

Countries:

- [Afghanistan](#)
- [Czechia](#)
- [France](#)
- [Zimbabwe](#)

Afghanistan



Introduction

Ahmad Shah DURRANI unified the Pashtun tribes and founded Afghanistan in 1747. The country served as a buffer between the British and Russian Empires until it won independence from notional British control in 1919. A brief experiment in increased democracy ended in a 1973 coup and a 1978 communist counter coup. The Soviet Union invaded in 1979 to support the tottering Afghan communist regime, touching off a long and destructive war. The USSR withdrew in 1989 under relentless pressure by internationally supported anti-communist mujahidin rebels. A series of subsequent civil wars saw Kabul finally fall in 1996 to the Taliban, a hardline Pakistani-sponsored movement that emerged in 1994 to end the country's civil war and anarchy. Following the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks, a US, Allied, and anti-Taliban Northern Alliance military action toppled the Taliban for sheltering Usama BIN LADIN.

A UN-sponsored Bonn Conference in 2001 established a process for political reconstruction that included the adoption of a new constitution, a presidential election in 2004, and National Assembly elections in 2005. In December 2004, Hamid KARZAI became the first democratically elected president of Afghanistan, and the National Assembly was inaugurated the following December. KARZAI was reelected in August 2009 for a second term. The 2014 presidential election was the country's first to include a runoff, which featured the top two vote-getters from the first round, Abdullah ABDULLAH and Ashraf GHANI. Throughout the summer of 2014, their campaigns disputed the results and traded accusations of fraud, leading to a US-led diplomatic intervention that included a full vote audit as well as political negotiations between the two camps. In September 2014, GHANI and ABDULLAH agreed to form the Government of National Unity, with GHANI inaugurated as president and ABDULLAH elevated to the newly-created position of chief executive officer. The day after the inauguration, the GHANI administration signed the US-Afghan Bilateral Security Agreement and NATO Status of Forces Agreement, which provide the legal basis for the post-2014 international military presence in Afghanistan. After two postponements, the next presidential election was held in September 2019.

The Taliban remains a serious challenge for the Afghan Government in almost every province. The Taliban still considers itself the rightful government of Afghanistan, and it remains a capable and confident insurgent force fighting for the withdrawal of foreign military forces from Afghanistan, establishment of sharia law, and rewriting of the Afghan constitution. In 2019, negotiations between the US and the Taliban in Doha entered their highest level yet, building on momentum that began in late 2018. Underlying the negotiations

is the unsettled state of Afghan politics, and prospects for a sustainable political settlement remain unclear.

Geography

Location: Southern Asia, north and west of Pakistan, east of Iran

Continent: Asia

Coastline: none

Land - total: 652,230 km²

Land - land: 652,230 km²

Land - water: 0 km²

Area ranking: 42 in the world

Area comparative: almost six times the size of Virginia; slightly smaller than Texas

Boundaries: (5987 km with 6 countries)

- China (91 km)
- Iran (921 km)
- Pakistan (2670 km)
- Tajikistan (1357 km)
- Turkmenistan (804 km)
- Uzbekistan (144 km)

Maritime claims: none

Elevation:

- **Mean:** 1884 a.s.l.
- **Lowest:** 258 a.s.l. (Amu Darya)
- **Highest:** 7492 a.s.l. (Noshak)

Irrigated land: 32.080 km²

Land:

- **Agricultural:** 58.1 %
 - **Arable:** 11.8 %
 - **Pasture:** 46 %
 - **Crops:** 0.3 %
- **Forest:** 2.07 %
- **Other:** 39 %

Climate: cold winters and hot summers

Terrain: mostly rugged mountains; plains in north and southwest

Distribution: populations tend to cluster in the foothills and periphery of the rugged Hindu Kush range; smaller groups are found in many of the country's interior valleys; in general, the east is more densely settled, while the south is sparsely populated

Environment - issues: limited natural freshwater resources; inadequate supplies of potable water; soil degradation; overgrazing; deforestation (much of the remaining forests are being cut down for fuel and building materials); desertification; air and water pollution in overcrowded urban areas

Environment - agreements: party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection

Resources: natural gas, petroleum, coal, copper, chromite, talc, barites, sulfur, lead, zinc, iron ore, salt, precious and semiprecious stones, arable land

Hazards: damaging earthquakes occur in Hindu Kush mountains; flooding; droughts

Note: landlocked; the Hindu Kush mountains that run northeast to southwest divide the northern provinces from the rest of the country; the highest peaks are in the northern Vakhn (Wakhan Corridor)

People and society

Population: 36,643,815 (ranking: 39)

Nationality: Afghan(s) (adjective: Afghan)

Ethnic groups: Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek, other (includes smaller numbers of Baloch, Turkmen, Nuristani, Pamiri, Arab, Gujar, Brahui, Qizilbash, Aimaq, Pashai, and Kyrghyz) (2015)

Languages:

- **Afghan Persian or Dari** (77 %)
- **Pashto** (48 %)
- Uzbek (11 %)
- English (6 %)
- Turkmen (3 %)
- Urdu (3 %)

Religions:

- **Sunni (Muslim):** 87 %
- **Shia (Muslim):** 12 %
- **other:** 1 %

Age structure:

Min	Max	Percent	Male	Female
0	14	40.62 %	7,562,703	7,321,646
15	24	21.26 %	3,960,044	3,828,670
25	54	31.44 %	5,858,675	5,661,887
55	64	4.01 %	724,597	744,910
65	120	2.68 %	451,852	528,831

Total dependency ratio: 88.8

Youth dependency ratio: 75.3

Elderly dependency ratio: 4.8

Potential dependency ratio: 21

Birth rate: 36.7 births / 1,000 population

Death rate: 12.7 deaths / 1,000 population

Sex ratio:

- **Total:** 1.03 male(s)/female
- **0-14 years:** 1.03 male(s)/female
- **15-24 years:** 1.03 male(s)/female
- **25-54 years:** 1.03 male(s)/female
- **55-64 years:** 0.97 male(s)/female
- **65-120 years:** 0.85 male(s)/female

Mother's mean age at first birth: 19.9 years

Maternal mortality: 638 deaths / 100,000 live births

Total fertility rate: 4.82 children / woman

Drinking water source access:

- total: 70.2 % of population
- urban: 95.9 % of population
- rural: 61.4 % of population

Sanitation facility access:

- total: 53.2 % of population
- rural: 43 % of population
- urban: 83.6 % of population

Diseases:

- **food or waterborne disease(s):** bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever
- **vectorborne disease(s):** Crimea-Congo hemorrhagic fever, malaria

Health expenditure: 11.8

Median age:

- total: 19.5 %
- male: 19.4 %
- female: 19.5 %
- ranking: 202 %

Infant mortality:

- total: 104.3 %
- male: 111.3 %
- female: 96.9 %
- ranking: 1 %

Life expectancy:

- total: 52.8 %
- male: 51.4 %
- female: 54.4 %
- ranking: 228 %

Literacy:

- total: 43 %
- male: 55.5 %
- female: 29.8 %

School life expectancy:

- total: 10 %
- male: 13 %
- female: 8 %

Youth unemployment:

- total: 17.6 %
- male: 16.3 %
- female: 21.4 %
- ranking: 75 %

Government

Country name: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (short Afghanistan)

Type of government: presidential Islamic republic

Capital: Kabul

UTC time: UTC+4.5

Independence day: 19th August 1919

Legal system: mixed legal system of civil, customary, and Islamic (sharia) law

Suffrage: at the age of 18

Administrative division: 34 provinces

Citizenship:

- **by birth:** no
- **by descent only:** at least one parent must have been born in - and continuously lived in - Afghanistan

Executive power:

- **Chief of state:** President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Ashraf GHANI (since 29 September 2014); CEO Abdullah ABDULLAH, Dr. (since 29 September 2014); First Vice President Abdul Rashid DOSTAM (since 29 September 2014); Second Vice President Sarwar DANESH (since 29 September 2014); First Deputy CEO Khyal Mohammad KHAN; Second Deputy CEO Mohammad MOHAQQEQ; note - the president is both chief of state and head of government
- **Head of government:** President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Ashraf GHANI (since 29 September 2014); CEO Abdullah ABDULLAH, Dr. (since 29 September 2014); First Vice President Abdul Rashid DOSTAM (since 29 September 2014); Second Vice President Sarwar DANESH (since 29 September 2014); First Deputy CEO Khyal Mohammad KHAN; Second Deputy CEO Mohammad MOHAQQEQ
- **Cabinet:** Cabinet consists of 25 ministers appointed by the president, approved by the National Assembly
- **Elections:** president directly elected by absolute majority popular vote in 2 rounds if needed for a 5-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 28 September 2019 (next to be held in 2024)
- **Election results:** Ashraf GHANI declared winner by the Independent Election Commission on 18 February 2020; Ashraf GHANI 50.6%, Abdullah ABDULLAH, Dr. 39.5%, other 0.9%

Legislative power:

- **Description:** bicameral National Assembly consists of: Meshrano Jirga or House of Elders (102 seats; 34 members indirectly elected by absolute majority vote in 2 rounds if needed by district councils to serve 3-year terms, 34 indirectly elected by absolute majority vote in 2 rounds if needed by provincial councils to serve 4-year terms, and 34 appointed by the president from nominations by civic groups, political parties, and the public, of which 17 must be women, 2 must represent the disabled, and 2 must be Kuchi nomads; presidential appointees serve 5-year terms) Wolesi Jirga or House of People (250 seats; members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by proportional representation vote to serve 5-year terms)
- **Elections:** Meshrano Jirga - district councils - within 5 days of installation; provincial councils - within 15 days of installation; presidential appointees - within 2 weeks after the presidential inauguration Wolesi Jirga - last held on 20 October 2018) (next to be held in 2023)
- **Election results:** Meshrano Jirga - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - NA; composition - men 84, women 18, percent of women 17.6% Wolesi Jirga - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - NA; composition - NA

Judicial power:

- **Highest courts:** Supreme Court or Stera Mahkama (consists of the supreme court chief and 8 justices organized into criminal, public security, civil, and commercial divisions or dewans)
- **Judge selection:** court chief and justices appointed by the president with the approval of the Wolesi Jirga; court chief and justices serve single 10-year terms
- **Subordinate courts:** Appeals Courts; Primary Courts; Special Courts for issues including narcotics, security, property, family, and juveniles

