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WRITTEN BY		August 25, 2022	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

Contents

1	130	1
1.1	130.guide	1
1.2	130.guide/Kiribati	1
1.3	130.guide/Geography (Kiribati)	2
1.4	130.guide/People (Kiribati)	3
1.5	130.guide/Government (Kiribati)	4
1.6	130.guide/Government (Kiribati 2. usage)	5
1.7	130.guide/Economy (Kiribati)	5
1.8	130.guide/Communications (Kiribati)	7
1.9	130.guide/Defense Forces (Kiribati)	7

Chapter 1

130

1.1 130.guide

Texified version of data for Kiribati.

Texified using wfact from

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Kiribati

1.2 130.guide/Kiribati

Kiribati

Geography (Kiribati)

People (Kiribati)

Government (Kiribati)

Government (Kiribati 2. usage)

Economy (Kiribati)

Communications (Kiribati)

Defense Forces (Kiribati)

1.3 130.guide/Geography (Kiribati)

Geography (Kiribati)

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Location:

Oceania, straddling the equator in the Pacific Ocean, about halfway between Hawaii and Australia

Map references:

Oceania

Area:

total area:

717 km²

land area:

717 km²

comparative area:

slightly more than four times the size of Washington, DC

note:

includes three island groups - Gilbert Islands, Line Islands, Phoenix Islands

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

1,143 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

none

Climate:

tropical; marine, hot and humid, moderated by trade winds

Terrain:

mostly low-lying coral atolls surrounded by extensive reefs

Natural resources:

phosphate (production discontinued in 1979)

Land use:

arable land:

0%

permanent crops:

51%

meadows and pastures:

0% forest and woodland:

3%

other:

46%

Irrigated land:

NA km2

Environment:

typhoons can occur any time, but usually November to March; 20 of the 33 islands are inhabited

Note:

Banaba (Ocean Island) in Kiribati is one of the three great phosphate rock islands in the Pacific Ocean - the others are Makatea in French Polynesia and Nauru

1.4 130.guide/People (Kiribati)

People (Kiribati)

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Population:

76,320 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:

2.03% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:

32.03 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Death rate:

12.31 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Net migration rate:

0.56 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Infant mortality rate:

98.4 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population:

54.16 years

male:

52.56 years

female:

55.78 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:

3.82 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality:

noun:

I-Kiribati (singular and plural)

adjective:

I-Kiribati

Ethnic divisions:

Micronesian

Religions:

Roman Catholic 52.6%, Protestant (Congregational) 40.9%, Seventh-Day Adventist, Baha'i, Church of God, Mormon 6% (1985)

Languages:

English (official), Gilbertese

Literacy:

total population:

NA%

male:

NA% female:

NA%

Labor force:

7,870 economically active, not including subsistence farmers (1985 est.)

1.5 130.guide/Government (Kiribati)

Government (Kiribati)

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Names:

conventional long form:

Republic of Kiribati

conventional short form:

Kiribati

former:

Gilbert Islands

Digraph:

KR

Type:

republic

Capital:

Tarawa

Administrative divisions:

3 units; Gilbert Islands, Line Islands, Phoenix Islands

note:

a new administrative structure of 6 districts (Banaba, Central Gilberts, Line Islands, Northern Gilberts, Southern Gilberts, Tarawa) may have been changed to 21 island councils (one for each of the inhabited islands) named Abaiang, Abemama, Aranuka, Arorae, Banaba, Beru, Butaritari, Canton, Kiritimati, Kuria, Maiana, Makin, Marakei, Nikunau, Nonouti, Onotoa, Tabiteuea, Tabuaeran, Tamana, Tarawa, Teraina

Independence:

12 July 1979 (from UK)

Constitution:

12 July 1979

Legal system:

NA

National holiday:

Independence Day, 12 July (1979)

Political parties and leaders:

National Progressive Party, Teatao TEANNAKI; Christian Democratic Party, Teburoro TITO; New Movement Party, leader NA; Liberal Party, Tewareka TENTOA; Maneaba Party, Roniti TEIWAKI

note:

there is no tradition of formally organized political parties in Kiribati; they more closely resemble factions or interest groups because they have no party headquarters, formal platforms, or party structures

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Elections:

President:

last held on 8 July 1991 (next to be held by NA 1996); results - Teatao TEANNAKI 52%, Roniti TEIWAKI 28%

