



Cyprus



Background A former British colony, Cyprus became independent in 1960 after years of resistance to British rule. Tensions between the Greek Cypriot majority and Turkish Cypriot minority came to a head in December 1963, when violence broke out in the capital of Nicosia. Despite the deployment of UN peacekeepers in 1964, sporadic intercommunal violence continued and forced most Turkish Cypriots into enclaves throughout the island. In 1974, a Greek Government-sponsored attempt to overthrow the elected president of Cyprus was met by military intervention from Turkey, which soon controlled more than a third of the island. In 1983, the Turkish Cypriot administered area declared itself the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" (TRNC), but it is recognized only by Turkey. A UN-mediated agreement to reunite Cyprus, the Annan Plan, failed to win approval from both communities in 2004. The most recent round of reunification negotiations was suspended in 2017 after failure to achieve a breakthrough.

The entire island joined the EU in 2004, although the EU acquis -- the body of common rights and obligations -- applies only to the areas under the internationally recognized government and is suspended in the TRNC. However, individual Turkish Cypriots able to document their eligibility for Republic of Cyprus citizenship have the same legal rights accorded to citizens of other EU states.

Capital name: Nicosia (Lefkosia/Lefkosa)

Government type Republic of Cyprus - presidential republic; self-declared "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" (TRNC) - parliamentary republic with enhanced presidency

Area total : 9,251 sq km (of which 3,355 sq km are in north Cyprus)
land: 9,241 sq km
water: 10 sq km

Climate temperate; Mediterranean with hot, dry summers and cool winters

Natural resources copper, pyrites, asbestos, gypsum, timber, salt, marble, clay earth pigment

Population total: 1,320,525 (2024 est.)

Population growth rate 0.95% (2024 est.)

Ethnic groups Greek 98.8%, other 1% (includes Maronite, Armenian, Turkish-Cypriot), unspecified 0.2% (2011 est.)

Religions Eastern Orthodox Christian 89.1%, Roman Catholic 2.9%, Protestant/Anglican 2%, Muslim 1.8%, Buddhist 1%, other (includes Maronite Catholic, Armenian Apostolic, Hindu) 1.4%, unknown 1.1%, none/atheist 0.6% (2011 est.)

Languages Greek (official) 80.9%, Turkish (official) 0.2%, English 4.1%, Romanian 2.9%, Russian 2.5%, Bulgarian 2.2%, Arabic 1.2%, Filipino 1.1%, other 4.3%, unspecified 0.6% (2011 est.)

Executive branch	chief of state: President Nikos CHRISTODOULIDIS (since 28 February 2023) head of government: President Nikos CHRISTODOULIDIS (since 28 February 2023)
Legislative branch	legislature name: House of Representatives (Vouli Antiprosopon)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Evangelos SAVVA (since 15 September 2023)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Julie Davis FISHER (since 21 February 2023); note - Ambassador FISHER is temporarily assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine as Chargé d' Affaires ad interim; she remains fully accredited in Cyprus
Economic overview	services-based, high-income EU island economy; heavy tourism; sustained growth between recovery of national banking system and COVID-19 trade restrictions; high living standards; a known financial hub, its stock exchange functions as an investment bridge between EU-and EEU-member countries
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$50.055 billion (2024 est.) \$48.386 billion (2023 est.) \$47.085 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$53,300 (2024 est.) \$52,200 (2023 est.) \$51,600 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$35.12 billion (2024 est.) \$32.922 billion (2023 est.) \$32.563 billion (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	Libya 14%, Greece 11%, Lebanon 8%, Bermuda 7%, Marshall Islands 5% (2023)
Exports - commodities	ships, refined petroleum, packaged medicine, cheese, scented mixtures (2023)
Imports	\$33.802 billion (2024 est.) \$32.556 billion (2023 est.) \$31.486 billion (2022 est.)
Imports - partners	Greece 20%, UK 10%, Italy 7%, Turkey 6%, Spain 6% (2023)
Imports - commodities	refined petroleum, ships, cars, packaged medicine, coal tar oil (2023)

Population Pyramid

