

of economic decline. This decline continued until the early 1970s when the military took over for 10 years. In 1984, power was turned over to a democratically elected civilian government.

Constitution

Uruguay is a republic with an elected president and a Council of Ministers appointed by the president. The constitution provides for a General Assembly responsible for enacting laws and regulating the administration of justice. The General Assembly consists of the Senate, with 30 members over whom the vice president presides, and a 99-member Chamber of Deputies. Uruguay's 19 administrative departments or provinces are organized similarly to the central government. The country is also divided into four military regions.

Population and Principal Cities

Uruguay's 3 million citizens live mostly in the urban areas (83 per cent). Demographic growth is the lowest in Latin America at 0.5 per cent per year.

Metropolitan Areas	Estimated Population
Montevideo	1 450 000
Paysandú	75 000
Salto	75 000
Mercedes	53 000

Climate

Uruguay enjoys a mild climate year round, with average temperatures of 24°C in summer and 13°C in winter. Rainfall occurs in all seasons, but is generally heavier during the winter months. As Uruguay is located in the southern hemisphere, its seasons are the reverse of Canada's.

Language

Spanish is Uruguay's official language and, although French and English are sometimes used, is the preferred language of business.

The Canadian Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, can advise business visitors about the interpretation and translation services that are available in major cities.