



Select a Country ▼

Ethiopia



Click to enlarge

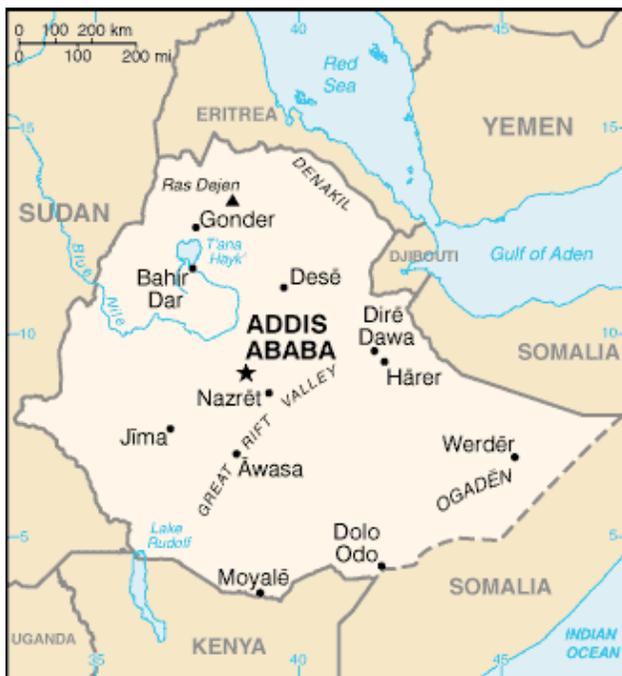
CATEGORIES

- [Introduction](#)
- [Geography](#)
- [People](#)
- [Government](#)
- [Economy](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Military](#)
- [Transnational Issues](#)

[Home](#) [Reference Maps](#) [Appendixes](#) [Print-Friendly Page](#)

In general, information available as of 1 January 2003 was used in the preparation of The World Factbook 2003.

This page was last updated on 1 August, 2003



Legend: Definition Field Listing Rank Order

Introduction

Ethiopia



Background:



Unique among African countries, the ancient Ethiopian monarchy maintained its freedom from colonial rule, one exception being the Italian occupation of 1936-41. In 1974 a military junta, the Derg, deposed Emperor Haile SELASSIE (who had ruled since 1930) and established a socialist state. Torn by bloody coups, uprisings, wide-scale drought, and massive refugee problems, the

regime was finally toppled by a coalition of rebel forces, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), in 1991. A constitution was adopted in 1994 and Ethiopia's first multiparty elections were held in 1995. A two and a half year border war with Eritrea ended with a peace treaty on 12 December 2000.

Geography

Ethiopia



Top of Page

Location:

Eastern Africa, west of Somalia

Geographic coordinates:

8 00 N, 38 00 E

Map references:

[Africa](#)

Area:

total: 1,127,127 sq km

water: 7,444 sq km

land: 1,119,683 sq km

Area - comparative:

slightly less than twice the size of Texas

Land boundaries:

total: 5,328 km

border countries: Djibouti 349 km, Eritrea 912 km, Kenya 861 km, Somalia 1,600 km, Sudan 1,606 km

Coastline:

0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims:

none (landlocked)

Climate:

tropical monsoon with wide topographic-induced variation

Terrain:

high plateau with central mountain range divided by Great Rift Valley

Elevation extremes:

lowest point: Denakil Depression -125 m

highest point: Ras Dejen 4,620 m

Natural resources:

small reserves of gold, platinum, copper, potash, natural gas, hydropower

Land use:

arable land: 9.9%

permanent crops: 0.65%

other: 89.45% (1998 est.)

Irrigated land:

1,900 sq km (1998 est.)

