

KEY FACTS

Official name: Jamhuriya al Yamaniya (Republic of Yemen)

Head of State: President Abd Rabbuh Mansur al Hadi (from 21 Feb 2012)

Head of government: Prime Minister Muhammed Salim Basindwa (from 27 Nov 2011)

Ruling party: Al Mutammar al Shabi al Am (GPC) (General People's Congress) (from 1999; re-elected 2003)

Area: 527,968 square km

Population: 25.88 million (2012)*

Capital: Sana'a

Official language: Arabic

Currency: Rial (YR) = 100 fils

Exchange rate: YR215.03 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

GDP per capita: US\$1,377 (2012)*

GDP real growth: 0.14% (2012)*

GDP: US\$35.64 billion (2012)*

Labour force: 6.64 million (2009)

Unemployment: 35.00% (2009)

Inflation: 10.98% (2012)*

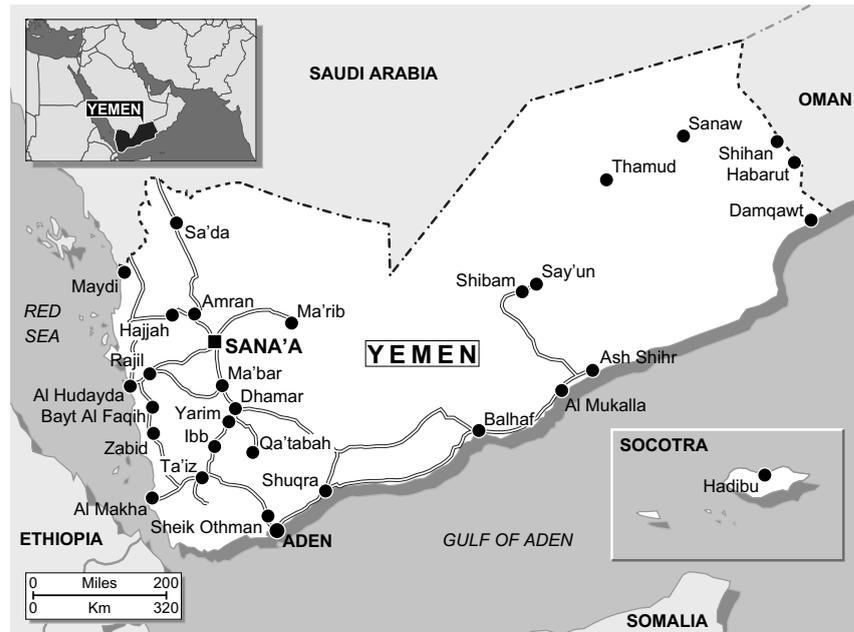
Oil production: 180,000 bpd (2012)

Natural gas production: 7.60 billion cum (2012)

Balance of trade: US\$1.45 billion (2012)*

* estimated figure

Yemen



The three declared and immediate economic priorities of President Abd Rabbuh Mansur al Hadi's government since coming to power in 2012 have been to maintain macro-economic stability, create jobs and reduce poverty. The highest political and security objective is the elimination of the al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) which had been formed in January 2009 by a merger between two offshoots of the international Islamist militant network in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. AQAP has been described in Washington as 'the most active operational franchise' of al Qaeda beyond Pakistan and Afghanistan, since 2003 successfully attacking oil facilities, random foreigners and security forces as it seeks to topple the Saudi monarchy and Yemeni government and establish nothing less than an Islamic caliphate. A number of 'near miss' terrorist attacks have been attributed to AQAP, notably a plot to blow up a US-bound passenger aircraft.

However serious the AQAP threat, the Yemeni government needed to focus on its economic programme if social unrest (which inevitably plays into the hands of

AQAP) was to be contained. Endemic corruption meant that governance also featured prominently on the new government's agenda. On the 2011 Transparency International *Corruption Perceptions Index*, Yemen ranked 164 out of the 182 countries listed.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) recognised that 'Yemen is facing major economic challenges that require medium- and long-term structural reforms, particularly to facilitate a smooth adjustment to declining oil production, while bolstering prospects for the non-oil sector and poverty reduction. The role of donors is critical. A concerted effort will be needed from the donor community to expedite tangible assistance to help Yemen. Indeed, in the absence of significant and predictable financial support, it will be difficult to sustain growth and make a significant dent in fighting poverty.'

In its July 2013 assessment of the Yemeni economy, the IMF noted that the macro-economic situation had stabilised in 2012 but that the recovery remained fragile. After contracting by more than 12 per cent in 2011, gross domestic product

(GDP) was estimated to have grown by 2.4 per cent in 2012, reflecting an easing of supply bottlenecks and the utilisation of part of idle capacity. Oil production had declined further, due to continued sabotage of the pipelines. Average inflation declined to 9.9 per cent from 19.5 per cent in 2011, reflecting the appreciation of the rial to its pre-crisis level, the moderation of international food prices and the easing of supply shortages. Money supply grew faster than nominal GDP, particularly in the second half of the year, partly driven by government borrowing, while private sector credit contracted marginally. Yemen's external position had, in the view of the IMF, strengthened substantially in 2012, due largely to exceptional Saudi Arabian support (see Secret US Deals below). The current account deficit narrowed in 2012 to about 1 per cent of GDP compared to 4.1 per cent in the preceding year. Imports and non-hydrocarbon exports showed a strong recovery from their sharp decline in the previous year, while oil exports suffered from frequent sabotage of the key pipeline. Transfers increased, reflecting a Saudi oil grant of around US\$2 billion and strong growth in workers' remittances. The capital account also benefited from a US\$1 billion Saudi deposit at the Central Bank of the Yemen (CBY). Consequently, gross reserves increased to US\$5.6 billion, equivalent to about 5.5 months of imports.

The budget deficit widened in 2012 to 6.3 per cent of GDP due to higher spending, including on wages and subsidies. Notwithstanding some increases in domestic fuel prices, subsidies increased to about 9 per cent of GDP. Furthermore, the hiring of additional government employees and the payment of retroactive wage settlements led to an increase in the wage bill to about 11 per cent of GDP. Capital spending increased but remained below its pre-crisis level. On the revenue side, the decline in oil receipts was more than compensated for by an increase in tax collection and the exceptional level of Saudi grants. The non-hydrocarbon primary deficit excluding grants deteriorated to 21.1 per cent of GDP, compared to 17.6 per cent a year earlier. Public debt remained moderate at about 48 per cent of GDP, with the external part constituting about 18 per cent.

