

Facts about six countries

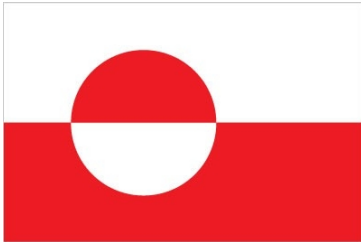
from the CIA's World Factbook

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GREENLAND

Country Flag



Country Map



Locator Map



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Introduction

Background

Greenland, the world's largest island, is about 80% ice-capped. Vikings reached the island in the 10th century from Iceland; Danish colonization began in the 18th century, and Greenland became an integral part of the Danish Realm in 1953. It joined the European Community (now the EU) with Denmark in 1973 but withdrew in 1985 over a dispute centered on stringent fishing quotas. Greenland remains a member of the Overseas Countries and Territories Association of the EU. Greenland was granted self-government in 1979 by the Danish parliament; the law went into effect the following year. Greenland voted in favor of increased self-rule in November 2008 and acquired greater responsibility for internal affairs when the Act on Greenland Self-Government was signed

into law in June 2009. Denmark, however, continues to exercise control over several policy areas on behalf of Greenland, including foreign affairs, security, and financial policy in consultation with Greenland's Self-Rule Government.

Geography

Location

Northern North America, island between the Arctic Ocean and the North Atlantic Ocean, northeast of Canada

Geographic coordinates

72 00 N, 40 00 W

Map references

Arctic Region

Area

Total

2,166,086 sq km

Land

2,166,086 sq km (approximately 1,710,000 sq km ice-covered)

(country comparison to the world: 13.)

Area - comparative

slightly more than three times the size of Texas

Land boundaries

Total

0 km

Coastline

44,087 km

Maritime claims

Territorial sea

3 nm

Continental shelf

200 nm or agreed boundaries or median line

Exclusive fishing zone

200 nm or agreed boundaries or median line

Climate

arctic to subarctic; cool summers, cold winters

Terrain

flat to gradually sloping icecap covers all but a narrow, mountainous, barren, rocky coast

Elevation

Highest point

Gunnbjorn Fjeld 3,694 m

Lowest point

Atlantic Ocean 0 m

Mean elevation

1,792 m

Natural resources

coal, iron ore, lead, zinc, molybdenum, diamonds, gold, platinum, niobium, tantalite, uranium, fish, seals, whales, hydropower, possible oil and gas

Land use

Agricultural land

0.6% (2018 est.) arable land: 0% (2018 est.) permanent crops: 0% (2018 est.) permanent pasture: 0.6% (2018 est.)

Forest

0% (2018 est.)

Other

99.4% (2018 est.)

Irrigated land

NA

Population distribution

settlement concentrated on the southwest shoreline, with limited settlements scattered along the remaining coast; interior is uninhabited

Natural hazards

continuous permafrost over northern two-thirds of the island

Geography - note

dominates North Atlantic Ocean between North America and Europe; sparse population confined to small settlements along coast; close to one-quarter of the population lives in the capital, Nuuk; world's second largest ice sheet after that of Antarctica covering an area of 1.71 million sq km (660,000 sq mi) or about 79% of the island, and containing 2.85 million cu km (684 thousand cu mi) of ice (this is almost 7% of all of the world's fresh water); if all this ice were converted to liquid water, one estimate is that it would be sufficient to raise the height of the world's oceans by 7.2 m (24 ft)

People and Society

Population

57,799 (July 2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 205.)

Nationality

Noun

Greenlander(s)

Adjective

Greenlandic

Ethnic groups

Greenlandic 89.5%, Danish 7.5%, other Nordic peoples 1.1%, and other 1.9% (2020 est.)

Note

data represent population by country of birth

Languages

Greenlandic (West Greenlandic or Kalaallisut is the official language), Danish, English

Religions

Evangelical Lutheran, traditional Inuit spiritual beliefs

Age structure

0-14 years

20.82% (male 6,079/female 5,916)

15-24 years

14.45% (male 4,186/female 4,137)

25-54 years

39.72% (male 11,962/female 10,921)

55-64 years

14.66% (male 4,561/female 3,886)

65 years and over

10.36% (male 3,170/female 2,798) (2020 est.)

Dependency ratios

Total dependency ratio

NA

Youth dependency ratio

NA

Elderly dependency ratio

NA

Potential support ratio

NA

Median age

Total

34.3 years

Male

35.1 years

Female

33.4 years (2020 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 92.)

Population growth rate

-0.01% (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 196.)

Birth rate

13.88 births/1,000 population (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 133.)

Death rate

8.88 deaths/1,000 population (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 61.)

Net migration rate

-5.07 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 202.)

Population distribution

settlement concentrated on the southwest shoreline, with limited settlements scattered along the remaining coast; interior is uninhabited

Urbanization

Urban population

87.5% of total population (2021)

Rate of urbanization

0.41% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

Major urban areas - population

18,000 NUUK (capital) (2018)

Sex ratio

At birth

1.05 male(s)/female

0-14 years

1.03 male(s)/female

15-24 years

1.01 male(s)/female

25-54 years

1.1 male(s)/female

55-64 years

1.17 male(s)/female

65 years and over

1.13 male(s)/female

Total population

1.08 male(s)/female (2020 est.)

Infant mortality rate

Total

8.9 deaths/1,000 live births

Male

10.43 deaths/1,000 live births

Female

7.28 deaths/1,000 live births (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 145.)

Life expectancy at birth

Total population

73.71 years

Male

70.99 years

Female

76.56 years (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 145.)

Total fertility rate

1.92 children born/woman (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 126.)

Contraceptive prevalence rate

NA

Drinking water source

Improved

urban: 100% of populationrural: 100% of populationtotal: 100% of population

Unimproved

urban: 0% of populationrural: 0% of populationtotal: 0% of population (2017 est.)

Current Health Expenditure

NA

Physicians density

1.87 physicians/1,000 population (2016)

Hospital bed density

14 beds/1,000 population (2016)

Sanitation facility access

Improved

urban: 100% of populationrural: 100% of populationtotal: 100% of population

Unimproved

urban: 0% of populationrural: 0% of populationtotal: 0% of population (2017 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate

NA

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS

NA

HIV/AIDS - deaths

NA

Children under the age of 5 years underweight

NA

Education expenditures

10.6% of GDP NA (2018)

(country comparison to the world: 2.)

Literacy

Definition

age 15 and over can read and write

Total population

100%

Male

100%

Female

100% (2015)

Environment

Environment - current issues

especially vulnerable to climate change and disruption of the Arctic environment; preservation of the Inuit traditional way of life, including whaling and seal hunting

Air pollutants

Carbon dioxide emissions

0.51 megatons (2016 est.)

Climate

arctic to subarctic; cool summers, cold winters

Land use

Agricultural land

0.6% (2018 est.)arable land: 0% (2018 est.)permanent crops: 0% (2018 est.)permanent pasture:
0.6% (2018 est.)

Forest

0% (2018 est.)

Other

99.4% (2018 est.)

Urbanization

Urban population

87.5% of total population (2021)

Rate of urbanization

0.41% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

Revenue from forest resources

Forest revenues

0% of GDP (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 169.)

Revenue from coal

Coal revenues

0% of GDP (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 103.)

Waste and recycling

Municipal solid waste generated annually

50,000 tons (2010 est.)

Government

Country name

Conventional long form

none

Conventional short form

Greenland

Local long form

none

Local short form

Kalaallit Nunaat

Note

named by Norwegian adventurer Erik THORVALDSSON (Erik the Red) in A.D. 985 in order to entice settlers to the island

Government type

parliamentary democracy (Parliament of Greenland or Inatsisartut)

Dependency status

part of the Kingdom of Denmark; self-governing overseas administrative division of Denmark since 1979

Capital

Name

Nuuk (Godthaab)

Geographic coordinates

64 11 N, 51 45 W

Time difference

UTC-3 (2 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Daylight saving time

+1hr, begins last Sunday in March; ends last Sunday in October

Time zone note

Greenland has four time zones

Etymology

"nuuk" is the Inuit word for "cape" and refers to the city's position at the end of the Nuup Kangerlua fjord

Administrative divisions

5 municipalities (kommuner, singular kommune); Avannaata, Kujalleq, Qeqertalik, Qeqqata, Sermersooq

Note

Northeast Greenland National Park (Kalaallit Nunaanni Nuna Eqqissisimatitaaq) and the Thule Air Base in Pituffik (in northwest Greenland) are two unincorporated areas; the national park's 972,000 sq km - about 46% of the island - makes it the largest national park in the world and also the most northerly

Independence

none (extensive self-rule as part of the Kingdom of Denmark; foreign affairs is the responsibility of Denmark, but Greenland actively participates in international agreements relating to Greenland)

National holiday

National Day, June 21; note - marks the summer solstice and the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere

Constitution

History

previous 1953 (Greenland established as a constituency in the Danish constitution), 1979 (Greenland Home Rule Act); latest 21 June 2009 (Greenland Self-Government Act) (2021)

Legal system

the laws of Denmark apply where applicable and Greenlandic law applies to other areas

Citizenship

see Denmark

Suffrage

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch

Chief of state

Queen MARGRETHE II of Denmark (since 14 January 1972), represented by High Commissioner Mikaela ENGELL (since April 2011)

Head of government

Premier Mute B. EGEDE (since 23 April 2021)

Cabinet

Self-rule Government (Naalakkersuisut) elected by the Parliament (Inatsisartut) on the basis of the strength of parties

Elections/appointments

the monarchy is hereditary; high commissioner appointed by the monarch; premier indirectly elected by Parliament for a 4-year term

Election results

Kim KIELSEN elected premier; Parliament vote - Kim KIELSEN (S) 27.2%, Sara OLSVIG (IA) 25.5%, Randi Vestergaard EVALDSEN (D) 19.5%, other 27.8%

Legislative branch

Description

unicameral Parliament or Inatsisartut (31 seats; members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by party-list proportional representation vote - using the d'Hondt method - to serve 4-year terms)Greenland elects 2 members to the Danish Parliament to serve 4-year terms

Elections

Greenland Parliament - last held on 6 April 2021 (next to be held in 2025)Greenland members to Danish Parliament - last held on 5 June 2019 (next to be held by 4 June 2023)

Election results

Greenland Parliament - percent of vote by party - IA 37.4%, S 30.1%, PN 12.3%, D 9.3%, A 7.1%, other 3.8%; seats by party - IA 12, S 10, PN 4, D 3, A 2; composition - men 21, women 10, percent of women 32.2%Greenland members in Danish Parliament - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - IA 1, S 1; composition - 2 women

Judicial branch

Highest courts

High Court of Greenland (consists of the presiding professional judge and 2 lay assessors); note - appeals beyond the High Court of Greenland can be heard by the Supreme Court (in Copenhagen)

Judge selection and term of office

judges appointed by the monarch upon the recommendation of the Judicial Appointments Council, a 6-member independent body of judges and lawyers; judges appointed for life with retirement at age 70

Subordinate courts

Court of Greenland; 18 district or magistrates' courts

Political parties and leaders

Democrats Party (Demokraatit) or D [Jens Frederik NIELSEN]Forward Party (Siumut) or S [Erik JENSEN]Inuit Community (Inuit Ataatigiiit) or IA [Mute Bourup EGEDE]Signpost Party (Partii Naleraq) or PN [Hans ENOKSEN]Fellowship Party (Atassut) or A [Aqqalu JERIMIASSEN]

International organization participation

Arctic Council, ICC, NC, NIB, UPU

Diplomatic representation in the US

Chief of mission

none (self-governing overseas administrative division of Denmark); note - Greenland has an office in the Danish Embassy in the US; it also has offices in the Danish consulates in Chicago and New York

Email address and website

washington@nanoq.gl

Diplomatic representation from the US

Embassy

none (self-governing overseas administrative division of Denmark)

Flag description

two equal horizontal bands of white (top) and red with a large disk slightly to the hoist side of center - the top half of the disk is red, the bottom half is white; the design represents the sun reflecting off a field of ice; the colors are the same as those of the Danish flag and symbolize Greenland's links to the Kingdom of Denmark

National symbol(s)

polar bear; national colors: red, white

National anthem

Name

"Nunarput utoqqarsuanngoravit" ("Our Country, Who's Become So Old" also translated as "You Our Ancient Land")

Lyrics/music

Henrik LUND/Jonathan PETERSEN

Note

adopted 1916; the government also recognizes "Nuna asiilasooq" as a secondary anthem

Economy

Economic overview

Greenland's economy depends on exports of shrimp and fish, and on a substantial subsidy from the Danish Government. Fish account for over 90% of its exports, subjecting the economy to price fluctuations. The subsidy from the Danish Government is budgeted to be about \$535 million in 2017, more than 50% of government revenues, and 25% of GDP.

The economy is expanding after a period of decline. The economy contracted between 2012 and 2014, grew by 1.7% in 2015 and by 7.7% in 2016. The expansion has been driven by larger quotas for shrimp, the predominant Greenlandic export, and also by increased activity in the construction sector, especially in Nuuk, the capital. Private consumption and tourism also are contributing to GDP growth more than in previous years. Tourism in Greenland grew annually around 20% in 2015 and 2016, largely a result of increasing numbers of cruise lines now operating in Greenland's western and southern waters during the peak summer tourism season.

The public sector, including publicly owned enterprises and the municipalities, plays a dominant role in Greenland's economy. During the last decade the Greenland Self Rule Government pursued conservative fiscal and monetary policies, but public pressure has increased for better schools, health care, and retirement systems. The budget was in deficit in 2014 and 2016, but public debt remains low at about 5% of GDP. The government plans a balanced budget for the 2017–20 period.

Significant challenges face the island, including low levels of qualified labor, geographic dispersion, lack of industry diversification, the long-term sustainability of the public budget, and a declining population due to emigration. Hydrocarbon exploration has ceased with declining oil prices. The island has potential for natural resource exploitation with rare-earth, uranium, and iron ore mineral projects proposed, but a lack of infrastructure hinders development.

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$2.413 billion (2015 est.)\$2.24 billion (2014 est.)\$2.203 billion (2013 est.)

Note

data are in 2015 US dollars

(country comparison to the world: 193.)

Real GDP growth rate

7.7% (2016 est.)1.7% (2015 est.)-0.8% (2014 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 10.)

Real GDP per capita

\$41,800 (2015 est.)\$38,800 (2014 est.)\$38,500 (2013 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 39.)

GDP (official exchange rate)

\$2.221 billion (2015 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices)

0.3% (January 2017 est.)1.2% (January 2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 32.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin

Agriculture

15.9% (2015 est.)

Industry

10.1% (2015 est.)

Services

73.9% (2015)

GDP - composition, by end use

Household consumption

68.1% (2015 est.)

Government consumption

28% (2015 est.)

Investment in fixed capital

14.3% (2015 est.)

Investment in inventories

-13.9% (2015 est.)

Exports of goods and services
18.2% (2015 est.)

Imports of goods and services
-28.6% (2015 est.)

Agricultural products

sheep, cattle, reindeer, fish, shellfish

Industries

fish processing (mainly shrimp and Greenland halibut); anorthosite and ruby mining; handicrafts, hides and skins, small shipyards

Industrial production growth rate

NA

Labor force

26,840 (2015 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 206.)

Labor force - by occupation

Agriculture
15.9%

Industry
10.1%

Services
73.9% (2015 est.)

Unemployment rate

9.1% (2015 est.)10.3% (2014 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 140.)

Population below poverty line

16.2% (2015 est.)

Gini Index coefficient - distribution of family income

33.9 (2015 est.)34.3 (2014 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 119.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share

Lowest 10%

NA

Highest 10%
NA

Budget

Revenues
1.719 billion (2016 est.)

Expenditures
1.594 billion (2016 est.)

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-)

5.6% (of GDP) (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 5.)

Public debt

13% of GDP (2015 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 196.)

Taxes and other revenues

77.4% (of GDP) (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 3.)

Fiscal year

calendar year

Exports

\$407.1 million (2015 est.)\$599.7 million (2014 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 195.)

Exports - partners

Denmark 55%, China 22%, Japan 6% (2019)

Exports - commodities

fish, crustaceans, fishing ships (2019)

Imports

\$783.5 million (2015 est.)\$866.1 million (2014 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 196.)

Imports - partners

Denmark 51%, Spain 23%, Sweden 12%, Iceland 7% (2019)

Imports - commodities

fishing ships, refined petroleum, construction vehicles, crustaceans, delivery trucks (2019)

Debt - external

\$36.4 million (2010)\$58 million (2009)

(country comparison to the world: 197.)

Exchange rates

Danish kroner (DKK) per US dollar -6.586 (2017 est.)6.7309 (2016 est.)6.7309 (2015 est.)6.7326 (2014 est.)5.6125 (2013 est.)

Energy

Electricity access

Electrification - total population
100% (2020)

Electricity - production

538 million kWh (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 163.)

Electricity - consumption

468 million kWh (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 170.)

Electricity - exports

0 kWh (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 141.)

Electricity - imports

0 kWh (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 153.)

Electricity - installed generating capacity

187,000 kW (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 167.)

Electricity - from fossil fuels

51% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 149.)

Electricity - from nuclear fuels

0% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 99.)

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants

49% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 42.)

Electricity - from other renewable sources

0% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 188.)

Crude oil - production

0 bbl/day (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 142.)

Crude oil - exports

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 130.)

Crude oil - imports

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 133.)

Crude oil - proved reserves

0 bbl (1 January 2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 138.)

Refined petroleum products - production

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 150.)

Refined petroleum products - consumption

4,000 bbl/day (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 184.)

Refined petroleum products - exports

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 159.)

Refined petroleum products - imports

3,973 bbl/day (2015 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 177.)

Natural gas - production

0 cu m (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 138.)

Natural gas - consumption

0 cu m (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 151.)

Natural gas - exports

0 cu m (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 113.)

Natural gas - imports

0 cu m (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 131.)

