

# CIA - world factbook

BI-XML - semestral work

Countries:

[Uzbekistan](#)

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## Uzbekistan

Russia conquered the territory of present-day Uzbekistan in the late 19th century. Stiff resistance to the Red Army after the Bolshevik Revolution was eventually suppressed and a socialist republic established in 1924. During the Soviet era, intensive production of "white gold" (cotton) and grain led to overuse of agrochemicals and the depletion of water supplies, which have left the land degraded and the Aral Sea and certain rivers half dry. Independent since 1991 upon the dissolution of the USSR, the country has reduced its dependence on the cotton monoculture by diversifying agricultural production while developing its mineral and petroleum export capacity and increasing its manufacturing base. Uzbekistan's first president, Islom KARIMOV, led Uzbekistan for 25 years until his death in September 2016. The political transition to his successor, then-Prime Minister Shavkat MIRZIYOYEV was peaceful, but sidelined the constitutional process where the chairman of the Senate would have served as the acting president. MIRZIYOYEV, who won the presidential election in December 2016, has improved relations with Uzbekistan's neighbors and introduced wide-ranging economic and judicial reforms.



Flag



Location

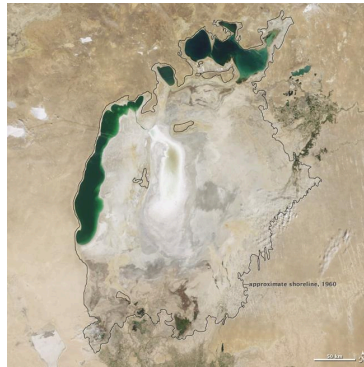


Map

The Aral Sea, on the border between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, has diminished dramatically since the 1950s when its water was diverted for unfettered irrigation. By 2000, when this photo was taken, the surface area of the Aral had decreased by about two-thirds, and its volume by more than 80 percent. Today, only three lakes remain (covering less than 10 percent of the former surface area) and only one of these, the North Aral Sea (the deep blue area toward the bottom), has been partially restored. Image courtesy of NASA.



Throughout the first half of the 20th century, the Aral Sea was the world's fourth-largest lake. In the 1960s, the Soviet Union began a massive irrigation project in what are now Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan, diverting water from the rivers that feed the Aral Sea to irrigate farmland. As its water levels dropped, the lake began splitting into smaller pieces: the Northern (Small) Aral Sea and the Southern (Large) Aral Sea. The Southern Aral Sea further split into eastern and western lobes. In August 2009 when this photo was taken, the Northern Aral Sea (upper right) still appeared healthy, the Southern Aral Sea consisted of two isolated water bodies: an irregular oval shape directly southwest of the Northern Aral Sea, and the long, thin remainder of the Southern Aral Sea's far western lobe. Much of what finally doomed the Southern Aral Sea was an attempt to save its neighbor to the north. In 2005, Kazakhstan built the Kok-Aral Dam between the lake's northern and southern portions to preserve water levels in the north. The Northern Aral Sea actually exceeded expectations with the speed of its recovery, but the dam ended prospects for a recovery of the Southern Aral Sea, which some authorities already regarded as beyond help. Lake sediments from this depleted water body have provided ample material for frequent dust storms. Image courtesy of NASA.



## Communications

### Broadcast media

government controls media; 18 state-owned broadcasters - 14 TV and 4 radio - provide service to virtually the entire country; about 20 privately owned TV stations, overseen by local officials, broadcast to local markets; privately owned TV stations are required to lease transmitters from the government-owned Republic TV and Radio Industry Corporation; in 2013, the government closed TV and radio broadcasters affiliated with the National Association of Electronic Mass Media (NAEMM) of Uzbekistan, a government-sponsored NGO for private broadcast media; in 2015, the NAEMM relaunched its TV channel under a different name

### Internet country code

.uz

### Telephones - fixed lines

#### total subscriptions

3,412,921

#### subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

12

### Telephones - mobile cellular

#### total

23,265,389

#### subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

79

### Telephone system

#### general assessment

digital exchanges in large cities and in rural areas

#### domestic

the state-owned telecommunications company, Uzbektelecom, owner of the fixed-line telecommunications system, has used loans from the Japanese government and the China Development Bank to upgrade fixed-line services including conversion to digital exchanges; mobile-cellular services are provided by 3 private and 2 state-owned operators with a total subscriber base of 22.8 million as of January 2018

#### international

country code - 998; linked by fiber-optic cable or microwave radio relay with CIS member states and to other countries by leased connection via the Moscow international gateway switch; the country also has a link to the Trans-Asia-Europe (TAE) fiber-optic cable; Uzbekistan has supported the national fiber- optic backbone project of Afghanistan since 2008

**Internet users****total**

13,791,083

**percent of population**

46.8%

## **Economy**

**Overview**

Uzbekistan is a doubly landlocked country in which 51% of the population lives in urban settlements; the agriculture-rich Fergana Valley, in which Uzbekistan's eastern borders are situated, has been counted among the most densely populated parts of Central Asia. Since its independence in September 1991, the government has largely maintained its Soviet-style command economy with subsidies and tight controls on production, prices, and access to foreign currency. Despite ongoing efforts to diversify crops, Uzbek agriculture remains largely centered on cotton; Uzbekistan is the world's fifth-largest cotton exporter and seventh-largest producer. Uzbekistan's growth has been driven primarily by state-led investments, and export of natural gas, gold, and cotton provides a significant share of foreign exchange earnings.

**GDP (purchasing power parity)**

\$221.7 billion

**GDP (official exchange rate)**

\$67.51 billion

**GDP per capita**

\$7,000

**Gross national saving**

31.8% of GDP

**Industries**

textiles, food processing, machine building, metallurgy, mining, hydrocarbon extraction, chemicals

**Industrial production growth rate**

4.5%

**Labor force**

18.12 million

**Unemployment rate**

4.9%

**Population below poverty line**

14%

**Distribution of family income - Gini index**

36.8

**Taxes and other revenues**

29.8% of GDP

**Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-)**

0.3% of GDP

**Public debt**

15.1% of GDP

**Fiscal year**

calendar year

**Inflation rate (consumer prices)**

13%

**Central bank discount rate**

9%

**Commercial bank prime lending rate**

16%

**Stock of narrow money**

\$6.456 billion

**Stock of broad money**

\$15.47 billion

**Stock of domestic credit**

\$9.506 billion

**Market value of publicly traded shares**

\$NA

**Current account balance**

\$632 million

**Exports**

\$11.38 billion

**Export commodities**

energy products, cotton, gold, mineral fertilizers, ferrous and nonferrous metals, textiles, foodstuffs, machinery, automobiles

**Export partners**

Switzerland 35.1%, China 19.7%, Russia 9.3%, Turkey 8.7%, Kazakhstan 7.2%, Bangladesh 5.4%, Afghanistan 4.9%

**Imports**

\$11.44 billion

**Import commodities**

machinery and equipment, foodstuffs, chemicals, ferrous and nonferrous metals

**Import partners**

China 22.2%, Russia 18%, South Korea 10.5%, Kazakhstan 10%, Turkey 5.8%, Germany 5.2%

**Reserves of foreign exchange and gold**

\$16 billion

**Debt - external**

\$16.86 billion

**Stock of direct foreign investment - at home**

\$NA

**Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad**

\$NA

**GDP - composition, by end use****household consumption**

58.4%

**government consumption**

16.9%

**investment in fixed capital**

25.2%

**investment in inventories**

3%

**exports of goods and services**

20%

**imports of goods and services**

-20.5%

**Labor force - by occupation****agriculture**

25.9%

**industry**

13.2%

**services**

60.9%

**Household income or consumption by percentage share****lowest 10%**

2.8%

**highest 10%**

29.6%

**Budget****revenues**

\$20.11 billion

**expenditures**

\$19.92 billion

### **Agricultural products**

cotton, vegetables, fruits, grain

livestock

## **Energy**

### **Electricity - production**

59 billion kWh

### **Electricity - consumption**

48 billion kWh

### **Electricity - exports**

13 billion kWh

### **Electricity - imports**

13 billion kWh

### **Electricity - installed generating capacity**

12.93 million kW

### **Electricity - from fossil fuels**

86.4% of total installed capacity

### **Electricity - from nuclear fuels**

0% of total installed capacity

### **Electricity - from hydroelectric plants**

13.6% of total installed capacity

### **Electricity - from other renewable sources**

0% of total installed capacity

### **Crude oil - production**

52,910 bbl/day

### **Crude oil - exports**

27,000 bbl/day

### **Crude oil - imports**

380 bbl/day

### **Crude oil - proved reserves**

594 million bbl

### **Refined petroleum products - production**

63,650 bbl/day

### **Refined petroleum products - consumption**

61,000 bbl/day

### **Refined petroleum products - exports**

4,102 bbl/day

**Refined petroleum products - imports**

0 bbl/day

**Natural gas - production**

55.7 billion cu m

**Natural gas - consumption**

10.44 billion cu m

**Natural gas - exports**

14.7 billion cu m

**Natural gas - imports**

0 cu m

**Natural gas - proved reserves**

1.841 trillion cu m

**Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy**

109 million Mt

**Electricity access**

**electrification - total population**

100%

## **Geography**

**Location**

Central Asia, north of Turkmenistan, south of Kazakhstan

**Coordinates**

41 00 N, 64 00 E

**Coastline**

0 km (doubly landlocked); note - Uzbekistan includes the southern portion of the Aral Sea with a 420 km shoreline

**Climate**

mostly mid-latitude desert, long, hot summers, mild winters; semiarid grassland in east

**Terrain**

mostly flat-to-rolling sandy desert with dunes; broad, flat intensely irrigated river valleys along course of Amu Darya, Syr Darya (Sirdaryo), and Zarafshon; Fergana Valley in east surrounded by mountainous Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan; shrinking Aral Sea in west

**Irrigated land**

42,150 sq km

**Population - distribution**

most of the population is concentrated in the fertile Fergana Valley in the easternmost arm of the country; the south has significant clusters of people, while the central and western deserts are sparsely populated



**Land boundaries**

0 km (doubly landlocked); note - Uzbekistan includes the southern portion of the Aral Sea with a 420 km shoreline

**Area****total**

447,400 sq km

**land**

425,400 sq km

**water**

22,000 sq km

**Land use****agricultural land**

62.6%

**forest**

7.7%

**other**

29.7%

**Environment international agreements****party to**

Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Ozone Layer Protection, Wetlands

**signed, but not ratified**

none of the selected agreements

**Elevation****mean elevation**

NA

**elevation extremes**

lowest point: Saryqamish Kuli -12 m

**Natural resources**

natural gas

petroleum

coal

gold

uranium

silver

copper

lead and zinc

tungsten

molybdenum

### **Natural hazards**

earthquakes

floods

landslides or mudslides

avalanches

droughts

### **Current environment issues**

shrinkage of the Aral Sea has resulted in growing concentrations of chemical pesticides and natural salts

these substances are then blown from the increasingly exposed lake bed and contribute to desertification and respiratory health problems

water pollution from industrial wastes and the heavy use of fertilizers and pesticides is the cause of many human health disorders

increasing soil salination

soil contamination from buried nuclear processing and agricultural chemicals, including DDT

## **Government**

### **Government type**

presidential republic; highly authoritarian

### **National holiday**

Independence Day, 1 September

### **Legal system**

civil law system

### **International law organization participation**

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

### **Suffrage**

18 years of age; universal

### **Flag description**

three equal horizontal bands of blue (top), white, and green separated by red fimbriations with a white crescent moon (closed side to the hoist) and 12 white stars shifted to the hoist on the top band; blue is the color of the Turkic peoples and of the sky, white signifies peace and the striving for purity in thoughts and deeds, while green represents nature and is the color of Islam; the red stripes are the vital force of all living organisms that links good and pure ideas with the eternal sky and with deeds on earth; the crescent represents Islam and the 12 stars the months and constellations of the Uzbek calendar

**Country name****conventional long form**

Republic of Uzbekistan

**conventional short form**

Uzbekistan

**local long form**

O'zbekiston Respublikasi

**local short form**

O'zbekiston

**former**

Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic

**etymology**

a combination of the Turkic words "uz" (self) and "bek" (master) with the Persian suffix "-stan" (country) to give the meaning "Land of the Free"

**Capital****name**

Tashkent (Toshkent)

