



South Asia :: Nepal

Introduction :: Nepal

Background:

In 1951, the Nepali monarch ended the century-old system of rule by hereditary premiers and instituted a cabinet system of government. Reforms in 1990 established a multiparty democracy within the framework of a constitutional monarchy. An insurgency led by Maoists broke out in 1996. The ensuing 10-year civil war between Maoist and government forces witnessed the dissolution of the cabinet and parliament and assumption of absolute power by the king in 2002. Several weeks of mass protests in April 2006 were followed by several months of peace negotiations between the Maoists and government officials, and culminated in a late 2006 peace accord and the promulgation of an interim constitution. Following a nationwide election in April 2008, the newly formed Constituent Assembly (CA) declared Nepal a federal democratic republic and abolished the monarchy at its first meeting the following month. The CA elected the country's first president in July. Between 2008 and 2011 there were four different coalition governments, led twice by the United Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist, which received a plurality of votes in the 2008 CA election, and twice by the Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist-Leninist (UML). After the CA failed to draft a constitution by the May 2012 deadline set by the Supreme Court, then Prime Minister Baburam BHATTARAI dissolved the CA. Months of negotiations ensued until March 2013 when the major political parties agreed to create an interim government headed by then Chief Justice Khil Raj REGMI with a mandate to hold elections for a new CA. Elections were held in November 2013, in which the Nepali Congress won the largest share of the seats in the CA and in February 2014 formed a coalition government with the second place UML and with Nepali Congress President Sushil KOIRALA as prime minister.

Geography :: Nepal

Location:

Southern Asia, between China and India

Geographic coordinates:

28 00 N, 84 00 E

Map references:

Asia

Area:

total: 147,181 sq km

country comparison to the world: 94

land: 143,351 sq km

water: 3,830 sq km

Area - comparative:

slightly larger than Arkansas

Land boundaries:

total: 2,926 km

border countries: China 1,236 km, India 1,690 km

Coastline:

0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims:

none (landlocked)

Climate:

varies from cool summers and severe winters in north to subtropical summers and mild winters in south

Terrain:

Tarai or flat river plain of the Ganges in south, central hill region, rugged Himalayas in north

Elevation extremes:

lowest point: Kanchan Kalan 70 m

highest point: Mount Everest 8,850 m (highest point in Asia)

Natural resources:

quartz, water, timber, hydropower, scenic beauty, small deposits of lignite, copper, cobalt, iron ore

Land use:

arable land: 16%

permanent crops: 0.8%

other: 83.2% (2011)

Irrigated land:

11,680 sq km (2003)

Total renewable water resources:

210.2 cu km (2011)

Freshwater withdrawal (domestic/industrial/agricultural):

total: 9.5 cu km/yr (2%/0%/98%)

per capita: 334.7 cu m/yr (2006)

Natural hazards:

severe thunderstorms; flooding; landslides; drought and famine depending on the timing, intensity, and duration of the summer monsoons

Environment - current issues:

deforestation (overuse of wood for fuel and lack of alternatives); contaminated water (with human and animal wastes, agricultural runoff, and industrial effluents); wildlife conservation; vehicular emissions

Environment - international agreements:

party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands

signed, but not ratified: Marine Life Conservation

Geography - note:

landlocked; strategic location between China and India; contains eight of world's 10 highest peaks, including Mount Everest and Kanchenjunga - the world's tallest and third tallest - on the borders with China and India respectively

People and Society :: Nepal

Nationality:

noun: Nepali (singular and plural)

adjective: Nepali

Ethnic groups:

Chhettri 16.6%, Brahman-Hill 12.2%, Magar 7.1%, Tharu 6.6%, Tamang 5.8%, Newar 5%, Kami 4.8%, Muslim 4.4%, Yadav 4%, Rai 2.3%, Gurung 2%, Damai/Dholii 1.8%, Thakuri 1.6%, Limbu 1.5%, Sarki 1.4%, Teli 1.4%, Chamar/Harijan/Ram 1.3%, Koiri/Kushwaha 1.2%, other 23%

note: 125 caste/ethnic groups were reported in the 2011 national census (2011 est.)

