



GUAM

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Introduction

Guam

Background: Guam was ceded to the US by Spain in 1898. Captured by the Japanese in 1941, it was retaken by the US three years later. The military installation on the island is one of the most strategically important US bases in the Pacific.

Geography

Guam

Location: Oceania, island in the North Pacific Ocean, about three-quarters of the way from Hawaii to the Philippines

Geographic coordinates: 13 28 N, 144 47 E

Map references: Oceania

Area: *total*: 541.3 sq km
land: 541.3 sq km
water: 0 sq km

Area - comparative: three times the size of Washington, DC

Land boundaries: 0 km

Coastline: 125.5 km

Maritime claims: *territorial sea*: 12 nm
exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

Climate: tropical marine; generally warm and humid, moderated by northeast trade winds; dry season (January to June), rainy season (July to December); little seasonal temperature variation

Terrain: volcanic origin, surrounded by coral reefs; relatively flat coralline limestone plateau (source of most fresh water), with steep coastal cliffs and narrow coastal plains in north, low hills in center, mountains in south

Elevation extremes: *lowest point*: Pacific Ocean 0 m
highest point: Mount Lamlam 406 m

Natural resources: aquatic wildlife (supporting tourism), fishing (largely undeveloped)

Land use: *arable land*: 3.64%
permanent crops: 18.18%
other: 78.18% (2005)

Irrigated land: NA

Natural hazards: frequent squalls during rainy season; relatively rare, but potentially very destructive typhoons (June - December)

Environment - extirpation of native bird population by the rapid proliferation of the brown
current issues: tree snake, an exotic, invasive species

Geography - note: largest and southernmost island in the Mariana Islands archipelago; strategic
location in western North Pacific Ocean

People	Guam
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Population: 175,877 (July 2008 est.)

Age structure: *0-14 years*: 28.2% (male 25,644/female 23,910)
15-64 years: 64.8% (male 58,034/female 55,900)
65 years and over: 7% (male 5,801/female 6,588) (2008 est.)

Median age: *total*: 28.9 years
male: 28.7 years
female: 29.2 years (2008 est.)

Population growth rate: 1.373% (2008 est.)

Birth rate: 18.37 births/1,000 population (2008 est.)

Death rate: 4.65 deaths/1,000 population (2008 est.)

Net migration rate: NA

Sex ratio: *at birth*: 1.06 male(s)/female
under 15 years: 1.07 male(s)/female
15-64 years: 1.04 male(s)/female
65 years and over: 0.88 male(s)/female
total population: 1.04 male(s)/female (2008 est.)

Infant mortality rate: *total*: 6.55 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 7.22 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 5.84 deaths/1,000 live births (2008 est.)

Life expectancy at birth: *total population*: 78.93 years
male: 75.86 years
female: 82.19 years (2008 est.)

Total fertility rate: 2.55 children born/woman (2008 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: NA

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS: NA

HIV/AIDS - NA
deaths:

Nationality: *noun*: Guamanian(s) (US citizens)
adjective: Guamanian

Ethnic groups: Chamorro 37.1%, Filipino 26.3%, other Pacific islander 11.3%, white 6.9%, other Asian 6.3%, other ethnic origin or race 2.3%, mixed 9.8% (2000 census)

Religions: Roman Catholic 85%, other 15% (1999 est.)

Languages: English 38.3%, Chamorro 22.2%, Philippine languages 22.2%, other Pacific island languages 6.8%, Asian languages 7%, other languages 3.5% (2000 census)

Literacy: *definition*: age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 99%
male: 99%
female: 99% (1990 est.)

Government

Guam

Country name: *conventional long form*: Territory of Guam
conventional short form: Guam
local long form: Guahan
local short form: Guahan

Dependency status: organized, unincorporated territory of the US with policy relations between Guam and the US under the jurisdiction of the Office of Insular Affairs, US Department of the Interior

Government type: NA

Capital: *name*: Hagatna (Agana)
geographic coordinates: 13 28 N, 144 44 E
time difference: UTC+10 (15 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)

Administrative divisions: none (territory of the US)

Independence: none (territory of the US)

National holiday: Discovery Day, first Monday in March (1521)

Constitution: Organic Act of Guam, 1 August 1950

Legal system: modeled on US; US federal laws apply

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal; US citizens, but do not vote in US presidential elections

Executive branch: *chief of state*: President George W. BUSH of the US (since 20 January 2001); Vice President Richard B. CHENEY (since 20 January 2001)
head of government: Governor Felix P. CAMACHO (since 6 January 2003); Lieutenant Governor Dr. Michael W. CRUZ (since 1 January 2007)
cabinet: heads of executive departments; appointed by the governor with the consent of the Guam legislature
elections: under the US Constitution, residents of unincorporated territories, such as Guam, do not vote in elections for US president and vice president; however, they may vote in Democratic and Republican presidential primary elections; governor and lieutenant governor elected on the same ticket by popular vote for four-year term (can serve two consecutive terms, then must wait a full term before running again); election last held 7 November 2006 (next to be held in November 2010)
election results: Felix P. CAMACHO reelected governor; Dr. Michael W. CRUZ elected lieutenant governor; percent of vote - NA

Legislative unicameral Legislature (15 seats; members are elected by popular vote to branch: serve two-year terms)
elections: last held 7 November 2006 (next to be held in November 2008)
election results: percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - Republican Party 8, Democratic Party 7
note: Guam elects one nonvoting delegate to the US House of Representatives; election last held 7 November 2006 (next to be held in November 2008); results - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - Democratic Party 1

