



Americas

The **Americas**, sometimes collectively called **America**,^{[3][4][5]} known initially as *India Nova*,^[6] are a landmass comprising the totality of *North America* and *South America*.^{[6][7][8]} When viewed as a single continent, the Americas or America is the 2nd largest continent right after Asia, and is the 3rd largest continent by population. The Americas make up most of the land in Earth's *Western Hemisphere* and comprise the *New World*.^[3]

Along with their *associated islands*, the Americas cover 8% of Earth's total surface area and 28.4% of its land area. The topography is dominated by the *American Cordillera*, a long chain of mountains that runs the length of the west coast. The flatter eastern side of the Americas is dominated by large river basins, such as the *Amazon*, *St. Lawrence River–Great Lakes*, *Mississippi*, and *La Plata* basins. Since the Americas extend 14,000 km (8,700 mi) from north to south, the climate and ecology vary widely, from the arctic *tundra* of *Northern Canada*, *Greenland*, and *Alaska*, to the *tropical rainforests* in Central America and South America.

Humans first *settled the Americas* from Asia between 20,000 and 16,000 years ago. A second migration of *Na-Dene speakers* followed later from Asia. The subsequent migration of the *Inuit* into the *nearctic* c. 3500 BCE completed what is generally regarded as the settlement by the *Indigenous peoples of the Americas*.

The first known European settlement in the Americas was by the *Norse* explorer *Leif Erikson*.^[9] However, the *colonization* never became permanent and was later abandoned. The *Spanish voyages of Christopher Columbus* from 1492 to 1504 resulted in permanent contact with European (and subsequently, other *Old World*) powers, which eventually led to the *Columbian exchange* and inaugurated a period of *exploration*,

Americas



| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Area | 42,549,000 km ² (16,428,000 sq mi) |
| Population | 1.02 billion ^[1] |
| Population density | 22.67/km ² (58.74/sq mi) |
| Demonym | American, ^[2] (see <i>usage</i>) |
| Countries | 35 |
| Languages | Spanish, English, Portuguese, French, Haitian Creole, Quechua, Guaraní, Aymara, Nahuatl, Dutch, and many others |
| Time zones | UTC−10 to UTC+0 |
| Largest cities | List <div>1. <i>São Paulo</i> 2. <i>Lima</i></div> |

conquest, and colonization whose effects and consequences persist to the present. The Spanish presence involved the enslavement of large numbers of the indigenous population of America.^[10]

Diseases introduced from Europe and West Africa devastated the indigenous peoples, and the European powers colonized the Americas.^[11] Mass emigration from Europe, including large numbers of indentured servants, and importation of African slaves largely replaced the indigenous peoples in much of the Americas.

Decolonization of the Americas began with the American Revolution in the 1770s and largely ended with the Spanish–American War in the late 1890s. Currently, almost all of the population of the Americas resides in independent countries; however, the legacy of the colonization and settlement by Europeans is that the Americas share many common cultural traits, most notably Christianity and the use of West European languages: primarily Spanish, English, Portuguese, French, and, to a lesser extent, Dutch.

The Americas are home to more than a billion inhabitants, two-thirds of whom reside in the United States, Brazil, and Mexico. It is home to eight megacities (metropolitan areas with 10 million inhabitants or more): Greater Mexico City (21.2 million), São Paulo (21.2 million), New York City (19.7 million), Los Angeles (18.8 million), Buenos Aires (15.6 million),^[12] Rio de Janeiro (13.0 million), Bogotá (10.4 million), and Lima (10.1 million).

Etymology and naming

The name "America" was first recorded in 1507. A two-dimensional globe created by Martin Waldseemüller was the earliest recorded use of the term.^[14] The name was also used (together with the related term *Amerigen*) in the *Cosmographie Introductio*, apparently written by Matthias Ringmann, in reference to South America.^[15] It was applied to both North and South America by Gerardus Mercator in 1538. "America" derives from *Americus*, the Latin version of Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci's first name.

The feminine form *America* was originally used to refer to the newly discovered continent, which is why it was accorded with the feminine names of the other continents: Asia, Africa, and Europa.^[16]

3. Mexico City
4. New York City
5. Bogotá
6. Rio de Janeiro
7. Santiago
8. Los Angeles
9. Caracas
10. Buenos Aires

Complete List of largest metropolitan areas and their cities

**UN M49
code**

019 – Americas
001 – World



1990s CIA political map of the Americas in Lambert azimuthal equal-area projection

Since the 1950s,^[17] however, North America and South America have generally been considered by English speakers as separate continents, and taken together are called *the Americas*, or more rarely *America*.^{[18][19][3]} When conceived as a unitary continent, the form is generally *the continent of America* in the singular. However, without a clarifying context, singular *America* in English commonly refers to the United States of America.^[3]

History

Pre-Columbian era

The pre-Columbian era incorporates all period subdivisions in the history and prehistory of the Americas before the appearance of significant European influences on the American continents, spanning the time of the original settlement in the Upper Paleolithic to European colonization during the Early Modern period. The term *Pre-Columbian* is used especially often in the context of the great indigenous civilizations of the Americas, such as those of Mesoamerica (Olmec, Toltec, Teotihuacano, Zapotec, Mixtec, Aztec, Maya) and the Andean civilizations (Inca, Moche, Chavín, Muisca, Cañari).

Many pre-Columbian civilizations established characteristics and hallmarks which included permanent or urban settlements, agriculture, civic and monumental architecture, and complex societal hierarchies. Some of these civilizations had long faded by the time of the first permanent European arrivals (c. late 15th–early 16th centuries), and are known only through archeological investigations. Others were contemporary with this period, and are also known from historical accounts of the time. A few, such as the Maya, had their own written records. However, most Europeans of the time viewed such texts as pagan, and much was destroyed in Christian pyres. Only a few hidden documents remain today, leaving modern historians with glimpses of ancient culture and knowledge.^[20]

Settlement

The first inhabitants migrated into the Americas from Asia. Habitation sites are known in Alaska and Yukon from at least 20,000 years ago, with suggested ages of up to 40,000 years.^{[22][23][24]} Beyond that, the specifics of the Paleo-Indian migration to and throughout the Americas, including the dates and routes traveled, are subject to ongoing research and discussion.^[25] Widespread habitation of the Americas occurred after the Late Glacial Maximum, from 16,000 to 13,000 years ago.^{[24][26]}

The traditional theory has been that these early migrants moved into the Beringia land bridge between eastern Siberia and present-day Alaska around 40,000–17,000 years ago,^[27] when sea levels were significantly lowered during the Quaternary glaciation.^{[25][28]} These people are believed to have followed herds of now-extinct pleistocene megafauna along *ice-free corridors* that stretched between the Laurentide and Cordilleran ice sheets.^[29] Another route proposed is that, either on foot or using primitive



America is named after Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci.^[13]