**geographic coordinates**

41 19 N, 69 15 E

**time difference**

UTC+5 (10 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

**Constitution****history**

several previous; latest adopted 8 December 1992

**amendments**

proposed by the Supreme Assembly or by referendum; passage requires two-thirds majority vote of both houses of the Assembly or passage in a referendum; amended several times, last in 2014

**Citizenship****citizenship by birth**

no

**citizenship by descent only**

at least one parent must be a citizen of Uzbekistan

**dual citizenship recognized**

no

**residency requirement for naturalization**

5 years

**Executive branch**

**chief of state**

President Shavkat MIRZIYOYEV (interim president from 8 September 2016; formally elected president on 4 December 2016 to succeed longtime President Islom KARIMOV, who died on 2 September 2016)

**head of government**

Prime Minister Abdulla ARIPOV (since 14 December 2016); First Deputy Prime Minister Achilbay RAMATOV (since 15 December 2016)

**cabinet**

Cabinet of Ministers appointed by the president with most requiring approval of the Senate chamber of the Supreme Assembly (Oliy Majlis)

**elections/appointments**

president directly elected by absolute majority popular vote in 2 rounds if needed for a 5-year term (eligible for a second term; previously a 5-year term, extended by a 2002 constitutional amendment to 7 years, and reverted to 5 years in 2011); election last held on 4 December 2016 ; prime minister nominated by majority party in legislature since 2011, but appointed along with the ministers and deputy ministers by the president

**election results**

Shavkat MIRZIYOYEV elected president; percent of vote - Shavkat MIRZIYOYEV (LDPU) 88.6%, Khatamjon KETMONOV (NDP) 3.7%, Narimon UMAROV (Adolat) 3.5%, Sarvar OTAMURADOV (Milliy Tiklanish/National Revival) 2.4%, other 1.8%

**Legislative branch**

**description**

bicameral Supreme Assembly or Oliy Majlis consists of the Senate (100 seats; 84 members indirectly elected by regional governing councils and 16 appointed by the president; members serve 5-year terms) and the Legislative Chamber or Qonunchilik Palatasi (150 seats; 135 members directly elected in single-seat constituencies by absolute majority vote with a second round, if needed, and 15 indirectly elected by the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan; members serve 5-year terms)

**note**

all parties in the Supreme Assembly support President Shavkat MIRZIYOYEV

**elections**

last held on 21 December 2014 and 4 January 2015

**election results**

Senate - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - NA; Legislative Chamber - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - LDPU 52, National Revival Democratic Party 36, NDP 27, Adolat 20, Ecological Movement 15

**Judicial branch**

**highest court(s)**

Supreme Court (consists of 67 judges organized into administrative, civil, criminal, economic, and military sections); Constitutional Court (consists of 7 judges)

**judge selection and term of office**

judges of the highest courts nominated by the president and confirmed by the Oliy Majlis; judges appointed for initial 5-year term, subsequent 10-year term, and lifetime term subject to reappointment

**subordinate courts**

regional, district, city, and town courts; economic courts

**National anthem**

**name**

"O'zbekiston Respublikasining Davlat Madhiyasi" (National Anthem of the Republic of Uzbekistan)

**lyrics/music**

Abdulla ARIPOV/Mutal BURHANOV

**note**

adopted 1992; after the fall of the Soviet Union, Uzbekistan kept the music of the anthem from its time as a Soviet Republic but adopted new lyrics

**Diplomatic representation in the US**

**chief of mission**

Ambassador Javlon VAHOBOV (since 1 December 2017)

**chancery**

1746 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036

**telephone**

[1] (202) 887-5300

**FAX**

[1] (202) 293-6804

**consulate(s) general**

New York

**Diplomatic representation from the US**

**chief of mission**

Ambassador Pamela L. SPRATLEN (since 27 January 2015)

**embassy**

3 Moyqo'rq'on, 5th Block, Yunusobod District, Tashkent 100093

**mailing address**

use embassy street address

**telephone**

[998] (71) 120-5450

**FAX**

[998] (71) 120-6335

**Administrative divisions**

12 provinces (viloyatlar, singular - viloyat), 1 autonomous republic\* (avtonom respublikasi), and 1 city\*\* (shahar)

Andijon Viloyati, Buxoro Viloyati, Farg'ona Viloyati, Jizzax Viloyati, Namangan Viloyati, Navoiy Viloyati, Qashqadaryo Viloyati (Qarshi), Qoraqalpog'iston Respublikasi [Karakalpakstan Republic]\* (Nukus), Samarqand Viloyati, Sirdaryo Viloyati (Guliston), Surxondaryo Viloyati (Termiz), Toshkent Shahri [Tashkent City]\*\*, Toshkent Viloyati [Tashkent province], Xorazm Viloyati (Urganch)

### **Independence**

1 September 1991 (from the Soviet Union)

### **International organization participation**

ADB

CICA

CIS

EAPC

EBRD

ECO

FAO

IAEA

IBRD

ICAO

ICC (national committees)

ICCr

ICRM

IDA

IDB

IFAD

IFC

IFRC

ILO

IMF

Interpol

IOC

ISO

ITSO

ITU

MIGA

NAM

OIC

OPCW

OSCE

PFP

SCO

UN

UN Security Council (temporary)

UNCTAD

UNESCO

UNIDO

UNWTO

UPU

WCO

WFTU (NGOs)

WHO

WIPO

WMO

WTO (observer)

**National symbol(s)**

khumo (mythical bird)

national colors: blue, white, red, green

**Political parties and leaders**

Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan (O'zbekiston Ekologik Harakati) [Boriy ALIKHANOV]

Justice (Adolat) Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan [Narimon UMAROV]

Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (O'zbekiston Liberal-Demokratik Partiyasi) or LDPU [Shavkat MIRZIYOYEV]

National Revival Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (O'zbekiston Milliy Tiklanish Demokratik Partiyasi) [Sarvar OTAMURATOV]

People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (Xalq Demokratik Partiyasi) or NDP [Hotamjon KETMONOV] (formerly Communist Party)

**Political pressure groups and leaders**

no significant opposition political parties or pressure groups in Uzbekistan

## **Military and security**

**Military branches**

Armed Forces: Army, Air and Air Defense Forces, National Guard

**Military service age and obligation**

18 years of age for compulsory military service

1-month or 1-year conscript service obligation for males

moving toward a professional military, but conscription in some form will continue

the military cannot accommodate everyone who wishes to enlist, and competition for entrance into the military is similar to the competition for admission to universities



note - widely considered to have one of the strongest militaries in Central Asia, although it is untested

## **People and society**

### **Population**

29,748,859

### **Religions**

Muslim 88% (mostly Sunni), Eastern Orthodox 9%, other 3%

### **Population growth rate**

0.93%

### **Birth rate**

16.8 births/1,000 population

### **Death rate**

5.3 deaths/1,000 population

### **Net migration rate**

-2.2 migrant(s)/1,000 population

### **Population distribution**

most of the population is concentrated in the fertile Fergana Valley in the easternmost arm of the country; the south has significant clusters of people, while the central and western deserts are sparsely populated

### **Mother's mean age at first birth**

23.4 years

### **Total fertility rate**

1.76 children born/woman

### **Health expenditures**

5.8% of GDP

### **Physicians density**

2.45 physicians/1,000 population

### **Hospital bed density**

4 beds/1,000 population

### **Total fertility rate**

1.76 children born/woman

### **HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate**

NA

### **HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS**

NA

### **HIV/AIDS - deaths**

NA

**Obesity - adult prevalence rate**

16.6%

**Education expenditures**

NA

**Nationality**

Uzbekistani

**Dependency ratios****total dependency ratio**

47.7

**youth dependency ratio**

41.4

**elderly dependency ratio**

6.2

**Median age****total**

28.6 years

**male**

28 years

**female**

29.2 years

**Urbanization****urban population**

36.6% of total population

**rate of urbanization**

1.62% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

**Infant mortality rate****total**

18 deaths/1,000 live births

**male**

21.4 deaths/1,000 live births

**female**

14.4 deaths/1,000 live births

**Life expectancy at birth****total population**

74 years

**male**

71 years

**female**

77.3 years

**Literacy**

**definition**

age 15 and over can read and write

**total population**

100%

**male**

100%

**female**

100%

**School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education)****total**

12 years

**male**

13 years

**female**

12 years

**Ethnic groups**

Uzbek 80%

Russian 5.5%

Tajik 5%

Kazakh 3%

Karakalpak 2.5%

Tatar 1.5%

other 2.5%

**Languages**

Uzbek (official) 74.3%

Russian 14.2%

Tajik 4.4%

other 7.1%

**Urban areas**

TASHKENT (capital) 2.251 million

**Age structure**

From age 0 to age 14 :

23.88%

From age 15 to age 24 :	18.52%
From age 25 to age 54 :	44.49%
From age 55 to age 64 :	7.85%
Over 65 :	5.25%

### **Sex ratio**

(male to female)

At birth:	1.05
From age 0 to age 14 :	1.05
From age 15 to age 24 :	1.03
From age 25 to age 54 :	0.99
From age 55 to age 64 :	0.9
Over 65 :	0.74
Overall:	0.99

## **Transnational issues**

### **Refugees and internally displaced persons**

#### **stateless persons**

86,524

### **Disputes - international**

prolonged drought and cotton monoculture in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan created water-sharing difficulties for Amu Darya river states

field demarcation of the boundaries with Kazakhstan commenced in 2004

border delimitation of 130 km of border with Kyrgyzstan is hampered by serious disputes around enclaves and other areas

### **Illicit drugs**

transit country for Afghan narcotics bound for Russian and, to a lesser extent, Western European markets

limited illicit cultivation of cannabis and small amounts of opium poppy for domestic consumption

poppy cultivation almost wiped out by government crop eradication program

transit point for heroin precursor chemicals bound for Afghanistan

## **Transportation**

### **Civil aircraft registration country code prefix**

UK

### **Airports**

53

**Waterways**

1,100 km

**National air transport system**

**number of registered air carriers**

2

**inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers**

29

**annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers**

2,486,673

**annual freight traffic on registered air carriers**

114,334,520 mt-km

**Airports - with paved runways**

**total**

33

**over 3,047 m**

6

**2,438 to 3,047 m**

13

**1,524 to 2,437 m**

6

**914 to 1,523 m**

4

**under 914 m**

4

**Airports - with unpaved runways**

**total**

20

**2,438 to 3,047 m**

2

**under 914 m**

18

**Railways**

**total**

4,642 km

**broad gauge**

4,642 km 1.520-m gauge (1,684 km electrified)

**Roadways**

**total**

86,496 km

**paved**

75,511 km

**unpaved**

10,985 km

**Ports and terminals**

**river port(s)**

Termiz (Amu Darya)

**Pipelines**

gas 13,700 km

oil 944 km

## **Somalia**

Britain withdrew from British Somaliland in 1960 to allow its protectorate to join with Italian Somaliland and form the new nation of Somalia. In 1969, a coup headed by Mohamed SIAD Barre ushered in an authoritarian socialist rule characterized by the persecution, jailing, and torture of political opponents and dissidents. After the regime's collapse early in 1991, Somalia descended into turmoil, factional fighting, and anarchy. In May 1991, northern clans declared an independent Republic of Somaliland that now includes the administrative regions of Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed, Togdheer, Sanaag, and Sool. Although not recognized by any government, this entity has maintained a stable existence and continues efforts to establish a constitutional democracy, including holding municipal, parliamentary, and presidential elections. The regions of Bari, Nugaal, and northern Mudug comprise a neighboring semi-autonomous state of Puntland, which has been self-governing since 1998 but does not aim at independence; it has also made strides toward reconstructing a legitimate, representative government but has suffered some civil strife. Puntland disputes its border with Somaliland as it also claims the regions of Sool and Sanaag, and portions of Togdheer. Beginning in 1993, a two-year UN humanitarian effort (primarily in south-central Somalia) was able to alleviate famine conditions, but when the UN withdrew in 1995, having suffered significant casualties, order still had not been restored.

