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Chapter 1

231

1.1 231.guide

Texified version of data for Taiwan.

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Taiwan

1.2 231.guide/Taiwan

Taiwan

Geography (Taiwan)

People (Taiwan)

Government (Taiwan)

Government (Taiwan 2. usage)

Economy (Taiwan)

Economy (Taiwan 2. usage)

Communications (Taiwan)

Defense Forces (Taiwan)

1.3 231.guide/Geography (Taiwan)

Geography (Taiwan)

=====

Location:

East Asia, off the southeastern coast of China, between Japan and the Philippines

Map references:

Asia, Oceania, Southeast Asia

Area:

total area:

35,980 km²

land area:

32,260 km²

comparative area:

slightly larger than Maryland and Delaware combined

note:

includes the Pescadores, Matsu, and Quemoy

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

1,448 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

involved in complex dispute over the Spratly Islands with China, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, and possibly Brunei; Paracel Islands occupied by China, but claimed by Vietnam and Taiwan; Japanese-administered Senkaku-shoto (Senkaku Islands/Diaoyu Tai) claimed by China and Taiwan

Climate:

tropical; marine; rainy season during southwest monsoon (June to August); cloudiness is persistent and extensive all year

Terrain:

eastern two-thirds mostly rugged mountains; flat to gently rolling plains ←
in
west

Natural resources:

small deposits of coal, natural gas, limestone, marble, and asbestos

Land use:

arable land:

24%

permanent crops:

1%
 meadows and pastures:
 5%
 forest and woodland:
 55%
 other:
 15%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km2
 Environment:
 subject to earthquakes and typhoons

1.4 231.guide/People (Taiwan)

People (Taiwan)

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Population:
 21,091,663 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 1% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 15.88 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 5.54 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -0.38 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 5.7 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 75.04 years
 male:
 71.84 years
 female:
 78.39 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 1.81 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Chinese (singular and plural)
 adjective:
 Chinese
 Ethnic divisions:
 Taiwanese 84%, mainland Chinese 14%, aborigine 2%
 Religions:
 mixture of Buddhist, Confucian, and Taoist 93%, Christian 4.5%, other 2.5%
 Languages:
 Madarin Chinese (official), Taiwanese (Min), Hakka dialects
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1980)
 total population:
 86%

male:
 93%
 female:
 79%
 Labor force:
 7.9 million
 by occupation:
 industry and commerce 53%, services 22%, agriculture 15.6%, civil
 administration 7% (1989)

1.5 231.guide/Government (Taiwan)

Government (Taiwan)

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Names:

conventional long form:

none

conventional short form: Taiwan

local long form:

none

local short form:

T'ai-wan

Digraph:

TW

Type:

multiparty democratic regime; opposition political parties legalized in
 March, 1989

Capital:

Taipei

Administrative divisions:

some of the ruling party in Taipei claim to be the government of all China;
 in keeping with that claim, the central administrative divisions include 2
 provinces (sheng, singular and plural) and 2 municipalities* (shih, ←
 singular, and plural) -

Fu-chien (some 20 offshore islands of Fujian Province

including Quemoy and Matsu), Kao-hsiung*, T'ai-pei*, and Taiwan (the island ←
 , of Taiwan and the

Pescadores islands); the more commonly referenced

administrative divisions are those of Taiwan Province - 16 counties (hsien,
 singular and plural), 5 municipalities* (shih, singular and plural), and 2, ←
 special

municipalities** (chuan-shih, singular and plural); Chang-hua,, Chia-i, ←
 Chia-i*, Chi-lung*,,

Hsin-chu, Hsin-chu*, Hua-lien, I-lan,, Kao-hsiung, Kao-hsiung**, Miao-li, ←
 Nan-t'ou, P'eng-hu,,

P'ing-tung,

T'ai-chung, T'ai-chung*, T'ai-nan, T'ai-nan*, T'ai-pei, T'ai-pei**,, T'ai ←
 -tung, T'ao-yuan, and

Yun-lin; the provincial capital is at

Chung-hsing-hsin-ts'un

note:

Taiwan uses the Wade-Giles system for romanization

Constitution:

25 December 1947, presently undergoing revision

Legal system:

based on civil law system; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations

National holiday:

National Day, 10 October (1911) (Anniversary of the Revolution)

Political parties and leaders:

Kuomintang (KMT, Nationalist Party), LI Teng-hui, chairman; Democratic Progressive Party (DPP); China Social Democratic Party (CSDP); Labor Party (LP)

