

BELIZE

Capital: Belmopan

GEODATA

Area
22,963 km²

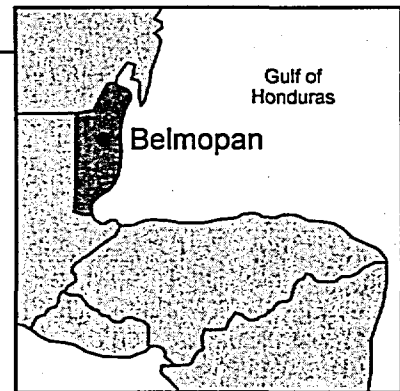
Population
249,183 (July 2000 est.)

Major language
English (official)

Population growth rate
2.3% (1990-1999)

Major religious groups
Roman Catholic (62%),
Protestant (30%)

Surrounding countries
Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government
Constitutional monarchy

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Said Musa

National legislature
Upper chamber: Senate
Lower chamber: House of Representatives;
multiparty

Minister of Development, Investment and Trade
Ralph Fonseca

Leaders
Governor General Colville Norbert Young
Prime Minister Said Musa

UN Human Development Index (2000)
Belize ranks 58th among 174 countries

Canadian official development assistance
\$1.6 million (1998-1999)

ECONOMIC DATA

Real GDP
\$745.5 million US (2000 est.)

Inflation rate
2% (2000 est.)

GDP growth rate
4% (2000 est.)

Unemployment rate
14.4% (1998)

GDP per capita
\$2,412 US (1999)

Main exports
Sugar and molasses, bananas, citrus fruits, clothing, fish products, wood

Main imports
Machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods, food, fuels, chemicals, pharmaceuticals

Main exports to Canada
\$9.9 million (2000), including sugars; preserved food; fruit and nuts; perfumery and cosmetics; woven apparel; photographic and cinematographic equipment; manufactured goods; fish and seafood; electrical machinery; wood

Main imports from Canada
\$2.6 million (2000), including dairy products; eggs; honey; electrical machinery; pharmaceutical products; machinery; iron and steel products; base metal products; paper and paperboard; optical and medical instruments

Canadian Representative
John Robinson, High Commissioner, The Canadian High Commission to Belize
c/o The Canadian High Commission to Jamaica, 3, West Kings House Road, Kingston 10, Jamaica
Phone: (876) 926-1500, Fax: (876) 511-3495, Web site: www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/latinamerica/belize-e.asp/

March 2001