In 2000, the Somalia National Peace Conference (SNPC) held in Djibouti resulted in the formation of an interim government, known as the Transitional National Government (TNG). When the TNG failed to establish adequate security or governing institutions, the Government of Kenya, under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), led a subsequent peace process that concluded in October 2004 with the election of Abdullahi YUSUF Ahmed as President of a second interim government, known as the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of the Somali Republic. The TFG included a 275-member parliamentary body, known as the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP). President YUSUF resigned late in 2008 while UN-sponsored talks between the TFG and the opposition Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia (ARS) were underway in Djibouti. In January 2009, following the creation of a TFG-ARS unity government, Ethiopian military forces, which had entered Somalia in December 2006 to support the TFG in the face of advances by the

opposition Islamic Courts Union (ICU), withdrew from the country. The TFP was doubled in size to 550 seats with the addition of 200 ARS and 75 civil society members of parliament. The expanded parliament elected Sheikh SHARIF Sheikh Ahmed, the former ICU and ARS chairman as president in January 2009. The creation of the TFG was based on the Transitional Federal Charter (TFC), which outlined a five-year mandate leading to the establishment of a new Somali constitution and a transition to a representative government following national elections. In 2009, the TFP amended the TFC to extend TFG's mandate until 2011 and in 2011 Somali principals agreed to institute political transition by August 2012. The transition process ended in September 2012 when clan elders replaced the TFP by appointing 275 members to a new parliament who subsequently elected a new president.



Flag



Location



Map

The orange and tan colors of this high-oblique photograph of the Horn of Africa indicate an arid-to-semiarid landscape in the northern half of the east African country of Somalia. Except for the darker areas where thicker vegetation can be found (usually in elevated areas), most of

the vegetation in this part of Somalia is shrub brush and grasslands. The southern extent of the Saudi Arabian Peninsula is visible north across the Gulf of Aden. Image courtesy of NASA.



## Communications

### Broadcast media

2 private TV stations rebroadcast Al-Jazeera and CNN; Somaliland has 1 government-operated TV station and Puntland has 1 private TV station; the transitional government operates Radio Mogadishu; 1 SW and roughly 10 private FM radio stations broadcast in Mogadishu; several radio stations operate in central and southern regions; Somaliland has 1 government-operated radio station; Puntland has roughly a half-dozen private radio stations; transmissions of at least 2 international broadcasters are available

### Internet country code

.so

### Telephones - fixed lines

#### total subscriptions

48,000

#### subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

less than 1

### Telephones - mobile cellular

#### total

6,653,040

#### subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

62

### Telephone system

#### general assessment

the public telecom system was almost completely destroyed or dismantled during the civil war; private companies offer limited local fixed-line service, and private wireless companies offer service in most major cities, while charging some of the lowest rates on the continent

#### domestic

seven networks compete for customers in the mobile sector; some of these mobile-service providers offer fixed-line and Internet services

#### international

country code - 252; Mogadishu is a landing point for the EASSy fiber-optic submarine cable system linking East Africa with Europe and North America; this connection ended the country's expensive satellite-dependent Internet access



**Internet users****total**

203,366

**percent of population**

1.9%

## **Economy**

**Overview**

Despite the lack of effective national governance, Somalia maintains an informal economy largely based on livestock, remittance/money transfer companies, and telecommunications. Somalia's government lacks the ability to collect domestic revenue and external debt – mostly in arrears – was estimated at about 77% of GDP in 2017.

**GDP (purchasing power parity)**

\$17.47 billion

**GDP (official exchange rate)**

\$6.522 billion

**GDP per capita**

\$NA

**Industries**

light industries, including sugar refining, textiles, wireless communication

**Industrial production growth rate**

3.5%

**Labor force**

4.154 million

**Unemployment rate**

NA%

**Population below poverty line**

NA%

**Taxes and other revenues**

2.2% of GDP

**Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-)**

-0.1% of GDP

**Public debt**

76.7% of GDP

**Fiscal year**

NA

**Inflation rate (consumer prices)**

1.5%

**Central bank discount rate**

NA%

**Commercial bank prime lending rate**

NA%

**Current account balance**

\$-722 million

**Exports**

\$819 million

**Export commodities**

livestock, bananas, hides, fish, charcoal, scrap metal

**Export partners**

Saudi Arabia 37.2%, Oman 22.7%, UAE 16.3%

**Imports**

\$3.482 billion

**Import commodities**

manufactures, petroleum products, foodstuffs, construction materials, qat

**Import partners**

India 26.3%, China 20.8%, Oman 9.1%, Kenya 8.3%, Turkey 6%, Malaysia 4.3%, Brazil 4.2%

**Reserves of foreign exchange and gold**

\$30.45 million

**Debt - external**

\$5.3 billion

**Stock of direct foreign investment - at home**

\$NA

**GDP - composition, by end use**

**household consumption**

72.1%

**government consumption**

8.7%

**investment in fixed capital**

19.8%

**investment in inventories**

0.8%

**exports of goods and services**

0.3%

**imports of goods and services**

-1.7%

**Labor force - by occupation**

agriculture

71%

**industry and services**

29%

**Household income or consumption by percentage share  
lowest 10%**

NA%

**highest 10%**

NA%

**Budget**

**revenues**

\$145.3 million

**expenditures**

\$151.1 million

**Agricultural products**

bananas, sorghum, corn, coconuts, rice, sugarcane, mangoes, sesame seeds, beans

cattle, sheep, goats

fish

## **Energy**

**Electricity - production**

344 million kWh

**Electricity - consumption**

319.9 million kWh

**Electricity - exports**

0 kWh

**Electricity - imports**

0 kWh

**Electricity - installed generating capacity**

81,000 kW

**Electricity - from fossil fuels**

98.8% of total installed capacity

**Electricity - from nuclear fuels**

0% of total installed capacity

**Electricity - from hydroelectric plants**

0% of total installed capacity

**Electricity - from other renewable sources**

1.2% of total installed capacity

**Crude oil - production**

0 bbl/day

**Crude oil - exports**

0 bbl/day

**Crude oil - imports**

0 bbl/day

**Crude oil - proved reserves**

0 bbl

**Refined petroleum products - production**

0 bbl/day

**Refined petroleum products - consumption**

5,700 bbl/day

**Refined petroleum products - exports**

0 bbl/day

**Refined petroleum products - imports**

5,679 bbl/day

**Natural gas - production**

0 cu m

**Natural gas - consumption**

0 cu m

**Natural gas - exports**

0 cu m

**Natural gas - imports**

0 cu m

**Natural gas - proved reserves**

5.663 billion cu m

**Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy**

900,000 Mt

**Electricity access**

**population without electricity**

8,900,000

**electrification - total population**

15%

**electrification - urban areas**

33%

**electrification - rural areas**

4%

# Geography

## Location

Eastern Africa, bordering the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, east of Ethiopia

## Coordinates

10 00 N, 49 00 E

## Coastline

3,025 km

## Climate

principally desert; northeast monsoon (December to February), moderate temperatures in north and hot in south; southwest monsoon (May to October), torrid in the north and hot in the south, irregular rainfall, hot and humid periods (tangambili) between monsoons

## Terrain

mostly flat to undulating plateau rising to hills in north

## Irrigated land

2,000 sq km

## Population - distribution

distribution varies greatly throughout the country; least densely populated areas are in the northeast and central regions, as well as areas along the Kenyan border; most populated areas are in and around the cities of Mogadishu, Marka, Boorama, Hargeysa, and Baidoa

## Area

### total

637,657 sq km

### land

627,337 sq km

### water

10,320 sq km

## Maritime claims

### territorial sea

200 nm

## Land use

### agricultural land

70.3%

### forest

10.6%

### other

19.1%

## Environment international agreements

### party to

Biodiversity, Desertification, Endangered Species, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection

**signed, but not ratified**

none of the selected agreements

**Elevation**

**mean elevation**

410 m

**elevation extremes**

lowest point: Indian Ocean 0 m

**Land boundaries**

**total**

2,385 km

**Natural resources**

uranium and largely unexploited reserves of iron ore

tin

gypsum

bauxite

copper

salt

natural gas

likely oil reserves

**Natural hazards**

recurring droughts

frequent dust storms over eastern plains in summer

floods during rainy season

**Current environment issues**

famine

use of contaminated water contributes to human health problems

deforestation

overgrazing

soil erosion

desertification

## **Government**

### **Government type**

federal parliamentary republic

### **National holiday**

Foundation of the Somali Republic, 1 July ; note - 26 June in Somaliland

### **Legal system**

mixed legal system of civil law, Islamic law, and customary law (referred to as Xeer)

### **International law organization participation**

accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations; non-party state to the ICCt

### **Suffrage**

18 years of age; universal

### **Flag description**

light blue with a large white five-pointed star in the center; the blue field was originally influenced by the flag of the UN, but today is said to denote the sky and the neighboring Indian Ocean; the five points of the star represent the five regions in the horn of Africa that are inhabited by Somali people: the former British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland (which together make up Somalia), Djibouti, Ogaden (Ethiopia), and the North East Province (Kenya)

### **Country name**

#### **conventional long form**

Federal Republic of Somalia

#### **conventional short form**

Somalia

#### **local long form**

Jamhuuriyadda Federaalkaa Soomaaliya

#### **local short form**

Soomaaliya

### **former**

Somali Republic, Somali Democratic Republic

### **etymology**

"Land of the Somali" (ethnic group)

### **Capital**

#### **name**

Mogadishu

### **geographic coordinates**

2 04 N, 45 20 E

### **time difference**

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

## **Constitution**

### **history**

previous 1961, 1979; latest drafted 12 June 2012, approved 1 August 2012 (provisional)

### **amendments**

proposed by the federal government, by members of the state governments, the Federal Parliament, or by public petition; proposals require review by a joint committee of Parliament with inclusion of public comments and state legislatures' comments; passage requires at least two-thirds majority vote in both houses of Parliament and approval by a majority of votes cast in a referendum; constitutional clauses on Islamic principles, the federal system, human rights and freedoms, powers and authorities of the government branches, and inclusion of women in national institutions cannot be amended

## **Citizenship**

### **citizenship by birth**

no

### **citizenship by descent only**

the father must be a citizen of Somalia

### **dual citizenship recognized**

no

### **residency requirement for naturalization**

7 years

## **Executive branch**

### **chief of state**

President Mohamed ABDULLAHI Mohamed "Farmaajo" (since 8 February 2017)

### **head of government**

Prime Minister Hassan Ali KHAYRE (since 1 March 2017)

### **cabinet**

Cabinet appointed by the prime minister, approved by the House of the People

### **elections/appointments**

president indirectly elected by the Federal Parliament by two-thirds majority vote in 2 rounds if needed for a single 4-year term; election last held on 8 February 2017 (previously scheduled for 30 September 2016 but postponed repeatedly); prime minister appointed by the president, approved by the House of the People

### **election results**

Mohamed ABDULLAHI Mohamed "Farmaajo" elected president; Federal Parliament second round vote - Mohamed ABDULLAHI Mohamed "Farmaajo" (TPP) 184, HASSAN SHEIKH Mohamud (PDP) 97, Sheikh SHARIF Sheikh Ahmed (ARS) 46

## **Legislative branch**

### **description**

bicameral Federal Parliament to consist of an Upper House (54 seats; senators elected by state assemblies to serve 4-year terms) and the House of the People (275 seats; members elected by regional delegates to serve 4-year terms)



**note**

the inaugural House of the People was appointed in September 2012 by clan elders; in elections in 2016 and 2017, the Federal Parliament became bicameral with elections scheduled for 10 October 2016 for the Upper House and 23 October to 10 November 2016 for the House of the People; while the elections were delayed, they were eventually held in most regions despite voting irregularities; on 27 December 2016, 41 Upper House senators and 242 House of the People members were sworn in

**Judicial branch****highest court(s)**

the provisional constitution stipulates the establishment of the Constitutional Court (consists of 5 judges including the chief judge and deputy chief judge); note - under the terms of the 2004 Transitional National Charter, a Supreme Court based in Mogadishu and an Appeal Court were established; yet most regions have reverted to local forms of conflict resolution, either secular, traditional Somali customary law, or sharia Islamic law

**judge selection and term of office**

judges appointed by the president upon proposal of the Judicial Service Commission, a 9-member judicial and administrative body; judge tenure NA

**subordinate courts**

federal courts; federal member state-level courts; military courts; sharia courts

**National anthem****name**

"Qolobaa Calankeed" (Every Nation Has its own Flag)

