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	TITLE :		
	47		
ACTION	NAME	DATE	SIGNATURE
WRITTEN BY		August 25, 2022	

REVISION HISTORY						
NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME			

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Chapter 1

47

1.1 47.guide

Texified version of data for Central African Republic.

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

Central African Republic

1.2 47.guide/Central African Republic

Central African Republic

Geography (Central African Republic)
People (Central African Republic)
Government (Central African Republic)
Government (Central African Republic 2. usage)
Economy (Central African Republic)

Economy (Central African Republic 2. usage) Communications (Central African Republic) Defense Forces (Central African Republic)

1.3 47.guide/Geography (Central African Republic)

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Geography (Central African Republic)
_____
     Location:
      Central Africa, between Chad and Zaire
     Map references:
      Africa, Standard Time Zones of the World
     Area:
     total area:
      622,980 km2
     land area:
       622,980 km2
      comparative area:
       slightly smaller than Texas
     Land boundaries:
      total 5,203 km, Cameroon 797 km, Chad 1,197 km, Congo 467 km, Sudan 1,165
      km, Zaire 1,577 km
     Coastline:
       0 km (landlocked)
     Maritime claims:
      none; landlocked
     International disputes:
      none
     Climate:
      tropical; hot, dry winters; mild to hot, wet summers
     Terrain:
      vast, flat to rolling, monotonous plateau; scattered hills in northeast and
       southwest
     Natural resources:
       diamonds, uranium, timber, gold, oil
     Land use:
      arable land:
      3%
     permanent crops:
       0%
     meadows and pastures:
       5%
      forest and woodland:
       64%
      other:
       28%
     Irrigated land:
       NA km2
     Environment:
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hot, dry, dusty harmattan winds affect northern areas; poaching has
diminished reputation as one of last great wildlife refuges; ↔
desertification
Note:
landlocked; almost the precise center of Africa
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1.4 47.guide/People (Central African Republic)

People (Central African Republic)

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______
    Population:
      3,073,979 (July 1993 est.)
    Population growth rate:
      2.23% (1993 est.)
    Birth rate:
      42.77 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
    Death rate:
      20.49 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
    Net migration rate:
       0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
     Infant mortality rate:
      138.7 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
    Life expectancy at birth:
     total population:
      42.94 years
     male:
      41.46 years
     female:
      44.45 years (1993 est.)
    Total fertility rate:
      5.47 children born/woman (1993 est.)
    Nationality:
     noun:
      Central African(s)
     adjective:
      Central African
    Ethnic divisions:
      Baya 34%, Banda 27%, Sara 10%, Mandjia 21%, Mboum 4%, M'Baka 4%, Europeans
       6,500 (including 3,600 French)
    Religions:
      indigenous beliefs 24%, Protestant 25%, Roman Catholic 25%, Muslim 15%,
      other 11%
     note:
      animistic beliefs and practices strongly influence the Christian majority
    Languages:
      French (official), Sangho (lingua franca and national language), Arabic,
      Hunsa, Swahili
    Literacy:
      age 15 and over can read and write (1990)
     total population:
      278
     male:
```

33%

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female:
   15%
Labor force:
   775,413 (1986 est.)
by occupation:
   agriculture 85%, commerce and services 9%, industry 3%, government 3%
   note:
    about 64,000 salaried workers; 55% of population of working age (1985)
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1.5 47.guide/Government (Central African Republic)

Government (Central African Republic)

```
Names:
 conventional long form:
 Central African Republic
 conventional short form:
 none
 local long form:
  Republique Centrafricaine
 local short form:
 none
 former:
  Central African Empire
Abbreviation:
  CAR
Digraph:
  CT
Type:
  republic; one-party presidential regime since 1986
Capital:
  Bangui
Administrative divisions:
  14 prefectures (prefectures, singular - prefecture), 2 economic prefectures \leftrightarrow
           (prefectures
     *,
economiques, singular - prefecture economique), and 1
  commune**; Bamingui-Bangoran, Bangui** Basse-Kotto, Gribingui*, Haute-Kotto ↔
          Haute-Sangha,
     , ,
Haut-Mbomou, Kemo-Gribingui, Lobaye, Mbomou, Nana-Mambere,
  Ombella-Mpoko, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Pende, Sangha*, Vakaga, Independence:
  13 August 1960 (from France)
Constitution:
  21 November 1986
Legal system:
 based on French law
National holiday:
  National Day, 1 December (1958) (proclamation of the republic)
Political parties and leaders:
  Central African Democratic Party (RDC), the government party, Laurent
  GOMINA-PAMPALI; Council of Moderates Coalition includes; Union of the \,\leftrightarrow\,
     People
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```
for Economic and Social Development (UPDS), Katossy SIMANI; Liberal
  Republican Party (PARELI), Augustin M'BOE; Central African Socialist
  Movement (MSCA), Michel BENGUE; Concerted Democratic Forces (CFD), a
  coalition of 13 parties, including; Alliance for Democracy and Progress
  (ADP), Francois PEHOUA; Central African Republican party (PRC), Ruth
  ROLLAND; Social Democratic Party (PSD), Enoch DERANT-LAKOUE; Civic Forum
  (FC), Gen. Timothee MALENDOMA; Liberal Democratic Party (PLD), Nestor
  KOMBOT-NAGUEMON
Suffrage:
  21 years of age; universal
Elections:
 President:
  last held 25 October 1992; widespread irregularities at some polls led to
  dismissal of results by Supreme Court; elections are rescheduled for 17
  October 1993
 National Assembly:
                      last held 25 October 1992; widespread irregularities at \leftrightarrow
     some polls led to
  dismissal of results by Supreme Court; elections are rescheduled for 17
  October 1993
Executive branch:
  president, prime minister, Council of Ministers (cabinet)
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1.6 47.guide/Government (Central African Republic 2. usage)

