

Colombia



Colombia is a country of significant natural resources, and has a diverse culture reflecting the indigenous Indian, Spanish and African origins of its people. The fourth largest and third most populous country in South America, Colombia is endowed with substantial oil reserves and is a major producer of gold, silver, emeralds, platinum and coal.

COLOMBIA FACTS

Population: 44.2 million (UN, 2003)

Capital: Bogotá

Major language: Spanish

Major religion: Christianity

Life expectancy: 69 years (men), 75 years (women) (UN)

Monetary unit: 1 Colombian peso = 100 centavos

Main exports: Petroleum, coffee, coal, gold, bananas, cut flowers, chemicals, emeralds, cotton products, sugar, livestock

Average annual income: US \$1,890 (World Bank, 2001)

Internet domain: .co

International dialing code: +57

Two of Colombia's leading exports, oil and coffee, face an uncertain future; new exploration is needed to offset declining oil production, while coffee harvests and prices are depressed. Colombian business leaders are calling for greater progress in solving the conflict with insurgent groups. On the positive side, several international financial institutions have praised the economic reforms introduced by President URIBE and have pledged enough funding to cover Colombia's debt servicing costs in 2003.



Flag Description: three horizontal bands of yellow (top, double-width), blue, and red; similar to the flag of Ecuador, which is longer and bears the Ecuadorian coat of arms superimposed in the center. A timeline of key events is available at http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/country_profiles/1212827.stm