



Peru



Background Ancient Peru was the seat of several prominent Andean civilizations, most notably that of the Incas whose empire was captured by Spanish conquistadors in 1533. Peru declared its independence in 1821, and remaining Spanish forces were defeated in 1824. After a dozen years of military rule, Peru returned to democratic leadership in 1980 but experienced economic problems and the growth of a violent insurgency. President Alberto FUJIMORI's election in 1990 ushered in a decade that saw a dramatic turnaround in the economy and significant progress in curtailing guerrilla activity. Nevertheless, an economic slump and the president's increasing reliance on authoritarian measures in the late 1990s generated mounting dissatisfaction with his regime, which led to his resignation in 2000.

A caretaker government oversaw a new election in 2001 that installed Alejandro TOLEDO Manrique as the new head of government - Peru's first democratically elected president of indigenous ethnicity. The presidential election of 2006 saw the return of Alan GARCIA Perez who, after a disappointing presidential term from 1985 to 1990, presided over a robust economic rebound. Former army officer Ollanta HUMALA Tasso was elected president in 2011 and carried on the market-oriented economic policies of the three preceding administrations. Pedro Pablo KUCZYNSKI Godard won a very narrow runoff in the 2016 presidential election. Facing impeachment after evidence surfaced of his involvement in a vote-buying scandal, KUCZYNSKI offered his resignation in 2018, and First Vice President Martin Alberto VIZCARRA Cornejo was sworn in as president. In 2019, VIZCARRA invoked his constitutional authority to dissolve Peru's Congress after months of battling with the body over anticorruption reforms. New congressional elections in 2020 resulted in an opposition-led legislature. The Congress impeached VIZCARRA for a second time and removed him from office after accusations of corruption and mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of vacancies in the vice-presidential positions, the President of the Peruvian Congress, Manuel MERINO, became the next president. His ascension to office was not well received, and large protests forced his resignation later in 2020. Francisco SAGASTI assumed the position of President of Peru after being appointed President of the Congress the previous day. Jose Pedro CASTILLO Terrones won presidential election in 2021 but was impeached and ousted the following year; his vice president, Dina BOLUARTE, assumed the presidency by constitutional succession in 2022.

Capital	name: Lima
Government type	presidential republic
Area	total : 1,285,216 sq km land: 1,279,996 sq km water: 5,220 sq km
Climate	varies from tropical in east to dry desert in west; temperate to frigid in Andes
Natural resources	copper, silver, gold, petroleum, timber, fish, iron ore, coal, phosphate, potash, hydropower, natural gas
Population	total: 32,600,249 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	0.48% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	Mestizo (mixed Indigenous and White) 60.2%, Indigenous 25.8%, White 5.9%, African descent 3.6%, other (includes Chinese and Japanese descent) 1.2%, unspecified 3.3% (2017 est.)
Religions	Catholic 76%, Evangelical Christian 15.7%, no religion 5.1%, other religions 3.2% (2023 est.)
Languages	Spanish (official) 82.9%, Quechua (official) 13.6%, Aymara (official) 1.6%, Ashaninka 0.3%, other native languages (includes many minor Amazonian languages) 0.8%, other 0.2%, none 0.1%, unspecified 0.7% (2017 est.)
Executive branch	chief of state: President José Enrique JERÍ Oré (since 10 October 2025) head of government: President José Enrique JERÍ Oré (since 10 October 2025)
Legislative branch	legislature name: Congress of the Republic (Congreso de la República)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Alfredo Santiago Carlos FERRERO DIEZ CANSECO (since 27 February 2024)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Joan PERKINS (since 18 April 2025)
Economic overview	upper-middle-income South American economy; strong post-COVID rebound tempered by political uncertainty and climate risks; exports driven by mineral extraction and agriculture; large informal sector and uneven access to public services; stable fiscal position and financial sector
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$535.911 billion (2024 est.) \$518.771 billion (2023 est.) \$520.872 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$15,700 (2024 est.) \$15,300 (2023 est.) \$15,600 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$83.325 billion (2024 est.) \$72.97 billion (2023 est.) \$71.39 billion (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	China 34%, USA 14%, Canada 5%, India 4%, Switzerland 4% (2023)
Exports - commodities	copper ore, gold, refined copper, refined petroleum, grapes (2023)
Imports	\$67.16 billion (2024 est.) \$63.776 billion (2023 est.) \$69.936 billion (2022 est.)

Imports - partners	China 26%, USA 21%, Brazil 7%, Argentina 5%, Mexico 3% (2023)
Imports - commodities	refined petroleum, crude petroleum, cars, trucks, broadcasting equipment (2023)

Population Pyramid