Natural hazards:

geologically active Great Rift Valley susceptible to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions; frequent droughts

Environment - current issues:

deforestation; overgrazing; soil erosion; desertification; water shortages in some areas from water-intensive farming and poor management

Environment - international agreements:

party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Ozone Layer Protection
signed, but not ratified: Environmental Modification, Law of the Sea, Nuclear Test Ban

Geography - note:

landlocked - entire coastline along the Red Sea was lost with the de jure independence of Eritrea on 24 May 1993; the Blue Nile, the chief headstream of the Nile by water volume, rises in T'ana Hayk (Lake Tana) in northwest Ethiopia; three major crops are believed to have originated in Ethiopia: coffee, grain sorghum, and castor bean

People**Ethiopia**

Top of Page

Population:

66,557,553

note: estimates for this country explicitly take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS; this can result in lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality and death rates, lower population and growth rates, and changes in the distribution of population by age and sex than would otherwise be expected (July 2003 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 44.8% (male 14,944,168; female 14,871,164)
15-64 years: 52.4% (male 17,474,403; female 17,384,817)
65 years and over: 2.8% (male 840,057; female 1,042,944) (2003 est.)

Median age:

total: 17.3 years
female: 17.4 years (2002)
male: 17.3 years

Population growth rate:

1.96% (2003 est.)

Birth rate:

39.81 births/1,000 population (2003 est.)

Death rate:

20.17 deaths/1,000 population (2003 est.)

Net migration rate:

0 migrant(s)/1,000 population

note: repatriation of Ethiopians who fled to Sudan for refuge from war and famine in earlier years is expected to continue for several years; some Sudanese and Somali refugees, who fled to Ethiopia from the fighting or famine in their own countries, continue to return to their homes (2003 est.)

Sex ratio:

at birth: 1.03 male(s)/female
under 15 years: 1 male(s)/female
15-64 years: 1.01 male(s)/female
65 years and over: 0.81 male(s)/female
total population: 1 male(s)/female (2003 est.)

Infant mortality rate:

total: 103.22 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 92.65 deaths/1,000 live births (2003 est.)
male: 113.48 deaths/1,000 live births

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 41.24 years
male: 40.39 years
female: 42.11 years (2003 est.)

Total fertility rate:

5.55 children born/woman (2003 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:   
6.4% (2001 est.)

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:   
2.1 million (2001 est.)

HIV/AIDS - deaths:   
160,000 (2001 est.)

Nationality:  
noun: Ethiopian(s)
adjective: Ethiopian

Ethnic groups:  
Oromo 40%, Amhara and Tigre 32%, Sidamo 9%, Shankella 6%, Somali 6%, Afar 4%, Gurage 2%, other 1%

Religions:  
Muslim 45%-50%, Ethiopian Orthodox 35%-40%, animist 12%, other 3%-8%

Languages:  
Amharic, Tigrinya, Oromigna, Guaragigna, Somali, Arabic, other local languages, English (major foreign language taught in schools)

Literacy:  
definition: age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 42.7%
male: 50.3%
female: 35.1% (2003 est.)

Government **Ethiopia**



Country name:  
conventional long form: Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
conventional short form: Ethiopia
local short form: Ityop'iya
former: Abyssinia, Italian East Africa
local long form: Ityop'iya Federalawi Demokrasiyawi Ripeblik
abbreviation: FDRE

Government type:  
federal republic

Capital:  
Addis Ababa

Administrative divisions:  
9 ethnically-based states (kililoch, singular - kilil) and 2 self-governing administrations* (astedaderoch, singular - astedader); Adis Abeba* (Addis Ababa), Afar, Amara (Amhara), Binshangul Gumuz, Dire Dawa*, Gambela Hizboch (Gambela Peoples), Hareri Hizb (Harari People), Oromiya (Oromia), Sumale (Somali), Tigray, Ye Debub Biheroch Bihereeseboch na Hizboch (Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples)

Independence:  
oldest independent country in Africa and one of the oldest in the world - at least 2,000 years

National holiday:  
National Day (defeat of MENGISTU regime), 28 May (1991)

Constitution:  
ratified December 1994; effective 22 August 1995

Legal system:  
currently transitional mix of national and regional courts

Suffrage:  

