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WRITTEN BY		August 25, 2022	

REVISION HISTORY

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Chapter 1

18

1.1 18.guide

Texified version of data for The Bahamas.

Texified using wfact from

Gerhard Leibrock
Neuhäuselerstr. 12
D-66459 Kirkel
Germany

Tel.: 06849 / 6134
INTERNET: leibrock@fsinfo.cs.uni-sb.de
fach5@cipsol.cs.uni-sb.de

The Bahamas

1.2 18.guide/The Bahamas

The Bahamas

Geography (The Bahamas)

People (The Bahamas)

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1.3 18.guide/Geography (The Bahamas)

Geography (The Bahamas)

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Location:

in the western North Atlantic Ocean, southeast of Florida and northwest of Cuba

Map references:

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

Area:

total area:

13,940 km²

land area:

10,070 km²

comparative area:

slightly larger than Connecticut

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

3,542 km

Maritime claims:

continental shelf:

200 m (depth) or to depth of exploitation

exclusive fishing zone:

200 nm

territorial sea: 3 nm

International disputes:

none

Climate:

tropical marine; moderated by warm waters of Gulf Stream

Terrain:

long, flat coral formations with some low rounded hills

Natural resources:

salt, aragonite, timber

Land use:

arable land:

1%

permanent crops:

0%

meadows and pastures:

0%

forest and woodland:

32%

other:

67%

Irrigated land:

NA km2

Environment:

subject to hurricanes and other tropical storms that cause extensive flood damage

Note:

strategic location adjacent to US and Cuba; extensive island chain

1.4 18.guide/People (The Bahamas)

People (The Bahamas)

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Population:

268,726 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:

1.62% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:

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

Death rate:

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

Net migration rate:

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

Infant mortality rate:

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

Life expectancy at birth:

total population:

72.02 years

male:

68.19 years

female:

75.96 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:

1.9 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality:

noun:

Bahamian(s) adjective:

Bahamian

Ethnic divisions:

black 85%, white 15%

Religions:

Baptist 32%, Anglican 20%, Roman Catholic 19%, Methodist 6%, Church of God 6%, other Protestant 12%, none or unknown 3%, other 2%

Languages:

English, Creole, among Haitian immigrants

Literacy:

age 15 and over but definition of literacy not available (1963)

total population:

90%

male:

90%

female:

89%

Labor force:
 127,400
 by occupation:
 government 30%, hotels and restaurants 25%, business services 10%,
 agriculture 5% (1989)

1.5 18.guide/Government (The Bahamas)

Government (The Bahamas)

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Names:

conventional long form:
 The Commonwealth of The Bahamas
 conventional short form:
 The Bahamas

Digraph:

BF

Type:

commonwealth

Capital:

Nassau

Administrative divisions:

21 districts; Acklins and Crooked Islands, Bimini, Cat Island, Exuma,
 Freeport, Fresh Creek, Governor's Harbour, Green Turtle Cay, Harbour Island ↔
 High Rock, Inagua, Kemps Bay, Long Island, Marsh Harbour, Mayaguana, New
 Providence, Nichollstown and Berry Islands, Ragged Island, Rock Sound, ↔
 Sandy
 Point, San Salvador and Rum Cay

Independence:

10 July 1973 (from UK)

Constitution:

10 July 1973

Legal system:

based on English common law

National holiday:

National Day, 10 July (1973)

Political parties and leaders:

Progressive Liberal Party (PLP), Sir Lynden O. PINDLING; Free National
 Movement (FNM), Hubert Alexander INGRAHAM; Vanguard Nationalist and
 Socialist Party (VNPS), Lionel CAREY, chairman; People's Democratic Force
 (PDF), Fred MITCHELL

Other political or pressure groups:

Vanguard Nationalist and Socialist Party (VNSP), a small leftist party
 headed by Lionel CAREY; Trade Union Congress (TUC), headed by Arlington
 MILLER

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Elections:

House of Assembly:

last held 19 August 1992 (next to be held by August 1997); results - ↔
 percent

of vote by party NA; seats - (49 total) FNM 32, PLP 17

Executive branch:
 British monarch, governor general, prime minister, deputy prime minister, Cabinet

Legislative branch:
 bicameral Parliament consists of an appointed upper house or Senate and a directly elected lower house or House of Assembly