Languages:

Nepali (official) 44.6%, Maithali 11.7%, Bhojpuri 6%, Tharu 5.8%, Tamang 5.1%, Newar 3.2%, Magar 3%, Bajjika 3%, Urdu 2.6%, Avadhi 1.9%, Limbu 1.3%, Gurung 1.2%, other 10.4%, unspecified 0.2%

note: 123 languages reported as mother tongue in 2011 national census; many in government and business also speak English (2011 est.)

Religions:

Hindu 81.3%, Buddhist 9%, Muslim 4.4%, Kirant 3%, Christian 1.4%, other 0.5%, unspecified 0.2% (2011 est.)

Population:

30,986,975 (July 2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 42

Age structure:

0-14 years: 31.6% (male 4,989,268/female 4,805,381)

15-24 years: 22.6% (male 3,521,421/female 3,484,203)

25-54 years: 35.7% (male 5,273,079/female 5,775,404)

55-64 years: 4.5% (male 847,431/female 886,760)

65 years and over: 4.5% (male 648,917/female 755,111) (2014 est.)

Dependency ratios:

total dependency ratio: 66.1 %
youth dependency ratio: 57.6 %
elderly dependency ratio: 8.5 %
potential support ratio: 11.7 (2013)

Median age:

total: 22.9 years
male: 22.2 years
female: 23.6 years (2014 est.)

Population growth rate:

1.82% (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 66

Birth rate:

21.07 births/1,000 population (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 79

Death rate:

6.62 deaths/1,000 population (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 145

Net migration rate:

3.71 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 32

Urbanization:

urban population: 17% of total population (2011)
rate of urbanization: 3.62% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)

Major urban areas - population:

KATHMANDU (capital) 990,000 (2009)

Sex ratio:

at birth: 1.04 male(s)/female
0-14 years: 1.04 male(s)/female
15-24 years: 1.01 male(s)/female
25-54 years: 0.91 male(s)/female
55-64 years: 0.97 male(s)/female
65 years and over: 0.87 male(s)/female
total population: 0.96 male(s)/female (2014 est.)

Mother's mean age at first birth:

20.1
note: median age at first birth among women 25-29 (2011 est.)

Maternal mortality rate:

170 deaths/100,000 live births (2010)
country comparison to the world: 60

Infant mortality rate:

total: 40.43 deaths/1,000 live births
country comparison to the world: 53
male: 40.5 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 40.35 deaths/1,000 live births (2014 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 67.19 years
country comparison to the world: 165
male: 65.88 years
female: 68.56 years (2014 est.)

Total fertility rate:

2.3 children born/woman (2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 93

Contraceptive prevalence rate:

49.7% (2011)

Health expenditures:

5.4% of GDP (2011)
country comparison to the world: 126

Physicians density:

0.21 physicians/1,000 population (2004)

Hospital bed density:

4.7 beds/1,000 population (2009)

Drinking water source:**improved:**

urban: 91.2% of population

rural: 86.8% of population

total: 87.6% of population

unimproved:

urban: 8.8% of population

rural: 13.2% of population

total: 12.4% of population (2011 est.)

Sanitation facility access:**improved:**

urban: 50.1% of population

rural: 32.4% of population

total: 35.4% of population

unimproved:

urban: 49.9% of population

rural: 67.6% of population

total: 64.6% of population (2011 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:

0.3% (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 99

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:

48,700 (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 61

HIV/AIDS - deaths:

4,100 (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 44

Major infectious diseases:

degree of risk: high

food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A and E, and typhoid fever

vectorborne disease: Japanese encephalitis, malaria, and dengue fever (2013)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate:

1.4% (2008)

country comparison to the world: 189

Children under the age of 5 years underweight:

29.1% (2011)

country comparison to the world: 18

Education expenditures:

4.7% of GDP (2010)

country comparison to the world: 87

Literacy:

definition: age 15 and over can read and write

total population: 57.4%

male: 71.1%

female: 46.7% (2011 est.)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):

total: 12 years

male: 12 years

female: 13 years (2011)

Child labor - children ages 5-14:

total number: 2,467,549

percentage: 34 % (2008 est.)