House of Assembly:

last held on 8 May 1991 (next to be held by NA 1996); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (40 total; 39 elected) percent of seats by party NA

Executive branch:

president (Beretitenti), vice president (Kauoman-ni-Beretitenti), Cabinet

Legislative branch:

unicameral House of Assembly (Maneaba Ni Maungatabu)

Judicial branch:

Court of Appeal, High Court

Leaders:

Chief of State and Head of Government:

President Teatao TEANNAKI (since 8 July 1991); Vice President Taomati IUTA (since 8 July 1991)

1.6 130.guide/Government (Kiribati 2. usage)

Government (Kiribati 2. usage)

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Member of:

ACP, AsDB, C, ESCAP, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IDA, IFC, IMF, INTERPOL, ITU, SPARTECA, SPC, SPF, UNESCO, UPU, WHO

Diplomatic representation in US:

chief of mission:

(vacant)

US diplomatic representation:

the ambassador to Fiji is accredited to Kiribati

Flag:

the upper half is red with a yellow frigate bird flying over a yellow ←
 rising
 sun, and the lower half is blue with three horizontal wavy white stripes to
 represent the ocean

1.7 130.guide/Economy (Kiribati)

Economy (Kiribati)

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Overview:

The country has few national resources. Commercially viable phosphate deposits were exhausted at the time of independence in 1979. Copra and fish now represent the bulk of production and exports. The economy has ←
 fluctuated
 widely in recent years. Real GDP declined about 8% in 1987, as the fish catch fell sharply to only one-fourth the level of 1986 and copra ←
 production
 was hampered by repeated rains. Output rebounded strongly in 1988, with ←
 real

GDP growing by 17%. The upturn in economic growth came from an increase in copra production and a good fish catch. Following the strong surge in ←
output
in 1988, GNP increased 1% in both 1989 and 1990.

National product:
GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$36.8 million (1990 est.)

National product real growth rate:
1% (1990 est.)

National product per capita:
\$525 (1990 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):
4.8% (1991 est.)

Unemployment rate:
NA%

Budget:
revenues \$29.9 million; expenditures \$16.3 million, including capital expenditures of \$14.0 million (1990 est.)

Exports:
\$5.8 million (f.o.b., 1990 est.)
commodities:
copra 18%, fish 17%, seaweed 13%
partners:
EC 50%, Fiji 22%, US 18% (1990)

Imports:
\$26.7 million (c.i.f., 1990 est.)
commodities:
foodstuffs, machinery and equipment, miscellaneous manufactured goods, fuel
partners:
Australia 33%, Japan 24%, Fiji 19%, NZ 6%, US 6% (1990)

External debt:
\$2 million (December 1989 est.)

Industrial production:
growth rate 0% (1988 est.); accounts for less than 4% of GDP

Electricity:
5,000 kW capacity; 13 million kWh produced, 190 kWh per capita (1990)

Industries:
fishing, handicrafts

Agriculture:
accounts for 15% of GDP (including fishing); copra and fish contribute ←
about
95% to exports; subsistence farming predominates; food crops - taro, breadfruit, sweet potatoes, vegetables; not self-sufficient in food

Economic aid:
Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$273 million

Currency:
1 Australian dollar (\$A) = 100 cents

Exchange rates:
Australian dollars (\$A) per US\$1 - 1.4837 (January 1993), 1.3600 (1992), 1.2835 (1991), 1.2799 (1990), 1.2618 (1989), 1.2752 (1988)

Fiscal year:
NA

1.8 130.guide/Communications (Kiribati)

Communications (Kiribati)

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Highways:

640 km of motorable roads

Inland waterways:

small network of canals, totaling 5 km, in Line Islands

Ports:

Banaba and Betio (Tarawa)

Airports:

total:

21

useable:

20

with permanent-surface runways:

4

with runways over 3,659 m :

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

0 with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

5

Telecommunications:

1,400 telephones; broadcast stations - 1 AM, no FM, no TV; 1 Pacific Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.9 130.guide/Defense Forces (Kiribati)

Defense Forces (Kiribati)

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Branches:

Police Force (carries out law enforcement functions and paramilitary duties ↔

;

there are small police posts on all islands); no military force is maintained

Manpower availability:

NA

Defense expenditures:

\$NA, NA% of GDP