In general, information available as of 1 January, 2004 was used in the preparation of The World Factbook 2004.

This page was last updated on 11 May, 2004
Background:
Chad, part of France's African holdings until 1960, endured three decades of ethnic warfare as well as invasions by Libya before a semblance of peace was finally restored in 1990. The government eventually suppressed or came to terms with most political-military groups, settled a territorial dispute with Libya on terms favorable to Chad, drafted a democratic constitution, and held multiparty presidential elections in 1996 and 1997. In 1998, a new rebellion broke out in northern Chad, which sporadically flares up despite two peace agreements signed in 2002 and 2003 between the government and the rebels. Despite movement toward democratic reform, power remains in the hands of a northern ethnic oligarchy.

Geography:

Location: Central Africa, south of Libya

Geographic coordinates: 15 00 N, 19 00 E

Map references: Africa

Area: total: 1.284 million sq km
water: 24,800 sq km
land: 1,259,200 sq km

Area - comparative: slightly more than three times the size of California

Land boundaries: total: 5,968 km
border countries: Cameroon 1,094 km, Central African Republic 1,197 km, Libya 1,055 km, Niger 1,175 km, Nigeria 87 km, Sudan 1,360 km

Coastline: 0 km (landlocked)
Maritime claims - as described in UNCLOS 1982 (see Notes and Definitions):

none (landlocked)

Climate:

tropical in south, desert in north

Terrain:

broad, arid plains in center, desert in north, mountains in northwest, lowlands in south

Elevation extremes:

lowest point: Djourab Depression 160 m
highest point: Emi Koussi 3,415 m

Natural resources:

petroleum, uranium, natron, kaolin, fish (Lake Chad)

Land use:

arable land: 2.78%
permanent crops: 0.02%
other: 97.2% (1998 est.)

Irrigated land:

200 sq km (1998 est.)

Natural hazards:

hot, dry, dusty harmattan winds occur in north; periodic droughts; locust plagues

Environment - current issues:

inadequate supplies of potable water; improper waste disposal in rural areas contributes to soil and water pollution; desertification

Environment - international agreements:

party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Desertification, Endangered Species, Ozone Layer Protection, Wetlands
signed, but not ratified: Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping

Geography - note:

landlocked; Lake Chad is the most significant water body in the Sahel

People

Chad

Population:

9,538,544 (July 2004 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 47.9% (male 2,297,490; female 2,269,801)
15-64 years: 49.3% (male 2,245,586; female 2,459,796)
65 years and over: 2.8% (male 107,594; female 158,277) (2004 est.)

Median age:

total: 16 years
male: 15.3 years
female: 16.7 years (2004 est.)

Population growth rate:

3% (2004 est.)
Birth rate: 46.5 births/1,000 population (2004 est.)

Death rate: 16.38 deaths/1,000 population (2004 est.)

Net migration rate: -0.11 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2004 est.)

Sex ratio:
- at birth: 1.04 male(s)/female
- under 15 years: 1.01 male(s)/female
- 15-64 years: 0.91 male(s)/female
- 65 years and over: 0.68 male(s)/female
- total population: 0.95 male(s)/female (2004 est.)

Infant mortality rate:
- total: 94.78 deaths/1,000 live births
- female: 85.17 deaths/1,000 live births (2004 est.)
- male: 104.01 deaths/1,000 live births

Life expectancy at birth:
- total population: 48.24 years
- male: 46.91 years
- female: 49.63 years (2004 est.)

Total fertility rate: 6.38 children born/woman (2004 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: 3.6% 5%-7% (2001 est.)

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS: 150,000 (2001 est.)

HIV/AIDS - deaths: 14,000 (confirmed AIDS cases, actual number far higher but difficult to estimate) (2001 est.)

Nationality:
- noun: Chadian(s)
- adjective: Chadian

Ethnic groups: 200 distinct groups; in the north and center: Arabs, Gorane (Toubou, Daza, Kreda), Zaghawa, Kanembou, Ouaddai, Bagirmi, Hadjerai, Fulbe, Kotoko, Hausa, Boulala, and Maba, most of whom are Muslim; in the south: Sara (Ngambaye, Mbaye, Goulaye), Moundang, Moussie, Massa, most of whom are Christian or animist; about 1,000 French citizens live in Chad

Religions: Muslim 51%, Christian 35%, animist 7%, other 7%

Languages: French (official), Arabic (official), Sara (in south), more than 120 different languages and dialects

Literacy:
- definition: age 15 and over can read and write French or Arabic
- total population: 47.5%
- male: 56%
- female: 39.3% (2003 est.)
Government: Chad

Country name:

- conventional long form: Republic of Chad
- conventional short form: Chad
- local long form: Republique du Tchad
- local short form: Tchad