The Plaza Occidental in Copán, Honduras



Statue representing the Americas at Palazzo Ferreria, in Valletta, Malta



Map of early human migrations based on the Out of Africa theory^[21]

boats, they migrated down the Pacific coast to South America.^[30] Evidence of the latter would since have been covered by a sea level rise of hundreds of meters following the last ice age.^[31] Both routes may have been taken, although the genetic evidences suggests a single founding population.^[32] The micro-satellite diversity and distributions specific to South American Indigenous peoples indicates that certain populations have been isolated since the initial colonization of the region.^[33]

A second migration occurred after the initial peopling of the Americas;^[34] Na Dene speakers found predominantly in North American groups at varying genetic rates with the highest frequency found among the Athabaskans at 42% derive from this second wave.^[35] Linguists and biologists have reached a similar conclusion based on analysis of Amerindian language groups and ABO blood group system distributions.^{[34][36][37][38]} Then the people of the Arctic small tool tradition, a broad cultural entity that developed along the Alaska Peninsula, around Bristol Bay, and on the eastern shores of the Bering Strait c. 2500 BCE moved into North America.^[39] The Arctic small tool tradition, a Paleo-Eskimo culture branched off into two cultural variants, including the Pre-Dorset, and the Independence traditions of Greenland.^[40] The descendants of the Pre-Dorset cultural group, the Dorset culture was displaced by the final migrants from the Bering sea coast line, the Thule people (the ancestors of modern Inuit), by 1000 CE.^[40]

Norse colonization

Around the same time as the Inuit migrated into Greenland, Viking settlers began arriving in Greenland in 982 and Vinland shortly thereafter, establishing a settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows, near the northernmost tip of Newfoundland.^[41] Contact between the Norse colonies and Europe was maintained, as James Watson Curran states:

From 985 to 1410, Greenland was in touch with the world. Then silence. In 1492 the Vatican noted that no news of that country "at the end of the world" had been received for 80 years, and the bishopric of the colony was offered to a certain ecclesiastic if he would go and "restore Christianity" there. He didn't go.^[42]

Large-scale European colonization

Although there had been previous trans-oceanic contact, large-scale European colonization of the Americas began with the first voyage of Christopher Columbus in 1492. The first Spanish settlement in the Americas was La Isabela in northern Hispaniola. This town was abandoned shortly after in favor of Santo Domingo de Guzmán, founded in 1496, the oldest American city of European foundation. This was the base from which the Spanish monarchy administered its new colonies and their expansion. Santo Domingo was subject to frequent raids by English and French pirates.



Christopher Columbus leads expedition to the New World, 1492.

On the continent, Panama City on the Pacific coast of Central America, founded on August 15, 1519, played an important role, being the base for the Spanish conquest of South America. Conquistador Lucas Vázquez de Ayllón established San Miguel de Guadalupe, the first European settlement in what is now the United States, on the Pee Dee River in South Carolina.^[43] During the first half of the 16th century, Spanish colonists conducted raids throughout the Caribbean Basin, bringing captives from Central America, northern South America, and Florida back to Hispaniola and other Spanish settlements.^[44]

France, led by Jacques Cartier and Giovanni da Verrazzano,^[45] focused primarily on North America. English explorations of the Americas were led by Giovanni Caboto^[46] and Sir Walter Raleigh. The Dutch in New Netherland confined their operations to Manhattan Island, Long Island, the Hudson River Valley, and what later became New Jersey. The spread of new diseases brought by Europeans and African slaves killed many of the inhabitants of North America and South America,^{[47][48]} with a general population crash of Native Americans occurring in the mid-16th century, often well ahead of European contact.^[49] One of the most devastating diseases was smallpox.^[50]

European immigrants were often part of state-sponsored attempts to found colonies in the Americas. Migration continued as people moved to the Americas fleeing religious persecution or seeking economic opportunities. Millions of individuals were forcibly transported to the Americas as slaves, prisoners or indentured servants.

Decolonization of the Americas began with the American Revolution and the Haitian Revolution in the late 1700s. This was followed by numerous Latin American wars of independence in the early 1800s. Between 1811 and 1825, Paraguay, Argentina, Chile, Gran Colombia, the United Provinces of Central America, Mexico, Brazil, Peru, and Bolivia gained independence from Spain and Portugal in armed revolutions. After the Dominican Republic won independence from Haiti, it was re-annexed by Spain in 1861, but reclaimed its independence in 1865 at the conclusion of the Dominican Restoration War. The last violent episode of decolonization was the Cuban War of Independence which became the Spanish–American War, which resulted in the independence of Cuba in 1898, and the transfer of sovereignty over Puerto Rico from Spain to the United States.

Peaceful decolonization began with the United States's purchase of Louisiana from France in 1803, Florida from Spain in 1819, of Alaska from Russia in 1867, and the Danish West Indies from Denmark in 1916. Canada became independent of the United Kingdom, starting with the Balfour Declaration of 1926, Statute of Westminster 1931, and ending with the patriation of the Canadian Constitution in 1982. The Dominion of Newfoundland similarly achieved independence under the Balfour Declaration and Statute of Westminster, but relinquished self-rule in 1934.^[51] It was subsequently confederated with Canada in 1949.

The remaining European colonies in the Caribbean began to achieve peaceful independence well after World War II. Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago became independent in 1962, and Guyana and Barbados both achieved independence in 1966. In the 1970s, the Bahamas, Grenada, Dominica, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines all became independent of the United Kingdom, and Suriname became independent of the Netherlands. Belize, Antigua and Barbuda, and Saint Kitts and Nevis achieved independence from the United Kingdom in the 1980s.

Geography

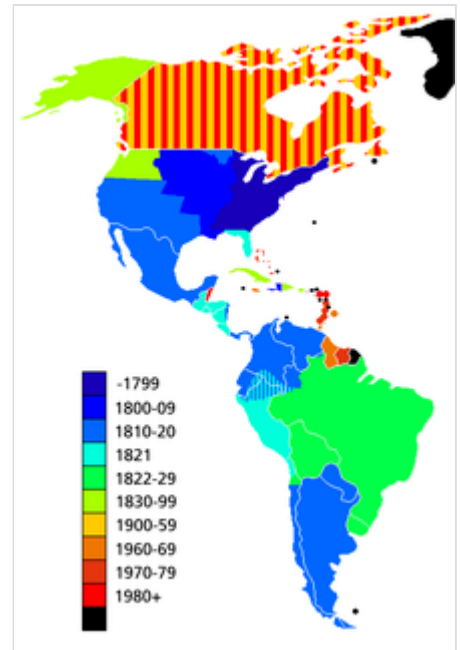
Extent

The Americas make up most of the land in Earth's Western Hemisphere.^[52] The northernmost point of the Americas is Kaffeklubben Island, which is the most northerly point of land on Earth.^[53] The southernmost undisputed point is Águila Islet, although the Antarctic islands of Southern Thule are sometimes taken into account.^{[54][55]} The mainland of the Americas is the world's longest north-to-south landmass. The distance between its two polar extremities, Murchison Promontory on the Boothia Peninsula in northern Canada and Cape Froward in Chilean Patagonia, is roughly 14,000 km (8,700 mi).^[56] The mainland's most westerly point is the end of the Seward Peninsula in Alaska; Attu Island, further off the Alaskan coast to the west, is considered the westernmost point of the Americas. Ponta do Seixas in northeastern Brazil forms the easternmost extremity of the mainland,^[56] while Nordostrundingen, in Greenland, is the most easterly point of the continental shelf.