Government:: Nepal

Country name:

conventional long form: Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

conventional short form: Nepal

local long form: Sanghiya Loktantrik Ganatantra Nepal

local short form: Nepal

Government type:

federal democratic republic

Capital:

name: Kathmandu

geographic coordinates: 27 43 N, 85 19 E

time difference: UTC+5.75 (10.75 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)

Administrative divisions:

14 zones (anchal, singular and plural); Bagmati, Bheri, Dhawalagiri, Gandaki, Janakpur, Karnali, Kosi, Lumbini, Mahakali, Mechi, Narayani, Rapti, Sagarmatha, Seti

Independence:

1768 (unified by Prithvi Narayan SHAH)

National holiday:

Republic Day, 29 May

Constitution:

several previous; latest entered into force 15 January 2007 (interim); note - a Constituent Assembly (CA) elected in 2008 to draft and promulgate a new constitution was unsuccessful and was dissolved in mid-2012; a new CA was elected in late 2013 and the parties have committed to promulgating a new constitution within one year of the CAs first sitting of January 2014 (2013)

Legal system:

English common law and Hindu legal concepts

International law organization participation:

has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; non-party state to the ICCT

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch:

chief of state: President Ram Baran YADAV (since 23 July 2008); Vice President Paramananda JHA (since 23 July 2008)

head of government: Prime Minister Sushil KOIRALA (since 11 February 2014)

cabinet: Prime Minister Koirala on 25 February 2014 appointed the cabinet ministers; the cabinet is dominated by the Nepali Congress and the Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist-Leninist (For more information visit the **World Leaders website** ■)

elections: president elected by Parliament; term extends until the new constitution is promulgated; president elected on 21 July 2008; date of next election NA

election results: Ram Baran YADAV elected president by the Constituent Assembly in a second round of voting on 21 July 2008; Ram Baran YADAV 308, Ram Jaja Prasad SINGH 282

Legislative branch:

unicameral Constituent Assembly (601 seats; 240 members elected by direct popular vote, 335 by proportional representation, and 26 appointed by the Cabinet (Council of Ministers); note - interim government Chairman REGMI convened Nepal's second Constituency Assembly on 22 January 2014

elections: last held on 19 November 2013 (next to be held NA)

election results: percent of vote by party - NC 26%, CPN-UML 24%, Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) 15%, Rastriya Prajatantra Party Nepal 7%; other 26%; seats by party - NC 196, CPN-UML 175, UCPN(M) 80, Rastriya Prajatantra Party Nepal 24, other smaller parties 100; note - 26 seats filled by the new Cabinet have not yet been appointed

Judicial branch:

highest court(s): Supreme Court (consists of the chief justice and up to 14 judges

note - Nepal's judiciary was restructured under its 2007 Interim Constitution

judge selection and term of office: the Supreme Court chief justice appointed by the prime minister on the recommendation of the Constitutional Council; other judges are appointed by the prime minister on the recommendation of the Judicial Council; judges serve until age 65

subordinate courts: appellate and district courts

Political parties and leaders:

note: 120 political parties participated in the 19 November 2013 election and the 30 parties listed below were elected to serve in the Constituent Assembly

Akhanda Nepal Party [Kumar KHADKA]

Communist Party of Nepal-Marxist Leninist [C.P. MAINALI]

Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist-Leninist or UML [Jhalanath KHANAL]

Communist Party of Nepal (United) [Chandra Dev JOSHI]

Dalit Janajati Party [Bishwendra PASHWAN]
Federal Socialist Party [Ashok RAI]
Jana Jagaran Party Nepal [Lok Mani DHAKAL]
Khambuwani Rastriya Morcha-Nepal [Ram Kumar RAI]
Madhesi People's Rights Forum-Democratic [Bijay Kumar GACHCHADAR]
Madhesi People's Rights Forum-Nepal [Uendra YADAV]
Madhesi People's Rights Forum-Republican [Raj Kishore YADAV]
Madhes Samata Party Nepal [Meghraj SAHANI]
National Madhes Socialist Party [Sharat Singh BHANDARI]
Nepal Pariwar Dal [Ek Nath DHAKAL]
Nepal Workers and Peasants Party [Narayan Man BIJUKCHHE]
Nepali Congress [Sushil KOIRALA]
Nepali Janata Dal [Hari Charan SAH]
Nepa Rastriya Party [Keshav Man SHAKYA]
Rastriya Janamorcha Nepal [Chitra Bahadur K.C.]
Rastriya Janamukti Party [Malwar Singh THAPA]
Rastriya Prajatantra Party [Surya Bahadur THAPA]
Rastriya Prajatantra Party-Nepal [Kamal THAPA]
Sadbhavana Party [Rajendra MAHATO]
Samajbadi Janata Party Nepal [Prem Bahadur SINGH]
Sanghiya Sadbhavana Party [Anil JHA]
Sanghiye Lokatantrik Rastriya Manch [Rukmini CHAUDARY]
Terai Madhes Democratic Party [Mahantha THAKUR]
Terai Madhes Sadbhavana Party-Nepal [Mahendra YADAV]
Tharuhat Terai Party Nepal [Bhanuram CHAUDARY]
Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) or UCPN(M) [Pushpa Kamal DAHAL, also known as PRACHANDA]

