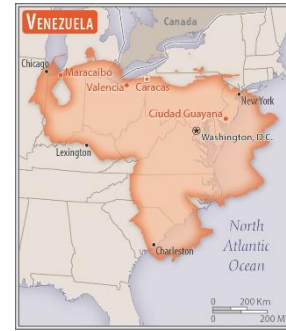




VENEZUELA



INTRODUCTION

Venezuela was one of three countries that emerged from the collapse of Gran Colombia in 1830 (the others being Ecuador and New Granada, which became Colombia). For most of the first half of the 20th century, Venezuela was ruled by generally benevolent military strongmen who promoted the oil industry and allowed for some social reforms. Democratically elected governments have held sway since 1959.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Nicolas MADURO Moros
note: The US recognizes Juan GUAIDO as Interim President

Head of Government

President Nicolas MADURO Moros
note: The US recognizes Juan GUAIDO as Interim President

Government Type

federal presidential republic

Capital

Caracas

Legislature

unicameral National Assembly or Asamblea Nacional (167 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 912,050 sq km
Land: 882,050 sq km
Water: 30,000 sq km

Climate

tropical; hot, humid; more moderate in highlands

Natural Resources

petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, gold, bauxite, other minerals, hydropower, diamonds

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

South American economy; ongoing hyperinflation since mid-2010s; chaotic economy due to political corruption, infrastructure cuts, and human rights abuses; in debt default; oil exporter; hydropower consumer; rising Chinese relations

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$269.1 billion (2018 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$7,700 (2018 est.)

Industries - agricultural products, livestock, raw materials, machinery and equipment, transport equipment, construction materials, medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, iron and steel products, crude oil, petroleum products

Agricultural products - sugarcane, maize, milk, rice, plantains, bananas, pineapples, potatoes, beef, poultry

Exports \$83.40 billion (2018 est.)

crude and refined petroleum, industrial alcohols, gold, iron (2019)

partners: India 34%, China 28%, US 12%, Spain 6% (2019)

Imports \$18.43 billion (2018 est.)

refined petroleum, rice, corn, tires, soybean meal, wheat (2019)

partners: China 28%, US 22%, Brazil 8%, Spain 6%, Mexico 6% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

29.1 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

2.46% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

unspecified Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Arab, German, African, indigenous people

Language

Spanish (official), numerous indigenous dialects

Religion

nominally Roman Catholic 96%, Protestant 2%, other 2%

Urbanization

urban population: 88.3% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: 1.16% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