Natural gas - proved reserves

0 cu m (1 January 2014 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 140.)

Communications

Telephones - fixed lines

Total subscriptions

7,133 (2019)

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

12.59 (2019 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 197.)

Telephones - mobile cellular

Total subscriptions

61,656 (2019)

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

108.8 (2019 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 202.)

Telecommunication systems

General assessment

adequate domestic and international service provided by satellite, cables, and microwave radio relay; the fundamental telecommunications infrastructure consists of a digital radio link from Nanortalik in south Greenland to Uummannaq in north Greenland; satellites cover north and east Greenland for domestic and foreign telecommunications; a marine cable connects south and west Greenland to the rest of the world, extending from Nuuk and Qaqortoq to Canada and Iceland (2018)

Domestic

13 per 100 for fixed-line subscriptions and 115 per 100 for mobile-cellular (2019)

International

country code - 299; landing points for Greenland Connect, Greenland Connect North, Nunavut Undersea Fiber System submarine cables to Greenland, Iceland, and Canada; satellite earth stations - 15 (12 Intelsat, 1 Eutelsat, 2 Americom GE-2 (all Atlantic Ocean)) (2019)

Note

the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on production and supply chains globally; since 2020, some aspects of the telecom sector have experienced downturn, particularly in mobile device production; many network operators delayed upgrades to infrastructure; progress towards 5G implementation was postponed or slowed in some countries; consumer spending on telecom services and devices was affected by large-scale job losses and the consequent restriction on disposable incomes; the crucial nature of telecom services as a tool for work and school from home became evident, and received some support from governments

Broadcast media

the Greenland Broadcasting Company provides public radio and TV services throughout the island with a broadcast station and a series of repeaters; a few private local TV and radio stations; Danish public radio rebroadcasts are available (2019)

Internet country code

.gl

Internet users

Total

39,500 (2021 est.)

Percent of population

69.48% (2019 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 203.)

Broadband - fixed subscriptions

Total

14,404 (2019)

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

25.42 (2019 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 169.)

Transportation

National air transport system

Number of registered air carriers

1 (registered in Denmark) (2020)

Inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers

8 (registered in Denmark)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix

OY-H

Airports

Total

15 (2013)

(country comparison to the world: 146.)

Airports - with paved runways

Total

10

2,438 to 3,047 m

2

1,524 to 2,437 m

1

914 to 1,523 m

1

Under 914 m

6 (2019)

Airports - with unpaved runways

Total

5

1,524 to 2,437 m

1

914 to 1,523 m

2

Under 914 m

2 (2013)

Roadways

note: although there are short roads in towns, there are no roads between towns; inter-urban transport is either by sea or by air

Merchant marine

Total

8

By type

other 8 (2021)

(country comparison to the world: 161.)

Ports and terminals

Major seaport(s)

Sisimiut

Military and Security

Military and security forces

no regular military forces or conscription

Military - note

the Danish military's Joint Arctic Command in Nuuk is responsible for the defense of Greenland

Transnational Issues

Disputes - international

managed dispute between Canada and Denmark over Hans Island in the Kennedy Channel between Canada's Ellesmere Island and Greenland; Denmark (Greenland) and Norway have made submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) and Russia is collecting additional data to augment its 2001 CLCS submission

ICELAND

Country Flag



Country Map



Locator Map



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Introduction

Background

Settled by Norwegian and Celtic (Scottish and Irish) immigrants during the late 9th and 10th centuries A.D., Iceland boasts the world's oldest functioning legislative assembly, the Althingi, established in 930. Independent for over 300 years, Iceland was subsequently ruled by Norway and Denmark. Fallout from the Askja volcano of 1875 devastated the Icelandic economy and caused widespread famine. Over the next quarter century, 20% of the island's population emigrated, mostly to Canada and the US. Denmark granted limited home rule in 1874 and complete independence in 1944. The second half of the 20th century saw substantial economic growth driven primarily by the fishing industry. The economy diversified greatly after the country joined the European

Economic Area in 1994, but Iceland was especially hard hit by the global financial crisis in the years following 2008. The economy is now on an upward trajectory, fueled primarily by a tourism and construction boom. Literacy, longevity, and social cohesion are first rate by world standards.

Geography

Location

Northern Europe, island between the Greenland Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, northwest of the United Kingdom

Geographic coordinates

65 00 N, 18 00 W

Map references

Arctic Region

Area

Total

103,000 sq km

Land

100,250 sq km

Water

2,750 sq km

(country comparison to the world: 108.)

Area - comparative

slightly smaller than Pennsylvania; about the same size as Kentucky

Land boundaries

Total

0 km

Coastline

4,970 km

Maritime claims

Territorial sea

12 nm

Exclusive economic zone

200 nm

Continental shelf

200 nm or to the edge of the continental margin

Climate

temperate; moderated by North Atlantic Current; mild, windy winters; damp, cool summers

Terrain

mostly plateau interspersed with mountain peaks, icefields; coast deeply indented by bays and fiords

Elevation

Highest point

Hvannadalshnukur (at Vatnajökull Glacier) 2,110 m

Lowest point

Atlantic Ocean 0 m

Mean elevation

557 m

Natural resources

fish, hydropower, geothermal power, diatomite

Land use

Agricultural land

18.7% (2018 est.) arable land: 1.2% (2018 est.) permanent crops: 0% (2018 est.) permanent pasture: 17.5% (2018 est.)

Forest

0.3% (2018 est.)

Other

81% (2018 est.)

Irrigated land

NA

Population distribution

Iceland is almost entirely urban with half of the population located in and around the capital of Reykjavik; smaller clusters are primarily found along the coast in the north and west

Natural hazards

earthquakes and volcanic activity

volcanism: Iceland, situated on top of a hotspot, experiences severe volcanic activity; Eyjafjallajökull (1,666 m) erupted in 2010, sending ash high into the atmosphere and seriously disrupting European air traffic; scientists continue to monitor nearby Katla (1,512 m), which has a high probability of eruption in the very near future, potentially disrupting air traffic; Grimsvoetn and Hekla are Iceland's most active volcanoes; other historically active volcanoes include Askja, Bardarbunga, Brennisteinsfjöll, Esjufjöll, Hengill, Krafla, Krisuvík, Kverkfjöll, Oraefajökull, Reykjanes, Torfajökull, and Vestmannaeyjar

Geography - note

strategic location between Greenland and Europe; westernmost European country; Reykjavík is the northernmost national capital in the world; more land covered by glaciers than in all of continental Europe

People and Society

Population

354,234 (July 2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 177.)

Nationality

Noun

Icelander(s)

Adjective

Icelandic

Ethnic groups

Icelandic 81.7%, Polish 5.6%, Danish 1%, other 11.7% (2020 est.)

Note

: data represent population by country of birth

Languages

Icelandic, English, Nordic languages, German

Religions

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland (official) 62.3%, Roman Catholic 4%, Reykjavík Free Church 2.7%, Hafnarfjörður Free Church 2%, pagan worship 1.4%, Icelandic Ethical Humanist 1.1%, other religions 4% (includes Zúist and Pentecostal), none 7.6%, other or unspecified 15% (2021 est.)

Age structure

0-14 years

20.31% (male 36,394/female 34,837)

15-24 years

12.85% (male 22,748/female 22,317)

25-54 years

39.44% (male 70,227/female 68,095)

55-64 years

11.94% (male 20,762/female 21,111)

65 years and over

15.47% (male 25,546/female 28,697) (2020 est.)

Dependency ratios

Total dependency ratio

54

Youth dependency ratio

29.9

Elderly dependency ratio

24.1

Potential support ratio

4.2 (2020 est.)

Median age

Total

37.1 years

Male

36.6 years

Female

37.7 years (2020 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 74.)

Population growth rate

0.97% (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 102.)

Birth rate

13.12 births/1,000 population (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 139.)

Death rate

6.56 deaths/1,000 population (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 134.)

Net migration rate

3.09 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 36.)

Population distribution

Iceland is almost entirely urban with half of the population located in and around the capital of Reykjavik; smaller clusters are primarily found along the coast in the north and west

Urbanization

Urban population

93.9% of total population (2021)

Rate of urbanization

0.74% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

Major urban areas - population

216,000 REYKJAVIK (capital) (2018)

Sex ratio

At birth

1.05 male(s)/female

0-14 years

1.04 male(s)/female

15-24 years

1.02 male(s)/female

25-54 years

1.03 male(s)/female

55-64 years

0.98 male(s)/female

65 years and over

0.89 male(s)/female

Total population

1 male(s)/female (2020 est.)

Mother's mean age at first birth

28.7 years (2019 est.)

Maternal mortality ratio

4 deaths/100,000 live births (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 173.)

Infant mortality rate

Total

1.66 deaths/1,000 live births

Male

1.85 deaths/1,000 live births

Female

1.47 deaths/1,000 live births (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 225.)

Life expectancy at birth

Total population

83.45 years

Male

81.21 years

Female

85.79 years (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 7.)

Total fertility rate

1.96 children born/woman (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 116.)

Contraceptive prevalence rate

NA

Drinking water source

Improved

urban: 100% of populationrural: 100% of populationtotal: 100% of population

Unimproved

urban: 0% of populationrural: 0% of populationtotal: 0% of population (2017 est.)

Current Health Expenditure

8.5% (2018)

Physicians density

4.08 physicians/1,000 population (2018)

Hospital bed density

2.8 beds/1,000 population (2019)

Sanitation facility access

Improved

urban: 100% of population rural: 100% of population total: 100% of population

Unimproved

urban: 0% of population rural: 0% of population total: 0% of population (2017 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate

0.1% (2020)

(country comparison to the world: 125.)

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS

<500 (2020)

Note

estimate does not include children

HIV/AIDS - deaths

<100 (2020)

Note

estimate does not include children

Obesity - adult prevalence rate

21.9% (2016)

(country comparison to the world: 83.)

Children under the age of 5 years underweight

NA

Education expenditures

7.6% of GDP (2018)

(country comparison to the world: 13.)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education)

Total

19 years

Male

18 years

Female

20 years (2019)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24

Total

10%

Male

11.1%

Female

9% (2020 est.)

Environment

Environment - current issues

water pollution from fertilizer runoff

Environment - international agreements

Party to

Air Pollution, Air Pollution-Persistent Organic Pollutants, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Climate Change-Paris Agreement, Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping-London Convention, Marine Dumping-London Protocol, Nuclear Test Ban, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands, Whaling

Signed, but not ratified

Air Pollution-Heavy Metals, Environmental Modification, Marine Life Conservation

Air pollutants

Particulate matter emissions

5.94 micrograms per cubic meter (2016 est.)

Carbon dioxide emissions

2.06 megatons (2016 est.)

Methane emissions

0.59 megatons (2020 est.)

Climate

temperate; moderated by North Atlantic Current; mild, windy winters; damp, cool summers

Land use

Agricultural land

18.7% (2018 est.) arable land: 1.2% (2018 est.) permanent crops: 0% (2018 est.) permanent pasture: 17.5% (2018 est.)

Forest

0.3% (2018 est.)

Other

81% (2018 est.)

Urbanization

Urban population

93.9% of total population (2021)

Rate of urbanization

0.74% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

Revenue from forest resources

Forest revenues

0% of GDP (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 173.)

Revenue from coal

Coal revenues

0% of GDP (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 113.)

Waste and recycling

Municipal solid waste generated annually

525,000 tons (2015 est.)

Municipal solid waste recycled annually

293,003 tons (2013 est.)

Percent of municipal solid waste recycled

55.8% (2013 est.)

Total water withdrawal

Municipal

80 million cubic meters (2017 est.)

Industrial

198 million cubic meters (2017 est.)

Agricultural

300,000 cubic meters (2017 est.)

Total renewable water resources

170 billion cubic meters (2017 est.)

Government

Country name

Conventional long form

Republic of Iceland

Conventional short form

Iceland

Local long form

Lydveldid Island

Local short form

Island

Etymology

Floki VILGERDARSON, an early explorer of the island (9th century), applied the name "Land of Ice" after spotting a fjord full of drift ice to the north and spending a bitter winter on the island; he eventually settled on the island, however, after he saw how it greened up in the summer and that it was, in fact, habitable

Government type

unitary parliamentary republic

Capital

Name

Reykjavik

Geographic coordinates

64 09 N, 21 57 W

Time difference

UTC 0 (5 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Etymology

the name means "smoky bay" in Icelandic and refers to the steamy, smoke-like vapors discharged by hot springs in the area

Administrative divisions

69 municipalities (sveitarfelog, singular - sveitarfelagidh); Akrahreppur, Akranes, Akureyri, Arneshreppur, Asahreppur, Blaskogabyggdh, Blonduosbaer, Bolungarvik, Borgarbyggdh, Dalabyggdh, Dalvikurbyggdh, Eyjafjardharsveit, Eyja-og Miklaholtshreppur, Fjallabyggdh, Fjardabyggdh, Fljotsdalshreppur, Floahreppur, Gardhabaer, Grimsnes-og Grafningshreppur, Grindavikurbaer, Grundarfjardharbaer, Grytubakkahreppur, Hafnarfjordhur, Helgafellssveit, Horgarsveit, Hrunamannahreppur, Hunathing Vestra, Hunavatnshreppur, Hvalfjardharsveit, Hveragerdhi, Isafjardharbaer, Kaldrananeshreppur, Kjosarhreppur, Kopavogur, Langanesbyggdh, Mosfellsbaer, Mulathing, Myrdalshreppur, Nordhurthing, Rangarthing Eystra, Rangarthing Ytra, Reykholahreppur, Reykjanesbaer, Reykjavik, Seltjarnarnes, Skaftarhreppur, Skagabyggdh, Skeidha-og Gnupverjahreppur, Skorradalshreppur, Skutustadhahreppur, Snaefellsbaer, Strandabyggdh, Stykkisholmur, Sudhavikurhreppur, Sudhurnesjabaer, Svalbardhshreppur, Svalbardhsstrandahreppur, Sveitarfelagidh Arborg, Sveitarfelagidh Hornafjordhur, Sveitarfelagidh Olfus, Sveitarfelagidh Skagafjordhur, Sveitarfelagidh Skagastond, Sveitarfelagidh Vogar, Talknafjardharhreppur, Thingeyjarsveit, Tjorneshreppur, Vestmannaeyjar, Vesturbyggdh, Vopnafjardharhreppur

Independence

1 December 1918 (became a sovereign state under the Danish Crown); 17 June 1944 (from Denmark; birthday of Jon SIGURDSSON, leader of Iceland's 19th Century independence movement)

National holiday

Independence Day, 17 June (1944)

Constitution

History

several previous; latest ratified 16 June 1944, effective 17 June 1944 (at independence)

Amendments

proposed by the Althingi; passage requires approval by the Althingi and by the next elected Althingi, and confirmation by the president of the republic; proposed amendments to Article 62 of the constitution – that the Evangelical Lutheran Church shall be the state church of Iceland – also require passage by referendum; amended many times, last in 2013

Legal system

civil law system influenced by the Danish model

International law organization participation

has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; accepts ICCt jurisdiction

Citizenship

Citizenship by birth

no

Citizenship by descent only
at least one parent must be a citizen of Iceland

Dual citizenship recognized
yes

Residency requirement for naturalization
3 to 7 years

Suffrage

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch

Chief of state
President Gudni Thorlacius JOHANNESSEN (since 1 August 2016)

Head of government
Prime Minister Katrin JAKOBSDOTTIR (since 30 November 2017)

Cabinet
Cabinet appointed by the president upon the recommendation of the prime minister

Elections/appointments
president directly elected by simple majority popular vote for a 4-year term (no term limits);
election last held on 27 June 2020 (next to be held in 2024); following legislative elections, the
leader of the majority party or majority coalition becomes prime minister

Election results
Gudni Thorlacius JOHANNESSEN reelected president; percent of vote - Gudni Thorlacius
JOHANNESSEN (independent) 92.2%, Gudmundur Franklin JONSSON (independent) 7.8%

Legislative branch

Description
unicameral Althingi or Parliament (63 seats; members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies
by closed-list proportional representation vote using the D'Hondt method; members serve 4-year
terms)

Elections
last held on 25 September 2021 (next to be held in 2025)

Election results
percent of vote by party - IP 24.4%, PP 17.3%, LGM 12.6%, SDA 9.9%, People's Party 8.8%,
Pirate Party 8.6%, Reform Party 8.3%. CP 5.4%, other 4.7%; seats by party - IP 16, PP 13, LGM 8,
SDA 6, People's Party 6, Pirate Party 6, Reform Party 5, CP 3; composition - men 33, women 30;
percent of women 47.6%

Judicial branch

Highest courts

Supreme Court or Haestirettur (consists of 9 judges)

Judge selection and term of office

judges proposed by Ministry of Interior selection committee and appointed by the president; judges appointed for an indefinite period

Subordinate courts

Appellate Court or Landsrettur; 8 district courts; Labor Court

Political parties and leaders

Centrist Party (Midflokkurinn) or CP [Sigmundur David GUNNLAUGSSON] Independence Party (Sjalfstaedisflokkurinn) or IP [Bjarni BENEDIKTSSON] Left-Green Movement (Vinstrihreyfingin-graent framboð) or LGM [Katrín JAKOBSDOTTIR] People's Party (Flokkur Folksins) [Inga SÆLAND] Pirate Party (Píratar) [Halldóra MOGENSEN] Progressive Party (Framsóknarflokkurinn) or PP [Sigurður Ingi JOHANNSSON] Reform Party (Vidreisn) [Thorgerður Katrín GUNNARSDÓTTIR] Social Democratic Alliance (Samfylkingin) or SDA [Logi Mar EINARSSON]

International organization participation

Arctic Council, Australia Group, BIS, CBSS, CD, CE, EAPC, EBRD, EFTA, FAO, FATF, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICCT, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCs, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, NATO, NC, NEA, NIB, NSG, OAS (observer), OECD, OPCW, OSCE, PCA, Schengen Convention, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UPU, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US

Chief of mission

Ambassador Bergdis ELLERTSDÓTTIR (since 16 September 2019)

Chancery

House of Sweden, 2900 K Street NW, #509, Washington, DC 20007

Telephone

[1] (202) 265-6653

FAX

[1] (202) 265-6656

Email address and website

washington@mfa.is

<https://www.government.is/diplomatic-missions/embassy-of-iceland-in-washington-d.c/>

Consulate(s) general

New York

Diplomatic representation from the US

Chief of mission

Ambassador (vacant); Michelle YERKIN (since June 2021)

Embassy

Engjateigur 7, 105 Reykjavik

Mailing address

5640 Reykjavik Place, Washington, D.C. 20521-5640

Telephone

[354] 595-2200

FAX

[354] 562-9118

Email address and website

ReykjavikConsular@state.gov

<https://is.usembassy.gov/>

Flag description

blue with a red cross outlined in white extending to the edges of the flag; the vertical part of the cross is shifted to the hoist side in the style of the Dannebrog (Danish flag); the colors represent three of the elements that make up the island: red is for the island's volcanic fires, white recalls the snow and ice fields of the island, and blue is for the surrounding ocean

National symbol(s)

gyrfalcon; national colors: blue, white, red

National anthem

Name

"Lofsongur" (Song of Praise)

Lyrics/music

Matthias JOCHUMSSON/Sveinbjorn SVEINBJORNSSON

Note

adopted 1944; also known as "O, Gud vors lands" (O, God of Our Land), the anthem was originally written and performed in 1874

Economy

Economic overview

Iceland's economy combines a capitalist structure and free-market principles with an extensive welfare system. Except for a brief period during the 2008 crisis, Iceland has in recent years achieved high growth, low unemployment, and a remarkably even distribution of income. Iceland's

economy has been diversifying into manufacturing and service industries in the last decade, particularly withi`n the fields of tourism, software production, and biotechnology. Abundant geothermal and hydropower sources have attracted substantial foreign investment in the aluminum sector, boosted economic growth, and sparked some interest from high-tech firms looking to establish data centers using cheap green energy.

