

Panama General Fact File

Population: 3,242,173 (July 2007 est.)

Size of Country: 78,200 sq km (slightly smaller than South Carolina)

Capital City: Panama City

Time Zone: GMT-5

Location: Central America, bordering both the Caribbean Sea and the North Pacific Ocean, between Colombia and Costa Rica

Climate: Tropical maritime; hot, humid, cloudy; prolonged rainy season (May to January), short dry season (January to May)

Currency: Balboa, U.S. dollar

Language: Spanish (official), English 14%; many Panamanians bilingual

System of Government: Constitutional democracy, led by President Martin Torrijos Espino

Telephone Country Code: 507

Electricity: 120 volts

National Holidays: Independence Day, Nov. 3

Religion: Roman Catholic (85%), Protestant (15%)

Life Expectancy at Birth: 75 years

Economy: Panama's dollarized economy rests primarily on a well-developed services sector that accounts for three-fourths of GDP. Services include operating the Panama Canal, banking, the Colon Free Zone, insurance, container ports, flagship registry, and tourism

Exports: \$8.087 billion f.o.b. (2006 est.)

Imports: \$9.365 billion f.o.b. (2006 est.)

Gross Domestic Product (Purchasing Power Parity): \$26.04 billion (2006 est.)

GDP per Capita: \$8,200 (2006 est.)

Inflation Rate: 2.6% (2006 est.)