

Geography

Area: 48,442 sq. km. (18,704 sq. mi.), about the size of Vermont and New Hampshire combined.

Cities: Capital--Santo Domingo (pop. 2.25 million). Other city--Santiago de los Caballeros (908,230).

Terrain: Mountainous.

Climate: Maritime tropical.

People

Nationality: Noun and adjective--Dominican(s).

Population (2007): 9.365 million.

Annual growth rate (2007): 1.5%.

Ethnic groups: Mixed 73%, European 16%, African origin 11%.

Religion: Roman Catholic 95%.

Language: Spanish.

Education: Years compulsory--6 Attendance--70%. Literacy--84.7%.

Health: Infant mortality rate: 28.3/1,000. Life expectancy--70.2 years for men, 73.3 years for women.

Work force: 60.2% services (tourism, transportation, communications, finances, others), 15.5% industry (manufacturing), 11.5% construction, 11.3% agriculture, 1.5% mining.

Government

Type: Representative democracy.

Independence: February 27, 1844. Restoration of independence, August 16, 1863.

Constitution: November 28, 1966; amended July 25, 2002.

Branches: Executive--president (chief of state and head of government), vice president, cabinet. Legislative--bicameral Congress (Senate and House of Representatives).

Judicial--Supreme Court of Justice.

Subdivisions: 31 provinces and the National District of Santo Domingo.

Political parties: Dominican Liberation Party (PLD), Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), Social Christian Reformist Party (PRSC), and several others.

Suffrage: Universal and compulsory, over 18 or married.

Economy (2007)

GDP: \$36.4 billion.

Growth rate: 8%.

Per capita GDP: \$4,147.

Non-fuel minerals (1.4% of GDP): Nickel, gold, silver.

Agriculture (6.5% of GDP): Products--sugarcane, coffee, cocoa, bananas, tobacco, rice, plantains, beef.

Industry (27.4% of GDP): Types--sugar refining, pharmaceuticals, cement, light manufacturing, construction.

Services, including tourism and transportation: 58.6% of GDP.

Trade: Exports--\$6.484 billion (FOB), including processing zones: textiles, sugar, coffee, ferronickel, cacao, tobacco, meats and medical supplies. Markets--U.S. (75%), Canada, Western Europe, South Korea. Imports--\$8.797 billion: food stuffs, petroleum, industrial raw materials, capital goods. Suppliers--U.S. (48%), Japan, Germany, Venezuela, Mexico, Colombia.