Government (Central African Republic 2. usage)

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Legislative branch:
  unicameral National Assembly (Assemblee Nationale) advised by the Economic
  and Regional Council (Conseil Economique et Regional); when they sit
  together this is known as the Congress (Congres)
Judicial branch:
  Supreme Court (Cour Supreme)
Leaders:
 Chief of State:
  President Andre-Dieudonne KOLINGBA (since 1 September 1981)
 Head of Government:
  Prime Minister Enoch DERANT-LAKOUE (since 2 March 1993)
Member of:
  ACCT, ACP, AfDB, BDEAC, CCC, CEEAC, ECA, FAO, FZ, G-77, GATT, IBRD, ICAO,
  ICFTU, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, LORCS, NAM,
  OAU, UDEAC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WHO, WIPO, WMO
Diplomatic representation in US:
 chief of mission:
  Ambassador Jean-Pierre SOHAHONG-KOMBET
 chancery:
  1618 22nd Street NW, Washington, DC 20008
 telephone:
  (202) 483-7800 or 7801
US diplomatic representation:
 chief of mission:
  Ambassador Robert E. GRIBBIN
 embassy:
```

```
Avenue David Dacko, Banqui
mailing address:
B. P. 924, Bangui
telephone:
 [236] 61-02-00, 61-25-78, 61-43-33, 61-02-10
 [236] 61-44-94
```

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Flag:
  four equal horizontal bands of blue (top), white, green, and yellow with a
  vertical red band in center; there is a yellow five-pointed star on the
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hoist side of the blue band
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1.7 47.guide/Economy (Central African Republic)

Economy (Central African Republic)

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     Overview:
       Subsistence agriculture, including forestry, is the backbone of the CAR
       economy, with more than 70% of the population living in the countryside. In
       1988 the agricultural sector generated about 40% of GDP. Agricultural
       products accounted for about 60% of export earnings and the diamond \leftrightarrow
          industry
       for 30%. Important constraints to economic development include the CAR's
       landlocked position, a poor transportation system, and a weak human \, \leftrightarrow \,
          resource
       base. Multilateral and bilateral development assistance, particularly from
       France, plays a major role in providing capital for new investment.
     National product:
       GDP - exchange rate conversion - $1.3 billion (1990 est.)
     National product real growth rate:
       -3% (1990 est.)
     National product per capita:
       $440 (1990 est.)
     Inflation rate (consumer prices):
       -3% (1990 est.)
     Unemployment rate:
       30% (1988 est.) in Bangui
     Budget:
       revenues $175 million; expenditures $312 million, including capital
       expenditures of $122 million (1991 est.)
     Exports:
       $138 million (1991 est.)
      commodities:
       diamonds, cotton, coffee, timber, tobacco
      partners:
       France, Belgium, Italy, Japan, US
     Imports:
       $205 million (1991 est.)
      commodities:
       food, textiles, petroleum products, machinery, electrical equipment, motor
       vehicles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, consumer goods, industrial products
      partners:
```

FAX:

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France, other EC countries, Japan, Algeria
External debt:
  $859 million (1991)
Industrial production:
  growth rate 4% (1990 est.); accounts for 14% of GDP
Electricity:
  40,000 kW capacity; 95 million kWh produced, 30 kWh per capita (1991)
Industries:
  diamond mining, sawmills, breweries, textiles, footwear, assembly of
  bicycles and motorcycles
Agriculture:
  accounts for 40% of GDP; self-sufficient in food production except for
  grain; commercial crops - cotton, coffee, tobacco, timber; food crops -
  manioc, yams, millet, corn, bananas
Economic aid:
  US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-90), $52 million; Western (non-US)
  countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-90), $1.6 billion; OPEC
 bilateral aid (1979-89), $6 million; Communist countries (1970-89), $38
  million
Currency:
  1 CFA franc (CFAF) = 100 centimes
Exchange rates:
  Communaute Financiere Africaine francs (CFAF) per US$1 - 274.06 (January
  1993), 264.69 (1992), 282.11 (1991), 272.26 (1990), 319.01 (1989), 297.85
  (1988)
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1.8 47.guide/Economy (Central African Republic 2. usage)

1.9 47.guide/Communications (Central African Republic)

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Communications (Central African Republic)
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Highways:
  22,000 km total; 458 km bituminous, 10,542 km improved earth, 11,000
  unimproved earth
Inland waterways:
  800 km; traditional trade carried on by means of shallow-draft dugouts;
  Oubangui is the most important river
Airports:
  total:
  66
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```
usable:
51
with permanent-surface runways:
3
with runways over 3,659 m:
0
with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
2
with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
20
Telecommunications:
fair system; network relies primarily on radio relay links, with
low-capacity, low-powered radiocommunication also used; broadcast stations ←
-
1 AM, 1 FM, 1 TV; 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth station
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1.10 47.guide/Defense Forces (Central African Republic)

Defense Forces (Central African Republic)

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Branches:
   Central African Army (including Republican Guard), Air Force, National
   Gendarmerie, Police Force
Manpower availability:
   males age 15-49 685,575; fit for military service 358,836 (1993 est.)
Defense expenditures:
   exchange rate conversion - $23 million, 1.8% of GDP (1989 est.)
```