



## 1. VENEZUELA: BASIC DATA

### 1.1. GEOGRAPHY

Venezuela is located in the continental upper northeast corner of South America, just above the equator (East 60°/73°; North 1°/12°). Total land area 912,050 Km<sup>2</sup>. There are four different climate types in Venezuela: plains, jungle, mountains and the coastal. Major cities and most developed areas are located in regions accessible by water.

### 1.2. CLIMATE

The Venezuelan climate varies with land elevation, from tropical in the low-lying coastal region to temperate in the highlands. The only seasons in the country are the rainy season from June to November, and the dry season from December to May.

### 1.3. POPULATION 21.7 Million (1994)      Annual growth 2.35%

About 80.0% of the population lives in urban areas, concentrated in the coastal region and in areas of petroleum, mining and industrial development. The current population is ethnically diverse, reflecting a blend of aboriginal, european and african ancestors. Almost two-thirds are under 25 years of age. Immigrants have been an important source of manpower since the 1940 oil boom.

1.4. MAIN CITIES	Caracas*	4,100,000	Maracaibo	1,300,000
	Valencia	1,000,000	Barquisimeto	750,000
	Maracay	600,000	Puerto la Cruz	450,000
	(* Capital)			

### 1.5. TIME

Venezuela is four hours behind GMT and one hour ahead EST.