

EGYPT: BASIC DATA

- GEOGRAPHY** Egypt is situated in the northeastern corner of Africa, bordered by Libya on the west, the Sinai peninsula and the Red Sea on the east, Sudan on the south, and the Mediterranean Sea on the north. The total land area of Egypt is approximately 1 million sq. kms, of which only about 35,200 sq. kms are settled and cultivated, with the remainder consisting of uninhabited desert.
- CLIMATE** Hot and dry, the hottest month is July (21-36°C), and the coldest month is January (8-18°C). The driest months are July and August (0 mm avg. rainfall), and the wettest month is December (5 mm avg. rainfall).
- POPULATION** 56.4 million (mid-1993)
- MAJOR CITIES**
- | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------------|---------|
| Cairo | 13,850,000 | Shubra el-Khaima | 512,000 |
| Alexandria | 3,130,000 | Ismailia | 476,000 |
| Giza | 1,850,000 | Port Said | 424,000 |
- TIME** Egypt is 2 hours ahead of GMT, and 7 hours ahead of EST.
- MEASURES** The metric system is used in Egypt, but some local measures (feddan, ardeb, and qantar) are used for various purposes.
- LANGUAGE** Arabic is the official language of Egypt. Business and professional people can usually speak English, however, when dealing with government offices, it is advisable to be accompanied by an interpreter.
- GOVERNMENT** A new constitution was approved by national referendum in 1971 and established a Presidential Republic. The President is appointed by the People's Assembly and confirmed by national referendum. The President's term of office is six years, with reappointment to a further term permissible. The People's Assembly, also known as the National Assembly, is comprised of more than 350 elected members and a few appointed members. Egypt has a multi-party political system. The decision-making process in the Egyptian government is very centralized.
- LIVING STANDARDS** Egypt has a small but very wealthy upper class, a middle class with a modest standard of living, and a large lower socio-economic living class in substandard conditions. Egypt's economy has not been expanding as quickly as its population and has an unemployment rate of over 15 percent.
- CURRENCY** The Egyptian Pound (££) is the domestic currency, however, the Egyptian economy uses a multiple exchange rate regime.