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Chapter 1

74

1.1 74.guide

Texified version of data for Estonia.

Texified using wfact from

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Estonia

1.2 74.guide/Estonia

Estonia

Geography (Estonia)

People (Estonia)

Government (Estonia)

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Economy (Estonia)

Economy (Estonia 2. usage)

Communications (Estonia)

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1.3 74.guide/Geography (Estonia)

Geography (Estonia)

=====

Location:

Northeastern Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea, between Sweden and Russia

Map references:

Arctic Region, Asia, Europe, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

45,100 km²

land area:

43,200 km²

comparative area:

slightly larger than New Hampshire and Vermont combined

note:

includes 1,520 islands in the Baltic Sea

Land boundaries:

total 557 km, Latvia 267 km, Russia 290 km

Coastline:

1,393 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

international small border strips along the northern (Narva) and southern (Petseri) sections of eastern border with Russia ceded to Russia in 1945 by the Estonian SSR

Climate:

maritime, wet, moderate winters

Terrain:

marshy, lowlands

Natural resources: shale oil, peat, phosphorite, amber

Land use:

arable land:

22%

permanent crops:

0%

meadows and pastures:

11%

forest and woodland:

31%

other:

36%

Irrigated land:

110 km² (1990)

Environment:

air heavily polluted with sulphur dioxide from oil-shale burning power plants in northeast; radioactive wastes dumped in open reservoir in Sillamae, a few dozen meters from Baltic Sea; contamination of soil and ground water with petroleum products, chemicals at military bases

1.4 74.guide/People (Estonia)

People (Estonia)

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Population:

1,608,469 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:

0.52% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:

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

Death rate:

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

Net migration rate:

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

Infant mortality rate:

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

Life expectancy at birth:

total population:

69.75 years

male:

64.75 years

female:

74.99 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:

2.01 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality:

noun:

Estonian(s)

adjective:

Estonian

Ethnic divisions:

Estonian 61.5%, Russian 30.3%, Ukrainian 3.17%, Belarusian 1.8%, Finn 1.1%, other 2.13% (1989)

Religions:

Lutheran

Languages: Estonian (official), Latvian, Lithuanian, Russian, other

Literacy:

age 9-49 can read and write (1970)

total population:

100%

male:

100%

female:

100%

Labor force:

796,000
 by occupation:
 industry and construction 42%, agriculture and forestry 20%, other 38%
 (1990)

1.5 74.guide/Government (Estonia)

Government (Estonia)

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Names:

conventional long form:
 Republic of Estonia
 conventional short form:
 Estonia
 local long form:
 Eesti Vabariik
 local short form:
 Eesti
 former:
 Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic

Digraph:

EN

Type:

republic

Capital:

Tallinn

Administrative divisions:

none (all districts are under direct republic jurisdiction)

Independence:

6 September 1991 (from Soviet Union)

Constitution:

adopted 28 June 1992

Legal system:

based on civil law system; no judicial review of legislative acts

National holiday:

Independence Day, 24 February (1918)

Political parties and leaders:

Popular Front of Estonia (Rahvarinne), NA chairman; Estonian Christian
 Democratic Party, Aivar KALA, chairman; Estonian Christian Democratic Union ←

Illar HALLASTE, chairman; Estonian Heritage Society (EMS), Trivimi VELLISTE ←

chairman; Estonian National Independence Party (ENIP), Lagle PAREK,
 chairman; Estonian Social Democratic Party, Marju LAURISTIN, chairman;
 Estonian Green Party, Tonu OJA; Independent Estonian Communist Party, Vaino
 VALJAS; People's Centrist Party, Edgar SAVISAAR, chairman; Estonian ←
 Royalist

Party (ERP), Kalle KULBOK, chairman; Entrepreneurs' Party (EP), Tiit MADE;
 Estonian Fatherland Party, Mart LAAR, chairman; Safe Home; Moderates;
 Estonian Citizen

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Elections:

President:

last held 20 September 1992; (next to be held NA); results - no candidate received majority; newly elected Parliament elected Lennart MERI (NA ← October 1992)

Parliament:

last held 20 September 1992; (next to be held NA); results - Fatherland ← 21%,

Safe Home 14%, Popular Front 13%, Moderates 10%, Estonian National Independence Party 8%, Royalists 7%, Estonian Citizen 7%, Estonian Entrepreneurs 2%, other 18%; seats - (101 total) Fatherland 29, Safe Home 18, Popular Front 15, Moderates 12, ENIP 10, Royalists 8, Estonian Citizen 8, Estonian Entrepreneurs 1

Congress of Estonia:

last held March 1990 (next to be held NA); note - Congress of Estonia was a quasi-governmental structure which disbanded itself October 1992 after the new Parliament and government were installed

Executive branch:

president, prime minister, cabinet

1.6 74.guide/Government (Estonia 2. usage)

Government (Estonia 2. usage)

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Legislative branch:

unicameral Parliament (Riigikogu)

Judicial branch:

Supreme Court

Leaders:

Chief of State:

President Lennart MERI (since NA October 1992)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister Mart LAAR (since NA October 1992)

Member of:

CBSS, CSCE, EBRD, ECE, FAO, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, ILO, IMF, IMO, NACC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UPU

Diplomatic representation in US:

chief of mission:

Ambassador Toomas Hendrik IIVES

chancery:

(temporary) 630 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2415, New York, NY 10111

telephone:

(212) 247-2131

consulate general:

New York

US diplomatic representation:

chief of mission:

Ambassador Robert C. FRASURE

embassy:

