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CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN :: EL SALVADOR

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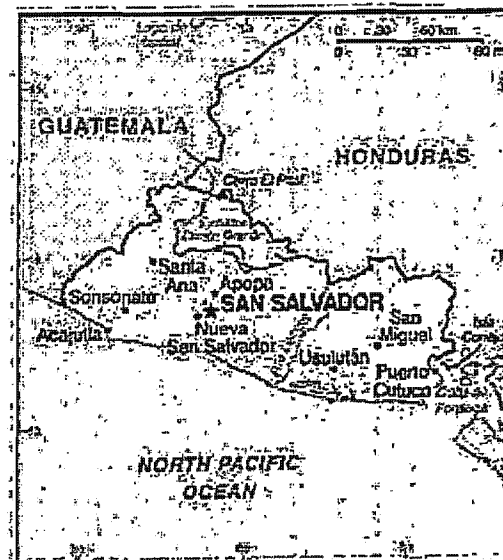
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VIEW 1 PHOTO OF EL SALVADOR



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Introduction :: EL SALVADOR

Background:

El Salvador achieved independence from Spain in 1821 and from the Central American Federation in 1839. A 12-year civil war, which cost about 75,000 lives, was brought to a close in 1992 when the government and leftist rebels signed a treaty that provided for military and political reforms.

Geography :: EL SALVADOR

Location:

Central America, bordering the North Pacific Ocean, between Guatemala and Honduras

Geographic coordinates:

13 50 N, 88 55 W

Map references:

Central America and the Caribbean

Area:

total: 21,041 sq km

country comparison to the world: 153

land: 20,721 sq km

water: 320 sq km

Area - comparative:

slightly smaller than Massachusetts

Land boundaries:

total: 545 km

border countries: Guatemala 203 km, Honduras 342 km

Coastline:

307 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea: 12 nm

contiguous zone: 24 nm

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

Climate:

tropical; rainy season (May to October); dry season (November to April); tropical on coast; temperate in uplands

Terrain:

mostly mountains with narrow coastal belt and central plateau

Elevation extremes:

lowest point: Pacific Ocean 0 m

highest point: Cerro El Pital 2,730 m

Natural resources:

hydropower, geothermal power, petroleum, arable land

Land use:

arable land: 31.37%

permanent crops: 11.88%

other: 56.75% (2005)

Irrigated land:

450 sq km (2003)

Total renewable water resources:

25.2 cu km (2001)

Freshwater withdrawal (domestic/industrial/agricultural):

total: 1.28 cu km/yr (25%/16%/59%)

per capita: 186 cu m/yr (2000)

Natural hazards:

known as the Land of Volcanoes; frequent and sometimes destructive earthquakes and volcanic activity; extremely susceptible to hurricanes

volcanism: significant volcanic activity; San Salvador (elev. 1,893 m), which last erupted in 1917, has the potential to cause major harm to the country's capital, which lies just below the volcano's slopes; San Miguel (elev. 2,130 m), which last erupted in 2002, is one of the most active volcanoes in the country; other historically active volcanoes include Conchaguita, Ilopango, Izalco, and Santa Ana

Environment - current issues:

deforestation; soil erosion; water pollution; contamination of soils from disposal of toxic wastes

Environment - international agreements:

party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Ozone Layer Protection, Wetlands

signed, but not ratified: Law of the Sea

Geography - note:

smallest Central American country and only one without a coastline on Caribbean Sea

People and Society :: EL SALVADOR

Nationality:

noun: Salvadoran(s)

adjective: Salvadoran

Ethnic groups:

mestizo 90%, white 9%, Amerindian 1%

Languages:

Spanish (official), Nahuatl (among some Amerindians)

Religions:

Roman Catholic 57.1%, Protestant 21.2%, Jehovah's Witnesses 1.9%, Mormon 0.7%, other religions 2.3%, none 16.8% (2003 est.)

Population:

6,090,646 (July 2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 106

Age structure:

0-14 years: 29.7% (male 929,135/ female 882,159)

15-64 years: 63.7% (male 1,829,483/ female 2,049,977)
65 years and over: 6.6% (male 178,004/ female 221,888) (2012 est.)

Median age:

total: 24.7 years
male: 23.4 years
female: 26.2 years (2012 est.)