Tourism, aluminum smelting, and fishing are the pillars of the economy. For decades the Icelandic economy depended heavily on fisheries, but tourism has now surpassed fishing and aluminum as Iceland's main export industry. Tourism accounted for 8.6% of Iceland's GDP in 2016, and 39% of total exports of merchandise and services. From 2010 to 2017, the number of tourists visiting Iceland increased by nearly 400%. Since 2010, tourism has become a main driver of Icelandic economic growth, with the number of tourists reaching 4.5 times the Icelandic population in 2016. Iceland remains sensitive to fluctuations in world prices for its main exports, and to fluctuations in the exchange rate of the Icelandic Krona.

Following the privatization of the banking sector in the early 2000s, domestic banks expanded aggressively in foreign markets, and consumers and businesses borrowed heavily in foreign currencies. Worsening global financial conditions throughout 2008 resulted in a sharp depreciation of the krona vis-a-vis other major currencies. The foreign exposure of Icelandic banks, whose loans and other assets totaled nearly nine times the country's GDP, became unsustainable. Iceland's three largest banks collapsed in late 2008. GDP fell 6.8% in 2009, and unemployment peaked at 9.4% in February 2009. Three new banks were established to take over the domestic assets of the collapsed banks. Two of them have majority ownership by the state, which intends to re-privatize them.

Since the collapse of Iceland's financial sector, government economic priorities have included stabilizing the krona, implementing capital controls, reducing Iceland's high budget deficit, containing inflation, addressing high household debt, restructuring the financial sector, and diversifying the economy. Capital controls were lifted in March 2017, but some financial protections, such as reserve requirements for specified investments connected to new inflows of foreign currency, remain in place.

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$19.16 billion note: data are in 2017 dollars (2020 est.)\$20.52 billion note: data are in 2017 dollars (2019 est.)\$20.01 billion note: data are in 2017 dollars (2018 est.)

Note

data are in 2010 dollars

(country comparison to the world: 152.)

Real GDP growth rate

1.94% (2019 est.)3.88% (2018 est.)4.57% (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 141.)

Real GDP per capita

\$52,300 note: data are in 2017 dollars (2020 est.)\$56,900 note: data are in 2017 dollars (2019 est.)\$56,700 note: data are in 2017 dollars (2018 est.)

Note

data are in 2010 dollars

(country comparison to the world: 24.)

GDP (official exchange rate)

\$24.614 billion (2019 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices)

3% (2019 est.)2.6% (2018 est.)1.7% (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 147.)

Credit ratings

Fitch rating

A (2017)

Moody's rating

A2 (2019)

Standard & Poors rating

A (2017)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin

Agriculture

5.8% (2017 est.)

Industry

19.7% (2017 est.)

Services

74.6% (2017 est.)

GDP - composition, by end use

Household consumption

50.4% (2017 est.)

Government consumption

23.3% (2017 est.)

Investment in fixed capital

22.1% (2017 est.)

Investment in inventories

0% (2017 est.)

Exports of goods and services

47% (2017 est.)

Imports of goods and services

-42.8% (2017 est.)

Agricultural products

milk, mutton, poultry, potatoes, barley, pork, eggs, beef, other meat, sheep skins

Industries

tourism, fish processing; aluminum smelting;; geothermal power, hydropower; medical/ pharmaceutical products

Industrial production growth rate

2.4% (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 120.)

Labor force

200,000 (2020 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 170.)

Labor force - by occupation

Agriculture

4.8%

Industry

22.2%

Services

73% (2008)

Unemployment rate

3.62% (2019 est.)2.73% (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 51.)

Population below poverty line

8.8% (2017 est.)

Gini Index coefficient - distribution of family income

26.8 (2015 est.)25 (2005)

(country comparison to the world: 166.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share

Lowest 10%

NA

Highest 10%

NA

Budget

Revenues

10.39 billion (2017 est.)

Expenditures

10.02 billion (2017 est.)

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-)

1.5% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 22.)

Public debt

40% of GDP (2017 est.)51.7% of GDP (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 126.)

Taxes and other revenues

42.4% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 31.)

Fiscal year

calendar year

Current account balance

\$1.496 billion (2019 est.)\$814 million (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 47.)

Exports

\$7.43 billion note: data are in current year dollars (2020 est.)\$11.01 billion note: data are in current year dollars (2019 est.)\$12.26 billion note: data are in current year dollars (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 113.)

Exports - partners

Netherlands 23%, United Kingdom 9%, Germany 9%, Spain 8%, United States 7%, France 7%, Canada 5% (2019)

Exports - commodities

aluminum and aluminum products, fish products, aircraft, iron alloys, animal meal (2019)

Imports

\$7.55 billion note: data are in current year dollars (2020 est.)\$9.76 billion note: data are in current year dollars (2019 est.)\$11.34 billion note: data are in current year dollars (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 120.)

Imports - partners

Norway 11%, Netherlands 10%, Germany 8%, Denmark 8%, United States 7%, United Kingdom 6%, China 6%, Sweden 5% (2019)

Imports - commodities

refined petroleum, aluminum oxide, carbon/graphite electronics, cars, packaged medicines (2019)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold

\$6.567 billion (31 December 2017 est.)\$7.226 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 89.)

Debt - external

\$19.422 billion (2019 est.)\$22.055 billion (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 94.)

Exchange rates

Icelandic kronur (ISK) per US dollar -127.05 (2020 est.)121.68 (2019 est.)121.86 (2018 est.)131.92 (2014 est.)116.77 (2013 est.)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24

Total

10%

Male

11.1%

Female

9% (2020 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 140.)

Energy

Electricity access

Electrification - total population

100% (2020)

Electricity - production

18.17 billion kWh (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 80.)

Electricity - consumption

17.68 billion kWh (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 73.)

Electricity - exports

0 kWh (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 148.)

Electricity - imports

0 kWh (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 160.)

Electricity - installed generating capacity

2.772 million kW (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 100.)

Electricity - from fossil fuels

4% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 206.)

Electricity - from nuclear fuels

0% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 109.)

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants

71% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 16.)

Electricity - from other renewable sources

25% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 28.)

Crude oil - production

0 bbl/day (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 151.)

Crude oil - exports

0 bbl/day (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 139.)

Crude oil - imports

0 bbl/day (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 143.)

Crude oil - proved reserves

0 bbl (1 January 2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 147.)

Refined petroleum products - production

0 bbl/day (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 159.)

Refined petroleum products - consumption

20,850 bbl/day (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 139.)

Refined petroleum products - exports

2,530 bbl/day (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 101.)

Refined petroleum products - imports

20,220 bbl/day (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 120.)

Natural gas - production

0 cu m (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 148.)

Natural gas - consumption

0 cu m (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 160.)

Natural gas - exports

0 cu m (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 123.)

Natural gas - imports

0 cu m (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 140.)

Natural gas - proved reserves

0 cu m (1 January 2014 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 149.)

Communications

Telephones - fixed lines

Total subscriptions

107,032 (2020)

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

31.37 (2020 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 135.)

Telephones - mobile cellular

Total subscriptions

421,384 (2020)

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

123.5 (2020 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 177.)

Telecommunication systems

General assessment

small but most progressive telecom market in Europe; telecom infrastructure is modern and fully digitized, with satellite-earth stations, fiber-optic cables, and an extensive broadband network; near universal fixed broadband service of at least 100Mb/s by the end of 2021; operator aims for national 5G coverage by end of 2022; good competition among mobile and broadband markets; investment by operators and government in support of NGN, particularly in rural areas; submarine cable to Ireland; importer of broadcasting equipment from Vietnam and China (2020)

Domestic

liberalization of the telecommunications sector beginning in the late 1990s has led to increased competition especially in the mobile services segment of the market; 37 per 100 for fixed line and 122 per 100 for mobile-cellular subscriptions (2019)

International

country code - 354; landing points for the CANTAT-3, FARICE-1, Greenland Connect and DANICESubmarine cable system that provides connectivity to Canada, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, UK, Denmark, and Germany;satellite earth stations - 2 Intelsat (Atlantic Ocean), 1 Inmarsat (Atlantic and Indian Ocean regions); note - Iceland shares the Inmarsat earth station with the other Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden) (2019)

Note

the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on production and supply chains globally; since 2020, some aspects of the telecom sector have experienced downturn, particularly in mobile device production; many network operators delayed upgrades to infrastructure; progress towards 5G implementation was postponed or slowed in some countries; consumer spending on telecom services and devices was affected by large-scale job losses and the consequent restriction on disposable incomes; the crucial nature of telecom services as a tool for work and school from home became evident, and received some support from governments

Broadcast media

state-owned public TV broadcaster (RUV) operates 21 TV channels nationally (RUV and RUV 2, though RUV 2 is used less frequently); RUV broadcasts nationally, every household in Iceland is required to have RUV as it doubles as the emergency broadcast network; RUV also operates stringer offices in the north (Akureyri) and the east (Egilsstadir) but operations are all run out of RUV headquarters in Reykjavik; there are 3 privately owned TV stations; Stod 2 (Channel 2) is owned by Syn, following 365 Media and Vodafone merger, and is headquartered in Reykjavik; Syn also operates 4 sports channels under Stod 2; N4 is the only television station headquartered outside of Reykjavik, in Akureyri, with local programming for the north, south, and east of Iceland; Hringbraut is the newest station and is headquartered in Reykjavik; all of these television stations have nationwide penetration as 100% of households have multi-channel services though digital and/or fiber-optic connections

RUV operates 3 radio stations (RAS 1, RAS2, and Rondo) as well as 4 regional stations (but they mostly act as range extenders for RUV radio broadcasts nationwide); there is 1 privately owned radio conglomerate, Syn (4 stations), that broadcasts nationwide, and 3 other radio stations that broadcast to the most densely populated regions of the country. In addition there are upwards of 20 radio stations that operate regionally

(2019)

Internet country code

.is

Internet users

Total

338,900 (2021 est.)

Percent of population

98.26% (2019 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 168.)

Broadband - fixed subscriptions

Total

141,816 (2020)

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

41.56 (2020 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 121.)

Transportation

National air transport system

Number of registered air carriers

6 (2020)

Inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers

63

Annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers

7,819,740 (2018)

Annual freight traffic on registered air carriers

163.65 million mt-km (2018)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix

TF

Airports

Total

96 (2013)

(country comparison to the world: 59.)

Airports - with paved runways

Total

7

Over 3,047 m

1

1,524 to 2,437 m

3

914 to 1,523 m

3 (2017)

Airports - with unpaved runways

Total

89

1,524 to 2,437 m

3

914 to 1,523 m

26

Under 914 m

60 (2013)

Roadways

Total

12,898 km (2012)

Paved/oiled gravel

5,647 km (excludes urban roads) (2012)

Unpaved

7,251 km (2012)

(country comparison to the world: 129.)

Merchant marine

Total

41

By type

general cargo 5, oil tanker 2, other 34 (2021)

(country comparison to the world: 124.)

Ports and terminals

Major seaport(s)

Grundartangi, Hafnarfjordur, Reykjavik

Military and Security

Military and security forces

no regular military forces; Ministry of Interior: Icelandic Coast Guard (includes both air and maritime elements); Icelandic National Police (2021)

Military and security service personnel strengths

the Icelandic Coast Guard has approximately 250 personnel (2021)

Military equipment inventories and acquisitions

the Icelandic Coast Guard's inventory consists of equipment from European suppliers (2021)

Military - note

Iceland was one of the original 12 countries to sign the North Atlantic Treaty (also known as the Washington Treaty) in 1949; Iceland is the only NATO member that has no standing military force; defense of Iceland remains a NATO commitment and NATO maintains an air policing presence in Icelandic airspace; Iceland participates in international peacekeeping missions with the civilian-manned Icelandic Crisis Response Unit (ICRU)

Iceland cooperates with the militaries of other Nordic countries through the Nordic Defense Cooperation (NORDEF), which consists of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden; areas of cooperation include armaments, education, human resources, training and exercises, and operations; NORDEF was established in 2009

Transnational Issues

Disputes - international

Iceland, the UK, and Ireland dispute Denmark's claim that the Faroe Islands' continental shelf extends beyond 200 nm; the European Free Trade Association Surveillance Authority filed a suit against Iceland, claiming the country violated the Agreement on the European Economic Area in failing to pay minimum compensation to Icesave depositors

Refugees and internally displaced persons

Stateless persons

65 (2020)

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

Country Flag



Country Map



Locator Map



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Introduction

Background

Carib Indians occupied the islands of the West Indies for hundreds of years before the British and French began settlement in 1623. During the course of 17th century, Saint Kitts became the premier base for English and French expansion into the Caribbean. The French ceded the territory to the UK in 1713. At the turn of the 18th century, Saint Kitts was the richest British Crown Colony per capita in the Caribbean, a result of the sugar trade. Although small in size and separated by only 3 km (2 mi) of water, Saint Kitts and Nevis were viewed and governed as different states until the late-19th century, when the British forcibly unified them along with the island of Anguilla. In 1967, the island territory of Saint Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla became an associated state of the UK with

full internal autonomy. The island of Anguilla rebelled and was allowed to secede in 1971. The remaining islands achieved independence in 1983 as Saint Kitts and Nevis. In 1998, a referendum on Nevis to separate from Saint Kitts fell short of the two-thirds majority vote needed.

Geography

Location

Caribbean, islands in the Caribbean Sea, about one-third of the way from Puerto Rico to Trinidad and Tobago

Geographic coordinates

17 20 N, 62 45 W

Map references

Central America and the Caribbean

Area

Total

261 sq km (Saint Kitts 168 sq km; Nevis 93 sq km)

Land

261 sq km

Water

0 sq km

(country comparison to the world: 211.)

Area - comparative

1.5 times the size of Washington, DC

Land boundaries

Total

0 km

Coastline

135 km

Maritime claims

Territorial sea

12 nm

Contiguous zone

24 nm

Exclusive economic zone

200 nm

Continental shelf

200 nm or to the edge of the continental margin

Climate

tropical, tempered by constant sea breezes; little seasonal temperature variation; rainy season (May to November)

Terrain

volcanic with mountainous interiors

Elevation

Highest point

Mount Liamuiga 1,156 m

Lowest point

Caribbean Sea 0 m

Natural resources

arable land

Land use

Agricultural land

23.1% (2018 est.)arable land: 19.2% (2018 est.)permanent crops: 0.4% (2018 est.)permanent pasture: 3.5% (2018 est.)

Forest

42.3% (2018 est.)

Other

34.6% (2018 est.)

Irrigated land

8 sq km (2012)

Population distribution

population clusters are found in the small towns located on the periphery of both islands

Natural hazards

hurricanes (July to October)

volcanism: Mount Liamuiga (1,156 m) on Saint Kitts, and Nevis Peak (985 m) on Nevis, are both volcanoes that are part of the volcanic island arc of the Lesser Antilles, which extends from Saba in the north to Grenada in the south

Geography - note

smallest country in the Western Hemisphere both in terms of area and population; with coastlines in the shape of a baseball bat and ball, the two volcanic islands are separated by a 3-km-wide channel called The Narrows; on the southern tip of long, baseball bat-shaped Saint Kitts lies the Great Salt Pond; Nevis Peak sits in the center of its almost circular namesake island and its ball shape complements that of its sister island

People and Society

Population

54,149 (July 2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 207.)

Nationality

Noun

Kittitian(s), Nevisian(s)

Adjective

Kittitian, Nevisian

Ethnic groups

African descent 92.5%, mixed 3%, White 2.1%, East Indian 1.5%, other 0.6%, unspecified 0.3% (2001 est.)

Languages

English (official)

Religions

Protestant 75.6% (includes Anglican 16.6%, Methodist 15.8%, Pentecostal 10.8%, Church of God 7.4%, Baptist 5.4%, Seventh Day Adventist 5.4%, Wesleyan Holiness 5.3%, Moravian 4.8%, Evangelical 2.1%, Brethren 1.7%, Presbyterian 0.3%), Roman Catholic 5.9%, Hindu 1.8%, Jehovah's Witness 1.4%, Rastafarian 1.3%, other 5%, none 8.8%, unspecified 0.1% (2011 est.)

