

# VENEZUELA

Capital: Caracas

## GEODATA

**Area**  
912,050 km<sup>2</sup>

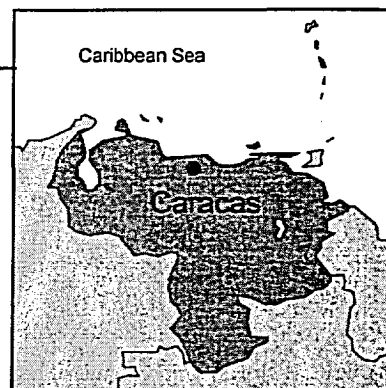
**Major language**  
Spanish (official)

**Major religious groups**  
Roman Catholic, Protestant

**Surrounding countries**  
Brazil, Colombia, Guyana

**Population**  
24 million (2000 est.)

**Population growth rate**  
2% (1990–1999 average)



## POLITICAL DATA

**Type of government**  
Republic

**National legislature**  
Unicameral: National Assembly; multiparty

**Leader**  
President Hugo Chávez Frías

**Minister of Foreign Affairs**  
Luis Alfonso Dávila

**Minister of Finance**  
José Alejandro Rojas Ramirez

**Minister of Production and Commerce**  
Luisa Romero Bermúdez

**UN Human Development Index (2000)**  
Venezuela ranks 65th among 174 countries

**Canadian official development assistance**  
\$1.8 million (1998–1999)

## ECONOMIC DATA

**Real GDP**  
\$106 billion US (2000 est.)

**GDP growth rate**  
3.1% (2000 est.)

**GDP per capita**  
\$3,028 US (1999)

**Inflation rate**  
16.1% (2000 est.)

**Unemployment rate**  
14.6% (2000 est.)

**Main exports**  
Petroleum, bauxite and aluminum, steel, chemicals, agricultural products, basic manufactured products

**Main imports**  
Raw materials, machinery and equipment, transport equipment, construction materials

**Main exports to Canada**  
\$1.4 billion (2000), including mineral fuel and oil; iron and steel products; inorganic chemicals; rare metals; ores, slag and ash; vehicles; precious stones and metals; machinery; organic chemicals

**Main imports from Canada**  
\$634.7 million (2000), including cereals; vehicles; machinery; paper and paperboard; pharmaceutical products; vegetables; electrical machinery; wood pulp; furniture and bedding; preserved food

### Canadian Representative

Allan Stewart, Ambassador, The Canadian Embassy in Venezuela  
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