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Chapter 1

149

1.1 149.guide

Texified version of data for Maldives.

Texified using wfact from

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Maldives

1.2 149.guide/Maldives

Maldives

Geography (Maldives)

People (Maldives)

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Government (Maldives 2. usage)

Economy (Maldives)

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1.3 149.guide/Geography (Maldives)

Geography (Maldives)

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Location:

South Asia, in the Indian Ocean off the southwest coast of India

Map references:

Asia, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

300 km²

land area:

300 km²

comparative area:

slightly more than 1.5 times the size of Washington, DC

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

644 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone:

35–310 nm as defined by geographic coordinates; segment of zone coincides with maritime boundary with India

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

none

Climate:

tropical; hot, humid; dry, northeast monsoon (November to March); rainy, southwest monsoon (June to August)

Terrain: flat with elevations only as high as 2.5 meters

Natural resources:

fish

Land use:

arable land:

10%

permanent crops:

0%

meadows and pastures:

3%

forest and woodland:

3%

other:

84%

Irrigated land:

NA km²

Environment:

1,200 coral islands grouped into 19 atolls

Note:

archipelago of strategic location astride and along major sea lanes in Indian Ocean

1.4 149.guide/People (Maldives)

People (Maldives)

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Population:

243,094 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:

3.64% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:

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

Death rate:

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

Net migration rate:

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

Infant mortality rate:

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

Life expectancy at birth:

total population:

63.86 years

male:

62.5 years

female:

65.28 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:

6.36 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality:

noun:

Maldivian(s)

adjective:

Maldivian

Ethnic divisions:

Sinhalese, Dravidian, Arab, African

Religions:

Sunni Muslim

Languages:

Divehi (dialect of Sinhala; script derived from Arabic), English spoken by most government officials

Literacy:

age 15 and over can read and write (1985)

total population:

92%

male:

92%

female:

92%

Labor force:

66,000 (est.)

by occupation:
 fishing industry 25%

1.5 149.guide/Government (Maldives)

Government (Maldives)

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Names:

conventional long form:

Republic of Maldives

conventional short form:

Maldives

Digraph:

MV

Type:

republic

Capital:

Male

Administrative divisions:

19 districts (atolls); Aliff, Baa, Daalu, Faafu, Gaafu Aliff, Gaafu Daalu, Haa Aliff, Haa Daalu, Kaafu, Laamu, Laviyani, Meemu, Naviyani, Noonu, Raa, Seenu, Shaviyani, Thaa, Waavu

Independence:

26 July 1965 (from UK)

Constitution:

4 June 1964

Legal system:

based on Islamic law with admixtures of English common law primarily in commercial matters; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

National holiday:

Independence Day, 26 July (1965)

Political parties and leaders:

no organized political parties; country governed by the Didi clan for the past eight centuries

Suffrage:

21 years of age; universal

Elections:

President:

last held 23 September 1988 (next to be held September 1993); results - President Maumoon Abdul GAYOOM reelected

Citizens' Council:

last held on 7 December 1989 (next to be held 7 December 1994); results - percent of vote NA; seats - (48 total, 40 elected)

Executive branch:

president, Cabinet

Legislative branch:

unicameral Citizens' Council (Majlis)

Judicial branch:

High Court

Leaders:

Chief of State and Head of Government:

President Maumoon Abdul GAYOOM (since 11 November 1978)

Member of:

AsDB, C, CP, ESCAP, FAO, G-77, GATT, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IMF, IMO, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, NAM, OIC, SAARC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WHO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in US:

Maldives does not maintain an embassy in the US, but does have a UN mission in New York

US diplomatic representation:

chief of mission:

the US Ambassador to Sri Lanka is accredited to Maldives and makes periodic visits there

consular agency:

Midhath Hilmy, Male

1.6 149.guide/Government (Maldives 2. usage)

Government (Maldives 2. usage)

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telephone:

2581

Flag:

red with a large green rectangle in the center bearing a vertical white crescent; the closed side of the crescent is on the hoist side of the flag

1.7 149.guide/Economy (Maldives)

Economy (Maldives)

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Overview:

The economy is based on fishing, tourism, and shipping. Agriculture is limited to the production of a few subsistence crops that provide only 10% of food requirements. Fishing is the largest industry, employing 25% of the work force and accounting for over 60% of exports; it is also an important source of government revenue. During the 1980s tourism became one of the most important and highest growth sectors of the economy. In 1988 industry accounted for about 5% of GDP. Real GDP is officially estimated to have increased by about 10% annually during the period 1974-90.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$140 million (1991 est.)

National product real growth rate:

4.7% (1991 est.)

National product per capita:

\$620 (1991 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

11.5% (1991 est.)

Unemployment rate:

NEGL%

Budget:
 revenues \$52 million (excluding foreign transfers); expenditures \$83 million, including capital expenditures of \$39 million (1991 est.)

Exports:
 \$53.7 million (f.o.b., 1991)
 commodities:
 fish, clothing
 partners:
 US, UK, Sri Lanka

Imports:
 \$150.9 million (c.i.f., 1991)
 commodities:
 consumer goods, intermediate and capital goods, petroleum products
 partners:
 Singapore, Germany, Sri Lanka, India

External debt:
 \$90 million (1991)

Industrial production:
 growth rate 24.0% (1990); accounts for 6% of GDP

Electricity:
 5,000 kW capacity; 11 million kWh produced, 50 kWh per capita (1990)

Industries:
 fishing and fish processing, tourism, shipping, boat building, some coconut processing, garments, woven mats, coir (rope), handicrafts

Agriculture:
 accounts for almost 25% of GDP (including fishing); fishing more important than farming; limited production of coconuts, corn, sweet potatoes; most staple foods must be imported; fish catch of 67,000 tons (1990 est.)

Economic aid:
 US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-88), \$28 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$125 million; OPEC bilateral aid (1979-89), \$14 million

Currency:
 1 rufiyaa (Rf) = 100 laaris

Exchange rates:
 rufiyaa (Rf) per US\$1 - 10.506 (January 1993), 10.569 (1992), 10.253 (1991) ←
 9.509 (1990), 9.0408 (1989), 8.7846 (1988)

Fiscal year:
 calendar year

1.8 149.guide/Communications (Maldives)

Communications (Maldives)

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Highways:
 Male has 9.6 km of coral highways within the city

Ports:
 Male, Gan

Merchant marine:
 14 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 38,848 GRT/58,496 DWT; includes 12

cargo, 1 container, 1 oil tanker
Airports:
total:
2
useable:
2 with permanent-surface runways:
2
with runways over 3,659 m:
0
with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
2
with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
0
Telecommunications:
minimal domestic and international facilities; 2,804 telephones; broadcast
stations - 2 AM, 1 FM, 1 TV; 1 Indian Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.9 149.guide/Defense Forces (Maldives)

Defense Forces (Maldives)

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Branches:
National Security Service (paramilitary police force)
Manpower availability:
males age 15-49 53,730; fit for military service 30,014 (1993 est.)
Defense expenditures:
exchange rate conversion - \$NA, NA% of GDP