Other political or pressure groups:

Taiwan independence movement, various environmental groups

note:

debate on Taiwan independence has become acceptable within the mainstream ↔
of

domestic politics on Taiwan; political liberalization and the increased representation of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party in Taiwan's legislature have opened public debate on the island's national identity; advocates of Taiwan independence, both within the DPP and the ruling

Kuomintang, oppose the ruling party's traditional stand that the island ↔
will

eventually unify with mainland China; the aims of the Taiwan independence movement include establishing a sovereign nation on Taiwan and entering the UN; other organizations supporting Taiwan independence include the World United Formosans for Independence and the Organization for Taiwan Nation Building

1.6 231.guide/Government (Taiwan 2. usage)

Government (Taiwan 2. usage)

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Suffrage:

20 years of age; universal

Elections:

President:

last held 21 March 1990 (next to be held NA March 1996); results - ↔
President

LI Teng-hui was reelected by the National Assembly

Vice President:

last held 21 March 1990 (next to be held NA March 1996); results - LI
Yuan-zu was elected by the National Assembly

Legislative Yuan:

last held 19 December 1992 (next to be held near the end of 1995); results ↔
-

KMT 60%, DPP 31%, independents 9%; seats - (304 total, 161 elected) KMT 96,
DPP 50, independents 15

National Assembly:

first National Assembly elected in November 1946 with a supplementary election in December 1986; second and present National Assembly elected in December 1991; seats - 403 total, KMT 318, DPP 75, other 10; (next election to be held in 1997)

Executive branch:

president, vice president, premier of the Executive Yuan, vice premier of the Executive Yuan, Executive Yuan

Legislative branch:

unicameral Legislative Yuan and unicameral National Assembly

Judicial branch:

Judicial Yuan

Leaders:

Chief of State:

President LI Teng-hui (since 13 January 1988); Vice President LI Yuan-zu (since 20 May 1990)

Head of Government:

Premier (President of the Executive Yuan) LIEN Chan (since 23 February 1993); Vice Premier (Vice President of the Executive Yuan) HSU Li-teh (← since 23 February 1993)

Member of:

expelled from UN General Assembly and Security Council on 25 October 1971 and withdrew on same date from other charter-designated subsidiary organs; expelled from IMF/World Bank group April/May 1980; seeking to join GATT; attempting to retain membership in INTELSAT; suspended from IAEA in 1972, but still allows IAEA controls over extensive atomic development, APEC, AsDB, ICC, ICFTU, IOC

Diplomatic representation in US:

none; unofficial commercial and cultural relations with the people of the ← US

are maintained through a private instrumentality, the Coordination Council for North American Affairs (CCNAA) with headquarters in Taipei and field offices in Washington and 10 other US cities

US diplomatic representation:

unofficial commercial and cultural relations with the people of Taiwan are maintained through a private institution, the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), which has offices in Taipei at #7, Lane 134, Hsiu Yi Road, Section ← 3,

telephone [886] (2) 709-2000, and in Kao-hsiung at #2 Chung Cheng 3d Road, telephone [886] (7) 224-0154 through 0157, and the American Trade Center at Room 3207 International Trade Building, Taipei World Trade Center, 333 Keelung Road Section 1, Taipei 10548, telephone [886] (2) 720-1550

Flag:

red with a dark blue rectangle in the upper hoist-side corner bearing a white sun with 12 triangular rays

1.7 231.guide/Economy (Taiwan)

Economy (Taiwan)

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Overview:

Taiwan has a dynamic capitalist economy with considerable government guidance of investment and foreign trade and partial government ownership ← of some large banks and industrial firms. Real growth in GNP has averaged ← about

9% a year during the past three decades. Export growth has been even faster and has provided the impetus for industrialization. Agriculture contributes about 4% to GNP, down from 35% in 1952. Taiwan currently ranks as number 13 among major trading countries. Traditional labor-intensive industries are steadily being replaced with more capital- and technology-intensive industries. Taiwan has become a major investor in China, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Malaysia. The tightening of labor markets has led to an influx of foreign workers, both legal and illegal.

National product:

GNP - purchasing power equivalent - \$209 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

6.7% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$10,000 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

4.4% (1992 est.)

Unemployment rate:

1.6% (1992 est.)

Budget:

revenues \$30.3 billion; expenditures \$30.1 billion, including capital expenditures of \$NA (FY91 est.)

