



Greenland



Background	Greenland, the world's largest island, is about 80% ice capped. The Inuit came to Greenland from North America in a series of migrations that stretched from 2500 BC to the 11th century. Vikings reached the island in the 10th century from Iceland; Danish colonization began in the 18th century, and Greenland became part of the Kingdom of Denmark in 1953. It joined the European Community (now the EU) with Denmark in 1973 but withdrew in 1985 over a dispute centered on stringent fishing quotas. Greenland remains a member of the EU's Overseas Countries and Territories Association. The Danish parliament granted Greenland home rule in 1979; the law went into effect the following year. Greenland voted in favor of self-government in 2008 and acquired greater responsibility for internal affairs when the Act on Greenland Self-Government was signed into law in 2009. The Kingdom of Denmark, however, continues to exercise control over several policy areas on behalf of Greenland, including foreign affairs, security, and financial policy, in consultation with Greenland's Self-Rule Government.
Capital	name: Nuuk
Government type	parliamentary democracy (Parliament of Greenland or Inatsisartut)
Area	total : 2,166,086 sq km land: 2,166,086 sq km (approximately 1,710,000 sq km ice-covered)
Climate	arctic to subarctic; cool summers, cold winters
Natural resources	coal, iron ore, lead, zinc, molybdenum, diamonds, gold, platinum, niobium, tantalite, uranium, fish, seals, whales, hydropower, possible oil and gas
Population	total: 57,751 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	-0.05% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	Greenlandic 88.1%, Danish 7.1%, Filipino 1.6%, other Nordic peoples 0.9%, and other 2.3% (2024 est.)
Religions	Evangelical Lutheran, traditional Inuit spiritual beliefs
Languages	Greenlandic, Danish, English
Executive branch	chief of state: King FREDERIK X of Denmark (since 14 January 2024), represented by High Commissioner Julie Praest WILCHE (since May 2022) (2024) head of government: Prime Minister Jens-Frederik NIELSEN (since 28 March 2025)
Legislative branch	legislature name: Parliament (Inatsisartut)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Kenneth HØEGH, Head of Representation (since 1 August 2021)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Consul Monica BLAND (since July 2023)
Economic overview	high-income, self-governing Danish territorial economy; non-EU member but preferential market access; dependent on Danish financial support; exports led by fishing industry; growing tourism and interest in untapped mineral deposits; relies on hydropower for fuel
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$4.04 billion (2023 est.) \$4.005 billion (2022 est.) \$3.926 billion (2021 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$71,000 (2023 est.) \$70,700 (2022 est.) \$69,300 (2021 est.)
Exports	\$1.357 billion (2023 est.) \$1.286 billion (2022 est.) \$1.122 billion (2021 est.)
Exports - partners	Denmark 50%, China 23%, UK 5%, Japan 5%, Germany 3% (2023)
Exports - commodities	fish, shellfish, processed crustaceans, ships, precious stones (2023)
Imports	\$1.7 billion (2023 est.) \$1.657 billion (2022 est.) \$1.635 billion (2021 est.)
Imports - partners	Denmark 58%, Sweden 19%, Spain 8%, Iceland 7%, Canada 2% (2023)
Imports - commodities	refined petroleum, ships, garments, plastic products, furniture (2023)

Population Pyramid