Population growth rate:

0.303% (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 166

Birth rate:

17.44 births/1,000 population (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 112

Death rate:

5.63 deaths/1,000 population (July 2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 173

Net migration rate:

-8.78 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 206

Urbanization:

urban population: 64% of total population (2010)
rate of urbanization: 1.4% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)

Major cities - population:

SAN SALVADOR (capital) 1.534 million (2009)

Sex ratio:

at birth: 1.05 male(s)/female
under 15 years: 1.05 male(s)/female
15-64 years: 0.89 male(s)/female
65 years and over: 0.8 male(s)/female
total population: 0.93 male(s)/female (2011 est.)

Maternal mortality rate:

81 deaths/100,000 live births (2010)
country comparison to the world: 81

Infant mortality rate:

total: 19.66 deaths/1,000 live births
country comparison to the world: 97
male: 21.73 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 17.5 deaths/1,000 live births (2012 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 73.69 years
country comparison to the world: 116
male: 70.41 years
female: 77.12 years (2012 est.)

Total fertility rate:

2.04 children born/woman (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 127

Health expenditures:

3.9% of GDP (2009)
country comparison to the world: 164

Physicians density:

1.596 physicians/1,000 population (2008)

Hospital bed density:

1.1 beds/1,000 population (2009)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:

0.8% (2009 est.)
country comparison to the world: 54

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:

34,000 (2009 est.)
country comparison to the world: 67

HIV/AIDS - deaths:

1,400 (2009 est.)
country comparison to the world: 61

Major infectious diseases:

degree of risk: high
food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever
vectorborne diseases: dengue fever
water contact disease: leptospirosis (2009)

Children under the age of 5 years underweight:

6.1% (2003)
country comparison to the world: 77

Education expenditures:

3.6% of GDP (2008)
country comparison to the world: 115

Literacy:

definition: age 15 and over can read and write

total population: 81.1%

male: 82.8%

female: 79.6% (2007 census)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):

total: 12 years

male: 12 years

female: 12 years (2008)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:

total: 11.4%

country comparison to the world: 94

male: 13%

female: 8.3% (2007)

Government :: EL SALVADOR

Country name:

conventional long form: Republic of El Salvador

conventional short form: El Salvador

local long form: Republica de El Salvador

local short form: El Salvador

Government type:

republic

Capital:

name: San Salvador

geographic coordinates: 13 42 N, 89 12 W

time difference: UTC-6 (1 hour behind Washington, DC during Standard Time)

daylight saving time: all year for 2012

Administrative divisions:

14 departments (departamentos, singular - departamento); Ahuachapan, Cabanas, Chalatenango, Cuscatlan, La Libertad, La Paz, La Union, Morazan, San Miguel, San Salvador, San Vicente, Santa Ana, Sonsonate, Usulután

Independence:

15 September 1821 (from Spain)

National holiday:

Independence Day, 15 September (1821)

Constitution:

20 December 1983

Legal system:

civil law system with minor common law influence; judicial review of legislative acts in the Supreme Court

International law organization participation:

has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; non-party state to the ICCt

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch:

chief of state: President Carlos Mauricio FUNES Cartagena (since 1 June 2009); Vice President Salvador SANCHEZ CEREN (since 1 June 2009); note - the president is both the chief of state and head of government

head of government: President Carlos Mauricio FUNES Cartagena (since 1 June 2009); Vice President Salvador SANCHEZ CEREN (since 1 June 2009)

cabinet: Council of Ministers selected by the president

(For more information visit the World Leaders website [link](#))

elections: president and vice president elected on the same ticket by popular vote for a single five-year term; election last held on 15 March 2009 (next to be held in March 2014)

election results: Mauricio FUNES Cartagena elected president; percent of vote - Mauricio FUNES Cartagena 51.3%, Rodrigo AVILA 48.7%

Legislative branch:

unicameral Legislative Assembly or Asamblea Legislativa (84 seats; members elected by direct, popular vote to serve three-year terms)

elections: last held on 11 March 2012 (next to be held in 2015)

election results: percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - ARENA 33, FMLN 31, GANA 11, CN 7, PES 1, PCD 1

Judicial branch:

Supreme Court or Corte Suprema (15 judges are selected by the Legislative Assembly; the 15 judges are assigned to four Supreme Court chambers - constitutional, civil, penal, and administrative conflict)

Political parties and leaders:

Democratic Change (Cambio Democratico) or PCD; Democratic Convergence or CD [Oscar KATTAN] (formerly United Democratic Center or CDU); Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front or FMLN [Medardo GONZALEZ]; Great Alliance for National Unity or GANA [Andres ROVIRA]; National Conciliation or CN [Ciro CRUZ ZEPEDA] (formerly the National Conciliation Party or PCN); Nationalist Republican Alliance or ARENA [Alfredo CRISTIANI]; Party of Hope or PES [Rodolfo PARKER] (formerly the Christian Democratic Party or PDC)