Yemen's money supply in 2012 increased by 21 per cent, reflecting higher net foreign assets and net credit to the government. Most of this increase took place in the second half of the year. With the deceleration in inflation, the CBY reduced

the base interest rate in October 2012 from 20 to 18 per cent and again to 15 per cent in February 2013. However, and despite the substantial excess reserves in the banking system, private sector credit contracted slightly, reflecting the still high real interest rate, the fledgling recovery and the high credit risk. On the other hand, net claims on government resources increased by almost 30 per cent.

The IMF considered Yemen's banking system to be stable, notwithstanding some vulnerabilities. Yemen's banks were on aggregate profitable and liquid, with the capital adequacy ratio estimated at 29.6 per cent at the end of December 2012, partly due to the large share of zero risk-weighted government securities in the banks' portfolios and the high interest rates earned on these securities. However, non-performing loans still stood at 25.5 per cent, reflecting the level of credit risk and some deficiencies in commercial banks' risk management capacities. Islamic banks were also challenged by limited eligible domestic investment opportunities. Financial markets and the payment system are underdeveloped.

Where's Saleh?

Not long before he was invited to step down as President, Yemen's leader for 33 years, Ali Abdullah Saleh made the curious and rather rambling claim, that 'Democracy in Yemen did not stop, instead it is in a continuous development, there is no

other way to follow rather than democracy, it is our national way for building up our country, it was not imposed on us by others.' What was at issue had been the former president's definition of 'democracy'. What the discredited ex-president understood by 'democracy' clearly differed from the understanding of most of his people.

Following his departure, the former president seemed to disappear from view. His cronies and former inner circle remained to act as a pressure group *in absentia*, still – if forlornly – endeavouring to make his presence felt. Mr Saleh had never appeared to be a leader who enjoyed a low profile, whether during his rise to power or during his Gulf brokered demise. Ibrahim Sharqieh of the Brookings Institute who has written extensively about contemporary Yemen was quoted as saying that 'No one knows where he is.' Superficially at least, Mr Saleh and his cronies appeared to have been effectively sidelined by President Abd Rabbuh Mansur al Hadi. The chief allies of Saleh were General Mohammed Saleh al Ahmar, Yemen's air force chief and Saleh's half-brother, as well as Tareq Saleh, the commander of a powerful brigade in Sana'a and Saleh's nephew. The former president's failure to leave the country immediately, while not violating the US- Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) negotiated peace deal he signed in 2012 to step down as president, did

KEY INDICATORS		Yemen				
	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	22.98	*23.69	*23.15	*24.84	*25.88
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	26.90	25.10	31.30	*33.70	*35.64
GDP per capita	US\$	1,171	1,061	1,272	*1,340	*1,377
GDP real growth	%	3.6	3.9	7.7	*-10.5	*0.1
Inflation	%	19.0	3.7	12.1	*17.6	*11.0
Industrial output	% change	–	2.1	18.0	–	–
Agricultural output	% change	–	1.8	4.4	–	–
Oil output	'000 bpd	304.0	287.0	264.0	228.0	180.0
Natural gas output	bn cum	–	0.8	6.2	9.4	7.6
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	8,976.9	5,855.0	6,749.8	8,662.2	–
Oil	US\$m	–	–	–	–	*5,100.0
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	9,333.8	7,867.8	8,700.5	8,248.4	–
Balance of trade	US\$m	-356.9	-2,012.8	-1,050.7	413.7	–
Current account	US\$m	-1,251.2	-2,564.9	-1,724.8	-1,663.1	*-136.0
Total reserves minust gold	US\$m	8,111.4	6,935.6	5,868.4	5,274.1	*6,067.7
Foreign exchange	US\$m	8,110.9	6,622.0	5,587.8	4,988.5	*5,813.8
Exchange rate	per US\$	199.76	237.65	219.59	213.80	214.89

possibly signal future attempts at political interference on the part of the Saleh clan. Faced with the apparent uncertainty surrounding Saleh's location, some observers have argued that there should have been a clear proviso that Saleh leave the country. If the former president turned out to have remained in Yemen, then conspiracy theorists suspected that his presence was being intentionally overlooked. This despite the fact that the US had issued an executive order giving the US Treasury the power to seize US assets of anyone 'obstructing' the Yemeni political transition.

President Hadi faced the task not only of restructuring Yemen's military, still largely controlled by loyalists of the former president, but also of appeasing the southern secessionist movement and suppressing militants in the country's south. The weakness of the GCC initiative appeared to be that while it provided for the removal of Saleh, it left the remains of his regime intact. One Yemen based analyst was quoted as saying that 'Saleh did not build a state but a gang that is still controlling the army and security forces which make it impossible for change to take place; the deal granted him immunity from prosecution.' The arrangement also gave Saleh the opportunity to spoil the transition. Under the GCC deal, ex-President Saleh avoided being sentenced for regime crimes during the uprising, something which most deposed Arab leaders did not achieve. There have been no enquiries into the killings carried out throughout the uprising.

Secret US deals?

Citing a high-level military source, in mid-2013 the Yemeni *Al Shari* newspaper claimed that the Yemeni authorities had signed a secret deal with the United States granting the latter the right of movement in Yemeni territories and territorial waters – land, sea and air – for six months, subject to renewal. It was understood that the secret military deal was signed in July 2013 during President Hadi's visit to America. A Yemeni military official had signed off the military co-operation agreement in July. The agreement allowed the US Air Force the right to comb Yemeni airspace and territory and conduct reconnaissance on a daily basis for the purpose of identifying and eliminating Al Qaeda-affiliated terrorist cells.

It was also reported that the United States had given undertakings to resolve the question of the Yemeni budget deficit and to work on extending his term in

office. It was thought that Washington had convinced the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to provide Yemen with US\$1.7 billion dollars to close the deficit. The funding was sent as aid to the Yemeni Central Bank.

There were other unconfirmed reports that dozens of British soldiers had been seen at the al Anad Military Base, which is located between Aden and Lahij. No less than four British warships were reported to be on their way to the Gulf of Aden supposedly to guard Yemeni coasts. However, no information was available on the ships' duties or the duration of their stay. Hydrocarbons

Yemen can hardly be described as a major hydrocarbon producer when seen in comparison to some of the other, neighbouring countries in the Middle East. None the less, its oil and natural gas resources are sufficient to generate export revenues. However, Yemen's difficult current security environment hinders the production and transport of those resources. Yemen's oil production has decreased significantly since peaking in 2001 because of both a natural decline in the country's ageing fields and frequent attacks on its oil infrastructure. These attacks kept the country's major Marib-Ras Isa pipeline offline for more than half of 2012 which severely curtailed domestic petroleum consumption.