**lyrics/music**

lyrics/music: Abdullahi QARSHE

**note**

adopted 2012; written in 1959

**Diplomatic representation in the US****chief of mission**

Ambassador Ahmed Issa AWAD (since 17 September 2015)

**chancery**

425 East 61st Street, Suite 702, New York City, NY 10021

**telephone**

[1] (212) 688-9410, 688-5046

**FAX**

[1] (212) 759-0651

**Administrative divisions**

18 regions (plural - NA, singular - gobolka)

Awdal, Bakool, Banaadir, Bari, Bay, Galguduud, Gedo, Hiiraan, Jubbada Dhexe (Middle Jubba), Jubbada Hoose (Lower Jubba), Mudug, Nugaal, Sanaag, Shabeellaha Dhexe (Middle Shabeelle), Shabeellaha Hoose (Lower Shabeelle), Sool, Togdheer, Woqooyi Galbeed

**Independence**

1 July 1960 (from a merger of British Somaliland that became independent from the UK on 26 June 1960 and Italian Somaliland that became independent from the Italian-administered UN trusteeship on 1 July 1960 to form the Somali Republic)

**International organization participation**

ACP

AfDB

AFESD

AMF

AU

CAEU (candidate)

FAO

G-77

IBRD

ICAO

ICRM

IDA

IDB

IFAD

IFC

IFRCS

IGAD

ILO

IMF

IMO

Interpol

IOC

IOM

IPU

ITSO

ITU

LAS

NAM

OIC

OPCW

OPCW (signatory)

UN

UNCTAD

UNESCO

UNHCR

UNIDO

UPU

WFTU (NGOs)

WHO

WIPO

WMO

**National symbol(s)**

leopard

national colors: blue, white

**Political parties and leaders**

Cosmopolitan Democratic Party [Yarow Sharef ADEN]

Daljir Party or DP [Hassan MOALIM]

Democratic Green Party of Somalia or DGPS [Abdullahi Y. MAHAMOUD]

Democratic Party of Somalia or DPS [Maslah Mohamed SIAD]

Green Leaf for Democracy or GLED

Hiil Qaran

Justice and Communist Party [Mohamed NUR]

Justice and Development of Democracy and Self-Respectfulness Party or CAHDI  
[Abdirahman Abdigani IBRAHIM Bile]

Liberal Party of Somalia

National Unity Party (Xisbiga Midnimo-Qaran) [Abdurahman BAADIYOW]

Peace and Development Party or PDP

Somali National Party or SNP [Mohammed Ameen Saeed AHMED]

Somali People's Party [Mahamud Hassan RAGE]

Somali Green Party (local chapter of Federation of Green Parties of Africa)

Tayo or TPP [Mohamed Abdullahi MOHAMED]

Tiir Party [Fadhil Sheik MOHAMUD]

United and Democratic Party [Salad Ali JELLE]

United Somali Parliamentarians

### **Political pressure groups and leaders**

numerous political associations and clan and sub-clan factions exist in support of and against political leaders from clans, Federal Member State presidents, and others, including the former and current presidents

## **Military and security**

### **Maritime threats**

despite a dramatic drop in the number of attacks in 2016, the International Maritime Bureau continues to report the territorial and offshore waters in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean as a region of significant risk for piracy and armed robbery against ships; during the first half of 2017, nine vessels were attacked or hijacked compared with two in 2016; Operation Ocean

Shield, the NATO naval task force established in 2009 to combat Somali piracy, concluded its operations in December 2016 as a result of the drop in reported incidents over the last few years; additional anti-piracy measures on the part of ship operators, including the use of on-board armed security teams, have reduced piracy incidents in that body of water; Somali pirates tend to be heavily armed with automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenades; the use of "mother ships" from which skiffs can be launched to attack vessels allows these pirates to extend the range of their operations hundreds of nautical miles offshore

### **Military branches**

National Security Force (NSF): Somali National Army

### **Military service age and obligation**

18 is the legal minimum age for compulsory and voluntary military service

## **People and society**

### **Population**

11,031,386

### **Religions**

Sunni Muslim (Islam) (official, according to the 2012 Transitional Federal Charter)

### **Population growth rate**

2%

### **Birth rate**

39.6 births/1,000 population

### **Death rate**

13.1 deaths/1,000 population

### **Net migration rate**

-6.5 migrant(s)/1,000 population

### **Population distribution**

distribution varies greatly throughout the country; least densely populated areas are in the northeast and central regions, as well as areas along the Kenyan border; most populated areas are in and around the cities of Mogadishu, Marka, Boorama, Hargeysa, and Baidoa

### **Total fertility rate**

5.8 children born/woman

### **Physicians density**

0.03 physicians/1,000 population

### **Hospital bed density**

8.7 beds/1,000 population

### **Total fertility rate**

5.8 children born/woman

### **HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate**

0.4%

**HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS**

24,000

**HIV/AIDS - deaths**

1,700

**Obesity - adult prevalence rate**

8.3%

**Children under the age of 5 years underweight**

23%

**Education expenditures**

NA

**Nationality**

Somali(s)

**Dependency ratios****total dependency ratio**

97.4

**youth dependency ratio**

92.1

**elderly dependency ratio**

5.3

**Median age****total**

18.1 years

**male**

18.3 years

**female**

17.9 years

**Urbanization****urban population**

40.5% of total population

**rate of urbanization**

4.05% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

**Infant mortality rate****total**

94.8 deaths/1,000 live births

**male**

103.3 deaths/1,000 live births

**female**

86 deaths/1,000 live births

**Life expectancy at birth****total population**

52.8 years

**male**

50.7 years

**female**

54.9 years

**Major infectious diseases**

**degree of risk**

very high

**food or waterborne diseases**

bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A and E, and typhoid fever

**vectorborne diseases**

dengue fever, malaria, and Rift Valley fever

**water contact disease**

schistosomiasis

**animal contact disease**

rabies

**Ethnic groups**

Somali 85%

Bantu and other non-Somali 15% (including 30

000 Arabs)

**Languages**

Somali (official

according to the 2012 Transitional Federal Charter)

Arabic (official

according to the 2012 Transitional Federal Charter)

Italian

English

**Demographic profile**

Somalia scores very low for most humanitarian indicators, suffering from poor governance, protracted internal conflict, underdevelopment, economic decline, poverty, social and gender inequality, and environmental degradation. Despite civil war and famine raising its mortality rate, Somalia's high fertility rate and large proportion of people of reproductive age maintain rapid population growth, with each generation being larger than the prior one. More than 60%

of Somalia's population is younger than 25, and the fertility rate is among the world's highest at almost 6 children per woman – a rate that has decreased little since the 1970s.

A lack of educational and job opportunities is a major source of tension for Somalia's large youth cohort, making them vulnerable to recruitment by extremist and pirate groups. Somalia has one of the world's lowest primary school enrollment rates – just over 40% of children are in school – and one of world's highest youth unemployment rates. Life expectancy is low as a result of high infant and maternal mortality rates, the spread of preventable diseases, poor sanitation, chronic malnutrition, and inadequate health services.

During the two decades of conflict that followed the fall of the SIAD regime in 1991, hundreds of thousands of Somalis fled their homes. Today Somalia is the world's third highest source country for refugees, after Syria and Afghanistan. Insecurity, drought, floods, food shortages, and a lack of economic opportunities are the driving factors.

As of 2016, more than 1.1 million Somali refugees were hosted in the region, mainly in Kenya, Yemen, Egypt, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Uganda, while more than 1.1 million Somalis were internally displaced. Since the implementation of a tripartite voluntary repatriation agreement among Kenya, Somalia, and the UNHCR in 2013, nearly 40,000 Somali refugees have returned home from Kenya's Dadaab refugee camp – still houses to approximately 260,000 Somalis. The flow sped up rapidly after the Kenyan Government in May 2016 announced its intention to close the camp, worsening security and humanitarian conditions in receiving communities in south-central Somalia. Despite the conflict in Yemen, thousands of Somalis and other refugees and asylum seekers from the Horn of Africa risk their lives crossing the Gulf of Aden to reach Yemen and beyond (often Saudi Arabia). Bossaso in Puntland overtook Obock, Djibouti, as the primary departure point in mid-2014.

### **Urban areas**

MOGADISHU (capital) 2.138 million

Hargeysa 760,000

### **Age structure**

From age 0 to age 14 :	43.15%
From age 15 to age 24 :	19.04%
From age 25 to age 54 :	31.43%
From age 55 to age 64 :	4.2%
Over 65 :	2.19%

### **Sex ratio**

(male to female)

At birth:	1.02
From age 0 to age 14 :	1
From age 15 to age 24 :	1.02
From age 25 to age 54 :	1.07
From age 55 to age 64 :	0.96
Over 65 :	0.64
Overall:	1.01



## **Transnational issues**

### **Refugees and internally displaced persons**

#### **refugees (country of origin)**

18,312 (Ethiopia) (refugees and asylum seekers); 11,367 (Yemen) (refugees and asylum seekers)

#### **IDPs**

2.1 million (civil war since 1988, clan-based competition for resources; 2011 famine; insecurity because of fighting between al-Shabaab and the Transitional Federal Government's allied forces)

### **Disputes - international**

Ethiopian forces invaded southern Somalia and routed Islamist Courts from Mogadishu in January 2007

"Somaliland" secessionists provide port facilities in Berbera to landlocked Ethiopia and have established commercial ties with other regional states

"Puntland" and "Somaliland" "governments" seek international support in their secessionist aspirations and overlapping border claims

the undemarcated former British administrative line has little meaning as a political separation to rival clans within Ethiopia's Ogaden and southern Somalia's Oromo region

Kenya works hard to prevent the clan and militia fighting in Somalia from spreading south across the border, which has long been open to nomadic pastoralists

## **Transportation**

### **Civil aircraft registration country code prefix**

6O

### **Airports**

61

### **National air transport system**

#### **number of registered air carriers**

1

#### **inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers**

1

#### **annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers**

251,652

#### **annual freight traffic on registered air carriers**

0 mt-km

**Airports - with paved runways**  
**total**

6

**over 3,047 m**

4

**2,438 to 3,047 m**

1

**1,524 to 2,437 m**

1

**Airports - with unpaved runways**  
**total**

55

**over 3,047 m**

1

**2,438 to 3,047 m**

5

**1,524 to 2,437 m**

20

**914 to 1,523 m**

23

**under 914 m**

6

**Roadways**  
**total**

22,100 km

**paved**

2,608 km

**unpaved**

19,492 km

**Merchant marine**  
**total**

5

**by type**

general cargo 2, other 3

**Ports and terminals**

**major seaport(s)**

Berbera, Kismaayo

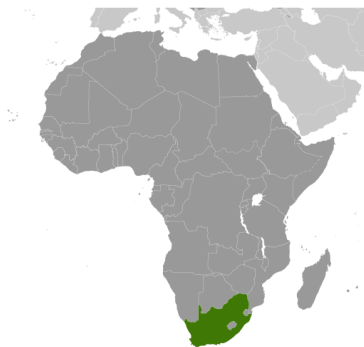
## **South Africa**

South Africa is home to some of the world's oldest human fossils, and during the modern era the region was settled by Khoisan and Bantu peoples. Dutch traders landed at the southern tip of modern day South Africa in 1652 and established a stopover point on the spice route between the Netherlands and the Far East, founding the city of Cape Town. After the British seized the Cape of Good Hope area in 1806, many of the Dutch settlers (Afrikaners, called "Boers" (farmers) by the British) trekked north to found their own republics, Transvaal and Orange Free State. The discovery of diamonds and gold spurred wealth and immigration and intensified the subjugation of the native inhabitants. The Afrikaners resisted British encroachments but were defeated in the Second South African War (1899-1902); however, the British and the Afrikaners, ruled together beginning in 1910 under the Union of South Africa, which became a republic in 1961 after a whites-only referendum. In 1948, the Afrikaner-dominated National Party was voted into power and instituted a policy of apartheid - the separate development of the races - which favored the white minority at the expense of the black majority. The African National Congress (ANC) led the opposition to apartheid and many top ANC leaders, such as Nelson MANDELA, spent decades in South Africa's prisons. Internal protests and insurgency, as well as boycotts by some Western nations and institutions, led to the regime's eventual willingness to negotiate a peaceful transition to majority rule.