Flag: three equal vertical bands of black (hoist side), red, and green, with the national emblem in white centered on the red band and slightly overlapping the other 2 bands; the center of the emblem features a mosque with pulpit and flags on either side, below the mosque are Eastern Arabic numerals for the solar year 1298 (1919 in the Gregorian calendar, the year of Afghan independence from the UK); this central image is circled by a border consisting of sheaves of wheat on the left and right, in the upper-center is an Arabic inscription of the Shahada (Muslim creed) below which are rays of the rising sun over the Takbir (Arabic expression meaning "God is great"), and at bottom center is a scroll bearing the name Afghanistan; black signifies the past, red is for the blood shed for independence, and green can represent either hope for the future, agricultural prosperity, or Islam

Political parties: 72 parties

International organizations: ADB, CICA, CP, ECO, EITI (candidate country), FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (NGOs), ICt, ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRCs, ILO, IMF, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO (correspondent), ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, NAM, OIC, OPCW, OSCE (partner), SAARC, SACEP, SCO (dialogue member), UN, UNAMA, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Constitution - history: several previous; latest drafted 14 December 2003 - 4 January 2004, signed 16 January 2004, ratified 26 January 2004

Constitution - amendments: proposed by a commission formed by presidential decree followed by the convention of a Grand Council (Loya Jirga) decreed by the president; passage requires at least two-thirds majority vote of the Loya Jirga membership and endorsement by the president

Symbols: lion; national colors: red, green, black

Anthem: "Milli Surood" (National Anthem)

Economy

Overview: Despite improvements in life expectancy, incomes, and literacy since 2001, Afghanistan is extremely poor, landlocked, and highly dependent on foreign aid. Much of the population continues to suffer from shortages of housing, clean water, electricity, medical care, and jobs. Corruption, insecurity, weak governance, lack of infrastructure, and the Afghan Government's difficulty in extending rule of law to all parts of the country pose challenges to future economic growth. Afghanistan's living standards are among the lowest in the world. Since 2014, the economy has slowed, in large part because of the withdrawal of nearly 100,000 foreign troops that had artificially inflated the country's economic growth. The international community remains committed to Afghanistan's development, pledging over \$83 billion at ten donors' conferences between 2003 and 2016. In October 2016, the donors at the Brussels conference pledged an additional \$3.8 billion in development aid annually from 2017 to 2020. Even with this help, Government of Afghanistan still faces number of challenges, including low revenue collection, anemic job creation, high levels of

corruption, weak government capacity, and poor public infrastructure. In 2017 Afghanistan's growth rate was only marginally above that of the 2014-2016 average. The drawdown of international security forces that started in 2012 has negatively affected economic growth, as a substantial portion of commerce, especially in the services sector, has catered to the ongoing international troop presence in the country. Afghan President Ashraf GHANI Ahmadzai is dedicated to instituting economic reforms to include improving revenue collection and fighting corruption. The government has implemented reforms to the budget process and in some other areas. However, many other reforms will take time to implement and Afghanistan will remain dependent on international donor support over the next several years.

GDP - value: \$69.45 billion

GDP - exchange rate: \$20.24 billion

GDP - per capita: \$2000 billion

GDP - exports: \$0.784 billion (ranking 170)

GDP - imports: \$7.616 billion (ranking 113)

Unemployment rate: 23.9 %

Below poverty line: 54.5 %

Public debt: 7 %

Inflation rate: 5 %

Growth rate: 2.7 %

Gross national saving: 22.7 %

GDP composition (by end use) :

- **Household:** 81.6 %
- **Government:** 12 %
- **Investment fixed capital:** 17.2 %
- **Investment inventories:** 30 %
- **Export:** 6.7 %
- **Import:** -47.6 %

GDP composition (by sector of origin) :

- **Agriculture:** 23 %
- **Industry:** 21.1 %
- **Services:** 55.9 %

Occupations :

- **agriculture:** 44.3 %
- **industry:** 18.1 %
- **services:** 37.6 %

Exports - partners: India 56,5%, Pakistan 29,6%

Imports - partners: China 21%, Iran 20,5%, Pakistan 11,8%, Kazakhstan 11%, Uzbekistan 6,8%, Malaysia 5,3%

Exports - commodities: opium, fruits and nuts, handwoven carpets, wool, cotton, hides and pelts, precious and semi-precious gems, and medical herbs

Imports - commodities: machinery and other capital goods, food, textiles, petroleum products

Labor force: 8,478,000 people

Agriculture: opium, wheat, fruits, nuts, wool, mutton, sheepskins, lambskins, poppies

Industry: small-scale production of bricks, textiles, soap, furniture, shoes, fertilizer, apparel, food products, non-alcoholic beverages, mineral water, cement; handwoven carpets; natural gas, coal, copper

Energy

People without electricity: 18,999,254

Electricity access:

- **total:** 99 %
- **urban:** 98 %
- **rural:** 79 %

Electricity production: 1.211 billion kWh (ranking 146)

Electricity consumption: 5.526 billion kWh (ranking 119)

Electricity - export: 0 billion kWh

Electricity - import: 4.4 billion kWh

Installed generating capacity: 0.6341 billion kWh

Electricity - by source:

- **Fossil:** 45 %
- **Nuclear:** 0 %
- **Hydroelectric:** 52 %
- **Other renewable:** 4 %

Resources:

Crude oil:

- **production:** 0 bbl/day
- **exports:** 0 bbl/day
- **imports:** 0 bbl/day
- **reserves:** 0 bbl

Refined petroleum:

- **production:** 0 bbl/day
- **consumption:** 35,000 bbl/day
- **exports:** 0 bbl/day
- **imports:** 34,210 bbl/day

Natural gas:

- **production:** 164 million cu m
- **consumption:** 164 million cu m
- **exports:** 0 million cu m
- **imports:** 0 million cu m
- **reserves:** 49,550 billion cu m

Communications

Telephones - fixed:

- **total subscriptions:** 125,232
- **subscriptions per 100 habitants:** 0
- **country ranking:** 133

Telephones - cellular:

- **total subscriptions:** 21,239,280
- **subscriptions per 100 habitants:** 59.36
- **country ranking:** 57

Phone systems:

- **general:** progress has been made on Afghanistan's first limited fixed-line telephone service and nationwide optical fiber backbone; aided by the presence of multiple providers, mobile-cellular telephone service continues to improve swiftly; the Afghan Ministry of Communications and Information claims that more than 90% of the population live in areas with access to mobile cellular service; moderate growth through 2024, assuming stable governance and improving economic environment
- **domestic:** less than 1 per 100 for fixed-line teledensity; 59 per 100 for mobile-cellular; an increasing number of Afghans utilize mobile-cellular phone networks
- **international:** country code - 93; multiple VSAT's provide international and domestic voice and data connectivity

Broadcast media: state-owned broadcaster, Radio Television Afghanistan (RTA), operates a series of radio and television stations in Kabul and the provinces; an estimated 174 private radio stations, 83 TV stations, and about a dozen international broadcasters are available

Internet code: .af

Internet users: 4,717,013

Percent of population with access to internet: 13.5 % (ranking 86)

Transportation

Pipelines: 466 km refined products

Air transportation:

- **Registered carriers:** 3
- **Aircraft registered by carriers:** 13
- **Annual passengers transferred:** 1,722,612
- **Position in the world:** 94
- **Heliports:** 1
- **Annual traffic:** 29.56 millions mt-km
- **Registration prefix:** YA
- **Registration prefix:**
- **Position in the world:**
- **Heliports:**

Airports:

- **Total:** 46
- **0 to 913 m:** 8
- **914 to 1523 m:** 6
- **1524 to 2437 m:** 19
- **2438 to 3047 m:** 15
- **3048 to 9999 m:** 5

Rails: none

Roads:

- **total:** 34,903 km
- **ranking:** 93
- **paved:** 17,903 km
- **unpaved:** 17,000 km

Water:

- **Length:** 1,200 km
- **Ranking:** 58
- **Ports:** Kheyraabad, Shir Khan

Military and security

Forces: Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) comprised of military, police, and other security elements: Afghan National Army ((ANA), Afghan Air Force, Afghan Special Security Forces, Afghanistan National Army Territorial Forces (ANA-TF)), Afghan National Police (Ministry of Interior), Afghan Local Police (Ministry of Interior), and the National Directorate of Security

Expenditures: 1.2 % of GDP (100th in the world)

Personnel strength: the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) have approximately 180,000 active personnel (173,000 Army; 7,000 Air); est. 150,000 Afghan National Police

Equipment acquisitions: the Afghan Army and Air Force inventory is mostly a mix of Soviet-era and more modern US equipment; since 2010, the US is the leading supplier of arms to Afghanistan, followed by Russia (2019 est.) Military service age and obligation: This entry gives the required ages for voluntary or conscript military service and the length of service obligation. Military service age and obligation field listing 18 is the legal minimum age for voluntary military service; no conscription

Terrorism

Terrorist group(s): Haqqani Taliban Network; Harakat ul-Mujahidin; Harakat ul-Jihad-i-Islami; Islamic Jihad Union; Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan; Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham-Khorasan Province; Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps/Qods Force; Jaish-e-Mohammed; Jaysh al Adl (Jundallah); Lashkar i Jhangvi; Lashkar-e Tayyiba; al-Qa'ida; al-Qa'ida in the Indian Subcontinent; Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan

Transnational issues

Disputes: Afghan, Coalition, and Pakistan military meet periodically to clarify the alignment of the boundary on the ground and on maps and since 2014 have met to discuss collaboration on the Taliban insurgency and counterterrorism efforts; Afghan and Iranian commissioners have discussed boundary monument densification and resurvey; Iran protests Afghanistan's restricting flow of dammed Helmand River tributaries during drought; Pakistan has sent troops across and built fences along some remote tribal areas of its treaty-defined Durand Line border with Afghanistan which serve as bases for foreign terrorists and other illegal activities; Russia remains concerned about the smuggling of poppy derivatives from Afghanistan through Central Asian countries

