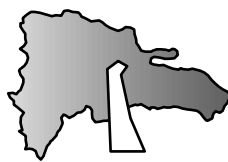


# US in the WORLD

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE A HEALTHY PLANET



## Delaware



Comparison at same scale

**Delaware**  
Area: 2,396 sq. miles  
Population: 0.8 million

**Dominican Republic**  
Area: 18,816 sq. miles  
Population: 8.4 million

**Largest metropolitan areas by population (1998):**  
Wilmington-Newark (565,329), Dover (124,089)



## Dominican Republic

**Largest urban areas by population (2000):** Santo Domingo (3,599,000), Santiago de los Caballeros (1,539,000)

The Dominican Republic and Delaware were among the first American territories to be explored and settled by Europeans. Santo Domingo, the current capital of the Dominican Republic, was founded in 1496 as the first European settlement in the New World, and Dutch traders colonized what was to be Delaware in 1631.

Since these early beginnings, Delaware and the Dominican Republic have experienced tremendous demographic and economic growth. Both places now face the challenges of high population density—385 and 449 people per square mile, respectively. This demographic pressure, combined with heavy industrialization in Delaware and with a high demand for agricultural land in the Dominican Republic, has led to the loss of some natural habitats and threatens those that remain.

Geographic highs and lows characterize both Delaware and the Dominican Republic. Delaware is divided between the Piedmont plateau and the Atlantic coastal plain; the Cordillera Central crosses the center of the Dominican Republic, and fertile plains lie along both sides. Delaware's forested uplands, sandy beaches, and fresh and saltwater wetlands are essential for both resident and migratory shorebirds, over a million of which come to feed on the eggs of horseshoe crabs each spring. Similarly, the Dominican Republic's diverse topography, which ranges from the highest mountain peak in the Caribbean (10,400 feet) to a saltwater lake that is approximately 150 feet below sea level, makes the country a desirable home to a variety of different bird species.

While Delaware is becoming increasingly industrialized, the Dominican Republic remains a mostly agrarian

country. Delaware's economy relies mostly on chemicals, rubber and plastic products, railroad and aircraft equipment, car manufacturing, and processed foods. Three-quarters of the population lives in urban areas and works in the service industry. Such heavy industrialization, combined with a modernized agricultural sector—soybeans, milk, and corn are the main products—has led to soil erosion, and ultimately, to the disappearance of over half the wetlands that existed in 1780. This loss has had several impacts including reduced ability to control floods, higher costs to make water suitable for consumption, and potential decline of the shellfish industry. Unhappily, Delaware leads the nation in loss of native plants.

Although over half the population of the Dominican Republic lives in urban areas and services account for

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# DELAWARE

## Demographic and Health Trends

- Delaware is one of the fastest growing states on the East Coast. The “First State” has added 87,000 people since 1990—35,000 as a result of net migration from other states.
- The population of each of Delaware’s three counties has grown by at least 10 percent since 1990. Sussex County, home to popular beach resorts, grew the fastest, at 23 percent.
- Delaware ranks second in the nation for prevalence of gonorrhea among teens—1,548 cases per 100,000 females ages 15 to 19. This rate is more than double the national average of 699 cases. Gonorrhea is associated with pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility, and premature births.

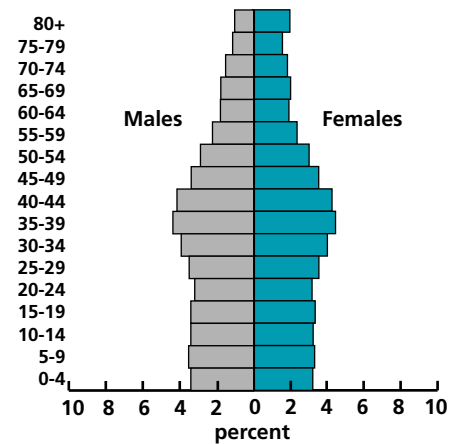
## Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

- A drought in 1999 focused attention on Delaware’s water supply. Although water reserves are adequate in the southern part of the state, these reserves are threatened by higher demand as a result of the rapid population growth, as well as by pollution from area farms. In the northern part of the state, studies have indicated that the water supply will fall 19 percent short of demand unless new water resources are found.
- Delaware has 19 endangered and threatened species—15 animals and

## Socioeconomic Factors

- Because of its liberal laws of incorporation, more than 250,000 firms are licensed in Delaware—more than 10 times the 23,000 firms that currently operate in the “First State.” In 1996 alone, 52,000 new companies incorporated in Delaware; only Florida and New York had more.
- Although chemical manufacturing, led by the DuPont company, remains a key industry in Delaware, it accounts for under 10 percent of the “First State’s” jobs today.
- Delaware’s per capita gross state product was \$43,174 in 1997, the highest in the nation.

## POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

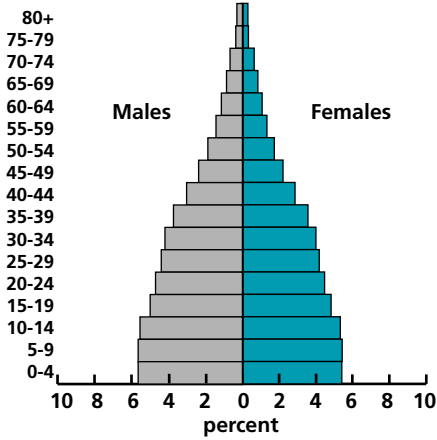


## DELAWARE FACTS

<b>Population, 1999:</b> 754,000
<b>Projected population, 2025:</b> 861,000
<b>Annual growth rate:</b> 1.3%
<b>Doubling time (at current rate):</b> 54 years
<b>Average number of children per woman:</b> 2.0
<b>Infant deaths per 1,000 live births:</b> 7.8
<b>Life expectancy:</b> 72 (male), 78 (female)
<b>Persons per square mile:</b> 385
<b>Percent urban:</b> 73
<b>Endangered/threatened animals:</b> 15 species
<b>Endangered/threatened plants:</b> 4 species
<b>Percent of land protected:</b> 5
<b>Wetlands loss, 1780-1980:</b> 54%
<b>Daily water use per capita:</b> 2,085 gallons
<b>Water use for domestic purposes:</b> 7%
<b>Water use for agriculture:</b> 4%
<b>Water use for industry:</b> 4%
<b>Water use for energy production:</b> 85%
<b>Cropland per capita:</b> 0.7 acres
<b>Energy use per capita:</b> 62.6 barrels of oil equiv.
<b>Persons per motor vehicle:</b> 1.2
<b>Adults who are high school graduates:</b> 85%
<b>Elected officials who are women:</b> 25%
<b>Labor force in agriculture:</b> 2%
<b>Labor force in industry:</b> 20%
<b>Labor force in services:</b> 78%
<b>Gross State Product, 1997:</b> \$43,174 per capita

# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

## POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FACTS

Population, 2000: 8.4 million

Projected population, 2025: 12.1 million

Annual growth rate: 1.8%

Doubling time (at current rate): 39 years

Average number of children per woman: 3.1

Infant deaths per 1,000 live births: 47

Life expectancy: 67 (male), 71 (female)

Persons per square mile: 449

Percent urban: 62

Threatened animals: 28 species

Threatened plants: 73 species

Percent of land protected: 174

Wetlands loss, through 1980s: n.a.

Percent with access to safe water: 79

Percent with adequate sanitation: 85

Daily water use per capita: 322 gallons

Water use for domestic purposes: 5%

Water use for agriculture: 89%

Water use for industry: 6%

Cropland per capita: 0.5 acres

Energy use per capita: 3.4 barrels of oil equiv.

Persons per motor vehicle: 22

Percent of girls in secondary school: 47

Percent of boys in secondary school: 34

Women as % of national legislature: 15

Labor force in agriculture: 25%

Labor force in industry: 29%

Labor force in services: 46%

GDP per capita, 1998: US\$1,882

## Demographic and Health Trends

■ The lowest bars of the graph at left are becoming more equal in size, reflecting lower birth rates in the recent past. Fertility has declined from an average of seven children per woman in the 1950s to three today.

■ Apart from neighboring Haiti, the Dominican Republic has the highest rate of infant mortality in the Caribbean. One in every 21 infants does not survive to its first birthday. Nonetheless, conditions have im-

proved from the early 1950s, when the rate was three times higher.

■ About 75 percent of children under the age of 1 are immunized against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, and polio; 86 percent against tuberculosis; and 95 percent against measles. Except for measles immunization, these rates are lower than those for Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

■ Five thousand known species of higher plants are found in the Dominican Republic, and one-third of them are found nowhere else. There are 136 known species of birds in the country, and 20 species of mammals.