Age structure

0-14 years

19.87% (male 5,357/female 5,336)

15-24 years

13.46% (male 3,504/female 3,741)

25-54 years

43.64% (male 12,010/female 11,477)

55-64 years

13.03% (male 3,527/female 3,485)

65 years and over

10% (male 2,540/female 2,844) (2020 est.)

Dependency ratios

Total dependency ratio

NA

Youth dependency ratio

NA

Elderly dependency ratio

NA

Potential support ratio

NA

Median age

Total

36.5 years

Male

36.7 years

Female

36.3 years (2020 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 79.)

Population growth rate

0.64% (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 145.)

Birth rate

12.43 births/1,000 population (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 153.)

Death rate

7.24 deaths/1,000 population (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 108.)

Net migration rate

1.16 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 59.)

Population distribution

population clusters are found in the small towns located on the periphery of both islands

Urbanization

Urban population

30.9% of total population (2021)

Rate of urbanization

1.06% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

Major urban areas - population

14,000 BASSETERRE (capital) (2018)

Sex ratio

At birth

1.02 male(s)/female

0-14 years

1 male(s)/female

15-24 years

0.94 male(s)/female

25-54 years

1.05 male(s)/female

55-64 years

1.01 male(s)/female

65 years and over

0.89 male(s)/female

Total population

1 male(s)/female (2020 est.)

Infant mortality rate

Total

8.5 deaths/1,000 live births

Male

5.76 deaths/1,000 live births

Female

11.3 deaths/1,000 live births (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 148.)

Life expectancy at birth

Total population

76.83 years

Male

74.37 years

Female

79.34 years (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 96.)

Total fertility rate

1.77 children born/woman (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 153.)

Contraceptive prevalence rate

NA

Drinking water source

Improved

urban: 98.3% of populationrural: 98.3% of populationtotal: 98.3% of population

Unimproved

urban: 1.7% of populationrural: 1.7% of populationtotal: 1.7% of population (2015 est.)

Current Health Expenditure

5.3% (2017)

Physicians density

2.68 physicians/1,000 population (2015)

Hospital bed density

4.8 beds/1,000 population (2012)

Sanitation facility access

Improved

urban: 87.3% of populationrural: 87.3% of populationtotal: 87.3% of population

Unimproved

urban: 12.7% of populationrural: 12.7% of populationtotal: 12.7% of population (2017 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate

0.5% (2018)

(country comparison to the world: 69.)

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS

<200 (2018)

HIV/AIDS - deaths

<100 (2018)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate

22.9% (2016)

(country comparison to the world: 71.)

Children under the age of 5 years underweight

NA

Education expenditures

2.6% of GDP (2015)

(country comparison to the world: 166.)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education)

Total

17 years

Male

16 years

Female

19 years (2015)

Environment

Environment - current issues

deforestation; soil erosion and silting affects marine life on coral reefs; water pollution from uncontrolled dumping of sewage

Environment - international agreements

Party to

Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Climate Change-Paris Agreement, Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping-London Protocol, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Whaling

Signed, but not ratified

none of the selected agreements

Air pollutants

Particulate matter emissions

12.31 micrograms per cubic meter (2016 est.)

Carbon dioxide emissions

0.24 megatons (2016 est.)

Methane emissions

0.1 megatons (2020 est.)

Climate

tropical, tempered by constant sea breezes; little seasonal temperature variation; rainy season (May to November)

Land use

Agricultural land

23.1% (2018 est.)arable land: 19.2% (2018 est.)permanent crops: 0.4% (2018 est.)permanent pasture: 3.5% (2018 est.)

Forest

42.3% (2018 est.)

Other

34.6% (2018 est.)

Urbanization

Urban population

30.9% of total population (2021)

Rate of urbanization

1.06% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

Revenue from forest resources

Forest revenues

0% of GDP (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 194.)

Revenue from coal

Coal revenues

0% of GDP (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 157.)

Waste and recycling

Municipal solid waste generated annually

32,892 tons (2015 est.)

Total water withdrawal

Municipal

15.4 million cubic meters (2017 est.)

Industrial

0 cubic meters (2017 est.)

Agricultural

200,000 cubic meters (2017 est.)

Total renewable water resources

24 million cubic meters (2017 est.)

Government

Country name

Conventional long form

Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis

Conventional short form

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Former

Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis

Etymology

Saint Kitts was, and still is, referred to as Saint Christopher and this name was well established by the 17th century (although who first applied the name is unclear); in the 17th century a common nickname for Christopher was Kit or Kitt, so the island began to be referred to as "Saint Kitt's Island" or just "Saint Kitts"; Nevis is derived from the original Spanish name "Nuestra Senora de las Nieves" (Our Lady of the Snows) and refers to the white halo of clouds that generally wreathes Nevis Peak

Note

Nevis is pronounced neevis

Government type

federal parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

Capital

Name

Basseterre

Geographic coordinates

17 18 N, 62 43 W

Time difference

UTC-4 (1 hour ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Etymology

the French name translates as "low land" in English; the reference is to the city's low-lying location within a valley, as well as to the fact that the city is on the leeward (downwind) part of the island, and is thus a safe anchorage

Administrative divisions

14 parishes; Christ Church Nichola Town, Saint Anne Sandy Point, Saint George Basseterre, Saint George Gingerland, Saint James Windward, Saint John Capesterre, Saint John Figtree, Saint Mary Cayon, Saint Paul Capesterre, Saint Paul Charlestown, Saint Peter Basseterre, Saint Thomas Lowland, Saint Thomas Middle Island, Trinity Palmetto Point

Independence

19 September 1983 (from the UK)

National holiday

Independence Day, 19 September (1983)

Constitution

History

several previous (preindependence); latest presented 22 June 1983, effective 23 June 1983

Amendments

proposed by the National Assembly; passage requires approval by at least two-thirds majority vote of the total Assembly membership and assent of the governor general; amendments to constitutional provisions such as the sovereignty of the federation, fundamental rights and freedoms, the judiciary, and the Nevis Island Assembly also require approval in a referendum by at least two thirds of the votes cast in Saint Kitts and in Nevis

Legal system

English common law

International law organization participation

has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; accepts ICCt jurisdiction

Citizenship

Citizenship by birth

yes

Citizenship by descent only

yes

Dual citizenship recognized

yes

Residency requirement for naturalization

14 years

Suffrage

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch

Chief of state

Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952); represented by Governor General Samuel W.T. SEATON (since 2 September 2015); note - SEATON was acting Governor General from 20 May to 2 September 2015

Head of government

Prime Minister Timothy HARRIS (since 18 February 2015); Deputy Prime Minister Shawn RICHARDS (since 22 February 2015)

Cabinet

Cabinet appointed by governor general in consultation with prime minister

Elections/appointments

the monarchy is hereditary; governor general appointed by the monarch; following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party or majority coalition usually appointed prime minister by governor general; deputy prime minister appointed by governor general

Legislative branch

Description

unicameral National Assembly (14 or 15 seats, depending on inclusion of attorney general; 11 members directly elected in single-seat constituencies by simple majority vote and 3 appointed by the governor general - 2 on the advice of the prime minister and the third on the advice of the opposition leader; members serve 5-year terms)

Elections

last held on 5 June 2020 (next to be held on 2025)

Election results

percent of vote by party - Team Unity (PAM, CCM,PLP) 56.4%, SKNLP 34.5%, NRP 9%; seats by party - PAM 4, SKNLP2, CCM 3, PLP 2

Judicial branch

Highest courts

the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC) is the superior court of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States; the ECSC - headquartered on St. Lucia - consists of the Court of Appeal - headed by the chief justice and 4 judges - and the High Court with 18 judges; the Court of Appeal is itinerant, traveling to member states on a schedule to hear appeals from the High Court and subordinate courts; High Court judges reside in the member states, with 2 assigned to Saint Kitts and Nevis; note - the ECSC in 2003 replaced the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (in London) as the final court of appeal on Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Kitts and Nevis is also a member of the Caribbean Court of Justice

Judge selection and term of office

chief justice of Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court appointed by Her Majesty, Queen ELIZABETH II; other justices and judges appointed by the Judicial and Legal Services Commission, an independent body of judicial officials; Court of Appeal justices appointed for life with mandatory retirement at age 65; High Court judges appointed for life with mandatory retirement at age 62

Subordinate courts

magistrates' courts

Political parties and leaders

Concerned Citizens Movement or CCM [Mark BRANTLEY]Nevis Reformation Party or NRP [Joseph PARRY]People's Action Movement or PAM [Shawn RICHARDS]People's Labour Party or PLP [Dr. Timothy HARRIS]Saint Kitts and Nevis Labor Party or SKNLP [Dr. Denzil DOUGLAS]

International organization participation

ACP, AOSIS, C, Caricom, CDB, CELAC, FAO, G-77, IBRD, ICAO, ICCt, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, ITU, MIGA, OAS, OECS, OPANAL, OPCW, Petrocaribe, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WHO, WIPO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US

Chief of mission

Ambassador Dr. Thelma Patricia PHILLIP-BROWNE (since 28 January 2016)

Chancery

3216 New Mexico Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20016

Telephone

[1] (202) 686-2636

FAX

[1] (202) 686-5740

Consulate(s) general

Los Angeles, New York

Diplomatic representation from the US

Embassy

the US does not have an embassy in Saint Kitts and Nevis; the US Ambassador to Barbados is accredited to Saint Kitts and Nevis

Flag description

divided diagonally from the lower hoist side by a broad black band bearing two white, five-pointed stars; the black band is edged in yellow; the upper triangle is green, the lower triangle is red; green signifies the island's fertility, red symbolizes the struggles of the people from slavery, yellow denotes year-round sunshine, and black represents the African heritage of the people; the white stars stand for the islands of Saint Kitts and Nevis, but can also express hope and liberty, or independence and optimism

National symbol(s)

brown pelican, royal poinciana (flamboyant) tree; national colors: green, yellow, red, black, white

National anthem

Name

Oh Land of Beauty!

Lyrics/music

Kenrick Anderson GEORGES

Note

adopted 1983

Economy

Economic overview

The economy of Saint Kitts and Nevis depends on tourism; since the 1970s, tourism has replaced sugar as the economy's traditional mainstay. Roughly 200,000 tourists visited the islands in 2009, but reduced tourism arrivals and foreign investment led to an economic contraction in the 2009-2013 period, and the economy returned to growth only in 2014. Like other tourist destinations in the Caribbean, Saint Kitts and Nevis is vulnerable to damage from natural disasters and shifts in tourism demand.

Following the 2005 harvest, the government closed the sugar industry after several decades of losses. To compensate for lost jobs, the government has embarked on a program to diversify the agricultural sector and to stimulate other sectors of the economy, such as export-oriented manufacturing and offshore banking. The government has made notable progress in reducing its public debt, from 154% of GDP in 2011 to 83% in 2013, although it still faces one of the highest levels in the world, largely attributable to public enterprise losses. Saint Kitts and Nevis is

among other countries in the Caribbean that supplement their economic activity through economic citizenship programs, whereby foreigners can obtain citizenship from Saint Kitts and Nevis by investing there.

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$1.24 billion note: data are in 2017 dollars (2020 est.)\$1.39 billion note: data are in 2017 dollars (2019 est.)\$1.36 billion note: data are in 2017 dollars (2018 est.)

Note

data are in 2017 dollars

(country comparison to the world: 206.)

Real GDP growth rate

2.1% (2017 est.)2.9% (2016 est.)2.7% (2015 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 131.)

Real GDP per capita

\$23,300 note: data are in 2017 dollars (2020 est.)\$26,200 note: data are in 2017 dollars (2019 est.)\$25,900 note: data are in 2017 dollars (2018 est.)

Note

data are in 2017 dollars

(country comparison to the world: 82.)

GDP (official exchange rate)

\$964 million (2017 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices)

0% (2017 est.)-0.3% (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 22.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin

Agriculture

1.1% (2017 est.)

Industry

30% (2017 est.)

Services

68.9% (2017 est.)

GDP - composition, by end use

Household consumption

41.4% (2017 est.)

Government consumption
25.9% (2017 est.)

Investment in fixed capital
30.8% (2017 est.)

Investment in inventories
0% (2017 est.)

Exports of goods and services
62.5% (2017 est.)

Imports of goods and services
-60.4% (2017 est.)

Agricultural products

coconuts, tropical fruit, roots/tubers nes, vegetables, sweet potatoes, pulses nes, watermelons, carrots/turnips, eggs, tomatoes

Industries

tourism, cotton, salt, copra, clothing, footwear, beverages

Industrial production growth rate

5% (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 56.)

Labor force

18,170 (June 1995 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 211.)

Unemployment rate

4.5% (1997)

(country comparison to the world: 69.)

Population below poverty line

NA

Household income or consumption by percentage share

Lowest 10%

NA

Highest 10%

NA

Budget

Revenues

307 million (2017 est.)

Expenditures

291.1 million (2017 est.)

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-)

1.7% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 18.)

Public debt

62.9% of GDP (2017 est.) 61.5% of GDP (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 68.)

Taxes and other revenues

31.9% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 70.)

Fiscal year

calendar year

Current account balance

-\$97 million (2017 est.) -\$102 million (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 86.)

Exports

\$610 million note: data are in current year dollars (2018 est.) \$53.9 million (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 189.)

Exports - partners

United States 69%, Germany 8%, Italy 5% (2019)

Exports - commodities

low-voltage protection equipment, broadcasting equipment, measuring instruments, electric motor parts, electrical transformers (2019)

Imports

\$590 million note: data are in current year dollars (2018 est.) \$307.9 million (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 200.)

Imports - partners

United States 59%, Peru 6%, Germany 5% (2019)

Imports - commodities

refined petroleum, jewelry, ships, cars, poultry meats, cement (2019)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold

\$365.1 million (31 December 2017 est.)\$320.5 million (31 December 2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 162.)

Debt - external

\$201.8 million (31 December 2017 est.)\$187.9 million (31 December 2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 187.)

Exchange rates

East Caribbean dollars (XCD) per US dollar -2.7 (2017 est.)2.7 (2016 est.)2.7 (2015 est.)2.7 (2014 est.)2.7 (2013 est.)

Energy

Electricity access

Electrification - total population
100% (2020)

Electricity - production

208 million kWh (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 191.)

Electricity - consumption

193.4 million kWh (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 193.)

Electricity - exports

0 kWh (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 188.)

Electricity - imports

0 kWh (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 190.)

Electricity - installed generating capacity

64,200 kW (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 187.)

Electricity - from fossil fuels

94% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 48.)

Electricity - from nuclear fuels

0% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 172.)

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants

0% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 195.)

Electricity - from other renewable sources

6% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 101.)

Crude oil - production

0 bbl/day (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 191.)

Crude oil - exports

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 184.)

Crude oil - imports

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 186.)

Crude oil - proved reserves

0 bbl (1 January 2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 186.)

Refined petroleum products - production

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 193.)

Refined petroleum products - consumption

1,700 bbl/day (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 196.)

Refined petroleum products - exports

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 194.)

Refined petroleum products - imports

1,743 bbl/day (2015 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 192.)

Natural gas - production

0 cu m (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 188.)

Natural gas - consumption

0 cu m (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 190.)

Natural gas - exports

0 cu m (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 173.)

Natural gas - imports

0 cu m (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 179.)

Natural gas - proved reserves

0 cu m (1 January 2014 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 185.)

Communications

Telephones - fixed lines

Total subscriptions

17,293 (2018)

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

33.23 (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 179.)

Telephones - mobile cellular

Total subscriptions

76,878 (2018)

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

147.7 (2019 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 196.)

Telecommunication systems

General assessment

good interisland and international connections; broadband access; expanded FttP (Fiber to the Home) and LTE markets; regulatory development; telecom sector contributes greatly to the overall GDP; telecom sector is a growth area (2020)

Domestic

interisland links via ECFS; fixed-line teledensity about 33 per 100 persons; mobile-cellular teledensity is roughly 148 per 100 persons (2019)

International

country code - 1-869; landing points for the ECFS, Southern Caribbean Fiber and the SSCS submarine cables providing connectivity for numerous Caribbean Islands (2019)

Note

the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on production and supply chains globally; since 2020, some aspects of the telecom sector have experienced downturn, particularly in mobile device production; many network operators delayed upgrades to infrastructure; progress towards 5G implementation was postponed or slowed in some countries; consumer spending on telecom services and devices was affected by large-scale job losses and the consequent restriction on disposable incomes; the crucial nature of telecom services as a tool for work and school from home became evident, and received some support from governments

Broadcast media

the government operates a national TV network that broadcasts on 2 channels; cable subscription services provide access to local and international channels; the government operates a national radio network; a mix of government-owned and privately owned broadcasters operate roughly 15 radio stations

Internet country code

.kn

Internet users

Total

42,852

Percent of population

80.71% (July 2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 201.)

Broadband - fixed subscriptions

Total

29,272 (2018 est.)

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

55.82 (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 152.)

Transportation

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix

V4

Airports

Total

2 (2013)

(country comparison to the world: 202.)

Airports - with paved runways

Total

2

1,524 to 2,437 m

1

914 to 1,523 m

1 (2019)

Railways

Total

50 km (2008)

Narrow gauge

50 km 0.762-m gauge on Saint Kitts for tourists (2008)

(country comparison to the world: 132.)

Roadways

Total

383 km (2002)

Paved

163 km (2002)

Unpaved

220 km (2002)

(country comparison to the world: 200.)

Merchant marine

Total

244

By type

bulk carrier 6, container ship 7, general cargo 45, oil tanker 53, other 133 (2021)

(country comparison to the world: 62.)