IDPs: 2,993,000

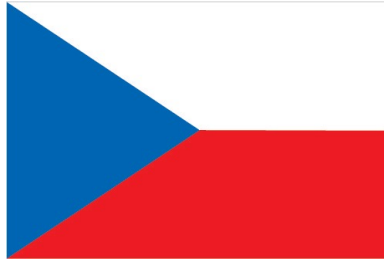
Illicit drugs: world's largest producer of opium; poppy cultivation increased 63 percent, to 328,304 hectares in 2017; while eradication increased slightly, it still remains well below levels achieved in 2015; the 2017 crop yielded an estimated 9,000 mt of raw opium, a 88% increase over 2016; the Taliban and other antigovernment groups participate in and profit from the opiate trade, which is a key source of revenue for the Taliban inside Afghanistan; widespread corruption and instability impede counterdrug efforts; most of the

heroin consumed in Europe and Eurasia is derived from Afghan opium; Afghanistan is also struggling to respond to a burgeoning domestic opiate addiction problem; a 2015 national drug use survey found that roughly 11% of the population tested positive for one or more illicit drugs; vulnerable to drug money laundering through informal financial networks; illicit cultivation of cannabis and regional source of hashish

Refugees:

- **Pakistan:** 72,194

Czechia



Introduction

At the close of World War I, the Czechs and Slovaks of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire merged to form Czechoslovakia. During the interwar years, having rejected a federal system, the new country's predominantly Czech leaders were frequently preoccupied with meeting the increasingly strident demands of other ethnic minorities within the republic, most notably the Slovaks, the Sudeten Germans, and the Ruthenians (Ukrainians). On the eve of World War II, Nazi Germany occupied the territory that today comprises Czechia, and Slovakia became an independent state allied with Germany. After the war, a reunited but truncated Czechoslovakia (less Ruthenia) fell within the Soviet sphere of influence. In 1968, an invasion by Warsaw Pact troops ended the efforts of the country's leaders to liberalize communist rule and create "socialism with a human face," ushering in a period of repression known as "normalization." The peaceful "Velvet Revolution" swept the Communist Party from power at the end of 1989 and inaugurated a return to democratic rule and a market economy. On 1 January 1993, the country underwent a nonviolent "velvet divorce" into its two national components, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The Czech Republic joined NATO in 1999 and the European Union in 2004. The country added the short-form name Czechia in 2016, while continuing to use the full form name, Czech Republic.

Geography

Location: Central Europe, between Germany, Poland, Slovakia, and Austria

Continent: Europe

Coastline: none

Land - total: 78,867 km²

Land - land: 77,247 km²

Land - water: 1,620 km²

Area ranking: 117 in the world

Area comparative: about two-thirds the size of Pennsylvania; slightly smaller than South Carolina

Boundaries: (2143 km with 4 countries)

- Austria (402 km)
- Germany (704 km)
- Poland (796 km)
- Slovakia (241 km)

Maritime claims: none

Elevation:

- **Mean:** 433 a.s.l.
- **Lowest:** 115 a.s.l. (Labe (Elbe) River)
- **Highest:** 1602 a.s.l. (Snezka)

Irrigated land: 320 km²

Land:

- **Agricultural:** 54.8 %
 - **Arable:** 41 %
 - **Pasture:** 12.8 %
 - **Crops:** 1 %
- **Forest:** 34.4 %
- **Other:** 10.8 %

Climate: temperate; cool summers; cold, cloudy, humid winters

Terrain: Bohemia in the west consists of rolling plains, hills, and plateaus surrounded by low mountains; Moravia in the east consists of very hilly country

Distribution: a fairly even distribution throughout most of the country, but the northern and eastern regions tend to have larger urban concentrations

Environment - issues: air and water pollution in areas of northwest Bohemia and in northern Moravia around Ostrava present health risks; acid rain damaging forests; land pollution caused by industry, mining, and agriculture

Environment - agreements: party to: Air Pollution, Air Pollution-Nitrogen Oxides, Air Pollution-Persistent Organic Pollutants, Air Pollution-Sulfur 85, Air Pollution-Sulfur 94, Air Pollution-Volatile Organic Compounds, Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands, Whaling

Resources: hard coal, soft coal, kaolin, clay, graphite, timber, arable land

Hazards: flooding

Note: landlocked; strategically located astride some of oldest and most significant land routes in Europe; Moravian Gate is a traditional military corridor between the North European Plain and the Danube in central Europe; the Hranice Abyss in Czechia is the world's deepest surveyed underwater cave at 404 m (1,325 ft); its survey is not complete and it could end up being some 800-1,200 m deep

People and society

Population: 10,702,498 (ranking: 85)

Nationality: Czech(s) (adjective: Czech)

Ethnic groups: Czech, Moravian, Slovak, other, unspecified

Languages:

- **Czech** (95.4 %)
- Slovak (1.6 %)
- other (3 %)

Religions:

- **Roman Catholic:** 10.4 %
- **Protestant:** 1.1 %
- **none:** 34.5 %
- **other:** 54 %

Age structure:

Min	Max	Percent	Male	Female
0	14	15.17 %	834,447	789,328
15	24	9.2 %	508,329	475,846
25	54	43.29 %	2,382,899	2,249,774
55	64	12.12 %	636,357	660,748
65	120	20.23 %	907,255	1,257,515

Total dependency ratio: 56

Youth dependency ratio: 24.6

Elderly dependency ratio: 31.4

Potential dependency ratio: 3.2

Birth rate: 8.9 births / 1,000 population

Death rate: 10.7 deaths / 1,000 population

Sex ratio:

- **Total:** 0.97 male(s)/female
- **0-14 years:** 1.06 male(s)/female
- **15-24 years:** 1.07 male(s)/female
- **25-54 years:** 1.06 male(s)/female
- **55-64 years:** 0.96 male(s)/female
- **65-120 years:** 0.72 male(s)/female

Mother's mean age at first birth: 28.4 years

Maternal mortality: 3 deaths / 100,000 live births

Total fertility rate: 1.48 children / woman

Drinking water source access:

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

Sanitation facility access:

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

Diseases: none

Health expenditure: 7.2

Median age:

- total: 43.3 %
- male: 42 %
- female: 44.7 %
- ranking: 28 %

Infant mortality:

- total: 2.6 %
- male: 2.8 %
- female: 2.5 %
- ranking: 218 %

Life expectancy:

- total: 79.3 %
- male: 76.3 %
- female: 82.4 %
- ranking: 56 %

Literacy:

- total: 99 %
- male: 99 %
- female: 99 %

School life expectancy:

- total: 16 %
- male: 16 %
- female: 17 %

Youth unemployment:

- total: 6.7 %
- male: 6.4 %
- female: 7.2 %
- ranking: 155 %

Government

Country name: Czech Republic (short Czechia)

Type: parliamentary republic

Capital: Prague

UTC time: UTC+1

Independence day: 28th October 1918

Legal system: new civil code enacted in 2014, replacing civil code of 1964 - based on former Austro-Hungarian civil codes and socialist theory - and reintroducing former Czech legal terminology

Suffrage: at the age of 18

Constitution - history: previous 1960; latest ratified 16 December 1992, effective 1 January 1993

Constitution - amendments: passage requires at least three-fifths concurrence of members present in both houses of Parliament; amended several times, last in 2013

Administrative division: 14 regions

Citizenship:

- **by birth:** no
- **by descent only:** at least one parent must be a citizen of Czechia

Executive power:

- **Chief of state:** President Milos ZEMAN (since 8 March 2013)
- **Head of government:** Prime Minister Andrej BABIS (since 13 December 2017); First Deputy Prime Minister Jan HAMACEK (since 27 June 2018), Deputy Prime Minister Alena SCHILLEROVA (since 30 April 2019)
- **Cabinet:** Cabinet appointed by the president on the recommendation of the prime minister
- **Elections:** president directly elected by absolute majority popular vote in 2 rounds if needed for a 5-year term (limited to 2 consecutive terms); elections last held on 12-13 January 2018 with a runoff on 26-27 January 2018 (next to be held in January 2023); prime minister appointed by the president for a 4-year term
- **Election results:** Milos ZEMAN reelected president in the second round; percent of vote - Milos ZEMAN (SPO) 51.4%, Jiri DRAHOS (independent) 48.6%

Legislative power:

- **Description:** bicameral Parliament or Parlament consists of: Senate or Senat (81 seats; members directly elected in single-seat constituencies by absolute majority vote in 2 rounds if needed; members serve 6-year terms with one-third of the membership renewed every 2 years) Chamber of Deputies or Poslanecka Snemovna (200 seats; members directly elected in 14 multi-seat constituencies by proportional representation vote with a 5% threshold required to fill a seat; members serve 4-year terms)
- **Elections:** Senate - last held in 2 rounds on 2-3 and 9-10 October 2020 (next to be held in October 2022) Chamber of Deputies - last held on 20-21 October 2017 (next to be held by October 2021)
- **Election results:** Senate - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - STAN 19, ODS 18, KDU-CSL 12, ANO 5, TOP 09 5, CSSD 3, SEN 21 3, Pirates 2, SZ 1, minor parties with one seat each 9, independents 4

Judicial power:

- **Highest courts:** Supreme Court (organized into Civil Law and Commercial Division, and Criminal Division each with a court chief justice, vice justice, and several judges); Constitutional Court (consists of 15 justices); Supreme Administrative Court (consists of 36 judges, including the court president and vice president, and organized into 6-, 7-, and 9-member chambers)
- **Judge selection:** Supreme Court judges proposed by the Chamber of Deputies and appointed by the president; judges appointed for life; Constitutional Court judges appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate; judges appointed for 10-year, renewable terms; Supreme Administrative Court judges selected by the president of the Court; unlimited terms
- **Subordinate courts:** High Court; regional and district courts

Flag: two equal horizontal bands of white (top) and red with a blue isosceles triangle based on the hoist side

Political parties: Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party or KDU-CSL [Pavel BELOBRADEK] Civic Democratic Party or ODS [Petr FIALA] Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia or KSCM [Vojtech FILIP] Czech Social Democratic Party or CSSD [Jan HAMACEK] Freedom and Direct Democracy or SPD [Tomio OKAMURA] Green Party or SZ [Petr STEPANEK] Mayors and Independents or STAN [Petr GAZDIK] Movement of Dissatisfied Citizens or ANO [Andrej BABIS] Party of Civic Rights or SPO [Lubomir NECAS] Pirate Party or Pirates [Ivan BARTOS] Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09 or TOP 09 [Jiri POSPISIL]

International organizations: Australia Group, BIS, BSEC (observer), CD, CE, CEI, CERN, EAPC, EBRD, ECB, EIB, ESA, EU, FAO, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees),

ICCT, ICRM, IDA, IEA, IFC, IFRCS, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, MONUSCO, NATO, NEA, NSG, OAS (observer), OECD, OIF (observer), OPCW, OSCE, PCA, Schengen Convention, SELEC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC

Symbols: silver (or white), double-tailed, rampant lion; national colors: white, red, blue

Anthem: "Kde domov můj?" (Where is My Home?)

