

mexico



Mexico is the northern most country in Latin America and it is about 760,000 square miles. It borders three major bodies of water, the Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea. Mexico is a land of extremes, with high mountains and deep canyons in the center of the

country, sweeping deserts in the north, and dense rain forests in the south and east. However, the majority of Mexico is covered with mountains. The Sierra Madre Oriental mountain range lies in the west and the Sierra Madre Occidental in the east. These regions are rich with valuable metals like silver and copper. Most of the land in Mexico is very dry and too rugged to grow crops. Only 12% of the land is arable.

Mexico's climate tends to be dry and warm. Mexico has a desert climate and tropical climates. The hottest and wettest months are June - August.

Mexico's population is around 111 million people. Most of the people, 77%, live in urban areas, while only 23% live in rural areas. Mexico City has the second highest population in Latin America and is home to 20% of Mexico's population. In fact, this is a major cause of Mexico City's air pollution problem.

Mexico has seven major seaports and many natural resources. Those natural resources include petroleum (oil), silver, copper, gold, lead, zinc, natural gas, and timber. Mexico's major exports are manufactured goods, oil and oil products, silver, fruit, vegetables, coffee, and cotton. Mexico earned \$349.4 billion in 2011. In 2011 Mexico imported around \$350.8 billion in goods. Those imports include metal working machines, steel mill products, agriculture machinery, electrical equipment, car parts, repair parts for motor vehicles, aircrafts, and aircraft parts.

Mexico's GDP per capita was \$14,700 in 2011. In 2011, 5.2% of Mexico's population was unemployed. In 2011, 51.3% of Mexico's population was in poverty (based on food-based definition of poverty; asset based poverty amounted to more than 47%).



Venezuela

- Full name: Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
- Population: 29 million (2010)
- Venezuela has some of the world's largest proven oil deposits, as well as huge quantities of coal, iron ore, bauxite, and gold. Other natural resources include aluminum, steel, chemicals, agriculture products, and basic manufactures.
- Contains the Andes Mountains in the west, Amazon Rainforest in the south, and beaches in the north.
- Venezuela is one of the most highly urbanized countries in Latin America.

- Venezuela is hot and tropical, however it is cooler in the mountains
- Venezuela receives 16 inches of rain on the coast and 100 inches in the mountains.



- Northernmost part of South America
- Coasts on Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean
- Just north of the equator
- Mountains in north, central plains with plateaus and low mountains in south.
- Has 3% arable land
- Most of the land is used for pasture - not crops.
- Area: About 350,000 sq. miles

- Unemployment (2011) - 8.2%
- GDP per capita (2011) - \$12,600
- 27.4 % of the population is below the poverty line.

- Major Imports: Agricultural products, livestock, raw materials, machinery and equipment, transport equipment, construction materials, medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, iron and steel products.
- Imports: \$46.4 Billion
- Major Exports: Bauxite, Aluminum, Steel, Chemicals, Agricultural products
- Exports: \$92.6 Billion

- Major Language - Spanish and other indigenous languages
- Christianity is the major religion
- Most people in Venezuela live in the northern highlands, along the coast.
- 88% of the people live in cities
- 12% live in rural areas
- Caracas is the largest city in Venezuela



CUBA

The Republic of Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean Sea and is 90 miles from the coast of Florida. Cuba and its neighbors form the Greater Antilles, a chain of islands created millions of years ago when two of Earth's tectonic plates collided. Cuba is a long and narrow island.

It stretches 750 miles from east to west, but is only 60 miles wide in most places. Cuba is roughly 43,000 square miles. Cuba borders the Gulf of Mexico in the northwest and the Atlantic Ocean in the northeast.

Cuba's landscape is mostly lowland plains that are used for farming. The rest of Cuba has high mountains and rolling hills. Cuba has many different ecosystems from mountain forests to jungles and grasslands. Cuba is also home to many unique plants and animals that cannot be found anywhere else. Because of this, Cuba is losing their unique wildlife, which is a major environmental issue.

Cuba has a tropical climate with lots of trade winds. Cuba's dry season is from November to April and the rainy season is from May to October.

Cuba's population is around 11 million people. Havana is the largest city in Cuba and about 20% of the population lives there. Most Cubans, roughly 76%, live in urban areas and 24% live in rural areas.

Cuba has about 28% arable land and 3 major seaports. Cuba's natural resources are nickel, iron ore, copper, gold, silver, chromium, and cobalt. Cuba's major exports are sugar, nickel, tobacco, fish, medical products, citrus, and coffee. In 2011, Cuba earned \$6.041 billion in exports. Since Cuba does not have a lot of natural resources, Cuba must import a lot of its goods. Cuba's major imports are petroleum, food, machinery and equipment, and chemicals. In 2011, Cuba imported \$13.96 billion worth of goods and services.

In 2011, Cuba's unemployment was 3.2%. Compared to the rest of the world, it was 27th. Cuba's GDP per capita was \$9,900.



Brazil

Brazil is the largest country in South America and the fifth largest nation in the world. It forms an enormous triangle on the eastern side of the continent with a 4,500-mile coastline with the Atlantic Ocean. Brazil borders every South American country except Chile and Ecuador. Brazil is roughly 3.3 million square miles.



- Brazil is mostly flat to gently rolling lowlands, some plains, hills, and mountains.
- 7% of the land is arable
- Home to the Amazon Rainforest

Brazil has a hot and tropical climate. In the southern part of Brazil, there is a temperate climate with mild temperatures.

- Brazil's population is roughly 191 million people.
- 84% of the population lives in urban areas.
- 16% of the population lives in rural areas.
- Most people live along the coast (80%), because most major cities are located on the coast.

- Brazil has 7 major seaports
- Major exports → transport equipment, iron ore, soybeans, footwear, coffee, autos, and sugar
- Exports: \$256 Billion (2011)
- Major imports → machinery, electrical and transport equipment, chemical products, oil, car parts, electronics
- Imports: \$226.2 Billion (2011)

- GDP Per Capita - \$11,900 (2011)
- Unemployment - 6% (2011)
- 21.4% below poverty line (2009)