Political pressure groups and leaders:

labor organizations - Electrical Industry Union of El Salvador or SIES; Federation of the Construction Industry, Similar Transport and other activities, or FESINCONTRANS; National Confederation of Salvadoran Workers or CNTS; National Union of Salvadoran Workers or UNTS;

Port Industry Union of El Salvador or SIPES; Salvadoran Union of Ex-Petrolleros and Peasant Workers or USEPOC; Salvadoran Workers Central or CTS; Workers Union of Electrical Corporation or STCEL; business organizations - National Association of Small Enterprise or ANEP; Salvadoran Assembly Industry Association or ASIC; Salvadoran Industrial Association or ASI

International organization participation:

BCIE, CACM, CD, CELAC, FAO, G-11, G-77, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (with national committees), ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO (correspondent), ITSO, ITU, ITUC, LAES, LAIA (observer), MIGA, MINURSO, NAM (observer), OAS, OPANAL, OPCW, PCA, SICA, UN, UNGTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNIFIL, Union Latina, UNMIL, UNMISS, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US:

chief of mission: Ambassador Francisco Robert ALTSCHUL Fuentes

chancery: Suite 100, 1400 16th Street, Washington, DC 20036

telephone: [1] (202) 265-9671

FAX: [1] (202) 234-3763

consulate(s) general: Brentwood (New York), Boston, Chicago, Coral Gables (Florida), Dallas, Duluth (Georgia), Elizabeth (New Jersey), Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Nogales (Arizona), Santa Ana (California), San Francisco, Woodbridge (Virginia)

consulate(s): Boston, Elizabeth (New Jersey)

Diplomatic representation from the US:

chief of mission: Ambassador Sean MURPHY

embassy: Final Boulevard Santa Elena Sur, Antiguo Cuscatlan, La Libertad, San Salvador

mailing address: Unit 3450, APO AA 34023; 3450 San Salvador Place, Washington, DC 20521-3450

telephone: [503] 2501-2999

FAX: [503] 2501-2150

Flag description:

three equal horizontal bands of blue (top), white, and blue with the national coat of arms centered in the white band; the coat of arms features a round emblem encircled by the words REPUBLICA DE EL SALVADOR EN LA AMERICA CENTRAL; the banner is based on the former blue-white-blue flag of the Federal Republic of Central America; the blue bands symbolize the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, while the white band represents the land between the two bodies of water, as well as peace and prosperity

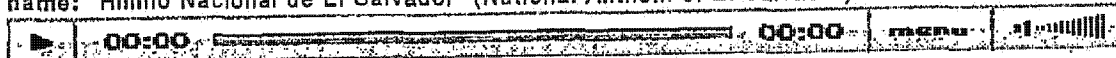
note: similar to the flag of Nicaragua, which has a different coat of arms centered in the white band - it features a triangle encircled by the words REPUBLICA DE NICARAGUA on top and AMERICA CENTRAL on the bottom; also similar to the flag of Honduras, which has five blue stars arranged in an X pattern centered in the white band

National symbol(s):

turquoise-browed motmot (bird)

National anthem:

name: "Himno Nacional de El Salvador" (National Anthem of El Salvador)



lyrics/music: Juan Jose CANAS/Juan ABERLE

note: officially adopted 1953, in use since 1879; the anthem of El Salvador is one of the world's longest

Economy :: EL SALVADOR

Economy - overview:

The smallest country in Central America geographically, El Salvador has the third largest economy in the region. With the global recession in 2009, real GDP contracted by 3.1%. The economy began a slow recovery in 2010 on the back of improved export and remittances figures. Remittances accounted for 17% of GDP in 2011 and were received by about a third of all households. In 2006, El Salvador was the first country to ratify the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR), which has bolstered the export of processed foods, sugar, and ethanol, and supported investment in the apparel sector amid increased Asian competition. El Salvador has promoted an open trade and investment environment and has embarked on a wave of privatizations extending to telecom, electricity distribution, banking, and pension funds. The Salvadoran Government maintained fiscal discipline during post-war reconstruction and reconstruction following earthquakes in 2001 and hurricanes in 1998 and 2005. Taxes levied by the government include a value added tax (VAT) of 13%, income tax of 30%, excise taxes on alcohol and cigarettes, and import duties. The VAT accounted for about 51.7% of total tax revenues in 2011. Calculated according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) standards, El Salvador's public external debt in December 2011 was about \$12.95 billion or 57.3% of GDP. El Salvador's total public debt includes non-financial public sector debt, financial public sector debt, and central bank debt. In 2006, El Salvador and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) - a United States Government agency - signed a five-year, \$461 million compact to stimulate economic growth and reduce poverty in the country's northern region, the primary conflict zone during the civil war, through investments in education, public services, enterprise development, and transportation infrastructure. In December 2011, the MCC approved El Salvador's eligibility to develop a proposal for a second compact for consideration.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$44.58 billion (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 96