Until recently, Yemen re-injected most of its natural gas production to aid in oil recovery. However, since 2009 the country has been an LNG exporter and the government aims to increase the use of natural gas in many sectors, including electricity generation. In 2011, Yemen re-injected the 9th-largest volume of natural gas in the world.

The majority of Yemen's population does not have access to electricity, although the country plans to build several new generating facilities over the coming years.

Risk assessment

Politics	Poor
Economy	Poor
Regional stability	Poor

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

1500s–1600s The Ottomans controlled most of Yemen.

1839 Aden came under British rule, serving as a major refuelling port after the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869.

1918–62 The Ottoman Empire broke up and north Yemen gained independence

under Imam Yahya. His son, Imam Ahmad succeeded him in 1948 and ruled until his death in 1962. A *coup d'état* overthrew his son and the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) was established by the military. A civil war between royalists, supported by Saudi Arabia, and republicans, backed by Egypt, ensued.

1967 British withdrew from Aden as local resistance to their presence grew steadily more violent. A communist state in the south was established, comprising Aden and the former protectorate of South Arabia. It was officially known as the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY). A nationalisation programme began.

1970s–80s The YAR and the PDRY were in conflict. Ali Abdullah Saleh became president of the YAR in 1978. President Ali Nasser Mohammed of the PDRY fled the country in 1986, after thousands died in political conflict.

1990 The YAR and the PDRY were unified and became the Republic of Yemen, with Ali Abdullah Saleh as president.

1991 A constitution was adopted. Yemen's support for Iraq in the Gulf War led to around a million migrant workers from other gulf states being evicted and returning home.

1993 Democratic elections (the first in the Arabian Peninsula) led to a three-party coalition comprising the former ruling party of the YAR, General People's Congress (GPC), led by Ali Abdullah Saleh, the former ruling party of the PDRY, Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), led by al Beedh, and a mainly northern Islamic tribal grouping, the Congregation for Reform (Islah). Disputes within the coalition resulted in an escalating political crisis.

1994 The constitution was amended. In spite of the signing of a conciliation agreement, a series of military confrontations broke out, leading to a full-scale civil war between northern and southern forces. Unity was restored and President Saleh was re-elected by parliament. A coalition government was formed, comprising the GPC and Islah, with the YSP and other smaller parties in opposition.

1995 Yemen and Eritrea clashed over the Hanish islands in the Red Sea.

1997 The ruling GPC won the first election since the 1994 civil war.

1998 Eritrea and Yemen accepted the ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague that Yemen should have the island of Greater Hanish.

2000 Yemen and Saudi Arabia signed a treaty resolving a 65-year dispute over land and sea boundaries. The US naval vessel, *USS Cole*, was damaged in a suicide attack in Aden; a bomb exploded at the British Embassy.

2001 A referendum approved the extension of the president's term of office by

two years to seven years and the parliamentary term by two years to six years. In response to the attack on the Twin Towers in New York, President Saleh told US President Bush that Yemen would join the fight against terrorism.

2002 Jarallah Omar, secretary general of the opposition party, YSP, was assassinated by an Islamic militant. Yemen expelled more than 100 foreign Islamic scholars, suspected of being al Qaeda members. The supertanker *Limburg* was badly damaged in an explosion off the coast of Yemen.

2003 The ruling GPC was re-elected. The 10 chief suspects in the bombing of the *USS Cole* escaped from custody in Aden.

2004 Government troops fought with followers of Hussein al Houthi, the leader of an insurrection in the north. Fifteen men were sentenced on terror charges, some for bombing the supertanker *Limburg*, and two more for bombing the *USS Cole*.

Government troops killed Hussein al Houthi

2005 More fighting between government forces and al Houthi supporters caused over 200 deaths. The World Health Organisation confirmed 83 cases of polio; Yemen had been free of the disease. An agreement with the northern insurgents was reached.

2006 Over 625 supporters of the al Houthi uprising were freed from prison under an amnesty. In presidential elections Ali Abdullah Saleh was re-elected.

2007 Dozens of followers of al Houthi were killed in clashes with government troops. Ali Mohamed Mujawar was appointed prime minister. Abdul Malik al Houthi agreed to a ceasefire. Citizens were banned from carrying firearms in the capital and demonstrations without permits were banned.

2008 More violence broke out between supporters loyal to Abdul Malik al Houthi and security forces. Bomb attacks were carried out against local police and official buildings as well as foreign businesses, embassies and tourist targets.

2009 Parliament approved a once-only election postponement to 27 April 2011, allowing further discussions on electoral reforms.

2010 The government stopped issuing visas at international airports. A military official was quoted in the defence ministry newspaper *September 26* as saying that 'granting visas to foreigners will take place only through the embassies of Yemen, and after consulting security authorities to verify the identities of travellers'. He went on to say that the move was 'to prevent the infiltration of any suspected terrorist elements' after it was revealed that the Nigerian who had attempted to blow-up an aircraft over Detroit in 2009

had been trained by al Qaeda elements in Yemen. In a siege of the southern Shabwa Province an estimated 8,000–12,000 civilians fled the town of Huta as a military offensive against al Qaeda got underway. The US, UK, Germany and France placed a ban on all cargo from Yemen following the discovery of improvised bombs sent by agents of al Qaeda; in 2012 the ban remained in place.