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch:  *chief of state:* President GIRMA Woldegiorgis (since 8 October 2001)*head of government:* Prime Minister MELES Zenawi (since NA August 1995)*cabinet:* Council of Ministers as provided for in the December 1994 constitution; ministers are selected by the prime minister and approved by the House of People's Representatives*elections:* president elected by the House of People's Representatives for a six-year term; election last held 8 October 2001 (next to be held NA October 2007); prime minister designated by the party in power following legislative elections*election results:* GIRMA Woldegiorgis elected president; percent of vote by the House of People's Representatives - 100%**Legislative branch:**  

bicameral Parliament consists of the House of Federation or upper chamber (108 seats; members are chosen by state assemblies to serve five-year terms) and the House of People's Representatives or lower chamber (548 seats; members are directly elected by popular vote from single-member districts to serve five-year terms)

elections: last held 14 May 2000 (next to be held NA May 2005)*note:* irregularities and violence at a number of polling stations necessitated the rescheduling of voting in certain constituencies; voting postponed in Somali regional state because of severe drought*election results:* percent of vote - NA%; seats by party - OPDO 177, ANDM 134, TPLF 38, WGGPDO 27, EPRDF 19, SPDO 18, GNDM 15, KSPDO 10, ANDP 8, GPRDF 7, SOPDM 7, BGPDUF 6, BMPDO 5, KAT 4, other regional political groupings 22, independents 8; note - 43 seats unconfirmed**Judicial branch:**  

Federal Supreme Court (the president and vice president of the Federal Supreme Court are recommended by the prime minister and appointed by the House of People's Representatives; for other federal judges, the prime minister submits to the House of People's Representatives for appointment candidates selected by the Federal Judicial Administrative Council)

Political parties and leaders:  

Afar National Democratic Party or ANDP [leader NA]; Amhara National Democratic Movement or ANDM [ADDISU Legesse]; Bench Madji People's Democratic Organization or BMPDO [leader NA]; Benishangul Gumuz People's Democratic Unity Front or BGPDUF [leader NA]; Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front or EPRDF [MELES Zenawi] (an alliance of ANDM, OPDO, SEPDF, and TPLF); Gedeyo People's Revolutionary Democratic Front or GPRDF [leader NA]; Gurage Nationalities' Democratic Movement or GNDM [leader NA]; Kafa Shaka People's Democratic Organization or KSPDO [leader NA]; Kembata, Alabaa and Tembaro or KAT [leader NA]; Oromo People's Democratic Organization or OPDO [JUNEDI Sado]; Sidamo People's Democratic Organization or SPDO [leader NA]; South Omo People's Democratic Movement or SOPDM [leader NA]; Tigrayan People's Liberation Front or TPLF [MELES Zenawi]; Walayta, Gamo, Gofa, Dawro, and Konta People's Democratic Organization or WGGPDO [leader NA]; dozens of small parties

Political pressure groups and leaders:  

Afar Revolutionary Democratic Union Front or ARDUF [leader NA]; Council of Alternative Forces for Peace and Democracy in Ethiopia or CAFPDE [BEYANE Petros]; Southern Ethiopia People's Democratic Coalition or SEPDC [BEYANE Petros]

International organization participation:  

ACP, AfDB, ECA, FAO, G-24, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCs, IGAD, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM (observer), ISO, ITU, NAM, OAU, OPCW, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNU, UPU, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, WTrO (observer)

Diplomatic representation in the US:  *chief of mission:* Ambassador KASSAHUN Ayele*chancery:* 3506 International Drive NW, Washington, DC 20008*consulate(s) general:* Los Angeles*consulate(s):* New York*FAX:* [1] (202) 686-9551*telephone:* [1] (202) 364-1200

Diplomatic representation from the US:  
chief of mission: Ambassador Aurelia A. BRAZEAL
embassy: Entoto Street, Addis Ababa
mailing address: P. O. Box 1014, Addis Ababa
telephone: [251] (1) 550666
FAX: [251] (1) 551328

Flag description:  
 three equal horizontal bands of green (top), yellow, and red with a yellow pentagram and single yellow rays emanating from the angles between the points on a light blue disk centered on the three bands; Ethiopia is the oldest independent country in Africa, and the three main colors of her flag were so often adopted by other African countries upon independence that they became known as the pan-African colors