Geology

South America broke off from the west of the supercontinent Gondwana around 135 million years ago, forming its own continent.^[57] Around 15 million years ago, the collision of the Caribbean Plate and the Pacific Plate resulted in the emergence of a series of volcanoes along the border that created a number of islands. The gaps in the archipelago of Central America filled in with material eroded off North America and South America, plus new land created by continued volcanism. By three million years ago, the continents of North America and South America were linked by the Isthmus of Panama, thereby forming the single landmass of the Americas.^[58] The Great American Interchange resulted in many species being spread across the Americas, such as the cougar, porcupine, opossums, armadillos, and hummingbirds.^[59]

Topography



Map showing the dates of independence from European powers. Black signifies areas that are dependent territories or parts of countries with a capital outside the Americas.



Satellite photo of the Americas on Earth

A photograph of a snow-covered mountain peak, likely Mount Everest, under a clear blue sky. The mountain's ridges and valleys are covered in white snow, with some rocky outcrops visible. The sky is a pale blue with a few wispy clouds.

Aconcagua, in Argentina, is the highest peak in the Americas.

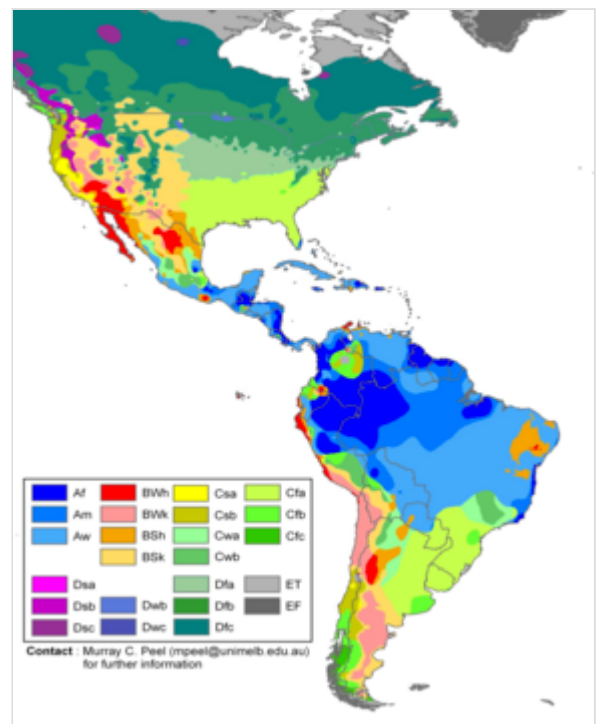
The largest mountain ranges are the Andes and Rocky Mountains. The Sierra Nevada and the Cascade Range reach similar altitudes as the Rocky Mountains, but are significantly smaller. In North America, the greatest number of fourteeners are in the United States, and more specifically in the US state of Colorado. The highest peaks of the Americas are located in the Andes, with Aconcagua of Argentina being the highest; in North America Denali (Mount McKinley) in the US state of Alaska is the tallest.

Between its coastal mountain ranges, North America has vast flat areas. The Interior Plains spread over much of the continent, with low relief.^[64] The Canadian Shield covers almost 5 million km² of North America and is generally quite flat.^[65] Similarly, the north-east of South America is covered by the flat Amazon basin.^[66] The Brazilian Highlands on the east coast are fairly smooth but show some variations in landform, while farther south the Gran Chaco and Pampas are broad lowlands.^[67]

Climate

The climate of the Americas varies significantly from region to region. Tropical rainforest climate occurs in the latitudes of the Amazon, American cloud forests, southeastern Florida and Darién Gap. In the Rocky Mountains and Andes, dry and continental climates are observed. Often the higher altitudes of these mountains are snow-capped.

Southeastern North America is well known for its occurrence of tornadoes and hurricanes, of which the vast majority of tornadoes occur in the United States' Tornado Alley,^[68] as well as in the southerly Dixie Alley in the North American late-winter and early spring seasons. Often parts of the Caribbean are exposed to the violent effects of hurricanes. These weather systems are formed by the collision of dry, cool air from Canada and wet, warm air from the Atlantic.



Climate zones of the Americas in the Köppen climate classification system

Hydrology

With coastal mountains and interior plains, the Americas have several large river basins that drain the continents. The largest river basin in North America is that of the Mississippi, covering the second-largest watershed on the planet.^[69] The Mississippi–Missouri river system drains most of 31 states of the United States, most of the Great Plains, and large areas between the Rocky and Appalachian mountains. The Mississippi–Missouri is the fourth-longest river system and has the tenth-greatest discharge in the world.

In North America, to the east of the Appalachian Mountains, there are no major rivers but rather a series of rivers and streams that flow east with their terminus in the Atlantic Ocean, such as the Hudson, Saint John, and Savannah rivers. A similar instance arises with central Canadian rivers that drain into Hudson Bay; the largest being the Churchill River. On the west coast of North America, the main rivers are the Colorado, Columbia, Yukon, Fraser, and Sacramento rivers.

The Colorado River drains much of the Southern Rockies and parts of the Basin and Range Province. The river flows approximately 1,450 miles (2,330 km) into the Gulf of California,^[70] during which over time it has carved out natural phenomena such as the Grand Canyon and created phenomena such as the Salton Sea. The Columbia is a large river, 1,243 miles (2,000 km) long, in central western North America and is the most powerful river on the West Coast of the Americas. In the far northwest of North America, the Yukon drains much of the Alaskan peninsula and flows 1,980 miles (3,190 km)^[71] from parts of Yukon and the Northwest Territory to the Pacific. Draining to the Arctic Ocean of Canada, the Mackenzie River drains waters from the Arctic Great Lakes of Arctic Canada, as opposed to the St Lawrence River that drains the Great Lakes of southern Canada into the Atlantic Ocean. The Mackenzie River is the largest in Canada and drains 1,805,200 square kilometers (697,000 sq mi).^[72]

The largest river basin in South America is that of the Amazon, which has the highest volume flow of any river on Earth.^[73] The second largest watershed of South America is that of the Paraná River, which covers about 2.5 million km².^[74]

