User Guide

IP access: http://www.countrywatch.com/ip

Username and Password access: http://www.countrywatch.com

Barcode access: http://www.countrywatch.com/barcode.asp

Customer Service: 1-800-8379-3885 x 100
Welcome To CountryWatch

CountryWatch, Inc. is an information provider for schools, universities, libraries and individuals needing up-to-date news and information on the 192 countries of the world. CountryWatch, Inc. is a useful resource for any public or private sector organization with overseas operations and global interests. The management of CountryWatch.com has extensive international business experience and the members of the editorial department have strong academic backgrounds. Using this combination of business and academic acumen, the CountryWatch team has created a set of demographic, political, economic, business, cultural and environmental information in the form of Country Reviews™. The Country Wire™ provides daily news coverage from several regional news services for every country. In addition to these services, CountryWatch, Inc. also features CountryWatch Data, the CountryWatch Map Gallery, CountryWatch @School and the weekly Global News Update. In addition to these products and services, CountryWatch, Inc. also offers the CountryWatch Forecast -- a unique five year forecast of key macroeconomic variables for each of the 192 countries in the world (plus Hong Kong and Taiwan.)

The CountryWatch Team—Management:

Robert C. Kelly: Chairman, CEO and Founder; B.S., United States Military Academy; MPA, Ph.D. in Economics, Harvard; former CEO of multinational company subsidiaries; Tenured Professor at USMA; international business experience in 60 countries.

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Vicki Sanditen: Executive Vice President (Information Services) - B.S., University of Texas, Austin; J.D., South Texas College of Law; substantial sales and marketing experience working with Fortune 1000 companies and law firms.

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1. Log in using Username and Password when IP or Barcode authentication are not available. You may obtain these from your CountryWatch representative, your librarian, or the media services staff. Once you are logged in you will see a message that tells you “Welcome, Member!” The Search bar becomes active when you are logged in.

2. Learn about a new country each week in the Featured Country Review. You will see the Country Overview and Key Data by clicking on the “more . . .” link.

3. The featured Country Wire has the top three stories for the Featured Country of the week (See the Features Menu for the entire Country Wire).
Accessing Information

CountryWatch offers three Primary ways to navigate the website:

- The Features menu on the left
- The Search bar at the top of the page
- The Advanced Search link found below the search bar.

In order to view information for the country of your choice, use one of the three methods.

The Country Review menu button guides you to the entire database of reviews. In the search bar at the top of the page you can enter the name of the country you are researching. This will return wire story links relevant to the country you searched. The Advanced Search link allows you to choose between the Country Wire and Country Reviews for your results.

4. To navigate to CountryWatch Features, select from the buttons in the Features menu bar.

Country Review takes you to the starting point in the alphabetized country list, which is Afghanistan. To select another country, use the pull down menu.

5. Use the search field to search the Country Wire. Enter your search terms, and each relevant Wire story will be displayed and sorted by relevancy.

6. To search the Country Reviews or the Country Wire, access the Advanced search feature.
The Country Reviews™ are comprehensive and regularly updated reports on every country available with Standard, Premium, Elite or Suite subscriptions to CountryWatch, Inc.

The Country Review is home to all the data about the selected country. In the Overview are the Key Data, Regional Map and the Country Map. Also, you will find the current time, the name of the Capital City, a picture of the flag, and the top three News Wire stories.

Links to other sections of the Country Review are found on the left side of the page. This is how you will navigate through the Country Review for the selected country.

Each Country Review is laid out in the same way. All reviews have the following sections:

- Country Overview
- Political Overview
- Economic Overview
- Investment Overview
- Social Overview
- Environmental Overview

7. The country map and the flag may be enlarged and printed. Select the link below the images. Once the new window opens, right click on the image and select PRINT PICTURE from the menu.

8. In addition to the image of the flag, many countries include a picture gallery. You may scroll through the images with the buttons beneath the pictures.

9. The three most recent Country Wire stories will appear for the selected country.

10. The Country Review is home to all the data about the selected country. In the Overview are the Key Data, Regional Map and the Country Map. Also, you will find the current time, the name of the Capital City, a picture of the flag, and the top three News Wire stories.
The Country Wire

The Country Wire™ provides daily news coverage for 192 countries and features up-to-date articles from regional news wire services across the globe.

Chronologically arranged news stories for each country are available using the filter to select a given country.

11. Use the pull-down menu to select a country and then click the Filter button.

Your results will be displayed on the same page.

Use the story links to open a CountryWire news article.

12. Country Wire news articles can be printed by clicking the PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION link at the bottom of the story.
CountryWatch Data provides macroeconomic, economic sector, health, demographic, human development, and environmental data sets across a ten year span. This statistical set is searchable through five primary categories and 24 sub-categories.