Ports and terminals

Major seaport(s)

Basseterre, Charlestown

Military and Security

Military and security forces

Ministry of National Security: St. Kitts and Nevis Defense Force (SKNDF), St. Kitts and Nevis Coast Guard, the Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force (2021)

Military and security service personnel strengths

the SKNDF has approximately 300 personnel (2019)

Military equipment inventories and acquisitions

the SKNDF is lightly armed with equipment from Belgium, the UK, and the US (2021)

Military service age and obligation

18 years of age for voluntary military service (under 18 with written parental permission); no conscription (2021)

Military - note

St. Kitts joined the Caribbean Regional Security System (RSS) in 1984; RSS signatories (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) agreed to prepare contingency plans and assist one another, on request, in national emergencies, prevention of smuggling, search and rescue, immigration control, fishery protection, customs and excise control, maritime policing duties, protection of off-shore installations, pollution control, national and other disasters, and threats to national security (2021)

Transnational Issues

Disputes - international

joins other Caribbean states to counter Venezuela's claim that Aves Island sustains human habitation, a criterion under UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which permits Venezuela to extend its EEZ/continental shelf over a large portion of the eastern Caribbean Sea

Illicit drugs

a transit point for cocaine and marijuana destined for North America, Europe, and elsewhere in the Caribbean

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Country Flag



Country Map



Locator Map



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Introduction

Background

Resistance by native Caribs prevented colonization on Saint Vincent until 1719. Disputed between France and the UK for most of the 18th century, the island was ceded to the latter in 1783. The British prized Saint Vincent due to its fertile soil, which allowed for thriving slave-run plantations of sugar, coffee, indigo, tobacco, cotton, and cocoa. In 1834, the British abolished slavery. Immigration of indentured servants eased the ensuing labor shortage, as did subsequent Portuguese immigrants from Madeira and East Indian laborers. Conditions remained harsh for both former

slaves and immigrant agricultural workers, however, as depressed world sugar prices kept the economy stagnant until the early 1900s. The economy then went into a period of decline with many landowners abandoning their estates and leaving the land to be cultivated by liberated slaves. Between 1960 and 1962, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was a separate administrative unit of the Federation of the West Indies. Autonomy was granted in 1969 and independence in 1979.

Geography

Location

Caribbean, islands between the Caribbean Sea and North Atlantic Ocean, north of Trinidad and Tobago

Geographic coordinates

13 15 N, 61 12 W

Map references

Central America and the Caribbean

Area

Total

389 sq km (Saint Vincent 344 sq km)

Land

389 sq km

Water

0 sq km

(country comparison to the world: 204.)

Area - comparative

twice the size of Washington, DC

Land boundaries

Total

0 km

Coastline

84 km

Maritime claims

Territorial sea

12 nm

Contiguous zone

24 nm

Exclusive economic zone

200 nm

Continental shelf

200 nm

Climate

tropical; little seasonal temperature variation; rainy season (May to November)

Terrain

volcanic, mountainous

Elevation

Highest point

La Soufriere 1,234 m

Lowest point

Caribbean Sea 0 m

Natural resources

hydropower, arable land

Land use

Agricultural land

25.6% (2018 est.)arable land: 12.8% (2018 est.)permanent crops: 7.7% (2018 est.)permanent pasture: 5.1% (2018 est.)

Forest

68.7% (2018 est.)

Other

5.7% (2018 est.)

Irrigated land

10 sq km (2012)

Population distribution

most of the population is concentrated in and around the capital of Kingstown

Natural hazards

hurricanes; La Soufriere volcano on the island of Saint Vincent is a constant threat

volcanism: La Soufriere (1,234 m) on the island of Saint Vincent last erupted in 1979; the island of Saint Vincent is part of the volcanic island arc of the Lesser Antilles that extends from Saba in the north to Grenada in the south

Geography - note

the administration of the islands of the Grenadines group is divided between Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is comprised of 32 islands and cays

People and Society

Population

101,145 (July 2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 195.)

Nationality

Noun

Saint Vincentian(s) or Vincentian(s)

Adjective

Saint Vincentian or Vincentian

Ethnic groups

African descent 71.2%, mixed 23%, Indigenous 3%, East Indian/Indian 1.1%, European 1.5%, other 0.2% (2012 est.)

Languages

English, Vincentian Creole English, French patois

Religions

Protestant 75% (Pentecostal 27.6%, Anglican 13.9%, Seventh Day Adventist 11.6%, Baptist 8.9%, Methodist 8.7%, Evangelical 3.8%, Salvation Army 0.3%, Presbyterian/Congregational 0.3%), Roman Catholic 6.3%, Rastafarian 1.1%, Jehovah's Witness 0.8%, other 4.7%, none 7.5%, unspecified 4.7% (2012 est.)

Age structure

0-14 years

20.15% (male 10,309/female 10,121)

15-24 years

14.83% (male 7,582/female 7,451)

25-54 years

42.63% (male 22,395/female 20,824)

55-64 years

11.68% (male 6,136/female 5,703)

65 years and over

10.72% (male 5,167/female 5,702) (2020 est.)

Dependency ratios

Total dependency ratio

46.7

Youth dependency ratio

32.1

Elderly dependency ratio

14.5

Potential support ratio

6.9 (2020 est.)

Median age

Total

35.3 years

Male

35.4 years

Female

35.1 years (2020 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 86.)

Population growth rate

-0.18% (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 205.)

Birth rate

12.44 births/1,000 population (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 152.)

Death rate

7.42 deaths/1,000 population (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 103.)

Net migration rate

-6.82 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 213.)

Population distribution

most of the population is concentrated in and around the capital of Kingstown

Urbanization

Urban population

53.5% of total population (2021)

Rate of urbanization

0.94% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

Major urban areas - population

27,000 KINGSTOWN (capital) (2018)

Sex ratio

At birth

1.03 male(s)/female

0-14 years

1.02 male(s)/female

15-24 years

1.02 male(s)/female

25-54 years

1.08 male(s)/female

55-64 years

1.08 male(s)/female

65 years and over

0.91 male(s)/female

Total population

1.04 male(s)/female (2020 est.)

Maternal mortality ratio

98 deaths/100,000 live births (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 70.)

Infant mortality rate

Total

13.16 deaths/1,000 live births

Male

14.9 deaths/1,000 live births

Female

11.38 deaths/1,000 live births (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 110.)

Life expectancy at birth

Total population

76.43 years

Male

74.37 years

Female

78.55 years (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 104.)

Total fertility rate

1.75 children born/woman (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 157.)

Contraceptive prevalence rate

NA

Drinking water source

Improved

total: 95.1% of population

Unimproved

total: 4.9% of population (2017 est.)

Current Health Expenditure

4.5% (2018)

Physicians density

0.66 physicians/1,000 population

Hospital bed density

4.3 beds/1,000 population (2016)

Sanitation facility access

Improved

total: 90.2% of population

Unimproved
total: 9.8% of population (2017 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate

1.5% (2018)
(country comparison to the world: 28.)

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS

1,200 (2018)
(country comparison to the world: 142.)

HIV/AIDS - deaths

<100 (2018)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate

23.7% (2016)
(country comparison to the world: 64.)

Children under the age of 5 years underweight

NA

Education expenditures

5.7% of GDP (2018)
(country comparison to the world: 38.)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education)

Total
14 years
Male
14 years

Female
15 years (2015)

Environment

Environment - current issues

pollution of coastal waters and shorelines from discharges by pleasure yachts and other effluents; in some areas, pollution is severe enough to make swimming prohibitive; poor land use planning; deforestation; watershed management and squatter settlement control

Environment - international agreements

Party to

Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Climate Change-Paris Agreement, Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping-London Convention, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Whaling

Signed, but not ratified

none of the selected agreements

Air pollutants

Particulate matter emissions

21.2 micrograms per cubic meter (2016 est.)

Carbon dioxide emissions

0.22 megatons (2016 est.)

Methane emissions

0.09 megatons (2020 est.)

Climate

tropical; little seasonal temperature variation; rainy season (May to November)

Land use

Agricultural land

25.6% (2018 est.) arable land: 12.8% (2018 est.) permanent crops: 7.7% (2018 est.) permanent pasture: 5.1% (2018 est.)

Forest

68.7% (2018 est.)

Other

5.7% (2018 est.)

Urbanization

Urban population

53.5% of total population (2021)

Rate of urbanization

0.94% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

Revenue from forest resources

Forest revenues

0.02% of GDP (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 144.)

Revenue from coal

Coal revenues

0% of GDP (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 159.)

Waste and recycling

Municipal solid waste generated annually

31,561 tons (2015 est.)

Total water withdrawal

Municipal

8.5 million cubic meters (2017 est.)

Industrial

2,000 cubic meters (2017 est.)

Agricultural

0 cubic meters (2017 est.)

Total renewable water resources

100 million cubic meters (2017 est.)

Government

Country name

Conventional long form

none

Conventional short form

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Etymology

Saint Vincent was named by explorer Christopher COLUMBUS after Saint VINCENT of Saragossa because the 22 January 1498 day of discovery was the saint's feast day

Government type

parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

Capital

Name

Kingstown

Geographic coordinates

13 08 N, 61 13 W

Time difference

UTC-4 (1 hour ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Etymology

an earlier French settlement was renamed Kingstown by the British in 1763 when they assumed control of the island; the king referred to in the name is George III (r. 1760-1820)

Administrative divisions

6 parishes; Charlotte, Grenadines, Saint Andrew, Saint David, Saint George, Saint Patrick

Independence

27 October 1979 (from the UK)

National holiday

Independence Day, 27 October (1979)

Constitution

History

previous 1969, 1975; latest drafted 26 July 1979, effective 27 October 1979 (The Saint Vincent Constitution Order 1979)

Amendments

proposed by the House of Assembly; passage requires at least two-thirds majority vote of the Assembly membership and assent of the governor general; passage of amendments to constitutional sections on fundamental rights and freedoms, citizen protections, various government functions and authorities, and constitutional amendment procedures requires approval by the Assembly membership, approval in a referendum of at least two thirds of the votes cast, and assent of the governor general

Legal system

English common law

International law organization participation

has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; accepts ICCt jurisdiction

Citizenship

Citizenship by birth

yes

Citizenship by descent only

at least one parent must be a citizen of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Dual citizenship recognized

yes

Residency requirement for naturalization

7 years

Suffrage

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch

Chief of state

Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952); represented by Governor General Susan DOUGAN (since 1 August 2019)

Head of government

Prime Minister Ralph E. GONSALVES (since 29 March 2001)

Cabinet

Cabinet appointed by the governor general on the advice of the prime minister

Elections/appointments

the monarchy is hereditary; governor general appointed by the monarch; following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party usually appointed prime minister by the governor general; deputy prime minister appointed by the governor general on the advice of the prime minister

Legislative branch

Description

unicameral House of Assembly (23 seats; 15 representatives directly elected in single-seat constituencies by simple majority vote, 6 senators appointed by the governor general, and 2 ex officio members - the speaker of the house and the attorney general; members serve 5-year terms)

Elections

last held on 5 November 2020 (next to be held in 2025)

Election results

percent of vote by party - ULP 49.58%, NDP 50.34%, other 0.8%; seats by party - ULP 9, NDP 6

Judicial branch

Highest courts

the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC) is the superior court of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States; the ECSC - headquartered on St. Lucia - consists of the Court of Appeal - headed by the chief justice and 4 judges - and the High Court with 18 judges; the Court of Appeal is itinerant, traveling to member states on a schedule to hear appeals from the High Court and subordinate courts; High Court judges reside in the member states, with 2 assigned to Saint Vincent

and the Grenadines; note - Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is also a member of the Caribbean Court of Justice

Judge selection and term of office

chief justice of Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court appointed by Her Majesty, Queen ELIZABETH II; other justices and judges appointed by the Judicial and Legal Services Commission, an independent body of judicial officials; Court of Appeal justices appointed for life with mandatory retirement at age 65; High Court judges appointed for life with mandatory retirement at age 62

Subordinate courts

magistrates' courts

Political parties and leaders

Democratic Republican Party or DRP [Anesia BAPTISTE]New Democratic Party or NDP [Godwin L. FRIDAY]Unity Labor Party or ULP [Dr. Ralph GONSALVES] (formed in 1994 by the coalition of Saint Vincent Labor Party or SVLP and the Movement for National Unity or MNU)SVG Green Party or SVGP [Ivan O'NEAL]

International organization participation

ACP, AOSIS, C, Caricom, CDB, CELAC, FAO, G-77, IBRD, ICAO, ICCt, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFRCS, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, ISO (subscriber), ITU, MIGA, NAM, OAS, OECS, OPANAL, OPCW, Petrocaribe, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US

Chief of mission

Ambassador Lou-Anne Gaylene GILCHRIST (since 18 January 2017)

Chancery

1627 K Street, NW, Suite 1202, Washington, DC 20006

Telephone

[1] (202) 364-6730

FAX

[1] (202) 364-6730

Email address and website

mail@embsvg.com

<http://wa.embassy.gov.vc/washington/>

Consulate(s) general

New York

Diplomatic representation from the US

Embassy

the US does not have an embassy in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; the US Ambassador to Barbados is accredited to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Flag description

three vertical bands of blue (hoist side), gold (double width), and green; the gold band bears three green diamonds arranged in a V pattern, which stands for Vincent; the diamonds recall the islands as "the Gems of the Antilles" and are set slightly lowered in the gold band to reflect the nation's position in the Antilles; blue conveys the colors of a tropical sky and crystal waters, yellow signifies the golden Grenadine sands, and green represents lush vegetation

National symbol(s)

Saint Vincent parrot; national colors: blue, gold, green

National anthem

Name

St. Vincent! Land So Beautiful!

Lyrics/music

Phyllis Joyce MCCLEAN PUNNETT/Joel Bertram MIGUEL

Note

adopted 1967

Economy

Economic overview

Success of the economy hinges upon seasonal variations in agriculture, tourism, and construction activity, as well as remittances. Much of the workforce is employed in banana production and tourism. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is home to a small offshore banking sector and continues to fully adopt international regulatory standards.

This lower-middle-income country remains vulnerable to natural and external shocks. The economy has shown some signs of recovery due to increased tourist arrivals, falling oil prices and renewed growth in the construction sector. The much anticipated international airport opened in early 2017 with hopes for increased airlift and tourism activity. The government's ability to invest in social programs and respond to external shocks is constrained by its high public debt burden, which was 67% of GDP at the end of 2013.

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$1.34 billion note: data are in 2017 dollars (2020 est.)\$1.38 billion note: data are in 2017 dollars (2019 est.)\$1.37 billion note: data are in 2017 dollars (2018 est.)

Note

data are in 2017 dollars

(country comparison to the world: 203.)

Real GDP growth rate

0.7% (2017 est.)0.8% (2016 est.)0.8% (2015 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 181.)

Real GDP per capita

\$12,100 note: data are in 2017 dollars (2020 est.)\$12,500 note: data are in 2017 dollars (2019 est.)\$12,500 note: data are in 2017 dollars (2018 est.)

Note

data are in 2017 dollars

(country comparison to the world: 127.)

GDP (official exchange rate)

\$785 million (2017 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices)

2.2% (2017 est.)-0.2% (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 121.)

Credit ratings

Moody's rating

B3 (2014)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin

Agriculture

7.1% (2017 est.)

Industry

17.4% (2017 est.)

Services

75.5% (2017 est.)

GDP - composition, by end use

Household consumption

87.3% (2017 est.)

Government consumption

16.6% (2017 est.)

Investment in fixed capital

10.8% (2017 est.)

Investment in inventories

-0.2% (2017 est.)

Exports of goods and services

37.1% (2017 est.)

Imports of goods and services

-51.7% (2017 est.)

Agricultural products

bananas, sugar cane, roots/tubers nes, plantains, vegetables, fruit, coconuts, sweet potatoes, yams, mangoes/guavas

Industries

tourism; food processing, cement, furniture, clothing, starch

Industrial production growth rate

2.5% (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 118.)

Labor force

57,520 (2007 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 187.)

Labor force - by occupation

Agriculture

26%

Industry

17%

Services

57% (1980 est.)

Unemployment rate

18.8% (2008 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 185.)

Population below poverty line

NA

Household income or consumption by percentage share

Lowest 10%

NA

Highest 10%
NA

Budget

Revenues
225.2 million (2017 est.)

Expenditures
230 million (2017 est.)

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-)

-0.6% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 66.)

Public debt

73.8% of GDP (2017 est.)82.8% of GDP (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 42.)

Taxes and other revenues

28.7% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 93.)

Fiscal year

calendar year

Current account balance

-\$116 million (2017 est.)-\$122 million (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 90.)

Exports

\$320 million note: data are in current year dollars (2018 est.)\$47.3 million (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 199.)

Exports - partners

Jordan 39%, Singapore 14% (2019)

Exports - commodities

natural gas, drilling platforms and ships, recreational boats, collector's items, eddoes and dasheen (taro), arrowroot starch (2019)

Imports

\$450 million note: data are in current year dollars (2018 est.)\$294.6 million (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 205.)

Imports - partners

United States 30%, Trinidad and Tobago 12%, China 8%, United Kingdom 6% (2019)

Imports - commodities

refined petroleum, ships, poultry meats, tug boats, recreational boats (2019)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold

\$182.1 million (31 December 2017 est.)\$192.3 million (31 December 2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 178.)

Debt - external

\$362.2 million (31 December 2017 est.)\$330.8 million (31 December 2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 182.)

Exchange rates

East Caribbean dollars (XCD) per US dollar -2.7 (2017 est.)2.7 (2016 est.)2.7 (2015 est.)2.7 (2014 est.)2.7 (2013 est.)

Energy

Electricity access

Electrification - total population
100% (2020)

Electricity - production

157 million kWh (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 196.)

Electricity - consumption

146 million kWh (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 198.)

Electricity - exports

0 kWh (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 191.)

Electricity - imports

0 kWh (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 193.)

Electricity - installed generating capacity

54,000 kW (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 188.)

Electricity - from fossil fuels

85% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 72.)

Electricity - from nuclear fuels

0% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 175.)

