

The World Factbook



Africa :: Eritrea

Introduction :: Eritrea

Background:

The UN established Eritrea as an autonomous region within the Ethiopian federation in 1952. Ethiopia's full annexation of Eritrea as a province 10 years later sparked a violent 30-year struggle for independence that ended in 1991 with Eritrean rebels defeating government forces. Eritreans overwhelmingly approved independence in a 1993 referendum. ISAIAS Afworki has been Eritrea's only president since independence; his rule, particularly since 2001, has been highly autocratic and repressive. His government has created a highly militarized society by pursuing an unpopular program of mandatory conscription into national service, sometimes of indefinite length. A two-and-a-half-year border war with Ethiopia that erupted in 1998 ended under UN auspices in December 2000. The Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) created in April 2003 was tasked "to delimit and demarcate the colonial treaty border based on pertinent colonial treaties (1900, 1902, and 1908) and applicable international law." Eritrea for several years hosted a UN peacekeeping operation that monitored a 25 km-wide Temporary Security Zone. The EEBC on 30 November 2007 remotely demarcated the border, assigning the town of Badme to Eritrea, despite Ethiopia's maintaining forces there from the time of the 1998-2000 war. An increasingly hostile Eritrea insisted that the UN terminate its peacekeeping mission on 31 July 2008. Eritrea has accepted the EEBC's "virtual demarcation" decision and repeatedly called on Ethiopia to remove its troops. Ethiopia has not accepted the demarcation decision, and neither party has entered into meaningful dialogue to resolve the impasse. Eritrea is subject to several UN Security Council Resolutions (from 2009, 2011, and 2012) imposing various military and economic sanctions, in view of evidence that it has supported armed opposition groups in the region.

Geography :: Eritrea

Location:

Eastern Africa, bordering the Red Sea, between Djibouti and Sudan

Geographic coordinates:

15 00 N, 39 00 E

Map references:

Africa

Area:

total: 117,600 sq km

country comparison to the world: 101

land: 101,000 sq km

water: 16,600 sq km

Area - comparative:

slightly larger than Pennsylvania

Land boundaries:

total: 1,626 km

border countries: Djibouti 109 km, Ethiopia 912 km, Sudan 605 km

Coastline:

2,234 km (mainland on Red Sea 1,151 km, islands in Red Sea 1,083 km)

Maritime claims:

territorial sea: 12 nm

Climate:

hot, dry desert strip along Red Sea coast; cooler and wetter in the central highlands (up to 61 cm of rainfall annually, heaviest June to September); semiarid in western hills and lowlands

Terrain:

dominated by extension of Ethiopian north-south trending highlands, descending on the east to a coastal desert plain, on the northwest to hilly terrain and on the southwest to flat-to-rolling plains

Elevation extremes:

lowest point: near Kulul within the Danakil Depression -75 m

highest point: Soira 3,018 m

Natural resources:

gold, potash, zinc, copper, salt, possibly oil and natural gas, fish

Land use:

arable land: 5.87%

permanent crops: 0.02%

other: 94.12% (2011)

Irrigated land:

215.9 sq km (2003)

Total renewable water resources:

6.3 cu km (2011)

Freshwater withdrawal (domestic/industrial/agricultural):

total: 0.58 cu km/yr (5%/0%/95%)

per capita: 121.3 cu m/yr (2004)

Natural hazards:

frequent droughts, rare earthquakes and volcanoes; locust swarms

volcanism: Dubbi (elev. 1,625 m), which last erupted in 1861, was the country's only historically active volcano until Nabro (2,218 m) came to life on 12 June 2011

Environment - current issues:

deforestation; desertification; soil erosion; overgrazing; loss of infrastructure from civil warfare

Environment - international agreements:

party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Ozone Layer Protection
signed, but not ratified: none of the selected agreements

Geography - note:

strategic geopolitical position along world's busiest shipping lanes; Eritrea retained the entire coastline of Ethiopia along the Red Sea upon de jure independence from Ethiopia on 24 May 1993

People and Society :: Eritrea

Nationality:

noun: Eritrean(s)

adjective: Eritrean

Ethnic groups:

nine recognized ethnic groups: Tigrinya 55%, Tigre 30%, Saho 4%, Kunama 2%, Rashaida 2%, Bilen 2%, other (Afar, Beni Amir, Nera) 5% (2010 est.)