Kentmanni 20, Tallin EE 0001

mailing address:

use embassy street address
 telephone:
 011-[358] (49) 303-182 (cellular) FAX:
 [358] (49) 306-817 (cellular)
 note:
 dialing to Baltics still requires use of an international operator unless
 you use the cellular phone lines
 Flag:
 pre-1940 flag restored by Supreme Soviet in May 1990 - three equal
 horizontal bands of blue (top), black, and white

1.7 74.guide/Economy (Estonia)

Economy (Estonia)

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Overview:

As of June 1993 Estonia ranks first among the 15 former Soviet republics in moving from its obsolete command economy to a modern market economy. Yet serious problems remain. In contrast to the estimated 30% drop in output in 1992, GDP should grow by a small percent in 1993. Of key importance has ←
 been
 the introduction of the kroon in August 1993 and the subsequent reductions in inflation to 1%-2% per month. Starting in July 1991, under a new law on private ownership, small enterprises, such as retail shops and restaurants, were sold to private owners. The auctioning of large-scale enterprises is progressing with the proceeds being held in escrow until the prior ←
 ownership
 (that is, Estonian or the Commonwealth of Independent States) can be established. Estonia ranks first in per capita consumption among the former Soviet republics. Agriculture is well developed, especially meat production ←
 ,
 and provides a surplus for export. Only about one-fifth of the work force ←
 is
 in agriculture. The major share of the work force engages in manufacturing both capital and consumer goods based on raw materials and intermediate products from the other former Soviet republics. These manufactures are of high quality by ex-Soviet standards and are exported to the other republics ←
 .
 Estonia's mineral resources are limited to major deposits of shale oil (60% of the old Soviet total) and phosphorites (400 million tons). Estonia has a large, relatively modern port and produces more than half of its own energy needs at highly polluting shale oil power plants. It has advantages in the transition, not having suffered so long under the Soviet yoke and having better chances of developing profitable ties to the Nordic and West ←
 European
 countries. Like Latvia, but unlike Lithuania, the large portion of ethnic Russians (30%) in the population poses still another difficulty in the transition to an independent market economy.
 National product:
 GDP \$NA
 National product real growth rate:
 -30% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$NA

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

1%-2% per month (first quarter 1993)

Unemployment rate:

3% (March 1993); but large number of underemployed workers

Budget:

revenues \$223 million; expenditures \$142 million, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1992)

Exports:

\$NA

commodities: textile 11%, wood products and timber 9%, dairy products 9%

partners:

Russia and the other former Soviet republics 50%, West 50% (1992)

Imports:

\$NA

commodities:

machinery 45%, oil 13%, chemicals 12%

partners:

Finland 15%, Russia 18%

External debt:

\$650 million (end of 1991)

Industrial production:

growth rate -40% (1992)

Electricity:

3,700,000 kW capacity; 22,900 million kWh produced, 14,245 kWh per capita (1992)

1.8 74.guide/Economy (Estonia 2. usage)

Economy (Estonia 2. usage)

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Industries:

accounts for 30% of labor force; oil shale, shipbuilding, phosphates, electric motors, excavators, cement, furniture, clothing, textiles, paper, shoes, apparel

Agriculture:

employs 20% of work force; very efficient; net exports of meat, fish, dairy products, and potatoes; imports of feedgrains for livestock; fruits and vegetables

Illicit drugs:

transshipment point for illicit drugs from Central and Southwest Asia to Western Europe; limited illicit opium producer; mostly for domestic production

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (1992), \$10 million

Currency:

1 Estonian kroon (EEK) = 100 NA; (introduced in August 1992)

Exchange rates:

kroons (EEK) per US\$1 - 12 (January 1993)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

1.9 74.guide/Communications (Estonia)

Communications (Estonia)

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Railroads:

1,030 km (includes NA km electrified); does not include industrial lines (1990)

Highways:

30,300 km total (1990); 29,200 km hard surfaced; 1,100 km earth

Inland waterways:

500 km perennially navigable

Pipelines:

natural gas 420 km (1992)

Ports: coastal - Tallinn, Novotallin, Parnu; inland - Narva

Merchant marine:

68 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 394,501 GRT/526,502 DWT; includes 52 cargo, 6 roll-on/roll-off, 2 short-sea passenger, 6 bulk, 2 container

Airports:

total:

29

useable:

18

with permanent-surface runways:

11

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

10

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

8

Telecommunications:

300,000 telephone subscribers in 1990 with international direct dial ↔ service

available to Finland, Germany, Austria, UK and France; 21 telephone lines per 100 persons as of 1991; broadcast stations - 3 TV (provide Estonian programs as well as Moscow Ostenkino's first and second programs);

international traffic is carried to the other former USSR republics by landline or microwave and to other countries by leased connection to the Moscow international gateway switch via 19 incoming/20 outgoing

international channels, by the Finnish cellular net, and by an old copper submarine cable to Finland soon to be replaced by an undersea fiber optic cable system; there is also a new international telephone exchange in

Tallinn handling 60 channels via Helsinki; 2 analog mobile cellular ↔ networks

with international roaming capability to Scandinavia are operating in major cities

1.10 74.guide/Defense Forces (Estonia)

Defense Forces (Estonia)

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Branches:

Ground Forces, Maritime Border Guard, National Guard (Kaitseliit), Security Forces (internal and border troops)

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 387,733; fit for military service 306,056; reach military age (18) annually 11,570 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

124.4 million kroons, NA% of GDP (forecast for 1993); note - conversion of the military budget into US dollars using the current exchange rate could produce misleading results