The first multi-racial elections in 1994 following the end of apartheid ushered in majority rule under an ANC-led government. South Africa has since struggled to address apartheid-era imbalances in decent housing, education, and health care. Jacob ZUMA became president in 2009 and was reelected in 2014, but was forced to resign in February 2018 after numerous corruption scandals and gains by opposition parties in municipal elections in 2016. His successor, Cyril RAMAPHOSA, has pledged to crack down on corruption and shore up state-owned enterprises, and is the ANC's likely candidate for May 2019 national elections.



Flag



Location

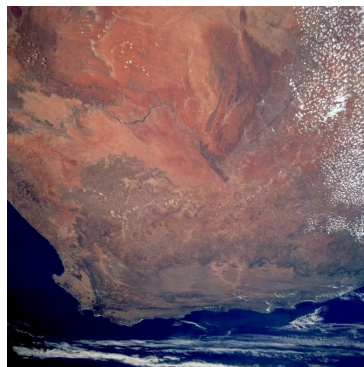


Map

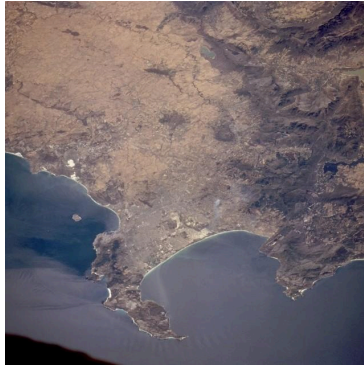
Satellite view of South Africa. The rugged Great Karoo semi-desert region makes up much of the central and western part of the country. The brown and orange landscape that surrounds South Africa's northwestern borders is the Kalahari Desert, a vast sand basin marked by dunes and dry savannah vegetation. The southern edge of the desert is defined by the Orange River, which also forms South Africa's northwestern border with Namibia. Within South Africa is the enclave of Lesotho. Northeast of Lesotho is the smaller country of Swaziland. Photo courtesy of NASA.



The reddish-brown Kalahari Desert with its northwest-southeast-trending sand dunes and dry lakebeds stands out in this image of South Africa. Also distinguishable are the westward-flowing Orange River, south of the true desert; the cape ranges of folded mountains near the extreme southern point of South Africa; as well as Cape Town, the Cape of Good Hope, and Cape Agulhas. Image courtesy of NASA.



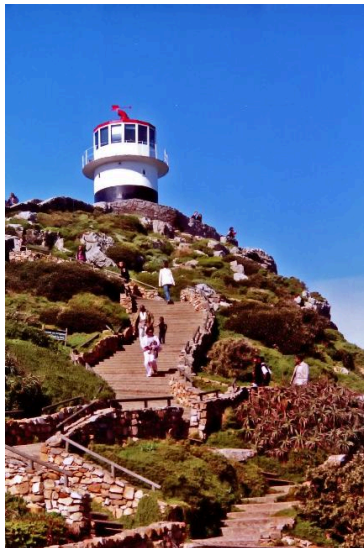
Cape Town is considered to be one of the great scenic cities of the world. Situated in the southwestern part of Cape Province, it lies at the foot of Table Mountain (1,088 m; 3,567 feet in altitude) on the shore of Table Bay, in which lies Robben Island. Because the mountains obstruct inland expansion, the city has developed along the coast. The Cape of Good Hope appears at the southern tip of the Cape Peninsula. Photo courtesy of NASA.



Shoreline along the Cape of Good Hope.



Observation tower at the Cape of Good Hope.



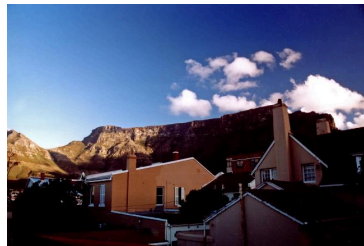
The Cape of Good Hope.



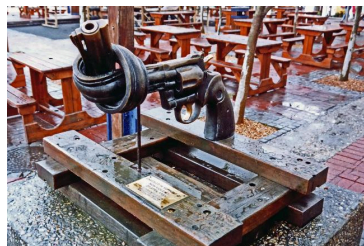
Local residents at the Cape of Good Hope - Chacma or Cape Baboons.



Table Mountain - a level plateau about 3 km (2 mi) from side to side - overlooking some homes in Cape Town.



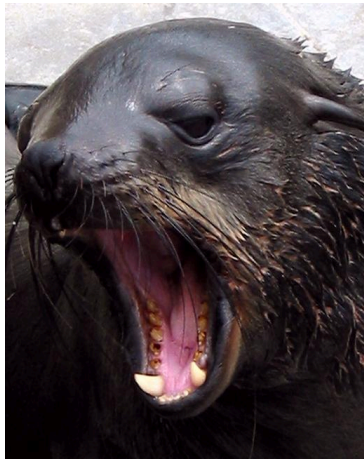
Sculpture at a Cape Town shopping mall.



The picturesque Victoria and Albert Waterfront in Cape Town, affords photographers a wide range of opportunities. With Table Mountain as a scenic backdrop, marine vessels of all kinds can be seen coming and going from this working harbor and residential marina.



The patience of this fur seal was tested severely as the photographer got a little too close for comfort. The seal had been relaxing on a dock in the harbor of Cape Town.



## Communications

### Broadcast media

the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) operates 4 TV stations, 3 are free-to-air and 1 is pay TV; e.tv, a private station, is accessible to more than half the population; multiple subscription TV services provide a mix of local and international channels; well-developed mix of public and private radio stations at the national, regional, and local levels; the SABC radio network, state-owned and controlled but nominally independent, operates 18 stations, one for each of the 11 official languages, 4 community stations, and 3 commercial stations; more than 100 community-based stations extend coverage to rural areas

### Internet country code

.za

### Telephones - fixed lines

#### total subscriptions

3,562,982

#### subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

7

### Telephones - mobile cellular

#### total

76,653,421

#### subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

141

### Telephone system

#### general assessment

the system is the best-developed and most modern in Africa

#### domestic

combined fixed-line and mobile-cellular teledensity exceeds 145 telephones per 100 persons; consists of carrier-equipped open-wire lines, coaxial cables, microwave radio relay links, fiber-optic cable, radiotelephone communication stations, and wireless local loops; key centers are Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth, and Pretoria

### **international**

country code - 27; the SAT-3/WASC and SAFE fiber-optic submarine cable systems connect South Africa to Europe and Asia; the EASSy fiber-optic cable system connects with Europe and North America; satellite earth stations - 3 Intelsat (1 Indian Ocean and 2 Atlantic Ocean)

### **Internet users**

#### **total**

29,322,380

#### **percent of population**

54.0%

## **Economy**

### **Overview**

South Africa is a middle-income emerging market with an abundant supply of natural resources; well-developed financial, legal, communications, energy, and transport sectors; and a stock exchange that is Africa's largest and among the top 20 in the world.

### **GDP (purchasing power parity)**

\$757.3 billion

### **GDP (official exchange rate)**

\$344.1 billion

### **GDP per capita**

\$13,400

### **Gross national saving**

16.2% of GDP

### **Industries**

mining (world's largest producer of platinum, gold, chromium), automobile assembly, metalworking, machinery, textiles, iron and steel, chemicals, fertilizer, foodstuffs, commercial ship repair

### **Industrial production growth rate**

0.5%

### **Labor force**

22.19 million

### **Unemployment rate**

27.6%

### **Population below poverty line**

16.6%

### **Distribution of family income - Gini index**



62.5

**Taxes and other revenues**

26.9% of GDP

**Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-)**

-3.2% of GDP

**Public debt**

50.1% of GDP

**Fiscal year**

1 April - 31 March

**Inflation rate (consumer prices)**

5.4%

**Central bank discount rate**

5.75%

**Commercial bank prime lending rate**

10.4%

**Stock of narrow money**

\$116.5 billion

**Stock of broad money**

\$183.8 billion

**Stock of domestic credit**

\$237.6 billion

**Market value of publicly traded shares**

\$735.9 billion

**Current account balance**

\$-9.81 billion

**Exports**

\$78.25 billion

**Export commodities**

gold, diamonds, platinum, other metals and minerals, machinery and equipment

**Export partners**

China 9.2%, Germany 7.5%, US 7.4%, Botswana 5%, Namibia 4.8%, Japan 4.6%, India 4.3%, UK 4.2%

**Imports**

\$80.22 billion

**Import commodities**

machinery and equipment, chemicals, petroleum products, scientific instruments, foodstuffs

**Import partners**

China 18.1%, Germany 11.8%, US 6.7%, India 4.2%

**Reserves of foreign exchange and gold**

\$48.18 billion

**Debt - external**

\$144.1 billion

**Stock of direct foreign investment - at home**

\$139.2 billion

**Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad**

\$176.3 billion

**GDP - composition, by end use**

**household consumption**

59.8%

**government consumption**

20.7%

**investment in fixed capital**

20%

**investment in inventories**

-0.4%

**exports of goods and services**

26.9%

**imports of goods and services**

-27%

**Labor force - by occupation**

**agriculture**

4.6%

**industry**

23.5%

**services**

71.9%

**Household income or consumption by percentage share**

**lowest 10%**

1.2%

**highest 10%**

51.3%

**Budget**

**revenues**

\$92.38 billion

**expenditures**

\$103.3 billion

**Agricultural products**

corn, wheat, sugarcane, fruits, vegetables

beef, poultry, mutton, wool, dairy products

## **Energy**

### **Electricity - production**

229.2 billion kWh

### **Electricity - consumption**

207.7 billion kWh

### **Electricity - exports**

16.55 billion kWh

### **Electricity - imports**

10.56 billion kWh

### **Electricity - installed generating capacity**

47.28 million kW

### **Electricity - from fossil fuels**

86.7% of total installed capacity

### **Electricity - from nuclear fuels**

3.9% of total installed capacity

### **Electricity - from hydroelectric plants**

1.4% of total installed capacity

### **Electricity - from other renewable sources**

7.1% of total installed capacity

### **Crude oil - production**

2,000 bbl/day

### **Crude oil - exports**

0 bbl/day

### **Crude oil - imports**

434,500 bbl/day

### **Crude oil - proved reserves**

15 million bbl

### **Refined petroleum products - production**

431,000 bbl/day

### **Refined petroleum products - consumption**

660,000 bbl/day

### **Refined petroleum products - exports**

78,110 bbl/day

### **Refined petroleum products - imports**

164,700 bbl/day

**Natural gas - production**

1.1 billion cu m

**Natural gas - consumption**

8.66 billion cu m

**Natural gas - exports**

0 cu m

**Natural gas - imports**

3.8 billion cu m

**Natural gas - proved reserves**

15.01 billion cu m

**Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy**

482 million Mt

**Electricity access****population without electricity**

7,700,000

**electrification - total population**

85%

**electrification - urban areas**

90%

**electrification - rural areas**

77%

## **Geography**

**Location**

Southern Africa, at the southern tip of the continent of Africa

**Coordinates**

29 00 S, 24 00 E

**Coastline**

2,798 km

**Climate**

mostly semiarid; subtropical along east coast; sunny days, cool nights

**Terrain**

vast interior plateau rimmed by rugged hills and narrow coastal plain

**Irrigated land**

16,700 sq km

**Population - distribution**

the population concentrated along the southern and southeastern coast, and inland around Petoria; the eastern half of the country is more densely populated than the west

**Land boundaries**

2,798 km

**Area**

**total**

1,219,090 sq km

**land**

1,214,470 sq km

**water**

4,620 sq km

**Maritime claims**

**territorial sea**

12 nm

**contiguous zone**

24 nm

**exclusive economic zone**

200 nm

**continental shelf**

200 nm or to edge of the continental margin

**Land use**

**agricultural land**

79.4%

**forest**

7.6%

**other**

13%

**Environment international agreements**

**party to**

Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, Antarctic-Marine Living Resources, Antarctic Seals, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Marine Life Conservation, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands, Whaling

**signed, but not ratified**

none of the selected agreements

**Natural resources**

gold

chromium

antimony

coal

iron ore

manganese

nickel

phosphates

tin

rare earth elements

uranium

gem diamonds

platinum

copper

vanadium

salt

natural gas

### **Natural hazards**

prolonged droughts

### **Current environment issues**

lack of important arterial rivers or lakes requires extensive water conservation and control measures

growth in water usage outpacing supply

pollution of rivers from agricultural runoff and urban discharge

air pollution resulting in acid rain

soil erosion

desertification

## **Government**

**Government type**

parliamentary republic

**National holiday**

Freedom Day, 27 April

**Legal system**

mixed legal system of Roman-Dutch civil law, English common law, and customary law