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants

13% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 110.)

Electricity - from other renewable sources

2% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 142.)

Crude oil - production

0 bbl/day (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 194.)

Crude oil - exports

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 187.)

Crude oil - imports

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 189.)

Crude oil - proved reserves

0 bbl (1 January 2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 189.)

Refined petroleum products - production

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 196.)

Refined petroleum products - consumption

1,620 bbl/day (2016 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 197.)

Refined petroleum products - exports

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 197.)

Refined petroleum products - imports

1,621 bbl/day (2015 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 193.)

Natural gas - production

0 cu m (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 191.)

Natural gas - consumption

0 cu m (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 193.)

Natural gas - exports

0 cu m (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 176.)

Natural gas - imports

0 cu m (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 182.)

Natural gas - proved reserves

0 cu m (1 January 2014 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 188.)

Communications

Telephones - fixed lines

Total subscriptions

12,483 (2020)

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

11.25 (2020 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 186.)

Telephones - mobile cellular

Total subscriptions

97,059 (2020)

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

87.49 (2020 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 193.)

Telecommunication systems

General assessment

adequate island-wide, fully automatic telephone system; broadband access; expanded FttP (Fiber to the Home) markets; LTE launches; regulatory development; telecom sector contributes greatly to the overall GDP; telecom sector is a growth area (2020)

Domestic

fixed-line teledensity exceeds 12 per 100 persons and mobile-cellular teledensity is about 93 per 100 persons (2019)

International

country code - 1-784; landing points for the ECFS, CARCIP and Southern Caribbean Fiber submarine cables providing connectivity to US and Caribbean Islands; connectivity also provided by VHF/UHF radiotelephone from Saint Vincent to Barbados; SHF radiotelephone to Grenada and Saint Lucia; access to Intelsat earth station in Martinique through Saint Lucia (2019)

Note

the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on production and supply chains globally; since 2020, some aspects of the telecom sector have experienced downturn, particularly in mobile device production; many network operators delayed upgrades to infrastructure; progress towards 5G implementation was postponed or slowed in some countries; consumer spending on telecom services and devices was affected by large-scale job losses and the consequent restriction on disposable incomes; the crucial nature of telecom services as a tool for work and school from home became evident, and received some support from governments

Broadcast media

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Broadcasting Corporation operates 1 TV station and 5 repeater stations that provide near total coverage to the multi-island state; multi-channel cable TV service available; a partially government-funded national radio service broadcasts on 1 station and has 2 repeater stations; about a dozen privately owned radio stations and repeater stations

Internet country code

.vc

Internet users

Total
22,803

Percent of population
22.39% (July 2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 209.)

Broadband - fixed subscriptions

Total
24,494 (2020)

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants
22.08 (2020 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 158.)

Transportation

National air transport system

Number of registered air carriers
2 (2020)

Inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers
11

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix
J8

Airports

Total
6 (2013)

(country comparison to the world: 176.)

Airports - with paved runways

Total
5

1,524 to 2,437 m
1

914 to 1,523 m
3

Under 914 m
1 (2017)

Airports - with unpaved runways

Total
1

Under 914 m
1 (2013)

Merchant marine

Total
792

By type

bulk carrier 27, container ship 17, general cargo 155, oil tanker 16, other 577 (2021)

(country comparison to the world: 30.)

Ports and terminals

Major seaport(s)
Kingstown

Military and Security

Military and security forces

no regular military forces; the Special Services Unit (SSU) is the paramilitary arm of the Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force (RSVPF)

Military - note

the country has been a member of the Caribbean Regional Security System (RSS) since its creation in 1982; RSS signatories (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts, and Saint Lucia) agreed to prepare contingency plans and assist one another, on request, in national emergencies, prevention of smuggling, search and rescue, immigration control, fishery protection, customs and excise control, maritime policing duties, protection of off-shore installations, pollution control, national and other disasters, and threats to national security (2021)

Transnational Issues

Disputes - international

joins other Caribbean states to counter Venezuela's claim that Aves Island sustains human habitation, a criterion under UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which permits Venezuela to extend its EEZ/continental shelf over a large portion of the eastern Caribbean Sea

Illicit drugs

a transit point for cocaine and marijuana destined for North America, Europe, and elsewhere in the Caribbean

ITALY

Country Flag



Country Map



Locator Map



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Introduction

Background

Italy became a nation-state in 1861 when the regional states of the peninsula, along with Sardinia and Sicily, were united under King Victor EMMANUEL II. An era of parliamentary government came to a close in the early 1920s when Benito MUSSOLINI established a Fascist dictatorship. His alliance with Nazi Germany led to Italy's defeat in World War II. A democratic republic replaced the monarchy in 1946 and economic revival followed. Italy is a charter member of NATO and the European Economic Community (EEC) and its subsequent successors the EC and the EU. It has been at the forefront of European economic and political unification, joining the Economic and

Monetary Union in 1999. Persistent problems include sluggish economic growth, high youth and female unemployment, organized crime, corruption, and economic disparities between southern Italy and the more prosperous north.

Geography

Location

Southern Europe, a peninsula extending into the central Mediterranean Sea, northeast of Tunisia

Geographic coordinates

42 50 N, 12 50 E

Map references

Europe

Area

Total

301,340 sq km

Land

294,140 sq km

Water

7,200 sq km

Note

includes Sardinia and Sicily

(country comparison to the world: 73.)

Area - comparative

almost twice the size of Georgia; slightly larger than Arizona

Land boundaries

Total

1,836.4 km

Border countries (6)

Austria 404 km, France 476 km, Holy See (Vatican City) 3.4 km, San Marino 37 km, Slovenia 218 km, Switzerland 698 km

Coastline

7,600 km

Maritime claims

Territorial sea

12 nm

Continental shelf

200-m depth or to the depth of exploitation

Climate

predominantly Mediterranean; alpine in far north; hot, dry in south

Terrain

mostly rugged and mountainous; some plains, coastal lowlands

Elevation

Highest point

Mont Blanc (Monte Bianco) de Courmayeur (a secondary peak of Mont Blanc) 4,748 m

Lowest point

Mediterranean Sea 0 m

Mean elevation

538 m

Natural resources

coal, antimony, mercury, zinc, potash, marble, barite, asbestos, pumice, fluorspar, feldspar, pyrite (sulfur), natural gas and crude oil reserves, fish, arable land

Land use

Agricultural land

47.1% (2018 est.)arable land: 22.8% (2018 est.)permanent crops: 8.6% (2018 est.)permanent pasture: 15.7% (2018 est.)

Forest

31.4% (2018 est.)

Other

21.5% (2018 est.)

Irrigated land

39,500 sq km (2012)

Major watersheds (area sq km)

Atlantic Ocean drainage: Rhine-Maas (198,735 sq km),

Danube (795,656 sq km),

Po (76,997 sq km),

Rhone (100,543 sq km)

Population distribution

despite a distinctive pattern with an industrial north and an agrarian south, a fairly even population distribution exists throughout most of the country, with coastal areas, the Po River Valley, and urban centers (particularly Milan, Rome, and Naples), attracting larger and denser populations

Natural hazards

regional risks include landslides, mudflows, avalanches, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, flooding; land subsidence in Venice

volcanism: significant volcanic activity; Etna (3,330 m), which is in eruption as of 2010, is Europe's most active volcano; flank eruptions pose a threat to nearby Sicilian villages; Etna, along with the famous Vesuvius, which remains a threat to the millions of nearby residents in the Bay of Naples area, have both been deemed Decade Volcanoes by the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior, worthy of study due to their explosive history and close proximity to human populations; Stromboli, on its namesake island, has also been continuously active with moderate volcanic activity; other historically active volcanoes include Campi Flegrei, Ischia, Larderello, Pantelleria, Vulcano, and Vulsini

Geography - note

strategic location dominating central Mediterranean as well as southern sea and air approaches to Western Europe

People and Society

Population

62,390,364 (July 2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 23.)

Nationality

Noun

Italian(s)

Adjective

Italian

Ethnic groups

Italian (includes small clusters of German-, French-, and Slovene-Italians in the north and Albanian-Italians and Greek-Italians in the south)

Languages

Italian (official), German (parts of Trentino-Alto Adige region are predominantly German speaking), French (small French-speaking minority in Valle d'Aosta region), Slovene (Slovene-speaking minority in the Trieste-Gorizia area)

Major-language sample(s)

L'Almanacco dei fatti del mondo, l'indispensabile fonte per le informazioni di base. (Italian)The World Factbook, the indispensable source for basic information.

Religions

Christian 80.8% (overwhelmingly Roman Catholic with very small groups of Jehovah's Witnesses and Protestants), Muslim 4.9%, unaffiliated 13.4%, other 0.9% (2020 est.)

Age structure

0-14 years

13.45% (male 4,292,431/female 4,097,732)

15-24 years

9.61% (male 3,005,402/female 2,989,764)

25-54 years

40.86% (male 12,577,764/female 12,921,614)

55-64 years

14% (male 4,243,735/female 4,493,581)

65 years and over

22.08% (male 5,949,560/female 7,831,076) (2020 est.)

Dependency ratios

Total dependency ratio

57

Youth dependency ratio

20.4

Elderly dependency ratio

36.6

Potential support ratio

2.7 (2020 est.)

Median age

Total

46.5 years

Male

45.4 years

Female

47.5 years (2020 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 5.)

Population growth rate

0.09% (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 186.)

Birth rate

8.37 births/1,000 population (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 216.)

Death rate

10.7 deaths/1,000 population (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 24.)

Net migration rate

3.21 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 34.)

Population distribution

despite a distinctive pattern with an industrial north and an agrarian south, a fairly even population distribution exists throughout most of the country, with coastal areas, the Po River Valley, and urban centers (particularly Milan, Rome, and Naples), attracting larger and denser populations

Urbanization

Urban population

71.3% of total population (2021)

Rate of urbanization

0.27% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

Major urban areas - population

4.278 million ROME (capital), 3.144 million Milan, 2.183 million Naples, 1.795 million Turin, 900,000 Bergamo, 850,000 Palermo (2021)

Sex ratio

At birth

1.06 male(s)/female

0-14 years

1.05 male(s)/female

15-24 years

1.01 male(s)/female

25-54 years

0.97 male(s)/female

55-64 years

0.94 male(s)/female

65 years and over

0.76 male(s)/female

Total population

0.93 male(s)/female (2020 est.)

Mother's mean age at first birth

31.3 years (2019 est.)

Maternal mortality ratio

2 deaths/100,000 live births (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 182.)

Infant mortality rate

Total

3.14 deaths/1,000 live births

Male

3.4 deaths/1,000 live births

Female

2.87 deaths/1,000 live births (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 210.)

Life expectancy at birth

Total population

82.67 years

Male

80.01 years

Female

85.49 years (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 17.)

Total fertility rate

1.47 children born/woman (2021 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 209.)

Contraceptive prevalence rate

65.1% (2013)

Note

percent of women aged 18-49

Drinking water source

Improved

urban: 100% of populationrural: 100% of populationtotal: 100% of population

Unimproved

urban: 0% of populationrural: 0% of populationtotal: 0% of population (2017 est.)

Current Health Expenditure

8.7% (2018)

Physicians density

3.98 physicians/1,000 population (2018)

Hospital bed density

3.1 beds/1,000 population (2018)

Sanitation facility access

Improved

urban: 98.8% of populationrural: 98.6% of populationtotal: 98.8% of population

Unimproved

urban: 1.2% of populationrural: 1.4% of populationtotal: 1.2% of population (2017 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate

0.2% (2020 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 104.)

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS

140,000 (2020 est.)

Note

estimate does not include children

(country comparison to the world: 37.)

HIV/AIDS - deaths

<1000 (2020 est.)

Major infectious diseases

Respiratory diseases

Covid-19 (see note) (2020)

Note

a new coronavirus is causing respiratory illness (COVID-19) in Italy; illness with this virus has ranged from mild to severe with fatalities reported; as of 6 October 2021, Italy has reported a total of 4,686,109 cases of COVID-19 or 7,857.13 cumulative cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 population with 219.84 cumulative deaths per 100,000 population; as of 5 October 2021, 75.36% of the population has received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine; the US Department of Homeland Security has issued instructions requiring US passengers who have been in Italy to travel through select airports where the US Government has implemented enhanced screening procedures

Obesity - adult prevalence rate

19.9% (2016)

(country comparison to the world: 108.)

Children under the age of 5 years underweight

NA

Education expenditures

4.3% of GDP (2018)

(country comparison to the world: 91.)

Literacy

Definition

age 15 and over can read and write

Total population

99.2%

Male

99.4%

Female

99% (2018)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education)

Total

16 years

Male

16 years

Female

17 years (2019)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24

Total

29.4%

Male

27.9%

Female

31.8% (2020 est.)

Environment

Environment - current issues

air pollution from industrial emissions such as sulfur dioxide; coastal and inland rivers polluted from industrial and agricultural effluents; acid rain damaging lakes; inadequate industrial waste treatment and disposal facilities

Environment - international agreements

Party to

Air Pollution, Air Pollution-Nitrogen Oxides, Air Pollution-Persistent Organic Pollutants, Air Pollution-Sulphur 85, Air Pollution-Sulphur 94, Air Pollution-Volatile Organic Compounds, Antarctic-Environmental Protection, Antarctic-Marine Living Resources, Antarctic Seals, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Climate Change-Paris Agreement, Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping-London Convention, Marine Dumping-London Protocol, Nuclear Test Ban, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 2006, Wetlands, Whaling

Signed, but not ratified

Air Pollution-Heavy Metals, Air Pollution-Multi-effect Protocol

Air pollutants

Particulate matter emissions

15.28 micrograms per cubic meter (2016 est.)

Methane emissions

41.3 megatons (2020 est.)

Climate

predominantly Mediterranean; alpine in far north; hot, dry in south

Land use

Agricultural land

47.1% (2018 est.) arable land: 22.8% (2018 est.) permanent crops: 8.6% (2018 est.) permanent pasture: 15.7% (2018 est.)

Forest

31.4% (2018 est.)

Other

21.5% (2018 est.)

Urbanization

Urban population

71.3% of total population (2021)

Rate of urbanization

0.27% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

Revenue from forest resources

Forest revenues

0.01% of GDP (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 151.)

Revenue from coal

Coal revenues

0% of GDP (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 117.)

Major infectious diseases

Respiratory diseases

Covid-19 (see note) (2020)

Note

a new coronavirus is causing respiratory illness (COVID-19) in Italy; illness with this virus has ranged from mild to severe with fatalities reported; as of 6 October 2021, Italy has reported a total of 4,686,109 cases of COVID-19 or 7,857.13 cumulative cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 population with 219.84 cumulative deaths per 100,000 population; as of 5 October 2021, 75.36% of the population has received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine; the US Department of Homeland Security has issued instructions requiring US passengers who have been in Italy to travel through select airports where the US Government has implemented enhanced screening procedures

Waste and recycling

Municipal solid waste generated annually

29.524 million tons (2015 est.)

Municipal solid waste recycled annually

7,646,716 tons (2015 est.)

Percent of municipal solid waste recycled

25.9% (2015 est.)

Major watersheds (area sq km)

Atlantic Ocean drainage: Rhine-Maas (198,735 sq km),

Danube (795,656 sq km),

Po (76,997 sq km),

Rhone (100,543 sq km)

Total water withdrawal

Municipal

9.488 billion cubic meters (2017 est.)

Industrial

7.7 billion cubic meters (2017 est.)

Agricultural

17 billion cubic meters (2017 est.)

Total renewable water resources

191.3 billion cubic meters (2017 est.)

