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Chapter 1

12

1.1 12.guide

Texified version of data for Aruba.

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Aruba

1.2 12.guide/Aruba

Aruba

Header (Aruba)

Geography (Aruba)

People (Aruba)

Government (Aruba)

Economy (Aruba)

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1.3 12.guide/Header (Aruba)

Header (Aruba)

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Affiliation:

(part of the Dutch realm)

1.4 12.guide/Geography (Aruba)

Geography (Aruba)

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Location:

in the southern Caribbean Sea, 28 km north of Venezuela and 125 km east of Colombia

Map references:

Central America and the Caribbean

Area:

total area:

193 km²

land area:

193 km²

comparative area:

slightly larger than Washington, DC

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

68.5 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive fishing zone:

12 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

none

Climate:

tropical marine; little seasonal temperature variation

Terrain:

flat with a few hills; scant vegetation

Natural resources:

negligible; white sandy beaches

Land use:

arable land:
 0%
 permanent crops:
 0%
 meadows and pastures:
 0%
 forest and woodland:
 0%
 other:
 100%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km2
 Environment:
 lies outside the Caribbean hurricane belt

1.5 12.guide/People (Aruba)

People (Aruba)

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Population:
 65,117 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 0.66% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 15.33 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 6.05 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -2.72 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 8.6 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 76.3 years
 male:
 72.65 years
 female:
 80.13 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 1.83 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Aruban(s)
 adjective:
 Aruban
 Ethnic divisions:
 mixed European/Caribbean Indian 80%
 Religions:
 Roman Catholic 82%, Protestant 8%, Hindu, Muslim, Confucian, Jewish
 Languages:
 Dutch (official), Papiamentu (a Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, English
 dialect), English (widely spoken), Spanish

Literacy:
 total population:
 NA%
 male:
 NA%
 female:
 NA%
 Labor force:
 NA
 by occupation:
 most employment is in the tourist industry (1986)

1.6 12.guide/Government (Aruba)

Government (Aruba)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 none
 conventional short form:
 Aruba
 Digraph:
 AA
 Type:
 part of the Dutch realm; full autonomy in internal affairs obtained in 1986
 upon separation from the Netherlands Antilles
 Capital:
 Oranjestad
 Administrative divisions:
 none (self-governing part of the Netherlands)
 Independence:
 none (part of the Dutch realm; in 1990, Aruba requested and received from
 the Netherlands cancellation of the agreement to automatically give
 independence to the island in 1996)
 Constitution:
 1 January 1986
 Legal system:
 based on Dutch civil law system, with some English common law influence
 National holiday:
 Flag Day, 18 March
 Political parties and leaders:
 Electoral Movement Party (MEP), Nelson ODUBER; Aruban People's Party (AVP),
 Henny EMAN; National Democratic Action (ADN), Pedro Charro KELLY; New
 Patriotic Party (PPN), Eddy WERLEMEN; Aruban Patriotic Party (PPA), Benny
 NISBET; Aruban Democratic Party (PDA), Leo BERLINSKI; Democratic Action '86
 (AD '86), Arturo ODUBER; Organization for Aruban Liberty (OLA), Glenbert
 CROES
 note:
 governing coalition includes the MEP, PPA, and ADN
 Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal
 Elections:

Legislature:
 last held 8 January 1993 (next to be held by NA January 1997); results -
 percent of vote by party NA; seats - (21 total) MEP 9, AVP 8, ADN 1, PPA 1,
 OLA 1, other 1

Executive branch:
 Dutch monarch, governor, prime minister, Council of Ministers (cabinet)

Legislative branch:
 unicameral legislature (Staten)

Judicial branch:
 Joint High Court of Justice

Leaders:

Chief of State:
 Queen BEATRIX Wilhelmina Armgard (since 30 April 1980), represented by
 Governor General Olindo KOOLMAN (since NA)

Head of Government:
 Prime Minister Nelson ODUBER (since NA February 1989)

Member of:
 ECLAC (associate), INTERPOL, IOC, UNESCO (associate), WCL, WTO (associate)

Diplomatic representation in US:
 none (self-governing part of the Netherlands)

Flag:
 blue with two narrow horizontal yellow stripes across the lower portion and
 a red, four-pointed star outlined in white in the upper hoist-side corner

1.7 12.guide/Economy (Aruba)

Economy (Aruba)

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Overview:

Tourism is the mainstay of the economy, although offshore banking and oil refining and storage are also important. Hotel capacity expanded rapidly between 1985 and 1989 and nearly doubled in 1990 alone. Unemployment has steadily declined from about 20% in 1986 to about 3% in 1991. The reopening of the local oil refinery, once a major source of employment and foreign exchange earnings, promises to give the economy an additional boost.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$900 million (1991 est.)

National product real growth rate:

6% (1991 est.)

National product per capita:

\$14,000 (1991 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

5.6% (1991)

Unemployment rate:

3% (1991 est.)

Budget:

revenues \$145 million; expenditures \$185 million, including capital expenditures of \$42 million (1988)

Exports:

\$902.4 million, including oil re-exports (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:

mostly petroleum products

partners:
 US 64%, EC

Imports:
 \$1,311.3 million, including oil for processing and re-export (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:
 food, consumer goods, manufactures, petroleum products

partners:
 US 8%, EC

External debt:
 \$81 million (1987)

Industrial production:
 growth rate NA%

Electricity:
 310,000 kW capacity; 945 million kWh produced, 14,610 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:
 tourism, transshipment facilities, oil refining

Agriculture:
 poor quality soils and low rainfall limit agricultural activity to the
 cultivation of aloes, some livestock, and fishing

Illicit drugs:
 drug money laundering center

Economic aid:
 Western (non-US) countries ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1980-89), ←
 \$220
 million

Currency:
 1 Aruban florin (Af.) = 100 cents

Exchange rates:
 Aruban florins (Af.) per US\$1 - 1.7900 (fixed rate since 1986)

Fiscal year:
 calendar year

1.8 12.guide/Communications (Aruba)

Communications (Aruba)

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Highways:
 NA km all-weather highways

Ports:
 Oranjestad, Sint Nicolaas

Airports:
 total:
 2
 usable:
 2
 with permanent-surface runways:
 2
 with runways over 3,659 m:
 0
 with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
 1
 with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

0

note:

government-owned airport east of Oranjestad accepts transatlantic flights

Telecommunications:

generally adequate; extensive interisland microwave radio relay links;

72,168 telephones; broadcast stations - 4 AM, 4 FM, 1 TV; 1 submarine cable to Sint Maarten

1.9 12.guide/Defense Forces (Aruba)

Defense Forces (Aruba)

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Note:

defense is the responsibility of the Netherlands