Government type:

- republic

Capital:

- N’Djamena

Administrative divisions:

- 14 prefectures: Batha, Biltine, Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti, Chari-Baguirmi, Guera, Kanem, Lac, Logone Occidental, Logone Oriental, Mayo-Kebbi, Moyen-Chari, Ouaddai, Salamat, Tandjile
- note: instead of 14 prefectures, there may be a new administrative structure of 28 departments (departments, singular - department), and 1 city*, Assongha, Baguirmi, Bahr El Gazal, Bahr Koh, Batha Oriental, Batha Occidental, Biltine, Borkou, Dababa, Ennedi, Guera, Hadjer Lamis, Kabia, Kanem, Lac, Lac Iro, Logone Occidental, Logone Oriental, Mandoul, Mayo-Boneye, Mayo-Dallah, Monts de Lam, N’Djamena*, Ouaddai, Salamat, Sila, Tandjile Oriental, Tandjile Occidental, Tandjile

Independence:

- 11 August 1960 (from France)

National holiday:

- Independence Day, 11 August (1960)

Constitution:

- passed by referendum 31 March 1996

Legal system:

- based on French civil law system and Chadian customary law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

Suffrage:

- 18 years of age; universal

Executive branch:

- chief of state: President Lt. Gen. Idriss DEBY (since 4 December 1990)
- head of government: Prime Minister Moussa Faki MAHAMAT (since NA July 2003)
- cabinet: Council of State, members appointed by the president on the recommendation of the prime minister
- election results: Lt. Gen. Idriss DEBY reelected president; percent of vote - Lt. Gen. Idriss DEBY 63%, Ngarlegy YORONGAR 16%, Saleh KEBZABO 7%
- note: government coalition - MPS, UNDR, and URD
- elections: president elected by popular vote to serve five-year term; if no candidate receives at least 50% of the total vote, the two candidates receiving the most votes must stand for a second round of voting; last held 20 May 2001 (next to be held NA 2006); prime minister appointed by the president

Legislative branch:

- bicameral according to constitution, consists of a National Assembly (155 seats; members elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms) and a Senate (not yet created and size unspecified, members to serve six-year terms, one-third of membership renewable every two years)
- election results: percent of vote by party - NA%; seats by party - MPS 110, RDP 12, FAR 9, RNDP 5, URD 5, UNDR 3, others 11
- elections: National Assembly - last held 21 April 2002 (next to be held in NA April 2006)

Judicial branch:

- Supreme Court; Court of Appeal; Criminal Courts; Magistrate Courts
Political parties and leaders: Federation Action for the Republic or FAR [Ngarely YORONGAR]; National Rally for Development and Progress or RNDP [Mamadou BISSO]; National Union for Democracy and Renewal or UNDR [Saleh KEBZABO]; Patriotic Salvation Movement or MPS [Mahamat Saleh AHMAT, chairman] (originally in opposition but now the party in power and the party of the president); Rally for Democracy and Progress or RPD [leader NA]; Union for Renewal and Democracy or URD [Gen. Wadal Abdelkader KAMOUGUE]; Viva Rally for Development and Progress or Viva RNDP [Delwa Kassire COUMAKOYE]

Political pressure groups and leaders: NA

International organization participation: ACCT, ACP, AfDB, AU, BDEAC, CEMAC, FAO, FZ, G-7, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (signatory), ICFTU, ICRM,

IDB, IFAD, IF, IFRCs, ILO, IMF, Interpol, IOC, ITU, NAM, OIC, OPCW (signatory), UN,

UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WToO, WTrO

Diplomatic representation in the US: chief of mission: Ambassador Hassaballah Abdelhadi Ahmat SOUBIANE

chancery: 2002 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

FAX: [1] (202) 265-1937

telephone: [1] (202) 462-4009

Diplomatic representation from the US: chief of mission: Ambassador Christopher E. GOLDTHWAIT

embassy: Avenue Felix Eboue, N'Djamena

mailing address: B. P. 413, N'Djamena

telephone: [235] (51) 70-09

FAX: [235] (51) 56-54

Flag description: three equal vertical bands of blue (hoist side), yellow, and red; similar to the flag of Romania; also similar to the flags of Andorra and Moldova, both of which have a national coat of arms centered in the yellow band; design was based on the flag of France

Economy - overview: Chad's primarily agricultural economy will continue to be boosted by major oilfield and pipeline projects that began in 2000. Over 80% of Chad's population relies on subsistence farming and stock raising for its livelihood. Cotton, cattle, and gum arabic provide the bulk of Chad's export earnings, but Chad will begin to export oil in 2004. Chad's economy has long been handicapped by its landlocked position, high energy costs, and a history of instability. Chad relies on foreign assistance and foreign capital for most public and private sector investment projects. A consortium led by two US companies has been investing $3.7 billion to develop oil reserves estimated at 1 billion barrels in southern Chad. Oil production came on stream in late 2003.