Government

Country name

Conventional long form

Italian Republic

Conventional short form

Italy

Local long form

Repubblica Italiana

Local short form

Italia

Former

Kingdom of Italy

Etymology

derivation is unclear, but the Latin "Italia" may come from the Oscan "Viteliu" meaning "[Land] of Young Cattle" (the bull was a symbol of southern Italic tribes)

Government type

parliamentary republic

Capital

Name

Rome

Geographic coordinates

41 54 N, 12 29 E

Time difference

UTC+1 (6 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Daylight saving time

+1hr, begins last Sunday in March; ends last Sunday in October

Etymology

by tradition, named after Romulus, one of the legendary founders of the city and its first king

Administrative divisions

15 regions (regioni, singular - regione) and 5 autonomous regions (regioni autonome, singular - regione autonoma)

regions: Abruzzo, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Emilia-Romagna, Lazio (Latium), Liguria, Lombardia, Marche, Molise, Piemonte (Piedmont), Puglia (Apulia), Toscana (Tuscany), Umbria, Veneto;

autonomous regions: Friuli Venezia Giulia, Sardegna (Sardinia), Sicilia (Sicily), Trentino-Alto Adige (Trentino-South Tyrol) or Trentino-Suedtirol (German), Valle d'Aosta (Aosta Valley) or Vallee d'Aoste (French)

Independence

17 March 1861 (Kingdom of Italy proclaimed; Italy was not finally unified until 1871)

National holiday

Republic Day, 2 June (1946)

Constitution

History

previous 1848 (originally for the Kingdom of Sardinia and adopted by the Kingdom of Italy in 1861); latest enacted 22 December 1947, adopted 27 December 1947, entered into force 1 January 1948

Amendments

proposed by both houses of Parliament; passage requires two successive debates and approval by absolute majority of each house on the second vote; a referendum is only required when requested by one fifth of the members of either house, by voter petition, or by five Regional Councils (elected legislative assemblies of the 15 first-level administrative regions and 5 autonomous regions of Italy); referendum not required if an amendment has been approved by a two-thirds majority in each house in the second vote; amended many times, last in 2020

Legal system

civil law system; judicial review of legislation under certain conditions in Constitutional Court

International law organization participation

accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations; accepts ICCt jurisdiction

Citizenship

Citizenship by birth

no

Citizenship by descent only

at least one parent must be a citizen of Italy

Dual citizenship recognized

yes

Residency requirement for naturalization

4 years for EU nationals, 5 years for refugees and specified exceptions, 10 years for all others

Suffrage

18 years of age; universal except in senatorial elections, where minimum age is 25

Executive branch

Chief of state

President Sergio MATTARELLA (since 3 February 2015)

Head of government

Prime Minister Mario DRAGHI (since 13 February 2021); the prime minister's official title is President of the Council of Ministers; note - Prime Minister Giuseppe CONTE resigned on 26 January 2021

Cabinet

Council of Ministers proposed by the prime minister, known officially as the President of the Council of Ministers and locally as the Premier; nominated by the president; the current deputy prime ministers, known officially as vice-presidents of the Council of Ministers, are Matteo Salvini (L) and Luigi Di Maio (M5S) (since 1 June 2018)

Elections/appointments

president indirectly elected by an electoral college consisting of both houses of Parliament and 58 regional representatives for a 7-year term (no term limits); election last held on 31 January 2015 (next to be held in 2022); prime minister appointed by the president, confirmed by parliament

Election results

Sergio MATTARELLA (independent) elected president; electoral college vote count in fourth round - 665 out of 1,009 (505-vote threshold)

Legislative branch

Description

bicameral Parliament or Parlamento consists of: Senate or Senato della Repubblica (320 seats; 116 members directly elected in single-seat constituencies by simple majority vote, 193 members in multi-seat constituencies and 6 members in multi-seat constituencies abroad directly elected by party-list proportional representation vote to serve 5-year terms and 5 ex-officio members appointed by the president of the Republic to serve for life) Chamber of Deputies or Camera dei Deputati (630 seats; 629 members directly elected in single- and multi-seat constituencies by proportional representation vote and 1 member from Valle d'Aosta elected by simple majority vote; members serve 5-year terms)

Elections

Senate - last held on 4 March 2018 (next to be held in March 2023) Chamber of Deputies - last held on 4 March 2018 (next to be held in March 2023)

Election results

Senate - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - center-right coalition 137 (Lega 58, FI 57, FdI 18, NCI-UDC 4), M5S 112, center-left coalition 60 (PD 53, SVP-PATT 3, CP 1, +EU 1, Together 1, VdAI 1), LeU 4, MAIE 1, USEI 1; composition (as of September 2021) - men 210, women 110, percent of women 34.4% Chamber of Deputies - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - center-right coalition 265 (Lega 125, FI 104, FdI 32, NeI-UDC 4), M5S 227, center-left coalition 122 (PD 112, SVP-PATT 4, +EU 3, CP 2, Together 1), LeU 14, MAIE 1, USEI 1; composition (as of September 2021) - men 405, women 225, percent of women 35.7%; note - total Parliament percent of women 35.2%

Note

: in October 2019, Italy's Parliament voted to reduce the number of Senate seats from 315 to 200 and the number of Chamber of Deputies seats from 630 to 400; a referendum to reduce the membership of Parliament held on 20-21 September 2020 was approved, effective for the 2023 election

Judicial branch

Highest courts

Supreme Court of Cassation or Corte Suprema di Cassazione (consists of the first president (chief justice), deputy president, 54 justices presiding over 6 civil and 7 criminal divisions, and 288 judges; an additional 30 judges of lower courts serve as supporting judges; cases normally heard by 5-judge panels; more complex cases heard by 9-judge panels); Constitutional Court or Corte Costituzionale (consists of the court president and 14 judges)

Judge selection and term of office

Supreme Court judges appointed by the High Council of the Judiciary, headed by the president of the republic; judges may serve for life; Constitutional Court judges - 5 appointed by the president, 5 elected by Parliament, 5 elected by select higher courts; judges serve up to 9 years

Subordinate courts

various lower civil and criminal courts (primary and secondary tribunals and courts of appeal)

Political parties and leaders

Governing Coalition: Five Star Movement or M5S [Vito CRIMI, acting leader] League or Lega [Matteo SALVINI] Left-center-right opposition: Brothers of Italy or FdI [Giorgi MELONI] Democratic Party or PD [Enrico LETTA] Forza Italia or FI [Silvio BERLUSCONI] Free and Equal (Liberi e Uguali) or LeU [Pietro GRASSO] More Europe or +EU [Emma BONINO] Popular Civic List or CP [Beatrice LORENZIN]

Other parties and parliamentary groups: Article One or Art.1-MDP [Roberto SPERANZA] Associative Movement of Italians Abroad or MAIE [Ricardo Antonio MERIO] Possible [Beatrice BRIGNONE] South American Union Italian Emigrants or USEI [Eugenio SANGREGORIO] South Tyrolean People's Party or SVP [Philipp ACHAMMER] Trentino Tyrolean Autonomist Party (Partito Autonomista Trentino Tirolese) or PATT [Franco PANIZZA, secretary] Us with Italy [Raffaele FITTO]

International organization participation

ADB (nonregional member), AfDB (nonregional member), Arctic Council (observer), Australia Group, BIS, BSEC (observer), CBSS (observer), CD, CDB, CE, CEI, CERN, EAPC, EBRD, ECB, EIB, EITI (implementing country), EMU, ESA, EU, FAO, FATF, G-7, G-8, G-10, G-20, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICt, ICRM, IDA, IEA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IGAD (partners), IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), LAIA (observer), MIGA, MINURSO, MINUSMA, NATO, NEA, NSG, OAS (observer), OECD, OPCW, OSCE, Pacific Alliance (observer), Paris Club, PCA, PIF (partner), Schengen Convention, SELEC (observer), SICA (observer), UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNIFIL, Union Latina, UNMOGIP, UNRWA, UNTSO, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC

Diplomatic representation in the US

Chief of mission

Ambassador Mariangela ZAPPIA (since 15 September 2021)

Chancery

3000 Whitehaven Street NW, Washington, DC 20008

Telephone

[1] (202) 612-4400

FAX

[1] (202) 518-2154

Email address and website

amb.washington@cert.esteri.it

https://ambwashingtondc.esteri.it/ambasciata_washington/en/

Consulate(s) general

Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Miami, New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Francisco

Consulate(s)

Charlotte (NC), Cleveland (OH), Detroit (MI), Hattiesburg (MS), Honolulu (HI), New Orleans, Newark (NJ), Norfolk (VA), Pittsburgh (PA), Portland (OR), Seattle

Diplomatic representation from the US

Chief of mission

Ambassador (vacant); Charge d'Affaires Thomas D. SMITHAM (since 4 January 2021); note - also accredited to San Marino

Embassy

via Vittorio Veneto 121, 00187 Roma

Mailing address

9500 Rome Place, Washington DC 20521-9500

Telephone

[39] 06-46741

FAX

[39] 06-4674-2244

Email address and website

uscitizenrome@state.gov

<https://it.usembassy.gov/>

Consulate(s) general

Florence, Milan, Naples

Flag description

three equal vertical bands of green (hoist side), white, and red; design inspired by the French flag brought to Italy by Napoleon in 1797; colors are those of Milan (red and white) combined with the green uniform color of the Milanese civic guard

Note

similar to the flag of Mexico, which is longer, uses darker shades of green and red, and has its coat of arms centered on the white band; Ireland, which is longer and is green (hoist side), white, and orange; also similar to the flag of the Cote d'Ivoire, which has the colors reversed - orange (hoist side), white, and green

National symbol(s)

white, five-pointed star (Stella d'Italia); national colors: red, white, green

National anthem

Name

"Il Canto degli Italiani" (The Song of the Italians)

Lyrics/music

Goffredo MAMELI/Michele NOVARO

Note

adopted 1946; the anthem, originally written in 1847, is also known as "L'Inno di Mameli" (Mameli's Hymn), and "Fratelli D'Italia" (Brothers of Italy)

Economy

Economic overview

Italy's economy comprises a developed industrial north, dominated by private companies, and a less-developed, highly subsidized, agricultural south, with a legacy of unemployment and underdevelopment. The Italian economy is driven in large part by the manufacture of high-quality consumer goods produced by small and medium-sized enterprises, many of them family-owned. Italy also has a sizable underground economy, which by some estimates accounts for as much as 17% of GDP. These activities are most common within the agriculture, construction, and service sectors.

Italy is the third-largest economy in the euro zone, but its exceptionally high public debt and structural impediments to growth have rendered it vulnerable to scrutiny by financial markets. Public debt has increased steadily since 2007, reaching 131% of GDP in 2017. Investor concerns about Italy and the broader euro-zone crisis eased in 2013, bringing down Italy's borrowing costs on sovereign government debt from euro-era records. The government still faces pressure from investors and European partners to sustain its efforts to address Italy's longstanding structural economic problems, including labor market inefficiencies, a sluggish judicial system, and a weak banking sector. Italy's economy returned to modest growth in late 2014 for the first time since 2011. In 2015-16, Italy's economy grew at about 1% each year, and in 2017 growth accelerated to 1.5% of GDP. In 2017, overall unemployment was 11.4%, but youth unemployment remained high at 37.1%. GDP growth is projected to slow slightly in 2018.

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$2,322,140,000,000 note: data are in 2017 dollars (2020 est.)\$2,548,190,000,000 note: data are in 2017 dollars (2019 est.)\$2,540,890,000,000 note: data are in 2017 dollars (2018 est.)

Note

data are in 2010 dollars

(country comparison to the world: 12.)

Real GDP growth rate

0.34% (2019 est.)0.83% (2018 est.)1.73% (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 187.)

Real GDP per capita

\$39,000 note: data are in 2017 dollars (2020 est.)\$42,700 note: data are in 2017 dollars (2019 est.)\$42,100 note: data are in 2017 dollars (2018 est.)

Note

data are in 2010 dollars

(country comparison to the world: 45.)

GDP (official exchange rate)

\$2,002,763,000,000 (2019 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices)

0.6% (2019 est.)1.1% (2018 est.)1.2% (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 47.)

Credit ratings

Fitch rating

BBB- (2020)

Moody's rating

Baa3 (2018)

Standard & Poors rating

BBB (2017)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin

Agriculture

2.1% (2017 est.)

Industry

23.9% (2017 est.)

Services

73.9% (2017 est.)

GDP - composition, by end use

Household consumption

61% (2017 est.)

Government consumption

18.6% (2017 est.)

Investment in fixed capital

17.5% (2017 est.)

Investment in inventories

-0.2% (2017 est.)

Exports of goods and services

31.4% (2017 est.)

Imports of goods and services

-28.3% (2017 est.)

Agricultural products

milk, grapes, wheat, maize, tomatoes, apples, olives, sugar beet, oranges, rice

Industries

tourism, machinery, iron and steel, chemicals, food processing, textiles, motor vehicles, clothing, footwear, ceramics

Industrial production growth rate

2.1% (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 128.)

Labor force

22.92 million (2020 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 24.)

Labor force - by occupation

Agriculture

3.9%

Industry

28.3%

Services

67.8% (2011)

Unemployment rate

9.88% (2019 est.)10.63% (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 146.)

Population below poverty line

20.1% (2018 est.)

Gini Index coefficient - distribution of family income

35.9 (2017 est.)27.3 (1995)

(country comparison to the world: 97.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share

Lowest 10%

2.3%

Highest 10%

26.8% (2000)

Budget

Revenues

903.3 billion (2017 est.)

Expenditures

948.1 billion (2017 est.)

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-)

-2.3% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 111.)

Public debt

131.8% of GDP (2017 est.)132% of GDP (2016 est.)

Note

Italy reports its data on public debt according to guidelines set out in the Maastricht Treaty; general government gross debt is defined in the Maastricht Treaty as consolidated general government gross debt at nominal value, outstanding at the end of the year, in the following categories of government liabilities (as defined in ESA95): currency and deposits (AF.2), securities other than shares excluding financial derivatives (AF.3, excluding AF.34), and loans (AF.4); the general government sector comprises central, state, and local government and social security funds

(country comparison to the world: 5.)

Taxes and other revenues

46.6% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 20.)

Fiscal year

calendar year

Current account balance

\$59.517 billion (2019 est.)\$51.735 billion (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 10.)

Exports

\$558.26 billion note: data are in current year dollars (2020 est.)\$636.01 billion note: data are in current year dollars (2019 est.)\$656.06 billion note: data are in current year dollars (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 11.)

Exports - partners

Germany 12%, France 11%, United States 10%, United Kingdom 5%, Spain 5%, Switzerland 5% (2019)

Exports - commodities

packaged medicines, cars and vehicle parts, refined petroleum, valves, trunks/cases, wine (2019)

Imports

\$486.35 billion note: data are in current year dollars (2020 est.)\$569.7 billion note: data are in current year dollars (2019 est.)\$605.44 billion note: data are in current year dollars (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 13.)

Imports - partners

Germany 16%, France 9%, China 7%, Spain 5%, Netherlands 5%, Belgium 5% (2019)

Imports - commodities

crude petroleum, cars, packaged medicines, natural gas, refined petroleum (2019)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold

\$151.2 billion (31 December 2017 est.)\$130.6 billion (31 December 2015 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 17.)

Debt - external

\$2,463,208,000,000 (2019 est.)\$2,533,153,000,000 (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 10.)

Exchange rates

euros (EUR) per US dollar -0.82771 (2020 est.)0.90338 (2019 est.)0.87789 (2018 est.)0.885 (2014 est.)0.7634 (2013 est.)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24

Total

29.4%

Male

27.9%

Female

31.8% (2020 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 36.)

Energy

Electricity access

Electrification - total population
100% (2020)

Electricity - production

275.3 billion kWh (2016 est.)
(country comparison to the world: 14.)

Electricity - consumption

293.5 billion kWh (2016 est.)
(country comparison to the world: 13.)

Electricity - exports

6.155 billion kWh (2016 est.)
(country comparison to the world: 30.)

Electricity - imports

43.18 billion kWh (2016 est.)
(country comparison to the world: 2.)

Electricity - installed generating capacity

114.2 million kW (2016 est.)
(country comparison to the world: 10.)

Electricity - from fossil fuels

54% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)
(country comparison to the world: 143.)

Electricity - from nuclear fuels

0% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)
(country comparison to the world: 114.)

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants

14% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)
(country comparison to the world: 106.)

Electricity - from other renewable sources

32% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 13.)

Crude oil - production

90,000 bbl/day (2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 44.)

Crude oil - exports

13,790 bbl/day (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 57.)

Crude oil - imports

1.341 million bbl/day (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 7.)

Crude oil - proved reserves

487.8 million bbl (1 January 2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 45.)

Refined petroleum products - production

1.607 million bbl/day (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 12.)

Refined petroleum products - consumption

1.236 million bbl/day (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 19.)

Refined petroleum products - exports

615,900 bbl/day (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 13.)

Refined petroleum products - imports

422,500 bbl/day (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 19.)

Natural gas - production

5.55 billion cu m (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 50.)

Natural gas - consumption

75.15 billion cu m (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 11.)

Natural gas - exports

271.8 million cu m (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 44.)

Natural gas - imports

69.66 billion cu m (2017 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 5.)

Natural gas - proved reserves

38.11 billion cu m (1 January 2018 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 65.)

Communications

Telephones - fixed lines

Total subscriptions

19,430,559 (2020)

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

32.14 (2020 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 14.)

Telephones - mobile cellular

Total subscriptions

77,796,840 (2020)

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

128.7 (2020 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 21.)

Telecommunication systems

General assessment

well-developed, fully automated telephone, and data services; among highest mobile penetration rates in Europe; benefitted from progressive government programs aimed at developing fiber in broadband sector; leading edge of development with 5G in six cities; fiber network reaches more than half of population; Milan developing smart city technology; importer of broadcasting equipment and computers from China (2020)

Domestic

high-capacity cable and microwave radio relay trunks; 32 per 100 for fixed-line and 133 per 100 for mobile-cellular subscriptions (2019)

International

country code - 39; landing points for Italy-Monaco, Italy-Libya, Italy-Malta, Italy-Greece-1, Italy-Croatia, BlueMed, Janna, FEA, SeaMeWe-3 & 4 & 5, Trapani-Kelibia, Columbus-III, Didon, GO-1, HANNIBAL System, MENA, Bridge International, Malta-Italy Interconnector, Melita1, IMEWE, VMSCS, AAE-1, and OTEGLOBE, submarine cables that provide links to Asia, the Middle East, Europe, North Africa, Southeast Asia, Australia and US; satellite earth stations - 3 Intelsat (with a total of 5 antennas - 3 for Atlantic Ocean and 2 for Indian Ocean) (2019)

Note

the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on production and supply chains globally; since 2020, some aspects of the telecom sector have experienced downturn, particularly in mobile device production; many network operators delayed upgrades to infrastructure; progress towards 5G implementation was postponed or slowed in some countries; consumer spending on telecom services and devices was affected by large-scale job losses and the consequent restriction on disposable incomes; the crucial nature of telecom services as a tool for work and school from home became evident, and received some support from governments

Broadcast media

two Italian media giants dominate - the publicly owned Radiotelevisione Italiana (RAI) with 3 national terrestrial stations and privately owned Mediaset with 3 national terrestrial stations; a large number of private stations and Sky Italia - a satellite TV network; RAI operates 3 AM/FM nationwide radio stations; about 1,300 commercial radio stations

Internet country code

.it

Internet users

Total

50.54 million (2021 est.)

Percent of population

63.08% (2019 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 18.)

Broadband - fixed subscriptions

Total

17,855,620 (2020)

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

29.53 (2020 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 12.)

Transportation

National air transport system

Number of registered air carriers

9 (2020)

Inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers

180

Annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers

27,630,435 (2018)

Annual freight traffic on registered air carriers

1.418 billion mt-km (2018)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix

I

Airports

Total

129 (2013)

(country comparison to the world: 44.)