Languages:

Tigrinya (official), Arabic (official), English (official), Tigre, Kunama, Afar, other Cushitic languages

Religions:

Muslim, Coptic Christian, Roman Catholic, Protestant

Population:

6,233,682 (July 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 107

Age structure:

0-14 years: 41.3% (male 1,292,544/female 1,279,523)

15-24 years: 20% (male 623,797/female 625,527)

25-54 years: 31.2% (male 963,635/female 982,786)

55-64 years: 3.8% (male 99,755/female 136,557)

65 years and over: 3.7% (male 100,332/female 129,226) (2013 est.)

Dependency ratios:

total dependency ratio: 83.2 %

youth dependency ratio: 79.1 %

elderly dependency ratio: 4.1 %

potential support ratio: 24.1 (2013)

Median age:

total: 18.9 years

male: 18.6 years

female: 19.3 years (2013 est.)

Population growth rate:
2.36% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 35
Birth rate:
31.39 births/1,000 population (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 40
Death rate:
7.78 deaths/1,000 population (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 110
Net migration rate:
0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 85
Urbanization:
urban population: 21.3% of total population (2011)
rate of urbanization: 5.01% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Major urban areas - population:
ASMARA (capital) 649,000 (2009)
Sex ratio:
at birth: 1.03 male(s)/female
0-14 years: 1.01 male(s)/female
15-24 years: 1 male(s)/female
25-54 years: 0.98 male(s)/female
55-64 years: 0.73 male(s)/female
65 years and over: 0.79 male(s)/female
total population: 0.98 male(s)/female (2013 est.)
Mother's mean age at first birth:
20.6 (2002 est.)
Maternal mortality rate:
240 deaths/100,000 live births (2010)
country comparison to the world: 47
Infant mortality rate:
total: 39.38 deaths/1,000 live births
country comparison to the world: 61
male: 44.63 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 33.97 deaths/1,000 live births (2013 est.)
Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 63.19 years
country comparison to the world: 181
male: 61.04 years
female: 65.4 years (2013 est.)
Total fertility rate:
4.25 children born/woman (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 35
Contraceptive prevalence rate:
8% (2002)
Health expenditures:
2.7% of GDP (2010)
country comparison to the world: 183
Physicians density:
0.05 physicians/1,000 population (2004)
Hospital bed density:
0.7 beds/1,000 population (2011)
Drinking water source:

improved:
urban: 74% of population
rural: 57% of population
total: 61% of population

unimproved:
urban: 26% of population
rural: 43% of population
total: 39% of population (2008 est.)

Sanitation facility access:

improved:
urban: 52% of population
rural: 4% of population
total: 14% of population

unimproved:
urban: 48% of population
rural: 96% of population
total: 86% of population (2008 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:

0.8% (2009 est.)
country comparison to the world: 57

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:

25,000 (2009 est.)
country comparison to the world: 72

HIV/AIDS - deaths:

1,700 (2009 est.)
country comparison to the world: 57

Major infectious diseases:

degree of risk: high
food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever
vectorborne diseases: malaria and dengue fever (2013)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate:

1.5% (2008)
country comparison to the world: 188

Children under the age of 5 years underweight:

34.5% (2002)
country comparison to the world: 8

Education expenditures:

2.1% of GDP (2006)
country comparison to the world: 164

Literacy:

definition: age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 68.9%
male: 79.5%
female: 59% (2011 est.)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):

total: 5 years
male: 5 years
female: 4 years (2010)