**International law organization participation**

has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; accepts ICtJ jurisdiction

**Suffrage**

18 years of age; universal

**Flag description**

two equal width horizontal bands of red (top) and blue separated by a central green band that splits into a horizontal Y, the arms of which end at the corners of the hoist side; the Y embraces a black isosceles triangle from which the arms are separated by narrow yellow bands; the red and blue bands are separated from the green band and its arms by narrow white stripes; the flag colors do not have any official symbolism, but the Y stands for the "convergence of diverse elements within South African society, taking the road ahead in unity"; black, yellow, and green are found on the flag of the African National Congress, while red, white, and blue are the colors in the flags of the Netherlands and the UK, whose settlers ruled South Africa during the colonial era

**Diplomatic representation in the US**

two equal width horizontal bands of red (top) and blue separated by a central green band that splits into a horizontal Y, the arms of which end at the corners of the hoist side; the Y embraces a black isosceles triangle from which the arms are separated by narrow yellow bands; the red and blue bands are separated from the green band and its arms by narrow white stripes; the flag colors do not have any official symbolism, but the Y stands for the "convergence of diverse elements within South African society, taking the road ahead in unity"; black, yellow, and green are found on the flag of the African National Congress, while red, white, and blue are the colors in the flags of the Netherlands and the UK, whose settlers ruled South Africa during the colonial era

**Diplomatic representation from the US**

two equal width horizontal bands of red (top) and blue separated by a central green band that splits into a horizontal Y, the arms of which end at the corners of the hoist side; the Y embraces a black isosceles triangle from which the arms are separated by narrow yellow bands; the red and blue bands are separated from the green band and its arms by narrow white stripes; the flag colors do not have any official symbolism, but the Y stands for the "convergence of diverse elements within South African society, taking the road ahead in unity"; black, yellow, and green are found on the flag of the African National Congress, while red, white, and blue are the colors in the flags of the Netherlands and the UK, whose settlers ruled South Africa during the colonial era

**Country name**

**conventional long form**

Republic of South Africa

**conventional short form**

South Africa

**former**

Union of South Africa

**abbreviation**

RSA

**etymology**

self-descriptive name from the country's location on the continent; "Africa" is derived from the Roman designation of the area corresponding to present-day Tunisia "Africa terra," which meant "Land of the Afri" (the tribe resident in that area), but which eventually came to mean the entire continent

**Capital**

**name**

Pretoria (administrative capital); Cape Town (legislative capital); Bloemfontein (judicial capital)

**geographic coordinates**

25 42 S, 28 13 E

**time difference**

UTC+2 (7 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

**Constitution**

**history**

several previous; latest drafted 8 May 1996, approved by Constitutional Court 4 December 1996, effective 4 February 1997

**amendments**

proposed by the National Assembly of Parliament; passage of amendments affecting constitutional sections on human rights and freedoms, non-racism and non-sexism, supremacy of the constitution, suffrage, the multi-party system of democratic government, and amendment procedures requires at least 75% majority vote of the Assembly, approval by at least six of the nine provinces represented in the National Council of Provinces, and assent by the president of the republic; passage of amendments affecting the Bill of Rights, and those related to provincial boundaries, powers, and authorities requires at least two-thirds majority vote of the Assembly, approval by at least six of the nine provinces represented in the National Council, and assent by the president; amended many times, last in 2013

**Citizenship**

**citizenship by birth**

no

**citizenship by descent only**

at least one parent must be a citizen of South Africa

**dual citizenship recognized**

yes, but requires prior permission of the government

**residency requirement for naturalization**

1 year

**Executive branch**



**chief of state**

President Matamela Cyril RAMAPHOSA (since 15 February 2018); Deputy President David MABUZA ; note - the president is both chief of state and head of government; Jacob ZUMA resigned the presidency on 14 February 2018

**head of government**

President Matamela Cyril RAMAPHOSA (since 15 February 2018); deputy president David MABUZA ; note - Jacob ZUMA resigned the presidency on 14 February 2018

**cabinet**

Cabinet appointed by the president

**elections/appointments**

president indirectly elected by the National Assembly for a 5-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 15 February 2018 to elect Cyril RAMAPHOSA as acting president to replace ZUMA for the remainder of his term

**election results**

Matamela Cyril RAMAPHOSA (ANC) elected president by the National Assembly unopposed

**Legislative branch****description**

bicameral Parliament consists of the National Council of Provinces (90 seats; 10-member delegations appointed by each of the 9 provincial legislatures to serve 5-year terms; note - this council has special powers to protect regional interests, including safeguarding cultural and linguistic traditions among ethnic minorities) and the National Assembly (400 seats; members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by proportional representation vote to serve 5-year terms)

**elections**

National Council of Provinces and National Assembly - last held on 7 May 2014

**election results**

National Council of Provinces - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - ANC 60, DA 20, EFF 7, IFP 1, NFP 1, UDM 1; National Assembly - percent of vote by party - ANC 62.2%, DA 22.2%, EFF 6.4%, IFP 2.4%, NFP 1.6%, UDM 1.0%, other 4.2%; seats by party - ANC 249, DA 89, EFF 25, IFP 10, NFP 6, UDM 4, other 17

**Judicial branch****highest court(s)**

Supreme Court of Appeals (consists of the court president, deputy president, and 21 judges); Constitutional Court (consists of the chief and deputy chief justices and 9 judges)

**judge selection and term of office**

Supreme Court of Appeals president and vice president appointed by the national president after consultation with the Judicial Services Commission (JSC), a 23-member body chaired by the chief justice and includes other judges and judicial executives, members of parliament, practicing lawyers and advocates, a teacher of law, and several members designated by the national president; other Supreme Court judges appointed by the national president on the advice of the JSC and hold office until discharged from active service by an Act of Parliament; Constitutional Court chief and deputy chief justices appointed by the national president after consultation with the JSC and with heads of the National Assembly; other

Constitutional Court judges appointed by the national president after consultation with the chief justice and leaders of the National Assembly; Constitutional Court judges appointed for 12-year non-renewable terms or until age 70

**subordinate courts**

High Courts; Magistrates' Courts; labor courts; land claims courts

**National anthem**

**name**

"National Anthem of South Africa"

**lyrics/music**

Enoch SONTONGA and Cornelius Jacob LANGENHOVEN/Enoch SONTONGA and Marthinus LOURENS de Villiers

**note**

adopted 1994; a combination of "N'kosi Sikelel' iAfrica" (God Bless Africa) and "Die Stem van Suid Afrika" (The Call of South Africa), which were respectively the anthems of the non-white and white communities under apartheid; official lyrics contain a mixture of Xhosa, Zulu, Sesotho, Afrikaans, and English (i.e., the five most widely spoken of South Africa's 11 official languages); music incorporates the melody used in the Tanzanian and Zambian anthems

**Administrative divisions**

9 provinces

Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Western Cape

**Independence**

31 May 1910 (Union of South Africa formed from four British colonies: Cape Colony, Natal, Transvaal, and Orange Free State)

31 May 1961 (republic declared)

27 April 1994 (majority rule)

**International organization participation**

ACP

AfDB

AU

BIS

BRICS

C

CD

FAO

FATF

G-20

G-24

G-5

G-77

IAEA

IBRD

ICAO

ICC (national committees)

ICCT

ICRM

IDA

IFAD

IFC

IFRC

IHO

ILO

IMF

IMO

IMSO

Interpol

IOC

IOM

IPU

ISO

ITSO

ITU

ITUC (NGOs)

MIGA

MONUSCO

NAM

NSG

OECD (enhanced engagement)

OPCW

Paris Club (associate)

PCA

SACU

SADC

UN

UNAMID

UNCTAD

UNESCO

UNHCR

UNIDO

UNITAR

UNWTO

UPU

WCO

WFTU (NGOs)

WHO

WIPO

WMO

WTO

ZC

**National symbol(s)**

springbok (antelope), king protea flower

national colors: red, green, blue, yellow, black, white

## **Military and security**

**Military expenditures**

1.07% of GDP

**Military service age and obligation**

18 years of age for voluntary military service

women are eligible to serve in noncombat roles

2-year service obligation

**Military branches**

South African National Defense Force (SANDF): South African Army

South African Navy (SAN)

South African Air Force (SAAF)

South African Military Health Services

## **People and society**

**Population**

54,841,552

**Religions**

Protestant 36.6% (Zionist Christian 11.1%, Pentecostal/Charismatic 8.2%, Methodist 6.8%, Dutch Reformed 6.7%, Anglican 3.8%), Catholic 7.1%, Muslim 1.5%, other Christian 36%, other 2.3%, unspecified 1.4%, none 15.1%

**Population growth rate**

0.99%

**Birth rate**

20.2 births/1,000 population

**Death rate**

9.4 deaths/1,000 population

**Net migration rate**

-0.9 migrant(s)/1,000 population

**Population distribution**

the population concentrated along the southern and southeastern coast, and inland around Petoria; the eastern half of the country is more densely populated than the west

**Total fertility rate**

2.29 children born/woman

**Health expenditures**

8.8% of GDP

**Physicians density**

0.82 physicians/1,000 population

**Total fertility rate**

2.29 children born/woman

**HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate**

18.9%

**HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS**

7.1 million

**HIV/AIDS - deaths**

110,000

**Obesity - adult prevalence rate**

28.3%

**Children under the age of 5 years underweight**

8.7%

**Education expenditures**

5.9% of GDP

**Nationality**

South African(s)

**Dependency ratios**

**total dependency ratio**

52.5

**youth dependency ratio**

44.8

**elderly dependency ratio**

7.7

**Median age****total**

27.1 years

**male**

26.9 years

**female**

27.3 years

**Urbanization****urban population**

65.8% of total population

**rate of urbanization**

1.33% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

**Infant mortality rate****total**

31 deaths/1,000 live births

**male**

34.4 deaths/1,000 live births

**female**

27.5 deaths/1,000 live births

**Life expectancy at birth****total population**

63.8 years

**male**

62.4 years

**female**

65.3 years

**Major infectious diseases****degree of risk**

intermediate

**food or waterborne diseases**

bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever

**water contact disease**

schistosomiasis

**Literacy**

**definition**

age 15 and over can read and write

**total population**

94.4%

**male**

95.4%

**female**

93.4%

**School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education)****total**

13 years

**male**

12 years

**female**

13 years

**Unemployment, youth ages 15-24****total**

50.1%

**male**

46.3%

**female**

54.9%

**Ethnic groups**

black African 80.2%

white 8.4%

colored 8.8%

Indian/Asian 2.5%

**Languages**

isiZulu (official) 22.7%

isiXhosa (official) 16%

Afrikaans (official) 13.5%

English (official) 9.6%

Sepedi (official) 9.1%



Setswana (official) 8%

Sesotho (official) 7.6%

Xitsonga (official) 4.5%

siSwati (official) 2.5%

Tshivenda (official) 2.4%

isiNdebele (official) 2.1%

sign language 0.5%

other 1.6%

### **Demographic profile**

South Africa's youthful population is gradually aging, as the country's total fertility rate (TFR) has declined dramatically from about 6 children per woman in the 1960s to roughly 2.2 in 2014. This pattern is similar to fertility trends in South Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa, and sets South Africa apart from the rest of sub-Saharan Africa, where the average TFR remains higher than other regions of the world. Today, South Africa's decreasing number of reproductive age women is having fewer children, as women increase their educational attainment, workforce participation, and use of family planning methods; delay marriage; and opt for smaller families.

As the proportion of working-age South Africans has grown relative to children and the elderly, South Africa has been unable to achieve a demographic dividend because persistent high unemployment and the prevalence of HIV/AIDs have created a larger-than-normal dependent population. HIV/AIDS was also responsible for South Africa's average life expectancy plunging to less than 43 years in 2008; it has rebounded to 63 years as of 2017. HIV/AIDS continues to be a serious public health threat, although awareness-raising campaigns and the wider availability of anti-retroviral drugs is stabilizing the number of new cases, enabling infected individuals to live longer, healthier lives, and reducing mother-child transmissions.