Economy

Ethiopia



Top of Page

Economy - overview:  
 Ethiopia's poverty-stricken economy is based on agriculture, which accounts for half of GDP, 85% of exports, and 80% of total employment. The agricultural sector suffers from frequent drought and poor cultivation practices. Coffee is critical to the Ethiopian economy with exports of some \$270 million in 2000/01, but historically low prices have seen many farmers switching to qat to supplement their income. The war with Eritrea in 1999-2000 and recurrent drought have buffeted the economy, in particular coffee production. In November 2001 Ethiopia qualified for debt relief from the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. Under Ethiopia's land tenure system, the government owns all land and provides long-term leases to the tenants; the system continues to hamper growth in the industrial sector as entrepreneurs are unable to use land as collateral for loans. Strong growth in 2002 resulted from good rainfall early in the year, the cessation of hostilities, and renewed foreign aid and debt relief. But drought struck again late in 2002, and the World Food Program (WFP) estimates 14 million Ethiopians need food immediately to survive into 2003. The government estimates that annual growth of 7% is needed to reduce poverty, yet the maintenance of 5% in 2003 will be quite difficult (one estimate is for 1.5% growth).

GDP:   
 purchasing power parity - \$50.6 billion (2002 est.)

GDP - real growth rate:   
 5.5% (2002 est.)

GDP - per capita:   
 purchasing power parity - \$750 (2002 est.)

GDP - composition by sector:  
agriculture: 52%
industry: 11%
services: 37% (2002 est.)

Population below poverty line:  
 45% (2002 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:  
lowest 10%: 3%
highest 10%: 33.7% (1995)

Distribution of family income - Gini index:  
 40 (1995)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):   
 4% (2003 est.)

Labor force:   
 NA

Labor force - by occupation:  
 agriculture and animal husbandry 80%, government and services 12%, industry and construction 8% (1985)

Unemployment rate:	  
	NA%
Budget:	 
	<i>revenues:</i> \$1.8 billion <i>expenditures:</i> \$1.9 billion, including capital expenditures of \$600 million (2002 est.)
Industries:	 
	food processing, beverages, textiles, chemicals, metals processing, cement
Industrial production growth rate:	  
	6.7% (2001 est.)
Electricity - production:	  
	1.713 billion kWh (2001)
Electricity - production by source:	 
	<i>fossil fuel:</i> 1.3% <i>hydro:</i> 97.6% <i>other:</i> 1.1% (2001) <i>nuclear:</i> 0%
Electricity - consumption:	  
	1.594 billion kWh (2001)
Electricity - exports:	 
	0 kWh (2001)
Electricity - imports:	 
	0 kWh (2001)
Oil - production:	  
	0 bbl/day (2001 est.)
Oil - consumption:	  
	23,000 bbl/day (2001 est.)
Oil - exports:	  
	NA (2001)
Oil - imports:	  
	NA (2001)
Oil - proved reserves:	  
	214,000 bbl (January 2002 est.)
Natural gas - proved reserves:	  
	12.46 billion cu m (January 2002 est.)
Agriculture - products:	 
	cereals, pulses, coffee, oilseed, sugarcane, potatoes, qat; hides, cattle, sheep, goats
Exports:	  
	\$433 million f.o.b. (2001 est.)
Exports - commodities:	 
	coffee, qat, gold, leather products, live animals, oilseeds
Exports - partners:	 
	Djibouti 13.2%, Italy 9.4%, Japan 9.2%, Saudi Arabia 9.0% (2001)
Imports:	  
	\$1.63 billion f.o.b. (2001)

Imports - commodities:   food and live animals, petroleum and petroleum products, chemicals, machinery, motor vehicles, cereals, textiles

Imports - partners:   Saudi Arabia 29.3%, Italy 7.2%, India 6.7%, US 4.2%, Russia (2001)

Debt - external:    \$5.3 billion (2001 est.)