2011 In January the overthrow of President Ben Ali of Tunisia by a popular uprising caused similar street protests in Yemen. President Saleh pledged not to extend his presidency in 2013, or pass on the presidency to his son. Protests continued unabated and police snipers killed over 50 demonstrators, in March. Senior military personnel and then some politicians began to back the protestors. A proposal including the issue of the transfer of the president's power, negotiated between opposition parties, tribal leaders and religious scholars was presented to President Saleh. Initial reports were that it had been positively received. President Saleh announced that there would be a referendum later in 2011 on measures to change the constitution, including an election law to move towards a parliamentary system. A 30 day emergency law was passed. In an effort to mediate between the president and demonstrators demanding he resign, a Gulf Arab initiative, led by Saudi Arabia, proposed a transfer of power away from President Saleh. Security forces fired live-rounds into protesting crowds in Sana'a in April, following President Saleh's earlier comment that protestor's behaviour was 'un-Islamic'. From February–April, over 100 people died in civil disturbances as the president said he would step down and hand over power, but only into 'safe hands'. In May the US ordered all non-essential diplomatic staff to leave Yemen. Hundreds of armed members of the Hashid tribe (one of the two main tribal groupings in Yemen), fought with government troops as they marched on Sana'a in June to join forces with other of their tribe already in the capital. Sheikh Sadeq al Ahmar, head of the Hashid tribe, is the son of the founder of the opposition party Islamist Islah. President Saleh was injured by shrapnel in the chest during an attack on his Sana'a palace compound. On 4 June, Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi became acting prime minister. Saleh left Yemen to receive medical treatment in Saudi Arabia. President Saleh appeared on Yemen state television on 7 July, the first time since he was injured. Both hands were bandaged and he did not appear to move his arms. He said that dialogue was needed to resolve Yemen's problems,

although any resolution had to be 'within the framework of the constitution and in the framework of the law'. In August President Saleh left hospital, but chose to remain in Saudi Arabia, but vowed to return to Yemen and remain in office until 2013. On 22 August, former prime minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani died of his injuries sustained during the attack on the Sana'a presidential palace on 3 June. Demonstrations for and against the regime continued in Sana'a.

A series of demonstrations resulted in counteraction by security forces that involved the elite republican guard, led by President Saleh's son Ahmed in the second city Taiz opened fire and killing at least 10 people, and security forces firing on demonstrators in Sana'a using automatic weapons and killing at least 20 people, while snipers fired from rooftops into a protest camp. President Saleh returned in September. Tawakkul Karman was announced as one of three women to win the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize in October. The three women were honoured for 'their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work'. The UN Security Council called on President Saleh to resign immediately, following weeks of excessive violence meted out by security forces on demonstrators against his regime. In November, President Saleh signed an agreement, brokered by the GCC, to transfer his powers to Vice President Abdrabuh Mansur Hadi. In return Saleh will retain the honorary title of president and have immunity from prosecution. Yearlong demonstrators condemned the deal; five were killed and 33 injured by security forces. Vice President Hadi designated Muhammed Salim Basindwa, an opposition politician, as prime minister on 27 November.

2012 Ali Abdullah Saleh left the country on 22 January. A presidential election was held on 21 February with one candidate – former Vice President Abd Rabbuh Mansur al Hadi. He won 99.8 per cent of the vote, on a turnout of 65 per cent, and took office on 25 February. On 23 May, a group of aid agencies warned that the political instability had left 10 million Yemenis (around 44 per cent of the population) undernourished, of which five million require emergency aid. On 6 May Fahd Mohammed Ahmed al Quso (also known by eight other names) (leader of al Qaeda in Yemen) was killed by a US, CIA drone missile. On 14 June the army took control of three towns overrun by al Qaeda, after a month of fierce fighting. On 13 September the US Embassy in Sana'a was mobbed by protestors angry at the uploading on the internet in the US of an amateur film that insulted the

Prophet Mohammed, forcing security forces to open fire with tear gas, water cannon and bullets.

2013 The British and US governments closed their embassies and consulates on 4 August and withdrew their diplomats. On 7 August Yemen said it had foiled a major al Qaeda plot to blow up oil pipelines and seize two of the country's main ports. On the night of 7 August US drone strikes are said to have killed a number of senior al Qaeda leaders in Zinjibar in southern Yemen; innocent civilians also died, raising tensions. The US reopened its all its embassies throughout the Middle East and North Africa on 12 August, except the Sana'a embassy. The UK re-opened its embassy on 18 August. Prime Minister Basindwa survived an assassination attempt on 31 August. Two bomb attacks in southern Yemen by suspected al Qaeda militants killed at least 40 persons on 20 September.

Political structure

Constitution

The constitution was adopted in 1991 and was amended in 1994 and 2001. Voting eligibility: 18 years.

A 2001 referendum approved the extension of the president's and parliament's terms of office from five to seven years, and from four to six years, respectively.

Independence date

1918 North Yemen; 1967 South Yemen. 22 May 1990 unification.

Form of state

Republic

The executive

Power is vested in the post of president, who is the Head of State.

The president is elected by popular vote from at least two candidates, endorsed by parliament. He sets a national agenda and is empowered to rule by decree in the case of parliament's absence, call for parliamentary elections, appoint a prime minister to form a government, call for general referenda and form the National Defence Council.

The president can serve a maximum of two, seven-year terms.

The prime minister, in consultation with the president, selects the cabinet to assist in the duties of the executive branch.

National legislature

The bicameral parliament consists of the Majlis al Nuwaab (Assembly of Representatives) with 301 members, elected by popular vote to serve six-year terms and the Shura (Consultative Council) with 111 members, appointed by the president, and serving as advisory body.

Legal system

An independent judiciary was established under the constitution. It is based on *Sharia* (Islamic law), Turkish law, English

common law and local tribal customary law. The Supreme Court is based in the capital.

Last elections

27 April 2003 (parliamentary); 21 February 2012 (presidential)

Results: Parliamentary: GPC won 58.01 per cent of the votes (238 seats out of 301); Islah won 22.55 per cent (46 seats); Yemen Socialist Party 3.84 per cent (eight seats). Turnout was 75.98 per cent.

Presidential: Abd Rabbuh Mansur al Hadi won 99.8 per cent of the vote; turnout 65 per cent.

Next elections

27 April 2011 (parliamentary) *postponed until 2013*; 2013 (presidential)

Political parties

Ruling party

Al Mutammar al Shabi al Am (GPC) (General People's Congress) (from 1999; re-elected 2003)

Main opposition party

At tajammu al yemeni lil Islah (Islah) (Yemeni Congregation for Reform)

Population

25.88 million (2012)*

About 48 per cent of the population is under 14 years of age; 50 per cent 15–64; 2 per cent over 65.

Yemen is the most densely populated country in the Arabian Peninsula.

Last census: 16 December 2004: 19,685,161

Population density: 30 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 32 per cent (2010 Unicef).

Annual growth rate: 3.5 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

Ethnic make-up

Arabs form 96 per cent of the population. There are ethnic tensions between Arabs and Afro-Arab and South Asian minorities. European communities are concentrated in the major metropolitan areas.

Religions

Muslim (more than 99 per cent), including Shi'ite, Sunni and Zaydi (members of a Shi'ite subject). Small number of Jews.

Education

Primary education begins at the age of six and lasts for nine years.