■ Threatened or endangered birds and mammals that are found only in the Dominican Republic and contiguous Haiti include the Hispaniolan hawk, La Selle thrush, Chat tanager, white-winged warbler, and Hispaniolan ground iguana.

■ The Dominican Republic has 640,051 gallons per capita per year of internally renewable water resources and uses 18 percent; the United States has 2.4 million gallons per capita and uses 20 percent. Despite the apparent abundance of water in the Dominican Republic, some areas suffer water shortages that are aggravated in part by deforestation.

## Socioeconomic Factors

■ Almost half the population lives on the equivalent of US\$2 or less a day as measured in purchasing power parity. That is, they are living on the amount of money that would allow them to buy US\$2 worth of goods or services in the United States.

■ The country's annual gross national product (GNP) per capita is

US\$1,770—less than half the average for Latin America and the Caribbean. Official development assistance from other countries contributes 0.5 percent of GNP, or US\$9 per person.

■ Just over four-fifths of Dominican men and women are literate.

*continued from page 1*

more than 60 percent of the gross domestic product, one-fourth of the labor force is employed in agriculture. The main crops are cocoa beans, sugar, coffee, cotton, and rice. Gold and silver also contribute significantly to the economy, but bauxite, once plentiful, stopped being mined in the 1980s. A high unemployment rate (30 percent in 1996) and the limited arable land combine to encourage the clearing of native habitats for further agricultural projects. Deforestation has led to soil erosion, reductions in fresh water supply, and loss of fauna and flora. Twenty-eight animal and 73 plant species are currently endangered, and coral reefs—a prime attraction for the tourist industry—are being damaged. The low current population growth rate of 1.8 percent, only slightly greater than Delaware's 1.3 percent, hides serious population challenges such as the third highest fertility rate in the Caribbean and a high number of infant deaths.

### Responding to Challenges

The Nature Conservancy has launched a \$10 million campaign aimed at protecting key habitats for threatened plants and animals in Delaware and adjoining states. The campaign relies on techniques such as land

purchases, easements, and landowner education. It recently provided financial and technical assistance to the Nanticoke River Watershed Conservancy for the purchase of a conservation easement along the Nanticoke River and some of its tributaries.

In the Dominican Republic, The Nature Conservancy is also working with local partners to identify and protect habitats in the Parque Nacional del Este. This natural reserve offers diverse habitats, ranging from dry tropical forests to mangrove swamps, for half of the country's bird species. In addition, the park's extensive protected beaches serve as nesting grounds for four species of endangered sea turtles. The conservationists aim to establish water quality and reef health monitoring programs, implement a zoning plan for tourism and fisheries in the park, and encourage community participation in park stewardship and nature-based tourism.

Since the devastating 1998 hurricane, Georges, the U.S. Agency for International Development has funneled US\$50 million through local nongovernmental organizations to help rehabilitate the nation, particularly to strengthen health, sanitation, and

People in Delaware and Dominican Republic, along with all other living creatures, need clean and healthy air, water, and land, and a stable climate. But as people strive to meet these fundamental needs and improve their lives, they make demands on Earth's resources—and leave footprints. No species demands as much and leaves as many footprints as humans do. The number of people on the planet has a direct impact on the environment and how resources are used. But the level of consumption and the ways in which natural resources are used also directly affect the health of the planet—locally, regionally, globally.

No matter where one lives, the activities of *all* humans will ultimately determine the well-being of *all* humans.

agricultural infrastructure. Since 1962 over 3,500 U.S. Peace Corps volunteers have served in the Dominican Republic. ■

**DEFINITIONS:** **Doubling Time:** The number of years it will take for a population to double, assuming a *constant* rate of natural increase. **Average Number of Children Per Woman:** Known as the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) or the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime, assuming that birth rates remained constant throughout her childbearing years. **Endangered Species:** Any species in danger of extinction throughout all, or a significant portion, of its habitat. **Threatened Species:** Any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all, or a significant portion, of its habitat. **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a nation in a given year. **Gross State Product (GSP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a state. It is the state counterpart of the nation's GDP. **Commercial energy** includes energy from solid, liquid, and gaseous fuels, plus primary electricity. **Traditional energy** includes fuelwood, charcoal, bagasse, and animal and vegetal wastes.

**SOURCES:** Major sources are International Labour Organization; National Center for Health Statistics; UNICEF; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Geological Survey; The World Conservation Union (IUCN); and World Resources Institute. For a complete list of sources, contact PRB.

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