

# NICARAGUA

Capital: Managua

## GEODATA

**Area**  
130,000 km<sup>2</sup>

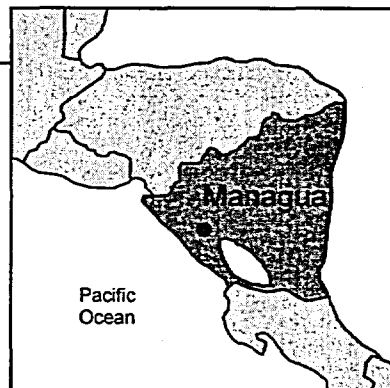
**Population**  
5.1 million (2000 est.)

**Major language**  
Spanish (official)

**Population growth rate**  
2.6% (1990-1999 average)

**Major religious group**  
Roman Catholic (85%)

**Surrounding countries**  
Costa Rica, Honduras



## POLITICAL DATA

**Type of government**  
Republic

**Minister of Foreign Co-operation**  
Salvador Stadthagen

**National legislature**  
Single chamber: National Assembly; multiparty

**UN Human Development Index (2000)**  
Nicaragua ranks 116th among 174 countries

**Leader**  
President Arnoldo Alemán Lacayo

**Canadian official development assistance**  
16.3 million (1998-1999)

**Minister of Foreign Affairs**  
Francisco Aguirre

## ECONOMIC DATA

**Real GDP**  
\$2.5 billion US (2000 est.)

**Inflation rate**  
11.5% (2000 est.)

**GDP growth rate**  
5% (2000 est.)

**Unemployment rate**  
23% (1999)

**GDP per capita**  
\$465 US (1999)

**Main exports**  
Coffee, shrimp, lobster, sugar, bananas, gold, tobacco, cotton, beef

**Main imports**  
Machinery, petroleum products, consumer goods

**Main exports to Canada**  
\$58.8 million (2000), including precious stones and metals; spices; coffee and tea; sugar; woven apparel; knit apparel; miscellaneous grain, seed and fruit; ceramic products; fish and seafood; machinery; tobacco

**Main imports from Canada**  
\$13.6 million (2000), including paper and paperboard; plastics; machinery; fats and oils; cereals; electrical machinery; mineral fuel and oil; vegetables; salt, sulphur, earth and stone; vehicles

### Canadian Representative

Denis Thibault, Ambassador, The Canadian Embassy to Nicaragua c/o The Canadian Embassy to Costa Rica, Oficentro Ejecutivo la Sabana, Edificio #5, Piso 3, Detrás de la Contraloría General de la República, (P.O. Box 351-1007, Centro Colón) San José, Costa Rica  
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