Government :: Eritrea

Country name:

conventional long form: State of Eritrea
conventional short form: Eritrea
local long form: Hagere Ertra
local short form: Ertra
former: Eritrea Autonomous Region in Ethiopia

Government type:

transitional government

note: following a successful referendum on independence for the Autonomous Region of Eritrea on 23-25 April 1993, a National Assembly, composed entirely of the People's Front for Democracy and Justice or PFDJ, was established as a transitional legislature and a Constitutional Commission was established to draft a constitution; ISAIAS Afworki was named president by the transitional legislature; the constitution, ratified in May 1997, did not enter into effect, pending parliamentary and presidential elections; parliamentary elections were scheduled in December 2001 but were postponed indefinitely; currently the PFDJ is the sole legal party and controls all national, regional, and local political offices

Capital:

name: Asmara (Asmera)

geographic coordinates: 15 20 N, 38 56 E

time difference: UTC+3 (8 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)

Administrative divisions:

6 regions (zobatat, singular - zoba); Anseba, Debub (South), Debubawi K'eyih Bahri (Southern Red Sea), Gash Barka, Ma'akel (Central), Semenawi Keyih Bahri (Northern Red Sea)

Independence:

24 May 1993 (from Ethiopia)

National holiday:

Independence Day, 24 May (1993)

Constitution:

adopted 23 May 1997, but never fully implemented

Legal system:

mixed legal system of civil, customary, and Islamic religious law

International law organization participation:

has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; non-party state to the ICCt

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch:

chief of state: President ISAIAS Afworki (since 8 June 1993); note - the president is both the chief of state and head of government and is head of the State Council and National Assembly

head of government: President ISAIAS Afworki (since 8 June 1993)

cabinet: State Council the collective exercises executive authority; members appointed by the president

(For more information visit the **World Leaders website** [↗](#))

elections: president elected by the National Assembly for a five-year term (eligible for a second term); the most recent and only election was held on 8 June 1993 (next election date uncertain as the National Assembly did not hold a presidential election in December 2001 as anticipated)

election results: ISAIAS Afworki elected president by the transitional National Assembly; percent of National Assembly vote - ISAIAS Afworki 95%, other 5%

Legislative branch:

unicameral National Assembly (150 seats; members elected by direct popular vote to serve five-year terms)

elections: in May 1997, following the adoption of the new constitution, 75 members of the PFDJ Central Committee (the old Central Committee of the EPLF), 60 members of the 527-member Constituent Assembly, which had been established in 1997 to discuss and ratify the new constitution, and 15 representatives of Eritreans living abroad were formed into a Transitional National Assembly to serve as the country's legislative body until countrywide elections to a National Assembly were held; although only 75 of 150 members of the Transitional National Assembly were elected, the constitution stipulates that once past the transition stage, all members of the National Assembly will be elected by secret ballot of all eligible voters; National Assembly elections scheduled for December 2001 were postponed indefinitely due to the war with Ethiopia

Judicial branch:

highest court(s): High Court (organized into civil, commercial, criminal, labor, administrative, and customary sections with 20 judges)

judge selection and term of office: High Court judges appointed by the president

subordinate courts: regional/zonal courts; community courts; special courts; sharia courts (for issues dealing with Muslim marriage, inheritance, and family); military courts

Political parties and leaders:

People's Front for Democracy and Justice or PFDJ [ISAIAS Afworki] (the only party recognized by the government); note - a National Assembly committee drafted a law on political parties in January 2001, but the full National Assembly never debated or voted on it

Political pressure groups and leaders:

Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Eritrean Kunama (DMLEK)

Eritrean Democratic Alliance (EDA)

Eritrean National Congress for Democratic Change (ENCDC)

Eritrean National Salvation Front (ENSF)

Eritrean Islamic Party for Justice and Development (EIPJD) (includes the Eritrean Islamic Jihad (EIJ), Eritrean Islamic Jihad Movement (EIJM), Eritrean Islamic Salvation, and the Eritrean Islamic Foundation)

Eritrean People's Democratic Party (EPDP)

