

SYRIA

Capital: Damascus

GEODATA

Area

185,180 km²

Population

16.4 million (1999 est.)

Population growth rate

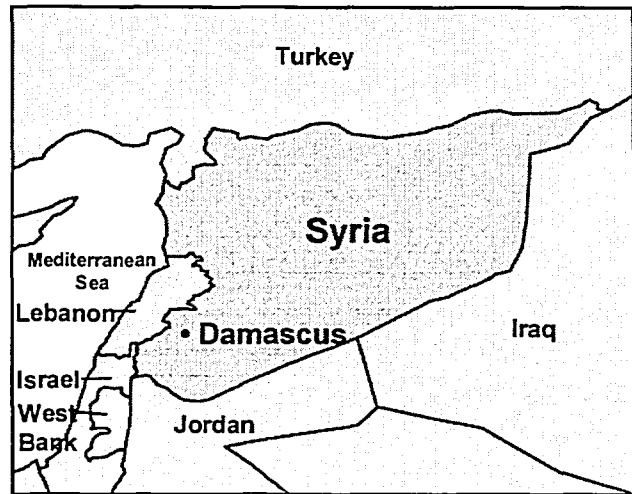
3.2% (1999 est.)

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

Alexandra Bugailiskis, Ambassador

The Canadian Embassy

Lot 12

Mezzeh Autostrade

Damascus, Syria

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