Economy

Overview: Czechia is a prosperous market economy that boasts one of the highest GDP growth rates and lowest unemployment levels in the EU, but its dependence on exports makes economic growth vulnerable to contractions in external demand. Czechia's exports comprise some 80% of GDP and largely consist of automobiles, the country's single largest industry. Czechia acceded to the EU in 2004 but has yet to join the euro-zone. While the flexible koruna helps Czechia weather external shocks, it was one of the world's strongest performing currencies in 2017, appreciating approximately 16% relative to the US dollar after the central bank (Czech National Bank - CNB) ended its cap on the currency's value in early April 2017, which it had maintained since November 2013. The CNB hiked rates in August and November 2017 - the first rate changes in nine years - to address rising inflationary pressures brought by strong economic growth and a tight labor market. Since coming to power in 2014, the new government has undertaken some reforms to try to reduce corruption, attract investment, and improve social welfare programs, which could help increase the government's revenues and improve living conditions for Czechs. The government introduced in December 2016 an online tax reporting system intended to reduce tax evasion and increase revenues. The government also plans to remove labor market rigidities to improve the business climate, bring procurement procedures in line with EU best practices, and boost wages. The country's low unemployment rate has led to steady increases in salaries, and the government is facing pressure from businesses to allow greater migration of qualified workers, at least from Ukraine and neighboring Central European countries. Long-term challenges include dealing with a rapidly aging population, a shortage of skilled workers, a lagging education system, funding an unsustainable pension and health care system, and diversifying away from manufacturing and toward a more high-tech, services-based, knowledge economy.

GDP - value: \$375.9 billion (ranking 49)

GDP - exchange rate: \$215.8 billion

GDP - per capita: \$35500 billion

GDP - exports: \$144.8 billion (ranking 33)

GDP - imports: \$134.7 billion (ranking 32)

Unemployment rate: 2.9 %

Below poverty line: 9.7 %

Public debt: 34.7 %

Inflation rate: 2.4 %

Growth rate: 4.3 %

Gross national saving: 26.9 %

GDP composition (by end use) :

- **Household:** 47.4 %
- **Government:** 19.2 %
- **Investment fixed capital:** 24.7 %
- **Investment inventories:** 1.1 %
- **Export:** 79.9 %
- **Import:** -72.3 %

GDP composition (by sector of origin) :

- **Agriculture:** 2.3 %
- **Industry:** 36.9 %
- **Services:** 60.8 %

Occupations :

- **agriculture:** 2.8 %
- **industry:** 38 %
- **services:** 59.2 %

Exports - partners: Germany 32.8%, Slovakia 7.8%, Poland 6.1%, France 5.1%, UK 4.9%, Austria 4.4%, Italy 4.1%

Imports - partners: Germany 29.8%, Poland 9.1%, China 7.4%, Slovakia 5.8%, Netherlands 5.3%, Italy 4%

Exports - commodities: machinery and transport equipment, raw materials, fuel, chemicals

Imports - commodities: machinery and transport equipment, raw materials and fuels, chemicals

Labor count: 5,427,000 people

Agriculture: wheat, potatoes, sugar beets, hops, fruit; pigs, poultry

Industry: motor vehicles, metallurgy, machinery and equipment, glass, armaments

Energy

People without electricity: 0

Electricity access:

- **total:** 100 %
- **urban:** 100 %
- **rural:** 100 %

Electricity production: 77.39 billion kWh (ranking 38)

Electricity consumption: 62.34 billion kWh (ranking 42)

Electricity - export: 24.79 billion kWh

Electricity - import: 13.82 billion kWh

Installed generating capacity: 0.02163 billion kWh

Electricity - by source:

- **Fossil:** 60 %
- **Nuclear:** 19 %
- **Hydroelectric:** 5 %
- **Other renewable:** 16 %

Resources:

Crude oil:

- **production:** 2,000 bbl/day
- **exports:** 446 bbl/day
- **imports:** 155,900 bbl/day
- **reserves:** 15 million bbl

Refined petroleum:

- **production:** 177,500 bbl/day
- **consumption:** 213,700 bbl/day
- **exports:** 52,200 bbl/day
- **imports:** 83,860 bbl/day

Natural gas:

- **production:** 229 million cu m
- **consumption:** 8,721 million cu m
- **exports:** 0 million cu m
- **imports:** 8,891 million cu m
- **reserves:** 4 billion cu m

Communications

Telephones - fixed:

- **total subscriptions:** 1,473,846
- **subscriptions per 100 habitants:** 13.78
- **country ranking:** 65

Telephones - cellular:

- **total subscriptions:** 13,213,279
- **subscriptions per 100 habitants:** 123.54
- **country ranking:** 71

Phone systems:

- **general:** good telephone and Internet service; the Czech Republic has a sophisticated telecom market; mobile sector showing steady growth, but perhaps without enough competition, regulator makes progress for 5G services; the govt. trying to stimulate competition, improve end-users pricing and step up quality; strong growth in cable and fiber sectors; fixed wireless broadband remains strong, with penetration among the highest in the EU
- **domestic:** 14 per 100 fixed-line and mobile telephone usage increased to 124 per 100 mobile-cellular, the number of cellular telephone subscriptions now greatly exceeds the population
- **international:** country code - 420; satellite earth stations - 6 (2 Intersputnik - Atlantic and Indian Ocean regions, 1 Intelsat, 1 Eutelsat, 1 Inmarsat, 1 Globalstar)

Broadcast media: 22 TV stations operate nationally, with 17 of them in private hands; publicly operated Czech Television has 5 national channels; throughout the country, there are some 350 TV channels in operation, many through cable, satellite, and IPTV subscription services; 63 radio broadcasters are registered, operating over 80 radio stations, including 7 multiregional radio stations or networks; publicly operated broadcaster Czech Radio operates 4 national, 14 regional, and 4 Internet stations; both Czech Radio and Czech Television are partially financed through a license fee

Internet code: .cz

Internet users: 8,622,750

Percent of population with access to internet: 80.69 % (ranking 58)

Transportation

Pipelines: 7,929 km refined products

Air transportation:

- **Registered carriers:** 4
- **Aircraft registered by carriers:** 48
- **Annual passengers transferred:** 5,727,200
- **Position in the world:** 45
- **Heliports:** 1
- **Annual traffic:** 25.23 millions mt-km
- **Registration prefix:** OK
- **Registration prefix:**
- **Position in the world:**
- **Heliports:**

Airports:

- **Total:** 128
- **0 to 913 m:** 77
- **914 to 1523 m:** 27
- **1524 to 2437 m:** 13
- **2438 to 3047 m:** 9
- **3048 to 9999 m:** 2

Rails:

- **total:** 9,408 km
- **ranking:** 24
- **standard gauge:** 9,385 km
- **narrow gauge:** 23 km

Roads:

- **total:** 55,744 km
- **ranking:** 82
- **paved:** 55,744 km

Water:

- **Length:** 664 km
- **Ranking:** 76
- **Ports:** Decin, Usti nad Labem (Elbe)

Military and security

Forces: Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces: Land Forces; Air Forces; Cyber Forces; Special Forces Directorate

Expenditures: 1.19 % of GDP (109th in the world)

Personnel strength: the Czech military has approximately 25,000 active personnel (20,000 Army; 5,000 Air Force)

Equipment acquisitions: the Czech military has a mix of Soviet-era and more modern equipment, mostly of European origin; since 2010, the leading suppliers of military equipment to Czechia are Austria and Spain

Transnational issues

Disputes: none

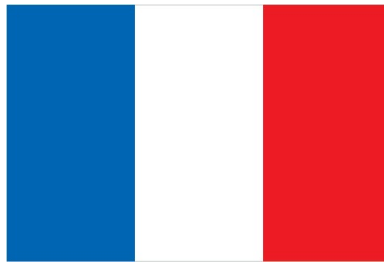
IDPs: 0

Illicit drugs: transshipment point for Southwest Asian heroin and minor transit point for Latin American cocaine to Western Europe; producer of synthetic drugs for local and regional markets; susceptible to money laundering related to drug trafficking, organized crime; significant consumer of ecstasy

Refugees:

- **stateless:** 1,502

France



Introduction

France today is one of the most modern countries in the world and is a leader among European nations. It plays an influential global role as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, NATO, the G-7, the G-20, the EU, and other multilateral organizations. France rejoined NATO's integrated military command structure in 2009, reversing DE GAULLE's 1966 decision to withdraw French forces from NATO. Since 1958, it has constructed a hybrid presidential-parliamentary governing system resistant to the instabilities experienced in earlier, more purely parliamentary administrations. In recent decades, its reconciliation and cooperation with Germany have proved central to the economic integration of Europe, including the introduction of a common currency, the euro, in January 1999. In the early 21st century, five French overseas entities - French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, and Reunion - became French regions and were made part of France proper.

