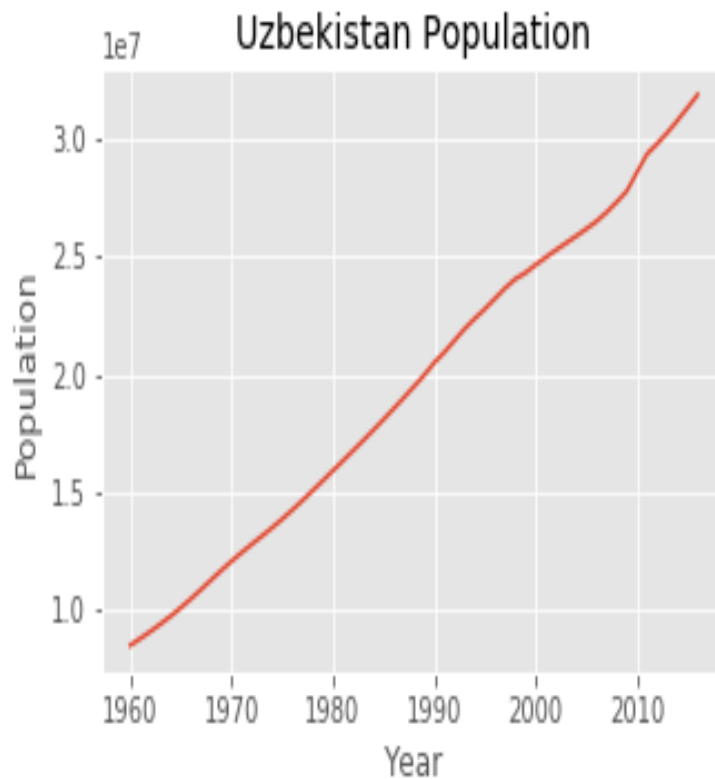


# Uzbekistan



Coordinates: 41°N 69°E / 41°N 69°E / 41; 69Uzbekistan (US: /ˈzʊbˌkɪstæn, -stæn/ ( listen), UK: /ˈzʊbˌkɪstən, z-, -stæn/), officially also the Republic of Uzbekistan (Uzbek: O'zbekiston Respublikasi), is a doubly landlocked Central Asian Sovereign state. It is a secular, unitary constitutional republic, comprising 12 provinces, one autonomous republic, and a capital city. Uzbekistan is bordered by five landlocked countries: Kazakhstan to the north; Kyrgyzstan to the northeast; Tajikistan to the southeast; Afghanistan to the south; and Turkmenistan to the southwest. What is now Uzbekistan was in ancient times part of the predominantly Iranian-speaking region of Transoxiana, with cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva growing rich from the Silk Road. The first settlers to this territory are known as Scythians. The earliest civilizations include Khwarezm (8th–6th centuries BC), Bactria (8th–6th centuries BC), Sogdia (8th–6th centuries BC), Fergana (3rd century BC – 6th century AD), and Margiana (3rd century BC – 6th century AD), founded by the East Iranian nomads. The area was incorporated into the Persian Empire, which saw its fall with the Muslim conquest in the 7th century, turning the majority of the population into Islam. Following the succession of the local rulers of Khwarezmian dynasty in the 11th century, the region fell to the Mongol invasion in the 13th century. The city of Shahrīsabz was the birthplace of Timur, who in 14th century established the Timurid Empire and was proclaimed the Supreme Emir of Turan. The area was conquered by Uzbek Shaybanids in the 16th century, moving the centre of power from Samarkand to Bukhara. The region was split into three states: Khanate of Khiva, Khanate of Kokand, and Emirate of Bukhara. It was gradually incorporated into the Russian Empire during the 19th century, with Tashkent becoming the political center of Russian Turkestan. In 1924, after national delimitation, the constituent republic of the Soviet Union known as the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic was created. Following the breakup of the Soviet Union, it declared independence as the Republic of Uzbekistan on 31 August 1991.