Red Sea Afar Democratic Organization (RSADO)

International organization participation:

ACP, AfDB, AU, COMESA, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (NGOs), IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS (observer), ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, ISO (subscriber), ITU, ITUC (NGOs), LAS (observer), MIGA, NAM, OPCW, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO

Diplomatic representation in the US:

chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Charge d'Affaires BERHANE Gebrehiwet Solomon

chancery: 1708 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20009

telephone: [1] (202) 319-1991

FAX: [1] (202) 319-1304

Diplomatic representation from the US:

chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Charge d'Affaires Sue BREMNER

embassy: 179 Ala Street, Asmara

mailing address: P. O. Box 211, Asmara

telephone: [291] (1) 120004

FAX: [291] (1) 127584

Flag description:

red isosceles triangle (based on the hoist side) dividing the flag into two right triangles; the upper triangle is green, the lower one is blue; a gold wreath encircling a gold olive branch is centered on the hoist side of the red triangle; green stands for the country's agriculture economy, red signifies the blood shed in the fight for freedom, and blue symbolizes the bounty of the sea; the wreath-olive branch symbol is similar to that on the first flag of Eritrea from 1952; the shape of the red triangle broadly mimics the shape of the country

National symbol(s):

camel

National anthem:

name: "Ertra, Ertra, Ertra" (Eritrea, Eritrea, Eritrea)

► [PLAY ANTHEM](#)

lyrics/music: SOLOMON Tsehaye Beraki/Isaac Abraham MEHAREZGI and ARON Tekle Tesfatsion

note: adopted 1993; upon independence from Ethiopia

Economy :: Eritrea

Economy - overview:

Since independence from Ethiopia in 1993, Eritrea has faced the economic problems of a small, poor country, facing chronic drought. These have been exacerbated by restrictive economic policies. Eritrea has a command economy under the control of the sole political party, the People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ). Like the economies of many African nations, a large share of the population - nearly 80% - is engaged in subsistence agriculture. That sector only produces a small share of the country's total output. Since the conclusion of the Ethiopian-Eritrea war in 2000, the government has expanded use of military and party-owned businesses to complete President ISAIAS's development agenda. The government strictly controls the use of foreign currency by limiting access and availability. Few large private enterprises exist in Eritrea and most operate in conjunction with government partners, although recently a number of large international mining ventures have opened. Eritrea's national income also relies in part on taxes paid by members of the Diaspora. While reliable statistics on food security are difficult to obtain, erratic rainfall and the percentage of the labor force tied up in national service continue to interfere with agricultural production and economic development. Eritrea's harvests generally cannot meet the food needs of the country without supplemental grain purchases. Copper and gold production is likely to drive economic growth over the next few years, but military spending will continue to compete with development and investment plans. Eritrea's economic future will depend on market reform and success at addressing social problems such as illiteracy and low skills.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$4.468 billion (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 173

\$4.176 billion (2011 est.)

\$3.842 billion (2010 est.)

note: data are in 2012 US dollars

GDP (official exchange rate):

\$3.092 billion (2012 est.)

GDP - real growth rate:

7% (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 27

8.7% (2011 est.)

2.2% (2010 est.)

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$800 (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 222

\$800 (2011 est.)

\$700 (2010 est.)

note: data are in 2012 US dollars

Gross national saving:

3.6% of GDP (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 139
1.6% of GDP (2011 est.)
-3.2% of GDP (2010 est.)

GDP - composition, by end use:

household consumption: 64%
government consumption: 26.8%
investment in fixed capital: 15.2%
exports of goods and services: 14.6%
imports of goods and services: -20.6%
(2012 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

agriculture: 12.4%
industry: 29.2%
services: 58.4% (2012 est.)

Agriculture - products:

sorghum, lentils, vegetables, corn, cotton, tobacco, sisal; livestock, goats; fish

Industries:

food processing, beverages, clothing and textiles, light manufacturing, salt, cement

Industrial production growth rate:

-10% (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 169

Labor force:

1.935 million (2007)
country comparison to the world: 123

Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture: 80%
industry and services: 20% (2004 est.)