Geography

Location: metropolitan France: Western Europe, bordering the Bay of Biscay and English Channel, between Belgium and Spain, southeast of the UK; bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Italy and Spain

Continent: Europe

Coastline: 4853 km

Land - total: 643,801 km²

Land - land: 640,427 km²

Land - water: 3,374 km²

Area ranking: 44 in the world

Area comparative: slightly more than four times the size of Georgia; slightly less than the size of Texas

Boundaries: (2751 km with 8 countries)

- Andorra (55 km)
- Belgium (556 km)
- Germany (418 km)
- Italy (476 km)
- Luxembourg (69 km)
- Monaco (6 km)
- Spain (646 km)
- Switzerland (525 km)

Maritime claims:

- **Type:** Territorial, **Length:** 12 km
- **Type:** Exclusive economic, **Length:** 200 km
- **Type:** Contiguous zone, **Length:** 24 km
- **Type:** Contiguous shelf, **Length:** 200 km

Elevation:

- **Mean:** 375 a.s.l.
- **Lowest:** -2 a.s.l. (Rhône River delta)
- **Highest:** 4810 a.s.l. (Mont Blanc)

Irrigated land: 26.420 km²

Land:

- **Agricultural:** 52.7 %
 - **Arable:** 33.4 %
 - **Pasture:** 17.5 %
 - **Crops:** 1.8 %
- **Forest:** 29.2 %
- **Other:** 18.1 %

Climate: generally cool winters and mild summers, but mild winters and hot summers along the Mediterranean; occasional strong, cold, dry, north-to-northwesterly wind known as the mistral

Terrain: mostly flat plains or gently rolling hills in north and west; remainder is mountainous, especially Pyrenees in south, Alps in east

Environment - issues: some forest damage from acid rain; air pollution from industrial and vehicle emissions; water pollution from urban wastes, agricultural runoff

Environment - agreements: party to: Air Pollution, Air Pollution-Nitrogen Oxides, Air Pollution-Persistent Organic Pollutants, Air Pollution-Sulfur 85, Air Pollution-Sulfur 94, Air Pollution-Volatile Organic Compounds, Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, Antarctic-Marine Living Resources, Antarctic Seals, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Marine Life Conservation, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands, Whaling

Resources: coal, iron ore, bauxite, zinc, uranium, antimony, arsenic, potash, feldspar, fluorspar, gypsum, timber, arable land, fish, French Guiana, gold deposits, petroleum, kaolin, niobium, tantalum, clay

Distribution: much of the population is concentrated in the north and southeast; although there are many urban agglomerations throughout the country, Paris is by far the largest city, with Lyon ranked a distant second

Hazards: flooding; avalanches; midwinter windstorms; drought; forest fires in south near the Mediterranean

Note: largest West European nation; most major French rivers - the Meuse, Seine, Loire, Charente, Dordogne, and Garonne - flow northward or westward into the Atlantic Ocean, only the Rhone flows southward into the Mediterranean Sea

People and society

Population: 67,848,156 (ranking: 21)

Nationality: Frenchman(men), Frenchwoman(women) (adjective: French)

Ethnic groups: Celtic and Latin with Teutonic, Slavic, North African, Indochinese, Basque minorities

Languages:

- **French** (100 %)

Religions:

- **Christian:** 64.5 %
- **Muslim:** 8 %
- **Buddhist:** 0.63 %
- **Jewish:** 0.63 %
- **other:** 0.75 %
- **none:** 25 %

Age structure:

Min	Max	Percent	Male	Female
0	14	18.36 %	6,368,767	6,085,318
15	24	11.88 %	4,122,981	3,938,938
25	54	36.83 %	12,619,649	12,366,120
55	64	12.47 %	4,085,564	4,376,272
65	120	20.46 %	6,029,303	7,855,244

Total dependency ratio: 62.4

Youth dependency ratio: 28.7

Elderly dependency ratio: 33.7

Potential dependency ratio: 3

Birth rate: 11.9 births / 1,000 population

Death rate: 9.6 deaths / 1,000 population

Sex ratio:

- **Total:** 0.96 male(s)/female
- **0-14 years:** 1.05 male(s)/female
- **15-24 years:** 1.05 male(s)/female
- **25-54 years:** 1.02 male(s)/female
- **55-64 years:** 0.93 male(s)/female
- **65-120 years:** 0.77 male(s)/female

Mother's mean age at first birth: 28.7 years

Maternal mortality: 8 deaths / 100,000 live births

Total fertility rate: 2.06 children / woman

Drinking water source access:

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

Sanitation facility access:

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

Diseases:

- **covid-19 disease(s):** widespread ongoing transmission of a respiratory illness caused by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is occurring throughout France; as of 18 October 2020, France has reported 13,298 cumulative cases of COVID-19 per 1 million population with 509 cumulative deaths per 1 million population

Health expenditure: 11.3

Median age:

- total: 41.7 %
- male: 40 %
- female: 43.4 %
- ranking: 43 %

Infant mortality:

- total: 3.2 %
- male: 3.5 %
- female: 2.9 %
- ranking: 211 %

Life expectancy:

- total: 82.2 %
- male: 79.1 %
- female: 85.4 %
- ranking: 19 %

Literacy:

- total: 99 %
- male: 99 %
- female: 99 %

School life expectancy:

- total: 16 %
- male: 16 %
- female: 16 %

Youth unemployment:

- total: 20.8 %
- male: 21.4 %
- female: 20 %
- ranking: 61 %

Government

Country name: French Republic (short France)

Type of government: semi-presidential republic

Capital: Paris

UTC time: UTC+1

Legal system: civil law; review of administrative but not legislative acts

Suffrage: at the age of 18

Constitution - history: many previous; latest effective 4 October 1958

Constitution - amendments: proposed by the president of the republic (upon recommendation of the prime minister and Parliament) or by Parliament; proposals submitted by Parliament members require passage by both houses followed by approval in a referendum; passage of proposals submitted by the government can bypass a referendum if submitted by the president to Parliament and passed by at least three-fifths majority vote by Parliament's National Assembly; amended many times, last in 2008; note - in May 2018, the prime minister submitted a bill to the National Assembly to amend several provisions of the constitution

Administrative division: 18 regions

Citizenship:

- **by birth:** no
- **by descent only:** at least one parent must be a citizen of France

Executive power:

- **Chief of state:** President Emmanuel MACRON (since 14 May 2017)
- **Head of government:** Prime Minister Jean CASTEX (since 3 July 2020)
- **Cabinet:** Council of Ministers appointed by the president at the suggestion of the prime minister
- **Elections:** president directly elected by absolute majority popular vote in 2 rounds if needed for a 5-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 23 April with a runoff on 7 May 2017 (next to be held in April 2022); prime minister appointed by the president
- **Election results:** Emmanuel MACRON elected president in second round; percent of vote in first round - Emmanuel MACRON (EM) 24.%, Marine LE PEN (FN) 21.3%, Francois FILLON (LR) 20.%, Jean-Luc MELENCHON (FI) 19.6%, Benoit HAMON (PS) 6.4%, other 8.7%; percent of vote in second round - MACRON 66.1%, LE PEN 33.9%

Legislative power:

- **Description:** bicameral Parliament or Parlement consists of: Senate or Senat (348 seats - 328 for metropolitan France and overseas departments and regions of Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, Reunion, and Mayotte, 2 for New Caledonia, 2 for French Polynesia, 1 for Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, 1 for Saint-Barthelemy, 1 for Saint-Martin, 1 for Wallis and Futuna, and 12 for French nationals abroad; members indirectly elected by departmental electoral colleges using absolute majority vote in 2 rounds if needed for departments with 1-3 members and proportional representation vote in departments with 4 or more members; members serve 6-year terms with one-half of the membership renewed every 3 years) National Assembly or Assemblée Nationale (577 seats - 556 for metropolitan France, 10 for overseas departments, and 11 for citizens abroad; members directly elected by absolute majority vote in 2 rounds if needed to serve 5-year terms)
- **Elections:** Senate - last held on 24 September 2017 (next to be held on 24 September 2020) National Assembly - last held on 11 and 18 June 2017 (next to be held in June 2022)
- **Election results:** Senate - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by political caucus (party or group of parties) - LR 144, PS 73, UC 51. LREM 23, RDSE 22, CRCE 16, RTLI 13, other 6; composition - men 246, women 102, percent of women 29.3% National Assembly - percent of vote by party first round - LREM 28.2%, LR 15.8%, FN 13.2%, FI 11%, PS 7.4%, other 24.4%; percent of vote by party second round - LREM 43.1%, LR 22.2%,

FN 8.8%, MoDEM 6.1%, PS 5.7%. FI 4.9%, other 9.2%; seats by political caucus (party or group of parties) - LREM 306, LR 104, MoDEM 46, UDI/Agir 29, PS 29, UDI 18, FI 17, Liberties and Territories 16, PCF 16, other 14; composition - men 349, women 228, percent of women 39.5%; note - total Parliament percent of women 35.7%

Judicial power:

- **Highest courts:** Court of Cassation or Cour de Cassation (consists of the court president, 6 divisional presiding judges, 120 trial judges, and 70 deputy judges organized into 6 divisions - 3 civil, 1 commercial, 1 labor, and 1 criminal); Constitutional Council (consists of 9 members)
- **Judge selection:** Court of Cassation judges appointed by the president of the republic from nominations from the High Council of the Judiciary, presided over by the Court of Cassation and 15 appointed members; judges appointed for life; Constitutional Council members - 3 appointed by the president of the republic and 3 each by the National Assembly and Senate presidents; members serve 9-year, non-renewable terms with one-third of the membership renewed every 3 years
- **Subordinate courts:** appellate courts or Cour d'Appel; regional courts or Tribunal de Grande Instance; first instance courts or Tribunal d'instance; administrative courts

Flag: three equal vertical bands of blue (hoist side), white, and red; known as the "Le drapeau tricolore" (French Tricolor), the origin of the flag dates to 1790 and the French Revolution when the "ancient French color" of white was combined with the blue and red colors of the Parisian militia; the official flag for all French dependent areas

Political parties: Presidential majority Parties [Edouard PHILIPPE] Democratic Movement or MoDem [Francois BAYROU] La Republique en Marche! or LREM [Richard FERRAND] Movement of Progressives or MDP Robert HUE] Parliamentary right Parties [Francois BAROIN] Hunting, Fishing, Nature and Tradition or CPNT [Eddie PUYJAION] The Republicans or LR [Annie GENEVARD] Union of Democrats and Independents or UDI [Jean-Christophe CAMBADELIS] Parliamentary left Parties [Bernard CAZENEUVE] Socialist Party or PS [Jean-Christophe CAMBADEMAND] Radical Party of the Left or PRG [Sylvia PINEL] Citizen and Republican Movement or MRC [Jean-Luc LAURENT] Martinican Progressive Party or PPM [Aiem CESAIRE] Debout la France or DLF [Nicolas DUPONT-AIGNAN] Ecology Democracy Solidarity or EDS [Paula FORTEZA, Matthieu ORPHELIN (splinter party formed in May 2020 by defectors of LREM) Europe Ecologists - the Greens or EELV [David CORMAND] French Communist Party or PCF [Pierre LAURENT] La France Insoumise or FI [Jean-Luc MELENCHONLIS] National Front or FN [Marine LE PEN]