Ecology












North America and South America began to develop a shared population of flora and fauna around 2.5 million years ago, when continental drift brought the two continents into contact via the Isthmus of Panama. Initially, the exchange of biota was roughly equal, with North American genera migrating into South America in about the same proportions as South American genera migrated into North America. This exchange is known as the Great American Interchange. The exchange became lopsided after roughly a million years, with the total spread of South American genera into North America far more limited in scope than the spread of North American genera into South America.^[75]

Countries and territories

There are 35 sovereign states in the Americas, as well as an autonomous country of Denmark, three overseas departments of France, three overseas collectivities of France,^[76] and one uninhabited territory of France, eight overseas territories of the United Kingdom, three constituent countries of the Netherlands, three public bodies of the Netherlands, two unincorporated territories of the United States, and one uninhabited territory of the United States.^[77]

| Country or territory | Total area (km ²) ^[78] | Population ^[note 1] | Pop. density (per km ²) | Common languages (official in bold) | Capital |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
|  Anguilla (United Kingdom) | 91 | 13,452 | 164.8 | English | The Valley |
|  Antigua and Barbuda | 442 | 86,295 | 199.1 | Creole , ^[79] English | St. John's |
|  Argentina | 2,766,890 | 42,669,500 | 14.3 | Spanish | Buenos Aires |
|  Aruba (Netherlands) | 180 | 101,484 | 594.4 | Papiamentu , Spanish , ^[80] Dutch | Oranjestad |
|  The Bahamas | 13,943 | 351,461 | 24.5 | Creole , ^[81] English | Nassau |
| Bajo Nuevo Bank (United States / Colombia / Jamaica) | 100 ^[82] | 0 ^[83] | 0.0 | Uninhabited | N/A |
|  Barbados | 430 | 285,000 | 595.3 | Bajan , ^[84] English | Bridgetown |
|  Belize | 22,966 | 349,728 | 13.4 | Spanish , Kriol , English ^[85] | Belmopan |
|  Bermuda (United Kingdom) | 54 | 64,237 | 1,203.7 | English | Hamilton |
|  Bolivia | 1,098,580 | 10,027,254 | 8.4 | Spanish and 36 indigenous languages | La Paz and Sucre ^[86] |
|  Bonaire (Netherlands) | 294 | 12,093 | 41.1 | Papiamentu , Spanish , Dutch ^[87] | Kralendijk |
|  Brazil | 8,514,877 | 203,106,000 | 23.6 | Portuguese | Brasília |
|  British Virgin Islands (United Kingdom) | 151 | 29,537 | 152.3 | English | Road Town |
|  Canada | 9,984,670 | 37,411,592 | 3.8 | English , French | Ottawa |
|  Cayman Islands (United Kingdom) | 264 | 81,546 | 212.1 | English | George Town |
|  Chile ^[88] | 756,950 | 17,773,000 | 22 | Spanish | Santiago |
|  Clipperton Island (France) | 6 ^[82] | 0 ^[83] | 0.0 | Uninhabited | N/A |
|  Colombia | 1,138,910 | 47,757,000 | 40 | Spanish | Bogotá |
|  Costa Rica | 51,100 | 4,667,096 | 89.6 | Spanish | San José |
|  Cuba | 109,886 | 11,167,325 | 102.0 | Spanish | Havana |
|  Curaçao (Netherlands) | 444 | 150,563 | 317.1 | Papiamentu , Dutch ^[87] | Willemstad |
|  Dominica | 751 | 71,293 | 89.2 | French Patois , English ^[89] | Roseau |
|  Dominican Republic | 48,671 | 10,378,267 | 207.3 | Spanish | Santo Domingo |
|  Ecuador | 283,560 | 15,819,400 | 53.8 | Spanish , Quechua ^[90] | Quito |
|  El Salvador | 21,041 | 6,401,240 | 293.0 | Spanish | San Salvador |

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|--|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|--|---|
|  <u>Falkland Islands (United Kingdom)</u> ^[91] | 12,173 | 3,000 | 0.26 | <u>English</u> | <u>Stanley</u> |
|  <u>Federal Dependencies of Venezuela (Venezuela)</u> | 342 | 2,155 | 2.4 | <u>Spanish</u> | N/A |
|  <u>French Guiana (France)</u> | 91,000 | 237,549 | 2.7 | <u>French</u> | <u>Cayenne</u> |
|  <u>Greenland (Denmark)</u> | 2,166,086 | 56,483 | 0.026 | <u>Greenlandic</u> , Danish | <u>Nuuk</u> |
|  <u>Grenada</u> | 344 | 103,328 | 302.3 | <u>English</u> | <u>St. George's</u> |
|  <u>Guadeloupe (France)</u> | 1,628 | 405,739 | 246.7 | <u>French</u> | <u>Basse-Terre</u> |
|  <u>Guatemala</u> | 108,889 | 15,806,675 | 128.8 | <u>Spanish</u> , Garifuna and 23 Mayan languages | <u>Guatemala City</u> |
|  <u>Guyana</u> | 214,999 | 784,894 | 3.5 | <u>English</u> | <u>Georgetown</u> |
|  <u>Haiti</u> | 27,750 | 10,745,665 | 361.5 | <u>Creole</u> , <u>French</u> | <u>Port-au-Prince</u> |
|  <u>Honduras</u> | 112,492 | 8,555,072 | 66.4 | <u>Spanish</u> | <u>Tegucigalpa</u> |
|  <u>Jamaica</u> | 10,991 | 2,717,991 | 247.4 | Patois, <u>English</u> | <u>Kingston</u> |
|  <u>Martinique (France)</u> | 1,128 | 392,291 | 352.6 | Patois, ^[92] <u>French</u> | <u>Fort-de-France</u> |
|  <u>Mexico</u> | 1,964,375 | 119,713,203 | 57.1 | <u>Spanish</u> , <u>68 indigenous languages</u> | <u>Mexico City</u> |
|  <u>Montserrat (United Kingdom)</u> | 102 | 4,922 | 58.8 | Creole English, <u>English</u> ^[93] | <u>Plymouth</u> ; <u>Brades</u> ^[94] |
| <u>Navassa Island (United States / Haiti)</u> | 5 ^[82] | 0 ^[83] | 0.0 | Uninhabited | <u>Lulu Town</u> |
|  <u>Nicaragua</u> | 130,373 | 6,071,045 | 44.1 | <u>Spanish</u> | <u>Managua</u> |
|  <u>Panama</u> | 75,417 | 3,405,813 | 45.8 | <u>Spanish</u> | <u>Panama City</u> |
|  <u>Paraguay</u> | 406,750 | 6,783,374 | 15.6 | <u>Guaraní</u> , <u>Spanish</u> | <u>Asunción</u> |
|  <u>Peru</u> | 1,285,220 | 30,814,175 | 22 | <u>Spanish</u> , <u>Quechua</u> , and <u>other indigenous languages</u> | <u>Lima</u> |
|  <u>Puerto Rico (United States)</u> | 8,870 | 3,615,086 | 448.9 | <u>Spanish</u> , <u>English</u> | <u>San Juan</u> |
|  <u>Saba (Netherlands)</u> | 13 | 1,537 ^[95] | 118.2 | English, <u>Dutch</u> | <u>The Bottom</u> |
|  <u>Saint Barthélemy (France)</u> | 21 ^[82] | 8,938 ^[83] | 354.7 | <u>French</u> | <u>Gustavia</u> |
|  <u>Saint Kitts and Nevis</u> | 261 | 55,000 | 199.2 | <u>English</u> | <u>Basseterre</u> |
|  <u>Saint Lucia</u> | 539 | 180,000 | 319.1 | <u>English</u> , French Creole | <u>Castries</u> |
|  <u>Saint Martin (France)</u> | 54 ^[82] | 36,979 | 552.2 | <u>French</u> | <u>Marigot</u> |
|  <u>Saint Pierre and Miquelon (France)</u> | 242 | 6,081 | 24.8 | <u>French</u> | <u>Saint-Pierre</u> |

| | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|---------|--|--------------------------|
|  <u>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</u> | 389 | 109,000 | 280.2 | English | <u>Kingstown</u> |
| Serranilla Bank (United States / Colombia / Honduras) | 100 ^[82] | 0 ^[83] | 0.0 | Uninhabited | N/A |
|  <u>Sint Eustatius (Netherlands)</u> | 21 | 2,739 ^[95] | 130.4 | Dutch, English | <u>Oranjestad</u> |
|  <u>Sint Maarten (Netherlands)</u> | 34 | 37,429 | 1,176.7 | English, Spanish, Dutch | <u>Philipsburg</u> |
|  <u>South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (United Kingdom)</u> ^[96] | 3,093 | 20 | 0.01 | English | <u>King Edward Point</u> |
|  <u>Suriname</u> | 163,270 | 534,189 | 3 | Dutch and others ^[97] | <u>Paramaribo</u> |
|  <u>Trinidad and Tobago</u> | 5,130 | 1,328,019 | 261.0 | English | <u>Port of Spain</u> |
|  <u>Turks and Caicos Islands (United Kingdom)</u> | 948 | 31,458 | 34.8 | Creole English, English ^[98] | <u>Cockburn Town</u> |
|  <u>United States of America</u> ^[note 2] | 9,629,091 | 320,206,000 | 34.2 | English, Spanish | <u>Washington, D.C.</u> |
|  <u>U.S. Virgin Islands (United States)</u> | 347 | 106,405 | 317.0 | English | <u>Charlotte Amalie</u> |
|  <u>Uruguay</u> | 176,220 | 3,286,314 | 19.4 | Spanish | <u>Montevideo</u> |
|  <u>Venezuela</u> | 916,445 | 30,206,307 | 30.2 | Spanish and 40 indigenous languages | <u>Caracas</u> |
| Total | 42,320,985 | 973,186,925 | 21.9 | | |

Demography

Population

In 2021 the total population of the Americas was about 1.03 billion people, divided as follows:

- North America: 596.6 million (includes Central America and the Caribbean)
- South America: 434.3 million

Largest urban centers

There are three urban centers that each hold titles for being the largest population area based on the three main demographic concepts:^[99]

- City proper

A city proper is the locality with legally fixed boundaries and an administratively recognized urban status that is usually characterized by some form of local government.^{[100][101][102][103][104]}

- Urban area

An urban area is characterized by higher population density and vast human features in comparison to areas surrounding it. Urban areas may be cities, towns or conurbations, but the term is not commonly extended to rural settlements such as villages and hamlets. Urban areas are created and further developed by the process of urbanization and do not include large swaths of rural land, as do metropolitan areas.

- Metropolitan area

Unlike an urban area, a metropolitan area includes not only the urban area, but also satellite cities *plus intervening rural land* that is socio-economically connected to the urban core city, typically by employment ties through commuting, with the urban core city being the primary labor market.

In accordance with these definitions, the three largest population centers in the Americas are: Mexico City, anchor to the largest metropolitan area in the Americas; New York City, anchor to the largest urban area in the Americas; and São Paulo, the largest city proper in the Americas. All three cities maintain Alpha classification and large scale influence.

Urban centers within the Americas



Mexico City – largest metropolitan area in the Americas, with a population of 22,300,000 in 2017



São Paulo – largest city in the Americas, with a population of 12,038,175 (city) in 2016



New York City – largest urban area in the Americas, with a population of 18,351,295 in 2010

| Country | City | City Population | Metro Area Population |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mexico | <u>Mexico City</u> | 8,864,000 | 22,300,000 ^[105] |
| Brazil | <u>São Paulo</u> | 12,038,175 | 21,742,939 ^[106] |
| United States | <u>New York City</u> | 8,405,837 ^[107] | 19,949,502 ^[108] |
| Argentina | <u>Buenos Aires</u> | 2,891,082 ^[12] | 15,594,428 ^[12] |
| United States | <u>Los Angeles</u> | 3,928,864 ^[109] | 13,131,431 ^[110] |

Ethnology

The population of the Americas is made up of the descendants of four large ethnic groups and their combinations.

- The Indigenous peoples of the Americas, being Amerindians and Inuit-Yupik-Unangan.
- Those of European ancestry, mainly Spanish, English, Irish, Portuguese, German, Italian, French, and Dutch.
- Those of African ancestry, mainly of West African descent.
- Asians, that is, those of East Asian, South Asian, and Southeast Asian ancestry.
- Mestizos (Métis people in Canada), those of mixed European and Amerindian ancestry.
- Mulattoes, people of mixed African and European ancestry.
- Zambos (Spanish) or Cafuzos (Portuguese), those of mixed African and Indigenous ancestry.



Ethnic map of the Americas
(c. 1880) by Heinrich Berghaus

The majority of the population lives in Latin America, named for its predominant cultures, rooted in Latin Europe (including the two dominant languages, Spanish and Portuguese, both Romance languages), more specifically in the Iberian nations of Portugal and Spain (hence the use of the term Ibero-America as a synonym). Latin America is typically contrasted with Anglo-America, where English, a Germanic language, is prevalent, and which comprises Canada (with the exception of Francophone Canada rooted in Latin Europe [France]—see Quebec and Acadia) and the United States. Both countries are located in North America, with cultures deriving predominantly from British and other Germanic roots.

Black population

The transatlantic slave trade brought millions of Africans to the territories of the Americas under the colonial rule of European powers. In South America, Portugal played a significant role in the trafficking of enslaved Africans, with estimates suggesting that around 40% of all Africans forcibly brought to the Americas were taken to Brazil alone, to work primarily in sugar cane plantations, mining, and agricultural endeavors.^[111] In North America, the British Empire was heavily involved in the transatlantic slave trade, with the establishment of colonies such as Virginia, where enslaved Africans were primarily used as labor in tobacco plantations and later in other agricultural and domestic sectors. This system perpetuated for centuries, shaping the socio-economic landscape of all nations of the hemisphere.