13. First, select the preferred countries or regions, click add after each one.

14. Second, select the preferred research dates.

15. Third, select the desired data categories.

16. You can activate Category Filters with the check box.

You can define your data selection into the following Categories:

- Cultural
- Economic Sector Data
- Environmental
- Macroeconomic
- Physical

17. Results are then ready to be displayed.
When reading data results, it is helpful to remember that the quantities and frequencies displayed may be measured in different units. When comparing data, make sure that the units are the same. In some cases, you may have to make unit conversions to compare different types of data.

19.

Results are displayed in a table with the name and definition of the variable. Also listed are the description and measurement units.

When reading data results, it is helpful to remember that the quantities and frequencies displayed may be measured in different units. When comparing data, make sure that the units are the same. In some cases, you may have to make unit conversions to compare different types of data.

20.

Your data search results are downloadable. The file will be a Comma Separated Values spreadsheet which will allow you to create charts and graphs with the data. Save the file to a disk or drive you will have access to later.
The CountryWatch Map Gallery includes two different types of maps:

- **Thematic Maps**: These maps were created from the data in CountryWatch Data. The definitions for each thematic map are available from the CountryWatch Data section of the CountryWatch.com website.

- **Political/Physical Maps**: These world and regional maps depict topographical and physical features as well as political boundaries. They supplement the political maps which are available within each Country Review™.

Your map results will list the category and sub-category items that were selected on the previous page.

By clicking on the link for each of the categories a new map will be displayed showing the graphical representation of the data for the entire world where data was available.

To view a larger version of the map, follow the “Click for Larger Version” link.

The enlarged maps can be printed by right clicking on the image and selecting PRINT PICTURE.
The Global News Update is a weekly written report of significant political news stories around the world. The news update is written and produced by CountryWatch’s editor on a weekly basis, and is intended to inform CountryWatch users of important political events evolving in the world.

The Global News Update is useful for those who would like to have an overview of the previous week’s political news.

After the date line will be a summary of what is in that week’s digest.

If topics in the Global News Update contain only excerpts of Country Wire news articles, the complete article can be found in the Country Wire using the Filter.

February 14, 2005

Lebanon is the “Country of the Week.” In our “International Hot Stories,” we feature developments in Iraq, Iran, North Korea, China, United States of America (featuring Puerto Rico). We then cover the developing story of the elections in Saudi Arabia. We end with the United States in the section called “In the News.”

Country of Week

Middle East: Lebanon

On Feb. 14, 2005, former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was killed in what appears to have been a political assassination. A car bomb exploded just after Hariri had left a political session in parliament and his convoy was around the area of the St. George’s Hotel. The attack left around 10 people dead and several injured. Included in those reported to have been killed were members of his convoy; a former minister, also in his convoy, was reported to have been seriously injured. Hariri had served as prime minister of Lebanon for approximately 15 years and had been regarded as a key political figure in Lebanese politics ever since the end of the civil war in 1990. He resigned from his political office as prime minister in 2004 over differences with President Emile Lahoud and was increasingly viewed as an opposition voice. Of particular concern to Hariri was Lahoud’s decision to seek an extension to his tenure in office. Lahoud is regarded as a favorite of the Syrian government, which has been highly influential of Lebanese politics. In recent times, however, relations between the two countries have become more tense. Indeed, Hariri joined the opposition’s calls for a withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon -- a move not favored by Syrian-aligned factions. Nevertheless, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad condemned Hariri’s assassination. As well, Arab League Secretary General Amr Mussa characterized it as an
CountryWatch @School

CountryWatch @School provides curriculum-based resources, which include country-quizzes, as well as activities and lesson plans derived from CountryWatch, Inc.’s Country Reviews™ and Country Wire™. These features are tailored to Social Studies students in grades 6 through 12 and adhere to the National Social Studies Standards. These features are intended to widen students’ awareness of the interconnected global world within which we live. Because these features have been developed in accordance with National Social Studies Standards, teachers of Social Studies will also find CountryWatch @School to be a helpful resource when used in tandem with established Social Studies curriculum.

INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS

1. Where is this country located?
2. What are the largest cities in this country?
3. What are the major ethnic, religious and linguistic groups in this country?
4. When did this country gain independence?
5. Why type of government does this country have?
6. Who is the leader?
7. What is the state of the economy?
8. What is the country’s main export?
9. What environmental challenges does the country face?
10. What are some of the strengths of this country?

