador 342 km, Nicaragua 922 km

Coastline:

820 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

24 nm

continental shelf: 200 m depth or to depth of exploitation

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

land boundary dispute with El Salvador mostly resolved by 11 September 1992

International Court of Justice (ICJ) decision; ICJ referred the maritime

boundary in the Golfo de Fonseca to an earlier agreement in this century ←

and

advised that some tripartite resolution among El Salvador, Honduras and

Nicaragua likely would be required

Climate:

subtropical in lowlands, temperate in mountains

Terrain:

mostly mountains in interior, narrow coastal plains

Natural resources:

timber, gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, iron ore, antimony, coal, fish

Land use:

arable land:

14%

permanent crops:  
   2%  
 meadows and pastures:  
   30%  
 forest and woodland:  
   34%  
 other:  
   20%  
 Irrigated land:  
   900 km2 (1989 est.)  
 Environment:  
   subject to frequent, but generally mild, earthquakes; damaging hurricanes  
   and floods along Caribbean coast; deforestation; soil erosion

## 1.4 106.guide/People (Honduras)

People (Honduras)

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Population:  
   5,170,108 (July 1993 est.)  
 Population growth rate:  
   2.8% (1993 est.)  
 Birth rate:  
   35.82 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Death rate:  
   6.44 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Net migration rate:  
   -1.43 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Infant mortality rate:  
   47.2 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)  
 Life expectancy at birth:  
   total population:  
     67.17 years  
   male:  
     64.82 years  
   female: 69.62 years (1993 est.)  
 Total fertility rate:  
   4.87 children born/woman (1993 est.)  
 Nationality:  
   noun:  
     Honduran(s)  
   adjective:  
     Honduran  
 Ethnic divisions:  
   mestizo (mixed Indian and European) 90%, Indian 7%, black 2%, white 1%  
 Religions:  
   Roman Catholic 97%, Protestant minority  
 Languages:  
   Spanish, Indian dialects  
 Literacy:  
   age 15 and over can read and write (1990)  
   total population:

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73%  
 male:  
 76%  
 female:  
 71%  
 Labor force:  
 1.3 million  
 by occupation:  
 agriculture 62%, services 20%, manufacturing 9%, construction 3%, other 6%  
 (1985)

## 1.5 106.guide/Government (Honduras)

Government (Honduras)

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### Names:

conventional long form:

Republic of Honduras

conventional short form:

Honduras

local long form:

Republica de Honduras

local short form:

Honduras

### Digraph:

HO

### Type:

republic

### Capital:

Tegucigalpa

### Administrative divisions:

18 departments (departamentos, singular - departamento); Atlantida, Choluteca, Colon, Comayagua, Copan, Cortes, El Paraiso, Francisco Morazan, Gracias a Dios, Intibuca, Islas de la Bahia, La Paz, Lempira, Ocotepeque, Olancho, Santa Barbara, Valle, Yoro

### Independence:

15 September 1821 (from Spain)

### Constitution:

11 January 1982, effective 20 January 1982

### Legal system:

rooted in Roman and Spanish civil law; some influence of English common law ↔

;

accepts ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations

### National holiday:

Independence Day, 15 September (1821)

### Political parties and leaders:

Liberal Party (PLH), Carlos Roberto REINA, presidential candidate, Rafael PINEDA Ponce, president; National Party (PN) has two factions: Movimiento Nacional de Reivindicacion Callejista (Monarca), Rafael Leonardo CALLEJAS, and Oswaldista, Oswaldo RAMOS SOTO, presidential candidate; National Innovation and Unity Party (PINU), German LEITZELAR, president; Christian Democratic Party (PDCH), Efrain DIAZ Arrivillaga, president

Other political or pressure groups:

National Association of Honduran Campesinos (ANACH); Honduran Council of Private Enterprise (COHEP); Confederation of Honduran Workers (CTH); National Union of Campesinos (UNC); General Workers Confederation (CGT); United Federation of Honduran Workers (FUTH); Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Honduras (CODEH); Coordinating Committee of Popular Organizations (CCOP)

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal and compulsory

Elections:

President:

last held on 26 November 1989 (next to be held November 1993); results - Rafael Leonardo CALLEJAS (PNH) 51%, Carlos FLORES Facusse (PLH) 43.3%, ← other 5.7%

National Congress:

last held on 26 November 1989 (next to be held November 1993); results - ← PNH 51%, PLH 43%, PDCH 1.9%, PINU-SD 1.5%, other 2.6%; seats - (128 total) PNH 71, PLH 55, PINU-SD 2

Executive branch:

president, Council of Ministers (cabinet)

Legislative branch:

unicameral National Congress (Congreso Nacional)

## 1.6 106.guide/Government (Honduras 2. usage)

### Government (Honduras 2. usage)

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Judicial branch:

Supreme Court of Justice (Corte Suprema de Justicia)

Leaders:

Chief of State and Head of Government:

President Rafael Leonardo CALLEJAS Romero (since 26 January 1990)

Member of:

BCIE, CACM, ECLAC, FAO, G-77, IADB, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM, ITU, LAES, LAIA (observer), LORCS, OAS, OPANAL, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO

Diplomatic representation in US:

chief of mission:

Ambassador Rene Arturo BENDANA-VALENZUELA

chancery:

3007 Tilden Street NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone:

(202) 966-7702

consulates general: Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, ← and San Francisco

consulates:

Baton Rouge, Boston, Detroit, Houston, and Jacksonville

US diplomatic representation:

chief of mission:

Ambassador William Bryce (since 28 May 1993)



## embassy:

Avenida La Paz, Tegucigalpa

## mailing address:

APO AA 34022, Tegucigalpa

## telephone:

[504] 32-3120

## FAX:

[504] 32-0027

## Flag:

three equal horizontal bands of blue (top), white, and blue with five blue five-pointed stars arranged in an X pattern centered in the white band; the stars represent the members of the former Federal Republic of Central America - Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua; similar to the flag of El Salvador, which features a round emblem encircled by the words REPUBLICA DE EL SALVADOR EN LA AMERICA CENTRAL centered in the white band; also similar to the flag of Nicaragua, which features a ← triangle encircled by the word REPUBLICA DE NICARAGUA on top and AMERICA CENTRAL on the bottom, centered in the white band

## 1.7 106.guide/Economy (Honduras)

### Economy (Honduras)

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## Overview:

Honduras is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. Agriculture, the most important sector of the economy, accounts for more than 25% of GDP, employs 62% of the labor force, and produces two-thirds of exports. Productivity remains low. Industry, still in its early stages, employs nearly 9% of the labor force, accounts for 15% of GDP, and ← generates 20% of exports. The service sectors, including public administration, account for 50% of GDP and employ nearly 20% of the labor force. Basic problems facing the economy include rapid population growth, high unemployment, a lack of basic services, a large and inefficient public sector, and the dependence of the export sector mostly on coffee and bananas, which are subject to sharp price fluctuations. A far-reaching reform program initiated by President CALLEJAS in 1990 is beginning to take hold.

## National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$5.5 billion (1992 est.)

## National product real growth rate:

3.6% (1992 est.)

## National product per capita:

\$1,090 (1992 est.)

## Inflation rate (consumer prices):

8% (1992 est.)

## Unemployment rate:

15% (30-40% underemployed) (1989)

## Budget:

revenues \$1.4 billion; expenditures \$1.9 billion, including capital expenditures of \$511 million (1990 est.)

## Exports:

\$1.0 billion (f.o.b., 1991)

## commodities:

bananas, coffee, shrimp, lobster, minerals, meat, lumber

## partners:

US 65%, Germany 9%, Japan 8%, Belgium 7%

## Imports:

\$1.3 billion (c.i.f. 1991)

## commodities:

machinery and transport equipment, chemical products, manufactured goods, fuel and oil, foodstuffs

## partners:

US 45%, Japan 9%, Netherlands 7%, Mexico 7%, Venezuela 6%

## External debt:

\$2.8 billion (1990)

## Industrial production:

growth rate 0.8% (1990 est.); accounts for 15% of GDP

## Electricity:

575,000 kW capacity; 2,000 million kWh produced, 390 kWh per capita (1992)

## Industries:

agricultural processing (sugar and coffee), textiles, clothing, wood products

## Agriculture:

most important sector, accounting for more than 25% of GDP, more than 60% ←  
of

the labor force, and two-thirds of exports; principal products include bananas, coffee, timber, beef, citrus fruit, shrimp; importer of wheat

## Illicit drugs:

illicit producer of cannabis, cultivated on small plots and used ←  
principally

for local consumption; transshipment point for cocaine

## Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$1.4 billion; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$1.1 billion

## 1.8 106.guide/Economy (Honduras 2. usage)

### Economy (Honduras 2. usage)

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## Currency:

1 lempira (L) = 100 centavos

## Exchange rates:

lempiras (L) per US\$1 - 5.4 (fixed rate); 5.70 parallel black-market rate (November 1990); the lempira was allowed to float in 1992; current rate about US\$1 - 5.65

## Fiscal year:

calendar year

## 1.9 106.guide/Communications (Honduras)

### Communications (Honduras)

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#### Railroads:

785 km total; 508 km 1.067-meter gauge, 277 km 0.914-meter gauge

#### Highways:

8,950 km total; 1,700 km paved, 5,000 km otherwise improved, 2,250 km unimproved earth

Inland waterways: 465 km navigable by small craft

#### Ports:

Puerto Castilla, Puerto Cortes, San Lorenzo

#### Merchant marine:

252 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 819,100 GRT/1,195,276 DWT; includes ←  
2

passenger-cargo, 162 cargo, 20 refrigerated cargo, 10 container, 6 roll-on/roll-off cargo, 22 oil tanker, 1 chemical tanker, 2 specialized tanker, 22 bulk, 3 passenger, 2 short-sea passenger; note - a flag of convenience registry; Russia owns 10 ships under the Honduran flag

#### Airports:

total:

165

usable:

137

with permanent-surface runways:

11

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

4

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

14

#### Telecommunications:

inadequate system with only 7 telephones per 1,000 persons; international services provided by 2 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth stations and the Central American microwave radio relay system; broadcast stations - 176 AM, no FM, 7 SW, 28 TV

## 1.10 106.guide/Defense Forces (Honduras)

### Defense Forces (Honduras)

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#### Branches:

Army, Navy (including Marines), Air Force, Public Security Forces (FUSEP)

#### Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 1,185,072; fit for military service 706,291; reach military age (18) annually 58,583 (1993 est.)

#### Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$45 million, about 1% of GDP (1993 est.)