Judicial branch:
 Supreme Court

Leaders:
 Chief of State:
 Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952), represented by Governor General Sir Clifford DARLING (since 2 January 1992)

Head of Government:
 Prime Minister Hubert INGRAHAM (since 19 August 1992)

Member of:
 ACP, C, CCC, CARICOM, CDB, ECLAC, FAO, G-77, IADB, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, LORCS, NAM, OAS, OPANAL, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WHO, WIPO, WMO

1.6 18.guide/Government (The Bahamas 2. usage)

Government (The Bahamas 2. usage)

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Diplomatic representation in US:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador Timothy Baswell DONALDSON
 chancery:
 2220 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008
 telephone:
 (202) 319-2660
 consulates general:
 Miami and New York

US diplomatic representation:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador Chic HECHT
 embassy:
 Mosmar Building, Queen Street, Nassau
 mailing address:
 P. O. Box N-8197, Nassau
 telephone:
 (809) 322-1181 or 328-2206
 FAX:
 (809) 328-7838

Flag:
 three equal horizontal bands of aquamarine (top), gold, and aquamarine with a black equilateral triangle based on the hoist side

1.7 18.guide/Economy (The Bahamas)

Economy (The Bahamas)

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Overview:

The Bahamas is a stable, middle-income, developing nation whose economy is based primarily on tourism and offshore banking. Tourism alone provides about 50% of GDP and directly or indirectly employs about 50,000 people or 40% of the local work force. The economy has slackened in recent years, as the annual increase in the number of tourists slowed. Nonetheless, per capita GDP is one of the highest in the region.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$2.6 billion (1991 est.)

National product real growth rate:

3% (1991)

National product per capita:

\$10,200 (1991 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

7.2% (1991)

Unemployment rate:

16% (1991 est.)

Budget:

revenues \$627.5 million; expenditures \$727.5 million, including capital expenditures of \$100 million (1992 est.)

Exports:

\$306 million (f.o.b., 1991 est.)

commodities:

pharmaceuticals, cement, rum, crawfish

partners:

US 41%, Norway 30%, Denmark 4%

Imports:

\$1.14 billion (c.i.f., 1991 est.)

commodities:

foodstuffs, manufactured goods, mineral fuels, crude oil

partners:

US 35%, Nigeria 21%, Japan 13%, Angola 11%

External debt:

\$1.2 billion (December 1990)

Industrial production:

growth rate 3% (1990); accounts for 15% of GDP

Electricity:

424,000 kW capacity; 929 million kWh produced, 3,599 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

tourism, banking, cement, oil refining and transshipment, salt production, rum, aragonite, pharmaceuticals, spiral welded steel pipe

Agriculture:

accounts for 5% of GDP; dominated by small-scale producers; principal products-citrus fruit, vegetables, poultry; large net importer of food

Illicit drugs:

transshipment point for cocaine

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY85-89), \$1.0 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$345 million

Currency: 1 Bahamian dollar (B\$) = 100 cents

Exchange rates:

Bahamian dollar (B\$) per US\$1-1.00 (fixed rate)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

1.8 18.guide/Communications (The Bahamas)

Communications (The Bahamas)

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Highways:

2,400 km total; 1,350 km paved, 1,050 km gravel

Ports:

Freeport, Nassau

Merchant marine:

853 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 20,136,078 GRT/33,119,750 DWT;

includes 53 passenger, 18 short-sea passenger, 159 cargo, 40

roll-on/roll-off cargo, 48 container, 6 vehicle carrier, 181 oil tanker, 14

liquefied gas, 22 combination ore/oil, 43 chemical tanker, 1 specialized

tanker, 159 bulk, 7 combination bulk, 102 refrigerated cargo; note-a flag ←

of

convenience registry

Airports:

total:

60

usable:

55

with permanent-surface runways:

31

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

3

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

26

Telecommunications:

highly developed; 99,000 telephones in totally automatic system;

tropospheric scatter and submarine cable links to Florida; broadcast

stations-3 AM, 2 FM, 1 TV; 3 coaxial submarine cables; 1 Atlantic Ocean

INTELSAT earth station

1.9 18.guide/Defense Forces (The Bahamas)

Defense Forces (The Bahamas)

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Branches:

Royal Bahamas Defense Force (Coast Guard only), Royal Bahamas Police Force

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 68,020; fit for military service NA (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion-\$65 million, 2.7% of GDP (1990)