These introductory questions are intended to provide users with an introduction to learning about a given country, at the initial stages of the exploration and learning process. This exercise can be done individually by a user, or collectively in a learning environment.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe the climate in this country. Are there any major differences from the climate in your country? If so, describe these differences. Include a climate map or a local or regional map to indicate what the climate is like.
2. What are this country’s major population concentrations? Are there any major parts of the country that are more densely populated than others?
3. If you were to visit this country, what language or languages would you need to learn? What types of religious services might you attend? Would you expect to see much racial and ethnic diversity, or would the population be relatively homogeneous?
4. What are some key events in this country’s history? How has the country’s history affected its current population and culture? Is the nation currently feeling the impact of certain historical events, patterns, or decisions?
5. Describe the country’s political structure. Who is in charge of making decisions? Do the people get a chance to participate in political life? How does this government structure compare to the one in your own country?

These discussion questions should be used to help students make sense of the information they find at Countrywatch.com. Upon answering the questions, students will have an understanding of the country’s geography, climate, population, languages, religions, ethnicities, historical events, political structure, level of political stability, economy, and environment.
QUICK QUIZZES

1. Who were the first inhabitants of Australia?
   - A. Europeans
   - B. Australoids or Aborigines
   - C. Africans
   - D. Portuguese

2. How long ago did they arrive?
   - A. 100,000 years ago
   - B. 200 years ago
   - C. 1,000 years ago
   - D. 40,000 years ago

3. Their technical culture depended:
   - A. on the availability of iron deposits.
   - B. on their college graduates.
   - C. on wood, bone, and stone tools and weapons.
   - D. the availability of computer chips.

Quizzes are designed to explore socio-cultural, political, economic, and environmental aspects of the countries of the world in a consistent format for each available country. The link to the answer key is at the end of each quiz.

COUNTRY SCOPE

Country Scope is a four-part activity designed to guide students toward learning more about a particular country and its people by using information obtained from countrywatch.com. You can apply this activity to any country and culture present in the world today. Further, the activity can easily be tailored to meet your content needs, to fit into your time constraints and to challenge your students, no matter what their ability levels are.
Q. Is the CountryWatch site ADA compliant?
   A. Yes, we used Hemish.org to test our site for ADA compliance.

Q. Where does CountryWatch get their information?
   A. CountryWatch uses a number of government, academic, media and independent sources to compose its reviews. For specific source materials call us at 1-800-879-3885 (US and Canada) or 1-713-355-6500 and ask to be connected with the editorial department or use the contact us page, click the "Editorial" option.

Q. Why do you only cover 192 countries?
   A. At CountryWatch.com, the criterion for coverage of a geopolitical area “as a country” is dependent upon whether or not it has been recognized by the United States’ Department of State. Consequently, CountryWatch covers 192 independent states in the world, including the world’s newest country, East Timor.

Because the United Nations has 189 member states, many people erroneously assume there are only 189 countries or sovereign states, yet there are three countries, such as the Holy See (Vatican City) and Switzerland, which are not included in this list. Switzerland, for example, upholds its tenet of neutrality by holding only “observer” status at the United Nations. The third country, East Timor, has not yet become a member state due to its recent admission into the community of independent states. It is anticipated that East Timor will soon become another member of the United Nations.

CountryWatch has been attentive to independence movements across the world. As such, when independence from Indonesia was declared, and when sovereign status as well as international recognition was achieved, CountryWatch was pleased to add East Timor to its list of countries covered, during the very week of official independence.

Other territories, such as Puerto Rico and Taiwan have met many requirements of independent nation state status, but continue to be treated as dependencies of sorts. In fact, until 1971, Taiwan was a member of the United Nations, but since then has been replaced by China in this regard.

At CountryWatch.com, certain territories, such as Puerto Rico, are treated in special sections or appendices in the United States Country Review, while Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao are each treated in a similar manner within the China Country Review. CountryWatch.com recognizes the imprecise and politicized nature of such treatments, and as has been illustrated in the case of East Timor, the editor is vigilant about staying abreast of political developments, should sovereign status become a reality at some point in the future.

CountryWatch recognizes and understands that the United States Department of State’s recognition of a country is reflective of the particular political agenda of the United States and its allies. Use of the Department of State listing is not intended to be an explicit endorsement of any country’s political priorities and CountryWatch encourages users to consider the complex range of parameters included in designating any place or area to be a sovereign country.

Q. How often is the information updated?
   A. Each Country Review is updated once per year or as major events occur. The Country Wire is updated throughout the day as news stories become available.

Q. How do I cite CountryWatch as an online resource?
   A. Siting:
      • **Commentary**
      • **Individual Works**
        Basic form, using an Internet protocol:

        **Examples:**

        **Note:**
        This is the citation format used when the print version is not used in the reference.