After the Haitian Revolution led by Jean-Jacques Dessalines, which started in 1791 and was the only successful slave revolt in history, the world's first black republic was established. It started with the massacre of the white population, between 3,000 and 5,000 white men and women of all ages were killed. Dessalines declared:

Oui, nous avons rendu à ces vrais cannibales
guerre pour guerre, crimes pour crimes,
outrages pour outrages.
Oui, j'ai sauvé mon pays, j'ai vengé
l'Amérique.

Yes, we have rendered to these true cannibals
war for war, crime for crime, outrage for
outrage;
Yes, I have saved my country – I have
avenged America.

— Dessalines, first president of the Republic of Haiti, 1804^{[112][113]}



Slavery in Brazil by Jean-Baptiste Debret (1834–1839)

Religion

The most prevalent faiths in the Americas are as follows:

- Christianity (86 percent)^[114]
 - Roman Catholicism: Practiced by 69 percent^[115] of the Latin American population (61 percent^[115] in Brazil whose Roman Catholic population of 134 million^[116] is the greatest of any nation's), approximately 24 percent of the United States' population^[117] and about 39 percent of Canada's.^[118]
 - Protestantism: Practiced mostly in the United States, where half of the population are Protestant, Canada, with slightly more than a quarter of the population, and Greenland; there is a growing contingent of Evangelical and Pentecostal movements in predominantly Catholic Latin America.^[119]
 - Eastern Orthodoxy: Found mostly in the United States (1 percent) and Canada; this Christian group is growing faster than many other Christian groups in Canada and now represents roughly 3 percent of the Canadian population.^[118]
 - Non-denominational Christians and other Christians (some 1,000 different Christian denominations and sects practiced in the Americas).
- Irreligion: About 12 percent, including atheists and agnostics, as well as those who profess some form of spirituality but do not identify themselves as members of any organized religion.
- Islam: Together, Muslims constitute about 1 percent of the North American population and 0.3 percent of all Latin Americans. It is practiced by 3 percent ^[118] of Canadians and 0.6

percent of the U.S. population.^[117] Argentina has the largest Muslim population in Latin America with up to 600,000 persons, or 1.5 percent of the population.^[120]

- Judaism (practiced by 2 percent of North Americans—approximately 2.5 percent of the U.S. population and 1.2 percent of Canadians^[121]—and 0.23 percent of Latin Americans—Argentina has the largest Jewish population in Latin America with 200,000 members)^[122]

Other faiths include Buddhism; Hinduism; Sikhism; Bahá'í Faith; a wide variety of indigenous religions, many of which can be categorized as animistic; new age religions and many African and African-derived religions. Syncretic faiths can also be found throughout the Americas.

Religious Demographics According to 2010 censuses/estimates in each country

| Country | Christians | Catholics | Protestants | None/Atheists/Agnostics | Others |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Argentina ^[123] | 86.2% | 76.5% | 9.7% | 11.3% | 2.5% |
| Bolivia | 95.3% | 73.7% | 21.6% | 3.7% | 1.0% |
| Brazil ^[124] | 86.8% | 64.6% | 22.2% | 8.4% | 4.8% |
| Canada ^[118] | 62.6% | 38.7% | 23.9% | 28.5% | 8.9% |
| Chile ^[125] | 76.0% | 60.0% | 16.0% | 21.0% | 3.0% |
| Colombia ^[126] | 93.9% | 80.3% | 13.6% | 5.2% | 1.7% |
| Costa Rica ^[127] | 84.3% | 70.5% | 13.8% | 11.3% | 4.3% |
| Dominican Republic ^[128] | 87.1% | 68.3% | 18.8% | 10.6% | 2.2% |
| Ecuador ^[129] | 95.6% | 87.8% | 7.7% | 3.5% | 1.0% |
| El Salvador ^[130] | 75.5% | 45.8% | 29.7% | 24.3% | 1.2% |
| Guatemala ^[131] | 79.3% | 47.6% | 31.7% | 18.3% | 2.4% |
| Honduras ^[132] | 83.0% | 47.9% | 35.1% | 14.3% | 2.7% |
| Mexico ^[133] | 92.2% | 82.7% | 8.7% | 4.9% | 2.9% |
| Nicaragua ^[134] | 81.1% | 54.3% | 26.8% | 16.8% | 2.1% |
| Panama | 90.0% | 75.0% | 15.0% | 7.0% | 3.0% |
| Paraguay | 96.8% | 90.4% | 6.4% | 1.4% | 1.8% |
| Peru ^[135] | 96.7% | 81.3% | 12.5% | 1.9% | 1.4% |
| United States ^[136] | 79.9% | 25.9% | 54.0% | 15.2% | 5.0% |
| Uruguay ^[137] | 58.2% | 47.1% | 11.1% | 40.4% | 1.5% |
| Venezuela ^[138] | 89.0% | 72.0% | 17.0% | 8.0% | 3.0% |

Languages

Various languages are spoken in the Americas. Some are of European origin, others are spoken by indigenous peoples or are the mixture of various languages like the different creoles.^[127]

The most widely spoken first language in the Americas is Spanish, followed by English and Portuguese.^[139] The dominant language of Latin America is Spanish, though the most populous nation in Latin America, Brazil, speaks Portuguese. Small enclaves of French-, Dutch- and English-speaking

regions also exist in Latin America, notably in French Guiana, Suriname, and Belize and Guyana respectively. Haitian Creole is dominant in the nation of Haiti, where French is also spoken. Native languages are more prominent in Latin America than in Anglo-America, with Nahuatl, Quechua, Aymara, and Guaraní as the most common. Various other native languages are spoken with less frequency across both Anglo-America and Latin America. Creole languages other than Haitian Creole are also spoken in parts of Latin America.

The dominant language of Anglo-America is English. French is also official in Canada, where it is the predominant language in Quebec and an official language in New Brunswick along with English. It is also an important language in Louisiana, and in parts of New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont. Spanish has kept an ongoing presence in the Southwestern United States, which formed part of the Viceroyalty of New Spain, especially in California and New Mexico, where a distinct variety of Spanish spoken since the 17th century has survived. It has more recently become widely spoken in other parts of the United States because of heavy immigration from Latin America. High levels of immigration in general have brought great linguistic diversity to Anglo-America, with over 300 languages known to be spoken in the United States alone, but most languages are spoken only in small enclaves and by relatively small immigrant groups.



Languages spoken in the Americas

The nations of Guyana, Suriname, and Belize are generally considered not to fall into either Anglo-America or Latin America because of their language differences from Latin America, geographic differences from Anglo-America, and cultural and historical differences from both regions; English is the primary language of Guyana and Belize, and Dutch is the primary language of Suriname.