Airports - with paved runways

Total

98

Over 3,047 m

9

2,438 to 3,047 m

31

1,524 to 2,437 m

18

914 to 1,523 m

29

Under 914 m

11 (2017)

Airports - with unpaved runways

Total

31

1,524 to 2,437 m

1

914 to 1,523 m

10

Under 914 m

20 (2013)

Heliports

5 (2013)

Pipelines

20223 km gas, 1393 km oil, 1574 km refined products (2013)

Railways

Total

20,182 km (2014)

Standard gauge

18,770.1 km 1.435-m gauge (12,893.6 km electrified) (2014)

Narrow gauge

122.3 km 1.000-m gauge (122.3 km electrified) (2014) 1289.3 0.950-m gauge (151.3 km electrified)

(country comparison to the world: 15.)

Roadways

Total

487,700 km (2007)

Paved

487,700 km (includes 6,700 km of expressways) (2007)

(country comparison to the world: 15.)

Waterways

2,400 km (used for commercial traffic; of limited overall value compared to road and rail) (2012)

(country comparison to the world: 36.)

Merchant marine

Total

1,296

By type

bulk carrier 36, container ship 7, general cargo 111, oil tanker 103, other 1,039 (2021)

(country comparison to the world: 20.)

Ports and terminals

Major seaport(s)

Augusta, Cagliari, Genoa, Livorno, Taranto, Trieste, Venice

Oil terminal(s)

Melilli (Santa Panagia) oil terminal, Sarroch oil terminal

Container port(s) (TEUs)

Genoa (2,621,472), Gioia Tauro (2,523,000) (2019)

LNG terminal(s) (import)

La Spezia, Panigaglia, Porto Levante

Military and Security

Military and security forces

Italian Armed Forces: Army (Esercito Italiano, EI), Navy (Marina Militare Italiana, MMI; includes aviation, marines), Italian Air Force (Aeronautica Militare Italiana, AMI); Carabinieri Corps (Arma dei Carabinieri, CC) (2021)note(s): the Carabinieri is the national gendarmerie; for its civil police functions, the Carabinieri falls under the control of the Ministry of the Interior; the Financial Guard (Guardia di Finanza) under the Ministry of Economy and Finance is a force with military status and nationwide remit for financial crime investigations, including narcotics trafficking, smuggling, and illegal immigration

Military expenditures

1.39% of GDP (2020 est.)1.18% of GDP (2019)1.23% of GDP (2018)1.2% of GDP (2017)1.18% of GDP (2016)

(country comparison to the world: 95.)

Military and security service personnel strengths

the Italian Armed Forces have approximately 170,000 active personnel (100,000 Army; 30,000 Navy; 40,000 Air Force); approximately 107,000 Carabinieri (2020)

Military equipment inventories and acquisitions

the Italian Armed Forces' inventory includes a mix of domestically-produced, jointly-produced, and imported European and US weapons systems; the US is the leading supplier of weapons to Italy since 2010, followed by Germany; the Italian defense industry is capable of producing equipment across all the military domains with particular strengths in naval vessels and aircraft; it also participates in joint development and production of advanced weapons systems with other European countries and the US (2020)

Military deployments

120 Djibouti; 1,100 Middle East/Iraq/Kuwait (NATO, counter-ISIS campaign, European Assistance Mission Iraq); 630 Kosovo (NATO/KFOR); 200 Latvia (NATO); 1,200 Lebanon (UNIFIL); 400 Libya; 290 Niger; 150 Somalia (EUTM) (2021)

Military service age and obligation

18-25 years of age for voluntary military service; women may serve in any military branch; Italian citizenship required; 1-year service obligation; conscription abolished 2004 (2019)

Military - note

Italy is a member of NATO and was one of the original 12 countries to sign the North Atlantic Treaty (also known as the Washington Treaty) in 1949

Terrorism

Terrorist group(s)

Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS)

Transnational Issues

Disputes - international

Italy's long coastline and developed economy entices tens of thousands of illegal immigrants from southeastern Europe and northern Africa

Refugees and internally displaced persons

Refugees (country of origin)

18,473 (Nigeria), 14,484 (Pakistan), 12,096 (Afghanistan), 10,063 (Mali), 7,704 (Somalia), 5,740 (Gambia) (2020)

Stateless persons

3,000 (2020)

Note

586,704 estimated refugee and migrant arrivals (January 2015-December 2021)

Illicit drugs

important gateway for drug trafficking; organized crime groups allied with Colombian and Spanish groups trafficking cocaine to Europe

HOLY SEE (VATICAN CITY)

Country Flag



Country Map



Locator Map



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Introduction

Background

Popes in their secular role ruled portions of the Italian peninsula for more than a thousand years until the mid-19th century, when many of the Papal States were seized by the newly united Kingdom of Italy. In 1870, the pope's holdings were further circumscribed when Rome itself was annexed. Disputes between a series of "prisoner" popes and Italy were resolved in 1929 by three Lateran Treaties, which established the independent state of Vatican City and granted Roman Catholicism special status in Italy. In 1984, a concordat between the Holy See and Italy modified certain of the earlier treaty provisions, including the primacy of Roman Catholicism as the Italian state religion. Present concerns of the Holy See include religious freedom, threats against minority Christian communities in Africa and the Middle East, the plight of refugees and migrants, sexual

misconduct by clergy, international development, interreligious dialogue and reconciliation, and the application of church doctrine in an era of rapid change and globalization. About 1.3 billion people worldwide profess Catholicism - the world's largest Christian faith.

Geography

Location

Southern Europe, an enclave of Rome (Italy)

Geographic coordinates

41 54 N, 12 27 E

Map references

Europe

Area

Total

0 sq km

Land

0.44 sq km

Water

0 sq km

(country comparison to the world: 257.)

Area - comparative

about 0.7 times the size of the National Mall in Washington, DC

Land boundaries

Total

3.4 km

Border countries (1)

Italy 3.4 km

Coastline

0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims

none (landlocked)

Climate

temperate; mild, rainy winters (September to May) with hot, dry summers (May to September)

Terrain

urban; low hill

Elevation

Highest point

Vatican Gardens (Vatican Hill) 78 m

Lowest point

Saint Peter's Square 19 m

Natural resources

none

Land use

Agricultural land

0% (2018 est.)

Other

100% (2018 est.)

Natural hazards

occasional earthquakes

Geography - note

landlocked; an enclave in Rome, Italy; world's smallest state; beyond the territorial boundary of Vatican City, the Lateran Treaty of 1929 grants the Holy See extraterritorial authority over 23 sites in Rome and five outside of Rome, including the Pontifical Palace at Castel Gandolfo (the Pope's summer residence)

People and Society

Population

1,000 (2019 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 235.)

Nationality

Noun

none

Adjective

none

Ethnic groups

Italian, Swiss, Argentinian, and other nationalities from around the world (2017)

Languages

Italian, Latin, French, various other languages

Major-language sample(s)

L'Almanacco dei fatti del mondo, l'indispensabile fonte per le informazioni di base. (Italian)The World Factbook, the indispensable source for basic information.

Religions

Roman Catholic

Age structure

0-14 years

NA

15-24 years

NA

25-54 years

NA

55-64 years

NA

65 years and over

NA

Dependency ratios

Total dependency ratio

NA

Youth dependency ratio

NA

Elderly dependency ratio

NA

Potential support ratio

NA

Population growth rate

0% (2014 est.)

(country comparison to the world: 194.)

Birth rate

NA

Death rate

NA

Urbanization

Urban population

100% of total population (2021)

Rate of urbanization

0% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

Major urban areas - population

1,000 VATICAN CITY (capital) (2018)

Contraceptive prevalence rate

NA

Drinking water source

Improved

total: 100% of population

Unimproved

total: 0% of population (2017 est.)

Current Health Expenditure

NA

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate

NA

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS

NA

HIV/AIDS - deaths

NA

Children under the age of 5 years underweight

NA

Education expenditures

NA

Environment

Environment - current issues

some air pollution from the surrounding city of Rome

Environment - international agreements

Party to

Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban, Ozone Layer Protection

Signed, but not ratified

Air Pollution, Environmental Modification

Air pollutants

Methane emissions

0 megatons (2020 est.)

Climate

temperate; mild, rainy winters (September to May) with hot, dry summers (May to September)

Land use

Agricultural land

0% (2018 est.)

Other

100% (2018 est.)

Urbanization

Urban population

100% of total population (2021)

Rate of urbanization

0% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

Total renewable water resources

0 cubic meters (2017 est.)

Government

Country name

Conventional long form

The Holy See (Vatican City State)

Conventional short form

Holy See (Vatican City)

Local long form

La Santa Sede (Stato della Citta del Vaticano)

Local short form

Santa Sede (Citta del Vaticano)

Etymology

"holy" comes from the Greek word "hera" meaning "sacred"; "see" comes from the Latin word "sedes" meaning "seat," and refers to the episcopal chair; the term "Vatican" derives from the hill Mons Vaticanus on which the Vatican is located and which comes from the Latin "vaticinari" (to prophesy), referring to the fortune tellers and soothsayers who frequented the area in Roman times

Government type

ecclesiastical elective monarchy; self-described as an "absolute monarchy"

Capital

Name

Vatican City

Geographic coordinates

41 54 N, 12 27 E

Time difference

UTC+1 (6 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Daylight saving time

+1hr, begins last Sunday in March; ends last Sunday in October

Administrative divisions

none

Independence

11 February 1929; note - the three treaties signed with Italy on 11 February 1929 acknowledged, among other things, the full sovereignty of the Holy See and established its territorial extent; however, the origin of the Papal States, which over centuries varied considerably in extent, may be traced back to A.D. 754

National holiday

Election Day of Pope FRANCIS, 13 March (2013)

Constitution

History

previous 1929, 1963; latest adopted 26 November 2000, effective 22 February 2001 (Fundamental Law of Vatican City State); note - in October 2013, Pope Francis instituted a 9-member Council of Cardinal Advisors to reform the administrative apparatus of the Holy See (Roman Curia) to include writing a new constitution; on 13 June 2018, Pope Francis approved the Council of Cardinals' first draft of the new constitution, *Predicatae Evangelium*, which will replace "Pastor Bonus, the current governing document of the Roman Curia

Amendments

note - although the Fundamental Law of Vatican City State makes no mention of amendments, Article Four (drafting laws), states that this legislative responsibility resides with the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State; draft legislation is submitted through the Secretariat of State and considered by the pope

Legal system

religious legal system based on canon (religious) law

International law organization participation

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

Citizenship

Citizenship by birth

no

Citizenship by descent only

no

Dual citizenship recognized

no

Residency requirement for naturalization

not applicable

Note

in the Holy See, citizenship is acquired by law, *ex iure*, or by administrative decision; in the first instance, citizenship is a function of holding office within the Holy See as in the case of cardinals resident in Vatican City or diplomats of the Holy See; in the second instance, citizenship may be requested in a limited set of circumstances for those who reside within Vatican City under papal authorization, as a function of their office or service, or as the spouses and children of current citizens; citizenship is lost once an individual no longer permanently resides in Vatican City, normally reverting to the citizenship previously held

Suffrage

election of the pope is limited to cardinals less than 80 years old

Executive branch

Chief of state

Pope FRANCIS (since 13 March 2013)

Head of government

Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro PAROLIN (since 15 October 2013); note - Head of Government of Vatican City is President Cardinal Giuseppe BERTELLO (since 1 October 2011)

Cabinet

Pontifical Commission for the State of Vatican City appointed by the pope

Elections/appointments

pope elected by the College of Cardinals, usually for life or until voluntary resignation; election last held on 13 March 2013 (next to be held after the death or resignation of the current pope); Secretary of State appointed by the pope

Election results

Jorge Mario BERGOGLIO, former Archbishop of Buenos Aires, elected Pope FRANCIS

Legislative branch

Description

unicameral Pontifical Commission for the State of Vatican City or Pontificia Commissione per lo Stato della Citta del Vaticano (7 seats; the president of the Governorate of Vatican City State and 6 cardinals appointed by the pope to serve 5-year terms)

Elections

last held on 11 July 2018

Election results

composition - men 7, women 0

Judicial branch

Highest courts

Supreme Court or Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura (consists of the cardinal prefect, who serves as ex-officio president of the court, and 2 other cardinals of the Prefect Signatura); note - judicial duties were established by the Motu Proprio, papal directive, of Pope PIUS XII on 1 May 1946; most Vatican City criminal matters are handled by the Republic of Italy courts

Judge selection and term of office

cardinal prefect appointed by the pope; the other 2 cardinals of the court appointed by the cardinal prefect on a yearly basis

Subordinate courts

Appellate Court of Vatican City; Tribunal of Vatican City

Political parties and leaders

none

International organization participation

CE (observer), IAEA, Interpol, IOM, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), OAS (observer), OPCW, OSCE, Schengen Convention (de facto member), SICA (observer), UN (observer), UNCTAD, UNHCR, Union Latina (observer), UNWTO (observer), UPU, WIPO, WTO (observer)

Diplomatic representation in the US

Chief of mission

Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Christophe PIERRE (since 27 June 2016)

Chancery

3339 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008

Telephone

[1] (202) 333-7121

FAX

[1] (202) 337-4036

Email address and website

nuntiususa@nuntiususa.org

<http://www.nuntiususa.org/>

Diplomatic representation from the US

Chief of mission

Ambassador (vacant); Charge d'Affaires Patrick CONNELL (since January 2021)

Embassy

Via Sallustiana, 49, 00187 Rome

Mailing address

5660 Holy See Place, Washington DC 20521-5660

Telephone

[39] (06) 4674-1

FAX

[39] (06) 4674-3411

Email address and website

<https://va.usembassy.gov/>

Flag description

two vertical bands of yellow (hoist side) and white with the arms of the Holy See, consisting of the crossed keys of Saint Peter surmounted by the three-tiered papal tiara, centered in the white band; the yellow color represents the pope's spiritual power, the white his worldly power

National symbol(s)

crossed keys beneath a papal tiara; national colors: yellow, white

National anthem

Name

"Inno e Marcia Pontificale" (Hymn and Pontifical March); often called The Pontifical Hymn

Lyrics/music

Raffaello LAVAGNA/Charles-Francois GOUNOD

Note

adopted 1950

Economy

Economic overview

The Holy See is supported financially by a variety of sources, including investments, real estate income, and donations from Catholic individuals, dioceses, and institutions; these help fund the Roman Curia (Vatican bureaucracy), diplomatic missions, and media outlets. Moreover, an annual collection taken up in dioceses and from direct donations go to a non-budgetary fund, known as Peter's Pence, which is used directly by the pope for charity, disaster relief, and aid to churches in developing nations.

The separate Vatican City State budget includes the Vatican museums and post office and is supported financially by the sale of stamps, coins, medals, and tourist mementos as well as fees for admission to museums and publication sales. Revenues increased between 2010 and 2011 because of expanded operating hours and a growing number of visitors. However, the Holy See did not escape the financial difficulties experienced by other European countries; in 2012, it started a spending review to determine where to cut costs to reverse its 2011 budget deficit of \$20 million. The Holy See generated a modest surplus in 2012 before recording a \$32 million deficit in 2013, driven primarily by the decreasing value of gold. The incomes and living standards of lay workers are comparable to those of counterparts who work in the city of Rome so most public expenditures go to wages and other personnel costs;. In February 2014, Pope FRANCIS created the Secretariat of the Economy to oversee financial and administrative operations of the Holy See, part of a broader campaign to reform the Holy See's finances.

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

NA

Industries

printing; production of coins, medals, postage stamps; mosaics, staff uniforms; worldwide banking and financial activities

Labor force

4,822 (2016)

(country comparison to the world: 220.)

Labor force - by occupation

note: essentially services with a small amount of industry; nearly all dignitaries, priests, nuns, guards, and the approximately 3,000 lay workers live outside the Vatican

Population below poverty line

NA

Budget

Revenues

315 million (2013)

Expenditures

348 million (2013)

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-)

NA

Taxes and other revenues

NA

Fiscal year

calendar year

Exchange rates

euros (EUR) per US dollar -0.885 (2017 est.)0.903 (2016 est.)0.9214 (2015 est.)0.885 (2014 est.)0.7634 (2013 est.)

Energy

Electricity access

Electrification - total population

100% (2020)

Communications

Telephones - fixed lines

Total subscriptions

NA

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

NA

Telephones - mobile cellular

Total subscriptions

NA

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

NA

Telecommunication systems

General assessment

automatic digital exchange (2018)

Domestic

connected via fiber-optic cable to Telecom Italia network (2018)

International

country code - 39; uses Italian system

Note

the COVID-19 outbreak is negatively impacting telecommunications production and supply chains globally; consumer spending on telecom devices and services has also slowed due to the pandemic's effect on economies worldwide; overall progress towards improvements in all facets of the telecom industry - mobile, fixed-line, broadband, submarine cable and satellite - has moderated

Broadcast media

the Vatican Television Center (CTV) transmits live broadcasts of the Pope's Sunday and Wednesday audiences, as well as the Pope's public celebrations; CTV also produces documentaries; Vatican Radio is the Holy See's official broadcasting service broadcasting via shortwave, AM and FM frequencies, and via satellite and Internet connections

Internet country code

.va

Communications - note

the Vatican Apostolic Library is one of the world's oldest libraries, formally established in 1475, but actually much older; it holds a significant collection of historic texts including 1.1 million printed books and 75,000 codices (manuscript books with handwritten contents); it serves as a research library for history, law, philosophy, science, and theology; the library's collections have been described as "the world's greatest treasure house of the writings at the core of Western tradition"

Military and Security

Military and security forces

Pontifical Swiss Guard Corps (Corpo della Guardia Svizzera Pontificia); the Gendarmerie Corps of Vatican City (Corpo della Gendarmeria) is a police force that helps augment the Pontifical Swiss Guard Corps during the Pope's appearances, as well as providing general security, traffic direction, and investigative duties for the Vatican City State (2021)

Military service age and obligation

Pontifical Swiss Guard Corps: 19-30 years of age for voluntary military service; no conscription; must be Roman Catholic, a single male, and a Swiss citizen, with a secondary education; service is for 26 months (2021)

Military - note

defense is the responsibility of Italy

Transnational Issues

Disputes - international

none