Secondary education is provided for academic and vocational courses both lasting three years. The first year comprises a common curriculum, with the option to choose either the scientific or literary subjects for the remaining two years. There are some technical secondary schools, three vocational training centres, a Veterinary Training School and several agricultural secondary schools. There are also religious institutions, which concentrate on Islamic education. Higher education is

provided by the University of Sana'a (1970), the University of Aden (1973) and the University of Science and Technology, Sana'a.

Literacy rate: 49 per cent adult rate; 68 per cent youth rate (15–24) (Unesco 2005).

Compulsory years: Six to 15.

Enrolment rate: 70 per cent gross primary enrolment; 34 per cent gross secondary enrolment, of relevant age groups (including repeaters) (World Bank).

Pupils per teacher: 30 in primary schools.

Health

There were cases of polio reported to the World Health Organisation – Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 2006; the country had previously been free of the disease and its re-emergence was due to infected travellers.

HIV/Aids

HIV prevalence: 0.1 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

Life expectancy: 59 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate: 5.2 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef); maternal mortality 350 per 100,000 live births (World Bank).

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000): 60 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012); 46 per cent of children under aged five are malnourished (World Bank).

Head of population per physician: 0.33 physicians per 1,000 people, 2004 (WHO 2006)

Welfare

On 23 May 2012, a group of aid agencies warned that the yearlong political instability had left 10 million Yemenis (around 44 per cent of the population) undernourished, of which five million require emergency aid. Since 2009, malnutrition rates have doubled, due to a surge in food and fuel prices and the displacement of almost 500,000 people because of the internal conflict.

Main cities

Sana'a (San'a) (capital, estimated population 2.3 million in 2012), Aden (737,811), Ta'iz (591,543), Hodeida (494,619), Ibb (331,146), al Mukalla (222,024), ar Rawdah (211,726), Damar (192,391), Amran (90,792).

Languages spoken

English is the second language and is often understood in business circles.

Official language/s

Arabic

Media

Press

Dailies: In Arabic, the government-owned national newspaper is *Al Thawra* (www.althawranews.net), other regional private publications include *Al Ayyam* (www.al-ayyam.info) and *14 October* (www.14october.com), from Aden, *Akhbar al Youm* (www.alshomoa.net), *Al Thaqafiah* (www.y.net.ye/althaqafiah) and *Al Shoura* from Sanna.

In English, the *Yemen Times* (<http://yementimes.com>) is a widely read newspaper, *Yemen Observer* (www.yobserver.com) is an independent English online newspaper covering current events.

Weeklies: In Arabic, publications include *26 September* (www.26september.info), *Al Ray News* (www.raynews.net), and *Ektissad ws Aswaq* (www.ekwas.net) on economics, news and analysis.

Broadcasting

High rates of illiteracy has effectively left radio and television as primary sources of news and information for the domestic population.

Radio: The state-run Yemen Radio (www.yemenradio.net) has two networks, from the capital and Aden.

Television: The only terrestrial TV network is Yemen Television with two channels. There is satellite TV with nine international and pan-Arab networks available, including the government-owned Yemen Satellite Channel, offering a wide variety of programmes.

National news agency: Saba (Yemen News Agency)

Economy

Petroleum is Yemen's chief revenue source, with 2.7 billion barrels of oil reserves and production of 228,000 barrels per day (bpd) in 2011; there are also 500 billion cubic metres (cum) of proven natural gas reserves, with production of 9.4 million cum. Production of liquefied natural gas (LNG) began in 2009 and by 2011 8.9 million cum were being exported to the US, Asia and Europe. Stocks of oil are falling, however, without any new discoveries, and the non-oil economy is not strong enough to replace its importance to GDP.

Agriculture is an important component of GDP, providing the primary occupation of around 50 per cent of the workforce. The industry suffers from a number of environmental problems including deforestation that has led to soil erosion and desertification and above all a scarcity of water. Through an increased use of irrigation, farmers have switched production from lesser valued, rain-fed cereals to the more valuable, irrigated fruit and vegetables. However, this use of groundwater is

depleting the resource as the water-table falls by around two metres per year. The cultivation and use of the mildly narcotic *qat* has increased, so much so that the World Bank estimates that trade and consumption of the plant accounts for over 6 per cent of GDP, while its cultivation alone accounts for 10 per cent of GDP. Farmland given over to its cultivation denies its use for other cash crops necessary for export. The fishing industry is underinvested and caters for local needs only.

Tourism could provide a greater component of GDP but the threatening security situation and danger experienced by tourists in the recent past keep visitor numbers to a minimum.

GDP growth averaged 3.5 per cent over 2006–09, before it jumped to 7.7 per cent in 2010 following an International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, in which Yemen received US\$370 million, disbursed over three years, in exchange for various economic reforms in revenue diversification and its tax system, subsidy reforms and government spending. However in 2011, the IMF warned that socially sensitive reforms and weak institutional capacity were at a higher risk of compromise from the political unrest that ultimately toppled the president and caused widespread civil disobedience. The IMF programme was suspended and the economy fell into a deep recession, with GDP growth estimated at -10.5 per cent. In 2008 inflation had peaked at 19 per cent at a time of high fuel and food prices, falling to 3.7 per cent in 2009 as consumer spending fell.

In 2011, the UN Human Development Index (HDI) ranked Yemen 154 (out of 187) for national development in health, education and income. Since 2000, Yemen's progress has matched the growth of other economies designated as low HDI, but has not matched the improvement of other Gulf Arab States. In 2010, 53.9 per cent of the population experienced at least one indicator of poverty, while 17.5 per cent lived on less than the equivalent of US\$1.25 per day; the headcount poverty rate was 52.5 per cent of the population (2000–10).

Remittances from migrant workers amounted to US\$1.5 billion (3.9 per cent of GDP) in 2010 and was estimated to have reached US\$1.6 billion in 2011. International economic aid is essential to Yemen's short- to medium-term development, not only to provide a more prosperous future for the population but also to nullify the adverse influence of the terrorist group, al Qaeda. The Arab Spring unrest in 2011–12 has given al Qaeda further means to undermine Yemen's economic prospects, by sowing mistrust with its

democratic partners and donors. On 5 September 2012, the World Bank announced that Yemen would benefit from an aid package of US\$6.4 billion, to help it stabilise its economy at a time of food shortages and security risk. Saudi Arabia will underwrite over 50 per cent of the aid needed.