GDP: purchasing power parity - $10.86 billion (2003 est.)

GDP - real growth rate: 15% (2003 est.)

GDP - per capita: purchasing power parity - $1,200 (2003 est.)

GDP - composition by sector: agriculture: 38%

industry: 13%

services: 49% (2001 est.)

Population below poverty line: 80% (2001 est.)
Household income or consumption by percentage share:

- lowest 10%: NA%
- highest 10%: NA%

Inflation rate (consumer prices): 6% (2002 est.)

Labor force:

NA (2002)

Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture more than 80% (subsistence farming, herding, and fishing)

Unemployment rate:

NA% (2000)

Budget:

- revenues: $198 million
- expenditures: $218 million, including capital expenditures of $146 million (1998 est.)

Industries:

oil, cotton textiles, meatpacking, beer brewing, natron (sodium carbonate), soap, cigarettes, construction materials

Industrial production growth rate: 5% (1995)

Electricity - production: 94.04 million kWh (2001)

Electricity - production by source:

- fossil fuel: 100%
- hydro: 0%
- other: 0% (2001)
- nuclear: 0%

Electricity - consumption: 87.46 million kWh (2001)

Electricity - exports: 0 kWh (2001)

Electricity - imports: 0 kWh (2001)

Oil - production: 0 bbl/day (2001 est.)

Oil - consumption: 1,500 bbl/day (2001 est.)

Oil - exports: NA

Oil - imports: NA

Agriculture - products:
cotton, sorghum, millet, peanuts, rice, potatoes, manioc (tapioca); cattle, sheep, goats, camels
Exports: $365 million f.o.b. (2003 est.)

Exports - commodities: cotton, cattle, gum arabic

Exports - partners: Portugal 30.3%, Germany 15.2%, US 9.1%, France 6.1%, Nigeria 6.1%, Spain 6.1%, Morocco 4.5%, Poland 4.5% (2002)

Imports: $760 million f.o.b. (2003 est.)

Imports - commodities: machinery and transportation equipment, industrial goods, petroleum products, foodstuffs, textiles

Imports - partners: France 31.5%, US 31.3%, Germany 5.6%, Nigeria 4.7% (2002)

Debt - external: $1.1 billion (2000 est.)

Economic aid - recipient: $238.3 million; note - $125 million committed by Taiwan (August 1997); $30 million committed by African Development Bank; ODA $150 million (2001 est.)

Currency: Communaute Financiere Africaine franc (XAF); note - responsible authority is the Bank of the Central African States

Currency code: XAF


Fiscal year: calendar year

Communications Chad
Telephones - main lines in use: 11,800 (2002)


Telephone system:
- general assessment: primitive system
- domestic: fair system of radiotelephone communication stations
- international: country code - 235; satellite earth station - 1 Intelsat (Atlantic Ocean)


Internet country code: .td

Internet hosts: 11 (2002)

Internet users: 15,000 (2002)

Transportation

Highways:
- total: 33,400 km
- paved: 267 km
- unpaved: 33,133 km (1999 est.)

Waterways: 2,000 km

Pipelines: oil 205 km (2003)

Ports and harbors: none

Airports: 50 (2003 est.)

Airports - with paved runways:
- total: 7
- over 3,047 m: 2
- 2,438 to 3,047 m: 3
- 1,524 to 2,437 m: 1
- under 914 m: 1 (2003 est.)

Airports - with unpaved runways:
- total: 43
- 1,524 to 2,437 m: 13
- 914 to 1,523 m: 20
- under 914 m: 10 (2003 est.)
Military

Military branches:
Armed Forces: National Army (ANT), Air Force, and Republican Guard

Military manpower - military age:
20 years of age (2004 est.)

Military manpower - availability:
males age 15-49: 2,008,825 (2004 est.)

Military manpower - fit for military service:
males age 15-49: 1,051,802 (2004 est.)

Military manpower - reaching military age annually:
males: 91,231 (2004 est.)

Military expenditures - dollar figure:
$55.4 million (2003)

Military expenditures - percent of GDP:
2.1% (2003)

Transnational Issues

Disputes - international:
civil war in Sudan overlaps into Chad as both states step up border patrols, leaving refugees and rebel groups in both countries; Chad serves as an important mediator in the Sudanese civil conflict; Chadian Aozou rebels reside in southern Libya; Lake Chad Commission continues to urge signatories Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria to ratify delimitation treaty over lake region; Chad rejects Nigerian request to redemarcate boundary, the site of periodic cross-border incidents

This page was last updated on 11 May, 2004