Migration to South Africa began in the second half of the 17th century when traders from the Dutch East India Company settled in the Cape and started using slaves from South and southeast Asia (mainly from India but also from present-day Indonesia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Malaysia) and southeast Africa (Madagascar and Mozambique) as farm laborers and, to a lesser extent, as domestic servants. The Indian subcontinent remained the Cape Colony's main source of slaves in the early 18th century, while slaves were increasingly obtained from southeast Africa in the latter part of the 18th century and into the 19th century under British rule.

After slavery was completely abolished in the British Empire in 1838, South Africa's colonists turned to temporary African migrants and indentured labor through agreements with

India and later China, countries that were anxious to export workers to alleviate domestic poverty and overpopulation. Of the more than 150,000 indentured Indian laborers hired to work in Natal's sugar plantations between 1860 and 1911, most exercised the right as British subjects to remain permanently (a small number of Indian immigrants came freely as merchants). Because of growing resentment toward Indian workers, the 63,000 indentured Chinese workers who mined gold in Transvaal between 1904 and 1911 were under more restrictive contracts and generally were forced to return to their homeland.

In the late 19th century and nearly the entire 20th century, South Africa's then British colonies' and Dutch states' enforced selective immigration policies that welcomed "assimilable" white Europeans as permanent residents but excluded or restricted other immigrants. Following the Union of South Africa's passage of a law in 1913 prohibiting Asian and other non-white immigrants and its elimination of the indenture system in 1917, temporary African contract laborers from neighboring countries became the dominant source of labor in the burgeoning mining industries. Others worked in agriculture and smaller numbers in manufacturing, domestic service, transportation, and construction. Throughout the 20th century, at least 40% of South Africa's miners were foreigners; the numbers peaked at over 80% in the late 1960s. Mozambique, Lesotho, Botswana, and Swaziland were the primary sources of miners, and Malawi and Zimbabwe were periodic suppliers.

Under apartheid, a "two gates" migration policy focused on policing and deporting illegal migrants rather than on managing migration to meet South Africa's development needs. The exclusionary 1991 Aliens Control Act limited labor recruitment to the highly skilled as defined by the ruling white minority, while bilateral labor agreements provided exemptions that enabled the influential mining industry and, to a lesser extent, commercial farms, to hire temporary, low-paid workers from neighboring states. Illegal African migrants were often tacitly allowed to work for low pay in other sectors but were always under threat of deportation.

The abolishment of apartheid in 1994 led to the development of a new inclusive national identity and the strengthening of the country's restrictive immigration policy. Despite South Africa's protectionist approach to immigration, the downsizing and closing of mines, and rising unemployment, migrants from across the continent believed that the country held work opportunities. Fewer African labor migrants were issued temporary work permits and, instead, increasingly entered South Africa with visitors' permits or came illegally, which drove growth in cross-border trade and the informal job market. A new wave of Asian immigrants has also arrived over the last two decades, many operating small retail businesses.

In the post-apartheid period, increasing numbers of highly skilled white workers emigrated, citing dissatisfaction with the political situation, crime, poor services, and a reduced quality of life. The 2002 Immigration Act and later amendments were intended to facilitate the temporary migration of skilled foreign labor to fill labor shortages, but instead the legislation continues to create regulatory obstacles. Although the education system has improved and brain drain has slowed in the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis, South Africa continues to face skills shortages in several key sectors, such as health care and technology.

South Africa's stability and economic growth has acted as a magnet for refugees and asylum seekers from nearby countries, despite the prevalence of discrimination and xenophobic

violence. Refugees have included an estimated 350,000 Mozambicans during its 1980s civil war and, more recently, several thousand Somalis, Congolese, and Ethiopians. Nearly all of the tens of thousands of Zimbabweans who have applied for asylum in South Africa have been categorized as economic migrants and denied refuge.

### **Urban areas**

Johannesburg (includes Ekurhuleni) 9.399 million

Cape Town (legislative capital) 3.66 million

Durban 2.901 million

PRETORIA (capital) 2.059 million

Port Elizabeth 1.179 million

Vereeniging 1.155 million

### **Age structure**

From age 0 to age 14 :	28.27%
From age 15 to age 24 :	17.61%
From age 25 to age 54 :	41.78%
From age 55 to age 64 :	6.66%
Over 65 :	5.68%

### **Sex ratio**

(male to female)

At birth:	1.01
From age 0 to age 14 :	1.01
From age 15 to age 24 :	0.98
From age 25 to age 54 :	1.02
From age 55 to age 64 :	0.87
Over 65 :	0.73
Overall:	0.98

## **Transnational issues**

### **Refugees and internally displaced persons**

#### **refugees (country of origin)**

28,695 (Somalia); 17,776 (Ethiopia); 5,394 (Republic of the Congo) ; 66,528 (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (refugees and asylum seekers)

### **Disputes - international**

South Africa has placed military units to assist police operations along the border of Lesotho, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique to control smuggling, poaching, and illegal migration

the governments of South Africa and Namibia have not signed or ratified the text of the 1994 Surveyor's General agreement placing the boundary in the middle of the Orange River

## **Illicit drugs**

transshipment center for heroin, hashish, and cocaine, as well as a major cultivator of marijuana in its own right

cocaine and heroin consumption on the rise

world's largest market for illicit methaqualone, usually imported illegally from India through various east African countries, but increasingly producing its own synthetic drugs for domestic consumption

attractive venue for money launderers given the increasing level of organized criminal and narcotics activity in the region and the size of the South African economy

## **Transportation**

**Civil aircraft registration country code prefix**

ZS

**Airports**

566

**Heliports**

1

**National air transport system**

**number of registered air carriers**

23

**inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers**

216

**annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers**

17,188,887

**annual freight traffic on registered air carriers**

885,277,991 mt-km

**Airports - with paved runways**

**total**

144

**over 3,047 m**

11

**2,438 to 3,047 m**

7

**1,524 to 2,437 m**

52

**914 to 1,523 m**

65

**under 914 m**

9

**Airports - with unpaved runways**

**total**

422

**2,438 to 3,047 m**

1

**1,524 to 2,437 m**

31

**914 to 1,523 m**

258

**under 914 m**

132

**Railways**

**total**

20,986 km

**standard gauge**

80 km 1.435-m gauge (80 km electrified)

**Roadways**

**total**

747,014 km

**paved**

158,952 km

**unpaved**

588,062 km

**Merchant marine**

**total**

82

**by type**

bulk carrier 2, general cargo 1, oil tanker 5, other 74

**Ports and terminals**

**major seaport(s)**

Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth, Richards Bay, Saldanha Bay

**container port(s) (TEUs)**

Durban (2,770,000)

**LNG terminal(s) (import)**

Mossel Bay

**Pipelines**

condensate 94 km

gas 1,293 km

oil 992 km

refined products 1,460 km

## North Korea

An independent kingdom for much of its long history, Korea was occupied by Japan beginning in 1905 following the Russo-Japanese War. Five years later, Japan formally annexed the entire peninsula. Following World War II, Korea was split with the northern half coming under Soviet-sponsored communist control. After failing in the Korean War (1950-53) to conquer the US-backed Republic of Korea (ROK) in the southern portion by force, North Korea (DPRK), under its founder President KIM Il Sung, adopted a policy of ostensible diplomatic and economic "self-reliance" as a check against outside influence. The DPRK demonized the US as the ultimate threat to its social system through state-funded propaganda, and molded political, economic, and military policies around the core ideological objective of eventual unification of Korea under Pyongyang's control. KIM Il Sung's son, KIM Jong Il, was officially designated as his father's successor in 1980, assuming a growing political and managerial role until the elder KIM's death in 1994. KIM Jong Un was publicly unveiled as his father's successor in 2010.

Following KIM Jong Il's death in 2011, KIM Jong Un quickly assumed power and has now taken on most of his father's former titles and duties. After decades of economic mismanagement and resource misallocation, the DPRK since the mid-1990s has faced chronic food shortages. In recent years, the North's domestic agricultural production has increased, but still falls far short of producing sufficient food to provide for its entire population. The DPRK began to ease restrictions to allow semi-private markets, starting in 2002, but has made few other efforts to meet its goal of improving the overall standard of living. North Korea's history of regional military provocations; proliferation of military-related items; long-range missile development; WMD programs including tests of nuclear devices in 2006, 2009, 2013, 2016, and 2017; and massive conventional armed forces are of major concern to the international community and have limited the DPRK's international engagement, particularly economically. The regime abides by a policy calling for the simultaneous development of its nuclear weapons program and its economy.



Flag



Location



Map

Satellite image shows North and South Korea (upper left) as well as the Japanese island of Shikoku, nestled between Kyushu to the southwest and Honshu to the north. Photo courtesy of NASA.



## Communications

### Broadcast media

no independent media; radios and TVs are pre-tuned to government stations; 4 government-owned TV stations; the Korean Workers' Party owns and operates the Korean Central Broadcasting Station, and the state-run Voice of Korea operates an external broadcast service; the government prohibits listening to and jams foreign broadcasts

### Internet country code

.kp

### Telephones - fixed lines

#### total subscriptions

1.18 million

**subscriptions per 100 inhabitants**

5

**Telephones - mobile cellular****total**

3.24 million

**subscriptions per 100 inhabitants**

13

**Telephone system****general assessment**

adequate system; nationwide fiber-optic network; mobile-cellular service expanded beyond Pyongyang

**domestic**

fiber-optic links installed down to the county level; telephone directories unavailable; mobile service launched in late 2008 for the Pyongyang area and considerable progress in expanding to other parts of the country since

**international**

country code - 850; satellite earth stations - 2 (1 Intelsat - Indian Ocean, 1 Russian - Indian Ocean region); other international connections through Moscow and Beijing

## **Economy**

**Overview**

North Korea, one of the world's most centrally directed and least open economies, faces chronic economic problems. Industrial capital stock is nearly beyond repair as a result of years of underinvestment, shortages of spare parts, and poor maintenance. Large-scale military spending and development of its ballistic missile and nuclear program severely draws off resources needed for investment and civilian consumption. Industrial and power outputs have stagnated for years at a fraction of pre-1990 levels. Frequent weather-related crop failures aggravated chronic food shortages caused by on-going systemic problems, including a lack of arable land, collective farming practices, poor soil quality, insufficient fertilization, and persistent shortages of tractors and fuel.

**GDP (purchasing power parity)**

\$40 billion

**GDP (official exchange rate)**

\$28 billion

**GDP per capita**

\$1,700

**Gross national saving**

NA%

**Industries**



military products; machine building, electric power, chemicals; mining (coal, iron ore, limestone, magnesite, graphite, copper, zinc, lead, and precious metals), metallurgy; textiles, food processing; tourism

**Industrial production growth rate**

1%

**Labor force**

14 million

**Unemployment rate**

25.6%

**Population below poverty line**

NA%

**Taxes and other revenues**

11.4% of GDP

**Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-)**

-0.4% of GDP

**Fiscal year**

calendar year

**Inflation rate (consumer prices)**

NA%

**Exports**

\$2.985 billion

**Export commodities**

minerals, metallurgical products, manufactures (including armaments), textiles, agricultural and fishery products

**Export partners**

China 85.6%

**Imports**

\$3.752 billion

**Import commodities**

petroleum, coking coal, machinery and equipment, textiles, grain

**Import partners**

China 90.3%

**Debt - external**

\$5 billion

**GDP - composition, by end use**

**household consumption**

NA%

**government consumption**

NA%

**investment in fixed capital**

NA%

**investment in inventories**

NA%

**exports of goods and services**

5.9%

**imports of goods and services**

-11.1%

**Labor force - by occupation****agriculture**

37%

**industry and services**

63%

**Household income or consumption by percentage share****lowest 10%**

NA%

**highest 10%**

NA%

**Budget****revenues**

\$3.2 billion

**expenditures**

\$3.3 billion

**Agricultural products**

rice

corn

potatoes

wheat

soybeans

pulses

beef

pork

eggs

# Energy

## **Electricity - production**

13.41 billion kWh

## **Electricity - consumption**

11.24 billion kWh

## **Electricity - exports**

0 kWh

## **Electricity - imports**

0 kWh

## **Electricity - installed generating capacity**

10 million kW

## **Electricity - from fossil fuels**

45% of total installed capacity

## **Electricity - from nuclear fuels**

0% of total installed capacity

## **Electricity - from hydroelectric plants**

55% of total installed capacity

## **Electricity - from other renewable sources**

0% of total installed capacity

## **Crude oil - production**

0 bbl/day

## **Crude oil - exports**

0 bbl/day

## **Crude oil - imports**

10,640 bbl/day

## **Crude oil - proved reserves**

0 bbl

## **Refined petroleum products - production**

11,270 bbl/day

## **Refined petroleum products - consumption**

18,000 bbl/day

## **Refined petroleum products - exports**

0 bbl/day

## **Refined petroleum products - imports**

5,976 bbl/day

## **Natural gas - production**

0 cu m

**Natural gas - consumption**

0 cu m

**Natural gas - exports**

0 cu m

**Natural gas - imports**

0 cu m

**Natural gas - proved reserves**

0 cu m

**Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy**

50 million Mt

**Electricity access****population without electricity**

18,400,000

**electrification - total population**

30%

**electrification - urban areas**

41%

**electrification - rural areas**

13%

## **Geography**

**Location**

Eastern Asia, northern half of the Korean Peninsula bordering the Korea Bay and the Sea of Japan, between China and South Korea

