



Iran



Background	Known as Persia until 1935, Iran became an Islamic republic in 1979 after the ruling monarchy was overthrown. Conservative clerical forces established a theocratic system of government with ultimate political authority vested in a religious scholar known as the Supreme Leader. Relations between Iran and the West remain tense, due in part to concerns over its nuclear program.
Capital	name: Tehran
Government type	theocratic republic
Area	total : 1,648,195 sq km land: 1,531,595 sq km water: 116,600 sq km
Climate	mostly arid or semiarid, subtropical along Caspian coast
Natural resources	petroleum, natural gas, coal, chromium, copper, iron ore, lead, manganese, zinc, sulfur
Population	total: 88,386,937
Population growth rate	0.88% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	Persian, Azeri, Kurd, Lur, Baloch, Arab, Turkmen, and Turkic tribes
Religions	Muslim (official) 98.5%, Christian 0.7%, Baha'i 0.3%, agnostic 0.3%, other (includes Zoroastrian, Jewish, Hindu) 0.2% (2020 est.)
Languages	Persian Farsi (official), Azeri and other Turkic dialects, Kurdish, Gilaki and Mazandarani, Luri, Balochi, Arabic
Executive branch	chief of state: Supreme Leader Ali Hoseini-KHAMENEI (since 4 June 1989) head of government: President Masoud PEZESHKIAN (assumed office on 30 July 2024)
Legislative branch	summary: unicameral Islamic Consultative Assembly (290 seats)
Economic overview	traditionally state-controlled economy but reforming state-owned financial entities; strong oil/gas, agricultural, and service sectors; recent massive inflation due to exchange rate depreciation, international sanctions, and investor uncertainty; increasing poverty

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$1.44 trillion (2023 est.) \$1.373 trillion (2022 est.) \$1.323 trillion (2021 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$16,200 (2023 est.) \$15,500 (2022 est.) \$15,000 (2021 est.)
Exports	\$110.882 billion (2022 est.) \$82.015 billion (2021 est.) \$46.568 billion (2020 est.)
Exports - partners	China 36%, Turkey 20%, Kuwait 6%, Pakistan 5%, India 4% (2022)
Exports - commodities	ethylene polymers, refined copper, acyclic alcohols, aluminum, natural gas (2022)
Imports	\$102.47 billion (2022 est.) \$77.33 billion (2021 est.) \$58.461 billion (2020 est.)
Imports - partners	China 28%, UAE 19%, Brazil 13%, Turkey 9%, India 6% (2022)
Imports - commodities	broadcasting equipment, corn, soybeans, vehicle parts/accessories, rice (2022)