

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Capital: Santo Domingo

GEODATA

Area

48,734 km²

Population

8.5 million (2000 est.)

Major language

Spanish (official)

Population growth rate

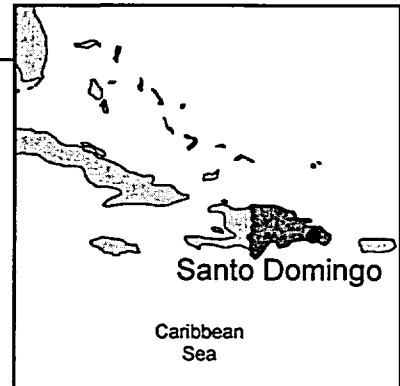
1.64% (2000 est.)

Major religious group

Roman Catholic (95%)

Surrounding countries

Haiti, Puerto Rico (U.S.)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

Minister of Industry and Commerce

Ángel Lockward Mella

National legislature

Upper chamber: Senate

Lower chamber: Chamber of Deputies; multiparty

UN Human Development Index (2000)

Dominican Republic ranks 87th among 174 countries

Leader

President Hipólito Mejía Domínguez

Canadian official development assistance

3.14 million (1998-1999)

Minister of Foreign Relations

Hugo Tolentino Dipp

ECONOMIC DATA

Real GDP

\$19.4 billion US (2000 est.)

Inflation rate

7.9% (2000 est.)

GDP growth rate

8% (2000 est.)

Unemployment rate

13.8% (1999)

GDP per capita

\$1,196 US (1999)

Main exports

Ferronickel, sugar, gold, silver, coffee, cocoa, tobacco, meat products

Main imports

Food products, oil, cotton and cotton fabric, chemicals, pharmaceuticals

Main exports to Canada

\$95.6 million (2000), including electrical machinery; woven apparel; textile articles; knit apparel; fruit and nuts; headgear; precious stones and metals; optical and medical instruments; vegetables; footwear

Main imports from Canada

\$81.6 million (2000), including paper and paperboard; fish and seafood; cereals; machinery; electrical machinery; vegetables; vehicles; fertilizers; copper and articles thereof

Canadian Representative

Bruno Picard, Ambassador, The Canadian Embassy

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