External trade

The Greater Arab Free Trade Area (Gafta) has been ratified by 17 members, including Yemen, creating an Arab economic bloc. A customs union has been established whereby tariffs within Gafta are reduced by a percentage each year, until none remain.

Crude oil dominates the export market but reserves are diminishing. A liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant began production in 2009, with exports destined for the US, Europe and South Korea.

The coffee harvest was replaced in prominence by the cultivation of *qat* (an additive, mild hallucinogen), used openly in Yemen but trafficked illegally to the Horn of Africa.

Imports

Main imports are foodstuffs, live animals, vehicles, machinery and equipment.

Main sources: UAE (10.6 per cent of total in 2011), Saudi Arabia (8.7 per cent), Switzerland (7.5 per cent).

Exports

Crude and refined oil and derivatives, liquefied natural gas (LNG), seafood, fruit and vegetables, tobacco products and animal hides.

Main destinations: China (32.4 per cent of total in 2011), Thailand (18.3 per cent), India (13.7 per cent).

Agriculture

With its fertile soil and relatively high levels of rainfall, Yemen possesses the best climatic conditions for agriculture on the Arabian peninsula. Due to its mountainous terrain, terrace agriculture is common practice. In the east and north, herding is the chief activity. In southern Yemen, fertile areas are severely limited and confined to the wadis, comprising only 1 per cent of the total land area.

The main crops are sorghum, wheat, barley, maize, millet, sesame, cotton, coffee, vegetables, dates, fruit, tobacco and *qat* (a legal narcotic).

The cultivation of *qat*, a widely used mild narcotic shrub dominates production. It is estimated that up to 25 per cent of irrigated land is given over to *qat*, which generates a value added equivalent of 25 per cent of GDP.

Cereals, fruit and vegetables account for 75 per cent of output, but annual imports of grain are still required. Cereal yields are low and the climate is more suitable for fruit production. Private sector trading

companies have invested in agriculture in Tihama and Marib, concentrating on bananas and citrus fruits.

Drought in some places and floods in others, plus general manpower shortages remain serious problems. The Marib Dam provides irrigation and for a region adjacent to the desert (Empty Quarter).

Fisheries are one of Yemen's greatest potential sources of wealth after oil. There are some fish exports to Europe and the Middle East.

Industry and manufacturing

The industrial sector contributed 37.5 per cent of GDP, of which manufacturing was 4.9 per cent in 2004. The sector employs around 10 per cent of the working population. Excluding the petroleum sector, industry accounts for only 4 per cent of GDP.

Heavy industry is mostly government-owned while the private sector is encouraged to participate in joint ventures and light industries including food processing, clothing, textiles, leather goods, jewellery, cosmetics, mineral water, fertilisers and cigarettes.

Fish processing is a growth area.

Industrial production increased by 5.0 per cent, and manufacturing by 5.3 per cent, in 2004.

Tourism

Yemen has a rich history; not only did its own traders travel far overseas, but it has had contact with all of the great sea-faring nations of the world, reaching back into antiquity. As such its cultural heritage is reflected in its contribution to Unesco's World Heritage List including the historic town of Zabid (a flourishing, fortified town and former capital, dating from the birth of Islam) and the cities of Sana'a (established in biblical times and later a major religious centre of Islamic learning) and Shibam (a traditional, high-rise city, nicknamed 'the Manhattan of the desert'). Yemen's political instability and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism has not only discouraged many Western visitors but has endangered those that do endeavour to see its sights. In 2008 when foreign visitors numbered 404,000, 68 per cent were from Arab countries in the region, (48 per cent of total were from Saudi Arabia); only 35,489 visitors were from Europe, of which German visitors were the most numerous (over 5,000).

Travel and tourism contributed an average 7.5 per cent of GDP (2007–10) and provided employment to 6.5 per cent of the workforce (357,520 jobs) in the same period. However since the political turmoil in Yemen in 2011 the industry has experienced negative growth in GDP of -8.1 per cent and employment growth was down

by 5.1 per cent, with a projection that this trend will continue in 2012.

Environment

Yemen has water shortages, especially in the increasingly urbanised areas around Sana'a and other cities.

Mining

Salt is mined at Salif, where deposits total 25 million tonnes. Gypsum and marble are extracted. There are also deposits of zinc, lead, iron, sulphur, gold, silver, copper and nickel.

Hydrocarbons

Proven oil reserves were 2.7 billion barrels in 2011, with production at 228,000 barrels per day (bpd), which has fallen steadily since the 457,000 in 2002. Typically, 80 per cent of total oil production is exported. The government is attempting to secure foreign investment to expand production, but political instability and poor security have deterred many major oil companies.

Downstream, Yemen has a refining capacity of 143,000bpd with two ageing refineries at Aden (120,000bpd) and Marib (10,000bpd). The government has plans to upgrade these facilities by 150,000bpd and 25,000bpd respectively. A new 50,000bpd refinery at Ras Issa has been planned since 2005 but is yet to be completed.

There is an integrated network of 900km of pipelines, which transport crude oil and natural gas from production sites to either domestic users or terminals for export. Proven natural gas reserves were estimated at 500 billion cubic metres (cum) in 2011. Production of natural gas began in 2009 and in 2011 production was 9.4 billion cum, of which 8.9 billion cum was converted into liquefied natural gas (LNG) for export worldwide. The French energy company GDF Suez has a long-term contract to buy 2.54 million tonnes of LNG per year and the oil companies Total and the Korea Gas Corporation 2.03 million tonnes.

Any use of coal is commercially insignificant.

Energy

Total installed electricity generating capacity was 1.13 gigawatts in 2007, producing over five billion kilowatt hours, all of which was produced in conventional thermal power stations. Only an estimated 35 per cent of the urban and 5 per cent of the rural population has access to the national grid.

The state-owned Public Electricity Corporation (PEC) is responsible for generation and distribution and has organised international development aid to improve electricity supplies. However, to access such investment energy subsidies will have

to be terminated – a previous attempt at price increases resulted in riots, leaving the government with a hard choice. The inadequacies of the distribution network are under review with an upgrade in the network expected to follow. A new 340MW natural gas-fired power station in Marib due to be completed in 2007 is still unfinished.

Banking and insurance

Domestic banks are burdened by red tape and private sector credit is crowded out by the state, although the government has announced a reform programme to develop the financial sector.

Central bank

Central Bank of Yemen

Main financial centre

Sana'a

Time

GMT plus three hours

Geography

Yemen is situated in the south of the Arabian peninsula, bordered to the north by Saudi Arabia, to the east by Oman, to the south by the Gulf of Aden, and to the west by the Red Sea. The islands of Perim and Kamaran at the southern end of the Red Sea and the island of Socotra at the entrance to the Gulf of Aden are also part of the Republic.

