

## General Economic Information

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### Basic Indicators

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|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Population (1987)                       | 30.6 million               |
| Area                                    | 1 1451 748 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Avg. annual growth of population 1987   | 1.7%                       |
| Gross domestic product (GDP) 1987       | \$35 783 million           |
| Per capita gross domestic product 1987  | U.S.\$1 181                |
| Avg. annual rate of inflation (1980-87) | 2.3%                       |
| Adult literacy rate                     | 88%                        |
| Life expectancy                         | 67 years                   |
| Int'l reserves (December 1987)          | \$3 392 million            |
| External debt (June 1987)               | \$15 031 million           |

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### Language

Spanish is the spoken and commercial language of Colombia. Many business people speak or understand English and, to a lesser degree, French.

### Religion

Ninety-six per cent of the population is Roman Catholic. Synagogues and Protestant churches are found in major cities.

### Climate

In Colombia, climatic conditions vary from tropical on the coasts and in the jungle areas to temperate in the mountains. Although the country is close to the equator, altitude has a marked effect on temperatures, which are cool in Bogotá at 2 600 m, and become progressively higher in Medellín at 1 600 m, Cali at 1 000 m and Barranquilla at sea level.

### Health Precautions

Visitors should take precautions against the risk of stomach upsets due to changes in diet and water. Gastrointestinal infections in tropical zones are also relatively common.

Some discomfort such as insomnia, shortness of breath and dizziness may be experienced during the first few days of a visit to high altitude areas, particularly Bogotá, which also has a growing air pollution problem. Persons with medical