International organizations: ADB (nonregional member), AfDB (nonregional member), Arctic Council (observer), Australia Group, BDEAC, BIS, BSEC (observer), CBSS (observer), CE, CERN, EAPC, EBRD, ECB, EIB, EITI (implementing country), EMU, ESA, EU, FAO, FATF, FZ, G-5, G-7, G-8, G-10, G-20, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICCT, ICRM, IDA, IEA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCs, IGAD (partners), IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, InOC, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, MINURSO, MINUSMA, MINUSTAH, MONUSCO, NATO, NEA, NSG, OAS (observer), OECD, OIF, OPCW, OSCE, Pacific Alliance (observer), Paris Club, PCA, PIF (partner), Schengen Convention, SELEC (observer), SPC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNIFIL, Union Latina, UNMIL, UNOCI, UNRWA, UN Security Council (permanent), UNTSO, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC

Symbols: Gallic rooster, fleur-de-lis, Marianne (female personification); national colors: blue, white, red

Anthem: "La Marseillaise" (The Song of Marseille)

Economy

Overview: Economy - overview field listing The French economy is diversified across all sectors. The government has partially or fully privatized many large companies, including Air France, France Telecom, Renault, and Thales. However, the government maintains a strong presence in some sectors, particularly power, public transport, and defense industries. France is the most visited country in the world with 89 million foreign tourists in 2017. France's leaders remain committed to a capitalism in which they maintain social equity by means of laws, tax policies, and social spending that mitigate economic inequality. France's real GDP grew by 1.9% in 2017, up from 1.2% the year before. The unemployment rate (including overseas territories) increased from 7.8% in 2008 to 10.2% in 2015, before falling to 9.0% in 2017. Youth unemployment in metropolitan France decreased from 24.6% in the fourth quarter of 2014 to 20.6% in the fourth quarter of 2017. France's public finances have historically been strained by high spending and low growth. In 2017, the budget deficit improved to 2.7% of GDP, bringing it in compliance with the EU-mandated 3% deficit target. Meanwhile, France's public debt rose from 89.5% of GDP in 2012 to 97% in 2017. Since entering office in May 2017, President Emmanuel MACRON launched a series of economic reforms to improve competitiveness and boost economic growth. President MACRON campaigned on reforming France's labor code and in late 2017 implemented a range of reforms to increase flexibility in the labor market by making it easier for firms to hire and fire and simplifying negotiations between employers and employees. In addition to labor reforms, President MACRON's 2018 budget cuts public spending, taxes, and social security contributions to spur private investment and increase purchasing power. The government plans to gradually reduce corporate tax rate for businesses from 33.3% to 25% by 2022.

GDP - value: \$2856 billion (ranking 10)

GDP - exchange rate: \$2588 billion

GDP - per capita: \$44100 billion

GDP - exports: \$549.9 billion (ranking 7)

GDP - imports: \$601.7 billion (ranking 7)

Unemployment rate: 9.4 %

Below poverty line: 14.2 %

Public debt: 96.8 %

Inflation rate: 1.2 %

Growth rate: 2.3 %

Gross national saving: 22.9 %

GDP composition (by end use) :

- **Household:** 54.1 %
- **Government:** 23.6 %
- **Investment fixed capital:** 22.5 %
- **Investment inventories:** 0.9 %
- **Export:** 30.9 %
- **Import:** -32 %

GDP composition (by sector of origin) :

- **Agriculture:** 1.7 %
- **Industry:** 19.5 %
- **Services:** 78.8 %

Occupations :

- **agriculture:** 2.8 %
- **industry:** 20 %
- **services:** 77.2 %

Exports - partners: Germany 14.8%, Spain 7.7%, Italy 7.5%, US 7.2%, Belgium 7%, UK 6.7%

Imports - partners: Germany 18.5%, Belgium 10.2%, Netherlands 8.3%, Italy 7.9%, Spain 7.1%, UK 5.3%, US 5.2%, China 5.1%

Exports - commodities: machinery and transportation equipment, aircraft, plastics, chemicals, pharmaceutical products, iron and steel, beverages

Imports - commodities: machinery and equipment, vehicles, crude oil, aircraft, plastics, chemicals

Labor force: 30,680,000 people

Agriculture: wheat, cereals, sugar beets, potatoes, wine grapes; beef, dairy products; fish

Industry: machinery, chemicals, automobiles, metallurgy, aircraft, electronics; textiles, food processing; tourism

Energy

People without electricity: 0

Electricity access:

- **total:** 100 %
- **urban:** 100 %
- **rural:** 100 %

Electricity production: 529.1 billion kWh (ranking 9)

Electricity consumption: 450.8 billion kWh (ranking 10)

Electricity - export: 61.41 billion kWh

Electricity - import: 19.9 billion kWh

Installed generating capacity: 0.1308 billion kWh

Electricity - by source:

- **Fossil:** 17 %
- **Nuclear:** 50 %
- **Hydroelectric:** 15 %
- **Other renewable:** 19 %

Resources:

Crude oil:

- **production:** 16,000 bbl/day
- **exports:** 0 bbl/day
- **imports:** 1,147,000 bbl/day
- **reserves:** 66 million bbl

Refined petroleum:

- **production:** 1 million bbl/day
- **consumption:** 2 million bbl/day
- **exports:** 0 million bbl/day
- **imports:** 1 million bbl/day

Natural gas:

- **production:** 17 million cu m
- **consumption:** 41,880 million cu m
- **exports:** 6,031 million cu m
- **imports:** 48,590 million cu m
- **reserves:** 8 billion cu m

Communications

Telephones - fixed:

- **total subscriptions:** 39,324,941
- **subscriptions per 100 habitants:** 58.03
- **country ranking:** 4

Telephones - fixed:

- **total subscriptions:** 74,791,818
- **subscriptions per 100 habitants:** 110.62
- **country ranking:** 22

Phone systems:

- **general:** one of the largest mobile phone markets in Europe, worth 13 billion annually; LTE has universal coverage with extensive 5G launching any day, one of the largest broadband subscriber bases in Europe; regional govt. and telecom companies have invested in higher bandwidth w/ fiber infrastructure improvements, an investment more than 20 billion euros
- **domestic:** 58 per 100 persons for fixed-line and 111 per 100 for mobile-cellular subscriptions
- **international:** country code - 33; landing points for Circe South, TAT-14, INGRID, FLAG Atlantic-1, Apollo, HUGO, IFC-1, ACE, SeaMeWe-3 & 4, Dunant, Africa-1, AAE-1, Atlas Offshore, Hawk, IMEWE, Med Cable, PEACE Cable, and TE North/TGN-Eurasia/SEACOM/Alexandros/Medex submarine cables providing links throughout Europe, Asia, Australia, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Africa and US; satellite earth stations - more than 3 (2 Intelsat (with total of 5 antennas - 2 for Indian Ocean and 3 for Atlantic Ocean), NA Eutelsat, 1 Inmarsat - Atlantic Ocean region); HF radiotelephone communications with more than 20 countries

Broadcast media: a mix of both publicly operated and privately owned TV stations; state-owned France television stations operate 4 networks, one of which is a network of regional stations, and has part-interest in several thematic cable/satellite channels and international channels; a large number of privately owned regional and local TV stations; multi-channel satellite and cable services provide a large number of channels; public broadcaster Radio France operates 7 national networks, a series of regional networks, and operates services for overseas territories and foreign audiences; Radio France Internationale, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is a leading international broadcaster; a large number of commercial FM stations, with many of them consolidating into commercial networks

Internet code: .fr

Internet users: 55,265,718

Percent of population with access to internet: 82.04 % (ranking 16)

Transportation

Pipelines: 23,345 km refined products

Air transportation:

- **Registered carriers:** 19
- **Aircraft registered by carriers:** 553
- **Annual passengers transferred:** 70,188,028
- **Position in the world:** 15
- **Heliports:** 1
- **Annual traffic:** 4.44379 billions mt-km
- **Registration prefix:** F
- **Registration prefix:**
- **Position in the world:**
- **Heliports:**

Airports:

- **Total:** 464
- **0 to 913 m:** 180
- **914 to 1523 m:** 147
- **1524 to 2437 m:** 98
- **2438 to 3047 m:** 25
- **3048 to 9999 m:** 14

Rails:

- **total:** 29,640 km
- **standard gauge:** 29,473 km
- **narrow gauge:** 167 km

Roads:

- **total:** 1,053,215 km
- **ranking:** 7
- **urban:** 654,201 km
- **non-urban:** 399,014 km

Water:

- **Length:** 8,501 km
- **Ranking:** 40
- **Ports:** Brest, Calais, Dunkerque, Le Havre, Marseille, Nantes, Le Havre

Military and security

Forces: Army (Armee de Terre; includes Foreign Legion), Navy (Marine Nationale), Air Force (Armee de l'Air (AdlA); includes Air Defense), National Guard (Reserves), National Gendarmerie (paramilitary police force that is a branch of the Armed Forces but under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior; also has additional duties to the Ministry of Defense)

Expenditures: 1.84 % of GDP (58th in the world)

Personnel strength: the French military has approximately 205,000 active duty troops (114,500 Army; 35,000 Navy; 40,500 Air Force; 15,000 other, such as joint staffs, medical service, etc.); approximately 100,000 National Gendarmerie

Equipment acquisitions: the French military's inventory consists almost entirely of domestically-produced weapons systems, including some jointly-produced with other European countries; there is a limited mix of armaments from other Western countries, particularly the US; since 2010, the US is the leading foreign supplier of military hardware

to France; France has a defense industry capable of manufacturing the full spectrum of air, land, and naval military weapons systems

Terrorism

Terrorist group(s): Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps/Qods Force; Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham; al-Qa'ida (2019)

Transnational issues

Disputes: Madagascar claims the French territories of Bassas da India, Europa Island, Glorioso Islands, and Juan de Nova Island; Comoros claims Mayotte; Mauritius claims Tromelin Island; territorial dispute between Suriname and the French overseas department of French Guiana; France asserts a territorial claim in Antarctica (Adelie Land); France and Vanuatu claim Matthew and Hunter Islands, east of New Caledonia

IDPs: 0

Illicit drugs: transshipment point for South American cocaine, Southwest Asian heroin, and European synthetics

Refugees:

- **Sri Lanka:** 23,918
- **Afghanistan:** 18,534
- **Democratic Republic of the Congo:** 16,484
- **Russia:** 15,898
- **Syria:** 15,822
- **Sudan:** 14,700
- **Serbia and Kosovo:** 13,778
- **Turkey:** 11,196
- **Cambodia:** 11,193
- **Guinea:** 9,264
- **Iraq:** 8,131
- **Vietnam:** 7,821
- **Laos:** 6,617
- **Mauritania:** 5,419
- **stateless:** 1,493

Zimbabwe



Introduction

A series of trading states developed in the area of Zimbabwe prior to the arrival of the first European explorers; the largest of these was the Kingdom of Zimbabwe (ca. 1220-1450). In the 1880s, European colonists arrived with the British South Africa Company (BSAC), which obtained mining rights and established company rule over the area. The southern portion of BSAC holdings were annexed by the UK in 1923 and became the British colony of Southern Rhodesia. A 1961 constitution was formulated that favored whites in power. In 1965 the government unilaterally declared its independence, but the UK did not recognize the act and demanded more complete voting rights for the black African majority in the country (then called Rhodesia). UN sanctions and a guerrilla uprising finally led to free elections in 1979 and independence (as Zimbabwe) in 1980. Robert MUGABE, the nation's first prime minister, was the country's only ruler (as president since 1987) from independence until his resignation in November 2017. His chaotic land redistribution campaign, which began in 1997 and intensified after 2000, caused an exodus of white farmers, crippled the economy, and ushered in widespread shortages of basic commodities. Ignoring international condemnation, MUGABE rigged the 2002 presidential election to ensure his reelection. In 2005, the capital city of Harare embarked on Operation Restore Order, ostensibly an urban rationalization program, which resulted in the destruction of the homes or businesses of 700,000 mostly poor supporters of the opposition. MUGABE in 2007 instituted price controls on all basic commodities causing panic buying and leaving store shelves empty for months. General elections in both 2008 and 2013 were severely flawed and widely condemned, but allowed MUGABE to remain president. As a prerequisite to holding the 2013 election, Zimbabwe enacted a new constitution by referendum, although many provisions in the new constitution have yet to be codified in law. In November 2017, Vice President Emmerson MNANGAGWA took over following a military intervention that forced MUGABE to resign. MNANGAGWA was inaugurated president days later, promising to hold presidential elections in 2018. In July 2018, MNANGAGWA won the presidential election after a close contest with Movement for Democratic Change Alliance candidate Nelson CHAMISA. MNANGAGWA has since resorted to the government's longstanding practice of violently disrupting protests or opposition rallies. Official inflation rates soared in 2019, approaching 500% by the end of the year. MUGABE died in September 2019.

Geography

Location: Southern Africa, between South Africa and Zambia

Continent: Africa

Coastline: none

Land - total: 390,757 km²

Land - land: 386,847 km²

Area ranking: 62 in the world

Land - water: 3,910 km²

Area comparative: about four times the size of Indiana; slightly larger than Montana

Boundaries: (3229 km with 4 countries)

- Botswana (834 km)
- Mozambique (1402 km)
- South Africa (230 km)
- Zambia (763 km)

Maritime claims: none

Elevation:

- **Mean:** 961 a.s.l.
- **Lowest:** 162 a.s.l. (junction of the Runde and Save Rivers)
- **Highest:** 2592 a.s.l. (Inyangani)

Irrigated land: 1.740 km²

Land:

- **Agricultural:** 42.5 %
 - **Arable:** 10.9 %
 - **Pasture:** 31.3 %
 - **Crops:** 0.3 %
- **Forest:** 39.5 %
- **Other:** 18 %

Climate: tropical; moderated by altitude; rainy season (November to March)

Terrain: mostly high plateau with higher central plateau (high veld); mountains in east

Distribution: Aside from major urban agglomerations in Harare and Bulawayo, population distribution is fairly even, with slightly greater overall numbers in the eastern half as shown in this population distribution map

Environment - issues: deforestation; soil erosion; land degradation; air and water pollution; the black rhinoceros herd - once the largest concentration of the species in the world - has been significantly reduced by poaching; poor mining practices have led to toxic waste and heavy metal pollution

Environment - agreements: party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection

Resources: coal, chromium ore, asbestos, gold, nickel, copper, iron ore, vanadium, lithium, tin, platinum group metals

Hazards: recurring droughts; floods and severe storms are rare

Note: landlocked; the Zambezi forms a natural riverine boundary with Zambia; in full flood (February-April) the massive Victoria Falls on the river forms the world's largest curtain of falling water; Lake Kariba on the Zambia-Zimbabwe border forms the world's largest reservoir by volume (180 cu km; 43 cu mi)

People and society

Population: 14,546,314 (ranking: 73)

Nationality: Zimbabwean(s) (adjective: Zimbabwean)

Ethnic groups: African

Languages:

- **Shona**
- **Ndebele**
- **English**
- Chewa
- Chibarwe
- Kalanga
- Koisan
- Nambya
- Ndaou
- Shangani
- Sotho
- Tonga
- Tswana
- Venda
- Xhosa

Religions:

- **Protestant:** 74.8 %
- **Roman Catholic:** 7.3 %
- **Other Christian:** 5.3 %
- **Traditional:** 1.5 %
- **Muslim:** 0.5 %
- **none:** 10.5 %

Age structure:

Min	Max	Percent	Male	Female
0	14	38.32 %	2,759,155	2,814,462
15	24	20.16 %	1,436,710	1,495,440
25	54	32.94 %	2,456,392	2,334,973
55	64	4.07 %	227,506	363,824
65	120	4.52 %	261,456	396,396

Total dependency ratio: 81.6

Youth dependency ratio: 76.1

Elderly dependency ratio: 5.5

Potential dependency ratio: 18.3

Birth rate: 33.6 births / 1,000 population

Death rate: 9.3 deaths / 1,000 population

Sex ratio:

- **Total:** 0.96 male(s)/female
- **0-14 years:** 0.98 male(s)/female
- **15-24 years:** 0.96 male(s)/female
- **25-54 years:** 1.05 male(s)/female
- **55-64 years:** 0.63 male(s)/female
- **65-120 years:** 0.66 male(s)/female

Mother's mean age at first birth: 20 years

Maternal mortality: 458 deaths / 100,000 live births

Total fertility rate: 3.93 children / woman

Drinking water source access:

- total: 77.3 % of population
- urban: 98 % of population
- rural: 67.4 % of population

Sanitation facility access:

- total: 64.2 % of population
- rural: 49 % of population
- urban: 96.1 % of population

Diseases:

- **food or waterborne disease(s):** bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever
- **vectorborne disease(s):** malaria and dengue fever
- **water contact disease(s):** schistosomiasis
- **animal contact disease(s):** rabies

Health expenditure: 6.6

Median age:

- total: 20.5 %
- male: 20.3 %
- female: 20.6 %
- ranking: 190 %

Infant mortality:

- total: 30.3 %
- male: 34.2 %
- female: 26.4 %
- ranking: 55 %

Life expectancy:

- total: 62.3 %
- male: 60.2 %
- female: 64.5 %
- ranking: 210 %

Literacy:

- total: 86.5 %
- male: 88.5 %
- female: 84.6 %

School life expectancy:

- total: 11 %
- male: 12 %
- female: 11 %

Youth unemployment:

- total: 16.5 %
- male: 11.6 %
- female: 21.2 %
- ranking: 83 %

Government

Country name: Republic of Zimbabwe (short Zimbabwe)

Type: presidential republic

Capital: Harare

UTC time: UTC+2

Independence day: 18th April 1980

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

Suffrage: at the age of 18

Political parties: MDC Alliance [Thokozane KHUPEIS] (acting) Movement for Democratic Change - MDC-T [Thokozani KHUPE] National People's Party or NPP [Joyce MUJURU] (formerly Zimbabwe People First or ZimPF) National Patriotic Front or NPF [Ambrose MUTINHIRI] Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front or ZANU-PF [Emmerson Dambudzo MNANGAGWA] Zimbabwe African Peoples Union or ZAPU [Isaac MABUKA]

Administrative division: 10 provinces

Citizenship:

- **by birth:** no
- **by descent only:** the father must be a citizen of Zimbabwe; in the case of a child born out of wedlock, the mother must be a citizen

Executive power:

- **Chief of state:** President Emmerson Dambudzo MNANGAGWA (since 24 November 2017); First Vice President Constantino CHIWENGA (since 28 December 2017); note - Robert Gabriel MUGABE resigned on 21 November 2017, after ruling for 37 years
- **Head of government:** President Emmerson Dambudzo MNANGAGWA (since 24 November 2017); Vice President Constantino CHIWENGA (since 28 December 2017); Vice President Kembo MOHADI (since 28 December 2017)
- **Cabinet:** Cabinet appointed by president, responsible to National Assembly
- **Elections:** each presidential candidate nominated with a nomination paper signed by at least 10 registered voters (at least 1 candidate from each province) and directly elected by absolute majority popular vote in 2 rounds if needed for a 5-year term (no term limits); election last held on 3 July 2018 (next to be held in 2023); co-vice presidents drawn from party leadership
- **Election results:** Emmerson MNANGAGWA reelected president in 1st round of voting; percent of vote - Emmerson MNANGAGWA (ZANU-PF) 50.8%, Nelson CHAMISA (MDC-T) 44.3%, Thokozani KHUPE (MDC-N) .9%, other 3%

Legislative power:

- **Description:** bicameral Parliament consists of: Senate (80 seats; 60 members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies - 6 seats in each of the 10 provinces - by proportional representation vote, 16 indirectly elected by the regional governing councils, 2 reserved for the National Council Chiefs, and 2 reserved for members with disabilities; members serve 5-year terms) National Assembly (270 seats; 210 members directly elected in

single-seat constituencies by simple majority vote and 60 seats reserved for women directly elected by proportional representation vote; members serve 5-year terms)

- **Elections:** Senate - last held for elected member on 30 July 2018 (next to be held in 2023) National Assembly - last held on 30 July 2018 (next to be held in 2023)
- **Election results:** Senate - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - ZANU-PF 34, MDC Alliance 25, Chiefs 18, people with disabilities 2, MDC-T 1; composition - men 45, women 35, percent of women 43.8% National Assembly - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - ZANU-PF 179, MDC Alliance 88, MDC-T 1, NPF 1, independent 1; composition - men 185, women 25, percent of women 31.5%; note - total Parliament percent of women 34.3%

Judicial power:

