

2. STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

2.1. Venezuela at a glance

Venezuela is situated on the north coast of South America, with a territory of approximately 912,000 square kilometers. As of December 31st 1993, Venezuela had an estimated population of 20.7 million, of which around 83 per cent lived in urban areas. Venezuela has had democratically-elected governments since 1958. The Constitution of Venezuela provides for a federal state with a democratic and representative form of government and separate Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches. The President of the Republic (who may not succeed himself) and all the members of the National Congress, State Legislatures and Municipal Councils are elected to five year terms. Rafael Caldera is the current President. He took office on February 2nd, 1994.

Below we set out certain economic indicators for Venezuela.

2.1.1. Geophysical

Ample natural resources

- oil and gas
- metals, ferrous and non-ferrous
- hydroelectric power
- arable land
- forestry
- fisheries