\$43.96 billion (2010 est.)

\$43.34 billion (2009 est.)

note: data are in 2011 US dollars

GDP (official exchange rate):

\$22.4 billion (2011 est.).

GDP - real growth rate:

1.4% (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 173

1.4% (2010 est.)

-3.1% (2009 est.)

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$7,500 (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 130

\$7,500 (2010 est.)

\$7,400 (2009 est.)

country comparison to the world: 130

Public debt:

57.5% of GDP (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 48

53.8% of GDP (2010 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

5.1% (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 135

1.2% (2010 est.)

Commercial bank prime lending rate:

5.99% (31 December 2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 125

7.62% (31 December 2010 est.)

Stock of narrow money:

\$2.561 billion (31 December 2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 117

\$2.527 billion (31 December 2010 est.)

Stock of broad money:

\$9.213 billion (31 December 2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 109

\$9.388 billion (31 December 2010 est.)

Stock of domestic credit:

\$10.69 billion (31 December 2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 96

\$10.04 billion (31 December 2010 est.)

Market value of publicly traded shares:

\$5.474 billion (31 December 2011)

country comparison to the world: 84

\$4.227 billion (31 December 2010)

\$4.432 billion (31 December 2009)

Agriculture - products:

coffee, sugar, corn, rice, beans, oilseed, cotton, sorghum; beef, dairy products

Industries:

food processing, beverages, petroleum, chemicals, fertilizer, textiles, furniture, light metals

Industrial production growth rate:

1.8% (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 126

Current account balance:

-\$1.223 billion (2011 est.)
country comparison to the world: 132
-\$657.9 million (2010 est.)

Exports:

\$6.402 billion (2011 est.)
country comparison to the world: 113
\$4.677 billion (2010 est.)

Exports - commodities:

offshore assembly exports, coffee, sugar, textiles and apparel, gold, ethanol, chemicals, electricity, iron and steel manufactures

Exports - partners:

US 45.1%, Guatemala 13.3%, Honduras 8.6%, Nicaragua 5.2%, Germany 4.1% (2011)

Imports:

\$9.801 billion (2011 est.)
country comparison to the world: 96
\$8.189 billion (2010 est.)

Imports - commodities:

raw materials, consumer goods, capital goods, fuels, foodstuffs, petroleum, electricity

Imports - partners:

US 39%, Guatemala 9.8%, Mexico 7.7%, China 5.2% (2011)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

\$2.504 billion (2011 est.)
country comparison to the world: 112
\$2.883 billion (2010 est.)

Debt - external:

\$12.18 billion (31 December 2011 est.)
country comparison to the world: 88
\$11.07 billion (31 December 2010 est.)

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:

\$8.097 billion (31 December 2011 est.)
country comparison to the world: 84
\$7.76 billion (31 December 2010 est.)

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:

\$12.4 million (31 December 2011 est.)
country comparison to the world: 90
\$7 million (31 December 2010 est.)

Exchange rates:

note: the US dollar is used as a medium of exchange and circulates freely in the economy

Fiscal year:

calendar year

Energy :: EL SALVADOR**Electricity - production:**

5.728 billion kWh (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 113

Electricity - consumption:

5.756 billion kWh (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 109

Electricity - exports:

101.6 million kWh (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 75

Electricity - imports:

215.8 million kWh (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 85

Electricity - installed generating capacity:

1.501 million kW (2009 est.)

country comparison to the world: 114

Electricity - from fossil fuels:

53% of total installed capacity (2009 est.)

country comparison to the world: 150

Electricity - from nuclear fuels:

0% of total installed capacity (2009 est.)

country comparison to the world: 86

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:

31.4% of total installed capacity (2009 est.)

country comparison to the world: 71

Electricity - from other renewable sources:

15.6% of total installed capacity (2009 est.)

