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Chapter 1

82

1.1 82.guide

Texified version of data for French Guiana.

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French Guiana

1.2 82.guide/French Guiana

French Guiana

Header (French Guiana)

Geography (French Guiana)

People (French Guiana)

Government (French Guiana)

Government (French Guiana 2. usage)

Economy (French Guiana)

Communications (French Guiana)

Defense Forces (French Guiana)

1.3 82.guide/Header (French Guiana)

Header (French Guiana)

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Affiliation:

(overseas department of France)

1.4 82.guide/Geography (French Guiana)

Geography (French Guiana)

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Location:

northern South America, bordering on the North Atlantic Ocean between
Suriname and Brazil

Map references:

South America, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

91,000 km²

land area:

89,150 km²

comparative area:

slightly smaller than Indiana

Land boundaries:

total 1,183 km, Brazil 673 km, Suriname 510 km

Coastline:

378 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

Suriname claims area between Riviere Litani and Riviere Marouini (both
headwaters of the Lawa)

Climate:

tropical; hot, humid; little seasonal temperature variation

Terrain:

low-lying coastal plains rising to hills and small mountains

Natural resources:
 bauxite, timber, gold (widely scattered), cinnabar, kaolin, fish
 Land use:
 arable land:
 0%
 permanent crops:
 0%
 meadows and pastures:
 0%
 forest and woodland:
 82%
 other:
 18%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km2
 Environment:
 mostly an unsettled wilderness

1.5 82.guide/People (French Guiana)

People (French Guiana)

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Population:
 133,376 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 4.42% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 26.46 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 4.72 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 22.49 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 16.6 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 74.87 years
 male:
 71.59 years
 female:
 78.32 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 3.54 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 French Guianese (singular and plural)
 adjective:
 French Guianese
 Ethnic divisions:
 black or mulatto 66%, Caucasian 12%, East Indian, Chinese, Amerindian 12%,
 other 10%
 Religions:

Roman Catholic
 Languages:
 French
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1982)
 total population:
 82%
 male:
 81%
 female:
 83%
 Labor force:
 23,265
 by occupation:
 services, government, and commerce 60.6%, industry 21.2%, agriculture 18.2%
 (1980)

1.6 82.guide/Government (French Guiana)

Government (French Guiana)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Department of Guiana
 conventional short form:
 French Guiana
 local long form:
 none
 local short form:
 Guyane
 Digraph:
 FG
 Type:
 overseas department of France
 Capital:
 Cayenne
 Administrative divisions:
 none (overseas department of France)
 Independence:
 none (overseas department of France)
 Constitution:
 28 September 1958 (French Constitution)
 Legal system:
 French legal system
 National holiday:
 National Day, Taking of the Bastille, 14 July (1789)
 Political parties and leaders:
 Guianese Socialist Party (PSG), Gerard HOLDER; Rally for the Republic (RPR) ↔
 ,
 Paulin BRUNE; Union of the Center Rally (URC); Union for French Democracy
 (UDF), Claude Ho A CHUCK; Guyana Democratic Front (FDG), Georges OTHILY
 Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Elections:

French National Assembly:
last held 24 September 1989 (next to be held March 1993); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (2 total) PSG 1, RPR 1

French Senate:
last held 24 September 1989 (next to be held September 1998); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (1 total) PSG 1

Regional Council:
last held 22 March 1992 (next to be held NA); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (31 total) PSG 16

Executive branch:
French president, commissioner of the republic

Legislative branch:
unicameral General Council and a unicameral Regional Council

Judicial branch:
Court of Appeals (highest local court based in Martinique with jurisdiction over Martinique, Guadeloupe, and French Guiana)

Leaders:

Chief of State:
President Francois MITTERRAND (since 21 May 1981)

Head of Government: Prefect Jean-Francois CORDET (since NA 1992)

Member of:
FZ, WCL

Diplomatic representation in US:
as an overseas department of France, the interests of French Guiana are represented in the US by France

1.7 82.guide/Government (French Guiana 2. usage)

Government (French Guiana 2. usage)

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US diplomatic representation:
none (overseas department of France)

Flag:
the flag of France is used

1.8 82.guide/Economy (French Guiana)

Economy (French Guiana)

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Overview:
The economy is tied closely to that of France through subsidies and imports ↔
.
Besides the French space center at Kourou, fishing and forestry are the ↔
most

important economic activities, with exports of fish and fish products (mostly shrimp) accounting for more than 60% of total revenue in 1987. The large reserves of tropical hardwoods, not fully exploited, support an expanding sawmill industry that provides sawn logs for export. Cultivation of crops - rice, cassava, bananas, and sugarcane - is limited to the coastal area, where the population is largely concentrated. French Guiana is heavily dependent on imports of food and energy. Unemployment is a serious problem, particularly among younger workers.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$421 million (1986)

National product real growth rate:

NA%

National product per capita:

\$4,390 (1986)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

4.1% (1987)

Unemployment rate:

13% (1990)

Budget:

revenues \$735 million; expenditures \$735 million, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1987)

Exports:

\$64.8 million (f.o.b., 1990)

commodities:

shrimp, timber, rum, rosewood essence

partners:

France 36%, US 14%, Japan 6% (1990)

Imports:

\$435 million (c.i.f., 1990)

commodities:

food (grains, processed meat), other consumer goods, producer goods, petroleum

partners: France 62%, Trinidad and Tobago 9%, US 4%, FRG 3% (1987)

External debt:

\$1.2 billion (1988)

Industrial production:

growth rate NA%

Electricity:

92,000 kW capacity; 185 million kWh produced, 1,450 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

construction, shrimp processing, forestry products, rum, gold mining

Agriculture:

some vegetables for local consumption; rice, corn, manioc, cocoa, bananas, sugar; livestock - cattle, pigs, poultry

Economic aid:

Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$1.51 billion

Currency:

1 French franc (F) = 100 centimes

Exchange rates:

French francs (F) per US\$1 - 5.4812 (January 1993), 5.2938 (1992), 5.6421 (1991), 5.4453 (1990), 6.3801 (1989), 5.9569 (1988)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

1.9 82.guide/Communications (French Guiana)

Communications (French Guiana)

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Highways:

680 km total; 510 km paved, 170 km improved and unimproved earth

Inland waterways:

460 km, navigable by small oceangoing vessels and river and coastal steamers; 3,300 km navigable by native craft

Ports:

Cayenne

Airports:

total:

10

usable:

10

with permanent-surface runways:

4

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

1

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

1

Telecommunications:

fair open-wire and microwave radio relay system; 18,100 telephones; broadcast stations - 5 AM, 7 FM, 9 TV; 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.10 82.guide/Defense Forces (French Guiana)

Defense Forces (French Guiana)

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Branches:

French Forces, Gendarmerie

Manpower availability:

males 15-49 39,005; fit for military service 25,477 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

\$NA, NA% of GDP

Note:

defense is the responsibility of France