Judicial branch: Federal District Court (judge is appointed by the president); Territorial Superior Court (judges appointed for eight-year terms by the governor)

Political parties Democratic Party [leader Michael PHILLIPS]; Republican Party [Philip J. and leaders: FLORES] (controls the legislature)

Political pressure Guam Federation of Teachers' Union; Guam Waterworks Authority Workers groups and *other*: activists; indigenous groups leaders:

International IOC, SPC, UPU organization participation:

Diplomatic none (territory of the US) representation in the US:

Diplomatic none (territory of the US) representation from the US:

Flag description: territorial flag is dark blue with a narrow red border on all four sides; centered is a red-bordered, pointed, vertical ellipse containing a beach scene, outrigger canoe with sail, and a palm tree with the word GUAM superimposed in bold red letters; US flag is the national flag

Economy	Guam
Economy - overview:	The economy depends largely on US military spending and tourism. Total US grants, wage payments, and procurement outlays amounted to \$1.3 billion in 2004. Over the past 30 years, the tourist industry has grown to become the largest income source following national defense. The Guam economy continues to experience expansion in both its tourism and military sectors.
GDP (purchasing power parity):	\$2.5 billion (2005 est.)
GDP (official exchange rate):	\$2.773 billion (2001)
GDP - real growth rate:	NA%
GDP - per capita (PPP):	\$15,000 (2005 est.)
GDP - composition by sector:	<i>agriculture</i> : NA% <i>industry</i> : NA% <i>services</i> : NA%
Labor force:	62,050 (2002 est.)
Labor force - by occupation:	<i>agriculture</i> : 26% <i>industry</i> : 10% <i>services</i> : 64% (2004 est.)
Unemployment rate:	11.4% (2002 est.)
Population below poverty line:	23% (2001 est.)
Household income or consumption by percentage share:	<i>lowest 10%</i> : NA% <i>highest 10%</i> : NA%
Inflation rate (consumer prices):	2.5% (2005 est.)

Budget: *revenues*: \$319.6 million
expenditures: \$427.8 million (2002 est.)

Agriculture - fruits, copra, vegetables; eggs, pork, poultry, beef
products:

Industries: US military, tourism, construction, transshipment services, concrete
products, printing and publishing, food processing, textiles

Industrial NA%
production growth
rate:

Electricity - 1.793 billion kWh (2005)
production:

Electricity - 1.667 billion kWh (2005)
consumption:

Electricity - 0 kWh (2005)
exports:

Electricity - 0 kWh (2005)
imports:

Oil - production: 0 bbl/day (2005 est.)

Oil - 13,530 bbl/day (2005 est.)
consumption:

Oil - exports: 0 bbl/day (2004)

Oil - imports: 12,130 bbl/day (2004)

Oil - proved 0 bbl (1 January 2006 est.)
reserves:

Natural gas - 0 cu m (2005 est.)
production:

Natural gas - 0 cu m (2005 est.)
consumption:

Natural gas - 0 cu m (2005 est.)
exports:

Natural gas - 0 cu m (2005)
imports:

Natural gas - 0 cu m (1 January 2006 est.)
proved reserves:

Exports: \$45 million f.o.b. (2004 est.)

Exports - transshipments of refined petroleum products, construction materials, fish, commodities: food and beverage products

Exports - partners: Japan 67.2%, Singapore 11.6%, UK 4.8% (2006)

Imports: \$701 million f.o.b. (2004 est.)

Imports - petroleum and petroleum products, food, manufactured goods commodities:

Imports - partners: Singapore 50%, South Korea 21.4%, Japan 14%, Hong Kong 4.6% (2006)

Economic aid - Guam receives large transfer payments from the US Federal Treasury into recipient: which Guamanians pay no income or excise taxes; under the provisions of a special law of Congress, the Guam Treasury, rather than the US Treasury, receives federal income taxes paid by military and civilian Federal employees stationed in Guam (2001 est.)

Debt - external: \$NA

Currency (code): US dollar (USD)

Exchange rates: the US dollar is used

Fiscal year: 1 October - 30 September

Communications Guam

Telephones - main lines in use: 80,000 (2001)

Telephones - mobile cellular: 98,000 (2004)

Telephone system: *general assessment:* modern system, integrated with US facilities for direct dialing, including free use of 800 numbers
domestic: modern digital system, including cellular mobile service and local access to the Internet
international: country code - 1-671; major landing point for submarine cables between Asia and the US (Guam is a trans-Pacific communications hub for major carriers linking the US and Asia); satellite earth stations - 2 Intelsat (Pacific Ocean)

Radio broadcast stations: AM 3, FM 11, shortwave 2 (2005)

Television broadcast stations: 3 (2006)

Internet country code: .gu

Internet hosts: 36 (2007)

Internet users: 65,000 (2005)

Transportation	Guam
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Airports: 5 (2007)

Airports - with *total: 4*
paved runways: *over 3,047 m: 2*
2,438 to 3,047 m: 1
914 to 1,523 m: 1 (2007)

Airports - with *total: 1*
unpaved runways: *under 914 m: 1 (2007)*

Roadways: *total: 977 km (2004)*

Ports and Apra Harbor
terminals:

Military	Guam
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Military - note: defense is the responsibility of the US

Transnational Issues	Guam
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Disputes - none
international:

Information current as of 7 August, 2008

SOURCES: The CIA World Factbook

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