Hemisphere

Northern

Climate

The semi-desert coastal plain known as the Tihama is hot, humid and dusty. The highlands, which are agreeable in summer but cold in winter, enjoy most of the unreliable rainfall (March–April and July–September).

Entry requirements

Passports

Required by all, valid for six months from date of departure.

Visa

Required by all, except nationals of Iraq, Jordan and Syria.

The government stopped issuing visas at international airports in January 2010. A military official was quoted in the defence ministry newspaper *September 26* as saying that 'granting visas to foreigners will take place only through the embassies of Yemen, and after consulting security authorities to verify the identities of travellers'. He went on to say that the move was 'to prevent the infiltration of any suspected terrorist elements' after it was revealed that the Nigerian who had attempted to blow-up an aircraft over Detroit in December 2009 had been trained by al Qaeda elements in Yemen.

All visitors should start by contacting the nearest Yemeni embassy; the following

information was valid in early 2010, but is subject to change. Tourist visas, valid for visits up to two months, require a confirmation letter from a tour company and proof of return/onward passage. Business visas, valid for visits up to two months, require a letter from the applicant's company explaining the purpose of the visit and the nature of business and proof of return/onward passage. Visas valid for six months may be issued to business travelers proposing to make several journeys, in which case a letter of invitation from a Yemeni company is also required.

Prohibited entry

Israeli nationals or holders of passports with Israeli visas or other indication of a visit to Israel are denied entry or transit facilities.

Currency advice/regulations

The import and export of local currency by non-residents is prohibited. There are no restrictions on the import of foreign currencies, subject to declaration of amounts over US\$3,000; export of foreign currencies is restricted to the amount imported and declared.

Customs

600 cigarettes, 60 cigars or 450g of tobacco; two bottles of alcohol; one bottle of perfume, perfumed water or eau de cologne; gifts to a value of YR100,000; and gold ornaments up to 350 grams are allowed duty-free.

Prohibited imports

Firearms, illegal drugs, pornographic literature and all products of Israeli origin are prohibited.

Health (for visitors)

Mandatory precautions

Certificate of vaccination against yellow fever if travelling from infected area.

Advisable precautions

Vaccinations against typhoid and polio are recommended, also anti-malaria precautions (malaria has been endemic in Tihama).

Water precautions are essential; water and milk should be boiled. Local dairy products should be avoided as milk is unpasteurised; vegetables, meat and fish should be well cooked and eaten hot. Use only well maintained, chlorinated swimming pools as bilharzia can be contracted from streams and rivers. Gastric upsets common.

Hotels

Sana'a has several first-class hotels. It is advisable to book in advance. The major hotels have good restaurants.

Credit cards

Major credit cards are acceptable.

Public holidays (national)

Fixed dates

1 May (Labour Day), 22 May (Unity Day), 26 Sep (Revolution Day), 14 Oct (National Day), 30 Nov (Independence Day).

Variable dates

Eid al Adha (four days), Eid al Fitr (four days), Islamic New Year, Birth of the Prophet.

Islamic year 1435 (5 Nov 2013–24 Oct 2014)::

The Islamic year contains 354 or 355 days, with the result that Muslim feasts advance by 10–12 days against the Gregorian calendar. Dates of feasts vary according to the sighting of the new moon, so cannot be forecast exactly.

Working hours

Banking

Sat–Wed: 0800–1200, Thu: 0800–1130 (closed Fri); in summer: Sat–Wed: 0730–1130, Thu: 0730–1100 (closed Fri).

Business

Sat–Wed: 0800–1230, 1600–1900; Thu: 0800–1200 (closed Fri).

Government

Sat–Thu: 0900–1300.

Shops

Sun–Thu: 0800–1300, 1600–2100.

Telecommunications

Telephone/fax

The telephone directory is in Arabic. For help, ask the telephone operator at your hotel or ring 18 (English spoken).

Mobile/cell phones

There are GSM 900 services available in the south and west of the country.

Electricity supply

Generally 220V AC, with two-pin plug fittings.

Weights and measures

Metric system

Social customs/useful tips

Islamic culture and customs are strictly observed, but visitors are allowed to drink alcohol in hotels or private homes.

Security

Visitors should keep in touch with developments in the Middle East as any increase in regional tension might affect travel advice.

Getting there

Air

National airline: Yemenia (Yemen Airways)

International airport/s: Sana'a International (SAH), 13km north of Sana'a, with duty-free shop, restaurant, bank, car hire; Aden International (ADE), 11km north-east of Aden.

Airport tax: None.

Surface

There are road connections from Saudi Arabia and Oman, but driving to Yemen is advised against.

Main port/s: Aden, Hodeidah and Mukalla

Getting about

National transport

Internal travel may be affected by local night-time curfews and military check points.

Air: Regular scheduled services link Sana'a, Aden, Hodeida, Ta'iz and Marib.

Road: There are metalled roads between main centres.

Buses: There are scheduled services between all main centres.

City transport

Most hosts will send a car to the airport to meet guests.

Taxis: Taxis have yellow licence plates and wait on ranks outside the major hotels and terminals.

Fare is by negotiation and there is a minimum charge system in cities. Always agree the fare before setting off; the hotel will advise what the price should be as the starting point for negotiation. A fixed fare is charged between Sana'a airport and the city centre.

Dahabs (shared taxis) are minibuses which ply set routes in the city. Prices are fixed between destinations and are reasonably cheap.

Buses, trams & metro: Buses wait outside the airport.

Car hire

Available in Sana'a and other main centres.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

Telephone area codes

The international direct dialling (IDD) code for Yemen is +967, followed by the area code and subscriber's number:

Aden	2	Sana'a	1
Almahra	5	Taiz	4
Amran	7	Yarim	4
Hodeidah	3	Zabid	3

Chambers of Commerce

Aden Chamber of Commerce, Queen Arwa Road, PO Box 473, Crater, Aden (tel: 221-176; fax: 255-660; e-mail: cciaden@y.net.ye).

Federation of Yemen Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Al-Qiyadah Road, PO Box 16992, Sana'a (tel: 265-038; fax: 261-269; e-mail: fucci@y.net.ye).

Hodeidah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Liberty Square, PO Box 3370, Hodeidah (tel: 217-401; fax: 211-528; e-mail: hodcii@y.net.ye).