Exports:

\$82.4 billion (f.o.b., 1992 est.)

commodities:

electrical machinery 18.5%, textiles 14.7%, general machinery and equipment 17.7%, footwear 4.5%, foodstuffs 1.1%, plywood and wood products 1.1% (1992 est.)

partners:

US 29.1%, Hong Kong 18.7%, EC countries 17.1% (1992 est.)

Imports:

\$72.1 billion (c.i.f., 1992 est.)

commodities:

machinery and equipment 15.8%, chemicals 10.0%, crude oil 4.2%, foodstuffs 2.1% (1992 est.)

partners:

Japan 30.3%, US 21.9%, EC countries 17.1% (1992 est.)

External debt:

\$620 million (1992 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate 6.5% (1992 est.); accounts for more than 40% of GDP

Electricity:

18,382,000 kW capacity; 98,500 million kWh produced, 4,718 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries: electronics, textiles, chemicals, clothing, food processing, ←
plywood, sugar
milling, cement, shipbuilding, petroleum refining

Agriculture:

accounts for 4% of GNP and 16% of labor force (includes part-time farmers); heavily subsidized sector; major crops - vegetables, rice, fruit, tea; livestock - hogs, poultry, beef, milk; not self-sufficient in wheat, soybeans, corn; fish catch increasing, reached 1.4 million metric tons in 1988

Illicit drugs:

an important heroin transit point; also a major drug money laundering ←
center

1.8 231.guide/Economy (Taiwan 2. usage)

Economy (Taiwan 2. usage)

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Economic aid:

US, including Ex-Im (FY46-82), \$4.6 billion; Western (non-US) countries, ↔
ODA
and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$500 million

Currency:

1 New Taiwan dollar (NT\$) = 100 cents

Exchange rates:

New Taiwan dollars per US\$1 - 25.125 (1992 est.), 25.748 (1991), 27.108
(1990), 26.407 (1989) 28.589 (1988), 31.845 (1987)

Fiscal year:

1 July - 30 June

1.9 231.guide/Communications (Taiwan)

Communications (Taiwan)

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Railroads:

about 4,600 km total track with 1,075 km common carrier lines and 3,525 km
industrial lines; common carrier lines consist of the 1.067-meter gauge 708
km West Line and the 367 km East Line; a 98.25 km South Link Line ↔
connection

was completed in late 1991; common carrier lines owned by the government ↔
and

operated by the Railway Administration under Ministry of Communications;
industrial lines owned and operated by government enterprises

Highways:

20,041 km total; 17,095 km bituminous or concrete pavement, 2,371 km ↔
crushed

stone or gravel, 575 km graded earth

Pipelines:

petroleum products 615 km, natural gas 97 km

Ports:

Kao-hsiung, Chi-lung (Keelung), Hua-lien, Su-ao, T'ai-tung

Merchant marine:

223 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 6,761,609 GRT/9,375,677 DWT; ↔
includes

1 passenger-cargo, 43 cargo, 11 refrigerated cargo, 85 container, 19 oil
tanker, 2 combination ore/oil, 1 specialized tanker, 57 bulk, 1
roll-on/roll-off, 2 combination bulk, 1 chemical tanker

Airports:

total:

40

usable:

38

with permanent-surface runways:

36 with runways over 3,659 m:
 3
 with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
 16
 with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
 7

Telecommunications:

best developed system in Asia outside of Japan; 7,800,000 telephones; extensive microwave radio relay links on east and west coasts; broadcast stations - 91 AM, 23 FM, 15 TV (13 repeaters); 8,620,000 radios; 6,386,000 TVs (5,680,000 color, 706,000 monochrome); satellite earth stations - 1 Pacific Ocean INTELSAT and 1 Indian Ocean INTELSAT; submarine cable links ↔ to Japan (Okinawa), the Philippines, Guam, Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Australia, Middle East, and Western Europe

1.10 231.guide/Defense Forces (Taiwan)

Defense Forces (Taiwan)

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Branches:

General Staff, Ministry of National Defense, Army, Navy (including Marines) ↔
 ,
 Air Force, Coastal Patrol and Defense Command, Armed Forces Reserve Command ↔
 ,
 Military Police Command

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 6,095,857; fit for military service 4,731,172 (1993 est.); about 184,740 currently reach military age (19) annually

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$10.9 billion, 5.4% of GNP (FY93/94 est.)