Unemployment rate:

NA%

Population below poverty line:

50% (2004 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

lowest 10%: NA%
highest 10%: NA%

Budget:

revenues: \$806.5 million
expenditures: \$1.19 billion (2012 est.)

Taxes and other revenues:

26.1% of GDP (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 116

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):

-12.4% of GDP (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 209

Public debt:

110.5% of GDP (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 12
124.5% of GDP (2011 est.)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

17% (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 214
20% (2011 est.)

Commercial bank prime lending rate:

NA%

Stock of narrow money:

\$1.64 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 130
\$1.331 billion (31 December 2011 est.)

Stock of broad money:

\$3.889 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 135
\$3.156 billion (31 December 2011 est.)

Stock of domestic credit:

\$3.272 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 129
\$2.712 billion (31 December 2011 est.)

Current account balance:

-\$271.5 million (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 82
-\$127.8 million (2011 est.)

Exports:

\$434.8 million (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 176
\$415.9 million (2011 est.)

Exports - commodities:

livestock, sorghum, textiles, food, small manufactures

Imports:

\$1 billion (2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 177
\$891.9 million (2011 est.)

Imports - commodities:

machinery, petroleum products, food, manufactured goods

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

\$180.6 million (31 December 2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 160
\$114.8 million (31 December 2011 est.)

Debt - external:

\$1.057 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
country comparison to the world: 160
\$1.055 billion (31 December 2011 est.)

Exchange rates:

nakfa (ERN) per US dollar -
15.375 (2012 est.)
15.375 (2011 est.)
15.375 (2010 est.)
15.375 (2009)
15.38 (2008)

Energy:: Eritrea

Electricity - production:

277 million kWh (2009 est.)
country comparison to the world: 172

Electricity - consumption:

242 million kWh (2009 est.)
country comparison to the world: 179

Electricity - exports:

0 kWh (2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 190

Electricity - imports:

0 kWh (2010 est.)
country comparison to the world: 182

Electricity - installed generating capacity:

139,000 kW (2009 est.)

country comparison to the world: 161

Electricity - from fossil fuels:

99.3% of total installed capacity (2009 est.)

country comparison to the world: 57

Electricity - from nuclear fuels:

0% of total installed capacity (2009 est.)

country comparison to the world: 84

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:

0% of total installed capacity (2009 est.)

country comparison to the world: 168

Electricity - from other renewable sources:

0.7% of total installed capacity (2009 est.)

country comparison to the world: 73

Crude oil - production:

0 bbl/day (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 129

Crude oil - exports:

0 bbl/day (2009 est.)

country comparison to the world: 106

Crude oil - imports:

0 bbl/day (2009 est.)

country comparison to the world: 180

Crude oil - proved reserves:

0 bbl (1 January 2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 128

Refined petroleum products - production:

0 bbl/day (2008 est.)

country comparison to the world: 174

Refined petroleum products - consumption:

4,480 bbl/day (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 172

Refined petroleum products - exports:

0 bbl/day (2008 est.)

country comparison to the world: 174

Refined petroleum products - imports:

2,670 bbl/day (2008 est.)

country comparison to the world: 172

Natural gas - production:

0 cu m (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 124

Natural gas - consumption:

0 cu m (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 138

Natural gas - exports:

0 cu m (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 93

Natural gas - imports:

0 cu m (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 188

Natural gas - proved reserves:

0 cu m (1 January 2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 132

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:

798,200 Mt (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 171

Communications:: Eritrea
Telephones - main lines in use:
58,500 (2011)
country comparison to the world: 159
Telephones - mobile cellular:
241,900 (2011)
country comparison to the world: 175
Telephone system:
general assessment: inadequate; most fixed-line telephones are in Asmara; government is seeking international tenders to improve the system; cell phones in increasing use throughout the country
domestic: combined fixed-line and mobile-cellular subscribership is less than 5 per 100 persons
international: country code - 291 (2011)
Broadcast media:
government controls broadcast media with private ownership prohibited; 1 state-owned TV station; state-owned radio operates 2 networks; purchases of satellite dishes and subscriptions to international broadcast media are permitted (2007)
Internet country code:
.er
Internet hosts:
701 (2012)
country comparison to the world: 177
Internet users:
200,000 (2008)
country comparison to the world: 140

Transportation:: Eritrea

Airports:
13 (2013)
country comparison to the world: 151
Airports - with paved runways:
total: 4
over 3,047 m: 2
2,438 to 3,047 m: 2 (2013)
Airports - with unpaved runways:
total: 9
over 3,047 m: 1
2,438 to 3,047 m: 1
1,524 to 2,437 m: 5
914 to 1,523 m: 2 (2013)
Heliports:
1 (2013)
Railways:
total: 306 km
country comparison to the world: 119
narrow gauge: 306 km 0.950-m gauge (2008)
Roadways:
total: 4,010 km
country comparison to the world: 158
paved: 874 km
unpaved: 3,136 km (2000)
Merchant marine:
total: 4
country comparison to the world: 133
by type: cargo 2, petroleum tanker 1, roll on/roll off 1 (2010)
Ports and terminals:
major seaport(s): Assab, Massawa

Military :: Eritrea

Military branches:
Eritrean Armed Forces: Eritrean Ground Forces, Eritrean Navy, Eritrean Air Force (includes Air Defense Force) (2011)

Military service age and obligation:

18-40 years of age for male and female voluntary and compulsory military service; 16-month conscript service obligation (2012)

Manpower available for military service:

males age 16-49: 1,350,446

females age 16-49: 1,362,575 (2010 est.)

Manpower fit for military service:

males age 16-49: 896,096

females age 16-49: 953,757 (2010 est.)

Manpower reaching militarily significant age annually:

male: 66,829

female: 66,731 (2010 est.)

Military expenditures:

6.3% of GDP (2006 est.)

country comparison to the world: 10

Transnational Issues :: Eritrea

Disputes - international:

Eritrea and Ethiopia agreed to abide by 2002 Ethiopia-Eritrea Boundary Commission's (EEBC) delimitation decision, but neither party responded to the revised line detailed in the November 2006 EEBC Demarcation Statement; Sudan accuses Eritrea of supporting eastern Sudanese rebel groups; in 2008 Eritrean troops moved across the border on Ras Doumera peninsula and occupied Doumera Island with undefined sovereignty in the Red Sea

Refugees and internally displaced persons:

IDPs: 10,000 (border war with Ethiopia from 1998-2000; it has not been possible to confirm whether remaining IDPs are still living with hosts or have been returned or resettled) (2009)

Trafficking in persons:

current situation: Eritrea is a source country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and, to a lesser extent, sex and labor trafficking abroad; the country's national service program is often abused to keep conscripts indefinitely and to force them to perform labor outside the scope of their duties; each year large numbers of migrants, often fleeing national service, depart Eritrea in search of work, particularly in the Gulf States, where some are likely to become victims of forced labor; Eritrean children working in various economic sectors, including domestic service, street vending, small-scale manufacturing, garages, bicycle repair shops, tea and coffee shops, metal workshops, and agriculture may be subjected to conditions of forced labor; some Eritrean refugees from Sudanese camps are extorted and tortured by traffickers as they are transported through the Sinai Peninsula

tier rating: Tier 3 - Eritrea does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so; the Eritrean Government does not operate with transparency and has published neither data nor statistics regarding its efforts to combat human trafficking; the government did not report prosecuting or convicting any traffickers and did not identify or refer any victims to protective services in 2012; authorities largely lack an understanding of human trafficking, confusing it with all forms of transnational migration from Eritrea; the government made its first-ever efforts to prevent trafficking, warning about the hazards its citizens faced when attempting to migrate abroad (2013)