Political pressure groups and leaders:

The Communist Party of Nepal - Maoist (CPN-M); note - this party split from the UCPN(M) in June 2012, opposed the November 2013 elections, and is not represented in the current Constituent Assembly

other: a variety of groups advocating regional autonomy such as the Federal State Limbuwan Council in far eastern Nepal

International organization participation:

ADB, BIMSTEC, CD, CP, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRC, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO (correspondent), ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, MINURSO, MINUSMA, MINUSTAH, MONUSCO, NAM, OPCW, SAARC, SACEP, UN, UNAMID, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNIFIL, UNISFA, UNMIL, UNMISS, UNMIT, UNOCI, UNTSO, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US:

chief of mission: ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Rishi Ram GHIMIRE (since 22 January 2014)

chancery: 2131 Leroy Place NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone: [1] (202) 667-4550

FAX: [1] (202) 667-5534

consulate(s) general: New York

Diplomatic representation from the US:

chief of mission: Ambassador Peter W. BODDE (since 21 September 2012)

embassy: Maharajgunj, Kathmandu

mailing address: use embassy street address

telephone: [977] (1) 423-4000

FAX: [977] (1) 400-7272

Flag description:

red with a blue border around the unique shape of two overlapping right triangles; the smaller, upper triangle bears a white stylized moon and the larger, lower triangle displays a white 12-pointed sun; the color red represents the rhododendron (Nepal's national flower) and is a sign of victory and bravery, the blue border signifies peace and harmony; the two right triangles are a combination of two single pennons (pennants) that originally symbolized the Himalaya Mountains while their charges represented the families of the king (upper) and the prime minister, but today they are understood to denote Hinduism and Buddhism, the country's two main religions; the moon represents the serenity of the Nepalese people and the shade and cool weather in the Himalayas, while the sun depicts the heat and higher temperatures of the lower parts of Nepal; the moon and the sun are also said to express the hope that the nation will endure as long as these heavenly bodies

note: Nepal is the only country in the world whose flag is not rectangular or square

National symbol(s):

rhododendron blossom

National anthem:

name: "Sayaun Thunga Phool Ka" (Hundreds of Flowers)

lyrics/music: Pradeep Kumar RAI/Ambar GURUNG

note: adopted 2007; after the abolition of the monarchy in 2006, a new anthem was required because of the previous anthem's praise for the king

Economy :: Nepal**Economy - overview:**

Nepal is among the poorest and least developed countries in the world, with about one-quarter of its population living below the poverty line. Nepal is heavily dependent on remittances, which amount to as much as 22-25% of GDP. Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy, providing a livelihood for more than 70% of the population and accounting for a little over one-third of GDP. Industrial activity mainly involves the processing of agricultural products, including pulses, jute, sugarcane, tobacco, and grain. Nepal has considerable scope for exploiting its potential in hydropower, with an estimated 42,000 MW of commercially feasible capacity, but political uncertainty and a difficult business climate have hampered foreign investment. Additional challenges to Nepal's growth include its landlocked geographic location, persistent power shortages, underdeveloped transportation infrastructure, civil strife and labor unrest, and its susceptibility to natural disaster. The lack of political consensus in the past several years has delayed national budgets and prevented much-needed economic reform, although the government passed a full budget in 2013.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$42.06 billion (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 104

\$40.57 billion (2012 est.)

\$38.7 billion (2011 est.)

note: data are in 2013 US dollars

GDP (official exchange rate):

\$19.34 billion (2013 est.)

GDP - real growth rate:

3.6% (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 89

4.9% (2012 est.)