Most of the non-native languages have, to different degrees, evolved differently from the mother country, but are usually still mutually intelligible. Some have combined, however, which has even resulted in completely new languages, such as Papiamentu, which is a combination of Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch (representing the respective colonizers), native Arawak, various African languages, and, more recently English. The lingua franca Portuñol, a mixture of Portuguese and Spanish, is spoken in the border regions of Brazil and neighboring Spanish-speaking countries.^[140] More specifically, Riverense Portuñol is spoken by around 100,000 people in the border regions of Brazil and Uruguay. Because of immigration, there are many communities where other languages are spoken from all parts of the world, especially in the United States, Brazil, Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, and Uruguay—very important destinations for immigrants.^{[141][142][143]}

Terminology

English

Speakers of English generally refer to the landmasses of North America and South America as *the Americas*, the *Western Hemisphere*, or the *New World*.^[4] The adjective *American* may be used to indicate something pertaining to the Americas,^[2] but this term is primarily used in English to indicate something pertaining to the United States.^{[2][144][145]} Some non-ambiguous alternatives exist, such as the adjective *Pan-American*,^[146] or *New Worlder* as a demonym for a resident of the closely related *New World*.^[147] Use of *America* in the hemispherical sense is sometimes retained, or can occur when translated from other languages.^[148] For example, the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) in Paris maintains a single continental association for "America", represented by one of the five Olympic rings.^[149]

American essayist H. L. Mencken said, "The Latin-Americans use Norteamericano in formal writing, but, save in Panama, prefer nicknames in colloquial speech."^[150] To avoid "American" one can use constructed terms in their languages derived from "United States" or even "North America".^{[145][151][152]} In Canada, its southern neighbor is often referred to as "the United States", "the U.S.A.", or (informally) "the States", while U.S. citizens are generally referred to as "Americans".^[145] Most Canadians resent being referred to as "Americans".^[145]

| Subdivisions of the Americas | |
|--|--|
| Map | Legend |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">North America (NA)South America (SA)May be included in either NA or SA |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">North America (NA)May be included in NACentral AmericaCaribbeanSouth America |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">North America (NA)May be included in NANorthern AmericaMiddle America (MA)Caribbean (may be included in MA)South America (SA)May be included in MA or SA |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Anglo-America (A-A)May be included in A-ALatin America (LA)May be included in LA |

Spanish

In Spanish, *América* is a single continent composed of the subcontinents of *América del Sur* and *América del Norte*, the land bridge of *América Central*, and the islands of the *Antillas*. *Americano* or *americana* in Spanish refers to a person from *América* in a similar way that in which *europeo* or *europea* refers to a person from *Europa*. The terms *sudamericano/a*, *centroamericano/a*, *antillano/a* and *norteamericano/a* can be used to more specifically refer to the location where a person may live.

Citizens of the United States of America are normally referred to by the term *estadounidense* (rough literal translation: "United Statesian") instead of *americano* or *americana* which is discouraged,^{[153][154]} and the country's name itself is officially translated as *Estados Unidos de América* (United States of America), commonly abbreviated as *Estados Unidos* (EEUU).^[154] Also, the term *norteamericano* (North American) may refer to a citizen of the United States. This term is primarily used to refer to citizens of the United States, and less commonly to those of other North American countries.^[153]

Portuguese

In Portuguese, *América*^[155] is a single continent composed of *América do Sul* (South America), *América Central* (Central America) and *América do Norte* (North America).^[156] It can be ambiguous, as *América* can be used to refer to the United States of America, but is avoided in print and formal environments.^{[157][158]}

French

In French, the word *américain* may be used for things relating to the Americas; however, similar to English, it is most often used for things relating to the United States, with the term *états-unien* sometimes used for clarity. *Panaméricain* may be used as an adjective to refer to the Americas without ambiguity.^[159] French speakers may use the noun *Amérique* to refer to the whole landmass as one continent, or two continents, *Amérique du Nord* and *Amérique du Sud*. In French, *Amérique* is seldom used to refer to the United States, leading to some ambiguity when it is. Similar to English usage, *les Amériques* or *des Amériques* is used to refer unambiguously to the Americas.

Dutch

In Dutch, the word *Amerika* mostly refers to the United States.^{[160][161]} Although the United States is equally often referred to as *de Verenigde Staten* ("the United States") or *de VS* ("the US"), *Amerika* relatively rarely refers to the Americas, but it is the only commonly used Dutch word for the Americas. This often leads to ambiguity; and to stress that something concerns the Americas as a whole, Dutch uses a combination, namely *Noord- en Zuid-Amerika* (North and South America).

Latin America and Central America are generally referred to as *Latijns Amerika* and *Midden-Amerika* respectively.

The adjective *Amerikaans* is most often used for things or people relating to the United States. There are no alternative words to distinguish between things relating to the United States or to the Americas. Dutch uses the local alternative for things relating to elsewhere in the Americas, such as *Argentijns* for Argentine, etc.











Multinational organizations











The following is a list of multinational organizations in the Americas.

- Alliance for Progress
- American Capital of Culture
- Andean Community of Nations
- Association of Caribbean States
- Bank of the South
- Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas
- Caribbean Community
- CARICOM Single Market and Economy
- Central American Common Market
- Central American Parliament
- Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
- Contadora Group
- Free Trade Area of the Americas
- Latin American Free Trade Agreement
- Latin American Parliament or Parlatino
- Mercosur or Mercosul
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- Organization of American States
- Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
- Organization of Ibero-American States

- Pacific Alliance
- Pan American Sports Organization
- Regional Security System
- Rio Group
- School of the Americas
- Summit of the Americas
- Union of South American Nations
- United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement
- YOA Orchestra of the Americas

Economy

| Rank | Country | GDP (nominal, peak year) millions of USD ^[162] | Peak year |
|------|---|--|-----------|
| 1 |  <u>United States</u> | 29,167,779 | 2024 |
| 2 |  <u>Brazil</u> ^[163] | 2,616,156 | 2011 |
| 3 |  <u>Canada</u> | 2,214,796 | 2024 |
| 4 |  <u>Mexico</u> | 1,848,125 | 2024 |
| 5 |  <u>Argentina</u> | 645,511 | 2023 |
| 6 |  <u>Cuba</u> ^[164] | 545,218 | 2021 |
| 7 |  <u>Venezuela</u> ^[165] | 482,359 | 2014 |
| 8 |  <u>Colombia</u> | 417,207 | 2024 |
| 9 |  <u>Chile</u> | 335,642 | 2023 |
| 10 |  <u>Peru</u> | 283,309 | 2024 |

| Rank | Country | GDP (PPP, peak year) millions of USD | Peak year |
|------|---|---|-----------|
| 1 |  <u>United States</u> | 29,167,779 | 2024 |
| 2 |  <u>Brazil</u> | 4,702,004 | 2024 |
| 3 |  <u>Mexico</u> | 3,303,067 | 2024 |
| 4 |  <u>Canada</u> | 2,582,228 | 2024 |
| 5 |  <u>Argentina</u> ^[166] | 1,369,904 | 2023 |
| 6 |  <u>Colombia</u> | 1,129,638 | 2024 |
| 7 |  <u>Chile</u> | 674,388 | 2024 |
| 8 |  <u>Peru</u> | 605,570 | 2024 |
| 9 |  <u>Venezuela</u> | 561,498 | 2013 |
| 10 |  <u>Dominican Republic</u> | 312,565 | 2024 |

