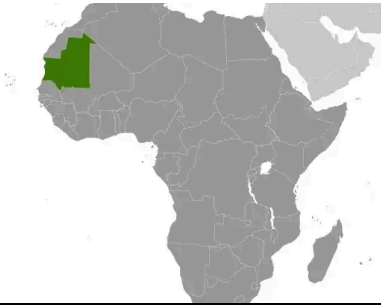



WORLDFACTBOOK

Mauritania Country Factsheet



Introduction

Background

The Amazigh and Bafour people were among the earliest settlers in what is now Mauritania. The country gained independence from France in 1960. After years of dictatorships, flawed elections, and military coups, the country is now an emerging democracy.

Geography

Area

total : 1,030,700 sq km

land: 1,030,700 sq km

water: 0 sq km

Climate

desert; constantly hot, dry, dusty

Natural resources

iron ore, gypsum, copper, phosphate, diamonds, gold, oil, fish

People and Society

Population

total: 4,328,040 (2024 est.)

Government

Government type

presidential republic

Capital

name: Nouakchott

Executive branch

chief of state: President Mohamed Ould Cheikh el GHAZOUANI (since 1 August 2019)

head of government: Prime Minister Moctar Ould DIAY (since 2 August 2024)

Diplomatic representation in the US

chief of mission: Ambassador Cissé Mint Cheikh Ould BOIDE (since 15 September 2021)

Diplomatic representation from the US

chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); John T. ICE
Chargé d'Affaires (since July 2024)

Economy

Economic overview

Ethnic groups

Black Moors (Haratines - Arabic-speaking descendants of African origin who are or were enslaved by White Moors) 40%, White Moors (of Arab-Amazigh descent, known as Beydane) 30%, Sub-Saharan Mauritaniens (non-Arabic speaking, largely resident in or originating from the Senegal River Valley, including Halpulaar, Fulani, Soninke, Wolof, and Bambara ethnic groups) 30%

Languages

Arabic (official and national), Pular, Soninke, Wolof (all national languages), French

Religions

Muslim (official) 100%

Population growth rate

1.92% (2024 est.)

lower middle-income West African economy; primarily agrarian; rising urbanization; poor property rights; systemic corruption; endemic social and workforce tensions; wide-scale terrorism; foreign over-fishing; environmentally fragile

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$33.069 billion (2024 est.)

\$31.434 billion (2023 est.)

\$29.514 billion (2022 est.)

Real GDP per capita

\$6,400 (2024 est.)

\$6,300 (2023 est.)

\$6,100 (2022 est.)

Exports

\$3.955 billion (2023 est.)

\$4.132 billion (2022 est.)

\$3.18 billion (2021 est.)

Exports - partners

China 25%, Switzerland 14%, Canada 12%, UAE 9%, Spain 7% (2023)

Exports - commodities

gold, iron ore, fish, processed crustaceans, copper ore (2023)

Imports

\$5.271 billion (2023 est.)

\$5.77 billion (2022 est.)

\$4.312 billion (2021 est.)

Imports - partners

China 19%, UAE 14%, Morocco 6%, Spain 6%, France 5% (2023)

Imports - commodities

refined petroleum, raw sugar, palm oil, wheat, soybean oil (2023)

