

# Belarus



**Background** After seven decades as a constituent republic of the USSR, Belarus attained its independence in 1991. Government restrictions on political and civil freedoms, freedom of speech and the press, peaceful assembly, and religion have remained in place under President Alyaksandr LUKASHENKA.

**Capital** name: Minsk

**Government type** presidential republic in name, although in fact a dictatorship

**Area**  
total: 207,600 sq km  
land: 202,900 sq km  
water: 4,700 sq km

**Climate** cold winters, cool and moist summers; transitional between continental and maritime

**Natural resources** timber, peat deposits, small quantities of oil and natural gas, granite, dolomitic limestone, marl, chalk, sand, gravel, clay

**Population** total: 9,501,451 (2024 est.)

**Population growth rate** -0.42% (2024 est.)

**Ethnic groups** Belarusian 83.7%, Russian 8.3%, Polish 3.1%, Ukrainian 1.7%, other 2.4%, unspecified 0.9% (2009 est.)

**Religions** Orthodox 48.3%, Catholic 7.1%, other 3.5%, non-believers 41.1% (2011 est.)

**Languages** Russian (official) 71.4%, Belarusian (official) 26%, other 0.3% (includes small Polish- and Ukrainian-speaking minorities), unspecified 2.3% (2019 est.)

**Executive branch** chief of state: President Alyaksandr LUKASHENKA (since 20 July 1994)

head of government: Prime Minister Alyaksandr TURCHYN (since 10 March 2025)

**Diplomatic representation in the US** chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant; recalled by Belarus in 2008); Chargé d'Affaires Pavel SHIDLOWSKI (since 9 August 2022)

**Diplomatic representation from the US** chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Peter KAUFMAN (since June 2023)

**Economic overview** declining Russian energy subsidies will end in 2024; growing public debt; strong currency pressures have led to higher inflation; recent price controls on basic food and drugs; public sector wage increases and fragile private sector threaten household income gains and economic growth

**Real GDP (purchasing power parity)**\$265.22 billion (2024 est.)  
\$254.995 billion (2023 est.)  
\$244.89 billion (2022 est.)

<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$29,000 (2024 est.) \$27,800 (2023 est.) \$26,500 (2022 est.)
<b>Exports</b>	\$49.386 billion (2024 est.) \$47.714 billion (2023 est.) \$47.124 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	China 34%, Kazakhstan 10%, Uzbekistan 7%, Poland 6%, Brazil 5% (2023)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	fertilizers, rapeseed oil, wood, poultry, beef (2023)
<b>Imports</b>	\$50.679 billion (2024 est.) \$47.459 billion (2023 est.) \$42.438 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	China 33%, Poland 16%, Germany 11%, Lithuania 10%, Turkey 9% (2023)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	cars, broadcasting equipment, fabric, plastic products, video displays (2023)

## Population Pyramid