Economic aid - recipient:   \$308 million (FY00)

Currency:   birr (ETB)

Currency code:   ETB

Exchange rates:   birr per US dollar - NA (2002), 8.4575 (2001), 8.2173 (2000), 7.9423 (1999), 7.1159 (1998)
note: since 24 October 2001 exchange rates are determined on a daily basis via interbank transactions regulated by the Central Bank

Fiscal year:   8 July - 7 July

Communications **Ethiopia**



Telephones - main lines in use:    231,900 (2000)

Telephones - mobile cellular:    17,800 (2000)

Telephone system:  
general assessment: open-wire and microwave radio relay system; adequate for government use
domestic: open-wire; microwave radio relay; radio communication in the HF, VHF, and UHF frequencies; two domestic satellites provide the national trunk service
international: open-wire to Sudan and Djibouti; microwave radio relay to Kenya and Djibouti; satellite earth stations - 3 Intelsat (1 Atlantic Ocean and 2 Pacific Ocean)

Radio broadcast stations:   AM 8, FM 0, shortwave 1 (2001)

Television broadcast stations:   1 plus 24 repeaters (2002)

Internet country code:   .et

Internet Service Providers (ISPs):   1 (2002)

Internet users:    20,000 (2002)

Transportation **Ethiopia**



Railways:   
total: 681 km (Ethiopian segment of the Addis Ababa-Djibouti railroad)
narrow gauge: 681 km 1.000-m gauge
note: railway under joint control of Djibouti and Ethiopia (2002)

Highways:  

total: 24,145 km
paved: 3,290 km
unpaved: 20,855 km (1998)

Waterways:  

none

Ports and harbors:  

none; Ethiopia is landlocked and was by agreement with Eritrea using the ports of Assab and Massawa; since the border dispute with Eritrea flared, Ethiopia has used the port of Djibouti for nearly all of its imports

Merchant marine:  

total: 9 ships (1,000 GRT or over) 81,933 GRT/101,287 DWT
ships by type: cargo 5, container 1, petroleum tanker 1, roll on/roll off 2 (2002 est.)

Airports:  

83 (2002)

Airports - with paved runways:  

total: 14
over 3,047 m: 3
2,438 to 3,047 m: 5
1,524 to 2,437 m: 5
914 to 1,523 m: 1 (2002)

Airports - with unpaved runways:  

total: 69
over 3,047 m: 2
2,438 to 3,047 m: 4
1,524 to 2,437 m: 10
914 to 1,523 m: 32
under 914 m: 21 (2002)

Military Ethiopia

Top of Page

Military branches:  

Ethiopian National Defense Force (Ground Forces, Air Force, militia, police)
note: Ethiopia is landlocked and has no navy; following the secession of Eritrea, Ethiopian naval facilities remained in Eritrean possession

Military manpower - military age:  

18 years of age (2003 est.)

Military manpower - availability:  

males age 15-49: 15,388,318 (2003 est.)

Military manpower - fit for military service:  

males age 15-49: 8,040,381 (2003 est.)

Military manpower - reaching military age annually:  

males: 714,165 (2003 est.)

Military expenditures - dollar figure:   

\$800 million (FY00)

Military expenditures - percent of GDP:   

12.6% (FY00)

Transnational Issues Ethiopia

Top of Page

Disputes - international:  

Eritrea and Ethiopia agreed to abide by 2002 independent boundary commission delimitation decision, but demarcation, scheduled to begin in 2003, has been hampered by technical delays and Ethiopian concerns that the decision ignored "human geography" and awarded Badme, the focus of the 1998-2000 war, to Eritrea; Ethiopia maintains only an administrative line and no international border with the Oromo region of southern Somalia and maintains alliances with local clans in opposition to the Transitional National Government in Mogadishu; "Somaliland" secessionists provide port facilities and trade ties to land-locked Ethiopia; efforts to demarcate the porous boundary with Sudan have been delayed by civil war there

Illicit drugs:  

transit hub for heroin originating in Southwest and Southeast Asia and destined for Europe and North America as well as cocaine destined for markets in southern Africa; cultivates qat (khat) for local use and regional export, principally to Djibouti and Somalia (legal in all three countries); the lack of a well-developed financial system limits the country's utility as a money-laundering center

This page was last updated on 1 August, 2003