SYRIA

Capital: Damascus

GEODATA

Area 185,180 km²

Population 16.4 million (1999 est.)

Population growth rate 3.2% (1999 est.)

Major languages Arabic (official), English, French, Kurdish, Aramaic, Armenian

Major religious groups Sunni Muslim (74%), Alawite Muslim (12%), Christian denominations (10%), Druze (4%)

POLITICAL DATA

Type of government Socialist republic

Democratic institutions Unicameral people's assembly

Leaders President Hafez Al-Assad Prime Minister Mohammed Mustafa Miro

Minister of Foreign Affairs Farouk Al-Sharaa

UN Human Development Index (1999) Syria ranks 111th among 174 countries

ECONOMIC DATA

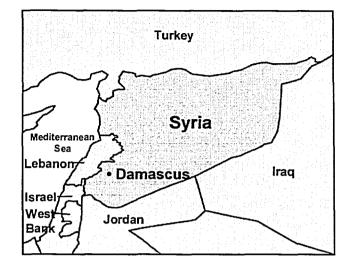
GDP \$16.3 billion US (1999 est.)

GDP growth rate 4.8% (1999 est.)

GDP per capita \$1,020 US (1999 est.)

Inflation rate 1.1% (1999 est.)

Unemployment rate 9% (1999 est.)



Main exports Petroleum, textiles, food products, manufactured goods

Main imports

Machinery, equipment, food products, metal products, textiles, chemicals, consumer goods

Main exports to Canada

\$2.4 million (1999), including clothing, seeds, dried fruits

Main imports from Canada

\$21 million (1999), including pipes, instruments, wood, zinc

CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE

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