National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, PO Box 5029, Crater, Aden (tel: 51203; fax: 232-412).

Sana'a Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Airport Road, PO Box 195, Sana'a (tel: 232-361; fax: 232-412; e-mail: sanaacomyemen@y.net.ye).

Ta'iz Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chamber Street, PO Box 5029, Taiz (tel: 210-581; fax: 212-335; e-mail: taizchamber@y.net.ye).

Banking

Arab Bank Plc, PO Box 5130, Madram Street, Maala, Aden (tel: 242-099, 240-043; fax: 242-098).

Credit Agricole Indosuez, PO Box 651, Al Ma'ala Main St, Aden (tel: 247-4024; fax: 247-282).

International Bank of Yemen YSC, PO Box 819, al Maidan - Crater, Off Queen Arwa Rd, Crater, Aden (tel: 255-795; fax: 252-016).

National Bank of Yemen, PO Box 5, Crater, Aden (tel: 252-875, 253-327; fax: 252-875).

Watani Bank for Trade and Investment, PO Box 4424, Queen Arwa St, Agaba, Aden (tel: 2506-1017; fax: 250-618).

Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development, PO Box 239, Aden (tel: 252-104, 254-046; fax: 252-141).

Yemen Commercial Bank, PO Box 4230, Aden (tel: 255-813, 253-384; fax: 255-428).

Central bank

Central Bank of Yemen, PO Box 59, Ali Abdulmoghni Street, Sana'a (tel: 274-310 fax: 274-057; e-mail: info@centralbank.gov.ye).

Travel information

Sana'a International Airport, PO Box 1438, Sana'a (tel/fax: 250-819).

Yemenia (Yemen Airways), PO Box 1183, Sana'a (tel: 201-822; fax: 201-821; e-mail: info@yemenia.com).

Ministry of tourism

Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Al-Hasabah, PO Box 129, Sana'a (tel: 235-112; fax: 235-113; e-mail: yementpb@y.net.ye).

National tourist organisation offices

General Tourism Development Authority, Al-Hasabah, PO Box 129, Sana'a (tel: 252-319; fax: 252-316; e-mail: gtda@gtda.gov.ye).

Tourism Promotion Board, Al-Hasabah, PO Box 5607, Sana'a (tel: 251-033; fax:

251-034; e-mail: ytpb@yementourism.com).

Ministries

Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, PO Box 2805 (tel: 200-999; fax: 209-509).

Ministry of Civil Service and Administration Reform, PO Box 1992, Sana'a (tel: 200-404; fax: 274-456).

Ministry of Communications, PO Box 17045, Sana'a (tel: 271-100; fax: 251-150).

Ministry of Construction, PO Box 1180, Sana'a (tel: 202-288; fax: 274-145).

Ministry of Culture and Tourism (tel: 200-002; fax: 252-316).

Ministry of Defence (tel: 250-330; fax: 251-559).

Ministry of Economy, Supply & Trade, PO Box 1704, Sana'a (tel: 202-471).

Ministry of Education (tel: 274-548; fax: 274-558).

Ministry of Electricity and Water, PO Box 11422, Sana'a (tel: 250-143; fax: 251-554).

Ministry of Finance, PO Box 190, Sana'a (tel: 260-375; fax: 263-040).

Ministry of Fishery Wealth, PO Box 19179, Sana'a (tel: 262-866; fax: 263-165).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PO Box 1994, Sana'a (tel: 202-555; fax: 209-540).

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, PO Box 11327, Sana'a (tel: 200-463; fax: 262-001).

Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, PO Box 1445, Sana'a (tel: 262-614; fax: 215-613).

Ministry of Immigrants Affairs, PO Box 1299, Sana'a (tel: 215-666; fax: 263-027).

Ministry of Industry, PO Box 607, Sana'a (tel: 252-339; fax: 252-366).

Ministry of Information (tel: 200-050; fax: 282-050).

Ministry of the Interior and Security (tel: 252-701; fax: 251-529).

Ministry of Justice (tel: 252-158; fax: 252-138).

Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, PO Box 60, Sana'a (tel: 274-922; fax: 274-107).

Ministry of Legal Affairs, PO Box 1292, Sana'a (tel: 262-047; fax: 262-047).

Ministry of Local Government, PO Box 2198, Sana'a (tel: 250-626; fax: 251-513).

Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, PO Box 81, Sana'a (tel: 202-312; fax: 202-314).

Ministry of Planning and Development, PO Box 175, Sana'a (tel: 250-118; fax: 251-503).

Ministry of Provision and Trade, PO Box 804, Sana'a (tel: 252-337; fax: 251-366).

Ministry of Public Health, PO Box 274160, Sana'a (tel: 252-222; fax: 244-143).

Ministry of Securities and Social Affairs (tel: 262-809; fax: 209-547).

Ministry of State for Cabinet Affairs (tel: 200-677; fax: 209-518).

Ministry of State for Foreign Affairs, PO Box L994, Sana'a (tel: 202-544; fax: 209-540).

Ministry of State for House of Deputies Affairs (tel: 200-671; fax: 209-518).

Ministry of Transport, PO Box 2781 (tel: 260-904; fax: 263-169).

Ministry of Tourism, PO Box 129, Sana'a (tel: 252-319; fax: 260-186).

Ministry of WAQF and Guidance (tel: 274-438; fax: 274-17).

Ministry of Youth and Sport, PO Box 2701, Sana'a (tel: 215-653; fax: 263-181).

Other useful addresses

British Consulate-General, PO Box 6304, Khormaksar, Aden (tel: 232-712; fax: 231-256).

British Embassy, PO Box 1287, Sana'a (tel: 264-081; fax: 263-059).

Central Planning Organisation, PO Box 175, Sana'a (tel: 250-1018).

Foreign Trade Corporation, PO Box 77, Sana'a (tel: 72-058).

General Post Office, Liberation (Tahreer) Square, (tel: 71-401/2).

Ports and Marine Affairs Corporation, PO Box 3183, Hodeidah.

Republic of Yemen Embassy (USA), Suite 705, 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20037 (tel: (+1-202) 965-4760; fax: (+1-202) 337-2017; e-mail: information@yemenembassy.org).

United Nations Development Programme, PO Box 551 Sana'a (tel: 70-593/70-596).

National news agency: Saba (Yemen News Agency), (internet: www.sabanews.net/en)

Internet sites

ArabNet: <http://www.arab.net/welcome.html>

Arabia.On.Line: <http://www.arabia.com>