



# Country Profile: Swaziland

Autonomy for the Swazis of southern Africa was guaranteed by the British in the late 19th century; independence was granted in 1968. Student and labor unrest during the 1990s pressured King MSWATI III, the world's last absolute monarch, to grudgingly allow political reform and greater democracy, although he has backslid on these promises in recent years. A constitution came into effect in 2006, but the legal status of political parties remains unclear. The African United Democratic Party tried unsuccessfully to register as an official political party in mid 2006. Talks over the constitution broke down between the government and progressive groups in 2007. Swaziland recently surpassed Botswana as the country with the world's highest known HIV/AIDS prevalence rate.

## COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Eswatini
Continent:	Africa
Capital City:	Mbabane
Boundary Countries:	Mozambique, South Africa
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	
Main Cities:	Lavumisa, Piggs Peak, Big Bend, Manzini, Mhlume
Country Size:	17,364 sq km
Population:	1,370,424, note: estimates for this country explicitly take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS

## COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	English (official, government business conducted in English), siSwati (official)
Currency:	Swaziland Lilangeni (szl)
Predominant Religions:	Zionist (a blend of Christianity and indigenous ancestral worship), Roman Catholic, Muslim, other (includes Anglican, Bahai, Methodist, Mormon, Jewish)
National Holidays:	Independence Day, 6 September (1968) - from UK
Economic Status:	In this small, landlocked economy, subsistence agriculture occupies approximately 70% of the population. The manufacturing sector has diversified since the mid-1980s. Sugar and wood pulp were major foreign exchange earners; however, the wood pulp producer closed in January 2010, and sugar is now the main export earner. In 2007, the sugar industry increased efficiency and diversification efforts, in response to a 17% decline in EU sugar prices. Surrounded by South Africa, except for a short border with Mozambique, Swaziland is heavily dependent on South Africa from which it receives more than nine-tenths of its imports and to which it sends 60% of its exports. Swaziland's currency is pegged to the South African rand, subsuming Swaziland's monetary policy to South Africa.
Security:	Umbutfo Swaziland Defense Force (USDF): Ground Force (includes Air Wing)
US Presence:	<a href="#">U.S. Embassy Mbabane</a> 7th Floor, Central Bank Building Mahlokohla Street P.O. Box 199 Mbabane, Swaziland Phone: (268) 404-6441  Fax: (268) 2416-3344

<b>Major Airports:</b>	Airports: 15   Airports with paved runways: 2 <a href="#">Manzini - Matsapha Airport</a> (MTS/FDMS) PO Box 89, Kwaluseni, Matsapha, Manzini <i>Tel:</i> +268 84455, +268 84038 <i>Tel:</i> (Civil Aviation) +268 48683, +268 46636 <i>Fax:</i> +268 84084 <i>Fax:</i> (Civil Aviation) +268 46438
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