In exports and imports, in 2020, the United States was the world's second largest exporter (US\$1.64 trillion) and the largest importer (US\$2.56 trillion). Mexico was the tenth largest exporter and importer. Canada was the twelfth largest exporter and importer. Brazil was the 24th largest exporter and the 28th largest importer. Chile was the 45th largest exporter and the 47th largest importer. Argentina was the 46th largest exporter and the 52nd largest importer. Colombia was the 54th largest exporter and the 51st largest importer; among others.^{[167][168][169]}

The agriculture of the continent is very strong and varied. Countries such as United States, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and Argentina are among the largest agricultural producers on the planet. In 2019, the continent dominated the world production of soy (almost 90% of the world total, with Brazil, the United States, Argentina, Paraguay, Canada and Bolivia among the 10 largest on the planet), sugarcane (about 55% of the world total, with Brazil, Mexico, the United States, and Guatemala among the 10 largest on the planet), coffee (about 55% of the world total, with Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, Peru, and Guatemala among the 10 largest on the planet) and maize (about 48% of the world total, with the United States, Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico among the 10 largest on the planet). The continent also produces almost 40% of world's orange (with Brazil, the United States, and Mexico among the top 10 producers), about 37% of world's pineapple (with Costa Rica, Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia among the 10 largest producers), about 35% of world's lemon (with Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, and the United States among the 10 largest producers) and about 30% of world's cotton (with the United States, Brazil, Mexico and Argentina among the top 10 producers), among several other products.^[170]

In livestock, America also has giant productions. In 2018, the continent produced around 45% of the world's beef (with the United States, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, and Canada among the world's 10 largest producers); about 36% of the world's chicken meat (with the United States, Brazil, and Mexico among the world's 10 largest producers), and about 28% of the world's cow's milk (with the United States and Brazil among the 10 largest producers in the world), among other products.^[170]

In industrial terms, the World Bank lists the top producing countries each year, based on the total value of production. According to the 2019 list, the United States has the second most valuable industry in the world (US\$2.3 trillion), Mexico has the 12th most valuable industry in the world (US\$217.8 billion), Brazil has the 13th most valuable industry in the world (US\$173.6 billion), Canada has the 15th most valuable industry in the world (US\$151.7 billion), Venezuela the 30th largest (US\$58.2 billion, but depends on the oil to obtain this amount), Argentina was the 31st largest (US\$57.7 billion), Colombia the 46th largest (US\$35.4 billion), Peru the 50th largest (\$28.7 billion), and Chile the 51st largest (US\$28.3 billion), among others.^[171]

In the production of oil, the continent had 8 of the 30 largest world producers in 2020: United States (1st), Canada (4th), Brazil (8th), Mexico (14th), Colombia (20th), Venezuela (26th), Ecuador (27th), and Argentina (28th).^[172]

In the production of natural gas, the continent had 8 of the 32 largest world producers in 2015: United States (1st), Canada (5th), Argentina (18th), Trinidad and Tobago (20th), Mexico (21st), Venezuela (28th), Bolivia (31st), and Brazil (32nd).^{[173][174]}

In the production of coal, the continent had 5 of the 30 largest world producers in 2018: United States (3rd), Colombia (12th), Canada (13th), Mexico (24th), and Brazil (27th).^[175]

In the production of vehicles, the continent had 5 of the 30 largest world producers in 2019: United States (2nd), Mexico (7th), Brazil (9th), Canada (12th), and Argentina (28th).^[176]

In the production of steel, the continent had 5 of the 31 largest world producers in 2019: United States (4th), Brazil (9th), Mexico (15th), Canada (18th), and Argentina (31st).^{[177][178]}

In mining, the continent has large productions of gold (mainly in the United States, Canada, Peru, Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina);^[179] silver (mainly in Mexico, Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Argentina, and the United States);^[180] copper (mainly in Chile, Peru, the United States, Mexico, and Brazil);^[181] platinum (Canada and the United States);^[182] iron ore (Brazil, Canada, the United States, Peru, and Chile);^[183] zinc (Peru, the United States, Mexico, Bolivia, Canada, and Brazil);^[184] molybdenum (Chile, Peru, Mexico, Canada, and the United States);^[185] lithium (Chile, Argentina, Brazil, and Canada);^[186] lead (Peru, the United States, Mexico, and Bolivia);^[187] bauxite (Brazil, Jamaica, Canada, and the United States);^[188] tin (Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil);^[189] manganese (Brazil and Mexico);^[190] antimony (Bolivia, Mexico, Guatemala, Canada, and Ecuador);^[191] nickel (Canada, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Cuba, and the United States);^[192] niobium (Brazil and Canada);^[193] rhenium (Chile and the United States);^[194] and iodine (Chile),^[195] among others.

Dominica, Panama, and the Dominican Republic have the fastest-growing economy in the Americas according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF),^[196] 16, five to seven countries in the southern part of the Americas had weakening economies in decline, compared to only three countries in the northern part of the Americas.^{[197][198]} Haiti has the lowest GDP per capita in the Americas, although its economy was growing slightly as of 2016.^{[197][198]}

See also



***North America
portal***



***South America
portal***



Geography portal

- Amerrique Mountains
- Abya Yala – indigenous name for the North and South American continents
- British North America
- Columbia (name)
- Ethnic groups in Central America
- French America
- Indigenous Peoples' Day
- La Merika
- List of conflicts in the Americas
- List of former sovereign states
- List of oldest buildings in the Americas
- Monarchies in the Americas
- New Sweden
- Pan-Americanism
- Pan-American Highway
- Pan American Games
- Personification of the Americas
- Southern Cone

Notes

1. See list of countries by population for references.
2. Includes the states of Hawaii and Alaska, which are both separated from the US mainland, with Hawaii distant from the North American landmass in the Pacific Ocean and therefore more commonly associated with the other territories of Oceania, while Alaska is located between Canada and Asia (Russia).

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External links

- United Nations population data by latest available Census: 2008–2009 (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/vitstats/serATab2.pdf>)
 - Organization of American States (<http://www.oas.org/>)
 - Council on Hemispheric Affairs (<http://www.coha.org/>)
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