**Coordinates**

40 00 N, 127 00 E

**Coastline**

2,495 km

**Climate**

temperate, with rainfall concentrated in summer; long, bitter winters

**Terrain**

mostly hills and mountains separated by deep, narrow valleys; wide coastal plains in west, discontinuous in east

**Irrigated land**

14,600 sq km

**Population - distribution**

population concentrated in the plains and lowlands; least populated regions are the mountainous provinces adjacent to the Chinese border; largest concentrations are in the

western provinces, particularly the municipal district of Pyongyang, and around Hungnam and Wonsan in the east

**Area**

**total**

120,538 sq km

**land**

120,408 sq km

**water**

130 sq km

**Maritime claims**

**territorial sea**

12 nm

**exclusive economic zone**

200 nm

**note**

military boundary line 50 nm in the Sea of Japan and the exclusive economic zone limit in the Yellow Sea where all foreign vessels and aircraft without permission are banned

**Land use**

**agricultural land**

21.8%

**forest**

46%

**other**

32.2%

**Environment international agreements**

**party to**

Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution

**signed, but not ratified**

Law of the Sea

**Elevation**

**mean elevation**

600 m

**elevation extremes**

lowest point: Sea of Japan 0 m

**Land boundaries**

**total**

1,607 km

**Natural resources**

coal

iron ore

limestone

magnesite

graphite

copper

zinc

lead

precious metals

hydropower

### **Natural hazards**

late spring droughts often followed by severe flooding

occasional typhoons during the early fall

### **Current environment issues**

water pollution

inadequate supplies of potable water

waterborne disease

deforestation

soil erosion and degradation

## **Government**

### **Government type**

single-party state; official state ideology of "Juche" or "national self-reliance"

### **National holiday**

Founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), 9 September

### **Legal system**

civil law system based on the Prussian model; system influenced by Japanese traditions and Communist legal theory

**International law organization participation**

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

**Suffrage**

17 years of age; universal and compulsory

**Flag description**

three horizontal bands of blue (top), red (triple width), and blue; the red band is edged in white; on the hoist side of the red band is a white disk with a red five-pointed star; the broad red band symbolizes revolutionary traditions; the narrow white bands stand for purity, strength, and dignity; the blue bands signify sovereignty, peace, and friendship; the red star represents socialism

**Diplomatic representation in the US**

none; North Korea has a Permanent Mission to the UN in New York

**Diplomatic representation from the US**

none; note - Swedish Embassy in Pyongyang represents the US as consular protecting power

**Country name****conventional long form**

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

**conventional short form**

North Korea

**local long form**

Choson-minjujuui-inmin-konghwaguk

**local short form**

Choson

**abbreviation**

DPRK

**etymology**

derived from the Chinese name for Goryeo, which was the Korean dynasty that united the peninsula in the 10th century A.D.; the North Korean name "Choson" means "[Land of the] Morning Calm"

**Capital****name**

Pyongyang

**geographic coordinates**

39 01 N, 125 45 E

**time difference**

UTC+8.5 (13.5 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

**note**

on 15 August 2015, North Korea reverted to UTC+8.5, a time zone that had been observed during pre-colonial times

**Constitution****history**

previous 1948, 1972; latest adopted 1998 (during KIM Jong Il era)

**amendments**

proposed by the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA); passage requires more than two-thirds majority vote of the total SPA membership; revised 2009, 2012, 2013

**Citizenship**

**citizenship by birth**

no

**citizenship by descent only**

at least one parent must be a citizen of North Korea

**dual citizenship recognized**

no

**residency requirement for naturalization**

unknown

**Executive branch**

**chief of state**

Supreme People's Assembly President KIM Yong Nam (since 5 September 1998); note - functions as the technical head of state and performs related duties, such as receiving ambassadors' credentials

**head of government**

State Affairs Commission Chairman KIM Jong Un (since 17 December 2011); note - functions as the commander-in-chief and chief executive

**cabinet**

Cabinet or Naegak members appointed by the Supreme People's Assembly except the Minister of People's Armed Forces

**elections/appointments**

chief of state and premier indirectly elected by the Supreme People's Assembly; election last held on 9 March 2014 (next election NA)

**election results**

KIM Jong Un reelected unopposed

**note**

the Korean Workers' Party continues to list deceased leaders KIM Il Sung and KIM Jong Il as Eternal President and Eternal General Secretary respectively

**Legislative branch**

**description**

unicameral Supreme People's Assembly or Ch'oego Inmin Hoeui (687 seats; members directly elected by absolute majority vote to serve 5-year terms); note - the Korean Workers' Party selects all candidates

**elections**

last held on 9 March 2014

**election results**



percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - KWP 607, KSDF 50, Chondoist Chongu Party 22, Chongryon 5, religious associations 3; ruling party approves a list of candidates who are elected without opposition; KWP, KSDP, Chondoist Chongu Party, and Chongryon are part of the DFRF; a token number of seats are reserved for minor parties

### **Judicial branch**

#### **highest court(s)**

Supreme Court or Central Court (consists of one judge and 2 "People's Assessors" or for some cases, 3 judges)

#### **judge selection and term of office**

judges elected by the Supreme People's Assembly for 5-year terms

#### **subordinate courts**

lower provincial courts as determined by the Supreme People's Assembly

### **National anthem**

#### **name**

"Aegukka" (Patriotic Song)

#### **lyrics/music**

PAK Se Yong/KIM Won Gyun

#### **note**

adopted 1947; both North Korea's and South Korea's anthems share the same name and have a vaguely similar melody but have different lyrics; the North Korean anthem is also known as "Ach'imun pinnara" (Let Morning Shine)

### **Administrative divisions**

9 provinces (do

singular and plural) and 3 cities (si

singular and plural)

### **Independence**

15 August 1945 (from Japan)

### **International organization participation**

ARF

FAO

G-77

ICAO

ICRM

IFAD

IFRC

IHO

IMO

IMSO

IOC

IPU

ISO

ITSO

ITU

NAM

UN

UNCTAD

UNESCO

UNIDO

UNWTO

UPU

WFTU (NGOs)

WHO

WIPO

WMO

**National symbol(s)**

red star, chollima (winged horse)

national colors: red, white, blue

## **Military and security**

## **Military service age and obligation**

17 years of age for compulsory male and female military service

service obligation 10 years for men, to age 23 for women

## **Military branches**

North Korean People's Army: Ground Forces, Navy, Air Force

civil security forces

## **People and society**

### **Population**

25,248,140

### **Religions**

traditionally Buddhist and Confucianist, some Christian and syncretic Chondogyo (Religion of the Heavenly Way)

### **Population growth rate**

0.53%

### **Birth rate**

14.6 births/1,000 population

### **Death rate**

9.3 deaths/1,000 population

### **Net migration rate**

0 migrant(s)/1,000 population

### **Population distribution**

population concentrated in the plains and lowlands; least populated regions are the mountainous provinces adjacent to the Chinese border; largest concentrations are in the western provinces, particularly the municipal district of Pyongyang, and around Hungnam and Wonsan in the east

### **Total fertility rate**

1.95 children born/woman

### **Contraceptive prevalence rate**

78.2%

### **Physicians density**

3.51 physicians/1,000 population

### **Hospital bed density**

13.2 beds/1,000 population

### **Total fertility rate**

1.95 children born/woman

### **HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate**

NA

**HIV/AIDS - deaths**

NA

**Obesity - adult prevalence rate**

6.8%

**Children under the age of 5 years underweight**

15.2%

**Education expenditures**

NA

**Nationality**

Korean(s)

**Dependency ratios**

**total dependency ratio**

44.5

**youth dependency ratio**

30.5

**elderly dependency ratio**

14

**Median age**

**total**

34 years

**male**

32.5 years

**female**

35.6 years

**Urbanization**

**urban population**

61.2% of total population

**rate of urbanization**

0.8% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

**Infant mortality rate**

**total**

22.1 deaths/1,000 live births

**male**

24.6 deaths/1,000 live births

**female**

19.5 deaths/1,000 live births

**Life expectancy at birth**

**total population**

70.7 years

**male**

66.9 years

**female**

74.8 years

**Literacy**

**definition**

age 15 and over can read and write

**total population**

100%

**male**

100%

**female**

100%

**School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education)**

**total**

11 years

**male**

11 years

**female**

11 years

**Ethnic groups**

racially homogeneous

there is a small Chinese community and a few ethnic Japanese

**Languages**

Korean

**Urban areas**

PYONGYANG (capital) 2.863 million

**Age structure**

From age 0 to age 14 :	20.78%
From age 15 to age 24 :	15.59%
From age 25 to age 54 :	44.28%
From age 55 to age 64 :	9.77%
Over 65 :	9.56%

**Sex ratio**

(male to female)

At birth:	1.05
From age 0 to age 14 :	1.03

From age 15 to age 24 :	1.02
From age 25 to age 54 :	1.01
From age 55 to age 64 :	0.9
Over 65 :	0.53
Overall:	0.94

## **Transnational issues**

### **Refugees and internally displaced persons**

#### **IDPs**

undetermined (periodic flooding and famine during mid-1990s)

#### **Disputes - international**

risking arrest, imprisonment, and deportation, tens of thousands of North Koreans cross into China to escape famine, economic privation, and political oppression

North Korea and China dispute the sovereignty of certain islands in Yalu and Tumen Rivers

Military Demarcation Line within the 4-km-wide Demilitarized Zone has separated North from South Korea since 1953

periodic incidents in the Yellow Sea with South Korea which claims the Northern Limiting Line as a maritime boundary

North Korea supports South Korea in rejecting Japan's claim to Liancourt Rocks (Tok-do/Take-shima)

#### **Illicit drugs**

at present there is insufficient information to determine the current level of involvement of government officials in the production or trafficking of illicit drugs, but for years, from the 1970s into the 2000s, citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of (North) Korea (DPRK), many of them diplomatic employees of the government, were apprehended abroad while trafficking in narcotics

police investigations in Taiwan and Japan in recent years have linked North Korea to large illicit shipments of heroin and methamphetamine

## **Transportation**

### **Civil aircraft registration country code prefix**

P

#### **Airports**

82

#### **Heliports**

23

**Waterways**

2,250 km (most navigable only by small craft)

**National air transport system****number of registered air carriers**

1

**inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers**

17

**annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers**

223,418

**annual freight traffic on registered air carriers**

1,574,719 mt-km

**Airports - with paved runways****total**

39

**over 3,047 m**

3

**2,438 to 3,047 m**

22

**1,524 to 2,437 m**

8

**914 to 1,523 m**

2

**under 914 m**

4

**Airports - with unpaved runways****total**

43

**2,438 to 3,047 m**

3

**1,524 to 2,437 m**

17

**914 to 1,523 m**

15

**under 914 m**

8

**Railways****total**

7,435 km

**standard gauge**

7,435 km 1.435-m gauge (5,400 km electrified)

**Roadways**

**total**

25,554 km

**paved**

724 km

**unpaved**

24,830 km

**Merchant marine**

**total**

248

**by type**

bulk carrier 6, container ship 3, general cargo 184, oil tanker 25, other 30

**Ports and terminals**

**major seaport(s)**

Ch'ongjin, Haeju, Hungnam, Namp'o, Songnim, Sonbong (formerly Unggi), Wonsan

**Pipelines**

oil 6 km