3.4% (2011 est.)

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$1,500 (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 205

\$1,500 (2012 est.)

\$1,400 (2011 est.)

note: data are in 2013 US dollars

GDP - composition, by end use:

household consumption: 81.2%

government consumption: 10%

investment in fixed capital: 21.6%

investment in inventories: 14.6%

exports of goods and services: 10.3%

imports of goods and services: -37.7%
(2013 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

agriculture: 36.8%

industry: 14.5%

services: 48.7% (2013 est.)

Agriculture - products:

pulses, rice, corn, wheat, sugarcane, jute, root crops; milk, water buffalo meat

Industries:

tourism, carpets, textiles; small rice, jute, sugar, and oilseed mills; cigarettes, cement and brick production

Industrial production growth rate:

1.5% (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 137

Labor force:

16 million

country comparison to the world: 39

note: severe lack of skilled labor (2011 est.)

Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture: 75%
industry: 7%
services: 18% (2010 est.)

Unemployment rate:

46% (2008 est.)

country comparison to the world: 193

42% (2004 est.)

Population below poverty line:

25.2% (2011 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

lowest 10%: 3.2%

highest 10%: 29.5% (2011)

Distribution of family income - Gini index:

32.8 (2010)

country comparison to the world: 102

47.2 (2008 est.)

Budget:

revenues: \$3.3 billion

expenditures: \$3.9 billion (FY12/13)

Taxes and other revenues:

17.1% of GDP (FY12/13)

country comparison to the world: 182

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):

-3.1% of GDP (FY12/13)

country comparison to the world: 126

Public debt:

28% of GDP

country comparison to the world: 126

Fiscal year:

16 July - 15 July

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

9.6% (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 207

9.5% (2012 est.)

Central bank discount rate:

6% (31 December 2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 49

6.5% (31 December 2009 est.)

Commercial bank prime lending rate:

9% (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 117

8% (31 December 2012 est.)

Stock of narrow money:

\$3.553 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 114

\$3.104 billion (31 December 2012 est.)

Stock of broad money:

\$11.49 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 100

\$11.71 billion (31 December 2012 est.)

Stock of domestic credit:

\$13.46 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 90

\$11.88 billion (31 December 2012 est.)

Market value of publicly traded shares:

\$4.16 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 90
\$3.849 billion (31 December 2011)
\$5.235 billion (31 December 2010 est.)

Current account balance:

\$648 million (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 50
\$283.9 million (2012 est.)

Exports:

\$1.06 billion (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 156
\$1.004 billion (2012 est.)

Exports - commodities:

clothing, pulses, carpets, textiles, juice, pashima, jute goods

Exports - partners:

India 93.9%, Bangladesh 4%, Italy 0.4% (2013 est.)

Imports:

\$6.329 billion (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 119
\$5.951 billion (2012 est.)

Imports - commodities:

petroleum products, machinery and equipment, gold, electrical goods, medicine

Imports - partners:

UAE 6.2%, South Korea 3.1%, China 2.5% (2013 est.)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

\$6.574 billion (15 January 2014 est.)
country comparison to the world: 85
\$5.833 billion (15 July 2013 est.)

Debt - external:

\$3.956 billion (31 December 2011 est.)
country comparison to the world: 128
\$3.673 billion (31 December 2010 est.)

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:

\$103 million
country comparison to the world: 105

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:

\$NA

Exchange rates:

Nepalese rupees (NPR) per US dollar -
87.96 (2013 est.)
85.2 (2012 est.)
73.16 (2010 est.)
77.44 (2009)
65.21 (2008)

Energy :: Nepal

Electricity - production:

3.431 billion kWh (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 128

Electricity - consumption:

2.745 billion kWh (2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 133

Electricity - exports:

30 million kWh (2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 86

Electricity - imports:

694 million kWh (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 71

Electricity - installed generating capacity:

721,000 kW (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 129

Electricity - from fossil fuels:

7.9% of total installed capacity (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 198

Electricity - from nuclear fuels:

0% of total installed capacity (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 153

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:

92.1% of total installed capacity (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 10

Electricity - from other renewable sources:

0% of total installed capacity (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 107

Crude oil - production:

0 bbl/day (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 202

Crude oil - exports:

0 bbl/day (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 163

Crude oil - imports:

0 bbl/day (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 105

Crude oil - proved reserves:

0 bbl (1 January 2013 es)

country comparison to the world: 172

Refined petroleum products - production:

0 bbl/day (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 182

Refined petroleum products - consumption:

18,430 bbl/day (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 132

Refined petroleum products - exports:

0 bbl/day (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 204

Refined petroleum products - imports:

21,960 bbl/day (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 102

Natural gas - production:

0 cu m (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 175

Natural gas - consumption:

0 cu m (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 180

Natural gas - exports:

0 cu m (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 157

Natural gas - imports:

0 cu m (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 108

Natural gas - proved reserves:

0 cu m (1 January 2013 es)

country comparison to the world: 178

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:

3.173 million Mt (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 139

Communications :: Nepal

Telephones - main lines in use:

834,000 (2013)

country comparison to the world: 83

Telephones - mobile cellular:

18.138 million (2013)

country comparison to the world: 54

Telephone system:

general assessment: poor telephone and telegraph service; fair radiotelephone communication service and mobile-cellular telephone network

domestic: mobile-cellular telephone subscribership base is increasing with roughly 90% of the population living in areas covered by mobile carriers

international: country code - 977; radiotelephone communications; microwave and fiber landlines to India; satellite earth station - 1 Intelsat (Indian Ocean) (2011)

Broadcast media:

state operates 2 TV stations as well as national and regional radio stations; roughly 30 independent TV channels are registered with only about half in regular operation; nearly 400 FM radio stations are licensed with roughly 300 operational (2007)

Internet country code:

.np

Internet hosts:

41,256 (2012)

country comparison to the world: 100

Internet users:

577,800 (2009)

country comparison to the world: 116

Transportation :: Nepal

Airports:

47 (2013)

country comparison to the world: 94

Airports - with paved runways:

total: 11

over 3,047 m: 1

1,524 to 2,437 m: 3

914 to 1,523 m: 6

under 914 m: 1 (2013)

Airports - with unpaved runways:

total: 36

1,524 to 2,437 m: 1

914 to 1,523 m: 6

under 914 m:

29 (2013)

Railways:

total: 59 km

country comparison to the world: 129

narrow gauge: 59 km 0.762-m gauge (2008)

Roadways:

total: 10,844 km

country comparison to the world: 132

paved: 4,952 km

unpaved: 5,892 km (2010)

Military :: Nepal

Military branches:

Nepal Army (2012)

Military service age and obligation:

18 years of age for voluntary military service; no conscription (2014)

Manpower available for military service:

males age 16-49: 6,941,152

females age 16-49: 7,618,397 (2010 est.)

Manpower fit for military service:

males age 16-49: 5,260,878

females age 16-49: 5,947,512 (2010 est.)

Manpower reaching militarily significant age annually:

male: 380,172

female: 367,103 (2010 est.)

Military expenditures:

NA% (2012)

1.41% of GDP (2011)

NA% (2010)

Transnational Issues :: Nepal

Disputes - international:

joint border commission continues to work on contested sections of boundary with India, including the 400 square kilometer dispute over the source of the Kalapani River; India has instituted a stricter border regime to restrict transit of Maoist insurgents and illegal cross-border activities

Refugees and internally displaced persons:

refugees (country of origin): 15,000-20,000 (Tibet/China) (2012); 29,813 (Bhutan) (2014)

IDPs: 50,000 (remaining from ten-year Maoist insurgency that officially ended in 2006; figure does not include people displaced since 2007 by inter-communal violence and insecurity in the Terai region) (2012)

stateless persons: 800,000 (2011); note - in 2007-2008 the government distributed 2.6 million citizenship certificates to the 3.4 million people without one; the remaining 800,000 without citizenship certificates are not necessarily stateless, and the UNHCR is working with the Nepali Government to clarify their situation; lesser numbers of Bhutanese Hindu refugees of Nepali origin (the Lhotsampa) who were stripped of Bhutanese nationality and forced to flee their country in the late 1980s and early 1990s - and undocumented Tibetan refugees who arrived in Nepal prior to the 1990s - are considered stateless

Illicit drugs:

illicit producer of cannabis and hashish for the domestic and international drug markets; transit point for opiates from Southeast Asia to the West