- **Highest courts:** Supreme Court (consists of the chief justice and 4 judges); Constitutional Court (consists of the chief and deputy chief justices and 9 judges)
- **Judge selection:** Supreme Court judges appointed by the president upon recommendation of the Judicial Service Commission, an independent body consisting of the chief justice, Public Service Commission chairman, attorney general, and 2-3 members appointed by the president; judges normally serve until age 65 but can elect to serve until age 70; Constitutional Court judge appointment NA; judges serve nonrenewable 15-year terms
- **Subordinate courts:** High Court; Labor Court; Administrative Court; regional magistrate courts; customary law courts; special courts

Flag: seven equal horizontal bands of green (top), yellow, red, black, red, yellow, and green with a white isosceles triangle edged in black with its base on the hoist side; a yellow Zimbabwe bird representing the long history of the country is superimposed on a red five-pointed star in the center of the triangle, which symbolizes peace; green represents agriculture, yellow mineral wealth, red the blood shed to achieve independence, and black stands for the native people

International organizations: ACP, AfDB, AU, COMESA, FAO, G-15, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, NAM, OPCW, PCA, SADC, UN, UNAMID, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNMIL, UNMISS, UNOCI, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Constitution - history: previous 1965 (at Rhodesian independence), 1979 (Lancaster House Agreement), 1980 (at Zimbabwean independence); latest final draft completed January 2013, approved by referendum 16 March 2013, approved by Parliament 9 May 2013, effective 22 May 2013

Constitution - amendments: proposed by the Senate or by the National Assembly; passage requires two-thirds majority vote by the membership of both houses of Parliament and assent of the president of the republic; amendments to constitutional chapters on fundamental human rights and freedoms and on agricultural lands also require approval by a majority of votes cast in a referendum; amended many times, last in 2017

Symbols: Zimbabwe bird symbol, African fish eagle, flame lily; national colors: green, yellow, red, black, white

Anthem: "Kalibusiswe Ilizwe leZimbabwe" [Northern Ndebele language] "Simudzai Mureza WeZimbabwe" [Shona] (Blessed Be the Land of Zimbabwe)

Economy

Overview: Zimbabwe's economy depends heavily on its mining and agriculture sectors. Following a contraction from 1998 to 2008, the economy recorded real growth of more than 10% per year in the period 2010-13, before falling below 3% in the period 2014-17, due to poor harvests, low diamond revenues, and decreased investment. Lower mineral prices, infrastructure and regulatory deficiencies, a poor investment climate, a large public and external debt burden, and extremely high government wage expenses impede the country's economic performance. Until early 2009, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) routinely printed money to fund the budget deficit, causing hyperinflation. Adoption of a multi-currency basket in early 2009 - which allowed currencies such as the Botswana pula, the South Africa rand, and the US dollar to be used locally - reduced inflation below 10% per year. In January 2015, as part of the government's effort to boost trade and attract foreign investment, the RBZ announced that the Chinese renminbi, Indian rupee, Australian dollar, and Japanese yen would be accepted as legal tender in Zimbabwe, though transactions were predominantly carried out in US dollars and South African rand until 2016, when the rand's devaluation and instability led to near-exclusive use of the US dollar. The government in November 2016 began releasing bond notes, a parallel currency legal only in Zimbabwe which the government claims will have a one-to-one exchange ratio with the US dollar, to ease cash shortages. Bond notes began trading at a discount of up to 10% in the black market by the end of 2016. Zimbabwe's government entered a second Staff Monitored Program with the IMF in 2014 and undertook other measures to reengage with international financial institutions. Zimbabwe repaid roughly \$108 million in arrears to the IMF in October 2016, but financial observers note that Zimbabwe is unlikely to gain new financing because the government has not disclosed how it plans to repay more than \$1.7 billion in arrears to the World Bank and African Development Bank. International financial institutions want Zimbabwe to implement significant fiscal and structural reforms before granting new loans. Foreign and domestic investment continues to be hindered by the lack of land tenure and titling, the inability to repatriate dividends to investors overseas, and the lack of clarity regarding the government's Indigenization and Economic Empowerment Act.

GDP - value: \$34.27 billion (ranking 127)

GDP - exchange rate: \$17.64 billion

GDP - per capita: \$2300 billion

GDP - exports: \$4.353 billion (ranking 113)

GDP - imports: \$5.472 billion (ranking 122)

Unemployment rate: 11.3 %

Below poverty line: 72.3 %

Public debt: 82.3 %

Inflation rate: 0.9 %

Growth rate: 3.7 %

Gross national saving: 23.3 %

GDP composition (by end use) :

- **Household:** 77.6 %
- **Government:** 24 %
- **Investment fixed capital:** 12.6 %
- **Investment inventories:** 0 %
- **Export:** 25.6 %
- **Import:** -39.9 %

GDP composition (by sector of origin) :

- **Agriculture:** 12 %
- **Industry:** 22.2 %
- **Services:** 65.8 %

Occupations :

- **agriculture:** 67.5 %
- **industry:** 7.3 %
- **services:** 25.2 %

Exports - partners: South Africa 50.3%, Mozambique 22.5%, UAE 9.8%, Zambia 4.9%

Imports - partners: South Africa 47.8%, Zambia 20.5%

Exports - commodities: platinum, cotton, tobacco, gold, ferroalloys, textiles/clothing

Imports - commodities: machinery and transport equipment, other manufactures, chemicals, fuels, food products

Labor force: 7,907,000 people

Agriculture: tobacco, corn, cotton, wheat, coffee, sugarcane, peanuts; sheep, goats, pigs

Industry: mining (coal, gold, platinum, copper, nickel, tin, diamonds, clay, numerous metallic and nonmetallic ores), steel; wood products, cement, chemicals, fertilizer, clothing and footwear, foodstuffs, beverages

Energy

People without electricity: 7,000,000

Electricity access:

- **total:** 53 %
- **urban:** 89 %
- **rural:** 36 %

Electricity production: 6.8 billion kWh (ranking 113)

Electricity consumption: 7.118 billion kWh (ranking 108)

Electricity - export: 1.239 billion kWh

Electricity - import: 2.22 billion kWh

Installed generating capacity: 0.2122 billion kWh

Electricity - by source:

- **Fossil:** 58 %
- **Nuclear:** 0 %
- **Hydroelectric:** 37 %
- **Other renewable:** 5 %

Resources:

Crude oil:

- **production:** 0 bbl/day
- **exports:** 0 bbl/day
- **imports:** 0 bbl/day
- **reserves:** 0 bbl

Refined petroleum:

- **production:** 0 bbl/day
- **consumption:** 27,000 bbl/day
- **exports:** 0 bbl/day
- **imports:** 26,400 bbl/day

Natural gas:

- **production:** 0 cu m
- **consumption:** 0 cu m
- **exports:** 0 cu m
- **imports:** 0 cu m
- **reserves:** 0 cu m

Communications

Telephones - fixed:

- **total subscriptions:** 258,419
- **subscriptions per 100 habitants:** 1.81
- **country ranking:** 117

Telephones - cellular:

- **total subscriptions:** 12,863,830
- **subscriptions per 100 habitants:** 90.1
- **country ranking:** 72

Phone systems:

- **general:** competition has driven the expansion of the telecommunications sector, particularly cellular voice and mobile broadband, in recent years; 3 mobile network operators continue to invest in M-commerce and M-banking facilities; continued advancement with national and international fiber backbone network as well as 3G and LTE mobile broadband services; mobile Internet connections make up 98% of all Internet connections
- **domestic:** consists of microwave radio relay links, open-wire lines, radiotelephone communication stations, fixed wireless local loop installations, fiber-optic cable, VSAT terminals, and a substantial mobile-cellular network; Internet connection is most readily available in Harare and major towns; two government owned and two private cellular providers; fixed-line 2 per 100 and mobile-cellular 90 per 100
- **international:** country code - 263; fiber-optic connections to neighboring states provide access to international networks via undersea cable; satellite earth stations - 2 Intelsat; 5 international digital gateway exchanges

Broadcast media: government owns all local radio and TV stations; foreign shortwave broadcasts and satellite TV are available to those who can afford antennas and receivers; in rural areas, access to TV broadcasts is extremely limited; analog TV only, no digital service

Internet code: .zw

Internet users: 3,796,618

Percent of population with access to internet: 27.06 % (ranking 93)

Transportation

Pipelines: 270 km refined products

Air transportation:

- **Registered carriers:** 2
- **Aircraft registered by carriers:** 12
- **Annual passengers transferred:** 285,539
- **Position in the world:** 29
- **Heliports:** 0
- **Annual traffic:** 670,000 mt-km
- **Registration prefix:** Z
- **Registration prefix:**
- **Position in the world:**
- **Heliports:**

Airports:

- **Total:** 196
- **0 to 913 m:** 72
- **914 to 1523 m:** 111
- **1524 to 2437 m:** 8
- **2438 to 3047 m:** 2
- **3048 to 9999 m:** 3

Rails:

- **total:** 3,427 km
- **standard gauge:** 0 km
- **narrow gauge:** 3,427 km

Roads:

- **total:** 97,267 km
- **ranking:** 49
- **paved:** 18,481 km
- **unpaved:** 78,786 km

Water:

- **Length:** 0 km
- **Ranking:** 200
- **Ports:** Binga, Kariba (Zambezi)

Military and security

Forces: Zimbabwe Defense Forces (ZDF): Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA), Air Force of Zimbabwe (AFZ)

Expenditures: 1 % of GDP (121st in the world)

Personnel strength: size estimates for the Zimbabwe Defense Forces (ZDF) vary; approximately 30,000 active duty troops, including about 4,000 serving in the Air Force

Equipment acquisitions: the ZDF inventory is comprised mostly of older Chinese- and Russian-origin equipment; since 2000, China is the leading arms supplier to the ZDF, although there are no recorded deliveries of weapons since 2006

Transnational issues

Disputes: Namibia has supported, and in 2004 Zimbabwe dropped objections to, plans between Botswana and Zambia to build a bridge over the Zambezi River, thereby de facto recognizing a short, but not clearly delimited, Botswana-Zambia boundary in the river; South

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

IDPs: 25,517

Illicit drugs: transit point for cannabis and South Asian heroin, mandrax, and methamphetamines en route to South Africa

Refugees:

- **Mozambique:** 8,060
- **Nigeria:** 116,237
- **Democratic Republic of Congo:** 10,837
- **stateless:** 300,000