country comparison to the world: 11

Crude oil - production:

0 bbl/day (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 131

Crude oil - exports:

0 bbl/day (2009 est.)

country comparison to the world: 108

Crude oil - imports:

13,160 bbl/day (2009 est.)

country comparison to the world: 74

Crude oil - proved reserves:

0 bbl (1 January 2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 130

Refined petroleum products - production:

16,750 bbl/day (2008 est.)

country comparison to the world: 98

Refined petroleum products - consumption:

44,040 bbl/day (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 105

Refined petroleum products - exports:

2,158 bbl/day (2008 est.)

country comparison to the world: 104

Refined petroleum products - imports:

26,860 bbl/day (2008 est.)

country comparison to the world: 91

Natural gas - production:

0 cu m (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 126

Natural gas - consumption:

0 cu m (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 141

Natural gas - exports:

0 cu m (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 193

Natural gas - imports:

0 cu m (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 192

Natural gas - proved reserves:

0 cu m (1 January 2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 135

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:

6.484 million Mt (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 117

Communications :: EL SALVADOR

Telephones - main lines in use:

950,000 (2011)

country comparison to the world: 81

Telephones - mobile cellular:

7.837 million (2011)

country comparison to the world: 89

Telephone system:

general assessment: multiple mobile-cellular providers are expanding services rapidly and in 2011 teledensity exceeded 125 per 100 persons; growth in fixed-line services has slowed in the face of mobile-cellular competition

domestic: nationwide microwave radio relay system

international: country code - 503; satellite earth station - 1 Intelsat (Atlantic Ocean); connected to Central American Microwave System (2011)

Broadcast media:

multiple privately-owned national terrestrial TV networks, supplemented by cable TV networks that carry international channels; hundreds of commercial radio broadcast stations and 1 government-owned radio broadcast station (2007)

Internet country code:

.sv

Internet hosts:

24,070 (2012)

country comparison to the world: 113

Internet users:

746,000 (2009)

country comparison to the world: 107

Transportation :: EL SALVADOR

Airports:

65 (2012)

country comparison to the world: 77

Airports - with paved runways:

total: 5

over 3,047 m: 1

1,524 to 2,437 m: 1

914 to 1,523 m: 2

under 914 m: 1 (2012)

Airports - with unpaved runways:

total: 60

1,524 to 2,437 m: 1

914 to 1,523 m: 11

under 914 m: 48 (2012)

Heliports:

2 (2012)

Railways:

total: 283 km

country comparison to the world: 121

narrow gauge: 283 km 0.600-m gauge

note: railways have been inoperable since 2005 because of disuse and high costs that led to a lack of maintenance (2008)

Roadways:

total: 10,886 km

country comparison to the world: 134

paved: 2,827 km (includes 327 km of expressways)

unpaved: 8,059 km (2000)

Waterways:

(Rio Lempa is partially navigable for small craft) (2011)

Ports and terminals:

Puerto Cutuco

oil terminals: Acajutla offshore terminal

Military :: EL SALVADOR

Military branches:

Salvadoran Armed Forces (FAES): Salvadoran Army (ES), Salvadoran Navy (FNES), Salvadoran Air Force (Fuerza Aerea Salvadorena, FAS) (2011)

Military service age and obligation:

18 years of age for selective compulsory military service; 16-22 years of age for voluntary male or female service; service obligation - 12 months, with 11 months for officers and NCOs (2009)

Manpower available for military service:

males age 16-49: 1,449,214
females age 16-49: 1,611,248 (2010 est.)

Manpower fit for military service:

males age 16-49: 1,079,038
females age 16-49: 1,373,368 (2010 est.)

Manpower reaching militarily significant age annually:

male: 71,530
female: 68,971 (2010 est.)

Military expenditures:

0.6% of GDP (2009)
country comparison to the world: 157

Transnational Issues :: EL SALVADOR

Disputes - International:

International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled on the delimitation of "bolsones" (disputed areas) along the El Salvador-Honduras boundary, in 1992, with final agreement by the parties in 2006 after an Organization of American States survey and a further ICJ ruling in 2003; the 1992 ICJ ruling advised a tripartite resolution to a maritime boundary in the Gulf of Fonseca advocating Honduran access to the Pacific; El Salvador continues to claim tiny Conejo Island, not identified in the ICJ decision, off Honduras in the Gulf of Fonseca

Illicit drugs:

transshipment point for cocaine; small amounts of marijuana produced for local consumption; significant use of cocaine

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